

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

September 2021

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



How will the corona crisis continue? Nobody can really answer that question. The so-called Delta variant has worsened the situation again. We at the Beth Shalom guesthouse had hoped that, come summer, tourists would return to the country and we could open the house. But a renewed increase of infections has thwarted our plan. Meanwhile, there are even voices predicting that no tourists will be allowed to enter the country until 2023.

Given the fact that as yet no one has been able to predict when normality might return, we decided to reopen the house as of August 15th. We cannot sit around and wait until tour groups may officially enter the country again. However, domestic tourism is al-

most running at normal levels. Previously, we regularly had booking requests from within the country, which we unfortunately could not accept. Certainly, we won't be able to fill the guesthouse with in-country tourists, but now it is simply a question of starting anew and trusting in the Lord. We will also try to become better known to the congregations in all areas of the country. We plan to offer the guesthouse for conferences, weekend get-togethers, and individual vacationers.

A few of our staff will not return, because they have since found other employment. So, we will start operating again on a limited basis with those we have left. And for the Jewish festivals in September, we can fill the house each time with Israeli guests. Thus, altogether it is a



new beginning for us. First, we are going to try to keep our eyes on the in-country potential of guests and to foster it. Actually, when we first opened our guesthouse in 1975, almost all of our guests came from Israel. At that time, there were still many German-speaking Jews, who loved to vacation at Beth Shalom because here they could speak German. This lasted till about 1990, at which time the German-speaking generation was gone.

After that, we started to rely on group tours: initially, especially from German-speaking areas. Later, groups also came from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and others. In recent years, we sometimes had up to 25 tourists groups per year. But corona put an abrupt end to this development. Unfortunately, it now seems that nothing will change anytime soon. Just recently, a new list was published here in Israel, citing the countries to which travel should be blocked or made more difficult. Therefore, it still does not look promising for free international travel.

Regarding the corona situation, it is well known that a wide variety of opinions are circulating, especially among Christians. I do not want to go into that at this time; each point of view merely triggers endless discussions, and these have the potential to bring about division and disunity. However, for us as a guesthouse, it is a simple fact that we can only run a facility like Beth Shalom by following the mandates of the authorities. Here in Israel, strangely, Israelis by the tens of thousands traveled into all parts of the world, while almost no groups from other countries were allowed to enter here. Many Israelis then returned infected with the Delta variant, which spread rapidly and again worsened the situation.

Despite all this, after 18 months, we now plan to resume operation, and hope the Lord has a new blessing in store for us.

With this hope, we greet you cordially with Shalom,

Travis Winkler

A landscape photograph showing rolling green hills under a bright, hazy sky. Numerous birds are flying in the sky. A large, dark metal chain is superimposed horizontally across the middle of the image, appearing to float in the air.

The Revelation of the Son of God

NORBERT LIETH

It's a wonderful thing when God the Father draws a person to His Son Jesus Christ; when He opens someone's eyes and he or she receives grace to be able to repent thoroughly.

Zechariah 12:10-14

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.”

A young man who had grown up in a Christian home once told me, “I used to think that I had to read the Bible from a sense of duty. I thought that if I didn’t, God would punish me. But I never truly wanted to convert. I could not and would not let go of the world, and I led a rather muddled life. One day, I was sitting in a church service, when I was suddenly deeply moved inside. I saw my lost life and it made me cry. That’s when I repented inwardly

and was converted. In a single moment, everything changed. I only realized later that I had stopped doing certain things that had once been completely normal for me. Today, Jesus is the greatest and most important thing in my life.”

What happened to this young man? The Holy Spirit had seized his life and led him to Jesus; it opened his eyes and pulled him out of spiritual blindness.

Someday, a similar thing will happen for the whole people of

The Revelation of the Son of God

When Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, He instituted a New Covenant, the New Testament in His blood. This covenant is based on the redemptive work of Jesus, but its impact is through God's Spirit.



Israel. They will be awakened by the Spirit of God; they will be brought out of their blindness and recognize Jesus as the Son of God, leading them to repentance. That will be the national conversion of the Jewish people (2 Cor 3:16). These five verses clearly describe how God is doing this. They are strong evidence that God hasn't abandoned His people.

