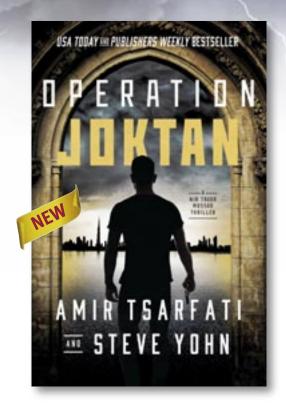
# February 2022

## Israel, the Church, and the Nations

- Part 2

## "It was the perfect day – until the gunfire."



ir Tavor is an Israeli secret service operative turned talented Mossad agent.

Nicole le Roux is a model with a hidden skill.

A terrorist attack brings them together, and then work forces them apart—until they're unexpectedly called back into each other's lives.

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Authors: Amir Tsarfati and Steve Yohn

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By Norbert Lieth

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Messiah. But that doesn't mean that God failed or needed to initiate a backup plan. Rather, we should recognize that everything was already a part of His sovereign plan to reach the nations also.

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### Dear Friends of Israel,

### BY FREDI WINKLER



rael prides itself, again and again, as the only democracy Lin the Middle East—the assumption being that democracy is the ideal and only correct form of government. The concept derives from the ancient Greeks, who are known to have been the first nation to practice democracy. However, the only ones who had voting rights were men over 20 years of age who also served in the military. Democracy, seen as the ideal in our day, took a long time to develop. Women remained excluded from voting until modern times. Yet, despite modern democracy, many countries remain difficult to govern. Why is that?

Today, we are witnessing a worldwide movement which subscribes to the belief that everything should be allowed that modern man sees as good. But what do we see in the Bible? It was God who gave the laws, commandments, and ordinances. These applied equally to everyone and were never changed or adapted to any so-called new era.

Of course, a democracy has government entities that provide structure, such as legislatures, the judiciary, and executive bodies of various kinds. But who is above these entities? In the Bible, there is a higher authority; namely, the prophets, who were not appointed by man. Moses had been called by God Himself—he was not accountable to anyone but God alone. The prophet Nathan was sent to David to rebuke him for his sin

with Bathsheba. As is customary today, David could have said: "That is a private matter."

Democracy can only function if the people submit to the just demands of God. But today, we see a development in which the highest values of the Bible are no longer the standard; rather, what the majority in Congress decides. Today, we observe a global democratic development in which biblical and moral values are perceived as outdated and no longer fitting for modern times ... they are ignored or simply thrown overboard. Hardly anyone dares to oppose this trend, for fear of being labeled with offensive epithets; or, worse yet, being brought to court. I probably don't need to be more specific—certainly, every reader knows exactly what I mean.

It is most likely today's much applauded democracy that is leading the world to ruin. It has been democratically decided that biblical values are no longer up to date. Laws are made as the Zeitgeist dictates.

Thus, we should refrain from being so proud of our democratic system. When a democracy no longer acknowledges the Bible as its basic legal directive, it can only go downhill—even though things may look great on the surface.

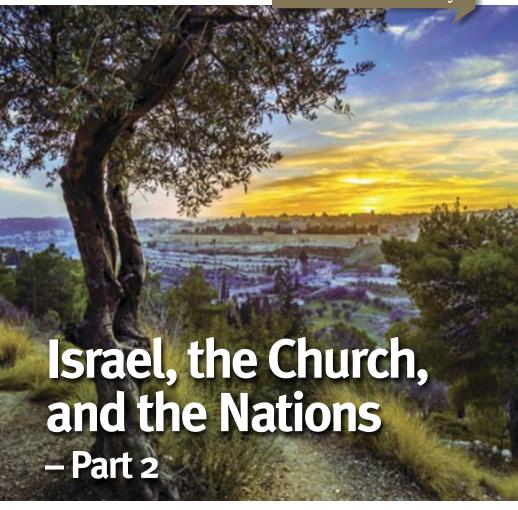
The most difficult job in the Bible is without doubt that of a prophet, who had the duty to transmit God's will and truth to the people. Moses cries out to the Lord and says: "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me" (Exodus 17:4). According to a democratic vote, the Israelites would have returned to Egypt.

In Israel also, the democracy seen as exemplary by many has reached its limits. But the Bible states: "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). This allows us to look to the future with confidence.

