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Published twelve times a year by Midnight Call Ministries, Inc. PO Box 84309 Lexington SC 29073

Physical Location: 4694 Platt Springs Road West Columbia, SC 29170, USA

Dr. Wim Malgo (1922–1992), Founder Arno Froese, Editor Fredi Winkler, International Editor Michelle Kim, Layout Designer Kimberly Farmer, Copy Editor Barbara Lavery, Melanie Makin and Helga Tirrell, German-English Translators

Web: midnightcall.com Toll free phone: 1-800-845-2420 Local and International: +1 (803) 755-0733

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S.A. \$18 Canada \$26.50 All other countries \$38 U.S.

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INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

Nachrichten Aus Israel (German), Postfach 290, Ringwiesenstrasse 12a CH–8600 Dübendorf Switzerland • Nieuws Uit Israel (Dutch), Postbus 193, 3940 AD Doorn, Netherlands • Noticias de Israel (Portuguese), Caixa Postal 1688, 90001–970 Porto Alegre RS, Brazil

 Noticias de Israel (Spanish), PO Box 84309
 Lexington, SC 29073 • Nouvelles d'Israel (French), Case Postale 290, Ringwiesenstrasse
 12a CH–8600 Dübendorf Switzerland

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER



his year, the first day of the eight-day Hanukkah festival coincides with the first day of Advent, on November 28. This is very early in the year, but as it is well known, Jewish holy days are based on the lunar calendar; therefore, sometimes earlier and sometimes later in the year.

Hanukkah is not one of the seven feasts of the Lord as described in Leviticus chapter 23. Thus, it is not a holy feast, not a high holiday equal to the Sabbath, like the seven feasts of the Lord. It was also introduced much later; namely, when the Maccabees succeeded in liberating the temple from the foreign occupiers and rededicating it in 165 BC. The word Hanukkah means "dedication," and the festival was intended to commemorate dramatic events of that time. The nine-armed candlestick was designed later, in memory of those events, and is still of central importance to Judaism today. The nine-armed candlestick is also found much more often in synagogues and other buildings than the seven-armed candlestick. For the uninformed observer, that can at times be confusing.

The seven-armed candlestick actually has a much greater significance. It was ordained by God and was first placed in the tabernacle, and later in the temple. What is its meaning? It is a reminder of God's faithfulness. Sheva, the word for seven in Hebrew, has a twofold meaning: first, it is the number seven, but in addition, it means taking an oath. Shavua, the word for week, points to the fact that a week has seven days. The seven days of the week, in turn, are reminiscent of God's seven days of creation. Apart from these connections, the number seven has a prominent position throughout the Bible—from the Creation account to the book of Revelation, in which the number seven plays a central role. The seven-armed candleholder has also become a popular symbol for Christians, as well as a souvenir from a visit to the Holy Land.

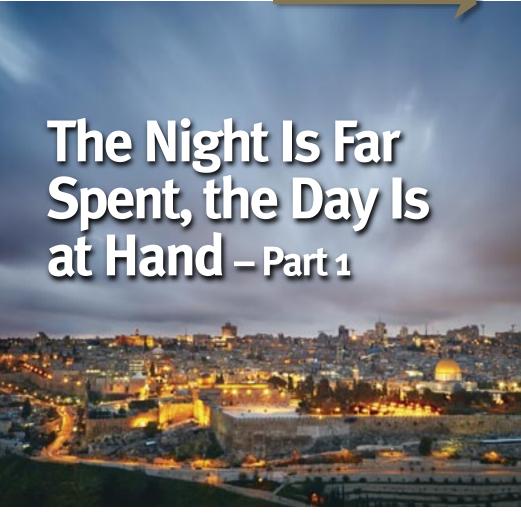
For the Jews, especially the religious, the seven-armed candelabrum is sacred because it stood in the temple. They feel it should not be profaned by mere placement as an item of historic interest. That is part of the reason why, among Jews, one basically can only encounter the ninearmed candleholder. However, at the founding of the State of Israel, the seven-armed candlestick, together with the two branches, was made the State emblem of Israel. The founders of the State were not religious enough to see the use of this symbol as a sacrilege. Quite the contrary—they deliberately took the emblem from Zechariah 4:2-3, where it speaks of a seven-armed candlestick with two olive trees (or olive branches).

