

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL



June 2023

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## **The Burning Bush: A Model of Israel's Future Salvation – Part 1**

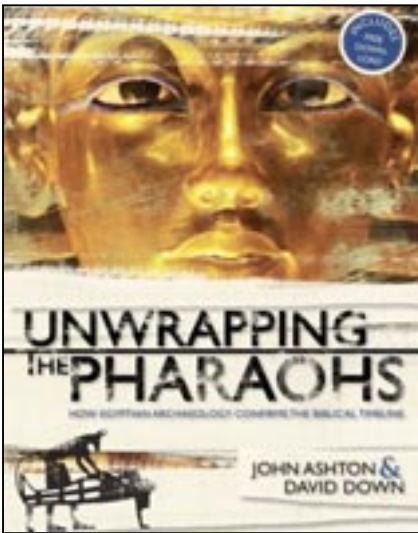
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# Dear Friends of Israel,

**BY FREDI WINKLER**

**C**oncerning the planned judicial reform in Israel, one first has to ask oneself: Why does the State of Israel still not have a Basic Law [similar to a constitution] after 75 years of existence?

Actually, every country that belongs to the United Nations must have a Basic Law. Israel had also promised to retroactively lay down a Basic Law. But to this day, that has not happened. With the founding of the State, the War of Independence broke out, and the young nation had other, more pressing concerns. When the war was over, a great wave of immigration began, and Israel again had other, more important matters to attend to.

Then, when the most urgent initial problems had been solved and administrative concerns could have been addressed, the resistance of

neighboring Arab States began. This led to the Six-Day War, and later the Yom Kippur War. After the Yom Kippur War, the opposition party came to power for the first time. Thus, Israel was once again faced with existential problems, and continued to postpone the question of a Basic Law.

In the meantime, however, the need for a Basic Law grew more and more urgent. In the view of many, the Supreme Court had gained too much power due to this shortcoming. Furthermore, the Israeli Parliament is based on a “unicameral” system [consisting of a single legislative body], and thus has no real instrument of control. The great question now is this: What should the Basic Law of the only Jewish State in the world look like? Should it be similar to that of most other countries



in the world, or should it be different?

There are those who think: We have a Basic Law, namely the “Torah.” It is what God decreed to the people of Israel through Moses. Should a future Basic Law, therefore, be predominantly based on the Torah? There are ordinances in the Torah that are hard to fit into our present time; for instance, regarding the Sabbath or the Jubilee. In assessing these laws, opinions vary widely, and it will be difficult to arrive at a consensus. Besides, it must be considered that 20 percent of the population are not Jews, and a large portion of the Jews do not adhere to the religious rules and ordinances. In addition, the government of Israel is being criticized and warned by many nations regarding the judicial reform ... even by its “best friends” such as the United States.

Perhaps things will continue as before; namely, that the more urgent questions and recent problems will put the issue of a Basic Law on the “back burner.”

The Iranian Foreign Minister was recently in Lebanon to visit allies there, namely Hezbollah. He used the occasion of this visit to look across the border to Israel. He said that because of everything currently going on in Israel, the Jewish State has begun to disintegrate from within, and the end of the Zionist State may be near.

Israel must take these comments seriously, for they show how enemies from outside assess and judge the country’s internal problems. Actually, most former chiefs of staff and intelligence chiefs warn against the planned judicial reform, because of the potential to divide the people and weaken Israel’s will to defend itself.

But we can be sure that God keeps His eyes on everything that is happening. Far beyond all that is going on within Israel, is God’s plan for the return of the Messiah Jesus.

