

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

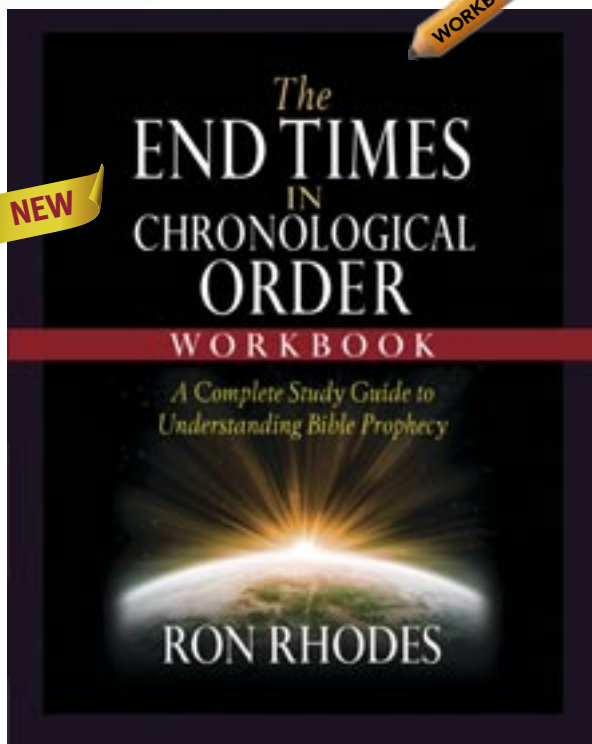
August 2022



Does Israel Have a Future? – Part 2

Fish Farm in the Desert P. 13 • Make Elderly Skin Young Again P. 16

Answers Your Questions About What Will Happen, and When



With this companion to *The End Times in Chronological Order*, author Ron Rhodes provides a strategically designed guide to help you unpack Bible prophecy. Whether you journey through this workbook on its own or in tandem with the book, this resource illuminates every key concept believers need to know—and where they fit on God’s timeline—from the rapture to the tribulation and the return of Christ, and beyond.

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THE END TIMES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER WORKBOOK ITEM #2397

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



On the first of November, elections in Israel will be held for the fifth time within 3 ½ years. What was to be expected has now happened: The government of Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid has failed due to the extreme differences within the coalition. Bennett is withdrawing from politics for the time being, and will not be part of the upcoming elections. Yair Lapid will now be president of the interim government. What are the odds that these next elections will result in a stable government? In all honesty, there isn't reason for much optimism. Even though the forecasts mention Netanyahu and his Likud party, we have had that situation several times before. Yes, his party

gained a bit each time, but that was always at the expense of his coalition partners, and thus never amounted to a majority.

No one can really predict the result of the scheduled elections ... whether there will be a shift within the political camps, or whether the situation will remain about the same. There is more to suggest that not much will change, particularly since the various factions are quite rigid in their positions.

Unfortunately, it must be said that Netanyahu is the obstacle for many of the party leaders, who are debating whether to join a coalition government with Likud. Thus, sadly, the forecasts for an emerging stable government are not good. And that is precisely what Israel urgently



needs. However, it may turn out that some of the smaller parties will not make the four-seat requirement, and then the distribution of seats will shift in favor of one side or the other.

On taking office, Yair Lapid gave a televised speech in which he addressed Israel's most pressing problems. The threat from Iran, which is moving ever nearer to Israel's borders via Syria and Lebanon, played an important role in this speech. Just recently, Israel shot down three Hezbollah drones, which were on their way from Lebanon to one of Israel's oil rigs in the Mediterranean. A dispute has arisen with Lebanon over the route of their sovereign border in the Mediterranean, because large gas deposits are involved.

President Biden's visit to the region, especially to Israel and Saudi Arabia, emphasizes the urgency of problems in the Middle East. Not Israel alone, but also a number of moderate Arab States feel increasingly threatened by Iran. To meet this threat, newly

incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid announced an expansion of the so-called "Abraham Accords" with other Arab states, in order to establish a strong front against the threat from Iran.

The current war situation in Ukraine is presenting the world with a new source of crises, and nobody can predict how everything will play out. Yet, despite all this, the trouble spots in the Middle East must not be neglected. They have the potential to cause a world conflagration ... given the fact that Iran with its mullah regime has not ceased in its intention to destroy the Jewish State.

