



dispatch from  
**JERUSALEM**

A Publication of Bridges for Peace

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**S**ignaling  
spring

# 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.

**Editor in Chief** Rebecca J. Brimmer

**Associate Editor** Cheryl L. Hauer

**Assistant Editor** Ilse Strauss

**Publications Manager** Brenda Groat

**Graphic Designers** Brenda Groat, Maddie Hunt

McCoy Brown, Eddelene Marais

### Subscription information

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### International Headquarters

PO Box 1093  
Jerusalem, Israel 9101001  
Tel: (972) 2-624-5004  
FAX: (972) 2-624-6622  
intl.office@bridgesforpeace.com

[www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com)



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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](http://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 banks, food gifts are distributed to help Israel's needy.

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

**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](http://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.

## Offices

### Australia

Tel: (61) 7-5479-4229  
[bfp.au@bridgesforpeace.com](mailto:bfp.au@bridgesforpeace.com)

### Canada

Tel: (1) 204-489-3697  
Toll free: (1) 855-489-3697  
[info@bfpcan.org](mailto:info@bfpcan.org)

### Japan

Tel: (81) 3-5969-9656  
[bfp@bfpj.org](mailto:bfp@bfpj.org)

### New Zealand

Tel: (64) 7-855-5262  
[emather.nz@bridgesforpeace.com](mailto:emather.nz@bridgesforpeace.com)

### South Africa

Tel: (27) 21-975-1941  
[info@bridgesforpeace.co.za](mailto:info@bridgesforpeace.co.za)

### South Korea

Tel: (82) 70-8772-2014  
[bfp@bfpkorea.com](mailto:bfp@bfpkorea.com)

### Spain

Tel: (52) 646-238-7206  
[intl.spanish@bridgesforpeace.com](mailto:intl.spanish@bridgesforpeace.com)

### Russia

Tel: (7) 903-309-1849  
[info.ru@bridgesforpeace.com](mailto:info.ru@bridgesforpeace.com)

### United Kingdom

Tel: (44) 165-673-9494  
[ukoffice@bridgesforpeace.com](mailto:ukoffice@bridgesforpeace.com)

### United States

Tel: (1) 321-361-8887  
(1) 800-566-1998  
[postmaster@bfpusa.org](mailto:postmaster@bfpusa.org)



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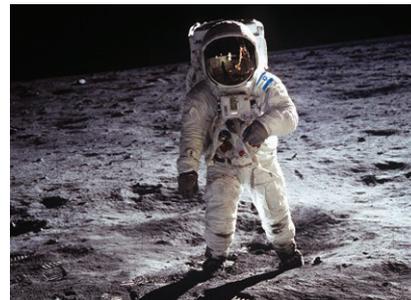
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## The Quirks of Israel— Driving in Israel

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By Peter Fast

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# Influx of Jews Fleeing Russia

## LAST YEAR WAS A YEAR OF INTENSE RESCUE OPERATIONS

to help the Jewish refugees from Ukraine get to Israel. It was heart wrenching to see the horror reflected in their eyes. Immigration to Israel (*aliyah*) was at a high level, with over 63,000 Jewish people arriving between September 2021 and September 2022. War creates chaos, death and misery, and the current armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine is showing the world that the horrors of war continue to ravage the innocent.

When Israel released the annual *aliyah* figures, no one was surprised to see the high numbers from Ukraine. However, even more Jewish people made *aliyah* from Russia! The *Jerusalem Post* wrote, “According to Ofek Israeli’s numbers, 32,494 Russian citizens have made *aliyah* to Israel in 2022 according to Israel’s Law of Return. This compares with 7,800 in 2021. Additionally, 14,450 made *aliyah* from Ukraine, 3,280 from North America, 1,957 from France and 1,474 from Ethiopia.” These figures are more than 200% higher than 2021.

There are 600,000 Jewish people in Russia, and at present, at least 40,000 of them are preparing to leave. Their reasons are different from those of the Ukrainian Jews. They are concerned about mass call-ups of men into the Russian military. Economically, they are struggling because of sanctions and bank restrictions. Some fear reprisals because they disagree with Russian President Vladimir Putin and the war. In one way or another, they all feel at risk.

Israeli officials are concerned. When I spoke with one of them in October, he told me that there were only two El Al (Israel’s flag carrier) flights a week to Israel from Moscow. Thankfully, flights have now increased. However, many airlines are not flying to Russia or even flying over the country. In the aftermath of a 300,000-man draft into the Russian military, ticket prices soared and flights were sold out as many tried to flee the country to avoid the draft. For a time, ticket prices shot up to thousands of dollars each. Prices have thankfully leveled off since then.

The flight between Russia and Israel is relatively short, only four or five hours. Once immigrants get on the plane, the stress they felt in Russia is alleviated, only to be replaced by the fears of starting over in a new country with sparse personal resources.

Israel is asking her Christian friends for help. The costs of bringing and absorbing another 40,000 Jews in the coming weeks are astronomical. These new immigrants will not be able to bring assets with them. They will have to start over, basically from scratch.

I am speaking out for these Russian Jews. They are in urgent need of help to bring them to safety and start a new life in Israel. Your gifts will help us assist them in a variety of ways according to their needs, including transportation, food, household items and more. Let’s bring the Lord’s people home. This is the time God is calling them back to Israel.

*“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth” (Isa. 43:5–6).*

With your gift, we will continue to help Jews from all over the former Soviet Union (including Ukraine and Russia), South America, Ethiopia and India fulfill their God-given destiny to live in the Land of promise.

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

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with Compassion

Assisting immigrants, Holocaust survivors & Israelis in need



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•••

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**"I am speaking out  
for these Russian Jews.  
Let's bring the Lord's people  
home. This is the time God  
is calling them back to Israel."**

Rebecca J. Brimmer

# Iranian Video Threatens Drone Strikes on Israel, US Targets

**In a video** posted to its official Telegram channel, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) threatened to rain down the wrath of its drone fleet on Israeli and US targets in the Middle East.

Set to the soundtrack of rousing music building to a crescendo, the clip opens with scenes from two well-known sites in Israel—the harbor in Haifa and the beachfront in Tel Aviv—helpfully described as “Occupied Palestinian Territories” in both English and Arabic subtitles.

The scene then changes to an America flag proudly waving over what appears to be a military base somewhere in a Middle Eastern desert. The clip goes on to identify the location as “CENTCOM Terrorist Bases,” referring to the United States Central Command.

The camera then shifts again, this time showing what appears to be Iranian soldiers in front of screens displaying satellite images of the Israeli and American sites. The message is clear: these are the targets in the Iranians' crosshairs.

As the theatrical soundtrack builds in intensity, the camera pivots to what appears to be the IRGC's attempt to intimidate with its impressive arsenal: vast warehouses filled with row upon row of state-of-the-art drones and other weapons.

As the music reaches a climax and a dramatic silence falls, the IRGC's threat appears onscreen in English and Arabic: “It is only our will that keeps us from firing.”

In recent months, Iranian drones were used in a number of attacks on US military targets in the Middle East, the *Times of Israel* reports. Russia has also reportedly used Iranian-made “suicide” drones to attack civilians as well as energy and infrastructure sites in Ukraine, a harbinger of warming ties between Moscow and Tehran.

Moreover, in the aftermath of what is believed to be Iranian drones sent by Russian decision makers to rain down death on Ukrainian civilians, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei boasted that the West now has to take Tehran's missile and drone technologies seriously. In fact, according to Khamenei, drones represent Iran's pride.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

# Hezbollah Stockpiles Cache of Chemical Weapons

**Hundreds of Iranian missiles armed** with the lethal chemical thionyl chloride arrived in November at a warehouse in Al Qusayr, a city nestled in the mountains of western Syria with a bird's eye view of the Lebanese border a mere 15 kilometers (9.3 mi.) southeast, the Saudi news channel *Al-Hadath* reported.

The deadly horde—including 110 Fajr and over 300 Fateh missiles, all equipped with chemical warheads—was apparently transferred there from the infamous Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center, commonly known as CERS, in Masyaf under the supervision of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Unit 2250, the report said.

The recipient of the cache of death? Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Lebanese terror army perched within easy striking distance on Israel's northern border.

Israel is well aware of the threat. In April, *Al-Hadath* reported on "Project 99," a joint endeavor by the IRGC's Quds Force and Hezbollah to develop ballistic missiles, chemical weapons and drones in Masyaf, Syria.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*



## Terrorism in Israel 300% higher

**The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) released** figures detailing 280 terrorist incidents in Israel by the end of November 2022, compared with just 91 in 2021. A further 500 attacks were thwarted by Israeli security forces during the same period, according to military intelligence assessments. Shooting attacks on Israeli military forces in Judea and Samaria have also risen sharply, with 110 recorded since January 2022, compared to 25 in 2021.

A total of 31 Israelis, both civilians and security personnel, have been killed in Palestinian attacks this year. Over 130 Palestinians, most of them assailants, were killed in clashes and security incidents this year as well.

Since the start of 2022, and particularly since the launch of Operation Break the Wave in March following a string of deadly terror attacks, the IDF has arrested more than 3,000 security suspects, seized around 250 illegal weapons and captured terrorist funds worth over NIS 2.7 million [approximately US \$798,600].

