

# dispatch from Jerusalem

August 2020 • Vol. 45 No. 4 • [www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com) • Your Israel Connection®  
A Publication of Bridges for Peace

## ISRAEL'S National Parks



# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

**Christians supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.**

It is our desire to see Christians and Jews working side by side for better understanding and a more secure Israel. Bridges for Peace seeks to be a ministry of hope and reconciliation. Through programs both in Israel and worldwide, we are giving Christians the opportunity to actively express their biblical responsibility before God to be faithful to Israel and the Jewish community. For too long Christians have been silent. For too long the Jewish community has had to fight its battles alone. It is time Christian individuals and congregations speak up for the people who gave us the Bible.

## We are committed to the following goals:

To encourage meaningful and supportive relationships between Christians and Jews in Israel and around the world.

To educate and equip Christians to identify with Israel, the Jewish people and the biblical/Hebraic foundations of our faith.

To bless Israel and the Jewish people in Israel and worldwide through practical assistance, volunteer service and prayer.

To communicate Christian perspectives to the attention of Israeli leaders and the Jewish community-at-large.

To counter anti-Semitism worldwide and support Israel's divine God-given right to exist in her God-given land.

## Dispatch from Jerusalem

The *Dispatch from Jerusalem* is Bridges for Peace's signature publication presenting positive news and perspectives from Israel to encourage understanding and support for the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

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**Join us in practical expressions to bless Israel by becoming an active bridgebuilder and participating in fulfilling biblical prophecy through the following educational and humanitarian programs of Bridges for Peace.**

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**Chai (Life) Night Prayer and Study Groups:** A monthly intercessory prayer program for groups desiring to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6).

**Bridge-building Projects:** Promote better Christian-Jewish understanding and support for Israel at the local and regional levels around the world. Projects offered include Hebrew classes, film series, Israel awareness programs, speakers bureaus and study seminars.

**Bible Study Tours in Israel:** Bridges for Peace provides a variety of travel opportunities and lectures to help you or your tour group gain a deeper understanding of Israel. (See page 28 for current tours.)

**Discovery Groups:** Groups have the opportunity to serve with us for a period of one to four days.

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**Operation Ezra Projects:** Through our food banks, food gifts are distributed to help Israel's needy.

**Project Rescue/Project Tikvah (Hope):** These programs help the poorest Jews in the countries of the Diaspora.

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**For more information,** contact any of our national offices. We are also available to help you plan activities in your area. When you come to Israel, we would like to meet you or speak to your group. Please contact us in advance to visit our International Headquarters and Outreach Center in Jerusalem.

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A Publication of Bridges for Peace

August 2020 • Vol. 45 No. 4 • www.bridgesforpeace.com • Your Israel Connection®

## 10 Convenient Scapegoats

Throughout history, global crises have united people in a common sense of suffering. Often this unification revolves around the need to assign blame for the crisis. One people group repeatedly tops the list of potential culprits: the Jewish people.

By Nathan Williams

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Shortly after its rebirth, the State of Israel pledged to champion every Jewish person—no matter where they lived. In the 70 odds years since, the Jewish state has made good on that promise time and time again.

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By Ilse Strauss

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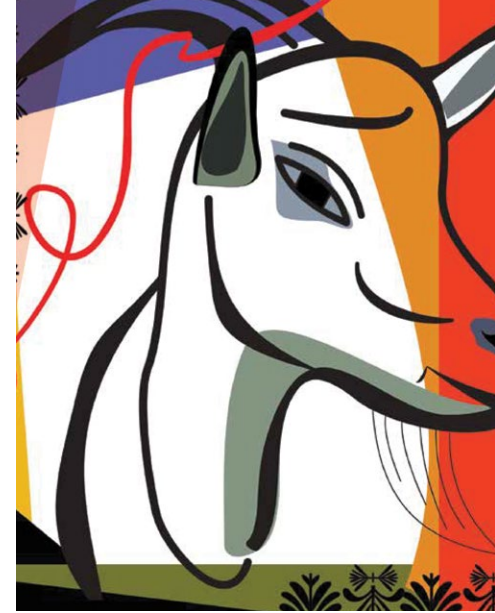
During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, Israel proudly wore the title of safest country to be during the pandemic. Despite the fact that it is a fraction of the size of many nations, Israel stands among other world powers in the battle against COVID-19.

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## Delivering Food in the Midst of Lockdown

**I HAVE A DEEP APPRECIATION** for you for continuing to stand with Bridges for Peace and the people of Israel during this time of extreme crisis. Although Israel is starting to open back up after the lockdown, the economy has not even started to recover. A total of 26% of the workforce lost their employment.

We had already decided that we would continue standing with the Israeli people—and continue delivering food—as long as we were able to do so. We made the decision by faith. With the COVID-19 virus impacting the whole world, we were all operating in an environment of uncertainty. We didn't know what our income levels would be.

We continued to work throughout the lockdown. We were able to do so because of favor with the Jerusalem and Karmiel municipalities. More than once the police

stopped our team while they were out on deliveries, asking why they were out. Because our team was able to show the permits for essential workers, they were able to continue distributing food.

In addition to direct distribution of food, we work through many organizations and 18 municipalities. We continued to deliver to all these places throughout the lockdown. One of the organizations we assist in Jerusalem called us saying not to bring their regular food order because they had no way of delivering it to the people. The staff members were in lockdown, as were the elderly immigrants from the former Soviet Union—many of them Holocaust survivors—whom they assist on a regular basis. Our team members were horrified. How could it be that 130 of the most at risk members of society would



not receive food they were undoubtedly counting on? We called the organization back and told them we would deliver to each of the people if they would give us the contact details. Then we mobilized. One person was responsible to plan delivery routes. A team was responsible to prepare the food parcels. Then three two-person teams went in our vans from apartment to apartment delivering food.

This is the heart of the Bridges for Peace team. We find ways to fix problems. We put our whole heart into our work. We are not willing that even one person will go without their much-needed daily bread.

We also prepared food parcels for 1,200 Holocaust survivors in Karmiel, delivering 25 pallets of food to the city's Social Welfare department for distribution. Just getting the food to them took a whole day. They were delighted and so excited to begin the distribution.



A farmer who grows peonies for the European market was unable to ship his flowers. It looked like the entire crop would be lost. We decided to help him—at least in a small way. We delivered bouquets of peonies in addition to the regular food parcels to our dear Holocaust survivors. Some of them cried because they were so touched.

Additionally, the more than 21,000 people who regularly receive food from us continued to have food throughout the lockdown.

This is what our work is about—love. We lovingly provide good, nutritious food—and sometimes we give flowers as well.

Your gifts are so thankfully received. We know that your community is in difficulty as well. That has made your gifts even more precious to us. With your help we have been able to continue the work of Bridges for Peace.

While we know God is our source, we also know He uses people to accomplish His plans. Thank you for being used by Him to show love to Israel at this time. Your gift, whether small or large, will be invested in God's Kingdom purposes. The needs are huge at this time, and we are calling out to the Lord for the funds to be able to continue feeding the people of Israel.

We are also committed to praying for you and your family on a daily basis. We believe God is blessing you because you choose to bless Israel and her people. Our prayer for you is found in 3 John 1:2, *"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."* We pray for your health, prosperity and spiritual well-being.

Blessings from Israel,  
Rebecca J. Brimmer  
International President and CEO





# IRAN PUBLISHES POSTER

## *REMINISCENT OF NAZI "FINAL SOLUTION"*

**THE SUPREME LEADER** of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has stepped up his Israel-hatred another notch, publishing a poster on his website showing the Temple Mount in Jerusalem after the site has apparently been captured from Israel.

The compound is filled with jubilant crowds presided over by smiling soldiers and the military commanders of Iran's terror proxies. The Palestinian flag is being hoisted over the Al-Aqsa Mosque while the Hezbollah and Hamas flags flutter below and the Israeli flag is torched in the background. Pictures of Khamenei, the late Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp Quds Force head Qassem Soleimani and various other so-called "martyrs" are held high. In an apparent attempt to give the poster a pastoral feel, three white doves are released from their cage to circle the festivities below.

While the scene is unsettling, the poster language is particularly disturbing. "Palestine will be free," Khamenei boasted in English, Farsi and Arabic. "The final solution." The phrase "final solution" is borrowed from Nazi terminology used for the attempted murder of all Jews during the Holocaust.

Israel and the US condemned the poster, accusing Khamenei of calling for genocide against the Jewish people.

"The leader of the world's top sponsor of terrorism and anti-Semitism denies the Holocaust, sends money and

weapons to anti-Israel terrorists, and now has invoked the Nazi call for the Final Solution," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office also responded via Twitter. "Khamenei's threats to carry out 'The Final Solution' against Israel bring to mind the Nazi 'Final Solution' plan to annihilate the Jewish people. He should know that any regime that threatens the destruction of the State of Israel faces a similar danger."

Khamenei defended himself, claiming he simply seeks the eradication of Israel, not the annihilation of all Jewish people. "Eliminating the Zionist regime doesn't mean eliminating Jews," he explained. "We aren't against Jews."

The supreme leader was quick to add that the destruction of Israel was but a matter of time. "It will happen," he assured.

Khamenei also generously offered Iran's backing to anybody actively seeking to destroy the Jewish state. "We will support and assist any nation or any group anywhere who opposes and fights the Zionist regime, and we do not hesitate to say this."

The supreme leader has since removed the poster from his website.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*



# IRAN TRIED TO POISON ISRAELIS BY INCREASING *CHLORINE IN WATER*

**IRANIAN HACKERS** intended to poison Israel's water by increasing the amount of chlorine during a thwarted cyberattack in April, the *Financial Times* reported.

Israel's national cyber chief officially acknowledged the country had thwarted a major cyberattack against its water systems, an assault widely attributed to arch-enemy Iran, calling it a "synchronized and organized attack" aimed at disrupting key national infrastructure.

Yigal Unna did not mention Iran directly, nor did he comment on the alleged Israeli retaliation two weeks later, said to have shut down a key Iranian port, but he said recent developments have ushered in a new era of covert warfare, ominously warning that "cyber winter is coming."

The *Financial Times* quoted a Western official as saying that the hackers planned to increase the amount of chlorine added to water used in Israeli homes, with an Israeli official telling the paper that the foiled attack "had opened the door to 'an unpredictable risk scenario.'"

The report says the attack "could have triggered fail-safes that would have left tens of thousands of civilians and farms parched in the middle of an Israel heatwave, as the pumping station shut down when the excess chemical was detected."

According to the Western official, in the "worst-case scenario," the attack could have put hundreds of people in Israel at risk.