When an angel showed this symbol to the prophet Zechariah, he did not understand its meaning. The angel asked him: "Don't you know what they mean?" And he replied: "No, my Lord" (verse 5). The angel's explanation then is beautiful: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (verse 6). This is the deep meaning of the sevenarmed candelabrum and the two olive branches. God, the Lord of the heavenly hosts, will keep what He has promised. That is Israel's true confidence and comfort.

That probably is what the artist thought who made the sevenarmed candlestick (which stands at the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem), as he wrote on it: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit!"

In this glorious confidence that God is faithful and fulfills His promises, I greet you warmly with Shalom from Israel,





NORBERT LIETH

How do people recognize us as followers of the Lord Jesus?

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom 13:10-14).

not by our radiant faces; not by the words that we preach; not by the songs that we sing; not by our regular Bible studies; not by the principles that we hold and defend; not by the pious affectations that we display, but by the love that we practice. In Lübeck, Germany, I once visited a marzipan factory. A wise saying printed on the wall reads, "Sugar won't ever oversalt your food." The thought occurred to me that the same is also true of love: with it, we can't go wrong.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Without love, everything is meaningless. It's the impulse behind every exhortation the Apostle Paul gives in Romans 13:10-14. When icy storms blow across Antarctica, thousands of penguins crowd together to keep each other warm. They take turns and rotate, so that the ones on the outside slowly move inward, and the ones on the inside move outward again. The icy cold can only be overcome together in this way. In these increasingly icy endtime storms, it is all the more important to hold fast to the ultimate goal of love.

Why does Paul say here, in Romans 13:10-14, that the night is far spent and the day is at hand? In other places he says the

The Night Is Far Spent, the Day Is at Hand - Part 1

As long as Jesus was physically present in Israel, it was day. When he left Israel, night fell over the people, and the day of salvation arrived for the nations.



opposite: that members of the Church are children of the day and do not belong to the night:

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (1 Thess 5:5-8).

The Church of the Lord Jesus lives in the daylight: "For ye were

sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Eph 5:8). Conversely, all the nations—Israel included—live in the night and are surrounded by darkness. Since the Church is still in the world, she experiences the night around her, even though she herself is in the light.

We have to take into account that Romans is the first apostolic letter of the New Testament. The Holy Spirit also arranged things this way. In Paul's letters, there is a progressive, increasing revelation. The Apostle didn't just address this first letter (in the Biblical canon) to the Jews living in Rome, but to the Gentiles as well. In other letters, he does this less and less. On the one hand, the letter to the Romans deals with the justification of all people through Iesus. On the other hand, it deals with the role of Israel in salvific history in great detail—its past, present restoration, and its readoption in the future (Rom 9—10). Paul skillfully switches back and forth between the Jews and the Gentiles again and again. At one point, he was clearly speaking to the Jews; at another, only to Gentiles. An example:

To Jews: "Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God...For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written" (Rom 2:17, 24). To the nations: "For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" (Rom 11:24).

When our key passage talks about the long-spent night, it's about Israel's night first of all. This is borne out by several biblical references. When Jesus was on earth, He said: "I must work the works of him that sent me,

while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:4-5).

As long as Jesus was physically present in Israel, it was day. When he left Israel, night fell over the people, and the day of salvation arrived for the nations. "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). Isaiah had already prophetically heralded this: "He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come" (Is 21:11-12).

Deep spiritual darkness and deadly shadows lie over the world and Israel. A new day, a new salvific chapter began with the first coming of the Lord Jesus. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Is 9:2; cf. Matt 4:16). Morning dawned—albeit

The Night Is Far Spent, the Day Is at Hand – Part 1

"But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."



through the rejection of the Lord by the Jewish people—and immediately night fell again for Israel. Jesus, who is the rising Sun, departed from the people for heaven. The deadly shadows of night assailed the Israelites as never before (Hos 5:15—6:3). The earthly presence of the Lord Jesus was just a brief dawn of salvation for Israel, just a bright moment.

"The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come." This declaration seems to be very prophetic, as if indicating a repetition at

another time. As a matter of fact, Christ will return and will ask this question of His people again in the end time.

