

ISRAEL

& Christians Today

NEW ZEALAND
and
SOUTH PACIFIC

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Nisan - Lyyar 5782



Understanding Israel and world events from a Biblical perspective

www.c4israel.org.nz | info@c4israel.org.nz



It seemed impossible, but 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Anatoly managed to flee the war together with his wife and daughter. It took three days and six buses to reach a safe place from where they travelled to Israel. For Anatoly this was the second time since 1941 that he had to flee. On the photo left of Anatoly Koen Carlier, on the right his daughter. | Photo: Christians for Israel

special emergency campaign Ukraine

In this special edition of *Israel & Christians Today* you will read more about this difficult and dangerous work in Ukraine. You will read how we may be a comfort and a blessing to the Jewish people, especially in this difficult time. Would you like to pray for our employees and for the Jewish communities in Ukraine and help us with your donation? To donate, complete the coupon on the back page.

Flight from the North

Many centuries ago, the prophet Zechariah foresaw that the Jewish people would have to flee.
Zechariah 2:6 says: "Come! come! Flee from the land of the north".
Nobody could have foreseen how fast it would go.

A few weeks ago, the Russian army invaded Ukraine with unprecedented violence. Millions of Ukrainians have fled, among them many thousands of Jews. Thanks to your support, we have already been able to help thousands of Jews on their way to Israel. Our team in Ukraine works day and night to evacuate Jews from the North to the Promised Land.

Bus Transportation

Our coordinator Koen Carlier in Ukraine: "We help in any way we can: with food, temporary emergency shelter, and evacuation trips. The last few weeks the airspace in Ukraine has been closed: that is why we have arranged bus transport. In Ukraine, we drive people to the border in our own buses. From the Moldovan

border, we have found a Christian bus company that is at our disposal day and night to evacuate people with dozens of buses and bring them to airports in Moldova and Romania. From there, there are daily flights to Israel."

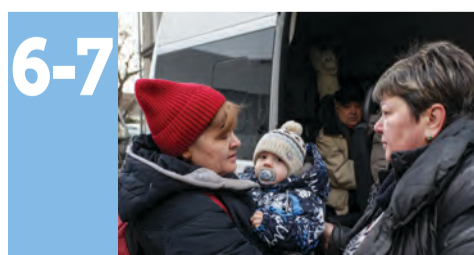
Drivers Wanted

Koen: "We are now also trying to find bus drivers who dare to drive to the east of Ukraine, where the war is even more intense. Some cities are currently partially or completely inaccessible and cut off from gas, water and electricity. We feel a responsibility towards the Jewish communities we have supported for years. Especially in this difficult time, we do not want to let them down".
More about our emergency campaign on pages 6-7 and 16.



3

Jewish Identity Grows



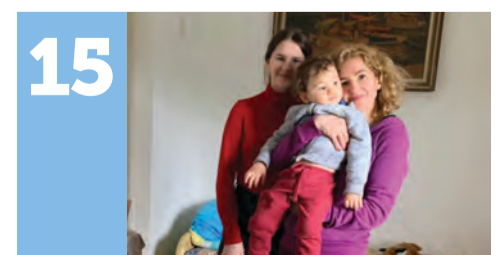
6-7

Emergency Campaign Ukraine



8

Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast:
Estonia



15

The Moment to Act Fast



Israel & Christians Today is the premier publication of Christians for Israel

Colophon

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Mission

Our mission is to bring Biblical understanding in the Church and among the nations concerning God's purposes for Israel and to promote comfort of Israel through prayer and action.

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Whither the New Dis-order?

■ Andrew Tucker

International Editor | Christians for Israel

The tragedy unfolding every day in Ukraine is turning the global world order on its head. Since the fall of the iron curtain three decades ago, it has widely been assumed that global capitalism was the universally accepted currency and that even dictatorial regimes such as China, Iran and Russia could be kept within the fold of 'civilised nations' through the simple imperatives of supply and demand.

That illusion itself has now been shattered. Autocratic regimes motivated by ideology will not be restrained by the liberal norms of the UN Charter and the global economic system that has arisen since WWII.

The existing institutions of governance are being tested. The helplessness of the United Nations could be seen in the pleas of the Secretary-General to Russia to stop the bombing – as if Putin cares for the UN or its related organs such as the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court. He doesn't.

The world is fragmenting into several competing empires, each driven by ideology or religion. One of them is Western capitalism. Others include the regimes of China, Iran, Turkey and Russia, each with its own regional and global ambitions of control and neo-colonialism. These non-Western despots each make cynical use of global institutions as and when it suits their hegemonic aims.

As so often has been the case in history, Israel and the Jewish people are placed precariously at the crossroads. Israel needs Russia in order to counter threats in Syria. We have thus seen Israel play a cautious role over the last weeks. Israeli Prime Minister Bennett even went to the Kremlin for discussions with Putin, at the request of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in an attempt to mediate the conflict.

It is impossible to predict how this will all play out. It is clear Putin will not give up his aims easily. What will convince Russia to stop with its violence? Will it continue beyond Ukraine to threaten or attack other neighbouring states such as the Baltic States or Finland? How will Russia continue its operations in Syria?



| Photo: Shutterstock

Putin's thinly-veiled threats to use nuclear weapons have instilled fear in Western leaders, who are afraid to take any military steps that may provoke Putin to press the button.

Instead, they have resorted to the most extensive regime of sanctions in history that threatens to bring down the Russian economy.

This sanctions regime is a high-risk strategy. It could lead to a humanitarian crisis in Russia, which would ignite further tensions, as was the case in Germany after WWI. The sanctions regime is a new, undemocratic kind of global warfare, fracturing the lines between governments and the private sector undermining ownership structures.

Increasingly, some are seeking to compare Israel with Russia. Western and Islamic nations, as well as China and others, are united in their belief that Israel's 'occupation' of Palestinian territory, and Jewish 'settlements' on those territories, infringe the territorial rights of the Palestinians and constitute flagrant violations of international law. Will Israel be next in line for such sanctions?

Events in Ukraine are just part of a broader picture. In Vienna, the USA and EU have indicated they are prepared to lift the sanctions on Iran, which will receive

an initial cash injection of \$90 billion and an additional \$50 million annually through oil and gas revenues. A deal with Iran would enable Iran to produce nuclear warheads within years. Several top US diplomats have resigned in protest. Russia is playing a key role in these negotiations.

All-in-all, it seems we are witnessing signs of the times preceding the Lord's return –

On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. (Luke 21)

Whatever happens, we can be sure the Lord will bring to fruition the events that are necessary for Israel and the gentile nations to acknowledge His sovereignty: "And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 38).

Let us pray with increasing fervour that the Lord will protect the people of Ukraine and Russia, that President Putin will be convinced (or forced) to terminate the aggression, and that peace will be restored.

Above all, let us pray for the speedy coming of the Messiah to introduce His kingdom of peace and righteousness.

Prayer Points

By C4I Prayer Team

Israel

- Pray that all Ukrainians who recently moved to Israel will soon feel at home in Israel. Pray for comfort and strength for these people, after all they went through during the war.
- Pray for Israel's security. Pray that attacks in the streets with knives or stones will be prevented, and pray that peace and security will prevail at Israel's borders.
- "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14). From April 15 to 23, the Jewish people celebrate Passover. Give thanks that God is present. For He is there when people go through deep valleys and keeps them. Pray for peaceful holidays for Israel and pray they experience God's presence.

Israel & the Nations

- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be

given to you" (James 1:5). Since Israel has good relations with both Ukraine and Russia, Israel is seen as one of the parties that can mediate between the two countries. Pray for wisdom for the Israeli government in this matter.

- Pray for Israel using *Psalms 33:10-11*, "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations."

Christians for Israel

- Pray for the work of Aliyah worker Koen Carlier and his team in Ukraine. Now that war has broken out, many Jews want to leave for Israel, and Koen's team is working around the clock. Give thanks for all the work the team has been able to do and how they experience God's provision. Pray for the protection of the team, blessing on the work and pray that God will provide open doors for Jews to return to Israel.

For daily Prayer Points, go to our website www.c4israel.org.nz

Jewish Identity Grew in Eastern Europe after WWII and the Holocaust



Meeting in the oldest clay synagogue in Europe in Bershad (Ukraine). | Photo: Anemone Rüger

■ Pamela Bruan Cohen

Ukrainian complicity in the Holocaust cannot be denied or absolved. That history cannot be alleviated. Unquestionably, Jewish-Ukrainian history has been fraught with centuries of pogroms and hatred, but the events of the last 30 years have left their mark on the fate of Ukraine and its Jews. In those decades, Jewish emigration and human-rights activists helped alter the face of Ukraine.

Under the USSR's repressive regime, dissidents and Jewish refuseniks—those who were denied exit visas—vigorously campaigned for the basic rights denied by the Kremlin and its Soviet Ukrainian apparatus. These activists demanded freedom of speech, their right to demonstrate, move across borders, and observe the religion and cultures of minorities. For their activity, many were condemned to prison and hard labour in Siberia. Some, like refusenik Vladimir Kislik, the Kiev physicist, were forcibly disposed of in psychiatric institutions, where they were given psychotropic drugs to suppress their 'psychotic dissidence.'

Dr Semyon Gluzman, a Kiev psychiatrist, was sentenced to seven years in a hard labour camp and three in exile for protesting Soviet abuse of psychiatry against dissidents. In Kharkov, Alexander Paritsky was a successful scientist until he

was fired for his visa application. During the 11 years he fought to live in Israel, his attempts to create a Jewish 'university' for refusenik kids, who had been denied a higher education, resulted in a three-year labour-camp sentence. Decades later, his efforts, however, may have found fruition in the officially recognised Jewish day school that was recently bombed in his city of Kharkov.

The relentless demand for human-rights guarantees by Jewish refuseniks and their grassroots partners in the West beginning in 1970, brought about the first cracks in the Iron Curtain. Twenty years later, the Soviet empire dissolved, bringing independence to Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

In 1992, at the request of Ukrainian refuseniks and dissidents, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews—the largest grassroots organisation working on behalf of Jewish emigration—launched the Kiev-based Ukrainian-American Bureau of Human Rights. Headed by the former prisoner-of-conscience, Dr Semyon Gluzman, the bureau monitored human-rights abuses. With the support of Ukraine's democrats, it urged the newly independent government to denounce Jew-hatred and protect their Jewish minority.

At the end of the long struggle, the Soviet borders had collapsed, allowing two million Jews to emigrate. However, after

the Kremlin's dissolution, thousands of Jews remained in Ukraine, some too elderly or ill to move, some Holocaust survivors. It's impossible to know the number of Jews who had tried to shelter themselves from Soviet anti-Semitism by hiding their identity, crawling out from beneath the rocks of the collapsed system, seeking their lost Jewish identity.

And in the post-Soviet era, a new brand of activists assumed leadership roles to create safety nets for those Jews who remained. In partnership, the Union of Councils created 'Yad L'Yad' to jump-start local communal projects. Elimelech Shoikhet, a Lvov refusenik when I met him in 1989, remained to establish a 'Meals-on-Wheels' for the impoverished and elderly and to battle the new government for Jewish property that had been appropriated under communism. Now he's providing housing, provisions and support to Jewish refugees. Religious organisations helped thousands of Jews without communal or family support. Yad Yisrael established an orphanage and an educational and communal complex in Kiev. Chabad has built shuls and schools. Limmud brought in educators. Israelis pursued commerce.

A tolerant new Ukraine has had a unique climate that has allowed thousands of potentially assimilating Jews to develop their identity as Jews. The process that began with Jewish refusenik activists who had the courage and moral vision to resist is now under attack; Israel is evacuating thousands of remaining Ukrainian Jews, and the Jewish people everywhere are united in their efforts to bring them safely to communities awaiting them.

Volodymyr Zelensky is the legacy of the decades-old Jewish movement that impacted his country. Ukraine's president stands as a proud Jew who has exerted moral courage and dignity that has captured the attention and respect of the free world. Tragically, the new Ukraine born out of a struggle for human rights and dignity is gravely at risk.

Pamela Bruan Cohen is the former president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the author of 'Hidden Heroes: One Woman's Story of Resistance and Rescue in the Soviet Union.'



Short News

Girl from Myanmar Undergoes Cardiac Surgery in Israel



Hannah, an eight-year-old girl from Myanmar, was successfully brought to Israel and underwent a life-saving heart operation in the first week of March through the Save a Child's Heart organisation. Hannah was born with a life-threatening heart syndrome. Three years ago, at the age of five, she underwent cardiac surgery in Wolfson Medical Center that required her to return for another operation. However, this was made difficult when a civil war broke out in Myanmar, and flights in and out of the country were stopped. Save a Child's Heart conducted an operation to extract Hannah from Myanmar and bring her to Israel. Funding for the flight and the operation came from Morris Kahn, who has taken a large part in the organisation since it was founded.

Israel's Galilee Chamber Orchestra has US Debut at Carnegie Hall



The Galilee Chamber Orchestra - Israel's first professional orchestra consisting of Arab and Jewish musicians - made its US debut at New York's Carnegie Hall on 18 March. The occasion was the annual Isaac Stern Memorial Concert, which commemorates the life and work of the late Jewish-American violinist and educator, who also had strong ties to Israel, including the founding of the Jerusalem Music Center in 1973.

New Species of Spider Discovered in Southern Israel

A new species of desert cave spider, unknown to the scientific community, was discovered by researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ben Gurion University during five years of monitoring the effects of oil spills in the southern part of the country. The velvety black spider from the Crevice Weaver family was named *Sahastata Aravaensis*. It is considered an indicator of clean soil.

Amnesty's False 'Apartheid' Allegations

■ Andrew Tucker

Director | The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (*thinc.*)

In a 280-page report published on 1 February 2022, Amnesty International alleges that the Jewish State of Israel is based on the systematic and brutal oppression by Jews of non-Jews. Israel deliberately implements 'an overall system of oppression and domination' that 'fragments' and 'segregates' Palestinians (i.e. non-Jews) – both within Israel and within the 'Occupied Palestinian Territories'.

"Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has pursued a policy of establishing and maintaining a Jewish demographic hegemony and maximising its control over land to benefit Jewish Israelis while restricting the rights of Palestinians and preventing Palestinian refugees from returning to their homes. In 1967, Israel extended this policy to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which it has occupied ever since."

Amnesty recommends that countries boycott products from 'settlements', cease supply of arms to Israel, prosecute Israeli leaders and publicly shame Israel.

According to Amnesty, Israel must:

- remove all settlements and 'relocate Israelis outside the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)'
- remove the blockade of Gaza
- dismantle the security barrier
- recognise the right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to return to homes where they or their families once lived in Israel or the OPT and receive restitution and compensation and other effective remedies for the loss of their land and property.

If Israel were to implement Amnesty's recommendations, it would effectively be committing suicide. The fact that Amnesty does not realise how existentially dangerous these recommendations are casts doubt on the sincerity – and credibility – of the authors.

Tellingly, many Israeli Arabs have rejected the findings of this report. Mohammad Kabiya tweeted: "Racist @amnesty in their fake report are calling me, a proud Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Muslim, a 'Palestinian living in Israel.' How dare you define my identity for me."

It is incredible that Amnesty devotes enormous resources to investigating Israel for war crimes – and not make the same investigation in countries like China or Syria. Amnesty's leaders have been unable to explain this choice, except to say that they are responding to a "growing debate by Israeli and Palestinian organisations that have a history of doing work on human rights for decades." The very existence of this debate in Israel is evidence that Israel is NOT an apartheid State - but this fact seems to be lost on Amnesty.

