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September 2023

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It All Revolves Around Israel – Part 2



Burning of the Quran P. 14 • Rare Public Protest Against Hamas P. 17

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

The Israeli parliament is in its summer break until the 15th of October. Prime Minister Netanyahu indicated that he would use this summer interval to reach a broad agreement with the opposition concerning the upcoming judicial reforms. Numerous ministers and representatives have declared that from now on, they would no longer approve any laws that do not find wide acceptance among the people, but rather increase division.

The dramatic effects of clashing opinions, as expressed already for a long time by weekly mass demonstrations, have encouraged particularly Hezbollah in Lebanon to lure Israel out of its reserve through border provocations. And, Israel's enemies have been further emboldened in their anti-Israel posture by the refusal of

many soldiers—particularly pilots—to volunteer for reserve service. This dangerous development has brought many in government to the realization that judicial reform at the price of internal unity and the will for defense, is not worthwhile and may even become very dangerous.

For instance, on the occasion of the Shiite festival of Ashura, Nasrallah (Secretary-General of Hezbollah) gave a speech in which he said that all of the Middle East would not rest until that “cancerous growth,” Israel, had been removed. He stated that the Palestinians now more than ever believe in resistance and the axis of resistance. And, he assured the Palestinians that Hezbollah would stand right behind them with all that it has. Referring to the visit of Israel's Minister of Internal Security, Ben Gvir, to



the Temple Mount on 9 Av (the Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of the First and Second Temples), Nasrallah said: “The enemy must be met with a resolute posture and the voice of all Muslims.”

In the end, will it be the external threat that will bring Israel back to reason, so the people won't fight among themselves but understand the importance of unity? In the past, at least, whenever it was a question of the existence and continuation of the State, Israelis were of one mind. Let us hope and pray that Israel will use the summer break to reflect on the most important issues and thus achieve inner unity.

From the Biblical point of view, we clearly see that Israel will still come into great trouble. Jesus spoke of this in His sermon on the Mount of Olives. This speech is not easy to understand, since the Lord announced things that were fulfilled in the year 70 AD, but also spoke of events yet to come in our time. In Luke chapter 21, He warned of the siege of the city

and gave it as a sign to those who knew His Word to take flight. In Matthew 24:15, however, the Lord foretold of another sign, saying: “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...”

It should be noted that here Jesus is not talking about a temple, but only of a holy place. Even though there are mosques on the Temple Mount today, it is still the holy place which God chose and where the temple once stood. Nasrallah says all Muslims have an obligation to stand up for this mountain. On the other hand, it is indeed the case that more and more Jews are going to the Temple Mount, and many intend to pray there. The Temple Mount is like a ticking time bomb which may soon explode. But the Lord says to those who believe on Him: “See that you are not troubled” (Matt 24:6).

Looking up to Him and His Word, I greet you warmly with Shalom,

Trevor Winkler



It All Revolves Around Israel – Part 2



Ezekiel 38 – 48 on the present and future of Israel.

NORBERT LIETH

After decades of relative peace and prosperity, things can take a sudden turn.

THE PHASE OF ASSAULT FROM THE FAR NORTH (EZEK 38—39)

I'm not suggesting that Russia's attack on Ukraine signaled the arrival of these events. But we're experiencing firsthand how quickly it could happen. The past events of the pandemic, when paired with the war in Ukraine, should cause us to sit up and take notice. Let's remember the prophetic Word of the Bible:

1. Peace can vanish suddenly. New circumstances can come upon us overnight, and the world can go haywire. After decades of relative peace and prosperity, things can take a sudden turn. I by no means wish to invoke Revelation's sealed judgments, but there's no denying that they'll someday be a reality, as prophesied in Revelation 6:3-4: "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there

went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

2. Prosperity can quickly give way to emergency. For example, the war in Ukraine could pose a danger to global nutrition. Russia and Ukraine's wheat exports form a quarter of the world's supply, and prices are already exploding in some countries. "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" (Rev 6:5-6). In Germany, a public figure

has already expressed the following sentiment: “We can endure reduced happiness and zest for life for a few years. We can freeze for our freedom.” And Werner Baumann, [former] CEO of Bayer, said, “We’re already in the middle of a grain supply crisis.” Additionally, farmers warned in the spring that if it didn’t rain soon, a catastrophe could be possible, since grain couldn’t grow under those conditions.

