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

Prayer Points



By Pieter Bénard
Christians for
Israel Prayer
Coordinator

ISRAEL

- With all of the commotion around Jerusalem, the words from *Zechariah 12:2,3* become very prominent. *'Jerusalem is like a cup of trembling for all the peoples around Jerusalem and like a heavy stone for all the peoples. We can remind the Lord God of these words. He will achieve His purpose. Thank God for His salvation and protection.'* (Verses 7 and 8)
- Pray for Israel from Psalm 25:22 "Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles" and from Psalm 129:5 "May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backwards."
- At the end of last year, batteries of the Iron Dome rocket shield system were placed around heavily populated areas in central Israel, just as they have been in the north and south. Pray for protection from Israel's enemies (*Psalm 69:14*).

INTERCESSION

- We see the physical reality but we are also involved in a spiritual battle. The spiritual power of the UN, for example, is a prince who is close to the 'prince of this world' (*John 14:30*). Also see *Ephesians 2:2b*. Watch and pray.
- Thank the Lord for His unfailing Word. *Psalm 69:35, 36* is an example of this. Words like saving, rebuilding, living, possessing, descendants, and inheritance mean exactly what is written.
- Intercede for the Jewish population of Israel, specifically for the Holocaust survivors who, in their old age, once again experience their existence being threatened while most of the world turns a blind eye.

CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL

- Pray for Koen & Ira Carlier, our Aliyah field workers in Ukraine. Together with their team, they do essential work for the Aliyah movement. It is extraordinary that all over the world, from Oceania to Uganda and from USA to the Netherlands, people are praying for the return of Israel (*Zephaniah 3:20*).
- Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer and Rev. Kees Kant recently gave Biblical teaching about Israel in Vietnam. Pray that this teaching may continue to take root. The conference in Vietnam was a great miracle! Also, give thanks for the conferences in Uganda where Andrew Tucker and Jos van Westing spoke.
- Please pray for the volunteers and employees of Christians for Israel worldwide. People from affiliates around the world are focused on Jerusalem, the city of the great King, clearly bringing forward Jesus, the Jewish people, and the restored nation of Israel.

For more Prayer Points, please go to our website www.c4israel.org

'Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done'

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor & Executive Director, Christians for Israel International



Prayer is at the heart of our Christian faith. Throughout the gospels, we read that Jesus Himself was almost constantly in prayer with His Father in heaven. For Him, this was the most natural and important thing to be doing. Regularly He withdrew from the crowds to spend time with His Father; even His own disciples often did not know where He was. He spent nights alone on the mountain in prayer. His last night before His arrest and crucifixion was a long night of tears spent in close communion with His Father.

... the return of the Jewish people is perhaps the greatest miracle to happen in the last 150 years.

At a certain moment, observing His prayer, Jesus' disciples ask Him: "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught His disciples" (*Luke 11:1*). Jesus' answer is remarkably straight-forward. "Ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find".

It is at that moment that Jesus taught His disciples what has come to be known as 'The Lord's Prayer'. This prayer has become so familiar to us that we often run the risk of taking it for granted. Do we realise the depth of what Jesus was teaching? Do we understand and feel how privileged we are to be able to approach the Creator of heaven and earth and call him 'Abba, Father'? Do we believe that when we ask in faith, He will give us all we ask for?

The Lord's prayer is deceptively simple. The starting-point is our relationship as children (*sons and daughters*), by speaking to God who made all things as 'our Father'. Next, Jesus emphasises the divinity of God: "Hallowed (sanctified) be your name". God is not only the creator – he is the author and the finisher, the beginning and the end. As Jesus later explains so beautifully in His final conversation with His friends on the night before His death (*John 14-17*), we can call God 'our Father' because He is Jesus' Father. The unity between the Father and the Son is ours, because of Jesus. He is 'the Way' to the Father, the 'Truth and the Life'.

Having established our right relationship with God, what is it that we should pray for? The very first thing that Jesus teaches us to pray for is the coming of the Kingdom. The 'Kingdom of heaven' is the main theme of the Bible. In fact, we can say that the Bible, from the first chapter of Genesis to the last chapter of the Book of Revelation, is about the Kingdom of heaven.

The amazing thing about the Kingdom of heaven is that it is being established on earth. Jesus says: pray that the Kingdom of God will come "on earth as it is in heaven". Isn't that remarkable? The Kingdom is not just in heaven; it is also intended to be on earth! This opens up a whole new way of looking at reality around us. No longer do we just long to go to heaven when we die. No, we long that God will establish His Kingdom on earth!

Can it possibly be that God is, in fact, establishing His Kingdom on earth? Here we need to be very careful. First, we realise that the Kingdom of God is a heavenly Kingdom. Our calling and our reality is that having been born again through the Spirit, we are already seated 'in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (*Ephesians 2:6*). 'Our citizenship is in heaven', and we 'eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (*Philippians 3:20*).

We long for a renewed heaven and a renewed earth, and for the heavenly Jerusalem to come down from heaven (*Revelation 21*).

But before this can take place, the Bible tells us that a lot of things need to happen on earth. The coming of the heavenly Kingdom to earth does not just happen in a moment. The gospel of the Kingdom must go into all the world, the harvest of all believers must be gathered, and the children of Jacob (*the Jewish people*) must be brought home to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria from all the nations to which they have been scattered. The two and the ten tribes shall be reunited, under Christ (*Zechariah 12, Ezekiel 37*), and the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon the people of Israel (*Ezekiel 37*). The nations shall seek to destroy Jerusalem, only to be defeated by the Lord Himself (*Zechariah 12-14*). Once those nations that seek to oppose God have been defeated, the law shall go forth from Zion, word of the Lord from Jerusalem (*Isaiah 2*).

In order to understand the times we are living in, we need to put on God's glasses and look at the world as He looks at it. This brings us to current affairs. Establishing the Kingdom of heaven on earth has a major impact on world affairs. This is why Jerusalem is so important, and why we need to recognise the return of the Jewish people as perhaps the greatest miracle to happen in the last 150 years. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that the physical city of Jerusalem will be the centre of God's Kingdom when it is established on earth. It also tells us that Jerusalem will be a 'cup of reeling', a 'burdensome stone' to the surrounding nations. In that light, we can start to understand the reasons behind the disproportionate and irrational anger in the nations of the Middle East against President



Trump after his recent decision to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Knowing and understanding God's revealed purposes, we are commanded to pray fervently to God the Father, as Jesus did. Jesus told His disciples to be bold and to pray in faith in His name – believing that our heavenly Father will give all that they ask – provided they ask for the things that are important to Him.

Do we dare to ask the Lord God to establish His Kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven? And do we dare to ask Him to use us in that great work of His?

Christians for Israel Mission Statement

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.

Jewish Festivals

Tu BiShvat - New year for trees
31 January 2018

Shabbat Zachor - Shabbat before Purim
24 February 2018

Ta'anit Esther - Fast of Esther
28 February 2018

Purim - One of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar
1 March 2018

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Who Owns Jerusalem?

© Johannes Gerloff, Theologian, Journalist, Lecturer and Author



“Who owns Jerusalem?” the whole world wondered at the end of 2017, strangely emotionally, as if it were about its very existence. On 6 December, US

President Donald J. Trump recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Explicitly he wished only to take note of a fact. After all, the State of Israel never had had another capital. Jerusalem was declared capital by the Israeli government on 13 December 1949. It is common practice to leave sovereign states in charge of deciding on their capital and the seat of their parliament and government.

Trump left a great deal open in his declaration. In striking contrast to his predecessors Clinton and Obama, he did not speak of Jerusalem’s indivisibility. He avoided the questions of future borders, Palestinian refugees or Jewish settlements. Objectively, Trump’s Jerusalem statement carries all the fatal features of the ambiguity of so many other documents concerning the Middle East conflict.

Who owns Jerusalem? Through his statement, Donald Trump has made clear: Jerusalem does not belong to the Americans. In the name of the American people he announced: *“We keep out. We recognise the facts on the ground.”* In fact, the American president should have been saluted for his realism. But the world public reacted with indignation.

