

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

October 2024

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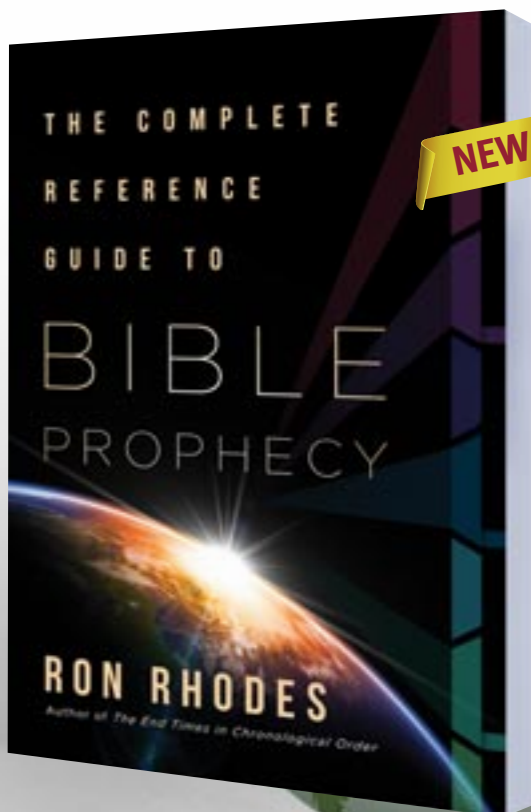
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Dear Friends of Israel,

BY FREDI WINKLER

Israel has vowed to find and liquidate all those Hamas responsible for the atrocities of October 7 a year ago, just as they did with the assassins of the Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics, even though it took 20 years for the last one of them to be caught. Israel knows those responsible quite well, since Hamas themselves filmed their atrocities to brag about them later. These film materials have largely fallen into the hands of the Israelis.

With the death of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, a Hamas leader of the highest rank has been eliminated. The attack on him was a masterpiece of Israeli intelligence, which demonstrates that these heinous murderers will not be safe anywhere.

Iran couldn't believe what had taken place. One of its most important allies in this war against Israel had been eliminated in the middle of Tehran. Wildest rumors circulated concerning how Israel had managed to kill Haniyeh, who was a guest of honor under the protection of the Ayatollah regime. For Iran, there was almost no choice but to avenge this humiliation. But, the question arises: Is it worth the risk of a major war? Ismail Haniyeh was an ally in the fight against the Zionist enemy, but he was no Shiite like the Iranians, "only a Sunni." However, when it comes to the Zionist enemy, even the otherwise rival reli-



gious differences within Islam disappear.

In this context, the statements of the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, are of particular concern. He threatened Israel with invasion. This statement is an outrageous threat, but Israel must take it seriously. In addition, Erdogan declared a National Day of Mourning for Ismail Haniyeh, during which the Turkish flag was flown at half-mast.

Even though Turkey and Iran belong to different camps within the Islam religion, they are steadily drawing closer to one another. What increasingly unites them is opposition to Israel. This ideological rapprochement between Turkey and Iran is a reason for serious concern for Israel. However, four Arab states did not condemn the elimination of the mass murderer Ismail Haniyeh: the Emirates, Bahrain, Mauritania, and Morocco. This shows that the Arab and Islamic world is not

as unified as it might seem looking in from the outside.

When Turkey threatens to invade the land of Israel, God says: "...At the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, says the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face" (Ezekiel 38:18). What that means is described in verses 19 and 20, and verse 21 states: "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, says the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother."

The Islamic world may act threateningly and appear united on the outside; yet, thanks be to God, there are many divisions. There are also those who simply want peace and quiet and who are against the saber-rattling from Iran.

Grateful for the Word of God—as we can see in Ezekiel 38 how the Lord Himself will fight against the enemy—I send you heartfelt greetings from threatened Israel,

Frederick Winkler



Are the People of Gaza Really Hostages of Hamas?

BY ARIEL WINKLER



A great deal has already been said about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We've covered its history starting with the Zionist movement, the Balfour Accords, aliyah to Israel, the British Mandate, the Faisal-Weizmann Agreement, the War of Independence, and the additional wars Israel has fought up to the present.

You can present the various sides of the conflict, and debate when it really began or whether Palestinians should be considered a national group. But the varied opinions about Palestinian nationality are irrelevant: Palestinians view themselves as a people. Every nation has a certain point in its history when its people came together as a group with a shared identity. Americans are one example: They were originally immigrants from different countries. The force that unites them is immigration, a fresh start, and self-fulfillment. Once a people sees itself collectively as a nation, it will remain so—even if others don't see it that way. The same is true of the Palestinians.

