

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

March 2022

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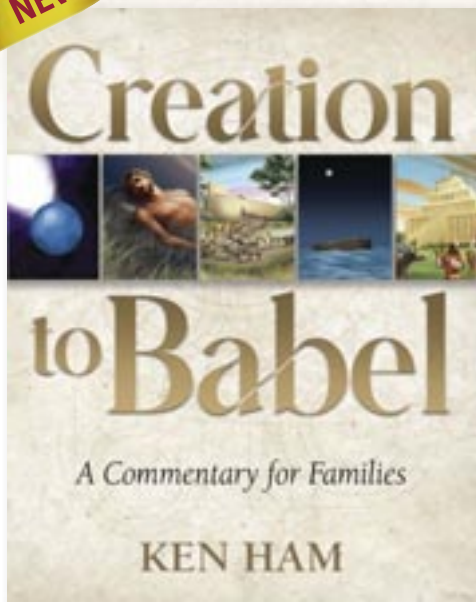


Israel, the Church, and the Nations – Part 3

Implant Helps Paralyzed Walk P. 15 • Israel Managed Pandemic Exceptionally Well P.19

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Dear Friends of Israel,



BY FREDI WINKLER

In a country like Israel—comprised of about 60% desert and located at the edge of a desert—the water issue is of critical importance. Every winter the anxious question arises: Will there be enough rain? This winter also, it didn't look so good at the start, but then the rain came as usual, if a little late. However, it can also happen very quickly that it gets to be too much. In Israel, where it doesn't rain for at least six months, one easily forgets that winter normally brings the rain. And thus, during the long dry season, it is easy to neglect cleaning the water drains and keeping them in good working order. For this reason, flooding occurs again and again that could have been avoided. However, it is easier to blame the changing climate than to acknowledge one's own failing.

In Deuteronomy 11:11-12, God explains to the Israelites that the land He plans to give them is very different from Egypt. He says: “But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.”

Like most of God's blessings, rain also is not automatically guaranteed, but tied to certain conditions. We see this in the following verses, where God says: “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your



land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.”

What God is telling His people is a divine principle that applies not only to Israel, but also has universal validity. Today, when the weather seems crazy somewhere in the world, it is always blamed on global warming. But the Bible shows us that there may be other, far deeper causes. In the last chapters of Deuteronomy, at the end of Moses’ life, he once more emphatically reminds his people of these divine principles. He presents to the children of Israel both a blessing and a curse. The blessing only if they would obey God, and the curse if they would deviate from God and His commands.

It was a similar situation with Joshua, Moses’ successor, who led the people of Israel into the Promised Land. At the end of his life, he realized that the people were influenced more by the surrounding cultures than by the divine message. He called the Israelites together to remind them again of the great deeds of God,

and challenged them to make a decision (Joshua 24:14-15). He then solemnly declared: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

The people confirmed three times that they also wanted to serve the Lord. Joshua’s response in verse 19 was surprisingly harsh: “Ye cannot serve the LORD!” How could he give such an answer? Simply because he knew them and their spiritual condition. When they protested a second time that they would serve the Lord, Joshua said: “Now therefore put away ... the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel” (verse 23).

Joshua’s challenge is as relevant today as it was back then. Each generation has to decide whom they want to serve ... The god of this world with all of his tempting, transitory offers, or the eternal God, who offers eternal blessing.

United in Joshua’s declaration, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” I send you heartfelt greetings and Shalom.

Tracy Winkler

A photograph showing a pair of hands reaching out from a dark, shadowed opening into a bright, sandy area. The hands are positioned as if offering something or reaching for help. The background is dark and textured, while the foreground is a bright, sandy surface.

Israel, the Church, and the Nations – Part 3

NORBERT LIETH

A redemptive-historical and prophetic interpretation of
Romans 9–11.

Paul knows that Israel hasn't been rejected forever on principle, and that God hears prayers.

As he did with chapter 9 of Romans, Paul begins chapter 10 with a personal confession regarding his people.

ISRAEL: THE SUBJECT OF PRAYER

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom 10:1-3).