>> The Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly

A few days before Christmas, the United Nations General Assembly then condemned Trump’s Jerusalem Declaration in an emergency special session. 128 UN members supported the resolution. 35 states abstained. Togo, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Guatemala and Honduras joined forces with Israel and the United States of America against this condemnation of Trump’s statement.

For the record: Emergency special sessions of the UN General Assembly are being called if world peace is in acute danger. So far the United Nations applied this instrument eleven times in its history. Seven of these emergency special sessions were about Israel. Triggers were the Suez Crisis, the Six-Day War, the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, the construction of the Jerusalem quarter of Har Homa and now Jerusalem’s recognition as the capital of the Jewish state by the United States.

How absurd this setting of priorities in the United Nations is, shows a simple Google search. A global ranking of the world’s bloodiest conflicts since 1950, for example, is led by China (*40 million dead*), the Soviet Union (*10 million dead*) and Ethiopia (*4 million dead*).

With 0.051 million deaths, the Arab-Israeli conflict ranks on place 49. This ranking was determined long before the so-called ‘Arab Spring,’ which has claimed more lives every year over the past half-decade than the entire conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbours in seven decades.

>> The Palestinians as Alienated Observers

But back to Trump’s Jerusalem declaration in early December. The spontaneous reaction of ordinary Palestinians before the wave of European indignation reached the eastern edge of the Mediterranean deserves attention. Some did not even know what the excitement was all about. Lea Frehse hit the nail on the head when she observed in the German weekly DIE ZEIT: *“The world is in turmoil. And the Palestinians are looking at it strangely detached.”*

A former PLO fighter, highly respected in his own society, said: *“Don’t you realise? We have other problems. In the past few days alone, more than 1,000 people were killed in Yemen’s capital Sana’a.”* The regional conflagration of the Middle East, which Europe fears so much, has long been ignited and devours the countries around Israel. However, this has nothing to do with the Jewish people, their ambitions or their state.

On 6 December 2017, US President Donald J. Trump recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

>> If Europe Had Kept Silent

Just imagine what it would have looked like after 6 December 2017 if the Europeans had kept their mouths shut. Maybe nothing would have happened? Or has any Arab state broken off its diplomatic relations with the United States because of Trump’s declaration? Of course, neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority could be less pro-Palestinian after the Europeans’ outcry. Therefore, the outrage of the Europeans had to find an echo in ‘Palestine.’

The fact, however, that the Palestinian leadership had to pay youngsters to go to the streets with stones speaks for itself. The demonstratively proclaimed general strike of the Palestinians was obviously just for the show and only created harm to the Palestinians themselves. Those Palestinians who worked for Jewish Israelis diligently went about their work. Foreign tourists in the Old City made pictures of the deserted alleys and went about their souvenir shopping in the Jewish quarter. Any Palestinians who would have opened their business in Arab dominated areas would have had to fear it would be set on fire.

>> City of the Three Major Religions?

But is the ‘City of the three religions’ not a



powder keg that may explode because of even the tiniest spark? After all, Trump himself employed that cliché by demanding that *“Jerusalem is today and must remain a place where Jews pray at the Western Wall, where Christians walk the stations of the cross, and where Muslims worship at Al-Aqsa Mosque.”*

Foremost, Jerusalem and the mountain at its heart are sacred to the Jewish people. There Abraham had put his son on the altar. There Moses had centralised the Israelite cult. There Solomon had built his temple and prayed: *“Even if a stranger comes from a distant land, in order to pray in the direction of this house, may you hear him.”* From a biblical point of view, Jerusalem was never intended to only be

So, how can anybody claim, that Jerusalem is the city of Christianity?

Historically, the first Western Christians came to Jerusalem in the mid-19th century as missionaries. Shortly thereafter, the first Latin Patriarch was installed ‘to neutralise the Protestant bustle.’ To this very day, Christians rarely come to Jerusalem to receive instruction from there. Rather, they come here in order to tell Jerusalem and Israel from their respective spiritual centre what matters and what they ought to do.

>> And How Important is Jerusalem to Islam?

First of all, it is true that Jerusalem is not mentioned once by name in the Qur’an. Only six years after Mohammed’s death, in 638 CE, the city was conquered by Muslims under Caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab. Historians suspect that Islam’s greatest prophet never actually entered ‘Al-Quds,’ ‘the Holy One.’

In Surah 2, however, the Qur’an mentions the city, indirectly. There Mohammed dictates his followers a new direction of prayer. He declares it a mark of the right faith. In explicit contrast to Jews and Christians, Muslims are commanded to pray in the direction of Mecca, not Jerusalem. Allah pays attention to the direction of prayer, according to the Qur’an, and thus distinguishes the true believers from the evildoers. Whoever understands the extremely important body language in the Orient, knows what it means, if tens of thousands of Muslims pray in the Al-Aqsa mosque five times a day, directing their backside towards the place that is considered in the Bible the Holy of Holies.

Again, history confirms this religious attitude. From 638 to 1967 Jerusalem was in Muslim hands with only brief interruptions. Not once during this time was it the capital of an Islamic state or even of a Muslim province. This is even more remarkable because on 2 June 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was established at the Hotel Intercontinental – now the Seven Arches Hotel – on the Mount of Olives. At that time, the Old City of Jerusalem with all its holy places was not in Jewish hands, but under Arab rule. Nevertheless, no one thought of demanding ‘the Holy One’ as capital of a Palestinian state.

Continued next page...

Continued from previous page

Jerusalem is never mentioned even once in the founding document of the PLO, the so-called 'Palestinian National Charter.'

>> Why, Then, is the World so Upset?

Why is every new neighbourhood in Jerusalem a reason for an emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly? While, at the same time, there was never ever an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly for, let's say, North Korea, or during the Cold War, or because of Iran – to name just a few striking examples indiscriminately. Why is the State of Israel so quickly suspected of seriously endangering world peace? While Israel, in fact, is a factor of stability in the Middle East, if only because it unites archenemies, who otherwise would be tearing each other apart. It does not need expertise or inside knowledge to realise that Israel is not only uniquely

economically successful but also the only stable country in the region.

Those who declare their own greed to be cost-effectiveness and then complain about Jewish financiers who supposedly dominate the world are nowadays quickly recognised as anti-Semitic. But how is that when it's not about money but about violence? If someone presents one's own excesses causing tens of millions of dead

Why is the State of Israel so quickly suspected of seriously endangering world peace?

as a mere 'challenge' or even dismisses them as a trivial matter, and then at the same time pretends to be utterly upset about 'violent Zionism' that pulls the world towards the abyss? Does this not seem to be the same old atmosphere that once proclaimed in German-speaking Europe 'die Juden sind unser Unglück' – 'the Jews are our misfortune'?

>> No Logical Answer - But a Biblical Perspective

There is no logical answer to the question of the madness that drives the United Nations. But there is a biblical perspective. That is, Bible readers – be they Jews or Christians – should be anything but surprised at the current events.

and His Messiah.' The psalmist realises that all activism of the nations is purposeless, 'into the void,' in vain. Laughing, the living God counters his adversaries: "I have installed my king on Zion." Likewise, the prophet Zechariah describes towards the end of the 6th century BC how the 'nations of the land' gather against Jerusalem. In the scenario he describes prophetically, Jerusalem becomes a 'burdensome stone' for all the nations of the earth while the Holy City is characterised as an intoxicating, suicidal cup full of poison for 'the peoples all around.'

True, this biblical perspective is not rationally comprehensible. But it fits. And our postmodern society seems to have bowed out of reason anyway. Otherwise, it would judge the Jewish State of Israel and its role in current affairs quite differently.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

By Dr. Matthijs de Blois, Senior Fellow, The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation, www.thinc.info

On 21 December 2017, the General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations (UN) again adopted a resolution on Jerusalem (A/RES/ES-10/19), within a month of its previous resolution on 30 November 2017 (A/RES/72/15). The most recent resolution is in response to the speech of the President of the United States on 6 December 2017, in which he recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and announced the removal of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv and its relocation to Jerusalem.

It has to be noted that the resolution of the 21 December 2017, was adopted during a meeting of the Tenth Emergency Special Session. This Session on the 'Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory' was convened for the first time in 1997 and had last met in 2009. Emergency special sessions have been made possible by Res. 377 (V) (1950) of the GA ('Uniting for Peace') as a possibility for the GA to bypass the Security Council (SC) in cases of threats of world peace when decision-making in the SC is blocked by one of its permanent members. Apparently, it was assumed that this was here at issue.

