

dispatch from Jerusalem

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

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How Did Iran Become Israel's Public Enemy #1?

Friend
or Foe?

How Does
It Feel?

A Fight
for Life

What Year
Is This?

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 bridge-builder and participating in fulfilling biblical prophecy through the following educational and humanitarian programs of Bridges for Peace.

Publications: The bimonthly *Dispatch from Jerusalem*, the monthly in-depth study of the Israel Teaching Letter and the weekly e-mailed Israel Current News Update with Prayer Focus. To subscribe, sign up on the front page of our website at www.bridgesforpeace.com

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.

Short-term Service: A wonderful opportunity for Christians to build sincere relationships by volunteering to serve as short-term staff assisting Israel's poor.

Operation Ezra Projects: Through our food bank, 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.

ZEALOUS8:2: This branch of Bridges for Peace aims at reaching and impacting the young adult generation (18-30) with the message of God's plan and purpose for the nation of Israel (www.zealous82.com).

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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10 2024 or 1934?

The days when blatant anti-Semitism could be dismissed as a faraway problem are well behind us. And at the rate it's spreading—particularly after October 7 and the ensuing war—this ancient poison is fast creeping into everyone's backyards.

By Kate Norman

12 Reclaiming History: Indigenous Support for Israel

In February, international tribal leaders gathered in Jerusalem to launch the Indigenous Embassy, as the First Nation peoples affirmed the Jewish people's historical connection to Israel. The chosen location communicated an additional message: Jerusalem is not just a place on the map but a living testament to the Jewish people's enduring legacy.

By Nathan Williams

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Calls of "Death to Israel" frequently ring out from Tehran. But Iran was not always screaming for Jerusalem's destruction. In fact, relations between ancient Israel and Persia—modern-day Iran—got off to a good start. And 2,500 years later, Iran was the second Muslim-majority to recognize reborn Israel. So where did it all go wrong?

By Kate Norman

18 A Fight for Life

On October 7, the volunteers of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency, disaster and ambulance service, were pitted against an enemy without a conscience, killing or wounding thousands of Israelis. Their response? A desperate fight for the life of the victims.

By Janet Aslin

20 Friend or Foe?

Israel has diplomatic ties with 165 UN states. Yet these so-called friends are often silent when the chips are down. In fact, while Israel faces a perpetual battle for survival, her "friends" frequently respond with denouncement instead of solidarity. But Israel's "friendship dilemma" has never been as apparent as in the aftermath of October 7.

By Cheryl Hauer

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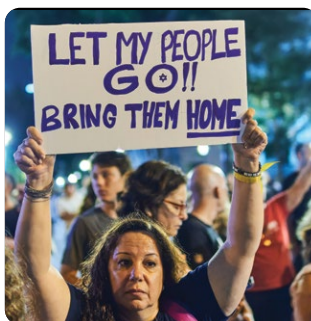
Confronting the fabrications Israelis endure with truth and objectivity has a fundamental flaw: facts do not persuade; feelings do. Could appealing to the feelings of peace-loving Israelis persuade hardened hearts where facts have failed?

By Bill Adams

24 What Year Is This?

Are we in the year 2024? Or is this the year 5784? Depending on your perspective, either one is correct. The date 2024 refers to the number of years since the birth of Jesus (Yeshua). The Jewish people mark time from creation. According to their calendar, this year marks 5,784 years since Creation.

By Rebecca J. Brimmer



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A Ray of Hope

ANATOLY WIPED THE TEARS AWAY as he huddled in the dark among the shapes of people in the air raid shelter. The relentless pounding of rockets slamming into Kyiv shook the structure. A few panicked gasps and sobs resounded every time a Russian rocket found its target, but the majority of people packed into the tiny space stared at the floor in silent terror. Kyiv was under attack yet again.

Once the air raid sirens screamed through the city, Anatoly didn't have much time to scramble to safety. Now he sat—once again—huddled in darkness, rubbing his hands together for a bit of warmth in the cold December air. It was the third day without electricity, heat or water. His thoughts drifted to his wife and daughter who had fled to Israel ten months earlier to escape the war. He smiled to himself. Tomorrow was his sixtieth birthday and he would be free to leave Ukraine and make his way to Israel to join them. So many people he knew had died in the war. Yet God was guiding Anatoly to Israel, bringing into fulfillment the ancient prophecies of the ingathering of the Jewish people, which he now meditated on in the darkness.



Bridges for Peace food parcels

A few weeks after sitting in the Kyiv bomb shelter, Anatoly finally arrived in Israel and held his wife and daughter for the first time in months. Yet the reality of his new life and all the obstacles that still faced this refugee family soon threatened to overwhelm them. Anatoly had always provided for his wife and daughter, but the family's dire situation in Israel threatened to engulf him in despair. Anatoly had fled a nation at war to find himself in the midst of yet another war. And although he felt much safer in Israel, the conflict has placed an additional strain on the economy, causing prices to skyrocket. Anatoly barely spoke Hebrew and knew he would struggle to find work at his age. So how would they eat? His mind swirled with anxiety as providing food soon became his single-minded focus. His family received some support from the Jewish Agency, but due to the influx of thousands of other refugees, help was stretched thin.

One day, Anatoly was connected with Christians from Bridges for Peace and his world changed for the better. These Christians from around the world had come to his family's rescue. His family would be cared for and brought under the wing of Bridges for Peace's Food Project, which reaches out to needy immigrants.

Anatoly was left speechless by the support. As the bags of food began arriving regularly, he and his family praised the Lord while crying tears of joy. The knowledge that he would be able to put food on the table every day filled him with a peace he had not known in months. He began to smile whenever he saw the Bridges for Peace logo on the food bags. More importantly, the love from Christians around the world stirred within Anatoly a deep sense that this support came directly from the Lord. Strengthened by that love and concern, he began learning Hebrew and looking for a job. Imagine his joy when he was employed in a large factory!

Anatoly had lived through months of severe trauma and pain. He had been separated from his family and had run to bomb shelters countless times as drones and rockets streaked overhead. Many neighbors and friends went to war never to return. He had felt darkness close in on him at times in Kyiv as the city struggled against the onslaught. However, he had never given up hope. Anatoly knew that Israel's anthem is called *HaTikvah* (The Hope). Its words speak of the Jewish people



Bridges for Peace volunteers packing food

returning to live in their Land once again and the hope that stirs within them. Anatoly also had hope, a hope in the Lord and that He would care for his family. But he also saw hope in action, as Christians from Bridges for Peace fed his family and equipped them with household necessities so that they could embark on their new life in Israel. That hope was like a shining light. One day, Anatoly lovingly expressed his heart to some of our volunteers by saying, "You are like a ray of hope that good is stronger and will conquer this darkness!"

I want to appeal to you in this hour of need! Would you please consider igniting a ray of hope in the lives of the over 24,000 needy Israelis we feed every day? A gift to our **Food Project** will enable us to meet the needs of the desperate families in Israel who need our help more than ever. Like Anatoly and his family, many depend on the food we put on their tables. Please partner with Bridges for Peace to be a prophetic blessing into what God is doing in our time by regathering the Jewish people back to the Land and feeding the hungry. Will you be a Christian ray of hope in the lives of desperate Jewish people so that the love and light of God would fill this nation of Israel?

Donate now



"For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their [the Jewish people] spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them [the Jewish people] in material things." Romans 15:27b

Shalom,
Rev. Peter Fast
International CEO



'US Will Have Difficulty Defending Israel against Hezbollah'



Hezbollah drones headed toward Israel



The United States likely would not be able to help Israel defend itself against a broader war with Hezbollah in the way it did when Iran launched a barrage of missiles and drones at the Jewish state in April, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in June.

Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown noted that it is harder to repel the shorter-range rockets from Lebanon. An Israel-Hezbollah war also risks triggering a direct military response by Tehran, he added.

Iran "would be more inclined to support Hezbollah" than it is the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip, "particularly if they felt that Hezbollah was being significantly threatened," Brown told reporters.

Brown said the Biden administration continues to urge Israel against widening the conflict in the north. Washington's key message is "to think about the second order of effect of any type of operation into Lebanon, and how that might play out and how it impacts not just the region, but how it impacts our forces in regions as well," he said.

Hezbollah has attacked northern Israel nearly every day since joining the war in support of Gaza-based Hamas on October 8, killing more than 20 people and causing widespread damage. Tens of thousands of Israeli civilians remain internally displaced due to the ongoing violence.

Since October 8, Hezbollah has fired more than 5,000 rockets, anti-tank missiles and suicide drones at Israeli border communities.

In June, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) authorized operational plans for a campaign aimed at pushing Hezbollah north of the Litani River, which was also the stated goal of 2006's UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israel's *Channel 14* that Israeli forces are being deployed to the northern border for defensive purposes "but also to bring all the residents of the north home."

"If we can do it politically, that would be great," he said of ongoing US-brokered talks. "If not, we will do it in another way, but we will bring everyone back home—all the residents of the north and the south."

Any diplomatic solution for the northern border "will not be an agreement on paper," he emphasized, but "will include the physical removal of Hezbollah from the border, and we will have to enforce it."

In a video message published in June, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah vowed to "fight without restraints, without rules, without limits." Nasrallah has also threatened that "an invasion of the Galilee remains on the table if the confrontation escalates."

Senior US officials have assured Jerusalem that the White House would offer Israel the security assistance it needs to fight the Iranian terrorist proxy, according to a report on Friday. However, the United States is not willing to deploy American troops on the ground in such a scenario, reports said.

Jewish News Syndicate

Israel Decries 'Grossly Erroneous' UN Data on Hamas War



Some 8,000 trucks of humanitarian aid entering Gaza were not included in the report.

Israel's foreign minister chided the head of the United Nations, expressing "extreme concern" over the global body's "ongoing misreporting" of Israel's war against Hamas.