The Great Turning Point

The great turning point occurs in the midst of the Jewish people's greatest tribulation. All nations will gather and fight against Israel. The verse that precedes the passage above reads, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zech 12:9). The Lord's might is shown in His anger against the

anti-Israel armies. But the power of God's grace turns out to be the Jews' salvation. It isn't external need that will lead Israel to its inner turning point—not the distress of the Great Tribulation and the raging of its enemies, but the working of the Holy Spirit: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications" (v. 10). If God didn't do this, Israel would never find its way back to its Lord. But God does it because He made a promise. In doing so, He looks to His Son. Israel needs to know the Son of God, but that can only be accomplished through God's Spirit.

When Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, He instituted a New Covenant, the New Testament in His blood (Matt 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25). This covenant is based on the redemptive work of Jesus, but its impact is through God's Spirit. The Jewish people will be led toward this New Covenant, which had already

been announced through the prophets. The following Bible verses speak for themselves:

"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezek 11:19-20; cf. 36:27; 37:14).

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Rom 11:26-27).

"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore" (Ezek 37:26).

"For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house

The Jewish people don't bypass the Cross on the way to salvation, but are led straight toward it. The people who have ignored Him for centuries—always skipping over Isaiah 53 in the readings in their synagogues—are led to Calvary, because salvation was won for them there.

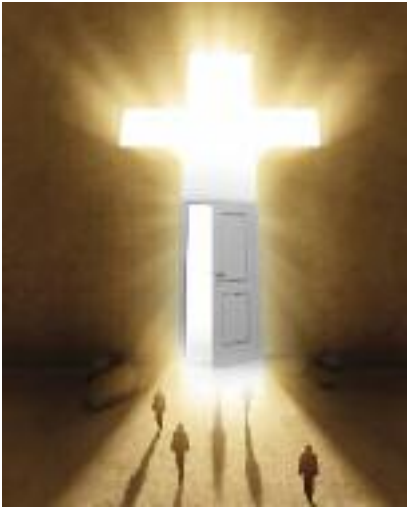
of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest" (Heb 8:8-11).

In the Mosaic Covenant, which was based on the Law given at Mount Sinai, God says, "If ye...then ye shall" (Ex 19:5). But

the New Covenant says, "I will" (Heb 8:10, 12). Under the Mosaic Covenant, obedience came from fear. But under the New Covenant, obedience comes from the Spirit, which grants willing hearts. This covenant will bring supplication and grace in Israel. The Holy Spirit's grace leads them to the crucified Savior: "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..." (Zech 12:10).

The Jewish people don't bypass the Cross on the way to salvation, but are led straight toward it. The people who have ignored Him for centuries—always skipping over Isaiah 53 in the readings in their synagogues—are led to Calvary, because salvation was won for them there. This is where it becomes clear what Moses was prophetically hinting at in the desert, when he raised up the brass serpent. The Israelites had sinned severely; their souls had

Israel will look upon the Cross of Calvary and recognize the One who was pierced, thereby finding redemption.



become impatient, and they were speaking against God, grumbling and despising the food that the Lord was giving them. As a result, the Lord sent venomous snakes among the people which bit them, causing many to die. That is when the Israelites recognized the tragedy and effects of their sin, and cried out, “We have sinned...” Moses prayed to God for them, and God had him lift up a brass serpent. Anyone who had been bitten by a snake and poisoned

could now look at the snake Moses had made, and be saved: “And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived” (Num 21:9).

This is where the Bible shines a prophetic light on the history of the Jewish people at the first coming of Christ. Their souls became impatient with Jesus; they got angry at Him and spoke against Him. The Jews despised Him as the Bread of Life that God had sent them. The effects were devastating. Many Jewish people perished as a result of this rejection. But Jesus is also, in a manner of speaking, the exalted serpent: He was made sin for us, and thereby brought about forgiveness and salvation. The Lord once referred to this story in the wilderness, saying: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever

The story of the crucifixion makes it clear that Jesus died for the Jews. This accomplished salvation will still be granted to them, because it is prophetic in nature for Israel.

believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:14-16). The remnant of Israel is being led to this point. Israel will look upon the Cross of Calvary and recognize the One who was pierced, thereby finding redemption.

The story of the crucifixion makes it clear that Jesus died for the Jews. This accomplished salvation will still be granted to them, because it is prophetic in nature for Israel: “But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the

scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced” (John 19:33-37).

Centuries-old prophecy was being fulfilled at that moment, but they didn’t recognize it as such. Because God already knew this, the Holy Spirit refers to another Scripture and testifies of Israel’s future, “They shall look on him whom they pierced.” There had already been a gap of 2,000 years between these two statements.

