

# ISRAEL

## & Christians Today

INTERNATIONAL

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CHRISTIANS FOR  
**ISRAEL**  
INTERNATIONAL

Understanding Israel and world events from a Biblical perspective

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View of the Dome of the Rock and the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives. | Photo: Flash90

## Israel's Independence

Last month, Israel observed the 74th anniversary of its independence, gained when the State of Israel was born on 14 May 1948.

This celebration is always preceded by Remembrance Day – the day Israel remembers those who have fallen in its many conflicts over the last century.

Together, both events show that the independence of the

Jewish people comes at a high price.

At the moment, however, Israel is undergoing another massive wave of terror and violence.

She is also being attacked internationally. The media and many in the international political community condemn Israel for crimes – even when there is no proof. Israel is accused of being an apartheid State that uses excessive

force and kills journalists without reason.

Now, more than ever, Zionism is under attack. The very existence of the Jewish State is being threatened as never before.

The Bible tells us, however, that God alone is holy and sovereign. He is bringing His people home, never to be uprooted.

**My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow My laws and be careful to keep My decrees. They will live in the land I gave to My servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David, My servant, will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put My sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy when My sanctuary is among them forever. *Ezekiel 37:24-28***

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After 20 Years,  
Sisters Make Aliyah



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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Israel is Fighting for the Freedom of Jews and Arabs

■ Andrew Tucker

International Editor | Christians for Israel

On 4 May, Israel celebrated *Yom Hazikaron*, Remembrance Day. The nation honoured its fallen before transitioning from mourning to joy as nightfall ushered in the country's 74th Independence Day.

A siren sounded at 11 am, bringing the country to a standstill for two minutes of silence in memory of the over 24,000 service members and 4,000 terror victims killed over the last century and a half. At cemeteries across the country, bereaved families, friends and others gathered to remember those lost with speeches, poems, candles, wreaths and tears.

defend the citizens of the country on the roads and intersections of Judea and Samaria and along the borders," he said, using the biblical name for the West Bank. He added that the IDF "goes beyond the country's borders to strike in the air, at sea and on land, throughout the Middle East" in the cause of defending Israel.

Few people outside Israel realise how much the Jewish people have sacrificed for their right to live as a nation and how vulnerable Israel is.

The dilemma is highlighted by the tragic killing of Palestinian Arab journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during an Israeli military operation in Jenin.

refugees) became a hotbed of hatred and violence.

When Israel (miraculously) took control of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria in June 1967 (in a defensive war), it would have been suicide to have simply handed back control of these territories to those still swearing to eliminate them the Jewish people. Instead, Israel took the strategic decision to 'occupy' the territories: hold control of them under a military administration but not claim sovereignty over them (excepting 'East Jerusalem' over which it did apply Israeli sovereignty).

Since 1967, cities like Jenin have become a breeding ground for Islamist terrorists

Few people outside Israel realise how much the Jewish people have sacrificed for their right to live as a nation and how vulnerable Israel is. The dilemma is highlighted by the tragic killing this week of Palestinian Arab journalist Shireen Abu Akleh...

President Isaac Herzog stressed the unity of the people of Israel – Jewish and non-Jewish: "Our sons and daughters, who fell in defence of our state, fought together and fell together. They did not ask, nor did anyone ask them, who was right-wing and who was left-wing. Who was religious. Who was secular. Who was Jewish and who was not Jewish," he said. "They fell as Israelis, defending Israel. In cemeteries, arguments fall silent. Between the headstones, not a sound. A silence that demands that we fulfil, together, their single dying wish: the resurrection of Israel. The building of Israel. United, consolidated, and responsible for each other. For we are all sisters and brothers."

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi emphasised that Israel is still fighting for its freedom. He said the Israel Defense Forces were currently dealing with threats on several fronts and hailed the generations of soldiers who have served in the military. "The thwarting of terror continues every day, from north to south, and IDF units

Even if Abu Akleh was killed by an Israeli bullet – which has not been proven - what was the Israeli army (IDF) doing in Jenin?

Jenin is a mainly Arab city in the northern part of the mountain range of Samaria. It has become a breeding ground for Islamist terrorists who sneak into Israel to carry out terror attacks killing Jews and non-Jews.

When the Jewish State of Israel was proclaimed in May 1948, the Arabs could also have declared their own state. But they chose to continue the policy adopted from 1920 of using violence (i.e. killing Jews) to destroy the Jewish national home.

In 1948/9, the Arabs attacked Israel, and Jordan took control of the old part of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria (which in 1950 became known as the 'West Bank' of Jordan). Since 1967, Palestinians have been used as a political pawn, left in refugee camps set up under a new organisation called the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). They have been given false hope of 'return' to their former homes. Palestinian 'refugee camps' (a misnomer because the Palestinians were not truly

who sneak into Israel to carry out terror attacks killing Jews and non-Jews in Israel.

In the 1990s, Israel and the PLO agreed to enable the Arab Palestinians to have autonomy and self-government. Jenin was one of the cities where Israel withdrew, and full control was handed over to the PA.

This policy has been a dismal failure. The PA, it turns out, is just the mouthpiece of the PLO, which remains deeply committed to its original goals: the liberation of 'Palestine' and the destruction of Israel.

What is Israel supposed to do - just 'withdraw' and hand over the whole of Judea and Samaria to the Palestinian Authority, as it did in Jenin?

That would be suicide. As everyone knows, whoever controls the mountains of Judea and Samaria can easily destroy the cities and towns in the plains and valleys.

For sure, Shireen Abu Akleh's death is tragic. But the fact that the IDF has to root out terrorists in cities like Jenin reveals there is a much deeper problem.

Prayer Points

By C4I Prayer Team

Israel

- In recent weeks there have been several terrorist attacks in Israel. Pray that these attacks will stop.
- Pray that Israel will be able to receive all the Ukrainian refugees that enter the country. Pray that it will be successful in creating sufficient housing.
- "He draws up the drops of water, which distil as rain to the streams" (*Job 36:27*). The water level of the Sea of Galilee is very high at the moment, partly due to the large amount of rainfall this spring. Give thanks for the high levels in this body of water where the levels are often low.

Israel & the Nations

- "Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence" (*Psalms 9:19*). Pray for the protection of Israel against hatred from other nations.
- In the United Kingdom, a survey was conducted among British adults about antisemitism. It showed that 24 per cent of the respondents agreed with the statement that

Israel treats the Palestinians as badly as the Nazis once treated the Jews. Pray for a change in people's thinking and for more and better education about Biblical prophecies, the Holocaust, and the history of Israel.

Christians for Israel

- "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances" (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a*). Continue to pray for the work of Koen and Ira Carlier and the Christians for Israel team in Ukraine. Pray that we can help many more Jewish refugees on their way to Israel and pray for protection of the team. Give thanks that God has often given solutions in difficult circumstances.
- Pray for your own church today, and thank God that, though sometimes with difficulty, people will indeed receive a vision for Israel. Check what you might be able to do or what difference you could make to your church in this respect.

For daily Prayer Points, go to our website [www.c4israel.org](http://www.c4israel.org)



# Wave of Terror Continues

■ **Yochanan Visser**

Correspondent in Israel

The situation in Israel remains very tense, and it does not look like it will change any time soon. Officials within the Israeli intelligence apparatus have predicted that the current wave of terror will continue throughout the year.

This prediction seems to be based on a recent opinion survey by the *Palestinian Policy and Survey Research* (PSR) institute. That survey showed that the popularity of Fatah is again higher than that of Hamas among Palestinian residents of areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority. The most shocking finding of the survey was that as many as 73 per cent of Palestinian Arabs believe that the Koran contains a prophecy predicting the end of the State of Israel. These Palestinian Muslims believe it will happen in 2022.

