

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

A young man with dark hair is wearing a white kippah and a white tallit with blue stripes on the sleeves. He is covering his face with his hands, looking down. He is standing in front of a large, ancient stone wall under a clear blue sky.

April 2023

\$2.25

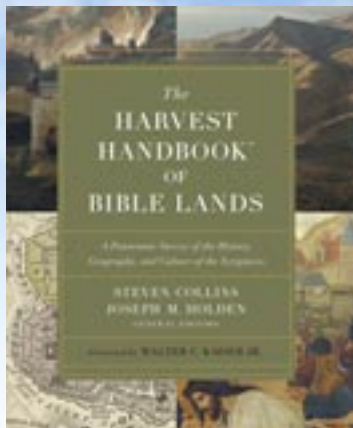
## Does Israel Have a Future?

– Part 10

Jewish Inter-marriage at All-Time High P.16 • Halal-Certified, Cultivated Meat P.18

## A Panoramic Survey of the History, Geography and Culture of the Scriptures

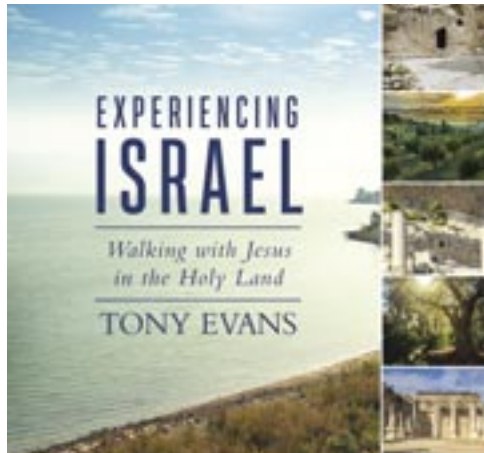
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## Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

The war in Ukraine and the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria give rise to the question: Are these events part of those that Jesus spoke of to His disciples on the Mount of Olives, during the last week before His death? The disciples had asked Him: “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matt 24:3).

Jesus named religious deception as the first sign: “For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Mark 13:6). Thus, religious deception comes first. This is happening on a grand scale in our present time. It no longer is “Christ alone,” as Peter testified before the High Council (Acts 4:12). The softening of Christian witness does not, however, come

from the outside but from within Christianity itself. One adapts to the views of this world, avoiding giving offense as much as possible.

As a second sign, Jesus cited war. As we observe the present war in Ukraine, it becomes clear that this conflict between Russia and Ukraine could indeed reach apocalyptic proportions if no solution is found.

The third sign Jesus mentioned concerns earthquakes. According to Luke 21:11, the Lord was not just speaking of average earthquakes but of great ones. The earthquake in Turkey was, without doubt, a major earthquake. This devastating disaster occurred not very far from Israel, and one could feel some of the tremors in this country. There has long been talk in Israel of a major earthquake to come. Experts are of the



opinion that the many quakes that have happened not too distant from Israel could trigger this huge one. But, as we are all aware, nobody can know the time in advance.

For us who believe in Jesus, His words in Matthew 24:6 are a source of comfort and confidence: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.” Jesus gave these signs so we could orient ourselves within the current events of our time. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees, because they did not want to recognize or understand the signs of the time: “When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” (Matt 16:2-3).

For the Jews back then, their revolt against Rome ended in disaster because they had overestimated their own power and

underestimated that of Rome. The moderate upper class wanted to negotiate with Rome, but the extremists firmly refused. It is always profitable to learn from history.

For Israel today, the question of how to react to the war between Russia and Ukraine is not simple. Ukrainian President Zelensky has long been demanding arms supplies from Israel, but so far they have wisely stayed out of the conflict. The country is in a very delicate situation. In the recent past, Israel—and Netanyahu in particular—has maintained good relations with Russia, which is extremely important in dealing with the Iranians in Syria.

Israel therefore needs a lot of wisdom on how to proceed in the current situation. According to the Bible, we know that Israel will yet have to go through many hardships ... but also that God can help His people in extraordinary ways.

Joined with you in observing the Biblical signs of the time, I greet you warmly with Shalom,

*David Winkler*



Dozens of Ukrainian immigrants began arriving in Israel in early 2022.

# Does Israel Have a Future? – Part 10

## God Is Gathering His People

BY NORBERT LIETH AND JOHANNES PFLAUM

Israel has a future that it can't be robbed of by the Church. We're even seeing it before our own eyes as God gathers His people to the land of Israel. The land issue in the Bible and in current affairs, makes it unmistakably clear that God hasn't really rejected His people. "And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive" (Jer 29:14).

