NEWS FROM ISRAEL

July 2022

Does Israel Have a Future?-Part 1



Tour the Final Book of the Bible

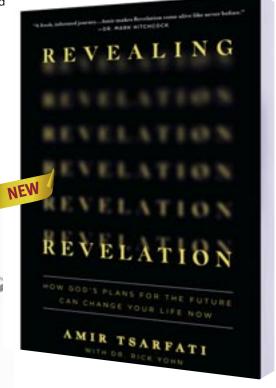
■he book of Revelation was written because God wants us to know what the future holds. For Christians, the prophetic truths within provide wisdom, reassurance, and discernment—while for unbelievers, Revelation is a plea to receive God's grace while there is still time.

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✓ the plan that the Lord has specifically prepared for the people of Israel in the end times;

✓ the encouragements, challenges, and warnings Jesus Himself gave to prepare us for His return.





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\$17.99 NEW Authors: Amir Tsarfati with Rick Yohn





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Does Israel Have a Future? – Part 1

By Norbert Lieth and Johannes Pflaum

Some argue that through the New Covenant, the pending earthly promises made to

Israel have been invalidated and are fulfilled spiritually only for believers. For this reason, we'd like to cite some biblical evidence that makes it clear that Israel is still God's chosen people, and has a grand future from a biblical perspective.

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



here was a time when historians who were writing a history of the world, would take into account the book of Daniel and his vision of the great empires of the world. Unfortunately, that is now a thing of the past.

It would also be of benefit for modern politicians to consult the Bible, especially chapters 2 and 7 of the book of Daniel. What we learn there about the fourth world empire is extremely revealing: it will remain until the end, until the stone torn loose without hands, will put an end to all kingdoms of this world. Daniel shows us that this is the time in which we are now living (Daniel 2:35; 7:13-14).

Daniel was deeply troubled about this fourth and last world

empire, and wanted to know more details concerning it. What we read in the book of Daniel sheds some light also on the current conflict in Ukraine.

The last empire is said to be divided into two parts, represented by the two legs of the statue. Because of its vastness, the last empire, Rome, was nearly always divided into two parts; namely, the East and the West. In time, this division turned out to be a weak point. Further development of the empire is then portrayed by the feet with its ten toes (Daniel 2:33, 40-43).

What we often tend to forget these days is that Eastern Europe—and therefore also Russia—belongs to the fourth empire of Daniel, and thus to Rome. That can be seen even now by the Cyrillic script that is used in the East, since this area was Christianized from Constantinople. In the West we have the Latin script, because this region was Christianized from Rome. This predetermined dividing line also affected the Christian faith, regarding the way it is practiced in the East or West.

Thus, we learn from the book of Daniel that between East and West Europe, there exists an apparent God-given demarcation, which cannot simply be shifted by human volition.

We are told something else through Daniel's vision, of which politicians would be wise to take note. About the ten toes, representing the final phase of the last empire, it is said they are made of part iron and part clay. What is this picture trying to tell us? It will be strong in part, yet weak in the other, and the two will not adhere to one another, just as iron and clay cannot adhere to each other.

The EU and NATO work hard at unification, but the Bible

says their efforts will not really succeed. We should also not mistakenly try to view Rome within its old historical borders. According to Daniel 7:23, this last empire will eat up the whole world and crush it.

The whole world came under the influence of Europe and thus Rome, through colonialism and the consequent wars. No country is an exception. Thus, we can say the entire world has come under the influence of the last empire, of which Daniel spoke so long ago.

One might assert that colonization brought about a great advance of Christian missionary work. That is true—just as ancient Rome provided the basis for the spread of the gospel. Nevertheless, we must always keep political and military power separate from the power of faith.

Trusting Him, who is in the process of building His kingdom which shall endure forever, I greet you warmly with Shalom,

Traces Willes-





BY NORBERT LIETH AND JOHANNES PFLAUM

Lack of a Vision for Israel in Church History

¶here is a not-insignificant number of believers and Bible interpreters who share many of our convictions, and yet reject a future for ethnic Israelis. These advocates of so-called replacement theology teach that the New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant, and so the promises made to Israel were likewise passed on to the Church. Israel squandered the promises through its unbelief, and therefore no longer has a future as a people. Proponents of this position often reference Galatians 6:15-16:

"For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God."

Replacement theologians argue that this passage and others make it clear that the Church under the New Covenant is the Israel of God, and for this reason, the people

of Israel no longer have a promise as a chosen people.