Israel Katz, Jerusalem's top diplomat, sent the letter in June. Secretary-General António Guterres's office confirmed receipt of it.

Katz said that the online informational humanitarian-aid delivery dashboard published by UNRWA—the scandal-plagued Palestinian-only aid and social services agency overseen by the United Nations—was "grossly erroneous" due to an underreporting of some 8,000 trucks since the start of the war, including 4,800 in May alone.

Katz complained that the dashboard did not include deliveries from the Erez Crossing or the US-constructed Gaza floating pier, and included only partial data from the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

In addition, at some point in early June, the dashboard Katz referred to ceased to function, with no immediate

explanation from the UN. Critics have pointed out significant flaws with the dashboard, including labeling food as non-food items and vice versa.

In recent days, the dashboard indicated that a large percentage of trucks entering Gaza had been looted in transit.

Katz also referenced the controversial revisions in May by the UN Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs of the fatality tolls in Gaza. The newer numbers, taken from Hamas's reporting, showed an eye-popping decrease in the number of women and children killed.

Responding to an inquiry from JNS, a spokesman for Guterres blamed the "fog of war" for the inaccurate data, which had been used to castigate Israel in international courts of justice and public opinion.

It was later explained that the revisions were made to split the death tolls between "identified" and "unidentified" bodies; however, the new data, like the earlier set, proved a mathematical impossibility.

Katz referred to that incident as "the most egregious example" of the UN

"disseminating misleading or false information," which, he said, "raises serious questions about its neutrality" and "exacerbates the extreme distrust of Israel and its public towards the United Nations."

Katz demanded the figures be corrected and an apology issued.

Farhan Haq, a spokesman for Guterres, responded to a question from JNS on Katz's letter, saying that the secretary-general feels there are "a number of inaccuracies" in the allegations.

Haq said Guterres "had some information on that" and that his office "would be sharing that with our interlocutors."

Katz visited the UN on March 11 to address an informal meeting of the Security Council, dealing with Hamas's sexual crimes during the October 7 massacre. Katz did not request a meeting with Guterres or any UN officials, according to Guterres's office.

The foreign minister also lambasted Guterres in a March 23 tweet after Guterres, during a visit to the Egypt-Gaza border, publicly blamed Israel for a backlog of aid trucks.

Katz responded that Guterres held Jerusalem responsible "without condemning in any way the Hamas-ISIS terrorists who plunder humanitarian aid, without condemning UNRWA that cooperates with terrorists—and without calling for the immediate, unconditional release of all Israeli hostages."

Under Guterres's leadership, the United Nations "has become an anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli body that shelters and emboldens terror," Katz said.

Mike Wagenheim, *Jewish News Syndicate*



Construction of the floating pier into Gaza

Ships at Sea

in the Northern Negev?

A Byzantine-period church with wall art displaying ships was found in an Israel Antiquities Authority [IAA] excavation in the northern Negev. “This is a greeting from Christian pilgrims arriving by ship to Gaza port,” say the IAA excavation directors.

“The excavated site tells the story of settlement in the northern Negev at the end of the Byzantine period and in the beginning of the Early Islamic period. Pilgrims visited the church and left their personal mark in the form of ship drawings on its walls. The ship is indeed an old Christian symbol, but in this case—apparently, it is a true graphical depiction of real ships in which the pilgrims traveled to the Holy Land.”

The site of the ancient church with the ship drawings is indeed adjacent to an ancient Roman road that led from the Mediterranean coastal port of Gaza to Beersheva, the Negev’s main city. “The pilgrims began their pilgrimage following Roman roads leading to sites sacred to Christendom, such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the monasteries in the Negev Hills and in the Sinai. “It is reasonable that their first stop after alighting from the ships in Gaza port was this very church revealed in our excavations south of Rahat. This site lies only a half-day’s walk from the port,” say the scholars.

According to Prof. Deborah Cvikel, “One of the ships drawn on the church walls is depicted as a line drawing, but yet it may be discerned that its bow is slightly pointed, and that there are oars on both sides of the vessel. This may be an aerial depiction of the ship, though it seems the artist was attempting a three-dimensional drawing. It may be that the lines below it portray the path beaten by the oars through the water.”

Another drawing depicts what is apparently a two-masted ship. The main mast has no sail, but seems to show a small flag in its upper section. The foremast is slightly raked towards the bow and bears a sail known as an *artemon*. The exacting detail indicates the artist’s familiarity with maritime life.

IAA Director Eli Escusido said, “This surprising and intriguing find of ship drawings in a northern Negev Byzantine-period church opens a window for us to the world of Christian pilgrims visiting the Holy Land 1,500 years ago, and provides first-hand evidence about the ships they traveled in and the maritime world of that time.”

Israel Antiquities Authority



Ancient Ring Unearthed in Jerusalem

A gold ring set with a precious stone dating from the early Hellenistic period was recently found in the City of David.

This ring was discovered by Tehiya Gangate, while she was sifting excavated earth. "I was sifting earth through the screen and suddenly saw something glitter," she recounts. "I immediately yelled, 'I found a ring, I found a ring!' Within seconds everyone gathered around me, and there was great excitement. This is an emotionally moving find, not the kind you find every day."

Dr. Yiftah Shalev and Riki Zalut Hartov, IAA excavation directors, said, "The ring is very small. It would fit a woman's pinky, or a young girl or boy's finger. Dr. Marion Zindel says the ring was manufactured by hammering thin pre-cut gold leaves onto a metal ring base. Stylistically it reflects the common fashion of the Persian and Early Hellenistic periods, dating from the late 4th to early

3rd century BC and onwards. In that period people began to prefer gold with set stones rather than decorated gold.

Professor Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University and excavator Efrat Bocher note, "The gold ring joins other ornaments of the early Hellenistic period found in the City of David excavations, including the horned-animal earring and the decorated gold bead." The scholars point out, "the Givati parking lot excavation finds are beginning to paint a new picture of the nature and stature of Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Early Hellenistic period.

In the past most scholars assumed Jerusalem was then a small town, limited to the top of the southeastern slope ("City of David"), these new finds tell a different story: The gold finds and other discoveries, display the city's healthy economy and even its elite status.

Israel Antiquities Authority



2,300 year old gold ring found in the City of David

Scientific Dating of First Temple Events

A new scientific study has managed to accurately date the structures and walls built in Jerusalem during the First Temple period. In doing so, it became possible to correlate between the biblical description of the royal construction activities in Jerusalem and the actual building activities uncovered in excavations.

The research lasted almost a decade and presented over 100 radiocarbon dates taken from four different excavation areas

throughout the City of David. These dates were obtained by sampling organic finds such as grape seeds, date pits, and even bat skeletons found in one of the structures. Measuring the amount of carbon in the organic material and calculating it together with other variables allowed the researchers to accurately date many findings in the City of David.

The findings strengthen the view that Jerusalem grew in size and spread towards Mount Zion already in the 9th century BC, during the reign of King Jehoash, a hundred years before the Assyrian exile.

Further emerging from the study is that the wall of Jerusalem uncovered in several excavation areas on the eastern slopes

of the city of David is also older than the date that was common until now. According to Dr. Joe Uziel of the IAA: "For decades, it was assumed that this wall was built by Hezekiah, King of Judah, but it is now becoming clear that it dates back to the days of King Uzziah, as hinted at in the Bible (2 Chron. 26:9).

The new research teaches about magnificent buildings and residences that were first built in the 9th–8th centuries BC, and continued to be used continuously until 586 BC, when the city suffered a violent destruction that ended the Kingdom of Judah.

After 150 years of archaeological research in the capital, a more complete and accurate picture of Jerusalem during the kingdom of Judah and the periods preceding it is emerging.

Israel Antiquities Authority



Excavation site at the City of David



2024 OR 1934?

I called Jerusalem home for four years, and Israel still holds a dear place in my heart. I vividly remember the morning of October 7, waking up in Eastern Europe to multiple notifications of terrorists infiltrating Israel and rampaging.

Now I am watching as the Western world seems to have run amok with anti-Israel hatred spewing out into riots and protests—blatant anti-Semitism, hatred and violence.

I hail from the tobacco fields of North Carolina—a relatively conservative corner of what is known as the “Bible belt” of the US. I watched the protests and the hatred spewing out of Columbia University and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and I remember thinking, “At least none of this is happening in my hometown.” A few days later I saw a video of the Palestinian flag waving on the flagpole at the University of North Carolina, just an hour from where I grew up.

In my mind, anti-Semitism is always a faraway problem. But it’s not, and at the rate it’s spreading—particularly after October 7—this poison is creeping into everyone’s backyards.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE DATA

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) published “sobering” data on anti-Semitism on university campuses in late November 2023—over a month after the October 7 massacre, to show how it affected students’ experiences of anti-Semitism.

Since the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year, the ADL said 73% of Jewish students surveyed experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism in some form. This includes anti-Jewish remarks, comments or social media posts, the interruption of pro-Israel speakers or events and physical threats or violence. Even non-Jewish students have been affected, with 46% of the non-Jewish students surveyed reporting that they experienced anti-Semitism because they were assumed to be Jewish.

After October 7, the number of Jewish students who feel comfortable with others knowing about their Jewish identity dropped

from 63.7% to 38.6%. One-third of the Jewish students said they don’t feel comfortable speaking against anti-Semitism or sharing their views on Israel, mostly for fear of backlash.

Before October 7, two-thirds of Jewish students said they felt physically safe on campus, but that number dropped to 45.5% post-October 7.

The ADL report concluded that anti-Semitism on campuses was already a problem prior to October 7, but the data shows that “the problem has gotten far worse.”

And this data was published before the wildfire of anti-Israel protests that spread across university campuses in April and May.

STONEWALLED UNIVERSITIES

On April 17, 2024, Columbia University President Minouche Shafik was called before Congress for a hearing where she was criticized for failing to fight back against anti-Semitism at Columbia. A similar congressional hearing in December 2023 led to the presidents of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania resigning.