**W**hen we look closely at Scripture, we see that there are two instances of Israel being gathered in the end times; you could call it a two-part gathering. The first occurs before Jesus' return, and the second after His return.

The first gathering of the people to their native land occurs before the Great Tribulation: the fig tree grows tender shoots and puts forth its leaves (Matt 24:32). The graves are opened, and the dry bones of the dead come to life and return to their land (Ezek 37).

The second and final gathering of Israel takes place after Jesus' return, in accordance with the salvation of the remnant of the people and the beginning of God's millennial kingdom on earth (Deut 30:1-10; Isa 27:12-13; 49:22; Jer 16:14-15; Ezek 34:11-16). At that time, the remaining nations will carry the sons of Israel back in their arms (Isa 49:22), which wasn't at all the case for the post-1945 exodus (the English had put the Jews in internment camps in Cyprus, and the Arabs fought them when they came into the land).

“Never, in 5,000 years of recorded history, has a people come back to its land after 2,000 years, as Israel has done.”

A biblical consequence of this is that we don't need to wait for a surge in migration (or even a complete migration) before Jesus returns. Because with the resurrection of a Jewish State, all prerequisites for the final act on the stage of world history have already been met.

Israel's first gathering and subsequent founding of the State in 1948, is a miracle of God before our very eyes. Again, Israel didn't take this land for itself! It is God's land, and He gave it to Israel. He speaks of “my country,” and He didn't designate that country for anyone else. This is why Joel 3:1-3 reads:

“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and

will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.”

This passage tells us where the “land for peace” policy, as demanded by the international community, will lead: to God's judgment. Why? It is His land, which He has designated for none other than His people Israel. The fact that today's State of Israel still exists after 75 years is a divine miracle.

As author Ramon Bennett wrote in his book *The Wall: Prophecy, Politics, and Middle East 'Peace'*: “Never, in 5,000 years of recorded history, has a people come back to its land after 2,000 years, as Israel has done. Never, in 5,000 years



When Jesus departed for heaven, He left behind a people who spoke Hebrew. He will return to a people who speak Hebrew. Doesn't that show the great timeliness of the Bible's prophetic Word, down to the smallest detail?



of recorded history, has a 'dead' language been revived into the vernacular, as Hebrew, Israel's common language, has been. Never have so few people been attacked by such great numbers so many times, as Israel has been. Never have so few people inflicted such decisive defeats upon such powerful armies in so few days, as Israel has done."

Taking this into consideration, it's interesting to note

that Hebrew as the Jewish people's everyday language was lost after Jerusalem fell and the people were scattered by the Romans in 70 and 135 AD. It was used only in the synagogues when reading from the Old Testament writings, and was the scholarly language of the rabbis. Apart from that, the Jews spoke either Yiddish or the language of the country in which they were living. But with the Jewish people's return

God repeatedly works miracles for His people, using both grace and judgment to accomplish this goal.

to their homeland, there was also a revival of the Hebrew language. Today, this language is once again the primary language of the Jewish people in Israel. Dr. Roger Liebi writes: “There has never been anything like this in the history of the world! There has never been a language which had been dead for over 1,000 years brought back to life as a fully functional national language” (from *Are We Really Living in the Last Days?* p. 74).

When the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven, angels told the people watching, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

When Jesus departed for heaven, He left behind a people who spoke Hebrew. He will return to a people who speak

Hebrew. Doesn’t that show the great timeliness of the Bible’s prophetic Word, down to the smallest detail?

We’ve grown far too accustomed to the State of Israel’s existence, and are forgetting what a tremendous miracle occurred when God restored His people to His land! He did this for a single purpose: that they would serve Him there (cf. Acts 7:7). People, land, and ministry are inextricably linked. Even though we’re still seeing Israel’s infidelity and guilt today (Ps 106), the Lord is still working with His people and will lead them to serve Him in His land. And we can be eyewitnesses to how He repeatedly works miracles for His people, using both grace and judgment to accomplish this goal.