*Jewish News Syndicate*

Abbas Deputy Admits

## PA Works with Terrorists

**Israeli security forces** launched an anti-terror raid against the Lion's Den terror cell, including a bomb-making factory. The cell was responsible for several terrorist attacks.

In response to the terrorists' deaths and the exposure of the factory, Fatah [leading secular Palestinian political party] Deputy Chairman Mahmoud Al-Aloul admitted that the Palestinian Authority [PA] security forces were fighting alongside terrorists—the Tanzim—against Israel (or, as he put it, "the occupation"), according to a report by *Palestinian Media Watch*.

He said Israeli soldiers were injured "due to the brave position of the Palestinian security forces" and that all Palestinians, including the PA security forces and Fatah's terror faction, are "one unit."

"We speak about all the Palestinians. All the Palestinians are one unit. The security forces members, the Tanzim, the public, and everyone—one unit in dealing with this occupation," said Al-Aloul.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas created the deputy chairman position specially for Al-Aloul.

*Jewish News Syndicate*



Israel Defense Forces  
Anti-terrorism Unit

# DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL: FIRST SENTENCE IN CANAANITE LANGUAGE



**THE ALPHABET WAS INVENTED** around 1800 BC and was used by the Canaanites and later by most other languages in the world. Until recently, no meaningful Canaanite inscriptions had been discovered in the Land of Israel, save only two or three words here and there. Now, an amazing discovery presents an entire sentence in Canaanite, dating to about 1700 BC. It is engraved on a small ivory comb and includes a spell against lice.

The comb was unearthed at Tel Lachish in Israel by a team from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) and Southern Adventist University in the United States, under the direction of Professors Yosef Garfinkel, Michael Hasel and Martin Klingbeil.

The letters of the inscription were engraved in a very shallow manner. It was excavated in 2017 but the letters were noticed only in subsequent post-processing in 2022.

The ivory comb is small, measuring roughly 3.5 by 2.5 centimeters [1.38 x 0.98 in.]. The comb has teeth on both

sides. Although their bases are still visible, the comb teeth themselves were broken in antiquity. The central part of the comb is somewhat eroded, possibly by the pressure of fingers holding the comb during haircare or removal of lice from the head or beard. The side of the comb with six thick teeth was used to untangle knots in the hair, while the other side, with 14 fine teeth, was used to remove lice and their eggs, much like the modern two-sided lice combs sold in stores.

There are 17 Canaanite letters on the comb. They are archaic in form, from the first stage of the invention of the alphabet script. They form seven words in Canaanite, reading: “May this tusk root out the lice of the hair and the beard.”

“This is the first sentence ever found in the Canaanite language in Israel. The comb inscription is direct evidence for the use of the alphabet in daily activities some 3,700 years ago. This is a landmark in the history of the human ability to write,” shared Garfinkel.

Ivory was a very expensive material and likely an imported luxury object. As there were no elephants in Canaan during that time period, the comb likely came from nearby Egypt, indicating that even people of high social status suffered from lice.

Despite its small size, the inscription on the comb has very special features, some of which are unique and fill in gaps and lacunas in our knowledge of many aspects of the culture of Canaan in the Bronze Age. For the first time, we have an entire verbal sentence written in the dialect spoken by the Canaanite inhabitants of Lachish, enabling us to compare this language in all its aspects with the other sources for it.

Second, the inscription on the comb sheds light on some hitherto poorly attested aspects of the everyday life of the time.

Third, this is the first discovery in the region of an inscription referring to the purpose of the object on which it was written, as opposed to dedicatory or ownership inscriptions on objects. Further, the engraver’s skill in successfully executing such tiny letters (1–3 millimeters [.039–.11 in.] wide) is a fact that from now on should be taken into account in any attempt to summarize and draw conclusions on literacy in Canaan in the Bronze Age.

Lachish was a major Canaanite city state in the second millennium BC and the second most important city in the biblical Kingdom of Judah. To date, 10 Canaanite inscriptions have been found in Lachish, more than at any other site in Israel. The city was the major center for the use and preservation of the alphabet during some 600 years, from 1800–1150 BC.

*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*



“The assemblage of ivory discovered in the City of David was probably imported, and originally made by artisans from Assyria. The ivories may have come to Jerusalem as a gift from Assyria to Jerusalem’s nobility.”



## FIRST TEMPLE PERIOD IVORIES FOUND IN CITY OF DAVID

**AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY** was unearthed in Jerusalem: an assemblage of ivory plaques from the First Temple period. These are among the few found anywhere in the world—and the first of their kind to be found in Jerusalem. They came to light in the excavations of the Israel Antiquities Authority [IAA] and Tel Aviv University at the Givati Parking Lot in the City of David in the Jerusalem Walls National Park.

The ivories, considered one of the costliest raw materials in the ancient world, were found among the ruins of a palatial building in use when Jerusalem was at the height of its power (the eighth and seventh centuries BC). Scholars believe that the decorated ivories were inlaid in wooden furnishings that were used by the residents of the building, people of means, influence and power, possibly high government officials or priests.

According to the excavation directors, Prof. Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University’s Department of Archaeology and Near Eastern Cultures and Dr. Yiftah Shalev of the IAA: “To date, we only knew of decorated ivories from the capitals of the great kingdoms in the First Temple period, such as Nimrud, the capital of Assyria, or Samaria, the capital of the Israelite Kingdom. Now, for the first time, Jerusalem joins these capitals. We were already aware of Jerusalem’s importance and centrality in the region in the First Temple period, but the new finds illustrate how important it was and places it in the same league as the capitals of Assyria and Israel. The discovery of the ivories is a step forward in understanding the political and economic status of the city as part of global administration and economy.”

Ivory is mentioned only a few times in the Bible, always in connection with royalty or great wealth—the description of the throne of King Solomon (1 Kings 10:18); an ivory palace built by King Ahab in Samaria (1 Kings 22:39); and the prophet Amos’s castigation of Israelite nobility (Amos 6:4).

The impressive building in which the ivories were unearthed was devastated in a huge fire, apparently during the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. The ivories were discovered smashed into tiny pieces and burnt. During the excavation, no fewer than 1,500 fragments were found. It was only after a unique restoration project that the plaques were restored, and the richness of the assemblage was revealed.

Decorated ivories are the rarest and most outstanding finds in archaeological assemblages. Their prestige stems from the source of the ivory. Microscopic testing by the University of Haifa revealed that they were made from elephant tusk.

“The prestige of ivory is also associated with the great skill required to work with it and create decorations,” Prof. Gadot and Dr. Shalev explain. “The assemblage of ivory discovered in the City of David was probably imported, and originally made by artisans from Assyria. The ivories may have come to Jerusalem as a gift from Assyria to Jerusalem’s nobility.”

*Israel Antiquities Authority*





# Enough is **ENOUGH**

**“The Holocaust started with words after all.”**

**The alarming global increase** in anti-Semitism has Jewish leaders deeply concerned. “There’s always been threats, there’s always been anti-Semitism. But it feels like an epidemic right now,” said Beth Kean, CEO of the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles, California. “And the spread of hate and lies is just happening at a lightning speed.”

Kean is right. It really is an epidemic of sorts. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has just released alarming figures tracking anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in 2021. “It’s the highest total we’ve seen in 47 years,” says Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL. “It’s a 34% increase, year over year, and almost triple what we saw in 2015.” Assaults were up 167% over 2020, 11 of which were perpetrated with deadly weapons.

And it’s not just an American trend. The Anti-Semitism Worldwide Report 2021 by the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University’s Faculty of Humanities bases their annual report on studies done by countries around the world as well as information gathered from Jewish organizations, law enforcement and media. The report paints a disturbing picture, say Jewish leaders worldwide, with “a significant increase in various types of anti-Semitic incidents in most countries that have large Jewish populations.”

The findings are chilling:

- In France, the number of recorded anti-Semitic incidents increased by almost 75% compared with 2020.

- In Canada, a leading Jewish group reported a 40-year record in anti-Semitic physical violence in the month of August.
- In the UK, the number of recorded physical assaults against Jews increased by 78% compared with 2020.
- In Germany, anti-Semitic incidents recorded by police were up 29% over 2020 and 49% over 2019.
- In Australia, anti-Semitic incidents reached the highest monthly totals ever recorded.

The report in its entirety, however, records incidents of harassment, threats and vandalism reaching record numbers in dozens of countries for Jewish populations large and small the world over.

The report identifies reactions to the conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip as part of the reason for the increases, a common reaction Israel often faces when it is forced to respond to terrorism. The fighting occurred in May 2021 and lasted 11 days. According to the United Nations, it resulted in 261 deaths in Gaza as well as 14 in Israel.

However, the report also examined the proliferation of conspiracy theories surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic that began circulating in 2020. In a February 2021 article, the *Jerusalem Post* published excerpts from a report issued by the British Security Trust, an organization that advises British Jews on security matters. “The COVID-19 outbreak has not merely given rise to a new medium through which offenders express anti-Semitic sentiment; it has provided them with new strands of anti-Semitic discourse as well,” the report said.

In a similar article in *Moment Magazine*, the global reach of COVID-related anti-Semitism became clear.



