

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

December 2020

\$2.25

A close-up photograph of a white lamb with floppy ears, being gently held by a person wearing a brown, textured garment. The person's hands are visible, supporting the lamb. The background is dark and out of focus.

Unmistakable Parallels between Jesus' First and Second Coming

UAE Will Be 'Disgraced Forever' P.15 • Massive Military Exercise Prepares for War P.21



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By Wim Malgo

At Jesus' first coming, there were people who knew everything about His approaching arrival, yet they did not seek Him. There will be many Christmas celebrations held by people who ought to know about the Lord's second coming, but choose to ignore it.

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



How long the current governing coalition in Israel will hold up remains to be seen. It seems that it may only be a matter of time before another election takes place. Whether a clear result will emerge, however, is doubtful, as the people remain ideologically divided into their respective camps. That is probably the reason why no one is really pushing for new elections.

When Jesus was born, the Jewish people were also divided into political camps, but the Romans had supremacy in the country. That had not always been the case. It was not until 63 BC that one of the parties asked the Romans to intervene, following power struggles within the royal family. The Romans continued to leave administration of

the country to the Jews who, however, were now no longer independent.

Internal power struggles raged initially within the ruling family of the Maccabees (or Hasmoneans as they are also called) until Herod married into the royal family and took over leadership. The struggle for power thus became even more complicated. Herod was an efficient and capable regent, but he found himself in the midst of intrigues that prevailed in the upper class at the time. To stay in power, he was ready to use any and all means, even political assassination.

In this time of almost unbelievable political power struggles, Jesus was born. At that point, Herod was already a sick man, who knew that he would not live much longer.



He was preoccupied with naming a successor. His wife Mariamne and their two eldest sons, who were supposed to become his successors, were sentenced to death and executed for alleged conspiracy and attempted overthrow.

Amid this political turmoil and efforts to secure his succession, Herod suddenly had to hear that wise men from the East were looking for the newborn King of the Jews. This, of course, was a flashing red light: here he was going to appoint one of his descendants as heir, and now there should be another one who supposedly had just been born. He needed to take action, as was his way, so that succession from within his lineage would remain guaranteed. We know from the Gospel of Luke how all that turned out.

History shows the destructive influence of obsession with power. Sadly, the saying, “Power corrupts” proves to be true over and over again. In this day and age, such matters seem to be handled with more sophistication. But even today, we hear of murders perpe-

trated for political reasons. When we look at the current political situation across the world—with the tensions between East and West, between Left and Right—then we have to say that the risk of abuse of power has not really changed, because man has remained the same. Everyone declares to be acting for the good of the people, but unfortunately that is not always the case.

Now in December, we are again commemorating the coming of Christ the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets. Hope of the return of the One who will establish the eternal kingdom of peace is inevitably renewed. As it is written in Daniel 7:14: “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

With these words, warmest wishes for a blessed holiday season,

Trevor Winkler



Unmistakable Parallels between Jesus' First and Second Coming

WIM MALGO (1922-1992)

The Lord Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and His second coming are one in redemptive history. As a result, we can never truly understand His first coming at Christmas without His second coming, since both are closely linked. A comparison.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, people worldwide were in motion. A census of the world was being held, so that He could be born in Bethlehem in accordance with the Scriptures (Luke 2:1-7). Nobody recognized the purpose of the people's movement at the time. To millions, it seemed like a pointless undertaking to make the arduous journey to their hometown. And yet, everything had a deep, divine meaning. It wasn't Emperor Augustus who caused this to happen. No, the living God Himself was behind it.

The same is true today. What is the point of people's worldwide movements? Everything is in flux, and there's great unrest in the world. The divine meaning behind it—God's recognizable, purposeful action—lies in Jesus' return. His throne will be built in Israel. Strangely

enough, people—their behavior and their ways—are exactly the same at the Lord's first and second comings. There are six categories:

First, those who are asleep.