This is probably why Palestinian Arabs have recently started a new wave of terror attacks and why Israeli Arab Muslims have joined their brothers in the PA and Hamas controlled areas. These Israeli Arabs, as well as the Bedouin in the Negev desert, are becoming increasingly militant and regularly openly display their large amounts of weapons.

The epicentre of the wave of terror against



Rescue forces evacuate the assailant of an attack that appears to be of a terrorist nature near Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City. 11 May 2022. | Photo: Flash90

Israel now seems to have shifted from Gaza to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

## Preparations for Attack Against Iran

The Israeli military is preparing for a possible airstrike against Iran's nuclear facilities. Such an action seems to be getting closer by the day now that talks in Vienna on a new or revised nuclear agreement with six world powers, including the United States, have stalled. Defence Minister Benny Gantz warned of the consequences of the failure of the

Vienna talks and said Iran was not far from producing a nuclear weapon. Shortly afterwards, it was leaked that the Israeli Air Force (IAF) and the IDF had begun a large-scale exercise simulating an attack on Iran and Israel's defences in preparation for a possible multi-front war. The participation of the American tanker planes in the exercise must be seen as a signal to Iran now that the nuclear talks have once again stalled. It does not mean, however, that the US Air Force will participate directly in an attack on Iran.

# Israel and the Ukraine War

■ **Dan Schnur**

It's not often that you see a headline that begins with the words 'Putin apologises.' But both American and Israeli media have reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin offered an apology to Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett for the anti-Semitic slurs one of his top advisers made recently regarding Hitler and Jews.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had sought to justify Moscow's stated goal of 'de-Nazifying' Ukraine—which a Jewish president leads—by claiming Adolf Hitler had "Jewish blood" and that "the most ardent anti-Semites are usually Jews." There was strong international backlash against Lavrov's insults, but the Russian Foreign Ministry originally reinforced his comments before Bennett and Putin spoke directly.

At the time this was written, the Kremlin had neither confirmed nor denied Putin's apology, suggesting an effort on Putin's part to avoid looking weak to his own people while avoiding a diplomatic blowup with Israel. But Putin hates backing down—to anyone, at any time. So the question is: Why would he feel it necessary to mend fences with Bennett?

From the beginning of the war, Israel's leaders have been forced to navigate an extremely difficult path to avoid antagonising Russia. While Israel's own democratic principles (and strong relationship with the United States) naturally align the Jewish homeland with Ukraine, Bennett has avoided provoking

Putin for both domestic political reasons and international security considerations.

Israel's military must coordinate its actions in Syria closely with its Russian counterpart to avoid any unintentional conflict. Combined with the sizable population of Russian émigrés in Israel—and their considerable political clout—Bennett's best available option has been to position himself as an intermediary between Putin and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky.

But as Russian atrocities became more apparent, Israel's support for Ukraine became more assertive. Bennett's government has directed immense amounts of humanitarian aid, including medical equipment, clothing, food and other supplies, to displaced Ukrainians. Diplomatically, Israel has moved off the sidelines as well, voting for recent United Nations condemnations of Russia after staying away from earlier resolutions. More recently, Israel's military has taken its first steps toward engagement, sending helmets, flak jackets and other types of body armour for use by civilian and medical personnel.

Putin knows that Israel is also facing growing pressure to begin sending weaponry, too, and given his own military's underwhelming performance to date, it's understandable why he would not want to see Israeli armaments deployed against his troops in Ukraine. Even more important are the added benefits of Israel's considerable cyberwar expertise, as well as

its sophisticated military intelligence capabilities. The large number of Israel's Russian- and Ukrainian-speaking active-duty and reserve forces would also greatly aid training efforts.

Putin has watched and listened to the fierce response of Israel's political leaders to Lavrov's blunder, most notably Foreign Minister Yair Lapid's statement that Lavrov's comments had "crossed a line." Within a day, Putin and Bennett were on the phone, ostensibly to discuss the evacuation of civilians from the Avostal steel plant in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol and for Putin to congratulate Israel for its Independence Day. But the timing of the call, and the rather tepid pushback from the Kremlin against Bennett's announcement of a Putin apology, suggest that the Russian president knew exactly how important it was to defuse the situation.

It should not be forgotten that Ukraine is far from the top of Israel's list of international concerns. But Bennett recognises that the best way to maintain his influence in the Iranian nuclear negotiations—and to discourage too many American concessions—is to maintain as strong a relationship with the United States as possible. Stepping up Israel's support of Ukraine is an effective and timely way to achieve that goal.

*Dan Schnur teaches political communications at UC Berkeley, USC and Pepperdine. He hosts the weekly webinar 'Politics in the Time of Coronavirus' for the Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall.*

## Short News

### Synagogue Restoration

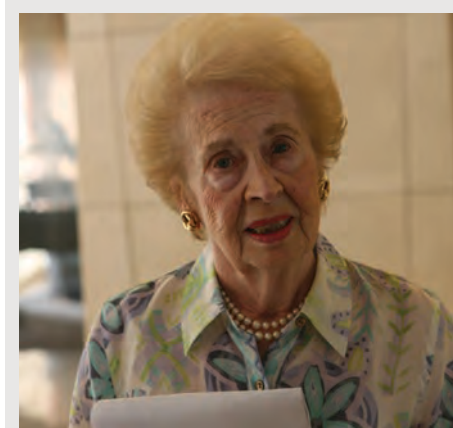


Egypt has started the restoration of the Ben Ezra synagogue in Cairo, the oldest synagogue in not only Egypt, but also in the entire Middle East. The work is being done thoroughly. Not only is the interior given a thorough overhaul, but the roof is also insulated as well and fitted with a water-repellent layer. In 2018 the Egyptian government reserved more than 68 million euros for the restoration of Jewish heritage in the country. In 1948 between 80 and 100 thousand Jews are estimated to have lived in Egypt. In the following years, most Jews were expelled from the country. | Photo: Shutterstock

### Hospital for ADI

Recently Israel's prime minister Naftali Bennett opened ADI's new hospital in the Negev Desert. The hospital is part of an innovative rehabilitation village, where 170 children and (young) adults with multiple disabilities get every opportunity to develop. The hospital has 108 beds. Christians for Israel has been involved with ADI (formerly ALEH) for years. During the opening, PM Bennett expressed his appreciation for ADI. "Everyone is seen as a human being here. A person who deserves respect and care."

### Schindler's Secretary Passes Away



In early May, 107-year-old Mimi Reinhard passed away in Israel. Reinhard was the secretary in the office of Oscar Schindler, the German businessman who rescued 1,200 Jews from the hands of the Nazis. Mimi was born in Vienna, moved to Krakow and ended up in the concentration camp Plaszow, where she was needed to do administrative work. There she was instructed to type the list with the names of the Jews who were going to be transferred to Schindler's ammunition and metal factory. She added her own name to the list. Only when she was 92 years old, Reinhard moved from the United States to Israel. | Photo: Flash90



# Israel is Experiencing Turbulent Times Again

## ■ Yochanan Visser

Correspondent in Israel

**Israel is once again experiencing turbulent times with a wave of new attacks by Palestinian terrorists, rapidly changing relations with states in the Middle East, and changes in Syria that could affect the covert war between Israel and Iran.**

The wave of new terrorist attacks that began on 21 March 2022, with an attack on civilians in the city of Beer Sheva, reached its lowest point on 5 May when two Palestinian terrorists armed with axes and knives from the Jenin area murdered three Jewish men in the central town of Elad, Israel.

