

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

March 2024

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## The Timeliness of God's Word

Magnetic Field Verifies Biblical Events P. 16 • Jewish Universalism in Danger P. 20

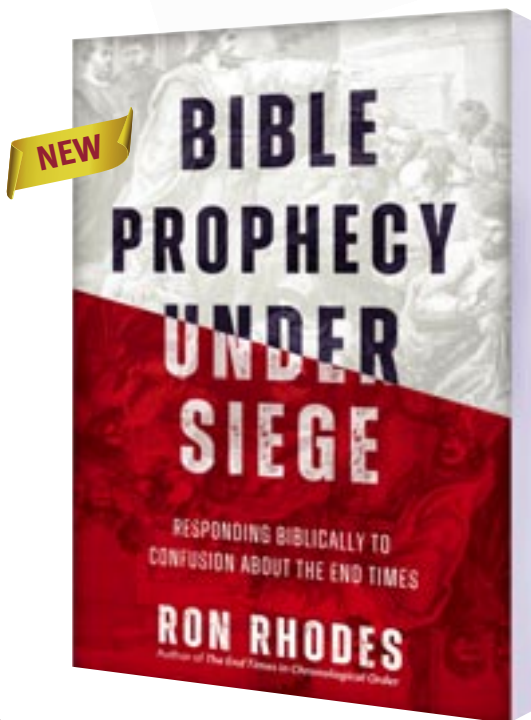
# Understanding and Answering **FALSE** Claims about Prophecy



*Bible Prophecy Under Siege* provides a thorough survey of the misunderstandings and misguided thinking people sometimes have about the last days. Prophecy expert Ron Rhodes offers you careful guidance through these differing viewpoints, and you will

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## Dear Friends of Israel,

**BY FREDI WINKLER**

**T**he greatest dilemma for Israel in the war against Hamas in Gaza, is the question of the more than 100 civilian hostages that were kidnapped by Hamas terrorists from Israeli settlements and the Nova Festival on the 7th of October. In addition, there are also the captured soldiers. Among the abducted are small children, old people, and female soldiers. It isn't even known who of these is still alive.

For Hamas, the actual goal of the attack on October 7th appears to have been the capture of hostages with which to blackmail Israel, primarily concerning the release of thousands of Palestinian terrorists who are in Israeli prisons. For them, it now seems that something has gone awry in the whole situation.

The Hamas leadership probably didn't figure that their attacks

would lead to an all-out war. They probably expected to have negotiations with Israel, and that with the hostages, they would hold the compelling trump card. They obviously did not foresee that Israel would react like a mother lion whose cubs have been taken.

Israel has already waged a number of small-scale wars against Hamas in Gaza, provoked by Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli civilians. But what happened on October 7th was the straw that broke the camel's back: Israel was practically forced to put an end to the strikes from Gaza, once and for all.

All of Israel agrees that this time, they must go all out. An astonishing and noteworthy aspect is that even the non-Jewish population is largely behind Israel. Soldiers from the Druse and the Bedouins



were killed in the fighting. There are soldiers from other minorities also, including those from Christian groups. Overall, it seems that this war is bringing the people of the country closer together, under a common denominator. This is the determination to prove that, despite religious and other differences, one can live together peacefully and with mutual respect.

However, even among the Jews themselves, this is frequently not the case. The current government is composed of a variety of Jewish groups, among which, unfortunately, are also some extremists who are unwilling to compromise. For Netanyahu, this situation within the government will probably grow increasingly difficult, since Israel is not fighting this war alone. There is the United States, which also is an important factor in this war. Then there are the Arab States that are allied with Israel. Beyond that, almost the whole world is somehow involved in the matter, as shown by the conflict with the Houthis in Yemen

and the struggle for freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

It will probably be difficult for Netanyahu to finish the war, given his present government coalition. However, there are others who will support the government instead of the extremists. The people of Israel have generally understood that only unity will make them strong. At the beginning of the war, we witnessed a Muslim Arab who worked in a supermarket, write on a large blackboard, "Together we will win!"

What is happening between Israel and Hamas in Gaza is, one could say, a war between light and darkness, between humanity and malice. Many Arabs in Gaza are beginning to slowly take heart, as they see the Hamas regime starting to crumble. Some of them even say to the Israeli soldiers: "Please stay here and liberate us from this reign of terror."