Israel apparently did respond with a May 9 cyber strike on Iran's state-of-the-art Shahid Rajaei port, which handles almost half of the country's foreign trade.

Iran sought to downplay the impact of the attack. But according to the *Washington Post*, a foreign government security official called the attack "highly accurate" and said the damage to the Iranian port was more serious than described in official Iranian accounts.

The paper quotes an unnamed Israeli official as saying of the cyberattack: "It was small, very small—like a knock on the door... Think of it [as] a gentle reminder. 'We know where you live.'"

The Israeli-US cyber war against Iran has been going on for almost 20 years but has gained momentum in the last 15 years. And Israel, the *Financial Times* said yesterday, is bracing for more.

Excerpt from an article by *Ynetnews*

## IRAN CONTINUES TO VIOLATE *NUCLEAR PACT*

**ACCORDING TO THE** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran has continued to increase its stockpiles of enriched uranium and remains in violation of the nuclear deal.

The IAEA said that as of May 20, Iran's total stockpile of low-enriched uranium amounted to 1,571.6 kilograms (1.73 tons), up from 1,020.9 kilograms (1.1 tons) on February 19.

The IAEA further reported that Iran has been continuing to enrich uranium to a purity of up to 4.5%, higher than the 3.67% allowed under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). It is also above the agreement's limitations on heavy water.

The *Associated Press* reports that: "The IAEA also raised concerns about access to two of three locations it identified in March as places where Iran possibly stored and/or used undeclared nuclear material or undertook nuclear-related activities without declaring them to international observers."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Iran has systematically violated its commitments by hiding sites and enriching fissionable material, and has committed other violations. I believe that the time has come...for the international community to join the US and reimpose paralyzing sanctions on Iran. Israel will not allow Iran to achieve nuclear weapons and will continue to act methodically against Iran's attempts to militarily entrench on our borders."

According to former head of military intelligence Amos Yadlin, "Iran has continued to stockpile enriched uranium; it has continued to operate advanced centrifuges and has shortened the time to reaching the nuclear threshold from one year to half a year."

Excerpt from an article by *BICOM*





## Israel Reveals Rare Coin from the Bar Kokhba Revolt

**THE ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY (IAA)** presented a rare bronze coin from the Bar Kokhba revolt (circa AD 132), discovered between the Temple Mount and the City of David.

The coin, discovered in the course of archaeological excavations carried out by the IAA in the William Davidson Archaeological Park and funded by the Ir David Foundation, bears the inscription “Year Two of the Freedom of Israel,” with the reverse side featuring a palm tree and the word “Jerusalem.” It is the only coin from the Bar Kokhba revolt bearing the name “Jerusalem” ever discovered within ancient Jerusalem.

Coins from the period of the Bar Kokhba revolt, which declared the rebels’ purpose—to liberate Jerusalem from Roman occupation after the destruction of the city—help researchers map

out the revolt, which took place approximately 1,900 years ago. The rebels minted these revolt coins on Roman regime coins with stripped or damaged faces, possibly in defiance of the Roman occupation. The revolt coins featured the Temple facade, trumpets and a harp/violin, as well as the inscriptions: “Redemption of Israel” and “Freedom of Israel.”

The Bar Kokhba rebels failed to breach the boundaries of ancient Jerusalem, giving rise to the question of how four coins from the revolt period still managed to make their way into the city. Archaeologists Moran Hagbi and Dr. Joe Uziel of the IAA raise the possibility that the coins were brought to Jerusalem by Roman legionnaires of the Tenth Legion, who participated in suppressing the revolt, and saved the coins they found on the battlefields as souvenirs.



The Bar Kokhba revolt broke out in AD 132, after Emperor Hadrian declared the establishment of a Roman colony called “Aelia Capitolina.” This colony was built on the ruins of Jewish Jerusalem and began with the construction of a temple dedicated to the god Jupiter on the Temple Mount. The establishment of the Roman city and the construction of an idolatrous temple in place of the Jewish Temple, in addition to restrictive religious decrees, distressed the Jewish population that remained in Judea. This launched a revolt against the Roman government under the leadership

of Shimon Ben-Kosiba, known as “Bar Kokhba.” The revolt lasted about five years, causing heavy casualties among the Roman legions—so much so that they had to deploy large military units from around the Roman Empire to complete their ranks. The revolt ended with the destruction of hundreds of Jewish communities and villages that took part in the revolt. However, Bar Kokhba remains etched into the memory of the Jewish nation as a historical hero.

Excerpt from a press release by the IAA

## Second Temple Period Subterranean System Discovered

**A UNIQUE SUBTERRANEAN** system from the Second Temple period hewn in the bedrock was discovered beneath a 1,400-year-old public building near the Western Wall. This system, the first of its kind uncovered in the area of the Western Wall Plaza and Tunnels, was exposed in excavations conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) in the “Beit Straus” complex beneath the entrance lobby of the Western Wall Tunnels. The excavations at the site are being conducted as preparation for a new and fascinating tour, in addition to the classic Western Wall Tunnels tour run by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation.

Researchers suppose that the complex was used by Jerusalem residents during the Early Roman period prior to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple. The system was sealed beneath the floor of an impressive structure from the Byzantine period, waiting 2,000 years to be discovered. The system is composed of an open courtyard and two rooms arranged in three levels, one above the other, and connected by hewn staircases.

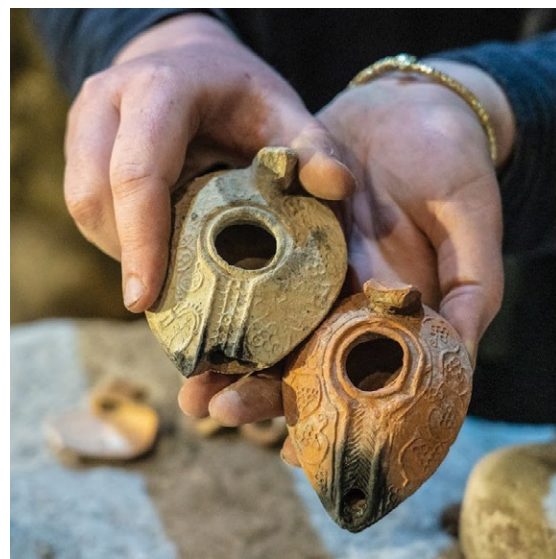
Dr. Barak Monnickendam-Givon and Tehila Sadiel, directors of the excavation on behalf of the IAA, said: “This is the first time a subterranean system has been uncovered adjacent to the Western Wall. You must understand that 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem, like today, it was customary to build out of stone. The question is, why were such efforts and resources invested in hewing rooms underground in the hard bedrock?”

According to Dr. Monnickendam-Givon and Sadiel, “The rich array of findings discovered in this excavation shed light on the daily life of the residents of the ancient city. Among other things, we found clay cooking vessels, oil lamps used for light, a stone mug unique to Second Temple period Jewish sites and a fragment of a *qalal*—a large stone basin used to hold water, thought to be linked to Jewish practices of ritual purity.”

Mordechai (Suli) Eliav, director of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, said in response to the findings: “I am excited to reveal to the Jewish nation a new treasure trove of impressive and fascinating findings that shed light on life in Jerusalem throughout the generations in general, and on the eve of the destruction in particular. This finding epitomizes the deep connection of Jews with Jerusalem, their capital. Even when there were physical limitations, prayer at the foot of the remnant of our Temple never ceased, and this is tangible evidence of this.”

According to Dr. Monnickendam-Givon: “The excavations at Beit Straus, under the lobby of the entrance to the Western Wall Tunnels, reveal Jerusalem in its glory: Jerusalem of people, religions and a variety of groups who lived, worked, built and glorified Jerusalem throughout the generations.”

Excerpt from a press release by the IAA





# CONVENIENT SCAPEGOATS

By Nathan Williams, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

***“Anti-Semitism is best understood as a virus. It has no logic. Jews were hated because they were rich and because they were poor; because they were capitalists and because they were communists; because they held tenaciously to an ancient faith and because they were rootless cosmopolitans, believing nothing. Hate needs no logic. It is a sickness of the soul.”***

***—Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks***

**THROUGHOUT HISTORY, GLOBAL CRISES**—whether financial, political or health in nature—have united people in a common sense of suffering. At times this coming together is for the good of society in dealing with the crisis at hand. More often this unification revolves around the need to assign blame for the origin of the crisis, triggering hate and even violence toward the perceived instigators. One people group always finds themselves at the top of the list of potential culprits: the Jewish people. Anti-Semitism is lurking just under the surface of too many human hearts, and all it takes is a little nudge for open hatred to flare up against the Jewish people. As the world grapples with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and global race riots, the Jewish people and the Jewish state have once again become a convenient target of blame.

## SCAPEGOAT THEORY

The concept of a scapegoat originates in the Hebrew Bible. On *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement) two kid goats were brought to the door of the Tabernacle to be presented to the Lord (Lev. 16:5–10). Through the casting of lots, one goat was destined for sacrifice, and the high priest figuratively attributed the intentional sins of the Israelites to the other before releasing it into the wilderness.

The cruel irony is inescapable that throughout history, the Jewish people have played the role of scapegoat. The *Encyclopedia of Social Psychology* defines scapegoat theory as “the tendency to blame someone else for one’s own problems, a process that often results in feelings of prejudice toward the person or group that one is blaming.”

Scapegoating has become a functional form of anti-Semitism. Jewish people are often seen as harmful elements of society, and the responsibility for any crisis can be projected onto them. This method of blame can be used to explain any calamity that transpires in society and conveniently leaves the non-Jewish individuals void of any responsibility. Scapegoating is often accompanied by aggression, which is not randomly attributed but rather follows existing patterns of bigotry. The responsibility for many of the world’s ills has been attributed to the Jewish people, and the undeserved retribution has left an indelible hurt.

## HISTORY OF BLAME

It is an unfortunate reality that much of the historic scapegoating of the Jewish people originated from professed Christians. As the Black Death (bubonic plague) ravaged Europe in 1348, Christians leaders grappled to understand the origin of the plague that had befallen the continent. As there was no real understanding about how diseases spread and because some Jewish communities escaped infection, wild anti-Semitic conspiracy theories were conjured up. Pope Clement and Franciscan Friar Herman Gigas claimed that Jews, in an attempt to destroy Christianity, “poisoned the wells and springs everywhere.” Their accusation resulted in horrifying persecution and the mass extermination of Jews at the fiery stake.

Labelled as polluted carriers of typhus in Europe and transporters of tuberculosis and cholera into the United

States, Jewish immigrants were repeatedly scapegoated, leading to the US immigration policy in the 1920s being basically anti-Jewish. In actual fact, Jewish immigrants had a longer life expectancy than “indigenous” Americans and in fact had lower levels of disease in their communities. However, the scapegoating continued and expanded to include many other societal failures, especially during the period between the two World Wars.

