

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

July 2024

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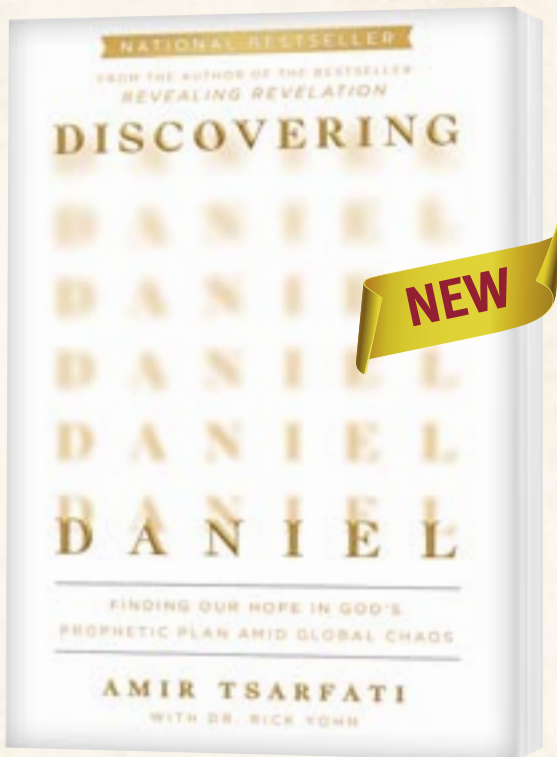
Attack on Israel — Where Will It End? Part 2

Hamas Tunnel Under Child's Room P. 13 • Over a Million Children Indoctrinated P. 15

Finding Our *Hope* Amid Global *Chaos*

Using the same deep but easy-to-understand style found in his standout seller *Revealing Revelation*, bestselling author Amir Tsarfati reveals how Daniel's prophecies— and his unwavering faith amid a contentious culture—provide vital insights for living out these last days with hope and wisdom. As you explore the deep connection between Daniel and Revelation, you will learn how

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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

Israel's finance minister declared that this war is the most expensive one in the history of the State of Israel. In addition, of course, the war is having a negative impact on the economy, and the worrisome factor is that there is no end in sight. This is especially the case when considering the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon. With all the warfare in and around Israel, the question arises: How can we fit this whole event into Biblical prophecy?

Now there are Christians who believe that God was finished with Israel back in the year 70 AD (destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by the Romans), and that everything that happens in Israel today has no Biblical meaning. It is indeed astonishing that Jesus, in His speech on the Mount of Olives, speaks only of the worldwide dispersion of the Jewish peo-

ple, but said nothing about a regathering. The regathering would have been a striking portent of His return.

First of all, it must be remembered that the Old Testament prophets spoke more than enough about the fact that even though God would disperse them, He still would also gather them again and bring them back into their country. And secondly, that the time of His return remains partly concealed. In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus only told us during *what kind of time* it will happen. A time like the days of Noah and Lot ... and that is what we actually have today. In Luke 21:24, Jesus says that although the Jewish people will be scattered among the nations and Jerusalem trampled underfoot, that time will come to an end. There we read the significant



word *until*: “Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled!”

Once more, there is quite a significant separation of times in the New Testament; namely, in Acts 15:16, where we read: “*After this* I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up.” What is meant by that? That, after having taken from among the nations “one people for His name” (verse 14), God would again turn to Israel. This means that the time of the Gospel and the Church of Jesus will come to an end, along with the Gentile nations.

When we look at the Christian world today—and I am not talking about the “faithful remnant” but the mega churches—we find that they are mostly concerned with this world and adapting to the spirit of the times. When we observe all of this, we have to say that the Christian world is rife for judgment, just as religious Judaism was at the time of Jesus. The apostasy of which Paul speaks in his letter to the Thessalonians is in full

swing: “...for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first...” (2 Thess 2:3). Church leaders lament the unstoppable loss of members, but it does not seem to occur to them that the fault for this could be their own.

Biblically and prophetically speaking, we obviously are on the threshold of a very drastic turning point. Already on the Mount of Olives, the disciples excitedly questioned the Lord: “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3). Jesus mentions religious seduction as the first sign, and war as the second. He probably didn’t mean just wars in the world as a whole, but wars that have to do with Israel and Jerusalem. It is almost unbelievable how “Christian” nations right now are turning away from Israel, while letting themselves be engaged in crime, lies, and deceit.