3. Nuclear war and its terrible consequences can quickly become a reality. Everyone is talking about rearmament again. Nuclear ordnance is being rolled out. Experts have said that it’s dangerous to back the Russian president into a corner. It recalls Revelation 6:7-8: “And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed

with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.” Some say that the seven-month-long process for burying the dead, described in Ezekiel 39:12-16, is equivalent to the procedure after a nuclear war.

4. Fear and helplessness are increasing globally. The Lord announced, “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:26).

5. The Bible’s truths can be fulfilled quickly. “Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken” (Ezek 39:8).

If we look at the description of the attack by Gog from Magog on Israel in Ezekiel 38—39, the following points stand out:

Additionally, farmers warned in the spring that if it didn't rain soon, a catastrophe could be possible, since grain couldn't grow under those conditions.



1. The enemy's origin: Scripture is speaking of an area that is extremely far north of Israel (Ezek 38:6, 15; 39:2). Many scholars relate it to present-day Russia. Dr. Roger Liebi writes, "Gog (which appears 10 times) is the name of the leader of this powerful end-time invasion described here. 'Meshech' and 'Tubal' denote Moscow and Tobolsk. These

are settlements of the primitive peoples of today's Russians which were located between the Black and Caspian Seas 2,000 years ago."

2. The enemy's goal: Interestingly, Gog is rerouted and ultimately led to the land of the Jewish people, who are back in their homeland: "And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into

The enemy is turned around through God's intervention. This means that Gog may not have initially intended to invade Israel, but the Lord is pursuing a higher goal.

thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth [...] After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them" (Ezek 38:4, 8; cf. vv. 11-12). The enemy is turned around through God's intervention. This means that Gog may not have initially intended to invade Israel, but the Lord is pursuing a higher goal:

- "that the heathen may know me" (v. 16).
- "I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes" (v. 16b).
- "my fury shall come up in my face" (v. 18b).
- "I will call for a sword against him" (v. 21a).

Israel is restored from centuries of destruction and persecution. It is gathered from many peoples. It lives in relative safety. The population is secure within its own framework, in its own state, with its own security measures. And, there is great concern for peace and security in the Middle East, which is very dangerous according to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

3. The time of the attack: Scripture repeatedly refers to "after many days," "in the latter years," or "in the latter days" (Ezek 38:8, 16). This is undoubtedly referring to the end times, connected to Jesus' return (and not to be confused with the end of the world). But I can't say precisely when the attack will happen. There are at least three perspectives: before the Tribulation, at the end of the Tribulation, and at the be-

Gas is becoming increasingly valuable, a point of contention and a highly politicized commodity. In the future, could Israel supply gas to Europe instead of Russia?

ginning (or the end) of the messianic kingdom (cf. Rev 20:8).

4. The enemy's allies: Various countries will join with Gog (Ezek 38:5-6). The Scofield Bible calls them “mercenaries.” In fact, Russia currently maintains good relations with the five countries listed. And, in the war of aggression against Ukraine, volunteers from Africa and elsewhere in the world, who wanted to unite on the side of Russia, enlisted for this fight. There was talk of a highly feared mercenary force from Chechnya, or tens of thousands of volunteer fighters from Syria.

5. The enemy's motive: The motive is desire. Things will rise up in Gog's heart, and he will “think an evil thought” (Ezek 38:10b). He wants to plunder and carry



away spoils (v. 13). Wasn't the attack on Ukraine an evil plan? Consider the large gas deposits in Israel. Gas is becoming increasingly valuable, a point of contention and a highly politicized commodity. In the future, could Israel supply gas to Europe instead of Russia?

