

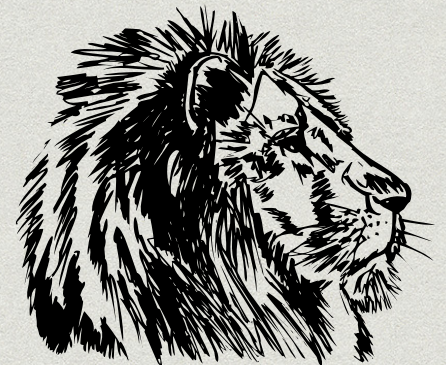
HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF DEC 15, 2017



KEEPER

HOLYGROUNDEXPLORATIONS.COM



HEADLINES

Pope Francis joined a chorus of negative reactions to Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state and move its embassy there.

Through gritted teeth, Britain described the move as "unhelpful" and France as "regrettable." Germany said plainly that it "does not support" Trump's decision. The European Union expressed "serious concern."

Nikki Haley blasts Security Council - The U.N. "has outrageously been one of the world's foremost centers of hostility toward Israel," Israel should never be bullied into an agreement and the U.S. "will not be lectured" on its credibility, she says.

Head of Hamas's political bureau Ismail Haniyeh said during an interview to a Palestinian television channel Friday evening that, "Anyone thinking we will be satisfied with mere protests is dreaming."



JERSUSALEM BUZZ

The move sends exactly the right message to the Palestinians: your continued attempt to eliminate the Jewish state of Israel will cost you.

The Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim obsession with Jerusalem stems not from a religious interest in the city but a desire to control it. Put differently, where Zionists tread, Palestinians follow.

Good for Trump ignoring threats of the Arab street rising up; the riot veto must not be allowed to determine policy. **D. Pipes**



ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Some have argued that the United States should not recognize Jerusalem because it will stimulate violence by Arab terrorists.

No American decision should ever be influenced by the threat of violence.

Terrorists should not have a veto over American policy. If the United States were to give in to the threat of violence, it would only incentivize others to threaten violence in response to any peace plan.

So let's praise President Trump for doing the right thing by undoing the wrong thing President Obama did at the end of his presidency.



UN SECURITY COUNCIL

One by one, 14 members of the U.N. Security Council spoke out against President Donald Trump's decision to recognize [Jerusalem](#) as the capital of Israel at an emergency meeting on Friday, some with regret and some with anger at the 15th member, the United States.

Traditional U.S. allies in the Security Council, including Britain, France, Sweden, Italy and Japan, criticized Trump's decision, all insisting that Jerusalem's status must remain unresolved until final Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.



MORE BACKLASH

The Palestinian leader (Mahmoud Abbas) said he remains committed to a two-state solution but as U.S. mediation was no longer "acceptable," he would push for the U.N. to assume responsibility and "find a new mechanism" for resolving the conflict.

Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was decried by Palestinians and others in the region as a provocative show of pro-Israel bias, making it difficult for Abbas to justify dealing with Washington as a mediator.



HASSAN NASRALLAH

"At rally, Hezbollah chief vows to return focus to Israel" by Bassem Mroue:

"Chanting "Oh America, you are the Great Satan," while pumping their fists in the air, men, women and children marched through streets of Hezbollah's southern Beirut stronghold...

At the rally... Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said he hoped the "foolish decision" would mark the "beginning of the end" of the Jewish state... Nasrallah called on Palestinian armed groups... to come up with "unified strategy" to confront Trump's decision." [[AP](#)]



TURKISH THREAT

"[T]hose who think they own Jerusalem better know that tomorrow they won't be able to hide behind trees," Erdogan said, according to a translation by dissident Turkish journalist Abdullah Bozkurt. Last year, Erdogan shut down Bozkurt's former newspaper, *Today's Zaman*, which had Turkey's largest circulation.