The Bible urges us to pray: for all people, for those in authority, for brothers and sisters in the faith, for the suffering, sick, and persecuted, for preachers, and for the reach of God’s Word (1 Tim 2:1; Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:3; 2 Thess 3:1; Heb 13:3; Jas 5:16).

But Paul also serves as an example, prompting us to pray for Israel. He knows that Israel hasn’t been rejected forever on principle, and that God hears prayer. Unfortunately, this has largely vanished in Christianity.

What should prayer for Israel look like? Not that they would be militarily strong, having victory over their enemies and wiping them out. Nor should it be about their economic well-being, or their producing more Nobel Prize winners. No, it’s entirely about spiritual matters: that Israel would know righteousness through Christ.

We see from Paul’s words that it should be a brotherly prayer that every believer can pray along with. In the word “brethren,” I also see a call for the Church to pray for Israel. It should come from a sincere heart, and even be a plea. Its only concern should be Israel’s salvation; that they would rec-

ognize and accept righteousness through Christ. We should be keeping Israel's spiritual need top of mind. Since they are trying to establish their own righteousness (because they do not believe in Jesus), they are ignoring God's righteousness.

So verse 4 says, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS FOR ISRAEL

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The

word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom 10:4-13).

God created something new, and Paul is explaining just how He did it.

Jesus is the Law's ultimate goal. Everything reaches fulfillment in Him. All of Scripture testifies of Him (John 5:39). He Himself says, "Think not that I

Jesus is the Law's ultimate goal. Everything reaches fulfillment in Him. All of Scripture testifies of Him (John 5:39).

am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am come not to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt 5:17). Jesus fulfilled the Law's every requirement. Everyone who believes in Him will be declared righteous before God.

To make his argument, Paul quotes from the five books of Moses, which the Jews understood well. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he also supplements them and applies them to Christ in the context of the Gospel. If all Scripture points to Christ, this includes the books of Moses. For example, he who does the Law will live by it (Lev 18:5). Jesus was the only One who accomplished this perfectly, so He is the only way to life.

Moses said, "For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up

for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it" (Deut 30:11-14).

Moses speaks of the commandment, of doing, and of it being beyond the sea. Paul lays it all on Christ. Instead of using the word "commandment," he uses the name of Christ, because He is the fulfillment of that very commandment. Instead of doing, Paul speaks of faith. And instead of the sea, Paul speaks of the "deep" that Jesus descended into.

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from

above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Rom 10:6-8).

Paul is declaring that salvation is within reach, and that the Law is fulfilled in Christ. Jesus came from heaven to earth to become human. We didn’t have to bring Him down, or do anything ourselves to receive salvation. He came to earth of His own accord. And Jesus rose from the dead and ascended back into heaven.—The complete fulfillment of the Law and perfect redemption lie in these two things.

No one needs to do anything more to be redeemed, just receive this gift in faith. “But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise...” Nobody has to personally ascend into heaven to bring down life in Christ, of

whom Moses spoke prophetically. And nobody has to personally descend into the realm of death to bring life up.—No: everything has already been accomplished. Jesus is the fulfillment.

Now it has come within reach: “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom 10:8-9).

The Hebrews no longer need to perform works to be redeemed; they must believe in Him, who accomplished every work for them. And that applies to all people, Jews and Greeks (Gentiles), without exception. The separating partition has been lifted. God is Lord over all, and He is so rich in salvation and grace that He has included all people in His Son’s redemptive work. Now

everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

SIX BIG QUESTIONS

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that

sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” (Rom 10:14-21).

In this passage, there are six big questions that explain Israel’s current spiritual situation and how it came about. It is evidence that Israel heard the Gospel but refused to believe it.

The two verses that immediately precede this passage say that God doesn’t just have His eye on Israel, but on all nations: “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10:12-13).

The Gospel message must be preached throughout the whole world, among Jews and Gentiles. To explain this, Paul uses a series of four “how” questions which follow, each from the last, like links of a chain. First, how

“I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.”

quote from Isaiah 52:7 as his basis for the mission’s importance among Jews and Gentiles: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.” But not all have obeyed the Gospel; as Isaiah says, “Lord, who hath believed our report?” (Rom 10:15-16).