Shafik said at her hearing, as quoted by the *Associated Press* (AP): “Anti-Semitism has no place on our campus, and I am personally committed to doing everything I can to confront it directly.”

That same day, students erected an anti-Israel camp on the Columbia campus. Police arrested more than 100 of the protestors, but the protests continued, spreading to other campuses across the US.

The students waved signs protesting the war in Gaza, accusing Israel of





A Gaza solidarity encampment at Columbia University

genocide and—ironically—calling for genocide by chanting “*Intifada*,” the Arabic word for “uprising.”

As universities such as Columbia tried to quell the rabid protests with threats of suspensions and arrests, the frenzy spread, with the encampments across campus and some of the protesters occupying school buildings and classrooms. They clashed with the police and drowned out any opposing voices.

SILENCED VOICES

Those who dared to stand up to the mob—particularly Jewish people—faced fierce backlash.

Rudy Rochman is a Jewish Israeli activist and a Columbia alumnus who frequently visits university campuses and anti-Israel protests to engage in dialogue with people about Israel and Zionism. On May 25, he posted a video of himself and another Israeli activist being escorted by police off the campus of McGill University in Montreal. They had gone to an anti-Israel protest on campus carrying signs that read, “We witnessed October 7, ask us anything.”

They were removed from campus by the police who said “their presence was aggravating the situation,” Rochman wrote on his post.

“What if there were 200 KKK members and 2 black students being targeted,” Rochman wrote. “Would the police tell the students with darker skin that they were the source of the problem...or is it only when it comes to Jews that this happens today?”

JEWISH VOICES FROM CAMPUS

Professor Nir Hoftman, a tenured professor of anesthesiology at UCLA,

told *Ynetnews* in May about an experience when protesters on campus blocked him from passing and physically threatened him. “The security guards stood by and did nothing,” he said. “This is anarchy...This is how we are treated, like stinking Jews that no one cares about.”

“This is really Germany in the 1930s,” Hoftman said, as quoted by *Ynetnews*. “Jews are simply not allowed to enter the buildings. It is unbelievable, and it’s only getting worse.”

The professor added that since he became vocal and appears in the media to stand against anti-Semitism, he fears for his family’s safety.

Hoftman compared himself to Shai Davidai, the outspoken assistant professor at Columbia Business School who went viral for speaking out against the university when he said he was barred from entering campus. Davidai describes himself as a Zionist who served in the Israeli military.

A video circulated of Davidai trying to enter campus but being stopped by security officials and the chief operating officer of Columbia, who informed Davidai that his ID card had been deactivated.

“I have not just a civil right as a Jewish person to be on campus, I have a right as a professor employed by the university to be on campus,” Davidai shouted.

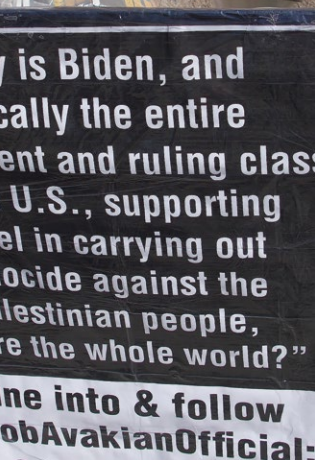
“We just want to be Jewish in public,” he added.

But if he and others continue to stand alone, the problem will only worsen. If we don’t stand alongside our Jewish friends and neighbors, next year’s ADL report will be even bleaker. Join these Jewish voices in calling for universities and other authorities not to tolerate anti-Semitism. Never again!

Kate Norman, *BFP Writer*



Signs posted at Columbia University





Reclaiming History:

Indigenous Support for Israel

ANCIENT TEXTS including the Bible, describe the Jewish people's presence in the Land of Israel for thousands of years. Archaeological sites such as the City of David and the Temple Mount are tangible remnants of a vibrant Jewish civilization that dates back to the era of Kings David and Solomon around 1000 BC.

Yet one of the most pervasive false narratives that the Jewish state faces today is the accusation of being an occupier, a modern-day colonizer destroying and displacing the “new” indigenous people from their land. As the millennia-long history of the Jewish people in the region is casually overlooked, this new form of replacement theology continues to take hold—and makes it increasingly more difficult to discern fact from fiction.

Jerusalem, O Jerusalem

The Jewish connection to the Land of Israel is not a recent development but a profound historical and archaeological reality. At the heart of this inescapable truth lies Jerusalem, the heart of the Jewish faith and identity, which has always been central to Jewish life.

Jerusalem's streets and stones tell the story of a people whose roots run deep into the fabric of the city's history. From the time of King David, who made Jerusalem his capital, to the present day, the city has been the spiritual and political center of Jewish life.

Archaeological discoveries consistently support these historical claims. Excavations in Jerusalem have uncovered artifacts, including pottery, coins, and inscriptions in ancient Hebrew, which substantiate the continuous Jewish presence in the region. The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in the Qumran caves, further authenticate the Jewish people's ancient scriptural traditions, proving their long-standing spiritual and cultural ties to the land.

When former US President Donald Trump made the monumental decision in 2017 to recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish people—and thus necessitated moving the US embassy there—he was only affirming what every Jewish person (and millions of Christians) already recognize and believe in their hearts. In similar fashion, earlier this year the Indigenous Coalition for Israel launched an international movement of indigenous First Nation peoples working to establish an embassy in Israel. Through this monumental step, the First Nation peoples of the world have affirmed the Jewish people's historical connection to the Land of Israel and their right of return. The placement of the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem is particularly poignant as it underscores the city's unique status and the profound connection Jews have to it. Jerusalem is not just a place on the map but a living testament to the Jewish people's enduring legacy and faith.

Countering the Narrative

Over 200 tribal leaders from North and South America, Asia, various Pacific Island states and Africa were among the diplomats and dignitaries present at the launch of the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem in February. This historic event marks the fifth embassy opened in Jerusalem and the 100th in Israel, symbolizing a powerful counter-narrative to the claim that Jews are occupiers of their ancestral homeland.

The opening of the Indigenous Embassy was a momentous occasion, marked by heartfelt speeches and declarations of support from indigenous leaders worldwide. Regent Xami Thomas, leader of the Khoi Kingdom of Southern Africa, delivered a particularly powerful message: "Anybody who says that Israel isn't indigenous doesn't know what they're talking about. If Israel isn't indigenous, there's no indigenous nation on Earth." Thomas's words resonated deeply with the attendees, emphasizing the rightful place of the Jewish people in Israel.

"If Israel isn't indigenous, there's no indigenous nation on Earth"



Leaders at the opening ceremony of the Indigenous Embassy Jerusalem

Not only do these groups of First Nations people acknowledge that the Jewish people are the indigenous people of the land—a status supported by historical continuity, cultural heritage and religious tradition—but they also have a history of supporting and protecting the Jewish community in the Diaspora (the Jewish population outside Israel). Chief Joseph RiverWind of the Arawak Taino tribe of Puerto Rico recounted that five centuries ago, his ancestors welcomed Sephardic Jews fleeing persecution under the Spanish Inquisition. "Our parents planted a love for Israel in our hearts," he explained.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum highlighted that the international recognition of the Jewish people's indigenous status challenges the false portrayal of Israel as an occupier. "The main narrative of our haters is to try to separate the Jewish people from the Land of Israel. This is their strategy. This is their tactic. First Peoples understand that the very definition of indigeneity is to be formed as a people in a land. The Jewish people became the Jewish people in this land".

The creation of the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem is a testament to the growing recognition among indigenous groups worldwide of the Jewish people's deep-rooted connection to Israel. It highlights the importance of historical accuracy and the acknowledgment of Jewish indigenous rights. This embassy not only strengthens Israel's position on the global stage but also fosters a deeper understanding and respect for the Jewish historical narrative.

As the world witnesses the growing false narratives that seek to delegitimize Israel, the establishment of the Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem underscores the Jewish people's rightful place in Israel. It is a powerful affirmation of their indigenous status, supported by a wealth of historical and archaeological evidence. The Indigenous Embassy in Jerusalem stands as a symbol of this truth, reaffirming that their presence in the land is not a modern imposition but a rightful return to their ancient homeland.



Nathan Williams,
Director of Marketing and Communications

How Did Iran Become Israel's Public Enemy #1?

“THE ZIONIST REGIME is a deadly, cancerous growth and a detriment to this region,” Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini declared in a speech in 2020. “It will undoubtedly be uprooted and destroyed.”

In May 2024, Khomeini attended the funeral of late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash. While there, Khomeini bumped into the chief political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who had come to Iran to pay his respects to the late “Butcher of Tehran.”

Khomeini told Haniyeh, as quoted by the *Times of Israel*: “The divine promise to eliminate the Zionist entity will be fulfilled and we will see the day when Palestine will rise from the river to the sea.”

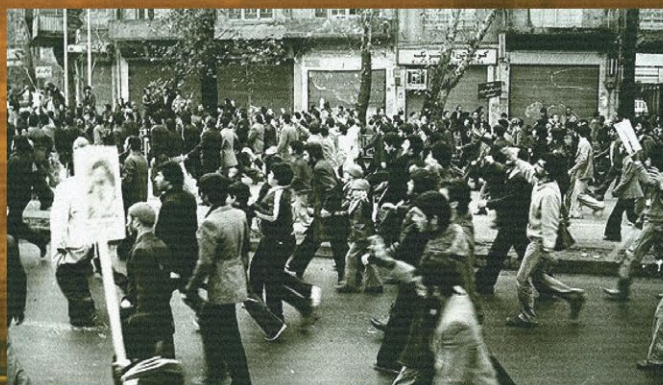
Khomeini’s two threats are not isolated incidents. The calls of “Death to America” and “Death to Israel” frequently ring out from Tehran.

But Iran was not always screaming for the destruction of Israel.

