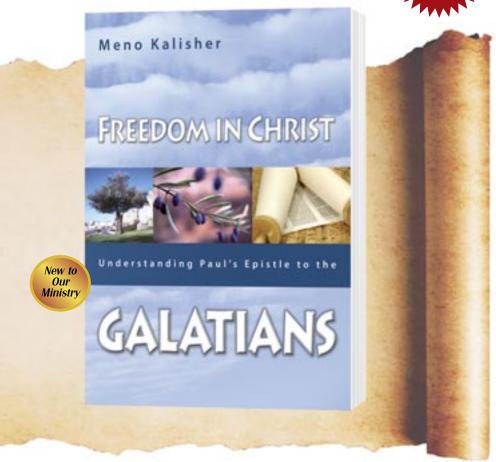
# NEWS FRO December 2022 Does Israel Have a Future? Part 6

# Understanding Paul's Epistle to the Galatians





#### To keep or not to keep?

- Are we obliged to keep the Old Testament commandments—what the Bible calls the Law?
- If so, does that include all of the commandments or just some?
- And what about religious traditions—should we keep them, or shouldn't we, or is that something we shouldn't worry about?
- Or do the Old Testament commandments as well as the traditions oblige only Jewish believers in Jesus, i.e. Messianic Jews, while Gentile believers can do as they please?

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### Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

s was to be expected, the right wing won the elections in Israel, and Netanyahu will once again become prime minister. But the victory has a bit of a worrisome aspect. For the big winner was not Netanyahu and his Likud party, but the extreme right party of Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir.

It will not be easy for Netanyahu and his Likud to form a government, since Ben-Gvir and Smotrich are making extreme demands. Ben-Gvir, for example, wants to run the Ministry of Homeland Security, even though he has neither military experience nor training. Nevertheless, he thinks he knows everything better.

The probability that two years from now there will be renewed elections in Israel is very high, because the contrasts are simply too great. That was the problem also with the last government. It was apparent from the very beginning that the political views of the various

coalition partners were simply too divergent.

Given the stress of difficult decisions to be made, such a coalition may then break apart. This is to be greatly feared in the case of the now developing government.

What is the reason for Israel being so divided and torn? A big issue is the relationship with the Israeli Arabs as well as the Palestinian Arabs. The last government was the first one in Israel to include an Arab party. For many of the extreme right, this is unacceptable. However, one cannot and must not overlook that the Arabs make an important economic contribution in today's Israel. They are predominant in the construction field as well as in the service sector. For instance, almost all bus drivers in the country these days are Arabs.

Of course, the terrorist attacks are always shocking. However, the reaction should not be to blame and condemn the Arabs collectively, as that only encourages the extremists on the Arab and Palestinian side. Finally, it is a fact that Israel could not exist without the Arabs and their labor force. But the same is true for the Israeli and Palestinian Arabs. They also cannot exist without Israel and what modern Israel offers them, nor could they maintain the standard of living which they enjoy today.

When King Solomon died and his son Rehoboam came into power, Jeroboam appeared before the new king, demanding relief from the yoke the people had to bear. Rehoboam discussed this with his young and inexperienced advisors, who recommended that he not ease the voke but, on the contrary, increase the burdens. This extreme counsel led to the split of the country into the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam rejected the counsel of his old advisors, who had recommended a loosening of the yoke so that the people would serve him willingly.

Ben-Gvir and Smotrich seem like the young consultants of King Rehoboam in 1 Kings chapter 12. And their ideology sounds similar as well. They advocate a tightening of the "screws" to show the Arabs who is master of the country. But such an attitude can only lead to division and discord.

Not only is the relationship with the Arabs endangered, but also, relations between the political and religious factions among the Jewish people, are becoming increasingly extreme and tense. This can be seen already in the manner in which people talk with each other and about one another, especially so in Parliament, the Knesset.

Internal unity is essential; how can you stand up against an external enemy, if there is no inner unity? Let us hope and pray that Israel's dividedness will not get so intense that her defense capability will suffer.

What gives us confidence is the fact that God is dealing with His people today, not according to their righteousness, but according to His divine grace—so that His plan for Israel and the world will be fulfilled.

In this confidence, I greet you with Shalom.