They also refer to Romans 2:28-29 and Romans 9:6-11. In the first of these passages, Paul doesn't call someone who belongs to Israel and is circumcised a Jew, but rather the one who has circumcision of the heart (righteousness through faith) in the Spirit:

"For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God" (Rom 2:28-29).

The second passage isn't describing the children of the flesh (Israel as a people) as Abraham's descendants, but the children of the promise (those who believe):

"But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham Now, a whole segment of Bible-believing Christians is becoming increasingly under the influence of replacement theology. It's raising the question of whether these believers have misunderstood and misinterpreted the Bible as far as Israel is concerned.

because they are his offspring, but 'Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.' This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: 'About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.' And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or badin order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls" (Rom 9:6-11).

Some argue that these passages show that through the New Covenant, the pending

earthly promises made to Israel have been invalidated and are fulfilled spiritually only for believers.

Now, a whole segment of Bible-believing Christians is becoming increasingly under the influence of replacement theology. It's raising the question of whether these believers have misunderstood and misinterpreted the Bible as far as Israel is concerned. For this reason, we'd like to cite some biblical evidence that makes it clear that Israel is still God's chosen people, and has a grand future from a biblical perspective.

The Apostle Paul stressed that Gentile believers had no reason to be haughty, exalting themselves above the people of Israel and responding with pride or antagonism: "So do not become proud, but fear" (Rom 11:20b). But this specific admonition was promptly ignored, and an anti-Semitic storm broke out in church history.

Many of the church fathers concluded that God had eternally rejected the Jewish people as "Christ killers." So Israel disinherited, and the church took its place. And as their replacement, Christianity is now and forever the sole bearer of all of God's promises and blessings. This attitude has contributed to a great deal of misunderstanding about Israel over the past two millennia, and has brought an inexpressible amount of suffering to the Jewish people. Greek theologian and philosopher Origen (185-254 AD) in particular, known as the first dogmatist in church history, laid the foundation for the transferring of the promises made to the people of Israel to the church. All of the Old Testament curses and judgment, however, he literally left exclusively and permanently to the Jewish people. This theme essentially ran through Christianity's formative centuries, shaped the Middle Ages, and even influenced the Reformers. The book *The Roots of Anti-Semitism*, by Carsten Peter Thiede and Urs Stingelin, says:

"Today we're overcome with unbelief and alarm in the face of such events. Even the most subtle attempts to explain why people thought, wrote, and behaved that way can't avoid documenting and admitting to the eyesore that has lain on Christian history since the second century. Because anyone who thinks Christianity is anti-Jewish can rightly appeal to those who, as teachers in the church, helped establish the beginnings of Christian thought and deed."

This deeply tragic development can be traced to the earliest parts of church history. Christianity didn't patiently tolerate the fact that the Jews had become a major obstacle Unfortunately, the greatest of all Reformers wrote an extremely fateful paper about the Jews later on in his tenure.



to missionary activity. Replacement theology and supersessionism stemmed from this. Some of the church fathers unfortunately contributed to the hatred that this teaching fueled. In the 4th century, John Chrysostom spoke of the synagogue as "the temple of demons ... the cavern of devils, a gulf and abyss of perdition."

The Bishop of Antioch also stated that Christians should flee the Jews like a plague threatening the whole world. He said that the church should imitate the martyrs, who the Jews hated because they loved Christ; that it's impossible to love the victim without hating the murderer. He further said that the Jews are only good for slaughter, like a fattened animal that is unable to work.

Sadly, even the church father Augustine, who contributed some important insights, was a representative of disinheritance theology and expressed himself disastrously on the issue of the Jews. Bernard Lewis tells us, "St. Augustine explained how those who had once been God's chosen people had now become the sons of Satan."

New Testament scholars Carsten Peter Thiede and Urs Stingelin also draw attention to this church father's tragic hatred of Jews. They point out that anti-Jewish barbs appear throughout his main work *De Civitate Dei* ("About the City of God"). He also argued that the Jews alone killed Christ and were punished as Christ's murderers. Augustine's anti-

Semitic stance was clearly expressed in his *Tractatus adversus Judaeos* ("Treatise Against the Jews"). The aforementioned scholars believe his negative impact on church history to be significant in regard to this issue.

