

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

April 2017

\$2.25

**Israel: A Very Special  
People – Part 9**

## **Exodus from Egypt**

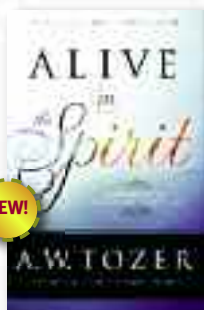
**Illegal Homes  
Demolished  
Page 21**

**Entrepreneurship  
Knows No Borders  
Page 22**

**Hundreds of Jewish  
Grave Markers Vandalized  
Page 24**

**Visas for Israeli Tourists • Court Says Torching Synagogue an Act to 'Criticize Israel'**

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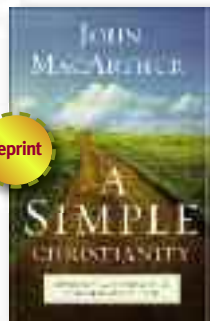
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## 4 Editor's Note *By Fredi Winkler*



## 6 Cover Story Israel: A Very Special People – Part 9. Exodus from Egypt. *By Thomas Lieth*

God saw to it that the  
people of Israel could go  
the right way, even at night—just as today  
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of arriving safely at the goal, if they are  
following Jesus Christ and trusting in Him.

## 14 Second Message The Remarkable Story of Queen Esther Part 2 *By Norbert Lieth*

## 18 Action for Israel *By Arno Froese*

## 21 On The Horizon

**21 ISRAEL**  
Illegal Homes Demolished

**22 ISRAEL**  
Entrepreneurship Knows No Borders

**24 USA**  
Hundreds of Jewish Grave  
Markers Vandalized

**26 NORTH KOREA**  
Visas for Israeli Tourists

**28 GERMANY**  
Court Says Torching Synagogue  
an Act to 'Criticize Israel'



# Dear Friends of Israel,

**BY FREDI WINKLER**



**F**or those who believe in the truth of the Bible, the modern nation of Israel is undoubtedly the strongest, visible evidence that God fulfills His promises. As to the question of how things will continue in Israel, there are varying opinions. That is the case even among the Jews.

Considering this topic, it's actually incredible that in Israel and among the Jews, there really isn't any discussion about the coming Messiah, as described in the Bible. The only groups in Israel that have some conscious level of messianic awareness are the religious Jews, and in particular, those who have settled in the Palestinian zones. They view the settlements as fulfillment of biblical promises, such as the statement in Jeremiah 31:5, "You will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria."

The biblical context from which that statement is taken, however, indicates that this promise will occur during the messianic reign. When interpreting end-time prophecies from the Bible, it's always important to pay close attention to the time in which they will apply.

Paul wrote to his disciple Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15, to be someone who rightly divides the word of truth. Among other things, that surely meant that he was to properly indicate who the



words applied to and in which timeframe they occur, just as Peter stated in 1 Peter 1:11.

For example, in Isaiah 61:1-2, it's clear just how important it is to rightly divide God's Word. When Jesus Himself interpreted these verses in Luke 4:16-21, He stopped in mid-sentence and said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," even though the text in Isaiah continues. Jesus was telling that audience that the first part of the prophecy pertaining to the "Year of the Lord's favor" was being fulfilled, but the remainder of the prophecy that pertains to the "Day of vengeance of our God" was still in the future.

These same problems with interpretation can be found in the end-times promises for Israel. Many of them clearly apply to the gathering of the Jews in Israel before the coming of the Messiah, or the return of Jesus. Other prophecies, though, apply to His return in power and glory and the messianic reign that will follow His return. Those prophecies do not apply to the current situation in Israel.

When we consider present-day Israel, we must always keep these important facts in mind. The gathering and return of Israel in its homeland is actually a pretty amazing event. Israel has done great things since the founding of the modern state, and it is at the forefront of technology in many areas, but we cannot confuse these events with the promised messianic reign.

Ben-Gurion once said, "We're going to bring the messianic age to the world through our science, research and development." Perhaps some in Israel are expecting a manmade messianic age, instead of the coming of the biblically-promised Messiah. In fact, there will not be a glorious messianic age without the coming of the promised Messiah in person. The messianic reign that is promised in the Bible does not depend on human success and progress, but rather on the person of the Messiah. Therefore, the hope in the return of the Lord Jesus, the greatest Son of Israel, is the hope that surpasses all human hopes.