### Jenin

It is no coincidence that several of the terrorists, who recently committed seven attacks in seven weeks, came from the city of Jenin in northern Samaria.

Always a stronghold of extremists, Jenin was dubbed the capital of suicide terrorism during the Second Intifada because many terrorists who blew themselves up in buses, hotels, and restaurants came from that city and its suburbs.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Palestinian Authority security forces have always been wary of operating in Jenin, especially within the city's refugee camp.

That cautious approach by the IDF, however, has changed since April after a terrorist from the Jenin area murdered three young Israelis on Tel Aviv's busy Dizengoff Street.

Since then, the IDF has regularly raided Jenin and the refugee camp there while arresting dozens of suspects.

### Hamas and the Temple Mount

Another factor in the current wave of terror attacks is the incitement by Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar recently delivered an inflammatory speech that was broadcasted by Quds TV in Gaza. During that speech, Sinwar called on Palestinian Arabs in Judea and Samaria to arm themselves, if necessary, with axes and butcher knives and then hunt for Jews who should then be murdered. Apparently, the two Elad terrorists were influenced by Sinwar's incitement as they carried out their horrific attack with axes and knives.

Hamas has long incited the Palestinian masses over the alleged Israeli desecration of the Al-Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount. Sinwar, in his fiery speech, threatened a religious war that would change "the face of the world and scorch the earth in the Middle East".

He also threatened that Hamas would attack synagogues around the world.

Tensions around the Temple Mount peaked during Passover and the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan when hundreds of young Muslims attacked Israeli police daily from within the Al-Aqsa mosque. Police were eventually forced to enter the mosque in an attempt to bring the situation under control.

To keep things from getting completely out of hand, Jews were then banned from ascending the Temple Mount during the last ten days of Ramadan.

### Tensions with Jordan

Relations with Jordan further deteriorated due to the tensions surrounding the Al-Aqsa mosque. The government in Amman blamed Israel for the riot and even summoned Israel's ambassador to dress him down.

Jordan also demanded an increase in the number of guards of the so-called WAKF, the Islamic custodian of the Muslim holy sites on the Temple Mount.

Israel responded to this demand with ambivalence.



Family and friends attend the funeral of Boaz Gol. Gol was killed on 5 May in a terror attack in Elad. | Photo: Flash90

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett rejected the request, but Omer Bar-Lev, his internal security minister, was in favour of expanding the WAKF in exchange for removing Hamas elements from within the organisation.

Prime Minister Bennett, however, stuck to his rejection of the Jordanian demand, saying that only the Israeli government makes decisions about the Temple Mount.

### Israel-Russia Relationship Under Pressure

Then there is the situation in Syria, where the Russian army is reducing its presence because of the war with Ukraine.

More on that later.

This war caused deterioration in relations between Israel and Russia after both Bennett and his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yair Lapid, strongly criticised the Russians.

**Tensions around the Temple Mount peaked during Passover and the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan when hundreds of young Muslims attacked Israeli police daily from within the Al-Aqsa mosque.**

Israel, in turn, was accused by a Kremlin spokesman of sending mercenaries to fight alongside the Ukrainian army, and the Jewish state was also accused of collaborating with the "Nazi regime in Kyiv".

Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister, then added fuel to the fire and made anti-Semitic remarks about President Volodymyr Zelensky's Jewishness.

Lavrov also claimed that Jews are the biggest anti-Semites.

These comments provoked great anger in Israel and sharp condemnations from Lapid and Bennett.

Ultimately, Israeli fears that the crisis with Russia would limit freedom of action against Iran's entrenchment in Syria didn't materialise.

During Independence Day on 5 May, President Vladimir Putin telephoned Bennett and apologised for Lavrov's comments.

Putin also sent a congratulatory message on the 74th Independence Day to Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

With that, the crisis seemed to have come to an end.

### Syria

Israel can thus continue its campaign against Iran in Syria and has recently launched repeated airstrikes against Iran- and Hezbollah-related targets in the war-torn country.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad now seems less confident due to the declining Russian presence and Putin's attitude towards Israel.

Assad is now seeking closer relations with Iran and, in early May, travelled to Tehran, where he met with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's extremist President Ibrahim Raisi.

Media in Iran later claimed that close relations between Damascus and Tehran had prevented "the Zionist regime's dominance in the region".

### Positive Developments

Meanwhile, Israel is helping displaced persons in Syria with a new technology that converts air into water.

The Israeli company Watergen has been producing, for the past two years, a device that converts moisture in the

air into condensation and then into mineral-rich water.

The device runs on solar energy and was purchased by the Multi-faith Alliance for Syrian Refugees.

This Democratic-oriented organisation bought dozens of water harvesting devices from Watergen and distributed them in refugee camps run by the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which is dominated by Kurds.

Another positive development is that the Abraham Accords between Israel, two Gulf States, and Morocco remained intact during the crisis on the Temple Mount.

The Arab countries didn't choose Israel's side during the conflict, however.

In addition, Turkey has made overtures to Israel after a long period of very poor relations.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is trying to restore relations with Israel amid the economic crisis in Turkey and Erdogan's diminished popularity among the Turkish population.

Israel is reluctant to watch Erdogan's moves and apparently first wants to see actions against the presence of Hamas operatives in Turkey.



# Condemnation of Israel Halts Search for Truth



Hundreds gather for the funeral procession of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh in Jerusalem's Old City. | Photo: Flash90

## Fiamma Nirenstein

The tragic death of *Al Jazeera* journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed in a firefight in the Palestinian town of Jenin, has prompted worldwide demonisation of Israel that does not help the search for the truth of how Akleh died. We have seen worldwide condemnation—or rather criminalisation—of Israelis and Israeli leaders by nearly all media outlets, who have uncritically accepted the narrative of Israeli guilt and criminality proffered by the Palestinians. Yet regarding the Palestinian Authority's refusal to conduct a joint investigation into the incident, to the point of refusing to produce the very bullet that killed Akleh, there has been worldwide silence.

## No one asked how the events actually unfolded, choosing instead to criminalise and demonise the Israel Police.

This reflexive and all too common criminalisation of Israel creates a false and defamatory narrative of Jewish violence and cruelty. This is nothing less than the promotion by international public opinion of the Palestinians' campaign to resurrect their 'cause' after a period of near-oblivion. To further this campaign, the PA will *never* consent to an objective examination of the evidence relating to Akleh's death—likely for fear of what it might find.

Indeed, the Palestinians have already got what they wanted: clashes and violence in the streets of Jerusalem, which have been flooded with Palestinian flags. The Israeli reaction to the clashes during Akleh's funeral in Jerusalem, moreover, proves the intellectual Douglas Murray's thesis in his latest book that the West is its own worst enemy. Israel's Public Security Minister Omer Barlev has set up a committee to investigate the conduct of Israel's own police at the funeral, even though the Palestinians clearly intended to exploit the event in order to spark a

demonstration or riot, which the police attempted to prevent even while defamatory slogans were shouted and stones thrown at them.

Media coverage of this shocking behaviour was carefully censored. The brother of Akleh, for example, told those attempting to steal Akleh's casket, "For God's sake, let us put her in the car and finish the day." It is not surprising that the global press refused to report this, choosing instead to portray the police response as either unprovoked or inspired by depraved cruelty. The *BBC*, *CNN* and all other media outlets with reporters at the scene painted the Israel Police in precisely the same defamatory light. This capitulation to Palestinian violence and propaganda was not limited to the media. US

President Joe Biden's Spokeswoman Jen Psaki called the images of Akleh's funeral "very disturbing," while the European Union said it was "deeply shocked."