This course continued through church history. H. Weber rightly wrote:

"The antisemitism of early Christianity exceeded any prior or concurrent non-Christian hostility toward Jews. From the fourth century onward, Christian hatred resulted in numerous acts of violence against the Jews and their synagogues in church and state legislation. Jews gradually lost their civil rights. Conversion to Judaism carried the death penalty (per a law passed by Constantine in 315). Jews were forbidden to make proselytes. Bishops and monks often instigated violent riots against the Jews."

Outstanding figures appearing later in church history even caught this bug. Martin Luther

was very friendly toward the Jews at the beginning of the Reformation, even advocating for them in 1523, counter to the trend in the church at that time. Luther very heartily denounced the anti-Semitic behavior of Christians. He even saw the Jews as being closer to Christ than we Gentiles due to their lineage. He also spoke of the entitlements granted to the Jews in Scripture. At the same time, he expressed his hope that the Jews would become good Christians if they were to be properly instructed in the Scriptures.

Unfortunately, the greatest of all Reformers wrote an extremely fateful paper on this issue later on in his tenure. Some believe that this writing came about because Luther had been anticipating that the Jews would be very open to the rediscovery of God's Word, and this expectation was profoundly disappointed. Another theory is that the Reformer was warned in 1525 that a Polish Jew had allegedly been ordered to poison him.

This presumably false warning probably caused Luther to rethink the issue of the Jews as a result. Various researchers see evidence of the sharp change in Luther's attitude in 1537, when he declined to meet with Josel of Rosheim, a Jew.

In his three-volume work on Martin Luther, Martin Brecht attempts to explain the development of the Reformer's mindset on the question of the Jews. Although Luther initially distinguished himself against his time's prevailing anti-Semitism, Brecht believes that the Reformer's stance on the question of the Jews was already becoming more ambiguous. According to this explanation, the following issues ultimately led to his drafting the anti-Jewish treatise, On the Jews and Their Lies:

- The Reformer had bad experiences with Jewish agitation against Christians.
- Luther wanted to win the Jews over to the Messiah, but was rejected by the rabbis. When he reasoned from Scripture, the rabbis often responded using quotes

from other rabbis, to his disappointment.

- Luther was influenced by Anabaptist extremists, who advocated for keeping the Sabbath, up to and including circumcision (known as "judaizing" the Sabbath). The Reformer recognized the danger of relapsing into Jewish legalism, and wrote the pamphlet *Against the Sabbatarians*.
- Luther recognized the parallels between works-based righteousness under both Judaism and Catholicism, as well as the rejection of justification through faith that naturally follows from it.
- Luther was deeply affected by the religious Jews' blasphemy and rejection of Christ as God, as well as their description of the doctrine of the Trinity as polytheism.

These points don't by any means excuse or qualify Luther's anti-Semitic writing. They are intended only to show the developments that led to his tragic aforementioned pamphlet in 1543. (NAI0122/1205)

On the Horizon



ISRAEL

Thousands Join Jerusalem Pride March

About 10,000 people joined the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance, marking 20 years of Pride marches in Israel's capital.



Jerusalem Pride March 2022. (photo credit: DANIEL RACHAMIM)

"Over the years we have fought for the right to march and demonstrate for equality and for a tolerant Jerusalem that embraces and celebrates the beautiful existence of all its residents," said Alon Shachar, CEO of the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance, which organizes the event. "I wish us to continue working for a better future, and I invite you to be with us in years of parades in Jerusalem and more years of activism and building a broad proud community in the capital and around the world."

Earlier, police announced that they had arrested a man from south Jerusalem who had sent anonymous death threats to the organizers of the parade and a number of MKs from a profile named "the brothers of Yishai Schlissel," referring to the Haredi man who murdered Shira Banki at the 2015 Jerusalem Pride March. The threats warned the recipients that "the fate

BRIEF C

LGBTQ SURROGACY APPROVED

According to Supreme Court Decision 781/15, the Gestational Carrier Agreements Law was amended, effective January 11, 2022, lifting the ban on surrogacy for same-sex couples and single men.

Although Israel has been a developing gay-friendly country since 1963, until now same-sex male couples and single men who wanted a biological child had to travel abroad to find surrogates.

A considerable advantage to being able to have access to a local surrogate is that the child is recognized as a Jew upon birth.

"According to most rabbis and *poskei halacha* [Jewish law decisors]," says Daniel Jonas, "the only person who dictates whether the kid would be Jewish is the carrying mother."