6. The Western world will be affected: “And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezek 39:6). Regarding the Hebrew word for isles, *'ijim*, Dr. Liebi writes, “You could therefore say that the geograph-

ical term *'ijim* is essentially the Old Testament word for Europe.” In light of current events, we’re aware of how quickly this prophecy could be fulfilled.

7. Biblical prophecy fulfilled: “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?” (Ezek 38:17). Here we are talking about the future after it has passed. It’s prophesied that some will then remember.

8. After judgment on Gog and his allies, Israel’s destiny will change: God is fully known, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the people, and the temple is built for the messianic kingdom (Ezek 39:25-29; 40:1ff.).

The book of Ezekiel ends with the phrase: “And the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there” (Ezek 48:35b).

WHY MUST IT ALL TO COME DOWN TO THIS?

God is speaking to this world!

1. Mankind is to be led to the knowledge of God.

People are to recognize His holy actions, “that the heathen may know me” (Ezek 38:16). “Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD” (v. 23). “And they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezek 39:6b). “And the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel” (v. 7b). “And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them” (v. 21). “So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward” (v. 22). “And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity” (v.



God holds the power. We shouldn't accuse Him but fear Him. Wars arise from man's evil heart, but God directs them for His cause. And God's motive is for people to believe in Him.

23a). "And [I] am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations" (v. 27b).

2. The evil behind the scenes should be exposed. By making room for wickedness, God is revealing behind-the-scenes evil and the invisible power of wickedness. Individuals, and humanity as a whole, cannot progress without God. Quite the contrary; the world is ruining itself. God reveals the spiritual backdrop, and finally intervenes in events. He fulfills His Word, and works righteousness and peace. The Bible calls this apocalypse "Revelation."

3. God will show Himself to be the One behind everything—but al-

ways with the purpose of salvation.

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps 46:8-10). God holds the power. We shouldn't accuse Him but fear Him. Wars arise from man's evil heart, but God directs them for His cause. And God's motive is for people to believe in Him. It is Jesus Christ who bears the name above all names. One day every knee will bow before Him (Phil 2:9-11). (NAI0622/1323)



On the Horizon

NEWS IN
BRIEF



'IDF HARVESTS PALESTINIAN ORGANS'

A course at Princeton University will include a book in its syllabus that claims that IDF had been harvesting Palestinian organs.

Its upcoming fall semester class, Decolonizing Trauma Studies from the Global South, will be including the book *The Healing Humanities: The Right to Maim* by Jsbir Puar. Its summary states that Israel is allegedly "supplementing its right to kill with the right to maim," the report quoted the book as saying.

Puar has consistently accused Israel of ethnic cleansing Palestinians and her book caused controversy when it was released six years ago, Ynet reported.

Puar also claimed that the supposed organ mining mentioned was used by the IDF for "scientific research," the report quotes her as saying.

-jpost.com
7 August 2023



DENMARK

Burning of the Quran

Protesters set fire to a copy of the Quran outside the Iraqi Embassy in Denmark's capital of Copenhagen, drawing condemnation from Iraq and other Muslim-majority countries.



Iraqis raise copies of the Quran, Muslims' holy book, during a protest in Baghdad. Hadi Mizban/AP



It was the second time in just a few days protesters from an ultranationalist group called Danish Patriots burned the Quran, following similar acts by different groups in neighboring Sweden.

The acts have set off public protests in Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Pakistan and elsewhere.

Swedish and Danish officials have condemned the desecration of the Quran but allowed such actions to go forward under the countries' freedom of expression and right to protest laws.

The day after the Quran burning in Copenhagen, hundreds

of protesters in Iraq tried to storm Baghdad's Green Zone, a heavily guarded area that houses foreign embassies and Iraqi government buildings. In the Iraqi city of Basra, demonstrators attacked facilities of the Danish Refugee Council, an aid group.

-*www.npr.org*, 24 July 2023

Commentary: While European governments condemned the burning of Qurans under the leadership of the "Danish People's Party," right-wing populist political parties are on the rise in several European countries. During the 2014 European Parliament elections in Denmark, the party secured 27% of the vote. However, support for the party declined to 8.7% during the 2019 Danish general election. Under "ideology," Wikipedia writes about Denmark: "Danish nationalism, right-wing populism, hard Euroscepticism."