But the knowledge that over and above all is the Almighty God—who is in the process of carrying out His plans for this world, and especially for Israel—gives us confidence and peace in the midst of this world's turmoil. United in this confidence and peace, warm Shalom greetings from Israel,



Does Israel Have a Future? – Part 2

BY NORBERT LIETH AND JOHANNES PFLAUM

Lack of a Vision for Israel in Church History

Although the Reformer's primary purpose in writing was to confront Judaism theologically, Luther let himself get carried away by the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories of his day. His writing accused the Jews of laziness, poisoning wells, and kidnapping children for ritual murder. He also cast suspicion on Jewish doctors of poisoning their patients. The following sentences appeared in his work:

“What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews? [...] Thus, we cannot extinguish the unquenchable fire of divine wrath, of which the prophets speak, nor can we convert the Jews. With prayer and the fear of God we must practice a sharp mercy to see whether we might save at least a few from the glowing flames. We dare not avenge ourselves. Vengeance a thousand times worse than we could wish them already has them by the throat. I shall give you my sincere advice:

“First to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them. This is to be done in honor of our Lord and of Christendom, so that God might see that we are Christians, and do not condone or knowingly tolerate such public lying, cursing, and blaspheming of his Son and of his Christians.”

Despite this anti-Semitic rant (which must be explicitly denounced on a biblical basis), we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater. The church fathers also made very important and valuable discoveries, for which God is to be thanked. For example, Luther's recognition of the four “solas” of the Reformation—“faith alone, grace alone, the Bible alone, Christ alone”—is significant in church history.

The way Luther saw it, the land covenants made to Israel and the messianic promises of David's scepter were fulfilled at

We can also follow the effects of replacement theology to the rise of National Socialism (Nazism) and the anti-Semitism that characterized it, in its worst form to date.

Christ's first coming, sealed by the Jewish Diaspora. To him, the promises and service to God had passed to the Christians.

The Reformer's incorrect way of thinking is still understandable to a degree, due to the circumstances of the time: there was no trace of an Israeli state. Then again, it's all the more incomprehensible today that replacement theology advocates are stubbornly sticking to their guns, when Israel is obviously at the center of world events. And beyond that, the fulfillment of Scripture's final prophecies is beginning to dawn.

We can also follow the effects of replacement theology to the rise of National Socialism (Nazism) and the anti-Semitism that characterized it, in its worst form to date. The guidelines for the "German Christian

Faith Movement" were published in 1932, closely mirroring Hitler's political agenda. They said, in part:

"We recognize in race, ethnicity (*Volkstum*), and nation laws of life given and entrusted to us by God, who has commanded us to preserve them [...] We also demand that the people be protected from those who are inept and inferior [...] In the mission to the Jews we see great danger to our people. It is the point at which foreign blood enters the body of our people [...] Holy Scripture speaks both of holy wrath and of self-denying love. It is especially important to prohibit marriages between Germans and Jews."

These "German Christian" guidelines won a third of the available seats in the November 1932 Prussian church elections. A moderate version was even-

tually released in May of 1933, due only to massive criticism of the original by the Confessing Church, spearheaded by pastors Niemöller and Bonhoeffer.

Even after the war and the Holocaust had come to an end, traces of anti-Semitism lurking in replacement theology can be found over and over in the Church. In 1984, an evangelical pastor named Schenk wrote in the Palatinate (Germany) parish newspaper: “Believers in Christ, forming a community of saints and the one Christian church, have replaced the formerly chosen people of God.”

During the 1982 Lebanon War (Operation: “Peace for Galilee”), evangelical theologian Ulrich Schoen of Beirut expressed himself as follows:

“And there are theological ideas, together with anger, which I wouldn’t mind if there were also some divine anger (!) involved. This ‘peace’ has nothing to do with the peace that the three sister religions (Islam, Christianity, and Judaism) want.

All three of them should bring a case against the State of Israel for ‘theft’ and ‘sexual assault of a minor.’ For it has stolen the name of God’s people, and it has violated something young and delicate: peace. And I wish that an unexpected by-product would shake loose from all this war: a death blow for all Christian theological ‘pro-Zionism.’”

In January 1999, *Israel Today* reported that 1,000 American clergy (including Roman Catholic and Protestant bishops) had signed a petition urging then-President Bill Clinton to end US aid to Israel. The intent was to put pressure on Israel and promote a Palestinian state.