The Amnesty report follows very similar reports published by Israeli human rights organisations like Btselem and the Human Rights Watch report in 2020. The publication of these reports is part of an orchestrated campaign intended to influence the UN Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israel and its leaders. No other UN country – not even Myanmar, China, Syria, North Korea or Saudi Arabia – is subjected to such a flagrant assault within the UN institutions.

'Palestinians'

The report clusters all non-Jews within the term 'Palestinians' and assumes they are a separate 'race'. This is, of course, not true – the non-Jewish population in Israel and the disputed territories comprises a wide mix of different ethnic and religious groups, including Bedouins, Druze, and Aramean Christians – many of whom who are proud Israelis and do not consider themselves to be 'Palestinians'.

The report ignores contrary evidence, such as a 2016 poll carried out by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research showing that '68% of the Palestinians (73% in the West Bank and 59% in the Gaza Strip) describe Israeli democracy as good or very good.'



| Photo: Shutterstock

Factual Inaccuracies

The Amnesty report contains many falsehoods and distortions of the truth. Two examples are the falsified claims of discrimination against Arab property owners in East Jerusalem and false claims about Israel's refusal to allow Palestinians to exercise their 'right of return'.

The Legal Definition of 'Apartheid'

Amnesty bases its analysis on an invented definition of 'apartheid'. In fact, there is no universally accepted legal definition of apartheid, although there does appear to be a consensus that the South African reality between 1948 and 1994 informs our understanding of what constitutes apartheid. The essence of the South African regime was the physical and legal separation of whites from non-whites and the domination of the latter by the former.

The Rome Statute (1998) defines apartheid in Article 7(2)(h) as a crime against humanity where there are inhumane acts of a character similar to other enumerated crimes against humanity (e.g. murder, extermination, torture, rape and forced transfer) committed in the context of an institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups, committed with the intention of maintaining that regime and as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack. Each element of the crime ('inhumane acts,' 'institutionalised regime,' 'oppression,' 'domination,' 'racial group,' etc.) must be carefully defined.

Amnesty applies a much lower threshold. It equates the concept of 'domination' with that of 'control', - which means that any place there is a power differential between countries and/or the existence of minority groups and any situation of belligerent occupation would be the equivalent of apartheid. That is an absurd outcome.

One-sided and Ahistorical Narrative

Amnesty totally ignores the fact that the State of Israel emerged in 1948 precisely as a result of the internationally-recognised right of the Jewish people to a homeland and their unique historical connection with the land. By definition, the State of Israel reflects its Jewish character. That is perfectly legitimate, and Amnesty's denial of the right of the Jewish people to nationhood is a cynical inversion of the concept of 'apartheid'.

Amnesty fails to even hint at the long history of complex and intensive Jewish/Palestinian/Israeli/Arab negotiations and even cooperation over more than a century – both prior to the creation of the State of Israel and since. It also gives no insight into the dilemmas faced by the Jewish State in creating a democratic society in a region that is intrinsically hostile to liberal democratic values and human rights.

Perhaps most problematic is that it ignores the long history of violent hatred of Jews within Palestinian and

Arab society and the fact that Palestinians themselves are largely responsible for their own destiny. For 100 years, the Palestinian leadership has played a decisive role, shaping and determining their people's future by consistently rejecting the existence of the Jewish nation in Palestine – as inter alia demonstrated by their categorical rejection of every peace proposal with Israel – and instigating violence against Jews.

Of course, none of these facts would justify an arbitrary system of 'oppression' or 'domination'. But they explain why Israel protects the position of the Jewish people and why some degree of separation between Israelis and non-Israelis is necessary.

Israel is not perfect, but this report will do nothing to amend those imperfections. Amnesty International's inflammatory and imbalanced report will only serve to foster hatred, mistrust and enmity.

The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation is a European-based global initiative promoting the fair and balanced application of international law to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and the Middle East more generally. www.thinc.info

Palestinian National Council Renounces All Agreements with Israel, including Oslo

(7 March 2022 | JNS) Despite the announcement, nothing has seemingly changed on the ground; the PLO and the Palestinian Authority have not said they were stopping security coordination.

Palestinian National Council deputy chairman Ali Faisal said there is a binding Palestinian decision to "renounce ... all agreements with Israel."

According to a report by Palestinian Media Watch, Faisal said that from the Palestinian leadership's point of view, the Palestinians "have entered a path of resistance in all its forms," indicating that this includes violence as well.

"The decision of the (Palestinian) National Council was a recommendation to the (Palestinian Liberation Organisation) Central Council to renounce all the commitments of the Oslo Accords and stop the security coordination (with Israel)," stated Faisal.

"The Central Council decided to renounce the commitments of all the agreements with the State of Israel, whether by the PLO or the Palestinian Authority," he added.

The PNC is the top authority in the PLO, and it formulates policies and programmes. According to PMW, despite the announcement, nothing has seemingly changed on the ground; the PLO and the PA have not said they were stopping security coordination.

Putin's Troops Ravage Ukraine



12 February 2022: March of Ukrainian protesters against Russian aggression in Kyiv, Ukraine. | Photo: Shutterstock

Clifford D May

Putin's troops ravage Ukraine while his envoy steers Team Biden's talks with Iran.

The Biden administration's behaviour has been shameful and damaging: It is proving the United States to be harmless as an enemy and treacherous as a friend.

We all have our patterns of behaviour.

Start with Vladimir Putin, who has assassinated dissidents over the more than two decades he's ruled Russia, slaughtered Chechens, detached two provinces from neighbouring Georgia, and seized Crimea from Ukraine while fueling conflict in the east of that country. He's also helped the Assad regime kill Syrians—half a million and counting.

On 24 February, Putin again invaded Ukraine. He has been using artillery and unguided bombs to murder men, women and children and reduce cities to rubble. His apparent goal is to subjugate Ukraine, to strip it of its independence, sovereignty and freedom.

Over to President Biden, who, during his first year in the White House, capitulated on the battlefield in Afghanistan to the Taliban, a terrorist organisation joined at the hip to Al Qaeda. He left behind more weapons than a Ukrainian general could dream of. He then declared that mission a success.

Biden now appears eager to capitulate at the negotiating table in Vienna to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a regime that funds and instructs Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Houthis movement in Yemen, whose catchy slogan is "Allah is Greater, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews, Victory to Islam." He'll then declare that mission a success.

While Biden's stated intention is to isolate Putin, his diplomats in Vienna continue to work hand-in-glove with Mikhail Ulyanov, Putin's envoy.

That's because the theocratic regime's negotiators—as a matter of revolutionary Islamic principle—have refused to sit at the same table with Americans. The Biden team has meekly accepted this humiliation.

Ulyanov is reportedly not just a go-between but 'the dominant player,'

proposing compromises to the Americans (who are always flexible) and to the Iranians (who never are).

As for Ulyanov's interests, do you suppose they are peace, international security, nuclear nonproliferation and a 'win-win' outcome? Or does he want to please Putin by helping Iran's rulers further humble and diminish the United States?

On Saturday, Moscow demanded a written guarantee that any sanctions imposed because of its war on Ukraine will not 'in any way damage' its commercial and military relationship with the Islamic Republic. The Biden administration has rejected that demand—for now.

Perhaps you think, as does the US State Department, that "Russia shares a common interest in ensuring Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon." If so, think again.

Putin calculates that any nuclear-tipped ICBMs produced by Iran's rulers will be pointed at America and used to keep America at bay while their proxies conquer and/or destroy more of the Middle East than they already have.

When Biden's 'indirect' talks with the clerical regime began, he vowed to produce a 'longer and stronger' variant of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that former president Barack Obama concluded in 2015 and from which former president Donald Trump exited in 2018. It's now clear that a shorter and weaker variant—more economic relief in exchange for fewer verifiable restrictions—has been taking shape.

It's not only 'sources' who say so. It's also Ulyanov. "Realistically speaking, Iran got more than frankly, I expected, others expected," he told one reporter. "This is a matter of fact."

He added: The "Iranian clerics are fighting for Iranian nuclear—national interests like lions. They fight for every comma, every word, and as a rule, quite successfully."

Biden's deal will provide Iran's rulers with billions of dollars that they can spend on arms and even nuclear power plants (for peaceful purposes only!) from Russia and use to fund terrorists and threaten their American-allied neighbours.

Biden won't submit his deal to Congress

as a treaty (as he clearly should), so it won't bind the next administration. But Russian and Iranian negotiators are reportedly looking for a workaround.

For example, they might persuade Biden to agree that Iran's enriched uranium be stored in Russia, with the condition that it will be returned to Iran if, at any time, Putin and Iran's rulers jointly declare that the Americans are violating the agreement.

Or they might insist on an 'inherent guarantee' that Iran's rulers get to keep their advanced centrifuges on standby with permission to continue enriching at 60% if they decide the US has transgressed.

By contrast, noncompliance and even out-and-out cheating by the theocratic regime will be ignored or forgiven. We know that based on our experience with the JCPOA.

Relatedly, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, said on Saturday that a new deal cannot be concluded unless Tehran first settles outstanding issues relating to nuclear material found at former Iranian nuclear sites that the regime failed to declare.

That will require months. Can a deal be announced before these issues are settled?

Logically no, but, in the current era, logic is not a major component in the patterns of behaviour driving American foreign policy.

Was it logical to respond to Putin's many crimes over the years with a salad of carrots and not enough sticks to make a bonfire?

Was it logical to invite him to partner with the United States in negotiations with Iran's rulers while excluding the American allies most threatened by Iran's rulers?

Is it logical to give the theocrats in Tehran the means to do in the Middle East what Putin is doing in eastern Europe?

The Biden administration—building on the record of too many of its predecessors—has been establishing a shameful and damaging pattern of behaviour: It is proving to be harmless as an enemy and treacherous as a friend.

Clifford D. May is founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) and a columnist for 'The Washington Times.'

Short News

Israel Represented at Paralympic Winter Games for First Time



After the Winter Olympics, the Paralympic Winter Games started in Beijing. For the first time, an Israeli athlete qualified for the Paralympic Winter Games. The 20-year-old Sheina Vaspi from the village of Yesud Hama'ala represented her homeland in various skiing competitions in China. She had lost her left leg in a car accident as a baby and raced down the slopes on one leg. Her poles do not have a tip at the end but are equipped with small 'skis' that improve her balance and control.

Hamas: A Terror Group

Australia has put Hamas on the list of terror organisations. Until now only the military branch was on the list. Australia finds Hamas' ideas very disturbing and believes that there is no place for them in the country.

Sea of Galilee Nearly Full



After times of concern about the water level of the Lake of Galilee (also called Lake Tiberias or Kinnereth) that was in danger of falling too low, the maximum has now almost been reached. At the beginning of March there was still one metre to go to the upper limit. And with the expected rain and snow on Mount Hermon the forecast on the short term is favourable. The Sea of Galilee is Israel's main drinking water supply. Photo: Flash90

No 'Apartheid Label' Israel

"How dare anyone speak of apartheid in a State (i.e. Israel) where Arabic citizens are represented in the Government, in Parliament, in executive positions and in responsible positions, where all citizens, regardless of their religion, understand that their only hope is collective peace." This statement is from the French Prime Minister Jean Castex. He told this to CRIF, the organisation of French Jews, in response to Amnesty International's report that accuses Israel of apartheid.

Our Support



Transportation

Whereas in recent years Koen Carlier and the C4I Ukraine team worked with small vans to bring Jewish people to the airports for departure to Israel, now the situation is very different. The airspace is closed, and many airports have been shelled. Therefore, all transportation has to be by road. The main route is from our shelter in Western Ukraine to the Moldovan border, but we are also trying to organise bus transportation from other parts of Ukraine to our shelter. This is, of course, a challenge. The often already wretched Ukrainian roads are very unpredictable due to war. Bus companies charge high prices to send their buses on the road. Therefore, Koen and his team purchased their own large bus to be used for transportation from the shelter to the border.



"I am not a religious person, but last night there was a call to prayer for all the Jews in the country. We all participated. At 9 p.m. the sirens went off announcing an air raid. We kept praying, and after a while the sirens stopped. They had called off the bombing! These things happen now. So please keep praying for us!"

"We are now preparing a Sabbath meal in the synagogue, which we will share with the Jewish refugees who came from the east. Your donation came just in time - now we can offer everyone a hot meal."

Food Aid

In the weeks leading up to the war, our team in Ukraine took advantage of opportunities to turn donations into extra food parcels and medical support, especially for the needy elderly, many of them Holocaust survivors.

Hundreds of thousands are fleeing to areas where it is safe, but residents of besieged cities and the elderly are stuck in their apartments or bomb shelters. Supermarkets are (almost) empty - people have to survive with whatever they have left at home.

Alexander from the Jewish community in Kherson says, "Your recent donation for hundreds of food parcels was so well timed. Pensions are low; our elderly don't have extra money to stock up on supplies. But because of your help, now that we have nowhere to go, we all have extra food to survive. We can't thank you enough!"

More funding is needed to enable our Christians for Israel team in Ukraine to continue to support the increasing number of Jews in need.



"Yesterday we received your donation. This really saved us, because people are running out of money and have no supplies at home - this affects young and old."

Searching for a Good Evacuation Route

In wartime, everything is uncertain. To help Jews return to Israel, we always work closely with the Jewish Agency. Normally we provide the transportation to the airport and the Jewish Agency organises the welcoming at the airport and the flight to Israel. Because the refugees now have to cross the border first, it was a matter of finding a good alternative solution. The route to the border was quickly found, but beyond the border everything needed to be arranged. Not only transportation, but also accommodation and meals. In the end, we miraculously succeeded in organising this. Buses take the Jewish refugees from the Ukrainian-Moldovan border to the airports of Kishinev and Bucharest, and from there the flights organised by the Jewish Agency leave for Israel.



"Are we Really Safe?"



Ira (41) comes walking with her son David (5) across the bridge that separates Moldova from Ukraine. She comes from Kharkov, which is under siege by the Russians. She spent 24 hours on our bus to get here.

When she sees our team, the first thing she says is, "I can't imagine that bombs won't fall here. Are we really safe? Kharkov was hell, it was just hell".

Before she could flee, Ira spent days in a bomb shelter. With no food, hardly anything to drink or medicine. Sometimes a few people would go out to look for food among the ruins risking their own lives. Ira: "My son David just turned five. We had to celebrate his birthday in the bomb shelter."

Just in Time

Ira's husband is still in the war zone. He cannot leave because Ukrainian men must stay in the country. Only men over the age

of sixty can leave. Later on, Ira mentions that she had to run for her life. Just hours after she fled, her apartment was bombed. She showed us a picture she got from friends who were still there. Her apartment had been completely destroyed.

Saved

Ira is traveling with us via Bucharest to Israel. She has many friends there who are ready to take care of her and her son. "You saved my life. If Christians for Israel had not been here, I might not be alive."

"Thank you so much for not leaving the country. Your help as Christians for Israel cannot be overestimated. It has been so valuable to us."

Miraculously Led

It is almost beyond our imagination how many miracles we were privileged to witness during this emergency situation.

- Evacuation plan**
 In April last year we already felt the necessity to prepare an evacuation plan in case an emergency situation would arise in Ukraine. Under the leadership of Koen Carlier we were able to arrange shelters and stock up on food and diesel at several locations. By doing so, we were now prepared to receive the large stream of refugees and to offer them a warm bed and meals. For now, we have everything we need in stock!
- Beaten Path**
 For many years, the road we now use to bring the Jewish refugees across the border was one of the worst-traveled roads in Ukraine, but last year it was renewed and now there is a well-paved road along which we can travel with our buses!
- God's providence**
 In all the commotion at the onset of the war and the search for solutions, everything was provided for. Just across the border in Moldova, we found a large bus company that was run by Christians! They are now ready 24/7 to take refugees from the border to the airport. Also, accommodations and other necessities have been amply provided for. In times when exorbitant prices are charged due to high demand, we have been able to experience God's providence in many people who selflessly offer help, in whatever form!