In 1915 Henry Ford blamed the Jews for instigating World War I, and in the late 1930s, Adolf Hitler scapegoated the Jews for the economic problems and resulting poverty the German people experienced. The Nazi propaganda machine fine-tuned scapegoating, uniting its citizens in a manipulated loathing and anger toward Jews that eventually led to the atrocities of the Holocaust.

## SCAPEGOAT NATION

In more recent times, the scapegoat model of anti-Semitism has expanded to include the culpability of the Jewish state in all kinds of nefarious dealings. Some of the allegations are downright ridiculous. Egypt and Saudi Arabia accused Israel of infiltrating their countries with poisoned fruit and vegetables in 2007, even believing that AIDS-infected melons had made their way to Riyadh. At the height of the 2006 Avian flu scare, Syrian media reported that Israel had deliberately developed the virus to subdue the surrounding Arab nations. Israel is blamed for, among other things, the 9/11 attacks on the United States, the 2008 global financial crisis and the continuing unrest in the Middle East.

Fast forward to the current COVID-19 crisis: the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy has been monitoring efforts to delegitimize Israel by scapegoating the Jewish state with allegations of orchestrating the global pandemic. The haters of Israel and pro-Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) organizations have gone so far as to equate Israel and the Jewish people to a coronavirus which spreads its infectious influence for political or financial gain. In an article for the *Times of Israel*, Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, said: “Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant rise in accusations that Jews, as individuals and as a collective, are behind the spread of the virus or are directly profiting from it.”

## WHEN WILL IT END?

Indeed, it appears that history is repeating itself as the Jewish people and Israel are scapegoated at every opportunity. We witnessed vile caricatures of Jews as vermin carrying “the real plague” at an anti-lockdown rally in Ohio. In Paris, shouts of “dirty Jews” rang out during an anti-racism march while protesters brandish banners accusing Israel of massacring Palestinians. The scapegoating and hate may never end, but Christians like you and I must not stand idly by as false accusations are made against our friends. We have a responsibility to acknowledge the hatred that is hiding behind each anti-Semitic trope and combat it with truth and love.



# CULTURE *of Rescue*

By Kathy DeGagne, *BFP Staff Writer*

**THERE WAS A MOMENT** in the 20th century that signaled a point at which a people who had gone through the slaughter of the Holocaust without much resistance became a valiant, determined people who fought for their place in the world. The newborn State of Israel had promised to champion every Jewish person no matter where they lived. On July 3, 1976, Israel proved to the whole world that they could keep that promise.

## RESCUE FROM ENTEBBE

It was a military operation that stunned the world with its daring. Three days earlier on June 27, Palestinian and German terrorists had stormed the cockpit of an Air France airliner bound for Paris from Tel Aviv and hijacked the plane to Entebbe, Uganda. The 248 passengers were held hostage in an old airport building. Jewish hostages were then separated from the others, and the terrorists threatened to execute them if their demands weren't met by July 1.

Israel, trying to balance international respect with censure if they attempted a dangerous rescue, decided to negotiate instead. When the hijackers moved the deadline from July 1 to July 4, it gave Israel the time to plan a military rescue. Overnight, Operation Thunderbolt was put in place. Yonatan Netanyahu, the older brother of future Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Muki Betser headed a unit of 100 Israeli special forces commandos. Hercules transport planes took off on an 8-hour covert flight bound for Entebbe, at some points flying only 35–100 feet (10–30 m) above ground to avoid radar detection.

Late at night on July 3, the planes landed at Entebbe, and within 90 minutes, the commandos had rescued the hostages and were back in the air bound for Israel. Three of the hostages were killed as well as the hijackers and soldiers involved in the hostage-taking. Yonatan Netanyahu was also killed, and in his honor, the operation was renamed Operation Yonatan.

When news of the rescue was made public, Israel garnered international respect for the operation's extraordinary scope and execution.

## RESCUE FROM MUSLIM NATIONS

With Israel's inception as a state in 1948, the focus of its first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, was on bringing home the exiles, and—in particular—rescuing the one million Jews suffering persecution throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Israel's compassion and resolve were on display with several remarkable rescues.

Operation Magic Carpet (also called Operation On Wings of Eagles) was a secret operation to rescue Jews from persecution in Yemen. The Islamic government of Yemen had been hostile to their ancient Jewish community since the early 20th century. In 1948, forcible conversions, murder and rioting made it dangerous for Yemeni Jews to remain there. By 1950, Israel had ferried more than 50,000 Yemeni Jews to safety on 380 flights courtesy of Alaska Airlines. Just one year later, Israel launched a secret and successful mission to airlift 120,000 Jews from Iraq.

Between 1984 and 1991, three airlift operations coordinated by the Mossad (Israeli secret service) and the Israel Defense Forces began the transfer of 8,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel from deplorable refugee camps in Sudan. The continuing effort to rescue Jews from Ethiopia, a nation embroiled at the time in a violent civil war with famine and rampant persecution, culminated in the largest airlift operation in history: Operation Solomon, when 14,500 people were airlifted to Israel within 36 hours.



Yemenite refugee family

## ANOTHER KIND OF RESCUE

In April and May 2020, Israel was called upon for a different kind of rescue operation. During the COVID-19 pandemic when nations around the world were closing their borders to travelers, about 10,000 Israelis were stranded in foreign countries. With borders closed, flights jam-packed with people desperate to get home and fares reaching outrageous levels, Israel did not abandon its own. Calling for the implementation of a national emergency plan, then-Foreign Minister Israel Katz arranged the extraction of thousands of Israeli travelers.

Over 1,000 young Israelis were stranded in Peru when it closed its borders. They had been doing their post-military travel—many in remote regions of the Amazon rainforest and unaware there was a pandemic. Israel was reportedly one of the few nations that made herculean efforts to bring its citizens home. With borders already closed, the Israel Foreign Ministry made special arrangements with the Peruvian government to allow Israeli planes to land at the airport near Lima, then sent four rescue flights paid for by El Al and other business donors to transport the passengers free of charge. El Al made 45 flights all over the world to rescue Israelis.

The Foreign Ministry also called on two other Israeli airlines, Israir and Arkia, to help in the extraction of Israelis from Croatia, Italy, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Slovenia, Georgia and Moldova. In a demonstration of Israeli goodwill, citizens from these countries who found themselves stranded in Israel were ferried back to their home nations on planes flying there to pick up Israeli passengers.

Twenty-six Israelis, stranded in Morocco for six weeks, were rescued through a secret operation spearheaded by former Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat. Because Israeli planes are barred from landing in this Muslim country, finding a way to get the people out was no easy task. In secret negotiations with the Moroccan government, Israel began to implement the plan, though their efforts were fraught with complications. At long last, the Israeli travelers were flown home on a private charter jet.

*Jewish News Syndicate* reported the words of one Israeli passenger rescued from Peru that expressed the thoughts of most Israeli travelers during this crisis: "There is no country that extracts its civilians like [Israel]... Europeans who saw what the State of Israel did for us were simply in shock." It demonstrated once again that Israel can—and will—rescue its citizens no matter where they are in the world.





# ELUL

## Preparing to Meet the King

By Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief

**LIFE'S SPECIAL OCCASIONS** call for extra preparation. We make the effort to study for the important test, train for the marathon, dress up for the big anniversary and bring out the good china when special guests come for dinner. The more extraordinary the event, the bigger the effort and the more intense the preparations. An appointment with royalty is certainly considered an extraordinary event—all the more so if the royal in question is the King of kings and Lord of lords. In Jewish thinking, *Rosh HaShanah* (Jewish New Year) is such an appointment, a set time when the hearts and actions of humanity come before the King for judgment. The magnitude of an occasion like that begs the question: how does a mere mortal whose “*days are like grass*” (Ps. 103:15) prepare for such a meeting with the Almighty King? Thankfully, the Almighty King doesn’t expect humanity to forge its own means of preparation. Instead, He has lovingly implemented His avenue for man to walk in. That avenue is called *Elul*.

### STANDING BEFORE THE KING

Leviticus 23:24 calls *Rosh HaShanah* “a memorial of blowing of trumpets.” According to Moshe Kempinski, it is considered vital that every Jew hears the sound of the *shofar* (ram’s horn) during this two-day feast. Kempinski, an Orthodox Jew, has significant experience explaining Jewish principles to Christian audiences. His biblical gift store, Shorashim, offers a haven in the Old City both for those looking for the perfect souvenir from Jerusalem and for Christians seeking the roots of their faith. On *Rosh HaShanah*, he says, “we declare God as the King of the universe. In biblical days, the sound of the *shofar* signaled the coronation of a king. This feast is thus a time of coronation.”

The declaration—and coronation—establishes an important mindset. “We acknowledge and affirm God as the King of the universe—not me or my own will—but Him

alone. In the coronation of God we simply say: 'I'm not the master of my destiny. There is a God, and I want to be in compliance and unison with His will.'"

Yet *Rosh Hashanah*, which literally translates to the head or the first of the year, is also a crucial memorial: the birthday of the universe, the day on which God made man, Kempinski holds. "We believe this, the New Year, is the day the world was created, that the world's calendar begins at the creation of Adam."

In Jewish thought, the anniversary of creation is also set aside as the annual *Yom Hadin*, or Day of Judgment, when all of humanity stands before God and He presides over the hearts and actions of man as the King of the universe. Kempinski is quick to point out, however, that judgment in Judaism does not hold a connotation of punishment, but rather an examination to gauge where you have strayed from the path—and instructions on how to return.

Regardless, the idea of standing before the King of the Universe can be overwhelming, frightening even, Kempinski concedes. "We think to ourselves, 'Who am I to do that?' But the Almighty King is also our Father, and because He is our Father, He has already created the way for us to appear before Him without any of the pretenses, the things that keep us from Him and the failures we feel within ourselves."

## BACK TO THE KING'S PALACE

*Elul*, the last month in the biblical calendar and the final month before *Rosh Hashanah*, marks the beginning of a pivotal cycle on the almanac. It is a period of heart preparation, introspection and personal stocktaking spent in repentance and prayer, seeking mercy and forgiveness with a humble heart to identify the transgressions of the past year so they will not be repeated in the year ahead. It is a time dedicated to prepare for a meeting with the King.

As on *Rosh HaShanah*, the piercing sound of the *shofar* marks every *Elul* weekday morning, a call to stir complacent hearts to repentance. God promises in Malachi 3:7 that He will return to those who return to Him, Kempinski explains, but it is up to man to take that step. Psalm 27 is also recited daily during *Elul*, a proclamation that "God is our light, salvation and strength"—and the One who leads us back into the King's palace through our relationship with the Father.