The majority of Israelis have rejected the message of the Old Testament prophets, the message of Jesus in the Gospels, and the message of his disciples in the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul answers two further questions on the subject. The first of them reads, “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world” (Rom 10:18).

Paul is quoting from Psalm 19:4: “Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

will they call on the one they haven’t believed in? Second, how are they supposed to believe if they haven’t heard of Him? Third, how are they supposed to hear without a preacher? Fourth, how can a person preach without first having been sent?

Paul and his fellow workers in particular were constantly on the move to fulfill this commission. The Apostle refers to a



In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.” In my opinion, he’s saying that in the same way the vault of heaven extends over the whole earth, the sound of the Gospel after Jesus’ ascension extended over the whole world: reaching both Jews and Gentiles, largely through Paul and his fellow laborers (Col 1:6, 23). Paul always went to the synagogues first.

The second question is, “But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” (Rom 10:19-21).

Israel’s jealousy of the nations, which Paul could especially relate to, is further evidence that they heard the Gospel. Paul refers to it again in

Romans 11:14: “If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.”

In verses 19-21 (just quoted), Paul is also referring to Deuteronomy 32:21 and Isaiah 65:1-2. In doing so, he is explaining from the Old Testament that God was already aware of everything, and has only now fulfilled what had been foretold long ago. The nations heard sooner and better than God’s own people: “I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.”

We can determine three things about Israel: First, the men that God sent out preached the Word. Second, the Gospel expanded like the vault of heaven over Israel and the world of nations. Third, Israel was made jealous by the Gentiles’ conversion. Yet few believed. What has now become reality was included in God’s foreknowledge and plan, because nothing can surprise God. (NAI0921/1191)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

Tech Thrived During Pandemic

We all know the reasons why Israel, the Startup Nation, has been able to go from strength to strength over the past decade: mandatory military service, the outsized influence of intelligence units such as 8200, world-class institutions of higher education, a lot of grit, and a propensity for taking risks.



Photo by Singkham from Pexels



As a briefer, by the numbers, Israeli companies raised close to \$26 billion in 2021, with many 100-million-dollar mega funding rounds.

Good entrepreneurs seek opportunities, and Israelis looked at this as another difficult situation, where they not only learned to adapt, but took advantage of the situation. For the first time in history, nearly everyone across the globe had to deal with the same experience.

Israel started building a tech ecosystem before many other places did, including much of Europe. This also can be said about a place like Silicon Valley, but Israel's ecosystem really started to take off in the early 1990s.

Today, it is a given that knowledge worker-based economies,

NEWS IN

BRIEF



NEW GENE IMAGING TECHNIQUE

Israeli scientists have developed an early version of an imaging technique, which they say will be able to give doctors an “unprecedented window into gene activity deep in the human body.”

A research team from the Weizmann Institute of Science published a peer-reviewed study in the journal, *Nature Biotechnology*, outlining a new method that can simultaneously give a picture of many different gene types deep inside the body.

Dr. Amnon Bar-Shir said the research could pave the way for MRI scans that provide complex insights on the activities of genes, which could help detect cancers, provide as-yet unavailable insights on how well the bodies of transplant recipients are accepting new organs, and monitor the success of cell therapy for cancer.

-timesofisrael.com
31 January 2022



and countries that focus on building them, are the future. But that was not always the case, and Israel just used what was available at the time: sharp minds and technology that is highly leverageable and scalable.

While there are many historical reasons why Israeli tech has only grown stronger during this ongoing crisis, it reminds me of that famous Warren Buffett quote: “Be fearful when others are greedy and greedy when others are fearful.”

When much of the world was afraid (or putting their heads in the sand), entrepreneurs in Israel leaned into the chaos and moved ahead.

Given the fact we may face another wild year dealing with this global pandemic, and with the continued pouring of money into the ecosystem, 2022 could be another landmark year.