Israel has been in nighttime for 2,000 years. But a new day is dawning with the return of Jesus

Christ. Jesus is the bright morning star (Rev 22:16), as well as the Sun of righteousness (Mal 4:2). However, this new day brings the nighttime of the Great Tribulation and the anti-Christian empire just before it. Morning comes, and also the night.

The Lord said something else significant in reference to Israel; namely, in the parable of the ten virgins: "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (Matt 25:5-6). And in the parable of the



Goethe is said to have cried from his deathbed, "More light!" He was a genius who possessed an enlightened human spirit, but he lacked the light of the Holy Spirit from above.

wheat and the tares, He said: "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way" (Matt 13:25).

The advancing night is precisely the time in which the bright morning star rises (Rev 22:16). In the same way, the Lord will come like a thief in the night (Matt 24:43; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 3:3; 16:15). Both of these statements have always been about the return of Jesus in glory to establish His kingdom on earth. It's always related to Israel. It's night for Israel, and a spiritual sleep has come over the people (Mic 3:6-7; 7:8-9).

Paul already referenced this in his great chapter on Israel, in Romans 11: "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day" (v. 8). This passage is referencing Isaiah 29:10. But when this time is over and Jesus appears in glory, Jeremiah 31:26 will be fulfilled: "Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me." God made something good from the bad. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Ps 30:5b).

Our passage reads, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand." Which day is this referring to? In this context, it's the great day of Jesus' return. When the Apostle Peter wrote to the Jews, he also had this day in mind and said:

The Night Is Far Spent, the Day Is at Hand - Part 1

According to Daniel 10:13-20, governments and empires are ruled by princes who are fighting against the kingdom of God. So, the Church experiences the night around herself, so to speak, because we're still living in the world.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Pet 1:19).

Goethe is said to have cried from his deathbed, "More light!" He was a genius who possessed an enlightened human spirit, but he lacked the light of the Holy Spirit from above. Our world is also crying out for more light in this growing night-time. But it can only be found in the living Word of God; namely, the Person of Jesus Christ—which the Word places at the center of salvation!

The Rapture of the faithful from among the Jews and Gentiles will already have occurred prior to the Day of the Lord. Paul says, "For now is our salvation nearer than when

we believed." When we believed, our souls were saved. However, with the imminent return of the Lord Jesus, our entry into heaven (and thus our physical salvation) is even closer.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep...The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Rom 13:11-12). We should be clear on where we stand. The night is far spent! Jesus reproached His contemporaries concerning their time, which we could certainly apply to ourselves and our time: "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt 16:2-3). There is a striking Old Testament example of understanding the time: "...of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..." (1 Chron 12:32).

The Church is living in the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2; 1 Thess 5:5ff.). Christians are children of light and the day, whereas Israel and the world live in the night and are ruled by powers and principalities by the powers of darkness (Eph 6:12). These are the actual world powers. The whole world lies under the control of the evil one (1 John 5:19). Nevertheless, evil may never touch the children of God (2 Thess 3:3; 1 John 4:4; 5:18; Jude 24). This is because the Church has been moved from the domain of darkness to the domain of Jesus (Col 1:13).

It was once aptly said, "The new world order isn't a Jewish conspiracy, but a satanic one." Someone else remarked, "The world is ripe for judgment, evil is ripe for the harvest, and the

church is ripe for the Rapture." According to Daniel 10:13-20, governments and empires are ruled by princes who are fighting against the kingdom of God. So, the Church experiences the night around herself, so to speak, because we're still living in the world. We need to understand that we're living in the end times. It's getting darker because the night is far advanced. But this is also why the new day of Jesus' return is coming.

Paul was a prophet, and thus he spoke prophetically into the end time. He said that "now it is high time." This aligns with the words of the Apostle and prophet John, who similarly wrote, "Little children, it is the last time..." (1 John 2:18). The coming of the Antichrist is approaching with the last hour. This truth of the Holy Spirit will always be prophetically timely, even if it lasts many hundreds of years. How much more do we have cause to testify to this today?