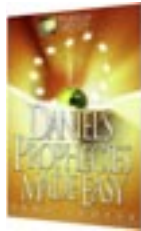
While nationalistic movements have sprung up in many countries around the world, the future of this nationalistic spirit will not succeed. Bible prophecy clearly points to a rise in the spirit of unity.

Of the spirit of Antichrist, Daniel writes: "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak

marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done" (Daniel 11:36). Revelation 13 speaks of this unifying personality whom "all the world" will praise, and verse 7b states, "power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." What does the world do? "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him" (Revelation 13:8a). That is future, but in preparation today.

8051

(See *Daniel's Prophecies Made Easy*, Item #1057, \$12.)



SAUDI ARABIA

Israel Signs Solar Deal

Israel's largest solar energy company, SolarEdge, has signed a joint venture with Ajlan & Bros Holding (AHB) to adopt solar energy in Riyadh.



The joint venture will support the deployment of smart renewable energy solutions in Saudi Arabia and aligns with the Saudi Vision 2030 initiative, aiming to reduce the country's dependence on oil by the end of the decade.



Last year, *Globes* reported that dozens of Israeli business and tech figures were visiting the kingdom for advanced talks on Saudi investments in Israeli companies and Israeli investment funds despite Israel and Saudi Arabia having no official diplomatic relations. Quietly, ties have strengthened in recent years, as the Saudi crown prince, Mohammad bin Salman, reportedly sees Israel as a strategic partner for helping achieve his Vision 2030 goals.

About 10% of Israel's energy comes from solar. Environmental experts have said that if Israel invested properly in building the necessary infrastructure, 40% and 50% of its energy could come from the sun.

-*www.jpost.com*, 2 August 2023

Commentary: Saudi Arabia places fourth on the list of richest Arab countries (1 Qatar, 2 UAE, 3 Kuwait). Due to immense oil reserves, Saudi Arabia has become a leading voice when it comes to energy. But, as is self-evident, fossil fuel still amounts to 99% of power generation in Saudi Arabia. Yet the end is in sight.

Israel to the rescue. While large natural gas and oil reserves have been found off the coast of Israel, they are a leader when it comes to solar energy. Though Saudi Arabia does not rec-

ognize the Jewish State, business and technology relationships have been developed in recent years. Arab media suggests that meetings between the two nations, under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, can be traced back to 2015, with a summit in Jordan in 2017.

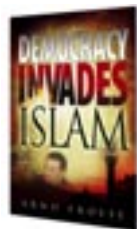
Saudi Arabia's population stands at approximately 36 million, of which virtually all are followers of the Muslim religion. Life expectancy is one of the highest in the Arab world at 76.9 years, and per capita GDP stands at \$44,300 (2021).

Wikipedia reveals: "Dedan has several different meanings in the Hebrew Bible. Dedan (now part of Al-'Ula, Saudi Arabia) was an oasis and city-state of north-western Arabia. The people of Dedan are called Dedanim or Dedanites. Dedan is also the name of the son of Raamah and the son of Jokshan." We note the name "Jokshan" who, based on *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, is "the second son of Abraham and Keturah

(Gen. 25:2,3; I Chron. 1:32)."

8055

(See *Democracy Invades Islam*, Item #1072, \$12.95.)





GAZA

Rare Public Protest Against Hamas

Marches took place in Gaza City, the southern town of Khan Younis, and other locations, chanting “what a shame” and in one place burning the flags of the Hamas terror group, before police moved in and broke up the protests.



Palestinian demonstrators chant slogans against Hamas in the Gaza Strip during a protest against the territory’s chronic power outages and difficult living conditions along the streets of Khan Younis. (AP Photo)



Police destroyed cellphones of people who were filming in Khan Younis, and witnesses said there were several arrests. Dozens of young supporters and opponents of Hamas briefly faced off, throwing stones at one another.