May God give Israel and its army His grace, to put an end to the reign of terror in Gaza. In this hope, I greet you warmly,

*David Winkler*



# The Timeliness of God's Word

NORBERT LIETH



How does Hamas' attack on Israel relate to biblical prophecy? Are we witnessing a turning point? And what do prophecies about stars falling from the sky have to do with it? A brief biblical exploration.

**N**iels Aage Bohr, winner of the 1922 Nobel Prize in Physics, is quoted as saying, "It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future." That's true, but the signs of the times are striking, especially now.

[Last] spring, CNN published an article entitled "Abu Dhabi's stunning new multi-faith complex is a mosque, synagogue, and church." The author writes:

"The United Arab Emirates inaugurated the 'Abrahamic Family House,' an interfaith complex housing a mosque, a church, and the Gulf Arab state's first ever purpose-built synagogue. [...] The structure draws inspiration from the three Abrahamic faiths and is meant to encapsulate their similarities. [...] The Imam Al-Tayeb Mosque, which is named after the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, the

leading authority on Sunni Islam, is oriented towards Mecca. [...] His Holiness Francis Church is dedicated to the 13th century monk St. Francis of Assisi, after whom the current Catholic pope is named. It is oriented towards the rising sun in the east. [...] The Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue honors the 12th century Jewish philosopher known as Rabbi Maimonides. [...] The synagogue is the UAE's first purpose-built Jewish place of worship and, like most synagogues around the world, is oriented towards Jerusalem. [...] While entirely unique, each individual building is a 30-meter (98 feet) by 30-meter cube. The unifying design is meant to provide a common base from which tolerance and understanding can be promoted."

In the context of Abu Dhabi being one of the world's most

## The Timeliness of God's Word

luxurious travel destinations, this scenario is reminiscent of Babylon from Revelation 18. And on September 22, 2023, just weeks before Hamas' devastating attack on his nation, Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at the UN about the tremendous potential of peace with Saudi Arabia: "Today, as we tear down walls of enmity, Israel can become a bridge of peace and prosperity between these continents. Peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia will truly create a new Middle East." And: "We'll build a new

corridor of peace and prosperity that connects Asia through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, to Europe. This is an extraordinary change, a monumental change, another pivot of history. As the circle of peace expands, I believe that a real path towards a genuine peace with our Palestinian neighbors can finally be achieved."

These words, in turn, recall the Apostle Paul's prophecy: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction



Schools, mosques, and hospitals serve as bases for Hamas.



An IS flag, found among the equipment of the Hamas terrorists who attacked Israel.



The Kutz family was murdered in their home.



cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thess 5:3).

This became a bitter reality for Israel on October 7th, when terrorists entered the country in the early hours of the morning and brutally woke the people from their slumber. The government, intelligence service, and especially the general public were taken completely by surprise. Escape was hardly possible.

Our time is one of haste. And the tomorrow foretold in Bible prophecy seems to have begun today. Luke 21:25 has a literal meaning, but it can also be understood spiritually:

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.”

Israel is metaphorically described as “a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her

head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev 12:1).

Mark 13:25 reports that stars will fall from heaven, and the Old Testament promises that Israel will become like the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea. The situation in Israel is affecting the entire world. An author who is deeply concerned with Bible prophecy wrote the following to me: “This matter has the potential to transform the whole Middle East. And not only that, it could cause the downfall of the whole Western world.”

Let’s not overlook the fact that Jesus’ Olivet Discourse is largely based on the words of the prophet Daniel, and has a great deal to do with Israel. For example, the three and a half times of the last days and the 70 weeks of years (Dan 7:25; 9:24; 12:7); the appearance of the Son of Man with the clouds of heaven (Dan 7:13); the dominion and glory given to Him (Dan 7:14); and the concept of the Great Tribulation (Dan 12:1).

More victims: The young Kedem family from Nir Oz. Jonathan and Tamar with Shachar, Arbel, and Omer



“And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them” (Dan 8:10). This prophecy foretold the attack of Antiochus Epiphanes, who brutally and intentionally sought to destroy the Jews. Epiphanes murdered their leaders, blasphemed Judaism, desecrated the Temple, and utterly crushed the people. Additionally, the above verse from Daniel is also about demons, which becomes clear when compared with Revelation 12:4: “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was

ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”

This passage is referring to the third of the heavenly host that is in league with the devil. This army of angelic beings consists of the

world of demonic spirits, who rule the world alongside Satan. “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev 12:9).