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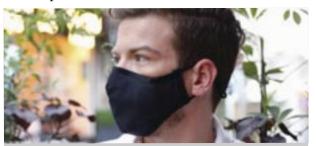
On the Horizon



ISRAEL

Mask 99.95% Protective Against Delta Variant

The Israeli mask company Sonovia has released a report from a leading Italian textile-testing laboratory showing that its fabric eliminates the COVID-19 Delta variant particles with over 99.95% effectiveness.



Sonovia's SonoMask is 99.95% effective in protecting agains the Delta coronavirus strain (photo credit: COURTESY OF SONOVIA)

Specifically, the masks were tested by VisMederi Textyle, the same lab that reported earlier that the unique fabric, which is coated in zinc nanoparticles, also protects against the British variant of COVID-19 and H1N1, otherwise known as swine flu.

VisMederi is a commercial research laboratory located in Italy. It says on its website that the company "currently receives orders worldwide in the field of vaccines, where it conducts analytical testing of biological samples and validation of bioanalytical methods for the pharmaceutical industry."

Prof. Amos Adler, director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at Tel Aviv University, with whom the company consults, had said in the past that "COVID-19 variants might have different epidemi-

BRIEF

THREAT TO HOLD JEWS HOSTAGE

ranian Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaee warned that the country's 10,000 Jews were hostage against Israel, Iranian opposition groups and the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) reported.

The "Iranian Regime Countdown" organization wrote a post on its Telegram account that Rezaee said in a speech that "the Israeli government knows very well that if it makes a mistake, the regime will treat the 10,000 Jews living in Iran differently."

Rezaee, a former head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, made the remarks in an address to the members of the Tharollah Tehran organization.

-israelnationalnews.com 13 October 2021



ological or immunological properties that are the result of point mutations in critical areas of the receptor binding domain. Still, their overall structure and biophysical properties of the virus are almost identical. Hence, the antiviral effect exerted by the Sonovia-treated fabrics is expected to be present in all COVID-19 variants."

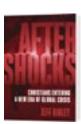
Sonovia was founded in 2013 but was virtually unknown before the coronavirus pandemic. In the last 18 months, the company has grown from a handful of employees to 60 staff members and nearly 200 contract workers.

All of the masks are produced in Israel to achieve the highest level of quality control, the company said.

-www.jpost.com, 26 September 2021

Commentary: It's not surprising at all that Israel is at the forefront when it comes to effective medical science: in this case, the best protective mask against the Delta variant of Covid-19. Doubtless, this will also be the case in the future. The coronavirus is not the last pandemic. We believe it's one of many more to come. Nations that take contagious diseases seriously will be the winners.

Here we must quote Luke 21:26: "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." Note the words, "looking after those things which are coming on the earth." That's present and



future. What does Jesus say earlier in the passage? "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by" (verse 9). 7613

(See Aftershocks, Item #2375, \$14.99.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

CYBER ATTACK ON HOSPITAL

he Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera was targeted by a ransomware attack that affected its computer systems, the hospital announced.

Since the attack, which occurred without any prior warning, the hospital has been using alternate systems while treating patients, and has been writing patients' information down by hand. The hospital is operating as normal, except for elective, nonurgent operations. All critical equipment is working as it should, including CT and MRI scanners.

The attack was perpetrated by a new group of hackers that is also responsible for an attack on a hospital in the US. The Jerusalem Post's sister publication *Maariv* reported.

> -ipost.com 13 October 2021





High-Speed Rail from Mediterranean to Red Sea

It's not often that good news comes out of the Middle East. For decades, this region has dominated the headlines of international politics, and usually, it hasn't come out looking good.



High-speed German trains could be operating on Egyptian rails as soon as 2027 (photo montage by Siemens AG)

Which is why a report that came out of Cairo deserves special attention: A consortium led by the German engineering multinational Siemens has been awarded a 4.5billion-euro contract to build a high-speed rail line from Ain Sukhna at the southern end of the Suez Canal, to Alexandria and the port city of Marsa Matruh—from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.

The fact that the first electrified passenger and freight line will soon run from Ain Sukhna via Cairo to Alexandria is a quantum leap in the almost 170-year history of the railway along the Nile River. The line is scheduled for completion in 2027 and will later be extended upriver to Luxor and the resort city of Hurghada. It will also provide economic stimulus and create jobs for around 15,000 people in Egypt in the first stage, according to estimates provided by project leader Siemens. Two Egyptian companies have been commissioned with the construction of the route, and the project is progressing guickly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JERUSALEM **UNDERGROUND CLOUD CENTER**

racle launched its new. hiahly secure underground cloud region in Jerusalem, the first global cloud provider to open a cloud region in the country.