In this bond of glorious confidence, I greet you with Shalom,

Treces Willes





NORBERT LIETH

Olive tree with view of Jerusalem at sunset, view from Mount of Olives

A redemptive-historical and prophetic interpretation of Romans 9—11.



### THE ALL-POWERFUL SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth. but of God that showeth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy. and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?" (Rom 9:14-24).

These lines from the Apostle Paul are ones that people scarcely dare to tackle, and can generate a great deal of discussion. But any discussion must be based on the fact that this passage concerns Israel. It shows us that God reaches His goal through all circumstances, and that everything is subject to His sovereign plan. It answers two questions: 1. Is there injustice with God? (v. 14); and 2. Why is He still finding fault? For who has resisted His will? (v. 19).

"God forbid!" is the answer to the first. That statement alone suffices. God isn't accountable to anyone. He doesn't have to exWhat is man? Just a fragile vessel that wears out and cracks over time. Who is God? The Creator of the vessel, "Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."



plain His behavior and His actions throughout redemptive history. He is Almighty God, the Creator of all. Even if we question Him, He's still the righteous God. Jesus Himself testifies to this: in John 17:25, He calls God "righteous Father."

This text showcases the absolute fact that no one can come to God of their own accord. Both election to salvation and to a calling proceed from a merciful

God alone (Rom 9:16). Only the one who is drawn by the Father can come to Jesus, and as a result, salvation (John 6:44). And no one can say "Lord Jesus" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3). So, it is all the result of the Spirit's work.

If God lets us perish instead of saving us, He would still be absolutely righteous. That should instill awe, humility, and gratitude in us. Paul uses Pharaoh as example. Egyptian This ruler's heart was hardened by God, so that He would be glorified and His plan of salvation for Israel would be fulfilled—resulting in the Lord's name being proclaimed throughout the earth. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart served God's plan; that alone is crucial. "Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth" (Rom 9:18).

With this argument, Paul is putting God's sovereignty on a pedestal, far above our way of thinking. But that doesn't necessarily mean that God doesn't manifest grace to all people unto eternal life. It says elsewhere that God doesn't want anyone to perish (2 Pet 3:9), and that He wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4). But the Apostle makes it clear that this is only achieved through the principle of God's grace, and that no work on man's part is taken into consideration.

As to the second question (Why is He still finding fault? For who has resisted His will?), Paul gives no arguments at all. Instead, he rebukes the asker with a question of his own. "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to

make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (vv. 20-21).

God can do and permit what He wants, without it meaning He is unrighteous or unloving. He always remains God. Even if He seems unfair in our eyes, His actions correspond to His loving intentions. Since He is love personified, He cannot do harm. The Lord is too great for us to understand, and this shows us the clear balance of power.

What is man? Just a fragile vessel that wears out and cracks over time. Who is God? The Creator of the vessel, "Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" (1 Tim 6:15-16).

The potter can do as he wishes with the vessel. He can shape it for whichever purpose suits him. Everything serves the perfect purposes of God. If He creates a vessel to be a chamber pot, then it serves a purpose. If He creates a vessel to be a saucepan, it serves a different purpose. He won't cook rice in the chamber pot. If He creates a vessel as a precious bowl, it serves a purpose. The metaphor of the potter shows us that all things serve God, even the negative ones. Even dishonorable vessels serve Him, and that's all that matters.

In God's plan of salvation, there are vessels for honor and dishonor within the house of Israel (that is, believers and unbelievers). Some were vessels of wrath, which God endured with long-suffering but were prepared for ruin. The others were vessels of mercy, in which the riches of God's glory could be seen. So, even those who rejected and crucified Jesus had to be in service of God's concerns, just as the Apostles served according to their calling: some as vessels of dishonor, others as vessels of honor.

There are three types of vessels: 1. Vessels of dishonor or wrath (the unbelieving part of Israel). 2. Vessels of honor or mercy (the believing part of Israel that was already a remnant in Paul's day). 3. Vessels from the nations which, together with the believing part of Israel, form something new. The Apostle writes about this, "Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles" (Rom 9:24).