-israel21c.org 6 June 2022 of Shira Banki" was "awaiting" them.

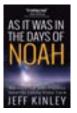
In light of the threats, Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy decided to take part in the march, marking the first time that a Knesset speaker has ever participated in the event.

-www.jpost.com, 2 June 2022

Commentary: When Jesus speaks of His second coming, He mentions two destructive events: the days of Noah and the days of Lot: "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven. and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

How does this relate to the LGBTQ march in Jerusalem? We can answer with one word: equality. We know the god of this world will pro-

duce his superman — Antichrist — who will and must mimic the true equality; namely, the Church. The apostle Paul reveals the perfect unity in the Church: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:



for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

7767

(See As It Was in the Days of Noah, Item #2286, \$14.99.)



Military Might Maneuvers Over Mediterranean

Dozens of Israeli Air Force fighter jets conducted air maneuvers over the Mediterranean Sea, simulating striking Iranian nuclear facilities.

According to a statement by the Israel Defense Forces, the drill included "long-range flight, aerial refueling and striking distant targets."

According to Channel 13 news, more than 100 aircraft—as well as navy submarines—participated in the drill that spanned some 10,000 kilometers.

The Times of Israel learned that the drill—as part of the military's major Chariots of Fire exercise—would simulate a widescale strike in Iran, including





Israeli F-35 fighter jets fly in formation during the military's Blue Flag exercise. (Israel Defense Forces)

against its nuclear facilities.

"The IDF is constantly preparing for operations and various campaigns, in various theaters, and will inflict a severe blow on anyone who seeks to threaten the citizens of the State of Israel," said Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 1 June 2022

Commentary: Reading the excerpts from this article, one is reminded of Deuteronomy 28:7: "The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways." That was the time when Moses challenged the people of Israel to choose between obedience and blessing, or in the case of disobedience, a curse: "And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee"

BRIEF •



HEZBOLLAH DISGUISES OUTPOST

ezbollah has established an observation post near the Lebanese border with Israel under the cover of the Green Without Borders environmental organization, the IDF's Arabic-language spokesperson Avichay Adraee tweeted.

Members of Hezbollah operate at the site while disguised as activists from Green Without Borders, according to Adraee. The IDF spokesperson shared photos of a number of Hezbollah operatives at the site, saying that the observation post violated UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

In August 2017, Green Without Borders head Zouheir Nahle told *The Daily Star* that the trees the organization plants are "the shade of the resistance" and a "veil on the eyes of the enemy." Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah stated in 2010 that planting trees was helpful to Hezbollah as operatives could use the trees to hide.

-jpost.com 8 June 2022

(Deuteronomy 28:37).

When it came to war, Israel was instructed by the Lord on when and how to defeat the enemy. The Bible documents the many wars: some ending in defeat, others in victory. But Israel was required to follow God's directives.

For Christians, 1 Peter 5:8 instructs: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians in chapter 6, verse 13: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." It is an often-repeated error that we find ourselves fighting against the devil, against evil; we don't stand a chance! Note the two words describing our required activity: "withstand" and "stand." When we behave in such a man-

SPRETULAL WARFARE

ner, the Victor is on our side.

7766

(See The Non-Prophet's Guide to Spiritual Warfare, Item #2368, \$17.99.)



SAUDI ARABIA

\$1 Trillion Tourism Investment

Saudi Arabia is set to spend over \$1 trillion in tourism in the coming decade in a bid to attract 100 million visitors by 2030 and diversify its primarily oil-based economy.

The kingdom is pivoting from religious to leisure tourism, which it views as being a key sector in its Vision 2030 program that aims to modernize the country's economy, according to a special report recently published by Entrepreneur Middle East in partnership with Lucidity Insights.

"Working [women] are entering the workforce at breakneck speed," Masako Welch said. "Ten or 15 years ago, you had maybe 5% of the Saudi female population in the workforce and now it's 34%.

-www.jpost.com, 30 May 2022

Commentary: Saudi Arabia is on its way to modernization, not just because of the pressure the West exerts. The king of oil realizes the limited future of this precious resource, primarily due to the global push to switch to green energy. Tourism is an important revenue source for most countries of the world.