The Islamic terror group seized control of Gaza in 2007 from the forces of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, prompting Israel and Egypt to impose a crippling blockade on the territory. Israel says the closure is needed to prevent Hamas, which does not recognize Israel’s right to exist, from building up its military capabilities.

The closure has devastated Gaza’s economy, sent unemployment skyrocketing and led to frequent power outages. During an ongoing heat wave, people have been limited to

NEWS IN BRIEF



AMAZON INVESTS \$7.2B IN CLOUD SERVICES

Amazon Web Services, the company’s cloud provider, announced the launch of the AWS Israel region to provide cloud-based services to government ministries and other public entities, and allow developers, startups, entrepreneurs and enterprises to run applications and store data in data centers in Israel.

To grow the cloud ecosystem in Israel, Amazon plans to invest up to \$7.2 billion from 2023 through 2037. This investment includes both capital and operational expenditures for the construction, connection, operation and maintenance of the AWS Israel (Tel Aviv) data center operations. The construction and operation of the AWS Israel region is estimated to add about \$13.9 billion to Israel’s gross domestic product (GDP) through 2037.

Israel marks the 32nd region where Amazon is establishing its cloud computing platform. The launch comes after Google’s parent company, Alphabet, activated its local cloud region for Israel in October last year.

-timesofisrael.com
3 August 2023



four to six hours of power a day due to heavy demand.

Protesters also criticized Hamas for deducting a roughly \$15 fee from monthly \$100 stipends given to Gaza’s poorest families by the wealthy Gulf state of Qatar.

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

Commentary: To read of protests against Hamas is most unusual. As a known terrorist organization, they rule with an iron fist.

Of interest is the name Hamas. “Hamas the Hebrew word has been around since antediluvian times. In fact, it was one of the reasons God flooded the earth, according to Genesis: ‘And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence [hamas].’” Another definition by JewishChronicle.org states, “Hamas is an Arabic acronym for ‘Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyya,’ which means ‘The Islamic Resistance Movement.’ But ‘hamas’ is also an Arabic word that means ‘zeal.’ Although Arabic and Hebrew are sister languages, the Hebrew meaning of ‘chamas’ is ‘violence,’ according to the Hebrew-English volume of Reuben Alcalay’s Hebrew-Eng-

lish, English-Hebrew dictionary. ‘Cruelty’ and ‘injustice’ are additional definitions, but not ‘zeal.’ Truth is thus stranger than fiction. For Israel and for Jews everywhere, chamas indeed means violence, in its terrorist form.”

One need not be a brilliant intellectual to see that the nations surrounding Israel, with their declared goal to eliminate the Jewish State, are experiencing continuous internal turmoil. Although Egypt and Jordan have signed a peace treaty with Israel, their hatred for the Jewish nation cannot be masked.

8054

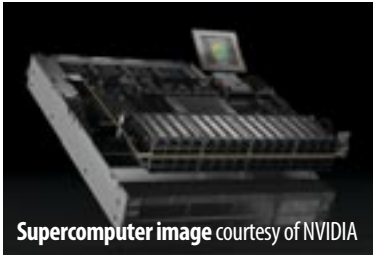
(See *Target Israel*, Item #2293, \$15.99.)

 **ISRAEL**
Most Powerful Supercomputer

NVIDIA will build Israel-1, the nation’s most powerful AI supercomputer, to be used as a testbed for Spectrum-X reference designs, collaboration with partners, and internal research and development. Production will begin by year’s end.



Israel-1 is to be one of the world’s fastest AI supercomputers, delivering up to eight exaflops of peak AI performance.



Supercomputer image courtesy of NVIDIA

Each exaflop translates to the ability to calculate at least one quintillion (“exa-”) floating point operations (“flops”) per second.

“AI is the most important technology force in our lifetime, and NVIDIA is committed to remaining at its forefront,” said Gilad Shainer, Senior Vice President of HPC and Networking at NVIDIA. “Israel-1 represents a major investment that will help us drive innovation in Israel and globally.”