-www.israel21c.org, 1 February 2022

Commentary: The article by Jonathan Frenkel appeared on Israel21c.org, of which we publish some excerpts to show Israel’s race to the top – with no sign of stopping.

Many ask, why? There are a number of reasons. The bulk of the country’s population can be called internationalists. We must remember that the major reason for the success of the USA was immigrants

from around the world. Jews from almost 80 countries are now living in Israel as citizens.

The other reason is Biblical. It’s not that the Jews are superior, but based on God’s election, they are destined to fulfill Deuteronomy 14:2: “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.”



In order to be above all nations, they have to be prepared. That is happening now. 7694

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



ISRAEL

Implant Helps Paralyzed Walk

People with long-term paralysis might regain the ability to walk after Israeli scientists successfully engineered the first 3D human spinal cord tissue. The results were published in a groundbreaking peer-reviewed study published in the journal *Advanced Science*.



Paralysis can occur after a spinal cord injury, which can refer to damage sustained to any part



A 3D image of a human spinal cord.
(photo credit: CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

of the spinal cord or the nerves at the end of the spinal canal. These injuries can cause permanent changes in strength, sensation and other bodily functions, and in severe cases, can lead to long-term paralysis, for which there is currently no cure.

The research team hypothesized that mimicking embryonic development by applying a specific spinal cord motor neuron differentiation protocol in a 3D dynamic environment would provide cells with signals for appropriate regenerative tissue formation, healing the site and lowering the risk of rejection.

Not only does the biomaterial turned hydrogel support the cells, the study explained, but it also constantly adapts and develops, thereby providing a dynamic inductive microenvironment that allows for the assembly and maturation of a functional spinal cord implant.

Following the successful mimicking of embryonic spinal cord development

and the engineering of functional tissue implants, the researchers moved on to testing the therapeutic potential of the 3D spinal cord network, choosing to use mice as the testing model.

“The model animals underwent a rapid rehabilitation process, at the end of which they could walk quite well,” Prof. Tal Dvir explained. “This is the first instance in the world in which implanted engineered human tissues have generated recovery in an animal model for long-term chronic paralysis, which is the most relevant model for paralysis treatments in humans.”

“Individuals injured at a very young age are destined to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of their lives, bearing all the social, financial and health-related costs of paralysis,” he said. “Our goal is to produce personalized spinal cord implants for every paralyzed person, enabling regeneration of the damaged tissue with no risk of rejection.”

-www.jpost.com, 7 February 2022

Commentary: Not surprisingly, this latest world’s first—the successful engineering of 3D human spinal cord tissue—comes from Israel.

There are millions of people all over the world that are bound to wheelchairs, with little to no hope of ever being able to walk again.



While we admire these scientists, we have to keep in mind that any and all medical successes are only temporary.

Jesus prophetically demonstrated the restoration of one who could not walk: "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house" (Matthew 9:6-7). 7691



(See *Experiencing Israel*, Item #2367, \$29.99.)



GAZA

From Sewage Dump to Nature Reserve

The United Nations is set to begin the restoration of a historic valley in the Palestinian Gaza Strip, hoping to transform it from a landfill and sewage dump into a vibrant nature reserve in a planned \$66 million project.



Palestinians visit Gaza Valley during a trip organized by the United Nations in central Gaza Strip. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem



The Gaza Valley, home to a variety of plants and animals, is one of the largest wetland areas in the territory.

It stretches 105 kms (65 miles) from the Israeli Negev desert up to southern Hebron in the West Bank and for nine kilometers (5.5 miles) across the Gaza Strip to the Mediterranean Sea.

NEWS IN BRIEF



EARTHQUAKE IMMINENT?

Israel's east is overdue for a powerful earthquake, and the government is finally making preparations for the day the big one strikes.

Prof. Michael Tsesarsky of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba told *The Media Line*, "We have a statistical estimate of about one major earthquake every century in this area, along the Dead Sea tectonic fault."

"We are within the time frame of the next [big] earthquake. We cannot say when exactly it will strike, but we can say that with every day that passes, the probability rises," he continued.