Prayer Points

Pray...

- For our team in Ukraine - for peace, wisdom and strength, to make the right decisions in this crisis.
- For the Jewish community in Ukraine. Many are desperate and do not know who to turn for help.
- Especially for the elderly and Holocaust survivors. All the traumas of World War II are resurfacing.
- For the Jewish Agency (the organisation for the emigration of Jews to Israel) and the Israeli Embassy, for the proper coordination of emergency aid and evacuation efforts.

Pray on the basis of the following Bible verses...

- For wisdom for politicians and people in positions of authority: *1 Timothy 2:1-4*
- For a quick cease-fire: *Psalms 140:8*
- For protection of the civilian population, against panic: *Deuteronomy 33:26*
- For the Jews in Ukraine, and for the return: *Isaiah 43:4-6*

Emergency Aid Ukraine

How can I help?

Transport for a Jewish refugee		\$ 160 NZD
Transport for a small family		\$ 635 NZD
One bus		\$ 6315 NZD

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL NEW ZEALAND

Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast: Estonia



Tallinn, Estonia at the old city. | Photo: Shutterstock

■ Rev Cornelis Kant

Executive Director | Christians for Israel International

The Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast took place on 15 and 16 February in the parliament of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. The Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast started as a global movement in 2016 by former Israeli member of the Knesset, Robert Ilatov, together with Albert Veksler and former US Congresswoman Michele Bachmann. The goal is to bring political and church leaders together in 2-day conferences to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Over 80 people attended, mostly from Estonia, Finland, Israel, America and various European countries. Participants from 50 countries followed the lectures online.

Member of Parliament and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Urmas Reinsalu welcomed the guests: "We are facing a threat of war just a 1000 kilometres from here. This is a moment also between us, brothers and sisters, to be together with our prayers for peace. Peace on the borders of Ukraine, peace in the Middle East, peace in Israel and peace all over the world."

Rabbi Yehuda Glick, a former member of the Knesset who survived a Palestinian attack, wished everyone true shalom: "Not strength and violence and each side trying to knock the other down. We want true peace, a shalom."

The Israeli Ambassador to Estonia, Mrs Hagit Ben Ya'akov, said: "The friendship of Christian friends of Israel is something that cannot be taken for granted. Your friendship is one of the most important things for the State of Israel. Your friendship shows the rest of the world that Israel is not alone." Then she read from *Isaiah 65: 17*, "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor they shall come to mind."

Mike Pompeo, former US Secretary of State, addressed the gathering in a video message: "The situation in Ukraine is most surely on everyone's mind. Please join me in praying for our world leaders to have wisdom, patience and strength. We must pray that the Lord blesses His faithful with the strength to stand against those who would disrupt peace to further their own ambitions." He then quoted *Psalms 125: 1-2* "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can not be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore."

Chairman Robert Ilatov looked back on the beginnings of the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast: "When we talked about establishing the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, the most important idea was to bring the truth about Israel to the whole world. Of course, in the Knesset, we are so accustomed to fighting - you know: two Jews, but three different opinions and five different synagogues. It was not easy to get the idea of the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast through the whole Knesset, but I did succeed. The idea is to bring about a dialogue. It is a difficult dialogue because we are talking about a dialogue between people who have

argued for 2,000 years over who is right and who is wrong. But at the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, everyone is welcome to pray."

Illatov explained that the word 'Palestine' for Jews is a painful reminder of Emperor Hadrian who destroyed Jerusalem in the year 135, slaughtered a million Jews and gave the land the name 'Palestine': "So when you say the word 'Palestine' this for the Jewish people represents the attempted destruction of the Jewish traditions of the faith in one God, the God of Israel." He also said: "Somebody just mentioned that the Jewish people came back to the land of 'Palestine'. This is not accurate. We actually returned to Eretz, Israel. It is not just something symbolic. It has its foundation in the very Bible. We are a small but very strong people."

He said that since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, millions of Christians have come to love Israel and the Jewish people. This has encouraged him to research the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and rediscover what the Bible says about God's love for Israel and His plan for Israel. Robert Ilatov was born and raised in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan and made Aliyah to Israel in 1985. He was deputy mayor of Netanya for many years.

American Messianic Jew Joel Rosenberg told about all his contacts with presidents and other world leaders about the need to stand up for Israel and bless Israel. He referred to Nebuchadnezzar, who changed from a world leader who burned Jews to a worshipper of the God of Israel.

Christians for Israel also got the opportunity to speak. I was allowed to speak for 15 minutes about the foundation and growth of Christians for Israel worldwide and about our goals. Our first goal is to proclaim the everlasting Biblical significance of Israel in God's plan of salvation. It is important not only to mention the well-known Bible verses regarding Israel but also to draw theological lines between the Old and New Testaments when it comes to God's eternal faithfulness to His people Israel. There is a great need for this within churches.

The leader of Christians for Israel in Italy, Professor Edda Fogarollo, told about the work of Christians for Israel in Italy and the permanent importance of adequate Holocaust education. She herself is a professor of Holocaust history, and proper education on the subject is very close to her heart.

This two-day conference in the Parliament of Tallinn was a valuable and blessed event with great speeches, a good spiritual atmosphere and important prayers together. It was inspiring and encouraging for people from both politics and churches.

Over the years the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast has already been held in several cities around the world. The main gathering is held yearly in June in Jerusalem and is attended by about 500 people.



Entertainment during the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast.



Rev Cornelis Kant speaking at the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast.



During the conference at the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast.



CHRISTIANS FOR
ISRAEL
NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand
and
South Pacific Edition
April 2022

Israel Tour Given the Green Light

■ Bryce Turner

New Zealand Executive Director | Christians for Israel NZ

Welcome to *Israel and Christians Today*, and especially to our readers in New Zealand and the South Pacific – including our Christians for Israel teams and supporters in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Niue and the Cook Islands.

We have some great articles for you this edition, with Joanna Moss bringing a fantastic look at the changing face of Israel at 73 years old, and a beautiful piece from Dr Sheree Trotter of the Indigenous Coalition for Israel. Following recent Palestinian Central Council announcements terminating all agreements the PLO signed with Israel, Andrew Tucker of *thinc* analyses just what is the real obstacle to peace. Our team in Fiji update us on their wonderful work, we have news from the Israeli Embassy in New Zealand, and our friend Anna Pickett brings a theological piece on the Passover Lamb. We also share with you an encouraging letter from the Jaffa Institute - one of the projects that New Zealanders support in Israel. Our team is delighted to bring you this information from here in New Zealand, from the Pacific Islands, and around the world.

As the world's attention has been on the tragedy

unfolding in Ukraine, we are starting to hear stories of amazing courage and self-sacrifice as people work in the face of bombing, gunfire and huge uncertainty to help the people of Ukraine. Whether in food, medicine, transportation to safety, or even just shelter from the attacks, yet again we see in the midst of a war waged by evil, both the worst of humanity and yet somehow right beside it some of the very best. Christians for Israel has a team working on the ground in Ukraine, especially amongst Ukraine's Jewish population. I know Koen and his team in Ukraine very much appreciate your prayers and your support.

On the home front, New Zealand has recently been given the news that our long, long, long string of lockdowns and restrictions are to be easing. This has been received with weary caution, but at the same time delight as we are finally able to look forward to some sort of normality that might involve being able to gather in reasonable-sized groups. Churches and other community groups around the nation are breathing a sigh of relief as they are finally able to start planning events, and we can start to take stock of the devastating effect Covid-19, and the response, have had on the economy. Our team at Christians for Israel NZ look forward to once again being

able to meet with groups up and down the country, sharing this biblical message of the true place of Israel. Whilst the ravages of Covid-19, lockdowns and resulting economic pressures don't compare to the suffering of those experiencing war right now, we are nevertheless grateful for this easing and the opportunity to connect with supporters personally.

One of the most exciting developments of the world reopening post-Covid, is the ability to – at last – return to Israel. We are delighted to announce that our next Israel Study Tour, in association with Rhema Media, will depart from Auckland, New Zealand on 4 November 2022. With so much uncertainty, it has been very difficult to plan this next study tour. Whilst the ability to safely travel throughout Israel has been restored for some time, the challenges of departing - and especially re-entering - New Zealand have been the obstacle. As there will be no such MIQ or isolation requirements in November, it is once again the right time to visit the Holy Land. For those who may be interested in joining us on one of these life-changing tours, see the promotion below for more details. Thank you so much for your ongoing support. We trust that you will enjoy this edition, thank you for taking the time.



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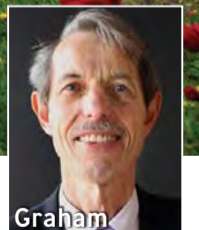
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Bryce



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4 - 19 November 2022

Escorted by Bryce Turner and Graham Simpson
of Christians For Israel New Zealand

Christians For Israel NZ, supported by Rhema Media, are pleased to be able to offer you the opportunity to join us on our next journey to the Holy Land. With considerable joint experience in running tours, we have been able to provide outstanding value in a carefully designed itinerary to make your tour the greatest experience possible.

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Olive Tree Travel

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Spaces are filling up fast



The Changing Face of Israel

Joanna Moss

Take a walk down the main streets of NZ cities, and the image is clear – the Baby Boomers have moved off and what you see is a much more diverse New Zealand. So, it is with Israel. In its infancy, Israel was dominated by German Jews *Yekkes*, who shaped the culture and whose symbolism is defined by the Bauhaus architecture, order and European cultural institutions. In the early state years, Israel was destined to be a European country, one that just happened to be in the Eastern Mediterranean. The leaders were Ashkenazi Jews shaped by the Holocaust and European culture.

But that, of course, was not the experience of the Sephardic Jews, many of whom came from Middle Eastern cultures where they were a distinct minority group used to co-existing with other Middle Eastern cultures. Upon arrival, these Jews were often sent to the outer areas of Israel and forged their own identity. That's why when you go to the markets, the food, herbs, and spices on sale are predominately Middle Eastern better suited to the climate. As time went by, Sephardic Jews became the dominant group, and the Israeli culture changed.

Then along came the Russians and the rest of the former Soviet Union (FSU) Jews. Between 1989-2006 about a million arrived, making them a significant group. Around the country, you can still see shops with Russian signs selling Russian food and the proverbial babushkas pushing tartan shopping trolleys. Those that came as 20-year-olds are now in their 50s, and those who were in their 40s upon arrival are now in their 70s; that's retirement age. Israel relied on these immigrant doctors and engineers to build the country. But they too, are moving off.

Israel is now 73 years old. In demographic terms, 25 years is a generation, so we are talking about nearly three generations. Your culture is shaped by your growing up environment as well as parental influence. Those who came in the early statehood have either died or are getting elderly. Many Holocaust survivors remained single, perhaps due to the extreme trauma. Their experiences in the 'old country' are being lost as new generations have arisen who only know Israel as their identity. The heritage culture has not been passed down. But rather, people wanted to forge a new identity – an Israeli identity. Listening to the Cory Gil-Shuster *Ask Israelis* cultural heritage clips on YouTube, you will find that many Israelis have retained nothing or next to nothing from their parents or grandparents' heritage culture. What's more, young Israelis are now very mixed in their heritage, rather like young Kiwis, so whatever might have been retained is being diluted further through diversity.



Rishon le Zion is nicknamed Russe le Zion for its Russian population. Many of the shops have Russian signs and sell Russian food. Despite many years of living in Israel they prefer to converse in Russian. | Photo: Joanna Moss

Israeli heritage identity is almost disappearing except for more recent arrivals like the Ethiopians, French and Americans who just can't seem to shake Uncle Sam. Some cultures are stronger than others. This heritage factor was important for international relations in the early years when Israel could field an impressive array of native or near-native speakers with a strong cultural and political understanding. But remember that Israelis have a reason to forget. Many were persecuted, hated, and generally made to feel unwelcome; therefore, their heritage may merely be the city of birth listed in their passports. This sentiment will be passed down to subsequent generations. But for those who made Aliyah voluntarily, it is an entirely different story.

There is a general pattern to immigrants. Those that leave are not always your Joe average. They are often aspirational. The first generation holds on to their language and culture and tries to find a place in the new society. They pin their hopes on the second generation to succeed and sometimes to recapture what was lost in the transfer from one country to another (think children of foreign doctor taxi drivers in NZ). These children bridge the language and cultural divide and learn to walk in both cultures. Some resent speaking their parents' mother tongues and just want to fit in in their homeland. Placed on them are the expectations to succeed and bring pride to their communities. For many, this is an unattainable burden. The third generation generally does not speak their grandparents' mother tongues except for a few words. Some go seeking for their heritage and culture in their identity. But for Jews, this is implicit already. The essential Jewish element was never lost.

That makes them different to other immigrants. Their gratitude to Israel makes them more willing to give up their former heritage culture.

At 73, Israel is no longer a pioneering culture. The shift came in the Lebanon War and perhaps as early as the 6 Day war when tiny, feeble Israel defeated much larger enemies. Perhaps the change is more readily seen in the massive shift in economic policies when Israel went from being a socialist country where the state was the dominant actor to a more open economy where the market rules and Israel competes on the world stage. Former PM Benjamin Netanyahu was the architect of much of this change. Indeed, a whole generation has grown up only knowing him as PM and not knowing major war.

This younger generation is different. They have never known a time when Israel did not exist or was not a developed country. Israel is one country among many. They view the world in global terms and seek opportunities abroad like young Kiwis wanting to do an OE. A significant number of young Israelis have left to find greener pastures abroad in the US, UK, or Canada predominately. Their high-quality education is recognised internationally and, coupled with English language skills, make such moves possible. At 73, the Aliyah dream has had plenty of time to ferment globally. Reality has set in. The difficulty of life in Israel coupled with the high cost of living has put many off coming both in the past and now. For others, the Aliyah dream is over, and they leave. They have options. Those of us who support Israel must realise the changes generations bring.

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Palestinian Refusal to Recognise Israel is the Real Obstacle to Peace

■ Andrew Tucker

Director | The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (thinc.)

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly last September, Mahmoud Abbas, who simultaneously holds the position of Head of the PLO and PA Chairman, laid down an ultimatum requiring Israel to capitulate to all the Palestinian demands – referred to by Abbas as the Palestinian ‘initiative’ - within one year or face the consequences:

“To ensure our initiative is not open-ended, we must state that Israel, the occupying Power, has one year to withdraw from the Palestinian territory it occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and we are ready to work throughout this year on the delineation of borders and solving all final status issues under the auspices of the international Quartet and in accordance with United Nations resolutions. If this is not achieved, why maintain recognition of Israel based on the 1967 borders? Why maintain this recognition?”

In fact, the PLO has never accepted the existence of the Jewish State of Israel at all. The Palestinian National Charter was created in 1964, and amended in 1968 following the Six Day war. The Charter is the expression of the goals and values of the PLO.

The Charter displays a vehement determination to eradicate Zionism and to implement a Palestinian state in the place of the Jewish nation. Article 20 of the 1968 Palestinian National Charter (1968) states:

“Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood ... Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong.”

Both versions of the Palestinian National Charter speak about occupation, but the 1968 version speaks specifically about ‘Zionist occupation’ and ‘Imperialist aggression.’ Both versions reject the claims that Jews have historical and religious ties with the territory of Palestine. The 1968 version formulates explicitly as a goal of the PLO to not just bring the occupation to an end, but also the existence of Zionism in Palestine itself. Both versions include the requirement of all states to consider Zionism as an illegitimate movement and outlaw its existence and operations.