The Palestinians define themselves as the Arab population that was living in Israel during the time of the British Mandate (1917-1948). But Israel, and the rest of the world, distinguishes between the Arabs who come from Israel's uncontested regions (Galilee, Jezreel Valley, West Jerusalem, Negev, Eilat) and the ones who come from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (which were under Jordanian and Egyptian control, respectively). Arabs living in Israel are Israeli citizens with the same rights as any other citizen: They can hold elected office and work in any profession, are entitled to the same social services, and more.

Palestinians are now located in three places: the Gaza Strip under Hamas rule, the West Bank

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(Judea and Samaria) under the Palestinian Authority led by Mahmoud Abbas, and the rest of the world (mainly Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon). 93% of Palestinians are Muslim. Their entire leadership structure, with its ideological orientation that shapes Palestinian behavior, is inextricably linked to Islam. When we examine the conflict, we shouldn't just be looking at issues of land, rights, or nationality. We must also see the conflict between Islam and Judaism. The conflict's religious nature is reflected in the words of their leaders and in their speeches.

Many are now saying that the people of the Gaza Strip are held hostage by Hamas. But is that even true? What do the Palestinian people really want? What is their attitude toward the conflict, and who do they support? These questions and more were addressed in a podcast by Israeli public broadcasting channel Kan 11 on December 19, 2023. The interview included Elinor Levi (their Palestinian affairs correspondent and

analyst) and Dr. Ori Wertman (research fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security and at the University of South Wales). The two attempted to get to the bottom of the positions the Palestinian public holds. Their starting point was the polls conducted by Dr. Khalil Shikaki of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research.

Dr. Shikaki is the brother of Fathi Shikaki, founder of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. He is considered one of the leading, most reliable opinion researchers of the Palestinian population. He has conducted surveys for over 20 years, publishing the results quarterly. Although some questions vary, certain fixed questions are asked in every survey and can show changes and trends in Palestinian society. Universities around the world make use of his published results. It's also important to note that he examines Palestinian society in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but not refugee camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Roughly 60% of the Palestinian people support attacks against civilians in Israel. Support for terrorist acts against civilians is steadily increasing.

Dr. Wertman believes that the polls are reliable. Shikaki successfully predicted the results of the last elections in the Palestinian Authority territories, as well as in Gaza in 2006 (allowing for margin of error). Shikaki also addresses the claim that Palestinian society isn't democratic, showing that support for Hamas has been steadily increasing in the West Bank, even though there have been no elections there and the territory is controlled by Fatah (PLO) under Mahmoud Abbas. The precise opposite is the case in the Gaza Strip: Support for Fatah remains constant at 25-30%. If Palestinian society were undemocratic, or held "hostage" to a single party, we should expect these numbers to be closer to 99% in support of one party or the other, just as we see in Syria and other dictatorships.

A poll conducted shortly after Hamas' October 7th attack asked

for the Palestinian public's views on the decision to attack and the manner in which it was carried out. In the West Bank, 82% of Palestinians responded that the attack was appropriate and justified. In Gaza, only 57% were in agreement.

The next issue that naturally arises concerns how to solve the conflict. Around two-thirds oppose the proposal for a Two-State Solution. In the early 2000s, Shikaki found that 90% of Palestinians weren't remotely interested in exercising their "right of return" to Israel. Shikaki didn't ask whether the Palestinian public supports the idea of "all Palestine"—that is, a single Palestinian land "from the river to the sea." But another researcher, David Pollock of the Washington Institute, asked the question in 2022. He learned that "a majority of them say they prefer to reclaim all of historic Palestine, including

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the pre-1967 Israel.” Shikaki asked whether a Two-State Solution could be negotiated. A consistent 60-70% of Palestinians didn’t believe so.

The polls also addressed which method Palestinians would prefer in reaching their national aspirations: armed struggle, negotiations, or protest? The latest poll shows that about two-thirds of Palestinians believe that armed conflict is the best course of action. Another 20% favor negotiations, and about 10% think protest could bring it about.

The next question concerns support for attacks against civilians in Israel. About 60% of the Palestinian population supports this strategy. But when we break down the results by region, we see that the majority in the West Bank oppose attacks against civilians. By comparison, the majority in the Gaza Strip (sometimes as high as 70-80%) supports attacks against civilians.