The adoption of a similar resolution of the SC on Jerusalem was vetoed by the USA on 18 December 2017. Resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 was adopted with the votes of 128 Member States in favour, including 22 of the Members of the EU. Six EU states abstained. Only nine States voted against: Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Togo and the USA. There were 35 abstentions, while 21 UN Member States were not present.

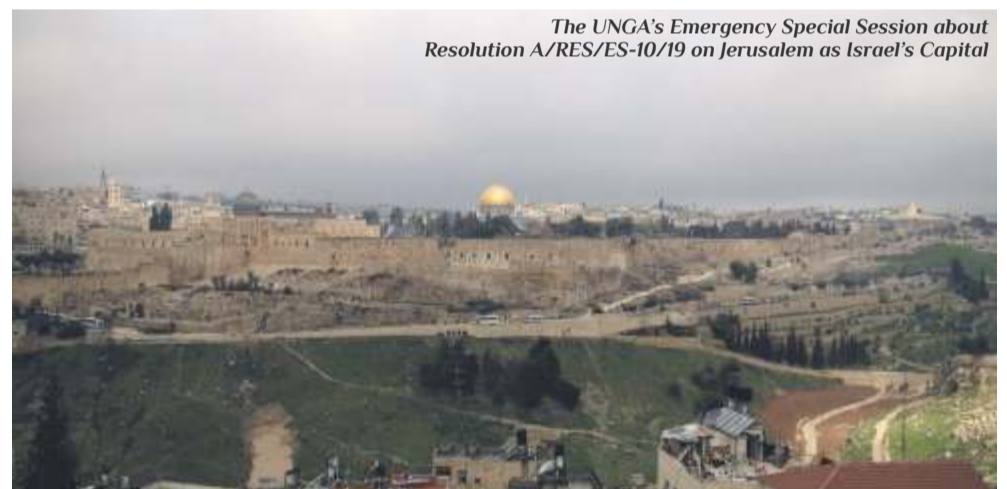
>> A Special Emergency?

It is surprising that the Tenth Emergency Special Session convened for the purpose of criticising the American President on the issue of Jerusalem. As already mentioned, originally, the idea behind Emergency Special Sessions under the 'Uniting for Peace' resolution has been the

urgency of a situation, threatening world peace, or on an occasion where the decision-making of the Security Council has become impossible due to a veto of a permanent member. Therefore, it is questionable how an Emergency Special Session can last for more than twenty years! It is even more curious to use it in this case on the occasion of President Trump's speech regarding Jerusalem. What he did is simply recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which, according to Israeli law, it had been from the beginning of the existence of the State of Israel. In addition, President Trump expressed the intention to move the US embassy to Jerusalem. The President only confirmed what the American Congress enacted in 1995 in the Jerusalem Embassy Act; at that time, it was adopted with overwhelming majorities in both Houses. The wording of President Trump's speech was moreover very cautious, leaving open the question of the future borders of Jerusalem. As such, was there really any threat to international peace? The US President simply recognised the reality both in law and in fact. Perhaps the overreaction of the GA will fuel actions that may become a threat to international peace.

>> Jerusalem the Capital of Israel

The GA expressed 'its deep regret at the recent decisions concerning the status of Jerusalem.' This no doubt refers to the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It should be underlined, first of all, that the US President did not make a decision on the status of Jerusalem. The State of Israel, as a sovereign state, had decided on the status of Jerusalem and declared Jerusalem to be its capital in 1949/1950 and again in 1980. The American President simply recognised the sovereign decisions of Israel, which it was fully entitled to make. Jerusalem as a whole is part of the territory under the Mandate for Palestine,



The UNGA's Emergency Special Session about Resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 on Jerusalem as Israel's Capital

destined as the location of the Jewish national home. According to Article 80 of the UN Charter, the rights of the Jewish people under the Mandate should be respected, also with regard to Jerusalem. The principle of uti possidetis juris, determining that the borders of a new State on becoming independent are the pre-existing administrative borders, points in the same direction.

The purpose of the Mandate was to lead the Jewish people to independence in that territory. This was partly realised when Israel proclaimed its independence on 14 May 1948. Immediately afterwards, Israel was attacked by five Arab States, including (Trans-) Jordan, which captured the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Old City. As the outcome of the Six Day War in 1967, when Jordan had attacked Israel again, Israel reunified Jerusalem, restoring the situation as it existed under the Mandate.

>> The Location of the Embassy

The GA 'calls upon all States to refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to SC resolution 478 (1980).' This non-binding resolution is apparently the main basis of the request of the GA. Indeed, there is no binding rule of international law that could support the call of the GA. The basic principle of international law concerning

the establishment of diplomatic relations between States and of permanent diplomatic missions is, according to Article 2 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961), the mutual consent between the States concerned. Article 21 obliges the receiving State to facilitate acquisition of premises or assist in obtaining accommodation in some other way. It is clear that the Israeli government agrees with the American decision, so there are no legal impediments for relocation of the embassy to Jerusalem. According to the UN Charter, the GA has no powers at all to interfere with the sovereign decisions of both the sending and the receiving State on the location of an embassy. On the contrary, it should respect the principle of the sovereign equality of its Member States pursuant to Article 2 (1) of the UN Charter.

>> Conclusion

The new GA resolution on Jerusalem is without foundation in international law and exceeds the constitutional powers of this organ under the UN Charter. It adds yet another chapter to the long story of anti-Israel sentiment that has become characteristic of the UN. It has to be feared that the resolution of the GA will itself be used by those interested in spreading hatred, unrest and violence against Israel and the Jewish people.

Vietnam Hosts Conference

By Rev. Kees Kant, Christians for Israel Netherlands



On 16-20 January 2018, a very blessed 5th Asia Pacific Training Conference was held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

170 pastors attended in Hanoi, and about 80 pastors attended in Ho Chi Minh City. Everyone felt very encouraged in their faith and their love for Israel.

A delegation was invited to a warm and cordial meeting with the Israeli ambassador to Vietnam. The ambassador confirmed his full support to Vietnamese Christians who required a visa to visit Israel.

Chan Kuen Yoon (*Singapore*) spoke about the rebirth of the nation of Israel in an historical perspective.

His wife Chan Siew Fong talked about Israel's miraculous survival during the wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973.

Rev. Willem Glashouwer explained in various teachings why Israel is so crucially important in God's salvation plan and why Jerusalem was, and will be, the capital of Israel and the City of God. He also spoke about God's covenants with Israel and the coming kingdom. In Ho Chi Minh City, Rev. Willem Glashouwer also talked about the recent publication of the *'XII Theses of Faith on Israel'*.

Rev. Kees Kant spoke about the origin of replacement theology and its dramatic effects in European history. He also read a few texts in the New Testament about Israel and related them to similar passages in the Old Testament. He argued that



Attendants at the 5th Asia Pacific Training Conference

both Testaments are one holy book about God's acting with Israel and the world.

Rev. Kees Kant also proved that the beautiful song of Mary is all about Israel. Pastor Conrado Lumahan (Phillipines)

preached on "Twelve reasons to stand with the Twelve tribes". He pointed out biblical, political and historical arguments. Besides listening we also sang beautiful songs and took our time for prayer.

C4I Calls on Africa to Bless Israel

By Jos van Westing, Christians for Israel International

From 7-18 January 2018, Christians for Israel held a two-week campaign in Uganda. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Christians for Israel Uganda, a delegation from the head office in the Netherlands joined the local Christians for Israel Uganda leadership to teach about the biblical, historical and legal aspects of Israel, and in particular the city of Jerusalem.

Christians for Israel called on churches in Africa to stand in solidarity with the Jewish people, and defend the right of the State of Israel to designate Jerusalem as its capital.