The belief in peaceful coexistence, which was expressed in Article 22 of the 1964 Palestinian National Charter, was deleted from the 1968 Palestinian National Charter, which excludes any form of accommodation between the competing Jewish and Arab Palestinian claims to self-determination.

The 1988 Hamas Covenant uses even stronger terms to



Resolving the conflict would remove a major source of instability in the Middle East.

express its hatred of Jews in general and Zionism in particular. To give a few examples: Article 7 refers to ‘Zionist invaders.’ Article 15 refers to “the Jew’s usurpation of Palestine.” Article 32 claims, “The Zionist plan... is embodied in the ‘Protocols of the Elders of Zion,’” thereby referring to the slanderous anti-Semitic publication, used in Russia and Nazi-Germany, yet today still used in the Arab world to stir hatred against Jews. The new version of the Hamas Covenant of May 2017 attempts to present the vision of Hamas in a more ‘civilized’ language. It no longer refers to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The hatred of Zionism and Israel is however still a prominent feature of the text. Israel is frequently referred to as the ‘Zionist entity.’ The 2017 Hamas Covenant refers in Article 14 to the Zionist project as “a racist, aggressive, colonial and expansionist project,” while the ‘Israeli entity’ is called the “plaything of the Zionist project.” In Article 15 the Zionist project is qualified as “the enemy of the Arab and Islamic Ummah.” In Article 16 it is held that Hamas has a conflict with the Zionist project, but not with the Jews. This makes it very clear that Hamas willfully ignores the essence of Zionism. The same Article blames the Zionists for identifying Judaism and the Jews with “their own colonial project and illegal entity.” In Article 17 the view is expressed that the “Jewish problem, anti-Semitism and the persecution of Jews” is linked to European history and not to Arab and Muslim history. Finally, Article 19 states that “[t]here shall be no recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist entity.”

In 1995, Yasser Arafat promised to amend the Palestinian Charter, to remove the provisions denying Israel’s

legitimacy. To this day, the Charter has never been amended.

The PLO’s continued refusal to amend the Palestinian National Charter shows that PLO’s real agenda remains to wipe the Jewish State from the map.

This is confirmed by the many public statements made by PLO representatives over the years calling for jihad and violence to kill Jews and replace the Jewish State with an Arab Palestinian state.

The international community continues to regard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. And it is the PLO that is Israel’s negotiating partner under the Oslo Accords.

The fact is that, unless and until the PLO amends its Charter to recognise the legitimacy of the Jewish State, there is no chance of an agreement that guarantees both the safety and security of the State of Israel and the Palestinian right to self-determination.

In the meantime, it is important to note that denying the existence of Jewish self-determination contravenes basic principles of international law. Until the PLO agrees to amend its charter, it is inappropriate for other states to recognise ‘Palestine’ as a State under international law.

It is thus Palestinian intransigence, and not the ‘Israeli occupation’, that is responsible for the stalemate.

thinc. seeks to contribute to a fair solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – and other similar situations – on the basis that Israel is a legal, democratic state under international law. We conduct research, provide education and advise governments. The team in the Netherlands coordinates a worldwide network of experts in international law, politics and religion.

News from the Embassy

Israeli Volunteers for Ukraine

Israeli volunteers in Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Slovakia have been working around the clock to assist Ukrainian refugees - here’s a glimpse into what they’ve been up to:

- Rada, a social worker from the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, left four children of her own at home to volunteer with the Israeli organisation ‘Natan’ to help Ukrainian refugees.
- Diana, a social worker and Israeli immigrant from South America and

member of the Zionist Youth Movement brightened up a very difficult time for young Ukrainian refugees, spreading joy and giving out stickers.

- Yuri, an immigrant from Belarus and Nadia, an immigrant from Ukraine (whose grandparents are still in Dnipro), signed up to volunteer with the Israeli youth group, Hashomer Hatzair. They created a mural for children at the refugee centre.
- Alex, a nurse at Yoseftal Hospital in Israel, signed up to volunteer at the refugee centre. He decided he needed to

help the refugees after watching news coverage on the crisis in Ukraine.

- Dorit Nitzan, a paediatrician and former Regional Emergency Director for the WHO Regional Office for Europe, returned to Israel to start work at Soroka Medical Centre but immediately departed for a humanitarian mission on the Ukrainian border.

We are immensely grateful for the Israeli volunteers and emergency response teams on the front line who are working 24/7 to help Ukrainian refugees.

Israel is Dedicated to Help

- Israel is preparing infrastructure in Israel for 50,000 new *Olim* who need shelter due to the recent conflict.
- A further 25,000 Ukrainians have been given Visas to Israel. 130 Israeli diplomats are dedicated to this effort all around the Ukrainian borders and in Jerusalem.
- 500 tons of humanitarian aid and a fully equipped field hospital has been sent.
- Six huge generators, bought by Israel, are on their way from Italy to the city of Lviv to replace the destroyed power station.



A Light for the Indigenous Nations

■ Dr Sheree Trotter

Author | Indigenous Coalition for Israel

In 1886 Mount Tarawera erupted. So violent was the eruption that it was heard in Auckland, Aotearoa, New Zealand, nearly 300 kilometres away. Some feared that the loud explosions were cannon fire and that the city was under assault from Russian warships.

Many of my people died in the Tarawera eruption, most suffocated in the thick ash that descended upon the region. Destroyed, too, were our thriving tourist businesses. The Pink and White Terraces, till then considered an 'eighth wonder' of the natural world, had attracted tourists from around the globe, and my people had built a strong local economy in their indigenous lands. Survivors of the catastrophe were taken in by nearby *iwi* (tribes), including Tapuika in the town of Te Puke. It was here that my mother and her family were to grow up.

For traditional Māori, mountains and land are supremely important to identity. Indeed, when we formally introduce ourselves, we do so by referencing our mountains, waterways, tribal affiliations, and then our genealogy. Last of all, we declare our own names. We are known as *Tangata Whenua*, people of the land, our indigenous identity giving us a strong sense of connection to our ancestral lands.

Though I am Māori, I have for many years worked in and around Jewish issues - the Holocaust, Zionism, advocacy and antisemitism. It is in more recent years that I have become increasingly aware of the parallels that exist between my own claim to indigeneity and that of Jews to the land of Israel.

There is no universally recognised definition of indigeneity. Indeed, there is much debate and a degree of fluidity on the question of definition. Some hold the view that a strict definition is "unnecessary and undesirable". However, a number of criteria have been established and are generally accepted: self-identification, historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies; strong links to territories and surrounding natural resources; distinct social, economic, or political systems; distinct language, culture, and beliefs; form non-dominant groups of society; resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinct communities.

It is not difficult to see that the Jewish people fulfil the requirements for indigeneity. When a Māori person reads the genealogies in the *Tanach*, it resonates with the practice that is kept alive in Māori gatherings, where much of the speechmaking revolves around *whakapapa*, recounting genealogy to establish the connections between peoples. When Hebrew literature speaks longingly of the mountains surrounding Jerusalem, we think of our mountains which are remembered every time we present our *pepeha* (formal introduction). The places where our ancestors are buried are considered sacred, much like the reverence for the tombs of the patriarchs.

Though I did not grow up in the shadow of Mt Tarawera, it remains part of my identity. There is a similarity in the longing of Jews for Jerusalem, even (and especially) from the diaspora. One hundred thirty-five years on from the Tarawera eruption, there is a movement of my people to reestablish a community in that region, where we still hold land. In Māori culture, we have the concept of *ahi kaa* (keeping the fires burning). A remnant remains in the land to keep alive the fires of occupation. The fact that there has been a continuous presence of Jews in the land of Israel for well over 3,000 years meets the criterion of keeping *ahi kaa*. In the Māori worldview, it affirms their *mana whenua* or historic right to the land.

My mother's generation was punished physically for speaking in their native tongue at school. It is only in recent decades that this unfortunate state of affairs has been reversed, and the Māori language has experienced a strong resurgence. Interestingly, the Israeli *ulpan* served as an inspiration for one of the Māori leaders who established *kohanga reo* (Māori language preschools).



Painting of the Pink and White Terraces in the 1870s, prior to the eruption of Mt Tarawera in 1886, by John BC Hoyte. | Photo: Hocken Collections

Indeed, the revival of Hebrew serves as an inspiration to all indigenous peoples seeking to revitalise languages negatively impacted by colonisation.

The development of a distinct language, culture, and belief system within a particular land prior to colonisation is a defining feature of indigeneity, one shared by Māori and Jews. Many definitions of indigeneity include the characteristic of 'non-dominant groups of society'. Some have asserted that this provision was a later addition, aimed squarely at preventing Jews from claiming indigenous status. The notion that a people suddenly loses indigenous status by virtue of having achieved their long-sought self-determination undermines the very concept of indigeneity. Fiji, for example, gained its independence in 1970, but this did not mean that indigenous Fijians thereby lost indigenous status. While the other aspects of indigeneity are intrinsic to identity as a people, the requirement to be non-dominant in society is an external, political, and social feature that is subject to change. An aspiration (in this case, self-determination) does not render a people non-indigenous by the attainment of its goal.

I would argue that settler colonialism is the wrong framework within which to view Israel's history. A better lens is the growing field of indigenous studies.

So, in regard to Israel, why does this matter? Because a colonialist narrative has taken hold in the popular imagination, by which Jews are seen as foreign colonisers who have displaced the indigenous Palestinian population. The colonialist narrative had its genesis in academia and has filtered down to politics and media. It has been promoted by settler colonialist historians, Palestinian academics, politicians, and anti-Israel activists. Israel is portrayed as the archetypal intruder. Palestinian academic Rashid Khalidi has said, "...the modern history of Palestine can best be understood in these terms: as a colonial war waged against the indigenous population, by a variety of parties, to force them to relinquish their homeland to another people against their will." The wording may vary, but such a view has been widely disseminated. For example, in 2016, the Palestinian leadership attempted to sue the British government over the Balfour Declaration for supporting the idea of establishing a Jewish homeland in (then) Palestine. Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad-al Maliki stated that "...hundreds of thousands of Jews were moved from Europe and elsewhere to Palestine at the expense of our Palestinian people whose parents and grandparents had lived for thousands of years on the soil of their homeland." The narrative has been strengthened by the most basic of classic propaganda techniques: repetition.

However, maintaining the claim that Israel is a settler-

colonial state *par excellence* requires a great deal of massaging of the facts and comes at great cost - history collapses in the process. It is a politically motivated and highly selective rendering of the past, a distortion rather than a truthful account.

Israeli historian Benny Morris, while deftly rebutting Khalidi's aforementioned thesis, has pointed out that the commonly understood notion that colonialism involves an imperial power gaining control over another country and "settling it with its sons" simply does not apply to the Zionist venture. He argues, "By any objective standard, Zionism fails to fit this definition. Zionism was a movement of desperate, idealistic Jews from Eastern and Central Europe bent on immigrating to a country that had once been populated and ruled by Jews, not 'another' country, and regaining sovereignty over it."

Historian Derek Penslar also challenges the colonialist narrative, pointing out that the Jews returned to their ancient homeland, "not for its strategic value, natural resources, or productive capabilities but rather because of what Jews believed to be historic, religious, and cultural ties to the area known to them as the Land of Israel.

Zionism was based on concepts of return, restoration, and reinscription."

I would argue that settler colonialism is the wrong framework within which to view Israel's history. A better lens is the growing field of indigenous studies.

Some indigenous scholars have seen the importance of fighting for the recognition of Jewish indigeneity as a means to address "territorial disputes between Arabs and Jews, the protection of both Jewish and Arab rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere." One such academic, Dr Nan Greer, former Adjunct Professor, University of Redlands, has argued that the indigenous rights of the Jewish people should be enshrined in law. She points out the importance of an indigenous people's connection to a distinct location rather than a broad, generalised region, "such as Arab-Muslim groups claiming lands in multiple nation-states throughout the Middle East." If a group like the Arabs, which colonised Israel in the sixth century, and imposed its language and religion on the peoples conquered, can claim indigeneity based on long-standing presence, then so can other colonising groups. The rights and status of all indigenous peoples would be threatened by such an approach. In New Zealand, a few *pākehā* (New Zealanders of European descent) have sought to claim indigeneity.

Continued on page 5



Love, Mercy and Grace

■ Raphael Jordan

National Leader | Christians for Israel Fiji

Shalom again from the ends of the earth.

I hope that this article finds you in good health and brings you more excitement in our journey with our righteous and returning King Jesus (Yeshua).

First, I thank God for His never-ending love, mercy and grace in the situation we go through in life as my heart goes out to the hard-working C4I Ukraine team ably led by Koen and Ira Carlier. Their tireless efforts in fulfilling Biblical Prophecy and sharing their material blessings to assist Jews return to their Biblical homeland, Eretz Yisrael (*Romans 15: 27*), is heart-warming.

So far this year, the Christians for Israel Fiji team have travelled to the western part of the mainland, Viti Levu, to distribute *Israel & Christians Today* newspapers at a few churches in Lautoka City and Nadi as the major drop off points. A close associate (a doctor) reliably informed us that in one of our drop off points in Suva, we have been taking some newspapers for distribution in his area. Some of the articles have encouraged him to share in his circle of friends in his church. Therefore, we have some unsung heroes taking the initiative to distribute our newspapers. Furthermore, there are plans underway to distribute the newspapers up north in Vanua Levu, and we have identified someone who is already keen to do it for us.



Photo One: Family friends from Israel before departing our shores, displaying the latest Christians for Israel Fiji merchandise.




Photo Two: From Left to Right: C4I Fiji team: Tomasi Biumaiwai (President), Mikaele Mudreilagi (National Director - ICEJ Fiji), Viliame Gavoka (Party Leader - SODELPA), Raphael Jordan (National Leader - C4I Fiji), Ana Rokomokoti (C4I Fiji) and Lavenia Volaukitoga (C4I Fiji) during International Holocaust Remembrance Day in February 2022.


The team were delighted to bless and farewell two Jewish family friends leaving our shores. It has been the team's ongoing tradition to give them a souvenir to reminisce their stay in Fiji. Therefore, in this regard, we bestowed our trademark Christians for Israel Fiji's latest design from our collection of merchandise (t-shirts), which they really loved.

Finally, in February, the team delivered a short sermon on Israel to a political party (SODELPA), the main

opposition party in Fiji's parliament, to be their guest during International Holocaust Remembrance Day at their head office in Suva. They were followed by a Talanoa session (*discussion*) led by its Party Leader, Honourable Viliame (Bill) Gavoka.

I thank God for enabling us to accomplish milestones in just two months into 2022 and also look forward to the exciting months ahead as it unfolds. We know that God has already gone before us.






Dear Friends,

The Jaffa Institute is honored to have the friendship and support of Christians for Israel in Austria, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands and Switzerland. Your contribution to the Holy Land is immense, and I am so grateful that you have partnered with The Jaffa Institute. Your boundless enthusiasm for the wondrous Land of Israel and its people is truly incredible and uplifting. Together, we are improving the lives of thousands of children and adults in severe need, through nutritional, therapeutic and educational programming. This work is a beacon of hope for so many, especially during these very challenging times. Thank you to the Almighty who in His infinite wisdom brought us together to fulfill our mission together in His service.

Thank you, again, for your enduring faith and unfaltering support of our work. I look forward to the day when we will be able to meet in person, in peace and good health, in Eretz Israel.

With deepest gratitude,



Dr. David J. Portowicz

Continued from page 4

A Light for the Indigenous Nations

This effectively undermines any indigenous rights Māori might have, such as those articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The indigenous argument strengthens Israel's claims to its historic homelands, thus providing an important foil to the BDS campaign.