"[This is] a veiled threat of killing each and every Jew with a shocking reference to apocalyptic prophecy of tree story," Bozkurt wrote. The full hadith says: "The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews, and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: 'Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him.'"

Erdogan invoked the passage during a Justice and Development Party (AKP) gathering on Sunday, just days after President Trump proclaimed [Jerusalem to be Israel's capital](#) and pledged to move the US embassy there. Erdogan also accused Israel of being a terrorist state.

Under Erdogan, Turkey has harbored and funded Hamas terrorists, provided covert support to ISIS and other jihadists in Syria, and bombed civilians belonging to his own Kurdish minority.



CZECH'S WEIGH IN

Czech President Milos Zeman charged (EU) countries with being “cowards” in their response to Trump’s historic recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

“The EU, cowards, are doing all they can so a pro-Palestinian terrorist movement can have supremacy over a pro-Israeli movement,” said Zeman.

Zeman said Friday he was happy about Trump’s announcement and that he had himself spoken in favor of Prague moving the Czech embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv on a visit four years ago.

Conclusions,” it “considers Jerusalem to be the future capital of both states, meaning the State of Israel and the future State of Palestine.”



US - GOLAN NEXT?

After President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Israel's Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer encouraged the White House to now consider Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.



The Golan Heights is an "issue that we've raised many times. We think all governments should recognize our sovereignty there," Dermer explained in an interview with *Jewish Insider*. "Maybe we'll have another historic day during the Trump Presidency."



FRIENDS OF ZION

At the ceremony, Evans directly addressed Trump, saying, "No president in history has ever built such an alliance for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and no president has courageously stood up for the State of Israel on the global stage as you have, Mr. President."

"President Trump's historic recognition of Jerusalem will secure his place in history as the first American president to take that step since the founding of the State of Israel in 1948," Evans said.

The award was established by the late President Shimon Peres, the museum's first international chairman, "to recognize a global leader with courage to stand with the nation of Israel and the Jewish people," according to Evans.



HONEY TRAP?

Trump's declaration could be nothing but a honey trap. The Israeli political right has been depicting Trump as Judah Maccabee, the Jewish leader who defeated the Greeks and handed the Jewish Temple back to the Jews more than 2,000 years ago.

If the US real estate mogul ever hands Israel the bill for the West Bank land it has been using (without permission???) for 50 years, the right will have a hard time transforming Trump's image into that of the wicked Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes.



ROCKET HITS SDEROT

A rocket fired by Gaza Strip-based terrorists hit a kindergarten in the southern city of Sderot on Friday.

Three sirens rattled Israel on Friday evening, at 6:05 p.m., 7:09 p.m. and 9:55 p.m., alerting residents to incoming rocket fire.

The IDF said all three rockets appeared to have been aimed at Sderot. The first projectile was intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system deployed in the area. It is believed the second rocket hit an open area in the Shaar Hanegv Regional Council. The third rocket apparently hit the yard of the kindergarten and also caused some damage to the building.



SEA OF GALILEE



The Sea of Galilee's ever-dropping water level is causing rising salinity in the reservoir and harming the quality of the water, Hadashot news reported Tuesday.

Israel's Water Authority is hard at work on projects to pump out salt water from the lake. The Authority says it is currently extracting about 17,000 tons of salt each year. Hadashot reported that many northern streams that feed the Sea of Galilee have dried up due to the ongoing drought.

In October the Water Authority warned that the Sea of Galilee was at a dangerously low level and expected to reach "the lowest level ever recorded." The north must receive at least 85 percent of the winter average rainfall this winter or the country can expect major streams and water sources to dry up, including the Banias River in the Golan Heights, something that has not occurred since meteorological record-keeping began in the region more than 100 years ago, said Water Authority spokesman Uri Schor. Last year, northern Israel received just 10% of the average winter rain.



BIBI vs BASHAR

DID YOU KNOW?