Greetings to you in this glorious hope,  
Shalom,

*Trevor Winkler*





Cover Story

Israel: A Very Special  
People – Part 9

# Exodus from Egypt

BY THOMAS LIETH



Exodus 14:13-14, “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

Moses and his brother Aaron came before Pharaoh to bring him God’s message, “And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go” (Exodus 5:1-2).

We see here Pharaoh’s pride and contempt for the living God, but God does not let Himself be scorned (Psalm 59:8). In the further course of the story, we see that Pharaoh

hardened his heart again and again and was not willing to let the Hebrews go; on the contrary, the Israelites suffered even more (Exodus 7:4).

Then God sent the 10 plagues on the Egyptians, which ultimately forced Pharaoh not only to let the Israelites go, but also to chase them out. Of the tenth plague we read, “And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his

► “And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said.”

servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also” (Exodus 12:29-32).

What a contrast! First, we see how Pharaoh stubbornly refuses to hear Israel's plea and how he scorned the almighty Creator, the God of Israel. Now he can't get rid of them fast enough; he even asked for the blessing of the God whom he did not know. So finally the people went on their way (Exodus 12:33-42) in the direction

of the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17-22).

God was always with His people, day and night. Through the fact that God Himself lit the way, the great number of people could see where to go (think of how Jesus said later on that He was the light of the world: John 8:12). Just imagine how overtaxed Moses and the people would have been without the leading of God! They were about three million people; how could Moses have called to them, “Follow me!” How many of them would have gotten lost? Total chaos would have been predicted: a completely unnerved Moses and a panic-stricken, million-strong people. But God was their leader, and He saw to it that the people could go the right way, even at night—just





► Just imagine how overtaxed Moses and the people would have been without the leading of God! They were about three million people; how could Moses have called to them, “Follow me!”

as today everyone can be sure, even in dark hours, of arriving safely at the goal, if they are following Jesus Christ and trusting in Him (see John 1:1-18; 3:16-21; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35).

Pharaoh soon forgot his decision, however: “If only we hadn’t let them go! Now we have no more slaves!” And so he commanded that the Hebrews should be

brought back. Thereupon Pharaoh and the Egyptians chased after the Israelites.

“And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt,

## Exodus from Egypt

► God saved His people from the Egyptians and delivered them from slavery.

hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness” (Exodus 14:10-12).

How ungrateful and forgetful this people were. Had not the Israelites complained a short while before over the slavery under the Egyptians? Had they not cried to their God that He would liberate them from their bondage (Exodus 2:23; 3:7)?

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to day:

for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:13-14). God delivered the people in that He caused the sea to go back, and the children of Israel crossed the sea on dry ground. When the Egyptians pursued them, they all drowned.

A little boy once said, “That was not a miracle: it was low tide when the Israelites crossed the sea.” Someone answered him, “Hallelujah! An even greater miracle, that the Egyptians drowned in this puddle!” Thus, God saved His people from the Egyptians and delivered them from slavery. In remembrance of this event, in Israel the Passover is still celebrated today (Deuteronomy 16:1). (NAI1216/825)

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# Why Unfulfilled Prophecy?



MIDNIGHT CALL

*"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3b).*



This question was asked by the Jewish disciples during the time when Rome ruled. Jesus had just told them in view of the temple: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:2b). History tells us that this was fulfilled when in 70 AD, the Roman forces destroyed the temple in Jerusalem, and literally not one stone was left upon another. Worse yet, archaeologists have tried for centuries to identify stones from the temple, but can find none.

Archaeologist Randall Price will surely reveal fascinating details about the temple at the 2017 Prophecy Congress.

Jesus' seven word reply to the disciples' question is immensely important: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matthew 24:4b). He is not talking about the political

world, the economy, globalism or conspiracy, but very personally prioritizes the spiritual aspect: "Take heed that no man deceive you." This is of utmost importance for Christians living in our days. We are being bombarded with all kinds of news from around the world on a daily basis. Anyone at any time can find out what's happening in India or Australia, in Argentina or the USA, in Canada or Turkey. The news is at our fingertips, but the danger is that we permit ourselves to drown in the volume of news and neglect to "take heed." That is one major reason for our 2017 Atlantic Coast Prophecy Congress.