In the hope of the returning Lord and Ruler of the world, I cordially greet you from Israel,



Attack on Israel— Where Will It End? Part 2

BY FREDY PETER

After our in-depth analysis of Psalm 83's first stanza, let's move on to the second:

2. A POWERFUL ENEMY ALLIANCE

The neighboring nations held a summit and agreed to the complete annihilation of Israel. The Psalmist describes this conspiracy in detail:

“For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant—the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Asshur also has joined them; they are the strong arm of the children of Lot” (Ps 83:5-8).

Such an impressive assemblage of Israel's hostile neighboring states isn't mentioned anywhere else in the Old Testament. Some interpreters believe these verses are referring to wars that David fought, but David never battled against such a large coalition of enemies. Others believe that they were fulfilled through King Jehoshaphat, as recorded in 2 Chronicles 20, but that passage doesn't mention all of the nations of Psalm 83. Still

others see this as an alliance of the Jews' enemies at the time of the Maccabees, which is reported in 1 Maccabees 5. But in that instance, it was the sons of Esau that led the attack, not the sons of Lot.

Dr. Roger Liebi has proposed a very interesting explanation in light of the Arab League's 1945 resolution to eradicate the Jewish State: The ten regions from Psalm 83 map exactly onto the seven founding states of the Arab League, which then played a significant role in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War:

1. Edom, Ammon, Moab:
Jordan
2. Hagrites: Syria
3. Tyre, Gebal: Lebanon
4. Ishmaelites: Saudi Arabia
5. Ishmaelites: also
included Yemen
6. Asshur: Iraq
7. Amalek, Philistia: Egypt
(which was in possession
of the Gaza Strip at that
time)

God allows hardships so His people realize they cannot manage on their own.

Theologian William MacDonald, in turn, saw great similarities between this Psalm and the Yom Kippur War of 1973. All these things are an indication of the final march of Israel's hostile neighbors who intend to destroy the Jewish State—and an indication of end-time fulfillment.

Asaph reminds God in the third stanza:

3. OVERWHELMING VICTORIES IN THE PAST

This passage quotes military events recorded in Judges 4—8: “Do to them as you did to Midian, as to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon, who were destroyed at En-dor, who became dung for the ground. Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, ‘Let us take possession for ourselves of the pastures of God’” (Ps 83:9-12). Here is another plan of destruction by Midianite princes.

The pastures of God had been given to His people, and like a shepherd, this is where He intended to lead them to graze. The plotters intended to tear it away from the Jews, yet God Himself would once again give a great victory over the enemies. These great victories of the past encouraged Asaph to pray for victory over Israel's current and future enemies.

God allows hardships so His people realize they cannot manage on their own. “Surely, falsehood comes from the hills, commotion from the mountains, but the salvation of Israel is only in the LORD our God” (Jer 3:23).

In the fourth stanza, Asaph prays for:

4. IMMENSE INTERVENTION IN THE FUTURE

“Make them like tumbleweed, my God, like chaff before the wind. As fire consumes the forest or a flame sets the mountains ablaze, so pursue them with your tempest

The Israeli army destroys another of Hamas's command centers. This photo shows the blasting of a network of tunnels.



and terrify them with your storm. Cover their faces with shame, LORD, so that they will seek your name” (Ps 83:14-16). Very strong language, but its aim is not complete destruction. This isn't a matter of gratification or revenge. The ultimate goal of this song of Asaph is God's glory: “So that they will seek your name.”

Events in Israel are showing us that the stage is being set, and all the pieces are being put in place. On November 20 last year, one

newspaper wrote on its front page, “Next year will be a hellish one for the West. Can it get any worse? It can....” And one weekly headlined its October 19, 2023 issue with, “Where will it all end?”

Aren't these the kind of anxious questions that friends of Israel are also considering? Where will it end? Where will this lead? There is genuine fear across the globe that the world's superpowers (the US, Britain, Russia, China...) will form factions on either side of

Israel, plunging humanity into a third, unconventional world war.

Far to the south, Yemen (one of the world's poorest nations) declared war on Israel, firing rockets and drones from over 1,000 miles away. To the southwest, it is Hamas. To the east, on the Golan Heights lies Syria, and to the north is Hezbollah, all supported by Iran. Additionally, further to the north lies Turkey, which has publicly announced its full support of Hamas, describing Israel as a terror state. On November 15, President Erdoğan announced to parliament in Ankara, "I am telling Netanyahu, you have atomic bombs, nuclear bombs and you are threatening with them. We know this. And your end is near. You can have as many nuclear bombs as you want. No matter what you have, you are on your way out." His declaration was met with thunderous applause. Even further north lies Russia, recently allied with Iran.

