

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

June 2021

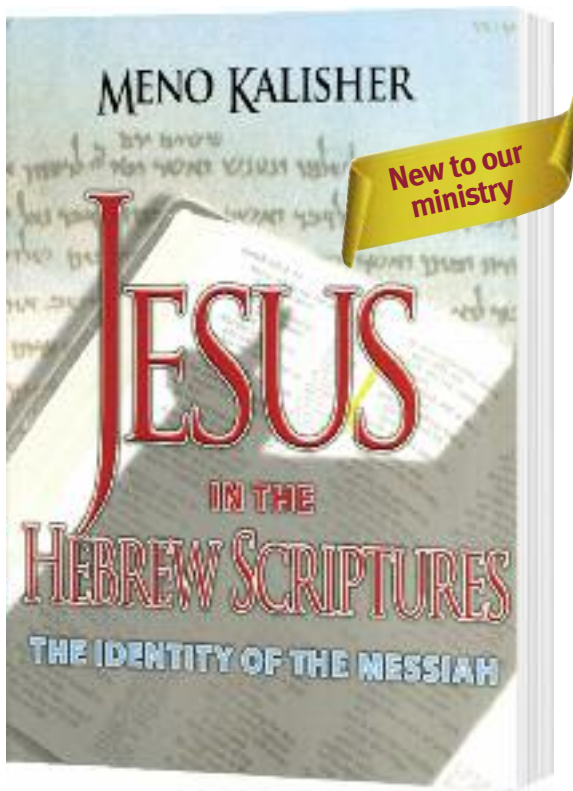
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A Lament Part 1

Antisemitic Crimes Rose 15% in 2020 P.14 • Global Startups Drawn to Israel P.16

Why should one bother learning all those details out of a book that is nearly 3000 years old?



Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures? Wasn't He supposed to be in the New Testament only? Of course He is prominently featured in the many prophecies which foretell his first and second comings. This amazing book takes a detailed and comprehensive look at these examples.

But did you know that throughout the Hebrew narrative, Jesus was also there in person? Did you know that He was seen, not just by some of the well-known heroes of the faith, but that He met and conversed also with some of the less prominent Jewish figures?

Why should one bother learning all those details out of a book that is nearly 3000 years old? Because Jesus says: "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also" (John 14:7). There is nothing more important in the world than knowing Jesus—and knowing Him well— because "he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12).

JESUS IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES ITEM #2373

172 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Meno Kalisher

~~\$9.95~~ **Sale \$7**

Meno Kalisher is a native-born Israeli whose father was a Holocaust survivor, and mother a Jew from Iran. Meno's parents were among the first Messianic Jewish believers in Israel. Meno pastors the Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption, a Messianic congregation in the heart of Jerusalem, composed of both Jewish and Gentile believers.



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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



As was almost expected after four consecutive elections, Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a government within the available 28 days. This time, he was unable to persuade one of the smaller parties to join the government, or to talk individuals into switching sides. This shows how the fronts have definitely hardened. Netanyahu's once almost magical power of persuasion appears to have evaporated. It seems that nobody believes his promises and assurances any longer.

He had tried to form a government by all available means. To reach his goal, he was ready to break with long-established taboos. Even before the elections, he was courting the Arabs as potential partners. Yet in the past, he had

been the one to warn the Israeli public that the left-wing government would be willing to strike a deal with anti-Zionist and terrorist-friendly Arabs. Actually, he would now have needed them to put together a government. But the Arabs were not to be convinced with vague promises. In addition, the newly founded ultra-Right party of Smotrich was against this plan, even though in the beginning they had received strong support from Netanyahu.

Thus, by the end of the four-week term, all options for forming a government were blocked to Netanyahu. The only thing he achieved, ironically, was to legitimize the Arabs as possible coalition partners. In fact, this is something the opposition parties



will actually have to rely on now, if they want to succeed in establishing a government. And Netanyahu will not be able to blame them, because he himself made the rapprochement with the Arab parties “acceptable.” As a last desperate effort to stay in the running, Netanyahu wanted to change the law to the effect that the prime minister would from now on be elected directly by the people. This attempt, so last-minute and so obviously self-serving, naturally found no support. It is doubtful in any case whether such a move would have changed anything about the deadlocked situation.