Ultimately, Kempinski says, the traditions, customs, introspection, stocktaking and repentance during *Elul* is about the restoration of that relationship, a process that speaks of romance and intimacy. The Hebrew letters of *Elul*—aleph, lamed, vav, lamed (אלול)—form an acronym for Song of Solomon 6:3: "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." Kempinski points out a common misunderstanding in this verse. The Hebrew does not say "I am my beloved's," implying possession and belonging, but rather "I am towards my beloved and my beloved is towards me," implying relationship, turning to one another and movement. And the King, he explains, is the One who initiates that movement.

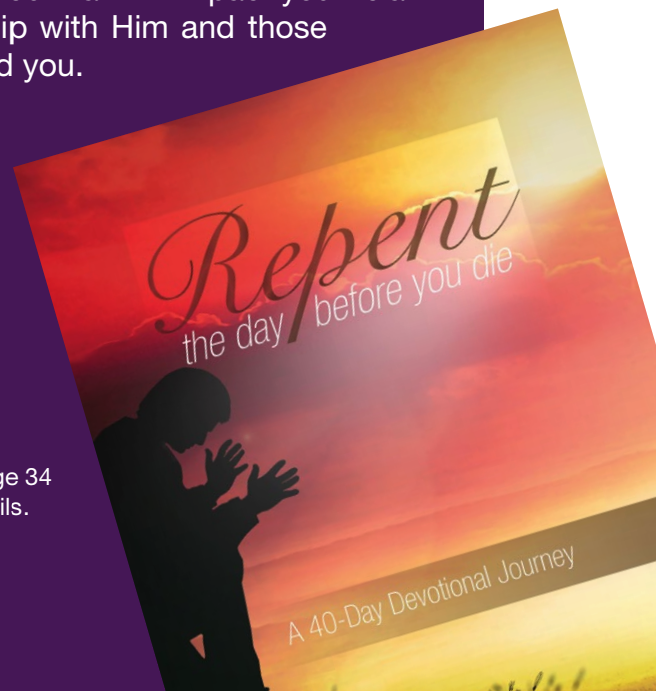
Jewish sages teach that during *Elul*, the King is in the field. What does that mean? During the days of *Elul*, ahead of *Rosh HaShanah*, the day humanity appears before God's throne for judgment, the King leaves His palace to meet with His people outside the royal residence. "It is like God saying to us: 'You may think you cannot come into My palace, cannot enter My throne room. Don't worry. I'll come to you. I'll meet you in your field. Just look around you. I'm right where you are, where you work, where you study, where you live. I'm there because I want to invite you to My palace. Because not only am I your King; I'm also your Father. And as your Father, I'm inviting you to sit with Me as the King.'"

Jewish and Christian beliefs vary on a number of issues. As an organization that blesses and stands with Israel, we want to provide you with a glimpse into Jewish thinking to enable understanding and foster mutual respect.

## Seeking His Face

At Bridges for Peace, we have found in the days of *Elul* a special time to humble ourselves in prayer and repentance, seeking the face of God our Father and Creator. We invite you to join us and the Jewish community during this important period. Our daily devotional Repent the Day before You Die will take you on an introspective journey with God that will impact your relationship with Him and those around you.

See page 34  
for details.



# Israeli Ingenuity Makes Environmentally Friendly Disinfectant from TAP WATER

**THE EFFORT TO STYMIE** the spread of COVID-19 has disinfectant and sanitizer flying off the shelves like never before. Health officials recommend sterilizing hands, work spaces and other surfaces at regular intervals. While these guidelines are crucial, the bleach and chemicals found in disinfectant and sanitizer can often have a negative effect on our health and the environment.

Researchers at the Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv announced that they have developed a powerful yet environmentally friendly disinfectant that targets and destroys bacteria and viruses—including the coronavirus—on all kinds of surfaces. The best part? The disinfectant is produced from normal tap water.

The water-to-disinfectant solution is the brainchild of Drs. Eran Evraham and Izaak Cohen and Prof. Doron Aurbach, who heads up Bar Ilan University's Department of Chemistry and Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials. Tests conducted at the university's Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences have already proven the solution's ability to neutralize corona-type viruses, among others.

"We examined the ability of these materials to impair herpes simplex virus type 1 infection and human coronavirus OC43," explained Prof. Ronit Sarid. "Both viruses

were completely eliminated when exposed to the disinfectants for different periods of time."

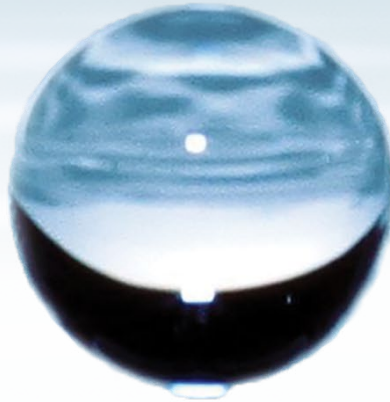
According to a statement released by the university, the technology entails combining nanometer-shaped electrodes bearing unique surface property with water to form an environmentally friendly antibacterial solution that destroys harmful microorganisms like viruses, bacteria and spores. Moreover, because the disinfectant is free from chlorine, bleach and other chemicals, it does not harm the skin or the environment.

"The antiseptic capability is 100 times more effective than bleach and therefore low concentrations of between 50 and 200 milligrams of the active materials per liter are enough to disinfect—unlike bleach, which by contrast requires between 5,000 and 20,000 mg per liter," the Bar Ilan University scientists explained.

"They are also much more environmentally friendly and do not cause burns or dry skin. They don't cause corrosion, and most importantly, with the very low concentration of 50 mg they eliminate all kinds of viruses."

The composition of the disinfectant makes it extremely versatile and suitable for use in various applications, including spray-aerosols for misting and use in air-conditioning systems, sanitizing wipes, a solution for floors and surfaces as well as a liquid for cleaning hands and personal belongings.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*





## Medical

# Israel Spearheads Disinfectant Tunnel for Use in Public Areas

**WHILE RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS** around the world work tirelessly to develop a cure for COVID-19, large parts of the global population are navigating the uncharted waters of cautiously resuming pre-coronavirus activities while remaining safe and healthy. Various innovations have come to light that give humanity a helping hand to go about everyday life as normally as possible while facing a global pandemic without a cure. And once again, Israel is leading the way.

RD Pack, an Israeli industrial automation solutions company, applied its skill and expertise to develop a smart sanitation tunnel that sprays a disinfectant mist on those walking through to ward off bacteria and viruses—including the coronavirus. Designed for high traffic locations like malls, hospitals, airports and schools, the tunnel ensures the health and safety of individuals entering these public spaces in a post-lockdown, pre-cure society.

The tunnel is fully automatic and senses when someone steps inside, the RD Pack website explains. Once a person is inside, the spray nozzles release a fine mist of electrolyzed water—an approved environmentally-friendly disinfectant—for 15 seconds, sanitizing both the person and any belongings. The mechanism has been developed to saturate every surface, even those not directly exposed to the nozzle, for maximized sanitation. As soon as the person leaves the tunnel, the automatic system turns off again, preserving water and electricity.

The result? Decreased disease transmission, lower risk of infection and greater peace of mind—and ultimately greater mobility.

“We are not a cure for the coronavirus,” said Eran Druker, RD Pack vice president for business development. “We are fighting against its spread.”

Israel installed the first pilot tunnel at the Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv in May to disinfect soccer players, staff and media arriving for matches. At the time of going to print, the Jewish state’s soccer league had resumed, but matches were played without cheering fans in the bleachers.

Although nobody is forced to pass through the tunnel, nearly everybody prefers it. “Most people want to go through it,” Druker told *Reuters*. “They feel much more secure.”

*Ilse Strauss, Bridges for Peace*



Illustrative

## Technology

# Israeli Innovation Tucked inside Google's Newest Earphones

**GOOGLE'S NEWLY RELEASED** state of the art wireless earphones have arrived—with a little help from Israeli ingenuity.

According to Ofer Elyakim, CEO of DSPG, the top-of-the-line earphones come with an innovative artificial intelligence chip developed by the Israeli tech firm.

“For us, this is a very big win, both at the strategic level and at the technology level found inside the chip,” says Elyakim.

Initial comparisons between Google’s newest offering and Apple’s market-dominating AirPods earphones predict that Google will this time take a significant market share from Apple.

Elyakim says that DSPG has entered the field of wireless headphones with a number of new chipsets, with both Google and Japan’s tech giant, Panasonic.

The collaboration with Panasonic includes the prestigious Technics brand, which utilizes DSPG’s sound processing chip.

“We do the audio and noise cancellation and are responsible for the entire audio system in the headset,” says Elyakim.

The tiny chip integrated into the Google earphones is responsible for the artificial intelligence capabilities of the product, Elyakim says.

“There’s a whole gamut of smart signal processing here, centered on machine learning algorithms found on the chip. The headphones are very smart, voice activated and need not be touched. They are constantly listening and awaiting voice commands.”

In addition, the headphones monitor jaw movement to detect speech and adjust the degree of noise reduction, he says.

“They also listen to the environment and if there are loud noises, they absorb that fact and increase the volume.”

DSPG’s chip is also integrated with Google Translate, receiving the words spoken by the user, sending them to the cloud and then playing the translation through the user’s headphones.

Tal Shahaf, *Ynetnews*

Google’s Pixel ear buds





Masada

# An Inside Look at ISRAEL'S National Parks

By Sarah Balasny, BFP Staff Writer



Mount Carmel



Masada, lower palace



fire salamander

**WHEN PLANNING A TRIP**, you tend to research where you are going. You want to know about the food, transportation and things to do. This is taken to a new level when traveling to a different country. You must consider the language, the culture and the history. Israel offers these in abundance, evident by new archaeological digs discovered annually. Of course, you will want to swim in the Sea of Galilee, marvel at the view from the Mount of Olives, run your fingers over the stones of the Western Wall and taste *falafel* or *shawarma*. One of the most exciting aspects of Israel is its national parks. This is where the Bible, history and archaeology all come together. Here you will find a glimpse into two of Israel's national parks.

## MASADA NATIONAL PARK

One of the most popular parks to visit is the Masada National Park. Although Masada itself is not mentioned in the Bible, its meaning is. In Hebrew, *masada* means fortress. Both 2 Samuel 22:2 and Psalm 18:2 refer to the Lord as our fortress, while 2 Samuel 5:7 describes Jerusalem as a fortress or stronghold that King David conquered. Micah and Joel also tell of Jerusalem being a stronghold of the people of Zion or Israel.