The “Kairos Palestine Document” of December 12, 2009 was published by the World Council of Churches (WCC) as, “A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering.” It’s important to note that this statement from the WCC isn’t shared in principle by all adherents to disinheritance (replacement) theology.

The lack of salvation-historical perspective toward Israel has, in many cases, led to anti-Semitism throughout Church history, and even the promotion of it.



There are also adherents to that belief who reject this document. The whole text is characterized by an ideological, biased, and anti-Israel attitude. It's a clear demonstration of where replacement theology's reprehensible excesses can lead. Any belief in a biblical future for the land and people of Israel is dismissed with the following sentences:

“Our Lord Jesus Christ came, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was near [...] He came with ‘a new teaching’ (Mark 1:27), casting a new light on the Old Testament, on the themes that relate to our Chris-

tian faith and our daily lives, themes such as the promises, the election, the people of God and the land. We believe that the Word of God is a living Word, casting a particular light on each period of history, manifesting to Christian believers what God is saying to us here and now. For this reason, it is unacceptable to transform the Word of God into letters of stone that pervert the love of God and His providence in the life of both peoples and individuals. This is precisely the error in fundamentalist Biblical interpretation, which brings us death and destruction when the Word of God is petrified and transmitted from generation to generation as a dead letter. This dead letter is used as a weapon in our present history in order to deprive us of our rights in our own land.”

This quoted passage subtly suggests that belief in the prom-

ises to Israel equates to the promotion of destruction and death. Elsewhere in the document we read:

“We believe that our land has a universal mission. In this universality, the meaning of the promises, of the land, of the election, of the people of God, opens up to include all of humanity, starting from all the peoples of this land. In light of the teachings of the Holy Bible, the promise of the land has never been a political program, but rather the prelude to complete universal salvation. It was the initiation of the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God on earth.”

In other words: Israel no longer has any significance in redemptive history, and never had the right to be its own people with a nation and a state. The Old Testament is also dramatically robbed of its promises and meaning, and even the fulfillments that had already occurred at that time. Finally, this statement from the WCC even goes so far as to say that a belief in

the biblical promises, and the future for Israel that is inseparably connected with them, is a sin:

“We also declare that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a sin against God and humanity, because it deprives the Palestinians of their basic human rights, bestowed by God. It distorts the image of God in the Israeli who has become an occupier, just as it distorts this image in the Palestinian living under occupation. We declare that any theology—seemingly based on the Bible or on faith or on history—that legitimizes the occupation, is far from Christian teachings because it calls for violence and holy war in the name of God Almighty, subordinating God to temporary human interests, and distorting the divine image in the human beings living under both political and theological injustice.”

This isn't just a one-sided view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that largely contradicts the facts; the reader is also force-fed the provocative thesis

that, believing in the promises and, by extension, taking a stand in favor of the present-day state of Israel, is equivalent to calling for “holy war.” This equates a belief in Israel’s biblical future with Islamic jihad. Moreover, mankind elevates himself as the judge of God and His promises.

With this flawed position toward Israel, Christianity is not only repeatedly taking a heavy burden of guilt upon itself, but also has lost its ability to judge the signs of the times. In Zechariah 2:8b, God says of Israel, “he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.”

Footnote 20 of the revised Elberfelder (German) translation of 1986 explains: “Yes, whoever touches you, touches his (own) eyeball.” In other words, whoever touches Israel damages his own sight, or blinds himself. This is exactly what happened in Church history. However, when anti-Semitism is being traced throughout the centuries of Church history in its various forms and manifestations, the following important

fact must be mentioned, lest we draw the wrong conclusions.

Many followers of Jesus, including theologians, see no future for the land and people of Israel, due to their theological framework. However, they aren’t anti-Semites, nor would they defend anti-Semitism in any way. For this reason, we shouldn’t make false generalizations.

But there is no question that the lack of salvation-historical perspective toward Israel has, in many cases, led to anti-Semitism throughout Church history, and even the promotion of it. A clear biblical view on the issue of Israel and the Jews during the time of the Third Reich, would certainly have saved a large part of German Christianity from deception. Conversely, it was a succession of simple believers during the darkest part of German history, who recognized the anti-Christian spirit because of its attitude toward Judaism. As a result, these men and women didn’t allow themselves to be carried away by Satan’s deception. (NAI0122/1210)



On the Horizon



ISRAEL

Fish Farm in the Desert

Aquatech Fisheries is living proof that fish can learn to swim in the sand, so to speak. According to the company's CEO Mordi Laloush, "If we can raise fish in the heart of the desert, everywhere else should be easy."



