

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

April 2021

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Why Israel? Part 1

Foreigners Want Israeli Homes P.15 • Pope Francis Warns of Second 'Great Flood' P.17

Everything You Need to Know About Israel Today



What Should We Think About Israel? exposes the main current issues and provides well-researched objective facts to help you learn the truth about Israel's past, present, and future. This compilation from experts including Walter Kaiser, Jr., David Brickner, Mitch Glaser, Michael Brown, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, and Steven Ger will help you answer the tough questions:

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- What are the significant and long-term implications of locating the US Embassy in Jerusalem?

- Why is the Holocaust still such a big deal nearly 75 years after it happened?
- What is the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement all about?
- What is being done to restore relations between Jews and Arabs?

Learn from respected scholars how to look past the heated debates and discern for yourself what is important to know about Israel, and how that affects you today.

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By Norbert Lieth

Israel could never have been destroyed in the past, because the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was to come into the world through this people.

Nor will Israel be eradicated today or in the future, because the Lord intends to (and will) return to His people and land.

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Correction: The February issue featured a Hanukkah menorah with 9 branches, rather than the 7-armed temple one as described in the article. However, Wikipedia notes: "The Talmud states that it is prohibited to use a seven-lamp menorah outside of the Temple."



Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



A slowly growing division can be observed among the population of Israel. On the one hand, there is polarization of the Left and Right; on the other, between the secular and religious. This is the reason why elections no longer yield a clear result. There already is talk of possibly a fifth new election. The Jewish people have always had to struggle with partisanship. We see this in the New Testament with the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and then there were the Essenes and Herodians as well. The latter were, of course, predominantly political.

On Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode on a donkey from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem, the crowds were accompanying Him with chants of, "Hosanna." Only a few days later, there were shouts of, "Crucify Him!" It is generally thought

that these were the same people. Could that be the case? Only if one ignores the fact that, at least according to Luke 19:37, the rejoicing people were the multitude of His followers. Moreover, we know today that the pilgrims from Galilee set up camp on the Mount of Olives. Therefore, they were the ones who hailed the Lord as He came accompanied by His disciples, not the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

They were also the ones who were looking for Him among the pilgrims to the Passover Feast (John 11:55-56). They had not seen Christ for quite a while; the last half of the year before His death on the cross, He had stayed secluded since the religious leaders were out to capture Him. But when they now saw Him approach, they joined with His disciples in great rejoicing. Another



point to note is that Jesus—according to what the Gospels tell us—never went to Jerusalem except for the great feast days, when the religious leaders did not dare arrest Him, given the large crowds of people who loved Him (Luke 19:47-48). This also is the reason for the decision to arrest Jesus at night, while the people slept. By the time the Galilean pilgrims came from the Mount of Olives into the city in the morning, everything was already over.

Thus, those who shouted, “Crucify Him!” were not the ones who had cried, “Hosanna” the day before, but a mob incited by the chief priests within the city of Jerusalem.

In today’s Israel, religious Jews initially were reluctant to participate in politics. But after the Yom Kippur War, they became increasingly politically active. At present, they are a dominant part of Israel’s political landscape. All of Netanyahu’s administrations only came about through support of the religious parties. At this stage, they have come to be a decisive as well as a

divisive factor. On the one hand, they want to have a definite say about what takes place in the country. But on the other hand, they are not willing to share the burdens in equal measure. This aspect is leading to ever-greater resentment among secular factions, which sometimes even turns to hatred.

Whenever Jews discuss the question of why the second temple was destroyed, it is always said: “It happened because we hated one another for no good reason.” Therefore, on the basis of the experience of that time, all alarm bells should be ringing for the Jewish nation at present. Without assigning blame to anyone, the political difficulty seems not yet great enough to bring about an emergency government of national unity.

Despite all the political turmoil in Israel, we are left with the certainty that God has a plan to achieve His goal. With shalom and warm greetings from Israel,

David Wilkerson



Why Israel?

Part 1

NORBERT LIETH

Have you ever wondered why tiny little Israel, of all places, occupies so much space in the media? A biblical look behind the scenes.