If we evaluate the constellation of nations in Psalm 83, current developments concerning Israel are actually alarming. Just a few

days after the terrible attack on October 7th, President Biden, French President Macron, English Prime Minister Sunak, and German Chancellor Scholz traveled to Israel one after the other. What were they discussing?

Consider that 80 NATO warships have been deployed in the eastern Mediterranean, a number unprecedented since World War II. Thus, let's ask the question: Is a comprehensive war in the Middle East imminent? Chronologically, we see Israel's restoration in Ezekiel 36 and 37, followed by the destruction of Gog and Magog on the mountains of Israel in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Is that when the great peace treaty with the Antichrist will be signed? This would begin the seven-year Tribulation. But for that to take place, the Rapture would have already occurred.

I just don't know. And, as much as we'd like to know, methodically searching the Scriptures, we must be careful not to speculate. We simply don't know. We must also be careful not to hate Muslims.

Psalm 83 is pointing to the time when Isaiah 45:23 will be fulfilled: “To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.” And this will happen when Jesus returns with great power and glory (Matt 24:30).

As Christians, we are compelled to love our neighbors and forgive our enemies. And Muslims aren’t our enemies! That’s why we should pray for them, that they will recognize and accept Jesus Christ. Then they will be saved, secure in God’s hand, receiving peace with God and certainty of eternal life.

Through this Psalm, we know where everything ultimately leads. The outstanding conclusion of this prophetic song speaks of this as well: “Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth” (Ps 83:17-18).

Who is Most High over all the earth? Isn’t He the same One who will be called King of kings and Lord of lords when He returns (Rev 19:16)? Our Lord Jesus

Christ! Arno Gaebelin wrote, “‘The Most High God’ is one of God’s millennial names.”

Psalm 83 is therefore pointing to the time when Isaiah 45:23 will be fulfilled: “To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.” And this will happen when Jesus returns with great power and glory (Matt 24:30).

Which is why I believe that all of the events that have taken place in Israel’s history thus far are prophetic depictions of the final, end-time fulfillment that is yet to come. It’s likely a prelude to the invasion of Gog and Magog, and ultimately to the end-time all-out attack on Israel during the Tribulation period, which will end at Jesus’ return.

ARE YOU READY?

Twenty-eight towns and kibbutzim were attacked, and there was

only one with no fatalities. It was all because of a single young woman. Each kibbutz has its own security officer, and in Kibbutz Nir Am (founded in 1943), it was 26-year-old Inbal Rabin-Lieberman. She had served in the army as a combat soldier. When she woke up to the sound of rockets on October 7th, she immediately received a text message telling her to remain quiet and wait it out. But these explosions sounded different, and she didn't trust the instructions she'd received. She immediately called together her security team and issued heavy weapons, dispersing them to all of the kibbutz's strategic points. She then ran screaming from house to house, ordering everyone into the shelter. When the terrorists appeared at the kibbutz fence a little later, all 25 attackers were shot.

One lesson we can take from this is that we need to recognize the signs of the times and remain vigilant. Jesus empha-

sized these two principles with regard to His return:

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake” (Mark 13:32-37).

Are you ready to meet the Lord? Perhaps today? “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28).

(NAI0224/1387)



On the Horizon



GAZA

Hamas Tunnel Under Child's Room

"The troops located a tunnel shaft inside a child's room, and a butcher's knife next to it. In addition, the troops identified six terrorists near a school in the area of the troops."



A tunnel entrance in a child's room in Rafah



Images released by the IDF show troops operating in the dense urban environment of Rafah. Images also show the cache of weapons, explosives and other equipment troops retrieved during the operation.

The IDF said a number of steps were taken before [the] strike to reduce the risk of harming uninvolved civilians during the strike, "including conducting aerial surveillance, and additional intelligence information."

The post was accompanied by an aerial photograph pinpointing rooms on two upper floors of the building, which the IDF said were the "locations of the terrorists."

-www.yahoo.com, 6 June 2024

Commentary: What is so sad about the Gaza war is not only that many civilians were killed and murdered

NEWS IN
BRIEF



NEW F-16 BALLISTIC MISSILE

Israel Aerospace Industry revealed that it had succeeded in developing an even smaller ballistic missile, which can be launched from F-16 aircraft and can even carry two at the same time.

High-quality and well-protected targets such as command centers, air force bases, infrastructure, and densely populated naval vessels are classic targets for such a missile.

The missile navigates to the target with a GPS/INS system that is highly resistant to disruptions, and thanks to its speed and maneuverability towards the target and its ability to hit it from a 90-degree angle, it is very difficult to intercept.

