

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

October 2023

\$2.25

A photograph of two men in black coats and hats standing in front of a large, ancient stone wall. The man on the left is holding a yellow bag and looking at the wall. The man on the right is looking towards the camera. The wall is made of large, irregular stones and is part of a larger structure. The ground is paved with large, light-colored stones.

## The Destruction of the Temple During the Great Jewish Revolt

Israel Ties Empower Women P. 15 • World Council of Churches Slams Israel P. 18

# A perfect gift for all who love Israel!



We present this beautiful Israel picture calendar as a constant reminder of what God has done for Israel, is doing today, and will do in the future. We do well to always keep in mind that Israel is different; that nation is special, or as Moses was commanded by God to tell Pharaoh, "Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn" (Exodus 4:22).

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## Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

There are probably many who may wonder how it could be that Israel is internally divided to such a degree. But actually, this problem is nothing new; it just has never been dealt with, and only minimal attention was paid to it. Already before the establishment of the State of Israel, something like religious ghettos began developing in the country. One may think of the Mea Shearim neighborhood in Jerusalem, or the town of Bnei Berak near Tel Aviv, populated predominately by ultra-Orthodox Jews. Today, there are quite a few more such places. For a long time, religious Jews led a more or less shadowy existence, not making much of a public appearance. However, meanwhile, they have grown to be a significant part of the population, and are eager to exert influence in public life within at least four political parties.

Of course, their religious conviction—which is based not so much on the Torah but rather on post-biblical writings such as the Talmud and accompanying scriptures—plays an important role. To them, beyond the Ten Commandments, there are 248 requirements and 365 prohibitions that are important ... thus, altogether 613 laws or regulations that have accumulated over time. In addition, more than 1500 rules and ordinances have been created concerning the Sabbath over the centuries until this day.

Risto Santala, a Finnish theologian, wrote in his book “The Messiah in the Old Testament” back in 1980: “Jewish scholars have of course tried to justify the 613 precepts from the Torah, but even the rabbis admit that they include parts that have no basis in the written Word.” He states that within this “Halacha,” these tra-



ditional precepts, is rooted one of the most difficult internal problems facing the modern State of Israel.

Now, a little more than forty years later, this statement feels like a prophecy. Risto Santala lived in Israel for many years and wrote more than twenty books. His two best known works, “The Messiah in the Old Testament” and “The Messiah in the New Testament,” were written in Hebrew. He lived in close association with the people of the country and studied the writings of Jewish scholars and sages. That is why he had deep insight into the inner mindset of the Jewish people.

The religious Jews in their various shades, have become an indispensable part of the present government. And therefore, they have suddenly acquired great power. Without them the government would fall, which no one in the coalition wants. To illustrate the situation in a more understandable way, imagine a country with a wide variety of sectarian groups, with one faction trying to

impose its worldview on the others. Such a situation would inevitably lead to a religious war.

In Israel, for instance, there is no such thing as a civil marriage. That means for Jewish people, a marriage can only be legal if conducted by the Orthodox rabbinate with its conditions. For many, this is a big problem and the reason why about 7,000 couples get married abroad every year. These and similar restrictions trigger the fear among some that religious compulsion could get worse and worse. That is why they take to the streets, to demonstrate against a system that is not upholding their freedom. The Jewish religious structure has indeed become one of the most difficult problems of the modern State of Israel ... just as Risto Santala predicted more than forty years ago.

Looking up and trusting Him, who led Israel through the desert for forty years until they entered the Promised Land, I greet you warmly with Shalom,

*Trevor Winkler*



# The Destruction of the Temple During the Great Jewish Revolt

**FREDI WINKLER**

The historical and chronological sequence of events in the war that destroyed the Temple, is of critical importance in relation to the prophecy in Daniel 9:26-27. The translation of this passage can differ between Bibles. This is because the Hebrew used in Daniel isn't easy to understand, and some parts are even written in Aramaic. As a result, even Jewish translators often disagree.

Combining various translations yields something like this:

“And after the sixty-two weeks, the anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end [city and sanctuary] shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Today, we often interpret this as something that will occur in the future. But if you consider the historical and chronological course of the war, then it becomes clear that this prophecy was actually completely fulfilled in the Revolt.

## TIMELINE OF THE REVOLT

The Jewish rebellion against Rome began in 66 AD. But the war itself didn't begin in Galilee until 67 AD, because the preparations took time. The war was also delayed because of turmoil in Rome.

On July 1, 68 AD, Vespasian was proclaimed Emperor in Alexandria (Egypt). He placed his son Titus in command of the war, and Titus conquered Jerusalem. This fulfilled the prophecy that the people of the coming prince would destroy the city and the sanctuary. Titus had become prince of Rome practically overnight.

