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4 Editor's NoteBy Fredi Winkler



6 Cover Story Habakkuk: God's Answer to Our Questions

By Thomas Lieth

Questions and doubts are allowed. The only issue is whom we should address

with all our concerns, doubts, and questions. Habakkuk makes the right connection by going to God.

14 On The Horizon

14 ISRAFI

First Flying EMS Vehicle

15 ISRAEL

Davidic Dynasty Symbol Found in Jerusalem

17 SAUDI ARABIA

Israel Concerned About New Nuclear Facility

18 ISRAEL

Gay Conversion Therapy Outlawed

20 UK

Board of Muslim Charity Resigns Over Antisemitism

22 ISRAEL

Youths Unearth 1,100-Year-Old Gold Coins

- **24** Action for Israel
 By Arno Froese
- **27 Ebenezer Home** By David Phillips



Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



he normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is part of a remarkable development in the Middle East. The fact that this has happened is mainly due to the threat from Iran. The old adage has once again come true: the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

The Emirates feel increasingly threatened by Iran, and Israel is the Middle East state that has for a long time warned of the danger from Iran and taken action to counteract it on an international level.

Opposition to Iran and extreme Islam within the Arab and Islamic world is increasingly leading to the formation of a coalition, a coalition in which Israel is practically welcome. The traditional rejection of Israel has lost its importance. The United States, of course, has an important role to play in forming this front against Iran.

In order to be prepared against the threat from Iran, the Emirates want modern weapons from the United States, especially the F-35 fighter jets. The U.S. is willing to upgrade the Emirates' armaments, but wants to maintain Israel's superiority.

From all of this, we can see that the establishment of relations between Israel and the Emirates is about more than just normalizing ties. The matter is so important that old prejudices against Israel are set aside and dropped.

Jared Kushner and other key officials of the American administration also took part in the first official flight with the Israeli delegation to Abu Dhabi. Jared Kushner is undoubtedly one of the architects of this development. In addition, there is a propaganda aspect to the whole thing. The US elections are imminent, and this development, which is positive for Israel, is intended to score points with American voters who care about relations with Israel.

The Palestinians are not at all pleased with this rapprochement, because they feel ignored. For them, solving the Palestinian problem is a priority. They regard any Arab country that introduces normalization of relations with Israel, without first solving the Palestinian problem, as traitorous.

The only country that actively promotes this political attitude, and works against normalizing relations with Israel, is Turkey under President Erdogan. The Israeli intelligence chief recently declared: "Turkey is now more dangerous for Israel than Iran." This is not yet very apparent at present, but in the Eastern Mediterranean, there are massive interests

and claims to the ownership of gas discoveries in the sea. Turkey is making ever increasing demands on the gas, thus opposing Israel, Cyprus, and Greece. These circumstances have brought Israel, Cyprus, Greece and Egypt closer together in an alliance against Turkey. This burgeoning conflict also affects the European Union, as Greece and Cyprus are EU countries. The conflict even extends into NATO because. ironically, Turkey is still a NATO member despite the increasingly diverse interests it represents.

Perhaps because of these developments, in which Israel is increasingly accepted, there will eventually be a settlement with the Palestinians in the Middle East, since the Bible also talks about it (Ezekiel 38:8, 11, 14; cf. 1 Thess 5:3).

Fascinated again and again by the ways in which God fulfills His plans and intentions, I greet you cordially with Shalom from Israel,

Trede Wille-





Habakkuk: God's Answer to Our Questions

BY THOMAS LIETH

The Jewish prophet Habakkuk can't understand God's actions. After a conversation with the Lord, he strikes up a prayer of praise. A lesson for us.



"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

f we compare the book of Habakkuk with the other Lprophets, we find that the book's structure and style differ in many ways from that of the others. This is because Habakkuk not only prophesies, but also asks and questions. The first two chapters are practically a dialogue between Habakkuk and God; between a helpless, confused prophet and his sovereign Creator God. That can be an encouragement for us: in despair and helplessness, we shouldn't stop praying and asking. "And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

Habakkuk knocked on the door, and God opened it. It began on a sobering note: "O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?" (Hab 1:2). And it ended with: "yet I will rejoice in the LORD;



I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments" (Hab 3:18-19).