The Bible does not leave us in the dark. Speaking of the world at large, Jesus had this to say: "... And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not

yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers [various] places" (Matthew 24:6-7). Certainly this is applicable for our days, just as it was for the last two thousand years. War has not been eliminated, famine and pestilences are still a reality; and we often hear of earthquakes in various places. Gain more insight into what it all means and how we should interpret these things at this important Bible prophecy event.

You will certainly be blessed by the fellowship of many believers like yourself, who love the Lord, His prophetic Word, His chosen people of Israel, and most importantly, are excited for His imminent return!

Although we are still six months away from these important dates, I cannot emphasize enough the importance for you to make your reservation as soon as possible. Accommodations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Besides, your early registration will greatly encourage the staff of Midnight Call Ministries.

- *What can we expect in the near future?*
- *Will American experience a change?*
- *What will Israel do about the potential nuclear threat of Iran?*
- *Does Russia have peaceful intentions?*
- *How far will Europe progress toward their motto: "United in diversity"?*
- *Is China to play an important part in Bible prophecy?*
- *...And much, much more.*

**"You owe it to yourself to hear, firsthand, what Bible scholars say about the future, highlighting unfulfilled Bible prophecy."**

#### TOPICS INCLUDE:

##### **Randall Price**

- Is the Temple Mount the Heart of the Millennium?
- The Latest Preparations to Rebuild the Jewish Temple
- The Prophetic Restoration of Israel in the NT

##### **Ron Bigalke**

- Thinking Biblical Concerning Government
- The Fulfillment of Bible Prophecy

##### **Thomas Ice**

- Last Days Scoffers
- The 70 Weeks of Daniel
- Signs of His Coming

##### **Wilfred Hahn**

- Anxiety Merchants and Profiting False Prophecy
- Amazing Unfulfilled Prophetic Trends

##### **Arno Ribese**

- Why Unfulfilled Prophecy
- Light and Darkness
- Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?



## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**Randall Price** is the founder and President of World of the Bible Ministries, Inc. and is Distinguished Research Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Judea Studies at Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia). He is also Adjunct Professor of Archaeology at Dallas Theological Seminary in California. He has taught at the University of Texas (Austin), The International School of Theology, Trinity Southwest University, and Orinda College. He has done postgraduate work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has served as Director of Excavations on the Qumran Papyrus in Israel since 1980. He and his wife Barbara have four daughters and one son, and seven grandchildren.



**Thomas Isa** is Executive Director of The Pre-Trib Research Center in Kufati, Texas that he founded in 1990, with Dr. Tim LaHaye in research, travel, and defend the pre-tribulation rapture and related Bible prophecy theories. He has authored and co-authored over 30 books, written hundreds of articles, and is a frequent speaker at churches and conferences. He has served as a pastor for 17 years. He has a B.A. from Howard Payne University, a T.M.B. from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. from Tyndale Theological Seminary and done doctoral studies at the University of Wales in Lampeter. He lives with his wife Janice in Kufati, Texas and they have three grown sons and six grandchildren.



**Don Biggar** is the Georgia State Minister with Capital Commission, and missionary with Biblical Ministries Worldwide. Dr. Biggar has more than twenty years of experience in numerous disciplines and evangelistic ministries. He has instructed courses for Moody Bible Institute and Tenside Theological Seminary. His church and leadership experience includes conference speaking, pastoral ministry, publishing and youth ministry. Dr. Biggar is an ordained minister and member of eschatology exegesis for the topic of Israel with the North American Mission Board, SBC. He and his wife Kristin have two children.



**Wilfred Hahn** comes from Canada. He is known for his writings and insights on present-day world economic and money trends, viewed from a biblical perspective. He has global investment industry experience spanning three decades, having held various executive positions from Director of Research for a major Wall Street firm, to Chairman of Canada's largest global investment group.



**Aron Frosen** is the executive director of Midnight Call Ministries U.S.A. and editor-in-chief of the widely-acclaimed prophetic magazines, *Midnight Call* and *News from Israel*. He has authored a number of well-received books, and has sponsored many prophecy conferences in the U.S., Canada and Israel.