No one asked how the events actually unfolded, choosing instead to criminalise and demonise the Israel Police. Nor was there any interest in the day-to-day difficulties and hazards faced by the police, who are charged with the immensely difficult task of preventing terror attacks and violent clashes in a country that is permanently at war. Yet even their leaders have abandoned them. The police said they were merely trying to ensure an orderly funeral. Barlev, however, appeared—along with Israel's enemies—to suspect otherwise, even though this is his own police force.

The obvious assumption in such a case, and in such a context, is that the police did not find themselves facing a funeral but a Palestinian demonstration that threatened to become a riot. They had to confront a

mob of people chanting slogans of hatred and revenge. The mob threw stones at them—and stones can kill. The police were in an explosive tactical and political situation in which, during Ramadan and after, Israel has been plagued by multiple terror attacks and violence on the Temple Mount. They reacted in a manner that, whatever an investigation may conclude, was understandable.

That an Israeli minister has forsaken his own police at a moment of violent and disproportionate international condemnation represents something dark and unusual. Certainly, Israel is a democratic state that is accountable for its behaviour. It is logical for it to publicly provide a response to such a wave of condemnation. And this took place. Nonetheless, such an investigation takes resources away from the Israel Police at a difficult moment, after three weeks in which 19 Israeli civilians were murdered in terror attacks. They were killed in the name of the same flag that covered the streets of Jerusalem at Akleh's funeral. It is not even necessary to ask what would happen if an Israeli citizen carried an Israeli flag through Ramallah—they would not last long.

It is perfectly legitimate for the US, EU and indeed Israel to call for a thorough investigation into the death of Akleh and the violence at her funeral. But such an investigation cannot be objective if the *a priori* delegitimisation and demonisation of the Israel Police and Israeli security forces in general continues. If it does, then any investigation will simply be another attempt to further the Palestinian leadership's strategy of uprooting Israeli sovereignty and legitimacy in the international community.

*Journalist Fiamma Nirenstein was a member of the Italian Parliament (2008-13), where she served as vice president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies. She served in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and established and chaired the Committee for the Inquiry Into Anti-Semitism. A founding member of the international Friends of Israel Initiative, she has written 13 books, including 'Israel Is Us' (2009). Currently, she is a fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.*

## Short News

### Joseph's Tomb Restored



Recently Joseph's Tomb in Nablus (formerly Shechem) was destroyed by Palestinians. The damage was considerable: there was a fire, a tombstone was smashed, windows were broken, and even the water supply system was damaged. For many Jews, Joseph's Tomb is a sacred place. Meanwhile, Israel started the repairs, a job that needed the protection of the Israeli army against the rioters.

| Photo: E. Ben Kimon via Twitter

### Guided Tours

Recently the Israeli Ministry of Tourism recently free 'Guided tours' through Israel for Ukrainian refugees. They are accompanied by Russian speaking guides. In this way the Ministry wants to contribute to the integration of the refugees by introducing them to their new homeland. Amongst others places, the refugees visit several nature reserves.

### Cable Car



In the Israeli port of Haifa, a cable car was recently put into operation. It connects the train station with Haifa's two most important universities. The ride takes nineteen minutes, and every fifteen seconds, a cabin leaves, accommodating ten people. The cable car will be the most important means of transportation for the students and teachers of the universities and will provide a solution for the daily traffic jams and shortage of parking places.

| Photo: Flash90

### Plan for a Jewish Quarter

Rabbi Abadie in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has drafted a plan to develop a Jewish quarter in the country. The Jewish population is growing, and with that, the demand for specific Jewish amenities. "We will see more houses of prayer, schools – from daycare centres to higher education – a place for a *mikveh* (ritual bath), companies selling *kosher* food and a community centre", the Rabbi explains to the Jerusalem Post. "That is why we need a Jewish quarter, and I am discussing this with some developers." According to the Rabbi, about two thousand Jews live in the UAE, of whom 500 actively practice Judaism.



## “We are Hanging in There”

■ **Koen Carlier**  
Christians for Israel Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has now been going on for over three months. But anyone who assumes that the situation is returning to normal, that there are fewer requests for help, or that the worst is over, is wrong. On average, we help between 150 and 200 fleeing Jews per week, bring them to safety and help them on their way to Israel.

Koen Carlier, team leader in Ukraine, explains: “We pick people up by bus in eastern Ukraine and bring them to the Vinnista region. We provide them with a clean bed; they can shower, and volunteers prepare hot and nutritious meals. It gives people who come out of the war zone such a feeling of humanity. After weeks they feel a bit human again for the first time. We don’t know exactly how people managed to get out of the occupied areas in the east. But they come, travelling from one place to the other most of the time. And in the Kiev area, people can finally flee from cities that are no longer there. We offer them time to catch their breath and help them with the journey to Israel.”

**How do you as a team keep up helping refugees non-stop, 24/7?**

“Practically speaking: preparation has helped us tremendously. There are supplies, there was a plan, and shelters were arranged. That takes away worries. Our team in Ukraine continues to help. We cooperate exceptionally well. And above all: we pray together. We see that through the war, God is bringing His people to the Promised Land. We are experiencing a bit of what we read in the psalms and prophets. We see something in *Isaiah 43:19*. That’s an encouragement.”

**What can people do for you?**

“Keep praying. Keep praying and proclaim in your surroundings that God is fulfilling His promises right through all the misery. And I want to thank you: you provide financial support for this emergency campaign. This is a rich blessing because it relieves us of a great deal of stress; it gives us the space to focus all our attention on our Jewish brothers and sisters in need.”



Koen with a group of refugees. | Photo: S. Soroka

### Why Alina Helps Refugees

## “Showing God & His Grace”

**How satisfying it is when we realise the good results after all the work we do! And God arranged everything in the best way possible! No matter how difficult things can be and how tired we all get - the most important thing is to finally see people’s happy and grateful faces and to know that they received the best care possible with lots of love.**

Our mission is not simply to bring people to a safer place, but to make them feel safe, loved, and cared for on their way. It is not an easy task, especially when there is a big group. Everyone has their own trauma and story, character and emotional issues, different ages and status, and habits. Some people look decent; others still wear dirty and dusty clothes... However, nothing should be an obstacle for us to show God and His grace. I am convinced that —without exception— everybody we help will never forget how they were taken care of. You cannot even imagine how many grateful words they expressed to everybody who was involved in the rescue process!

There is one thing that I do not like about my work at Christians for Israel - it is the moment when I have to say ‘goodbye’ to people who became so dear to me by the end of the journey to the Kishinev shelter [the capital of Moldova]. I give each of them a big hug, knowing I won’t see them again, and my heart cries with sadness and grief for what these people ran from. At the same time, I feel joy about what they are going to experience soon!



Alina from the Christians for Israel Ukraine team.