Yaakov Glifat, director of the MLM factory, which also produces the Arrow and LORA, said that "the AIR LORA improves the attack and defense capabilities of the countries, with minimal risk to pilots and planes. The missile offers the Air Force the ability to surprise the enemy in the depth of his territory."

-jpost.com
7 June 2024



NEWS IN BRIEF



SPAIN JOINS GENOCIDE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL

Spain asked a United Nations court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in the Gaza Strip.

South Africa filed its case with the International Court of Justice late last year, alleging that Israel was breaching the genocide convention in its military assault against the Hamas terror group in Gaza.

Israel has rejected the accusations of genocide as baseless and says South Africa is acting as an emissary of the Hamas terror group, which rules Gaza and seeks to eliminate the Jewish state. It says that the Israel Defense Forces is targeting Hamas terrorists, not Palestinian civilians, but points out that civilian casualties in the fighting are unavoidable as terrorists operate from deep within the population.

Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Libya and the Palestinians are already waiting for the court in The Hague, Netherlands, to grant approval to their requests to join the case.

-timesofisrael.com
6 June 2024

in Israel, but that a large percentage of Gaza's Arab Palestinians sympathize with the Hamas movement. Thus, the question, what does Hamas stand for? The Wilson Center reveals the "Doctrine of Hamas":

Since its creation in December 1987, Hamas has invoked militant interpretations of Islam to spearhead a Sunni extremist movement committed to destroying Israel.

Complete rule based on the Islamic religion is the cornerstone of Hamas' doctrine:

Hamas is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement. It has called on members of the other two Abrahamic faiths—Judaism and Christianity—to accept Islamic rule in the Middle East.

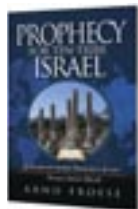
-www.wilsoncenter.org, 20 October 2023

While publishing only a fraction of the doctrine of Hamas, it becomes apparent that there is no room for compromise, dialog, or discussion.

Another excerpt states:

In 2006, Hamas ran openly for the first time in legislative elections and won the largest number of seats—over Arafat's Fatah and other secular parties—in the Palestinian Authority's legislature. It wrested physical control of Gaza away from the PA a year later, thereby cementing its political and military control of an area.

The very doctrine of Hamas' public declaration is its intention to destroy the State of Israel, while endorsing unconditional war to achieve that purpose.



Israel's future? "And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God" (Amos 9:15). 8266

(See *Prophecy for Ten-Tribe Israel*, Item #1083, \$14.50.)



Over a Million Children Indoctrinated

Fear and coercion drive hundreds of thousands of children annually to the Houthi camps, where they are exposed to extremist propaganda and military recruitment.



Dahan Al-Same'i, an employee in Yemen's health sector who resides in Sana'a, told The Media Line that the Houthi-appointed community supervisor asked him to enroll his children in one of these summer camps. Despite being against the idea, Al-Same'i was pressured to register his three children, ages 8 to 14.

According to Al-Same'i, when they returned home after the first day of camp, they had memorized the slogan of the Houthi movement: "God is the greatest, death to America, death to Israel, a curse upon the Jews, victory to Islam."

The Media Line met with several children enrolled in them. Using pseudonyms to protect their identities, they relayed their disapproval of being forced to attend these camps and said they would have preferred to spend their summer vacation learning a new language or simply playing.

The Media Line also learned that the children who attend the summer camps comprise 65% of the total number of children living in areas under Houthi control and that most of them are publicly loyal to the Houthis.

Houthi Deputy Foreign Minister Hussin Al-

Ezzi claimed on social media platform X that over 1.5 million children participated in their summer camps.

Local Yemeni journalist Saddam Muhammad confirmed that any parent who refuses to enroll his children into the summer centers "puts himself on the list of those who are not loyal to the Houthis, which threatens his survival or at least his access to the basic services they are in control of."

-themedialine.org, 5 June 2024

Commentary: The conflict in Yemen—and this applies to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and other Muslim countries—is based on religion. Even today, religion is a major issue in the world's largest democracy, India. Hinduism is prominent, and Islam is often suppressed.

Looking at the main continent, Europe, it was religion that started the first horrible persecution of Muslims and even Jews with the initiation of the Crusades in 1096 AD. That is roughly 480 years after Islam was established by Mohammed, the prophet who is credited with writing the Koran, the fundamental instruction and declaration of faith for Muslims.