Now the legions had to be mobilized. In early summer of 69 AD, they set out for Jerusalem, to isolate the city. They set up camp on Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives, and began closing in. Once again, the Romans tried to force the besieged city to negotiate, which would have spared it from violent conquest and destruction. But the fanatical Jewish factions

## The Destruction of the Temple During the Great Jewish Revolt

On July 1, 68 AD, Vespasian was proclaimed Emperor in Alexandria (Egypt). He placed his son Titus in command of the war, and Titus conquered Jerusalem. This fulfilled the prophecy that the people of the coming prince would destroy the city and the sanctuary.

Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by Francesco Hayez. Oil on canvas, 1867.



in Jerusalem were unwilling to compromise.

The most fanatical of the factions, the Zealots, were occupying the Temple Mount. They had developed the Temple into a well-defended fortress. They added defensive towers on the four cor-

ner towers of the Temple (its “wings”) by increasing their size with additional wooden structures. Converting the Temple into a fortress was a gross desecration of the holy place, and it became an “abomination of desolation.” But their fanaticism had com-



They would soon invade the Temple complex, so the defenders were doing everything they could, including hastily constructing an additional protective wall. These efforts did, in fact, delay the Romans' breakthrough to the Temple grounds.

pletely blinded them. In the midst of this horrible situation, the Temple service was still ongoing—with animal sacrifices and everything that went with them—though the people were suffering from terrible hunger.

### **CONQUEST OF THE CITY BEGINS**

At the beginning of 70 AD, the Romans brought heavy armored battering rams to Jerusalem's walls. The attack began on the northern side, because the terrain there is higher. The third wall that Herod Agrippa had built to enlarge the city not that long before, was quickly breached. Next, the Romans reached the second wall (where the Damascus Gate stands today). It took longer to break through this wall, but the defenders were ultimately powerless before the Romans' heavy

machinery. Now they reached the first wall, which protected both the Antonia Fortress and the Temple. This was the Romans' goal, because that's where the ringleaders of the revolt had barricaded themselves.

The Romans built siege ramps so they could break through the wall with heavy battering rams. This took a little longer than it had at the previous walls, but again, the Romans were unstoppable. Upon breaking through, they were standing before the walls of the heavily built Antonia Fortress, which they would break through in the same tried and tested manner. They would soon invade the Temple complex, so the defenders were doing everything they could, including hastily constructing an additional protective wall. These efforts did, in fact, delay

Animal sacrifice ended forever on the day the Romans broke through to the Temple. What's amazing is that this happened exactly 3½ years after the war began.

the Romans' breakthrough to the Temple grounds.

### THE TEMPLE TO BE SPARED

According to Flavius Josephus, Titus had given direct orders that the sanctuary should not be destroyed. Most Jewish historians have dismissed this report as propaganda. But we know from other wars that it was actually a Roman tactic to preserve foreign sanctuaries. After the wars had ended, these acts of forbearance proved to be constructive and united people, providing a good basis for continuing to live together. So, sparing foreign sanctuaries was actually to Rome's benefit.

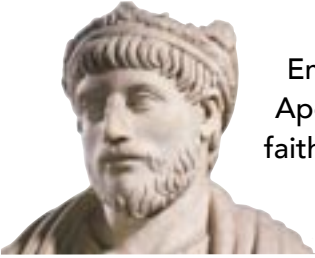
After breaking through to the Temple, the decisive final battle began. The defenders set fire to quickly-gathered wood under the arcade surrounding the Temple. Many Roman soldiers lost their lives. Now the time for respecting the site was over. An angry soldier

threw a piece of burning wood into the Temple through a window. The fire spread and the Temple burned down.

It is often assumed that the Romans completely destroyed the Temple at this time, but that's probably not the case. It's likely that the Temple remained as a badly damaged ruin.

### THE TEMPLE SACRIFICE ENDS PERMANENTLY

Animal sacrifice ended forever on the day the Romans broke through to the Temple. What's amazing is that this happened exactly 3½ years after the war began. This gives us cause to say that the prophecy about the ending of the sacrifices was fulfilled exactly as it had been foretold by Daniel. The war continued for another 3½ years, until the last of the resistance was crushed. This happened at Masada, at the start of 74 AD.



Emperor Julian was also known as Julian the Apostate, because he rejected the Christian faith and wanted to revive the old pagan cults. It was in this context that he encouraged the Jews to rebuild their Temple.