Barramundi fish from the ecological farm to your plate

(Credit: Barramundi PR)



What started as a "Zionist idea," said Laloush, could change the way fish are raised everywhere.

The ability to increase fish production from the sea has been maximized, Laloush told *The Jerusalem Post*. Moreover, many sea-, pond- and ocean-based fish have unhealthy and sometimes toxic elements. At the same time, the majority of fish farms are harming the environment, dumping copious quantities of polluted water into the earth, lakes and oceans.

In Israel, there are added challenges, Laloush said: There are not even enough shores where fish can be raised, nor water nor land, which are precious and very scarce resources.

In comes Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS).

"RAS is a technology where water is recycled and reused

NEWS IN BRIEF



CHEMICAL HEALS WOUNDS FAST

Israeli scientists say they have used a natural chemical to make pigs' wounds heal twice as fast as they otherwise would. They hope to be able to develop the substance for human use, and claim it could also become "an antibiotics alternative of the future."

Diindolylmethane (DIM) is found in broccoli, cauliflower, and other vegetables. A Ben Gurion University research team studied its impact on bacteria in lab conditions, and found that it harms their ability to function.

The scientists took pigs, each with several wounds, and treated their wounds with either antibiotics or with a synthetic form of DIM. The wounds treated with antibiotics took 10 days to fully close on average, while the wounds treated with a DIM-based ointment took five days.

-timesofisrael.com
11 July 2022



after mechanical and biological filtration and removal of suspended matter and metabolites," according to a definition provided by the National Fisheries Development Board in India, where the technology is also beginning to be used. "This method is used for high-density culture of various species of fish, utilizing minimum land area and water."

"There are similar farms, but none of them reach the level of almost zero use of water while raising thousands of tons of fish," he said. "This trend is taking shape in the world, but we are almost the only ones who have so far managed to crack it."

-*www.jpost.com*, 12 June 2022

Commentary: Only in Israel!

The "Zionist idea" aimed to renew the land of Israel. That has been going on for over 100 years with amazing success. Now something new is added: aquatech fisheries raising fish in the desert, using recycled water while avoiding pollution in any way, shape or form.

What we know from the Bible is that even the Dead Sea will come alive, but that will be a supernatural act of God. The prophet Ezekiel proclaims: "And it shall come to

pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds,

as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many" (Ezekiel 47:9-10).

7787

(See *Miracle of Israel*, Item #2303, \$13.99.)



AUSTRALIA

Jewish Community Reaches 100,000

In the survey of Australian citizens, 99,956 said they practice Judaism, an increase of 9.8% compared with the 2016 census when 91,023 said they practice Judaism.



The diversity of religious affiliation increased across the Australian population, the census showed.

Christianity remained the most common religion, with 43.9% of the population iden-



NEWS IN BRIEF



An Australian flag is seen hung in a tree burnt by bushfire on the property of farmer Jeff McCole in Buchan, Victoria, Australia
(photo credit: REUTERS/ANDREW KELLY)

RUSSIA HALTS JEWISH AGENCY OPERATIONS

The Russian government has ordered the Jewish Agency to cease all operations inside the country, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

An order forcing the Jewish Agency to stop its work in Russia is dramatic and could directly undermine the ability of Russian Jews to immigrate to Israel. Thousands of them have finished their paperwork and have been waiting for flights to become available to Israel. However, the sanctions on Russia have caused most international airlines to stop flying to the country, and therefore, future immigrants are “stuck” in Russia, according to Israeli officials.

One of the main goals of the Jewish Agency is to promote and facilitate aliyah from Jewish communities around the world. If it will not be able to be active in Russia, this will be the first time in the past 30 years that aliyah efforts would be banned in the country.

-jpost.com
5 July 2022

tifying as Christian, down from 52.1% in the 2016 census.

Australians reporting no religious affiliation increased from 30.1% in the 2016 census to 38.9% in the 2021 census.

Some 87,000 Jews live in New South Wales and Victoria, the census showed.

The total raw number of Jews in the 2011 census was 97,327, Peter Wertheim, co-CEO of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said.

“The total raw number of Jews in the 2021 census was 99,956, a return to the long-term trend and therefore the highest figure ever recorded in a census,” he added.