Conspiracy theories were abundant, including the claim by Iranian government officials that Zionists were behind the coronavirus as well as a white supremacist who planned to use a car bomb in a Kansas City area hospital claiming Jews were behind the pandemic. In Portugal, a local politician complained that Israel's vaccination success came only because of Jewish financial power, while a radio personality in Norway stated that he "almost wished" Israel's vaccination campaign had failed. A *New York Times* headline, which originally read, "How Israel Became a World Leader in Vaccinating against COVID-19," was changed to read, "How Israel Became a World Leader in Medical Apartheid." Unfortunately, the Instagram post of the article was widely shared, said *Moment Magazine*, even by a political leader in New Zealand.

## THE OLDEST HATRED TODAY

What some have called the "longest or oldest hatred" is being normalized anew. Anti-Semitic rhetoric is increasingly pervasive in politics and public discourse. Even more concerning is its prevalence on social media and among movie stars, sports heroes and others who hold positions of vast influence and power.

In a *Moment Magazine* interview, Kean argued, "Kanye really opened the floodgates with his comments." She was referring to a number of widely reported anti-Semitic statements made in late 2022 by Kanye West, including his belief that black people are the "real" Jews and his appreciation for Adolph Hitler. Museum leaders were outraged that such an influential celebrity was using his platform to spread anti-Semitic hatred, said Kean. But they were shocked by the flood of anti-Semitic emails and social media comments that followed, expressing agreement with West in his animosity.

Jewish leaders were further dismayed when West was fired from lucrative partnerships with fashion industry

giants yet replaced with a well-known supermodel whose Instagram posts are filled with anti-Israel rhetoric and support for Palestinian terrorists. "They have simply replaced one anti-Semite for another," says human rights attorney Arsen Ostrovsky, "Hatred is hatred is hatred and we need to call it out regardless."

Unfortunately, there is a growing list of movie stars, sports icons, rappers and even comedians who are using their celebrity status to spread anti-Semitic hatred. Many of them have three times as many followers as there are Jewish people in the entire world. "Each time there is a new set of appearances or remarks or tweets that come out," says Ari Ballaban of the Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council, "people in the Jewish community feel a little more unsafe."

## A CALL TO ACTION

In the interview mentioned earlier, Kean talked of her grandparents who were Holocaust survivors. "They would never have imagined in a million years that something like this would happen. I'm actually thankful that they're not alive to see this." Kean went on "The Holocaust started with words after all."

As Christians, our hearts should break as we witness the virulent hatred that our Jewish friends are dealing with. Jewish leaders are concerned for the future, and we should be as well. Standing against anti-Semitism in all its forms and praying fervently for Jewish communities worldwide is a responsibility we simply can't shirk.



Cheryl Hauer, *International Vice President*

# Intifada Rising?

**AS THE BATTLE** for Israel's heartland rages on, the Jewish state's security forces are working to curb a wave of terrorism as multiple players battle for the Palestinian throne.

A terror wave that began last March and spread across Israel has left 29 people dead at the time of writing, the highest casualty count since 2008, *i24news* noted. The carnage sparked the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF's) Operation Break the Wave at the end of March, consisting of near nightly counterterror raids.

Israel's *Channel 12* news reported at the end of November that the Shin Bet internal security organization as well as the IDF warned a Knesset (Parliament) panel to expect a security escalation over the next few months.

## The Northern Lightning Rod

Northern Samaria appears to be the hotbed of terrorism, particularly Jenin and Nablus, or biblical Shechem—where God promised Abram that He would give the Land to his descendants, where Jacob purchased a parcel of land to dwell after making peace with Esau and where the ancient Israelites laid Joseph's bones to rest after completing their Exodus.

Now, out of Shechem, in response to Operation Break the Wave, the Lion's Den terrorist group has sprung. And more terrorist groups continue emerging—including the Nablus Battalion and the Jenin-based Wasp's Nest—seemingly faster than Israeli security forces can quash them.

As of November, the IDF and Shin Bet had conducted over 2,500 arrests throughout 2022, the *Times of Israel* reported, focusing largely on Nablus and Jenin.

## The Enemy Within

Armed terrorists, however, are often ready and waiting for the Israeli soldiers, resulting in clashes in which over 150 Arabs have been killed—most while attacking Israeli forces. These fighters are hailed by many of their Arab brethren as heroic martyrs, further fanning the flames of what they call the “resistance.”



The IDF announced on November 30 that it is establishing a new battalion that will be stationed along security barriers in Judea and Samaria, the so-called West Bank. Previously, reserve units were patrolling the border. Now, the 49th Panther Battalion, part of the Border Defense Corps, will permanently take over the job.

Protecting the security barriers is an important task. Three of the six attacks during a terror spree that lasted from March 22 to May 5 and resulted in 19 deaths were carried out by terrorists who entered Israel illegally from the Palestinian-governed parts of Judea and Samaria. These attacks included a shooting in Bnei Brak in which five people were killed and a shooting outside a Tel Aviv bar that saw three murdered. Two terrorists also entered Israel illegally and executed a terror attack in Elad on May 5, killing three, which they said was motivated by their belief that Israel is harming Muslim worshipers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In fact, the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem—where the First and Second Temples once stood and where the Al-Aqsa Mosque now stands—is a prevalent trigger point. Hamas, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and other terror groups often invoke Al-Aqsa in calling for violence, even fabricating lies of Jewish worshipers storming and violating the mosque compound in order to stoke rage and fuel terror attacks.

## The Shadow of the Intifadas

Many Israelis remember when regular daily activities such as riding a bus or going to a pizza parlor could at any moment turn into a nightmare, with frequent bombings throughout the First *Intifada* or uprising (1987–1993) and Second *Intifada* (2000–2005).

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As if relapsing to the *Intifada* days, the normal morning rush hour turned deadly on November 23, 2022, when terrorists detonated explosions at two busy bus stations in northern Jerusalem, killing two people—including a 16-year-old boy—and injuring 22 more.

Less than a week later, the Shin Bet announced they had arrested suspects, reportedly residents of eastern Jerusalem who were not affiliated with a particular terror group.

A Hamas spokesperson was nonetheless quick to praise the terror attack and warn that “the coming days will be intense and more difficult for the enemy. The time has come for the creation of cells that are spread all over Palestine and are ready for a confrontation.”

## Indoctrination and Disillusionment

The future looks grim based on how the next generation of Palestinians are being groomed for bloodshed. From United Nation-sponsored textbooks rife with anti-Semitism and rewriting history to children in Nablus buying necklaces with their favorite terrorists’ faces on them, young Palestinians are being raised for *jihad*, Islamic war with unbelievers.

And the popularity of the emerging terror groups, particularly the Lion’s Den, highlights the crumbling popularity and stability of the PA. Once the solid leader of the nearly three million Arabs living in Judea and Samaria, the PA is now on the brink of collapsing, Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar warned in November.

The collapse of the PA would greatly deteriorate the security situation in Israel’s biblical heartland, Bar warned, as Jerusalem and the PA often coordinate on security issues and maintain a tentative balance in the region.

The PA, chaired by 87-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, has for years been mismanaging its power with greed and corruption, causing young Palestinians to grow disillusioned with the old guard and look to other power players—Hamas and the emerging terrorist groups—who promise stronger action against their shared perceived enemy: Israel.

## Looking Back and Ahead

Several factors contributed to the conclusion of the Second *Intifada*, Jonathan

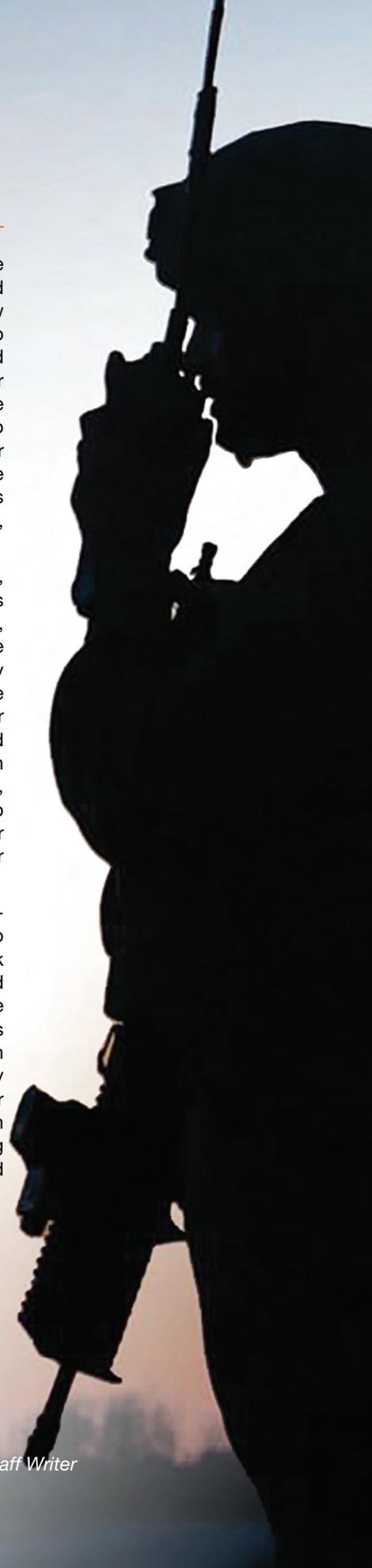
Schachter writes in “The End of the Second *Intifada*?” The IDF launched Operation Defensive Shield, which saw Israeli soldiers reentering major Arab cities like Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah—though the number of terror attacks initially spiked after the start of the operation before petering out. The IDF also conducted targeted killings of Hamas terror chiefs, cutting the head off the snake. The Israeli presence in Arab-controlled cities also allowed for more security intelligence, thus thwarting planned attacks.