# Does Israel Have a Future? - Part 6

BY NORBERT LIETH AND JOHANNES PFLAUM

The Torah and the Question of the Land



Ithough Paul makes it unmistakably clear that God hasn't permanently rejected the people of Israel, he doesn't even mention the Old Testament land promises made to them. It wasn't necessary, since the New Covenant hadn't rescinded them.

It's important that we distinguish between the different covenants in the Bible. Some are unconditional, unilateral covenants, and others are conditional. Replacement theologians (rightly) point out that the Old Covenant (also called the Mosaic Covenant or the Sinai Covenant) has been replaced and superseded by the New Covenant. But is Israel's promise of the land actually governed by the Old Covenant?

#### DEUTERONOMY 28 AND THE PROMISE OF THE LAND

The Old Covenant was conditional. Deuteronomy 28 makes it clear that obedience to the covenant will result in blessing for Israel, while disobedience

will result in a curse. According to replacement theologians, Israel squandered its election and any yet-to-be-fulfilled promises by disobeying the Old Covenant. However, this conclusion is mistaken.

We know this to be the case because, fully independent of this claim, Deuteronomy 28 tells us of two instances of Israel being scattered in connection to their disobedience. But this chapter also speaks of Israel being gathered together again in the future. Deuteronomy 28:36 first deals with the Israelites being removed from the land (the Northern Kingdom of Israel, consisting of 10 tribes, by the Assyrians in 722 BC; the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 586 BC):

"The Lord shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone."

#### Does Israel Have a Future? - Part 6

"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."



This passage speaks of Israel's deportation to a foreign land and is directly related to a king. Both conditions were fulfilled when the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were taken away: the Northern Kingdom was led away to Assyria under its last king, and the Southern Kingdom was led away to Babylon under King Zedekiah. By contrast, Deuteronomy 28:64 speaks of a diaspora

among all people without mentioning a king at all:

"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone."

To some degree, Israel's second dispersal is connected to the first, since some of those The chapter makes it clear that Israel will be dispersed twice, and the promise of the future gathering together (Deuteronomy 30) can't possibly be referring to the return from Babylonian captivity, but only from being scattered among all peoples.

who were taken away were also scattered among the peoples in Assyria and Babylon. But its true fulfillment came with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD, when the Jews were scattered among all the peoples of the Roman Empire. It was sealed when the Romans put down the Bar Kokhba Revolt in 135 AD, which resulted in the repeated dispersal of a large portion of the remnant of Jews who still remained in Israel.

What can we learn from these two dispersals? On one hand, if God didn't end His people's story after the first scattering despite their disobedience, then it stands to reason that He wouldn't after the second scattering either. On the other hand, Deuteronomy 30's promise of a future gathering together of Israel (vv. 1-6) couldn't have been fulfilled with

the Jews' return from Babylonian exile, so it must be referring to a future gathering after the second dispersal. This is clear from verse 3: it speaks of Israel being gathered from all the peoples among which they had been scattered, and not just one (cf. Deut 28:36). So, such a gathering could only be fulfilled after Israel's second dispersal. Additionally, verse 6 says that the Lord will circumcise the hearts of His people, and then they will love and serve Him unconditionally. Despite the revival movement among those who returned from Babylon, this hasn't yet been fulfilled. The prophet Malachi makes it clear that superficiality and apostasy quickly returned to the land after the revival under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

To summarize, regardless of how you interpret the transfer

of promises from the Old to the New Covenant, Deuteronomy 28 makes it impossible to conclude that Israel lost its promises through disobedience to the Mosaic Covenant. The chapter makes it clear that Israel will be dispersed twice, and the promise of the future gathering together (Deuteronomy 30) can't possibly be referring to the return from Babylonian captivity, but only from being scattered among all peoples. This happened after Christ's death and resurrection and Jerusalem's destruction.

#### THE MISCLASSIFICATION OF AN IMPORTANT COVENANT

Under Replacement Theology, an important covenant is misclassified and robbed of its earthly promises for the people and land of Israel: the Abrahamic Covenant. Unlike the Old (Mosaic) Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant is a one-sided covenant which God made unconditionally with Abraham. It clearly says so in Genesis 15:7-21. The Lord instructed Abra-

ham to bring him a heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-yearold ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. Abraham did so, cutting the animals in half and laying the halves opposite each other. When a covenant was made in those days, both parties involved would walk between the halves of the animal. But in verse 17, only one party (God's flaming torch) passed between the halves. Thus, the Abrahamic Covenant (in contrast to the Old Covenant) is one-sided, based solely on God's promise and not linked to any conditions. The future promises of land, which begin in verse 18, are explicitly related to this covenant.