[It] is based in a reinforced underground facility to provide the highest levels of security against physical attacks, such as missile strikes

The data center extends over four floors at a depth of 50 m. below around level. Spread across thousands of meters, it is designed to be one of the most secure in the Middle East, providing advanced cloud services to companies in Israel's defense industry, government, banks, insurance companies. infrastructure, technology, retail and more.

> -jpost.com 13 October 2021



The order is reminiscent of major infrastructure projects that German companies built in the region during the 1960s and 1970s, traces of which can still be admired today in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Irag and Nigeria.

[China's] level of development today is similar in some respects to that of Western Europe in the late 1960s. The construction of China's cities is largely complete, dozens of new airports have been constructed, and the main road, rail and subway projects have been finished. Beijing has excess capacity these days. With the announcement of its New Silk Road project, China began using it strategically around the globe.

The country has also been investing in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean region. Companies from Beijing and Shanghai operate port terminals in Haifa, Israel, Port Said, Egypt, and in Piraeus, Greece. They have built hotels and high-rise buildings in the Gulf, a mosque complex in Algeria and solar parks in Morocco.

-www.spiegel.de, 13 September 2021

Commentary: Progress continues despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Actually, China is leading the way. While many European nations followed in the footsteps of the USA – using military war machines to attempt to convince those who thought differently — China has built a rather impressive global system for transportation, commerce, and communication. The shipping terminals such as Haifa in Israel and Port Said in Egypt are under the management of communist China.

Again, welcome to the reality of globalism. Capitalism, socialism, and communism have been mixed internationally to the point of barely being able to analyze the difference. The world must become one. Globalism will rule—and that, we must add, for the well-being of mankind.

NEWS IN BRIEF



START-UPS RAISED \$5.9 BILLION

srael's hi-tech sector is showing no signs of slowing down. From July through September, Israeli hi-tech companies raised a whopping \$5.89 billion in 177 deals. IVC and the Meitar law firm said in a report.

That was the secondhighest quarterly total ever. after companies raised \$6.5b. in the preceding guarter of 2021.

In total, Israeli companies have raised an incredible \$17.78b, in the first nine months of the year, already 71% higher than the total raised in all of 2020.

> -ipost.com 13 October 2021

However, our interest lies exclusively in another nation: one without a country, without a capital city, without a man-written constitution. It is the Church of Jesus Christ, having been under construction for



over 2,000 years. One day it will be completed, because Jesus said: "I will build my church." 7612

(See *The Great Mystery of the Rapture,* Item #1038, \$18.99.)

computing services and scientific R&D services, which constitute the core of Israeli's hi-tech industry, grew by 29% and 48%, respectively.

Said Economy and Industry Minister Orna Barbivai, "We will continue to work to remove barriers to trade, open doors to new markets for Israeli industry and provide professional support and guidance to companies interested in expanding their activities in existing markets or penetrating new markets."

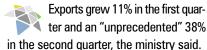
-www.jpost.com, 27 September 2021

≠ IS

ISRAEL

Exports Rise 24% After Recovery

Israeli exports of goods and services rose 24% in the first half of 2021 to \$67.6 billion compared to the same period in 2020, the Economy and Industry Ministry said.



Export of services grew by 30% in the first half of 2021, while goods exports rose 18%. Exports of services exceeded exports of goods for the first time ever, accounting for 51.4% of Israel's total exports, compared with 48.6% for exports of goods, due largely to increased hi-tech service exports. Exports of software and

Commentary: We know that at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, Israel implemented some of the strictest regulations in the world, with excellent results. However, a large part of the ultra-Orthodox community failed to adhere to these regulations, and that in turn brought Israel's death toll to a dangerously high level. Yet in the meantime, Israel continued to do what they do best: export high-tech goods and services. That will be even more evident as the months and years go by.

Israel's future: "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her" (Zechariah 2:5).

7614

(See The Chariot of Israel, Item #2386, \$8.95.)