In this case, we highlight education which, according to this article, is equivalent to indoctrination. In reality, every country in the world



NEWS IN BRIEF



HOUTHIS LAUNCH 'PALESTINE' MISSILE

Yemen's Houthi rebels revealed their latest advancement in missile technology, launching what the group's media office claims to be a solid-fuel hypersonic rocket at the southern Israeli port city of Eilat.

Hypersonic solid-fuel missiles such as the "Palestine," however, are technologically and materially complicated to make, and it is, therefore, unclear how the Houthis, who are based in the Arab world's poorest nation, would be able to produce such advanced firepower domestically.

Iran sees the Shiite Houthis as a key member of the "Axis of Resistance," a network of ideologically aligned proxy groups directly opposing the regime's regional rivals such as Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United States.

Through its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard force, Iran provides these groups with funding, training, and arms.

-*themedialine.org*
6 June 2024



Students of Houthi-run summer camps participate in a mass protest in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Sana'a, Yemen. (Mohammed Hamoud/Getty Images)

indoctrinates their children in certain things—mostly historic facts taken out of context—in order to instill the philosophy in the children's minds: we are right, they are wrong.

This writer, whose ship the *Castel Felice* was anchored on the outskirts of Aden in January of 1960, vividly remembers how Yemeni peddlers swarmed the ship and tried to sell their wares to the crew and passengers. At that time, the atmosphere was friendly, peaceful, and most of us enjoyed the event.

Today, it's a different story. Yemen is being torn apart by civil war. The United Nations announced in 2022 that over 150,000 people have been killed; others estimate more than 227,000. Wikipedia reports of 377,000 people killed, and some 4 million people displaced.

In the meantime, the Houthis have declared the destruction of Israel as their goal, and they have successfully caused Israel's harbor in Eilat to close due to their missiles. Moreover, a major shipping route is being endangered. The group has launched repeated drone and missile attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea on the way to the Gulf of Aden.

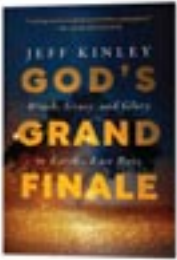
What is the future? Continued military conflicts,

which we understand to be temporary in nature. Sooner or later, a manmade peace will prevail on planet earth, before the real, just, and righteous one will be established, as written in Revelation 11:15: “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are

become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

8267

(See *God's Grand Finale*, Item #2408, \$16.99.)



RUSSIA

Moscow's Palestine View

Russia has traditionally held that Middle East security hinges on the creation of a Palestinian state. So while it said ‘there can be no justification’ for the 7 October attack, Moscow has also condemned the ‘indiscriminate bombing of residential neighborhoods in Gaza.’



The USSR played a major, if unexpected, role in Israel's creation. Its

early promotion of an ‘independent, democratic Palestine’ where Jews and Arabs would coexist was merely a tactical move, and Moscow soon back-pedaled. On 30

September 1947 Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov telegraphed his deputy, Andrey Vyshinsky, in New York that while he could not ‘take it upon [himself] to support the creation of a Jewish state,’ this solution—presented as a backup plan in case clashes between the two communities worsened—was actually preferred by the Kremlin.

-mondediplo.com, June 2024

Commentary: Doubtless, the compassionate speech of the Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov, contributed to winning the UN vote to partition Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state.

One must also mention that it was the Soviet Union which, though not openly, supplied weapons for Jews to defend themselves. Wikipedia writes:

Czechoslovakia also trained 81 pilots and 69 ground crew specialists, some of them later forming the first fighter unit of the Israeli Air Force, and on Czechoslovakian soil a group of Jewish volunteers the size of approximately a brigade (about 1,300 men and women) were also trained, from August 20 until November 4, 1948.

The same article, under the sub-headline, “Arms Shipments from Czechoslovakia to Israel 1947-1949,” describes



NEWS IN BRIEF



PUTIN ACCUSES ISRAEL OF GENOCIDE

Israel's military campaign against Hamas in Gaza is tantamount to genocide against the Palestinians, Russian President Vladimir Putin charged during a press conference with foreign news editors in St. Petersburg, as he blamed the US for the war itself.

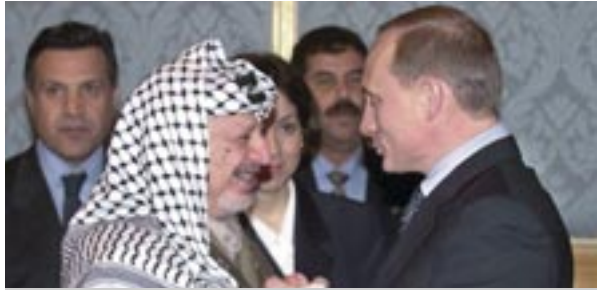
"What is happening now in Gaza in response to the well-known terrorist act in Israel, does not really look like a war," Putin said.