Now, the Netanyahu opposition, led by Yair Lapid, received the mandate by the president to form a government. Whether he will succeed is, of course, questionable as well, because the diversity of the parties in this camp is even greater. Basically, the only thing uniting them is opposition to Netanyahu. Whether this will be enough to unite them into an effective government remains to be seen. It should be remembered, however, that op-

position to Netanyahu has grown over the years. The founders and leaders of four of the opposition parties have served in governments under Netanyahu. Their experiences from those times have turned them into staunch opponents of Netanyahu, even though some of them are politically and ideologically actually very close to Netanyahu’s Likud party.

Therefore, it can be assumed that the current political crisis in Israel is not so much due to political or ideological factors, but rather personal objections. The opposition’s immediate goal is clear: Netanyahu has to go. The only ideology that can help in this situation is, above all, the principle of national unity. The government to be formed must be one of national unity. For Israel’s benefit, one can only hope that this will be accomplished—so that Israel will have an administration that pursues not division, but unity. With this hope, and looking up to Him who holds everything in His hands, greetings and Shalom.

David Wilkie



A Lament Part 1

NORBERT LIETH

Ezekiel 19 laments the ruin of the Davidic dynasty. What it means prophetically, and for our life. An exegesis.

Laments are always melancholy. They are sung when our spirits have reached rock bottom. They are funeral dirges, wails; there is something mournful about them (vv. 1, 14).

This song laments the ruin of the Davidic dynasty. Everything had started off so well: David's appointment as king, the promises about him, his home and kingdom. Then David's praises, his psalms...just to end like this! We can fall so far when we leave the Lord, desiring to go our own way. Looking at global political developments, and developments in Christianity or the church today, we could also strike up a lament.

Complaint Against Those Responsible

“Moreover take thou up a lamentation for the princes of Israel” (v. 1). First, the people responsible are addressed. The “princes” are the rulers of Israel. This includes both the kings and the priests (those who hold both political and religious power). They bore

the primary responsibility, because they had brought the people to this point. Some oppressed the people, while others tolerated sin and were involved in it themselves. Everyone who bears responsibility (be it educational, political, or religious) has a special accountability: “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:48b).

This lament is told in the form of a parable, with varied imagery. It begins with the comparison, “And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions” (Ezek 19:2). The mother lioness stands for Judah, as well as for Israel as a whole. This is made clear by various passages in the Bible (Gen 49:9; Num 24:9; Mic 5:8). Israel camped among lions as a lioness. The lioness raised her cubs as the other lions did (namely, godless). Israel had assimilated itself to the peoples. It wanted to be like

A Lament Part 1

the other nations, and eventually it was no different from them.

This theme continues in chapter 20: “And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone” (v. 32). God had directly chosen, instructed, and enlightened this people in such an exceptional manner. They had been the only people in the world to receive the living Word of God. They were called to be the salvation of the world. And now they were adopting the position, “We want to be like the heathens.”

In his book *The World of Yesterday*, Jewish Austrian author Stefan Zweig (1881–1942) writes: “Adapting themselves to the milieu

of the people or country where they live is not only an external protective measure for the Jews, but a deep internal desire. Their longing for a homeland, for rest, for security, for friendliness, urges them to attach themselves passionately to the culture of the world around them.”

Generally speaking, today’s Christianity is headed in the same direction. Today’s “Christian” Western world no longer wants to be Christian, but pagan. It’s trying to break away from its Christian roots with a vengeance, and to adapt. Even the church itself is becoming progressively more unchristian. Instead of bringing God’s offer of love to the world, it’s resembling the world and its sins.



The mother lioness stands for Judah, as well as for Israel as a whole. This is made clear by various passages in the Bible.



This example illustrates how far we've come in the West, once dominated by Christianity. In 2014, Munich, Germany's official city portal advertised their family pass, which offers attractive offers and discounts for families. The graphics show two men with a child, and two women with two children. The conventional family (father, mother, and children) was nowhere to be seen!

Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter warn against

Today's "Christian" Western world no longer wants to be Christian, but pagan. It's trying to break away from its Christian roots with a vengeance, and to adapt.

becoming like the world, and call for a change of heart through sanctification. Paul writes, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom 12:2). Peter writes, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation" (1 Pet 1:14-15).