LEBANON

The Cruelty of Medieval Warfare

Archaeologists unearthed a large quantity of human bones in the moat of the Saint Louis Castle in South Lebanon



Tourists walk at the sea castle of the port-city of Sidon, southern Lebanon. (photo credit: REUTERS/ALI HASHISHO)

The area was first conquered by the Crusaders after the First Crusade in 1110. Some 150 years later, the Christian city was attacked and largely destroyed by the Mamluks in 1253 and then destroyed even more by the Mongols in 1260.

Pursuing the idea of liberating the holy sites from Muslim rule and encouraged by the Roman Catholic Church, European powers and sometimes peoples initiated several military campaigns in the Middle East during those centuries, which led to the establishment of a number of Christian states in the area of modern Israel, Lebanon and Syria, and for a certain period managed to place Jerusalem under Christian rule, following massacres against Jews, both in Europe and in the Middle Fast

"All the bodies were of teenage or adult males, indicating that they were combatants who fought in the battle when



ISRAELI-**AMERICAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE**

conomist Joshua Angrist, cofounder and codirector of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School Effectiveness & Inequality Initiative, has won a Nobel Prize in Economics along with David Card of UC-Berkeley and Guido Imbens of Stanford University.

Ohio-born Angrist, a 61year-old dual American and Israeli citizen, specializes in econometrics and labor and education economics.

Angrist got his first Nobel Prize nomination in 2019. Now he has become the 13th Israeli to win the coveted award, and the third to win it in economics. Behavioral economist Daniel Kahneman won it in 2002, while game theoretician Robert Aumann won the prize in 2005.

> -israel21c.org 11 October 2021

Sidon was attacked," UK Bournemouth University archaeologist Dr Richard Mikulski, one of the excavators and a lead author of the study, said. "When we found so many weapon injuries on the bones as we excavated them, I knew we had made a special discovery."

"So many thousands of people died on all sides during the crusades, but it is incredibly rare for archaeologists to find the soldiers killed in these famous battles," said Dr. Piers Mitchell from Cambridge University. "The wounds that covered their bodies allow us to start to understand the horrific reality of medieval warfare."

-www.jpost.com, 23 September 2021

Commentary: "Liberating holy places" was the justification used to induce hate against anyone declared the enemy. In this case, the crime was committed by the church, which had become political. What is the result even today? Utter chaos when you look to the north of Israel in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, and to the northeast in Afghanistan.

For believers, the Bible clearly teaches non-violence. The church in ancient times did the opposite, as is quite evident from this article published by the *Jerusalem Post*. Does that mean Christians should be pacifists? Not so, for the Bible teaches

obedience to the government. The Roman centurion testified: "For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it" (Matthew 8:9).

When John was "preaching the baptism of repentance," we read in Luke 3:14: "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." Many who have been employed by the government have experienced how as Christians, God led them in a wonderful way through horrible wars.

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He guides His children by His Spirit. He creates something here on earth that never before existed; namely, His body, His Church, or as Ephesians 2:22 states: "In whom ye also are builded



together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

7611

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





AUSTRALIA

Endorses IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Australia will formally endorse the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

Australia will become the 30th country to formally endorse or adopt the IHRA definition, along with the European Union and numerous local governments, corporations, institutions and organizations.

"Antisemitism has no place in Australia it has no place anywhere in the world," Morrison told the forum in a pre-recorded message. "And we must work together, resolutely and as a global community, to reject any word or any act that supports antisemitism towards individuals, towards communities or religious facilities," the prime minister added.

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven also spoke at the Malmö forum, calling for "concrete measures" to combat antisemitism and advance Holocaust remembrance.

-www.jpost.com, 14 October 2021

Commentary: Anti-Semitism is a major issue in the political world. This is primarily due to the Holocaust, which is



International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism in Malmö, Sweden (photo credit: Jonas Ekstromer/TT News Agency/via REUTERS)

the world's most well-recorded and substantiated human event in history.

We notice Prime Minister Morrison's emphasis on "work together...global community." Will it succeed? Temporarily, yes; but in the end, no.

Revelation 20:7-9 testifies: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." 7620

(See The Non-Prophet's Guide to the Book of Revelation, Item #2361, \$16.99.)