Another major factor, Schachter noted, was the completion of security barriers throughout Judea and Samaria in 2004, blocking entry into Israel for suicide bombers and reducing the bombings by half. And in 2005–2006, the power struggle between Hamas and Fatah (leading secular Palestinian political party) came to a head and resulted in Hamas’s violent expulsion of Fatah from Gaza in 2007. Afterwards, Schachter noted, Hamas likely wanted to focus on solidifying its power hold over the people rather than provoking further conflict with the Israeli military.

Now, as the old Hamas–PA rivalry re-emerges, Israeli security forces appear to be utilizing tried and tested tactics to break the terror wave before it sparks into a Third *Intifada* by continuing another assertive operation in Judea and Samaria as well as strengthening the security barrier between the volatile region and Israel. But only time will tell whether it will be enough—or whether grassroots Palestinian frustration and the power struggle between competing terror groups will boil into another dreaded period of violence and bloodshed.



Kate Norman, BFP Staff Writer



# EDUCATION NATION



**THE ORGANISATION** for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published the 2022 edition of its annual *Education at a Glance* report in October last year. In no less than 462 pages crammed with statistics, graphs, footnotes and summaries, the document compares and contrasts the state of education in 45 countries for the 2021/2022 school year, ranking the nations from best to worst.

The four top slots went to Canada, Japan, Luxembourg and South Korea, countries known for maple syrup, sushi, a sky-high GDP and a global influence on pop culture. Then, in the fifth place, came Israel, a nation known for biblical history, conflict and controversy.

According to the report, 50.12% of Israel's population holds a higher education qualification, outperforming powerhouses like the US, the UK, Switzerland, Russia and Australia. It's also a whopping 11.12% higher than the OECD average of 39%.

Israel's prominent position in the 2022 survey is no fluke. The Jewish state has consistently scored among the first five ever since the report was first published. In fact, previous years' rankings have placed Israel in the second, third and fourth place.

## UNLIKELY ODDS

Commanding a top spot on the list of the world's academic elite is no small feat, even under the most ideal circumstances. Yet in Israel, the circumstances are anything but ideal. In fact, education is often forced to play second fiddle to more pressing concerns, like survival, for example.

At age 18—when their peers around the world head to college—Israeli teenagers put on a uniform to protect their

country from those who would take it by force. This means that Israelis can only start cracking the books in their early 20s—when their peers around the world are already preparing to don a cap and gown.

Even then, studies must often take a backseat to reserve duty for a month every year, conscription during times of war or heightened tension, terror attacks and the myriad of other security threats that form part of everyday life in Israel. Add to that the fact that a sizable percentage of Israel's civilian population—not only its combat veterans—bear the physical, emotional and psychological scars of continuous terror, rocket and missile attacks. Also, bear in mind that the entire educational system is but 75 years young and functions in a language that was all but extinct a century ago.

Why then, with the odds for academic prosperity stacked against the inhabitants of the Jewish state, does Israel continue to rise to the top as one of the world's most educated nations?

## TRADITION, TRADITION!

The short answer is that Israelis view education as the passport to a successful, prosperous future. Israel's economy is fast-paced and its job market highly competitive, with high academic performance and a string of qualifications serving as the entry ticket. It is the means by which Israelis set themselves apart from the thousands of others eyeing the same position.

Yet the ties that bind Israelis to education are ancient, reaching back in time to well beyond the homecoming of a people and the rebirth of a nation. For centuries past, Jewish tradition has strongly emphasized education and study as lifelong pursuits. In fact, the value of education seems to be hardwired into the Jewish DNA.

## Israel continues to rise to the top as one of the world's most educated nations.



In Genesis 18:19, Abraham, the father of the Jewish people, is lauded for teaching his offspring God's ways. Deuteronomy 6:6–9 emphasizes instruction as one of the basic duties that parents must fulfill, and the Book of Proverbs is packed with promises of all kinds of blessing for those who pursue knowledge, learning and wisdom.

Basic education for boys and men was widespread during the Second Temple Period, and during the first century, prominent rabbis considered schooling compulsory. Even the *Talmud* (rabbinic commentary on Jewish tradition and the Hebrew Scriptures) teaches that children should start school aged six and that other tasks should not interfere with their education.

### BEAUTY FROM ASHES

Then, the two millennia the Jewish people spent in exile, persecution, anti-Semitism and discrimination served as the unexpected incubator for academic excellence.

In medieval Europe, Jews were often barred from owning land. Automatically disqualified from pursuing farming as a means to provide for their families, Jews had to make alternative plans. These alternative career options included entrepreneurial and white-collar professions like trading, medicine, law, accounting and moneylending—all occupations that required a higher level of education.

Moreover, as the years of persecution wore on and forced deportation loomed as an all too common threat, education became a precious intangible asset that the Jewish people could carry with them regardless of where they went.

### THE VEHICLE FOR BLESSING

The peculiar combination of tradition and tragedy has yielded fruit. According to a study conducted by the Pew

Research Center, Jews are better educated than any other religious group in the world, boasting an average of 13.4 years of schooling and a large percentage holding a higher education qualification.

That inherent understanding of the importance of education—and the consequent pursuit of knowledge, learning and wisdom—is also woven into the fabric of the Israeli society today. It is what prompts young (and not so young) Israelis to continue hitting the books when their peers have already called it quits.

Yet perhaps education itself has never been the objective—or the reward. Thousands of years ago, God promised Abraham that the nation that would be born from him would serve as a blessing to the nations. And today, we see God's partial fulfilment of that pledge in the fruit that springs forth from the seedbed of Israeli education. The desert blossoms. Paraplegics walk. Drinking water comes from thin air. Diseases are caught early enough for treatment.

Yes, indeed. Perhaps education was never the objective. Maybe it was always intended as a vehicle to bring about the partial fulfilment of God's pledge: *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Gen. 12:3).



Ilse Strauss, News Bureau Chief



Medical

## ISRAELI DOCTORS HELP AFRICAN CHILDREN SMILE

**TWO ISRAELI DOCTORS ARE** making a difference for children in Equatorial Guinea by performing complex surgeries and providing local doctors with support and technology to perform the operations themselves.

Drs. Oded Nahlieli and Michael Abba recently returned from another trip to the central African nation, where they performed dozens of successful surgeries on children, mostly under the age of 10.

The maxillofacial surgeries are complex and involve reconstructing the face, whether from trauma or birth defects. For example, one of the surgeries from their recent trip involved treating a six-year-old boy with a jaw problem that prevented him from opening his mouth and being able to eat for four years. Following the surgery, he could smile and eat just like other children.

Nahlieli and Abba have been traveling to Equatorial Guinea to perform these surgeries since 2014, *Israel21c* reported. They do not charge for their services, and the hospital pays for their flights and provides them with CT scans of the patients in order to build 3D models to practice on before the surgery.

The doctors usually travel to Equatorial Guinea three times per year, performing much-needed surgeries for about 10 days. However, they were grounded during the COVID-19 pandemic and barred from providing their life-saving services. That is why Nahlieli and Abba began training local doctors to use ORVizio, an Israeli “telemedicine” technology that allows Israeli doctors to walk the local doctors through the surgery in real time.

ORVizio is an Israeli-based start-up of which Abba is the CEO. The website describes the technology as the “best surgical video streaming using cutting edge technology, ensuring you don’t miss a thing.”

In addition to providing telemedical support, Nahlieli said their goal is to establish a local medical clinic to train local doctors from Equatorial Guinea as well as Cameroon and Gabon to perform the surgeries and use the ORVizio technology for help.

“If we do not do it, no one else will,” Nahlieli told *All Israel News*. “It is our privilege to come and operate on these children, many of whom have no other option. It is not like in the West where they can just go and find another hospital.

“No,” he added, “in most cases, the children will die.”

And in addition to saving lives, Nahlieli said that he and Abba “get so much joy out of seeing the children” they help. Indeed, these Israeli doctors are putting smiles back on the faces of children in Equatorial Guinea.

Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*

## FROM THE DESERT TO THE MOON, Israel Shoots for Outer Space Agriculture

Environment

**ISRAEL'S NEXT FORAY** into the final frontier is an experiment in growing plants on the moon.

The Jewish state is planning to send up a space mission called Beresheet 2 ("Beginning," the Hebrew name for the book of Genesis) in 2025.

A research group from Israel's Ben Gurion University in Beersheva, southern Israel, has already been working on growing food in the harsh, arid Negev desert. Now the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research is partnering with Australian and South African universities to develop a small greenhouse, weighing just two kilograms (4.4 lbs.), that will carry seeds aboard the Beresheet 2 flight.

Researchers will send the sealed greenhouse up equipped to provide the seeds with automatic water and heat, as well as equipment to photograph the plants. The greenhouse will carry the required atmospheric gas to keep the plants healthy. The entire experiment will need to work quickly, as the greenhouse will only have enough battery life to last 72 hours.

The team will send up what is known as resurrection plants, which can survive extreme hydration and grow quickly. The plants will have to survive the trip to the moon—which takes approximately four and a half

months—in extreme temperatures, research team coordinator Prof. Simon Barak of the university's Jacob Blaustein Institute told the *Times of Israel*.