“God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew” (Rom 11:2a)! (NAI0822/1275)

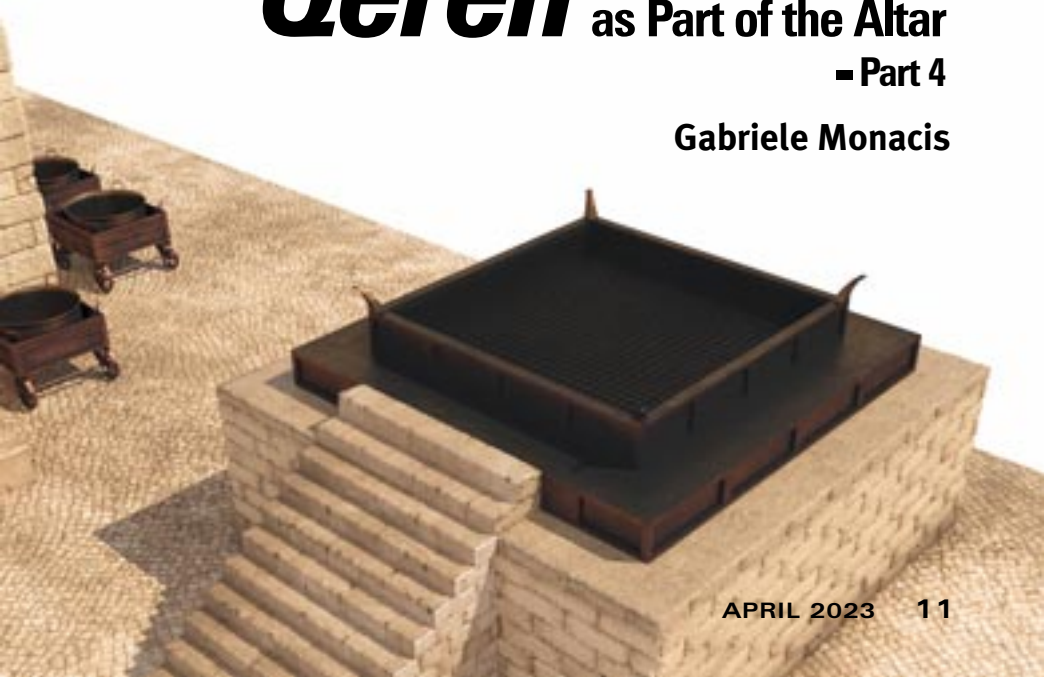
In the first articles of this series, we encountered the term *qeren* in the contexts of sacrifice and suffering, as well as in the contexts of power and salvation for those who call on God. In one instance, God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham obeys, and Isaac is spared at the last minute.

A ram is provided to be sacrificed in his place. We also looked at the Book of Samuel (First and Second Samuel as a whole). At the beginning of the book (1 Sam 2) we find the prayer of Hannah, the mother of Samuel. At the end of the book (2 Sam 22) we find David's song of thanksgiving. Hannah

Regarding the Hebrew word *Qeren*. The Messiah will offer up a blood sacrifice and enter the Holy of Holies as the High Priest.

# ***Qeren*** as Part of the Altar - Part 4

Gabriele Monacis



and David both cried out to God as the waves were crashing over them, and God heard them and gave them victory over their enemies. Hannah prayed, “My horn is exalted in the LORD,” and David expressed himself similarly. Their words prophesy to us that God will exalt the horn of His Anointed One (Hebrew: the Messiah). The Messiah will be exalted from below, from the grave (as was the case at His resurrection), and He will triumph over His enemies.

The word *qeren* is also used several times in Exodus and Leviticus to indicate the four corners of the altar of burnt offering (Ex 27:2), which stood in front of the Tent of Meeting (tabernacle). The altar of incense also had four horns at its corners (Ex 30:2-3). The altar of incense stood in the tabernacle before the veil, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the sanctuary. The Ark of the Covenant was inside, and as God directed, “Aaron shall make atonement

on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations...” (Ex 30:10). This “once a year” was the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the day when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies (Lev 16:18).

Blood also had to be sprinkled on the four horns of the altar when one of Aaron’s descendants was ordained as a priest (Ex 29:10-12). Leviticus 8:15 gives an account of the consecration of Aaron and his sons: “And he killed it, and Moses took the blood, and with his finger put it on the horns of the altar around it and purified the altar and poured out the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it to make atonement for it.”

According to Leviticus 4, anyone who broke any of God’s commandments had to have blood from a sacrifice sprinkled on the four horns of one of the altars on his behalf. If the priest himself was the sin-

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The connection between *qeren* and the Day of Atonement indicates that the Messiah had to pass through the veil which separated God's presence from man and carry the blood of a pure sacrifice into the Holy of Holies.

ner, bringing guilt upon the whole people, he had to slaughter a bull at the entrance to the tabernacle, and then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of incense that stood inside (v. 7). The same was true when the whole congregation of Israel had sinned (v. 18). If a ruler had sinned by breaking any of the commandments, a he-goat (rather than a bull) was to be slaughtered in front of the tabernacle. The priest was to put some of the blood, not on the horns of the altar of incense inside the tabernacle, but rather on the altar of burnt offering which stood outside it (v. 25). The same was true when one of the common people sinned, except that a sheep or she-goat was to be sacrificed instead of a he-goat (vv. 27-35).