A new day seems to be dawning in this passage as well. Aren’t we experiencing an increase in demonic activity and deception globally? World history has an invisible backdrop (2 Cor 4:4; Eph 6:12) that is continually ripening, and will ultimately produce the lawless one. While the Church grows toward Christ through the Holy Spirit, the world, driven by Satan, is growing toward the



## Demonstration in Amsterdam

October 12, 2023

civil unrest, religious conflicts, terrorism, upheaval in the moral social order, political disorientation, increased distance from God and His Word, anarchism, persecution, and unbridled hatred. In addition to the cries of war, I'm also struck by the earthquakes that took place in the larger Islamic world: Turkey and Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan (more than once).

Antichrist. And it's surely justifiable to ask whether we've arrived at a turning point.

One journalist wrote, "We are witnessing an orgiastic explosion of violence, a murderous lust..." —"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Tim 3:1).

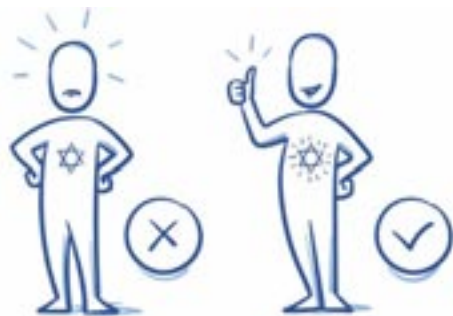
The Bible prophesies that in the last days, affliction will increase, spreading over the earth like morning mist: pandemics, news of wars, natural disasters, economic inflation, discontent,

Christians are living in the midst of this world. We're anticipating the Rapture before the Great Tribulation comes, but that doesn't necessarily mean we won't also face hardships. Are these current world events the start of labor pains? We don't know. Either way, we should evaluate them in light of Bible prophecy, so we'll remain vigilant at all times. Because one thing does seem certain: We're living at a turning point. (NAI1123/1377)

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# Opinions Are Divided on Israel

REINHOLD FEDEROLF



What the dry bones in Ezekiel 37 and Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38–39 communicate about present-day Israel.

**W**hat do we do when we discover Bible prophecies about Israel as a people that haven't yet been fulfilled? Do we assert that they must have already been fulfilled at some point? Or that they shouldn't be taken literally but symbolically, reinterpreting them to apply the "spiritual truth" they contain to the reality of today's Church? And yet, isn't that precisely what Israel did with the messianic promises? The prophecies concerning the Lamb of God—who would

be slain for the sins of mankind—were simply ignored or misunderstood, although His cause and manner of death are described down to the smallest detail (Is 53; Ps 22). The humble, righteous, redeeming, servant King, who was to enter on a donkey (Zech 9:9), was replaced by the glorious and victorious Messiah. He was to appear on the clouds of heaven and, most importantly, would eradicate social injustices and free Israel from the yoke of the Romans. He would bring

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the peace Israel was longing for. Everything was being seen purely in terms of the earthly and human. As a result, Israel (and especially its religious leadership) was caught in a tragic dead-end. If we consciously make compromises regarding Bible prophecy, something similar could happen to us: being overwhelmed by unexpected events. Thus, we must point out an unequivocal third possibility ... a literal, tangible, and yet future fulfillment of these biblical promises.

In Ezekiel's impressive chapters 37—39, we're confronted with the interesting description of an end-time scenario.

### **Why an “end-time” scenario?**

“After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land ... In the latter days I will bring you against my land” (Ezek 38:8, 16).

This passage is a prophetic look into the last days and the related history of Israel.

How do we know that Gog's hostile invasion (Ezek 38:2) hasn't occurred yet?

We've discerned this through four “side effects” mentioned in chapter 39: “Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears; and they will make fires of them for seven years” (v. 9). For seven years, Israel won't have to deal with energy shortages at all; that's how long the supply of Gog's enemy armies will last.

Verse 12: “For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land.” Disposing of the corpses will take more than half a year. (And today, we have trucks and backhoe loaders!) In verses 15-16, we find more information that also has never been fulfilled in Israel's history. The immense mass grave will confer a new name upon a designated section of the valley, a gorge east of the Dead Sea: “the Valley of

Hamon-Gog.” At this time, there will also be a nearby city named Hamonah. There is neither a “Valley of Hamon-Gog” nor a city of “Hamonah” in Israel today, leading us to the logical conclusion that the invasion of Gog from Magog hasn’t yet happened!