### **ATTEMPT TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE**

Barely sixty years later, in the years 132-135 AD, the Bar Kokhba Revolt took place. Simon Ben Kosevah (known to us as Bar Kokhba) was proclaimed to be the Messiah by Rabbi Akiva. Although little is known about this time, it's believed that one of the motives for this second uprising was to rebuild the Temple. Afterward, the Romans decided to thoroughly destroy and level any part of the Temple that was still standing. It's probable that the tombs of David and other kings of Judah were also destroyed, to remove all reminders of Judah's greatness that could have fueled nationalism.

This fulfilled the final part of the prophecy, according to which the site was made “des-

olate, until the decreed end [was] poured out on the desolator.”

### **ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE**

Emperor Julian was also known as Julian the Apostate, because he rejected the Christian faith and wanted to revive the old pagan cults. It was in this context that he encouraged the Jews to rebuild their Temple. Preparations had already been made, but God was obviously not in agreement. Julian lost his life in the war against the Persians in 363. He was just 33 years old, and had only reigned for a little over 19 months. And with that, the dream of rebuilding the Temple was finally over.

(NAI0522/1253)



# On the Horizon

NEWS IN  
**BRIEF**



**VIETNAM**

## First Direct Flights from Israel

Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat has orchestrated a significant advancement for Israeli travelers, enabling them to reclaim 8.5 hours of travel time on journeys to Vietnam.



**Israeli Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat is seen shaking hands with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyễn Hồng Diên.** (photo credit: ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY)



An agreement was inked with Barkat's Vietnamese counterpart, establishing a direct flight path from Israel to Hanoi.

The first flight is expected to take off in October 2023, and after that, two flights will be operated weekly by VietJet Air. Currently, there are no direct flights between the countries.

The opening of this route will facilitate business activities between the countries, Barkat said.

In addition, Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade, Nguyễn Hồng Diên, agreed to waive the prerequisite of obtaining a conventional written visa for entry into Vietnam. Instead, Israeli nationals will be granted access through

## TUNISIA RULES OUT DIPLOMATIC TIES

Tunisian President Kais Saied said that the word "normalization" does not exist for him when it comes to Israel.

Saied called on the newly appointed ambassadors from four countries—Serbia, Iran, Iraq and Turkey—to never forget the Palestinian cause, the "central issue for all nations."

The Tunisian president stressed the importance of advocating for Jerusalem to be the capital of an independent Palestinian state, for a "right of return" to today's Israel for Palestinian refugees, and for the Palestinian people to regain their rights over "all of Palestine."

The comments came two days after Foreign Minister Eli Cohen announced a meeting with his Libyan counterpart Najla Mangoush in Rome, causing an uproar in the North African country and in Israel.

-timesofisrael.com  
31 August 2023

an electronic visa, saving time and money.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 16 August 2023

**Commentary:** Despite increased negative coverage of Israel in the media (such as the uproar over judicial reform), new positive developments are occurring between Israel and various countries. In this case, Vietnam has opened up direct flights from Israel, as well as making the visa process easier. The stated reason is to “facilitate business activities between the countries.”

There is no doubt Vietnam sees the enormous benefits of maintaining good relations with Israel, due to their business and tech prowess. However, in the future it will be Israel’s knowledge of God that will attract the nations: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for

we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23).

8064 -By K. Farmer

(See *What Should We Think About Israel?* Item #2358,

\$17.99.)



## SUDAN

### Millions Fleeing the Country

The conflict in Sudan has displaced more than 3.4 million people inside the country, a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. Those who escaped Sudan have arrived in other countries in the region including Egypt, Libya, Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia.



**More than one million people have fled Sudan into neighboring countries since April, the UN reported.** Zohra Bensemra/Reuters



“Time is running out for farmers to plant the crops that will feed them and their neighbors. Medical supplies are scarce,” UN agencies said in a statement. “The situation is spiraling out of control.”

Humanitarian bodies have warned that shaky ceasefires and inadequate evacuation corridors mean civilians are more likely to get caught up in the violence, prompting calls for a caretaker government.

The head of the Sudanese army Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF chief General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo worked together to topple former President Omar al-Bashir in



2019. The pair also played a key role in the 2021 military coup.

-*www.cnn.com*, 16 August 2023

**Commentary:** Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a life expectancy of only 67.5 years, and per capita GDP \$3,700.

Religiously, the country is dominated by Sunni Islam. It’s an Arabic-speaking country, with a population growth rate of 2.4%, meaning one million people are being added each year.

In July 2011, the southern part broke away, creating a new nation called South Sudan. The *CIA Factbook* lists the 12.1 million people in South Sudan as 60.5% Christian. Life expectancy is extremely low at 59.7 years, and per capita GDP \$1,600 (2017).

The Bible identifies the approximate territory of modern Sudan with the name Cush. Wikipedia writes: “Cush is traditionally considered the ancestor of the ‘land of Cush,’ an ancient territory believed to have been located near the Red Sea. Cush is identified in the Bible with the Kingdom of Kush or ancient Sudan. The Cushitic languages are named after Cush.”