It's believed that the philosopher Hegel once said, "My philosophy explains everything except the Jews." Why? Because the Jewish people have a unique place in God's plans and purposes. Israel's fate is foretold in the Bible with divine accuracy, and the history and existence of this people confirm the reliability of biblical prophecy.

IT ALL STARTED WITH SIN

In Genesis 3, the Bible describes the fall of man. God created man in His image and endowed him with free will, because He wanted to have a counterpart. Adam and Eve could decide for themselves whether they would do the will of their Creator. The devil managed to undermine God's word, causing Eve to begin to doubt. The tragic consequence was that she violated God's will and chose to disobey her Creator. This fulfilled the first prophetic word in the Bible: death entered in, both physical and spiritual. The latter means that man will be separated from God forever because of his sin.

In His love, though, God wanted to create a way out. This required a solution that satisfied both His holy righteousness and His love. God chose to take man's guilt upon Himself in order to be able to forgive. But since the eternal God Himself couldn't die, He became human in Jesus Christ. And in Jesus Christ, He accomplished the work of redemption.

Shortly after the fall of man, the Almighty makes the first prophetic promise of salvation by declaring war on Satan: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). This statement is comprised of three truths...

1. The division of human lineage. From that moment on, there will be one line that can be influenced by Satan and doesn't believe God. And there will be a second that will answer God's call.

2. These two lines are hostile to each other, because one is allowing itself to be led by the devil, and the other by God.

Shortly after the fall of man, the Almighty makes the first prophetic promise of salvation by declaring war on Satan:

3. Someday, a Person will emerge from the descendants of the woman who will defeat Satan, sin, and death. This descendant will crush Satan's head, and Satan will strike His heel.

Not long after the fall of man, the line of humanity that left God to go its own way is clear: it begins with Cain, who slew his brother Abel to become the first murderer.

GOD CHOOSES ABRAHAM

The human line that seeks and obeys God begins with Seth, the son who was born to Adam and Eve in Abel's place. We find this line in Jesus' earthly family tree.

The eternal God in Jesus Christ, intended to come from heaven to earth and enter human history. So He would need a people, a nation, and a specific birthplace. With this in mind, God chose Abraham, who came from Ur in Chaldea (Babylonia). The Almighty could have called someone else, but His

sovereign choice was Abraham. Regarding his appointing, the Bible says, "Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:1-3). This divine election involves three basic elements:

1. Abraham would receive land.
2. Abraham would become a nation.
3. All the generations of the earth would be blessed by Abraham's descendants.

This blessing is a reference to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. He would be one of Abraham's descendants, born in Israel. Abraham was the first to be called a

The eternal God in Jesus Christ, intended to come from heaven to earth and enter human history. So He would need a people, a nation, and a specific birthplace.



“Hebrew” (Gen 14:13). God had a single goal for calling Abraham: the promise of land, and later with Jerusalem and the Jewish nation: to send Jesus into the world.

God fulfilled His promise to His friend (as He also called Abraham; cf. James 2:23) by giving him the Promised Land. But the promised seed seemed to be missing, as Abraham remained childless for decades.

When a son was finally born to him and his wife Sarah, God asked Abraham to sacrifice this sole, beloved son. We can only understand this from the perspective of the New Testament. Mount Moriah, where Abraham was supposed to sacrifice his son Isaac, later became Calvary, where Jesus died for us. Abraham didn’t have to sacrifice his son in the end,

whereas God Himself gave up His only, dearly-beloved Son for lost humanity. The promised blessing had come. But Jesus didn't remain dead; He rose from the dead and lives eternally!

JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL

When Isaac, son of Abraham, became a man, he married and had twin sons with his wife, Rebekah. One was named Esau, and the other Jacob. Jacob turned out to be quite cunning. He found it easy to cheat others, even his own father. However, numerous difficulties, hardships, and life crises led him to urgently call on the Lord. And God made Himself known. If his grandfather Abraham had been the first Hebrew, Jacob became the first Israelite. Why did God choose Jacob/Israel, a former deceiver? There is only one answer to this question. God begins with the statement: "I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and

thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" (Gen 28:13-15).

In a manner of speaking, God's promise to Jacob is a repetition of the most important promise in redemptive history: the one made to Abraham. All generations on earth would be blessed through him. Almost 2,000 years after this statement was made, the Israelite Jesus of Nazareth uttered the famous words on the Cross at Calvary: "It is finished" (John 19:30). Redemption for all generations on earth had become fact.

THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Jacob fathered twelve sons, the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel. Of these twelve tribes, Judah in particular stood out. Israel's

Jacob turned out to be quite cunning. He found it easy to cheat others, even his own father. However, numerous difficulties, hardships, and life crises led him to urgently call on the Lord.



Messiah, Jesus Christ, was to come from this tribe in the future. God announced this about 19 centuries before Jesus' actual coming: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Gen 49:10). The word "Shiloh" means "hero" and refers to the Messiah. In fact,

the tribe of Judah was constantly a leader in Israel. Judah led the way in the exodus through the desert (Num 10:14). The tribe of Judah was the largest in the census conducted by Moses (Num 26:22). The most eminent kings of Israel, David and Solomon, came from Judah. The Jewish temple was in Judah. And the royal dynasty of Judah reached all the way to the

The scepter is an indication of Jesus' future kingship. He will return and rule over the whole world. "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev 19:16).

highest of all kings, the Messiah of Israel and Christ of the world: "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda..." (Heb 7:14). The twelve tribes of Israel came to Egypt through Joseph, the second youngest son of Jacob. They lived there for several centuries as foreigners, and grew from an initial 70 people to roughly two million (cf. Deut 10:22). But they were viciously oppressed by the Egyptians as slaves. So they cried out to God, and God chose Moses and his brother, Aaron. These two would lead the Israelites out of Egypt and back to the land that He had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—because later, Jesus was to be born into the world in the Promised Land. With an eye to Jesus, Moses said prophetically: "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deut 18:15).

Many centuries later, Jesus and His disciples referenced Old Testament statements like the one just quoted (John 1:45). Shortly after His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead, Jesus said to His disciples, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" Then Scripture says, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:26-27).

WHO IS THE "STAR OUT OF JACOB"?

During the long period of wandering in the desert between Egypt and the Promised Land, there were repeated confrontations with enemies seeking to destroy Israel. But each time, God held His protective hand over the people. His reason is strongly expressed in an incident recorded in Numbers 22—24: The Moabite king Balak wanted to

curse Israel, so he hired a fortune teller named Balaam. But God redirected Balaam's heart so that he couldn't practice occult fortunetelling, but instead had to utter a divine prophecy. It sounded like this: "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..." (Num 24:17).

Who is meant by the star, and what is the scepter? About 1,400 years later, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. To mark the event, the now-famous "Star of Bethlehem" appeared in the sky! Moreover, it also points to the "bright and morning star." The scepter is an indication of Jesus' future kingship. He will return and rule over the whole world. "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev 19:16). Jesus Christ Himself says on the last page of the Bible, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star..."

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev 22:16, 20).

Israel could never have been destroyed in the past, because the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was to come into the world through this people, as a star out of Jacob. Nor will Israel be eradicated today or in the future, because the Lord intends to (and will) return to His people and land.

The prophet Isaiah, who worked mainly in Jerusalem and its surroundings, lived in the 7th century BC. God assigned him to make many future-oriented announcements on His behalf. The best-known are found in Isaiah 53. A prophecy of this kind, whose fulfillment went down in world history, is unprecedented.

At about the same time as Isaiah, another prophet was living and working around Judea. Through this prophet, Micah, God announced Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Additionally, there are about 300 Old Testament prophecies related to Jesus' first coming, and

The Apostle Paul writes to the Roman church that Israel's existence and history aren't just about Israel itself, but about God's mission of salvation for the nations through Jesus Christ.

all of them were literally fulfilled in Christ.

PROPHECY IS FULFILLED

When Jesus came, He was rejected by Israel's leaders. This led to Him being crucified. Just before His death, the Lord prophesied about Jerusalem: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matt 23:37-39).