So the word *qeren* is used in Exodus and Leviticus in three

types of situations: on the Day of Atonement, at priestly ordination, and at the sin offering. All three situations shed prophetic light on the person of the Messiah. He came into the world to be a High Priest who would offer a pure sacrifice to God for the forgiveness of the sins of His people. The connection between *qeren* and the Day of Atonement indicates that the Messiah had to pass through the veil which separated God's presence from man and carry the blood of a pure sacrifice into the Holy of Holies, as the High Priest also did on that holy day. Christ "entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Heb 9:12).

(NAI0722/1259)



# On the Horizon

NEWS IN  
**BRIEF**



**ISRAEL**

## Amazing Achievements

For a nation to survive in this competitive world, one of the most important elements is to have a large population. The more people, the greater opportunity to survive and succeed. The better the chances to lift up the nation, as with more people around, the greater the chance to have more talented and powerful individuals to advance the cause.



Photo credit: INGIIMAGE



This obviously doesn't play out very well for our Jewish Nation, as we are very few, as the Pasuk testifies.

Thus, when we come to conduct a census and find out how few we are, we may get very discouraged; therefore, the Torah says that the population, which is normally such an important factor, does not apply to the Jewish Nation, and the Jewish Nation shouldn't look at the number of the people.

Jewish people around the globe as of now, stand at 15.2 million, which is 0.19% of the 7.89 billion worldwide population.

[...] It's interesting to note that the Nobel Prizes have been awarded to over 900 individuals throughout the years, of whom at least 20% were Jews.

## SOUTH AFRICA DOWNGRADES DIPLOMATIC TIES

Israel rebuked the South African Parliament for voting to formalize a governmental decision taken four years ago to downgrade its ties with the Jewish state.

"At a time when many African and Muslim countries are strengthening and deepening ties with the State of Israel for the benefit of everyone's common interests, it is unfortunate that South Africa continues to adhere to anachronism and the deterioration of relations, a move that will only harm South Africa itself and its standing," [Israel's] Foreign Ministry said.

"The state of Israel was built through the displacement, murder, and maiming of Palestinians. And to maintain their grip on power, they have instituted Apartheid to control and manage Palestinians. This institution of Apartheid by the State of Israel contravenes international law and is a violation of the human rights of Palestinians," said NFP Member of Parliament Ahmed Munzoor Shaik Emam.

-jpost.com  
8 March 2023



## NEWS IN BRIEF



In almost every field, Jewish people are excelling. From science, art, and innovations to technology, to genetic engineering and many other advances.

Israel has the leading number of scientists and technicians in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000 people. Over 25% of the country's work force is employed in technical professions.

Israel's \$100 billion economy is larger than all its immediate neighbors combined.

A non-Jew can't fathom how Gemara works, a book with a bunch of words in Hebrew and Aramaic without any punctuation and boxes on the right and the left of the page.

The Pasuk says, when you'll come to count the people of our nation, don't count the amount of people, but count the endless amount of contributions of our people and remember that we aren't counted for our quantity but quality.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 9 March 2023

**Commentary:** These few excerpts from the *Jerusalem Post*, edited by Mark Fish, show the uniqueness of the Jewish people: they are not to be compared with any other in the world. We add, this does not make them better or worse, yet the choosing of God is decisive and irreversible.

Here we are reminded of the report in Numbers 23. The heathen prophet Balaam was urged by King Balak to curse the people of Israel. After several failed attempts, he confessed: "Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!" (v. 23).



7961

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

## ITALY ASKED TO RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM

“I believe the time has come for Rome to recognize Jerusalem as the ancestral capital of the Jewish people for three thousand years, as the United States did with a gesture of great friendship,” Netanyahu said in an interview with Italy's *la Repubblica* newspaper.

Like the rest of the European Union, Italy has opposed recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital outside of the final status agreement for a two-state resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Netanyahu is hoping that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who took office last year and is known as a strong supporter of Israel, will defy EU policy and take a step in support of Jerusalem.

In an interview with Reuters in August last year, before she became prime minister, Meloni was more cautious, saying she had no plans to follow the US, which transferred its embassy to Jerusalem.