In this confidence, I greet you warmly with Shalom,



# The Burning Bush: A Model of Israel's Future Salvation – Part 1

BY PHILIPP OTTENBURG

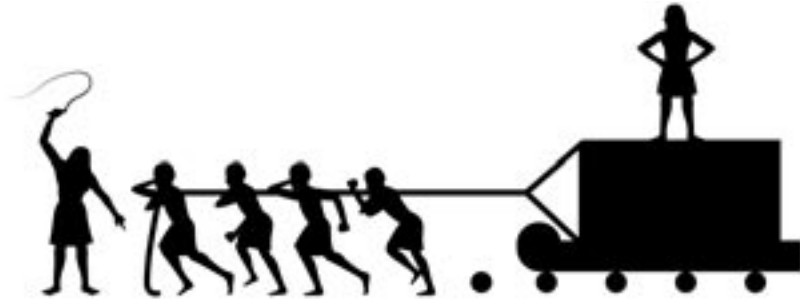
In Exodus 3:1-10, we read about the famous incident of the burning bush:

“**N**ow Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, ‘I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.’ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then he said, ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, ‘I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and

have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.’”

God appeared to His faithful servant Moses at Mount Horeb, on the Sinai Peninsula. What was it all about? It was concerning the Lord’s plan to free the people of Israel from Egypt. He called out to Moses from the burning bush for this task. At the same time, this historic account also had a profound prophetic dimension: This liberation from Egypt

At the time Moses had the encounter with the burning bush, the people of Israel lived in Egypt as the property of the Egyptians—in other words, in slavery.



foreshadowed what the God of Israel intended to do with His chosen people in the future.

Just how did Moses come to the burning bush? The answer to this question allows us to better understand the parallels between the actual event and God's plan for Israel's future salvation.

### **WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE**

At the time Moses had the encounter with the burning bush, the people of Israel lived in Egypt as the property of the Egyptians—in other words, in slavery. How did it come to this? After Joseph brought Jacob's (Israel's) family

to Egypt, they were so fruitful that the people increased abundantly. Then a new king—a new Pharaoh—came to power. He knew nothing of Joseph, who had been very important to the previous king and had impressed him greatly. The new Pharaoh became afraid that this ever more numerous people of Israel would soon become stronger than the Egyptians. He began to burden Israel incessantly, oppressing them more and more. But the greater the pressure, the more numerous the people became.

Pharaoh ordered all of Israel's newborn sons to be thrown into the Nile. It was at this time that



Moses could have concluded that his path at the royal court was the right one, because it would have allowed him to look after his people's best interests. But God had higher, indeed divine, plans for His people.

Moses was born and was placed in the river in a reed basket. Pharaoh's daughter came to the Nile and found the little Moses. She adopted him as her own son. So, Moses was preserved in Egypt from the murder of all the infant sons, just as Jesus would later be preserved in Egypt, when Herod wanted to have all of the Israelite boys killed.

Moses grew up in the royal palace and was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. A bright future lay ahead of him, but he renounced it. He could have been the founder of a major new dynasty for this mighty world power. But we read in Hebrews 11:24-26: "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of

Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."

This means that he renounced every claim. It's been said that Moses committed social suicide by acknowledging his Hebrew origins ... cutting himself off from Egyptian society forever.

Complete renunciation. Who does that remind us of?

Of our Lord and Savior, who abstained from equality with God to become like men. And what did Jesus freely become? A Jewish boy. Moses surrendered himself completely to the Jews. Jesus was cut off and persecuted, just like Moses.

In fact, considering his circumstances and the protection he experienced, Moses could have concluded that his path at the royal court was the right one, because it would have allowed him to look after his people's best interests. But God had higher,

indeed divine, plans for His people. Moses was aware of this, because it was by faith that he made his choice to renounce all these things.

So, Moses seems to have had deep, clear insight into God's redemptive purposes for His people. He inhabited a hope that made him renounce all the treasures of Egypt. It was clear to him that what was yet to come would be much greater.

You may also have to forego numerous things in your life because of your faith. We should be encouraged that what is coming next will be much greater. Let's hold onto this hope! It is reality.

We read another important aspect in Stephen's speech about Moses: "When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was

giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand. And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?' But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'" (Acts 7:23-28).