For example, earlier this year, the New Zealand Super Fund, an entity that invests taxpayer money, decided to divest from Israeli banks because they provide mortgages to Israeli citizens wishing to build homes in the settlements. Preventing an indigenous people group from building in their indigenous homeland is a breach of indigenous rights. According to Article 26 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories, and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired."

Self-identification is an important aspect of indigeneity. Indigenous peoples reserve the right to assert their own understanding of what makes them indigenous. One Māori tribal elder has set out three criteria by which his people claim to be indigenous to Aotearoa, New Zealand.

- *Taketake* (long-established) *E roa e noho a tatau i runga i te mata o tenei whenua he iwi taketake tatau.* We have long lived on the face of this land; thus we are indigenous.
- *Nonamata* (ancient) *E tini nga pakiwaitara nonamata o tatau tupuna ki tenei whenua koia he iwi taketake, ka tu ai au hei tangata whenua ki tenei whenua.* I hold the many ancient narratives of our ancestors, which allows me to be indigenous and a person of the land.
- *Toi* (original) *Ko te take hei iwi taketake e au ki tenei whenua i tataiheke e au mai nga Turehu me nga Patupaearahe ko nga iwi Toi o tenei whenua.* I am indigenous to this land because my genealogy

descends from the *Turehu* and the *Patupaearahi*, the original peoples of this land.

Many individual Jews and certain groups have asserted their indigeneity. However, Israel has seldom made use of the language of indigeneity. Nevertheless, Greer points out that under the Basic Law - Nation-State Law, "the Jewish people have self-declared their status under state laws, as an indigenous people." She argues, "While not possessing the word 'indigenous' in the Hebrew language, Israel has utilised all terminology under international law to declare itself indigenous to its homelands, the Nation-State of Israel. Through this self-declaration, Israel protects its indigenous population nationally as a distinct people. Israel also protects itself as an indigenous nation under the accepted working definition of the United Nations."

Indeed, the Basic Law affirms that "the land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people, in which the State of Israel was established" and the "national home of the Jewish people, in which it fulfils its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination." It asserts that "the right to exercise national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people."

In summary, the importance of the indigenous argument is manifold. Most importantly, it is a strong element of identity for Jewish people. It provides a counterweight to the false narrative that Jews are foreign colonisers in the region. It is in Israel that the distinctive Jewish culture and religion developed. Strong connection to the land and ancestors has been maintained over millennia and is further confirmed by archaeological, literary and genetic evidence. Embracing indigenous identity could be an important tool in resolving disputes over land ownership. Finally, denying Jews their indigenous rights and identity undermines the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Whether it be Mt Zion or Mt Tarawera, the connection between indigenous peoples and their land is one that endures - it remains central to individual and corporate identity.



A Hebrew Prophetic View on 2022

■ Pastor Enoch Lavender

Living Way Christian Network | Melbourne, Australia

As we approach 2022, many are wondering what the year ahead may bring.

While we can't read too much into numerology, the number 22 associated with this year is a very significant prophetic number, carrying multiple layers of biblical meanings.

22 - Number of Completion & Fullness

The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 letters – from the first letter *Aleph* to the final letter *Tav*. The Hebrew Bible features many 'acrostic' passages, which are passages using all 22 letters of the alphabet in sequence, with each successive letter starting a new line. From a Hebraic mindset, passages that use the entire Hebrew alphabet in this way speak of perfection, fullness and completeness.

Here are some examples of acrostic passages in the Bible:

- *Proverbs 31:10-31* – the perfect woman;
- *Psalms 112* – the perfect man;
- *Psalms 119* – the perfection of God's law (each letter is used to make eight successive lines).

22 - Number of Chaos & Judgement

There is also a correlation between the number 22 and the themes of chaos and judgment in the Bible. For example, three of Israel's wicked kings were linked to the number 22:

- Jeroboam ruled for 22 years;
- Ahab ruled for 22 years;
- King Amon began his reign at age 22.

Sadly, the wicked rulers of both Israel and Judah led the people away from the ways of God. God's resulting judgment on Jerusalem is graphically portrayed in the *Book of Lamentations*. This book is written with four acrostic chapters, describing the perfect and complete devastation of the city.

A closer glance at these acrostic chapters reveals a startlingly find - the sequences of the 22 letters in these chapters are all partially jumbled. For Hebrew readers, this jumbling of letters would be painfully obvious (as it would be for us today if an author got their ABCs mixed up). Is the jumbling of letters just a clerical mistake, or does it carry a deeper meaning? The Rabbis affirm that this must have been a deliberate choice by the author to symbolise the jumbling of God's divine order caused by sin, leading to both chaos and judgment.

The destruction of Jerusalem featured in the *Book of Lamentations* is further linked to the number 22 through the associated annual fast days on the Jewish calendar. The two most prominent fast days are the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av, which mark the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem, the end of sacrifices in the Temple as well, as the destruction of the Temple itself (by the Babylonians as well as the Romans on the very same day some 600 years apart). The 22 days between these two significant fast days are, to this day, an annual period of national mourning on the Jewish calendar.

22 - Number of Hope & Restoration

The minor prophet Zechariah refers to the fasting days marking the destruction of Jerusalem and promises that they will ultimately turn to joy and gladness (*Zechariah 8:19*).



| Photo: Shutterstock

Since the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians, many other disasters have happened to the Jewish people – on the very same days – intensifying this annual mourning period. Yet the prophet declares that a day is coming when Israel will be comforted not only of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple but also of all the other calamities that have happened to them – and when this happens, the 22 days of mourning will truly turn to joy.

The number 22 is linked to joy, and restoration is also found in the story of Joseph and His brothers. We all remember the story of Joseph's agonising betrayal by his brothers, his years of slavery, his unjust imprisonment and how God raised him up to be second only to the Pharaoh. It took a long 22 years before Joseph's brothers finally stood before him, and a teary-eyed Joseph could finally reveal his true identity and embrace his brothers.

Many scholars see the story of Joseph as prophetic of Jesus' separation from His Jewish brothers. Like Joseph, Jesus has been thought of as dead by His people, and like Joseph, He has now a foreign name (i.e. Jesus instead of Yeshua). As Joseph wore foreign clothes and spoke a foreign language, so Jesus has been 'dressed' in foreign rituals and religious traditions that conceal His true Jewish identity. Yet one day, He will be restored to His long-lost brethren, and this restoration is linked to the End Times and the number 22.

22 - The End Times Hope

The Jewish calendar, instituted by God Himself in *Leviticus chapter 23*, features three Autumn Feasts. These Fall Feasts, which take place annually over the course of 22 days, give a panoramic prophetic preview of End Time events.

- **Feast of Trumpets** – Repentance at the sounding of the great trumpet;
- **Day of Atonement** – Restoration with Israel crying out to God as a Nation;
- **Feast of Tabernacles** – Rejoicing as God finally dwells among His people again.

In this context, it seems like no accident that the Bible's most detailed book of End Times prophecy, the *Book of Revelation*, has 22 chapters.

22 - Chaos, Destruction, Restoration & Hope

We have seen in this article how the number 22 is biblically linked to both chaos and destruction as well as to hope and restoration. It is tied to the End Times sequence of events that ultimately point us to the promised restoration of Israel and the coming of the Messiah Himself.

While you and I may not (yet) be living in the final phases of End Times events, we have truly been through a few years of chaos and disorder caused by Covid. This challenging time has rocked many of our lives, whether it be financially, emotionally, physically, or spiritually. It has also rocked the very foundations of our societies, with great divisions, economic upheavals, and unrest in many nations.

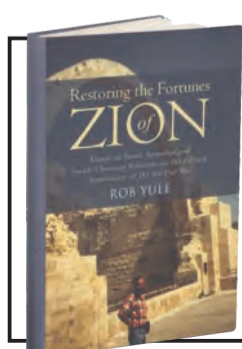
In the midst of this chaos, let us remember that our God is a God of restoration and order. The message of the number 22 shows us that God can, and will, turn sorrow and chaos into order and joy as we turn to Him. Let us take hope for the year ahead and believe in God for better things to come in 2022.

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Behold the Lamb of God

■ Anna Pickett

In the beginning, was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He made all things, the largest stars and the smallest atoms and everything in between. The Word was the Son of God. Nothing came into being without Him (*John 1:1-3*).

It was an utterly astounding creation (*Genesis 1*). Of all creation, Adam and Eve, our ancestors, stood out, being made into the very image of God (*Genesis 1:26-27*). Adam and Eve were created with a conscious mind, able to make choices and able to love. To uphold this precious Godly image, Adam and Eve were to choose to do what was loving and do what was right. Now God had planted 'the Tree of Life' and 'the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil' in the middle of the garden of Eden in which Adam and Eve resided (*Genesis 2:8-9*). For Adam and Eve to live forever, they had to choose to eat from 'the Tree of Life' and refrain from eating from 'the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil'. God had said, "Of every tree in the garden you may eat freely, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat thereof, you will surely die. For dust you are, to dust, you shall return" (*Genesis 2:16-17*) (*Genesis 3:19*).

Adam and Eve, however, did eat from the tree of which God said you shall not eat of it, and they no longer reflected being in the image of God and instead they and all their offspring have tasted the bitter fruit of Sin and Death (*Genesis 3:17-19*). In a nutshell, these few sentences tell us about the terrible predicament we all are in and how this came about. And this being the case, would there be any possibility of saving humanity from this utter misery and hopelessness and releasing it from the sin that reigns in us all and of death and returning to the dust of the ground? Was there to be any hope? Could there be a love, yes, a love so great, that ultimately would be sufficient to enable mankind to be released from the terrible curse that is on all of humanity? Who would love humanity enough? Was there anyone whose life was more precious than all the lives of every single human being combined and be prepared to be our substitute?

Let me tell you the greatest story ever told. It is the story of the Messiah, our Passover Lamb, whom God himself provided.

Many years after the fall of men, God chose a man called Abraham to bring forth a Child through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed (*Genesis 12:1-3*). Abraham and His wife Sarah, in their old age, had a child born miraculously, and they called him Isaac (*Genesis 21:1-3*). God told them, "In Isaac, your seed shall be called" (*Genesis 21:12*). After many years God appeared to Abraham and said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (*Genesis 22:2*). This must have been so heart-rending for Abraham. However, believing God and knowing that God was going to restore Isaac to live again, he faithfully took his son Isaac to the place that God had appointed, being prepared to offer him there as a burnt offering (*Genesis 22:3-10*). Just as Abraham was about to take Isaac's life, the Angel of the Lord stopped him and said to Abraham, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him, for now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from me". Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw a ram caught by his horns in a thicket, and Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it instead of his son Isaac. And Abraham called the name of the place "The-Lord-Will-Provide" (*Genesis 22:1-14*). Could the sacrifice of Isaac have been enough to redeem mankind? No, Isaac could never have been enough, for he too had sin and death in Himself.

In due course, Isaac had a son called Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons. Unitedly the sons are called Israel after their father's name, who was also called Israel (*Genesis 35:23-26*,

Genesis 49:1-2). Now Jacob and his twelve sons left the land that God had promised to Abraham and his descendants and went into Egypt. A severe drought and food shortage had moved them there, knowing that there was food in Egypt (*Genesis 42:1-5*). Instead of moving back to the promised land, they stayed in Egypt, where Pharaoh had kindly provided land for them. As time went by, Israel grew into a sizeable nation. After many years a Pharaoh came to the throne who dealt ruthlessly with them. The Israelites called on God in their agony, who heard their agonising cry (*Exodus 3:7-8*.) God acted by pouring out ten powerful plagues on Egypt and Pharaoh to release the nation of Israel out of Egypt (*Genesis 3:19-20*). The last of the plagues was the most agonising. It was the killing of the firstborn of man and beast. To avoid being caught up in the death of the firstborn in Egypt, God gave the Israelites specific instructions. They were to take unblemished one-year-old male lambs from their flocks on the 10th day of the first month of the Hebrew Year and then sacrifice them at the beginning of the fourteenth day of the same month. They were then to take the blood of these lambs and place it on the lintel and doorposts of their homes. This blood of the lambs would provide a blood covering for the Israelites, and when the Lord on the same night came through the land to kill the firstborn when He saw the blood of the lambs on the lintel and doorposts, He would **pass over** those families and those homes. From that time on, these lambs have been called Passover lambs. During Passover night, the Passover lambs were roasted whole and then eaten by the Israelites, and in this manner, they participated in the Passover sacrifice. Thus, it took the death of the firstborns of Egypt and the sacrifice of the Passover Lambs to open the way for Israel to leave Egypt (*Exodus 12:1-13*).

Under God's guidance, Israel left Egypt to return to their promised land. On the way to their homeland, God took them to Mount Sinai, where He gave them His laws, which the Israelites promised to obey. And there at Sinai, God entered into a Covenant with them. As time went by, Israel broke their Covenantal Promise which they had made with God and time after time; they sinned against Him by breaking His Law (*Exodus 19:1-6*). This was the nation set aside to be a light to the nations and to reflect God's ways of Love and Grace. Instead, they were a light to the nations by showing what happens to a nation that sins against God and rejects God's loving ways and gracious care. Year after year, Israel ate the bitter fruit of their rebellious actions. Was there to be any hope for Israel and the world? Could Israel still find grace in God's side?

Could the sacrifice of Isaac have been enough to redeem mankind? No, Isaac could never have been enough, for he too had sin and death in Himself.

When God created humanity, He purposed all mankind to be part of His Family and be one with Him in love. But, when Adam and Eve sinned, they and their offspring no longer enjoyed a pure, sinless relationship with God. Instead of living eternally with God, every human life now ends in death. In the Hebrew scriptures, particularly in the Pentateuch, we see how God in His Compassion accepted sacrifices and burnt offerings of unblemished clean animals as substitutions. People would place their hands on the sacrificial animal and confess their sin over it and then put it to death. However, these sacrifices could never restore humanity's broken mind and broken heart prone to sin. So, the sacrifices became a continual reminder that these sacrifices were not sufficient and that a better sacrifice was necessary. Where was this to be

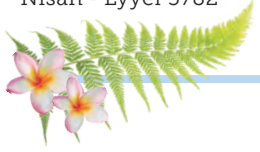


'Jesus bringing a lost lamb home' painting. | Photo: Artist Melani Pyke, Canada

found? Was there anyone who was Spotless and Holy enough and whose life would be of greater value than the lives of every human being? Do you remember how God provided for Abraham a ram as a burnt offering instead of his son Isaac at a place called The-Lord-Will-Provide? But if ultimately rams, bulls and goats etc., were not sufficient, would God Himself provide a better sacrifice? Yes, and a Passover Lamb it was to be (*1 Corinthians 5:7*). But this Passover Lamb was not to be of an animal flock but instead be of God Himself, for in Him alone, the sin and death issue could be dealt with. And He alone was more precious than the lives of every human being combined. And so, at the appointed time, the Son of God, our very creator, emptied Himself and became the Son of Man in order to overcome mankind's curse of sin and death (*Philippians 2:6-8*). He was in every way like us, inhabiting the flesh that is prone to sin and able to die (*Romans 8:1-4*). He, through the empowerment of His Father and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, overcame sin in the flesh by never giving in to it (*Hebrews 9:11-15*). Then on Passover day, after first having eaten the Passover meal (*Luke 22:14-20*), the Son of God, being also the Son of Man and Abraham's seed through Isaac and Jacob, overcame death by lovingly taking on our death by dying in our stead (*Luke 23:44-46*). He was our spotless,

blameless Passover Lamb, the Lamb appointed and provided by God to take away the Sins of the world and to bring Life from Death (*Isaiah 53*). And just as the Lord in Egypt accepted the blood of the Passover-lambs as a **pass-over** for the Israelites, so God accepts the blood of His Son, the ultimate Passover, as a **pass-over** for every believer and the death we deserve is therefore no longer held against us. And so, the story of the Messiah, the Passover lamb, is about a Grace so full and a Sacrifice so Holy and a Love so great that it goes beyond our understanding.