### **How are the people of Israel described?**

In Ezekiel 37, we see an entire valley of human skeletal fragments suddenly become a scene of divine intervention. Gradually, almost like an anatomy lesson, all these wildly dispersed pieces fit themselves together properly, causing a large crowd of the revived to stand there. So that we don’t simply interpret and apply this in a purely evangelistic manner, verse 11 explains for the prophet Ezekiel: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.”

### **Who are the graves?**

The graves (vv. 12-13) from which the people come out and are joined together are the most diverse peoples of this world, because verse

21 provides another piece of our puzzle: “Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land.”

Isn’t it terrible and shocking for someone to be called a grave? Though they were once strongholds of Christianity, Europe and North America in particular are crumbling into morbid decadence; on a collision course with God, due to opposing the Bible and scorning Christian values. Committed Christians are increasingly branded as intolerant preachers of hate, messed-up fundamentalists, and enemies of democracy and human rights. It may not be long until the Bible is banned as discriminatory and destructive reading material.

In this light, we can understand why God classifies people as graves. Without Him, only the wages of sin remain—death. That is why the godless people are called graves. Jesus prepared His disciples: “If the world hates you,

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Today, we're becoming aware of an increasing global opposition to genuine Christianity, just as Jesus foretold.

know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" (John 15:18-19).

The Islamists' hatred of Christians (and Jews) is obvious. But that, in and of itself, is not the problem. Today, we're becoming aware of an increasing global opposition to genuine Christianity, just as Jesus foretold.

Since the three chapters of Ezekiel under discussion belong together, this return of Israel also occurs during the end times. It is easily recognizable in Ezekiel 38:8, where Gog's motivation is illuminated: "After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel ... Its people

were brought out from the peoples..."

So, this Gog will be standing against a people who have been reunited from among many peoples worldwide. It had escaped the sword (destruction), and had only a short time before crying out from the depths of despair, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off" (Ezek 37:11). In Ezekiel's valley of bones, we hear the Jews (Israel) cry out in the face of extermination, "Our hope is gone; we're being annihilated!"

However, God's revelation through Ezekiel's vision assures the reader that, despite the horrific experience, the Jews will escape the sword, survive as a people, and return to their land. Keeping Israel's recent history in mind, can we still be in doubt of the Bible's late-breaking prophecy? Ezekiel's promises are being fulfilled!

(MR0822/1267)



# On the Horizon

NEWS IN  
**BRIEF**



**ISRAEL**

## Magnetic Field Verifies Biblical Events

A new method that measures the magnetic field of ancient archeological samples is helping to verify events mentioned in the Bible.



**One of the burned mud bricks in the study.**

Photo by Dr. Yoav Vaknin



The method was developed by scientists from four Israeli universities: Tel Aviv University, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University and Ariel University. Their findings were recently published in the PLOS ONE scientific journal.

The research team applied the method to archeological samples from the wall in the ancient city of Gath (modern day Tel es-Safi in central Israel) and the collapsed debris found beside it.

According to the second Book of Kings, the wall was destroyed by the king of Aram-Damascus around 830 BCE. However, there is a disagreement in the scientific community whether the structure was burned down or collapsed due to other reasons.

To settle the dispute, the research team set on fire the sampled mud bricks under controlled conditions. They heated the mud

## SIMULATED DESTRUCTION OF AIR BASE

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a simulation of destroying Israel's Palmahim Air Base, Iranian state media Tasnim reported.

The IRGC celebrated "Guards Day," the anniversary of the Iranian Revolution 45 years ago, by targeting ballistic missiles at a simulated version of an Israel Air Force base.

New missiles, the Emad and Qadr, were announced on the occasion of the national holiday. The new missiles allegedly have increased accuracy and range, according to Iranian state media.

Iranian media claim the Palmahim Air Base was selected as it "is the main location of the F-35 fighter jets of the Zionist regime." Palmahim is a critical base in Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza.

*-jpost.com*  
14 February 2024



bricks to 200°C, which forced the release of signals from the magnetic particles stored in the samples.

When the brick cools down, these magnetic signals remain locked in their new position and the brick attains a uniform magnetic field.

The researchers then gradually neutralized the brick's magnetic field, using a heating process called thermal demagnetization.

Because the samples from the wall were completely demagnetized after the experiment, this proves that the structure was, in fact, burned down in antiquity.

-[www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 21 January 2024

**Commentary:** About the Biblical city of Gath, Wikipedia reveals the following:

"Tell es-Safi (Arabic: "White hill") was an Arab Palestinian village, located on the southern banks of Wadi 'Ajjur, 35 kilometers (22 mi) northwest of Hebron.