"It is some kind of total destruction of the civilian population," he said based on a translation of his words.

He spoke amid rising tensions between his Moscow and Washington over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which also chilled relations with the Jewish state, particularly given the growing military alliance between Iran and Russia.

Putin said he still retained hope for a Palestinian state, noting that his country has recognized Palestine as a state since the time of the former Soviet Union.

-jpost.com
6 June 2024



Best of friends: Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin greets [former] Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Moscow.

Alexander Nemenov AFP - Getty

the birth of Israel's air force:

Some of the aircraft were lost en route to Israel. The delivery of aircraft began on May 20, 1948, and was conducted from the Czech airfield near the town of Žatec. Some of [the] Avia fighters were dismantled and flown to Israel in transport airplanes.

Some of the deliveries were not finished until after cessation of hostilities. Only eighteen Spitfires reached Israel prior to [the] end of war by direct flight from Czechoslovakia during operations Velvetta 1 in September (6 planes) and Velvetta 2 in December 1948 (12 planes), both operations with a refueling stop in Yugoslavia. During operation Velvetta 2 Spitfires were repainted in Yugoslav Air Force markings for the flight from Kunovice to Nikšić. The rest were shipped in crates, officially declared as scrap iron, along with 12 Merlin 66 engines, and deliveries lasted until the end of April 1950.

During those days, Britain and the United States had an arms embargo against the Middle East.

Not surprisingly, the Soviet Union was the first to officially recognize the State of Israel (de jure).

One must also realize that of the signers of Israel's Declaration of the Rebirth (Independence), most

WORLD

Antisemitism

Examples of antipathy to Jews and Judaism during ancient times are abundant. Statements exhibiting prejudice towards Jews and their religion can be found in the works of many pagan Greek and Roman writers.



There are examples of Greek rulers desecrating the Temple and banning Jewish religious practices, such as circumcision, Shabbat observance, study of Jewish religious books, etc. Examples may also be found in anti-Jewish riots in Alexandria in the 3rd century BCE. Philo of Alexandria described an attack on Jews in Alexandria in 38 CE in which thousands of Jews died.

The Jewish diaspora on the Nile island Elephantine, which was founded by mercenaries, experienced the destruction of its temple in 410 BCE.

Relationships between the Jewish people and the occupying Roman Empire were at first antagonistic and resulted in several rebellions. According to Suetonius, the emperor Tiberius expelled from Rome, Jews who had gone to live there. The 18th century English historian Edward Gibbon identified a more tolerant period beginning in about 160 CE.

According to James Carroll, "Jews accounted for 10% of the total population of the Roman Empire. By that ratio, if other

were born, raised, and educated in the Soviet Union (or its satellite states): 9 from Ukraine, 5 from Poland, and 8 from Belarus.

Israel's relationship with the USSR changed dramatically during the Six-Day War, when Israel's air force decisively destroyed the Arab air force with their French Mirage jet fighters.

Today, the picture is different. The main supplier of weapons to the Jewish State is the United States, which stepped up to aid Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

When reading the prophet Daniel, we realize that weapons play an important part. "But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain" (Daniel 11:38-39).

8268

(See *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the Book of Daniel*, Item #2412, \$19.99.)





NEWS IN BRIEF



TEL AVIV STARTUP HUB LEADS THE WORLD

A higher proportion of startups founded in Tel Aviv have become billion-dollar companies than anywhere else in the world.

And the city has been outperforming the Bay Area (San Francisco), New York City and other leading global tech hubs, says a new report, despite a year blighted by domestic strife over judicial reforms, the October 7 massacre and war in Gaza.

Almost one in every 20 of the city's startups (4.8 percent) backed by venture capital has become a unicorn—a privately held company valued at over \$1 billion—according to a report by the city's Tel Aviv Tech initiative and the innovation data platform Dealroom.

Tel Aviv also tops the global chart for the number of unicorns per billion dollars of venture capital since 2019.

And it has the third highest proportion of venture capital-backed startups that have gone on to become decacorn, a company worth \$10 billion or more, such as Wiz (cyber), Rapyd (fintech) or Navan (enterprise software).

-israel21c.org
23 May 2024

factors such as pogroms and conversions had not intervened, there would be 200 million Jews in the world today, instead of something like 13 million."

-en.wikipedia.org, 1 April 2009

Commentary: Volumes upon volumes of documentation testify to the horrible persecution of Jewish people throughout the last two millennia.