## 2017 ATLANTIC COAST PROPHECY CONGRESS

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Sandy Knotts  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



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*Sandy Knotts*

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Second Message

# The Remarkable Story of Queen Esther

Part 2



BY NORBERT LIETH



### God's Ingenious Timing

It is at once delightful and awe-inspiring to see how the Lord in His omnipotence makes provision, always takes action at just the right moment, and thus forestalls the enemy.

Long before Haman came to power, Mordecai was already employed at the royal palace (Esther 2:19; 3:2-3; 6:12). God had seen to that. Only this circumstance enabled Mordecai to uncover the murder plot against the king involving two other officials. Why? Because he was working alongside the conspirators at the king's palace (Esther 2:21-23). He was no outsider.

Only when Mordecai already had a position at the palace, the book of Esther reports: "After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him" (Esther 3:1). Before the anti-Semite Haman had been given his place by man, Mordecai had already been called by God to the king's palace for employment. Everything was under His control.

God also led Esther to King Ahasuerus, who made her his queen, before Haman's plotting against the Jews even began (Esther 2:17; 4:4).

Mordecai and Esther found themselves at just the right location, without any of their own doing (and it was by no means an ordinary place!), in order to be used by the Lord at just the right moment. And at just the right time, the king could not sleep. At his command the historical archives (chronicles) were brought and portions from them read to him. In this way—again, at just the right moment—Mordecai's good deed became known, through which an assassination of the king was prevented. At just the right moment, Haman was present in the palace, and at just the right moment, Mordecai was rewarded (chapter 6). Even though God waited a while for the sake of a higher purpose, He always intervened at the right time!

"God, where are You? I don't feel Your presence. I can't sense You. Why haven't You answered me yet? Couldn't it be a little faster?" When God takes a long time, it is always for a definite reason.

## The Remarkable Story of Queen Esther Part 2

What is the picture in the Middle East today? We see that enmity toward Israel becomes ever more threatening, pressing from all sides, intensifying as time passes. The whole world seems to not only hear but also accept anti-Semitic defamation. The nations of the world have become desensitized and incapable of distinguishing between truth and lies. Meanwhile, Israel's international position deteriorates daily. Yet God refrains from action...He is waiting. And that is for the best, because His inaction serves a very specific purpose...

We also, you and I, have not been put in this generation without a reason. The Lord has not placed us where we are for our private pleasure. God doesn't begrudge us the good things, but primarily we are where we are in order to complete a task.

Are you looking only for your own comfort, for a nice, quiet life? In that case, you are truly in the wrong place. Mordecai and Esther were not in an easy place, but God expressly wanted to use them there.

The almighty and all-knowing God is always ahead of the enemy,

even when we have the impression that it is the other way around. The Lord does not have to act only with hindsight. He has control of the situation before it occurs; nothing can surprise Him. God reacts long before His enemies take action, even when no one notices it at the time.

### A God Who Doesn't Sleep

God is most clearly present where one senses Him the least. Often, God works in secret (Isaiah 45:15).

Within the book of Esther, God's name is not directly mentioned. For some, this is a reason not to believe in the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the book. Actually, however, this book in particular demonstrates that God is always present. That He, though seemingly in the background, is in the foreground and at work behind the scenes. This book was not written in this manner without reason. God intended that His name not be mentioned in the book of Esther. With this He was pursuing a specific purpose, and thus it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. This ought to encourage us never to believe that God is absent. That is



why His name does not appear in this book, in which His working is so particularly evident.

God uses even the profane and the godless to reach His holy purpose. Nothing can thwart His plan.

Do you have worries and problems? Problems with society, worries in your personal life? In that case I would like to tell you something about worries and problems.

### **Degenerate Society**

In the book of Esther, we are dealing with the time in which a proud, impulsive, unpredictable and alcohol-dependent king was governing. We are dealing with a realization and display of power and wealth that begs its equal in history (Persian kings had diamonds even in their beards). We are looking at a bureaucracy that only cared about its own welfare. We are dealing with a misogynous society. We are dealing with a society where harems and eunuchs existed only for sexual gratification: for one year the women were made beautiful, and when the king called they had to be ready (Esther 2:12). We are look-

ing at a murder plot against the king, which was exposed and recorded in the archives. We are dealing with much fear, unrest and uncertainty. There is corruption, prejudice, slander, cunning, arrogance, intrigue, and deviousness, paired with an unprecedented hatred of Jews. We are dealing with a society which stood in opposition to everything that Judaism stands for; namely, the revelation of God. A whole people was hated because it represented a true God and because its history is God's history (Esther 3:8-11). So, it wasn't enough to kill one man; the whole people had to be annihilated. Under Haman and Ahasuerus, international law was perverted to the detriment of the Jewish people (in 127 provinces), contrary to God's promises.