The site of Masada National Park was identified in 1838, but Israeli archaeologists did not get involved in its excavation until the 1950s. In 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee listed Masada on its World Heritage List. The ancient fortification sits atop a plateau off the shore of the Dead Sea and offers expansive views of the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea, the hills of Moab and the Tze'elim stream—one of the largest rivers flowing from Hebron to the Dead Sea. As you look out, you wonder how the Roman Empire reached this fortress atop a plateau with a cliff on every side. At the same time, you realize why Herod the Great chose to make this his fortified palace.

## MASADA'S HISTORY

This site was used by Herod the Great to escape Antigonus Mattathias the Hasmonean. The location is so remote that when Herod fled Masada to find help in defending it, those trapped inside the wall almost died of thirst. Over 100 years later, Masada became the base for a group of 960 Jewish fighters and their families, led by Eleazar ben Yair. The rebels left Jerusalem for Masada during the Great Revolt and added a synagogue and ritual baths to the existing structures. Atop the desert fortress they maintained a normal life for several years. However, the Romans sought to stamp out all remnants of Jewish rebellion and laid siege to Masada, constructing a ramp up the mountain. As the rebels saw this happening, they decided against becoming Roman servants and cast lots to see who would kill each other, designating the last man standing to kill himself. When the Romans gained access to Masada, they found a “citadel of death.” Two women and five children survived by hiding in a cistern and lived to tell the story.

When visiting Masada, you can watch a show in the amphitheater, see the ramp built by the Romans and walk through the synagogue and the remnants of Herod's palace. To access the site, you can take a large cable car or hike up the mountain.

## THE CARMEL NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE

In Song of Songs 7:5, we read: “*Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel.*” However, most of us associate Mount Carmel with Elijah. This is the mountain where the prophet of God challenged 450 Baal prophets to a battle unlike any other. Here, in 1 Samuel 25, David approached Nabal while in hiding from Saul and asked him for “*whatever he can find*” in repayment for when David's men protected Nabal's shepherds. Things did not end well for Nabal

when he refused to help. However, Abigail, his wife, calmed David by bringing everything from bread and wine to sheep and donkeys. When her husband died, David requested her hand in marriage, which she accepted.

The Carmel National Park and Reserve is located southeast of Haifa and is considered one of the largest continuous open spaces in Israel. Here you can see the hills of Galilee, Ramat Menashe (the valleys of the north) and the Mediterranean Sea. In biblical times, Mount Carmel was sparsely populated due to the dense woodland and steep slopes. However, in the first and second centuries, Jewish settlers built a synagogue, homes and agricultural facilities here. Druze settlers followed in the 1600s. In 1942, the British dug trenches and bunkers to prevent a German invasion, and during the 1948 War of Independence, battles occurred over the roads passing around Mount Carmel.

## WHAT YOU WILL FIND

UNESCO designated Mount Carmel as the first biosphere in Israel, which means the site provides a balance between man, nature and heritage. The park houses a unique animal—the fire salamander—along with the largest concentration of birds of prey in Israel. The plant life is abundant, with 670 species of plants boasting a quick recovery from forest fires. Just one year after a deadly fire in 2010 that destroyed 37,000 acres, flowers began to bloom in the Carmel forest once again.

# YOUR NEXT VISIT TO ISRAEL

To make your visit to Israel more impactful, Bridges for Peace has put together a tour journal where each site is discussed in its biblical context along with a Bible reference and space to journal and reflect. In Israel, you walk on the same ground the patriarchs walked and begin to understand how people lived in biblical times. Whether you are able to step foot in Israel or only dream of doing so, we pray that you are able to experience the land of Israel through this writing and our tour journal.



See page 34 for details.

# The Bible, the “West Bank” and Peace Plans

By Joshua Spurlock, *The Mideast Update*

**THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO**, Abraham was given a divine promise that his descendants—those who came from his son Isaac and eventually were known as Israel—would possess the land of Israel. In more recent history, Abraham’s other descendants—those coming from his son Ishmael and eventually known as Arabs—have laid claim to much of that very same land. That territorial dispute is about more than just dirt. Abraham’s own tomb in the city of Hebron is claimed by both sides.

United States President Donald Trump’s “Peace to Prosperity” plan to end the Israel–Palestinian conflict acknowledged the dispute over who controls the land in

Judea and Samaria—also known as the “West Bank”—as a crucial problem to resolve. Trump’s plan, often called the “Deal of the Century,” included declarations confirming that key biblical sites were rightly claimed by Israel. The plan’s conceptual map also argued that other places full of biblical lore, such as Bethlehem and Jericho, should leave Israel’s control. What is often lost in debating the Israel–Palestinian conflict is the fact that what’s at stake is not just the land controlled by Jews or Arabs, but the very ground that Abraham, Joshua, David, Jesus (Yeshua) and other biblical heroes once walked.

## Biblical Context

Before a true discussion of territorial claims and peace plans can happen, the land itself must first be defined. There are a number of significant biblical sites in the region known as Judea and Samaria, including but not limited to the following:



Hebron, where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—along with their wives Sarah, Rebecca and Leah—are all buried (Genesis 23, 49)



The ancient city of Jerusalem (claimed by the Palestinians as “East Jerusalem”), where King David reigned, the First and Second Temples stood and Jesus (Yeshua) walked, prayed and is understood to have been crucified and resurrected (2 Samuel 5, 1 Kings 5–8, Mark 11, John 19–20)



Shechem (which the Palestinians call “Nablus”), where Joshua declared he and his house would serve the Lord and where Joseph is buried (Joshua 24)

Jericho, where the walls miraculously came down after Joshua obeyed God’s command (Joshua 6)

Bethlehem, where David and Jesus were born and where Ruth lived and met Boaz (1 Samuel 16, Luke 2, Ruth 2)

Bethel or “Beit El,” where Jacob had a vision seeing the entrance to heaven (Genesis 28)



Israel does not only have a biblically sentimental claim to the land, but also a divine claim through God’s promise to Abraham. There is also a legal claim from purchases of land made by Abraham for the tomb in Hebron, Jacob for land in Shechem and David for the Temple Mount. It’s not just history; it’s heritage.



### Historical Context

Despite Israel’s biblical and historical claim on these sites, the original 1947 United Nations partition plan was a biblical nightmare for the Jewish people. A map of the territory envisioned in the plan shows biblical cities of Hebron, Jericho, Beit El and Shechem given to the Palestinians, while Bethlehem and Jerusalem were to be controlled by an international administration. While that map was never fully put into effect due to the Arab invasion of Israel in 1947, Israel ultimately lost all of those sites in the war before regaining them in the 1967 defensive conflict known as the Six Day War.

As a result of the Oslo Accords signed in 1993, the territory was again repartitioned into what was called Areas A, B and C. Area A was under both Palestinian civil and security control, while Area B was to have shared security control by Israel and the Palestinians. According to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, Area B was under Palestinian civil control too. Together, Areas A and B—both under the civil jurisdiction of the Palestinians—included Jericho, Shechem, Bethlehem and parts of Hebron. Israel for the time being retained control of the biblical city of Jerusalem—although as part of Area C, it was expected to eventually transition to the Palestinians once a final deal was reached.

	Area A: Arab controlled, Arab governed
	Area B: Arab controlled, Israeli governed
	Area C: Israeli controlled, Israeli governed

### Trump’s Context

In the “Peace to Prosperity” plan, the Trump Administration effectively acknowledged Judea and Samaria as land where Israel has “asserted valid legal and historical claims, and which are part of the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people,” even while calling for Israel to surrender some of that land to the Palestinians.

Trump’s plan refuses to force anyone from their current home, which would effectively provide recognition of Israel’s control over key sites such as Beit El and parts of Hebron. The biblical city of Jerusalem would remain under Israeli control with continued Jewish–Arab joint administration of the Temple Mount.

Yet it’s not all positive for Israel. A conceptual map in the Trump plan—which could be subject to change—shows Bethlehem, Shechem and Jericho as part of a “future State of Palestine.” While obtaining such a state per the plan is subject to substantial conditions the Palestinians may never accept or achieve, the groundwork would be laid for the land to be out of Israel’s hands.

A key goal of Israel’s plan to apply sovereignty to the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, called “annexation” by some, is to secure American recognition of that sovereignty. The context is within the Trump peace plan and its potential for a Palestinian state and as a result has led to disagreements even among the Israeli leaders in Judea and Samaria on whether to accept the Trump plan.

Given what’s at stake, the steps Israel, America and the Palestinians take next are more than just steps to or away from peace. They are steps to decide who controls the land that once was home to the greatest men and women of faith—the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria.



# ISRAEL

## Leading the COVID-19 Fight

By Kate Norman, *BFP Staff Writer*

**DURING THE HEIGHT** of the COVID-19 crisis, the tiny nation of Israel proudly wore the title of safest country to be in during the pandemic. Israel, nicknamed “the Start-up Nation,” stands among other world powers in the battle against COVID-19. This nation has kept pace with the US, the UK, China, Germany, Japan and other countries in the race to develop a vaccine for the virus—despite the fact that it is a fraction of the size of the other nations.

Being a tiny fish in an awfully large pond has forced the Jewish state to learn to adapt quickly and think outside the box. Israel is at the forefront of military technology and has the highest per capita of start-ups in the world. Harnessing those strengths means every day seems to bring a headline proclaiming a new Israeli innovation in technology or medicine to battle the virus. Experts from a broad variety of fields—medicine, science, technology, military, academia, security, etc.—across the start-up nation are teaming up in the fight.

“The brightest minds in the country, from all the various sectors, are committed and working around the clock in order to identify and develop the technological solutions that will contribute to the national effort to cope with the corona pandemic,” Brig.-Gen. Dani Gold, who developed the Israel Iron Dome missile defense system, said in a statement.

### START-UP NATION INNOVATION

These Israeli experts are repurposing military technology from defending the nation’s borders from external enemies to defending its civilians from the invisible enemy within that has infected thousands of Israelis. They have developed lights that can disinfect a small area from the virus, testing kits that provide results in a minute, robots that can care for a virus patient rather than exposing medical staff to possible infection, and a disinfectant tunnel that mists electrolyzed water on anyone passing through.

**Dr. Amit Zabatani, Sheba Medical Center, heads up a project to convert CPAP machines into ventilators**

*“Jewish creativity and ingenuity brought about this amazing achievement.”*

Israeli researchers across the country are working to repurpose past projects for a vaccine against COVID-19. One of the frontrunners in research and development is the Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR), which reportedly has successfully tested a vaccine on rodents. The Defense Ministry-run research institute also discovered an antibody that kills the virus, which could be used for a treatment rather than a vaccine—an achievement praised as a “significant breakthrough” by then-Defense Minister Naftali Bennett. “Jewish creativity and ingenuity brought about this amazing achievement.”