JORDAN

Signs Agreement with Israel for Shmita Year

"Shmita" is the Biblical commandment for the Land of Israel to lay fallow every seven years, and Jewish farmers in most of modern Israel must observe it for their produce to be certified kosher.

Jordan and Israel signed an agricultural cooperation agreement ahead of the shmita year, in a meeting between Agriculture Minister Oded Forer and his Jordanian counterpart, Rasan al-Majali, on the border between the countries.

"Shmita" is the biblical commandment for the Land of Israel to lie fallow every seven years, and Jewish farmers in most of modern Israel must observe it for their produce to be certified kosher.

One solution Israel has found is to purchase produce from neighboring Arab populations; other solutions, which are preferred by many religious Zionists, include symbolically selling their land to a gentile or moving their farms from private to collectively owned for the shmita year.

The ministers also discussed ways to partner on innovation and technological advances in agriculture, as well as fighting diseases in plants.

The meeting "emphasizes the impor-



The shmita (sabbatical) year comes once every seven years. The Torah commands us to stop working the land and let it lie fallow, leaving its yield to any man or animal. (photo credit: THEOPHILOS PAPADOPOULOS/FLICKR)

tance of the ties between Israel and Jordan to strengthen neighborly relations and promote cooperation, and the importance of the agricultural field as a way to advance relations between the countries and the nations," a spokesman for Forer stated.

-www.jpost.com, 17 August 2021

Commentary: Here is what the Bible says: "And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy



vineyard, and with thy oliveyard" (Exodus 23:10-11). 7608

(See *Jacob's Dozen*, Item #2385, \$7.95.)





"And after this it came to pass that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines. And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts. David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates" (2 Samuel 8:1-3).

BY ARNO FROESE

ethegammah means "bridle of the mother" or "mother city." David took authority over the Philistines. That was the enemy in the west.

To the east, David conquered Moab, the country on the other side of the Dead Sea. The Moabites also became subject to David and had to pay the required tax.

Here we must note that Moab was not part of the original Promised Land. That was also the case with Ammon—not a part of the original Promised Land, as declared by God to Abraham.

We learn this from the last chapter in Deuteronomy, when Moses went up to Mount Nebo. From there he saw the Promised Land: "And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead. unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar" (Deuteronomy 34:1-3). But as we know. Moses was not allowed to en-



So, what is the real reason for the Middle East Conflict? Primarily, the division of the Promised Land by the nations.

ter the Promised Land: "I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither" (verse 4b). Thus, wherever Moses' feet tread is not Promised Land.

The River Euphrates is the furthest extent of the Promised Land in the north. "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18).

Modern Israel

When the United Nations voted for the partition of the Promised Land in 1947, they allocated three triangles to the Jews and three triangles to the Arabs. That virtually made it impossible for any type of defense. But, lo and behold, Israel accepted the United Nations' decision. The Arabs did not.

Wikipedia states: "The United Nations Partition Plan for Pales-

tine was a proposal by the United Nations, which recommended a partition of Mandatory Palestine at the end of the British Mandate. On 29 November 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted the Plan as Resolution 181 (II)." At the meeting, 33 nations voted yes, 13 voted against partition, and 10 abstained.

The United Nations was in turmoil. Wikipedia further reports: "United States (Vote: For): President Truman later noted, 'The facts were that not only were there pressure movements around the United Nations unlike anything that had been seen there before, but that the White House, too, was subjected to a constant barrage. I do not think I ever had as much pressure and propaganda aimed at the White House as I had in this instance. The persistence of a few of the extreme Zionist leaders actuated by political motives and engaging in political threats-disturbed and annoyed me."

In the meantime, Israel fought eight recognized wars, and each time expanded its territory significantly. But, contrary to international tradition and laws, Israel was forced to surrender much of the territory they had conquered.

Two States

Only 40% of Israelis support a two-state resolution to the conflict with the Palestinians, even though it remains the most popular choice, according to a poll conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute.

Past polls on this topic by IDI show that support for a two-state resolution peaked at 70% in 2007 during the Annapolis peace process brokered by former president George W. Bush between former prime minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israeli-Arabs were much more likely to support a two-state resolution than their Jewish peers.