Traders at work in the Saudi Investment Bank in Riyadh. (photo credit: REUTERS/FAHAD SHADEED)

According to the World Tourism Barometer, an increase of 4% was registered internationally for 2021, but 72% below pre-pandemic levels. Travel.com lists the world's top five most visited cities:

- 1. Bangkok, Thailand
- 2. Paris, France
- 3. London, UK
- 4. Dubai, UAE
- 5. Singapore

According to the UNWTO, international tourism saw a 182% increase from January to March 2022. During the first quarter of 2022, Europe welcomed almost four times as many international arrivals—that is, 280%—compared to 2021.

Travel and tourism generated \$7.6 trillion (10.2% of global GDP) and 292 million jobs in 2016. That's roughly one in every ten jobs in the global economy. DestinationInternational.org claims that the tourism

BRIEF



SMARTWATCH FOR SENIORS

The watch is connected to an app installed on the phone of a son, daughter or another family member, where through the app it's possible to communicate with the person wearing it. The watch contains a variety of essential functions such as measuring blood pressure and pulse at any moment, as well as a reminder to take medication.

In addition, it allows you to see on a map where the person wearing it is, using a built-in GPS, and in case of danger, there's an SOS button that can be connected to three different devices so that as soon as it's pressed it dials three numbers.

The smartwatch allows remote listening which allows you to communicate remotely if a situation arises in which the adult is lost or doesn't answer calls. The watch operates via the 4th generation cellular network, and replaces a cell phone because it's more convenient to answer without getting up to grab a phone.

-jpost.com 8 June 2022

industry "accounted for 6.6% of total global exports and almost 30% of total global service exports." Many ask, what does this mean? The answer: welcome to globalism. Today, it's easier to travel virtually anywhere in the world than ever before in history. Thus, tourism is a significantly important industry and is expected to grow substantially.

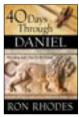
Jeremiah pinpoints the desert area southeast of Israel with these words: "And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert" (Jeremiah 25:24). Many scholars agree that the Biblical name is Dedan.

From Ezekiel 38, we take note that three nations are questioning or proudly protesting Gog of Magog, the enemy from the north that is prophesied to invade Israel. We read: "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (verse 13).

While Saudi Arabia is an

extremely Islamic country, it now sees more and more the absolute need to be part of the Roman world, popularly known as "the West."

The prophet Daniel is told **not** to reveal the things he had written, "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" (Daniel 12:4). Travel and knowledge will increase. 7768

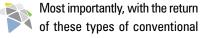
(See 40 Days Through Daniel, Item #2304, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

War Needs Victory or Defeat

For many years, the Western world has avoided and even abhorred the use of terms like victory and defeat. However, the invasion of Russia into Ukraine has demonstrated that the types of wars that were regularly waged during the 20th century are not a thing of the past, even in the heart of Europe.



wars, the concepts of victory and defeat have returned not just to the lexicon but also the military strategy.





Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivers a video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos. (photo credit: Arnd Wiegmann/Reuters)

There is barely a speech where Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky does not pepper it with talk of victory. These speeches, which have been screened in well over a dozen parliaments, have been very well received and accepted.

This should teach us in Israel something about how to end our conflict, which has reared its ugly head with terrorist attacks that have claimed the lives of 17 Israelis.

While the comparison between the Russian Federation and Palestinian terrorist groups in terms of size and military capacity is wildly unequal and inappropriate, the motivation to extinguish an existing state that binds both is not.

Palestinian violent rejectionists have acted against Jewish sovereignty, whether the idea of it during the early parts of the last century or the fact of it from 1948 onwards, for over 100 years.

They clearly do not seek peace, dialogue or compromise.

NEWS IN BRIEF



TRAINING US COPS TO SHOOT, BUT NOT KILL

bout three years ago, LaGrange, Georgia Police Chief Louis "Lou" Dekmar was getting serious about the concept that he'd first encountered in 2004 during a police exchange trip in Israel, where officers are trained to shoot at non-vital areas such as the legs if the situation allows.

With the new use-of-force policy at LaGrange, called Shoot to Incapacitate, the goal became "to stop the threat without taking a life," he explains—to wound, not kill.

Believed to be the first of its kind in the US, the Israeli-inspired program runs counter to the decades-old use-of-force standards in American policing.

Looking at five years of data, he learned that of the 1,000 people killed during police encounters each year in the US, about 300—or 25 to 30 percent—carry a blunt or edged weapon. Dekmar found the numbers big enough to justify an additional training protocol, adjusted to the realities of US policing.

-timesofisrael.com 7 June 2022 This is attested to by the rejection of numerous offers of peace and statehood.