In summary, in light of God's redemptive history for Israel, these passages explain: The Messiah came to His people. Israel rejected the Messiah. Calls for sustained repentance were not heeded by the crowd. But that doesn't mean that God failed or needed to initiate a backup plan. Rather, we should recognize that everything was already a part of His sovereign plan to reach the nations also.

Israel was responsible for its own behavior, but God made it a part of His plan. There was no time in human history that things were left to chance. Nothing that happened was unforeseen or arbitrary, but everything was according to God's eternal purpose (2 Tim 1:9). The holy Creator of all things also thought through the divine plan of salvation from eternity past, like a wise master builder. He then planned it and carried it out in the fullness of time

There are also various vessels in the Church at large: "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Tim 2:20-21).

In this context, the various types of vessels relate to pure and impure teachings and their advocates. As a representative of Paul's teaching, Timothy is a silver or golden vessel of honor. False teachers like Hymenaeus and Philetus are wooden or earthen vessels: devoid of the Spirit and which only mislead others (2 Tim 2:16-18). We should purify ourselves from seductive false teaching, so that we may be vessels of honor.

### WHAT WAS PROPHESIED HAS ARRIVED

"As he saith also in Osee [Hosea], I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha. What shall we



For the believing Jews, Jesus became the precious stone. For unbelieving Jews, by contrast, He became a stumbling block that was rejected.

say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" (Rom 9:25-33).

Paul takes two quotations from Hosea that had originally applied to Israel, and applies them here to the nations that have believed (Hos 2:23; 1:10).

Then he uses two quotations from Isaiah that apply to Israel (Isa 10:22; 1:9). In doing so, he is asserting that grace toward the Jews has been restricted due to their unbelief. Grace toward the Gentiles, however, has expanded. So, something new came about: a new unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ—a new people! (Rom 9:24).

Israel's rejection of the Gospel, therefore, was part of God's plan that had already been foretold prophetically. The complete redemption of Israel remains unchanged, but has been postponed to the time after the Church, which today consists of Jews and Gentiles (Rom 11:15, 26). In this coming latter time, everything will be com-

pleted: "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in right-eousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha" (Rom 9:28-29).

God's dealings with Israel have the goal of salvation: The Lord will bring Israel's judgment toward completion (in my opinion, a reference to the Great Tribulation and the last days of Revelation). At this time of completion, the Lord will shorten the days to 3 ½ years, so that His people will be saved. This is complete agreement with Matthew 24:22: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Revelation begins with these words: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John" (Rev 1:1).

After two thousand years of grace, the Lord will bring judgment and the restoration of Israel and the nations to an end in quick succession. The closing verses in Romans 9:30-33, make it clear that God seems to have turned everything upside down. But in their full depth, the words mean that salvation can only be accomplished by faith, and not through the works of the Law.

Israel, who possessed the Law of Moses and proudly referred to this fact, did not achieve salvation. The lawless Gentiles, on the other hand—who did not ask about the Law and did not know it—obtained salvation. The parable of the Prodigal Son and his brother could serve as a comparison.

The reason is faith (or lack thereof). Israel did not rely on faith; the people wanted to achieve the blessedness of salvation through works, and failed. They tripped over the stumbling block, Jesus, and broke. The nations, on the other hand, believed and were not put to shame. Instead, they helped to build up.

The Apostle Peter says something comparable: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby...Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous

light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy...For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Pet 2:2, 6-10, 25).

These verses show us seven things that confirm what Paul says in Romans 9:

1. It concerns the born-again portion of Israel (1 Pet 2:2). 2. For the believing Jews, Jesus became the precious stone (vv. 6-7). 3. For unbelieving Jews, by contrast, He became a stumbling block that was rejected (vv. 7-8). 4. The believing Jews are the chosen generation and royal priesthood within Church (v. 9). 5. They are a new, holy nation and a unique people (v. 9; cf. Matt 21:43). 6. They are the true Jewish people of God in the present age (v. 10). 7. It is they who have returned to the Good Shepherd as the lost sheep of Israel (v. 25).

(NAI0821/1185)

## On the Horizon



### **ISRAEL**

### Lachish Rediscovered

When Sennacherib, King of Assyria, sent his army to the kingdom of Judah in 701BC, and had it destroy the city of Lachish, 43km south-west of Jerusalem, he was doing his bit for science as well.