Thus far, these land promises haven't been fulfilled. Even at its largest (as it was under David and Solomon), Israel never possessed borders from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates. Because the Abrahamic Covenant is one-sided, this promise must be fulfilled in the future.

As we've seen, Paul deals with the Church's relationship

In contrast to the doctrines espoused by replacement theologians, the biblical promise of Israel's future salvation isn't contingent on adherence to the Mosaic Covenant, which was conditional, but on the Abrahamic Covenant.

to Israel in Romans 9—11. Chapter 11, verses 26-27 speak of Israel's future salvation, with the Apostle's reasoning in verse 28:

"As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes."

The passage references Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And in the next verse, Paul justifies his statement using the one-sided Abrahamic Covenant: "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance [irrevocable]."

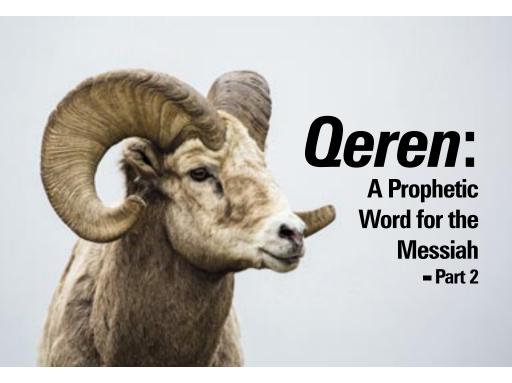
Even before the Mosaic Covenant was instituted, it's clear from the Old Testament that God's salvation of His people is based on the Abrahamic Covenant. As we read in Exodus 2:24 (in connection with the people's slavery in Egypt),

"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."

Deuteronomy 6:3, 10 and 7:8 also justify Israel's salvation and the promised conquest of the land using the Abrahamic Covenant. Psalm 105:7-11 justifies promises for Israel (both fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled) using the Abrahamic Covenant.

In contrast to the doctrines espoused by replacement theologians, the biblical promise of Israel's future salvation isn't contingent on adherence to the Mosaic Covenant, which was conditional, but on the Abrahamic Covenant. This covenant is a unilateral one, whose promises—including those in regard to the land of Israel—are based solely on God's pledge.

(NAI0522/1235)



#### **Gabriele Monacis**

Regarding the Hebrew word *Qeren*. The Messiah will lay down His life as a sacrifice for many.

In the first article in this series, we saw that the Hebrew word *qeren* literally means "horn," but it is also translated symbolically in our Bibles as "strength" or "power." *Qeren* can appear in very different contexts. The articles in this series will primarily focus on the Scriptures in which

the term is used, with the goal of examining how this word speaks prophetically of the person and life of the Messiah Jesus.

We've even seen this word's prophetic value confirmed in the New Testament, in Luke 1. It appears in the Canticle of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist.

"And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son."

Zechariah praises God, who sent the One whom He had promised to redeem His people. In verse 69, he says that God "raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." The expression "horn of salvation" is a clear reference to Jesus Christ, who was born a few short months after these words were spoken by Zechariah. The Hebrew word *geren* appears 80 times in the Bible-94 times if we include instances of the Aramaic equivalent garna (Hebrew ארינא), which occurs only in the book of Daniel.

Qeren is used for the first time in Genesis 22, where God tested Abraham by directing him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac. Abraham famously took Isaac and everything else he would need for the sacrifice, and set out for the mountain which God had indicated. Once there, he built an altar, bound his son, and placed him on it. He then took up a knife to slaughter him. He was on the verge of killing Isaac when the angel of the Lord restrained him and said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me" (verse 12).

The next verse continues, "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son." As we read this story, we can't help but think of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like Abraham, God the Father didn't spare His beloved Son but gave Him up as a sacrifice, for the redemption of everyone who believes in Him.

In the story of Abraham and Isaac, the sacrificial animal was

a ram with horns. Abraham saw that those horns had gotten caught in the brush. It tells us something that it was the ram's horns that brought about its death. The very part of its body that gives the ram its strength and victory over its enemies and its royalty in the eyes of other animals, is the very part that allows him to become entangled in the undergrowth. And so, it was easy for Abraham to seize the ram and to kill it. The event was a remarkable paradox: the ram's horns exist to pierce its enemies, not to entangle it and cause its own death!