So behold the Messiah, the Passover Lamb of God, for in Him alone, we have life.



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- Learn about what makes the *moshav* unique;
- Experience the quiet and beauty of nature alongside local hospitality;
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- Speaks English;
- Good physical and mental health
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* Must have Volunteer Visa with entry and sojourn in Israel approved by the Population and Immigration Authority. Must undertake to volunteer in the place assigned and according to the working conditions of that place, and to participate in all programme activities.

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- Meet different people that make up the diverse fabric of Israeli society;
- Meet young people from all over the world;
- Take trips to discover the rich geographical, historical and cultural context of the State of Israel;
- Participate in educational programmes and workshops to explore current issues, including sustainability, water management and recycling as well as Israeli and Jewish culture;
- Opportunity for personal development and empowerment;
- Hang out with great people, party and have fun.



Agricultural Community Volunteering in Israel

For more details:
www.acv-il.org | acv-il@outlook.com | +972-507677939 | +3-5322232



The World Happiness Report is a publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It contains articles and rankings of national happiness, based on respondent ratings of their own lives, which the report also correlates with various (quality of) life factors.

Life evaluations from the Gallup World Poll provide the basis for the annual happiness rankings that have always sparked widespread interest. Readers may be drawn in by wanting to know how their nation is faring but soon become curious about the secrets of life in the happiest countries.

On its tenth anniversary, the World Happiness index 2022 sheds light on a ray of hope in these terrible times. Not only did the pandemic cause agony and suffering, but it also resulted in an upsurge in social assistance and charity. As of March 2022, Finland was named the happiest nation in the world five times in a row. The latest calculations are listed here:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Finland | 2. Denmark |
| 3. Iceland | 4. Switzerland |
| 5. Netherlands | 6. Luxembourg |
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Uncomfortable Ukraine-Israel Analogies

■ Stephen M Flatow

With news of war in Ukraine grabbing all the headlines, Palestinian Arab officials and advocates are straining to find comparisons between the Ukraine-Russian crisis and their own cause. There are indeed some comparisons, though not the ones they have in mind.

PLO official Nihad Abu Ghosh sees an analogy between the collapse of the Soviet Union (in 1991) and the Ukraine crisis—in both situations, he complains, Israel is taking advantage of the situation in order “to increase settlement building in the occupied West Bank by promoting immigration.”

Abu Ghosh, it should be noted, is a longtime official of the PLO as well as head of information and education for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO member organisation. Over the years, he has served as head of diaspora affairs for the PLO and head of information and education for the DFLP.

That’s important because it was the PLO that signed the Oslo accords with Israel in 1993; the Palestinian Authority had not yet been established. The Oslo accords do not prohibit Israel from building new towns in the Israeli-controlled portion of Judea and Samaria. Nor do the accords bar Israel from allowing Ukrainian Jews, or anybody else, to settle in those towns.

In other words, Abu Ghosh is complaining about something that is permitted by the agreements his own organisation signed and is bound by. Indeed, any PLO or PA official who protests against more Jews becoming residents of Israeli-controlled territories is protesting against something that the PLO and PA leadership already agreed to.

So why do PA officials—and advocates of the Palestinian Arab cause in general—keep complaining about ‘illegal Jewish settlements’? Because they know they can get away with it. No reporter ever asks them, “But don’t the Oslo accords permit Jewish settlements in Israel’s territories?” No editor ever fact-checks them or corrects them before publishing their op-eds about ‘illegal settlers.’

Another Ukraine-Palestinians analogy currently making the rounds has to do with the suffering of civilians. This allegation gained currency in social media this week,



Demonstrators carry placards and flags during a protest against the Russian invasion to the Ukraine, in Tel Aviv on 12 March 2022. | Photo: Flash90

courtesy of international supermodel Gigi Hadid, who announced that she is donating all her earnings “from the fall 2022 shows” to “aid those suffering from the war in Ukraine” and “those experiencing the same in Palestine.”

Let’s leave aside, for the moment, the hypocrisy of the PA or Hamas accepting donations from the earnings of a model whose outfits flagrantly violate the Islamic strictures that are the law in both the PA territories and the Hamas-run Gaza Strip. The PA’s constitution says, “Islam is the official religion in Palestine” and that “the principles of Islamic Sharia [law] will be the main source of legislation.” The garb promoted or imposed upon women under the PA and Hamas differs quite noticeably from that which is worn by Hadid on the runway.

Instead, let’s focus on Hadid’s analogy. “Hands off Ukraine, Hands off Palestine,” she tweeted, and supporters of the Palestinian Arab cause everywhere surely are nodding their heads in agreement.

For decades, the Arab regimes surrounding Israel have been supporting the violent Palestinian Arab terrorist-separatists in Judea, Samaria and Gaza—just like Russia has been supporting the terrorist-separatists in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of eastern Ukraine. The

Arab regimes have periodically launched wars against Israel based on the pretext of the ‘suffering’ of those separatists—again, just like Russia’s war against Ukraine.

The Arabs, like the Russians, are the aggressors, trying to take over a country that belongs to somebody else. Israel, like Ukraine, is an embattled democracy with deep roots in their land.

As for the suffering of innocent civilians—again, there’s a valid comparison, just not the one that Gigi Hadid or Nihad Abu Ghosh have in mind. The repeated Arab invasions of Israel have claimed the lives of thousands of Israeli civilians. The daily attempts by Palestinian Arab terrorists to shoot, stab or stone Jews to death cause constant suffering to Israeli civilians. I wonder when Hadid will donate some portion of her earnings to alleviate their suffering.

So, by all means, let’s examine the Ukraine crisis for comparisons to Israel, even if what we find proves uncomfortable for PA spokesmen, pro-Palestinian cultural celebrities or other advocates of the Palestinian cause.

Stephen M. Flatow is an attorney and the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995. He is the author of ‘A Father’s Story: My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terror.’

Interesting facts about the Hebrew Language

Hebrew is an ancient and unique language. It was originally a biblical language that was revived as a modern language over 150 years ago. Nowadays, it is spoken in Israel and beyond. Here are some interesting facts:

FACT

Israel is the only country in the world that has succeeded in reviving a dead language and using it as a national language.

FACT

Around the world, approximately nine million people speak Hebrew. After Israel, the United States has the second largest Hebrew speaking population (about 220,000 fluent speakers).

FACT

Hebrew is written right to left, but numbers are written left to right. The numbers used are exactly as in English, Arabic numerals.

FACT

Hebrew has vowels, but they mostly aren’t marked – you have to know how each word is pronounced. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters.

FACT

Hebrew is very close to Arabic – they are both Semitic languages. Although scripts are different, grammar systems are parallel, and often, similar words are used; for example, *shalom* in Hebrew is *salam* in Arabic (meaning both peace and hello).

If you want to know more about the Hebrew language, follow our short Hebrew course to learn more about the Aleph-bet. Subscribe here: <https://c4israel.org/learn-hebrew>

Did You Know?

Recommended Reading

Israel on Trial...

How International Law is Being Misused to Delegitimise the State of Israel

By Dr. Matthijs de Blois and Andrew Tucker

One hundred years ago, the League of Nations agreed to the 'reconstitution' of a 'national home for the Jewish people in Palestine'. The Mandate for Palestine was established – a new kind of legal regime to enable the peoples of the former Ottoman Empire to become independent.

Great Britain received the task under the Mandate for Palestine to ensure that the Jewish people could return and settle the land – all the while respecting the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Israel.

The State of Israel was established in May 1948. Yet, ever since, Israel has never been fully accepted as an equal member of the international community. Israel is widely regarded as a colonialist regime, an illegal occupier of Arab land. There is no other State in the world that attracts so many United Nations resolutions condemning it for violating international law.

Many people consider that Israeli 'settlements' as illegal and that Israel must end its 'occupation' of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

International lawyers Dr Matthijs de Blois and Andrew Tucker explain, for the lay reader, what international law is and how it works. They argue that the system of international law is being manipulated by states and non-state actors with the purpose of attacking the Jewish State.

Topics covered include:

- The politics of the United Nations (UN) system, especially the role played by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Arab League
- Why does Israel have such an isolated position within the United Nations?
- What is the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the 'delegitimation' of Israel?
- How was the State of Israel created? What is its legal status?
- Do the Palestinians have a right to statehood? Does the Palestinian state already exist?
- Is a 'Two-State' solution the only way to resolve the conflict?
- Are Israeli settlements 'illegal'?
- Does Israel occupy Jerusalem and the 'West Bank', and is it legal?
- What is the status of Jerusalem?

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Available from our website:

www.c4israel.org.nz/product-page/israel-on-trial-by-dr-matthijs-de-blois-andrew-tucker

Who are the 'Israelites'?



| Photo: Anton Mislawsky | Unsplash

■ Johannes Gerloff

Theologian, Journalist, Lecturer & Author

This is part four in a series of articles based on the book *Rejoice, You Nations, with His People*, by Johannes Gerloff (due for release in 2022).

In *Romans 9*, the Apostle Paul refers to his own countrymen as 'Israelites' - those for whom he was ready to be "cursed and cut off from Messiah". He is referring to "Israel according to the flesh" (*1 Corinthians 10:18*) - the Jewish people who reject the Messiah Jesus and, in some cases, even persecute the Church.

He does not call them 'Jews', which would have been better understood by the Apostle's Gentile readers. Nor does he use the title 'Jacob' or 'house of Jacob'. Paul does not even designate his "kinsmen according to the flesh" as 'Hebrews'.

No, Paul explicitly names his fellow Jewish people 'Israelites'. This is very significant.

... A few sentences later, talking about those, who are cursed and cut off from Messiah, he calls them 'Israelites' and claims that they already have this relationship with God.

Genesis 32 reports how Jacob receives the new name 'Israel' when he struggled with God and men until the break of day and prevailed (*verse 29*). In this narration, the emphasis is on Jacob's action and success.

Literally translated, 'יִשְׂרָאֵל'/'yisra'el' means "God will wrestle, fight, combat, reign". This already indicates what becomes even clearer in the context of *Genesis 35:9-12*. There God confirms Jacob's new name upon his return to the Land of Canaan. Jacob's efforts and achievements are not even hinted at anymore. Instead, the Biblical text emphasises: "I am God Almighty!" (*Verse 11*).

Thus, by her very name, 'Israel' proclaims that which Moses declared to the Israelites in totally hopeless circumstances: "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (*Exodus 14:14*). The name 'Israel' already carries the

promise in itself: God will reign!

The New Testament uses the name 'Israel/Israelite' as a title of honour. Jesus calls Nathanael "an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile" (*John 1:47*). He is so astonished at Nicodemus' lack of knowledge precisely because he is "a teacher of Israel" (*John 3:10*). Jesus himself, actually, uses the expression 'Israel/Israelite' quite carefully and exclusively in contrast to 'the Gentile nations'.

Peter, Paul and others, who anticipated particularly favourable attention from Jewish people, addressed them as 'men of Israel'. This conscious use of language in the Greek New Testament becomes clear by comparing the usage of the terms 'King of the Jews' and 'King of Israel'.

Exclusively, non-Jews speak about a 'King of the Jews'. Jewish people, in contrast, who know their Holy Writings, speak without exception of the 'King of Israel'.

Writing in 1866, Friedrich Adolph Philippi said: "In the name 'Israelite' lies all the dignity of this nation. It denotes not only national identity, but also contains the promise and hope of Jacob passed on to his descendants forever".

In *Romans 9:4-5*, Paul refers to a number of specific attributes and riches God bestowed upon the Israelites. The first of these is their 'sonship'.

Israel's Position as Son

Romans 9:4 says the Israelites have "the position as son". The King James Version translates the word 'υιοθεσία/hyothesia' as 'adoption'. This Greek word occurs in the New Testament only in the writings of Paul. Literally, 'υιοθεσία' means a 'son's position/standing/rank' or 'institution/appointment as son'. On four of the five occasions in which Paul uses this word, he is describing the

relationship of God to the Church, which is redeemed by the blood of Jesus. In *Romans 9*, however, 'υιοθεσία/hyothesia' characterises God's relationship with Israel. In all these occurrences, the context clearly implies that 'υιοθεσία/hyothesia' is a gift of God. It does not describe a condition or state of people but rather God's attitude towards these human beings.

In *Romans 8:15 and 23*, he says that we, who have "received the spirit of υιοθεσία/hyothesia," are eagerly waiting for it. Just a few sentences later, talking about those, who are cursed and cut off from Messiah, he calls them 'Israelites' and claims that they already have this relationship with God. Thus, according to Paul, we as Christians are hoping and striving for something Israel already possesses.

God's attitude towards his people is depicted as a father-son relationship throughout the Old Testament. Israel, therefore, has a hereditary title. For that reason, God chastises and admonishes this nation as he does no other. He is jealous of his 'firstborn'. Moses has to tell the Pharaoh: "Israel is my firstborn son. I tell you, let my son go that he may serve me. If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son" (*Exodus 4:22-23*). As the son of God, Israel enjoys a very special commitment and devotion from his Father and, therefore, enjoys a unique access to the Creator of the universe.

This special relationship, however, comes with extraordinary expectations. God's firstborn son was to be freed from slavery in Egypt in order to be able to serve his Father. The 'position as son' includes an obligation: "You are the sons of the Lord your God. You shall not cut yourselves nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead, for you are a holy nation for the Lord your God. The Lord has chosen you to be a peculiar people for himself from all the nations that are upon the earth" (*Deuteronomy 14:1-2*).



Russian Invasion of Ukraine: *Prelude to Gog and Magog?*

■ Kameel Majdali

Director | Teach All Nations Inc.

February 24, 2022: The Russian invasion is the first major military engagement on European soil since World War II, dwarfing the Balkan wars of the 1990s when the former Yugoslavia dissolved. A great civilisational change - even shaking - is occurring, no matter what the final outcome of this invasion may be.

What is the nature of the Russia-Ukraine war? Does it have any implications for Bible prophecy, specifically the Gog and Magog prophecy in *Ezekiel 38-39*? I intend to explore these questions. First, let's be clear: there is more going on here than meets the eye, though we acknowledge the tragedy of fraternal Slavs and Orthodox Christians fighting each other. Second, it is not entirely clear why Putin invaded his neighbour. Does he merely want to cause Ukraine to be a neutral border state, unaligned to the European Union and NATO, with a Kremlin-friendly government? Or does he want to conquer and annex Ukraine to Russia? The story continues to unfold.

The Russia-Ukraine war is causing people to turn the pages of the Bible to see what are the prophetic implications, if any. We learn from Jesus Himself that the warm-up to the last days, preceding His second coming, includes 'wars and rumours of wars' (*Matthew 24:6*), 'great shaking' (*Hebrews 12:26-27*), and 'intensity of living' (*Matthew 24:37-39*); in general, great and unexpected changes. Think back to life just three years ago. It seems like an eternity. The 'old normal' is gone, and the 'new normal' is unclear and unsettling. Life will not be the same again.

The fire and fury of this invasion, plus unprecedented global attention, has caused many to wonder: Is this the prelude to *Ezekiel 38-39*? Apart from Armageddon (*Zechariah 14*; *Revelation 16:16*), the *Ezekiel* prophecy is the best known of the major end-time events.

1 Chronicles 12:32 speaks of the men of Issachar who discerned the times and seasons and acted prudently. When you 'understand the times' - what is happening and why - you will know what to do. When applying current events to Bible prophecy, it is important to understand both the event itself and then carefully see how it lines up with the Biblical record.