When we begin to assimilate, we simultaneously begin to stray. This always ends in disaster. I read somewhere that snake venom is around 90% proteins. Proteins are one of the most important building blocks of human nutrition, and are used for the constant replacement of

Is it possible for someone to spread darkness again, instead of being a light in this world? Is it possible for someone to be tempted by people to go back into the world, instead of saving people from it?

our cells. Even so, it wouldn't occur to anyone to take snake venom for nourishment; the poison in it is much stronger, and the person would inevitably die. The "poison" of this world is the same. We do have to live and work in this world, but at the same time, we must be careful not to be poisoned by it.

As You Sow, So Shall You Reap

"And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men. The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt" (Ezek 19:3-4). Israel, which had become godless, and its kings raised their children according to the norms of the nations; according to the world's guidelines, and no longer according to the Word of God. The result was just what you'd expect.

The young lion referred to here is the godless Judean king Jehoahaz. "Catching the prey" and "devouring men" is likely a reference to his tyrannical reign, in which he brought more harm than blessing to his people. In 609 BC, only three months into his reign, he was captured by the Egyptian pharaoh Necho II and brought to Riblah (northern Israel), and then later to Egypt where he died: "Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done. And Pharaohnechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents

of silver, and a talent of gold. And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there” (2 Kgs 23:31-34). That was the fate of the people to whom blessings and victory had been promised! Israel had been called to rule over nations, and now its king died in enemy territory—in the very land from which the Lord had rescued them some 800 years earlier! Israel’s king had once again become the prey of the enemy from whom the Lord had delivered him. What a tragedy!

Is it possible for one—you or I—to be saved from the world by the grace of the Lord Jesus, and then later allow oneself to be reclaimed by it?

Is it possible for someone to be overcome by the world, instead of overcoming it?

Is it possible for someone to cast aside the Person that saved them from this present world

(Gal 1:4), in order to follow the world again?

Is it possible for someone to spread darkness again, instead of being a light in this world?

Is it possible for someone to be tempted by people to go back into the world, instead of saving people from it?

Peter has this to say about it: “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (2 Pet 2:20).

Continuing Decline

"Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion. And he went up and down among the lions, he became a young lion, and learned to catch the prey, and devoured men. And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and the

A Lament Part 1

Jehoiachin also ruled for just three months, but it was a time of horror and destruction of his own people. It was so bad that God even used Israel's enemies to put a stop to the hardship and injustice Jehoiachin caused.

fulness thereof, by the noise of his roaring. Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit. And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel” (Ezek 19:5-9). Instead of understanding, and instead of repenting, the Lioness, Israel (Judah) raised another evil king. This is probably referring to Jehoiachin.

Jehoiachin also ruled for just three months, but it was a time of horror and destruction of his own people. It was so bad that God even used Israel's enemies to put a stop to the hardship and injustice Jehoiachin caused. This was achieved through the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC. A horrifying concept: God made use of Israel's enemies, to save the

people from King Jehoiachin's reign of terror! “So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead. And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt. Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and

A person can wreak so much havoc when he no longer allows himself to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, but instead by his emotions, stubbornness, and egoism! Many are affected and even pulled down with him.



his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said" (2 Kgs 24:6-13). Jehoiachin was imprisoned for 37 years, until the son of Nebuchadnezzar released him. He never returned home.

A person can fall so far! In today's terms: a rebelling Chris-

tian can bring so much misery and hardship on his own family (parents, children, siblings), but also on the church! A person can wreak so much havoc when he no longer allows himself to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, but instead by his emotions, stubbornness, and egoism! Many are affected and even pulled down with him, just because he doesn't want to pull himself together and repent. It can even get so bad that the Lord uses the people of the world to step in and stop it.

(MR0221/1132)



On the Horizon



GERMANY

Antisemitic Crimes Rose 15% in 2020

Berlin police arrested a 53-year-old German man on suspicion of sending dozens of threatening letters to politicians, lawyers and journalists that were signed with the acronym of a neo-Nazi group, as officials warned that statistics show a disturbing rise in far-right extremism across Germany.



Illustrative: Policemen walk through a street close to the site of a shooting in Halle an der Saale, eastern Germany.

(Sebastian Willnow/dpa/AFP)



Antisemitic crimes rose by more than 15 percent in 2020, the data showed.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said far-right crime rose 5.65% in 2020, accounting for more than half of all criminality categorized as “politically motivated.”