The connection between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank was examined as well. The data

shows why Mahmoud Abbas refuses to hold elections in the areas governed by the Palestinian National Authority. Since his election in 2005, popular support has fallen significantly. According to the last poll, 90% of the public was dissatisfied with him. By contrast, support for Hamas and its leader (Ismail Haniyeh) grew after each Israeli operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. These survey results have remained consistent over the years in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

To summarize, the numbers show that Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip aren’t “hostages” of Hamas. Rather, they support it, and support for terrorist acts against civilians is steadily increasing. The Palestinian population isn’t ready to accept the State of Israel, and wants to see a Muslim state in its place. Israel’s war isn’t just against a terrorist organization, but against a Muslim ideology that seeks to destroy everything standing in its way: Israel and the Jewish people. (NAI0324/1412)



Toronto, Canada – October 2023

What Does the Name “Palestine” Mean?

BY FREDI WINKLER

The general consensus is that the name “Palestine” comes from the Philistines, and means something like “land of the Philistines.” In 135 AD, after the second Jewish revolt, Emperor Hadrian gave the name “Palestine” to the area, so that it would no longer be called Israel.

But we should wonder, is our assumption about the name correct?

THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE NAME “PALESTINE”

In the 5th century BC, the Greek historian Herodotus called the land between Phoenicia in the

What Does the Name “Palestine” Mean? _____

north and Egypt in the south a “district of Syria, called Palaistinê.”

In the Hebrew Bible, the land of the Philistines is called *Peleshet*, and its extent on the southern coastal strip of the territory is clearly defined. In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), which was written around 200 BC, the name of this people was tellingly translated not as *Palaistinoi* (the word we would expect if derived from *Peleshet*, and which already existed as seen in Herodotus) but as *Philistieim*. Why didn't they use *Palaistinoi* if that was supposedly a name for the Philistines?

Herodotus referred to the inhabitants of Palestine as circumcised. This would have been true of the Israelites, but obviously not of the Philistines.

One hundred or so years later, Aristotle also describes Palestine and mentions the Dead Sea. But Philistine territory was far from the Dead Sea.

Later, Roman writers also used the name Palestine for the country, mentioning that the nation's inhabitants kept the Sabbath. Again, this

is true of the Jews but not the Philistines.

These and other historical discrepancies led David Jacobson of London University to question the commonly held opinion about the name of Palestine.

ISRAEL IN THE BIBLE

The name “Israel” was given to the patriarch Jacob by God Himself, after he wrestled with the Lord (Gen 32:29). From that moment forward, his descendants were called “the people of Israel.” When Israel then took possession of Canaan, the name passed to the land as well.

When the kingdom of Israel was divided into Judea and Israel after Solomon's reign, the name Israel continued to be used for the people as a whole. However, in order to draw a geographic distinction, Judea became significant as the name for the southern kingdom.

After Sennacherib deported the ten tribes (i.e., the northern kingdom of Israel), the name Israel began to gradually disappear as a designation for the land. This is most clearly evidenced in the term “Jews,” which became the name for the entire peo-

The name “Israel” was given to the patriarch Jacob by God Himself, after he wrestled with the Lord (Gen 32:29). From that moment forward, his descendants were called “the people of Israel.”

ple and their religion. The name Israel wasn’t revived until the modern State was founded. But significantly, the term “Jews” is still used generally for the people and their religion today, even those who live elsewhere.

GREEK AS THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE

The land of Israel came under Hellenistic influence in 332 BC, through the conquests of Alexander the Great. Greek was becoming increasingly important as the language of trade, especially later in the Eastern Roman Empire (and by extension, Israel). The fact that the New Testament was written in Greek testifies clearly to this reality.

The Greeks loved to ask people from abroad what the name of their nationality signifies. How did the Israelites answer? The name Israel was derived from their forefather Jacob, who had wrestled with God and whom God Himself had renamed. This story must have made a huge



impression on the Greeks, with their mythology.

And what is the ancient Greek word for a wrestler? The answer is astonishing: *palaistís*, which sounds very similar to Palestine and Palestinians. This startling similarity in sound suggests that the name Palestine has nothing to do with the Philistines, but with the Greek word *palaistís* for wrestler, because Jacob wrestled with God.

The Greeks also had a fondness for giving countries Greek names that could be understood in their language. Phoenicia and Egypt are two such recognizable exam-

What Does the Name “Palestine” Mean? _____

With the Jewish revolt against the Romans and the destruction of both the temple and the city of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Judaism (and with it the Hebrew language) quickly declined in relevance in the region.

ples. Few people are probably aware that the people of ancient Egypt called their country *Kemet*, meaning “the black land,” referring to the rich soil along the Nile.