Here we see indeed how our own time is mirrored or foreshadowed. We see how quickly a morally and ethically degenerate humanity turns against the Jewish people, because they are the visible evidence of the reliable statements of divine promises: human law versus God's law.

**“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” (John 15:18).**

**BY ARNO FROESE**

Theologically speaking, the words Jesus spoke were addressed to His disciples; in the first place the apostles. Except for John, the apostles all experienced the hatred of the world against them. We have no Biblical record of how the apostles' lives ended except for James, who was “put to death with the sword.” Church history fills us in on how the other apostles died.

We may now ask a logical question: why did they have to die? In the first place, to fulfill Scripture: “It is appointed unto man once to die...” But, in the apostles' case, they had to literally and physically partake in the suffering of Christ. To the apostle Peter, Jesus said: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God...” (John 21:18-19a).

The apostle Paul makes this profound statement about his death: “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his

sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Philippians 3:10). The death of the apostles was caused on the one hand by the prince of darkness, the god of this world; but on the other hand, it was fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

About Jesus, we read in John 15:25: “...that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.” These words were fulfillment of prophecy uttered by David: “They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away” (Psalm 69:4). The key words are “hate me without a cause” and “wrongfully.”

All Bible readers know that Israel rejected the Righteous One and chose a murderer instead. Jesus did no one harm, but good, yet He was still rejected. It is this same Jesus who clearly proclaimed: “Salvation is of the Jews.” That is precisely the statement that the world at large collectively hates. Of course, they don't outright say so or proclaim it in the news media, but their actions are much stronger than



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“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1-2).

words. Thus we see, just as Israel rejected the Messiah some two thousand years ago, today the whole world collectively rejects Israel.

Someone may now object: Israel has many friends, and the United States, for example, is Israel’s closest friend. Granted, that is true, but only on the surface. It’s simply a political game; Israel is very beneficial as a friend of the United States.

For example, the most modern, sophisticated weapons have been tested in Israel; much of the know-how comes from Israel, because of their experience defending themselves from their aggressive neighbors—and lately, terrorism.

We all remember when, during the first Gulf War, then president George H. W. Bush proudly proclaimed that America’s Patriot missiles were a guarantee for Israel’s security. The end result, however, was the opposite: not one single Iraqi Scud missile aimed at Israel by Saddam Hussein was shot down by the Patriot system. Israel then took these important defense issues into their own hands, and developed the most accurate anti-missile system in the world,

called the “Iron Dome.” That’s just one of many reasons why the United States, along with much of the Western world, exhibits at least half-hearted support for the state of Israel. But, in the end, the hatred against the Jewish people can no longer be hidden and will burst out into the open.

A recent article by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) investigates why a UK lawmaker, Jenny Tonge, hates Israel without a cause. Here is an excerpt from the article:

Reacting to the record number of anti-Semitic incidents in Britain in 2016, a lawmaker who was suspended from her party for anti-Israel rhetoric accused pro-Israel Jews of creating the situation by not criticizing the Jewish state.

“Do you NEVER consider that the actions of the Israeli government are contributing towards this rise?” Tonge wrote. “If the Board of Deputies and the CST spoke up against the abuse [of] human rights, flagrant disregard of international law and the Geneva Conventions they would do much to improve the situation here.”

Last year, she wrote to *The Guardian*, saying: “It is difficult to believe that a 75 percent increase in antisemitism it reports



have been committed by people who simply hate Jewish people for no reason. It is surely the case these incidents are reflecting the disgust amongst the general public of the way the government of Israel treats Palestinians and manipulates the USA and ourselves to take no action."

-[www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3 February 2017

President of the European Jewish Congress, Moshe Kantor, made this statement in response: "This ambiguity...demonstrates clearly that anti-Semitism requires no outside factors and, without strong action by authorities, will continue to grow."