“This shows again that right-wing extremism is the biggest threat for our country,” Seehofer told reporters while announcing the annual statistics.

The letters were signed “NSU 2.0.” A German group called the National Socialist Underground was responsible for a string of violent crimes between 1998 and 2011, including the racially motivated killings of nine men with immigrant backgrounds

NEWS IN

BRIEF



GREECE SIGNS RECORD DEFENSE DEAL

Israel and Greece have signed their biggest defense deal worth close to £1.2 billion (\$1.7 billion US).

Israel’s Elbit Systems won the contract to establish a training center for the Hellenic Air Force.

It will supply new training aircraft as well as advanced avionics equipment to school pilots.

Israel’s Defense Minister Benny Gantz said, “This cooperation agreement rests on the excellence of Israeli industry and on the strong, longstanding relations between the defense establishments of Israel and Greece.”

-thejc.com
19 April 2021



and a police officer. The group's name was derived from the full name of the Nazi, or National Socialist, party.

German security agencies warned of the growing threat of violent far-right extremism. In July 2019, a regional politician from Chancellor Angela Merkel's party was killed by a neo-Nazi; three months later, a gunman tried to force his way into a synagogue on Yom Kippur, killing two people.

Seehofer said the new statistics reveal an ongoing increase in antisemitic crimes in Germany, which was up 15.7% in 2020 over 2019 with 2,351 total incidents—94.6% of which were committed by a far-right suspect.

Of the total, 62 were acts of violence while the majority were antisemitic hate speech and other related crimes, frequently on the internet or over social media, Seehofer said.

"This development in Germany is not only troubling, but in view of our history, deeply shameful," he said.

Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, said the German numbers highlight a broader issue.

"This is a wake-up call, not just for Germany, but for the whole world," he said. "These figures should ring alarm bells, because we are seeing similar trends across the Western world."

-www.timesofisrael.com, 4 May 2021

Commentary: We have previously noted upticks in anti-Semitism around the world, but this most recent report from *The Times of Israel* puts concrete numbers to them, at least in Germany: 2,351 incidents in 2020, and troublingly, 94.6% perpetrated by right-wing extremists.

In the evangelical Christian world, we often like to point out anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism per-

NEWS IN BRIEF



JERUSALEM MOST POPULAR DESTINATION

Jerusalem is the most sought out destination for tourists visiting Israel from abroad, according to new data published by the Tourism Ministry.

Around 79% of tourists visiting Israel in 2019 (3.6 out of 4.55 million) stopped in Jerusalem to wade through the streets of the Israeli capital and the historic sites of the Old City during their tour of the Jewish state.

Before the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Israel experienced a record year for incoming tourism in 2019, with approximately 4.55 million foreign tourists visiting the Jewish State that year—an 11% jump from 2018, injecting around NIS 23 billion into the economy.

Israel is preparing for the return of international tourism following a year-long hiatus due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

-post.com
10 May 2021



petrated by Muslims and the left, but it appears that—at least in the Western world—much more of these crimes are committed by politically conservative and, unfortunately, often nominally Christian people and groups.

Mark 13:22 warns us that in the end times, “false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.” This puzzling verse does not detail how “even the elect” could be seduced, but we have already seen how a charismatic, populist, right-wing leader captured the hearts and minds of a largely “Christian” country: Nazi Germany.

We should steel ourselves against the hateful rhetoric often found within some Christian communities. Remember that Jews, regardless of belief or unbelief, “...as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes”

(Romans 11:28b).

(By J. Froese) 7503

(See *What Should We Think About Israel?* Item #2358, \$17.99.)



WORLD

Global Startups Drawn to Israel

Floretta Mayerson is cofounder of the Mexican startup Violetta, a digital safe space where domestic violence victims can get psychological and legal assistance anytime via a chatbot.



“We have always admired the Israeli startup environment. The growth potential of questioning and rethinking our project through its lens is huge.”

“The internationalism of the program is core to what we do. Our Jerusalem location was always meant to serve startups from around the world,” says MassChallenge Israel Managing Director Yonit Serkin.

The MassChallenge locations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Texas, Mexico and Switzerland also draw applicants from outside of their geography. But not from as far afield as the Israeli branch attracts.