When Moses saw the burdens of his people as recorded in Exodus (or, as it says above, their being wronged), he had compassion. Christ had pity on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd. The people also rejected Moses, although he'd expected his brothers to understand. He wanted to save them, and he exhorted them to peace. Jesus did that as well.

What's very interesting is that Moses came to his people for the first time because he saw injustice, but they pushed him away. We can see Jesus' first lowly coming in this. Stephen

When Moses saw the burdens of his people as recorded in Exodus, he had compassion. Christ had pity on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

later said, “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush” (Acts 7:35). Just like the Son of God who wanted to bring salvation, but they didn’t understand Him.

Then when Moses was shunned, he fled to Midian. Where is Midian located? Outside of Israel, and therefore within the territory of the people of the nations. Moses tended a flock of sheep there, one not from Jacob’s sheepfold. This beautifully points to Christ going to the Gentiles after Israel was set aside. We see that in Paul.

### **THE MEANING OF THE BURNING BUSH**

In Midian, Moses was tending Jethro’s sheep. It was an ordinary day. According to Exodus 3, he was driving the sheep into the wilderness when he arrived at

Mount Horeb. Suddenly, God appeared to Moses in flames from the middle of the bush. Moses definitely wanted to see why the bush wasn’t consumed.

He must not have believed his eyes when he saw this phenomenon. He was alone in the desert. Who could have set the bush on fire? Why isn’t the fire spreading? Why isn’t the bush burning up? What does it mean?

Moses hadn’t been counting on God making a bold appearance, and it achieved the Lord’s desired effect. Moses signed on.

I’m sure you know of situations in which you’ll have to make important decisions, and don’t want to go against God’s will. We too can trust that God knows how to make Himself understood in our lives. He has every means at His disposal to make something clear to us.

But back to Moses. It was none other than God Himself speaking

Israel was (and will be) a kingdom with God as King. And God always intended for this kingdom to become a blessing for all peoples in His plan of salvation. Israel is meant to be salt and light.

from that bush. The subject was His people Israel's great need and suffering in Egypt, and the announcement of His firm intention to deliver them from the hands of the Egyptians and bring them out into the Promised Land.

The meeting took place on Mount Horeb. The Law would later be given there. Nations and states have a law, but Israel received its own Law, with the goal of one day possessing the Promised Land as a nation. Israel was (and will be) a kingdom with God as King. And God always intended for this kingdom to become a blessing for all peoples in His plan of salvation. Israel is meant to be salt and light.

This will become full reality in the Millennium when Jesus reigns. The peoples of the nations will see how God glorifies Himself with Israel, in Christ. It's important that



we don't see Israel as some sort of spiritual, mystical concept, but very practically, as a kingdom on this earth ... a kingdom that is always contrasted with the other peoples. Likewise, the Church, the body of Christ, is an exception ... a spiritual structure with believers from all nations. We shouldn't confuse them.

And so, at that bush, God established Moses as a called, chosen savior and leader of Israel. He was meant to bring Israel into its land and establish the kingdom.

(NAI0222/1209)

*Continued next month.*



# ***Qeren*** at the Battle of Jericho

**- Part 6**

Regarding the Hebrew word *Qeren*. The Messiah gives victory over judgment.

**Gabriele Monacis**

**A**s we've seen in previous articles in this series, the word *qeren* appears in various biblical contexts. They include sacrifice, as well as symbols of the strength God gives a person seeking help from Him.

In the last article, we learned about the horn of anointing, which was used to anoint the head of a future king.

One Bible verse from the book of Joshua uses *qeren* to describe a musical instrument,

**God’s grace is so great that it even reaches sinners hostile to Him.**

when the Israelites conquered Jericho after entering the Promised Land. The city of Jericho was heavily fortified—“shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in” (Josh 6:1). The phrase reminds us of the state of the Israelites in Egypt some forty years prior. As slaves, they hadn’t been able to leave the country. In Jericho, it was the other way around: The Israelites were the foreign conquerors, and the city had barricaded itself. But as He had in Egypt, God miraculously opened the way for Israel at Jericho.