The same pattern is evident in modern country names. The United States is known as *Les États-Unis* in French, *Los Estados Unidos* in Spanish, and *Die Vereinigte Staaten* in German—all of which communicate the same thing, but in the language of their respective peoples. You’re no doubt aware of further examples.

THE DECLINE OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

With the Jewish revolt against the Romans and the destruction of both the temple and the city of Jerusalem in 70 AD, Judaism (and with it the Hebrew language) quickly declined in relevance in the region.

After the second Jewish revolt against the Romans in 132-135 AD was a disastrous failure, Hebrew no longer held any impor-

tance in the land. As a result, it makes complete sense that the country would no longer be called Judea, and definitely not Israel, since the name had long since fallen out of use.

The Greek language was now the dominant one, so the country was officially given the long-standing Greek designation of Palestine. And it remained so until the founding of the modern State of Israel.

The theory that the name Palestine is derived from the Philistines is incorrect, because the Philistines were deported into Assyria along with the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom in the 6th century BC. The memory of this people group had faded into history long before the arrival of the Romans.

JERUSALEM RENAMED AELIA CAPITOLINA

The city of Jerusalem wasn’t fully destroyed after the first revolt. But after the second revolt in 135 AD, the Romans decided to pull

It's likely that if Palestinians knew that the name Palestine actually means Israel, they'd quickly change it.

out all the stops. They thoroughly destroyed anything that could be a reminder of Jerusalem, including the remains of the temple (already in ruins). They then rebuilt Jerusalem as a Roman city.

This all took place under the Emperor Hadrian, whose full name was Publius Aelius Hadrianus. He named the city *Colonia Aelia Capitolina*, after both himself and Rome's Capitoline Hill, where the Roman gods were worshiped. But due to the length of the name, it was mostly known as *Aelia*. It remained that way until 325 AD, when Constantine the Great made it Christianity's holy city and restored its name.

Jerusalem's name change to *Colonia Aelia Capitolina* by Emperor Hadrian is established fact. But Hadrian's alleged changing of the name from Israel to Palestine, which supposedly meant "land of the Philistines," is an assumption that doesn't have a foundation either



in history or in linguistics.

THE UNKNOWN MEANING OF THE NAME PALESTINE

We also use Greek words in English, often fully unaware of their original meanings or that they're of Greek origin. This is obviously what happened in the case of Palestine. It is also a lovely name with a pleasant sound, and is still used in Bible dictionaries and theological works today (although the name Palestine has now taken on certain implications because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict). Therefore, it would be best to call the country Israel in both biblical and theological contexts. It is the name that appears in the Bible, whereas the name Palestine does not.

It's likely that if Palestinians knew that the name Palestine actually means Israel, they'd quickly change it.

(NAI0724/1428)



On the Horizon

NEWS IN
BRIEF



USA

JetBlue Calls Israel's Borders 'Palestinian Territories'

American airline JetBlue Airways has updated their in-flight map to show the words "Palestinian Territory" in significantly larger text than the word "Israel," to the point where it is overlaid on the entire state of Israel, *N12* reported.



Photo of JetBlue in midair flight



Hodaya Knafo, an Israeli woman studying in the United States, told *N12* that she was on a domestic flight from Miami to San Diego.

Along with the removal of the Golan Heights, "They don't show a division of the West Bank, so it doesn't seem like that's what they meant by the 'Palestinian Territory' label," Knafo continued.

"It's really quite annoying and frustrating to see this after the year we've been through," she said. "I'm returning to

UN VOTES AGAINST ISRAEL'S SELF-DEFENSE

The United Nations General Assembly voted 124-14 to strip Israel of the right to self-defense against Palestinian terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem.

The text of the resolution was based on the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion in July that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory was illegal.

Prior to the vote, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he supported the ICJ option and would abide by the vote, which calls on the IDF to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines within 12 months.

The resolution also calls on member states not to sell arms or military equipment to Israel that would be used in Gaza, the West Bank, and east Jerusalem. It calls for a boycott of all Israeli products produced over the pre-1967 lines.

-jpost.com
18 September 2024

my studies in a month, and I already know that I'm returning to a battlefield."

-www.jpost.com, 4 September 2024

Commentary: Whether this is done intentionally or not, the message is crystal clear: There should be no Jewish State. The slogan, "From the river to the sea, make Palestine free," endorses the attitude to rip the territory of the Jewish people apart. It really is an incitement to genocide.