The least popular option was a one-state idea. Participants were asked whether they would back a "one-state solution incorporating both Israeli and Palestinian territories in which Israelis and Palestinians are treated as equal citizens," implying a country that was no longer intended to be an ethnic nationalist democracy for either Israelis or Palestinians.

That idea received only 21.1% support among Israelis and 64.2% opposition. Some 71.1% of Israeli Jews found a one-state idea unacceptable, and only 14.1% found it acceptable.

People respond differently to concrete events as opposed to theoretical ones, said IDI researcher Or Anabi. Initial polls showed low support for a Sinai withdrawal, but the moment former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat landed in Israel, the attitudes changed.

-www.jpost.com, 4 August 2021

Indeed, the two-state solution seems to be a popular choice. But as Israelis and Palestinians have learned, it is all but impossible to implement.



So, what is the real reason for the Middle East Conflict? Primarily, the division of the Promised Land by the nations. Jews in Israel call the country "Eretz Israel," which means the identity of the people with the land. They are inseparably connected.

Here we must add that Israel is not to be compared with any other nation. It is the name given by God: "And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed" (Genesis 32:28). This is repeated later in Genesis 35:10: "And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel."

Quite obviously, politicians do not realize that they are mingling in the affairs of God when decisions are being made about the Jewish State. We reiterate, in closing, that the Middle East Conflict will not be settled until the Jews take possession of the Promised Land.

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"For Zion's Sake I Will Not Keep Silent" - Part 2



"The Gentiles [nations] shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name" (Isaiah 62:2).

By David Phillips Project Manager

The left off in the last issue with my sharing a special testimony about how God brought an Arab man to faith, and how because of that one Arab man's faith in Yeshua, over 48 members of his household have since come to believe in Yeshua! Let's continue...

Because of this verse, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet," they had to hear the gospel. Hearing and accepting the gospel, their hearts were changed, and the hatred they once had was replaced with His love and kindness. Why? Because now together we can say, "The Gentiles [nations] shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name" (Isaiah 62:2). Yes, these verses are meant for Israel, but they are also meant for the Gentiles, who do not belong to the people of Israel.



Through the testimony this young man gave—finding his Savior through people who worked with him—it became a chain reaction and many others, including Jews, have heard the gospel and have accepted their Messiah. All because this one man would not remain quiet! He refused to keep silent to those who were seeking. Even Jews became believers because of this one Arab man's testimony and faith in Yeshua! May we all learn from his willingness to not keep silent for His Lord

Now it is time for all of us to help these people. As I shared last month, it is on Johnny's as well as my heart to help this man's family bring their aged aunt into the Ebenezer Home. She is an 87-year-old Arab lady, a faithful believer in Yeshua who needs help—one piece of the fruit of this man's testimony.

Right now, she is being cared for at her nephew's home. They are not currently able to meet the entry fee for the Ebenezer Home, but their aunt needs to be in Ebenezer. When we heard they could not afford the entrance fee, this gave us a strong desire to bless this family and help raise the funds needed, so she could enter the Ebenezer Home and find the rest and care she now requires.

It is a witness of love; I can say from firsthand experience that I used to have hate in my heart toward the other nations, the enemies of Israel. After this happened and this man came to faith, I begged Jehovah God to tear out the hatred in my own heart. He showed me that salvation was for the Arabs, for the nations, for Israel,

ALL STREET

EBENEZER HOME

for everyone. It is incumbent on us to not keep silent, but to share with all those around us. The Arabs—along with everyone else—need salvation! It took some years of being down on my knees, until God helped take the hatred from my heart and replace it with His love. Once removed, the hatred never returned, praise the Lord—and it all happened because of this man coming to faith in Messiah and all that transpired afterwards. All circumstances DO work together, to the glory of Him who saved us and has given us new life! One day, He will give us all a new name.

Will you help us bring this elderly Arab sister into the Ebenezer Home? Will you help us bear this testimony as far as we can during these last days? We deeply appreciate your support!

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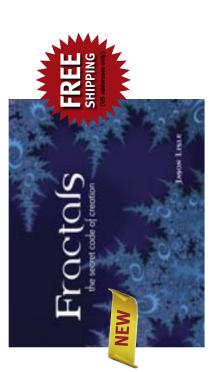
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