Even though it was God Himself who caused Jericho’s walls to collapse, He required His people to fulfill their role and be obedient. God told Joshua exactly what the Israelites needed to do, in order to see the city’s massive walls come down before their very eyes. For six days, all the war-

riors had to march around the city, with seven priests carrying seven horns before the Ark of the Covenant.

In verse 4, God tells Joshua: “Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.” A trumpet made from a ram’s horn is called a shofar, and is still used today in Jewish liturgy (at Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, for example).

God continues in verse 5: “And when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.” *Qeren* is the Hebrew word used for “ram’s horn” here. It’s clear from the context that this is the same musical in-

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strument described in verse 4. For our purposes, it's very important that the word *qeren* in this context is only used once in the Bible.

The articles in this series are about the Bible's prophetic use of the word *qeren* to announce the Messiah. The texts we've examined so far have been in the context of the Messiah's kingship, but first and foremost His weakness, sacrifice, and death. The context of Joshua 6 is completely different. Here, the people of Israel experience a triumphant victory over their enemies, as God gives the city of Jericho into their hands. This situation is an illustration of the victory the Messiah will have over His enemies, after giving His life as a sacrifice. He shares that victory with all who triumph together with Him, because they have given their life into His hands.

When we look at Israel's enemies, we see not only defeat, but also judgment and curse. Joshua says: "Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises

up and rebuilds this city, Jericho" (v. 26). This is the fate of all God's enemies, who are symbolically like Jericho. But God's grace is so great that it even reaches sinners hostile to Him. Embedded in the great event of the fall of Jericho, we find the story of the resident Rahab and her family, who didn't perish because Joshua permitted them to live: "And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho" (v. 25).

The horns blown by the priests on the day of triumph over Jericho, can be seen as a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Where did the shofar come from? A majestic horned beast had to be killed, dying so that its horns could serve as musical instruments on that day of victory. In the same way, our Lord had to die as a sacrifice, so God could resurrect Him and give Him victory over His enemies, on the triumphant day of His resurrection.

(NAI0922/1283)



# On the Horizon

NEWS IN  
**BRIEF**



**ISRAEL**

## AI Speaks Foreign Languages

Israel-based start-up Deepdub, which has developed AI-driven audiovisual dubbing and language localization technology, has received certification from the Motion Picture Association's Trusted Partner Network (TPN), making it the first AI-powered dubbing solution to be accepted as a trusted service provider in the entertainment industry.



**Illustrative image of artificial intelligence.**

(photo credit: PIXABAY)



"We are thrilled to join the ranks of TPN-certified companies, demonstrating our commitment to quality and security in the services we provide," said Ofir Krakowski, CEO and co-founder of Deepdub. "Achieving this certification not only highlights our dedication to excellence but also reinforces our promise to offer our clients the best possible experience in AI-powered dubbing and localization."

With advanced generative AI algorithms, it is now possible to emulate a person's voice with remarkable accuracy,

## FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS SWEDEN

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen visited Sweden, the first Israeli foreign minister to do so in 22 years. The visit follows a thaw in relations between Jerusalem and Stockholm since 2021, after years of tensions.

Cohen visited Sweden, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union, to meet with Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström and encourage the continued warming of government, business and Jewish Diaspora ties.

"We are opening a new page in relations between Israel and Sweden, after years in which Sweden was critical towards Israel," Cohen said.

Sweden's joining NATO in light of the war in Ukraine could be an opportunity for Jerusalem and Stockholm to strengthen their economic relations and trade in the areas of defense, innovation and fintech, he said.

-jpost.com  
15 May 2023





creating a synthesized speech that sounds almost identical to the original.

Deepdub can effectively reproduce the original viewing experience in the audience's native language... As the technology continues to evolve, it is likely that more innovative applications of AI-generated speech, from personalized virtual assistants to realistic digital avatars, will emerge.