-[jpost.com](http://jpost.com)  
9 March 2023



## RUSSIA

### Jewish Inter-marriage at All-Time High

Russia has the highest rate of Jewish intermarriage, followed by Hungary, Germany, and the US, according to a study conducted by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) and obtained by the *Jerusalem Post*.



**THE GROOM** breaks a glass, the traditional conclusion of a Jewish wedding ceremony. We have witnessed a narrowing of ethnic gaps and greater intermingling of Ashkenazim and Mizrahim, perhaps most significantly in ethnic intermarriage, says the writer. (photo credit: OLIVIER FITOUSSI/FLASH90)

Staetsky, funded by the RCE, characterized the phenomenon of assimilation in an unprecedented way and our rabbis are expected to formulate different ways of dealing with it," said chairman of the RCE Rabbi Menachem Margolin.


The CEO of the RCE, Rabbi Aryeh Goldberg, added that "the conference is a real wake-up call for all European rabbis and

Jewish communities to strengthen activities against the assimilation of the diverse values of Judaism among the youth, as well as among the entire Jewish population."

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

12 March 2023

**Commentary:** Inter-marriage of Jews and Gentiles is nothing new. We read in Numbers

 According to the report, European nations currently experience the highest levels of Jewish intermarriage.

Israel, according to the 10 countries displayed of the world's largest Jewish communities, has the lowest rate of intermarriage among Jews: only 5 percent of Israeli Jews intermarry according to JPR.

"The research conducted by Dr. Daniel

12:1a: "And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married." Apparently, Miriam was the leading person in opposition to Moses. The result? "Behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow" (v. 10). Later, we read in Deuteronomy 7:3 that





## NEWS IN BRIEF



### SAMSUNG TECH STARTUP PROGRAM

**K**orean tech giant Samsung is seeking to integrate innovative technologies developed by Israeli startups and tech companies into its mobile devices, products and software.

As part of a tech program, Samsung will be funding selected Israeli startups with a \$50,000 grant each and providing them with technical support from the tech giant's R&D units over a six-month period.

The program in Israel is led by Samsung Research Israel (SRIL), which was set up to find advanced and innovative technologies within the Israeli ecosystem. SRIL is looking for Israeli solutions suitable for the electronics divisions at Samsung and is exploring options for integrating such technologies into the tech giant's products. SRIL is also involved in investments in Israeli companies through the Samsung group's investment fund.

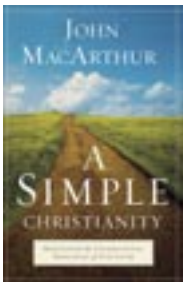
-timesofisrael.com  
5 March 2023

Israelis were forbidden to marry strangers: "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son." Verse 4 gives the reason: "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."

In the article from the *Jerusalem Post* by Zvika Klein, we are surprised that Russia shows the highest rate of Jewish intermarriage. Yet one must realize two things: first, religion was discouraged in Soviet Union times. And second, the founding of the State of Israel was accomplished by Jews mostly from the USSR.

We note that Jews who have returned to the land of their fathers, Israel, are the least likely to intermarry.

What a lesson for Christians! We are not to mingle with the world. Second Corinthians 6:14 warns: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" First John 2:15-16 adds: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."



7962

(See *A Simple Christianity*, Item #2324, \$14.99.)



## ISRAEL

### Halal-Certified, Cultivated Meat

Aleph Farms is seeking to become the first halal-certified cultivated meat producer.



The maker of cultivated meat—

meat that comes from non-modified cattle cells—announced that it has inked a deal to buy a Modi'in-based manufacturing facility and related equipment from biotechnology company VBL Therapeutics for about \$7.1 million.

To produce its meat, Aleph leverages the ability of animals to grow tissue muscle constantly and isolates the cells responsible. It then reproduces the optimal conditions for these cells to grow into tissue, basically growing meat outside the animal.

In planning its global expansion, Aleph is also looking to target consumers with various religious dietary requirements and habits. Together with ESCO Aster, the startup is working toward establishing the first halal-certified facility for cultivated meat in the world at the site in Singapore, to allow consumption by Muslims under religious law.

The certification, if attained, is part of Aleph's strategy to expand its footprint to Southeast Asia, where about 42% of the population is Muslim, the startup said.

In January, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau determined that the cultured meat produced by Aleph, though not necessarily all cultured meat, is indeed kosher and



**Aleph Farms' cultivated thin-cut steak.**  
(Courtesy)

that it is "pareve," designating a food that is neither meat (sometimes referred to as fleishig) nor dairy (milchig).