This image of the ram being caught by its own horns in the brush, makes us think of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before crucifying Him, the soldiers braided a crown of thorns for His head (Mark 15:17). It must have looked similar to the thorns in which the ram had been caught. Jesus Christ—the beloved Son of God, whom His Father did not spare—was like the ram in our story. The ram was caught

by the horns, the symbol of its power and kingship. Jesus was the King of kings and Lord of lords, worthy to be crowned, yet voluntarily allowed Himself to be entangled in a painful crown of thorns and then put to death on the Cross.

Isaac, who was to be sacrificed and killed by God's command, had his life spared through the life of a ram. Similarly, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross gives life to those who accept that sacrifice and believe in Him, so they don't have to die.

In the context of the story of the sacrifice of Isaac, the expression *qeren* points prophetically to the Messiah, the Son of God and King of kings, who will not demonstrate His power by destroying His enemies. Instead, He will come before His people in great humility, giving His life for the redemption of everyone who recognizes that He is the Son whom the Father has not withheld from us.

(NAI0522/1234)

# On the Horizon



#### **ISRAEL**

#### **Five Universities Among Top 50**

Five Israeli universities were listed in the top half of PitchBook's 2022 ranking of the 100 undergraduate programs that produce the most VC-backed entrepreneurs, including Tel Aviv University, which ranked in the top 10 for the fifth consecutive year.



An aerial view of Tel Aviv University. (Tel Aviv University)

In the ranking for undergraduate programs, Tel Aviv University came in at 7th place, up one spot from the previous four years when it placed 8th; the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology dropped to 15th place, down three spots from 12th, a ranking it held for the previous two years; the Hebrew University of Jerusalem held its spot at No. 31 for the second consecutive year; Reichman University (formerly the IDC) was a newcomer to this list, ranking in 38th place, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev dropped to the 45th spot, down one from 2021.

Tel Aviv University and its graduate programs came in

# BRIEF ®



#### PRE-ISLAMIC CHRISTIAN MONASTERY

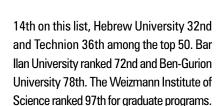
Arare, possibly pre-Islamic era Christian monastery was uncovered by archaeologists on an island off the coast of the UAE, Emirati state media reported.

The monastery was discovered on Siniyah Island in the Umm Al-Qaiwain emirate. According to Emirati media, the complex found by archaeologists includes cisterns, a church, a refectory and residences for the monks.

While the Arabian peninsula is traditionally known for being the cradle of Islam, there was a time before when Christianity was more widespread in the region.

According to pottery assessment and radiocarbon data, the site seems to imply it was used between the late sixth to mid-eighth centuries, which would put it before or during the rise of Islam.

*-jpost.com* 7 November 2022

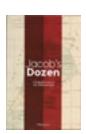


Stanford, Harvard, and MIT came in first, second, and third, respectively.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 1 November 2022

**Commentary:** Israel's intellectual might is well-known, but being named in the top 50 universities in the world that produce entrepreneurs, is surprising. One must consider that this is a relatively new country, mostly surrounded by enemies who have declared their intent to destroy the Jewish State—but to this day have been unsuccessful.

Right in the beginning in Genesis 50, when Joseph made himself known to his brethren who sold him into slavery, he had this to say: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto



good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (verse 20).

7880

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



#### LEBANON

#### Sea Border Deal with Israel

TotalEnergies, along with Emmanuel Macron, was instrumental in the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, announced by a US mediator, regarding the extraction of natural gas from fields under the Mediterranean Sea. It will exploit a controversial deposit on the maritime boundary on behalf of the Lebanese, and compensate Tel Aviv.

This agreement was made, after years of discord, against the tense backdrop of the war in Ukraine and the European decision to do without Russian gas. Israel is staking its bets particularly on the Karish gas field, which is ready to go into production, in order to speed up gas deliveries to the Old Continent. Lebanon, meanwhile, is in a multidimensional crisis, and needs to exploit its resources. Former Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke of 'historic capitulation,' and promised that he would break off the agreement if he returns to power.

-mondediplo.com, 12 October 2022

**Commentary:** Meanwhile, Netanyahu has been reelected Prime Minister, so it remains to be seen if he will break off this deal.