What a turn, what a contrast! The parallels to Job and David's Psalms are so obvious that Habakkuk's prophetic word may

Habakkuk: God's Answer to Our Questions

Habakkuk was posing questions like the ones people today are also asking. Christians in particular often wonder why God is silent and doesn't answer their prayers.



as well be part of the wisdom literature.

What Habakkuk complained and despaired of was the injustice of his people, Judah. The worst conditions were prevailing throughout the nation, and especially in Jerusalem. These atrocities made Habakkuk raise the questions, "God, why are you impassively observing this contemptible activity? How can you allow all of this?" Especially since a believing remnant of the people, which included Habakkuk, was suffering from this godlessness. And it's no different

today: those who love our Lord and Savior will suffer when God's name is dragged through the mud and our Lord Jesus is scorned.

Doesn't it hurt us when we see that Scripture is not only being ignored, but even ridiculed? Doesn't it hurt to see that God's commandments are trampled on and literally fought against? Does it no longer bring tears to our eyes when evil becomes the norm, and even churches are submitting to the zeitgeist?

Habakkuk was posing questions like the ones people today

God's actions, whatever the form or time, make people amazed, astonished, surprised and, not infrequently, horrified as well.

are also asking. Christians in particular often wonder why God is silent and doesn't answer their prayers. Why doesn't God put an end to the mass killing of unborn children? Why does God appoint kings and governments that treat Him, the almighty Creator, with contempt? Why is God allowing His children around the world to be marginalized, persecuted, and killed—and hardly anyone cares?

In this helplessness, Habakkuk speaks of something he has already prayed and "cried for help" over, who knows for how long, without hearing from God (Hab 1:2). Questions and doubts are allowed. The only issue is whom we should address with all our concerns, doubts, and questions. Habakkuk makes the right connection by going to God. And God answers the inquiring, agitated, and desperate prophet: "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your

days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own" (Hab 1:5-6).

God's actions, whatever the form or time, make people amazed, astonished, surprised and, not infrequently, horrified as well. When God acts, it's like nothing else. Anyone who has even come close to witnessing a force of nature—be it an earthquake, avalanche, flood, violent storm, or even volcanic eruption—may have a small, but really only a tiny idea of what it means for God to speak. "But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me like this?" (Rom 9:20).

Yes, only wonder and horror remain when God breaks His silence. Many a mocker's tongue stuck in his throat when he was confronted with the Eternal One. God's answer to Habakkuk's desperate question is that judgment is coming! What was prophesied by Micah over 100 years earlier was to be fulfilled in the days of Habakkuk, and irreversibly (Hab 1:7-11). But God's answer raises a new question in Habakkuk. Why does God use such a godless, cruel, and corrupt people as the Chaldeans to punish the ungodliness of Judah (Hab 1:13)?

Despite all the wickedness and godlessness, Judah was ultimately still more righteous than the Chaldeans (the Babylonians). One would expect Judah to be judged by a people who worship the Lord of all lords and who live lives that please God. Or, better yet, by the coming of the Messiah! But no, the exact opposite is the case: an even more godless people—a people whose god is their own power—is used by the Lord to judge apostate Judah. God acts very differently than we humans ever would (cf. Isa 55:8-9). Yes, sometimes we can't keep up. But we don't have to be ashamed of

that because Job, David, or Habakkuk were no different. They weren't able to keep up, either. But they were all brought to a point where they could only praise God.

How did Job put it? "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted...Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know" (Job 42:2-3). And David, what was he able to testify? "I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High" (Ps 7:17).