“Here it’s truly from all corners of the world,” Serkin tells ISRAEL21c.

Serkin also points out that “the incredible density of entrepreneurship here doesn’t exist elsewhere. We can connect with the best minds at some 400 multinational R&D centers within an hour’s drive from Jerusalem. You don’t have this density of innovation professionals in any other place.



Photo by Ricky Rachman, courtesy of MassChallenge Israel

It's an incredibly efficient way to connect."

2021 MassChallenge Israel cohort

Accesstravels (Israel) is an inclusive community-based travel platform enabling people with physical disabilities to overcome barriers to global travel.

Accounting Made Easy (South Africa) is a business financial literacy tool that uses a gamified, interactive web app to provide a full learning experience in seven hours.

Ayambe Talent Solutions (Rwanda) uses machine learning to match skilled technicians in Africa to clients in need of their skills.

EroeGo (United Arab Emirates) is developing an app allowing consumers access to soon-to-expire fresh groceries at affordable prices.

Fabric (United States) brings geospatial experiences to mobile apps by combining real-time geolocation, augmented reality and messaging capabilities.

Microfinance.ai (India) is simplifying micro-credit business with AI-powered mobile platform for less tech-savvy borrowers.

Munevo (Germany) is working on DRIVE, the first wheelchair control using smart glasses as a joystick alternative.

NEWS IN BRIEF



RESEARCH 'SWITCHES OFF' BRAIN CONNECTORS

Israeli scientists have developed a way to switch off connectors that link different parts of the brain, in an advance they say could prove key to treating neurological disorders like epilepsy.

The innovation, which relies on a light-sensitive protein from mosquitos, was reported on in the peer-reviewed journal *Neuron*. Dozens of neurobiology teams around the world are already ordering the protein and using the protocol in their own labs.

"Our new method is the first that allows scientists to increase or decrease the function of certain pathways that connect parts of the brain, or shut them off completely," Prof. Ofer Yizhar of the Weizmann Institute of Science told *The Times of Israel*.

"The ultimate aim is that this will allow us to better understand the pathways of the brain, and which of them can be targeted to treat various brain disorders."

-timesofisrael.com
11 May 2021



Nymiz Software Company (Spain) anonymizes and pseudo anonymizes personal data from documents and databases to protect privacy and remain GDPR compliant.

SAYeTECH Company (Ghana) designs and builds smart agricultural machinery embedded with IoT suited for Africa.

Tiotech AS (Norway) is developing the next generation of titania for use in fast-charging, long-life batteries.

WiDE (Israel) is an innovative treatment platform for children with autism.

Zeppi (Israel) is a floating video call device for people unable to use smartphones or tablets.

-www.israel21c.org, 3 May 2021

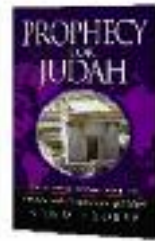
Commentary: From the 42 startups listed, 29 are Israeli. That simply means Israel is on the right track to become the world leader when it comes to high-tech startups.

We will continue to highlight Israel's successes with Isaiah 61:6 in mind: "But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves." While this is not exactly the case now, we know they are in the process of reaching that goal. It will be the fulfillment

of Bible prophecy, as we read in the next chapter: "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called

by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name" (Isaiah 62:2). 7504

(See *Prophecy for Judah*, Item #1084, \$17.50.)



California Home to 22 Israeli Tech Unicorns

"The numbers are wild," United States—Israel Business Alliance (USIBA) president Aaron Kaplowitz said in an email text message accompanying the statement.



"California continues to attract many of the best and brightest innovators in the world," he added. "We're seeing today a new generation of Israeli entrepreneurs contribute to northern California's innovation ecosystem and benefit from a deep bench of venture capitalists."

Eight Israeli-founded unicorns headquartered in San Francisco, the most of any US city behind New York, the statement said. Deal, with its office just beyond Oracle Park baseball field, is the most recent addition to the unicorn



club. The payroll and compliance platform startup announced the completion of a \$156 million funding round, driving its valuation to \$1.25 billion. Deel has raised \$206 million total—all in the past 11 months.

Trailing San Francisco, Palo Alto now has seven Israeli-founded unicorns, including insurance firms Hippo, valued at \$5 billion, and Next Insurance, at \$4 billion. On March 22, Wiz closed a \$130 million round, valuing the firm at a whopping \$1.7 billion just three months after emerging from stealth.