"Today the site, known as Tel Tzafit, is an Israeli national park incorporating archaeological remains which some have identified as the Philistine city of Gath, mentioned in the Bible. The remains of the Crusader fort and the Arab village can also be seen on the tell.

"At one time, the ancient city of Gath was part of Gaza under the

Ottoman Empire."

It is of interest that, during this time of war against Hamas in Gaza, archaeologists still insist on discovering the Biblical roots of Israel in the area.

Second Chronicles 26:6 reports of King Uzziah: "And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines."

Determining exact Biblical locations has caused some level of controversy among archaeologists.

What we do know is that the Middle East conflict can be summed up with a simple analysis: Much of the Promised Land is still occupied by various Arab countries. We are reminded of Joshua 1:3, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses." Later, in chapter 24, verse 13, the Lord God of Israel reminds the nation, "And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye

dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat." 8178

(See *Miracle of Israel*, Item #2303, \$14.99.)





## NEWS IN BRIEF



USA

### Young Evangelical Support for Israel Plummets

Support for Israel among young Evangelicals has plummeted by over 50% in just three years, posing a potential threat to American backing for the Jewish State.



**THOUSANDS OF Christian pilgrims and Israelis take part in the Feast of Tabernacles march in Jerusalem, last year. Many Israelis have come to trust Evangelical support, according to the writer.**

(credit: YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90)



“This should be a wake-up call for Israeli policymakers,” said Dr. Yoav Fromer, head of The Center for the Study of the United States (CSUS) at Tel Aviv University.

Prof. Motti Inbari of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Dr. Kirill Bumin of Boston University will present their significant findings about the changing nature of Evangelical support for Israel during a virtual conference organized by CSUS. The data are part of their new book, *Christian Zionism in the Twenty-First Century: American Evangelical Opinion on Israel*, published by Oxford University Press.

“In three years, Israel will need to start renegotiating another 10-year MOU on military aid the country receives from the US. [Former president Barack] Obama gave us a great deal. A much different demographic may not have the same willingness to continue to support Israel in such a way,”

### BELGIAN BAN ON KOSHER SLAUGHTER

The top rights court in Europe has ruled that bans of ritual slaughter in parts of Belgium can stand, ending the hopes of Jewish advocates who had said the bans were an unfair infringement on Jewish practice.

Two of Belgium’s three regions banned slaughter without stunning in 2017 and 2018, saying that the practice was cruel to animals. Stunning prior to slaughter is barred in both shechitah, Jewish ritual slaughter, and zabiha, the Muslim method for slaughtering animals for food.

The bans added Belgium to a number of EU countries where ritual slaughter is illegal, including Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Slovenia. In 2011, the Netherlands briefly joined the list, but the Dutch Senate reversed the ban in 2012, citing freedom of worship. Poland also outlawed ritual slaughter in 2013 but has since scaled back the ban to include only meat for export.

-jta.org

14 February 2024

Fromer said. "This has real practical ramifications."

Part of it is that the "young generation of Americans grew up in a very different information environment than their parents and grandparents," explained Inbari. "While the older generations have witnessed Israel's struggles existing in a hostile Middle East, for the younger generation, Israel is portrayed as the aggressor while the Palestinians are victims."

The younger generation of Evangelicals is also undergoing shifts in their theological beliefs. While their parents and grandparents viewed Jews and Israel as crucial for redemption, this perception seems to be evolving among the current generation.

"Our survey shows that pastors who adhere to the most pro-Israel theology, called premillennialism, are older and less diverse than pastors who adhere to the amillennial and postmillennial theological views, which see the Jewish people and the State of Israel as no longer important for God's plan for the second coming of Christ and the End Times.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 12 February 2024

**Commentary:** Most Bible-believing theologians, pastors, and authors recognize that Christianity is connected to Israel. That seems to get buried by the tendencies of more modern theological thinking. One

of the popular Bible verses in this regard is Galatians 3:28-29: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Apparently, they conveniently overlook that this is a spiritual matter. We are one in Christ Jesus, but a Jew remains a Jew just as believers in Jesus remains male and female.

When the apostle Paul speaks of Israel, he writes: "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25b). The distinction cannot be made clearer: Israel remains Israel, and Gentiles remain Gentiles. Besides, those who claim to be spiritual Israel should recognize that they are still blind, according to the above verse. Only through God the Spirit can we understand the depths of Holy Scripture: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how

unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (verse 33). 8180

(See *Target Israel*, Item #2293, \$15.99.)