As has been famously stated on many occasions, the Palestinians want a state far less than they seek the destruction of the one Jewish state.

Through the speeches of Zelensky, the West has understood that it does not live in a post-conflict reality, and unfortunately, wars have to be won or lost.

Israel should see in this an opportunity to finally defeat those who seek to end its existence, to wipe it off the map.

-www.jpost.com, 1 June 2022

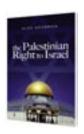
Commentary: Arab Palestinians, obviously fueled by religious fanaticism, insist on the destruction of the Jewish State, although their chances of accomplishing it are zero. Hate breeds hate. While some claim that a large percentage of Arab Palestinians really seek peace and cooperation with Israel, facts on the ground speak quite differently. Can Israel force the Palestinians to change their mind? Most likely not, because they see no benefit from the existence of the Jewish State.

Let's look at a European exam-

ple. Hungary lost 71% of its territory. This was established in 1920 by the Paris Peace Conference. Yet there is no mentionable movement within Hungarian society to "liberate Hungary." This despite recent egging on by Russia in maps dividing Ukraine up between itself, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary. It's over, done.

Germany too lost some 13% of its territory after the treaty signed in Potsdam (near Berlin). Yet it would be laughable if someone were to create a PLO (Prussian Liberation Organization).

But we are dealing with God's land and His people; that's the distinct difference. When it comes to His land—Israel—all nations of the world unitedly oppose the borders set forth by God Himself: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the



river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18).

7769

(See The Palestinian Right to Israel. Item #2256. \$19.99.)





IRAQ

Contact with Israel Punishable by Death

Iraqi lawmakers passed a bill criminalizing normalization of ties and any relations, including business ties, with Israel. The legislation says that violation of the law is punishable with the death sentence or life imprisonment.

It was unclear how the law will be implemented as Iraq has not recognized Israel since the country's formation in 1948; the two nations have no diplomatic relations.

Earlier this year, Iran fired a dozen ballistic missiles towards the northern city of Erbil in the Kurdish-run north, saying it was targeting an Israeli intelligence base.

A report by the Iraqi parliament's factfinding committee said it found no evidence to support Iranian accusations of an Israeli spy base in Erbil.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 26 May 2022

Commentary: It is of interest that, according to the *CIA Factbook*, the United States is listed as an export partner at 8%. The US invaded Iraq in 2003, and according to the Watson Brown Educational Institute, from 1,084,382 to 2,007,156 Iraqi civilians were killed. Yet Iraq apparently singles

out Israel as their preferred enemy in the world.

The Iraqi population is a little above 40 million, with almost 98% Muslim, divided into 60% Shiite and 30% Sunni.

What happened to the Christians? The CIA Factbook reads: "The overall Christian population has decreased at least 50% and perhaps as high as 90% since the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime in 2003, according to US Embassy estimates, with many fleeing to Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon."

Another article states: "Iraq has the most Biblical history of any other country [besides Israel] in the world." Then it lists Abraham, who originated from Ur (Uruk in southern Iraq), modern-day Nasiriyah, and Rebecca from northwestern Iraq in Assyria.

Today's Iraq has lost its attraction, with extreme poverty and various conflicts with terrorist groups unfriendly to the present Iraqi government. The per-capita GDP stands at \$9,300 per year, and life expectancy is 73.2 years. In comparison to Israel, Iraq could only benefit from good relations with the Jewish State.

7762

(See New Babylon Rising, Item #2359, \$16.99.)



Copyleaks Detects Plagiarism

Copyleaks has developed an AI-based online product that identifies the authenticity of text, which could be used in a host of applications, including the recognition of plagiarism.

Using AI, the company's technology identifies whether any text has been used in the past elsewhere, including cases where the text has been edited and even rephrased.

The service, available as both an online service as well as an application programming interface (API), is offered to institutional and private clients in more than 100 languages around the world, and used by organizations such as Macmillan Publishers, schools and universities such as Stanford and Oakland, content organizations such as the BBC and Medium, as well as corporations such as Cisco and Accenture that are seeking to ensure their copyrights are protected.

Copyleaks was founded by Alon Yamin and CTO and founding partner Yehonatan Bitton, who teamed up to develop a solution to content plagiarism. Yamin and Bitton took on the challenge of developing a smart system capable of recognizing written content. The company now employs around 20 employees and operates from New York and Kiryat Shmona, where the development team is located.