People across the Middle East view Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a more negative light than any other Middle Eastern leader, including Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, who has presided over a nearly seven-year civil war that has seen hundreds of thousands killed, created millions of refugees and thrown the region into turmoil.



THIS WEEK'S QUOTES

PA: Jews have no history in "Palestine" - Israeli archaeologists have searched for the last 70 years and have not found a single archaeological remnant related to the...Temple or... to Jews in Palestine in general".

* **PA TV:** There is "no documentation" the Western Wall was ever a "place of worship" for Jews before the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917.

* **Abbas' advisor:** "[The Jews have] no connection to this land, not religiously or historically"

* **PA minister:** "Israel's claims regarding the finding of Jewish antiquities are a clear falsification of the city [of Jerusalem's] history"

* **PLO official:** Jewish historical ties to the land are "a Zionist invention;" Jews are in "Palestine" only because "Europe wanted to get rid of them"

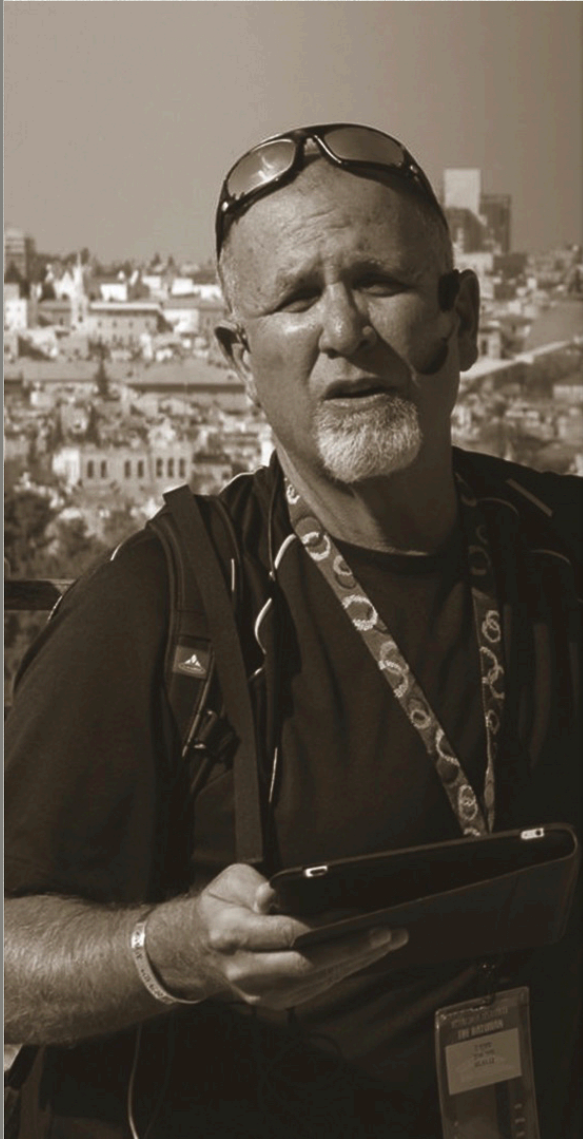
"Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil." - Thomas Mann



HAPPY HANUKKAH



HGE UPCOMING TOURS



ANTHEM CHURCH TOUR

FEBURARY 8-16, 2018



EXPERIENCE ISRAEL

APRIL 22 - MAY 1, 2018

**For more information go to our website
at www.holygroundexplorations.com
or email sharon@hgexplorations.com**

WEBSITE - www.holygroundexplorations.com

FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/holygroundexplorations

TWITTER - https://twitter.com/stolebarger_dan

INSTAGRAM - <https://www.instagram.com/danstolebarger/>

YouTube - Weekly ME Update -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ZuVTJAfG0STUFQjWwnz3A>



KFIR PRAYER ROOM - www.facebook.com/groups/kfirprayergroup/

KFIR TORAH STUDY - www.facebook.com/groups/625285310974663/

Email - dan@hgexplorations.com or dan@hgkfir.com