## ISRAEL

### Jewish Universalism in Danger

Jewish identity delicately balances two opposing attitudes toward the non-Jewish world. We are a particularistic race, asserting an exclusive covenant with Hashem, which awards us His land of Israel.



Distinctive dietary and marital customs, along with a rigid system of commandments and prohibitions, preserve our cultural insularity. The Jewish day-to-day experience is fundamentally different from the daily routine of non-Jews. We are different, and we are chosen.

Ideally, Judaism blends nationalistic and universalistic experiences. While our daily routines are particularistic, our mission is global. Our rituals, customs, and lifestyles are distinctive, and culturally we are inward-looking. If we neglect our religious commitments and corrupt our moral integrity, we are no longer priestly, and our message expires. However, if we ignore our duty to inspire humanity, we betray the very reason for which we were chosen. Jews are both internalist and externalist, insular and outward-looking.

The past few months have severely challenged our ability to merge these two cardinal values. It is not an easy time to be a Jewish universalist. On October 7, we were brutally attacked by barbaric murderers who, astonishingly, received political support

from much of the Arab world. Antisemites across the globe came out of the woodwork, supporting the rape, murder, and mutilation of Jews.

We received a rude awakening that deep-seated animosity toward our people still lingers under the surface of a shiny and shimmering modern world. The monstrosity of antisemitism still lives.

Though the war has severely challenged our universalism, we cannot allow it to make us too insular or to promote bigotry or racism. The war in Gaza and our battle with antisemitism can easily plunge us into ugly, misanthropic hatred of "others." In the face of brutality and rabid hatred, it is easy to paint the entire world as our enemies. A battle of this magnitude can easily cause us to dig in our heels, stand alone, and dismiss humanity at large. It is specifically during this dark period of hatred and violence that we must reaffirm Jewish universalism.

Don't let the haters turn us into haters. It is bad enough that they murdered our people. Do not allow them to murder Jewish universalist identity as well.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 11 February 2024

**Commentary:** We only publish a few excerpts from the article by *The Jerusalem Post* to show the absolute uniqueness of the Jewish people, regardless of where they presently reside. It was the heathen prophet Balaam who was paid

by King Balak to curse Israel. Instead, we read in Joshua 24:17: “For the Lord our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the



house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed.” 8179

(See *Israel Matters*, Item #2328, \$17.99.)



## LIBYA

### Migrant Vessel Capsizes

A boat carrying dozens of migrants trying to reach Europe capsized off the coast of Libya, leaving more than 60 people dead, including women and children, the U.N. migration agency said.



This is a locator map for Libya with its capital, Tripoli. AP



“The central Mediterranean continues to be one of the world’s most dangerous migration routes,” the agency wrote on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East, even though the North African nation has plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

According to the U.N.’s International Organization for Migration missing migrants project, at least 940 migrants were reported dead and 1,248 missing off Libya between Jan. 1 and Nov. 18.

The project, which tracks migration movements, said about

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### INDIA AND UAE TRADE CORRIDOR

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have taken a significant step toward enhancing regional connectivity and economic integration by signing an agreement to establish a trade corridor linking Europe to India via the Middle East.

The accord, announced during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the Gulf state, aims to facilitate trade through a sea and rail network stretching from India across the Arabian Sea to the UAE, and then overland through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel to Europe.

This initiative, which debuted at the G20 summit in New Delhi last September, is supported by both the US and the European Union and could serve as a counterbalance to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

The UAE and India also signed a bilateral investment treaty and exchanged agreements on electrical interconnection, trade, and digital infrastructure, marking a deepening of their strategic partnership.

-*themedialine.org*  
14 February 2024



## GENE-EDITED TOMATOES USE LESS WATER

Researchers from Tel Aviv University have succeeded in cultivating tomato varieties that consume less water as they grow without compromising on yield, quality or taste, using CRISPR genome editing technology.

The researchers went on to conduct experiments on hundreds of plants and demonstrated that though the ROP9-modified plants lose less water during the transpiration process, there is no adverse effect on photosynthesis, crop quantity or quality.

"There is great similarity between the ROP9 in tomatoes and ROP proteins found in other crop plants such as pepper, eggplant and wheat," adds Nir Sade, another author of the study.

"Therefore, the discoveries detailed in our article could form the basis for the development of additional crop plants with enhanced water use efficiency, and for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms behind stomatal opening and closing."