Everyone was asleep when Jesus came. The closest neighbors didn't even notice, and yet the King of kings had arrived. It will be the same with the second coming. Everything is asleep. It's no wonder that the Lord warns so often and earnestly, as in Luke 21:36, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

We're all in danger of being anesthetized by the visible, material world. But the Lord Jesus promises those who strive to keep watch, "Blessed

Unmistakable Parallels between Jesus' First and Second Coming

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, people worldwide were in motion. A census of the world was being held so that He could be born in Bethlehem.



are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them” (Luke 12:37).

Don't underestimate the danger of falling asleep! Matthew 25:5 writes of the ten virgins (five wise and five foolish): “While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”

But the Lord Jesus warns, “And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:37). This brings us to the second category of people at Jesus' first and second comings.

Second, those who are watching and waiting. Significantly, there were shepherds with their sheep at Christmas. It isn't a different kind of people who are watching and waiting for

His coming now. They are those who, as Peter put it, are good examples of the herd; who feed the flock of Christ; who have grown in following Jesus; who have tasted that the Lord is good and kind; and who are now waiting for Him day and night.

It's no coincidence that it was shepherds with their sheep who were awake at that hour of redemption's history. I'd like to say that shepherds are those who are like Jesus, who said of Himself, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The more our attitude becomes like that of Jesus (Phil 2:5), the more we will longingly wait for Him, as well as watch.

Third, the theorists. At Jesus' first coming, there were people who knew everything about His approaching arrival, from the perspective of dogma, reason, and theology. The wise men from the East were given

precise information from them in Herod's presence. When asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt 2:2), they answered, "In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (vv. 5-6).

Did these people set out with their theoretical knowledge of the coming King? Did they rush to Bethlehem too? Did they also bring gifts to Him? Not at all! It's inconceivable and yet true: due to their religious self-conceit, there was no longer any heartfelt urge to seek the King themselves.

Even this year, there will be many Christmas celebrations held by people who ought to know about the Lord's coming, and who are extremely receptive to a spiritual atmosphere. Yes, there are those who don't see with

open eyes, even though the Jews have returned to Israel from all the nations; even though the signs of the times are calling louder and louder, “The King is coming!” These are people who haven’t received the Bible into their hearts, despite knowing it. Bible knowledge without practical obedience makes one cold and unresponsive to the Lord’s coming. Tell me, my brother and my sister, are you awaiting His coming with deep longing?

Fourth, the ones who see the King. In Matthew 2:1, they’re called “wise men from the east.” Why were they wise? Because they were receptive to His light. They followed this light unswervingly, and these ignorant Gentiles testify to the religiously orthodox: “...we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him” (Matt 2:2). By saying, “We have come,” they emphatically demonstrate their obedient faith.

They’re saying, “We’ve left everything because we must see Jesus.”

How shocking! The theorists who were so close to the light don’t see it. Bethlehem is visible from Jerusalem, yet those in Jerusalem knew everything and didn’t recognize Him. What a tragedy! “...The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:5).

But the blinded Gentiles understood: they came from afar and spared no expense to see Jesus. When they saw His star, they were delighted. Truly, many who were last will be first. To which do you belong? Are you following the light? We learn from this that light isn’t religion, but Jesus Himself. Later in John 8, He calls out after an initial clash with the religious and self-righteous, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (v. 12).

It's no coincidence that it was shepherds with their sheep who were awake at that hour of redemption's history.

Fifth, the kings who refuse to step down. The news passed through Jerusalem: "The King the prophets spoke about has been born!" Then we read in Matthew 2:3: "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why? Because he saw his kingship threatened. He had prevailed and built his throne over the dead bodies of others. He was a bloodthirsty man, who had even murdered his own family to assert his rule. It's believed that Caesar Augustus once said that it was better to be Herod's pig than his son. This cruel tyrant is an illustration of extreme self-assertion; there's no room for another king. He feared seizure of power from above. Herod was frightened. Everything was at risk: his power as well as his wealth (his annual income has been cal-

culated to be around 16.4 million dollars).

Today, there are many "Herods" who are proud and materially-minded, despite being surrounded by, advised, and instructed by the religious. King Jesus is coming! Are you ready to submit? Is He the Lord, your King, in your heart? The "Herod" who doesn't want a transfer of power is frightened of the coming King.