The agreement was finally signed under diplomatic pressure on both



sides. NBC News writes: "Lebanon and Israel both claim. some 330 square miles of the Mediterranean Sea. Under the agreement, those waters would be divided along a line straddling a strategic natural gas field."

During King Solomon's reign, a deep friendship between Israel and Lebanon existed. When Solomon had plans to build the temple on Mount Moriah, he needed wood: cedar trees from Lebanon. His request was met by King Hiram. First Kings 5:10 reports, "So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire." Solomon in turn supplied sustenance for Lebanon: "And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year" (verse 11).

We see that the waters of the Mediterranean played a role in this friendship. At this point in time, Lebanon is one of the most bitter enemies of Israel. Yet a bad agreement is better than none. There is a self-interest for both parties. Lebanon may extract gas and oil from a gas field surrendered by Israel. While Israel will have complete control over the Karish gas field, the Qana field would be shared between Lebanon and Israel, with Lebanon taking control and Israel to be compensated.

The issue is the Promised Land, Much of Lebanon is still Arab-occupied Israeli territory; subsequently, the bitter conflict with Lebanon. Yet the ultimate outcome was already settled long ago: "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be" (Deuteronomy 11:24). 7870

(See The Remarkable Wisdom of Solomon, Item #2223, \$12.99.)

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**



#### SMART BRACELET **FOR AUTISTIC** CHILDREN

he Abrace collects a wide range of physical data and accurately determines a child's emotional state, giving their parents or professionals crucial time to prepare for or even prevent—sensory meltdowns.

Just like a watch, it attaches to a child's wrist. automatically monitoring sensory input levels, without making the child uncomfortable or interfering with their day-to-day life.

In the United States, ASD affects one in 44 children. To date, caregivers of children with ASD have been forced to rely on intuition and experience to predict mood swings and distress.

Abrace solves this challenge, combining childfriendly, ergonomic design with innovative technology and modern machine learning to be the world's first clinically approved smart sensor for

> -ipost.com 9 November 2022

DECEMBER 2022

#### WORLD

## 3 UNHCR Members Don't Recognize Israel

Fourteen new countries were elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council, including three that do not recognize the State of Israel. Those three are Algeria, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

None of the countries elected have an overwhelmingly positive record with regard to supporting Israel at the UN, a body that has passed more resolutions against the Jewish state than against any other country. South Africa, which has relations with Israel, has a particularly negative record.

Prior to the vote, the non-governmental group UN Watch had raised concerns about Algeria, Sudan and Vietnam. It noted that these countries were deemed "unqualified" due to their own human rights records as well as their voting records on UN resolutions concerning human rights.

[Among countries stepping down from the council,] only the Marshall Islands had a positive voting record on Israel. The United States, which is a strong supporter of Israel, has a seat on the council through the end of 2024.

-www.jpost.com, 11 October 2022

**Commentary:** From an intellectual



Deputy Minister Alvin Botes delivers a National Statement at the Annual High Level Panel on Human Rights Mainstreaming under the theme "Thirty years of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: challenges and opportunities," at the UNHRC, Geneva. (photo credit: FLICKR)

perspective and considering geopolitical realities, there is little to no reason for nations to oppose Israel. Countries with good and positive relations with the Jewish State are quite often more successful politically and economically.

Almost 3,500 years ago, it was the Gentile prophet Balaam who made this remarkable statement: "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 23:9).

7882

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



#### **EUROPE**

#### **Israel's Largest Defense Importer**

"By the end of 2022, we expect that more than half of Israel's defense exports will go to Europe," said David Siegel, president of Friends of the European Leadership Network (ELNET), a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening relations between Europe and Israel.

Speaking at the Jerusalem Post Conference in New York, Siegel explained that Europe is Israel's largest trading partner. "Israel depends on Europe, and more and more, Europe depends on Israel," said Siegel. He noted that half of Israel's imports come from Europe, and one-third of Israel's exports are sent to Europe.

Siegel said that Europeans view Israel as a peer and as a power in the areas of national security and energy. "Israel is exporting energy, national security and innovation to the world," he stated.

-www.jpost.com, 18 September 2022

**Commentary:** With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Europe has become defense-conscious. Who has the best weapons? The answer is quite obviously Israel. Why? Because this nation had to defend themselves against the onslaught of its neighbors and the wider Islamic world. When analyzing facts on the ground today, these enemies actually contributed toward Israel being technologically superior to virtually every other country when it comes to defense.