Jesus also announced in other places that Jerusalem would again be conquered by a foreign power,



the temple would be destroyed, and the people would be scattered—but this time into the entire world (Luke 21:5-7, 20-24). These words were fulfilled in AD 70. The Romans

destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple, and brought countless Jews into captivity among the Gentiles.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Roman church that Israel's existence and history aren't just about Israel itself, but about God's mission of salvation for the nations through Jesus Christ: "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Rom 11:36). "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

(NAI0221/1138)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

Foreigners Want Israeli Homes

“While American Jews once looked at having a home in Israel as luxury, or a nice thing to have for the holidays, it is now seen as a necessity for those who can afford to purchase one,” said Tzvi Shapiro, co-founder of First Israel Mortgages.



Construction in Israel (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)



“Because the stock markets are at all-time highs, and due to the political unrest in the US, people are looking to Israel as a safe-haven for their families and their futures.”

Last December was one of the busiest months for real estate transactions in the country’s history, according to Finance Ministry data. Some 13,400 apartments were sold in the last month of 2020, the third-highest volume in Israeli history, despite the fact that the country was under coronavirus lockdown for about half of the month.

“Usually, when we talk about American Jews buying properties, we are mainly talking about the Tri-State area—New York, New Jersey and Connecticut—as well as some from

NEWS IN BRIEF



SPRAY-ON ‘SKIN’

Nanomedic’s Spincare device—resembling a large staple gun—charges up a proprietary polymer from a disposable ampule and sprays it directly on the wound as a protective, flexible second skin.

“Wherever the patient is, we can print our electrospun healing fiber matrix directly on the wound. That has a lot of advantages to enhance the healing process,” says Nanomedic CEO Chen Barak, who has a PhD in biomedical engineering and years of experience in electrospinning technology.

“You apply it once so there is no dressing change needed. Patients can take regular showers after 24 to 48 hours. And when the skin underneath is healed, our layer peels off on its own,” Barak tells ISRAEL21c.

-israel21c.org
2 March 2021



Miami,” Shapiro said. “Lately, we’ve been seeing a 10x increase in buyers from California, who have not tended to flock here en masse in the same way. But they are now showing interest, and while some of them are coming to Jerusalem, others want to be near the beach.”

Meanwhile, affluent foreigners continue to pour into the market, even though non-residents are limited to mortgages of 50% of the home price, Shapiro said. “if we don’t start building quickly, prices are going to keep going up.”

-www.jpost.com, 11 March 2021

Commentary: It seems of interest that the richest states in the US are dominated by liberal-leaning political philosophies. According to WalletHub.com, most dependent on federal aid are:

1. New Mexico
2. Kentucky
3. Mississippi
4. West Virginia
5. Montana
6. Alaska
7. South Carolina
8. Indiana
9. Arizona
10. Wyoming

JewishVirtualLibrary.org states, “American Jews tend to favor dem-

ocratic candidates with 71% of Jewish voters choosing Democratic candidates on the average, and 25% choosing Republican since 1968.” Political alliances reveal the tendencies of a class of people—in this case, Jews. Internationalism is probably one of the major reasons.

Israel21c.org reports that 255,000 Jews from 150 nations moved to Israel from 2010 to 2019. Speaking of internationalism, Israel’s Jews have literal contact with every country in the world. From the 192 United Nations member states, 164 recognize Israel as of December 2020.

Isaiah 49:22 reads: “Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.”

Interestingly, the gathering of the Jews from around the world accurately portrays the Church of Jesus Christ, which is present in all countries. One day she will be raptured into the presence of the Lord.

7460

(See *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*, Item #1038, \$18.99.)





IRAQ

Pope Francis Warns of Second ‘Great Flood’

Pope Francis has warned that mankind is facing a second great flood caused by climate change unless leaders act to fix corruption and injustice.



The 84-year-old said that, in the story of the great flood in the Bible, God used his wrath to punish injustice and ‘clean up’ the world.

He then added that humanity is facing another ‘great deluge, perhaps due to a rise in temperature and the melting of glaciers.

‘[That is] what will happen now if we continue on the same path,’ he said.

While discussing justice, Francis brings up the example of the biblical flood which destroyed the world except for Noah—who was deemed virtuous enough to survive.

The flood itself may have been a myth, Francis says, but it is used as an example to show how God uses wrath to punish injustice and right wrongs in the world.

‘God’s wrath is against injustice, against Satan,’ he says.

Francis’s visit is designed to bolster Christian communities in the Middle East that were devastated under ISIS, and find themselves under attack even after the fall of its so-called caliphate.