God is sovereign in His actions, holy and just. And in His sovereignty, God uses foreign, even godless, powers to chastise His chosen people. Perhaps He was saying, "You are no better than the Gentiles and idolatrous nations. Don't presume upon your election, sacrifice, and worship. You only have the appearance of piety, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

God is sovereign in His actions, holy and just. And in His sovereignty, God uses foreign, even godless, powers to chastise His chosen people.

And in that, you share the exact same idolatry as the Gentiles." This is exactly what the Lord Jesus insinuated to Israel's religious elite centuries later (Matt 23:27-28). This admonition was justified in the time of Habakkuk, in the time of the Lord Jesus, and today in the same way—not just in Israel, as God says: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it" (Hab 2:2).

In chapter 2, God makes it clear that the Babylonians, like the Assyrians before them, are being judged. And this fact ultimately applies to all nations—but everything in its time and as God has determined. "For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay" (Hab 2:3).

In other words, "Wait, be patient, believe, and trust!" This precise principle of waiting,

patience, perseverance, and trust is also applied to the return of the Lord Jesus in Hebrews: "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, 'Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith'" (Heb 10:36-38a).

And that's the answer to all questions, doubts, and helplessness: "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith" (Hab 2:4). Faith involves an unshakable trust in God, even in things we don't understand. Peter Hahne once said, "Trust means living with questions that have no answers."

Consider Job, consider David: were all their desperate questions answered? No, but they were led into faith and ultimately trusted in God. Habakkuk will now experience exactly the same

Habakkuk: God's Answer to Our Questions

What started with a question mark ends with a big, bold exclamation point. A desperate "Why?" becomes an exulting "Who!" Who reigns? Who acts? Who judges? Who holds the threads of redemptive history in His hands? God, the almighty, holy and merciful Creator, who revealed Himself to us in His Son Jesus Christ.



thing. God shows him that Babylon will reap what it has sown (Hab 2:5ff.). After five calls of woe to the Babylonians, Habakkuk responds in prayerlike praise in the style of the Psalms: "O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear" (Hab 3:2a).

Habakkuk isn't just satisfied with God's answer; he completely submits himself to God's will. He discerns God's advice, and learns that God holds the threads of salvation and world history in His hands. He exclaims, "In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known" (Hab 3:2b).

Habakkuk's hope and supplication are that God will quickly, in the near future, fulfill everything that He has resolved in His plan. Aren't we the same? Aren't we also hoping that our Lord Jesus will come soon to

accomplish His purpose for us, for His church? Aren't we longing for the new heaven and the new earth in which God's right-eousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13)?

Then he continues, "in wrath remember mercy" (Hab 3:2c). Habakkuk—like all other prophets-knows that in His wrath, God is nonetheless a gracious and merciful God; that all His judgments are purposeful, and not capricious. The following verses are therefore a hymn of praise to the unique Creator God, culminating in Habakkuk no longer being able to hold back from cheering and rejoicing. Because Habakkuk knows that God is just. In His wrath, the Lord is also compassionate, and will continue to weave history with the faithful remnant.

What started with a question mark ends with a big, bold exclamation point. A desperate "Why?" becomes an exulting "Who!" Who reigns? Who acts? Who judges? Who holds the threads of redemptive history in His hands? God, the almighty,

holy and merciful Creator, who revealed Himself to us in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the encouragement for us today: we can live with the certainty that our God, whom we may call "Abba, dear Father," has everything under control.

God's answer to Habakkuk's doubting, burning questions is a message for all the world: "the righteous shall live by his faith" (Hab 2:4b). Faith is the answer, and trust in God's ways is the solution. "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5).

Through this perspective, we truly have every reason to do the same as Habakkuk and to join in his praise: "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength" (Hab 3:18-19a).

(MR0520/1077)

On the Horizon



ISRAEL

First Flying EMS Vehicle

When we wrote about Urban Aeronautics earlier this year, CEO Rafi Yoeli told us that the first deployment of the CityHawk VTOL ("vertical takeoff and landing") would be with an EMS provider. Now we know who.