Once again, we witness Israel at the forefront. Countries that wish to import Israeli defense technology will be reminded of this when it comes to voting in the United Nations, which usually condemns the Jewish State.

What was proclaimed by the prophet Joel some

# BRIEF •



# \$2 BILLION IN INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

srael-headquartered global venture firm OurCrowd is marking \$2 billion in investment commitments ahead of its annual Global Investor Summit event in Jerusalem slated for February.

The firm, founded in 2013, is also celebrating its 10-year anniversary, with investments in over 40 funds across five continents and 370 portfolio companies of which 60 have "exited" (tech exits are defined as merger and acquisition deals or initial public offerings).

OurCrowd companies include California food tech firm Beyond Meat, Israeli insurance tech company Lemonade (now traded on the New York Stock Exchange) and Israeli company Innoviz Technologies, a maker of sensors for self-driving cars, traded on the Nasdaq. It has also invested in an additional 410 companies through partner funds.

-timesofisrael.com 9 November 2022 2,800 years ago, is still valid today: "Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong" (Joel 3:10).

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



#### ISRAEL

# Burger King to Sell Vegan Burgers

Burger King Israel's menu will feature a plant-based Whopper, the American fast food giant's signature hamburger, and vegetarian



"chicken" nuggets, the franchise said.

The food items were developed specifically for Burger King Israel by the Israeli startup, "Meat. The End" (MTE), a relative newcomer to the alternative proteins sector, founded in 2020. The startup's stated mission is to solve the texture aspect of eating plant-based "meat" to make it closer to the real thing.

MTE uses existing extrusion technology, the process of making a shaped object like a burger patty, and infuses it with proprietary steps throughout the production line to produce a texturized protein ingredient (TPI) or textured vegetable protein (TVP), the buildings blocks of plant-based burgers. The result is a soy-based product that



An illustration of the new plant-based burger and nuggets being served up in Israel. (Burger King Israel)

"looks a little bit like Corn Flakes...and that is the texturized soy protein, the chunks that make up the body of the burger," MTE founder Dr. Yishai Mishor explained.

The Israeli company's plant-based Whopper and nuggets, dubbed "Veggie Kings," will first become available at a Burger King pop-up branch at Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv. The pilot will last a week, after which the items will be on menus at the franchise's nine stores across Israel's Gush Dan region.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 24 October 2022

**Commentary:** Israel's already rich Mediterranean cuisine now has the successful addition of a meat-like taste derived from vegetables.

Today, an increasing number of people worldwide are refusing to eat animal products. Why? Most respon-



dents cite health reasons as well as "saving the planet."

What is our take? The planet doesn't need to be saved nor any country, but individual souls from the now over 8 billion people on planet earth. Many more need to be added to the body of Christ, His Church, the spiritual temple of God. We pray that the fullness of the Gentiles may come in soon so, as the Bible says, "all Israel shall be saved."

(See Israel and the Church, Item #2376, \$16.99.)



#### ISRAEL

#### Fifth Worst Country to Work In

Israel has made it to the top of another statistic, but this time, it isn't one to be proud of.



Israel is #5 in the list of the worst countries in the world in terms of work conditions and benefits.

The list was compiled by William Russell, an international insurance company. The company provided a detailed analysis of reasoning for rankings based on a large database of data.

The #1 worst country in terms of work conditions, according to the list, is Mexico, with a work and employment score of 0.47 out of 10. This is due to "low wages, annual leave and public holidays, as well as long working hours and systematic violations of workers' rights in the country."

After Mexico—i.e. #2 worst country to work in in the world—is the US with a score of 2.37 out of 10 due to the lack of guaranteed maternity leave, paid public holidays and annual leave.

The best countries to work in, in order, are Denmark, Finland and Norway.

Israel's Labor Rights Index Score is a 69, in contrast to Finland,

# NEWS IN BRIEF



#### WORLD'S FIRST SALIVA PREGNANCY TEST

The world's first salivabased pregnancy tests developed by a Jerusalem-based startup will soon be on shelves in pharmacies and other retail stores in Israel, Europe, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

Salignotics, an Israeli biotech company that developed the pregnancy test based on technology used to make COVID-19 testing kits, said that the SaliStick test kits will be available in these regions early next year. The company said it is in advanced discussions with distributors to deliver the kits in the first quarter of 2023.