-www.dailymail.co.uk, 2 March 2021

NEWS IN BRIEF



VACCINE ALLIANCE WITH AUSTRIA AND DENMARK

Israel, Austria and Denmark have agreed to partner on a new vaccine research and development initiative.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz lauded Israel’s world-leading vaccine campaign, telling the Israeli PM: “At the moment, the world is looking at Israel with admiration because under your leadership, Israel is the first country in the world vaccinating its population.

“Israel is the first country in the world that shows it’s possible to defeat the virus.

“This pandemic can only be overcome through global cooperation. Vaccines will allow us to return to normality in the summer, but we have to prepare already now for the next stages of the pandemic after the summer,” said Mr. Kurz.

-thejc.com
5 March 2021



Commentary: While the leader of the Catholic Church hierarchy is a measurable moral voice in the world, his religion is definitely in opposition to Holy Scripture. Isaiah 54:9 declares: “For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.”

After Noah’s flood, God declares: “While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22). 7461

(See *A Flood of Evidence*, Item #2345, \$15.99.)

 **ISRAEL**

Miracle Nation: Robust Tech Ecosystem

A new report on the Israeli tech ecosystem from 2015 to 2020, published by the IVC Research Center, reveals that Covid-19 hit the Startup Nation hard in the first half of 2020.

 But by the latter part of the year, investments had bounced back—so much so that 2020 investment dollars in Israel had exceeded 2019’s numbers by 31%, with \$10 billion invested in 607 deals.

The number of deals alone was up 20% from the previous year.

Israeli tech IPOs were also up substantially despite the pandemic: in 2020, Israeli companies made 121 funding deals, raising \$6.5 billion on the capital markets, compared to \$1.9 billion in 2019.

IVC’s latest report indicates that there are over 9,500 active high-tech companies in Israel, with approximately 1,000 added every year.

Of those, 390 are the Israeli offices of multinational corporations. There are also 411 accelerators and startup communities.

Since 2010, more than \$65 billion has been invested into Israeli tech companies, resulting in 1,371 exits worth \$121 billion and 1,271 mergers or acquisitions totaling \$116 billion.

The biggest categories for Israeli tech firms in 2020 were artificial intelligence (96 new companies established in 2020); cybersecurity (21 new companies in 2020), fintech (11 new companies) and food-tech (10 new companies).

“People here are born to believe, to never give up,” explains Alibaba founder Jack Ma, summing up the Israeli advantage in the report. “This mentality is what has made Israel a miracle in only 70 years.”

-www.israel21c.org, 8 March 2021



High-tech development centers in Herzliya Pituah

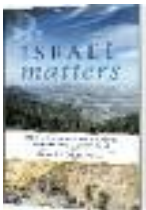
Photo by Gili Yaari/Flash90

Commentary: We are reminded here of the words of the Psalmist: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun” (Psalm 19:1-4). The entire earth continues to increase their focus upon this tiny Jewish homeland, Israel.

While Israel is still blind regarding the Gospel (see Romans 11:25b), we must keep in mind that our Bible is an Israeli product. Here is what verses 7-9 say: “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart:

the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” 7456

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



NEWS IN BRIEF



IRANIAN OIL SPILL DELIBERATE

An Iranian tanker deliberately spilled oil into Israel’s economic waters, said *Lloyd’s List*, a leading international shipping journal, confirming much of Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel’s description of the events leading up to [the] oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea.

Gamliel called the oil spill “eco-terrorism,” accusing Iran of intentionally polluting the Mediterranean to harm Israel.

The Israeli investigation found that the ship dumped some of the crude oil near Israel’s shores, before heading to Syria with its AIS on again. It unloaded the rest of its cargo onto another ship off the coast of Syria.

-jpost.com
8 March 2021



ISRAEL

Two Major Arab Visits

Jerusalem has hosted two significant first-time visitors: the Egyptian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Tarak Al-Mulla and the newly minted Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Israel Mohamed Al Khaja.



It might be assumed that since Egypt has had a peace treaty with

Israel since 1979, its ministerial visit would be routine, but this has not previously been the case. And of course, Ambassador Al Khaja is the first UAE emissary to Israel, appointed after the signing of the Abraham Accords last year.