The first time Cush is mentioned

is Genesis 10:6: “And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.” The last time in Isaiah 11:11: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.”

Interestingly, both Sudan and South Sudan have established diplomatic relations with Israel. The following is published by Wikipedia: “There are at least 2,800 refugees from South Sudan who reside in Israel. The majority of them arrived to Israel through the Israeli-Egypt border and most live in Tel Aviv, Arad, Eilat and Bnei Brak. Up to 7,000 South Sudanese are also believed to be living in Israel. Despite controversy in Israel over their presence, the Supreme Court of Israel decision from 13 January 2011, the employers of refugees and asylum seekers will not be fined; thus, de facto, they can legally work in Israel.”



8065

(See *The Remarkable Wisdom of Solomon*, Item #2223, \$14.99.)



## MOROCCO

### Israel Ties Empower Women

In 2020, Israel created FemForward, the country's first junior-to-manager program designed to address the broken-rung problem. The same year, the Abraham Accords were signed, establishing relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, soon followed by Morocco.



**Fleur Hassan-Nahoum (left) with Fem Forward Co-founder and CEO Rachel Wagner Rosenzweig** (photo credit: Fem Forward)



In May of this year, the first FemForward MENA cohort was launched in Morocco, aiming to build business connections between women in the Abraham Accords countries.

The three-month FemForward MENA program started in Casablanca. It was the first time some of the Israelis had visited Morocco and met with Moroccans, despite one in every nine Israelis being of Moroccan heritage.

In addition to the learning and mentorship that took place throughout the program, the visits we each took to each other's countries provided a wonderful way to learn about the culture and people of the country, which we did not have direct access to beforehand. These visits were filled with unforgettable moments in which we forged deep connections and lasting friendships. Most importantly, we left the program as great

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### HIGHEST COST OF LIVING IN OECD

Israel ranked first place in a list of developed countries with the highest cost of living in 2022, data published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) showed.

In Israel, prices were 38 percent higher than the average in OECD member countries, according to the comparative index, which analyzes differences in the general price levels of countries as measured by consumer price indices and ratios of purchasing power parities to market exchange rates. In second place in the ranking table was Switzerland, closely followed by Iceland, then the US in fourth place.

"Housing prices, the high VAT rate on food, and the lack of direct support for agriculture, and heavy regulation drive prices up," said the head of the Israel Association of Manufacturers, Ron Tomer. "The Israeli food industry must be supported and encouraged along with an immediate VAT reduction on food products to the level accepted in Europe."

*-timesofisrael.com*  
27 August 2023



friends and with an important community to support each other's career journeys.

Through our shared struggles and career aspirations, we, Israeli and Moroccan women, came together, fostering a genuine friendship. This partnership has shown the importance of breaking down barriers and building bridges of understanding and support between women from different parts of the world.

FemForward created a unique connection between Moroccan and Israeli women. It serves as living proof that empowering women knows no boundaries, and we are incredibly grateful for this experience and our community.

*-themedialine.org, 15 August 2023*

**Commentary:** Morocco has a population of just over 37 million, of which 99% are Muslim. Life expectancy stands at 74 years, and per capita GDP is \$8,500. NewAdvent.org writes about Morocco: "From the earliest period known to history, Morocco has been inhabited by the Berbers (whence the name Barbary). These people were known to the Romans as Numidae, but to the Phoenicians as Mahurin (Westerners); from the Phoenician name the Greeks, and, after them, Latin writers, made Mauri, whence the English Moors."

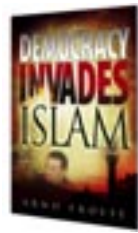
Arab League nations (22) are listed with an average per capita

GDP of \$16,716. That's a little low compared to the world average, \$18,391. Morocco's improved relationship with Israel promises to be beneficial for both countries.

TheCollector.com lists six women of great significance in the Bible: 1) Miriam, prophetess; 2) Deborah, judge; 3) Esther, liberator; 4) Lydia, businesswoman; 5) Phoebe, deaconess; 6) Priscilla, multi-talented businesswoman.

8066

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



USA

## Israel's Aid to the USA

Israel has been criticized by the liberal Left—and now also by some on the Right running for president—for receiving American aid, with calls for the aid to be stopped on behalf of the American taxpayer.



However, the truth is that Israel is providing invaluable services to the US in the Middle East for a mere fraction of its worth. For a nominal fee of \$3 billion per year, Israel acts as the outsourced army of the United States. It effectively serves as an arm of the US government, safeguarding American interests in the volatile region.





**Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy speaks at the Republican Party of Iowa's Lincoln Day Dinner in Des Moines, Iowa.** (photo credit: REUTERS/SCOTT MORGAN)

Comparing this paltry sum to the exorbitant amounts that the US has invested in other countries, such as Afghanistan, highlights the unparalleled value and cost-effectiveness of Israel's contributions. The billions of dollars' worth of ammunition left behind in Afghanistan only served to strengthen America's enemies and undermine its interests.

In contrast, the intelligence, services, and advanced weaponry provided by Israel have proven instrumental in safeguarding American lives and interests.

Israel should not be seen as a recipient of American aid, but rather as a service provider that offers unparalleled expertise, intelligence, and technology to the US. The country is the leading creator of state-of-the-art ammunition and artillery that enhances the safety of Americans both at home and abroad. In addition, Israel's technological advancements, such as the Iron Dome, have not only protected its own citizens but have also benefited the United States and its military.

The United States owes a debt of gratitude to Israel for its unwavering commitment to preserving America's security, democracy, and the well-being of its citizens. To describe the \$3b as aid is a distortion of reality.

If the US were to handle its own troops and intelligence

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### SAVING EYESIGHT OF AFGHAN CHILDREN

**R**etinoblastoma (Rb), a potentially deadly eye cancer affecting children up to age five, is highly curable in high-income countries.

Hoping to save the eyesight of children from Afghanistan, a country with no established treatment centers for Rb, physicians from Israel and Pakistan formed the Retinoblastoma Silk Road Project a little over a year ago.

Ophthalmologists from Israel's Sheba Medical Center, including ocular oncologist Prof. Ido Didi Fabian, teamed up with IAM/NOOR and Pakistani Rb Centers of Excellence to establish an official referral pathway for Afghan children with suspected Rb to receive specialized treatment in neighboring Pakistan.

Israel does not have diplomatic relations with either Afghanistan or Pakistan.

*-israel21c.org*  
21 August 2023



in the Middle East, the costs would skyrocket to tens of billions of dollars annually, and efficiency would be diminished.

Those who criticize Israel for receiving American aid need to recognize that it is a mutually beneficial relationship, with Israel providing essential services and tremendous value in return. It is not a gift, but rather an expense and service vital to American interests.

Let us unite to support and express gratitude to Israel for its unwavering commitment to our collective security.

(Editorial by Duvi Honig)

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1 September 2023

**Commentary:** This may sound strange: Israel giving foreign aid to the US? But when facts and figures are compared, it definitely shows the USA to be the far greater beneficiary. Take, for example, other (Arab) Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon; no one is standing in line for permits to buy their military technology. While Egypt gets less than half of Israel's aid from the US, the reason is quite obvious: there is virtually no return. America's military aid to Israel receives immediate compensation. Take, for example, the country Iraq. From 2016 to 2019, the IMF provided over \$5 billion in loans to the country. Is there any return? Zero.

Republishing this article is not intended to take sides; it's political and not within our jurisdiction. But spiritually, we know that salvation comes from the Jews, according to Jesus' statement. Thus, we have received riches upon riches that are immeasurable, not only now but for eternity.

8074

(See *Israel Matters*, Item #2328, \$17.99.)

## WORLD

### World Council of Churches Slams Israel

The World Council of Churches said Israel infringed upon religious liberties when Israeli police blocked the road on August 18, as the pilgrims traveled to the holy site.



The Christian believers, members of the Orthodox community, were meant to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration in the church. Police sent them home shortly before the ceremony was scheduled to begin, stating that the facility could not handle such a large group.

In response to the incident, Chamber of Inbound Tourism Organizers Yossi Fattal had called the event "a scandal on an international level." He said, "The issue will be used in the world as a tool in the hands of those who seek to discredit Israel as trying to harm Christians."



Israel Fire and Rescue responded in a statement to Israeli media saying that “significant fire safety risks” exist in the area, and police there decided to issue a closure order for the second year.

The officials said that the Christian organizers had only submitted a request for permission to hold the event on August 14, a few days before they hoped to gather. The request came with a safety plan, which Fire and Rescue felt needed to be improved.

-*www.jpost.com*, 26 August 2023

**Commentary:** That the World Council of Churches holds an extreme anti-Israel position is well-known and need not be elaborated on. So the question: Did Israeli authorities make a mistake? Based on previous tragic experiences, we think not. On 30 April 2021, 44 people were killed and about 150 injured during a stampede at a religious gathering attended by tens of thousands. That happened on Mount Meron in the northern part of the country, where “ultra-orthodox Jews were holding an all-night prayer and dance celebration.” This particular yearly festival is in honor of the late Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Police reported that over 100,000 people attended the gathering. Thus, previous experience is the key to understanding Israel’s often extreme caution.