-www.jpost.com, 28 June 2022

Commentary: According to WorldPopulation Review.com, the top ten countries with the highest human freedom (2021) are:

1. Switzerland
2. New Zealand
3. Denmark



4. Estonia
5. Ireland
6. Canada
7. Finland
8. Australia
9. Sweden
10. Luxembourg

The *CIA Factbook* lists the population of Australia as 26,141,000; life expectancy stands at 83.1 years. Per capita GDP is \$48,700.

Our interest lies in the increasing Jewish population. Based on prophetic Scripture, they will one day return to the land of their fathers, Israel. We read in Ezekiel 39:28: “Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.”

It is also of interest that religion is decreasing. This tendency is evident throughout the world, particularly in the West. The reason? Increase of science and technology, preparing humanity for total independence from God the Creator.

7788

(See *End-Times Super Trends*, Item #2342, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Make Elderly Skin Young Again

Have scientists at Haifa’s Rambam Health Care Campus and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and colleagues abroad—after two decades of research—discovered the fountain of youth?



Conducted by Dr. Aviad Keren, Dr. Yaniv Keren, Prof.

Yehuda Ullman, Prof. Amos Gilhar of the Haifa institutions, Dr. Marta Bertolini of the Monasterium Laboratory in Germany and Dr. Ralf Paus of the University of Manchester, the study has just been published in the prestigious journal *Science Advances* published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science under the title “Human organ rejuvenation by VEGF-A: Lessons from the skin.”

Using an old skin graft on young mice, they proved that it is possible to make skin and other organs young again via a change in molecular structure through all the layers of the skin.

To achieve this, aging-research models are critically needed in which not only the key drivers of human organ aging can be identi-



NEWS IN BRIEF



Elderly hand (illustrative) (photo credit: PIXABAY)

fied, but also the most promising strategies to prevent getting old and to make humans young again through drugs that remove old cells can be tested on lab animals before being used on patients, they continued.

-www.jpost.com, 24 June 2022

Commentary: There is much to be said about medical science, particularly in the land of Israel. There is no doubt that life expectancy has increased; in the developed world, it has almost doubled. For the United States, in 1816 it was 39.4 years; today, according to www.cia.gov, life expectancy stands at 80.6 years.

So, the question, why do old people want to look younger? The real and underlying reason is the fear of the unknown, the fear of death.

Here Psalm 90:12 proclaims: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto

MEDTRONIC BUYS ISRAELI FIRM CATHWORKS

Irish-US firm Medtronic will invest up to \$75 million in Israeli medical tech company CathWorks, the developer of a digital diagnostic tool for coronary artery disease (CAD), and has signed a \$585 million option to acquire the company over the next five years to "transform how coronary artery disease is diagnosed and treated."

CathWorks' FFRangio system uses artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced computational science to obtain FFR values from routine angiograms, without the invasive procedures.

The Kfar Saba-based company said the FFRangio has shown diagnostic accuracy of 93%, sensitivity of 91%, and specificity of 94% in a clinical study published in 2020.

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wisdom.” Wisdom given to the believer causes him to realize his temporary presence on earth. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:4: “For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. He adds: “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the

body, and to be present with the Lord” (verse 8).

7786

(See *Final Destiny*, Item #2377, \$5.95.)



UAE

Israeli Radar to Detect Missiles and Drones

Israeli radars will be deployed in the United Arab Emirates in order to detect Iranian missiles and drones, N12 reported, citing foreign reports.



Israel has already been holding talks with its regional allies of the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Egypt regarding a mutual alliance. This was first seen at the historic Negev Summit in Sde Boker and again with the foreign ministers of

each country, referred to as the Negev Summit Steering Committee, meeting again in the Bahraini capital of Manama.

Israel has also allegedly been holding secret talks with military officials from non-allied Arab nations of Saudi Arabia and Qatar regarding regional threats posed by Iran, according to foreign reports.

-www.jpost.com, 28 June 2022

Commentary: Another report speaks of the Middle East NATO. Britannica.com writes about the Arab League: “The aims of the league in 1945 were to strengthen and coordinate the political, cultural, economic, and social programs of its members and to mediate disputes among them or between them and third parties. The signing on April 13, 1950, of an agreement on joint defense and economic cooperation also committed the signatories to coordination of military defense measures.” What this league had in common was being 100% anti-Israel, but that changed after several wars with the Jewish state. Today, Israel has developed into the supreme military power in the Middle East.