The IDF Front Home Command conducted an earthquake drill in the Jordan Valley; Kiryat Shmona, Beit She'an, Acre and Neshet in the North; and Arad and Dimona in the southern Negev Desert, to test warning sirens it is hoped will sound shortly ahead of a large quake, giving residents time to position themselves in as safe a place as possible.

-jpost.com
7 February 2022



"It is a full project to develop this site and to turn it from an unhealthy wastewater dump into a place people of Gaza can visit and into a tourist site," said Mohammed Abu Shaaban, the UNDP's project coordinator.

The two-phase project will take several years to complete, said Abu Shaaban. The first funds to come through, \$1.3 million from Belgium, will go towards the initial cleanup which is expected to take around four months.

For the past few months, a new water treatment station in central Gaza has allowed treated water to flow into the valley, improving the habitat of dozens of species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

In the longer term, the restoration also aims to benefit the people of Gaza, with camping sites, cafes and educational and recreational centers along the valley route.

-*www.jpost.com*, 7 February 2022

Commentary: In August to September 2005, Israel unilaterally vacated Gaza, leaving behind significantly developed agriculture and other industries.

In January 2006, Gaza elected Hamas as their political leaders, which resulted in four wars within a 13-year span. *AP News* estimates the cost of those wars to be \$5.7 billion.

Obviously, the citizens of Gaza have suffered tremendously. Yet, the lesson has not been fully learned,

because Israel has to spend billions to defend its citizens from Hamas attacks from Gaza.

Approximately 3 million people live in the Gaza Strip, of which 80-85% are Sunni Muslim. Life expectancy stands at 76.2 years.

According to the *Times of Israel*, UN agencies spent close to \$4.5 billion in support of Gaza from 2014 to 2020. However, the money was not used wisely for the benefit of the people.

Gaza was the epicenter of Israel's fiercest enemy, the Philistines. It looks very similar even in these days, although anthropologists tell us that the Arab Palestinians are not the descendants of the Philistines.

The prophet Amos says: "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom" (Amos 1:6).

In the New Testament, Gaza is mentioned only once: in Acts 8, where Philip evangelizes an Ethiopian treasurer: "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south



unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship" (verses 26-27). The result of that meeting is recorded in verses 38-39: "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

7692

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



ISRAEL

Managed Pandemic Exceptionally Well

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Israel has weathered the COVID-19 pandemic "exceptionally well" with a swift, efficient vaccination campaign and a rapidly recovering economy, but still faced "significant" risks to its 2022 outlook such as soaring housing prices and affordability.



In a briefing with Israeli journalists, IMF's Mission Chief for Israel Iva Krasteva Petrova said the IMF expected "the recovery to firm up and continue in 2022" and that the organization sees "no long-term scarring effect from the pandemic."

The Israeli government's support and the Bank of Israel's policies were "timely, ample, and well-executed," she said.

The IMF report also said Israel's efforts to reduce trade barriers would be "key to promote efficient allocation of

NEWS IN BRIEF



PA DEFENDS PRISONER PAYMENTS

The Palestinian Authority has continued to defend its controversial policy of paying stipends for Palestinians imprisoned, wounded, or killed by Israel, including those convicted of terror attacks, despite international criticism.

Ramallah paid out around NIS 600 million (\$187 million) in salaries for Palestinians imprisoned, jailed, or killed by Israel in 2020, according to a senior Palestine Liberation Organization official.

The practice of paying allowances to those convicted of carrying out terror attacks and to the families of those killed while carrying out attacks—often referred to by some Israeli officials as a pay-to-slay policy—has been pilloried by critics as incentivizing terror.

Palestinian leaders have long defended the payments, describing them as a form of social welfare and necessary compensation for victims of Israel's military justice system in the West Bank.

-*timesofisrael.com*
7 February 2022



People walk by graffiti art of the late David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, on a street in Tel Aviv's Neve Tzedek neighborhood. (Nati Shohat/Flash90)



A healthcare worker takes swab samples from an Israeli child at a COVID-19 drive-through testing site in Modi'in (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

resources, investment, and innovation,” and help boost competition and reduce costs.