Sixth, the heavenly-minded and purified ones. They were at Jesus' first coming, and will also be at His second coming. They are the angels. Where the earth was silent, the heavens exulted. Countless hosts of angels cheered in Ephrathah's fields in Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

This praise came from heaven. In this time, when the

King' return is imminent (Eph 2:6; Phil 3:20), the more we assert our heavenly position in Jesus Christ through faith, the more we'll proclaim His praise. In Ephrathah's fields, praises to God sounded from heaven toward the shepherds. We read in Luke 2:9 about the radiance of the Lord's angel: "the glory of the Lord shone round about them." Isn't that touchingly beautiful?

What a message the angels had! Why? Because they were heavenly-minded and heavenly-natured. What a message, what a light, what an effect their words had, for the shepherds found Jesus! Oh, brothers and sisters, that you and I will be much more heavenly-minded and heavenly-natured, as Colossians 3:1-2 says. This is the only way we will be a clear light in a dark night. Only this attitude will allow us to lead people to Jesus, who are truly waiting and asking questions (Luke 2:18).

Now I need to answer this last question: Why was (and is) Jesus not eagerly awaited?

The answer is obvious. His first coming meant His becoming equal with us: "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren" (Heb 2:17a). Christmas isn't just an object wrapped in soft, romantic light; it's a stark reality. It's a representation of man through God as Jesus, born as a helpless child in a stable with animals, when He lay there in a manger in deep poverty and weakness. It's as if God wanted to say, "You're in my sights, in the way I'm now giving you my Son. There is a stable and night in your heart as well. There is manure and filth in you, but in the midst of this darkness I give my Son."

That's why people don't want Him, and they don't want the Cross, either. When Jesus hung on the Cross, it echoed through the universe: "And so you are, human; so corrupt, so lost." The dazzling tragedy of Christmas is that you shine so many lights, and yet it often remains so dark in your heart. You give

Most of the people who plunge into the Christmas rush wake up disillusioned and disappointed.



and receive so many gifts, and yet remain so poor. During the Christmas season, you long so much for security, community, and “home sweet home,” and yet remain so unspeakably lonely. Most of the people who plunge into the Christmas rush wake up disillusioned and disappointed. Why? Hear the word of the Lord: “Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?” (Amos 5:20). This is a harsh word, but it’s necessary for you to finally be willing to affirm Jesus’ becoming like us, and your own depravity. Then it will truly be Christ-

mas for you, because then Jesus will be King in your heart.

We’re finding the same implications now at the Lord’s second coming. He’s eagerly awaited by many believers, because His second coming (in the opposite sense) means becoming equal with Him. When He came to Bethlehem, He became like us. When He comes to take us, we must be like Him (1 John 3:2). But many believers haven’t pursued sanctification, didn’t become like Him, and were not transformed into His image. Therefore, they can’t look forward to the Lord’s return either. They would like to separate Christmas from His imminent coming entirely too much. But, isn’t He coming very soon? Will you be like Him then? Are you ready for Jesus to come?

(MR1219/1107)



On the Horizon




Normalization with Israel

The signing of the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is an extremely positive step, and it's very likely that it will lead in the near future to a full-out peace agreement, including diplomatic ties, the opening of embassies, flights between the two countries, bilateral tourism, and open business relations. In other words—everything that takes place between countries that have peaceful relations with each other.



PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu stands next to his wife, Sara, after speaking to supporters at his Likud party headquarters in Tel Aviv. (photo credit: AMIR COHEN/REUTERS)

 There's no doubt—and I expressed this in a recent column—that Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed's decision required courage and might be the breakthrough that could lead the way for other moderate Muslim Arab countries in the region to follow suit. It's true that there have been ties between Israel and the UAE for over 20 years. This matter, like others, did not begin during Netanyahu's term.

NEWS IN BRIEF



GERMAN WARSHIP TO PROTECT GAS RESERVES

The Israeli Navy is slated to receive the first of four new German-made Sa'ar-6-class corvettes, stuffed to the gills with sensors, weapons and defensive systems to aid them in their task of protecting Israel's natural gas rigs and trade routes.