A 7-day teaching conference was hosted by VOSO (*Volunteers of Salvation Outreach Ministries*) Gilgal Church for the leaders of its many churches in Uganda and surrounding countries. Through multi-media presentations, Christians for Israel International teacher Jos van Westing opened up the historical and biblical aspects of the Jewish people, the establishment of the modern state of Israel, the troubled history of Israel/church relations, and the calling of the church to comfort Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Every morning the conference started with the Israeli national anthem, HaTikva in Hebrew and English, as well as the Ugandan national anthem. 108 pastors, church leaders and lay people attended each day from early in the morning till late at night, worshipping, fasting and praying for Israel and stayed overnight on the church premises. Many who had to work during day joined us every evening, up to over 400 attendees.

From 14-18 January many meetings were held in Kampala. Christians for Israel International Executive Director Andrew Tucker joined Jos van Westing, Christians for Israel Uganda Chairman Drake Kanaabo and other Christians for Israel Uganda board members, pastors Edward

Mwesigwa and Sarah Mikisa in hosting a one-day conference at Bible Gospel Church, which attracted 250 delegates, many of them pastors and bishops of churches in or near Kampala. The Christians for Israel team also spoke at a conference attended by 200 pastors from all over Uganda organised at the Redeemed Church in Kampala.

In total, over 850 people attended the various events, and 100 pastors and overseers of churches endorsed the message of Christians for Israel.

A gift was made by Christians for Israel Uganda to enable two Jewish families to make aliyah from Ukraine.

At a high-level meeting attended by 50 lawyers including a Justice of the Court of Appeal, the State Minister for Kampala and several Members of Parliament, Andrew Tucker outlined the legal status of Jerusalem and the case for Israel's designation of Jerusalem as its capital. A working committee was established to build on this foundation and advocate the government of Uganda and other African nations.

"We call on the church in Africa to lead the way and to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem..."

One-on-one meetings were held during the campaign with senior church representatives, the Director of Public Prosecutions Justice Mike Chibita, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights the Hon. Kameeka K. Jovah, and the Hon. Jean Bosco Barege, Ambassador of Burundi to Uganda.

By initiative, Dr Sam, a Member of Parliament, invited the Christians for Israel team to join the weekly prayer breakfast early Thursday morning for Christian MP's. The opportunity was used



From left to right: Dr. Sam, Drake Kanaabo, Andrew Tucker, Jos van Westing and Pastor Sarah Mikisa. Photo taken in front of the Ugandan Parliament in Kampala

to explain about God's plan with Israel and the nations, and to advocate the need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and the necessity to keep the capital city of Israel united under Israeli administration, also to protect and secure the liberty of the different faiths.

The political, spiritual and legal leaders we connected with during our week in

periods of cooperation but also periods of tragic conflict. "The visit from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to Africa in 2016 opened a new chapter in Israel/Africa relations. It is time for Uganda to leave the past behind, and enter into its God-given calling to comfort the Jewish people and bless Israel".

Andrew Tucker said: "The constant criticism of Israel and its delegitimisation in the UN institutions presents an existential threat to the Jewish State of Israel. Yet Israel is a blessing to the world at so many levels.

The continent of Africa has benefitted in the past from Israel's expertise, and it will prosper in the future if it enters a strategic alliance with Israel. We encourage Uganda in particular to honour its unique relationship with the Jewish people and fulfil its special calling to defend Judeo-Christian values in Africa.

We call on the church in Africa to lead the way and to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, to persuade its spiritual and political leaders to stand with Israel, and to defend the right of the Jewish people to live in their ancestral homeland, including all of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria."

Kampala have committed themselves to make a difference in their country and on the whole continent of Africa and to encourage their government to vote in favour of Israel within the African Union and United Nations.

The week-long campaign closed with a VIP dinner in Kampala, at which Christians for Israel called on church leaders in Uganda to lead the way in raising a voice into the nations of Africa on behalf of Israel.

Drake Kanaabo recalled Uganda's troubled relations with Israel, which have known

Cook Sisters Remarkable Mission

By Marie-Louise Weissenböck, Christians for Israel Austria

Louise and Ida Cook, born in 1901 and 1904 respectively, were two spinster sisters, living in London. Their passion for opera became their pretext for travelling to Europe to listen to their favourite performers sing. While they toured the opera houses of Austria and Germany, they also secured a safe passage for dozens of people who would otherwise have perished in the Holocaust. For years, they worked to bring Jews out of Nazi Europe, using their avid opera-going as a cover. In all, the sisters saved the lives of 29 Jews. Being office-workers, they funded their trips partly with money that Ida began to make from writing romance novels for Mills & Boon, under the pseudonym Mary Burchell.

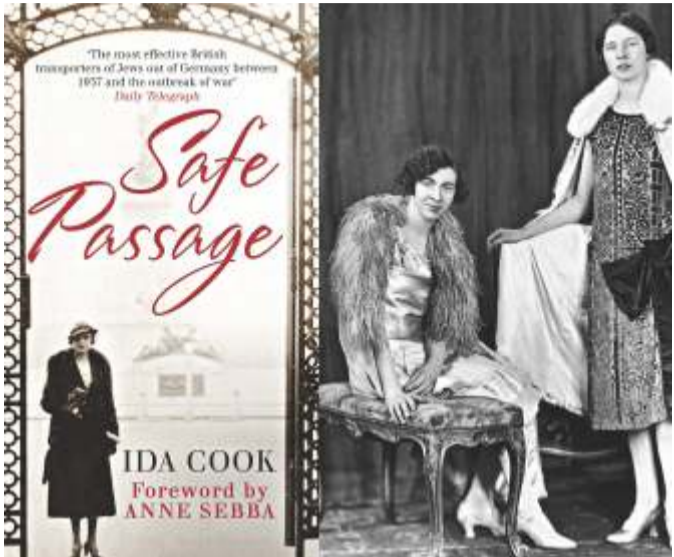
In 1934, the sisters' lives changed. In Salzburg, at an opera festival, they became friendly with the great Romanian singer Viorica Ursuleac. At the end of the festival, Ursuleac took the sisters by the arm and asked them to look after a dear friend, a certain Frau Mitia Mayer-Lismann, who would be travelling to London soon on a short trip. They agreed,

and back in London, they took Frau Mayer-Lismann around to see the sites. Frau Mayer-Lismann, being Jewish, explained to Ida and Louise what life was like for Jews in Austria and Germany. The sisters decided to help, although there were obstacles: Britain restricted the number of Jewish refugees it accepted, and the small numbers of refugees it did accept were allowed only under strict conditions. Jewish refugees had to be sponsored by a British citizen and had to produce a large sum of money guaranteeing they wouldn't be a burden on the state. Because refugees were not allowed to work in Britain, this financial guarantee had to be produced upfront, posing a near-insurmountable burden on many Jews.

Ida and Louise began to sponsor refugees. They encouraged others to help and marshalled resources to provide guarantees to Jewish refugees. Word soon spread among Jews in Germany and Austria, and they were inundated with requests for help. Louise began learning German to aid the

refugees better. Every few months, the sisters would travel to Germany to meet with potential refugees, with the pretext of attending operas as cover. In Germany, Ida and Louise often worked with Clemens Krauss, the head of the Berlin State Opera and then the Munich Opera House. He provided them cover for their trips. In Britain, Ida began writing and speaking out publicly about the dangers facing Jews in Europe. Her forthright style moved others to action.

In the final years leading up to World War II, Ida and Louise began an even more dangerous activity: having exhausted their own finances to pledge refugees, they began smuggling diamonds and other precious gems that desperate Jews had purchased out of Austria and Germany, in order to help paying pledges to resettle in Britain.



The last person Ida and Louise were able to rescue, their 29th, was a 25-year-old Jewish photographer named Lisa Basch, the daughter of German-Austrian intellectuals, who said that the sisters saved her from the gas chamber.

In 1965, Israel's Yad Vashem named the Cook sisters Righteous Among the Nations. Ida and Louise died in 1986 and 1991 respectively. In 2010, they were posthumously honoured as 'Heroes of the Holocaust' by the British Government.

Tulips for Encouragement

By Christians for Israel Netherlands

In November 2017, a small delegation travelled to Israel in a mini-bus loaded with tulip bulbs that were distributed throughout Israel, as an encouraging sign of our friendship.

The tulip tour started in the Galilee, onto the Golan Heights, through the Biblical Heartland, onto Jerusalem, and the Negev Desert in the south. Everywhere bags of tulip bulbs were distributed, they were often planted immediately by the recipients. In February the tulips will bloom and remind the Israelis again of our friendship.