-*www.jpost.com*, 11 May 2023

**Commentary:** This development shows the increased difficulty in determining whether one hears or sees an original or an AI-generated one.

This process is part of man's attempt to marry the human with manmade structures.

Most of us know only little about this type of technology. But we do know, for example, that in using



our mobile phone, no passwords are needed. AI facial recognition is sufficient to unlock it, or access one's bank account and other sensitive accounts or memberships. The end result? Mankind will create its own god.

7993

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



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### Haven for Jews Fleeing Nazis

Sitting inside a small wood-frame shul just around the corner from Playa Alicia, where tourists sip rum punch while watching catamarans glide by, Joe Benjamin recounted one of the most uplifting but often forgotten stories of Jewish survival during the Holocaust.



"I was bar mitzvahed right here," he said, pointing to a podium at the front of the sanctuary in La Sinagoga

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### ACCORD WITH KOREA ON CYBERSECURITY

The Israeli High-Tech Association signed an agreement with a Korean cybersecurity industry group aimed at fostering ties and encouraging business cooperation between cybersecurity and information security companies in both countries.

Under the agreement, the industry associations will facilitate cooperation through mutual visits, seminars and business meetings between companies in both countries in light of the growing global threat of cyberattacks.

"Korea and Israel are similar in many areas," said Dongbeom Lee, chairman of the Korea Information Security Industry Association. "It is easy for us to work with Israeli companies ... and [we] believe in extensive cooperation."

-*timesofisrael.com*  
11 May 2023



**The Museo Judío de Sosua, which tells the story of the Jewish refugees who found a safe haven in the Dominican Republic during the Holocaust. The museum is closed while the community waits for funding to reopen it. (Dan Fellner/ JTA)**

de Sosua. It was built in the early 1940s to meet the spiritual needs of about 750 German and Austrian Jews.

At the time, the Dominican Republic was the only country in the world that offered asylum to large numbers of Jewish refugees, earning the moniker “tropical Zion.”

At the 1938 Evian Conference in France, attended by representatives of 32 countries to address the problem of German and Austrian Jewish refugees wanting to flee Nazi persecution, the Dominican Republic announced it would accept up to 100,000 Jewish refugees.

“When they came here, the Jews found no antisemitism at all in this country,” said Benjamin. “They were as free

as anybody. They had a wonderful life.”

-[www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 26 April 2023

**Commentary:** This article is somewhat unusual, because the subject is rarely ever mentioned in publicly available literature or media.

While the world had closed its doors to Jewish refugees attempting to escape Hitler’s Germany,

the article states, “At the time, the Dominican Republic was the only country in the world that offered asylum to large numbers of Jewish refugees.” In plain words, this means the entire world failed to do what the heathen did for shipwrecked Paul and the 276 survivors: “The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire

and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold” (Acts 28:2, NIV).

7994

(See *The Sure Foundation of the Church*, Item #1066, \$18.50.)






## TUNISIA

### 5 Killed, Including 2 Jewish Pilgrims

A gunman killed five people in an attack on an ancient synagogue in Tunisia, during an annual pilgrimage that attracts thousands of Jews and is seen as a rare instance of Jewish partnership with an Arab nation.



**Jewish pilgrims at the Ghriba synagogue in Tunisia's southern resort island of Djerba** (Hasan Mrad/DeFodi Images via Getty Images)

 The attack took place at the end of an evening of festivities at El Ghriba, a site of Jewish worship dating back 2,500 years that is also a central attraction of the pilgrimage taking place each year on or around Lag b'Omer, a break during the 49 days of mourning between Passover and Shavuot.

The Tunisian government invested in the pilgrimage, billing it as a symbol of the country's tolerance, and provided intense security.

Now, the revelation that one of those security officers appears to have orchestrated an attack on the Jewish pilgrims has undercut those efforts.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### JOB LAYOFFS FOR TECH FIRMS

Israeli high-tech firms have largely halted job hiring and many are expected to continue layoffs this year, a report on the country's tech sector showed.