-www.israel21c.org, 29 May 2023

Commentary: It is not surprising that Israel is at the forefront of developing artificial intelligence supercomputers. One has to keep in mind that this nation, with less than 10 million in population, is competing against the giants of the world like China, India, the USA, and the EU, to mention some. Thus, per capita achievements in these fields definitely places Israel at number one.

John Adams, the second president of the USA, once wrote: “I will insist the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation.” Shawn Lazar writes on FaithAlone.org, “I will argue that Jewish exceptionalism provides us with concrete evidence for the existence of the God of Israel.” Later in his article, he quotes 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.”

8013

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

NEWS IN BRIEF



RESEARCHERS GROW MODEL OF HUMAN HEART

A collaborative team of researchers from several Israeli institutions has created a tiny, beating heart the size of a third of a grain of rice.

According to Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, who led the research, it is the first heart model grown from stem cells with all the key structures, including ventricles, atria, an epicardium (outer shell), endocardium (inner lining), and natural pacemakers. (Previous models have been merely clusters of heart muscle cells.)

Human organoids provide researchers with unprecedented opportunities, and the findings could lead to drug breakthroughs that may not otherwise happen. For example, the tiny heart model is critical for studying the human organ’s physiology (the hearts of small animal models such as mice differ too much from those of humans).


-timesofisrael.com
3 August 2023



TURKEY

Agrees to Back Sweden's NATO Bid

Speaking at a news conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, following a meeting with Erdoğan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said that the Turkish president “has agreed to forward the accession protocol for Sweden to the Grand National Assembly as soon as possible, and work closely with the Assembly to ensure ratification.”

 Erdoğan dropping his opposition marks a major step forward, but does not mean that Sweden will immediately become the next member of the alliance. Stoltenberg did not offer a specific timeline for when Erdoğan would move the document forward to the Turkish Parliament, which must then vote to approve it.

The movement on NATO’s accession comes after months of opposition and demands from Ankara. Turkey claimed that Sweden allows members of recognized Kur-

dish terror groups to operate, most notably the militant Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

“As part of that process, Sweden has amended its constitution, changed its laws, significantly expanded its counter-terrorism cooperation against the PKK, and resumed arms exports to Turkey,” Stoltenberg said.

-www.cnn.com, 10 July 2023

Commentary: To become a member of NATO, all existing member nations must vote yes. Yet Turkey and Hungary opposed. That has apparently changed. One of the reasons is Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, forcing NATO (particularly the European members) to prepare militarily; thus, making NATO countries virtually untouchable for Russia in this case.

Mankind will follow the resolution proclaimed in Joel 3:9: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.” 8044

(See *Has the Tribulation Begun?* Item #2406, \$16.99.)

NEWS IN BRIEF



US MARINES DEPLOYED TO DETER IRAN

More than 3,000 Marines and sailors arrived in the Middle East in a

deployment meant to deter Iran from seizing and harassing merchant ships near the Strait of Hormuz, according to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the move “in response to recent attempts by Iran to seize commercial ships” in the Middle East.

According to the Navy, Iran attempted to seize two commercial oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman in July, opening fire on one of them. In May, the U.S. said, Iran seized two merchant ships within one week.

-abcnews.go.com
7 August 2023



Jubilee: A Year of Release and Redemption



Note: Please read Leviticus 25. This chapter speaks about the Year of Jubilee, which I will be referencing in this article.

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

“**A**nd you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine. For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field” (Lev 25:10-12).

During the Year of Jubilee, everyone is to return to his own property.

All property goes back to the original owner. Everything is given back and fully restored ... a true Biblical “reset.”

This “reset” was spoken about in the Bible over 3000 years ago, and was not invented by any globalist. It was a godly order and a command that was to be kept by the people of Israel.

This year (2023), during the fall feast of the blowing of the shofar, there will be the announcement of a Year of Jubilee coming up. Can you imagine, this will be



the 70th Year of Jubilee since Israel entered the Promised Land! Do you realize in what extraordinary time period you and I are living in? A person may usually experience a Jubilee once in a lifetime, some twice. This is even more reason to join in the celebration of it! My family and I are excited.

The people of Israel entered the Promised Land after celebrating Passover.