As Israel tapped into the natural gas reserves located in its territorial waters just over a decade ago, the government officially designated them a strategic national asset and tasked the navy with defending them. This was no small feat for the navy, which until then was primarily concerned with protecting Israel's coast.

The arrival of the Sa'ar-6 is expected to significantly boost Israel's ability to protect the country's two operational gas rigs from missiles and other types of attacks.

-timesofisrael.com
5 November 2020



The normalization agreement involved an unequivocal commitment by Israel to relinquish its unilateral annexation of territories in the West Bank, as well as to commit to freezing building in existing settlements and to truly agree to the two-state solution as an opening to solving the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Moreover, the normalization agreement was conditioned upon Israeli agreement to an extensive arms deal between the US and the UAE, in which the latter would purchase F-35 fighter aircraft with advanced capabilities, as well as additional weapons systems.

In simpler terms, Netanyahu's announcement that he opposes the arms deal with the Emirates, has no political logic, no military justification, and could cause UAE leaders to reconsider their decision.

How much simpler, more dignified and worthy for the State of Israel if we had said from the beginning that the normalization agreement with the Emirates justifies the concessions we have made. Peace in exchange for refraining from annexation, freezing settlement construction and accepting the two-state solution. An arms deal in exchange for normalization.

-www.jpost.com, 11 September 2020

Commentary: The excerpts from the above article authored by Ehud

Olmert, the 12th prime minister of Israel, attempt to reveal that Israel's continuous possession of the Promised Land will cease. That, however, is a matter that only time will reveal.

In relationship to the land issue, we reiterate the unconditional promise God gave to Abraham: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18).

7376



(See the *Israel Calendar 2021*, Item #9090, \$5.)



IRAN

UAE Will Be 'Disgraced Forever'

The United Arab Emirates has betrayed the Islamic world and the Palestinians by reaching a deal toward normalizing ties with Israel, Iran's top authority Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said.



"Of course, the UAE's betrayal will not last long, but this stigma will always be remembered. They allowed the Zionist regime to have a foothold in the region and forgot Palestine," Khamenei said



in a speech.

“The Emiratis will be disgraced forever for this treachery against the Islamic world, Arab nations and Palestine.”

The deal, the first accommodation between an Arab country and Israel in more than 20 years, was forged in part as a result of shared fear of Iran. It has dismayed Palestinian leaders, however, who believe it further erodes their struggle for an independent state.

The UAE has said that the agreement was a bold but necessary step and suggested it could help address the region’s polarization.

-*www.reuters.com*, 1 September 2020

Commentary: Iran condemns the normalization between Israel and the Emirates. Israel has no relationship to Iran; in fact, Iran has never cared about Arab Palestinians. So, what is the real reason?

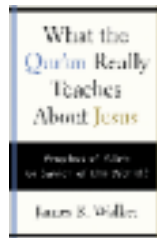
From a Biblical perspective, God turns blessings into curses and curses into blessings. About 3,500 years ago, we read about the king of Iran (Persia): “Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put

it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:1-3).

The relatively new religion of Islam was founded in the 7th century. In the Koran, Surah 5:85 states: “Thou wilt surely find the most hostile men to the believers are the Jews and the idolators.” Surah 9:5 reads: “Then, when the sacred months are drawn away, slay the idolators wherever you find them, and take them and lie in wait for them at every place of ambush.” The Koran clearly teaches that Islam must dominate. That, however, is diametrically opposed to God’s declaration: “For thou [Israel] art an holy people unto the Lord thy God” (Deuteronomy 14:2a).

7374

(See *What the Qur’an Really Teaches About Jesus*, Item #2351, \$15.99.)






TURKEY

More Precision-Guided Weapons and Rockets

Turkey is rapidly expanding its rocket-engine capabilities in an effort to build its weapons industry.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan makes a speech during the re-opening of the Ottoman-era Yildiz Hamidiye mosque in Istanbul, Turkey (photo credit: MURAD SEZER/REUTERS)

 In recent years, Ankara has increased its capabilities in the defense sector by investing heavily in new drones and missiles. It wants to achieve total independence from Western manufacturers. To this end, it has purchased the Russian S-400 system and is seeking to build its own planes, tanks, drones, missiles, naval missiles and other systems.