When the Lord returns, what is being described here will come to pass. In Revelation 1:7 it is written, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Benedict Peters writes about this verse in his book *Opened Seals*: “Now the Greek word *gê* can also be translated

Jesus is both: He is the only begotten Son of God, but He has always presented Himself as the “Son of Man.”

as ‘land’ instead of ‘earth,’ and the Greek *phylai* (kindreds) should actually be translated as ‘tribes.’ Then the sentence reads, ‘All the tribes of the land shall wail because of him.’”

Recognition of the Son of God

They “shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son” (Zech 12:10). In Jesus, the converted Jews will recognize not only the Messiah—the promised Redeemer and Crucified One—but also the Son of God and Son of Man. This is nothing less than finding the true God and the true man in Jesus. And they will weep for Him as one wails for their only son. Jesus, the only begotten (“only born”) Son of God, is also the only true Son of Israel brought forth by the Jewish people. Jesus is both: He is the only begotten Son of God, but He has always presented Himself as the “Son of Man.”

It couldn’t have been unintentional that the Lord put both together when speaking of the raised-up serpent. He was speaking not only about the Son of Man—who comes from the lineage of Israel—but also about the Son of God—who comes from heaven. In this way, He made it clear that He is both: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). And then, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Jesus is the One of whom Daniel spoke: “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion

The Revelation of the Son of God

In Jerusalem they mocked Him, beat their breasts smugly at His crucifixion, and then went back to business as usual. That is why Jerusalem's repentance is mentioned first.



is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan 7:13-14). When Israel sees Him as the One whom they have pierced—the One who hung on the Cross—they will recognize Him, weep for Him, and repent. Israel will strike up a great lamentation over Him; they will mourn Him as the one and only Son they have lost. They will recognize that God came to them in Jesus, but they rejected Him at His first coming (Zech 14:9).

Israel's National Repentance

This realization will lead Israel into deep repentance, the likes of which it has never experienced before in its history. It will be all-pervasive and all-encompassing.

1. Jerusalem: “In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon” (Zech 12:11). Israel's Lord was crucified in Jerusalem. The people in Jerusalem cried, “Away with this man.” “We have no king but Caesar.” “His blood

be on us, and on our children.” In Jerusalem they mocked Him, beat their breasts smugly at His crucifixion, and then went back to business as usual. That is why Jerusalem’s repentance is mentioned first. It is compared to Israel’s lamentation at Hadad-Rimmon on the plain of Megiddo. Perhaps the Bible is referring to Jeremiah and the singers’ lamentation, when the godly king Josiah was killed in war on the plain of Megiddo (2 Chr 35:20-25). But Jerusalem isn’t alone in its lamenting repentance; there is also:

2. The land: “And the land shall mourn, every family apart” (Zech 12:12). Jesus traveled throughout the land at that time, so the whole country will repent and receive forgiveness. Jesus’ ministry doesn’t remain fruitless: “...I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” (Zech 3:9).

3. Each family by itself: “All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart” (Zech 12:14). Verses 12-14

emphasize that no family is excepted; men and women will even repent and mourn separately, just as they are separated when they pray in the synagogues and at the Western Wall today. When the Lord was crucified, it says: “And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned” (Luke 23:48). At Jesus’ return, the multitudes of Israel will repent.

4. The family of David: “...the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart” (Zech 12:12). David was the king who himself sinned gravely against his Lord—the royal family of David will repent. This is surely referring to Israel’s political leadership.

5. The family of Nathan: “...the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart” (Zech 12:12). Nathan had been a prophet and Solomon’s tutor. He rebuked David after his fall into sin, and led him back to God. But even this family of prophets

will repent—a metaphor for the Old Testament prophets.

6. The family of Levi: “The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart...” (Zech 12:13). Levi is the family of priests that offered sacrifices. The high priest who presided over the great Day of Atonement came from this family. It was the devout authorities who persecuted and accused Jesus, and finally had Pilate condemn him to death. They are also led to repentance.

7. The family of Shimei: “...the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart...” (Zech 12:13). Shimei came from the house of Saul. He cursed David (who was fleeing from Absalom), pelted him with stones, and called him a “bloody man” (2 Sam 16:5-14). His family will repent as well. Perhaps this indicates the restoration of the house of Saul.