Both visits are thus historic in their way, and point to many opportunities that are presenting themselves as a new normal blossoms in the region—a normalization that for decades has been fostered by Washington and that can be critical to the post-COVID-19 economic recovery for the region and beyond.

Egypt has been consuming the lion's share of its natural gas domestically, but the increased supply from Israel as Egypt's massive Zohr field comes online will mean exports are once again possible. With ENI Oil operating Damietta, and Shell operating Idku, Egypt has strong industry partners.

After the standard meetings with the



EGYPT'S Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Tariq al-Mulla attends a news conference in Cairo. (photo credit: MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY/ REUTERS)

Israeli president, prime minister and senior Foreign Ministry officials, the ambassador's schedule included meetings with the regional cooperation minister, tourism minister, and the director general of the science and technology ministry, all of which were quickly publicized on Twitter in English, Arabic and Hebrew, along with photographs.

Minister Al-Mullah and Ambassador Al Khaja's trail-blazing visits to Jerusalem points the way to a brighter future in which the arrival of the Egyptian petroleum minister and an ambassador from a Gulf nation in Israel for high-level consultations and cooperation will be routine events in a more peaceful and prosperous Middle East. It is only to be hoped that the United States will have a seat at this new table as well.

-www.jpost.com, 7 March 2021



Commentary: While the peace treaty signed with Egypt in 1979 resulted in the ending of hostilities, the desired goal has not been reached as far as geopolitical advancement.

Now, with Israel a leading high-tech country and the immense natural gas resources in the Mediterranean, these Arab countries are finding that a closer relationship is simply a must. Israel can no longer be ignored or treated as an enemy of Arab states.

What is the future? We understand that it will lead to Israel's fuller integration with the family of nations the world over. It fulfills Israel's desire as expressed in the Proclamation of Independence on 14 May 1948: "It is, moreover, the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation, as all other nations, in its own sovereign state...We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building of its state and admit Israel into the family of nations."

7457

(See *The Case for Zionism*, Item #2327, \$14.99.)



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Relocates Embassy in Jerusalem

Equatorial Guinea plans to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the first such pledge of its kind under the new administration of US President Joe Biden.



Netanyahu said he welcomed the trend to relocate embassies to Jerusalem, and noted in particular that this pledge was part of Israel's growing ties with Africa.

Israel is returning to Africa and Africa is returning to Israel,

NEWS IN BRIEF



ROBOT 'HEARS' WITH LOCUST EAR

In a scientific breakthrough, Israeli researchers recently connected a dead locust's ear to a robot that receives the ear's electrical signals and responds accordingly.

The result: a robot that moves forward when you clap once, and back when you clap twice.

The researchers, from Tel Aviv University, sought to examine how biological systems could be integrated into technological systems. Their findings were recently published in the *Sensors* journal.

Future functions of biological-technological system integration could include bio-nose to sniff out explosives and drugs.

-israel21c.org
7 March 2021



Netanyahu told Mbasogo. The president said that the whole of Africa welcomed Israel with open arms.

To date the only two countries with embassies in Jerusalem are the United States and Guatemala. Until 2018, all embassies were located in the Tel Aviv area as a sign of the international community’s rejection of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

A number of other countries have also pledged to open embassies in Jerusalem including Brazil, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Serbia, but to date none have done so.

-*www.jpost.com*, 20 February 2021

Commentary: This small country on the western coast of Africa hosts a population of only 650,000 people. Life expectancy is low – 62 years, but the GDP is extremely high for Africa, at \$37,200 per person.

Indeed, Netanyahu’s statement is true: “Israel is returning to Africa, and Africa is returning to Israel.” Countries that do not recognize Israel are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Algeria, dominated by Islam.

Israel’s future is unquestionable; it is guaranteed by the “I will” of the Creator: “And I will sow her

unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people,

Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God” (Hosea 2:23).

7448


(See *Prophecy for Ten-Tribe Israel*, Item #1083, \$14.50.)



ISRAEL

100,000 Palestinian Workers to Be Vaccinated

The Palestinian Authority Health Ministry announced that it has struck a deal with the Israeli Health Ministry to vaccinate 100,000 Palestinians who work in Israel.