>> Ambassadors

In Beit Yatin, a Jewish village in the Biblical Heartland (often referred to as 'illegal settlement') the tulips were received with a lot of enthusiasm. Sandy, one of the inhabitants said: "We truly feel that you are our ambassadors. Many people believe settlers are crazy people."

>> Encouragement

What goes specifically for the settlements, actually also goes for the whole of Israel. The country is often regarded as a pariah to the rest of the



world. Many see Israelis as the suppressors of the Palestinians. In that sense, the friendly sign of tulips is balm to the soul.

Why Israel? Book Makes an Impact

Over the years more and more translations of Rev. Willem Glashouwer's popular book Why Israel? have been made. We never actively seek for translators. However, the book is now available in nearly 40 languages, and is received with great enthusiasm.

We are often told that the book makes a significant impact on people and enables them to gain a deeper understanding of God's plans and purposes for Israel. It is apparent that there is a great hunger for biblical knowledge about Israel and the Jewish people! Below are reactions from some of our readers worldwide:

"Why Israel? is a book that reveals God's plans and purposes for His Firstborn, i.e. the Jewish people, Israel. What is particularly precious about this book is that it is based solely on the Holy Scriptures and is composed in accordance with God's promises and biblical prophecies. After

reading this life-changing book, one simply cannot remain indifferent to the People and Land of Israel. This wonderful book reveals God's heart for His Chosen People and is a great blessing to all those who call themselves Christians and are really eager to see and become increasingly aware of God's end-time movement on planet earth!"

Lina- Moldova (Europe)

"Why Israel? offers some deep biblical insight, which is relevant to the recent situation in the world especially in Jerusalem. A few years ago, I was longing for a Bible-based book about Israel, and this book became my great resource and inspiration. It gives clarity and provides answers to my questions. It has opened my eyes and changed my view, so I came to a better understanding regarding Israel and the Jewish people. Furthermore, it reminds me of my responsibility to pray and to support Israel and the Jewish people."

Hikzi – Indonesia




"Rev. Willem Glashouwer gives an elaborate explanation why the land and the people matter so much to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their natural descendants. It is one of the books which opened my eyes to Replacement Theology which is present in some of the churches today. So I buy copies and give them away to Christian leaders in Europe, USA and Africa."

Marijke – South Africa/Netherlands

"Through the Why Israel? teachings I've been confronted with the attitude of our church

The 'Why Israel?' set comprises the book, DVD and study guide



towards Israel. I've been urged to realign our preaching with regard to Israel's existence and influence. Our church was disconnected and had different concepts regarding Israel."

Pastor Gleyson V Farias – Brazil

Why Israel? is also available as a DVD or Study Guide.

Order your own copy of Why Israel? book, DVD or Study Guide by completing the coupon on the back page, or online on our website.

Seven Reasons to Bless Israel

1

God is faithful to Israel

God promised everlasting faithfulness to the people of Israel. His promises are for all eternity. Unfortunately, sometimes this is forgotten in the church. Let's get behind Israel as one. As Ruth said: "Your people will be my people and your God, my God!"



Israel turns seventy years old in 2018. That's worth a celebration! Here are seven reasons to thank the Lord and to bless Israel.

2

More and more, Israel is left on its own

Israel is seen through a magnifying glass. Fifty years ago, many nations were gladly supporting Israel. Unfortunately today, this is very different. Israel defends itself against terror, and fights for its survival. But it must also fight against the hostile and judgmental media and world politics. Let's swim against the current and bless Israel in prayer and action.



3

God calls us to comfort His people



It's beautifully said in Isaiah 40: 'Comfort, comfort my people'. That's what we can do with your support: bring comfort by offering help. Giving financial support to our beautiful projects, and also offer friendship through our visits.

4

Israel is a sign of hope

Who looks at Israel, receives hope. The Jewish people are back on their feet after two thousand years. Despite all the hardship and problems, the people of Israel live like never before. A reason for great thankfulness, and a reason to continue to support Israel.



5

They are the people of our Saviour, Jesus Christ



The Bible is the history book of Israel, but it also tells us about the Saviour's redemption of all people and in the first place of his own brothers and sisters, the Jewish people. And we, as non-Jews, get to be a part of it.

6

Many miracles are happening in Israel

Take for example the number of people living in Israel. There are ten times as many people as there were seventy years ago! The Jewish people are returning home. We get to witness this, and we can actually contribute to it.



7

So much is still needed



There are many people all over the world who are waiting for an opportunity to go to their homeland, Israel. Unfortunately, there's also still a lot of poverty. Christians for Israel helps the return of the Jewish people to the homeland Israel, and we support all kinds of humanitarian projects for the underprivileged in Israel.

"First of all study the Bible (...) this is the basis for why we are here, why we have returned here, why we stay here."

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Armenian Pottery

A PIECE OF AUTHENTIC JERUSALEM

By Marijke Terlouw
Christians for Israel Netherlands

"We belong to Jerusalem," says one of the few still authentic Armenian pottery artists in Jerusalem. "Most of what you see here in the city is not Armenian, but Chinese. But this is real. I make it myself; everything from sculpting the dish, to painting it, to baking and selling it."

Opposite the Zion Gate is the store and workshop of Hagop Libarid Antreassian. Around him are bottles of paint and in front of him, an unpainted bowl.

"There are another two or three real Armenian artists left in the city, and myself.

"I am not interested in what you buy over there," hinting at the souvenir shops with stacks of Armenian dishes. "I'm an artist. In fact, the dishes and plates in my store are just a side business. My income comes from bigger projects like tableaus in synagogues. Or do you know that place for baptisms by the Jordan at the Lake of Tiberias? There's a wall there, I've made that."

>> Biblical Significance

Hagop continues: "Every colour and image has a Biblical significance. Red stands for the blood of Christ, and green is the colour of life. This flower has to do with oil for

baptism. Blue is the colour for life, for creation. I will explain it to you. You know where Armenia is located? And you know where the rivers are that were in paradise? Paradise was in Armenia! And you know where Noah's ark was stranded? Exactly, on the Ararat, the mountain that's in Armenian territory. That's where a new era began, a new mankind."

"How long does it take for me to make a bowl? Well, that's hard to say. It differs greatly. It depends on how many people come by because I take time for those people. But if they're looking for a bargain, like that woman just now, I tell them no. Then just buy a souvenir, you'll pay a different price for that too. I will only sell if I want to."

>> From Armenia to Jerusalem

Hagop is the kind of artist who knows all the ins and outs of his craft. He knows exactly how Armenian pottery ended up in Jerusalem. "The Armenians have lived in

Jerusalem for centuries, from the time that an Armenian Legion had to go to Jerusalem with the Romans. However, Armenian pottery didn't come to Jerusalem until much later. It was actually the British who were responsible for the craft to flourish. They wanted to restore the city; much was neglected.

The famous Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount too – the one with the golden roof – it was in terrible shape. That's why they got three men from Armenia, including a potter and a painter because Armenia was the place to find real craftsmen. They had to make the tiles for the mosque. And that's how it happened. Now everyone can see beautiful Armenian pottery in perhaps the most important place in the world."



Biblical Reflections - Lake of Fire

By Rev. Willem J.J. Glashouwer, President Christians for Israel International and Honorary President ECI

“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have You come here to torture us before the appointed time?” (Matthew 8:28-32) “Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:41) “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12).

Things that are happening on planet earth sometimes find their origin in the heavenly realms that surround us, in the unseen world. Powers of darkness inspire political leaders and governments. Demonic forces play their game. Behind the political power of Persia is the prince of the Persian kingdom, says the angel who came to Daniel. And only because Michael, one of the chief princes came to the rescue in this battle, was he able to come to Daniel to share the vision of the future, the angel explains (*Daniel 10:12-14*). “And after this, I have to return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come” (*Daniel 10:20*). *Revelation 16:13-16* speaks about evil spirits who go out to kings of the whole world to gather them for battle on the great day of God Almighty. “*Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon*”. The valley of Jehoshaphat (*Joel 3:1-3*), a valley that runs across Israel from North to South.