An Israeli company developed a product called Trans-Algae, which engineers algae as a delivery channel for a vaccine to the immune system. The vaccine was originally developed to use for animals and crop insecticides, according to *Israel21c*, but the company was talked into repurposing its product for such a time as this. “We are not a pharma company and were not interested in going into human health at this moment,” the vice president for business development told *Israel21c*. “But our shareholders were asking us, why not use this for human beings? We took the challenge.” Dozens more Israeli companies, universities and research institutes are in various stages of researching and developing a vaccine.

Israel also used its technological prowess for preventative measures. At the height of the spread of the virus across Israel, the Health Ministry released an app called HaMagen that tracked users’ movements, cross-referenced them with the movement of people confirmed to be infected and notified users to enter into self-quarantine.

## FINDING ALLIES IN THE FIGHT

Israel does not choose to fight the virus alone, either, but has offered to team up with other countries to overcome COVID-19. In May, the European Union, France, Germany, the UK, Norway and Saudi Arabia teamed up to form Coronavirus Global Response in a worldwide effort to battle the virus. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged US \$60 million to the effort.

In a video message to other participating world leaders, Netanyahu noted that Israel had been affected by the virus like the rest of the world but had a relatively low death rate. “This has been the result of early action to contain the disease, advanced technology to locate those infected, first-rate medical professionals and a disciplined population that largely adhered to [the government’s regulations].”

“But ultimately, to ensure both the public health and national prosperity, we must all work together on improving diagnostics, accelerating therapies and ultimately developing a vaccine,” Netanyahu continued. “I am confident that Israel’s leading research institutions, its world-renowned scientists and our unique culture of innovation can enable us to play an important role in advancing solutions on all three fronts.”

## Bridging the Gap

Other nations took notice of the Jewish state’s technological prowess—nations who might not cooperate with Israel otherwise. Three Gulf states, including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, began partnering with Israeli researchers and medical experts. A member of the UAE’s royal family even visited Israel’s Sheba Medical Center—a frontrunner in virus research—an official from the hospital told the *Times of Israel*, and has remained in touch on their progress. The cooperation will hopefully harness the power of medicine to bridge the diplomatic gap between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the official noted.

At the height of the worldwide panic and competition between nations to stock up on ventilators, the Israeli branch of Medtronic medical devices company provided the blueprints for its ventilators free of charge to anyone in need. “Our goal is to prolong lives—to save lives, in fact,” the CEO of the Israeli division told *Arutz Sheva*. “This is what’s needed right now, in the emergency situation we’re in, and this consideration comes before everything else.”

Israel is utilizing its strengths to fight the current crisis—just as it always has—and is building goodwill with its neighbors in the process.

**A ventilator developed at Sheba Medical Center for coronavirus patients**



# Israel and the International Criminal Court's Bogus Bias

By Cheryl Hauer, *International Vice President*

ICC chief prosecutor  
Fatou Bensouda



**THE JEWISH STATE** is used to it, really. Israel has long been the target of criticism and double standards from the international community, most notably the United Nations (UN) and its watchdog body, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). It has faced allegations ranging from the tragic to the ludicrous. As of late, Israel finds itself in the crosshairs of another global body birthed by the UN—the International Criminal Court (ICC)—facing what many are calling an illegal and prejudiced investigation designed to further delegitimize and isolate the Jewish state.

## Who is the ICC?

The ICC is an international tribunal which has jurisdiction to “bring to justice the perpetrators of the worst crimes known to humankind,” including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. It is intended to assist national judicial systems, and it may exercise its jurisdiction *only* when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals. The ICC lacks universal territorial jurisdiction and may *only* investigate and prosecute crimes committed within member states or committed by nationals of member states.

Created in 2002 with honorable enough intentions, the ICC was tasked with “ending the impunity of those accused of committing the most heinous of crimes.” Technically, it is not an actual court in that it does not follow basic rules of judicial evidence and procedure. It has been criticized for an absence of jury trials; allegations of allowed factual errors and hearsay evidence; and providing no right to a speedy or public trial or reasonable bail. Its detractors say the body has fallen far from its original noble goals, becoming yet another highly politicized UN body driven by a prejudiced political agenda.

The Rome Statute is the multilateral treaty that serves as the ICC’s foundation. States that become party to the Rome

Statute also become member states of the ICC. As of November 2019, there are 123 such ICC members, having given the ICC jurisdictional authority to investigate and prosecute international crimes committed within their borders or by their nationals within the borders of other member states when their own courts are unable to do so.

The United States and Israel are conspicuous by their absence on the ICC roster. Although the Rome Statute was signed by US President Bill Clinton, it has never been ratified by the US Congress. Israel acted in a similar manner. Although some believe the US Constitution prohibits such membership, the primary reasons for America’s lack of participation are the same as those of Israel: the ICC lacks prudent safeguards against political manipulation; possesses sweeping authority without accountability; and the grave concern that the court would treat Israel, America and their allies unfairly due to political pressure. Such concerns are clearly becoming reality.

## The Accusations

At the heart of the current controversy is ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and her determination to open investigations against Israel for war crimes and genocide allegedly committed in the “Occupied Palestinian Territory called the West Bank [Judea and Samaria],” Gaza and eastern Jerusalem, all at the request of the “state” of Palestine. However, Bensouda’s long record of anti-Israel bias is well known, and reports abound that her office is collaborating with anti-Israel NGO’s affiliated with



US Secretary of State  
Mike Pompeo



The ICC headquarters  
in the Netherlands



terror group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), some of which have current or past PFLP members actually serving in leadership and directorial positions.

In a report issued by Israeli watchdog group *Palestinian Media Watch*, there is ample evidence of the ICC’s “prosecutorial bias against Israel, the susceptibility of ICC judges to self-interest among political considerations,” and Bensouda’s own history, which “casts doubt over her suitability to serve as prosecutor at the ICC,” having repeatedly “demonstrated bias and close ties to Palestinian officials, some of whom should be tried for real war crimes themselves.”

## The Reaction

The international community has been quick to respond. Germany, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Uganda, the Czech Republic and Austria have all called on the ICC to throw out the proceedings on the basis that Palestine does not meet the most elementary criteria of statehood, leaving the court with no jurisdiction whatsoever. The US Congress has sent letters to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, calling upon him to combat the ICC’s anti-Israel bias and remind the ICC that the establishment of a Palestinian state

is simply not within their purview. Bensouda, however, has not been deterred, and her actions are a major threat to Israel. If she proceeds, she may be able to subpoena and interrogate senior Israeli politicians and military officers, even issuing warrants for their arrest should they refuse to cooperate.

Eugene Kontorovich, director of International Law at the Jerusalem-based Kohelet Policy Forum and director of the Center for International Law in the Middle East at George Mason University in Washington DC, says this: “Bensouda has come to the absurd decision that a *non-country* can sue a *non-member* of the ICC for a *non-crime* that nobody has ever been prosecuted for, and which the ICC prosecutor herself has said *does not exist* [as a prosecutable crime] when it came to [similar accusations against] Russia and Crimea or Turkey and Cyprus.”

“This,” says Kontorovich, “is not international law; it’s politics.” And politics, I might add, at its very worst.

Dan Diker, senior fellow at the *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, in issuing a similar report on the ICC, said it best: “The ICC is nothing but an extension of the Palestinian leadership political-warfare strategy. It is a tool of war. Period.”

# An Indigenous People



Two Israeli communities in Samaria

# in their Indigenous Land

**THE APPLICATION OF ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY** to Jewish communities in the Jordan Valley and Judea and Samaria—in line with US President Donald Trump’s “Peace to Prosperity” plan—has sparked international debate around the globe. World leaders, international bodies, role-players, outsiders, experts and laymen have all weighed in on the topic. While some—notably Israel, the US and Bible-believing Christians—have given the move their nod of approval, the majority are opposed.

Advocates are applauding the extension of authority over the Jewish communities in Israel’s biblical heartland—the contested area the world calls the “West Bank.” They have gone to great lengths to describe the Jewish people’s inextricable historic ties to the land, explain how the move upholds international law and underscore the beauty of an indigenous people living in their indigenous land. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sums up the situation: “We are not occupiers in a foreign land. This is our homeland since Abraham the Patriarch came here 3,500 years ago. The word ‘Jew’ comes from ‘Judea.’”

The naysayers charge that the move contravenes international law and will spell the end of a negotiated peace between Israel and the Palestinians. They fail to mention that the Palestinians have walked away from the negotiating table numerous times and have turned their backs on every offer of peace. Moreover, the charge of contravening international law often is not corroborated with facts and remains a sweeping accusation.

Let’s take a look at the voices for and against Israeli sovereignty in the biblical heartland.

## The Voices For

*“Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.”*

—Article 26 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

*“Withdrawing from territory captured in a defensive war is a historical rarity... the State of Israel has already withdrawn from at least 88% of the territory it captured in 1967. This Vision provides for the transfer of sizeable territory by the State of Israel—territory to which Israel has asserted valid legal and historical claims, and which are part of the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.”*

—President Trump’s “Peace to Prosperity” plan

*“Judea and Samaria—the name Judea says it all—is territory that historically had an important Jewish presence...It is the biblical heartland of Israel. It includes Hebron, where Abraham purchased a burial cave for his wife Sarah; Shiloh, where the tabernacle rested for 369 years before the Temple was built by King Solomon in Jerusalem; Beth El, where Jacob had his dream of the ladder ascending to heaven; Kasr al-Yahud, where Joshua led the Israelite nation into the Promised Land and John the Baptist baptized Jesus [Yeshua]...So, intuitively, who has a good claim to the land? The answer, with all due respect to all the scholars, seems obvious.”*

—US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman

*“International law defines ‘occupation’ as one power occupying the lands of a foreign sovereign....Israel is not occupying any foreign sovereign’s land; Israel entered the area known as the West Bank in 1967 and took over the authority to administer the land from Jordan, which was never considered to be a sovereign in the area...Israel and the Jewish people have claims to the area that go far back into history. Anybody who reads the Bible can appreciate the fact that there is a very solid historic legal basis to the claim of Israel...and therefore Israel considers the territories not to be occupied, not to be Palestinian, but as in dispute.”*

—Amb. Alan Baker in “Israel’s Rights in the Territories under International Law”

*“[I]t cannot seriously be contended, as the EU, France, Britain, Russia, China and other states do, that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal and that annexation is contrary to international law. This position is political, not legal.”*

—Michel Calvo in “Israel: The Settlements Are Not Illegal”