Warm Beginnings

Relations between ancient Israel and Persia—modern-day Iran—got off to a relatively good start. In 597 BC, Israel was conquered by the Babylonian Empire, and the Jewish people lived in captivity until 539 BC, when Persian King Cyrus crushed the Babylonian rule. Cyrus then opened the door for any of the Jewish people who wished to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, as described in Ezra 1:1–4. The Jewish people to this day honor Cyrus the Great as a “righteous king.”

Fast forward nearly 2,500 years to the rebirth of the modern State of Israel. When the fledgling Jewish state was reestablished in 1948, Turkey was the first Muslim-majority state



Top to bottom: Ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi; the Iranian *ayatollahs*; the Iranian revolution; and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

to recognize its sovereignty—followed by Iran. In fact, in 1948, Iran boasted a Jewish population of 100,000, according to the *Jewish Virtual Library*, the second largest Jewish population in the Middle East after Israel.

Relations between the two states remained friendly under the rule of the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who governed the nation until the Islamic Revolution of 1979, when he was ousted and forced to flee with his family.

Prior to 1979, Iran was reportedly Israel's main oil supplier. Israel in turn supplied Iran with agricultural produce, weapons and technology, *Firstpost* reported.

But alas, out with the shah went the friendly bilateral relations between Israel and Iran.

Friends to Foes

In with the new regime in 1979 came the new clarion call: “Death to America. Death to Israel.” When the *ayatollahs* overthrew the shah and plunged Iran into the Islamic Revolution, the new supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, began referring to the United States as the “Great Satan” and Israel as the “Little Satan,” monikers still in use today.

The Iranian bitterness toward the US traces back to 1953, when Washington and the United Kingdom supported a coup that overthrew the elected prime minister, gave the shah complete control and secured Western oil interests in Iran. However, the hatred toward Israel seems to boil down to religious motives.

Ruhollah Khomeini penned a diatribe called “Islamic Government,” upon which much of the Islamic Republic's ideology is founded. In this document, the *ayatollah* wrote of the Jewish people: “We must...make the people aware that the Jews and their foreign backers are opposed to the very foundations of Islam and wish to establish a Jewish domination throughout the world. Since they are a cunning and resourceful group of people, I fear that—[Allah] forbid—they may one day achieve their goal and that the apathy shown by some of us may allow a Jew to rule over us one day.”

To prevent this unthinkable catastrophe, the regime went to work to undermine and attack the Jewish state indirectly.

Terror Puppets

Iran began pouring its resources—billions of dollars, weapons and military expertise—into proxy groups to expand its reach and influence across the Middle East.

Ruhollah Khomeini established the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in 1979, following the revolution. The US, Israel, other Western nations and Saudi Arabia designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization.

In 1982, the IRGC helped found, fund, train and arm Hezbollah, the terrorist organization in Lebanon that has been launching cross-border attacks against Israel nearly every day since October 7, when the Hamas terrorist group in Gaza launched a brutal attack on Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking 240 hostages.



In fact, Iran funds and arms Hamas as well as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Gaza, supplying both groups with money, weapons and training. Israel and other nations—including Saudi Arabia—have blamed Iran for October 7, though the regime denies involvement.

Tehran also supports militia groups in Iraq and Syria, particularly backing the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and turning the war-torn country into a shipping route for weapons from Iran to Hezbollah.

The IRGC also extended its reach south into Yemen with the Houthi rebels, particularly in their attacks against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but also with sporadic strikes on southern Israel since October 7 as well as targeting the important shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz. In fact, the Houthis have a slogan that rings particularly familiar: “Death to America, Death to Israel, Cursed be the Jews, Victory to Islam.”

From the Shadows into the Open

Iran has been engaging Israel in a shadow war for decades, using these terrorist groups as puppets to launch indirect attacks against the Jewish state.

Iran also stands on the Palestine soapbox, with the top brass in Tehran constantly declaring their support for the Palestinian people and their quest for an independent state. Khomeini echoed the popular pro-Palestinian slogan to Haniyeh in Iran: “from the river to the sea”—a call to push the Jewish state into the ocean and replace it with a Palestinian state.

However, Iran's hatred for Israel “should not be confused with concern for the well-being of the Palestinians,” Karim Sadjadpour, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace wrote in a recent *New York Times* article.

“Iran's goal is not to build a Palestine [state] but to demolish Israel,” Sadjadpour wrote.

In fact, the regime leaders' words and actions show that Iran is a rarity in that its priority is the downfall of another nation rather than the wellbeing of its own nation, he explained. “‘Death to Israel’ is the regime's rallying cry, not ‘Long live Iran.’”



Kate Norman,
BFP Writer

REVOLUTIONIZING PATIENT CARE WITH VR TECHNOLOGY

Blinding bright lights, uncomfortable questions, probing needles, and strange sounds do anything but put a patient at ease, especially for expecting mothers awaiting news of their unborn child. Already disoriented by the hospital's environment, many expectant mothers then face the doctor's heart-breaking news.

"We regret to inform you your pregnancy is lost; please take these pills in the following days."

Patients are left shocked and hurt as medical professionals sometimes lack empathy when delivering sensitive information. While doctors diligently follow protocols and rush from one patient to another, the patient's mental well-being is sometimes forgotten.

The pressing question arises: Will doctors ever truly be able to put themselves in their patient's place?

OtheReality, an Israeli startup, has developed a groundbreaking program to answer this very question. The program, accessible through a simple virtual reality (VR) headset, allows medical staff to step into the shoes of their patients. Utilizing the OtheReality app on their mobile phones, viewers can select specific VR scenarios, including experiencing a miscarriage from the patient's 360-degree point of view.

These scenarios are based on actual medical practices and involve specially trained actors using medical terminology to create a true-to-life environment. By immersing themselves in the VR experience, medical staff can witness the traumatic chaos behind the curtain and feel the vulnerability of lying with their legs in stirrups, listening to the constant beeping of monitors.

Yotvat Palter-Dycian, the co-founder and chief operating officer of OtheReality, emphasized the importance of doctors recognizing the traumatic and challenging nature of specific medical experiences. "The doctor needs to look at the patient as a person with a problem and not as a problem," she told the *New York Times*.

Following their exposure to the VR program, Israeli medical staff of the obstetrics-gynecology department engage in discussions about emotional, cognitive and motivational aspects of understanding a patient's reality.

This innovative VR program has the potential to revolutionize healthcare interactions. As the company continues to expand its reach, it could herald a new era of patient-centered healthcare.

Zoë McHenry, BFP Writer

AI Integration in Modern Warfare

AI (artificial intelligence) itself is nothing new to the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Over the last decade, the country has used this technology to identify and select terrorist targets and manage war-related data effectively. Whispers of Israel's AI military systems circulated in news outlets last year. In July 2023, Daniel Edelson, an *Ynetnews* journalist, reported, "The [IDF] military employs different AI models...to calculate ordnance loads, offer optimal timing schedules, and prioritize and assign thousands of targets to aircraft and drones."

Col. Uri (first name only provided for security reasons), head of the IDF's digital transformation unit, confirmed that Israel's military operates an AI recommendation system that analyzes vast amounts of data, crunching the average time necessary to sort through all the piling logistics. Uri spoke in a *Bloomberg* report: "What used to take hours now takes minutes, with a few more minutes for human review."

So, what is new today?

Israel's AI inventions are no longer mere experiments; they have become a foundational element of the IDF's procedures. This integration of AI is particularly evident in the ongoing conflicts with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in the north, formally named Operation Swords of Iron. Arguably, this is the world's first AI war, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of warfare.

The details of these systems have been kept classified, with the IDF refraining from releasing comments or data on specific operations. While the inner workings of this technology remain unknown, Axon Vision, an Israeli AI production company, has openly provided details on their military AI inventions, including Edge 360, EdgeRCW and EdgeSight.



For example, Edge360 provides tank crews with 360 degrees of situational awareness in various environments. According to Axon, the system comprises energy-efficient AI algorithms designed to detect, track and classify threats in real time. Soldiers with limited sight in the cramped confines of a tank in a dense city landscape can now monitor movement all around them.

The environment Israel is fighting in Gaza is unlike anything the world has ever seen.

They have to sort through constantly changing variables in warfare, terrorist operations embedded in the innocent civilian population and dense layout, all while carefully following humanitarian law and minimizing casualties. Trying to track terrorists at first glance seems impossible.

The integration of AI into the IDF's operational procedures represents a significant leap forward in military technology. By harnessing AI's power, Israel has maintained its edge in an increasingly complex and unpredictable security environment.

Zoë McHenry, *BFP Writer*

Shower Power—Recycling Hot Water

Man has been harnessing the power of the sun for approximately 3,000 years—when a magnifying glass was first used in conjunction with the sun's rays to create fire. Modern use of solar power is fast-growing and environmentally-friendly. Sowillo Energy, an Israeli company based in a tiny community on a mountaintop in the northern part of the country, has designed an innovative way to "save" the energy used to produce the hot water that goes down the drain when you take a shower or wash clothes.

In an interview with *NoCamels*, Sowillo COO Maxim Goldshtein said, "The vast majority of the heat [from water], around 80 or 90%, is wasted in the drainage systems."

Currently designed for hotels or multi-unit apartment buildings, the Sowillo system diverts that hot water and sends it to a tank with a special coil. The hot water heats the coil which then creates more hot water for the building.

The Sowillo system provides significant cost savings for building owners as they "are not creating new heat, but rather transferring existing heat from one place to another." It is a win-win for the environment because the system is harnessing the power of the sun as well as "recycling" energy from hot water. The Sowillo system results in a savings of up to 40% on heating expenses.

The fledgling company has initially targeted businesses with a high use of hot water but its long-term goal is to move into the residential market.

The company may be small but they are aiming high. "We aim to be a hot water provider," Goldshtein told *NoCamels*. And "shower power" is a good place to begin!