With that in the back of our minds, let's look at events of today. Things that are happening in and around Israel against Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people should always draw our attention. We should learn to look at the developments in the world from the perspective of Israel and Jerusalem. Put our feet there and then look at the map of the world and the behaviour of the nations. Why do the nations rage? *Psalm 2* has the answer: *Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and His Anointed, saying, “Let us tear their fetters apart and*

cast away their cords from us!” That is why the nations rage. It is against Almighty God and His Anointed One. And against His city of Jerusalem and His land and His people Israel. *Psalm 83:2-8* says: “*Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Your people and conspire together against Your treasured ones. They have said, “Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.” For they have conspired together with one mind; Against You they make a covenant: The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; They have become a help to the children of Lot.*”

But *Psalm 2* continues to say: “*He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.*”

All the events of our day point towards the coming of the Prince of Peace. Christianity celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. In many churches the beautiful passage of *Isaiah 9:6-7* has

We should learn to look at the developments in the world from the perspective of Israel and Jerusalem.

been read: “*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*” What does that mean: ‘unto us’? Who are these ‘us’? It means Israel. It means the Jewish people. Like in *Psalm 105:7-11*: “*He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and*



confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, “*To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance.*” Us means them. A Child is born to them. And His beautiful names are Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of course, this Saviour has become our Mighty God as well. But He was given to Israel in the first place.

And one day - who knows how soon - the decree of the Lord will be executed. As *Psalm 2* continues: “*I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are*

and his angels. When Jesus came these powers of darkness started to scream: “*What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have You come here to torture us before the appointed time?”* They know that one day they will be tortured and that the Son of God has everything to do with that. The only thing they did not understand was this: Is it now already? Before the appointed time? And they were right, so Jesus permits them to enter into the pigs, and they rush the whole herd off into the lake of water, not yet into the lake of fire. But one day He will cast them into the lake of fire. And they know it. They understand that the return of the Jewish people back to the Promised Land and the restoration of Jerusalem – the City of the Great King (*Matthew 5:35, Psalm 48:2*) is pointing towards the coming to the King of kings and the Lord of lords. And the demons hate that. They hate His coming in glory. Because it is the beginning of their end. So they will try every trick in the book to prevent happening, by turning the nations against Israel and the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. And if they cannot ultimately prevent this to happen, then at least postpone it as long as possible. By all kind of political tactics and ultimately war.

But He who sits in the heavens laughs. And one day Jesus will come to fulfil the promise that the angel Gabriel gave to His mother Mary (*Luke 1: 32-33*): “*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His kingdom will never end.*”

Purim - The Story of Esther

Purim is one of the most joyous of Jewish holidays that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, who was planning to kill all the Jews.

According to the Book of Esther, Haman, royal advisor to King Ahasuerus of Persia, planned to kill all the Jews in the empire, but his plans were foiled by Mordecai and his cousin and adopted daughter Esther, who had risen to become Queen of Persia. The day of deliverance became a day of feasting and rejoicing.

The 14th of Adar was marked as that day of celebration. This year, the 14th of Adar falls on 8 March.

Ever since, Jews have celebrated the Festival of Purim, named for the lots that were cast to determine the day the Jews were to be killed (*Esther 9:26*). Scripture notes the celebration of this festival very clearly: “*that they should make them days of feasting and joy and of sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor*” (*Esther 9:22*).

To this very day, Jews all over the world celebrate Purim with great family feasts, joyous celebrations, and send goodie baskets (choice portions) to neighbours and friends. It is also customary, especially for children, to dress up in costumes.



Fascinating Psalm 2

© Johannes Gerloff, Theologian, Journalist, Lecturer and Author

The Bible is actually exciting, enthralling, and especially up-to-date. The problem for us though in the 21st century, is that the biblical texts are ancient and complex. The second chapter in the Book of Psalms is a prime example of this. Naturally, we are interested in what a text has to say ‘to me personally’ and the Bible often picks us up right there. It wants to speak into our life so that we can align it with the word of God.

Then, there is often another point of view in the Bible, where the perspective is widened. The entire world of nations is included. *Psalm 2* opens a breathtakingly wide horizon.

Both in view of the personal component of the biblical texts as well as the national or even international level, we can retrace many statements empirically. The biblical word appeals to us because we feel the same way, have the same experiences and fears, and because we are driven by the same hopes.

But the Bible does not stop with what we are able to perceive with our senses or understand with our minds. Far beyond our empirical possibilities, it opens to us a glimpse of God’s incomprehensible perspective.

It is crucial that we keep an eye on these different perspectives and differentiate between them in order to avoid misunderstandings. Not all that Scripture says is automatically the Word of God, as God intended or determined it. It is not unusual that the Bible describes to us what human beings think, want or do - even if this rebels against the will of God. Reading the Bible, we do have to distinguish between descriptive and normative statements.

In *Psalm 2*, these different levels merge quite abruptly into each other. *Verses 1-2* describe a world situation that anyone with open eyes and an alert mind can perceive – whereas the psalmist gently infuses his own judgment.

Verse 3 quotes the opinion of politicians, while *verse 4* gives us a heavenly perspective that no one can grasp with the natural eye. *Verses 5-9* provide a glimpse into the future, a glance into the thinking, feeling, and actions of God Himself.

The last three verses conclude the Psalm with an appeal. Therefore, the Psalmist

reveals himself as by no means an objective spectator, but as someone who trembles for the well-being of those human beings whose situation he describes.

>> The Historical Background of Psalm 2

Before we go into the text of *Psalm 2*, a second observation has to be made. Starting with the Hebrew language, biblical texts rarely make a chronological classification easy for us. The Hebrew of the Bible does not distinguish as stringently as we would like it, between past, present and future.

Especially in poetic and prophetic texts, different temporal levels sometimes merge without a sharp separation. Biblical Hebrew distinguishes less between what was, what is and what is to come, as European languages tend to do. Rather, ancient Hebrew verb forms denote something firmly closed or decided

The New Testament opens up a third level of interpretation. There, *Psalm 2* is the most-quoted psalm. Jesus from Nazareth is the ‘son,’ the ‘Messiah’ (*Psalms 2:2; John 1:41*), that is, the anointed servant of God (*Acts 4:27, 30*) and king from the Davidic dynasty (*Psalms 2:6; John 1:49*). Our psalm describes his suffering and resurrection. The raging nations (*Psalms 2:1*) are ‘Herod and Pontius Pilate together with the Gentiles and the tribes of Israel’.

The Revelation of John consistently builds on this perspective and opens in *chapter 2, verses 26-27* a fourth exegetical level. There, the exalted Messiah gives the ‘one who overcomes’ and ‘preserves my works to the end’ ‘authority over the Gentile nations.’ He predicts that the faithful follower of Christ will ‘tend the nations with an iron rod’ and ‘shatter them like pottery.’ This is unmistakably a reference to *Psalm 2:8-9*, which is applied in this case to the individual believer.

... there is often another point of view in the Bible, where the perspective is widened.

(*perfect*) and distinguish this from something that is open, in development, growing or only in the future will find its conclusion (*imperfect*). Therefore, it is not uncommon for something finished and perfect to happen in the future, while something else develops unfinished and open-ended in the past. Rabbinic interpreters in such cases simply note that this is a future form (*imperfect*) that holds for the past or past tense (*perfect*) that holds for the future. Thus, the biblical text is able to make statements about the future from a historical situation seamlessly and at the same time convey insights or instructions that apply to the present.

Psalm 2 can be understood on five levels. The New Testament considers King David to be the author (*Acts 4:25*). Rabbinic tradition sees as its background the accession of David, which the Philistines sought to prevent (*2 Samuel 5:17*). The modern orthodox Jewish exegete Amos Hakham refers to an exegetical tradition that supposes behind *Psalm 2* an ancient coronation ceremony where God adopts the Judean king as His son.

Finally, a fifth level of understanding of *Psalm 2* is the one that may be most evident today for those reading the Bible and newspaper side by side. Already the old midrashim recognised the messianic king of the end times in the second chapter of the Book of Psalms. He crushes the rebellion of the Gentile peoples in the ‘War of Gog and Magog’ and brings final redemption to Israel. Hakham observes: The Prophetic Psalmist “says these words as if they were happening before our eyes in the present”. *Psalm 2:2* incidentally is the only passage in the Hebrew Bible that uses the title ‘Messiah’ for a future king, who will rise in the end times and bring salvation.