## Safe at Home

This couple was recently assisted by our team in Ukraine to prepare their journey to Israel. The paperwork came through, and now they are safely in Israel. They are relieved that they can be with their daughter in Beersheba. But they have mixed feelings: their son had to remain in Ukraine because of his age.



| Photo: Christians for Israel

### Providing support in Ukraine

20 workers and many volunteers help Jewish refugees to safety

One bus and seven mini-busses to transport refugees

10,000 Jews fled from Ukraine to Israel so far

5,000 Jewish people assisted by C4I on their way to Israel

Oldest olim: Ludmilla (99 years)

In our shelter refugees stay overnight before we take them across the border

40,000 Aliyah requests received from Ukrainian Jews

200,000 Ukrainian Jews have the right to return to Israel

Support of integration through 'First Home in the Homeland'

Youngest olim: Yan (3 weeks old)



# “Then I’m Not Feeling Alone Anymore”

**Anemone Rüger**  
Project Coordinator - Holocaust Survivors in Israel & Ukraine | Christians for Israel

“We are operational again,” says Vera, our contact person in the northern Ukrainian city of Chernigov. “But 70 per cent of our beautiful city has been destroyed.” The medieval churches of Chernigov – the former capital of an independent principality – are considered world heritage. Vera spent several weeks in March in the basement of her apartment block, trying to organise medication for her most needy patients via the Red Cross. When Chernigov’s main bridge to the Kiev district was destroyed, Vera sent a message saying, “We are preparing for the worst.” For a long time, the population was cut off from any supplies. In early April, the siege around the city miraculously ended. Vera is able to go shopping again for her senior community members from



the donations provided by Christians for Israel. “You know, it’s very difficult. Every air-raid alarm frightens me,” says Ludmila (pictured left), who lives in Chernivtsy. She turned blind many years ago and shares an apartment with her daughter. Since German Telekom started offering free calls to Ukraine, I have tried to call some of the elderly every day. “If my daughter would go with me, I would also leave,” Ludmila continues. Her granddaughter has already escaped to Germany with her 1-year-old daughter. “I miss you; I miss your visits... Do you remember

that you brought me a blanket once, knitted by a certain Frau Huber from Germany? Tell her how much it means to me now. I wrap myself in this blanket every day, and then I’m not feeling alone anymore.”

Together with my colleague Alina, I have been able to bring hundreds of hand-knitted blankets, shawls and socks to Holocaust survivors and needy elderly in Ukraine’s Jewish communities over the last few years. We gave out thousands of small cards, speaking words of comfort into people’s hearts: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you.” The cards, the shawls, and the heart-shaped waffles have deposited a seed of love in the hearts of the needy. The memories of our visits are releasing hope at a time when we have hardly any opportunity to reach these dear people physically and geographically.

“For the elderly, it is incredibly difficult to leave their old lives behind,” says one of the Jewish leaders on the Black Sea coast. “Many of them just only made it through the past years thanks to the loving care of their nurses and lots of medication. They don’t have the strength to pack and leave. They would rather die in their own bed than having to flee again. That’s why we try to continue supporting them through our staff who remained in the city. Thank you for helping us in this effort.”

Another Jewish community actively engaged in helping the needy is located in Poltava between Kiev and Kharkov. “It took a long time, but now I was able to place another bulk order with our contract pharmacy (pictured below) for the elderly who need medical support in our community,” says Rabbi Yosef. In addition to its own needy, the Jewish community has taken in countless refugees from severely destroyed cities such as Kharkov. “Thanks to your help, we have been able to provide each



family – community members and refugees alike – with a nice Passover package (pictured above right).”

“Our seniors are very strong. I almost get the impression they take this situation better than we do,” says Tanya from Belaya Tserkov, who had to abandon her home near the airbase during the air raids at the beginning of the war. “Last night, the sirens went off again and lasted for an hour. I couldn’t sleep after that. Our city is more or less ok at the moment. But we are getting more and more refugees from the east - from Lugansk, from Mariupol. What they report is simply horrible.”

Tanya and her team go out of their way to provide for the many elderly in their large area of responsibility, which also includes many outlying villages. “We realise that they need us. They depend on the aid we bring. But it’s still scary to go outside. Whenever we plan a larger tour, we try to get a police escort.” All the community’s needy continue to be cared for. Their helpers are so committed to them that they are willing to risk their lives for it.

“At the same time, the Aliyah continues,” says Tanya. “We are sending everyone who is halfway mobile and ready to go to Israel to you. And those who took this big step are very happy. Thank you for everything you do for us!”

“Dear sponsors – your donations continue to reach the elderly, and they are needed more than ever – materially and emotionally! So far, we have been able to continue our support programmes in all our Jewish partner communities, although under more difficult conditions. The message this conveys – that someone is thinking of them and caring for them – is invaluable for the needy at this challenging time. THANK YOU!”

## Everything is Gone



| Photo: Christians for Israel

There they are, this man and woman from Mariupol. They lost everything they had. Their faces show the misery they endured. Whatever was left of their lives was packed in our plastic bags that we use for food parcel distribution.

They are devastated. Helpless. Weary. They want to leave, and get out of the war. And we help, first of all with basic necessities these people had been deprived of for weeks: a bed, a meal, a shower. We surround them with love and attention and make arrangements so they will be able to leave for Israel for a new and hopeful future.

**Will you continue to remember all these people, our Jewish brothers and sisters, in your prayers? That they find the help, they need? And that we can help each person that comes our way to make the journey to Israel?**

## Emergency Campaign Ukraine Continues

### How can I help?



The war in Ukraine is ongoing. Our work to support the Jewish communities in Ukraine continues. Please continue to pray for our staff and the Jewish communities in Ukraine.

**Your support for our emergency campaign is still very important! Any amount is welcome! To donate, complete the coupon on page 16.**

Transport for a Jewish refugee



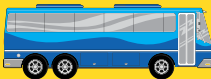
\$ 110  
€ 100

Transport for a small family



\$ 400  
€ 400

One bus



\$ 4,400  
€ 4.000



# Christians for Israel Visits Tanzania



The team who prepared the conference in Tanzania. | Photos: C4I



During the conference in Tanzania.



The women preparing the food for the conference.

## ■ Rev Cornelis Kant

Executive Director | Christians for Israel International

*"Your teaching about Israel felt like healing."*

That comment was made by one of the participants in the team which prepared our Christians for Israel conference in Tanzania. She was describing the impact of our teachings on her. In April, our team in Tanzania organised a two-day conference about Israel in the city of Mwanza in the Tanzanian Lake Zone.

Pastor Mark Manumbu, team member, pastor and teacher at the Pentecostal Seminary in Mwanza, allowed us to use his church for this conference. Over 120 pastors, teachers and church members attended the conference. A teacher and representative of Mwanza's university also attended. She was excited about our biblical and historical teachings and invited us to meet her students during our next stay in Tanzania.

Jos van Westing, our speaker for African countries, taught about the history of Israel, the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jewish people over the centuries, the establishment of the State of Israel and the anti-Israel sentiment in the present-day world. Projected pictures

supported his teachings. I taught about the everlasting significance of Israel in our Christian faith, in accordance with the Old and New Testament, the relationship between Christians and Jews from a Biblical perspective, and the role of Jesus as Messiah in the promised return of the Jewish people to their homeland Israel. We are always impressed by how deeply the message about Israel touches people. The impact goes much deeper than only adding knowledge. Biblical teaching about Israel and God's incredible plan for Israel often comes across as a revelation. The woman mentioned earlier expressed her feelings by using the term 'healing'. Becoming aware of the significance of Israel and the Jewish people in God's redemptive plan is so inspiring and refreshing for one's personal faith.

Also, four pastors from Kenya attended the conference. One from the Nairobi area and three others from the western part of Kenya. They had contacted us recently to talk about cooperation in the future. So I first invited them to attend our conference in Tanzania in order to get to know our message. They were touched by the teachings and showed great eagerness to spread the message in Kenya as well. We had good conversations

with them and gave them some guidelines regarding proper preparations for a conference. The next Sunday, the conference was finished by a church service in two different churches in Mwanza.

Last year Pastor David Mbago, our team leader of Christians for Israel in Tanzania, translated the *Why Israel* Abridged Edition into Swahili. After a check by a translation agency, we printed it and gave it to all the attendants. Now they can reread the Bible verses at home. During our stay in Tanzania, we also visited a pastor in the neighbouring city Shinyanga who wants to organise a pastor's conference in his city.