-www.jpost.com, 19 April 2022

Commentary: Plagiarism means to present someone else's work or idea as your own, with or without their consent, says a Google search. Highly regarded authors, businesspeople, actors, and politicians have often been accused of plagiarism and exposed.

The website Politico.eu reveals, "In 2011, Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg resigned after it was discovered his thesis contained plagiarized passages." Our interest is piqued by the name Guttenberg; we don't know if he is distantly related to the most famous Guttenberg, Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Guttenberg, who died on 3 February 1468 and is credited with the invention of the printing press. That was the beginning of the modern media revolution.

Watch out plagiarists! Copyleaks is coming to reveal, expose, and convict those who practice plagiarism. Not surprisingly, it originates from Israel.

While this invention is quite amazing, the real recordkeeping is done in heaven. Revelation 20 concludes with these words: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (verse 15).

7741

(See 101 Answers to Questions About the Book of Revelation. Item #2295. \$15.99.)





I Will Praise Him ...

The testimony of Jaffa Sapir, an Ebenezer Resident

By David Phillips COO (Chief Operating Officer)

his month's issue. I wanted to give you a glimpse into another one of our dear residents' lives. Each resident has a story to tell, a life forever changed for the glory of God. Some are filled with joy, others with sorrow and tears. Jaffa is one such resident, a young Holocaust survivor, about whom you will find yourself both crying and in awe at what she endured. But yet, even amid the heartache she was enduring, she was about to get the surprise of her life! Something she never expected, something she thought was completely impossible. Her Heavenly Father, whom she had come to rely on so heavily, had a tremendous gift in store for her! But wait ... I must let you read it



for yourself. May I introduce you to a very special sister in Yeshua, Jaffa Sapir.

"My name is Jaffa Sapir, and I was born in May 1929 in the former USSR. I am a Holocaust survivor, who knows and loves Yeshua the Messiah very much!

"Soon after the war began, I was separated from my family. My father, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews were killed early in the war, leaving behind my three brothers and myself with no one to

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care for us (we believed at the time that our older brother and sister had also been killed).

"Soon, because of a lack of food within the city, I was separated from my three brothers, aged 10-14, and I never saw them again.

"When I was only 8 years old, I hid alone in the forest for two years, coming out from time to time to beg for food in nearby villages. During this time, someone literally dropped a Bible into my lap, which I read while in hiding. It was through this experience that I came to faith in Yeshua. This time became a time of much prayer.

"During and after the war, I experienced much trauma and suffering in my life. I believed all of my family had been murdered during the war, and only years later, after arriving in Israel as an adult, did I realize that the most incredible gift awaited me! My older brother and sister had escaped and made Aliyah to Israel, and really hadn't been

killed with the rest of my family! After so many years, the three of us siblings were reunited as a family once more! God is so good!"

Jaffa continues to explain how she married young and had three sons. While her sons were still young, she and her husband divorced, and only after their divorce did she make Aliyah (immigrate) to Israel as a single mother. She lived in a kibbutz, working at a factory while single-handedly raising her three children. When she retired, she moved to Nahariya, where she lived alone for many years.

Because of her declining health at 85, Jaffa decided it was time to move into an elderly home. She explains: "For me, living in the Ebenezer Home is very important, because I can participate in the morning devotions and prayer meetings, which I greatly enjoy."

Jaffa has much gratitude for all God has done for her, and never passes up an opportunity to share with others how God is

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her Father, and how much He has loved and cared for her through all! She desires that all come to realize Yeshua's great love for them!

Jaffa speaks many languages, and thoroughly enjoys bringing a smile to the residents' faces, encouraging and singing for them. She actively follows the lives of her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and prays for each one of them. Jaffa has a generous heart toward everyone she meets, and you will often see her with her hands

raised high, exclaiming, "Toda LaEl!" ("Thank you, God!") as she shares her story with you.

The Ebenezer Building and Renovation Project is to help provide Jaffa and many brothers and sisters like her with the spiritual as well as physical and medical care needed. We can't thank you enough for being part of the Ebenezer family and joining hands with us, as we seek to love, serve, minister to, and care for these precious elderly brothers and sisters in Yeshua! Thank you!

MIDNIGHT CALL Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line. With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420 Web: midnightcall.com/ebenezer	Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309 Lexington, SC 29073			
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"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel" (Ezekiel 11:17).