In contrast to the many reports we read and hear about anti-semitism, is the Word of God: "And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (Ezekiel 34:13). We note the word "rivers" is plural: That points to the River of Egypt, the Euphrates, and the Jordan. God will bring to pass what He has promised to His people in His time.

8333

(See *Israel Always*, Item #2403, \$18.99.)



ISRAEL

The Agricultural Miracle

This extraordinary achievement, driven by decades of research and development, has turned the Arava into a beacon of agricultural innovation. Today, the region exports 60% of Israel's fresh vegetables, demonstrating the transformative potential of advanced agricultural practices in challenging environments. However, the work of the Kasser Joint Institute extends far beyond Israel's borders.



Tania Pons Allon, Director of the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security at the Jewish National Fund (JNF-USA). (Credit: Courtesy)



Pons Allon explains that the Institute's mission is rooted in the Jewish principle of "Tikkun Olam"—repairing the world. "We're not just keeping our knowledge to ourselves," she says. "We collaborate with



NEWS IN BRIEF



TEL AVIV HAS 82 CENTI- MILLIONAIRES

According to Henley & Partners and New World Wealth Research Centi-Millionaire Report 2024, Tel Aviv is ranked 41 worldwide in terms of the number of residents who are centi-millionaires (possessing liquid investable wealth of at least \$100 million).

The report found that 212 centi-millionaires live in Israel, up 62% over the past ten years, including 82 in Tel Aviv. A major reason for this is the large number of successful tech companies in the city, including Check Point, Wix, Waze, and monday.com, as well as global tech giants like Intel and IBM. Jerusalem and Netanya also contribute to the large number of centi-millionaires in Israel.

The world's three cities with the highest number of centi-millionaires are New York (744), the San Francisco Bay area (675), and Los Angeles (496), followed by London (370), Beijing (347), Singapore (336), Shanghai (322), Hong Kong (320), Chicago (290), and Paris (286).

-jpost.com
18 September 2024

the University of Arizona to take the research we've developed here in the Arava and share it with communities in developing countries."

One notable initiative is the Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT), which brings students from developing nations, mainly from Africa and Asia, to Israel. These students receive hands-on agricultural training and are inspired by Israel's innovative spirit. Pons Allon emphasizes the profound impact of this exchange: "It's not just about learning how to farm. They see how we take the impossible and make it possible—it's the Israeli dream."

In the spirit of collaboration and global outreach, Pons Allon will speak at the JNF-USA Global Conference in Dallas this November. This will inspire listeners [with] Israel's agricultural achievements and motivate them to join a global movement for change.

-www.jpost.com, 8 September 2024

Commentary: Israel's agricultural miracle has been well-publicized globally. They have been most successful at transforming harsh desert environments into thriving agricultural hubs. While we may admire their attempt at "tikkun olam" (repairing the world), that will not happen except by supernatural interference.

The prophet Isaiah proclaims: "Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest" (Isaiah 32:15). Chapter 35, verse 1 adds: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."



8334
(See *Miracle of Israel*, Item #2303, \$14.99.)



LEBANON

Deadly Cyberattack

Hezbollah was caught off-guard by a cyberattack on the Lebanon terrorist organization pagers that wounded thousands of members.



Hundreds of members of Hezbollah were seriously wounded in explosions in Beirut.

Hezbollah pagers exploded across Lebanon.

The Lebanese organization had no idea what hit it.

Whoever planned and set up this simultaneous multifront strike had doubtless been holding this capability in check, waiting for months—if not years—for the right moment to strike.

Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, was injured by the explosion of a pager, Iran's Mahr news agency reported, as hundreds of member of the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah were seriously wounded in similar incidents.

Initial reports claimed that injuries were listed in Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled Dahia neighborhood, as well as in the northern Beqaa valley area, Tyre, Bint Jbeil and Southern Lebanon, Nabatiyeh, and others.

-www.jpost.com, 17 September 2024

Commentary: At the time of writing, Israel has not acknowledged responsibility for this attack. Obviously, this is high-tech. Pagers are employed in hospitals, emergency vehicles, and in

this case, by Hezbollah terrorists with the assumption that they cannot be hacked nor their location exposed, as would be the case with cellular phones. Now Hezbollah must be careful with pagers. A report by Reuters claims that over 2,750 have been wounded by the simultaneous explosions, 200 of them critically.

Lebanon, once called the Switzerland of the Middle East, is in turmoil. The terrorist organization Hezbollah has the upper hand when it comes to military capability.