“Silicon Valley lives by the ‘move fast and break things’ mantra,” Kaplowitz said. “The Israelis, of course, have a word for that: chutzpah.”

USIBA published research findings on the 21 Israeli-founded unicorns based in New York. Tel Aviv is the city with the most Israeli-founded unicorns in the world.

Soon after the New York report, Outbrain, a unicorn from the list, filed a confidential prospectus with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for plans to IPO. This development came a day after Israeli-founded ad software company DoubleVerify—headquartered in SoHo—closed its first day on the New York Stock Exchange up 33 percent, leading it to a market cap of \$5.3 billion, the USIBA statement said.

[The term “unicorn,” used in this article, simply means any startup that has reached \$1 billion valuation.]

-www.timesofisrael.com, 27 April 2021

Commentary: According to Jewish Virtual Library, New York leads with the highest Jewish population in the USA at 9.1%, followed by Washington DC at 8.2%, and California 3%. These figures do not include Israelis doing business in the USA. The liberal state of California seems very attractive for Israelis, who travel all over

NEWS IN BRIEF



YOUNG JEWS DETACHED FROM CULTURE

A landmark study of US Jews by the Pew Research Center has demonstrated that young American Jews are increasingly likely to say they do not identify with the Jewish religion, participate less in Jewish customs, and have less attachment to the Jewish people.

At the same time, intermarriage is rising rapidly, with Jews who got married in the last decade significantly more likely to be married to a non-Jew than a Jew and the rate of intermarriage increasing significantly over the previous decade.

The study demonstrated that American Jews aged 18-29 are displaying less and less attachment to the Jewish people and Jewish life.

According to the data, 40% of Jews of this cohort say they are not Jewish by religion while, rather naturally, denominational affiliation is also lower among young Jews with only 29% saying they are Reform and just 8% saying they are Conservative.

-jpost.com
11 May 2021



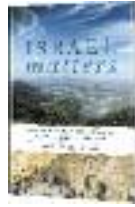
The JCC in Palo Alto, California, holds an Israeli Independence Day celebration in Hebrew aimed at the vibrant Israeli community in Silicon Valley.

(Saul Bromberger/Courtesy JCC Palo Alto)

the world, see opportunities, and act thereupon.

When it comes to globalism, Israel is in an excellent position due to the diversity of its Jewish population from all corners of the world. Also, it is estimated that 600,000 to over one million Israelis reside abroad.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks of the leaderless people of Israel: “As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock” (Ezekiel 34:8). What is the ultimate aim? “For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will



both search my sheep, and seek them out” (verse 11).

7500

(See *Israel Matters*, Item #2328,

\$17.99.)



ISRAEL

Urban Transportation Takes to the Skies

Urban Aeronautics (UA), a leading Israeli aerospace company is revolutionizing the future of urban mobility. The company designed and is currently developing car-sized aircraft that will provide safe and rapid transport via seamless city integration.



“Our vision,” says Haran Ben-Eli-ahou, Urban Aeronautics’s vice president, “is to create a vehicle for urban mobility. Everything is compact and enclosed within the vehicle to allow for safe transportation and the ability to land on any rooftop or available city corner.”

Ben-Eli-ahou explains that the primary use cases for VTOL aircraft are providing shuttle service between airports and city centers and serving as medical air ambulances to transport accident victims. “There are many places that helicopters cannot access and with a Cityhawk, you can save



NEWS IN BRIEF



Cityhawk utilizes powerful ducted fans, resulting in superior control, stability, speed, safety, and noise reduction

lives by arriving sooner than a regular ambulance.”

Cities around the world including LA, Vancouver, Singapore, Paris, and London, are taking their first steps towards implementing this revolutionary aviation with commercial flights expected by as early as 2025.

In just five years, thousands of VTOL aircraft worldwide will be shuttling passengers from airports to city centers. The infrastructure required for these devices, suggests Ben-Eliahou, will be more of a limiting factor than the aircraft itself.

Urban Aeronautics has partnered with some of the leading names in the aerospace industry, including Boeing and Safran, the French aerospace component firm, with plans to receive FAA approval and be fully certified by 2026.