Tel Aviv University's Yoav Vaknin's work at Lachish is the most recent of a series of studies he has performed that were enabled by arsonous ancient kings. The first examined a building destroyed when Jerusalem was burned by Babylonian troops in 586BC. According to the biblical Book of Kings, this happened "in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon."

Looking for magnetic alignments in this way was well understood when Mr. Vaknin began his investigation. But he and his colleagues also did an experiment. They heated samples of the fallen floor in their laboratory and exposed them to a magnetic field as they cooled down, thus repeating what had happened when the edifice was destroyed.

### BRIEF

### JERUSALEM POST WEBSITE HACKED

The Jerusalem Post website was hacked by pro-Iranian hackers, with a photo of a model Dimona nuclear facility being blown up and the text "we are close to you where you do not think about it" in English and Hebrew placed on the Twitter and website.

The photo also showed a ballistic missile falling from what appears to be a representation of the hand of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. [January 2] marked the second anniversary of the US assassination of Soleimani in Baqhdad in 2020.

*-jpost.com* 3 January 2022

They have now repeated this approach at other sites, leading to well-dated reconstructions of the magnetic fields connected with the sackings of Gath, Kinneret, Bethsaida and Ekronin, as well as Lachish and Jerusalem, courtesy of military campaigns by Aramean, Assyrian and Babylonian kings. The dates range from about 830BC to exactly 586BC.

As to Lachish, history did not forget it. Sennacherib celebrated victory by ordering huge alabaster reliefs of his victory to decorate his palace in Assyria's capital, Nineveh. They are now in the British Museum.

-www.economist.com, 15 December 2021

**Commentary:** The city of Lachish is located in the Valley of Eshcol, south of the Valley of Elah. From the Bible, we know that David defeated Goliath in the Valley of Elah. The small town of Ein Karem is the birthplace of John the Baptist, and close by Tekoa, the birthplace of the prophet Amos.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, we read in Luke 19:38: "Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." The religious authorities, however, protested: "And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples" (verse 39). How did Jesus answer? "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (verse 40).

Today, the stones of Lachish are crying out to the world: much of the Promised Land from the River



of Egypt to the great Euphrates, is still Arab-occupied Israeli territory. (See Unearthing the Bible,

Item #2365, \$22.99.)



### **ISRAEL**

### **Underground Gaza Strip** Barrier

The Israeli defense establishment has completed a 65-kilometer (40mile) upgraded barrier with the Gazá Strip, three years and more than a dozen rounds of violent conflict after work began.



Defense Minister Benny Gantz said the barrier "deprives

Hamas of one of their capabilities, and places an iron wall, sensors and concrete between it and the residents of the South. Routine life here is our victory, and it is the greatest enemy of terror organizations.

"There is no place in the world that has built an underground barrier," said





The Gaza border barrier (credit: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE)

Fence Administration Director Brig.-Gen. Eran Ofir.

According to the Defense Ministry, more than 1,200 peo-



ple from around the world worked on the project at dozens of points along the border, during which time six concrete plants were established there, with 330,000 trucks pouring three million cubic meters of concrete for the project— "enough to pave a road from Israel to Bulgaria," said Ofir.

-www.jpost.com, 7 December 2021

Commentary: Only in Israel, or as Eran Ofir said, "no place in the world...has built an underground barrier." Israel had to defend itself some 15 times against Hamas terrorists, who have ruled Gaza in recent years.

It was in 2005 when Israel unilaterally moved out of Gaza, leaving behind 21 modern agricultural farms and other businesses. Gaza, under the lead-

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



### **AIR AND SPACE POWER CENTER**

el Aviv University and the Israeli Air Force announced that they had established a joint center that "will harness the world of civilian research and knowledge to advance various areas related to policy making and strategic thinking on issues of air and space."

Air Force Commander Mai. Gen. Amikam Norkin said. "We are groundbreaking pioneers in a vast range of operational issues which have grown in response to the challenges of our Middle-Eastern neighborhood... together with the IDF's intelligence operations, air power has become the main answer to the country's security challenges.'

TAU President Prof. Ariel Porat said. "The field of Air and Space Power is important and promising, both socially and scientifically. Many researchers at TAU address this subject from different angles, and the new Center will contribute a great deal to the advancement and development of both research and education in this area."