One must also realize that if something were to happen to religious groups that belong to the World Council of Churches, it would cause an onslaught of condemnation the world over. As Yossi Fattal stated, “The issue will be used in the world as a tool in the hands of those who seek to discredit Israel as trying to harm Christians.”



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

8073

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### TEL AVIV LEADS IN UNICORN FOUNDERS

TEL Aviv University comes in first place outside of the United States when it comes to tech unicorn founders’ alma maters, a recent study shows.

The study, carried out by Stanford University’s Prof. Ilya Strebulaev, shows that his very own workplace has the highest number of unicorn founder alumni, 310.

Tel Aviv University has 43, besting other notable institutions such as University of Oxford (33), IIT Delhi (16) and Seoul National University (6).

“We have all the disciplines, which enables mixing things up very easily. A startup that’s based all on engineers won’t necessarily succeed, but if you also involve in it people who studied economics or politics, it’s a different story,” Prof. Moshe Zviran, TAU’s chief entrepreneurship and innovation officer, tells ISRAEL21c.

-*israel21c.org*  
17 August 2023



## NEWS IN BRIEF



## UKRAINE

### Over 15,000 Ukrainians Arrived in Israel

Ahead of the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Israeli officials reported that in the last year, 15,000 Ukrainian Jews have immigrated to Israel.



**Ukrainian Jews arrive in Israel after being driven out by Russian forces.** Photo: Shalev Shalom/TPS

### WEIGHTLIFTER BANNED AFTER HANDSHAKE

Iranian weightlifter Mustafa Rajaei was banned from participating in any sports event after he shook the hand of his Israeli competitor, Maksim Svirsky, at a World Masters championship in Poland, Iran's Weightlifting Federation announced.

The Federation additionally dissolved the committee for veteran weightlifters and dismissed Hamid Salehinia, the head of the Iranian delegation to the competition in Poland. "After further investigations, serious and decisive action will be taken against all the wrongdoers."

In 2020, a draft bill by Iran's parliament which included a list of anti-Israel measures also included a motion that would have made it formally illegal for Iranians to compete in any competition with Israeli citizens. The motion was later dropped amid concerns that it could lead to Iran being banned from international sports competitions.

*-jpost.com*  
31 August 2023



The numbers were based on figures provided by the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption, and by the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental agency which facilitates Jewish immigration.

After Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, the Ministry of Immigration and Jewish Agency launched a "Coming Home" operation, setting up emergency centers at border crossings. Ukrainian men of fighting age have not been allowed to leave the country.

Over 70,000 immigrants arrived in Israel in 2022, the highest figure in 23 years and more than double the number from last year. According to the Jewish Agency, almost three-quarters of 2022's immigrants came from either Russia, Ukraine or Belarus.

Shortly before the invasion, Israeli officials assessed that around 75,000 Jews in Ukraine would qualify for Israeli citizenship through the Law of Return. The largest concentrations of Jews



are in and around the cities of Kyiv, Odessa, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk.

-[www.israeltoday.co.il](http://www.israeltoday.co.il), 21 February 2023

**Commentary:** The Jews are coming home. They have done so for the past 140 years, and they will continue to do so until the prophetic Word is fulfilled. Here again, we quote Ezekiel 34:13: “And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.”

Interesting are the words “Coming Home.” That’s the title of the last book planned by this writer in conjunction with Wilfred Hahn, Dr. Ron Bigalke, and Dieter Steiger.

Yes, friends, we are coming home, sooner or later.

I’ve wandered far away from God,  
Now I’m coming home;  
The paths of sin too long I’ve trod,  
Lord, I’m coming home.  
Coming home, coming home,  
Nevermore to roam;  
Open wide Thine arms of love;  
Lord, I’m coming home.

8075

(See *The Case for Zionism*, Item #2327, \$14.99.)



## RUSSIA

### Second Temple Era Synagogue Discovered

The remains of a synagogue from the time of the Second Temple were discovered in the ancient Grecian city of Phanagoria, located in what is today Southwestern Russia between the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.



**The archaeological site of the Phanagoria synagogue.** (photo credit: Volnodlo Pangoria Foundation)



The synagogue was built in a rectangular shape, roughly 70 feet long and 20 feet wide, and divided into two rooms. The structure featured painted walls, a tiled roof, and other decorations. Additionally, archaeologists uncovered several menorahs, altars, and marble stele fragments.

A pair of tablets located at the site were also successfully dated to the first century.

According to the researchers on the project, few synagogues were being built or functioning during the time of this synagogue’s construction.

The researchers noted that many of



the earliest synagogues so far discovered date back to the third century, several hundred years later than the Phanagoria synagogue.