The IMF welcomed Israel's strengthened commitments to address climate change and the “significant progress” it has made “in developing policies to achieve their targets, including a gradual phase-in of excises on coal and other fuels between 2023–28 and a phase-out of coal energy production by 2025.”

The IMF said it was downgrading its forecast for the world economy in 2022, citing the spread of COVID-19's Omicron

variant, higher energy prices, an uptick in inflation and a deteriorating outlook for the world's two biggest economies—the United States and China.

The financial institution now forecasts the global economy will expand 4.4% in 2022. That's down from an estimated 5.9% last year and from the 4.9% the IMF was forecasting for 2022 back in October.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 6 February 2022

Commentary: What becomes clearly evident is that the pandemic has significantly altered the financial structure of the world. It's not merely a national, but an international issue. Based on recent history, we will soon learn that this was just a hiccup for the global economy and financial infrastructure. Nothing in the past or future will stand in the way of progress.

We repeat here that world unity, world peace, world prosperity, and world security must be established sooner or later. Why? Because the god of this world is fervently busy in using merchandise to unite the world more and more. But, we emphasize, it's only temporary, because the great collapse will happen; namely, Armageddon. 7693

(See Progressive Globalism, Item #1092, \$5.50.)



BAHRAIN

Historic Defense Pact with Israel

Defense Minister Benny Gantz met with King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa and signed a historic public Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kingdom of Bahrain, officially establishing security ties between the two Middle Eastern countries.



Defense Minister Benny Gantz signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Bahrain.
(photo credit: ARIEL HERMONI/DEFENSE MINISTRY)



The agreement will set a solid security cooperation framework that formalizes defense relations between the two countries, allowing for increased cooperation in various fields such as intelligence sharing, military-to-military training, cooperation between defense industries and more.

Speaking to reporters following the ceremony, Gantz said the decision to go public with the MoU was “a significant decision, a move that matures over time. These are ties that the defense establishment built over the years, and it is a historic moment to make them official and public.”

NEWS IN BRIEF



EYE SCAN TO DETECT COVID?

AdOM Advanced Optical Technologies and Israel’s Sheba Medical Center have launched the world’s largest study for the detection of Covid-19 on the surface of the eye.

The study will compare AdOM’s Tear Film Imager (TFI)—a quick, noninvasive and inexpensive exam—to the PCR diagnostic test, the current standard.

In just 40 seconds, the TFI simultaneously measures the muco-aqueous and lipid sublayers of the eye’s tear film, at a resolution depth of a few nanometers. It’s one of the only commercially available devices that can identify and quantify a virus within the surface of the eye.

If the TFI does prove to have high correlation to PCR, Raanan Gefen, CTO of AdOM, envisions it as a future point-of-care diagnostic in venues such as airports, sporting arenas and businesses.

-israel21c.org
3 February 2022



“The fact that we can land here in an Israel Air Force plane and visit, together with our partners, with the commander of the navy and talk openly about issues of defense for the security of the region is a significant milestone,” Gantz said.

The US Fifth Fleet’s area of operations encompasses some 2.5 million square miles and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, parts of the Indian Ocean and three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

US Fifth Fleet Commander V-Adm. Brad Cooper told *The Jerusalem Post*, “The importance of today is the strengthening of Israeli-Bahrani military ties. Having people and nations come together in a partnered way with a common vision is always a great strength. We will clearly always be better off when we are teaming together.”

-www.jpost.com, 3 February 2022

Commentary: This small island country in the Gulf of Bahrain commands strategic importance; especially in view of Israel’s declared enemy, Iran. Bahrain’s population stands at about 1.5 million, religiously divided between 46% Shiite, 24%

Sunni, and 30% other. That’s a good mixture to keep the lid on religious fanaticism.

The fact that Bahrain has signed a defense pact with Israel is extremely significant and surprising. Israel signed a peace agreement with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994. Progress has only again been made in 2020, when Israel signed agreements establishing diplomatic relations with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, and Morocco. That’s definitely great progress for Israel. Several news sources believe that more Arab countries will join the club in the not-too-distant future.