The overall point of the experiment, Barak said, is to prepare for the future.

"Bases on the moon or colonies on Mars could become a reality," he said, "and we're exploring whether we know how to grow plants there."

Astronauts are already growing plants on the International Space Station, but sending up a greenhouse with the Earth's atmosphere that is subject to the moon's microgravity will be new territory.

"Plants would be important for food, oxygen, medication, removing CO2 from the air and for general well-being," Barak added.

Beresheet 2 will be Israel's second launch to the moon, following Beresheet, the robotic lunar lander that Spacell and Israel Aerospace Industries launched in 2019 and ended up crashing on the moon.

Kate Norman, *Bridges for Peace*



## 'NAVAL IRON DOME' Successfully Passes Final Test

**ISRAEL'S NAVY AND DEFENSE** Ministry as well as Rafael Advanced Defense Systems completed a C-Dome system advanced interception test, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] announced, marking a significant step toward introducing the naval version of the Iron Dome aerial defense system.

The C-Dome is a more advanced version of the Iron Dome aerial defense system controlled by the Missile Ship INS Oz, a Saar 6-class corvette. The system was installed on the INS Oz corvette as part of the interception test, the second of four advanced missile corvettes received by the Israeli Navy in the last two years.

In addition to simulations of real-world threats, the test included the system successfully detecting and intercepting targets in difficult scenarios.

The C-Dome system significantly adds to the Israeli Navy's defense capabilities in various missions, including the protection of strategic assets like the exclusive economic zone in its coastal waters as well as the maintenance of Israel's regional maritime superiority.

"The operationalization of the C-Dome system is a significant milestone for the State of Israel's naval defense capabilities," Defense Minister Benny Gantz said

*Jewish News Syndicate*

Technology





# Signaling Spring

***For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.***

(Song of Songs 2:11–12a)

**Is there anyone** who does not long for the promise of spring during the dark and dreary days of winter? Here in Israel, the lovely almond blossoms herald the coming of that promise. Toward the end of January or early February, you may hear questions like, “Have you seen them yet?” or “I wonder when they will arrive?” All these questions point to one thing: almond blossoms.

## Native to the Land

The almond is native to the Mediterranean region. In Israel, it can be found growing wild throughout the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria as well as on the Golan Heights and in the Galilee region. A hardy tree, it manages well in areas with low precipitation.

The wild almond trees dotting Israel's hillsides produce fragrant flowers that are primarily white with shades of pale pink. However, the fruit of these trees cannot be eaten as it contains a substance that produces poisonous cyanide. On the other hand, cultivated almonds—or sweet almonds—are found in groves and produce the tasty and nutritious nuts we enjoy so much.

## Almonds in Scripture

Treasured in modern times, the almond is also woven into the history of the Jewish people. We know that almonds were a prized food in the Promised Land at the time Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. When Jacob prepared to send his sons to Egypt for a second time, he told them to take a gift to the “Egyptian” who held Benjamin captive. Among the items listed as the “*best fruits of the land*” (Gen. 43:11) was the almond.

Later in Jewish history, when Moses received detailed instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle and its contents, the construction of the *menorah* (seven-branched golden lampstand) featured almond flowers. The bowls for holding the oil were to “*be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower*” (Exod. 25:34, emphasis added).

Another interesting appearance of the almond in Scripture is found in Numbers 17. After the rebellion of Korah and the plague that followed (Num. 16), the Lord instructed representatives from each of the twelve tribes to prepare a rod and write the name of that tribe's leader on it. Aaron's name was to be written for the tribe of Levi. The Lord planned to settle the disputes against Moses and Aaron as He demonstrated His chosen leaders when the rod of that man blossomed (Num. 17:5).

“*Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds*” (Num. 17:8). At the Lord's command, this rod was then kept in the Tabernacle to be a sign to the rebels that the tribe of Levi were His chosen representatives (Num. 17:10).

## Did You Know?

It may be splitting hairs, but almonds are not really nuts—they are drupes! There is a botanical difference between a nut, which is “a hard-shelled pod that contains both the fruit and seed of the plant” and a drupe. Composed of three layers, drupes “are actually fruit with a hard stony covering enclosing the seed.” Fellow drupes include pistachios, coconuts and cashews.

Almonds are also directly related to plums, nectarines, peaches, cherries and apricots. All are fruit produced by members of the *prunus* group of trees and shrubs.

According to *Israel 21c*, “While the United States produces the most almonds in the world, Israeli almonds are larger, tastier, and contain 10% more calcium than American and most other varieties.”

Almonds are a “nutritionally dense food,” providing many of the vitamins and minerals we need for health. Rich in antioxidants and one of the best sources for Vitamin E, almonds are also high in protein and fiber. According to *Healthline*, “the health benefits of almonds include lower blood sugar levels, reduced blood pressure and lower cholesterol levels. They can also reduce hunger and promote weight loss.”

## All That and Beauty Too

As we anxiously await the first sighting of the almond blossoms, the early flowers are really just a small part of the richness that God has included in this tree. Not only does its beauty encourage us with the message that, “Yes, Spring is on its way,” but the fruit produced months later provides nutritional and medicinal benefits. What a wonderful gift from God!



Janet Aslin, BFP Staff Writer



# On **DANGEROUS** Legal Ground

**In a letter sent** in late in 2022 to over 50 world leaders, then-Prime Minister Yair Lapid made a passionate appeal for help in stopping the latest Palestinian campaign to use the international justice system to delegitimize the State of Israel. The letter came in response to a November 11 United Nations (UN) resolution requesting that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) “render urgently an advisory opinion” on Israel’s “prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of Palestinian territory.” Lapid called the action “a concerted effort to single out Israel, to discredit our legitimate security concerns and to delegitimize our very existence.”

It’s no wonder that the premier felt the need to go knocking on doors for support. The resolution passed the General Assembly’s Special Decolonization Committee with a vote of 98–17 with 52 abstentions. Only Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, the US and a handful of smaller nations stood by the Jewish state. All of the Arab states—including Israel’s celebrated new Arab allies—voted for the measure, as did Ukraine.

The resolution will go to the full 193-member General Assembly for final vote at the end of 2022 or beginning 2023. And judging by Israel’s past experiences with UN judicial bodies, they’re going to need all the help they can get.

## Who Are these Judicial Bodies?

In recent years, the two judicial bodies that have made the news because of their interactions with Israel are the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the ICJ.

The ICC is a permanent international tribunal that tries individuals responsible for the most serious of international crimes. According to the UN website, the ICC seeks to investigate and prosecute those responsible for grave offenses such as genocide and war crimes. In March 2021, this court launched a war crimes probe into Israeli military practices and has in the past criminalized Israeli political leaders. The ICC’s judgments are technically unenforceable, and the court may only exercise its jurisdiction if the national court is unable or unwilling to do so.

The ICJ, however, is the principal judicial organ of the UN. It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946. According to the UN website, it is charged with settling

legal disputes submitted to it by states and giving advisory opinions on legal questions from UN bodies and agencies.

The website further states, “If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment.”

Clearly, the ICJ serves an advisory function, and its ability to enforce legal opinion is limited. However, according to Israel’s Academic Center of Science and Law, the problem lies in the court of public opinion. According to the UN, a judgment rendered by the ICJ constitutes an authoritative interpretation of international law, making it awkward at best for a state to ignore such an opinion simply because it isn’t binding.

Israel’s last interaction with the ICJ was in 2004. Again, from the UN website: “The ICJ issued an advisory opinion today that Israel’s building of a barrier in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and said construction must stop immediately and Israel should make reparations for any damage caused.”

The website continues: “By a majority of 14 to 1, the judges determined that Israel was not justified in relying on a right of self-defense or on a state of necessity for the barrier and the court was not convinced that the chosen route was necessary for security reasons. Voting 13-2, the judges recommended that all States should not recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall nor give any aid or assistance in maintaining the situation.”

Israeli legal experts are concerned that the 2004 decision may set the foundation for the ICJ’s potential response in the current situation.

## Setting a Precedent

It is believed that this current draft resolution will follow the pattern of the recent UN Human Rights Council report that found Israel’s “occupation” to be “unlawful under international law.” Going beyond the already broad consensus that the “settlements” are illegal, the ICJ report will likely affirm that Israel’s “occupying” presence in Palestinian territories is itself illegal.

Israeli legal experts are concerned that the open-ended nature of the terminology used in the resolution could lead

to claims of systemic discrimination and even apartheid. The motion mentions “discriminatory legislation and measures,” which experts believe opens the door to the question of apartheid.

Again, the ICJ resolution cannot go as far as recommending political measures and cannot require anyone to actually act on it. However, its finding could well be relevant for future actions by the ICC and could certainly lead to increasingly intense pressure on Israel regarding its policies in Judea and Samaria.

## The Path to Peace

At the writing of this article, it is uncertain when the UN vote will actually occur. But regardless of the date, the results could potentially create significant fallout for Israel. Lapid was adamant in his belief that such unilateral interference on the part of the UN will only lead to more conflict. In his letter, he stated that such actions “will only play into the hands of the extremists, further polarize the parties and undermine the positive work that has been done over the past few years.”