It, however, was likely destroyed in the sixth century when raiding barbarian tribes razed Phanagoria.

Nearby, in Krasnodar, the thriving Jewish community gladly received the news of the synagogue's discovery.

According to the release, the archaeological efforts involved in unearthing the ancient house of Jewish worship received aid from funding provided by the Volnoe Delo Foundation. The foundation was established by Russian billionaire, Oleg Deripaska.

-*www.jpost.com*, 16 August 2023

**Commentary:** While Wikipedia writes, "The history of the Jews in Russia and areas historically connected with it goes back at least 1,500 years," the newly discovered synagogue by archaeologists shows the Jews to be present possibly while the Second Temple still stood in Jerusalem. Wikipedia continues: "Before 1917 there were 300,000 Zionists in Russia, while the main Jewish socialist organization, the Bund, had 33,000 members. Only 958 Jews had joined the Bolshevik Party before 1917; thousands joined after the Revolution."

Jewish socialist-Zionists are actu-

ally the backbone of the new State of Israel, declared in May of 1948. A number of Jewish intellectuals warned the Jewish population to get out of Russia. Many declined to take the warning seriously and remained. Then came World War I. Here the article continues: "The chaotic years of World War I, the February and October Revolutions, and the Russian Civil War had created social disruption that led to antisemitism. Some 150,000 Jews were killed in the pogroms of 1918-1922, 125,000 of them in Ukraine, 25,000 in Belarus. The pogroms were mostly perpetrated by anti-communist forces; sometimes, Red Army units engaged in pogroms as well."

It is of interest that among the signers of the Declaration of the State of Israel who belonged to the Moetzet HaAm (People's Council), the majority were born in Ukraine (9), Belarus (8), and Poland (5) — all from the former Soviet Union, except one born in Israel, three in Germany, one in Denmark, and one in Yemen.

Today, war is leaving its casualties on the battlefield in territory where Jewish blood was shed, but from which the foundation of the State of Israel was built.

8068

(See *Miracle of Israel*, Item #2303, \$14.99.)



## ZAMBIA

### \$100m. Israeli Solar-Wind Energy Project

A significant renewable energy project is underway in Zambia to establish a power station capable of generating 71 megawatts of electricity, which is a joint effort between Israel's Gigawatt Global and Gigawatt Wind. The unique aspect of this project is that it aims to harness both solar and wind energy, with each contributing half of the total power output.



The \$100 million investment in the power station was finalized during the visit of Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema to Israel.

Gigawatt Global and Gigawatt Wind have already completed grid impact studies. Gigawatt Global president Yosef Abramowitz told *The Jerusalem Post* that the company will move on-site to start full project implementation. The station is being built in Chibombo, a district in the Central Province of Zambia, about two hours from the nation's capital.

"Zambia gets a \$100 million pioneering power plant, jobs, training and the prestige of being the first African country with a hybrid wind and solar station; Israel benefits from bilateral relations," he said. "This will be the most significant private Israeli investment in the Zambian economy."



From right: Gigawatt Global CEO Josef Abramowitz, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, President Isaac Herzog in Israel at the President's Residence (photo credit: Lynn Schler)

Gigawatt Global built the first grid-connected solar project in East Africa, an 8.5-megawatt solar power plant in Rwanda. Earlier this year, it cut the ribbon on a similarly sized solar power project in Burundi.

-[www.jpост.com](http://www.jpост.com), 6 August 2023

**Commentary:** Zambia, according to the *CIA Factbook*, has a population of over 20 million. Life expectancy is low: 66.8 years, and GDP per capita is only \$3,200.

Interestingly, over 75% of the population is listed as Protestant Christian. Their cooperation with Israel is almost guaranteed to be a win-win. Without a reliable electricity supply, no country can develop to any great extent. Here again, Israel to the rescue.

Our responsibility: prayer for the Church in Zambia, that it may grow and add to the fullness of the Church from among the Gentiles. 8057

(See *Prophecy for the Gentiles*, Item #1082, \$12.50.)



# Celebrating Sukkot: The Four Species in the Believer's Life



By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

*Greetings from our residents and the team at the Ebenezer Home.*

I would like to continue where I left off in the last article with the Blowing of the Shofar (Feast of Trumpets) announcing the Jubilee.

Ten days after the day of Blowing the Shofar, we celebrate Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement); and five days after that, we celebrate Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) at the Home. God gave us an appointed time to celebrate the feasts in the Torah. To read about the different commands related to the feasts, read Leviticus 23:33-43. But for now, I would like to focus on verse 40:

“And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees,

branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.”

As believers in Yeshua, we can give the four species a special meaning, very similar to the traditional meaning. This presents a beautiful picture of the four types of people.