We are reminded here of the coming friendship— not only with Arab nations, but also with the rest of the world: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with

you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23). 7695

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



“And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end” (Daniel 12:8-9).

BY ARNO FROESE

The faithful prophet Daniel receives very peculiar instructions: the sealed book is not to be opened until the end times. We read in verse 4: “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Note the words, “the time of the end.” Question: when is “the time of the end”? The apostle Peter refers to the prophet Joel: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God...” (Acts 2:17a; cf. Heb 9:26). While Daniel was commanded to shut up the words, we realize that at Pentecost, the words were revealed. John writes, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a). It is the Messiah of Israel, the King of the Jews, the Savior of the world, who opened the end times for us—now for more than 2,000 years.

We notice that Daniel at that time “understood not.” What did Daniel not understand? “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand” (verse 10). This is the beginning of the Gospel, prophesying of the righteousness which is in Christ. By it we are purified and segregated from the wicked one, for “the wicked shall do wickedly.” However, the Church “shall understand.” What do we understand? That the world is racing toward independence from God. How? The answer lies in one word: technology. The marvels of science and technology seem endless. Year after year, we read of new inventions—not by the hundreds, but literally by the millions.

This corresponds precisely with the words, “and knowledge shall be

increased.” We have ample historic writings documenting the progress of mankind. For the first 1,800 years after the birth of the Church, little change occurred with technology. But with the Industrial Revolution, technology literally exploded. What was impossible just a few decades ago, is now taken for granted by children in grade school. Everyone knows how to use a computer or smartphone. At a touch of a button, research can be done using sources from literally around the world.

This also applies to transportation. Before the internal combustion engine was invented, man relied on the power of beasts, whether camel, donkey, horse, or ox. Today, one can travel around the world in mere hours. Regarding food, the overwhelming majority of the population in olden days was involved in agriculture, growing crops to sustain life. That has been reduced by technology to a rather insignificant industry, now comprising about 2% of the workforce. Yet that 2% produces an abundance of food, even wasting nearly half.

But science (“knowledge”) is not done yet.

An article in the *Jerusalem Post* was headlined, “Israeli ‘no checkout’ technology.” Here are some excerpts:

Is a “just walk out” shopping revolution on the way in Europe? Three of Europe’s biggest grocery retailers opened cashierless stores that allow customers to walk in, select their items, and walk out, without having to wait in checkout lines or scan any items.

“Some people are saying this is the biggest thing to happen this year in retail,” says Michael Gabay, CEO of Trigo, the Israeli company providing the system’s technology.

Shoppers at the Tesco Express store in central London and the REWE supermarket chain in Cologne, Germany got to experience the technology for the first time. After downloading the store’s app and creating a payment profile, shoppers must scan a QR code as they enter the store to get logged into the system. Then, after they walk around the store and choose their products, they can simply walk out of the store without doing anything else.

“We solve the three biggest complaints shoppers have,” Gabay says. “We eliminate waiting in line, we help make sure the store stocks enough of the products you want, and we help shoppers find

products in the store with a floor map inside the application.”

Trigo plans to expand into the US market next year, and to work with other types of stores in the future, from department stores to electronics and toy stores. “Next year, we’ll be in dozens of stores, in two years, we’ll have hundreds of stores, and in five years, I expect we will be in thousands of stores. We have contracts for hundreds of stores already in place.”

-*www.jpoust.com*, 1 November 2021

While “just walk in and walk out” has been practiced for a while in some European countries, the technology developed in Israel seems to aim for world leadership. Thus, we see computer-based science able to keep

record of individuals and the products they buy, as well as access their financial accounts. But in the end, the manmade system—in the Bible called the image of the beast—will also recognize those who have become true worshipers of the image and who not.

What’s in store for us? Another mystery of forbidden revelation: “And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not” (Revelation 10:4). That is reserved for the believers; the ones purified and tried, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, “shall understand.” (NFI)

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Facing Corona in the Ebenezer Home



“When Jesus heard that, He said, ‘This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it’” (John 11:4).