"With such a small physical footprint, VTOLs serve a critical need: the ability to land anywhere," Yoeli told ISRAEL21c. "You can bring a doctor directly to a patient or rescue a patient. Helicopters today often must land a kilometer a way, then the medical team runs through the streets. A lot of time is lost."

Hatzolah Air has been flying fixed-wing aircraft. The City-Hawk's Fancraft internal rotor and wing-less design allow the craft to land on a sidewalk. The Hatzolah Air version of the CityHawk will be able to transport a patient plus a companion,



HACKERS STEAL \$7.5 MILLION FROM JEWISH ENDOWMENT

ederal and international law enforcement agencies are investigating the theft of \$7.5 million from the United Jewish Endowment Fund, an arm of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and diverted to international accounts.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, federation staff have been working from home, often on personal computers, creating vulnerabilities that hackers may have taken advantage of, said federation CEO Gil Preuss.

Following the theft's discovery, "nobody is working from home computers anymore," he said. "Passwords have been changed."

-jta.org 3 September 2020

Aeronautics

two EMT personnel and a pilot, along with a complete package of life support equipment.

"Based on our initial estimates, we foresee a potential market of at least 800 CityHawks for Hatzolah and other EMS operators," said Eli Rowe, president of Hatzolah Air.

As we reported previously, the City-Hawk is based on the unmanned Cormorant VTOL, which has been in testing since 2015 and has completed 300 test flights. Cormorant VTOL won't be in service for at least another three years, with the City-Hawk following a couple of years later. The process of applying for and receiving FAA certification alone could take five years.

-www.israel21c.org, 1 September 2020

Commentary: This flying vehicle is more or less a small version helicopter.

It is extremely useful in case of emergency, as the article indicates. For Israel—a nation still at war with a number of Arab countries—evacuation of wounded soldiers quickly from the battlefield to a hospital would save lives. But, it is still in the development stages and will take some years before it becomes

operational. As Brian Blum, the author of the article says: "Despite the excitement, don't expect to see



flying Hatzolah EMS vehicles anytime soon."

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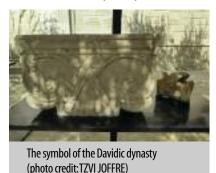
(See Israel on High Alert, Item #2343, \$15.99.)



ISRAEL

Davidic Dynasty Symbol Found in Jerusalem

A "once in a lifetime" find is how the City of David described three immaculately preserved 2,700year-old decorated column heads, or capitals, from the First Temple period that indicate a connection to the Davidic Dynasty.





Archaeologists from the City of David did not expect to find any-

thing this special when they began digging near what is now the Armon Hanatziv Promenade.

"I'm still excited," said Yaakov Billig, an archaeologist with the City of David who began exploring the Armon Hanatziv area about 30 years ago.

He was working at the site when the sound of a spade scraping a stone slab surprised him. After a careful excavation, archaeologists at the site uncovered the capital, whose style is found in royal and official buildings in the kingdoms of Israel and Judea during the First Temple period.

While lifting the capital out of the ground, they were stunned to find not only that the stone was decorated on both sides, but that there was yet another identical capital directly underneath it. A third identical stone was found nearby.

The capitals are linked to the Davidic Dynasty because such designs from the period of the kingdoms of Israel and Judea have only been found within the areas they ruled. The design has been found from later periods in other locations throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East.

The royal design can be found today on NIS 5 coins and on signs pointing to archaeological sites in Israel.

Using evidence from artifacts found at the site and the level at which they were

found, archaeologists dated the capitals to the seventh century BCE, between the rule of King Hezekiah and the Babylonian conquest and destruction of Jerusalem.

The location of the site seems to indicate a sort of "exit from the walls" of Jerusalem, showing that the people felt more secure in their surroundings after the Assyrian siege of the city failed. The biblical story of the siege describes the defeat of the Assyrians as a miraculous event against all odds, which may explain why the residents of the city suddenly felt secure enough to settle outside the walls, Billig said.