Thus we see, there is no reason for anti-Semitism; it is simply hatred without a cause. It is the hidden work of the powers of darkness, which desperately seek to hinder the fulfillment

of God's prophecy. They do not want to believe nor accept Jesus' statement: "Salvation is of the Jews," and vehemently oppose God's instruction to the Gentiles: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1-2).

What is Israel's future? We know from Holy Scripture that they have the greatest future of any nation on the planet; but before that prophecy is realized, Israel will be led into the greatest deception ever known, as recorded in John 5:43: "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." (NFI)

"I will bless them  
that bless thee..."  
(Genesis 12:3).

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# On the Horizon



ISRAEL

## Illegal Homes Demolished

Three months after the Jerusalem Municipality announced plans to demolish 14 illegally built homes in east Jerusalem's Beit Hanina neighborhood, government bulldozers razed the first Arab residence there, displacing a family of seven.



**A man walks through the rubble of the Beit Hanina home demolished on orders of the government**



The move comes three weeks after 40 Jewish families from the

West Bank outpost of Amona were forcefully evacuated from their homes, which the High Court ruled were illegally built on Palestinian land.

"In 2016, we saw a record-high number of demolitions in east Jerusalem with 88 residential structures and 48 other structures demolished—rendering 285 people homeless, including 160 minors. This is the highest number of demolitions we've seen since we began systematically collecting data in 2004," said Amit Gilutz.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, however, has long contended that there is no correlation between race, religion and the issuance of housing permits.

"Jerusalem is a unified city," he said. "And all residents are entitled to live wherever they choose as long as they do so in accordance with the law."

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)

23 February 2017

**Commentary:** Anti-Israel sources continue to claim that the Israeli government's actions are illegal, yet totally ignore the fact that those buildings were erected illegally, in



opposition to the prevailing law. The eviction of 40 Jewish families who built their homes on Palestinian land was widely publicized in the Jewish press, but little was said about it in the international media.

Jerusalem, of course, is special; it is the heart of Israel, and the heart of Jerusalem is the Temple Mount—at this time occupied by two religious buildings: the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Under present political realities, it's all but impossible for Israel to build their much-desired temple. Thus, the question: what is Jerusalem's future? Here we read the words of Zechariah 1:14-15: "So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction." 6463

(For more on this subject, read *Why Jerusalem Is Jewish*, ITEM #1070.)



ISRAEL

## Entrepreneurship Knows No Borders

Ahead of Under 30 Summit EMEA, *Forbes* editor Randall Lane lauds Israeli entrepreneurship.



"When you look at the world's great entrepreneurial cities, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are way, way up there, and it's apparent to anyone who spends any time here," Lane said. "We were able to see that the Start-Up Nation reputation is true. The Start-Up Nation ethos is pervasive."

In Lane's mind, Israel provides a "very natural" environment for the summit, due to the country's position as a leading entrepreneurial hot spot combined with its unique cultural ties and history.

"It's an amazing event that happens to be in Israel but also does an amazing job showcasing the Israeli start-up and tech ecosystem—which is why we're here," Lane said.

Approximately 750 young entrepreneurs from 35 countries and 25 industries—40% of whom are CEOs and founders of their ventures—are expected to attend.





**Forbes "under 30" summit.**

"They come early and they stay late and they don't sleep," Lane said.

Like last year, approximately one-third of the participants at this year's summit will come from the US, one-third from Europe and one-third from Israel and the rest of the Middle East and Africa region.

"I was just absolutely struck by the entrepreneurial ethos here, and it's hard to describe if you're not here," he said. "The feeling, the eureka moment, was in the SOSA (South of Salame) Tel Aviv start-up hub. I spoke there and I went up to the roof there, and you could see start-ups as far as the eye can see, all the way to the sea. It has that Silicon Valley feel but with this incredible location and history."

"We really believe that this project is a very positive force for coexistence and for understanding," Lane said. "Entrepreneurship is a universal language. There are no borders."

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 22 February 2017

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### DRONE INTERCEPTED

An Israel Air Force F-16 downed an unmanned aerial vehicle belonging to Hamas, intercepting it after it left the Gaza Strip and bringing it down into the sea before it managed to enter Israeli airspace. "The IDF will not allow any airspace violation and will work with determination against any such attempt," the military said.