Pastor David Mbago invested in the establishment of teams of 'friends of Israel' in various cities in Tanzania over the last few years. Their focus is mainly on prayer for Israel and the global work of Christians for Israel. These teams meet for a week of prayer several times a year. David also teaches about Israel during these weeks of prayer. In 2019 Pastor David organised a speaking tour, where we visited ten churches and schools and were able to reach well over 1000 people with our biblical message. Since the Covid pandemic, the emphasis is more on prayer. Our team in Tanzania needs our support and prayer.

# C4I Office Opened in Kampala, Uganda

## ■ Jos van Westing

Speaker | Christians for Israel International

How exciting it was to be able to travel to Africa again after a two-year lockdown and visit Tanzania and Uganda. Uganda really has my heart. It was like coming home and having a family reunion!

I had the opportunity to teach the Israel message for five days, approximately 5-6 hours a day, at V.O.S.O. Gilgal Church. Christians for Israel Uganda (C4I Uganda) restarted through this church under the inspiring leadership of pastors and teachers, Sarah, Asher and Victor. C4I Uganda has grown tremendously in knowledge, inspiration and important contacts. Its origins began when a local church in Kampala, with a sincere love for Israel began by praying and financially supporting *Aliyah*. Today it is a mature movement with national broadcasting through the most viewed Christian Television Station in Uganda, Lighthouse Television Studios. On both Fridays and Saturdays, there is a programme of 1½ hours in which they share the Biblical view of God's purpose for Israel, the Church and the nations. Unexpectedly I was invited to preach for 15 minutes during an outdoor gathering of a few hundred selected guests, including pastors and church leaders, which was broadcasted live by Lighthouse to 142,000 followers all over Uganda.

Due to their growth and contacts, the Christians for Israel team in Uganda is ready to reach out to churches, Christian fraternities and engage with government

officials to organise national conferences and seminars concerning prayer and action for Israel. One of the objectives is to counterattack antisemitism strategies in current events in Israel. The team does not only want to spread the Israel message in their own country but also in neighbouring countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Zambia.

During my visit, I had the honour to officially open a small C4I Uganda office in a newly built shopping and office centre, which will be daily manned during office hours to inform the public about the *Why Israel?* message.

Another valuable contact of our team is Dr Julius Oyet, the Founder and Presiding Bishop of Life Line Ministries, an international ministry with headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. He is called to the apostolic and evangelistic ministry of church planting and has planted over 100 local churches in two decades. He is described as a prolific Christian leader, highly recognised by Christian leaders around the world. Bishop Oyet invited me to speak in the Life Line Church on Sunday, as he did two years ago, and we discussed plans to develop a *Why Israel?* course in the non-denominational Elijah Institute, which he founded on the Life Line Ministries campus. Students will have to register and pay a small amount and receive a certificate. Bishop Oyet also stressed that he wants to partner with us concerning *Aliyah*.

We pray that the *Why Israel?* message will be spread more and more in Uganda and beyond!



Pastor Sarah with Jos van Westing. | Photo: C4I



The Christians for Israel Uganda team.



# Anglican Church Repents for its Role in Expulsion of Jews

■ Dr James Earle Patrick

On Sunday 8 May 2022, bishops of the Anglican and Catholic churches gathered in Oxford's Christ Church Cathedral to 'acknowledge with shame and penitence' the antisemitism of the Synod of Oxford, 800 years ago.

Held in 1222, that Synod instigated a particularly disturbing time in Christian-Jewish relations in England, with repercussions across Europe. In promulgating the decrees of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215) the Synod added a range of further anti-Jewish measures for the English church. The resulting legal canons forbade social interactions between Jews and Christians, prohibited new synagogues, denied Jews access to churches, and required that they wear an identifying badge (which later developed into the Nazis' yellow star). These prejudicial laws were followed by further anti-Jewish statutes, culminating in the mass expulsion of the Jewish community in 1290.

How was the English church moved to this act of repentance?

In 2019, the Anglican Church published its official document on Christian-Jewish relations, *God's Unfailing Word*. At the end of its first chapter about the history of Christian antisemitism, it encourages Christian communities to take suitable opportunities to express repentance for this.

I had come across the 1222 Synod when publishing two booklets in 2017 about British Christian history and the Jewish people, and realised its 800th was approaching. A Jewish historian friend encouraged me to write a paper summarising what scholars have written about the Synod, and submit this to the Anglican Church to see if it truly meant what it had said about repentance.

I spent several months researching and writing the paper, finishing the footnotes after the first lockdown in 2020. Due to my role in leading Christians for Israel (UK), I had become a member of the *Love Never Fails* coalition of British pro-Jewish Christian ministries. They wanted to send a thank-you letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the 2019 document. I suggested adding a proposal about repenting for the 1222 Synod. This was agreed, and we sent it on 27 January 2021.

Then Jacob Vince (Director, Christian Friends of Israel UK) told us that because he is a lay member of the Anglican General Synod, he has a right to ask formal questions. Together we wrote two questions, which he submitted for General Synod in July. In replying, Bishop



Service of Repentance (Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Rabbi Jonathan Romain, Bishop Steven Croft). | Photo: Tom Pilston / Diocese of Oxford

Michael Ipgrave (chair of the Council of Christians and Jews) finally confirmed that our proposal had been received, and that they would be "exploring the idea of such a service" of repentance. This vague answer was buried at the end of a long list of questions, and only published online. Even so, during the weekend, an eagle-eyed reporter with the Telegraph newspaper found this small paragraph and published a major article on the Sunday about the Anglican Church repenting to the Jews. This was picked up by many other papers in the next few days. We were delighted.

We then heard nothing for about six months; maybe they were hoping people would forget? Eventually Bishop Christopher Cocksworth (chair of the group who wrote the 2019 document) replied to me on 3 January, having been on sabbatical. He confirmed that plans were underway for a service in Oxford, organised by the Archdeacon of Oxford. After more emails, and much prayer by intercessors, it was decided that the service would be held in the cathedral, that it would be open to the public, and that it would be livestreamed also.

I circulated the information about ticket bookings around all the LNF ministries and many other pro-Jewish groups. On the day, the Bishop of Lichfield commented to friends that he was astonished to see the cathedral so full. Over 300 had travelled from every part of the UK, even some from Ireland and Switzerland!

The service featured moving contributions from the local Jewish community, and the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave reaffirmed a commitment to continue building these longstanding friendships:

*"Remembering needs to lead to repenting... remembering with clarity what happened and its impact; repenting with sincerity for our turning away from the path of justice and mercy; and rebuilding in trustful partnership with one another. The last six decades have indeed begun to see a transformation in the ways in which our communities view one another, but there is still a long way to go... Trust can only be won through building friendship, through learning about one another, through treating one another with respect, through facing difficulties and disagreements openly, honestly and courteously."*

After the service, over 100 Christians gathered informally for prayer, while the official 'civic reception' was hosting the Chief Rabbi and about 60 other dignitaries. Finally, some 25 of us met in the gardens of Christ Church to pour salt from a new pottery jar into an underground stream there, which re-joins the River Thames to flow down to London. We proclaimed, like the prophet Elisha in *2 Kings 2:19-22*, "This is what the Lord says: I have healed these waters, they shall no longer cause death or animosity or barrenness."

God accomplished every step of the process, in His mercy for our land.

Isreality

## Modern Israel & the Bible - New Online Course



In this world of Google, Instagram and Twitter, it is challenging for young adults to understand the Israel-Palestine conflict. Is Israel a colonial enterprise, an apartheid state? Whose side should we be on?