In his final paragraph, he wrote, “I urge your country to exercise your influence on the Palestinian Authority so that they refrain from promoting this dangerous move at the General Assembly. We look to our friends to stand with us.”

Let’s pray that Israel’s friends do rise to the occasion, if not at the vote, then certainly in standing with Israel when the fallout occurs.



Cheryl Hauer,  
*International  
Vice President*





# Rediscovering

# Shiloh

**In the center** of the biblical heartland is a special place that resonates deeply with both Christian and Jewish people. Those who tread upon the ruins of this ancient city, say that it is as if the ground is hallowed by the Presence that once dwelt there. A place of miracles, Shiloh remains of great importance today as it establishes the history and connection of Israel and the Jewish people to the Land.

## In the Bible

Joshua 18 recounts how the Israelites came to Shiloh and erected the Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle) there. This temporary dwelling place of God housed the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the two tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff and a jar of manna. Here Joshua cast lots to apportion the Promised Land among the seven tribes who had not yet received their allotted inheritance after the Israelites had conquered Canaan. Shiloh served as the religious and military center for the nation of Israel during the times of the judges. Long before choosing Jerusalem, Shiloh was the place where the Lord's presence dwelt. As such, millions of Israelites would journey to Shiloh for the three pilgrimage festivals

of the Lord (Passover, Shavuot or Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles) and camp on the surrounding hills. In fact, the *Mishnah* (first postbiblical written recording of Jewish oral tradition) recounts, "There is nothing differentiating between [the importance] of Shiloh and Jerusalem but...that the sanctity of Shiloh was released [once the Tabernacle was no longer there], while the sacredness of Jerusalem is everlasting."

The Bible tells us the story of Hannah who prayed at Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:8–18), and today, her testimony remains one of the focal points of the exhibit at the ancient Shiloh archaeological site. Here Hannah wept before the Lord and without spoken words, poured out her heart and her disappointment over her barrenness. The Lord heard Hannah's cry and blessed her with the miraculous conception of the last of Israel's judges: Samuel. So today, both Christians and Jewish women alike make the pilgrimage to Shiloh with an expectancy to receive the blessing of children and in the same way as Hannah did, pour out their hearts before the Lord and seek for the miracle of a child.

## Significant Discoveries

The Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle) that stood at Shiloh is interestingly also referred to as a temple. 1 Samuel mentions that this structure in fact had doorposts and doors, giving credence to the belief that the structure of the sanctuary became more permanent over time. Understandably so, as according to Jewish sources, the Tabernacle remained there for 369 years. Archaeologists have discovered holes carved into the rock which are believed to have been used to hold the beams for the Tabernacle structure. A walled platform surrounds the site believed to be the location of the Tabernacle, and the dimensions align with those given in the Bible.



In June 2022, Scott Stripling and a team from the Associates for Biblical Research discovered piers (support structures) for a door or gate into the ancient city complex situated on the side of the Shiloh spring. This is significant as the Bible recounts a story of the High Priest Eli falling backwards and breaking his neck by the side of the gate of Shiloh. Stripling believes that this could be the gate mentioned in 1 Samuel 4.

There have also been several discoveries related to the daily animal sacrifices and the functions of the Levitical priesthood, which further suggest that this is indeed the site of ancient Shiloh. A huge deposit of thousands of pottery shards and animal bones was discovered nearby the Tabernacle platform complex. The *Torah* (Gen.–Deut.) teaches that the Levitical priests were given the right side of clean (kosher) animals as their portion. Remarkably, all of the bones found in this repository are from the right side of kosher animals. Other noteworthy discoveries include two ceramic pomegranates, decorative elements used in both the Tabernacle and on the priestly garments. A shattered four-horned altar was also found near the structure believed to be the Tabernacle platform. “All of this together inductively suggests to us that we are seeing what is found in the Bible,” Stripling told *All Israel News*,

echoing his conviction of the accuracy of this site to be that of biblical Shiloh.

## Controversy

Of course, a place like Shiloh—with its ancient and undisputable connection to the Hebrew Scriptures and bearing evidence to an ancient Jewish presence in the land of Israel—is a source of mocking and ridicule in the anti-Israel movement. When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Tel Shiloh with former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee in 2019, he described the site as the “first capital” of Israel. This sparked criticism that the history of Shiloh is presented in a narrow way, focusing on a narrative that is popular only with Israeli communities and their Christian supporters.

Indeed, Shiloh has seen numerous people groups occupy this site. The archaeological record includes evidence from the Second Temple as well as the Byzantine, Islamic, Roman and Persian periods. However, in a world fighting against biblical truth and denying the history of the Jewish people in their biblical heartland, the discoveries at Shiloh specifically related to the times of Joshua and the judges increase in significance and become particularly relevant. While naysayers balk at the historical evidence of excavations made here, there is no denying that Shiloh has been in the past and will in future remain an important part of our faith and of the story of Israel.



Nathan Williams, *Director of Marketing and Communications*



# The Quirks of Israel

## Driving in Israel

From the pen of Peter Fast, national director of Bridges for Peace Canada and the future CEO of Bridges for Peace International, comes the fifth installment of the *Quirks of Israel*. Join Peter on a journey through the wonderfully peculiar culture, traditions, heritage and daily life of this singular nation as he unpacks, introduces and celebrates the quirky aspects that make Israel so wonderfully unique.

**I WOULD DESCRIBE** driving in Israel as organized chaos. It's busy, quick and a little crazy. You have scooters whipping in and out of traffic, sometimes driving on the shoulder or taking a detour on the sidewalk. The air vibrates with the sound of honking. There is congestion like in any busy city, but in Israel, people simply force their way into the flow of traffic by nosing in their bumper a little at a time until the other driver has no choice but to stop or crash into them. Then you also have public buses and taxis to grapple with as everyone careens forward at breakneck speed.

Driving in Israel can intimidate many people, from tourists to citizens who made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) years before. There's an entertaining side to the craziness of driving in the Holy Land, but there's one Hebrew word that sums it up: *ballagan* or chaos. Don't be alarmed

though. Once you figure it all out and drive like an Israeli, everything falls into place and pretty soon, you'll be zipping through traffic.

There are some important rules to follow if you are brave enough to rent a car and face Israeli traffic.

### Honk, Honk

Rule number one: the horn is your best friend. Don't abuse the relationship and go mad, but communicate with your horn, love your horn and respect your horn.

Once, while driving in Jerusalem, I saw a friend standing on the sidewalk. I honked at him to wave hello, but he didn't even look up. It was pointless trying to get my friend's attention like that—probably because everyone else honks all the time. In Europe, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, if someone honks, everyone from drivers to pedestrians to shopkeepers to office workers look up to see why someone dared use their horn. Yet in Israel, honking has nothing to do with being aggressive or rude. It is simply communicating.

### Take the Gap

Rule number two: be assertive when changing lanes or joining the throng of traffic from a side street. In Israel, you must be assertive and inch forward into traffic. Don't be afraid! I'm not recommending a crazy stunt on a major highway, but when entering from a side street, it's perfectly acceptable to look for an opening and take it. Remember to judge the speed of the cars coming at you and try to make sure the driver sees you. There's a lot of complex communication and maneuvering involved, but it's essential to take the chance, or you'll never get anywhere.

This is life in Israel. Most drivers aren't trying to be rude, nor are they part of some plot to ruin your day. This is just how people in Israel drive. These are the rules of the road.



## Priorities

Rule number three: never eat a *falafel* while driving through a roundabout! One day, I saw a small car, clearly out of control, whipping into a roundabout. Both driver and passenger were transfixed in a state of horror as they realized their impending doom. To my utter surprise, I also noticed that the driver was eating a *falafel*, which had led to the car veering out of control. The driver continued to catapult out of the circle, up onto the sidewalk and then smashed into a wall, which crumbled like a mini Jericho. Within seconds, the driver and the passenger climbed out of their damaged car. Then, to my amazement, the driver poked his head back into the wreck and emerged with his half-eaten *falafel*—and continued to finish his lunch. Never follow this example. *Falafels* are messy and are best eaten in a stationary position.

## All For One

Now let's switch gears to talk about the Israeli tendency of "sticking together"—a unique, quirky part of Israeli society. I chalk this trend up to the Jewish people being a people of history. They are a tightknit community, connected by shared faith. They've also experienced many traumas in their past.

One of the reasons for Israel's rebirth was so that there would be a Jewish state where Jews could live in safety as Jews and be responsible for their defense. The rebirth of the Jewish nation on its ancestral homeland with the Israel Defense Forces to provide security as well as established laws to enable the Israeli way of life offer a special sovereignty that acts like an umbrella to protect a people who have been hounded for centuries.

Jewish history and the reality of modern-day Israel have produced a people who stick together. Looking at their last

4,000 years—the good, the bad and the ugly—you can see this characteristic playing out in a unique, quirky and often tender way.

Allow me to share a modern-day example. One day, while on vacation on the Mediterranean coast, my wife and I decided to go to the beach early in the morning. We soon found the prime spot on the deserted beach, laid out our towels and settled in for some sun before going for a swim.

A few minutes later, an Israeli family emerged onto the empty beach. They trotted across the wide expanse of sand—and then laid their towels down right next to ours. Soon, the beach filled up, with us as the center around which the crowd grew, with all the Israelis adhering to the unspoken rule of sticking together.