Since Operation Protective Edge in 2014, Hamas has invested in its drone capabilities. In recent years its UAVs have on occasion come near, and sometimes breached Israeli airspace, leading the IAF to scramble jets or fire missiles.

-[jpost.com](http://jpost.com)

23 February 2017



**Commentary:** This tiny country on the Mediterranean, surrounded by mostly hostile, Islamic countries, is rapidly developing toward world leadership. Consider that this country, approaching the age of 70, had to literally fight for its existence due to Arab hostility, yet is developing into a leading nation when it comes to knowledge and technology. That is nothing short of miraculous.

One must also consider that Israel's right to the allotted territory, conquered in the process of defending their own life and existence, is constantly called into question by the entire world, yet unjustifiably. We again point to the fact that historically, all nations were founded by the barrel of a gun. Only Israel is apparently not permitted to do so. Nevertheless, Israel's amazing creativeness forces the entire world to take notice, rightly expressed by Mr. Lane's statement: "Entrepreneurship is a universal language. There are no borders." That will be fulfilled only when Jesus returns and reigns from

Jerusalem, implementing righteous law and abolishing all military force. That is Israel's future.



6461

(For more on this subject, read *Miracle of Israel*, ITEM #2303.)



**USA**

## Hundreds of Jewish Grave Markers Vandalized

Police are searching for the vandals who damaged what one local rabbi said [were] nearly 500 headstones at a Jewish graveyard in Philadelphia.



The vandalism comes less than a week after a Jewish cemetery near St Louis, Missouri, was defaced.

[Also,] more than a dozen Jewish Community Centers (JCC) in the US received telephone bomb threats.

The threats were made to JCC locations in Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

"But the fact that there's so many,



**Scores of headstones at a Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia have been broken and overturned, media reports said, in the latest apparent vandalism incident at a Jewish burial ground in the United States.**

it leads one to think it could have been targeted," Mr. Aaron Mallin said about [the] cemetery, which dates back to the mid-1800s.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reports that three adjacent Christian cemeteries were left undamaged.

[One] morning, residents of a Buffalo suburb awoke to find bridges, cars, and a school playground defaced with anti-Semitic words and symbols.

The FBI is currently investigating over 50 hoax bomb threats phoned into Jewish Community Centers in at least 26 states since the beginning of January.

After several days of silence, Mr. Trump denounced the vandalism of the Chesed Shel Emeth cemetery in St Louis, where about 150 graves were desecrated.

-[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), 27 February 2017

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### NATURAL GAS BONANZA

The announcement that the partners of the Leviathan gas reservoir will invest \$3.75 billion in its development is a devastating blow to the BDS movement, Eli Groner, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The development of Leviathan, which is scheduled to take about three years, constitutes both the largest energy project and financial investment in Israel in the country's history.

-[jpost.com](http://jpost.com)

23 February 2017



**Commentary:** Anti-Semitism in the US is as old as the country itself. But the United States was the preferred choice for Jews emigrating from Europe in particular. A study by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reveals that about 20%-25% of Americans are anti-Semitic. The ADL national director, Abraham H. Foxman said, "...while there are many factors at play, the finding suggests that anti-Semitic beliefs endure and resonate with a substantial segment of the population, nearly 35 million people."

Why anti-Semitism? The answer is rather simple: it's the work of the god of this world, the spirit of antichrist, who desperately attempts to invalidate Holy Scripture, particularly promises for Israel's present and future. Moses, at the end of his life, had this to say: "Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places" (Deuteronomy 33:29).

An additional reason for anti-Semitism is to encourage Jews to return

to the land of their ancestors, Israel. "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every



hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (Jeremiah 16:16).<sup>6460</sup>

(For more on this subject, read *Target Israel*, ITEM #2293.)



## NORTH KOREA

### Visas for Israeli Tourists

North Korea has announced that they plan to issue tourist visas to Israelis. The Asian nation has come under major scrutiny from the West for its nuclear program, human rights violations and provocative military exercises—but that's not stopping one Israeli tourism agency. The company has secured an exclusive agreement to issue tourist visas for North Korea and are offering formal, guided trips come Spring and Summer.



According to the agency's estimations, only 100 Israelis have





visited North Korea on organized trips in the past. Up until now, Israelis interested in visiting the controversial nation have had to apply for entry through Chinese tour agencies.