James Carroll, born in January 1943, was an American author, historian, journalist, and former Catholic priest. He documents many overlooked facts regarding the treatment of the Jews in his book *Constantine's Sword* (2001), which received the Jewish Book Award.

In particular, we note his estimation that if antisemitism had not been practiced, there would be 200 million Jews in the world today. Considering these numbers, the 15 million Jews in the world in 2024 indeed present only a small "remnant."

The prophet Isaiah shows the future: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness" (Isaiah 10:20-22).

8269

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





ISRAEL

What Is a Kibbutz?

The word itself means “gathering” in Hebrew. Kibbutzim are a communal living situation unique to Israel. There are about 270 kibbutzim dotted across Israel.



Central to the kibbutz are roots in socialist and Marxist ideas about collective living. Early kibbutzim were exercises in radical democracy, said David Leach, author of the book *Chasing Utopia: The Future of the Kibbutz in a Divided Israel*.

“I would say they are considered one of the most successful experiments in voluntary socialism,” said Ran Abramitzky, a professor of economics at Stanford University. “Jewish immigrants who founded kibbutzim rejected capitalism and wanted to form a more socialist society.”

Kibbutz residents have never made up a majority of Israel’s residents. (Currently, less than 3% of Israel’s population live on one.) Despite their small numbers, kibbutzim have had outsized cultural and political influence on Israel for much of its history, with many politicians, military leaders, intellectuals and artists all coming from kibbutzim. Politics in kibbutzim are associated with the left-wing and peace solutions.

Before the formation of the state of Israel, the kibbutz played an important role in the Zionist mission of state-building.

That dual purpose fed the early stereotype of a kibbutz resident, or a kibbutznik, as a



Children play at a kindergarten surrounded by decorated concrete blast walls designed to protect from rocket and mortar fire in 2015 in the southern Israeli Kibbutz of Nahal Oz near the border with the Gaza Strip. Menahem Kahana/AFP file photo via Getty Images

combination of farmer and fighter—someone who was there to both “farm the land but also establish its borders and defend it,” Leach said.

-www.npr.org, 12 October 2023

Commentary: Historians undividedly place the kibbutz movement as the cornerstone of Israel. Needless to say, food was—and still is—the rock of survival. But as the article explains, the community of the kibbutz was responsible for the food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and education of its members on the premises. No one owned anything, yet they owned everything: “All for one, and one for all,” which is practiced in militaries around the world.

The majority of kibbutzim were not established on religious principles, and as Ran Abramitzky states, “Jewish immigrants who founded kibbutzim rejected capitalism and wanted to form



a more socialist society.”

When we turn to Ezekiel 36, we read of the resurrection of Israel. Note the prophecy is directed to the topographical area, and later to the people: “But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come” (verse 8). Kibbutzim prepared the way for the people at hand to come.

But that’s not all; we read something very important in verse 26: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” Take note of the words “a new heart” and “a new spirit.” Jews were considered somewhat inferior soldiers throughout Europe’s history, and in many cases, they were not allowed to own land. Subsequently, they were not farmers. But that all changed: Once a Jew stepped onto the soil of the Promised Land, he received “a new heart” and “a new spirit.” Defense of their farmland was extremely important and a cornerstone of the Jews’ survival in the midst of a hostile Arab majority.

Yet that’s not the end, for the next

verse proclaims: “And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Note the distinct difference; no longer “a new spirit” but “*my spirit*.” That is yet to come. The last verse awaits fulfillment: “As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with

flocks of men:
and they shall know that I am the LORD.” 8264

(See *Experiencing Israel*, Item #2367, \$29.99.)



EGYPT

Peace by Economic Incentives

As the Israeli military’s ground operation in Rafah continues, tensions between Israel and Egypt, which borders Gaza, have continued to grow. The ongoing war is testing the strength of Israel’s longest-lasting peace treaty with an Arab nation.



In the 45 years since Israel and Egypt established diplomatic relations, the two countries have cooperated economically, militarily, and politically. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis visit Egypt each year, and the two



Israel and Egypt. (Getty)

“These tunnels are used by Hamas to supply itself with weapons and ammunition and could potentially be used to smuggle out of Gaza hostages or Hamas senior operatives,” Israeli Deputy Attorney General Gilad Noam told the ICJ.

-*themedialine.org*, 24 May 2024

countries share intelligence to fight terrorism in Sinai. Egypt also signed a \$15 billion gas import deal with an Israeli company in 2018.