These different levels of interpretation do not exclude each other. Rather, they complement each other. None of these five perspectives can capture all the statements of this psalm on its own. Only together and merging into each other do they produce the perfect picture that this Prophetic Psalmist ‘driven by the Holy Spirit’ (*Acts 4:25*) draws.

Short News

Israeli Jewish Lawyer Represents Palestinian Torture Victims



Nati Rom, a Jewish lawyer, has come to the aid of fifty Palestinian victims who were turned away by 230, so-called human rights organisations when asked to help. These victims, Palestinian Arabs were jailed, beaten, kidnapped, tortured, raped, and some killed by their own government because they were suspected of working with Israel. Amnesty International claimed they didn’t have the means to help.

“Amnesty has the means to fight Israel and to boycott Israel, but it doesn’t have the means to help the Palestinian people,” Nati said. “This is proof that this is not about human rights, it is about a very deep hatred of Israel.”

Israel Mourns the Loss of its ‘War Poet’

Iconic Israeli poet, novelist, journalist and filmmaker Haim Gouri has passed away at the age of 94. Gouri was regarded as Israel’s ‘war poet,’ giving voice, to both the pride and the pain experienced by those who fought in the young nation’s earlier wars. While he is not well known globally, Gouri is widely credited in Israel with playing a prominent role in reviving Israeli culture and nationalism in the Land. Culture Minister Miri Regev stated: “Gouri was and will always remain one of the ‘Fire Flowers’ of our national revival in the State of Israel.”

Israel Ranked as One of the World’s Most Innovative Countries

Israel has been ranked the 8th most-powerful nation based upon its military might, strong international alliances, and economic and political influence, according to two separate surveys by major American media outlets. Data was collected from 21,000 people in four different global regions who were asked to associate 80 nations with specific qualities.

Ultra-Rare Blue Blood Moon

For the first time since 1866, an ultra-rare ‘super blue blood moon eclipse,’ coincided with the Jewish New Year for the Trees. Does this once-in-a-lifetime event have deeper spiritual implications? Within the last few years, there have been four blood moons. Amazingly, each one fell on a major Jewish holiday – Passover and Sukkot. This close interval frequency is a very rare event. In fact, before the 20th century, there had been a long period when there were no such eclipses.

Major events of significance to the Jewish people happened on each of the last three recorded times that these rare blood moons occurred. They were events that changed the course and direction of Jewish history for all time. A blood moon coincided with the Six Day War in 1967, when Israel liberated Jerusalem; Jews were able to return to Jerusalem after 2000 years of exile. Sadly, Jewish blood was spilled during this war.

There was also a blood moon on the eve of Israel’s declaration of independence in 1948, following a bloody war that took place only a few years after the Holocaust, when six million Jews were murdered! And finally, there was a blood moon in 1493, when Tomas de Torquemada, the first Spanish Inquisitor, began slaughtering Jews. So is the blood moon a sign from heaven? Believers around the world of diverse faiths are attributing the blood

moon phenomenon to the teaching of the prophet Joel, who preached: “I will set wonders in the heavens and the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke; the sun will turn to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and awesome Day of God” (*Joel 3:3*). Inspired by the concluding words of Joel, some are suggesting that the blood moons are a sign from God that we are one step closer to the coming of the Messiah.

Research Finds Surprising Trend

Courtesy of Charisma News and LifeWay Research, Nashville, USA

Older American evangelicals love Israel but many younger evangelicals simply don't care, according to a new survey.

Three-quarters (77%) of evangelicals 65 and older say they support the existence, security and prosperity of Israel. That drops to 58% among younger evangelicals, those 18 to 34. Four in 10 younger evangelicals (41%) have no strong views about Israel. Fewer younger evangelicals (58%) have an overall positive perception of Israel than older evangelicals (76%). And they are less sure Israel's rebirth in 1948 was a good thing.

"For the most part, younger evangelicals are indifferent about Israel," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research.

>> Most Evangelicals Support Israel

LifeWay Research asked 2,002 Americans with evangelical beliefs about a wide range of issues involving Israel - from its place in the Bible to its treatment of Palestinians. The survey focused on Americans with evangelical beliefs rather than self-identified evangelicals. Overall, this group was supportive of Israel. 67% have a positive view of that nation. 9% have a negative view while 24% are not sure.

A quarter (24%) support the existence, security and prosperity of Israel, no matter what Israel does. 42% support Israel, but not everything Israel does. 1% doesn't support Israel while 32% have no strong views about Israel.

Few (14%) agree when asked whether Israel's rebirth was an injustice to Arabs in the Middle East. 50% disagree. 36% are not sure.

About a quarter (22%) say modern Israel has been unfair to Palestinians. 41% disagree while 37% are not sure.

Younger evangelicals (19%) are more likely to see the rebirth of Israel as an injustice. Only 34% disagree. 47% are not sure.

Among older evangelicals, 9% see the rebirth of Israel as an injustice, while 62% disagree. 28% are not certain.

Older evangelicals (49%) are more likely to disagree that Israel has been unfair to Palestinians. Young evangelicals (32%) are less likely.

Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries, which helped underwrite the survey, said he was glad to see that most evangelicals support Israel. Still, he found the decline of support among younger evangelical believers worrisome.

"I am concerned for the obvious decline in support for Israel among millennial followers of Jesus, who either do not know what they believe or do not seem to care," he said.

Darrell L. Bock, a board member for Chosen People Ministries and director of cultural engagement at Dallas Theological Seminary, wonders if Israel is on the back burner for many younger evangelicals.

"When they think about the Middle East, they're more likely to think about Iraq or Iran or the impact of terrorism in the world," he said. "The terror attacks on 9/11 changed the Middle East equation, and young people just aren't sure where Israel is supposed to fit."

>> Bible Plays a Big Role

Most evangelical believers in the survey say faith shapes their views on Israel.

Three-quarters (76%) say Christians should support the right of the Jewish people to live in the sovereign State of Israel. 5% disagree. 20% are not sure.

69% say the Jewish people have a historic right to the land of Israel. 6% disagree. 25% are not sure.

19% say Palestinians have a historic right to Israel. 46% disagree. 34% are not sure.

41% say Jewish people have a "biblical right" to Israel but have to share it. 28% disagree. 31% are not sure.

African-Americans with evangelical beliefs are least likely (54%) to say Jewish people have a "biblical right" to the land of Israel. They are also least likely (50%) to have a positive view of Israel.

>> Other Findings

45% say the Bible has had the biggest influence on their views of Israel.

63% say they support Israel primarily because "God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people." 22% are not sure if biblical promises about the land of Israel are still

Four in 10 younger evangelicals (41%) have no strong views about Israel



in force. 80% say God promised the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants for all time.

80% say the rebirth of Israel in 1948 was a fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Author Joel C. Rosenberg, who also helped underwrite the survey, said most evangelicals see a connection between the Bible and the modern nation of Israel. But he said he's worried that's not the case for younger evangelicals, which could cause evangelical support for Israel to drop in the future.

"Unless the church gives younger believers a healthy, balanced, solidly biblical understanding of God's love and plan for Israel, overall evangelical support for the Jewish state could very well plummet over the next decade as millennials represent an ever-larger percentage of the overall church body," Rosenberg said.

>> Israel and Palestinians

Evangelical believers are uncertain how to resolve differences between Israelis and

Palestinians. A quarter (23%) say Israel should sign a treaty allowing Palestinians to have a sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza. 31% disagree. 46% are unsure.

Six in 10 (59%) say Christians should do more to love and care for Palestinians. 6% disagree. 25% are not sure.

Among younger evangelicals, two-thirds say Christians need to do more to care for Palestinians. That drops to 54% among those 65 and older.

Most evangelical believers (73%) agree they are concerned for the safety of Christians in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. 5% disagree. 22% are not certain.

Evangelicals are certain God wants the state of Israel to exist, said McConnell. But they think Christian love should include Palestinian people.

"They believe God wants Israel to be there," he said, *"but they also think God cares how the nation of Israel acts."*

About Isreality

Isreality is an international community of young Christians looking into God's master plan for Israel and the Church.