> -jpost.com 3 January 2022

ership of Hamas, was not satisfied. The reason? Ouite obvious: in their charter they claim the land of Israel from the Mediterranean to the Jordan.

What becomes evident is Israel's determination not to be intimidated by any terrorist activities. Suicide bombers, for example, have not been successful. While in 2002, 55 were registered, only one was registered in 2007. In April of 2016, an explosion occurred on a public bus, injuring 21 people. Considering that Israel is surrounded by Arab nations - with only two having signed a peace treaty: Egypt and Jordan-Israel can pride itself as one of the most peaceful and secure countries in the world.

Here are the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be



removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken" (Isaiah 33:20).

7670 (See Israel on High Alert, Item #2343, \$15.99.)



### SYRIA

### Israel Unapologetic for Missile Strikes

"We are fighting off the forces of evil in this region, day and night," Bennett said. "We will not stop for one second. It happens almost every day.



Prime Minister Naftali Bennett at a cabinet meeting (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/ THE JERUSALEM POST)



"We will continue to act against destructive forces; we will persevere and will not tire," he stated.

Syrian state media SANA reported that Israeli aircraft fired missiles from the direction of the Mediterranean towards the commercial port in Latakia, and a number of shipping containers caught fire.

Bennett spoke at the eighth trilateral summit between Israel, Greece and Cyprus with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades visiting Jerusalem.

The Greek and Cypriot leaders spoke out against Turkey's recent actions in Cyprus,



including opening access to Varosha, which had been a noman's-land between the Greek-speaking part of the country and the Turkish-occupied north, and encroaching on the island state's economic waters.

Israel, Greece and Cyprus also cooperate closely in the area of natural gas in the Mediterranean and have signed agreements towards constructing the EastMed Pipeline, meant to be the world's longest, which would have gas flowing from Israel's territorial waters into Europe.

-www.jpost.com, 7 December 2021

**Commentary:** While Israel is registering more friends than ever, those who are declared enemies are exhibiting their intention; namely, total destruction of the State of Israel.

Presently, the two northern neighbors Syria and Lebanon, are experiencing internal chaos. Since March of 2011, Syria has been involved in a civil war between the Syrian Arab Republic, led by President Bashar al-Assad, and various domestic and foreign forces that oppose both the Syrian government and each other in varying combinations (Wikipedia).

One of the main threats is the advance of Iranian military infrastructure in Syria. Subsequently, Israel continues air strikes. Prime Minister Bennett declared. "We will not stop for one second...We will continue to act against destructive forces; we will persevere and will not tire."

We point to the Biblical fact that much of the land of Syria is Syrian-occupied Israeli territory. This can also be said about Lebanon. That, we believe, is the real reason behind the tragic and horrible conflicts these two nations are experiencing. 7671

(See Northern Storm Rising, Item #2294, \$15.99.)

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



### GOLDFISH TAUGHT TO DRIVE

esearchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev say they have taught a goldfish to operate a FOV—a "Fish Operated Vehicle"—and that the fish's ability to drive proves that fish can develop spatial awareness and navigate foreign environments.

In their study, which was published in the peerreviewed scientific journal Behavioural Brain Research. the fish were put in a fish tank attached to a wheeled apparatus that was navigated by a camera tracking the fish's movement and a linked computer system that followed the fish's movement toward the walls of the tank. subsequently moving the vehicle in that direction.

The fish "were able to operate the vehicle, explore the new environment, and reach the target, regardless of the starting point, all while avoiding dead-ends and correcting location inaccuracies," said study coauthors Shachar Givon and Matan Samina

> -ipost.com 4 January 2022





### IRAN

### 'If Israel Attacks, It Will Be Destroyed'

Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Aerospace Force, warned that if Israel starts a conflict, Iran will "destroy" it, according to Iranian media.



A drone is seen during an Iranian Army exercise dubbed 'Zulfiqar 1400,' in the coastal area of the Gulf of Oman, Iran. (photo credit: TASNIM NEWS AGENCY)

"The Zionist regime officials know that they can be the initiators, but the end is with us," said the commander. "The end of this work is the destruction of the Zionist regime, and if they give us an excuse ... their destruction will certainly be advanced historically."