In a speech, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey is starting space trials for a liquid-propellant rocket engine, Anadolu state-run news agency reported.

Erdogan praised the defense company Rokestan for its abilities. Liquid propellant is also used by Iran’s regime in ballistic missiles.

“We will also continue our efforts to develop hybrid-fuel rocket engines,” Erdogan said. This is “high-capacity hydrogen fuel-cell technology,” the report said. It also included GPS

NEWS IN BRIEF



ROBOT INSPIRED BY COCKROACHES, LIZARDS

Researchers from Ben Gurion University have developed a new, high-speed robot inspired by the movements of cockroaches and lizards which can swim and run on top of water and navigate difficult terrain.

“The AmphiSTAR uses a sprawling mechanism inspired by cockroaches, and it is designed to run on water at high speeds like the basilisk lizard,” said Dr. David Zarrouk. “We envision that AmphiSTAR can be used for agricultural, search and rescue and excavation applications, where both crawling and swimming are required.”

The robot can crawl over gravel, grass and concrete quickly, reaching speeds of 3.6 m/s.

-jpost.com
5 November 2020



receivers “for precision-guided munitions.”

The defense industry was working directly with the government, Erdogan said, adding: “We never accept products from abroad that we can make in the country.”

Turkey has been on a nationalist binge lately, with new threats to Greece and other countries, and it brags about historic battles and turning historic churches into mosques.

Turkey links its new advances to challenges in the Mediterranean, where it faces off against Greece, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, France and the UAE.

-www.jpost.com, 31 August 2020

Commentary: Mr. Erdogan can be categorized as a religious nationalist, who would fit the motto, “Make Turkey great again.” That, however, can’t happen, because one cannot reverse time or history.

Turkey has been leaning toward the West – their legal system is based on various European systems, notably the Swiss Civil Code, and being a member of NATO.

Erdogan took office as president on 28 August 2014; he founded the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in 2001. Although Turkey has 83 political parties legally reg-

istered, the 24 June 2018 election result was a landslide victory for Erdogan (52.59% of the vote). Since Turkey is over 99% Muslim, and Mr. Erdogan a right-wing religious politician, he has large public support.

Many ask, what is his goal? We repeat: “Make Turkey great again.” Problem: the word “again”; one cannot regress in time. What once was will never be.

According to the Bible, part of today’s Turkey, including its capital city, Ankara, was populated by the Hittites. The Old Testament mentions that name 47 times, and 14 times as the descendants of Heth (Genesis 10:15). In the days of Abraham, some were located in the Hebron neighborhood (Genesis 23:1-20). Esau married a Hittite wife (Genesis 26:34).

Of the present capital city, the following:

Ankara has been linked with a second millennium B.C. Hittite cult center of Ankuwash, although this connection is uncertain; in classical and medieval times, the city was known as Ankyra (meaning “anchor” in Greek and reflecting the city’s position as a junction



for multiple trade and military routes); by about the 13th century the city began to be referred to as Angora; following the establishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, the city's name became Ankara.

-www.cia.gov

While the Turkish economy has been robust in the past, their trade balance is negative: imports \$225 billion, to exports \$166 billion. It seems that Erdogan's intention is to show off Turkey's military might to the world.

Erdogan's desire to make Jerusalem Muslim is doomed to fail. God speaks of the existence of the sun, the moon, and the stars, and states: "If those



ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever" (Jeremiah 31:36).

7373

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



ISRAEL

Vertical Farms Grow Crops in Parking Lot

An Israeli agri-tech start-up has created vertical farms in urban environments, allowing for fresh produce to be grown in cities.



The farms come with a number of advantages over traditional farming. It's container-like nature provides a controlled growing environment, ensuring more sterility and keeping it safe from bugs and therefore not needing pesticides. It also allows for automated crop management, which limits human contact and allows for consistent quality.

NEWS IN BRIEF



BOOK CLAIMS HOLOCAUST A HOAX

An Icelandic company has plunged the country's publishing industry into a debate about censorship with its plan to publish a 1976 book that argues the Holocaust is a hoax.