The online course *Modern Israel and the Bible* combines a solid, Biblical worldview with insights into modern politics, law and history. Eight interactive sessions help students understand key events and trends in the world today – including the return of the Jews to the land over the last two centuries.

Led by German/Israeli journalist and theologian Johannes Gerloff and Australian/Dutch lawyer Andrew Tucker, a pilot programme was run recently in cooperation with Kingdom Faith Church in the UK, attended by students in England, Netherlands, Denmark, Italy and New Zealand.

Here is an overview:

- Session 1:** How do we read the Bible? - compares Islamic, Jewish and Christian hermeneutical principles.
- Session 2:** God creates differences – a close look at Biblical texts shows that God creates order out of chaos by differentiating. This includes the difference between Israel and the Gentile nations.
- Session 3:** The people and the land - When God chose Abram, He made a covenant connecting Abram and his descendants with "a land that I will show you". This connection is relevant for all the other nations of the world.
- Session 4:** The heavenly and earthly Jerusalem - The Bible testifies to the resurrection of our bodies and the Heavenly Jerusalem coming down onto this earth.
- Session 5:** Zionism - This module gives an overview of the return of the Jewish people to 'Palestine' and 'Israel' over the last 100 years.
- Session 6:** Israel and the nations – examines the phenomenon that, since the 1970s, Israel has been the subject of condemnation and ostracization within the UN.
- Session 7:** Israel and the Arab world - This module explores the conflict between Israel, the Arabs and the Palestinians.
- Session 8:** Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria - looks specifically at Jerusalem's history and current status and the 'mountains of Israel', also known as the 'West Bank'.

*Modern Israel and the Bible is an initiative of thinc. – The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation [www.thinc.info](http://www.thinc.info)  
The online course is under construction. We will inform you when it is available. Watch this space!*



Recommended Reading

The Prince and the Prophet

This book tells the beautiful story of the friendship between Anglican priest William Hechler (1845-1931) and the founder of the modern Zionism movement, Theodor Herzl (1860-1904).

God used these two remarkable men - a Bible-believing Gentile and a secular Jew - to bring about the restoration of the Jewish people to the land as He had promised and foretold in the Old Testament.

Hechler was a German/British Anglican who believed fervently in the prophecies about the restoration of the Jewish people. Herzl was a Jewish Hungarian/Austrian lawyer and journalist who attended the trial of Alfred Dreyfus in Paris in the late 1890s and realised the dangers of anti-Semitism facing the Jewish people in Europe. He founded the modern Zionist movement, which led to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

Having earlier been tutor to the children of Frederick I, Grand Duke of Baden, Hechler later became Chaplain to the British Embassy in Vienna. Following the pogroms in western Russia in 1881-1882, Hechler travelled to what is today Ukraine, where he met Leon Pinsker, author of *Autoemancipation*, a foundational work of early Zionism. Pinsker argued that the Jews needed their own homeland, but he didn't specify where. Hechler earnestly pleaded with him that the only fitting place for a restored Israel was Palestine, based on Biblical prophecy.

Hechler visited Herzl in Vienna just weeks after Herzl's *Der Judenstaat* was published in 1896. He introduced Herzl to the Grand Duke, who agreed to open the door for him, the Kaiser Willem II. This bid finally came to fruition in Istanbul in October 1898. Ten days later, in Palestine, Herzl stood hat in hand to greet the Kaiser, who was mounted on horseback. The two men and their advisors met yet a third time in Jerusalem five days later (2 Nov. 1898) for proper talks, albeit ones that mysteriously failed.

In 1897, Hechler wrote:

*"As a Christian, I believe in the Jewish National Movement called 'Zionism' because, according to the Bible, yes, according to the ancient Hebrew prophets themselves, a Jewish State must once again arise in Palestine. And, as it seems to me, judging by the signs of the times, the Jews will again soon occupy their own beloved home in their ancient God given Fatherland. May they soon respond to the call."*

Fifty years later, the Jewish State of Israel was born.

Claude Duvernoy, *The Prince and The Prophet* (1966)  
Published by Glorious Church Fellowship, 2003  
ISBN 10: 9659057229 ISBN 13: 9789659057221

See also: Dr James Patrick, *A History of Christian Zionism in Britain*

Available from CFI: <https://www.cfi.org.uk/a-history-of-christian-zionism>

# The 'Israelites' Have God's Divine Glory



Panoramic view of the Solomon's temple remains and Al-Aqsa Mosque minaret in Jerusalem. | Photo: Shutterstock

■ **Johannes Gerloff**  
*Theologian, Journalist, Lecturer & Author*  
**This is part five 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'. He says: "For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen."

In the last article we looked at the adoption of the Israelites as 'sons' of the Father.

What does it mean that the people of Israel have 'the divine glory'?

'Doxa' in the New Testament designates the 'external appearance', 'splendor' or 'aura' of an object or a person. The Hebrew synonym 'kavod' is related to 'kaved' (heavy) and indicates the 'weight' of a personality. *Genesis 13:2*, for example, tells us that Abram was 'heavy' (kaved), or 'weighty' - King James translates 'very rich'. 'Doxa' also means 'excellence', 'renown', 'honour' or 'glory'.

Paul, however, speaking of *this* (unique, distinct) glory, was thinking of the glory of the Lord. Israel encountered this visible, illuminating appearance of the presence of the invisible God on Mount Sinai as a consuming fire (*Exodus 24:16-17*). While the cloud rested on the tent of meeting, it filled the tabernacle in the desert (*Exodus 40:34-35*). There, in the Holy of Holies, dwelt the presence of the Lord. Therefore, the High Priest Aaron could not "come at any time into the Most Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat, which is on the ark, so that he may not die" (*Leviticus 16:2*; compare 1

*Kings 8:10-11*). At the dedication of the temple, "when Solomon had finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices. The glory of the Lord filled the house. The priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord" (2 *Chronicles 7:1-2*).

The 'glory of the Lord' is the primary theme of the book of Ezekiel. In the beginning, the prophet observes the glory of the Lord leaving the temple in an easterly direction, over the Mount of Olives (*Ezekiel 10; 11:22-24*). It leaves together with the Jewish people into the Babylonian captivity. Only after the prophet foresaw the restoration of the people, the land, and the temple, did he see the return of the glory of the Lord to the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem (*Ezekiel 43:1-5*).

This 'glory of the Lord shone around' the shepherds living out in the fields of Bethlehem when the angel brought them 'good news of overwhelming joy' (*Luke 2:9*). John, the visionary, saw 'the Holy City, the new Jerusalem' as 'the tabernacle of God with men', in which 'he dwells with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God' (*Revelation 21:2-3*). The outstanding characteristic of this city is that it shines with the glory of God (*Revelation 21:10-11*). This city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light (*Revelation 21,23*).

The Hebrew root that runs through all these texts is the root 'shakhan'. It means 'to settle down', 'to rest' and 'to dwell'. From this root, the rabbinical teachers coined the term 'shekhinah' to describe the glorious presence of God. The word 'shekhinah' does not occur in the Old Testament.

The 'shekhinah' is a theme that runs through the whole of Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. In *Romans 1:23* the Apostle laments that men have "exchanged the 'shekhinah' of the incorruptible God for an image made like mortal man". That is why they all, without exception, fall short of the 'shekhinah'. In *Romans 5:1-2* he states: "Therefore being justified by faith, we... rejoice in hope of the [future!] 'shekhinah'". In *Romans 6:4* it is the 'shekhinah' of the Father, by which Messiah was raised from the dead. Through this 'shekhinah', we walk in newness of life. Now, it is precisely this glory of the living God, which we as Gentile Christians hope to attain by faith in the future.