 “Understanding that Israel and the Palestinians live in one area and that an outbreak of COVID-19 among the Palestinian Authority may also affect the infection rate among Israeli residents, senior ministry officials visited with the PA Health Ministry and received a briefing on the coronavirus situation in the PA, morbidity data and the epidemiological investigations that are taking place,” the ministry said in a statement.



The visit included Health Ministry Director-General Chezy Levy, head of Public Health Services Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis and coronavirus commissioner Prof. Nachman Ash.

It is extremely rare for Israeli officials to go to Ramallah for a meeting.

The visit came against the backdrop of reports that the Health Ministry would provide Palestinian workers with the Moderna coronavirus vaccine. A spokesperson for the ministry said they could not confirm the reports.

According to the World 'O Meter website, the PA has had 171,154 cases of coronavirus and 1,956 deaths.

-www.jpost.com, 19 February 2021

Commentary: Although some reports indicate that Israel is withholding vaccines from Arab Palestinians, economic and public health reasons override various concerns.

According to *Haaretz*, in 2013 some 48,000 Arab Palestinians were legally employed in Israel, with another approximately 30,000 who work illegally without a work permit.

These figures are quite amazing, seeing that Israel has one of, if not the world's best border security systems. Yet, 30,000 are slipping through anyhow

without a permit. This clearly shows that there is no such thing as hermetically sealing borders from a neighboring country. If Israel can't do it, obviously no one else can.

The answer to this jigsaw puzzle is simply for all Arab nations to recognize Israel's existence and the right of the Jews to have their own country.

Interestingly, countries that do not border Israel, such as Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, and Morocco, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Doubtless, only supernatural interference will bring peace to the people in that part of the world. It says in Daniel 4:35: "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" These were the words of the first Gentile world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon—the one Daniel

identified with the words, "Thou art this head of gold" (Daniel 2:38b). 7450

(See *Daniel's Prophecies Made Easy*, Item #1057, \$12.)



“He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them...Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!” (Number 23:21, 23).

BY ARNO FROESE

The one who utters these blessings is a Gentile prophet by the name of Balaam. This figure has confused many, who have attempted to disassociate him with the God of Israel.

Chapter 22 contains the story in detail.

Checking with rabbinical authorities, we receive diverse answers regarding Balaam. He is vilified in the Midrash. Nechama Leibowitz wrote a study called “Prophet or Sorcerer?” And Rabbi Jacob Milgrom titled his article, “Balaam: Saint or Sinner?”

The late Dr. J. Vernon McGee wrote in his commentary: “Did you know that there is more said in Scripture about Balaam than there is about Mary, the mother of Jesus? More is said about Balaam than about any of the apostles. The New

Testament mentions him three times, and each time it is in connection with apostasy.”

We are safe to say he was a prophet of God, for chapter 22:12a reads: “And God said unto Balaam...”

It is of interest that the prophet Balaam had knowledge, connection and, quite apparently, access to the God of Israel. But he makes a very strange determination about Israel: no iniquity, no perverseness, no enchantment, no divination. We quickly learn that while he is a prophet of God, he is not allowed to look into the family of God: the nation Israel.

Back in chapter 14, verse 22, we read the direct words of God: “Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the

wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice.”

At the end of Moses’ life, he makes this declaration: “For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?” (Deuteronomy 31:27).

Even at the very beginning, when Israel moved out of Egypt toward the Promised Land, we see their rebellion: “And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness” (Exodus 14:11-12).

Here we learn the difference between Israel’s **position** and their **condition**.

Israel’s position is based on God’s oath: “The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, be-

cause ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

What a mighty message for the Church! Romans 5:8 exclaims: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” What happens when we as sinners come in repentance to God through Jesus Christ? Ephesians 1:4 is fulfilled: “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” God chose us; it was the work of God the Holy Spirit. That’s our irrevocable position, but our condition is our responsibility: “holy and without blame before him in love.”

During my 53 years of work in the ministry, the question, “Why the Jews?” has been asked innumerable times. The answer is still the same:

God chose Israel, regardless of their condition, just as the Church. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8b).