By David Phillips *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*

The above verse has kept me thinking so often about Yeshua and the special love He had for Lazarus. Reading the story for the first time, we may receive the impression that Yeshua is comforting the two sisters in vain, because Lazarus has already died. Going over the verses of this story multiple times, we come to realize that these words include the message: “to the glory of God.” Yeshua was delayed and, humanly speaking, it was too late to heal Lazarus of his illness. It even went beyond four days, so in Jewish belief, a resurrection was impossible. Yet, it all had to happen and Lazarus had to be res-

urrected (and pay attention to the reason)—for the glory of God.

As Lazarus was ill, his two sisters were in distress, which we can certainly understand. They knew Yeshua could heal, but in their minds, they didn’t realize that He could also resurrect from the dead. Remember the song, “Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”? It’s been very encouraging to me, as I sang it to myself during the activities of the 5th wave of corona.

Since the beginning of January (writing this article mid-January), there have been corona-infected and positive test results among our res-



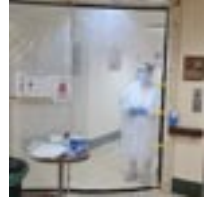
Delivering meals



Nurses' station



Isolation ward



Testing for Corona



idents and team, resulting in many having to quarantine. We have been working now around the clock, with roughly 40% less on the team. One of our floors has been turned into an isolation ward, with all positive-testing residents moving there. It has been quite an impressive logistic adventure, as you can see from the pictures.

As a team, we gathered together and prayed that our dear residents could stay in our home and not be sent to a corona hospital, which is usually mandatory. Our doctor and

head nurse have been on the phone with the Ministry of Health, asking them, “If we fulfill all the requirements (to the extent we can), will you allow us to keep the residents at the home?” Miraculously, they agreed, and even encouraged us to do so! We are so thankful to the Lord that they highly respect us and that we are in good standing among senior citizens’ homes. Just as the Lord said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” This too, we understand, is for the glory of God.

While the team members and residents have been in quarantine and



isolation, we especially pray that the residents will not suffer complications from the virus. Lazarus in the Bible passed away, but that was not the end. We all understand that if one of our elderly residents passes away, it is not the end for them, praise the Lord; it will be for the glory of God. These are not my words, but come from those who I have been communicating with among the elderly who have had to quarantine. They assured me they have a much better place awaiting them in eternity, and they all eagerly await this. “Yes,” they explained, “we still pray. We have fellowship, and we pray that this entire situation will strengthen us all and glorify our Lord.”

It has been amazing to watch how committed our team has been and how they have worked around the clock and helped each other under such pressure. If one is sick, the other steps up. If something needs to be done, even if it isn't their usual task, someone quickly jumps in and fills the gap.

Yes, this is a challenging and complicated time. There are those who

don't feel well among the residents and team. We are working 12-14 hours a day. The team is tired. We must wear protective disposable gear, which is uncomfortable. Some feel stressed and scared, but these feelings come with an understanding that we are safe in His hands. We are all human and have our own needs and families, and pray for extra grace and strength for this time.

This month we are dedicating the donations to this situation, since this time has been very challenging financially. During this period, because of the virus being extremely contagious, we've had to go to using all disposable dishes and protective gear, much more sterilizing, using extra cleaning supplies, having separately packed items and food, bottled water, doing a lot more laundry, and also having to purchase an extra washer and dryer just for the isolation ward. We're using much more water and energy (which is very costly here in Israel), and have even partly resorted to bringing in our own supplies, as businesses here in Israel are running short on some needed items ... and so on.



Cleaning



Dealing with isolation laundry



know exactly what we are describing. But for those of you who would like an inside view of what this all looks like, we have added some pictures for you.

I share this with you as a prayer request. Please keep us in continued prayer, and may the Holy Spirit guide you in those prayers.

I really don't know how to say thank you enough, but please know that your prayers and help are greatly appreciated! We love you all!

If any of you have worked in a senior home or hospital, you

May the Holy One of Israel reward you in all you do and keep you in His service.



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