In another example, I once went to the movies with two friends. The vast cinema was deserted and the three of us settled in among the empty rows, alone in the darkness. Right before the movie started, the door opened and two elderly ladies came in. I watched them scan the empty theater and then, of course, make their way straight to our row and sit down right next to us. So there we were, five people in a vast cinema, huddled happily close together.

Israel is quirky indeed!



Peter Fast, *National Director, Bridges for Peace Canada*

# Arab Voices for Israel

**Israel's advocates** range from devout Jews to fellow Christians to complete agnostics—and everything else in between. Yet there is one particular group of pro-Israel voices that demands a special measure of admiration. Their support for the Jewish state does not stem from religious persuasion or ethnic connection. They choose to speak out for the Promised Land and its people purely because they've become convinced of truth. All too often, their conviction costs them dearly. They've been ostracized by their own, shunned by their loved ones, branded as traitors and threatened with death. Yet the truth will out. They are the Arabs who stand for Israel.

*"I wrote on Facebook that I, as a religious Muslim, support Israel's right to exist. And I defend the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. I said, 'Israel has a right to defend against a terrorist and every Muslim...and we must support and stand by the Israeli, Jewish people and Israel.' That's it. That post changed my life...My family left me. My father, everyone left me. I got a message from my family. They said: 'We disown you.'"*

—Noor Dahri, British–Pakistani author, public speaker, executive director at the Islamic Theology of Counter Terrorism, devout adherent to Islamic doctrine and self-defined Muslim Zionist

*"Israel is the best country for Arabs living in the Middle East. Currently, there are roughly 2 million Arabs in this region who enjoy the full extent of their civil and human rights. Those 2 million Arabs are Israeli citizens. Instead of pushing a political agenda, Israel cares for its people, ensuring that every civilian lives in a democratic, free environment where he or she can flourish. In my personal experience as an Arab Israeli, there is no better country for Arabs in the Middle East."*

—Yahya Mahamid, IDF soldier and self-proclaimed Zionist Muslim Arab

*"I believe in the right of the Jewish people to have their own country, the State of Israel...I want to say to the Arabs of Israel to wake up. Comparing us to other Arab countries, we live in paradise. I do not have another state. I do not have another flag...There is no place better than Israel."*

—Sarah Zoabi, an Arab mother from Nazareth, who introduced herself to the judges and audience of *Israel's MasterChef* as an Arab, Muslim, Israeli and proud Zionist

*"In the Middle East today, there is one country where Christianity is not only not persecuted, but affectionately granted freedom of expression, freedom of worship and security. It is Israel, the Jewish state. Israel is the only place where Christians in the Middle East are safe...According to the Bible, the Land of Israel, including Judea and Samaria, belongs to the Jewish people forever. The promises of God to His people cannot be erased."*

—Father Gabriel Naddaf, Israeli Greek Orthodox priest

*"I am the so-called poster boy, the living, breathing proof that Israel is not an apartheid state. And whenever that claim is made, it is my duty to stand up and say, no, not on my watch. I was born in a country that didn't want me, didn't protect me and branded me, my family and others like us as traitors. Nobody came to our help—except Israel. Today, I live in the Jewish state as part of a minority group, yet I get to enjoy all the rights that Lebanon refused me. I have all the freedom and opportunity to succeed, to make something of myself. I know from experience that I*

*cannot take these things for granted. Israel took me under her wing and gave me a good life. Now it is my turn to stand up and do something for her."*

—Jonathan Elkhoury, an Arab Christian Israeli who fled the persecution of Lebanese Christians in his home country and found a safe haven in Israel

*"Thank you Israel for the compulsory education law that forced parents to send girls to school, and thank you for the excellent schools and universities. Thank you for the justice system and the welfare services allowing women to dare and live their dreams. And thank you for the advanced health care and hospitals. Thank you for the democracy that allows us to make our voices heard. Thank you for the economic development that allows us to contribute in high-tech, medicine, science and a variety of other professions. Thank you, Israel Defense Forces, for keeping us safe from the shower of rockets and cold-hearted terrorists who would also persecute Arabs like ISIS did in Syria. And thank you to the deeply kind and warm-hearted people of Israel who will always have your back. Thank you, my beloved country."*

—Sophia Salma Shramko, an Arab Israeli tech entrepreneur with a master's degree from Stanford University

*"It's very righteous for the Jews to have their ancestral homeland in the land of Israel. Jews are not colonialists or conquerors in the land of Israel, because if we would believe that then we would believe that David, Solomon, Isaiah and Yirmiyahu [Jeremiah] and the prophets were actually colonizers, and that would kill the Islamic faith."*

—Loay Al-Shareef, an Abu Dhabi-based social media influencer and a self-declared Zionist

*"It's a great honor to hold a weapon in one hand and the Quran in the other to defend my homeland, Israel."*

—A-Raqib Imad, an Arab Israeli serving in the IDF

*"Every time I visit Jerusalem, it pains me that Jerusalemites cannot visit Gaza. And Gazans cannot visit the West Bank [Judea and Samaria]. Terrorism causes this division. It pains me equally that the unemployment rate is 45% in Gaza and 41% for women in the West Bank; that Hamas have turned Gaza into a prison, killing any dissenters or peacemakers; that schools I visit in the West Bank do not even have Israel, their neighbor, on the map. This shows a leadership that is afraid of change and the future."*

—Ed Husain, British author and academic

*"It's not Israel that is responsible for the suffering of the Palestinians; it's Hamas."*

—Dr. Tawfik Hamid, author, medical doctor, former Islamic radical, social media influencer and a fearless defender of Israel

# TOURS

## Australia

### ENCOUNTER ISRAEL TOUR 2023

Date: October 29–November 13, 2023

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, the Galilee, Nazareth and the Dead Sea. We will also participate in the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba and the heroic charge of the Australian Light Horse Brigade as well as a special Shabbat (Sabbath) of a Lifetime dinner.

## Canada

### EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

Date: September 3–12, 2023

Hosted by: **Paolo Bauista**

Join us as we travel through Israel and experience firsthand the wonder and beauty of the Land of the Bible. This unique tour will be hosted in both Tagalog and English.

### EXPERIENCE ISRAEL DISCIPLESHIP TOUR

Date: October 8–19, 2023

Hosted by: **Real Bois**

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

## United Kingdom

### DISCOVERING ISRAEL

Date: May 2–9, 2023

Hosted by: **Michael Treharne**

Join us as we travel through Israel, exploring Jerusalem, Judea, the Dead Sea, Masada, the Sea of Galilee, the Golan Heights, Megiddo, Caesarea and much more.

## United States

### ISRAEL WITH STEVE AND JAYNE FOSS

Date: May 11–23, 2023

Hosted by: **Steve and Jayne Foss**

We are so excited to have you join us for a life-changing trip as we walk through Israel’s past, present and future. This more than just a vacation, it is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word and the historical roots of our faith.

### ISRAEL STUDY TOUR

Date: May 15–26, 2023

Hosted by: **Bill & Liz Adams**

From the biblical heartland and ancient wonders to the modern vibrancy of regathered Israel, open your Bible with us as we explore Judea, Samaria, the Shephelah, the Coastal Plain, Sharon, Carmel, Jezreel, Galilee, Golan, Jordan Valley, Negev, Dead Sea and the incomparable Jerusalem.

### EXPERIENCE ISRAEL TOUR

Date: June 3–16, 2023

Hosted by: **Bobby Peck**

Come enjoy a historical and archaeological study tour of Israel. Discover the world of the prophets, the disciples and our Jewish Lord. Join us for your trip of a lifetime.

### BIBLICAL HOLY LAND TOUR 2023

Date: June 24–July 5, 2023

Hosted by: **Jill Czelusta**

You are invited to join a 12-day, biblical Holy Land tour with Bridges for Peace representative host Jill Czelusta. Journey through the Land of the Bible to experience the Scriptures coming alive for the journey of a lifetime.

### PASTOR’S STUDY TOUR

Date: January 23–February 2, 2024

Hosted by: **Randy Alonso & Ron Wexler**

This unique study tour will bring you up close and personal to the Land of the Bible, while introducing you to a wonderful Israel ministry, Bridges for Peace. You will be enriched with knowledge and experience that will broaden the scope of your understanding and ministry.

For more details on tours, see contact information on page 2.



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**Bilingual Administrative Assistant**  
(Fluent in English and Russian)

**Graphic Designer**

**Home Repair Team**

**Journalist**

**Proofreader**

**Web Developer**

Join our team of volunteers in Israel  
to make a difference in the lives of the Israeli people.

# TU BISHVAT CHICKEN

## INGREDIENTS

8 chicken thighs  
Salt & cracked black pepper to taste  
Olive oil for frying  
1 yellow onion, sliced  
12 cloves of garlic, crushed  
5 carrots, peeled and sliced in rings  
½ cup roasted almonds, chopped  
2 cups mushrooms, sliced  
1 tsp cinnamon  
2 tsp turmeric  
2 tsp paprika  
1 tsp rosemary  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp pepper  
1 cup dried apricots, halved  
1 cup dates, chopped  
2 Tbsp date honey (or regular honey)  
3 cups broth or stock of choice  
3 cups spinach  
\*Optional: ½ cup green olives, pitted and sliced

**IN FEBRUARY**, Israel celebrates *Tu BiShvat*, a holiday known as the new year for the fruits of the trees.

Leviticus 19:23–25 prohibits eating fruit from trees during the first three years. In the fourth year, the fruit yield belongs to God. Only from the fifth year is the fruit for the enjoyment of the people. On *Tu BiShvat*, each tree in the land is considered to have aged one year, thus making it the new year for the fruits of the trees.