One-quarter of companies have stopped recruiting new employees and another quarter plan more layoffs—many of those planning to let go 5% of their workforce, according to a joint report by the Israel Innovation Authority and Start Up Nation Policy Institute (SNPI).

"When money pours in, more people are getting hired in a nutshell, and since the middle of last year, we saw a decline in investment," Dror Bin, CEO of the Israel Innovation Authority, told Reuters.

Uri Gabai, CEO of the Start Up Nation Policy Institute, said in the report that a combination of political and social instability in Israel, along with the global recession, had prompted companies to halt recruitment, forego raises and step up layoffs.

-reuters.com  
16 May 2023



About 1,000 Jews are estimated to live in Tunisia, one of the only continual Jewish communities in the Arab world. Most of Tunisia's Jewish population, estimated at over 100,000 prior to 1948, left the country for Israel or France by 1970.

-*www.jta.org*, 10 May 2023

**Commentary:** Tunisia's population stands at 12 million, and 99% are Muslim. Their per capita GDP is listed at \$11,623, compared to Israel's \$35,658. While Tunisia is not mentioned in the Bible, it did belong to the Roman Empire, as all Mediterranean countries at one time were subject to Rome. The main target country from Biblical perspectives is the land of Egypt.

The prophet Isaiah declares the following: "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheri-



tance" (Isaiah 19:23-25). 7995  
(See *Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus*, Item #2363, \$12.99.)

 **ISRAEL**

**Universities Drop in Global Ranking**

Nine Israeli universities, led by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU), are featured in the 2023 edition of the Global 2000 list by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR), which has just been released.

 For the 12th year in a row, Harvard University is number one, while 96% of Chinese universities have risen, thanks to that country's continued investment in higher education.

Israel is clearly struggling to compete against rivals worldwide, with the majority of Israeli universities slipping down. In the global top 2000, three Israeli universities improved from last year, while six dropped in the rankings.

Commenting on the national picture, Dr. Nadim Mahassen, the Ontario-based CWUR president, said: "While Israel is well represented in this year's rankings, the country's top institutions are under



increasing pressure from well-funded universities from around the world. Funding to further promote the development and reputation of Israel's higher education system is vital if the country aspires to be more competitive on the global stage."

-*www.jpost.com*, 15 May 2023

**Commentary:** The message is clear, and the list by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) is known to be quite accurate. However, we must take notice that Israel's standing, as a nation with under 10 million in population, is indeed remarkable.

The next item to consider is, after students have received their desired degree, what significance do they play when it comes to startup firms, particularly in the leading-edge sciences? There Israel shows impressive strength and consistency.

When analyzing this spiritually, we consult Scripture. Here the unconditional promise of God to Abraham and his descendants is decisive: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). 7999

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



## CYPRUS

### Israel's Gas to Europe

Cyprus and Israel are in talks over a new path to exporting gas from Israel to continental Europe.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Cypriot president Nikos Christodoulides discussed "providing gas from Israel to Europe via a pipeline from our gas fields to a gas liquification facility that will be built in Cyprus," Netanyahu

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### FOOD-TECH THE NEW CYBER

“Food-tech is an industry with great potential that will make a huge contribution to Israel's economy in the coming years, similar to cyber in the previous decade,” Minister Ofir Akunis said.

In April, the Prime Minister's Office announced that promoting alternative proteins was a “national goal, on the understanding that it is a solution for food security and that the supply and production of alternative proteins will strengthen the Israeli economy.”

A July report by GFI noted that Israel leads the world in investment in plant-based proteins and is second only to the United States regarding money invested in the alternative protein industry.

-*jpost.com*  
15 May 2023



said at the start of [the] cabinet meeting.

“This connection will launch Israel’s economy to new heights and strengthen Israel’s status as an important international energy provider,” Netanyahu said. “Europe needs energy, it needs gas, and creating an easy and inexpensive gas supply from Israel and Europe will strengthen Israel’s position very much.”