*“My first name, Benjamin, dates back to Benjamin the son of Jacob, who was also known as Israel. Jacob and his 12 sons roamed these same hills of Judea and Samaria 4,000 years ago, and there’s been a continuous Jewish presence in the land ever since. And for those Jews who were exiled from our land, they never stopped dreaming of coming back. They never stopped praying. They never stopped yearning. As the prime minister of Israel, I speak for a hundred generations of Jews who were dispersed throughout the lands, who suffered every evil under the*

*sun, but who never gave up hope of restoring their national life in the one and only Jewish state.”*

—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

## The Voices Against

*“We must work to discourage any possible initiative toward annexation.”*

—High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles

*“We won’t allow the transfer of Palestinian land to anyone.”*

—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

*“The Palestinian leadership...are absolved of all agreements and understandings with the American and Israeli governments...including ones regarding security...We hold the American administration fully responsible for the oppression befalling the Palestinian people, and we consider it a primary partner with the Israeli occupation government in all its aggressive and unfair decisions and measures against our people.”*

—Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas

*“The continuing threat of annexation by Israel of parts of the West Bank would...deal a devastating blow to the two-state solution, close the door to a renewal of negotiations. Israel must abandon its threat of annexation.”*

—UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov

*“There are violations of international law of different degrees of severity, and an annexation of the Jordan Valley and the settlements would be considered a serious one. This qualification implies that there would be consequences, as it would not be considered ‘serious’ otherwise.”*

—Eric Danon, French ambassador to Israel, tells the *Times of Israel*

*“If Israel really annexed the West Bank...it would lead to a massive conflict with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I don’t want to make threats and create an atmosphere of loggerheads, but we are considering all options.”*

—King Abdullah II of Jordan

***“Yet the Jewish people for more than two millennia has consistently maintained the strongest claim to be the aboriginal people in its ancestral homeland, and their existence and roots are widely documented, acknowledged and recognized.”***

—Amb. Alan Baker in “The Jews: One of the World’s Oldest Indigenous Peoples”





# TOURS

## Australia

### ENCOUNTER ISRAEL TOUR

February 14–27, 2021

**Hosted by: Matthew Chivers**

You are invited to join this lifechanging tour to encounter the miracles of ancient and modern Israel. Sail on the Sea of Galilee, explore the Old City of Jerusalem, marvel at the City of David and the ancient stronghold at Masada, pray at the Western Wall and much more.

## Canada

### EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

January 31–February 11, 2021

**Hosted by: Rev. Don & Victoria James**

Join us as we travel through Israel and experience firsthand the wonder and beauty of the Land of the Bible.

*\*Special rates for pastors and their spouses.*

### PROMISE—PROPHECY—POSSESSION

March 11–25, 2021

**Hosted by: Rick & Grace Knelsen and Real Bois**

If you've visited Israel before and want to expand your experience of fulfilled prophecy by meeting the people whom God is restoring to His Land—the people returning to the ancient cities and communities on the mountains of Israel, hills of Judea and mountains of Samaria, planting vineyards and olive groves and praising God in their homeland—this tour is for you. We will ascend the Temple Mount and walk in newly opened areas of the City of David. We will explore new archaeological sites, enjoy Shabbat dinner in Jewish homes and much more.

### FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: EUROPE & ISRAEL TOUR

November 7–23, 2021

**Hosted by: BFP Canada leadership team**

A tour to Europe and Israel. Come face to face with the Holocaust, visiting the Anne Frank House, Corrie ten Boom Museum, Auschwitz concentration camp and more. Then fly to Israel, where we will learn about the struggle for the Jewish state against all odds and see how our covenant-keeping God has restored His Land and people of Israel. Tour includes the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Israel.

*\*Option to extend Israel component.*

## United States

### ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

October 25–November 6, 2020

**Hosted by: Bobby Peck**

Come experience the miracle of ancient and modern Israel by visiting the Land, experiencing the culture and meeting the people.

### THE LIFE AND LAND OF JESUS CHRIST

#### ISRAEL STUDY TOUR 2021

February 24–March 6, 2021

**Hosted by: Dr. Dennis D. Frey & Dr. Noel P. Sanderson**

Be immersed in the land and lessons of the Bible as you're led on an 11-day journey through Scripture while your local guide and driver bring the past and present culture of Israel to life for all your senses.

### THE "FOLLOWING JESUS" ISRAEL TOUR 2021

March 1–12, 2021

**Hosted by: Bill & Liz Adams**

Join veteran hosts Bill and Liz Adams and an Israeli guide in the Land of the Bible, following in the footsteps of Jesus. This learning, worshiping and serving adventure goes off the beaten path without missing the essential biblical and historic sites. Partake in the privilege of blessing the Israeli people and re-greening the Promised Land.

### BIBLICAL HOLY LAND TOUR

June 25–July 6, 2021

**Hosted by: Jill Czelusta**

You are invited to join this 12-day tour for the journey of a lifetime. Explore the Land of the Bible and experience Scripture coming to life.

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# Savory Middle Eastern KIBBEH

By Rae Harris, *BFP Staff Writer*

*Kibbeh* (or *kubba*) has been called the Middle Eastern meatball or meatloaf, depending whom you ask. It comes from the Arabic word meaning “to form a ball,” and is essentially deep-fried meat-stuffed meat (what’s not to love?). You can also bake it in a pan or serve it raw, like steak tartare. Make your own *kibbeh* at home with our recipe, featuring mint leaves in the dough for an additional nod to its Middle Eastern roots.

## Ingredients

### Meat Dough:

1 ½ lbs (700 g) ground beef  
2 cups bulgur wheat  
1 large onion, quartered  
1 tsp cumin  
½ tsp cinnamon  
½ cup mint leaves  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Water

### Filling:

½ lb (230 g) ground beef  
½ cup toasted pine nuts  
1 medium onion, diced  
1 Tbsp olive oil  
1 tsp cumin  
½ tsp cinnamon  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Vegetable oil (for frying)

## Instructions

### To make the dough:

Cover a mesh strainer with a cheesecloth or towel and put bulgur wheat inside. Place over a bowl filled with water (enough to submerge the sieve in the water) and soak for 30 minutes. Squeeze excess water from wheat. Add wheat, mint and onion to a food processor and blend until smooth. Add beef and spices and blend until a paste forms. Set aside, covered, while you make the filling.

### To make the filling:

In a large skillet, heat olive oil. Add onion and sauté until translucent. Add ground beef and spices and cook until beef is browned. Remove from heat and stir in pine nuts.

### To assemble:

With wet hands, take a small handful of meat dough and form into a ball. Using your fingers, poke a hole in the middle and push dough up the sides, forming a cone shape. Place a spoonful of filling inside the hole and pinch to seal, creating the shape of an American football. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Repeat until you’ve used all the ingredients, re-wetting your hands between *kibbeh*.

### To fry:

Place vegetable oil (enough to cover the *kibbeh*) in a large soup pot and heat to 350°F (180°C). Fry a couple *kibbeh* at a time until brown, about 5–10 minutes. Remove from oil and place on a napkin-lined baking sheet to drain. Serve warm with yogurt sauce or *labneh* cheese and a squeeze of fresh lemon.



## Israeli Judoka Raises Quarter Million Shekels to Help **FIGHT VIRUS**

**TOP ISRAELI JUDOKA SAGI MUKI** raised over a quarter of a million shekels [US \$7.1 million] by auctioning off memorabilia meant to aid a hospital in his hometown in the fight against coronavirus.

The judoka, who won the 2019 World Judo Championships as well as the 2015 and 2018 European championships, began selling his memorabilia as part of a campaign to raise funds for the Laniado Hospital in his hometown of Netanya to help the medical center buy more ventilators to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients.

The most sizable donation was made by a Jewish-American donor from Florida, who bought the judo suit Muki wore during his victory in the 2019 World Judo Championships for no less than NIS 50,000 [US \$14,211].

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, insisted the suit remain in Muki's possession and not be put up for sale ever again.

"He didn't understand how I could let go of such an invaluable item," Muki said about the donor. "He wanted me to know that I am appreciated by the Jews of the world and he would donate the money only if I keep the suit...It warmed my heart."

He also told Muki that he has been following the Israeli champion's career for a long time and that Muki's sporting achievements had a real positive impact on the Jewish community around the world.

The donor also congratulated Muki for his performance in a Judo competition in Abu Dhabi, where his victory prompted the organizers in the Arab Gulf state to wave the Israeli flag and sound the Jewish state's national anthem.

Excerpt from an article by Oren Aharoni, *Ynetnews*

## Israel's Diversified Knesset



**THE NEWLY FORMED** 23rd Knesset (Parliament) of Israel is well diversified, including representation from various religions like Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Druze. Immigrants are also well represented, and 24% of the Knesset members are female. Ages range from 36 to 71, with the average age being 54.

The government coalition has 73 members from 7 parties: Likud, Blue and White, Shas, United Torah Judaism, Derech Eretz, Geshar and Labor. The cabinet has 34 ministers, including 8 women. Previously, the highest number of women in the Knesset was four. About half of the ministers will be first-timers.

We encourage all our readers to pray for wisdom for Israel's two leaders: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Alternate Prime Minister Benjamin Gantz.

Rebecca J. Brimmer  
*Bridges for Peace*

# Sea of Galilee

## Reaches Highest Level in Two Decades

**IN A SEMI-ARID COUNTRY LIKE ISRAEL,** every drop of rain is precious. Each year at the onset of the rainy season following the Feast of Tabernacles in October, Israelis—and many Christians around the world—hope and pray that the Promised Land will be blessed with an abundance of showers to soak the land and replenish the water sources, particularly the Sea of Galilee, Israel's largest freshwater lake that provides a quarter of the country's water.

The majority of seasons over the last few years have seen precipitation ranging from highly concerning to barely enough. However, the past two years have been different. Following two seasons of particularly abundant rainfall, the land is quenched and green. In the spring we were delighted to see multicolored patches of wildflowers carpet the desert. Most importantly, the Sea of Galilee is at its highest level in two decades. In fact, after years of the water level creeping further from the shore and islands appearing in patches on the once smooth water surface, the Sea of Galilee—or Kinneret as it is called in Hebrew—is overflowing its banks, submerging the vegetation along the shore.

When full, the Sea of Galilee stands at 685 feet (208.8 m) below sea level. After years of drought, the water level neared an all-time low of 698 feet (212.95 m) below sea level in April 2017. Three years later at the end of April 2020, the Kinneret was nearly full, prompting authorities

to open the Degania Dam gates south of the lake to allow surplus water to feed into the Jordan River—and subsequently the Dead Sea—for the first time in 27 years.

Those who have seen the Sea of Galilee in its overflowing abundance call it a spectacular sight. Sadly, not many have had that privilege.