However, reliance on allies,



bound by declarations, is only political. Israel's leaders have made it repeatedly clear that only Israel is responsible for the security of the Jewish state, which will continue indefinitely. 7785

(See *Israel on High Alert*, Item #2343, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Healthy Economy Despite Political Instability

The World Bank lowered its global growth forecast for 2022 from 4.1% to 2.9%, following growth of 5.7% in 2021. The more distant future does not bode well, either, with a growth forecast of 3% for both 2023 and 2024.



VARIOUS ISRAELI banknotes are displayed for an illustrative photo. The economy is well on its way to the pre-pandemic standards of budgetary discipline. (photo credit: NIR ELIAS/REUTERS)



In addition, the World Bank lowered the US growth forecast to 2.5%, compared with the previous forecast, which predicted the growth of the world's largest economy to 4.2% in 2022.

Even China, the second-largest economy in the world, which is narrowing gaps with the US, is not escaping the global

NEWS IN BRIEF



EU REJECTS ISRAELI TERRORIST DESIGNATIONS

Nine European states rejected Israel's designation of six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations, in a joint statement.

Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden came out against the Israeli decision, announced in October. The Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) and the Foreign Ministry said then that Palestinian NGOs had extensive enough ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to be considered branches of the group, designated as terrorists by the US, EU and others.

"No substantial information was received from Israel that would justify reviewing our policy toward the six Palestinian NGOs on the basis of the Israeli decision to designate these NGOs as 'terrorist organizations,'" the statement reads.

-jpost.com
12 July 2022



crisis. Its growth expectation is 4.3%, compared with 8.1% in 2021.

Israel, according to the OECD publication, is expected to grow in 2022 by 4.8%, compared with 4.9% in the previous forecast—a minor decline that most Western countries would be more than willing to accept.

Europe, which is very sensitive to rising energy prices, is experiencing an increase in inflation, and Germany has set a 50-year high with the price index jumping to 7.9%.

-www.jpost.com, 28 June 2022

Commentary: The tables have turned in favor of Israel when it comes to inflation. Comparing Israel with the USA, in 1984 Israel’s inflation rate stood at 373.2%, while the USA’s was 4.3%. In the year 2000, Israel’s inflation rate was listed as 1.05% against the USA’s 3.38%. For 2021, it was 1.45% Israel vs. 4.7% USA. These figures are for energy and food.

The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs and Economic Analysis had this to say: “Global growth prospects have weakened significantly amid the war in Ukraine, rising energy, food and commodity prices, soaring infla-

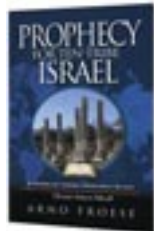
tion and tightening monetary policy stances by major central banks. The world economy is projected to grow by 3.1 percent in 2022, marking a downward revision of 0.9 percentage points from our previous forecast released in January 2022.”

Inflation and economic growth are related; one affects the other. Interestingly, however, Israel is avoiding the steep economic decline of other parts of the world “despite political instability.” Israel’s strong currency, combined with high intellectual capacity per capita, has caused global catastrophes like the pandemic, or lately Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, to affect Israel to a lesser degree.

When it comes to the future, Israel is distinctly different because of God’s promise: “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old” (Amos 9:11).

7783

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





ISRAEL

Most Crowded Western Country by 2050

The Jewish State is on the way to becoming the world's most crowded Western country in less than three decades, veteran environmental activist and current MK Alon Tal told the Special Committee on Addictions, Drugs and the Challenges Facing Young Israelis at the Knesset.



The committee dealt with the impact of the loss of open spaces on the well-being of the younger generation in 2050.

Tal (Blue and White) presented statistics from a research report prepared by an environmental group called Zafuf [Crowded]—The Forum for Population, Environment and Society, that indicated that by 2050, the country's population could grow to more than 17.5 million residents.

Oded Caspi, of the organization "Save the Jerusalem Hills," said, "I am calling upon the Knesset to support our battle until the Jerusalem Hills receive official protection from the state. Israel's residents need nature, no less than any planned building and road. We are headed down a very bad path to an ecological and mental health disaster. If we don't win this war, we'll lose everything."