The IRGC Aerospace Force commander called Iran's security "exemplary," saying he did not need to talk about the country's capabilities "because the enemy is talking enough about Iran's missile and defense capabilities."

Hajizadeh pointed to efforts by world powers to add negotiations concerning Iran's missile program to the talks on returning to the JCPOA nuclear deal, saying Iran's drones have become "a thorn in their side," and that this shows the country's strength.

-www.jpost.com, 12 November 2021

Commentary: Mohammad Reza Shah was the last king of the Imperial State of Iran, from 16 September 1941 until his overthrow in the Iranian Revolution on 11 February 1979. Shah leaned toward the Western powers. Despite his dictatorial oppression of the people, he was celebrated by the West as the redeemer of Persia (Iran). His regime was overthrown by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his Iranian Revolution. From that point on, the new religious authority opposed the Westernization and modernization of Iran—going in the opposite direction.

One of its favorite targets of late is Israel. While a degree of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Israel continued well into the 1980s, the end was marked in the 1990s, with Iran's support of the terrorist organizations Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south.

Today, as the article clearly shows, Iran's stated goal is: "the



destruction of the Zionist regime."

We know it won't happen. Jeremiah speaks of the eastern part of Iran, including parts of Afghanistan, under the name Elam: "The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might" (Jeremiah 49:34-35). What will be the result? "For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before



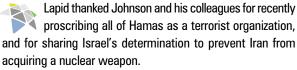
their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, even my fierce anger, saith the Lord; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them" (verse 37). 7673 (See ISIS, Iran, Israel and the End of Days, Item #2283,



### 'lews Do Not Have a Future in England'

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"The connection between Israel and Britain is not a symbolic connection, but a deep, practical friendship between political and security partners, who see eye-to-eye on most of the geopolitical issues that preoccupy our world," tweeted Foreign Minister Yair Lapid alongside a series of smiling photos of himself and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson during a diplomatic visit to London.



But for many Jews living in England, the situation has

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



### **SYNAGOGUE RUINS FOUND IN** MOROCCO

mainders of a Jewish-Moroccan community that existed for centuries were recently found in a remote town in the Atlas Mountains, on the edge of the Sahara Desert. The small Jewish community of Tamanart lived there from the 16th century to the early 19th century. Recently, researchers from Israel. Morocco and France conducted salvage excavations in its ruined synagogue.

Along with the building's walls, they found Scriptures and pages from the synagogue's genizah, a repository for damaged written matter and ritual objects, as well as a few paper amulets.

Among other texts written on these amulets were a Kabbalist version of one of God's names, as well as quotes from the book of Genesis and from the priestly blessing.

> -haaretz.com 27 December 2021



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND UK Chairman Samuel Hayek: Antisemitism has gone up and up, and there is deafening silence. (photo credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI/MAARIV)

become increasingly worrying, according to Jewish National Fund (JNF) UK Chairman Samuel Hayek—despite the deep ties between England and Israel.

"Jews do not have a future in England," Hayek told *The Jerusalem Post* from his Jaffa hotel.

According to Hayek, it is time for Jews to plan to leave Britain—not because there would be another Holocaust, God forbid, he said but because "Jews who are unable to protect their assets, Jews being discriminated against badly is something that could quite easily happen—that is happening."

The 2019 British election highlighted the challenges for Jews in the country, Hayek said, when it appeared for a brief window that Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn could win it—though ultimately the party suffered one of its worst general election results in living memory, losing dozens of seats to the Con-

servatives.

In London, Corbyn's antisemitism and his lack of apology for it were cited among the reasons for his defeat. But until nearly election day, Jews were on the edge of their seats in fear.

"Let's assume that Corbyn would have become prime minister," Hayek said. "We all know our lives would have changed without recognition. We cannot even understand it fully."

During the time, many Jews said that if Corbyn won they would leave England. But Hayek said thousands of Jews emigrating from the country would be much harder than it sounds.

No doubt, antisemitism would have accelerated dramatically in England if Corbyn would have been prime minister. But antisemitism has been constantly rising anyway and is only expected to grow.

One of the reasons is shifting demographics. The population of individuals who are anti-Jewish and anti-Israel, most significantly Muslim immigrants to the UK, is increasing and their influence on the government is too.