Gog & Magog

In short, the Gog and Magog campaign is a massive



| Photo: Shutterstock

latter-day invasion by a coalition of nations led by a power from the north. The target is a peaceful, unsuspecting, and unprepared Israel. This unexpected invasion is so overwhelming that, humanly speaking, the Jewish state should be destroyed. Yet, at the eleventh hour, God Himself intervenes annihilates Gog and its allies, and Israel is saved.

Now let's look at some of the details (*all references are from Ezekiel*):

Who's the Leader: Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal (*38:1*).

Main Allies: Persia, Ethiopia (or Sudan), and Libya (*38:5*).

Secondary Allies: Gomer, the house of Togarmah and many peoples with them (*38:6*).

Timing: In the latter or last days, after 'many days you will be visited' (*38:8,17*). There is discussion and disagreement about where to place the Gog campaign in the prophetic calendar: before the tribulation, during the tribulation, or at the end, making it synonymous with the campaign of Armageddon? A fourth option is after the Millennium (the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth) since Satan will be loosed, gather the rebels together to attack the beloved city, and fire falls from heaven and destroys them (*Revelation 20:7-10*).

Target of the Invasion: The people of Israel in the land of Israel. The people are gathered out of many nations, on the once wasted mountains of Israel but now dwelling in safety (*38:8*). Israel will be 'living in peace.' Do the October 2020 Abraham (Peace) Accords with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco point Israel in that direction? Or does the menace of antagonists like Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the drone-savvy Houthis in Yemen, preclude this?

Reason for the Invasion: Spoil will be seized, plunder carried off, livestock and goods confiscated (*38:12*). Will Israel's natural gas reserves in the Mediterranean Sea be part of the booty?

God's Response: God goes against Gog and his allies, sends the fire from heaven and destroys the coalition (*39:1-6*); it takes seven months to bury the dead (*39:12*). Ultimately, it is God who draws out Gog and company to battle and destroys them. When this happens, the nations will hallow and glorify the name of God (*38:16*).

Israel's aftermath: Instead of being destroyed, thanks to divine intervention, Israel experienced the final ingathering of the exiles (*39:27-28*). Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them (*37:14*; *39:29*).

To be continued...

Isreality

Salomé's Run for Life



Finally, the day had come. On Friday, 4 February at 6am, Salomé was ready to run the Dead Sea Marathon. Despite the early hour and the strong wind, she managed to run the 42.195 km in 3 hours and 32 minutes and took 2nd place in the women's division!

Salomé is a 24-year-old nurse from the Netherlands. She is the daughter of Roger van Oordt, Honorary Consul of Israel in the Netherlands. Salomé's goal was to raise NZ \$20,845 for the children of ADI together with Isreality Netherlands. ADI (formerly known as 'AleH') is an organisation that takes care of children with severe multiple disabilities, both cognitively and physically. She more than succeeded: the total amount that was raised was NZ \$36,368! The funds will be

used to purchase much needed rehabilitative equipment.

Salomé: "As far back as I can remember, my family has been involved with helping Israel. I love the diversity, that different cultures can live together. As a nurse, ADI is a cause that is close to my heart."

After her success at the Dead Sea, Salomé was invited by *i24 News Network* to talk about her experience. You can watch a short clip of the Marathon and part of the *i24* interview here:

www.isreality.org/salome-ran-the-marathon-at-the-dead-sea/



The Passover Lamb

■ Kees de Vreugd

Theologian | Christians for Israel International & Editor
| Israel & the Church

It plays an important role in the story of the exodus and is one of the first commandments given to Israel in the Bible. Yet the Passover lamb has not been served at the Jewish Seder table for 1950 years because there is no longer a temple where it can be sacrificed.

In *Exodus 12*, various regulations are given concerning the Paschal lamb. On the tenth day of the month, designated as the 'head of the months' (so it says in Hebrew, *Exodus 12:2*), each family of 'all the community of Israel' is to take a lamb. It is remarkable that the Bible uses the word community for Israel here for the first time. With this command, Israel is forged into a community under God's commandments. One lamb per family, and if it is too much for a household, then two families.

As with all sacrifices, it must be a lamb without any defect. It must be a male one-year-old, and it may be either a goat or a sheep. The Israelites must then keep it in the house for four days. This means that the lamb must be examined carefully for defects that would make it unsuitable for the sacrifice. One explanation says that in the (later) sacrificial service, it was the general rule that a sacrificial animal was carefully examined for defects four days beforehand. This could also be done by the one who sold the sacrificial animal. But only in the case of the Paschal Lamb, the sacrificer must do this himself. By the way, the Jewish interpretation notes that the period of four days only applied to the first time in Egypt. Later it no longer had to be observed. At the end of *Exodus 12*, instructions are given for later celebrations.

Why a lamb of a goat or a sheep? The midrash, the classic rabbinic Bible explanation, explains that this symbolises the Egyptian deities. Israel had to renounce the Egyptian gods. With the lamb, they slaughtered the gods of Egypt and turned to the God of Israel.

In Jewish tradition, it is told as one of the Passover miracles: the Egyptians were, of course, furious when they heard that the Israelites were taking lambs (their gods) into their homes and tying them to the table leg, so to speak, in order to slaughter them. But they were not able to do anything against it because God protected Israel. The Paschal Lamb thus stands not only for the transition from slavery to freedom but also for the spiritual transformation from cultural and religious bondage to the service of the true God.

With the blood of the slaughtered lamb, the Israelites had to sprinkle the doorposts. "And the blood shall be for you



| Photo: Flash90

a sign" - for you, it says with some emphasis. It is a sign that the Israelites have renounced Egyptian idols and have become visibly obedient to God's commandment, even if their lives are in danger. But the Lord sees Israel's obedience and passes over their houses. That is the meaning of the word Pesach: to pass over or skip over. The destroyer (*verse 23*) has no chance.

The Paschal Lamb had to be slaughtered "between the two evenings", so the Hebrew literally says. That was understood as after noon when the sun is over its highest point and before sunset. It was then to be roasted whole

sacrificed daily both in the morning and in the afternoon as a symbol of devotion and meeting with God. But that must be distinguished from the Paschal Lamb.

The apostle Paul writes: "For Christ, our Passover also has been sacrificed" (*1 Corinthians 5:7*). It is in the context of a call to the believers in Corinth to purify their lives from sin, fornication, and idolatry.

Jesus died at the hour of the daily sacrifice in the temple. It was the afternoon of 14 Nissan, the time that the Passover lambs, too, were slaughtered. He died as a blameless sacrifice. None of His bones were broken (*John*

Jesus died at the hour of the daily sacrifice in the temple. It was the afternoon of 14 Nissan, the time that the Passover lambs, too, were slaughtered. He died as a blameless sacrifice. None of His bones were broken (John 19:36).

on the fire. Not one leg of it was to be broken. It was only meant for Israel. Those who were not circumcised were not allowed to participate. This continued to be the case later on. According to Jewish tradition, many Israelites in Egypt, therefore, had still to be circumcised. That is also why a period of four days was observed.

The Paschal Lamb is thus not a sacrifice for sin. There is sometimes confusion about this. In the sanctuary (first the tabernacle, later the temple), there were daily sacrifices for sin, including lambs. And a lamb was

19:36). According to John's Gospel, Jesus died for the nation, and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad (*John 11:51-52*). In other words, to bring back the exiles of Israel.

This year, 14 Nissan, the eve of Passover, coincides with Good Friday. Let us remember that Jesus' death is not just for our personal salvation, but first and foremost for the restoration of all Israel.

Matzah

In this series, 'Signs of Faith', objects that express Jewish faith are explained and discussed.

The *matzah* will be familiar to many. It is the flat, hard cake that is eaten during *Pesach* (Passover). The Hebrew word *matzah* can be translated as unleavened. What is unleavened? It is when the dough for the *matzah* is not allowed time to rise. In the Jewish teachings, preparation of the *matzah* is precisely defined. The entire baking process may not be longer than eighteen minutes.

The Bible speaks of the feast of the *matzot* (plural of *matzah*), as well as *Pesach* (*Leviticus 23:6*). It coincides with *Pesach* yet is distinct from it. The feast of the *matzot* lasts seven days. It starts with the removal of all leaven from the house. Leaven is *chametz* in Hebrew. Originally, it was a piece of old dough, sourdough, that caused the fresh dough to rise. All crumbs, all old flour, is all burnt. For seven days, nothing leavened may be consumed. All products that are leavened or risen are banned, also beer, for example.

The commandment to eat the *matzah* was given on the eve of the exodus from Egypt. It symbolised the haste with which the Israelites had to leave Egypt. Eating the *matzah* recalls the liberation from slavery of Egypt. "This is the bread of affliction (*Deuteronomy 16:3*) that our fathers ate in Egypt," says the Haggadah, the liturgy of the *Seider* (the Passover supper). Those who eat the *matzah* at the *Seder* table, at that moment, personally experience the affliction the fathers in Egypt underwent. It is as if you yourself are leaving Egypt. That is how you should celebrate the *Seider*, the Haggadah says.

As a matter of fact, the *matzah* appears earlier in the Bible, in a non-cultic context. Lot, Abraham's nephew, baked *matzahs* for the angels visiting him (*Genesis 19:3*). Abraham told Sarah to 'quickly' prepare bread cakes when the three men came to him (*Genesis 18:6*). Maybe here, too, we should think of *matzahs*.

For the grain offerings in the temple, too, *matzahs* were used. Other than the *matzahs* for *Pesach*, these were often prepared with oil.



| Photo: Shutterstock

Jerusalem Day

■ Bryce Turner

Christians for Israel New Zealand

As the world slowly re-opens following the ravages of the Covid pandemic and the pain of lockdowns and isolation starts to fade, residents of Jerusalem will soon commemorate 55 years since the end of a brutal separation.

Jerusalem day will be celebrated on 29 May this year, as Israelis, Jews and supporters all around the world remember the reunification of Jerusalem as a result of the Six-day war in 1967.

The Importance of Jerusalem to Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Jerusalem has been the epicentre of the Arab-Israeli conflict for the past century, largely due to its enormous religious significance to Judaism, Christianity and, more recently, Islam. The Temple Mount is sacred to Judaism, as it is believed to be the site of the three Jewish temples. The first, built by King Solomon, was dedicated in 960BC and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586BC. The Second Temple was dedicated in 516BC, built by Jewish exiles returning to Jerusalem. King Herod demolished this second temple in 20BC in order to build a much grander temple, which was done in an impressive 18 months. It was this third temple that the Romans subsequently destroyed in 70AD during the Jewish revolt.

For Jews, the Temple Mount is the holiest place in the world as the Divine Presence rests there forever. The Midrash (Rabbinic literature) states that the stone under the Dome of the Rock was the starting point of God's Creation. Since God created the world from this stone, it became known as the 'Foundation Stone.' According to Jewish tradition, the Temple Mount is also Mount Moriah, the site of Abraham's binding of Isaac on the rock.

Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Israel (1004-928BC), the capital of the Kingdom of Judah (928-586BC) and the capital of the Hasmonean Kingdom (167-63BC), over a thousand years before it became sacred to Christianity, and some 1700 years before it became sacred to Islam. Christianity also holds Jerusalem as the

Holy City, mostly because of the life of Jesus and much of His ministry that took place in and around the city. Jesus was tried and crucified at Jerusalem and, following His resurrection, ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives.

Despite not being mentioned in the Koran a single time, Jerusalem has also become sacred to the Islamic faith, being the third holiest place to Muslims. Based on the belief that the prophet Muhammad ascended to Heaven from the 'foundation rock', the structure erected in 691AD to commemorate this became a women's mosque in 1952.

Jerusalem Divided

Despite being the Jewish capital for over 3000 years, Jerusalem has in recent times been under various foreign controls. Following WWI, the Balfour Declaration and ultimately the British Mandate for Palestine, the international community finally agreed to the re-establishment of Israel. A proposal had been submitted to the General Assembly that carved up the Holy Land into two proposed countries, with Jerusalem under international rule for an initial period of ten years. Whilst this resolution was passed by the UN General Assembly and agreed to – albeit reluctantly – by the Jewish leaders, the Arabs flatly rejected it, preventing it from becoming a binding legal instrument. In conjunction with Britain's announcement that it was withdrawing from the mandate, Israel declared its independence, to the delight of Jewish communities all around the world. The ravages of war and the extreme anti-Semitism that had culminated in the murder of over six million Jews in the holocaust seemed to be over. The weary citizens began to relax just a little; the future started to look peaceful in the security of their own Jewish state.

Just days after Israel's independence was declared, the Arab nations breached all international treaties and attacked the new country. After a ferocious battle, the city of Jerusalem was left divided between Jordanian forces and Israel, a situation that lasted for some 19 years. During this period, the Jewish people, having survived

the horrors of Nazi Germany and then the fight to enter their own country, found themselves tantalisingly close to the Temple Mount and other Holy sites. With Jordan illegally holding control over most of Jerusalem, Jews found themselves essentially barred from these sites. Jordan, despite being the illegal occupier, denied Jews access to even the Western Wall, a cruel sequestration that wreaked untold pain on Jewish devotees. During this time, dozens of synagogues were destroyed or desecrated throughout Jerusalem, and other historical and religious sites damaged by the Jordanian occupiers.

Jerusalem United - the Battle

In 1967, with tensions at a peak, neighbouring Arab nations had begun to amass troops and military equipment in readiness for an attack on Israel. Arab leaders had made no secret of their desire to extinguish Israel altogether, to 'drive it into the sea.' Although Israel appealed to Jordan to stay out of the war, the Jordanian military fired artillery at Jerusalem and then attacked with ground troops, subsequently capturing and occupying the UN headquarters. Israel responded with a counterattack and ultimately forced the Jordanians across the west bank, after which IDF paratroopers managed to take control of the Old City, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. The radio message received when IDF forces announced that they had reclaimed the Temple Mount has become a statement of national pride, fondly recalled with great passion by many who still remember that hugely significant moment.

Holiday

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel declared Jerusalem Day a minor religious holiday in recognition of regaining access to the Western Wall. Israel's biggest city, Jerusalem, is now home to people from a huge and diverse range of backgrounds. People of all religions and cultures are now able to visit even the most sacred of places under Israeli control – including the Western Wall – and experience for themselves the unique site of thousands of years of Jewish history.

Short News

Plan Mount of Olives Shelved



The Israeli Government plans to designate parts of the Mount of Olives as a national park. In Israel there are many important archaeological sites and nature reserves designated as national parks, as is the Temple Mount. But the various Churches on the Mount of Olives have expressed concerns about the plan, and organisations critical about Israel suspect Israel of expanding its sovereignty. Israel shelves the plan and will start a dialogue with the Churches. | Photo: Shutterstock

Books Digitised

The National Library of Israel is going to digitise 120,000 books. The digitisation is done by Google in Germany. It involves books in all kinds of languages. When the books are digitised, they are put online and everyone in the world can read them.

Free Land



To stimulate the Israeli agriculture the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture makes an offer to young people: a piece of agricultural land and a plot to build a house on. It is a plan to preserve the Israeli agriculture in Galilee and the Golan Heights. Many people have been moving away from these areas for years already, especially young people, because they consider the chances of getting a job better in the middle of the country. To break this trend, the Ministry presents this plan. | Photo: Flashgo

Import of Bullets Prevented

A shipment of 7,000 bullets meant for Gaza didn't reach its destination. Customs staff managed to intercept the cargo, hidden in rolls of insulation material. They also discovered weapons inside the shipment that was supposed to be transported to Gaza from Ashdod.

Free Supermarket

In Petach Tikva there is a supermarket filled with donated goods. Those in need can shop for free once or twice a month, by invitation via a WhatsApp group. There is only one condition: you are allowed to take only one item per product.