The Kinneret is a year-round popular tourist attraction, with peak season in April and May. The Sea of Galilee plays a central role in the Gospels, with the shores and even the waves setting the stage for key events, miracles, encounters and preaching in Jesus' (Yeshua's) ministry. A number of churches dot the shoreline, drawing scores of Christian pilgrims every year, particularly during Easter. Moreover, the warmer weather also means that beaches along the Kinneret are usually also packed with locals enjoying the spring sunshine and splashing in the waves.

This year, beaches, hotels, restaurants, promenades and usually teeming streets were deserted for a few months. To curb the spread of COVID-19, Israel's borders were shut, barring entrance to all tourists, including Christian pilgrims. Moreover, lockdown regulations confined locals to their homes.

The irony was not lost on the Israeli media. The Sea of Galilee, they said, was at the same time full and empty.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*



# BRIDGES FOR PEACE

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS:** Bring joy into the lives of people who have suffered so much. Partner with us to deliver food and supplies to Holocaust survivors to ensure their basic needs are met. More than providing food, we bring joy and companionship to these precious people, even including special birthday baskets as an extra treat for their special day.

**WIDOWS AND ORPHANS:** God is described as a champion of the “*fatherless and the widow*” in Deuteronomy 10:18, and He invites us in Isaiah 1:17 to partner with Him to “*defend the fatherless*” and “*plead for the widow.*” We help care for these people who are often unable to care for themselves. Help us provide food parcels to help make ends meet and put food on empty tables.

**FOOD:** You can help feed over 22,000 needy Israelis in 40 communities every month by supporting our food banks in Jerusalem and Karmiel.

**ADOPTION:** Sponsor an Israeli individual or family for one year and become personally connected by exchanging letters. Your gift will provide food, bus tickets, financial assistance for special needs and badly needed encouragement.

**FEED A CHILD:** Change the future for an impoverished Israeli child by providing hot lunches at school, birthday and holiday gifts, school books, a backpack filled with supplies and funds for special needs (sponsorship program). One-time gifts allow us to enhance the schools with computer labs, modern playgrounds, improved facilities and more.

**ADOPT AN ISRAELI TOWN:** Show compassion to needy families by supporting one of 18 Israeli towns that are experiencing severe economic hardship. We work with community officials across Israel to ensure that those in need are fed.

**PROJECT RESCUE:** We help the Jewish people of the Diaspora return to Israel. Your financial assistance helps pay for passports, visas, ground transportation, lodging and more. Thus far we have helped rescue over 76,000 people.

**PROJECT TIKVAH (HOPE):** Support the elderly and sick who cannot immigrate to Israel. Your gifts fund soup kitchens that provide hot, nutritious meals; heaters for the winter season for those living in unheated quarters; emergency medical assistance and more.

**IMMIGRANT WELCOME GIFTS:** Welcome new immigrants to Israel with a large gift package that includes a kitchen set of pans and utensils, blankets, school kits for children and a 3-volume Hebrew–Russian or 2-volume Hebrew–Spanish edition of the Hebrew Scriptures.


**CRISIS ASSISTANCE FUND:** Your gifts enable us to respond quickly to crisis situations. These may include critical needs, such as bomb shelters, ambulances or help for emergency situations, such as terror-motivated arson attacks and more.

**HOME REPAIR:** Teams of skilled construction workers renovate homes of the poor and elderly in dire conditions, fixing leaky plumbing, replacing broken windows, painting, plastering, rewiring and installing cabinets.

**VICTIMS OF TERROR:** We deliver special cheer baskets to anyone touched by terrorism. Special needs, such as wheel-chairs, food vouchers and financial assistance for medical bills are provided for those in long-term rehabilitation.

**DENTAL/MEDICAL AID:** Bring back smiles to the faces of the poor. Israeli health insurance does not cover dental care or special medical needs. This fund helps the needy cover those expenses.



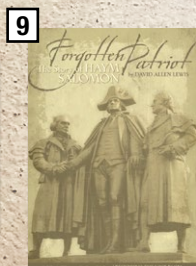
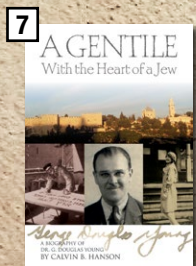
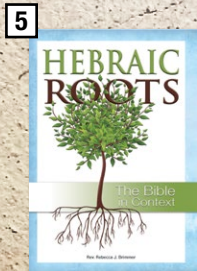
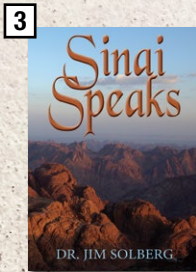
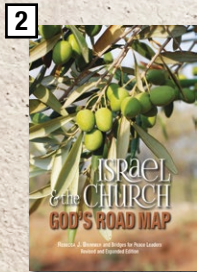
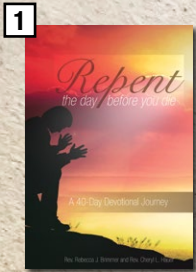


*“I have set watchmen  
on your walls, O Jerusalem;  
They shall never hold their peace  
day or night...”*

*Isaiah 62:6*

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# Recommended Reading



- 1 REPENT THE DAY BEFORE YOU DIE**  
**A 40-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNEY**  
 Rebecca J. Brimmer & Cheryl Hauer

  - Suggested homework activities to enhance the journey
  - Daily Scripture readings and accompanying prayer points
  - Full color & spiral bound journal
  
- 2 ISRAEL & THE CHURCH: GOD'S ROAD MAP**  
 Rebecca J. Brimmer & BFP Leaders

Full-color revised edition introduces the Hebraic roots of Christianity and tells the story of God's covenant relationship with Israel. Includes study questions. Excellent for small group or personal study. **Also on Kindle.**
  
- 3 SINAI SPEAKS**  
 Dr. Jim Solberg

Rediscover the *Torah* (Gen.–Deut.) and its relevant messages for today through this amazing devotional. Enter a new realm of Bible study as ancient stories with modern applications bring you closer to the God of Israel. **Also on Kindle.**
  
- 4 ISRAEL TOUR JOURNAL**  
 BFP & MIUD Leadership

Each beautifully designed page describes an important biblical site; offers spiritual application, modern life lessons and Scripture verses; and provides a place to chronicle thoughts and reactions, creating memories that will last forever.
  
- 5 HEBRAIC ROOTS: THE BIBLE IN CONTEXT**  
 Rebecca J. Brimmer

Our understanding of the Scriptures is shaped by our thinking and culture, which is quite different from the Hebraic background. Concepts that are sometimes complex and foreign to our Western worldview are explained from a Hebraic perspective. **Also on Kindle.**
  
- 6 JOSEPH & MARY: A MODEL FOR TODAY'S FAMILY**  
 Cheryl Hauer

A fresh look at the lives of Mary and Joseph, gleaned from what history tells us of first-century family life—a desperately needed model for families today. **Also on Kindle.**
  
- 7 A GENTILE WITH THE HEART OF A JEW**  
 Calvin B. Hanson

The life of Dr. G. Douglas Young, founder of Bridges for Peace, will inspire you to stand with Israel. His messages are timeless, his passion contagious. **Also on Kindle.**
  
- 8 HEBREW TREASURES**  
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- 10 SCRIBES & SCHOLARS**  
 A CHILDREN'S INTRODUCTION TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE BIBLE  
 Cheryl Hauer

Learn about the Hebrew language: write it, speak it, mix your ink, make a biblical scroll; includes fun activities and 40 Hebrew flash cards. (ages 11–14)
  
- 11 ISRAEL: THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE**  
 Cheryl Hauer

Through puzzles, games, crafts and other activities, children will learn about Israel's land, people, food and language...and have fun doing it! (ages 7–12)
  
- 12 THE BLESSING**  
 Carolin Sadler

Join a Jewish family as they joyfully share their *Shabbat* (Sabbath) traditions. The fourth commandment will become personal as your family learns to experience God's rest. (ages 7–12)
  
- 13 CELEBRATE WITH ISRAEL HOLIDAY COLORING BOOK**

Children will experience the joy and excitement of Israel's festival cycle through our holiday coloring book, a great introduction to life in Israel.
  
- 14 TRIBES OF ISRAEL**  
 Cheryl Hauer

Well-known Bible stories come alive as your children read about the tribal lifestyle of the patriarchs. The book includes activities that will enrich their understanding. (ages 11–14)

# Free Bookmark

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## PSALM 91

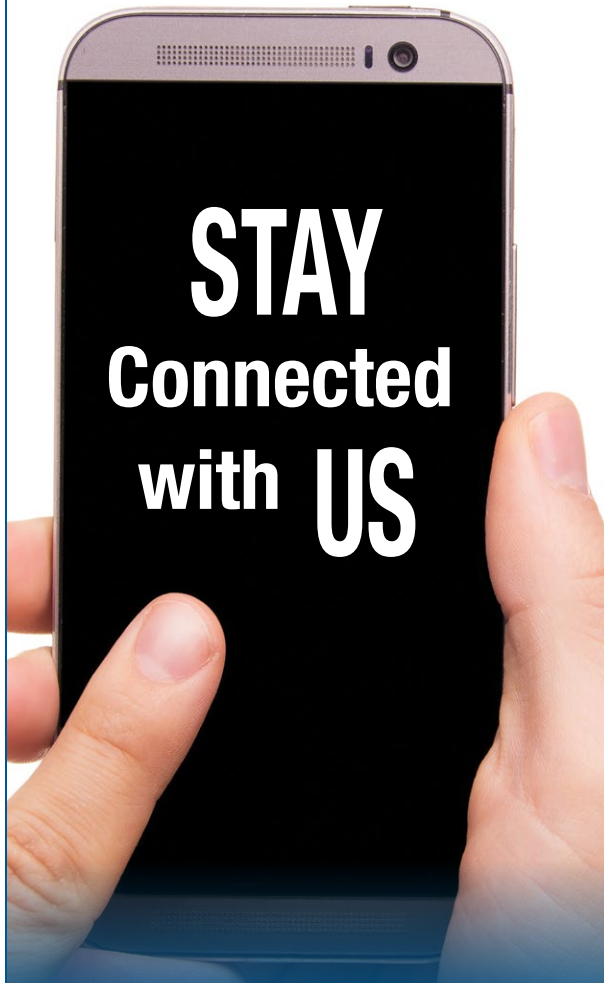
He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!" For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. For you have made the LORD, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down. "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation." (NASB)



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A Publication of Bridges for Peace • August 2020 • Vol. 45 No. 4  
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*“You will arise and have mercy on Zion;  
for the time to favor her...has come.”*

Psalm 102:13



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