Cyprus’s Energy Minister George Papanastasiou told journalists more about the plan, saying a shipping corridor could be set up instead from a hub in Cyprus to transport liquefied gas.

“It will be a corridor, that will exist. Instead of a pipeline, it will be a connection between Israel and Europe which can be done through Cyprus,” Papanastasiou said.

He said a liquefaction plant could take about 2.5 years to build, and a pipeline with Israel about 18 months.

*-www.jpost.com, 15 May 2023*

**Commentary:** There is no doubt whatsoever: “Europe needs energy,” and Israel will contribute toward the supply of natural gas. While the amount is somewhat minimal when all of Europe’s energy is taken into consideration, this connection is nevertheless important.

What this article by Lahav Harkov

of Reuters shows, is the reconfirmation that the world is already a global community. Each nation or continent depends on each other.

Concerning transportation, Trip.com states, “There are approximately 100,000 flights per day.” When it comes to merchant ships, Statista.com states that there are “around 58,000 merchant ships trading internationally.” These numbers are virtually mind-boggling, and they will continue to increase each year.

When we realize the volume of merchandise carried between the continents, we begin to understand the horrible, worldwide catastrophe that will take place when, in the end times, the global system Babylon comes under judgment. Revelation 18:19 reads: “And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her

costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.”

8001

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



“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” (Isaiah 61:1).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

About seven centuries before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One. A few hundred years later, we read in Psalm 118:26: “Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.” Finally, Jesus, the Son of David and promised Messiah, was welcomed to Jerusalem with the words, “Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Mark 11:9b).

These Scriptures testify that there was an expectation for the coming Redeemer, the One who would set all things right for the people of Israel. Later, when John the Baptist was born, his father Zacharias prophesied of the coming of the Messiah: “And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David” (Luke 1:69). He then adds: “That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear” (v. 74).

One thing is clear: time does not seem to matter. When Zacharias spoke some 2,000 years ago, he did not include

the horrible times of suffering for the Jewish people throughout the millennia. Even today, they are still not “delivered out of the hand of [their] enemies.” Very unfortunately, Israel continues to have many adversaries. And, in making a casual observation, these enemies seem to increase ... at least in some parts of the world.

But we ask, what is the purpose of the deliverance from the enemies? Simply to “serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life” (vv. 74b-75).

It is so refreshing when one experiences the peace which passes all understanding, meaning we have the absolute assurance that the Word of God will be fulfilled to its finest detail in due time.

Going back to Isaiah 61, we read in verse 2: “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.” Quite interestingly, some 700 years later, the Messiah of Israel makes this proclamation in a synagogue in Nazareth: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” (Luke 4:18). He then adds: “To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (v. 19). Next, we read: “And he closed the book” (v. 20a). After this, He makes the amazing declaration: “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (v. 21b). Jesus did not quote the continuation of the proclamation in Isaiah 61:2, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” Why not? Because that’s yet to come.



We learn from these biblical facts that our eyes and ears should not be focused on what we see, hear, and read in the news media, regardless of the source. They are all temporary; their knowledge is extremely limited, and quite often wrong. Actually, most of the so-called documentaries are no more than simply products of the imagination, issuing from the hearts of those who have no contact with the Eternal One, the Creator of heaven and earth. Whether it's climate change or the next world war, all statements are merely groundless speculation.

When it comes to Israel, He will yet “comfort all that mourn.” With these assurances in mind, let us continue to pray for Israel as well as for the Church ... that the fullness of the Gentiles may soon come in, so Romans 11:26 will be fulfilled: “And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” (NFI)



“I will bless them that bless thee...”  
(Genesis 12:3).

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# A Testimony from an Ebenezer Resident: Part 1

By Esther Meyer



I was born on August 15, 1936 in Schaffhausen (Switzerland), as the fourth child in a believing family.