- The Etrog (“fruit of splendid trees”) has a good taste and fragrance. It represents a person with love, faith, and good deeds.

- The Lulav (the middle leaf of the date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with love and faith, but without good deeds.





• The Hadas (“boughs of leafy trees”—the myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is not edible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks love and faith.

• The Aravah (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person without good deeds, love or faith.

First John 3:18 came to mind, “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” So many have been kind

to us, praying for us in faith, and helping us with the special gift of giving (deeds of love). Thank you for your love and deeds. It makes us very humble before our Father in heaven, knowing we are being taken care of!

Let me encourage you with Hebrews 10:24, to step forward in this special bond before the soon return of our King and Savior, Messiah Yeshua:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”



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

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“But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 7:8).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

**T**he distinct difference between the Jews and the Gentiles is based on God’s choice, and this choice is unconditional. It is the result of God’s love, which He transferred in an oath to the fathers of Israel. That is the primary reason for the Jew being different from all other people on the face of the earth.

What is the purpose? To demonstrate God’s sovereign power of election to make Israel a nation above all others on

earth. We read in verse 6b: “the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” These and many other statements in Holy Scripture uncover the error of comparing today’s Israel, for example, with other nations. It doesn’t work. Israel was, is, and always will be different from all other nations of the world.

Since 1948, many Jews have gone back to the land of Israel, with one source stating they orig-

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Thus, we see the dual factors leading to Israel's dominance: 1) They are God's chosen, based on His love for His people, which is irreversible. 2) When it comes to intellectual might, this small nation of less than 10 million people, leaves a much greater footprint on planet earth than any other nation.

inate from over 80 countries. What they have built during these 75 years is nothing short of miraculous.

Take the world's population—approximately 8 billion—of which 16 million are Jews, representing less than 0.2%. Yet, when checking intellectual achievements, a good barometer is the Nobel Prize, which began in 1901. From the 930 Nobel Prizes awarded for extraordinary achievements, 208 recipients were Jews; that represents 22.4% of all Nobel Prizes awarded.

## Energy

An article published by *Israel21c*, authored by Abigail Klein Leichman, reports:

The energy sector is one of the world's fastest-growing tech verticals, given the global challenges and growing need to reduce total emissions.

Israel's place in that sector is growing fast, totaling more than 230 companies developing technologies in energy production, distribution, storage and cybersecurity; hydrogen solutions; waste-to-energy; and carbon capture.

The EnergyTech Landscape Map—just released by non-profit organization Start-Up Nation Central, Ignite the Spark Israeli energy community, and the Israeli Export Institute—includes 130 of

those companies, up from 100 in 2022.

“With our global outreach to multinational companies and investors, we are advancing the Israeli energy sector and its technologies as an important and viable solution to the world energy challenge and a solutions hub for reducing global carbon emissions,” said Start-Up Nation Central’s Head of the Climate Tech Sector Yael Weisz Zilberman.

Ignite the Spark CEO Shon Dana added, “The remarkable growth of the energy tech ecosystem demonstrates its dual nature: not only does it tackle the toughest sectors to decarbonize, but it also embraces a rapidly expanding business landscape.”

*-www.israel21c.org, 12 June 2023*

Thus, we see the dual factors leading to Israel’s dominance: 1) They are God’s chosen, based on His love for His people, which is irreversible. 2) When

it comes to intellectual might, this small nation of less than 10 million people, leaves a much greater footprint on planet earth than any other nation.

In the meantime, the Diaspora is seeing a reduction in Jewish marriages, dissolving the identity at an alarming rate.

In Israel, for instance, only 5% of Jews are married to non-Jews, while the figure jumps to 42% in Jewish communities outside Israel. The country with the highest level of intermarriage is Poland, where 76% of Jews are married to non-Jewish partners.

*-www.jpost.com, 3 August 2023*

In plain words, the Jew who desires to keep his Jewishness will find a significantly higher chance of doing so when returning to the land of his fathers, the land of Israel.

## **The Good News**

*Israel Today* has identified 273 functioning churches (fellow-

ships) in Israel. In some cases, space for meetings has become a major issue.

There are 280 confirmed fellowships in the country. Of the 273 fellowships the authors managed to reach, there were 15,323 people who worshiped there, including 8,125 adults over the age of 18 who believe in Jesus.

-*www.jpost.com*, 19 February 2022

The Church Jesus authorized with the words, “I will build my church,” is being established in

a very practical way in the land where it all began, Israel. In the meantime, hundreds of thousands—if not millions—are being added to the Church around the world, and that despite sometimes severe persecution of Christians in various countries. The Church is being built, the Church will be completed, and the Church—the light of the world—will be taken out of this world in the Rapture, we pray in the not-too-distant future. (NF)



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

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