This roll call represents all classes of the house of Israel and the entire Jewish population. Nobody

is exempt. This points to Romans 11:26, where it says, “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer; and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

There is something profoundly serious in this depiction of repentance; namely, that no one can repent for another. Everyone has to come to terms with God for himself. God has no grandchildren, only children. And without repentance and turning to Jesus Christ, there is no entry into the kingdom of God. Everyone must repent for himself and be converted. In this respect, it is of no help at all to be raised in a Christian family or participate a bit in a Christian church. Anyone who doesn't turn to Jesus with all their heart cannot be saved. That was already the case in the Old Testament: no one could look at the raised brass serpent for someone else. Everyone had to do this for themselves, if they wanted to stay alive after the snakebite and not perish.

(NAI0421/1154)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

2nd Globally in Coronavirus Innovation

Israel ranked second in the world after the United States in coronavirus solution innovation, according to a new report by research center StartupBlink and placed ahead of Canada, Belgium and Switzerland among the top spots. The top-ranked countries were unchanged from last year.



PLACING FOOD in a box attached to AI-powered robot Ariel for delivery to a guest at Johannesburg's Hotel Sky. (photo credit: SUMAYA HISHAM/REUTERS)



"Israel is a relatively small country that has always excelled in innovation; it's no surprise Israel has over-performed in creating solutions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic," the report said. "Other than producing innovation, Israel has also deployed mass vaccination faster than any other country in the world."

Temi Robots, designed in Tel Aviv, have been deployed in hospitals in China, Japan and the US to enable COVID-19

NEWS IN BRIEF



90% HELPED BY NEW COVID DRUG

Some 93% of 90 coronavirus serious patients treated in several Greek hospitals with a new drug developed by a team at Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Center as part of the Phase II trial of the treatment were discharged in five days or fewer.

"The main goal of this study was to verify that the drug is safe," Prof. Nadir Arber said. "To this day we have not registered any significant side effect in any patient from both groups."

The trial was conducted in Athens because Israel did not have enough relevant patients. The principal investigator was Greece's coronavirus commissioner, Prof. Sotiris Tsiodras.

Arber and his team, including Dr. Shiran Shapira, developed the drug based on a molecule that the professor has been studying for 25 years called CD24, which is naturally present in the body.

-jpost.com
5 August 2021



patients to consult with their doctors and to automate the temperature-taking process remotely.

Among cities, Tel Aviv was ranked sixth most innovative in the world, Haifa ranked #40, and Jerusalem came in at #93.

-www.jpost.com, 3 August 2021

Commentary: Israel continues to be one of the top performing nations in the world when it comes to implementing high technology—in this case, coronavirus solutions. Yet at the time of writing, the new Delta variant is threatening. It’s not over yet. While medical science and technology are at a high level, there seems to be more going on than what is readily visible.

The world is dealing with things heretofore unknown. Learning from the past, we can state with assurance that there is more to come. Here again, we see the necessity of cooperation between the nations of the world. That in turn will lead to reliance on international law and international enforcement. Thereby we are taking another giant step toward the final global government.

7570

(See *One World*, Item #2203, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Biblical Road from Judea to Edom

What was the route of the ancient road connecting the Kingdom of Judea to the neighboring nation of Edom as described in the Bible? Recent research by a group of Israeli scholars has shed new light on the issue.



The research sparked an interest in other systems of roads, especially after Ben-Gurion University of the Negev archaeologist Dr. Eli Cohen-Sasson came across a site that was already known but never properly studied, Nahal Gorer.

Cohen-Sasson and his colleagues noted that pottery artifacts, which experts usually use to date remains, all belonged to the same period—ninth- or eighth-century BCE, during the Iron Age II (1200 BCE-586 BCE)—and started to examine what could have been the nature of the site.

“We read a lot about the road to Edom mentioned in the Bible,” Cohen-Sasson said.

“The king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel,” reads a passage. “So King Jehoram promptly set out from Samaria and mustered all Israel. At the same time, he sent this message to King Jehoshaphat of Judah: ‘The king of Moab has rebelled against me; will you come with me to make war on Moab?’ He replied, ‘I will go. I will do what you do: my troops shall be your troops, my horses shall be your



A view of the Judean Desert (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

horses.' And he asked, 'Which route shall we take?' [Jehoram] replied, 'The road through the wilderness of Edom.'"