Right now, four tours are being offered from April until May, and travelers are being reassured that the country's military programs and nuclear research will not affect tourism.

[Recently], South Korea claimed that North Korea fired a projectile missile into its eastern sea in a supposed effort to advance its weapons program.

-[www.virtualjerusalem.com](http://www.virtualjerusalem.com)

13 February 2017

**Commentary:** Israelis, according to a recent report, are the most traveled people (per capita) in the world. What is the reason for Israelis traveling so much? According to the prophetic Word, Israel will be the head nation on planet Earth. This requires the population to be acquainted with most, if not all, countries. Among the many promises, we read in Isaiah 42:16: "And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### ATTACK IN PARIS

Two Jewish brothers said they were abducted briefly and beaten by several men in suburban Paris in an incident that ended with one brother having his finger sawed off by an assailant.

The vehicle forced the brothers to stop their car, and they were surrounded by several men whom they described as having a Middle Eastern appearance. The men came out of a hookah café on to the side street, according to the case report published by the news website *JSSNews*.

The alleged attackers surrounded the brothers, then kicked and punched them repeatedly while threatening that they would be murdered if they moved. One of the alleged attackers then sawed off the finger of one of the brothers.

-[jta.org](http://jta.org)

23 February 2017



things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”

That is yet to come.

6457

(For more on Israel’s importance, read *The Case for Zionism*, ITEM #2327.)



**GERMANY**

## Court Says Torching Synagogue an Act to ‘Criticize Israel’

A German regional court in the city of Wuppertal affirmed a lower court decision stating that a violent attempt to burn the city’s Bergische Synagogue by three men in 2014 was a justified expression of criticism of Israel’s policies.



Johannes Pinnel, a spokesman for the regional court, explained

the court’s decision regarding the three German Palestinians who sought to firebomb the Wuppertal synagogue in July 2014. The court said in its 2015 decision that the three men wanted to draw “attention to the Gaza conflict” with Israel and deemed the attack not to be motivated by antisemitism.

The court sentenced the three men—

Muhammad E., 31, Ismail A., 26, and Muhammad A., 20—to suspended sentences for tossing firebombs at the synagogue and causing €800 worth of damage.

The original synagogue in Wuppertal was burned by Nazis during the Kristallnacht pogroms in 1938.

Wuppertal has a population of nearly 344,000 and is located in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

After the court’s ruling, Volker Beck, a leading Green Party MP, said the “attack on the synagogue was motivated by anti-semitism” and blasted the court for issuing a decision stating that the goal of the attack was to highlight the war in Gaza.

“This is a mistaken decision as far as the motives of the perpetrators are concerned,” he said, adding that the burning of a synagogue in Germany because of the Middle East conflict can be attributed only to antisemitism.

“What do Jews in Germany have to do with the Middle East conflict? Every bit as much as Christians, non-religious people or Muslims in Germany, namely, absolutely nothing. The ignorance of the judiciary toward antisemitism is for many Jews in Germany especially alarming,” said Beck.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 14 December 2016

**Commentary:** The article does not



**A window is pictured with the Star of David in a new synagogue in Cottbus, Germany.**

reveal if these three terrorists are German citizens or immigrants, but their action of blind hatred is self-evident. Mr. Beck rightly stated: "Ignorance of the judiciary toward antisemitism...in Germany is alarming."

We ask, what is the reason for anti-Semitism? Contributing factors are education, indoctrination, and consuming selective news. But there is a much deeper reason, and that is simply fulfillment of Bible prophecy, which the god of this world hates with a passion. Yet the words of prophecy shall stand. "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:5-7).

6454

(For more on Israel in prophecy, read *Are We Really Living in the Last Days?* ITEM #2277.)



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### ISRAELI TECH MAKES CARS SAFER

The Jerusalem-based company MobilEye has just installed an automatic collision avoidance system in 4,500 cars in New York City. The cutting edge fleet is operated by ride share companies like Lyft and Uber.

The sensors are able to identify potential dangers in real time, so drivers are given collision warnings immediately. The Israeli company says that as car-sharing becomes increasingly popular, its technology will provide passengers with extra protection and possibly even improve driver performance.

-[virtualjerusalem.com](http://virtualjerusalem.com)  
20 February 2017

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