“Developing an aircraft takes time, but our plans are in place,” says Ben-Eliahou. “Our extensive experience with staff who have worked for IAI and other major commercial aviation companies, giving us a strong team to execute those plans and bring it to market.”

-www.israel21c.org, 3 May 2021

Commentary: The first manned flight took place on 21

NEWSPAPER DISAVOWS BALFOUR DECLARATION

In an article about its “worst errors of judgment” from its 200-year history, a *Guardian* writer implied that the storied British paper’s editorial support of the Balfour Declaration of 1917—the then-British foreign minister’s approval of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine—was a mistake.

“The *Guardian* of 1917 supported, celebrated and could even be said to have helped facilitate the Balfour declaration,” editorial writer Randeep Ramesh wrote in the article.

“Whatever else can be said, Israel today is not the country the *Guardian* foresaw or would have wanted,” he added, arguing that the *Guardian*’s editor at the time, Charles Prestwich Scott, was ignorant about Palestinian rights.

The Balfour Declaration, in which the United Kingdom committed itself to creating a national home for Jews in lands it controlled and today comprise the territories of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan, was an important milestone for the Zionist movement.

-jta.org
10 May 2021



November 1783, with passengers Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and François Laurent le Vieux d'Arlandes. This first flight was followed by many others throughout Europe. The first, heavier-than-air flight is somewhat debatable, but in general, the Wright Brothers are credited with the invention of the airplane. Now, it seems, it is Israel's turn again.

When reading the various reports, it is quite amazing what this small nation has achieved in such a short time. They have been threatened with destruction since 1947, when the United Nations voted to divide the land between Arab Palestinians and Jewish Palestinians. It is quite fascinating to learn that most of the planes used in 1948 were outdated remnants from WWII. Wikipedia reports:

A variety of obsolete and surplus ex-World War II combat aircraft were quickly sourced by various means—both legal and illegal—to supplement this fleet. The backbone of the IAF consisted of 25 Avia S-199s (purchased from Czechoslovakia, essentially Czechoslovak-built Messerschmitt Bf 109s) and 60 Supermarine Spitfire LF Mk IXEs, the first of which, "Israel 1" was locally

assembled from British abandoned spare parts and a salvaged engine from an Egyptian Spitfire with most of the rest purchased from Czechoslovakia.

-https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Israeli_Air_Force

Interestingly, the nations which gave decisive help to the founding of Israel, such as Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, no longer exist in those forms.

Today, Israel has become a leading country, particularly in the field of military aeronautics. They are the only country in the world with repeated, practical experience using the most modern weapons since their founding in 1948.

Today, Israel has plans to revolutionize future urban mobility, expecting the first flight in 2025.

While this development has no prophetic significance, we nevertheless refer to the last two verses of Psalm 57: "For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth." 7505

(See The Day Approaching, Item #2362, \$15.99)



“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim” (Joel 3:18).

BY ARNO FROESE

About the name “Shittim,” *Unger’s Bible Dictionary* notes: “The barren valley of the Jordan above the Dead Sea, and was chosen by the prophet Joel (3:18) to denote a very dry valley...In the prophecy the springs which water this valley, and proceed from the house of Jehovah, the physical as well as spiritual blessings, which will come to [Israel] and its inhabitants in the Kingdom Age, are portrayed.”

When reading chapter 3 of the prophet Joel, we realize that the whole world is involved. It is the Lord’s day of judgment against those who have opposed God’s elect. Verse 2a states: “I will also

gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat.” Why is He doing such? Read on: “and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel.” Very clearly, a distinction is made: all the nations of the world, and “my heritage Israel.” Then comes the reason for the judgment: “whom they [nations] have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.”

Let us be up front and strongly emphasize the words “all nations.” Is this applicable for our days? Absolutely. It does not matter which nation or who is governing it—they are all, without exception, ruled by the prince of dark-

ness, the god of this world. When we begin to realize this fact, we should immediately understand that we, as believers, belong to a different group, because we are organically connected to Israel. We may be patriots and love our country, but that does not change the fact that wherever we are, whatever nationality we may have, for believers, we only have a temporary address here on earth. Thus, our calling is to identify ourselves as heavenly citizens. We are the light of the world. Philippians 2:15 instructs us: “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” The more we let our light shine, walking in His light, the more those who are still in darkness will see our light. Ephesians 2:19 reveals our real citizenship;

we “are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.”