A Google search regarding Lebanon has this to say: "Eitzur brought a wealth of Old Testament quotes and place names to prove that Lebanon is part of God's Promised Land, whether under the 'limited promise'—which reaches the Gulf of Alexandretta in Turkey, and includes all of Lebanon and western Syria—or the 'expanded promise,' which includes the land south of the Euphrates, all of Syria and western Iraq."

Here we must point out that part of today's Jordan is also extended Promised Land. What becomes clear is that the hotspots where the greatest enemies of Israel are located, are in fact Arab-occupied Israeli territory.

8340

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



NEWS IN BRIEF



JORDAN

Terror Attack Celebrated in Amman

The Allenby Bridge Crossing between Israel and Jordan reopened to pedestrians but remained closed to trucks after Amman released a meager condemnation of a terror attack by a Jordanian truck driver at the crossing in which he murdered three Israelis. The killings were celebrated on the streets of the Jordanian capital.



According to the report, the two sides discussed how to improve security conditions at the border crossing and shared information that could help with the investigation into the attack, as cooperation between the two nations continues.

However, it took some 14 hours for Jordan's Foreign Ministry to issue a statement containing a brief condemnation of the terror shooting attack.

The ministry stressed "Jordan's firm position rejecting and condemning violence and targeting civilians for any reason."

While the ministry issued its tepid statement, thousands of Jordanians celebrated on the streets of Amman, claiming the gunman had avenged the deaths of thousands of Palestinians in the war in Gaza.

Videos posted to social media showed fireworks being set off during the demonstration. People waved Jordanian flags, and there were reports of Israeli flags being burned at the event.

Israeli security guards returned fire at the terrorist, killing him.

Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994 and have close security ties. Dozens of trucks cross daily from Jordan, with goods from Jordan and the Gulf that supply both the West Bank and Israeli markets.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 9 September 2024

Commentary: The bridge is also known as "Peace Bridge"; yet, as the article documents, there is little peace, cooperation, and love for the Jewish State.

PA FAILS IN FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

The Palestinian Authority did not meet the minimum requirements of fiscal transparency and made no significant progress, the US State Department revealed in its 2024 Fiscal Transparency Report.

Of the 139 governments studied, 68 did not meet the minimum fiscal transparency requirements. Israel met the requirements.

While the report says that the PA did make its enacted budget public, the data was incomplete and not approved by the legislature. It also did not make public its executive budget proposal or end of year report by the deadline.

According to the report, the PA provided incomplete information on debt obligations, including for PA-owned businesses.

-jpost.com
19 September 2024



Israeli security forces near the scene where three civilians were murdered in a terror shooting attack at Allenby Bridge, a crossing between the West Bank and Jordan (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The population of Jordan stands at 11+ million. Average life expectancy is 76.5 years, and the infant mortality rate is 13.2 deaths per thousand live births. Per capita GDP is \$9,400.

Compare that to Israel: GDP per capita is \$48,300, life expectancy is 83.1 years, and the infant mortality rate is 2.8. Clearly, one sees the drastic difference between these two states.

The original British Mandate of Palestine from 1920 to 1948 included the country of Jordan, which gained independence on 25 May 1946 and occupies significantly more than half of the original Palestine.

The territory on the west side of the Jordan River was planned to be divided between Arab Palestinians and Jews. The United Nations General Assembly voted in favor of creating a Jewish and an Arab state. The Jews jubilantly

accepted the UN partition decision, but the Arabs — without exception — totally and unconditionally rejected it.

Here we must mention that part of Jordan is actually Promised Land; such is also the case with Syria and Lebanon. That is where the conflict lies: Arab-occupied Israeli territory.

Psalm 83:2-7 proclaims: “For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre.”

Interestingly, the capital city of Jordan is Amman, after the Biblical Ammon. The Psalm concludes: “Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth” (verses 16-18). 8336 (See *Democracy Invades Islam*, Item #1072, \$12.95.)



Israel-Hamas Holocaust Comparison

Sky News presenter Belle Donati resigned from the network following a controversial interview in January in which she compared the Israel-Hamas War to the Holocaust, entertainment industry news outlet *Deadline* reported.



Belle Donati at Car of the Year Award 2019

(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

ISRAEL RANKS 4TH GLOBALLY IN AI

Israel has cemented its status as one of the world's leading artificial intelligence (AI) powerhouses, ranking fourth globally in AI advancements according to a recent study by ZeroBounce, an email software company in California.

The study, which analyzed private investments, AI startups, and workforce-related criteria over the past decade, placed Israel fourth behind the United States, China and the United Kingdom.

What sets Israel apart in the AI landscape is its unparalleled concentration of AI talent. The study reveals that Israel boasts the highest percentage of AI specialists in its workforce, with 1.13% of the total labor force dedicated to AI-related roles.