Janet Aslin, *BFP Writer*

A FIGHT FOR LIFE

OCTOBER 7, 2023 is the date when thousands of terrorists streamed across Israel's border with Gaza, viciously and brutally killing, raping or kidnapping all who came across their path. It is also the date of heroic action and a fight for life. Among the many heroes were the men and women of Magen David Adom ("Red Shield of David"), Israel's "national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service."

For its actions on October 7 and the days that followed, Magen David Adom (MDA) received the International Humanitarian Service award. Presented by the International Red Cross, the award "recognizes an individual or group whose work exemplifies or inspires the humanitarian values of human dignity, respect and compassion." Let's take a look at those who answered the cries of the wounded and dying.



MDA operations center

At the Risk of Their Own Lives

There are over 34,000 MDA volunteers and employees in Israel, all of them deeply committed to their life-saving role. MDA Director Itamar Abramovich described that morning in an interview with the *Jerusalem Post*. “At 6:30 a.m. that morning,’ he recalls, ‘we were switching shifts. As the night shift ended, the morning shift was coming on duty. At 7:00 a.m., they told us to be on the highest alert and ordered all volunteers to report to the MDA stations.’ Within an hour, 1,400 MDA ambulances were ready.” And as events taking place along the Gaza border became known, they were desperately needed.

As the day unfolded, ambulance drivers and medical personnel fought to save lives with no regard for their own safety. In the words of Yoel Kahn, an MDA paramedic, “...we would exit the ambulance and shield the wounded with our bodies, **acting as human shields.**”

The shift manager at MDA’s Negev Disptach Center, Liz Peretz Katz worked 17 hours straight that day. It was so intense, she later said, “It felt like 17 minutes,” as she worked to coordinate teams in the field and relay messages, at times arranging for helicopters to extract the critically wounded from sites which were not yet secure from the danger of armed terrorists.

Some Paid the Ultimate Price

One of the calls Liz received was from Aviya Hezroni, 69-year-old volunteer ambulance driver and senior EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) from Kibbutz Be’eri. Aviya had been shot in the stomach and Liz urged him to hold on until help could arrive. In her words, “Aviya stopped answering the phone. I prayed that it was because his battery ran out. I didn’t want to believe that he had bled to death, alone, in the safe room. I held on to hope until someone arrived to him, touched him and said “that’s it,” that there was still a chance for him. I felt I was losing it so I went out to collect my thoughts and went back to work.”

Only 22 years old, Amit Man was an MDA paramedic as well as an instructor. She began treating the wounded in the clinic at Kibbutz Be’eri, refusing to leave despite the danger. She was wounded herself but would not leave her post. When Hamas terrorists broke into the clinic later in the day, they

murdered Amit. As reported by the *Jerusalem Post*, “Her body was found with a tourniquet on her thigh and her examination gloves on her hands. She was treating patients until the very last moments of her life.”

The MDA website lists 34 volunteers ranging in age from 19 to 69 who lost their lives on that fateful day or later in the fighting in Gaza. Here are details on several of them from the website:

- IDF (Israel Defense Forces) operations officer on the Nahal Oz base Osher Simha Barzilay, 19, saved many lives volunteering on MDA MICUs. She trained new volunteers and dreamed of becoming a brain surgeon.
- Ronen Engel, 54, was an MDA volunteer in Kibbutz Nir Oz. He was kidnapped while treating others on his *kibbutz* (collective community) on October 7 and was killed in Gaza.
- Amishar Ben David, 43, was an IDF combat officer and head of the MDA volunteer unit in the community of Eli. He was an ambulance driver and EMT in addition to being a father, husband, and high school teacher.



One of the intensive care ambulances donated by Bridges for Peace

Gifts of Service and Love

Magen David Adom is an amazing organization that receives no government funding but relies solely on donations from Israel and abroad. According to their 2023 year-end report, the average age of an MDA volunteer is 26; the oldest is a 90-year-old and the youngest is 14. These volunteers, including 14,490 teenagers, gave more than 4,700,000 volunteer hours in 2023.

Bridges for Peace has played a role in this story. Representing the love of Christians from around the world, recently donors from Bridges for Peace Canada and Japan supplied the funds for two intensive care ambulances that are now in active service in Israel. It is a privilege to partner with MDA in the ongoing fight to save lives in a country that has never wanted war.



Janet Aslin,
BFP Writer



Friend...

or Foe?

Our world is getting smaller all the time and with it, the need for a few friendly neighbors and some reliable trading partners becomes increasingly important. The global society of today can only exist because governments are learning the art of social, economic and political interdependence. Yet the international community remains fragmented, with over 110 armed conflicts—45 in the Middle East and Africa alone—while the diplomatic and military routes to resolution remain in constant tension. No one knows this better than Israel.

A Constant Quest for Peace

The 1947 UN partition plan saw only 13 nations voting against granting Israel statehood, while 33 voted “yes” and 10 abstained. One could easily have thought change was actually in the air, that anti-Semitism was on its way out and that the saga of the “wandering Jew” had ended. But one would have been wrong.

Arab violence erupted almost immediately, and when Israel declared statehood in 1948, five not-so-friendly neighbors attacked with full force. For the most part, Israel’s “friends” were nowhere to be seen as she fought for her survival. Friendly nations that had voted in favor of Israeli statehood six months before, now initiated a crippling arms embargo. Though Israel won the war, it was a costly victory with over 6,000 Jews dead.

Since that time, Israel has been on a constant quest for peace. However, partners for peace have been in short supply. The Jewish state has been involved in six wars with her not-so-friendly neighbors since the 1948 War of Independence.

And while none of these were wars of aggression, Israel bore the brunt of international condemnation and censure, while her “friends” remained silent at best or even joined the chorus of criticism.

In addition, Israel has been forced to carry out several military operations in response to terrorist incursions and thousands of rockets launched from the Gaza Strip. Over the past 30 odd years, Hamas and other terror organizations have murdered nearly 5,000 Israelis. Terror attacks on Israelis have occurred in 69 of Israel’s 76 years. That means any Israeli who is 75 years old has only known six terror-free years, and Israelis born after 1968 have never experienced a year of peace. But as Israel faces a perpetual battle for survival and safety, her “friends” often respond with denouncement instead of solidarity.

Israel’s Friendship Dilemma

While dealing with global isolation, international pressure and anti-Semitism on every level, Israel has remained committed to seeking diplomatic relations wherever possible. For instance, under Golda Meir’s leadership, Israel launched an initiative to build relationships with emerging African governments. By 1973, 31 African states were home to Israeli embassies and ambassadors. However, the Yom Kippur War changed all of that. Under pressure from Iran and Islamic extremists, many of those nations proved to be fair-weather friends. The war ended on October 27, and by November, Israeli embassies remained in only five African states. Now, over 50 years later, Israel has ties with 42 African states, but only 10 have Israeli embassies.

Such has been the case repeatedly as nations who purport to be “friends of Israel” are just not there when the chips are down. Today, the Jewish state has diplomatic ties with 165 of the UN’s 192 states. Twenty-eight UN member states refuse to recognize Israel as a legitimate state, and precious few of the rest of them are willing to take a stand for Israel in the face of the UN’s blatant anti-Semitism. Four of those so-called “friends of Israel” — Ireland, Norway, Spain and Slovenia—have voted to recognize a Palestinian state, claiming their actions to be those of “friends” of Israel. And recently, political leaders in America—supposedly Israel’s stalwart friend and ally—called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s resignation and demanded Israeli elections.

Perhaps the worst example of Israel’s “friendship dilemma” is apparent in the aftermath of the October 7 massacre. Initially, 84 countries openly declared their endorsement of Israel, affirming her right to self-defense and the need to take whatever action necessary to dismantle Hamas. The US, the UK, Australia, France, Norway, Austria, Germany, India, Canada, Poland, Spain and the EU as a collective entity were among them. Within a few weeks, however, the news was filled with reports of anti-Israel, pro-Hamas demonstrations worldwide, with hundreds of thousands of protestors carrying signs calling for death to the Jews and repeats of the October 7 massacre.

A recent survey reported in *Time* magazine revealed that of the nearly 50 countries polled, only one—the US—still had net positive views of Israel. Eleven other countries have recalled their ambassadors to Israel or severed ties altogether.

True Friendship

Yet through it all, Israel remains dedicated to making the world a better place. As Israelis have risen to the forefront of innovation in fields like agriculture, technology, science, security and medicine, millions around the world have benefited. And when a disaster occurs anywhere on the globe, Israel is often the first to volunteer supplies, first responders, medical teams and field hospitals, using their expertise to help their fellow man.



An IDF field hospital set up in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in Turkey in 2023

On the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, a document called Basic Foreign Policy Principles of the State of Israel contains the following:

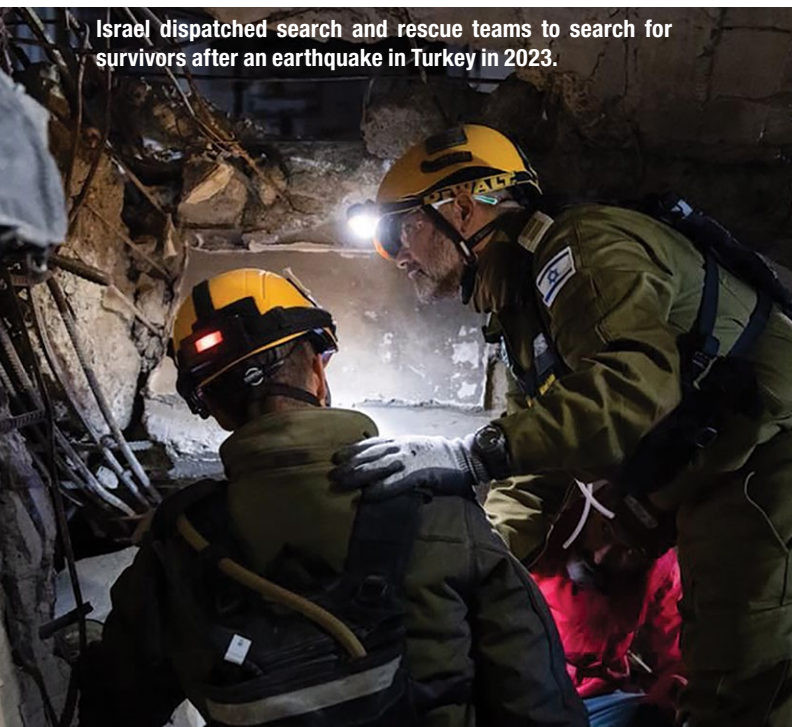
And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Israel will continue to demonstrate its peaceful intentions and explain the clear advantages to all the peoples of the area of peaceful co-existence, without aggression or subversion, territorial expansion or intervention in the freedom and internal regimes of the States in the area. The Government of Israel will persist in manifesting its desire to attain productive cooperation with every State in the Middle East for the economic and social well-being of all the peoples of the area.