The May 2021 war between Hamas and Israel led to a record number of antisemitic incidents being recorded in the UK since 1984. CST said some 460 incidents were reported to the NGO between May 8 and June 7, with 316 happening offline and 144 online.

During the war, the BBC interviewed a



number of Jews who expressed fear of being outwardly Jewish. Rabbi Nicky Liss told the news outlet in an article leading up to the Shavuot holiday that he was nervous to walk 25 minutes from his home to a local synagogue to deliver a holiday address.

"This is the first time I've felt physically threatened," he told the BBC, "I can't believe that in 2021, I was thinking, was it safe for me to go on the street and walk to another synagogue to give a talk. It was incredibly worrying."

-www.jpost.com, 2 December 2021

**Commentary:** The article was sub-headlined, "INF UK Chairman Samuel Hayek tells Post why antisemitism and lack of leadership could drive Britain's Jewish community to Israel."

Antisemitism on the rise globally is related to anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism. Why, we may ask? After all, Israel, as a very small nation, is contributing much toward the well-being of global society - not only in agriculture and medicine, etc., but more so in computer-related high-tech fields. So, why antisemitism?

Here we must point to the Scriptures. Number 23 reports of a prophet named Balaam, who was employed by Balak to curse Israel. But what did he do? "How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied? For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations" (Numbers 23:8-9). The key words are "dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." Quite simply, Israel is special. It is not an issue of whether good or evil, but simply the immovable declaration of God, who does the choosing. 7658

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

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



### **SOCCER FANS GIVE NAZI SALUTE**

ozens of soccer fans in Antwerp, Belgium, were filmed giving Nazi salutes while chanting about Hamas and gassing and burning Jews.

The men chanted: "My father was in the commandos, my mother was in the SS, together they burned Jews 'cause Jews burn the best," as well as "Hamas, Jews to the gas" while making the Nazi salutes. They appear to be fans of the Beerschot soccer team of Antwerp, the Gazet van Antwerpen reported.

Such soccer chants occur regularly in Europe, and in the Netherlands and Belgium especially, ahead of matches between teams that fans of rival soccer clubs label as "lewish."

> -jta.org 30 December 2021



"It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things" (Romans 15:27).

### BY ARNO FROESE

ur relationship to Israel is exemplified in the above Scripture. We have been "made partakers of their spiritual things." True: the Bible is a Jewish book from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus Himself stated, "Salvation is of the Jews." There should be no question, no debate, no theological discussion. The Church, the one consisting exclusively of born-again people, owes its position to Israel. God was revealed in the flesh in Israel. He walked the land from the east to the west, from the north to the south.

While on earth, He told a Gentile woman who petitioned Him about her daughter, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs" (Matthew 15:26). At first glance, that seems heartless, cold, and extremely prejudiced to foreigners.

Reading the story, we notice that this woman of Canaan did not act in accordance with her position. She addressed Him, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David." That form of address was reserved for the Jews, not the Gentiles. Apparently, she realized her mistake; in verse 25b she cries out, "Lord, help me."

It is not our task or calling to analyze Israel's behavior and their political maneuvering—our relationship is spiritual. In proper alignment with Scripture, we also minister to them in carnal things. We are organically connected.

Israel has received multiple promises about their future, one being the borders of the Promised Land. No other country can be called the Promised Land—only the land of Israel. Yet we as Christians should never get

actively involved in the political process of the nation of Israel.

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* stated, "129 nations ignore Jewish ties to Temple Mount." The resolution was approved 129 to 11 by the United Nations General Assembly, stating that the Temple Mount should be called solely by its Muslim name al-Haram al-Sharif. But an EU representative said, "The EU reiterates that whenever referring to the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif in the Jerusalem resolution, both terms, i.e., Temple Mount and al-Haram al-Sharif should be used."

In view of these developments, something else is of great interest, revealed by another headline, "Israel signs Horizon Europe deal despite West Bank exclusion." Here an excerpt:

Israel signed a major research and innovation agreement with the European Union known as Horizon Europe, despite the exclusion of West Bank settlements, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights from the program.

Horizon Europe, which will be in place through 2027, is the largest global research program in the world with a budget of  $\leq$  95.5 billion (\$106.8b.).