-www.jpost.com, 3 September 2020

Commentary: To find artifacts dating back to David's time is not unusual in Israel, but in this case, surprising. The Biblical David is considered to be the greatest king of all times. Not surprisingly, therefore, in the last book of the Bible, it says: "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to



open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof" (Revelation 5:5).

(See *Unearthing the Bible,* Item #2365, \$22.99.)





SAUDI ARABIA

Israel Concerned About New Nuclear Facility

Israel has privately expressed concerns to the Trump administration about a new nuclear facility reportedly built in the Saudi desert with Chinese help, Israeli officials said.



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (L) with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Photo: Pool/Getty Images

Why it matters: This secret development raises concerns that the Saudis are building infrastructure for a future military nuclear program.

What they're saying: A senior Israeli intelligence official said there are "worrying signs about what the Saudis might be doing, but it is not exactly clear to us what's going on in this facility."

Israeli officials think the Saudis decided to work with China on the new facility because the Chinese don't require assurances that nuclear technology will be used only for peaceful purposes.

Background: The production of yellowcake is a preliminary phase in the refinement of uranium. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty does not compel the Saudis to update the

NEWS IN BRIEF «



SATELLITE FOR **MEDICAL** RESEARCH LAUNCHED

srael launched a nanosatellite. Dido III. manufactured by the Israeli SpacePharma company and joined by Sheba Medical Center, making history as one of the world's first hospitals to launch a medical experiment in space.

This special project, a collaboration between the Israeli Space Agency in the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Italian Space Agency, together with the development of SpacePharma, a company focused on using microgravity for research and development, is a significant breakthrough not only in the field of civilian space but also in the field of medicine.

On this space mission. Sheba will test its theory that microgravity in space reduces antibiotic resistance acquisition, which will hopefully help solve the worsening global problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics

> -jpost.com 3 September 2020

IAEA about the existence of such a facility.

-www.axios.com, 19 August 2020

Commentary: While Israel is not part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the spread of nuclear science and technology is definitely a concern. Although relations with Saudi Arabia have greatly improved in the last few years—some even speculating that Saudi Arabia could normalize relations with the Iewish state—caution is Israel's middle name. Nuclear weapons in the hands of unstable governments could spell catastrophe for Israel.

In olden times. The Lord commanded Isaiah: "...Go, set a watch-



man, let him declare what he seeth" (Isaiah 21:6).

7339

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



Gay Conversion Therapy Outlawed

The Knesset approved a bill to ban psychologists from practicing conversion therapy in Israel, amid a stormy plenum vote.

The legislation, proposed by Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz, would take away the license of psychologists who use conversion therapy, fine them and send them to jail for repeat offenses.

Blue and White decided to support the bill shortly before the vote. "We promised and we upheld," tweeted Alternate Prime Minister and Blue and White leader Benny Gantz. "Conversion therapy was born in sin and its place is outside of the law and the public norm."

At the Knesset plenum, Deputy Health Minister Yoav Kish spoke out against the bill, saying it was "extraneous," as the bill singles out psychologists and not others who do conversion therapy for a criminal punishment.

Kish added that a psychologist can already be punished with a disciplinary offense for doing conversion therapy under the current law. Horowitz subsequently agreed to drop the criminal punishment from the bill and Kish stated that this showed that the bill was a "political statement" and the government was "completely opposed" to any criminal punishment.

After Kish's statements, Horowitz





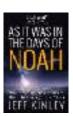
Meretz head Nitzan Horowitz (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/MAARIV)

stressed that the bill would remain as it was originally proposed, including the criminal punishment, and any changes should be negotiated and discussed only after the bill is passed.

-www.jpost.com, 22 July 2020

Commentary: As it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, so it is today. One of Israel's major cities, Tel Aviv, is considered the most gay-friendly city in the world.

What does the Bible say? The Old Testament states: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Leviticus 18:22).



The New Testament adds: "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves" (Romans 1:24).

(See As It Was in the Days of Noah, Item #2286, \$11.99.)