In other words, at bedrock, Israel’s foreign policy is based on the Bible. And Israel has shown a largely unfriendly world what it actually means to be a friend. At the same time, history has proven an uncompromising teacher and Israel has acquired some valuable lessons. Perhaps Australian writer Josh Feldman summarizes it best, “Israelis have learned to believe their enemies’ threats, and not to rely on their friends’ promises.”



Cheryl Hauer, BFP Writer



Israel dispatched search and rescue teams to search for survivors after an earthquake in Turkey in 2023.



HOW DOES IT FEEL ?



KNOWING SOMETHING OF THE ISRAELI people’s pain and longing for peace, my heart yearns to comfort, but also to confront—with truth—the plethora of falsehoods and fabrications Israelis are forced to endure.

I was writing an article aimed at debunking anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slurs crowding the social media platforms. I counterattacked with all the objectivity I could muster against the arrogance of those who posture out of their ignorance and misguided sense of justice.

And yet, while putting the final touches on that article, I realized my factual rebuttal had a fundamental flaw...

Facts don’t persuade; feelings do.

Sobered by that realization, I penned this closing paragraph... “While the merit of these facts should persuade, they are yet unlikely to sway the ardent activist committed to the

false narrative that drives their anti-Israel rants. Armed with the facts, truth-lovers might influence more by confronting with a question...

“Why do you want to blame Israel?”

There it is—the poisonous fruit of the anti-Semitic root: An insatiable desire to blame the Jews for the world’s problems. It is as evil and ancient as it is irrational. Anti-Semites feel no particular need for the facts when their feelings create the false reality in which their blame game thrives.

And so, contrary to my nature, I appeal here to the reader’s emotions by exploring the feelings of the peace-loving Israeli people in the hope that how they feel might persuade at least a few hardened hearts where the facts have failed. Consider with me, then...

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when your countrymen are massacred and your nation is widely denounced for its decisive and precision military response that is only intended to protect you and your fellow citizens from further harm?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when after momentary sympathy for the mass slaughter of your people, world leaders pivot to condemnation for going “over the top” in defending yourself by (finally) removing a terror threat that no nation on earth would tolerate on its border for 19 years?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when one minute you’re waiting tables in Jerusalem and the next you’re plunged into urban warfare against an ISIS-like enemy that hides behind the women and children you’ll be blamed for harming if you make one mistake?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when as a schoolkid you grew up learning songs to mitigate the trauma of running to your school’s bomb shelter because of incoming missiles from your Hamas neighbors?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

that as a girl you survived the Nazis and now as an old woman you wonder if you’ll survive the rocket, mortar and tunneling incursions by Hamas and Hezbollah?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

to be a Jewish kid growing up to learn that there is a social hatred so endemic that it warrants its own technical term, “anti-Semitism,” and it’s all about your existence?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

to be labeled a colonizing oppressor when you are an indigenous citizen of a law-based, justice-seeking, rights-defending sovereignty that in no way is an “apartheid state” as heinously alleged?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when your business that provides gainful employment with full benefits to Palestinians is boycotted internationally because it operates in so-called “occupied territory?”

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

that your 4,000-year-old homeland, biblical Judea and Samaria, was renamed the “West Bank” by an illegal occupier, Jordan, and yet the misnomer is used in every media broadcast and every academic lecture hall?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

to live in a peaceful and productive Israeli community on land “from the river to the sea” that elitist activists worldwide call “Palestine” and assert “will be free,” and you know that is actually a cry for your annihilation?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when as a young wife you suddenly become a widow as your husband becomes one of the hundreds of IDF soldiers who has made the ultimate sacrifice?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

as an 18-year-old soldier who bears the rigors of war, bodily wounds, mental scars, death of friends, privations, fears of ambush and the dark terrors of clearing those endless tunnels?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when you know the way things work in the Middle East—that the Islamist *jihad* (war with unbelievers) only respects overwhelming force and will exploit any weakness shown through compromise and negotiation—the very thing world leaders demand that you do?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

as a military commander to have presidents and pundits across the globe involve themselves in your tactical planning as though they know better how to engage in intense urban warfare while taking extraordinary measures to protect civilians?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

that in every “unfiltered” video compilation of October 7 there are still certain atrocities that no one can bear to include, nor even speak about?

HOW DOES IT FEEL...

when in 2023 your country’s rating dropped from 4th to 5th happiest in the world? What...? With all this, Israelis could feel happy? Oh yes, despite war, and despite being the most misunderstood, maligned, and delegitimized people on the planet, Israelis consistently rank among the happiest people in the world.

Why...? Maybe because they have a God-given sense of their purpose...

Not only to survive, but to live.

Indeed, as the most-aired song of this present conflict eternally declares...

Am Yisrael chai...the people of Israel live!



Dr. Bill Adams,
BFP Writer

What Year Is This?

Are we in the year 2024? Or is this the year 5784? Depending on your perspective, either one is correct.

The date 2024 refers to the number of years since the birth of Jesus (Yeshua). As Christians, it is very special to us that time is measured in this manner. The Jewish people, on the other hand, mark time from Creation. According to their calendar, this year marks 5,784 years since Creation. Other people groups have their own calendars.

A simple internet search shows that there are six major calendars in use around the world. The Gregorian calendar that we use today is a solar calendar, while the Hebrew and biblical calendars are lunar, based on the movements of the moon. In Israel, both calendars are used. When you pick up an Israeli newspaper, you will see both dates at the top of the page.

When we moved to Israel, I was quite surprised to find out that Israel's Independence Day (*Yom HaAtzmaut*) was not celebrated on May 14. I knew Israel had become a nation on May 14, 1948, so I was quite confused. I found out that every important day in Israel is celebrated or honored according to the date on the Hebrew calendar, while businesses use the Gregorian calendar to stay in sync with the rest of the world. When my husband and I were granted permanent residence in Israel, one of the things we had to supply were the dates of our birthdays and wedding anniversary according to the Hebrew calendar.

On God's Calendar

In the Bible, God instituted a series of holy days called feasts (Lev. 23), each with a specific date. Those dates are calculated using the Hebrew calendar. Jesus and His disciples celebrated many of these feasts. In fact, many of the important events in Christianity occurred on these days. For instance, the Christian holiday of Pentecost occurred on the biblical holiday of *Shavuot*, which is Hebrew for weeks, and the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus occurred during Passover and the Feast of First-fruits. Rarely do they occur on the

same dates because the Jewish people keep the feasts on the Hebrew calendar, while Christians celebrate the Christian holy days according to the Gregorian calendar.

Before the Babylonian captivity, the months of the year were generally identified by number, thus the first month, second month and so on. However, the Jewish people who returned to the Land of Israel from captivity in Babylon brought back names for the months, which were incorporated into the language and are still used today. Six of these names are found in the Scripture, namely *Nisan* (the first month, mentioned in Nehemiah 2:1 and Esther 3:7), *Sivan*, *Elul*, *Kislev*, *Tevet*, *Shevat* and *Adar*.

Interestingly, the first month in the Bible does not correspond to January and is not in the winter in the northern hemisphere. Rather, it occurs in the springtime in Israel, usually in March or April. Passover falls in the first month, which is called *Nisan*.

In Israel, the days of the week are identified by their numbers, just like in the Bible. Sunday is the first day of the week and was the first day of Creation. The crowning day of the week, the Sabbath or *Shabbat* in Hebrew, follows the same pattern for naming the day, with the word *Shabbat* being a form of the word seven. This is the day that God ordained as a day of rest because He rested from His Creation. In Jewish thought, the day begins at sundown and ends at sundown on the following day. This is because it says, “*So the evening and the morning were the first day*” (Gen. 1:5).

Where Are We Now?

As we near the fall months, the biblical and the Jewish historical calendars are rich. Beginning with the month of *Av*, the Jewish people remember some of the greatest tragedies in their history. The destruction of both the First and Second Temples occurred on the 9th day of the month of *Av*, which falls in July or August.

The next month is *Elul*, usually in August or September, and is a month often devoted to deep repentance and prayer. During this month, devout Jews recite Psalm 27 twice a day.

Then comes the month of *Tishrei*, usually in September or October, which the Bible calls the seventh month. On the first day of the seventh month, God called His people to join together for the Feast of Trumpets, which is also called *Rosh HaShanah*.

The next 10 days are referred to in Judaism as the 10 Days of Awe, as Jewish people prepare themselves for the holiest day of the year on the biblical calendar. The Day of Atonement or *Yom Kippur* occurs on the 10th day of the seventh month. This is a day of total fasting from all food and liquid. Today in Israel, about 80% of the Jewish population fast on this day. The Bible says it is to be a “*sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls...*” (Lev. 23:32a).