-israel21c.org  
8 February 2024

14,900 migrants, including over 1,000 women and more than 530 children, were intercepted and returned to Libya this year.

In 2022, the project reported 529 dead and 848 missing off Libya. Over 24,600 were intercepted and returned to Libya.

Human traffickers in recent years have benefited from the chaos in Libya, smuggling in migrants across the country's lengthy borders, which it shares with six nations. The migrants are crowded onto ill-equipped vessels, including rubber boats, and set off on risky sea voyages.

-www.npr.org, 17 December 2023

**Commentary:** Immigration, whether legal or illegal, is rampant these days, mostly due to conflicts in the migrant's country of origin. Some, as this article indicates, are promised a better life by human traffickers. In most cases, they are illegal on arrival in Europe. After being interviewed by authorities, it is determined whether they qualify as genuine asylum seekers in danger of their lives, or whether they will be returned. The article indicates that in 2022, 529 deaths were reported, 848 missing, and over 24,600 were returned to Libya.

At present, the United Nations reports that there are more than 100 million refugees globally. Thus, a decrease in the number of refugees is most unlikely.

What does the Bible say about foreigners? There are a number of Scriptures in the Old Testament as well as in the New, where we are instructed not to mistreat foreigners. God reminds Israel, "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21). And we read the admonition in Hebrews 13:2: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

8175

(See *Divine Dilemma*, Item #2410, \$19.99.)



## ISRAEL

### 'Parasols' to Counter Global Warming?

A team of scientists at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology have suggested a “cool” fix for global warming—a series of sunshades launched into space to dim some of the incoming rays.



While scientists have been kicking around the idea of shields to block solar radiation for years, an Israeli team led by Technion Prof. Yoram Rozen is now ready to build and test a prototype of one of the shades.

Expanding on that idea, Rozen postulated that while a shade big enough to stabilize the climate would be far too heavy to launch into space and very expensive, a series of smaller shades would be slightly less expensive and could work together to create the desired effect.

The Asher Space Research Institute project at the Technion, dubbed “Cool Earth,” aims to put a shade at the Lagrange Point One, also known as L1, a fixed point of about 1.5 million kilometers (930,000 miles) from the surface of the Earth where the gravitational forces from the sun cancel those from our planet. This means the shade provided by the shield would be continuous.

To test the viability of the project, the team is developing a first-of-its-kind tech-

nological demonstrator in which a satellite shield will be able to control and reduce the amount of solar energy that reaches the earth from the sun.

*-www.timesofisrael.com, 6 February 2024*

**Commentary:** Theoretical science is what it says it is—theory—or as another part of the article calls it, “established assumption.”

We reiterate, determining fluctuations in temperature on planet earth is extremely limited, due to missing hard science data. Only “established assumptions” have put forth the notion that the earth has warmed or cooled over the last 500, 1000, or 3000 years.

However, there will be true science on earth and in heaven. “And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven” (Luke 21:11). The real change will take place when Zechariah 14:8 is fulfilled: “And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.”

8176

(See *Fractals*, Item #2387, \$29.99.)



# Standing Up for the People of Israel



By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

**P**urim is this month. Similar to the time of Queen Esther, we see a decree sent out from Israel's enemies for the complete annihilation of the entire nation of Israel. Yes, Israel is once again fighting for its very existence. At the time of this writing, our northern border is becoming increasingly intense, with more and more rockets and missiles launched deep into Israeli territory. But it isn't just the nation of Israel they want to destroy; they wish to eliminate the entire Jewish population across the world.

It's incredible to see the similarities between what Queen

Esther faced and what we face today. Haman sought to annihilate the entire Jewish population, young and old alike. Today, we face the same thing. It's a spiritual battle, manifested in the physical.

But what did Queen Esther do? Did she remain quiet, knowing what the enemy was intending? Did she protect herself and keep silent? Despite the danger of losing all comfort and facing probable death, Esther stood up and defended her people. She willingly laid her comfort and life aside, and petitioned for her people before the king (read Esther 4). Queen Esther stood





Queen Esther stood in the gap; the king pointed the scepter to her and granted her LIFE! Our King Yeshua has granted us LIFE. We have faith and continue our vision through His grace.



in the gap; the king pointed the scepter to her and granted her LIFE! Our King Yeshua has granted us LIFE. We have faith and continue our vision through His grace.

April begins the Year of Jubilee (known as the Year of Redemption or Release). As Esther called for a fast and went in before the king, we too fall on

our knees before the King of kings, on behalf of our people.