The book, an Icelandic-language translation of "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case Against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry" by Arthur Butz, is being advertised online ahead of its launch, in time for the Christmas shopping period, the news site Visir reported.

Denying the Holocaust is not illegal in Iceland, but the Association of Icelandic Book Publishers has the means to intervene to stop the book's sales, Visir reported. However, the head of that organization told the news site he is not inclined to do so.

-jpost.com

4 November 2020



Vertical Field's Urban Crops offers an ideal alternative to traditional agriculture. (photo credit:VERTICAL FIELD)

Furthermore, it also produces less waste, as well as a 90% decrease in the amount of water needed.

But perhaps most importantly, it isn't limited by traditional seasons for produce, with all crops being "in season" year-round, having shorter overall growing cycles and longer shelf lives.

And, by growing produce locally, it also reduces wasted emissions in the supply chain.

The development builds off of Vertical Field's successes in 2019, where it was recognized among the top start-ups to watch by *Silicon Review* and *World Smart City*.

The development of these vertical farms comes at the perfect time, with the coronavirus pandemic cutting off the produce supply chain on both local and global levels. And with the population still growing, and

projected by some to reach 10 billion in around 30 years, the need to maintain a sustainable source of fresh produce has become a mounting concern.

-www.jpost.com, 28 October 2020

Commentary: This is another step toward independence from God. No rain or sunshine, even drought and frost

will not hinder farm production; yes, even in a parking lot.

Indeed, mankind has come a long way from the curse God placed upon Adam. "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:17-19). 7378

(See *Searching for Adam*, Item #2319, \$24.99.)



ISRAEL

Massive Military Exercise Prepares for War

The Israel Defense Forces completed its premier exercise of the year, a large-scale simulation of war in the north against Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies, and of a smaller conflict in the Gaza Strip.



IDF soldiers take part in a large-scale exercise 'Lethal Arrow' simulating war in the north. (Israel Defense Forces)



Dubbed Lethal Arrow, the drill was meant to improve the military's offensive capability, specifically the number of targets it is able to strike each day, according to senior IDF officers.

"We are prepared—after this exercise, we are even better prepared—and we are ready for any development, from a day of fighting to more than that," said IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi.

"Lethal Arrow," or Hetz Katlani in Hebrew, included the military's first use of its so-called "Red Unit," which was created earlier this year to act as enemy forces for exercises. The 99th Division, a multidisciplinary unit that was formed,

NEWS IN BRIEF



ISRAELI TECH TO SAVE FLORIDA WATERWAYS

Florida will use BlueGreen Water Technologies' treatment to stop harmful algae blooms in Lake Okeechobee from reaching the state's waterways.

Lake Okeechobee, also known as Florida's Inland Sea, is the state's largest freshwater lake. It has become overrun by cyanobacterial blooms ("blue green algae") that render the water toxic for drinking and agriculture. It's also not safe to eat fish from the lake or to swim in its waters.

With the toxic algae of Lake Okeechobee threatening to spill into the surrounding ecosystem via the C-44 Canal, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis gave the go-ahead to deploy BlueGreen's tech, which applies a nano-coating to existing anti-algae chemicals, making them significantly more effective.

-israel21c.org
4 November 2020



also took part in the exercise for the first time, along with its Commando Brigade and the so-called “Ghost Unit,” which was created this year to test out new fighting styles, techniques and equipment, the military said.

In addition, noncombat logistics, cyber defense and telecommunications units simulated their role in a future war, said IDF Spokesperson Hidai Zilberman, adding that Lethal Arrow was effectively “exercises inside of exercises inside of exercises.”

-*www.timesofisrael.com*, 29 October 2020

Commentary: Only Israel has to literally defend its borders against enemies who boldly and publicly declare their intention to annihilate the state of Israel.

For believers in Jesus, the words of 2 Corinthians 2:11 apply regarding preparedness, readiness, and knowing the enemy: “Lest Satan should

get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

7379

(See *The Non-Prophet's Guide to Spiritual Warfare*,

Item #2368, \$17.99.)



ISRAEL

2,000-Year-Old Seal of Greek Deity Found

Researchers discovered a gem seal featuring a portrait of Apollo in the drainage channel of the City of David. It was found in archaeological soil that was removed from the foundations of the Western Wall during work on the Archaeological Sifting Project in Tzurim Valley National Park.