"When we started our work, we realized that the site proved that there were two roads because Gorer stands exactly at the intersection between them," Cohen-Sasson said.

Another important element to consider is that the site was located at a very strategic position that gave a unique opportunity to monitor the surroundings, Cohen-Sasson said, adding: "This shows us that ancient Judeans had a very good understanding of the topography of their territory."

-www.jpost.com, 27 July 2021

Commentary: Israel is the land of the Bible. From there, we have the history from the beginning up to the present, as well as the future. Israel gave us the law and the wonderful Gospel of grace. Wherever Israeli archaeologists dig, they find what was written long ago in their Scripture.

Before Israel entered the Promised Land, the first major opposition came from Edom. Numbers 20:18-21 reports: "And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt

NEWS IN BRIEF



LAW SCHOOL JOURNAL RANKS 3RD WORLDWIDE

The College of Law and Business [based in Ramat Gan]

international law journal has finished third in the world in the human rights category of the 2020 American W&L Law Journal Rankings, narrowly beating out Harvard Law School which finished fourth.

Only Columbia University Law School and Georgetown University Law School finished ahead of the journal, which is formally known as the *Law & Ethics of Human Rights* journal.

The law school also had a third place finish in the world among 600 non-US law journals in terms of the expected impact of the articles.

In that competition, it beat out the *European Journal of International Law*.

-jpost.com
9 August 2021



not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword. And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing anything else, go through on my feet. And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.”

It is of interest that the Lord granted the territory on the east side of the Jordan to the two and a half tribes. The border in the south was the river Arnon. Today’s capital city of Jordan is Amman. It’s not south of the Arnon, but located within the boundaries of the two and a half tribes of Israel. Not surprisingly, Jordan is still a very unstable land. Some claim that its population is mostly Arab-Palestinian by origin. The dominant religion is Islam (97.1%), with Christians at 2.1%. Life expectancy is 75.7 years, with real GDP per capita at \$10,100.

But, as we mentioned, the southern part is not to be touched by



Israel, according to Scripture. 7575

(See *The Harvest Handbook of Bible Lands*, Item #2366, \$39.99.)



ISRAEL

Building Ties with Evangelical Leadership

Former Knesset speaker and health minister Yuli Edelstein, who intends to run against former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the Likud leadership, obtained a good launching pad for his run when he was named co-chairman of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus.



“Over the years, I have had the pleasure of participating in the caucus’s activities and met with numerous Christian leaders and organizations,” Edelstein said. “I cannot stress enough the importance of strengthening cooperation between Christian leaders and the State of Israel. Our goal is to build direct lines of communication and cooperation between members of Knesset from all parties with leaders of churches and Christian political representatives worldwide. I also hope that we can bring to the attention of the Israeli people the immense support Christians have given and continue to give to Jewish aspirations in the Holy Land.”



The caucus includes representatives from eight political parties: Ruth Wasserman Lande (Blue and White); Ya'acov Margi (Shas); Merav Ben-Ari (Yesh Atid); Idit Silman (Yamina); Evgeny Sova (Yisrael Beytenu); Alex Kushnir (Yisrael Beytenu), Zvi Hauser (New Hope); Michal Shir (New Hope); Gila Gamliel, May Golan and Keren Barak of Likud and Bezalel Smotrich, Simcha Rothman and Michal Waldiger of the Religious Zionist Party.

"Faith-based diplomacy is one of the most important tools that Israel has in its diplomatic arsenal," KCAC Director and Israel Allies Foundation President Josh Reinstein said.

-www.jpost.com, 3 August 2021

Commentary: Who is Yuli Edelstein? He was born in the former Soviet Union, now Ukraine, to a Jewish family. His mother Anita Edelstein was Jewish, while his father Yuri Edelstein is the son of a Jewish father and Christian mother, according to Wikipedia.

Politics, in any way, shape, or form, is always dangerous for the body of Christ. We do not have a calling to change the world, to be an influence in the world, but to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Members of the real Church are defined in 1 Corinthians 1:26-28: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

NEWS IN BRIEF



ANTI-VACCINE ANTISEMITES

Jewish doctors and medical staff have supposedly become targets of hate crimes by anti-vaccine and antisemitic individuals, the Simon Wiesenthal Center asserted in a letter to Gerald Darmanin, the French Interior Minister.

The letter argued that anti-vaccination rhetoric is closely linked to antisemitism.