Also in the seventh month is the joyous holiday of *Sukkot*, known in English as the Feast of Tabernacles. This weeklong holiday is a festive time and starts on the 15th of the month. Booths or huts are built, and the people dwell in the booths as a reminder that God provided for the Children of Israel when they lived in flimsy dwellings after He brought them out of Egypt. *Sukkot* ends with the holiday of *Simchat Torah* (rejoicing in the *Torah*).

The Bottom Line

As you read your Bible, remember that Scripture has a hebraic culture and the calendar mentioned is a lunar one. When the prophet Haggai wrote in his prophetic message about the sixth and seventh months, he wasn't talking about June and July but rather about *Elul* and *Tishrei*. There are many things in Scripture that would have been apparent to the original hearers that we miss because we don't understand simple things like calendars. Let's dig deeper.



Shabbat



Passover



Sukkot



Yom Kippur



Rebecca J. Brimmer,
International President

GOLDA MEIR

Israel's "Iron Lady"

On October 7, 2023 Israel was caught off-guard as thousands of Hamas terrorists entered communities along the border with Gaza, committing unspeakable atrocities that left Israelis reeling. Fifty years before, on October 6, 1973, the tiny nation suffered a similar surprise attack as a coalition of Arab armies crossed her borders in the northern Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula to the south. Golda Meir, Israel's fourth prime minister and only woman to fill the role, was at the helm during the *Yom Kippur* War. She suffered public criticism and blame for what was perceived as a lack of military preparedness. The commission appointed to investigate after the war cleared her of any "direct responsibility," finding that on *Yom Kippur* morning she acted quickly and decisively to mobilize the reserve troops. We'll take a look at the legacy of this legendary woman

whose unrelenting and steadfast service to the State of Israel earned her the nickname of the "Iron Lady."

Born into a poor Jewish family in the Russian Empire (today Ukraine), it is doubtful anyone would have predicted that she would earn a place among the elite group of women who became heads of state. An activist throughout her life, she defined herself as a Jew, a Zionist and an Israeli. Francine Klagsburn's biography, *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*, describes Golda in this way: "Golda's legacy is that of integrity, hard work, and dedication to the state and the Jewish people... she didn't have the intellectual background that others [Israeli leaders] had. Her Hebrew wasn't great but she was a very effective speaker, a clever politician and a people's person—all of which was of great use to the state [of Israel]." The following quotes reflect her passion for Israel, her statesmanship and her down-to-earth, pragmatic approach to life.

Land of Israel

This country exists as the fulfillment of a promise made by God Himself. It would be ridiculous to ask it to account for its legitimacy.

Le Monde (Oct 15, 1971)

Above all, this country is our own. Nobody has to get up in the morning and worry what his neighbors think of him. Being a Jew is no problem here.

International Herald Tribune (May 11, 1978)

Loving Peace

We say peace and the echo comes back from the other side, war. We don't want wars even when we win.

www.blinkist.com/magazine/posts/inspiring-golda-meir-quotes

We hate war. We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown and when strawberries bloom in Israel.

As Good as Golda, Israel and Mary Shenker

Golda Meir with children from Kibbutz Shfayim, 1950



I am also grateful that I live in a country whose people have learned how to go on living in a sea of hatred without hating those who want to destroy them and without abandoning their own vision of peace. To have learned this is a great art, the prescription for which is not written down anywhere. It is part of our way of life in Israel.

My Life, Golda Meir

Jewish–Arab relations

Come to think of it, I am more than a little tired of hearing about how the Jews ‘stole’ land from Arabs in Palestine. The facts are quite different. A lot of good money changed hands, and a lot of Arabs became very rich indeed.

My Life, Golda Meir

We’re not the only people in the world who’ve had difficulties with neighbors; that has happened to many. We’re the only people in the world where our neighbors openly announce they just won’t have us here. And they will not give up fighting and they will not give up war as long as we remain alive. Here.

So this is the crux of the problem: it isn’t anything concrete that they want from us. That’s why it doesn’t make sense when people say, “Give up the Golan Heights,” for instance. What happened when we were not on the Golan Heights? We were not on the Golan Heights before ‘67, and for 19 years, Syria had guns up there and shot at our agricultural settlements below. We were not on the Golan Heights! So what, if we give up the Golan Heights, they will stop shooting?

It’s because Egypt and Syria and the other Arab countries refuse to acquiesce to our existence. Therefore there can be no compromise. They say we must be dead. And we say we want to be alive. Between life and death, I don’t know of a compromise. And that’s why we have no choice.

60 Minutes Interview, September 1973

We have always said that in our war with the Arabs we had a secret weapon—no alternative. The Egyptians could run to Egypt, the Syrians into Syria. The only place we could run was into the sea, and before we did that we might as well fight.

Life Magazine (October 3, 1969)

Straightforward and Down-to-Earth

If we have to have a choice between dead and pitied, and being alive with a bad image, we’d rather be alive and have the bad image.

As Good as Golda, Israel and Mary Shenker

*I don’t know why you use a fancy French word like *détente* when there’s a good English phrase for it—cold war.*

Newsweek (January 19, 1976)

Not being beautiful was the true blessing. Not being beautiful forced me to develop my inner resources. The pretty girl has a handicap to overcome.

www.brainyquote.com/authors/golda-meir-quotes

Whether women are better than men I cannot say—but I can say they are certainly no worse.

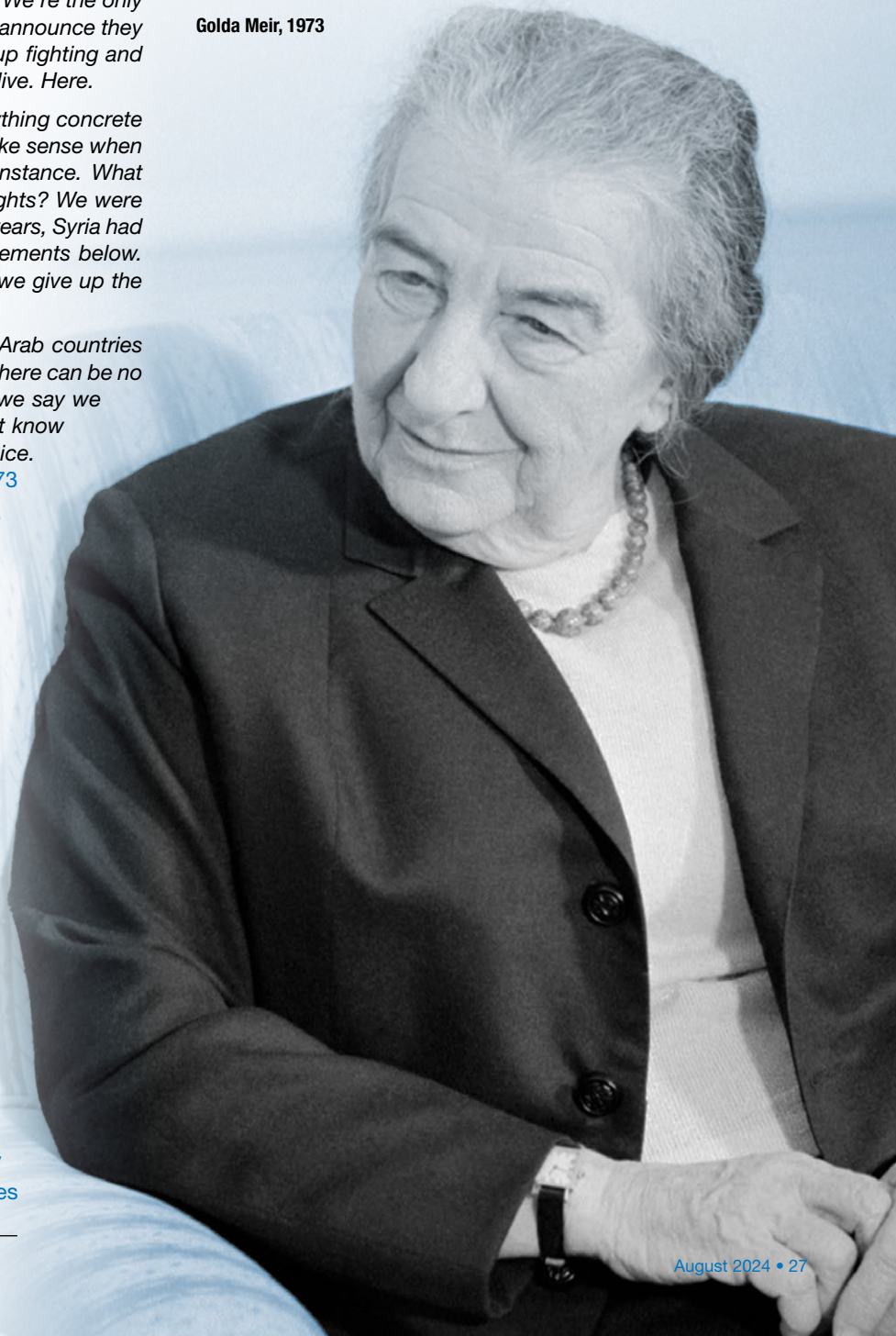
www.brainyquote.com/authors/golda-meir-quotes

Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you’re aboard, there’s nothing you can do.

www.brainyquote.com/authors/golda-meir-quotes

From the time she made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) in 1921 until her death in 1978, Golda Meir spoke her mind. The Jewish Women’s Archive wrote, “Presidents and kings found her willfulness charming, while her grandmotherly appearance and plain-spoken personal style endeared her to ordinary people around the world.” In her day, she faced the nation’s challenges with endurance and optimistic hope that is still so necessary today.

Golda Meir, 1973



TOURS

AUSTRALIA

ENCOUNTER ISRAEL TOUR October 27–November 9, 2024

Hosted by: Matthew Chivers

Join us for a life-changing experience as we take you on a journey through the land of the Bible and stand with Israel *“for such a time as this”* (Esther 4:14b). The tour includes many biblical sites, including Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, Nazareth, the Galilee and the Dead Sea. We will also participate in the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheva and the heroic charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade as well as a special *Shabbat* (Sabbath) of a Lifetime dinner. Contact the office for a booking form.