-[www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 2 March 2023

**Commentary:** We note the words "fleishig" and "milchig," meat and milk respectively in Yiddish as well as German. That is the cornerstone of Jewish dietary law: distinguishing kosher from non-kosher. Wikipedia explains kosher food as not mixing dairy products with meat; it's based on the interpretation of Exodus 23:19b: "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk." The *Tanakh* reads, "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk."

Before the law was given, the Lord appeared to Abraham. Genesis 18:8 documents: "And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat." Thus, unkosher before kosher. 7956

(See *From Adam to Jesus*, Item #2378, \$26.99.)



## IRAN

### Really an Existential Threat to Israel?

Between Iran's nuclear ambitions, funding of terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, growing military presence in Syria, and attempts to target Jewish communities and Israeli diplomatic staff in the Diaspora, it's no wonder that many Israelis today view the Islamic Republic as a mortal enemy.



**A cleric walks past Zolfaghar, top, and Dezful missiles displayed by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, at Imam Khomeini grand mosque, in Tehran, Iran** (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)



In fact, writes Jonathan G. Leslie in his new book, *"Fear and Insecurity: Israel and the Iran Threat Narrative,"* most Israelis believe the threat posed by Iran's extremist regime is "comparable only to that of the Third Reich."

Leslie thinks those concerns are overblown—and not simply because Israel is responsible for its own share of attacks on Iran.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's clerical leaders included Israel among Iran's enemies, "charging it with oppressing Palestinians, illegally occupying Lebanon, and aligning itself with the United States, among other sins," writes Leslie.

But Leslie claims the two nations' threat perceptions of each other are asymmetrical. "Israeli leaders [view] Iran as

## NEWS IN

## BRIEF



### CHAT WITH DIGITAL HUMAN

Seeking to help brands give customers a better chatbot experience, Tel Aviv-based generative AI pioneer D-ID has launched the very first chat API (application programming interface) enabling face-to-face conversations with a digital human.

D-ID's artificially intelligent chatbot, premiered at the Mobile World Congress, is built with streaming capabilities and text-to-video technology.

"Large language models like GPT-3 and LaMDA are changing the way we relate to and interact with technology, and we are not far off from all of us having our own personalized AI assistants and companions," said Gil Perry, CEO and cofounder of D-ID.

*-israel21c.org*  
8 March 2023



a far greater danger to their state’s security than Iranian leaders perceived Israel to be,” he writes.

-[www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 5 March 2023

**Commentary:** Jonathan Leslie, professor at the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., says the threats “are overblown.”

What we do know is that Iran’s involvement with terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas is real. Yet they do not underestimate Israel’s military and intelligence capability.

While Iranian leaders seem determined to destroy Israel, we read in Scripture: “Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever” (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

7955

(See *Israel Always*, Item #2403, \$18.99.)



## EUROPE

### Alarmed at Iran’s Enriched Uranium

The U.N. nuclear watchdog found uranium particles enriched to up to 83.7% at Fordow, a site dug into a mountain and the second place where it is continuously enriching uranium to up to 60%. Weapons grade is around 90%.



“Iran must provide full and immediate cooperation with the IAEA to clarify what happened and facilitate all appropriate verification and monitoring measures deemed necessary by the Agency so that any future occurrence is promptly detected. Iran must ensure that such an incident never occurs again.”

It added that “the fact that these new developments occurred in a heavily fortified facility that was originally built covertly only deepens our concerns.”

Iran assured IAEA chief Rafael Grossi that it was prepared to provide further information [for the] long-stalled investigation. Iran and the IAEA issued a joint statement outlining [the] pledge that went into few details.

“The E3 are especially alarmed by the recent sampling at Fordow,” the European powers said in a statement made to the board.

-[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 8 March 2023

**Commentary:** While the EU and US



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### DUTCH GROCERY CHAIN DEAL

Israel's largest supermarket chain Shufersal announced that it has signed an agreement to set up a chain of Dutch-owned international supermarket SPAR stores and import SPAR-branded products at an investment of NIS 28 million (\$7.6 million).

The move comes as Shufersal is facing increasing competition with the entry of French supermarket chain Carrefour and 7-Eleven in Israel. In February, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also invited US retail giant Costco Wholesale Corp. to make a foray into the Israeli market.

Israel's cost of living is one of the highest among countries in the OECD, which has been generally attributed to a lack of competition among local importers and manufacturers, who are therefore able to raise prices, as well as import restrictions that keep out international firms.

*-timesofisrael.com*  
5 March 2023

are alarmed at these findings, the real alarm should be heard in Israel. Iran has made no significant threats against the EU or US, but has publicly declared on several occasions their intention to "wipe the Zionist identity off the map."