NEWS IN **BRIEF**



IRAN EXECUTES WRESTLER

ran has signaled it intends to ignore a growing outcry over its use of the death penalty against people arrested during anti-government protests by executing with unusual swiftness a wrestler whose case had won international attention, activists say.

Navid Afkari, 27, a wrestler who had won national competitions, was hanged at Adelabad prison in the southern city of Shiraz after being convicted of committing a murder during protests that rocked the city two years ago.

US President Donald Trump had urged Iran to spare the life of Afkari, and international rights organizations had insisted allegations he had been tortured into confessing needed to be investigated and that there was no firm evidence of his guilt.

-timesofisrael.com 17 September 2020





Board of Muslim Charity Resigns Over Antisemitism

The entire leadership of Britain's biggest Muslim charity has resigned after it emerged that it had replaced a trustee who had stepped down over antisemitic posts with a man who glorified terror attacks against Israel, and described the Jewish state as the "Zionist enemy."



The mass resignation comes just a month after Heshmat Khalifa resigned as director of IRW, following *The Times'* disclosure of antisemitic social media posts in which he called Israelis the "grandchildren of monkeys and pigs," and Egypt's president a "pimp son of the Jews." He also lauded Hamas as "the purest resistance movement."

Khalifa's place on the board was taken by another IRW trustee, Almoutaz Tayara, who is also the chairman of Islamic Relief Germany, and the charity promised it was "reviewing our processes for screening trustees' and senior executives' social media posts to ensure

that this will not happen again."

However, posts have now come to light on Tayara's social media accounts displaying similarly antisemitic views. According to *The Times*, Tayara described Hamas's leaders as "great men" who answered the "divine and holy call of the Muslim Brotherhood." Another showed Barack Obama wearing a tie emblazoned with the Star of David.

In 2014 the charity was banned from operating within Israel and the West Bank after the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), the Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), and legal authorities provided incriminating information against IRW. "[The IRW] is another source of funds for Hamas, and we have no intention of allowing it to operate and assist terrorist activity against Israel," then Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said at the time.

According to *The Times*, between 2009 and 2018, the most recent decade for which the IRW's accounts have been published, the UN handed £24.1 million. Its total income for the whole decade was £967 million, including £20.4 million donated by the EU and a further £4.8 million from Sweden, Switzerland and Spain. During the same period, the UK handed IRW £8.2 million, but has made no donations to the charity since 2015.

-www.jpost.com, 23 August 2020

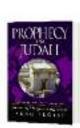


Commentary: It becomes increasingly self-evident that one's digital footprint makes the misuse of funds more easily detected than in the past. This is another plus for modern technology. Eventually, as we have repeatedly mentioned in this column, it will lead to total electronic control of all people on planet earth.

It is of interest that under the Obama administration, the US and Israeli governments signed a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding on military aid covering 2019-2028, during which the US pledged \$38 billion, with \$33 billion in Foreign Military Financing grants, plus \$5 billion in missile defense appropriations. Not surprisingly, former president Barack Obama was pictured "wearing a tie emblazoned with the Star of David."

The other side of the story is that Israel is restricted in their sale of sophisticated weaponry to other countries, except with permission from the USA. Needless to say, this agreement is extremely important for both countries, since only Israel has direct confrontational experience and expertise with the most modern weapons. Such highly critical knowledge is being shared with the US.

What will happen in the end? Joel 3:2 will be fulfilled: "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them



down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

(See Prophecy for Judah, Item #1084, \$17.50.)

NEWS IN BRIEF



GPS FOR LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS

he mortality rate of lung cancer patients remains the same today as it was 20 years ago," says Dorian Averbuch, CEO of Body Vision Medical, an Israeli startup that has developed a new approach.

The main problem is that current technology still has difficulty finding small primary nodules that may turn out to be a cancerous tumor.

Body Vision's softwareonly approach uses artificial intelligence to mash up all the inputs—from the bronchoscope, CT and Xrays—and predicts with significant accuracy where the tumor ought to be in a living, breathing, moving lung.