"Today's agreement will allow Israelis and European scientists, innovators and researchers to continue to work together on the solutions of tomorrow through cutting edge technologies," Science, Technology, and Space Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen (Blue and White) said during a short virtual ceremony held between Jerusalem and Brussels. "This agreement gives a voice of recognition to Israeli innovation and reaches what is our most precious natural resource."

According to the European Commission, "Israel ranked third in terms of overall participation in the program [Horizon 2020] and was among the best performers." For the purpose of these programs, Israel is granted the same status as the 27 EU member states.

-www.jpost.com, 7 December 2021

This is the world's largest global research program, with a budget of 95.5 billion euros. Considering that most European nations are either neutral or somewhat anti-Israel, why was Israel invited to join this exclusive scientific club? A number of other countries have applied for associate membership, but only Israel has been accepted into Horizon Europe.



Another gigantic European project involves over 10,000 scientists from around 100 countries. Under the leadership of 21 countries, all are European but one: Israel. The Large Hadron Collider is the world's largest and most powerful energy particle collider. Its location is the Swiss-France border just outside Geneva. It is home to the world's largest physics laboratory.

When we consider these facts, we first of all realize that Israel is special. But we also understand that the Europeans need Israel. Otherwise, Israel would not have

attained membership in this prestigious European project. Is Israel's knowledge essential for these gigantic projects? Apparently.

But there is a different knowledge that Israel will seek after. Amos writes: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (8:11). Israel has not yet seriously searched for the Truth. They will find Him, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

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### Embracing a New Role in the Ebenezer Home



"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:17-18).

By David Phillips COO (Chief Operating Officer)

he above verses are very inspiring and speak personally to us; I know they definitely have for me.

This year has started with a meaningful change in the history of the Ebenezer Home; particularly for me, as I will no longer be writing you as the Maintenance and Project Manager of the Ebenezer Home.

Most of you understand that serving in ministry often requires wearing multiple hats. This is not always easy, but definitely needed. It is usually the case because of a lack of people serving to the ratio of tasks needing to be accomplished. The same holds true at the Ebenezer Home. We accept whatever tasks the Lord puts in our path, gladly serving alongside our other co-ministers in whatever way is needed.

### EBENEZER HOME



But now the time has come that our dear brother Johnny, the CEO of the Ebenezer Home, requires the help of a COO (Chief Operating Officer), to assist him with the running of the Home. With having longer "to-do" lists than hours per day, the Ebenezer Board of Directors has asked me if I would change roles and accept the position of the Chief Operating Officer. In order to advance and meet all the required regulations of the Home, and to continue meeting the needs of our beloved residents, team, and the community of believers in Israel, we all realized that this new position is now a must.

It is an honor and privilege to be the COO of the Ebenezer Home, although it is also an enormous responsibility. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. We ask that you pray especially that I might have the wisdom, patience, and love required to fulfill this new role. We personally know many of you who daily pray and lift us up before the Lord, and we thank each one of you from the depths of our hearts for those prayers! Without you partnering with us in prayer, we know we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Each one of you is such a tremendous part of our ministry and team, and we count on your prayers brought before the mercy seat of our Heavenly Father. Toda raba raba! (Thank you very, very much!)

We are incredibly thankful to announce that we have found a new skillful maintenance worker, Tony, who will be overlooking this aspect of the Ebenezer Home. You will be able to read about him soon. on our website: www.ebenezer.co.il. I have known Tony for many years and find him to be both reliable and professional, as well someone who does absolute best before God and man. Him being a dear brother in Christ to me, and Johnny's twin brother, gives all of us at the Home great peace, knowing

### EBENEZER HOME



Each one of you is such a tremendous part of our ministry and team, and we count on your prayers brought before the mercy seat of our Heavenly Father.

he is perfectly suited for this role.

The question then arises, "What about the Ebenezer Building Project? Who will be handling this role now?" The answer: I will. This isn't changing: I will still be managing the Ebenezer Building Project, so no worries. Look forward to more interesting updates soon!

This month's donations will go toward Ebenezer's building and renovation project.

Committing you all into the hands of the Holy One of Israel, our Messiah Yeshua, we pray His blessings upon you in this New Year in a very special way, and that each of you will bring in much fruit for the kingdom.



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