NEW ZEALAND

ENCOUNTER ISRAEL TOUR

November 5–17, 2024

Hosted by: Beth Mather

Join us to experience the biblical and historical places of Israel for 13 days. This is a life-changing tour, which will give you an opportunity to visit and be a blessing to Bridges for Peace in Jerusalem. You will also have the chance to visit a *kibbutz* (collective community) in southern Israel. Contact the New Zealand office for more information and to register.

UNITED KINGDOM

ISRAEL TOURS Dates available throughout 2024/2025

Hosted by: Michael and Sian Treharne

Throughout 2025, we will host eight-day tours for small groups in Israel. We will also host a special walking tour in Israel and a visit to Poland. Contact the office for more information.

UNITED STATES

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS—ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

December 2–13, 2024

Hosted by: Rev. Jim Shuman and Dr. Frank T. Lenihan

Join us for this life-changing trip exploring the land of the Bible.

LAND OF THE BIBLE STUDY TOUR 2025

March 16–29, 2025

Hosted by: Dr. Bill and Lizzie Adams

Travel the land of the Bible with your seasoned hosts Dr. Bill and Lizzie Adams and expert guide Allen Rabinowitz. Track the footsteps of Jesus, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the prophets and the apostles. This life-changing experience includes connecting with modern heroes of Israel, including a service opportunity in an Israeli community. Join us!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Don't just read about biblical prophecy, join our team of volunteers in Israel to live it out.

Grow in your relationship with God while making a difference in the lives of the people of Israel.

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FAQ



Seven Species Salad

Deuteronomy 8:8 describes Israel as a “*good land*,” a land where the seven species—wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates—flourish in abundance. These agricultural products are a feature of the land that are still used today in Israeli cuisine and Jewish tradition. In this recipe, they come together to create a colorful, fresh salad with a tasty dressing.

Ingredients:

For the salad:

2 large bell peppers
8 small cucumbers
2 cups of pearl barley
1 large bunch fresh parsley
1 large bunch fresh mint

For the dressing:

½ cup olive oil
2 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 Tbsp date syrup
1 Tbsp grape juice
1 tsp honey
A pinch black pepper

Instructions:

1. Soak the pearl barley in room temperature water for half an hour.
2. Boil the barley for 30 minutes over medium heat until soft, then drain and allow to cool.
3. Dice the bell peppers and cucumbers into small cubes.
4. Chop the parsley and mint finely.
5. To make the dressing, whisk the olive oil, pomegranate molasses, lemon juice, date syrup, grape juice and honey together until well combined.
6. Combine the peppers, cucumbers, parsley, mint and barley in a bowl.
7. Pour over the salad dressing and toss until combined.
8. Serve with a loaf of fresh, crusty bread.

Serves 8



Changing Worldviews

One Person at a Time



Avi Gold (center) during his visit to Saudi Arabia

Kippah-wearing, world traveler Avi Gold recently told the *Jewish News Syndicate* [JNS], “Wherever I meet people, I always try to make sure they know that I’m Jewish and Israeli because I’m proud to be both. I have *payot* [sidelocks] and I wear a *kippah* [yarmulke]. So sometimes, I give off my identity before I even start talking,” said Gold.

Gold has visited 129 countries. He holds dual citizenship, allowing him to visit places that bar entry to Israelis. Throughout his travels, he has had to contend with longstanding stereotypes, forcing him to become an unexpected advocate for Israel.

“There are still many people around the world who today believe that Jews are rich, control the world and have long noses,” explained Gold. “When I say I’m Jewish, I’m told I don’t have a Jewish face, and then I’m shown stereotypical pictures from Europe in 1940,” he said.

“Even though most people have access to information, they’re still being brainwashed. I could go to a coffee shop in an enemy country and meet somebody who tells me that Muslims are not allowed to enter Israel,” he continued. “Once I prove to them that a big portion of Israelis are Muslims, that they live like Jews, go to universities, shop at supermarkets—and that most pharmacists in Israel are Muslims and Arabs—they’re shocked. I open their minds and they realize that everything they hear in the media cannot be trusted.”

He told JNS that he felt in danger only once during his escapades, and that was 10 years ago while visiting Egypt. There,

a group of people he met became hostile and even threatened to kill him when he told them he was Jewish. Gold said he addressed their misconceptions, ultimately proving them wrong and saving his life.

On Instagram, Gold shared pictures of himself in Iraq speaking Hebrew while visiting such historical sites as the grave of the prophet Ezekiel, sacred to Shia Muslims and Jews alike; the Meir Taweig Synagogue, the only Jewish house of worship still active in Baghdad; and a Jewish cemetery in the Iraqi capital, replete with cracked tombstones engraved in Hebrew and Aramaic.

An observant Jew, Gold has had to overcome many challenges during his journey. “Obviously, I don’t always have access to Jewish communities wherever I go. But *Shabbat* [Sabbath] is between you and God. If you decide to keep it, you can do it anywhere in the world, even in your hotel room,” he said. “When it comes to keeping kosher [Jewish dietary laws], I quickly realized that I would have to give up eating cooked food or meat. When I travel, I live off snacks and canned food because that’s easy to access. And if not, I will carry it in my luggage.”

Gold started traveling to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] long before the signing of the Abraham Accords, and is well-acquainted with the Jewish community there. “Before the Accords, they were very discreet,” he said. “Now, they obviously aren’t anymore; they live freely.”

Despite the deterioration of relations with neighboring countries since Hamas’s October 7 massacre, Gold remains hopeful. “Peace is possible and will happen,” he assures.

“To the world, my message is: Don’t believe what anybody says. Come see things for yourself.”

Excerpt of article by Amelie Botbot ~ JNS



Avi Gold (center) in Pakistan



Jerusalem's Population Tops 1 Million

Just before Jerusalem Day this year, the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research published its 38th annual report on the city, which provides an in-depth statistical look at the capital.

With a population of 1,005,900 in 2022, Jerusalem's population is double that of Tel Aviv's, according to the latest census figures.

Construction in Jerusalem hit a new high in 2023, with work beginning on 5,800 housing units—the largest number to date. In 2023, the labor force participation rate among Arab women in the city continued rising as well, reaching 29%.

While 7,600 new immigrants chose Jerusalem as their first destination in Israel in 2022, continuing an upward trend, the

city's overall migration balance remained negative at minus 7,200 compared to minus 6,600 the previous year.

On the education and tourism fronts, Jerusalem led the country with 41,300 students at its institutions of higher learning in the 2022–23 academic year and 2,735,400 foreign visitor overnight stays in 2023.

Public transportation use was up 13% in 2023 compared to the year before, with light rail ridership increasing 20%.

Moreover, there was a spike in jobseekers to 26,000 in November 2023—double the number before the war—before a recovery in employment, and an 80% drop in tourist overnight stays in the final quarter of the year.

Excerpt of an article by Yori Yalon (*Israel Hayom*) ~ JNS

Netherlands to Examine 'Appropriate Time' to Move Embassy to Jerusalem

The Netherlands' incoming center-right government has agreed to study the possibility of moving the Dutch embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

"Taking into account the solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and diplomatic interests, we will explore when the embassy can be moved to Jerusalem at an appropriate time," an advanced draft of the political agreement states, the NOS public broadcaster reported.

The incoming coalition is set to include Geert Wilders's Party for Freedom; the center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy and New Social Contract parties; and the Farmer-Citizen Movement.

The 26-page draft accord also calls for Holocaust education to be included in the Dutch naturalization test and tougher policing of "discrimination, racism, anti-Semitism and hatred against Muslims."

Wilders won a clear victory in the Netherlands' November 22 general election, paving the way for the most pro-Israel coalition in the European nation's history.

The politician has been a proponent of Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, having said repeatedly that "there has been an independent Palestinian state since 1946: the Kingdom of Jordan." In 2018, Wilders tweeted, "The more Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria the better for that land is Jewish—and Jordan is Palestine!"

During a meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog earlier this year, Wilders pledged his "full support" for the war against Hamas terrorism. "I told him Israel has, and always will have, my full support in its fight against terror."

Excerpt of article by Akiva van Koningsveld ~ JNS

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HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Partner with us to deliver food and supplies to Holocaust survivors to ensure their basic needs are met. We bring joy and companionship to these precious people and even treat them with a festive birthday basket on their special day.



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WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

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VICTIMS OF TERROR

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



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Food Project



Each month Bridges for Peace provides nutritious food to over 24,000 Israelis. Rising food costs may force us to reduce the amount of food we give.

Will you consider a generous donation today?

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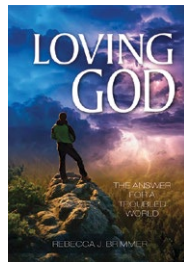
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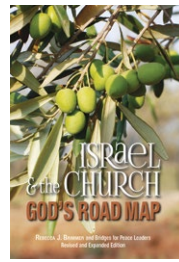
Your must-have travel companion through Israel. Each page describes an important biblical site, offers spiritual application and modern life lessons and provides Scripture verses.



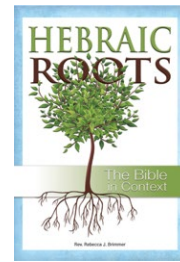
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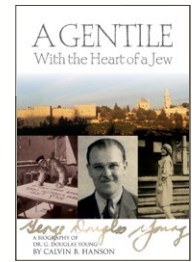
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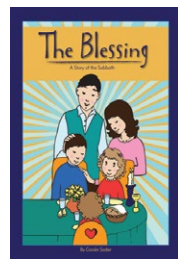
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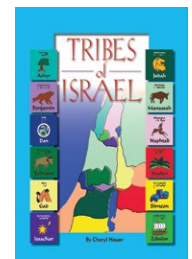
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