The Israeli AI ecosystem is further bolstered by a thriving startup scene. The report indicates that 442 AI-related startups have been founded in Israel, showcasing the country's capabilities in the field.

-israel21c.org
12 September 2024



During the interview, UN ambassador Danny Danon criticized how Belle Donati characterized his November *Wall Street Journal* op-ed. "You suggested the ethnic cleansing of some of Gaza's population to Western countries that would accept the refugees," Donati claimed. Danon countered, emphasizing, "Ethnic cleansing, that's a word you used. If you read my article, I spoke about voluntary immigration."

Donati then drew another controversial comparison, stating, "The sort of voluntary relocation of many Jewish people during the Holocaust, I imagine." Danon responded angrily, accusing her of antisemitism: "Shame on you for that comparison. You should apologize for what you just said," according to *Deadline's* report.

He then described Donati as an "insolent interviewer" and later demanded that Sky News boss David Rhodes ensure her immediate resignation. The network issued an on-air apology and did not renew Donati's contract.

Belle Donati, who had been a freelance presenter at Sky News

since 2021 and previously worked for Euronews and the BBC, did not apologize herself. Following the incident, Sky News chose not to renew her contract.

-www.jpost.com, 11 September 2024

Commentary: To be employed at Sky News, one has to have the needed qualifications and education. The UK-born, Oxford-educated Ms. Donati should know better. But here again, faith is stronger than facts. Thus, the question: What does a person want to believe?

Anyone with just a primary education can search facts on the internet. Israel's military force is the only one in the world that specifically instructs its members not to hate the enemy. It is the only military that issues warnings of immediate destruction of a building or house, giving the occupants time to escape. Needless to say, terrorists react as well.

To make a statement, "The sort of voluntary relocation of many Jewish people during the Holocaust, I imagine," sounds more like a person with little to no education, sympathizing with terrorists.

Everyone knows that Israel has the capacity to commit "ethnic cleansing," or as others claim, "genocide." While most news sources are not necessarily the ultimate truth, checking, re-checking, and fact-finding is now at our fingertips.

We read in Proverbs 29:2: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Verse 18 emphasizes the truth: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." 8337

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



NEWS IN BRIEF



AFRICANS BACK ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO JERUSALEM

Nearly 30 lawmakers from over 20 African countries signed a resolution affirming Israel's right to exist with Jerusalem as its capital. The resolution condemned legal efforts against Israel by the African Union and other entities, stating that these actions undermine negotiations and existing agreements, including the Oslo Accords.

With 70% of sub-Saharan Africa's population under the age of 30, the continent has the world's youngest population. Israel, known for its innovation as the "startup nation," has the technology and expertise to help train this young workforce, paving the way for economic growth in Africa and potential labor benefits for Israel.

"Israel has what you need to develop," Erik Selle said. "You shouldn't look to Europe. You shouldn't look to America; you shouldn't look to the past. You need to look to the future, and for Africa, Israel is the future."

-themedialine.org
11 September 2024

“Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 1:17).

BY ARNO FROESE

Reading the first chapter of Zechariah, something remarkable is revealed: the condition of the nations, and the reason for God’s displeasure with them: “And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction” (v. 15). That is collective for Gentile humanity.

There is much room for interpretation, but in brief, the Jews have suffered at the hand of the Gentiles for over two millennia—that cannot be denied. So, it is not just coincidental or a passing thought, but God’s clear intention

that because of the suffering of the Jews, “Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem” (v. 16).

In the introductory Scripture, we notice the little word “yet” four times. Quite logically, that stands in opposition to the four Gentile world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. We must add that when Rome is mentioned, it not only refers to the city in Italy (Europe) but also literally the entire world. Europeans sailed around the globe and subjected the nations of the world to their

authority. Take, for instance, the Americas: 35 sovereign nations were established by Europeans. Looking to the east, we also notice that many geopolitical identities find their origin in European colonization. To the south in Africa, we find that about 54 countries were established by European colonial powers.

Zechariah then sees “four horns.” After asking their identity, he receives the answer: “These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem” (v. 19b). Now, in opposition to the four Gentile superpowers, we read in verse 20: “And the Lord showed me four carpenters.” The Hebrew word *charash*, pronounced *khaw-rawsh*, is translated “smith” or “craftsman,” not carpenter.

These four unnamed blacksmiths are heavenly, divine entities, and their task is to destroy the

nations: “Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it” (v. 21).