"Anti-vaccination is, though misguided, a legal right. However, when it becomes a vector for antisemitism and endangers Jewish doctors, it is a hate crime under French law," said Dr. Shimon Samuels, director of the Wiesenthal Center.

"The irony is that the antisemites may one day be saved by a doctor who happens to be Jewish," he continued.

-jpost.com
5 August 2021



Yuli Edelstein

(photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

Yet we are deeply connected with Israel spiritually. We love, we pray for, we donate to causes in favor of the Jewish nation. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:19: “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” One day – prayerfully in the not-too-distant future – this spiritual house composed of strangers and foreigners – the embodiment of the spiritual temple – will be completed and raptured into His presence. That will be a mighty, world-shaking event, which incorporates the removal of the light and the salt from planet earth. Utter chaos will follow. But Jeremiah 30:7 proclaims: “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”

7573

(See *Israel and the Church*, Item #2376, \$16.99.)



IRAN

Drone Attack on Israel-Linked Ship

Within hours of reports that an Israel-linked ship had been targeted by drones off the coast of Oman, some pro-Iranian social media accounts and media began to discuss the attack as “retaliation” for what they claim are Israeli attacks. The claims appear to point to a new Iranian red line that is being drawn at sea.



What is Iran openly saying? Press

TV released a clip claiming that “informed sources believe that the raid has been in response to an Israeli missile attack on Syria.”

Defense and security analyst Farzin Nadimi writes that that the unique “Attack was designed to be merciless: one of the drones was directly aimed at the tanker’s bridge, to kill people, because it was in retaliation for [the] April 24 attack off Baniyas against Lebanese/Iranian product carrier *Wisdom*, in which 3 were killed, incl 2 crews [sic].” He notes that “this attack was a follow-up to the Jul 5 attack on *CSAV Tyndall* which was a misidentification. If Israel chooses to retaliate in kind, Iran will do the same.”

Meanwhile Israel’s Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has slammed Iran in the context of the incident and he has spoken with



the UK's Foreign Secretary. "Iran is not just an Israeli problem, but an exporter of terrorism, destruction and instability that harms us all. The world must not be silent in the face of Iranian terrorism," Lapid said.

-www.jpost.com, 31 July 2021

Commentary: From various additional reports, it becomes evident that Iran is behind these attacks. They are finding easy targets to drive home their point: the Zionist State must be eradicated. However, Iran is way behind when it comes to sophisticated technology, and as Mr. Lapid stated, they will have to pay the price.

Iran's predecessor more than 2,600 years ago, acted quite benevolently toward Israel: "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up" (2 Chronicles 36:23).

7572

(See *ISIS, Iran, Israel and the End of Days*, Item #2283, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

2,800-Year-Old Biblical Earthquake Detected

Some 2,800 years ago, a powerful earthquake hit the Land of Israel. Now, for the first time, archaeologists found evidence of the event in Jerusalem, in the City of David National Park, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced.



"The words of Amos, a sheep breeder from Tekoa, who prophesied concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah,

king of Judah, and Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake," reads the first verse of the Book

NEWS IN BRIEF



APP HELPS THOSE WITH SPEECH DIFFICULTIES

Working as a software developer in high-tech companies including Check Point, Radvision and HP since 1999, Danny Weissberg spotted the potential of early machine-learning technology to mimic what the caregiver had done naturally.

He founded Voiceitt to harness that technology. The Ramat Gan-based company's new app empowers individuals with non-standard speech to communicate with others and control smart-home devices using their own voice.

The Voiceitt experience begins with training the software to recognize an individual's speech in any language.

Users build a personalized dictionary of specific words and phrases that the app learns to understand in up to five minutes per phrase.

-israel21c.org
25 July 2021



The excavation area in the City of David.
(photo credit: ORTAL CHALAF COURTESY OF THE ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY)

of Amos.

“And the Valley in the Hills shall be stopped up, for the Valley of the Hills shall reach only to Azal; it shall be stopped up as it was stopped up as a result of the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. And the Lord my God, with all the holy beings, will come to you,” reads another passage in Zechariah, recalling the event some 200 years later, to suggest how strong of a collective memory it left.

“When we excavated the structure and uncovered an eighth-century BCE layer of destruction, we were very surprised, because we know that Jerusalem continued to exist in succession until the Babylonian destruction, which occurred about 200 years later,” IAA excavation directors Dr. Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf said.