-www.jpost.com, 14 June 2022

Commentary: Israel continues to be a country of great controversy and con-

traditions. This relatively small nation, with a population under 10 million, is mostly surrounded by hostile nations, yet has become super successful. Also, something strange can be said: they live in a peaceful atmosphere most nations of the world know only little about.

Despite the fact that more than half of Israel is desert, its agricultural produce is known throughout the world. When it come to high-tech startups, Israel is by far leading the world per capita in this respect. So, the question: what will happen when the population grows to over 17 million? Experts are dealing with the issue.

Above and beyond, however, stand the irrevocable words of the Lord: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). 7779

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

EUROPE

Safest Countries for Jews

Among European countries, Italy and Hungary have the highest quality of life for Jews, while Poland and Belgium have the worst, according to a new survey by the Institute for Jewish



Policy Research, a London-based think tank that specializes in contemporary Jewish affairs.



The countries were ranked in the following order, from best to worst: Italy, Hungary, Denmark, the UK, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Spain, France, Poland and Belgium. The rankings took into account all the categories that were measured.

In terms of government performance, meaning how much the government has done to protect and develop the Jewish communities, Germany and Austria were ranked the best, followed by France, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, Hungary, the UK, Poland, Denmark, Spain and Belgium.

“Negative sentiment against Jews is unequivocally tied to Israel,” said Rabbi Menachem Margolin, chairman of the European Jewish Association. “When Israel is attacked, the Jews are attacked. Israel knows how much it needs other countries, particularly through the strong Jewish communities in those countries. Most European Jews don’t even identify as Jewish—85%. But whilst they are here, we need to keep them safe.”

-*www.jpost.com*, 22 June 2022

Commentary: Regardless of the various research and think-tank findings, Jews will be Jews, though the overwhelming

majority (85%) no longer identify themselves as such.

The global fight against anti-semitism continues, despite the many efforts and laws being passed; for example, to criminalize denial of the Holocaust.

For Bible believers, the Jewish issue is very clear. We read in 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.” Interestingly, “a peculiar people,” reminds us of the New Testament, where the apostle Peter writes, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9). The Church is to be found on every continent and in every nation on planet earth. We too are “a peculiar people,” but our calling is not as Israel — “above all the nations that are upon the earth” — but to be light bearers, who have come “out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 7790

(See *Spiritual Strength for Each Day*, Item #1062, \$16.95.)



Project Fire Door

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1).

By David Phillips *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*

Summer has arrived in Israel, and with it, the heat and humidity begin rising in Haifa. With the temperature rising, the fire department does its annual fire safety checks and gives new instructions.

We are thankful that we have our home ready for any event according to the mandatory requirements; that our team has the knowledge on how to respond, etc. But, because our facility is quite old, this year we did not meet all the newest standards of safety for senior citizens' facilities. The fire safety authorities requested that three fire doors be added, to isolate fire hazard areas where gas is used. This was required before

we begin any renovation plans for the home.

Needless to say, we had to hurry to order the fireproof doors: fitting them into place within the shortest time (45 days), to keep up with the regulations and keep our license—which, praise the Lord, we accomplished!

In a senior home, as much we concentrate our energy on providing our elderly with a comfortable, quiet, and loving place to live, we will always be challenged by surprises from the local authorities, relatives of the residents, team, and many others.

It is a privilege to know that with each challenge, our Heavenly Father has already prepared an



With a glance of astonishment, mixed with jealousy for what we had in Messiah, he continued on with Ebenezer's Fire Inspection.

answer for us, usually even before the time of need. And, along with the frequent challenges, come the many, many blessings and miracles, like the one I am about to share. We may never know the full impact of what took place.

Fire Inspection Day arrived. In walks the Fire Safety Officer, ready to carry out the inspection. Come to find out, he was in the same class with two of our team members, whom he met at the entrance! What happened next? He listened as they shared their testimony of faith in Yeshua, and became aware that everyone at the home belongs to Messiah Yeshua: Jewish and Arab believers, all living together in the unity and faith of Messiah! He was very surprised and deeply touched, and I saw traces of tears in his eyes.

In the final analysis, we were supposed to replace 13 doors, and replace five wooden electrical panels with fireproof ones. After explaining our future renovation plans and describing the residents who live here, we were told that **this time only**, they would allow just the most “dangerous” areas to be fixed. For future inspections, we would need to change out more doors—but at least it can be done in stages, and won't be too heavy on our budget all at once. The cost for the three doors we replaced was \$9696.28.