The Israeli company, founded in 2016, received European CE certification for SaliStick to be marketed in the European Union as well as approval from the Israeli Ministry of Health. Salignostics is currently in the process of seeking FDA approval in the US.

-timesofisrael.com 9 November 2022 for example, which has a score of 93. The Labor Rights Index measures employment regulation affecting employees worldwide.

-www.jpost.com, 10 October 2022

**Commentary:** Israel has drastically changed from its beginning with the kibbutz movement, where all received the same benefits and equivalent work burdens were distributed. In our day, it has the capacity to adapt itself to prevailing international socio-political circumstances.

How accurate this data is, is not known to us. Yet it becomes abundantly clear that workers' rights have been placed on the back burner by the political and business elite.

According to JewishVirtual Library.org, a large part of Israel's labor force is made up of foreign workers. The article states, "These people are willing to work for wages that, though lower than the Israeli norm, allow them to save and send money to their families in the countries of origin." It continues: "The population of foreign workers in Israel today stands at about 250,000—of them 100,000 legally in the country, and 150,000 illegals. The latter either come as tourists



TEACHERS DEMAND better pay and working conditions, as they demonstrate in Tel Aviv, in May. A sign reads: 'Without teachers, there is no future.' The shirt reads: 'Fair salary now!' (photo credit: TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90)

and stay on, or come legally as foreign workers and overstay their permit, or go to work for higher wages to other employers. Foreign workers account for about 13 percent of the labor force."

We cannot help but point to the prophetic Word, which speaks of the future: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that



is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:23). 7881 (See *Miracle of Israel*, Item #2303.\$13.99.)



#### Thus Far the Lord Has Helped Us!

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev 21:4).

By David Phillips COO (Chief Operating Officer)

t seems almost impossible and far from reality that we are getting ready to enter 2023; and yet, here we are at the year's end. Looking back over this past year and all it entailed, makes us realize once again just how our Heavenly Father has carried us through and provided for our every need! How He has blessed us, brought us through all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, and provided for our every need. And He used each of you, our dear Ebenezer family, in a very special way to accomplish just this! Thank you all for always upholding us in your prayers and blessing us in the many ways you have this past



Arno Froese and board members visiting the Home

year! It means so much to each one of us to know that we have you standing by our side and encouraging us on, through all the challenges and difficulties we've faced.

Although we realize January isn't the Biblical new year, there is great significance in each year's number. I look at the year's

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change and ask myself, "How much closer are we now to the 2000-year anniversary of Yeshua dying for us on the cross, shedding His blood in atonement, resurrecting from the dead, and ascending to heaven? When will we join Him, our Savior, who is preparing a place for us with Him in the presence of the Father?" No doubt with each year's passing, we're that much closer to the great wedding feast—the day we all so wait and long for! With great anticipation and excitement, we ask ourselves, "Will this be the year He gathers His children to Himself?" We can only wait and see!

With the New Year around the corner, our dear residents asked me to please send you all their greetings, thoughts of peace, and prayers for 2023.

For most of them, the journey here on earth is not easy. Maybe similar to yourself, they often struggle with pain and sorrow, illness and aches, trying to overcome thoughts and worries, praying for relatives to come to faith... The list seems endless and the days can be very quiet, often accompanied by feelings of loneliness. They long for and await the time that they too will go to their heavenly rest. BUT as they (and each one of us) wait for this joyful day, we are all deeply encouraged to know He is right here and closer to us than ever before!

We can be assured that Yeshua—the One who sees and knows everything about us—is present through all and will be with us through the New Year to come as well. It is impossible for the Good Shepherd to forget one of His sheep. Pay close attention to the introductory verse and be encouraged through God's Word, which He has left us for this exact time in history. He wrote this verse because He knew that our life here on earth would be accompanied by tears, sorrow, and pain. He promises us that He Himself will wipe away every tear—what a day that will be! May this verse go with us and be a special reminder

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throughout this next year, that He sees and knows—and one day, all pain and sorrow will be no more!

May we all be encouraged through the presence of the Holy One of Israel—who never sleeps nor rests, but takes care of those who belong to Him—both here at the Ebenezer Home in Haifa and wherever you are right now. "Look up ... for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28)!