Facts Speak

2021 Aliyah

27,057 Jews moved to Israel in 2021



- Canada 400+**
An increase from 2020
- USA 4,000+**
30% increase from 2020
- Mexico 290+**
10% increase from 2020
- Brazil 550+**
72% increase from 2020
- Argentina 900+**
55% increase from 2020
- United Kingdom 650+**
22% increase from 2020
- Russia 7,500+**
10% increase from 2020
- Ukraine 3,000+**
10% increase from 2020
- France 3,500+**
40% increase from 2020
- Ethiopia 1,636+**
Thousands more following
- South Africa 550+**
72% increase from 2020

Nowhere to Lay His Head

■ Kay Wilson

Israeli Tour Guide | Author | Cartoonist

What Churchill was to Britain with his command of the English language, Abba Eban was to Israel. Of all the Israeli statesmen, Abba Eban left a legacy of literary wit on every Israeli heart.

Among his most piercingly humorous and truthful sayings is the unforgettable: "If Algeria introduced a resolution that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions." His tongue was his most powerful weapon, and over his long career, he used it with astonishing effectiveness numerous times.

He first caught the eye of the world when he rose to address the General Assembly of the United Nations in May 1949. His very British appearance and his Oxbridge accent set him apart from the stereotypes that the assembly had of Israelis. No one moved in the hall as he delivered a two-hour appeal for the new state of Israel. His speech that year at the General Assembly was so moving that it led to Israel's admission to the UN. His position assured, he retained his post at the UN until 1959, even becoming vice-president of the General Assembly for a number of years.

A brilliant scholar, Abba Eban was born in South Africa and given the name Aubrey Solomon Meir Eban. His family soon moved to England. His parents were not rich, and life was tough with four children on their hands. But proving to be a prodigy, he won scholarships to every school he attended and even Cambridge University.

During World War II, British Intelligence recognised his talent and sent him on a secret mission to Egypt to discuss ways in which the Arab nations could be involved in the British side in the war. He was soon serving as liaison officer at allied headquarters in Jerusalem, where he was



Prime Minister David Ben Gurion accompanied by Mr Abba Eban, Israel Ambassador to USA visits President Harry Truman, 1951. | Photo: Fritz Cohen

given the task of recruiting members of the Jewish population for the British army. Although the British wanted him to continue to serve in their forces after the war, with the horrors of the Holocaust now becoming known, Abba Eban joined the Jewish Agency instead and dedicated his life to Zionism.

In Israel, he invested his time in writing and in public speaking, becoming very involved in Israeli politics. Fluent in Arabic, he was always given the task of talking to Arabs. His British accent and exterior were a bonus to him and his country. Just like at the UN, both the Israelis and the

Arabs did not always equate him with being a 'real' Israeli.

In the case of Arabs, it arguably made them more open to dialogue, but in the case of Israelis, sadly, Abba Eban felt very estranged. After all the incredible work Abba Eban also did for the British, even they shunned him. One of the finest British servicemen of his time, he is not even mentioned in any of their biographical dictionaries.

As an old saying goes, this man had nowhere to lay his head. Eban did not fit in anywhere, but his legacy lives on. His words, thoughts and pointed wit still amuse us and challenge us today.

Celebrating Israel's Revival

■ Yaakov Hagoel

Vice-Chairman | World Zionist Organisation
Chairman | World Likud

Throughout history, no other people has held so strongly to the memory of their homeland no matter what country they lived in.

I was born in Israel to parents who were also born in Israel. However my grandparents had the merit to make *Aliyah* to Israel. Like many who are now reading this article, my grandparents left behind a house, a culture, and a language. Unfortunately, I will never experience the amazing challenge of liberating myself from exile and returning home to the promised land.

I will never deal with the difficulties of learning a new/old language and adapting to a new culture - an integral part of immigration. The phenomenon of *Aliyah*, which means to 'arise to Israel,' began nearly 4,000 years ago.

Under divine command, the patriarch of the Jewish nation was called to "leave thy country, and thy people, and thy father's house, unto a land that I will show you" as it states in the book of *Genesis*. He embarked on a long journey, a journey that has not yet come to an end.

It is not at all simple to leave a land of plenty and come to a land that seems lacking. However Abraham's complete faith in making this huge step has deepened within our people the importance of taking this step ourselves. The essence of our life is here and this is where we can fulfill the aspiration to establish a 'model society' as described by the Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl.

Throughout history, no other people has held so strongly to the memory of their homeland no matter what country they lived in. With prayer books in front of their eyes, Jews have been praying for thousands of years

facing the direction of Jerusalem. Despite not living in the land, Jews have always studied the laws that pertain to the land such as *shmittah* and the Jubilee year. Every year the Passover Seder ends with the words 'next year in rebuilt Jerusalem.'

The renewed Zionist idea contains two basic concepts which cannot be separated: immigration and resettlement.

As Theodor Herzl, founder of the World Zionist Organisation wrote, "throughout the long night of their exile, Jews have never ceased dreaming of their kingdom. We read 'next year in Jerusalem' throughout all generations. Now the time has come to make that dream a reality."

Yom HaAliyah was formalised as a national holiday in Israel to be marked on the 7th of Cheshvan. However according to tradition, Joshua led the children of Israel into the holy land on a different date, the 27th of Nisan. But it was no accident that the 7th of Cheshvan was chosen to mark the *Aliyah Day*. It is on this week every year, that we read *Parshat Lech Lecha* in synagogue on Shabbat. It is in this Torah portion that Abraham hears the divine call to leave the land of his birth and forge a new path to the land of Israel.

Yom HaAliyah, or *Aliyah Day*, reinforces the right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. This date reminds us that despite the expulsion of the majority of the Jewish people from their homeland nearly 2,000 years ago, they remained faithful to the land throughout their Dispersion.

Throughout the generations, our ancestors aspired to immigrate to Israel. Many of us grew up seeing old photographs of immigrants ships, of Jews kissing the ground as they arrived in Israel, and of the *Ma'abarot* or transit camps with their rows of tents for homeless immigrant families.

Immigration to Israel in the days of our parents and grandparents was accompanied by a difficult transition. They came with little material possessions or money and lived in tent cities or development towns. They became a symbol both of the difficulty of making *Aliyah* yet the importance of doing it in spite of everything.

With the development of the State of Israel and its prosperity, the procedure of *Aliyah* and absorption has improved beyond recognition. The transit camps were replaced by apartments, poverty was replaced by an Absorption Basket, and language difficulties were replaced by the Hebrew Ulpan system.

From refugees of the Spanish Inquisition to those escaping the hardships in Africa and survivors from war-torn Europe steeped in blood, Israel has become the home of the Jewish people from all different walks of life.

In this new/old land, we have seen a new generation of scientists, artists, entrepreneurs, military experts, lawmakers, intellectuals, and religious leaders from countless different countries. They are now all part of this innovation nation called the State of Israel where immigrants from around the world share their talents in development, economics, high-tech and medical breakthroughs.

There are numerous challenges when it comes to being an immigrant. We must all recognise the importance of both absorption and integration into Israeli society, the removal of obstacles to success as well as maintaining ties with our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora.

The State of Israel is looking forward to the continued ingathering of the exiles from around the world, from South America from Australia from Europe from North America from Ethiopia and from all over the world.

Abridged by Managing Editor

The Moment to Act Fast

■ **Elena Kovarsky & Valeria Zacharov**
First Home in the Homeland

The moment requires us to act fast and create new vacancies for families all over Israel – on Sunday, 27 February; an urgent letter was sent out to all the kibbutzim asking the communities to organise apartments, equipment, vacancies for children, volunteers, etc. for the refugees from Ukraine as soon as possible – around 16 kibbutz applied and starting from this moment we are working hard trying to get new places ready for the arrival of new people as soon as possible and welcome about 20 families each month, every time in another region.

No one believed it could happen, but it did, and we all are witnesses of this invasion of Ukraine and massive exodus – “Get up! Get up! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the Lord (*Zechariah 2:6*) – the Jews that were not thinking about *Aliyah* are now privileged – they have their Promised Land – Israel that cares about them!

■ **“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3).**

This is what Nathan Sharansky shared earlier: “When I was growing up in Ukraine, in Donetsk, there were a lot of nations and nationalities. Some people had ‘Russian’, ‘Ukrainian’, ‘Georgian’, written on their certificate. It was not so important; there was no big difference, but one thing. It was important - if it said ‘Jew’, it was as if you had an illness.

We knew nothing about Judaism; there was nothing significant in our Jewish identity other than anti-Semitism and hatred towards us. So, no one tried to

replace the word ‘Russian’ with the word ‘Ukrainian’ in his ID card, for example, to be accepted to university, because it does not matter, but if it said ‘Jewish’, you could change it. Of course, the chances of being accepted were greater.

I was reminded of this this week when I saw thousands of people standing at the borders, trying to escape the tragedy in Ukraine. They stand there day and night, and there is one word that can help them get out of there: ‘Jew’. If you are a Jew - there are Jews out there who take care of you, there is someone on the other side of the border who is looking for you, your chances of leaving are high. The world has turned upside down. “When I was a child, ‘Jew’ was an unusual word for evil, no one envied us, and today on the Ukrainian border, a Jew is an unusual word for good, it describes people who have a place to go, and there is an entire people, which is their family, waiting for them outside.”

Preparing for the Refugees

The refugees will arrive in the coming days and weeks, mostly women with children. They will cross the Ukrainian borders and very soon come to Israel. The first group will go to the South. We urgently have to equip apartments for refugees from Ukraine. Christians for Israel have been with us for years, in good times and trying times. But we have not seen such a time as this. We hope that we can bring many people out of the war and fear to their home, to their first home in the homeland!

Please support the “First Home in the Homeland” Project. Any amount is welcome! To donate, complete the coupon on page 16.



Yuliya from Odessa and her children, Anastasiya (15 years old), Ilya (1 year old). Yuliya arrived alone as her husband had to stay in Ukraine.



Yelkina and her daughter Anastasia (3 years old) from Odessa arrived in Israel on 10 March and we welcomed them in kibbutz Mashabei Sade.

Overview of our projects

Part of our mission is to comfort Israel and the Jewish people through prayer and action. If you would like to support one of our projects you can complete the coupon on page 16 or make an online donation. Thank you very much for your support!

Aliyah

Aliyah is the Hebrew word for the return of the Jewish people to Israel. We support *Aliyah* mainly from Ukraine (and the former Soviet Union), but also from India and France. Furthermore, we help new immigrants (in Hebrew: *olim*) to integrate into Israeli society.



Hineni Soup Kitchen

We help the poor of Israel, by providing them with food. We do this in partnership with the Hineni Center in Jerusalem, headed by Benjamin Philip. Your gift for the soup kitchen goes directly to the purchase of food.



Holocaust Survivors

We support impoverished Holocaust survivors in Israel and Ukraine through various projects which provide assistance to survivors of the Holocaust. Those survivors are elderly and will not be among us for long, and there is a growing demand for practical assistance.



Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC)

You can support the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, the heart of Biblical Israel. The main purpose is to encourage the people in the Biblical Heartland and to show them that there are Christians throughout the world who support them and share the belief that the areas of Judea and Samaria are part of Israel’s inheritance.



Food Parcel Campaign Ukraine

We distribute food parcels amongst Jewish people in Ukraine. These parcels are handed out to Holocaust survivors, needy families, and the sick. Those food parcels are a sign of friendship that demonstrates your support for our Jewish brothers and sisters and that they are not alone.



Arab Christians

Life for Christians in Bethlehem is often not easy. Christians for Israel supports the First Baptist Church of Rev Naim Khoury in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The members of this church spread the gospel among Arabs and share their love and heart for Israel and the Jewish people.



For country-specific or further information on our projects, go to our website, www.c4israel.org.nz

Finally Safe at Home!



On Sunday, March 6, the first group of 150 Jewish refugees from Ukraine landed in Israel. They were welcomed to Israel by, among others, the Israeli Minister of Immigration Prina Tamano-Shata, who herself had to flee violence from her native Ethiopia as a little girl.

Danielle Mor of the Jewish Agency said, "I can hardly believe that I am allowed to stand here on behalf of Christians for Israel. Together we have been able to bring people out of the horror and war to the safety of Israel. We thank Christians for Israel and especially your team in Ukraine for all you do. May God be with you".

One of the refugees tearfully explains, "My husband, my grandparents and all my friends stayed behind in Ukraine. We are now here in safety. We are of course happy, but at the same time very sad".

Since March 6, several evacuation flights have been taking place to Israel every day. Thanks to your support we as Christians for Israel can help with this. God is bringing His people home, through all afflictions!

"You are Doing God's Work"

At our shelter in Moldova, a full bus arrives with people from the Jewish community in Ukraine. It is snowing and freezing cold. After days of travelling, they are finally at a place where they can get a decent rest.

An elderly lady comes walking in with the other people from this bus. Her name is Ludmilla and has come from Kharkov; at the last minute she heard that one of our buses would be leaving the city. Ludmilla: "I was told it was a good, reliable organisation that could help me. I had twenty minutes to pack my things and go. I grabbed my passport and I looked around my house one more time and then I closed the door behind me. There was someone to help me get to the bus of Christians for Israel. While on the way, we were in the car and there were bombings. There were explosions, it was terribly scary."



Now Ludmilla is safe and on her way to Israel. She didn't know Christians for Israel yet, but she is deeply grateful. "I am so happy that Christians are helping us. It shows me that God is love, it's brotherly love. You are doing God's work!" | Photo: Christians for Israel

YES! I Want to Support Christians for Israel

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL NZ MINISTRY

My donation for ministry costs, print & post

ALIYAH - EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN UKRAINE

- Help one Jewish refugee - \$160
- Transport for a small family - \$635
- One bus with refugees - \$6315
- General donation emergency campaign
- First Home in the Homeland

ALIYAH - OTHER

- Aliyah - Ethiopia
- Bnei Menashe (India) (1 person) - \$1460

SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

- Hineni Soup Kitchen - \$10 per meal
- Holocaust Survivors
- Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC)
- Arab Christians
- For Zion's Sake
- Israel Alzheimer's Centre: Bladder Scanner

TOTAL DONATION \$.....

DONATION

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ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

- | | QTY | PRICE |
|---|-------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christians for Israel NZ Calendar 2022 Limited Stock | | \$19.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christians for Israel NZ Israeli & Friends Cookbook Limited Stock | | \$34.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar and Israeli & Friends Cookbook Bundle Deal - Limited Stock | | \$49.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Israel on Trial by Dr Matthijs de Blois and Andrew Tucker Special \$49.95 | | \$39.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Until - Fourteen Prophetic Horizons by Rev Willem Glashouwer | | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living a Life in Victory by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Signs of the Times by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$19.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why Israel? (Book) by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why Jerusalem? (Book) by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why End Times? (Book) by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why is it so Difficult for Jews to Believe in Jesus by Cornelis Kant | | \$12.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Remo 100 - Pathway for Peace | | \$12.95 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Israel: Covenants & Kingdom by Willem JJ Glashouwer | | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 70 Questions about Israel by Chan Siew Fong | | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towards the Establishment of the State of Israel by Edda Fogorollo | | \$21.50 |

Please add \$5.50 for postage & packaging (or \$9.40 for rural postage) \$.....

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Check out our website for a full list of essential resources

Thank you for supporting Christians for Israel. If you are donating via online banking for the first time, 'thank you!', please don't forget to put your name as the reference. If you receive the paper via a group or church and you are not on our database, please give us a call or email us so we can allocate a supporter number to you. It saves administration time if we have all the details and allocate your donation correctly. Please don't hesitate to contact us, as we are here to help through the 'no cheque' transition phase.

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N.B. Donation statements are generated annually at the end of the financial year. Christians for Israel NZ does not currently qualify for charitable status.