BY ARNO FROESE

n the above verse, we notice the words "I will." Thus, we realize that the return of the Jews to the land of Israel is the will of God. The question we ask is, how does He implement His will?

The Jerusalem Post proclaims that at the beginning of 2022, Israel's population stood at 9.5 million.

Where did it all begin? Doubtless, from the "I will" of God. But how did it progress in practical terms? We know, for example, that the Declaration of the State of Israel occurred in May 1948. Since that time, three million Jews have made Aliyah. The Jewish Virtual Library reports: "The First Aliyah followed pogroms in Russia in 1881-1882. The first group of 14 Biluim arrived at Jaffa port on July 6, 1882. Most of the *olim* (immigrants) during

this period came from Eastern Europe; a small number also arrived from Yemen. Members of Hibbat Zion and Bilu, two early Zionist movements that were the mainstays of the First Aliyah, defined their goal as 'the political, national, and spiritual resurrection of the Jewish people in Palestine."

We note the words "spiritual resurrection." How did it work? The article further states: "In all, nearly 35,000 Jews came to Palestine during the First Aliyah. Almost half of them left the country within several years of their arrival, some 15,000 established new rural settlements, and the rest moved to the towns."

Most of the Jews of the First Aliyah came from Russia. But the Second Aliyah was different: "The Second Aliyah consisted of young men and women, mainly from Russia, many of them imbued with socialist ideas. These young men and women were guided not only by a more conscious and consistent national ideology, but were also fired by the ideal of laying the foundation for a workers' commonwealth in the Eretz Yisrael" (archive.jewishagency.org).

This group, although again mainly from Russia, had a distinctly different ideology; not spiritual restoration, but restoring the land and defending oneself. It was the 5th of January 1930 when, under the leadership of David Ben Gurion, the Mapai Party—Mifleget Poalei Eretz Yisrael: literally, "Workers' Party of the Land of Israel"—was founded, "a democratic socialist political party in Israel."

Quite interestingly, not those of a religious ideology, but in plain words, the communist workers' party was the decisive implementer of settlements—"kibbutzim." This term came from the Russian "kolkhoz," a communist settlement. Many of these kibbutzim became extremely successful; to this day, there are millionaires and even billionaires among them.

What was their goal? "Establishment of a welfare state, providing minimum income, security, and free (or almost free) access to housing subsidies and health and social services" (en.wikipedia.org).

When we analyze Israel's modern history, we are faced with the irrevocable "I will" of God. In plain words, the beginning of modern Israel was based on communist ideology.

The same prophet Ezekiel—who occupies himself mostly with the land of Israel—is commanded by God not to speak to the people in the first place, but to the topographical land: "Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord" (Ezekiel 36:1). Then in verse 8, He gives the reason: "But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come." First, the land is being prepared for the people to come.



Later in the same chapter, we read of their twofold conversion:

1) "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (verse 26). Note carefully, "a new heart" and "a new spirit." But that's not the end. 2) Verse 27 declares: "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." That is yet to come.

We are not surprised, therefore, when we hear so much about Christian Zionism—Messianic believers. They have to be very careful in their public-facing operations. A number of ultra-Orthodox organizations often fight with desperate means to hinder the proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah.

Another source reported that one-third of Russian Jews coming to Israel, while reaping many benefits as new immigrants and receiving Israeli citizenship, then return to Russia. What is the reason? Russia is their home country; it's the land of their language, culture, ideology, and history.

This type of development is a prophetic warning for the Church. We may not turn back. Here is what we read in Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

While this Scripture is often used to support the teaching that one can lose his salvation, it actually proves the opposite. It is impossible to lose my salvation after I have been reborn, and then be reborn again. Our rebirth is based on God's "I will." The new spirit born within the believer is the work of God; it is eternal. But those who do turn back will experience the fulfillment of 1 Corinthians 3:15: "If any man's

work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

God's work with us is not finished, but it can be at any moment. When the last one from among the Gentiles is added to His spiritual temple, then eternity has begun.

God's "I will" for His people, Israel is targeted toward this fulfillment: "And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore" (Ezekiel 37:28).

Explanation of Action for Israel

After the Yom Kippur War in 1973, our late founder, Dr. Wim Malgo, established an emergency fund for poor families in Israel who had lost a loved one in the war. Later, several building projects were undertaken. One of the major projects included part of the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center (now called the Shamir Medical Center).

As of late, Action for Israel funds are mainly designated for believers in Israel in need. (89)

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