The oval-shaped gem is 13 mm. long, 11 mm. wide and 3 mm. thick.

Because it is an intaglio—having a design carved into the upper side of the stone—its main function was a seal to be stamped on soft material, usually beeswax, for use as a personal signature on contracts, letters, wills, goods and bundles of money.

Although Apollo is an Olympian deity of the Greek and Roman cultures, it is highly probable that the person wearing the ring with Apollo’s portrait was a Jew, according to the researchers, archaeologist Eli Shukron, Prof. Shua Amorai-Stark and senior archaeologist Malka Hershkovitz.

“When we found the gem, we asked ourselves: ‘What is Apollo doing in Jerusalem? And why would a Jew wear a ring with the portrait of a foreign god?’ The answer to this, in our opinion, lies in the fact that the owner of the ring did so not as



Seal with the image of Apollo.
(photo credit: ELIYAHU YANAI/CITY OF DAVID)

a ritual act that expresses religious belief, but as a means of making use of the impact that Apollo's figure represents: light, purity, health and success."

-www.jpost.com, 29 October 2020

Commentary: When one reads the Bible, it is not surprising to find Jews mixing with other religions. Way back in Judges, we read: "And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way" (Judges 2:19).

During the Great Tribulation, when the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, diabolical forces are released from the bottomless pit. The king of these entities is named: "And they had a king over

them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon" (Revelation 9:11).

It is of interest that the American space program, which landed the first man on the moon, was called Apollo. A Jew, Abe Silverstein, is credited for choosing the name "Apollo."

NASA Silverstein chose the name "Apollo" after perusing a book of mythology at home one evening in 1960. He said the image of "Apollo riding his chariot across the sun was appropriate to the grand scale of the proposed program."

-www.nasa.gov, 15 May 2009

Occult connections are quite apparent, particularly when we view this in light of Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." 7377

(See 101 Answers to Questions About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare, Item #2289, \$13.99.)



“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him” (Deuteronomy 18:18).

BY ARNO FROESE

For Israel, Moses is the ultimate authority. In the book of Deuteronomy, he repeatedly presents to Israel the option to follow God or not. But that's not all; as we have read in the above prophecy, there is another prophet to come in the future. How is Israel to recognize Him? By the word of a prophet.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he proclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36b). We must note here that Jesus had not yet performed any miracles or fulfilled any signs to legitimize Him as the prophet to come. See also verse 40: “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.” He simply believed; Andrew acted upon his

belief, passing on the important message that the Messiah, the Christ, had come. “He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ” (verse 41).

The next disciple is Philip; he too was a believer in the words Moses had spoken. Thus, we read: “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45). The religious authorities, the scribes, priests, Levites, Pharisees, Sadducees, etc., believed the Scripture too, but apparently only with the intellect, not the heart. Thus, in their minds, Jesus could not

have been the Messiah, the Son of God. But our Lord made a prophetic statement about the coming of Antichrist: “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive” (John 5:43). He then added, “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me” (verse 46).

A recent article from the *Jerusalem Post* exposes evangelical publishers for anti-Israel bias:

The two publishing houses, InterVarsity Press in the US and the similarly named Inter-Varsity Press in the UK, were sent an open letter by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA).

“IVP publishing houses have been retailing anti-Israel propaganda for some time,” CAMERA’s Shillman Research Fellow Dexter Van Zile said in a statement.

The two publishers have a history of promoting texts filled with factual, historical and cultural errors about Israel. This, the statement said, was evident by the

2016 campaign to pressure the publishers to drop Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer from its catalogues following numerous controversies over his appearance at anti-Israel conferences.

Sizer had propagated numerous conspiracy theories in the past, such as Israeli involvement in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

“Writers such as Rev. Garth Hewitt, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac all promote false and hostile narratives—such as, that there is something inherently wrong with Jewish sovereignty, that Christian support for Israel is a betrayal of the Christian faith, and that the conflict in the Holy Land is Israel’s fault,” said Van Zile.