It is also an opportunity for joyous celebration. On the eve of *Tu BiShvat*, families and friends gather around dinner tables groaning with dishes made from the seven species: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (Deut. 8:8).

This savory braised chicken with a hint of sweet is the perfect dish for any *Tu BiShvat* table, combining two of the species in one pan. Enjoy with cooked wheat or barley to give it an added *Tu BiShvat* twist.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Season chicken pieces with salt and pepper to taste.
2. In a large pan with a tight-fitting lid, heat the oil until slightly smoking. Sear chicken pieces on both sides, making sure the skin is golden brown.

3. Remove chicken from the pan and set aside.

4. Add more oil to the pan, and over medium heat, sauté onions, garlic and almonds until onions are translucent.

5. Add carrots and cook for 5–10 minutes, until the carrots soften.

6. Add mushrooms and cook for a further 3 minutes.

7. Add the spices and toss until combined with the vegetables.

8. Add the dried fruits and date honey and pour in the broth or stock.

9. Stir until combined and bring to a simmer.

10. Add the chicken pieces back to the pan. (Also add the olives if you choose to use them.)

11. Cover with the lid and allow to simmer over medium heat for 45 minutes or until the chicken falls off the bone.

12. Add spinach, stir until combined and cook for a final 5 minutes.

13. Serve this dish warm over rice or couscous.

Serves 8



# Israeli Flag in Space as NASA Shoots for the Moon

**The deep-space flight** via the Orion spacecraft in the mission called Artemis I, which was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is currently orbiting the moon with two mannequins aboard—both sporting an Israeli flag.

If successful, the experiment may lay the foundation for sending astronauts to the moon within the next few years, and even contribute to studies on humans' long-term presence in space.

The crew aboard the spacecraft consists of mannequins Zohar and Helga. Zohar is wearing an AstroRad radiation protection vest developed by the Israeli company StemRad. The vest is meant to protect astronauts from harmful radiation and cosmic rays in space.

After the launch, NASA published photos of Zohar and Helga in space. In the picture, Helga's suit shows the flags of Germany, Israel and the US.

On the Israel Space Agency account, Zohar tweeted in Hebrew: "Hi Helga and Commander Moonikin Campos. I already see the Moon. Come for a selfie?"

"Are you ready? Smile and say hello!" the NASA Artemis Mission account replied, after which the official account of the German space agency DLR replied, "Hallo, shalom!"

"This is my favorite moment so far," Zohar replied, including a cartoon of the three taking a selfie with the Moon in the background.

SpacEL, the Israeli organization that was part of the Beresheet lunar probe launch, addressed the chain conversation: "Hi Zohar, Helga and Moonikin—we took a selfie on the Moon first!" Attached to the Hebrew Tweet was the famous image of the Beresheet probe.

The NASA Artemis Mission account replied, "We're having a lot of fun here. Wait until you see our pictures from the orbit around the Moon!"

SpacEL answered: "We hope you reserved a parking spot for us, we'll be on our way soon. In 2025, two Beresheet 2 landers will land on both sides of the Moon!"

Yaron Drukman, *Ynetnews*

## Five Israeli Universities among Top Producers of Entrepreneurs

Tel Aviv University

**PitchBook published** its annual ratings for the universities that produce the most venture capital-backed entrepreneurs—with no less than five Israeli universities featured among the top 50 and one within the top 10 for undergraduate programs, the *Times of Israel* reports.

Tel Aviv University was first among the five Israeli universities, coming in at 7th place, one spot up from the previous four years when it took the 8th spot. The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology placed 15th, followed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at number 31, the Reichman University at 38 and finally, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev ranked 45th.

The PitchBook data revealed that the undergraduate programs at Tel Aviv University yielded a whopping 814 students who graduated to become founders of 677 companies, generating some US \$26.5 billion between January 1, 2012 and October 21, 2022, the *Times of Israel* reports.

Ilse Strauss, *Bridges for Peace*

# Google Opens High-tech School in Israel

**Alphabet Inc.'s Google** and Israel's Reichman University have established a school to train high-tech professionals. The school will offer courses in computer programming, sales and data analysis, among other subjects.

"We believe that a variety of voices, opinions and perspectives enriches Israeli high-tech and its developments," said Barak Regev, managing director of Google Israel.

Although Israel has a thriving high-tech sector, a significant shortage of experienced tech professionals has resulted in tens of thousands of open job offerings.

The School of High Tech in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, will subsidize students from various communities "including women, the ultra-Orthodox, Arabs, members of the Ethiopian community and people from the geosocial periphery and disadvantaged socioeconomic groups," the university said.

Students who complete the courses will receive credit towards a degree, the university announced. The program will include core academic studies.

*Jewish News Syndicate*



## Solar Energy for Desalinated Water

**Israel recently signed** a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to progress a year-old agreement to provide Israel with clean energy and Jordan with water.

The three nations signed the agreement at the COP27 climate conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The agreement will see Israel construct a desalination plant on the Mediterranean coast from which parched Jordan can purchase more water. Jordan, in return, will build a solar field in its desert to provide Israel with clean energy. A firm from the UAE will build the solar field in the Hashemite kingdom, the *Times of Israel* reported.

The solar plant in Jordan will have a 600 MW storage capacity, and the desalination plant in Israel is set to provide Jordan with 200 million cubic meters of water each year.

The MOU declared that the water and energy projects have been undergoing feasibility studies, according to the *Times of Israel*, and that they show "positive potential prospects."

The deal was brokered by the UAE and the US and is a byproduct of the 2020 Abraham Accords in which the UAE and Bahrain normalized ties with Israel, following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

*Kate Norman, Bridges for Peace*





# Bridges for Peace

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

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

**FOOD:** You can help feed over 24,000 needy Israelis in 40 communities every month by supporting our food bank in Jerusalem.

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

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

**ADOPT AN ISRAELI TOWN:** Show compassion to needy families by supporting one of 23 Israeli towns that are experiencing severe economic hardship. We work with community officials across Israel to ensure that those in need are fed.

**PROJECT RESCUE:** We help the Jewish people of the Diaspora return to Israel. Your financial assistance helps pay for passports, visas, ground transportation, lodging and more. Thus far we have helped rescue over 93,000 people.

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

**IMMIGRANT WELCOME GIFTS:** Welcome new immigrants to Israel with a large gift package that includes a kitchen set of pans and utensils, blankets, school kits for children and a 1-volume Hebrew-Russian or 2-volume Hebrew-Spanish edition of the Hebrew Scriptures.

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

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

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

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



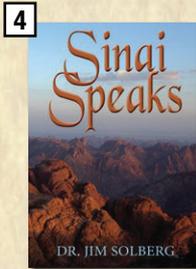
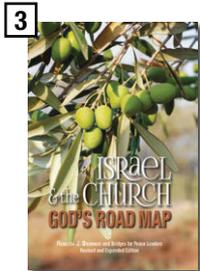
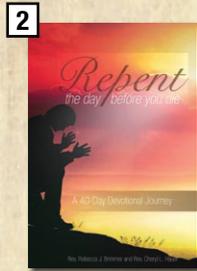
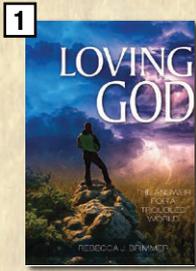


*Thus says the Lord  
GOD: "I will gather  
you from the  
peoples, assem-  
ble you from the  
countries where  
you have been  
scattered, and  
I will give you  
the land  
of Israel."*

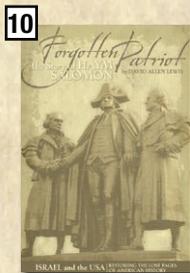
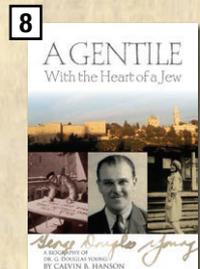
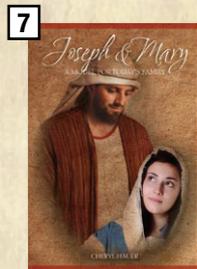
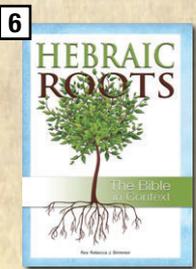
Ezekiel 11:17

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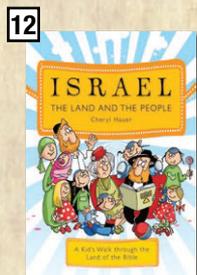
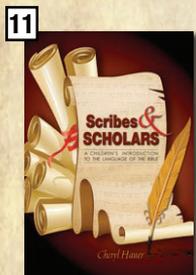
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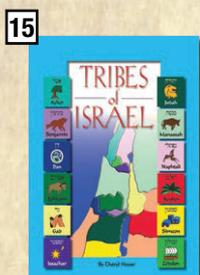
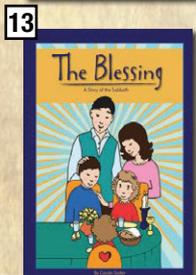
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