At seven, I started grade one and completed nine years of schooling altogether. One unforgettable incident that happened

during my school years was the bombing of Schaffhausen on April 1, 1944. I relived this experience during the following nights, and could only find rest when my mother let me share her bed. This brought me comfort and quickly, these frightful episodes ended.

In 1948 at age 12, I consciously asked the Lord Jesus to forgive me of my sins and enter my heart. I received the assurance that through His death on the cross and the blood that He shed, I had been forgiven and was forever accepted as His child. I felt sorrow whenever I did something I knew would make Him sad. What I hadn't



been taught was that we have to struggle with our old nature, but can come at any time to our Lord in order to be forgiven and cleansed.

After I finished my nine years of schooling, I went to Geneva for a year, to stay with a family and better my knowledge of the French language. Upon arriving back home, I began my studies to be a women's dressmaker. Two and a half years later, I got my degree and started working in my profession for several years.

On January 1, 1962, during a New Year's sermon, the Lord spoke to me through His Word from Isaiah 6:8: **"And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me!"**

Through this word, I received the assurance that I must attend a Bible school, to deepen my knowledge of Scripture and better prepare myself to serve the Lord.

I envisioned myself working in an orphanage—not merely working there, but living out the love of Christ and being a witness for Him.

Thus, I attended the Beatenberg Bible School in Switzerland from 1963-65. During that time, I asked to be baptized by immersion. The congregation I had attended until then practiced infant baptism, so I wanted to obey the Word of God by testifying to my faith publicly.

During my time in Beatenberg, I put my future completely into the hands of God. I asked Him to give me clear confirmation of the place in which He wanted me to serve Him. I was already in my last semester, but I still didn't know where God wanted me. Together with my roommate, we fervently prayed that it would be HIM showing us the way, as we both still didn't know where we would go.

At the Bible school, we were to study the book of Esther. To prepare myself for the lessons of the



coming week, I began reading the whole book. I came to that critical point where Esther comes in and lets Mordechai know: "...And so I will go in to the king ... And if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16b). It hit me like a lightning bolt—Israel! I knew from our Bible school that they were building a conference center in Haifa. Until then, it had never really interested me, even though one of my teachers (who would later become my brother-in-law) always took groups to Israel and presented slideshows from different places. Israel for me? Never! I put that thought about Israel to rest, and continued with my prayers for guidance.

I went on with my life as usual, but the next time Israel came into my thoughts, I couldn't put it away that easily. So, I went to speak with my supervisor about it, and from there I had to go to the director. It took some time until I could talk to both of them. During that waiting period, my roommate and I

prayed intensively. I want to add here that I had already spent two semesters in Germany, which was where I knew they wanted to send me, so it is really a miracle that God answered our prayers and intervened.

The director had already asked my parents to go to Israel and work there as house parents at the Beth Shalom Conference Center. They had readily agreed ... especially since my father had just started his retirement. When I shared my desire to be sent to Israel, miraculously my mother answered, "There isn't anything nicer than a daughter joining her mother and being a help to her!"

Because the senior Meyer couple was searching for domestic help, I was sent to Israel on the 23rd of June 1965. I arrived in Haifa and started my time with the Meyer family. The property that the new center was being built on had belonged to the Meyer family, and on the adjoining piece stood their newly built



home. Their youngest son, Hans—who was an electrician and worked for Beth Shalom—was busy installing the electricity in the new conference building.

It was my first time in Israel, and it felt very special to me that the Meyer family really made me feel welcome in their home ... like I had come back home from vacation, even though they were strangers to me. The only person I knew from my time in Beaten-

berg was the nurse that took care of the senior Meyers.

As Hans had to install all the electricity by himself, he sometimes needed a helping hand. So, during the day, I helped him with his job, and in the evening, he helped me put the kitchen back in order. Often, we went for an evening walk to the Panorama Street, where we could see the beautiful view of the harbor and the city of Haifa.

*(Continued next month.)*



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