Yet the alarm of the nations of the world may be justified to a certain degree. It was actually the US, along with the UK, that participated in a coup. Wikipedia reads: "The 1953 Iranian coup d'état, known in Iran as the 28 Mordad coup d'état, was the U.S.- and UK-instigated, Iranian army-led overthrow of the democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh in favor of strengthening the monarchical rule of the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, on 19 August 1953."

It was on 11 February 1979 when the Iranian Revolution took place, under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

One must note that Iranians are not Arabs but Persians. However, 99.6% of its 88 million population is Muslim.

In recent history, Israel has successfully destroyed nuclear production facilities in Syria and Iraq. Will they do likewise in Iran? Time will tell.

When reading statistics, one must keep in mind that most are based on estimates. The Church — that is, the assembly of believers — is present in Iran, as they are in every country on the face of the earth. While there are a number of significant church buildings in the country of Iran — visible manifestations built of brick and stone — the real Church, we emphasize, is untouchable and will continue to grow. Thus, we continue to pray for the Church in Iran.

7953

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



## ISRAEL

### Model Hub for Digital Currency

As part of the project dubbed Icebreaker, the Bank of Israel, together with the central banks of Norway and Sweden and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Innovation Hub, examined the potential benefits and challenges of using so-called retail central bank digital currencies (CBDC) in international payments to create a hub to interlink domestic systems across borders.



**An illustrative image of digital payments and digital currency**  
(Sefa Ozel/iStock by Getty Images)



The Bank of Israel's CBDC project manager Yoav Soffer noted, "Early on in our work on the digital shekel we wrote: 'As part of the G20 roadmap for improvement of cross-border payments... the ability of CBDCs to streamline and lower the costs of these payments will be examined... If such a global infrastructure is actually developed, a Bank of Israel digital currency will improve cross-border payments for Israelis.'"

"If Israel is to issue a digital shekel, it would be very important that we do it according to the evolving global standards, so that Israelis could use it also for efficient and accessible cross-border payments," stated Bank of Israel deputy governor Andrew Abir.

For the digital shekel, the Bank of Israel envisages a two-tier approach in which a partnership is set up for the creation of the CBDC between the central bank and

the private sector (banks, credit card companies, and technology and/or finance companies from Israel and abroad). With this partnership, the central bank will provide its digital currency not directly to the public but rather via the private-sector institutions.

*-www.timesofisrael.com*

6 March 2023

**Commentary:** Here we see Israel taking on a leading position when it comes to global digital currency.

We are reminded of the many reports and books written about the "cashless society." Yet we emphasize again that there is no such thing as cash in reality. Any



paper currency is based on the faith of the public; the moment the public loses faith in the currency, hyperinflation takes place.

There is little to no doubt that digital currency is the future. Google explains: "A digital currency is a medium of exchange that is generated, stored and transferred electronically. Digital currencies are not typically associated with any country's government or represented in physical forms like the coins and notes of traditional currencies."

Investopedia.com adds: "Digital money can also represent fiat currencies, such as dollars or euros. Digital money is exchanged using technologies such as smartphones, credit cards, and online cryptocurrency exchanges. In some cases, it

can be converted into physical cash through the use of an ATM."

What does it all mean? In simple words, welcome to the global financial world.

This development is extremely profitable, practical, and helpful for those making or receiving payments internationally. However, we do know where it will ultimately lead; namely, the fulfillment of Revelation 13:17: "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark,

or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

7954

(See *Revelation 13: Satan's Last Victory*, Item #1067, \$11.95.)



## What does it really mean, the last days?

Those who are interested in facts and figures, not fiction or half-truths, will find this book to be most helpful in understanding Israel's past, present, and future. Liebi targets 175 prophecies, clearly revealing some amazing truths according to Holy Scripture.

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# A Great Messianic Awakening in Israel

“In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD’S passover” (Lev 23:5).

By **David Phillips** (CEO)

**A**ccording to some calculations, it could be around 3500 years ago when the commandment to celebrate Passover was first given.

Passover is the first of three feasts which the children of Israel would travel up to the temple to celebrate, as mentioned in the verse above. Thousands of Israelites would flock to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover sacrifice at the temple. In those days, Judea was under Roman rulership. Don’t forget that the Romans were pagan worshippers, and many of the Jews hated these conquerors.

We can see a great Messianic awakening around the time when Yeshua went up to Jerusalem to cel-

brate His last Passover with His disciples (known as the Last Supper). This is the memorial which many believers celebrate as communion.