“We asked ourselves what could have caused that dramatic layer of destruction we uncovered. Examining the excavation

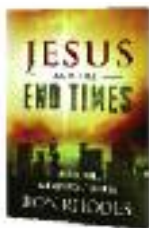
findings, we tried to check if there is a reference to it in the biblical text.

Interestingly, the earthquake that appears in the Bible, in the books of Amos and Zechariah, occurred at the time when the building we excavated in the City of David collapsed.”

-www.jpost.com, 4 August 2021

Commentary: With the Bible in hand, archaeologists are finding the “evidence” that was already recorded in Holy Scripture. The book of Revelation often speaks of earthquakes. There is one special one to come: “And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great” (Revelation 16:18).

From Biblical perspectives, earthquakes announce judgment. When Jesus died on Calvary’s cross, we read in Matthew 27:54: “Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.” 7571



(See *Jesus and the End Times*, Item #2356, \$15.99.)

“But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine” (Isaiah 29:23-24).

BY ARNO FROESE

Jacob is the beginning of Israel. His name was given by God. This occurred after “Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him” (Genesis 32:24). Jacob was separated from his family and the riches he had accumulated. It was the time when he received notice that his brother Esau was on his way to meet him: “he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him” (verse 6b).

In his great need, he prayed: “Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest

he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children” (verse 11).

We know that Jacob earned the blessing of the firstborn from his father Isaac by deception. Now the time of reckoning had arrived, which resulted in the confession of his name: “What is thy name? And he said, Jacob” (verse 27). What does that name mean? To supplant, circumvent, overreach.

It is of interest that although it was clearly stated, “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob,” when we continue reading Scrip-

ture, we find that the name Jacob appears about 300 times later on.

Doubtless, this is a prophetic picture, showing the old creation—Jacob, the man of flesh and blood—and the new one—Israel: “for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men” (verse 28b).

When attempting to understand this nation Israel and the land, we must first realize that they are distinctly different from all nations on planet earth throughout human history.

Only one nation is called by His name. King Solomon’s prayer has been answered, is being answered, and will be answered in the future: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Rosh Hashanah

The Hebrew Standard, 7 November 1919, speaks of this Jewish holiday:

An old tradition has come down to us in the pages of the Talmud that the three great mothers in Israel who were at first without child gave birth to their sons on Rosh Hashonah, Sarah, the wife of Abraham; Rachel, the wife of Jacob, and Hannah, the wife of Elkanah—these noble and pious women who so longingly prayed to God that He should bless them with child, see at last the answer to their prayer, when on a certain Rosh Hashonah day Isaac, Joseph and Samuel appear in this world. And it is in keeping with this tradition that we read in the Torah and in the Scriptural portions of these two days the chapters that speak of these three great women in Israel and their offspring, to remind us of today what we may learn from their life, their deeds, their acts. Aye, each of these sons, whose birth we recall today, represents a certain type, a certain ideal towards which we must strive, if we truly desire that Israel shall live and thrive and prosper and succeed. Review their lives and—you will find that their own characteristic features, when taken together,

are in keeping with the Rabbinic maxim: "The Torah, the Holy One Blessed be He and Israel are One."

Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of 6 September 2021, and ends the evening of 8 September 2021. It's the first day of the seventh Hebrew month, which some rabbis identify as the day of creation; thus, it's happy birthday earth!

We understand the unity between the God of creation and His people Israel. What He has begun, He will fulfill. We pray that in the not-too-distant future, verse 24 in

our introduction will be fulfilled: "They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine." Zechariah 12:10 is also forthcoming: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." (MC)

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“For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him” (Psalm 18:29-30).

By David Phillips *Project Manager*



We are very thankful for your contributions toward the Emergency Fund for the Ebenezer Home in June. It was beyond our expectation!

Seeing people in need of personal items like dentures, hearing aids, eyeglasses, medications, etc., and being unable to acquire them simply because



of the high expense, is very painful and often gives me a feeling of helplessness. But with your grateful help and loving donations, we can now meet these extra expenses and fill in the gap for those who require it. The residents who receive help through this emergency fund wish to tell you how much they love and pray for you! Toda raba!

This month's donations we are dedicating toward new residents who are from low socio-economic backgrounds. They cannot come up with the needed entrance fee, since there is no government help for that. This will ensure that those who have limited family or relatives to help care and provide for them, can still join the Ebenezer family.



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