Zechariah, as virtually all prophets, proclaims the merciless judgment of God upon His nation, but always concludes with comfort and hope for Israel.

That, incidentally, applies to each of us who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who poured out His life in His blood on Calvary’s Cross, paying once and for all for our trespasses. Have you received Him?

At this point in time, Israel is still at war. Moreover, it is being threatened, not only by Hamas in the south, but also by Hezbollah in the north. Not to mention from

the east—Iran—and from the south—the Houthis.

Just recently, the Turkish president warned Israel not to invade Lebanon, to avoid Turkey sending troops to defend it.

Now come the strange and unusual aspect: Based on World PopulationReview.com's listing of the world's happiest nations for 2024, while the northern European countries are always on top, Israel comes in fifth place. The

world is nervous, but in Israel a calmness prevails.

We as believers will continue to pray for Israel, particularly for the Church there as well as in countries that are enemies of Israel. Let us remember what Paul wrote in Romans 9:4: "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises." (NFI)

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Missing Mansions

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

Let's travel back in history to about 2,000 years ago. How I love to think about this moment when Yeshua was walking here on earth with us. Can you imagine how wonderful that must have been, to walk beside Him and speak face to face with Him?

The night before He was crucified, Yeshua shared with His disciples how He would be leaving them. Of course, they wanted to go with Him, but He explained that they could not (John 13:33); it was impossible.

Peter, as usual, wanted to know where He was going. He was always the first one to ask ques-

tions, and he wanted to know why they couldn't go with Him like at other times. Yeshua assured them that they would eventually follow Him, but that He, Yeshua, had to be the first to go (John 13:36-37).

Yeshua explained: "In my Father's house are many rooms: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to myself; that where I am, you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

What Yeshua said has confused and still confuses many, especially because of how some translations



translate the word “house” and “mansions.” But let’s look at the Greek meaning of these words. In Greek, the word for “house” simply means “an abode,” literally or figuratively; and by implication, it means “a family” (*Mishpacha* in Hebrew). The word translated “mansions” or “rooms” literally means, “the act of staying or residing.” We see that putting the Greek together, Yeshua is simply saying that in God’s home (heaven), there will be many other people of the saved family of God, all abiding together and worshiping the Lamb in His house. What a beautiful picture!

Within God’s heavenly house, Christians will live in the presence of the Father. This picture is quite different from the idea of rows of mansions on streets of gold (like in the new Jerusalem), which is the image many people have of what Yeshua is saying here. But

we see that He first refers to the “family”; and yes, we are one big family. That is why I can freely call you my brothers and sisters. This knowledge is so wonderful, I must say hallelujah (“praise God” in Hebrew)!

Our Messiah is preparing a place in heaven for His own: those who have come to Him in faith, and those whom the Holy Spirit is preparing for heaven—the redeemed here on earth. Revelation 7:9 tells us that there will be “a great multitude in heaven which no man can number,” all standing before the throne. Here again, the imagery is of multitudes together, not living separately in different mansions.

This brings me to your spiritual family here in Israel. Some of your family lives in the Ebenezer Home, but still others are on the waiting list. Although we realize our heavenly home is not limited



in space, and there will be a place for each one of us, this is simply not the case here at the Ebenezer Home. We are short on space, and our Home is way too small to meet the ever-growing need of our expanding and growing family. We are bursting at the seams, with many on the outside who still need a place to call home.

That's why we are thrilled to announce, we are finally on the brink of expanding our walls!

Your support is helping to accomplish this and bring this vision to reality. We can't thank you enough for being part of this mission and vision. In next month's article, we will share a special update so you can read how God is opening doors to move ahead with the plans for an expansion. Thank you again for all of your prayers and support, as we press on in the call and vision He has given us.



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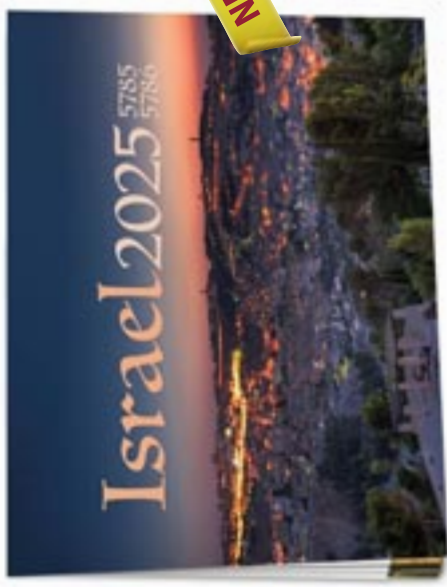
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