> -israel21c.org 17 August 2020



ISRAEL

Youths Unearth 1,100-Year-Old Gold Coins

Youths volunteering at an archaeological dig in central Israel have found 425 gold coins that had lain buried in a clay jar for 1,100 years.

Most of the money dates back to the early Islamic period, when the region was part of the Abbasid caliphate.

The coins weigh 845g (30oz) and would have been worth a huge sum when they were buried—enough to buy a luxurious home in one of the caliphate's cities.

The youth who discovered the hoard, Oz Cohen, said: "It was amazing. I dug in the ground and when I excavated the soil, saw what looked like very thin leaves. When I looked again I saw these were gold coins."

Robert Kool, a coin expert, said the cache consisted of full gold dinars but also 270 small gold cuttings—pieces of dinars cut to serve as "small change."

He added that one of the cuttings was a fragment of a gold solidus of the Byzantine Emperor Theophilos minted in Constantinople, which was rare material evidence of the continuous connections between the two rival empires during this period.

-www.bbc.com, 24 August 2020

Commentary: Finding treasures in Israel is not unusual, but this clay jar containing 425 gold coins is rather rare, Liat Naday-Ziy and Elie Haddad, directors of the excavation, stated: "The person who buried this treasure 1,100 years ago must have expected to retrieve it, and even secured the vessel with a nail so that it would not move." Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). He adds, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:35).

The clay jar fittingly describes our life on earth: we are vessels of clay. God told Adam, after he sinned, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19).

What counts, of course, is what's inside. First Corinthians 3:12-15 reads: "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest:





The coins buried in the jar are 24-carat gold and weigh 845g (30oz)



Volunteer Oz Cohen said the coins at first looked like very thin leaves when he uncovered them

for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide



which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." 7331

(See Heavenly Rewards, Item #2357, \$14,99.)

NEWS IN BRIEF



WASTE **CONVERSION** PLANT IN NETHERLANDS

sraeli cleantech firm UBQ Materials is set to open a full-scale waste conversion plant in the Netherlands, the company announced.

The facility functions using UBQ's patented process, which allows them to convert waste that would have previously been sent to a landfill into a sustainable thermoplastic material. This novel product is eco-friendly. and can be used in everyday products as a substitute for other materials, such as wood, concrete and conventional plastic. The waste used comes from a variety of unsorted paper, plastic and organic materials. This includes everything from diapers. cardboard, food containers and even banana peels.

Quantis [labeled] UBQ's thermoplastic as "The most climate positive thermoplastic material on the planet."

> -jpost.com 3 September 2020



"Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars" (Zechariah 11:1).

BY ARNO FROESE

ot so long ago, Lebanon was called the Switzerland of the Middle East. Why? Because it was peaceful, very rich, and very secure.

It was in 1985 when Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, a Shia Muslim, founded Hezbollah ("Party of God"). One of its ideologies was anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. The party grew so strong it virtually became an independent state within the country of Lebanon. Presently, the Hezbollah organization is recognized as a terrorist group by 18 different nations, as well as the Arab League and the European Union.

Lebanon is a country with a population of 5.5 million, of which 61.1% are Muslim, and about 33.7% followers of the Christian religion. Life expectancy is listed at 78.3 years. Per capita GDP stands at \$19,600. The economy looks

bleak; as all countries not functioning at 100%, exports stand at \$3.5 billion, with imports \$18.3 billion (2017).

There is an abundance of information available online about the country of Lebanon. But, in none of the reports is the real reason for the chaos Lebanon is experiencing today; namely, Lebanon's occupation of Israeli territory.

The same can be said about Syria. Much of the country is also Syrian-occupied Israeli territory. Thus, conflicts rage. The nation has been suffering immensely under a civil war since 2011. Millions have fled the country; some 3.6 million refugees were registered in Turkey, with almost another million in Lebanon, 656,000 in Jordan, plus 770,000 in Germany, according to Wikipedia.