Through isreality.org, our tours, our Isreality magazine and local events you will deepen your personal faith. Journey with us into the richness of the Bible and discover the connection between Christians and the Jewish people as we deepen our understanding of God's purposes for our lives! More and more people are joining us from around the world.

Join us on Facebook: Click 'like' and follow us on Facebook:

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Join our events: Our local Isreality team organises events.

Join us in Israel: A tour to Israel is an absolute must. Isreality regularly travels to Israel to explore the Biblelands.

Study the Bible: Find interesting Bible studies on our website, www.isreality.org.

Volunteer in Israel: Would you like to volunteer in Israel? We can connect you to the right people.

For more information, contact us at info@isreality.org or check out our website isreality.org.



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ISREALITY IS THE CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-35 Y.O.)

Letters of the Aleph-bet: Nun נן

By Kees de Vreugd, Theologian, Christians for Israel International, and Editor of Israel and the Church

The *nun* is the fourteenth letter of the Aleph Bet. It is the letter *n*. It has two forms, one 'bent' and the other 'straight'. The bent *nun* is written at the beginning or in the middle of a word, the straight one (*not much more than a long vertical line*) when it is the closing letter of a word. Therefore it is called *nun-sofit* (*closing nun*).

The original sign out of which the later *nun* and our *n* developed, was a pictogram of a snake. Snake in Hebrew is *nachash*. According to a different explanation, it represents a sprouting

seed (*the symbol looks a little bit like a streak of bean shoots*). That would be connected with a Hebrew word *nun* that means progression, posterity/heir. The *nun* is one of the letters which in a traditional Torah scroll receive a crown (*like f.e. the gimel*).

Nun is also an Aramaic word meaning 'fish'. Joshua, Moses' successor, is called the son of Nun. In rabbinical explanation, this is symbolically connected. Moses is like a fish drawn out of the water. Joshua, as his successor, is the 'son of the fish'. Both are

characterised by their humility. The numerical value is fifty. Fifty represents freedom and fullness of life. Fifty days are counted from Pesach to Shavuot, from the exodus to the making of the covenant at the Sinai. Each fiftieth year is a jubilee, the completion of seven times seven years. During the jubilee, the release of all inhabitants of the land is declared. According to the Talmud, the two forms of the *nun* represent the humble faithful (*Hebrew: ne' eman*) who will be raised up (*in the world to come, Rashi makes clear*).

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (*James 4:10*). Humility is the unique quality of the Messiah. The numerical value of the name David is fourteen. The *nun* is associated with the Davidic kingship. *Psalm 72 says: "May his name endure forever; may it continue (Hebrew: yinnon) as long as the sun."* Therefore Yinnon is one of the names of the Messiah. Yinnon implies that the kingship of the Messiah will endure forever.

Remember and Educate

By Ariella Bernstein, Jerusalem Foundation

On 27 January 2018, the world marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the day when the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated. Established by the United Nations (UN) in 2005, International Holocaust Remembrance Day urges every member nation of the UN to honour the memory of Holocaust victims and encourages the development of educational programmes about Holocaust history.

The world observes one day, but the Holocaust survivors at Café Europa remember every single day. Jerusalem is home to five Café Europa branches, warm and welcoming day centres where Holocaust survivors meet with one another and remember their past. At Café Europa, every day is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Today's living survivors were young children during the Holocaust and are left

with indelible scars of separation, the searing pain of watching their parents or siblings ripped away or murdered, mixed in with nostalgia for a time and place that preceded their horrors. Christians for Israel and the Jerusalem Foundation are proud supporters of Café Europa. It is our opportunity to offer solace to those who suffered so much. To visit a Café Europa facility is to understand the meaning of resilience, of perseverance. To sit with a Holocaust survivor in Café Europa is to understand that they remember every detail of their horror along with their simple life's joys before the war. To talk to a Holocaust survivor at Café Europa is to understand that despite their long journey, they are committed to making their memories a lesson for the future.

You can donate to Café Europa (Holocaust Survivors - "I'm not Alone") by using the coupon on the back page.



How Long Do They Have to Wait?

By Michael Freund, Founder of Shavei Israel



The Bnei Menashe in the remote north-eastern part of India yearns with their heart and soul for Zion. For over 2,700

years, they have lived far away from home, longing to return. Over the past few years, it has been made possible for small groups

of Jews to return from India. 3,000 of the 10,000 of the tribe of Menashe are now in Israel, leaving 7,000 still waiting. For the elderly, it is hard to wait. In some cases, their children and grandchildren are already in Israel. They fear they will never see them again. Will they ever set eyes on Jerusalem in their lifetime? It is a long wait full of insecurity, but their yearning does not lessen. When will the redeeming word come? When will they get permission to go to Israel? >> **Waiting** The Bnei Menashe have been waiting patiently for 2,700 years. But now that there are possibilities of going home and groups leaving for Israel now and then, the yearning to go too is even stronger. They want to experience the miracle of returning to the land of their ancestors. But moreover, they want to be in Israel.

>> **Finances** For 200 Bnei Menashe, there is a possibility that they will be able to return to Israel in March this year. Absorption in Israel has been arranged, but now there is the need for finances. Without money, they cannot make the journey, flights cannot be booked, so they will have to remain in India. How long do they have to wait? Can you help the Bnei Menashe return to their home in Israel? A plane ticket costs US \$1100. If you would like to donate, please complete the coupon on the back page. Any amount is welcome. Christians for Israel hopes to help at least 100 Bnei Menashe make their journey home. We ask you to pray for them; pray that their longing to return home may be fulfilled.

"Now, I Should Not Be Afraid..."

By Nataliya Kryzhanivska, Aliyah Fieldworker Ukraine

>> The Story of Anna Borisovna in Ukraine

Because of Anna's bright appearance, her nationality was clearly prominent, causing pupils and teachers to mock her at school. After 8th grade, she enrolled in night school, and to be independent, Anna decided to get a job. She then got married and had two children, Syoma and Diana.

When the Soviet Union started drafting for the Army, it was understood that Syoma had no choice but to go to Afghanistan. Instead, Anna's husband decided Syoma should have a Jewish education in America, to save him from going to war. But to do so, Anna and her husband had to make a fictitious divorce. Unfortunately, her husband never returned, he started his own family in America, and Anna has not seen or heard from her son, who is now 45 years old.

Anna's daughter, Diana, was also called 'the Jew' because of her bright appearance, and was mocked. At a very young age, she

married a Jewish man and emigrated to Australia... Anna has not seen her since.

I talked with Anna a lot about Israel, but Anna was fearful of making Aliyah. Nine years ago, Anna decided to prepare the necessary documents when she was diagnosed with cancer, halting the process of leaving. In September 2017, we started preparing the documents again, when she was diagnosed again, this time requiring urgent surgery. Her oncologist humiliated her, which made her determined to leave Ukraine. While Anna received chemotherapy, her visa was granted. She was very ill but Christians for Israel helped every step of the way... literally, and in three short days, her documents were finalised. But Anna was so sick, she was 71 years old, she'd lost 18kg in a short time, she needed an escort to Israel. After raising money for my ticket, Anna and I arrived in Israel, where Anna went straight to Ramla hospital.

It was an unforgettable experience; to escort Anna back 'home'. Hugging Anna, I said: "Now you are among your people and in your country". Anna, with tears in her eyes, bowed her head and asked me: "Now I should not be afraid to say my father's name, Boruch-Israel, right?"

Through Scripture, our Heavenly Father says: "Do not be afraid! I will never leave you, nor forsake you"... How wonderful it is to be a co-worker in His Kingdom.



Anna in Ramla Hospital, Israel

Can You Help?

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Ukraine

Nataliya delivering a food parcel to a Holocaust survivor in Ukraine



Nataliya and Loeba, two local Aliyah workers in Ukraine, recently visited elderly Jewish people in remote villages and handed out food parcels. One of the elderly lady asked Nataliya in: "Please come in, it's too cold to stay outside."

"Thank you, we will, we have brought a food package for you as a gift," Nataliya answered.

The old lady thanked Nataliya warmly. Many of the elderly people we visit react emotionally because we care about them.

This winter we hope to distribute 6,000 food parcels, but we need your help to do it. One food parcel costs \$12. To make a donation, complete the coupon below.

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