Under this Roman period, the Jews waited to see a Messiah (an Anointed One by God) come to rule as their King and Savior, One who would rescue them from the foreign forces.

Days before the feasts, the multitudes welcomed Yeshua; yet only a few days afterwards, they sentenced Him to die on the cross! We struggle to believe that people can change their minds so drastically within such a short time, yet we know this happened.

Once again within Israel, we are seeing a dramatic awakening for the





Messiah to come. Many Israelis are thoughtful and express their heart's desire concerning this. Yes, our country is in a mess . . . very similar to the time surrounding Yeshua's death.

The Ebenezer Home will celebrate Passover with great joy, because we know that the Messiah Yeshua IS our Savior. For us, it's a real memorial celebration to know that He has saved us from our sin and given us eternal life. This gives our entire team and all of our residents great hope and joy!

Join us in the Spirit and in prayer as we all celebrate Passover: remembering the exodus from Egypt, which for us is the redemption from slavery and bondage to sin. And as we celebrate, join us in keeping our fellow citizens in prayer, that they will come to know their Messiah Yeshua. May God put in their hearts the same awakening that occurred at the time of Yeshua's first coming.

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“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth”  
(Proverbs 24:17).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

**A**t the end of January, news media reported that an Arab Palestinian terrorist had shot and killed seven Jews leaving their synagogue. The tragedy was one of the worst in recent years, dating back to 2008. It was evening when the terrorist waited in his car until Jews would exit their synagogue after prayer. None of the known Palestinian militant groups claimed responsibility. But as expected, the Palestinian Authority blamed Israel for their “dangerous escalations,” pointing to the raid by Israeli Defense Forces in the city of Jenin, which resulted in 10 people killed.

The distinct difference must be mentioned: the IDF were in search of known, documented terrorists planning attacks in Israel. All Arab-Palestinian terrorists, whether from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, or Gaza, have one goal in mind: kill Jews.

Doubtless, the perpetrators are the exception and not the rule. Arabs who reside in Israel enjoy a significantly higher standard of living than in

---

neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

A recent story by *Israel Today* highlights an Arab paramedic who rushed to save the lives of Jews.

The story of Fadi Dekidek, an Arab paramedic from a Palestinian neighborhood in conflict-ridden eastern Jerusalem who rushed to save lives in the two recent terror attacks in Jerusalem, proves that tragedies can bring us up to a better place.

"I'm a professional who is entrusted with saving lives," he told Ynet. "I ignore all the background noise. Saving people is all that matters."

While Dekidek was working to save Jewish lives, he heard shouts condemning Arabs and calling for "Death to Arabs."

"I can hear it," Dekidek says of all the "noise," "but I ignore it and do my job. I'm a professional who is entrusted with taking care of the wounded. The only thing that matters is saving lives."

-[www.israeltoday.co.il](http://www.israeltoday.co.il), 31 January 2023

Another source, the *Times of Israel*, headlines their article, "Settler to be charged with hate crime for torching Palestinian car."

While ... soldiers were trying to locate the Palestinians, an Israeli man from the settlement of Ma'ale Efraim arrived in the Palestinian town and set fire to a vehicle, the Shin Bet charged.

“This is an act that harms the military force’s ability to carry out its mission and may even endanger it,” the agency said.

The Shin Bet said the 22-year-old was previously known to security forces, and an indictment charging him with a racially motivated hate crime would be filed in the coming days.

Incidents of vandalism against Palestinians and Israeli security forces are commonly referred to as “price tag” attacks, with perpetrators claiming they are retaliation for Palestinian violence or government policies seen as hostile to the settler movement.

In other violence, Palestinians said settlers attacked cars and property in a number of locations across the West Bank, including in Huwara, where they reportedly smashed shop windows. Local Palestinians reportedly hurled stones at the settlers to drive them off.


The vandalism came in the wake of several Palestinian terror attacks that killed seven Israelis and seriously injured five others.

*-www.timesofisrael.com, 31 January 2023*

Obviously, both sides attempt to practice “eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.” But that, as we all know, does not solve the conflict; rather, accelerates it.

In view of these horrible actions, the introductory Scripture serves as fresh, cool water to a thirsty soul: “Rejoice not when thine enemy fall-

eth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.” Proverbs 25:25 adds: “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

While we realize this conflict will go on for some time, we know from the Word of God that one day there will be peace: not based on political negotiations, but because the Prince of Peace has arrived. It is the time when the prophetic Word will be fulfilled: “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4). 

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