In the next article, we have a surprise and special announce-

ment for you that is worth waiting for ... so be sure not to miss it! Until then, may God bless you and be with you all!

Thank you, Mr. Froese, for blessing and visiting us at the Ebenezer Home! Having you visit us was definitely an honor and the highlight of the end of the year for us. We love and appreciate you very much! May our Father continue to bless you and keep you, as you continue serving Him in what you do!

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"Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow" (2 Samuel 23:1-5).

#### BY ARNO FROESE

or clarity's sake, let's read verse 5 in the *Tanakh*: "Is not my House established before God? For He has granted me an eternal pact, drawn up in full and secured. Will He not cause all my success and [my] every desire to blossom?" We note that the last sentence is to be understood in a positive way, because it falls in line with the previous one: "Is not my House established before God?" Thus, the following sentence is confirmed: "Will He not cause all my success and [my] every desire to blossom?" Luther uses these words: "All my salvation and all my

desires, he will cause [them] to grow."

The name David is found no less than 1,130 times in the Bible. Interestingly, the first time his name is mentioned is in the book of Ruth, who was not an Israelite but a Moabite: "And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David" (Ruth 4:17).

Reading the four chapters of the book of Ruth, one immediately senses God's desire to integrate the Gentiles into His plan of salvation.

We are reminded here of the words of Jesus: "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6). Later, Jesus specifically emphasizes that He has been sent to Israel: "But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24).

The angel Gabriel proclaimed to Mary: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:31-32). Here again, the exclusiveness of Israel is emphasized: "He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever" (verse 33a). That's not the end, for it continues: "and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

More than six centuries before Jesus was born, this vision was revealed unto God's faithful servant Daniel: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). That, incidentally, reveals the future of your country (or any country): there is none. But what God establishes is eternally valid.

With reasonable assurance, we can identify this special group of people. The sentence in the *Tanakh* reads: "A kingdom that shall not be transferred to another people."

As we saw in the beginning, prophecy clearly indicates that Gentiles will be added to this kingdom. Here the words of the Apostle Paul are helpful: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). It is often overlooked that the Bible calls us believers, no matter who we are, "strangers and foreigners." It matters not what passport I have; it's only of very temporary value.

One more thing that needs to be emphasized is the unity between these two groups of people; namely, Israel and the Church: "And are



built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). The apostles represent the New Testament, the prophets the Old Testament. What an immense and virtually incomprehensible privilege it is, to have become heavenly citizens through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Back to Bethlehem: when Jacob/Israel returned to the Promised Land from his uncle Laban, his beloved wife Rachel was ready to deliver Jacob's twelfth son, Benjamin. "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem" (Genesis 35:18-19). Benjamin is the only son born in the Promised Land, Here Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin; the town is Bethlehem.

Many years later when Jesus was born, another horrific tragedy befell Bethlehem. The wise men came to Jerusalem seeking the newborn King: "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2a). Alarm bells went off in the mind of King Herod. When the wise men did not return to report the place of Jesus' birth, Herod ordered the mass killing of children two years old and under. Matthew reports: "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not" (verses 17-18).

#### **Bethlehem Today**

It is not coincidental that Bethlehem is no longer considered a Jewish city, but an Arab-Muslim one. In 1948, when the Jewish State was proclaimed, Bethlehem was 85% Christian, mostly Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic. In 2006, the Palestinian Center for Research and Cultural Dialog determined that 90% of the population of Bethlehem was either Muslim or had Muslim friends.

What a mighty panorama we see highlighted on the horizon. The

source of salvation, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, is now occupied by foreigners. To visit Bethlehem from Israel today is rather difficult. Israeli vehicles are not allowed to enter Bethlehem; thus, at the border, passengers need to change from Israeli transportation to Palestinian vehicles, and on the return likewise. Rachel's Tomb, also outside Bethlehem, is made accessible from Jerusalem under the strictest rules.

#### **Bethlehem's Future**

When considering Bethlehem's future, we must understand that

according to our Lord—who is the Creator of heaven and earth—all the nations of the world are insignificant in comparison to Israel. In regard to David, who was born in Bethlehem. Revelation 22:16-17 proclaims: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will. let him take the water of life freely." NE

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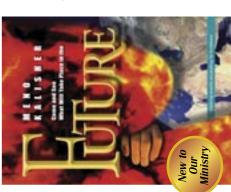
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