“When your children ask you, ‘What does this special time mean to you?’ you will say, ‘It is a Passover gift to the LORD, because He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt. He killed the Egyptians but saved our homes.’ And the people bowed to the ground and worshiped ... On that same day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their family groups” (Ex 12:26-27, 51).

It must have been March/April, which is the first month of the year biblically.

“The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ‘This month will be the beginning of months. It will be the first month of the year to you’” (Ex 12:1-2). “This day you are about to go out, in the month of Abib” (Ex 13:4).

This coming new Biblical year (April 22, 2024) will announce the 70th Year of Jubilee since Joshua stood up and led Israel to enter the Promised Land (roughly around 1406 or 1407 BC).

My question to all of us concerning the end times: Could this 70th Year of Jubilee be our release from the toils of this world and a hint to the soon coming Rapture? Could the restoration of our ancient spiritual inheritance in God’s kingdom be near? Don’t get me wrong, I am not indicating any date or day, but only a time frame.

Therefore, God’s ‘appointed times’ reveal God’s plan and sequence of events.

This will be clear to us as we read about sounding the shofar on the



Year of Jubilee. In Leviticus 23, God established 7 “appointed times” for His people, each appointed in its specific time and place by His sovereignty. These appointed times symbolically portray God’s plan of redemption and deliverance. They also reveal much more: how God will renew creation, bring His people home, and re-establish His kingdom here on earth. They reveal God’s actions in a more practical way. The use of His feasts is to be noted as signs for those who are living and guided by the Holy Spirit.

When does a Jubilee actually begin?

“You are to number seven years of rest for yourself, seven times seven years. The time of the seven years of rest will be forty-nine years. Then let the horn (shofar) be heard on the tenth day of the seventh month (Yom Kippur). On the day to be made free from sin you will let a horn be heard all through your land” (Lev 25:8-9).

Each coming Year of Jubilee should be announced by shofar blasts on Yom Kippur, in the 49th year of the Jubilee cycle. Then, the Year of Jubilee starts about 6 months later, on the 1st day of the 1st month of the 50th year. Fourteen days later is Pesach eve ... redemption out of Egypt. (The 50th year overlaps with the 1st year of the next 49-year cycle.)

The Year of Jubilee under the Mosaic covenant foreshadows its glorious spiritual fulfillment in the New Covenant.

The Ancient Hebrew Year of Jubilee

Jubilee at first appears in the book of Leviticus. God said a Jubilee year was to be celebrated after every 49 years. During this 50th year (the Year of Jubilee), all debts were erased, and all indentured Israelites were freed. Everyone and everything in Israel was to be restored to their original clans and families. Sorry to say, but there is no evidence in the Bible that the Israelites really kept this.



God told Moses to start the 49-year Jubilee cycle “when you enter the land that I am giving to you.” Also, “the land itself must observe a Sabbath to the LORD” (Lev 25:2).

Jubilee and the Ebenezer Home

As you all know, we at the Ebenezer Home are seriously working to expand our home and capacity, because of the urgent needs of the believing community that is growing in Israel. Although we pray that our Messiah will return soon—and we believe HE will—in the meantime, while we wait, we won’t stop serving Him and those that are in need.

This past month alone, we have had to reject at least three requests from dear elderly believers who asked to be accepted into the Home ... all because of the very limited space we have in Ebenezer and the lack of a nursing ward. More and more people desperately need a home. This causes me deep pain,

and I greatly regret that we had to deny entry, simply because we have no ability to accept them. This is becoming more and more of an issue as the Messianic believing community continues to grow ... and thus a greater number of elderly needing to be cared for.

During the Year of Jubilee, the land itself will observe a Sabbath.

“...When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD” (Lev 25:2b).

At the Ebenezer Home, like the land being able to have a year of rest, we long to see more elderly being able to have true rest, with no worries at the end of their life. Will you join us in providing them a real Shabbat period till they enter their heavenly rest?

Our immediate prayer requests I personally want to share with you:

1. May our Heavenly Father make it possible to buy the nursing home that is one mile away



from us. I am in negotiations about the price, and will keep you updated on this. If we could go this route, we could expand the Home without the trouble of a major building project.