Ebenezer also seeks to stand in the gap, defending and pleading the cause of the fatherless and widow. Isaiah 1:17 says, “Learn to do well; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

Many of our residents have no place to go; no one to stand in



the gap for them, to protect and provide for them. Continue to pray with us for His protection and grace during this war, and that we would know how to protect and provide for each resident during this time.

Ebenezer is more than just someone who stands in the gap and pleads the cause of the believing elderly: We are a family. These residents (and staff) are our people, our brothers and sisters in Messiah. Psalms 68:6 says, “God sets the solitary in families...”

This is so true for Ebenezer. One of our Holocaust survivors, who came to us feeling so sad and alone, recently shared: “Now I feel like I have a family—I’m no longer alone.” And it shows. Her face is radiant. She is happy. Finally, she is home!

Deuteronomy 15:11: “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command you, saying, You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor, and to your needy, in your land.”



**Note:** Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

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“So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents” (1 Kings 12:16).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

This was the time when the temple stood on Mount Moriah and the priestly office was still executed, about 3,000 years ago. It was the time when Israel was split into two nations: Judah and the Ten-Tribe Israel. Incidentally, many interpretations say that the Ten-Tribe Israel was lost and integrated into the Gentile world. What does the Bible say? Second Chronicles 11:16 very plainly states, “of all the tribes of Israel.” They joined Judah; subsequently, became Jews.

An article in *Le Monde Diplomatique* reads: “Since the October 7 attacks in Israel, hundreds of Haredi Jews—traditionally opposed to the

army—have voluntarily joined up, despite their religious convictions ... Something has changed. In less than a week, and contrary to their custom, several hundred Haredim (the “God-fearing”) have ... temporarily [swapped] their black and white uniform for that of the army” ([www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr), 18 December 2023).

There are various groups of ultra-Orthodox, but in general, they do not recognize Israel as a legitimate Jewish State. They consider Israel’s Independence Day as just a regular workday.

What happened about 3,000 years ago is now taking place in the reverse direction. During

those days, Jews from the Ten-Tribe Israel whose hearts were set toward Jerusalem, became Jews.

Now, however, we see these young Orthodox Jews joining the young non-Orthodox: religious and secular Jews uniting in defense of their country.

Several other reports indicate that an increasing number of Jews in the Diaspora have applied for immigration to Israel ... the land of their fathers ... the land God promised in an unconditional covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel.

In Israel, military service is compulsory when a person turns 18. Men receive training for 32 months, and for women, the minimum is 24 months. What becomes self-evident is that trained young soldiers and those in the reserves, do everything in their power to return to Israel in defense of their country. They are in their land to stay.

An article in *Israel Today* caught our attention: “Events in the country over the past year are reminis-

cent of the time under King Jehoshaphat of Judah. He had implemented legal reform and established a ‘Supreme Court’ in Jerusalem. And then suddenly the country was invaded. Is it possible that disunity arose among the people back then, but that the people came together again in times of need?” ([www.israeltoday.co.il](http://www.israeltoday.co.il), 14 December 2023).

We also learn from Ezra and Nehemiah how the Israelites united to build their defense of Jerusalem.

Today, we see how the Jewish world—both in Israel and in the Diaspora—unites when it comes to defending their land from any and all aggressors.

While we cannot determine how this horrible war—initiated by the Hamas terrorists and their atrocities—will end, one thing we know for sure: Israel will be more secure than ever. It just so happens that the enemy’s intention—namely, the destruction of Israel—will lead to the security of the land of Israel.

We repeat, the real reason for the conflict in the Middle East surrounding Israel, is the illegal Arab occupation of Promised Land territory—particularly Lebanon, Syria, and parts of Jordan.

We, as believers in Jesus our Lord, continue to pray unceasingly for Israel's security, with emphasis on the Lord's grace for His Church in Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.

In conclusion, let us hear what the heathen prophet Balaam was told to declare about Israel: "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly" (Number 24:17-18). <sup>(NFI)</sup>

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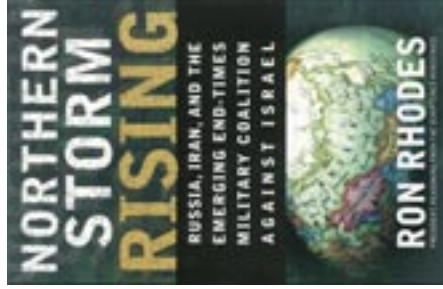
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