While Lebanon and Syria are virtually powerless against the Is-



raeli air force, Hezbollah and other terrorist groups connected to Iran, continue to plot as much harm as possible against Israel.

The prophet Habakkuk in chapter 2, verse 17 states: "For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee. and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein."

At the beginning of August, the world press reported of an unprecedented explosion in the city of Beirut. More than 200 were killed and thousands injured, as well as great damage being reported even several miles away from the site of the disaster.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had this to say:

UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on the Lebanese government to disarm the militant group Hezbollah in a report he intends to present to the United Nations Security Council.

"The maintenance of unauthorized weapons outside State control by Hezbollah and other non-State

armed groups represents a persistent violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and is of serious concern." wrote Guterres in a report that was posted on the UN website, prior to the Beirut explosion.

"I call upon the Government of Lebanon to take all actions necessary to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006), which require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon so that there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State," Guterres said.

The document is one of three reports that Guterres sends annually to the UNSC on UNIFIL. This one comes in advance of the anticipate annual vote to renew the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

"I urge the Government of Lebanon to expeditiously undertake and conclude all necessary investigations regarding the tunnels on the Lebanese side and to take preventive measures against similar occurrences in the future," he added.

-www.jpost.com, 5 August 2020

While apnews.com reports that 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate—a component of fertilizer that is potentially explosive—had been stored at the port since it was confiscated from a ship in 2013, what becomes increasingly clear is that unauthorized weapons storage facilities existed in the vicinity of the explosion.

The article further states: "Estimates suggest that 85% of the country's grain was stored at the now wrecked silos."

Yes, Lebanon is suffering, and so is Syria. We feel for the loss of life, whether they are Lebanese, Syrian, or any other nationality. But our prayer is specifically directed to the Christians who live in the midst of these countries, dominated by turmoil. For those who believe in Christ, there is hope. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

And for Israel, God proclaims by His prophet Haggai: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts."

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EBENEZER HOME







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Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles

By David PhillipsProject Manager



ou will read this article during the month celebrating Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles: Lev. 23:34) here in Israel. The whole COVID-19 situation has brought a substantial change in all our lives, but rather than complaining, we should "Thank you Lord, for work, health, and the increasing opportunities to share His Word!" More than ever, people's hearts are softening toward the good news we have in Messiah Yeshua.

The planning of the renovation project of the Ebenezer Home has slowed down some because of the circumstances, but we have used this time to speed up renovating one of the Ebenezer Home's external flats (apartments). We had planned on doing this project in 2021, but since the roof began leaking, along with some electrical issues, we decided it was time.

This task reminds us of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), as our earthly dwelling place is just a temporary residence. One day—prayerfully soon—we will be with our Messiah Yeshua, enjoying the place which He has prepared for us. What a day that will be!

Celebrating Sukkot is extremely special. The joyful hope of these future events fills our hearts with the desire to share it. The longer this coronavirus situation lasts. the more people ask, "How long...?" This could be the time that we witness His soon return. But for now He calls each of us to work and labor for the kingdom; and in our case, to continually strive to serve these precious seniors living at the Ebenezer Home to the best of our ability.

A special thank you to all who continue to help us raise the needed funds for the new Ebenezer van! We are making significant progress and have

EBENEZER HOME



created a special page on our website—www.ebenezer. co.il—where you can watch the exciting progress being made! We post updates at the beginning of each month, and all donations collected will go toward the new van ... be sure to go check it out!

The Ebenezer Family sends you warm greetings and wishes you a blessed fall. Kind regards from all the residents, who keep asking me about the people behind the prayers and gifts, which you have so faithfully continued to provide. Thank you for being a part of the Ebenezer Family and for touching so many hearts and lives; we appreciate and love you all! We want you to know that there are staff and residents praying for you, too.

As we pray in Israel during this season, and at the Feast of Tabernacles, "May it be a rainy year, and may the Lord bless us with an abundance of water (both physically and spiritually)!"

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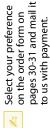
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