When we again look at the introductory Scripture, we notice that this is a prophecy about the millennium; the fountain of water “shall come forth out of the house of the LORD.”

Water is not only a problem for Israel, but also particularly for the entire Middle East. While the Bible makes clear prophetic utterances regarding the future—which will be fulfilled in due time—we know that in the meantime Israel, whose population is growing year by year, needs more water.

An article in the *Jerusalem Post* was headlined, “Israeli AI Company Develops Tech to Manage Water Infrastructure.” Here an excerpt:

Evolution Networks, an Israeli AI technological group, has

Water is not only a problem for Israel, but also particularly for the entire Middle East. While the Bible makes clear prophetic utterances regarding the future—which will be fulfilled in due time—we know that in the meantime Israel, whose population is growing year by year, needs more water.

established a venture that will develop, promote, manage and commercialize technologies for energy efficiency in national water infrastructure for the first time in Israel.

The venture, Evolution Water, has been chosen by Mekorot, the Israeli national water corporation, to increase energy efficiency in its systems. The company expects to increase efficiency and reduce electricity costs by 10–18% gradually.

Evolution Networks also runs projects in the electricity, mobile and datacenter industries and has additional ventures in development.

Evolution Water's system can study activity templates of

national water corporations in every country and execute optimization based on that data, including switching off systems according to consumption, decreasing loads at data centers, directing activity during emergencies and more.

The global demand for water is expected to increase by tens of percentage points by 2030 in comparison with the present ability for an optimal supply. According to the CEO of Evolution Water, Amir Yaar, decision-makers are beginning to understand that finding solutions for increasing supply and improving productivity is important to deal with this issue.

-www.jpost.com, 15 February 2021

Israel's technology will contribute greatly toward the supply of more water for more nations on planet earth. Howbeit, that is not the final solution. Scripture gives the answer. The real future, the eternal future, is not dependent on man's technological know-how, but on God and the Lamb: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"

(Revelation 22:1). In the preceding chapter, we note that there will be "no more sea... no temple...no need of the sun, neither of the moon... no night." Everything in God's new creation will be dependent upon God the Creator.

We close with the second to last verse of the book of Revelation: "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (MC)



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

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Standing in the Gap

“A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

By **David Phillips** *Project Manager*



“**T**hen the King shall say to those on His right hand, Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in

prison, and you came to Me. Then the righteous shall answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, and fed You? Or thirsty, and gave You drink? When did we see You a stranger, and took You in? Or naked, and clothed You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came to You? And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you



did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it to Me” (Matthew 25:34-40).

Over the years, Ebenezer has had a very low emergency budget fund for the residents. Most of those who had maintained it have gone on to be with the Lord. A generation went by with no one to keep it up. Seeing this great need and with a prayer in my heart, I decided to do something about it.

The Resident Emergency Fund is a budget for emergency cases, especially for our residents who come from a special, lower socio-economic living standard; those who don't have the funds to purchase the “extras” they need. These needs are items like a pair of new multi-focal reading glasses, dentures, hearing aids, special equipment for the legally blind and blind, and so on.

To begin with, Leslie, a resident of Ebenezer, needed a new pair of multi-focal reading glasses. My family and I have



been discussing these subjects lately around our dinner table. Recently, one of my daughters serving in the IDF right now, came home over a weekend and told me how she had shared her faith and about the Ebenezer Home among the fellow soldiers in her company, who excitedly expressed their interest in the care of the elderly. After consult-



ing the commanders who are in charge of the company, they jumped in and began brainstorming how to help start a fundraiser for Leslie's glasses.

Look what they did! Not having much time because of their tight schedule, they allowed me to share this picture they took. It was so heart-touching; young soldiers who not only stand up to protect our borders and country daily, but also this time they stood up in the eye of public media for a single, elderly lady at the Ebenezer Home; raising the money she needed for

her new pair of glasses! Will you join them? Please spread the word.

A pair of glasses for her specific need costs \$1200. All extra funds raised beyond purchasing Leslie's glasses will go toward keeping the Residents' Emergency Fund replenished for future needs; we will dedicate this month's donations for this purpose.

Let's remember to keep our soldiers in prayer. May the Holy One of Israel protect and keep them, give them courage and wisdom, and may HIS love be poured into their hearts.



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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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