In recent months, some have taken it upon themselves to point to the often negative and extremely liberal tendencies of the Jews. Indeed, much can be said about that, but still it does not change one iota of what is written in Zechariah 2:8b: “for he that toucheth you [Jews] toucheth the apple of his [God’s] eye.”

A practical example may help. If I observe my neighbor’s children misbehaving, I do not have the right to punish them; it’s not my family. I am interfering in an office not appointed to me. My neighbor’s children are subject to the authority of their parents.

Is Israel perfect today? Far from it; yet their **condition** does not invalidate their **position**. In the end, Israel will be victorious. When the last one from among the Gentiles is added to the Church, Romans 11:26a will be fulfilled: “And so all Israel shall be saved.” (MC)



“I will bless them
that bless thee...”
(Genesis 12:3).

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Part 3 of “A Request for Prayer”

One More Milestone...

By David Phillips *Project Manager*

On this earthly journey, we have met you, our dear Ebenezer family, who know us and read our articles. We thank you for standing with us at this crossroads, praying that we'll receive wisdom as to which road the Lord would have us take. For those who are new to the Ebenezer family, and for those who have been traveling with us for a while, we thank you for going the extra mile with us; realizing it isn't just “an extra mile”—it's a lifelong journey we're on until we meet before His throne.

WHY IS THE EBENEZER HOME SO IMPORTANT?

Many turn to Ebenezer for help, understanding that physical care is only one aspect of their care; just as important is their need to be supported emotionally and spiritually.



But what many don't realize is that, right now in Israel, the Ebenezer Home is the only senior citizens' home where both residents and staff are believers in Yeshua! This is very special, but it's also a tremendous responsibility. The Home continually strives to meet the ever-growing needs of the believing community—which, praise the Lord, is growing by the day!

IF NOT EBENEZER, THEN WHO?

If Ebenezer does not step up and fulfill this growing need for the elderly believers in Israel, then who will? Where will the last of the older, fragile, surviving Holocaust



believers go? Who will care for the second-generation Holocaust survivors, who have been traumatized by all that their parents went through? What about the other non-Jewish Christians and Christian Arabs? If not Ebenezer, who will care for them? It would mean placing these older believers in a home that is not supportive of their faith. What then? The result: they become depressed, disheartened, and discouraged, feeling alone and isolated during a time when they are vulnerable and need support the most. (In one of the upcoming issues, we will write about the elderly Arabic Christian community.)

WHY DOES EBENEZER NEED TO UPGRADE THEIR FACILITY?

Presently, Ebenezer is licensed only as an assisted living facility; which means by Israeli law, we're not allowed to accept elderly believers who already require nursing care. This poses an enormous problem for those who suddenly find themselves in need of nursing care, or whose families can

no longer care for them. Although Ebenezer has the needed doctor and nurses on staff, until we upgrade our facility to meet the nursing ward/home requirements, we can only have up to 10% of residents requiring nursing, unless the Ministry of Health grants us special permission. Upgrading from an assisted living facility to a nursing ward/home, would ensure we could always accept and care for the aging believers, regardless of their medical needs.

Another reason we must upgrade our facility is that the Israeli Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare, Fire Safety Department, and Municipality have ordered that all facilities meet new standards and safety regulations. We must reinforce buildings against earthquakes and comply with new medical service standards. ALL elderly-care homes in Israel must undergo this procedure. Therefore, we MUST upgrade our facility, as our current facility does not meet these new standards, having been built in the 1970s. All facilities that don't

EBENEZER HOME



comply with the new standards will be shut down.

WEIGHING ALL POSSIBILITIES

Right now, as the project manager along with the management team, we are weighing all the possibilities that are open to us to expand the Home and build the nursing ward. It's important for us to share this with you, because every time we take a step, we do it in faith, knowing you stand with us in prayer. We are guided by the prayers you lay before the throne of mercy.

We have another nice option located in the Galilee region, and

have a meeting planned with the owners of the property. We are searching out this option, as the land is pre-planned and ready to build a nursing home, which would make building much easier. Please keep us in prayer as we go to these first meetings, and also as we go and speak with other land and building owners at different sites.

During this time of COVID-19 isolation, we have seen and understood more fully what it truly means to be a family in Messiah, supporting and praying for each other. Thank you again for being part of the Ebenezer family!



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