2. The ministry that we are renting our current building from, is willing to give us ownership ASAP to help us expand the building for assisted living.

3. We pray to raise a tax fee for “redeeming” the building and registering it in our name, for about

\$2.3 million. We pray to be able to redeem this building by the proclaiming of the Year of Jubilee!

I know these are high sums: we are asking the congregations in Israel to join in as well. Will you stand with us and help us redeem the building? This month’s donations will be dedicated to the project. *Chag Sameach* (blessed feast), and thank you so much for joining us in prayer!



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“Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jeremiah 31:10).

BY ARNO FROESE

The prophet Jeremiah is one who uses the word “nation(s)” quite frequently; a web search shows that the word occurs 76 times. The *Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible* states, “In this, the longest prophetic book in the Old Testament, are 1,364 verses, 812 of those being predictive in nature or 60 percent.” We take special notice of the word “nations,” which is not exclusively about Israel but all the nations in the world.

It is the prophet Jeremiah who also reveals fulfilled prophecy; for example, in verse 15: “Thus saith the

Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.” Matthew confirms the fulfillment of Bible prophecy when he writes about King Herod murdering children under 2 years of age: “Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not” (Matthew 2:17-18).

When reading or listening to the news media, it seems as if Israel is drowning in endless chaos. That may all be true and right, but we must understand that these things that are occurring today, whether positive or negative, are only of a temporary nature.

It is Jeremiah who speaks of the virgin birth: “for the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man” (Jeremiah 31:22b). The Hebrew word *sabab* can be translated, “to revolve, surround, or border.” Luther translates it, *das Weib wird den Mann umgeben*, which means “to detour.” Joseph was told, “fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 1:20b).

Jeremiah continues, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31). That, of course, is the new covenant. Hebrews

8:13 declares: “In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”

When reading or listening to the news media, it seems as if Israel is drowning in endless chaos. That may all be true and right, but we must understand that these things that are occurring today, whether positive or negative, are only of a temporary nature. The same prophet declares the unconditional existence of the nation of Israel: “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).

Yes, Israel collectively is still blind when it comes to the Messiah. As the apostle Paul testifies: “blindness in part is happened to Israel” (Romans 11:25b). But—and this is important to emphasize—grace will break through: “For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins” (v. 27). That is yet to come. When? Back to verse 25: “until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.”

That is why we will tirelessly continue to proclaim the glorious, liberating gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to people everywhere. That is why we pray for Israel, particularly for the Church in that

nation. According to reliable sources, believers are growing exponentially in the land.

Over and over, the question is asked: What will happen to our (any) beloved country? Here again, Jeremiah answers: “Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the Lord: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished” (Jeremiah 46:28).

Zionism at Work

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* was headlined, “Vast majority of Russian and Ukrainian Jews expected to immigrate in mass ‘exodus.’”

An in-depth study conducted by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) has shed light on the recent migration trends among European Jews, providing valuable insights

into the political realities and experiences of Jewish communities across the continent.

Most Ukrainian Jews are expected to leave the country in the next 7 years, if they haven't already, as well as more than half of Russian Jews, according to the report.

Of particular note is the situation in Russia and Ukraine, where 2022 marked a turning point. If current migration rates persist for the next seven years, it is projected that

80% to 90% of Ukraine's 2021 Jewish population and 50% to 60% of Russia's 2021 Jewish population will have emigrated.

-*www.jpost.com*, 5 July 2023

This report and many others reconfirm prophetic Scripture: "And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase" (Jeremiah 23:3). (NF)



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

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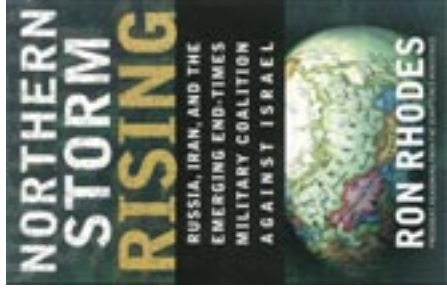
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