May the Lord open this inspector's heart and help him find Yeshua as his personal Savior! This is the prayer we have for everyone who enters the Ebenezer Home.

Yes, we're a senior citizens' home, but it's also a place where



many hungry souls are sent and exposed to the Word of God. Please pray with us for their salvation, as we minister to each person.

Back to the opening verse: yes, we must obey, so we installed the three required fire doors to protect the elderly and the team in case of fire. May the Holy One of Israel also protect each of us from every form of incident.

Dear brothers and sisters, in closing, I would like to add a personal request for you: Please pray that God will send us a skilled maintenance worker, to help our

maintenance manager. “Post-Covid syndrome” has caused many people to lose their passion for labor; they no longer wish to do anything that requires hard work. Working here at the Home in any department, is a ministry and requires not only doing what is necessary, but also serving the elderly believers in the love of Yeshua. It takes a special person to fulfill this role. May the Holy Spirit guide your prayers and lead us to the right one soon!

This month’s donations will be dedicated to the Fire Door Project.



Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

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“Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the Lord said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed” (Joshua 13:1).

BY ARNO FROESE

We do well to ignore what the news media tells us more than to accept it point blank. Of course, we are also realists concerning facts on the ground; but above and beyond that, we are bound to Holy Scripture. For that reason, we mostly reject the statements made by world leaders and, in the following case, by the Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry.

A report by a United Nations Commission of Inquiry blamed Israel’s “persistent discrimination against Palestinians” for violence between the two sides:

“Forced displacement, threats of forced displacement, demolitions, settlement construction and expansion, settler violence, and the blockade of Gaza” were identified as “contributing factors to recurring cycles of violence” by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 7 June 2022

When checking the facts, there are indeed some truths expressed by the UN Commission; however, it is one-sided. “Demolitions,” for example, occur after

a terrorist commits crimes in Israel; subsequently, his house is demolished. This is nothing new; the Arab news source Miftah reports on their website: “1930s: British administration in Palestine uses house demolition as a means of quelling the indigenous uprising against British rule.”

The blockade of Gaza was also identified as a “contributing [factor] to recurring cycles of violence” by the UN Commission. No mention of the fact that Gaza is governed by a globally recognized terrorist organization, Hamas.

Wikipedia states, “By 21 May [2021], when the ceasefire came into effect, at least 4,000 rockets had been fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel.” The question immediately arises, who is threatening whom? Quite obviously, militants in Gaza continue to threaten Israeli civilians.

Some basic human principles that have governed the world for 6,000 years, need to be mentioned here. War decides the borders of a nation. The victor writes the new agreement, laws, understanding, etc., and sets the borders.

This writer recalls how in 1945, the victorious Red Army defeated Nazi Germany. The family with 8 children had to make a decision; namely, to sign a document identifying their willingness and true intention to become law-abiding Soviet citizens, or leave. They left.

Another striking case is Hungary, which lost 72% of its territory after the First World War. The citizens were forced to either leave or accept the citizenship of the victors.

We may also mention the 35 sovereign nations established on the American con-

continent (North and South). The original inhabitants were not asked; they were either killed or forcefully subjected to the new nation by whatever name.

As Christians, whose guideline is the written Word of God, we should be fully aware that the whole conflict in the Middle East is not due to the so-called Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. The opposite is true; it is because of the Arab occupation of Israeli territory up to the Euphrates River in the north, and down to the River of Egypt in the south. In the west, across the Jordan River the southern border is the River Arnon, presently occupied by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Thus, the question: will Israel take possession of the

land? The opening Scripture says, "...there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." It is not for us to say, except to publish what is written.

What will happen to the Arab Palestinians? God already made provision: "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:34).

When will that take place? When the Prince of Peace comes. One of His first official decrees will be the elimination of all weapons throughout the world, based on Isaiah 2:4: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and

their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

In the meantime, our Christian duty is not only to proclaim the truth of the Gospel, but also become living examples of the truth—light and salt on the earth. “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2). We are the ambassadors of Christ, of His Church; we pray for Israel, for the Arab countries, and we

also continue to pray for the Church in Ukraine and Russia.

In conclusion, let us not be confused by the things that are highlighted in the news media; rather, to recognize that those things are but a shadow of the real thing: the building of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, the spiritual temple of God, which will climax in its completion and rapture into His presence. From that point on, God will wholly turn to His people Israel. (NFI)

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