Despite strained political ties between the two countries, trade relations have remained stable, Haisam Hassanein, an expert on Israel-Arab relations at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told The Media Line. “Israeli fuel goes into Egypt. Both Jordan and Egypt also renewed their water-sharing agreement, despite strained political bilateral ties,” he said.

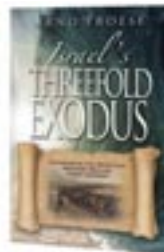
Egypt has consistently rejected the possibility of relocating Gazans into its territory, temporarily or permanently.

“Israel’s insistence on relocating refugees to Egypt triggers the country’s national security,” Nourhan N. Moussa, a Cairo-based international lawyer and law professor, told The Media Line.

As part of its defense at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Israel pointed to the existence of 50 tunnels between Egypt and Rafah.

Commentary: Here we see the power of commerce. While the vast majority of Egyptians are pro-Palestinian, in the end, Egypt has more to lose by severing ties than Israel.

Egypt is important because it is where Israel was born. Then came the time when the Lord told Pharaoh of Egypt, “Let my people go.” Pharaoh repeatedly refused, and after the fourth plague, God separated the people of Egypt from the people of Israel. “And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there;



to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth” (Exodus 8:22). 8262

(See *Israel's Threefold Exodus*, Item #1088, \$14.50.)



Supporting Israel with our Blood

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)



David and Esther

From the reality of our daily life ... Recently, the Magen David Adom blood services explained to the pastor next door to the Ebenezer Home that they urgently needed blood. With the war, there was a shortage of blood and we needed to fill the blood bank in Israel. Our wounded desperately needed it. They scheduled a date and issued the call. This couldn't wait.



David

One by one, we lined up: Everyone doing whatever they could to support those who were fighting for our country. Some giving for the first time, but desiring to help in this special way. Many of our Ebenezer team as well willingly got in line.



Corinna

For some, they're on the front lines, physically fighting in the battle. Others help bring in food, supplies, and provide a place for the soldiers to rest. And yet others fill in wherever needed ...



like on this day, donating their own blood to help those who have been wounded.—Blood means Saving Life! Our Messiah gave His blood for our atonement.

Summer has arrived: The weather is hot, and humidity is at the max. This time of the year, most of the residents try to stay indoors, because the heat is hard on them. Some told me they use this time to pray; because they know the scars of war, it's time to pray for healing. Join us in prayer.

Let's be practical and help lift up their hands, supporting our elderly prayer warriors.



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“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up” (Joel 3:9).

BY ARNO FROESE

Deutsche Welle (a German public broadcaster) reports: “Global military spending soars to new record highs.” Crisis Group.org lists 10 conflicts to watch in 2024: Gaza, wider Middle East war, Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia, the Sahel, Haiti, Armenia-Azerbaijan, and US-China. Sipri.org features the headline, “Global military spending surges amid war, rising tension, and insecurity.” Dozens, if not hundreds of conflicts we hear and read about in the media could be listed. This all falls in line with the above prophecy: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles....” We note that this is not directed to Israel, yet Israel—since the founding of the State in 1948—has not ceased to be confronted by wars and threats of wars.

To the nations of the world, Israel’s defense against murderous criminals like the internationally-recognized terrorist organization Hamas, is being over-

shadowed by the over 30,000 killed in Gaza. While this horrendous tragedy is overwhelming for the Arab-Palestinians, it has caused us to see a clearer picture of the world's bias against Israel.

Not surprisingly, verse 2 of Joel 3 says, “I will also gather all nations....” Further, verse 12 emphasizes, “Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.” This, most Bible scholars agree, points to the final battle: Armageddon.

In the meantime, Israel prepares regardless. A *Jerusalem Post* article reports about Israel's energy reserves in secret locations:

Israel hides underground fuel reserves in the Negev, ensuring the country's energy security during crises. It's one of the largest in the region, capable of distributing fuel across the country.

Estimates suggest that during combat in the northern arena, Israel's gas facilities will be shut down, and electricity supply will switch to operate on the basis of fuel and coal. The vast amount of fuel in the reservoir is expected to suffice for an extended emergency period.

Israel's backup system includes storage capabilities above and below ground throughout the country. When needed, fuel will be distributed to all energy consumers in the country—power stations, Ben Gurion Airport, and fuel stations.

"This fuel here can last us for many years. The temperature throughout the year is 22 degrees, which effectively preserves the shelf life of the fuel," explains Moshe Elimelech, facility manager.

-*www.jpost.com*, 18 April 2024

We note the name "Elimelech," which can be translated, "God is king." God the King announces His intention for Israel in the conclusion of the book of Joel: "But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion" (Joel 3:20-21). (NFI)

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