It is books like these, Van Zile explained, that lay the groundwork for anti-Israel activism growing in more mainline Protestant churches.

“You can’t promote dishonest propaganda about Israel and then be taken seriously when professing the truths of the Christian faith.”

-www.jpost.com, 1 October 2020

These are well-respected authorities within the evangelical camp; but quite obviously, they do not believe what they have learned. We simply ask, why would anyone, just impartially reading the Old and New Testaments, conclude that “there is something inherently wrong with Jewish sovereignty”? They know many facts, they have studied diligently, but somewhere they deviated from the path of truth to the path of lies. Have they not read what Romans 11 says? “Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall

be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob” (verses 25b-26). Verse 28 adds: “As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes.”

By rejecting Israel, these learned theologians are not only destroying the truth regarding their own faith, but also leading many others astray. Such “evangelicals” are the ambassadors of the one who is to come in his own name: “if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.” (MC)

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“But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God’” (Luke 9:62).



By David Phillips

Project Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is only one justified reason to look back, and that is to prayerfully give thanks to our Heavenly Father. We at the Ebenezer Home would like to thank HIM for your involvement, for our dedicated team, and for our lovely residents and their families! We are grateful to Yeshua for all the work accomplished this past year, much of it through and with your help. Because of the Lord and your generous donations, we have received 100 percent of the funds needed! We have now ordered the van for the Home, and hope to start its service very soon. “Toda La’EL”

(Thank the Lord)! Thank you for being involved (since we have not yet received the van, pictures will be coming in the future). We also want to let you know that with the van project behind us, we continue on with raising funds for the building/renovation project.

The above verse is so true and teaches us a very practical lesson for all of life. When we look back, we lose eye contact not only with our Lord, but also with our goal and intention. Thus, the rows which we intended to plow in straight furrows, become a curved mess. To plow and create straight furrows and maximize the use of



the soil (which we sow with much expectation for a great harvest), we must look forward.

Labor, knowledge, judgment, hope, love, passion, expectation, and FAITH come together in this “simple” act of plowing—so why destroy it with a single act Yeshua warns us against?

As each year ends, we all tend to “look back” over the previous year to see what we have done and achieved, but this is not the correct approach. We all make mistakes, which HE has forgiven; we disappoint people around us; we often waste time—so really, there is nothing to be proud of for what “we” have accomplished. Without our Heavenly Father, nothing is possible, and it is only through Him that we are able to do our work. BUT, what we can all *together* say is, “THANK YOU LORD, THANK YOU FATHER, for *You* have carried us through this very difficult year. Through *Your* love for us, *You* take care of all our needs—regardless of your son or daugh-

ter’s location and position. THANK YOU!”

I realize that some of you may have been ill or have experienced loneliness, but remember: HE is there at your side. May HE strengthen you. Look forward!! “I’m coming soon! Blessed is the one who follows the words of the prophecy in this book” (Rev 22:7).

The residents and the team at the Ebenezer Home, would like to thank ALL of you for your prayers, letters of encouragement, and gifts that carried us through. We know that some of you gave the “widow’s mite” from the little that you had. Others gave generously as they were able—each has an eternal value as a gift of love to HIS people in Israel! May the Holy One of Israel bless you as never before—and HE will, for HE has promised this to Abraham in Genesis 12:3: “I will bless those who bless you...” We pray for you and lift you up before HIS throne.

For me personally, a special blessing this past year has been

EBENEZER HOME



the opportunity to be able to write and speak with some of you. Indeed, our “family” in Yeshua has been blessed with an extension of new friends this year. Thank you!

Wishing you a blessed 2021! May the Father help us keep both hands on the plow and keep going, looking forward to the coming and soon return of Messiah Yeshua. Praying for you to be a blessing to your family, children, friends, fellow coworkers; or perhaps you serve in the army, police or government services. And, not

to forget those who are retired. We all need each other’s prayers.

As we look forward: In January, God willing, we pray to report on something very special. (Are you curious yet?) In February, we intend to reveal more about our future plans (which the Covid-19 period forced us to postpone), as well as much more for 2021. Stay tuned!

Plowing and looking forward with expectation for HIS coming,
Your Brother in Israel,
David



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