According to Paul's own words, this 'shekhinah' is already part of the riches of Israel - God dwells among those who are Israelites!



Two orthodox Jewish men praying at the Western Wall. | Photo: Shutterstock



# Russian-Ukraine War:

## Is this Gog and Magog? Part 2

■ Kameel Majdali  
Director | Teach All Nations Inc.

The tragic war between Slavic brothers, the Russians and Ukrainians, is not just shifting global norms; it has caused the spotlight to focus on a fascinating end-time prophecy in *Ezekiel 38-39*, known as the Gog and Magog War. With a coalition of nations, Gog launches a spontaneous, unprovoked, knee-jerk invasion of Israel, who is unprepared for this war. The Jewish state would be destroyed if it were not for divine intervention. Instead, it is Gog and his allies who are destroyed. Israel takes seven months to bury the dead. The result of this harrowing event is a final ingathering of Jewish exiles, coupled with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

### Who is Gog?

The million dollar question is: we need to identify the key player. Magog, in all probability, means ‘from the land of Gog.’ So let’s focus on Gog himself. Who is he? The normal nomination for this title is Russia. Why? Because it is a great power from the North (*38:15*). Russia’s long thousand-year history, which reputedly began in Kiev before gravitating towards Moscow, has incorporated an empire larger than any except the Mongols and Muslims. Its imperialism and empire seem to fit the job description.

The old Soviet Union was a tailor-made villain like Gog — until it collapsed on Christmas Day 1991. Also, some Bible teachers say ‘Mesech’ equals Moscow and ‘Tubal’ Tobolsk. But is this really the case?

Is Russia really ‘Gog,’ as many Bible teachers say? This author is not completely convinced. One of the key verses *Ezekiel 38:15*, says Gog comes from *tzafone yereka* (Hebrew). This phrase is crucial because it identifies from what location Gog comes from. It is translated north ‘side’ twenty-one times. Modern translations say ‘far north’ or ‘uttermost parts of the north,’ therefore implying Russia. The authorised King James Bible translates that Gog comes from the ‘north parts.’ If that is the case, it offers the possibility of other countries north of Israel fulfilling the role of Gog, like Syria or Turkey.

While Russia has been an imperialistic power in the past, and some would argue Putin is reviving that tradition, it has also been a Christian nation for a thousand years. Vladimir, Prince of Kievan Rus, led his nation into Eastern Orthodoxy in the year 988 AD. The seventy-four years of atheist communist rule (1917-1991) was an aberration in Russian history; the rest of the millennium



| Photo: Shutterstock

was influenced mostly by Orthodox Christianity. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was the great British missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission. Yet his most memorable prophecy was not about China at all but Russia. Sometime in the latter nineteenth century, Taylor received the following vision:

*I have seen a vision. I saw in this vision a great war that encompasses the world. I saw this war recess and then start again, actually being two wars. After this, I saw much unrest and revolts that will affect many nations. I saw in some places spiritual awakenings. In Russia, I saw there will come a general all-encompassing, national **spiritual awakening** so great that there could never be another like it. From Russia, I saw the awakening spread to many European countries. Then I saw an all-out awakening, followed by the coming of Christ.*

It is clear that Taylor, who died in 1905, saw the two world wars. That’s the bad news. Yet the good news was he saw Russia as the epicentre and catalyst of a great spiritual awakening that would spread westward to Europe and herald the Lord’s return.

Think about it: in Russia today, Christianity once shunned and persecuted by the godless Soviet regime, has returned to a prominent place. Not only is the Russian Orthodox Church having a renaissance, but the Baptists and Pentecostals are growing, too. Yes, there is

‘anti-missionary’ and ‘anti-sect’ legislation in recent years, and there is Orthodox opposition to other denominations. Yet there is no mistaking that Russia’s atheist days have given way to a conspicuous multi-flavoured Christian presence in Russia.

While Russia is regularly associated with Gog of *Ezekiel 38*, some Russian Christians reject this interpretation. How could a Christian-influenced country try to destroy Israel in coalition with a few Muslim-majority nations (Libya, Iran, & Sudan)?

Another consideration: could Gog be Turkey, which is also north of Israel? The key is the places names written in Scripture, like *Gomer* and *Togarmah*, are possibly in Turkey, not Russia. Likewise, *Mesech* and *Tubal* may not be Moscow and Tobolsk after all.

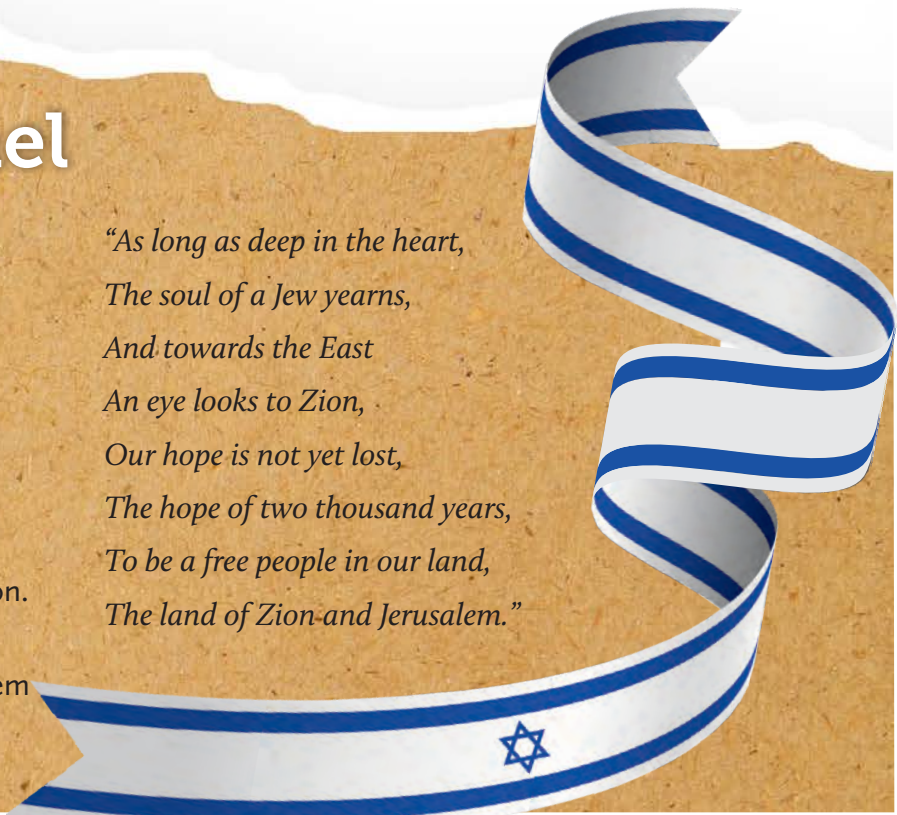
Finally, the fact is Russia, Iran, and Turkey are currently based in Syria, and Syria is next door to Israel. Could this military arrangement, under certain conditions, trigger the Gog attack? To answer that question, remember to take note of the specific details of the prophecy. “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part” (*1 Corinthians 13:9*); we need to follow the Lord’s simple injunction - watch, be sober, and pray (*Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:6*). Not only will we not be caught off guard - we will be part of the solution.

## Facts about the State of Israel

### Did You Know?

- The **FLAG** of the State of Israel is based on the design of the Jewish prayer shawl (tallit), with a blue Shield of David (Magen David).
- The **OFFICIAL EMBLEM** of the State of Israel is the Menorah (candelabrum), whose shape is said to be derived from the seven-branched moriah, a plant known since antiquity. The olive branches on either side represent Israel's yearning for peace.
- Israel has **NO CONSTITUTION**, however, the Declaration of Establishment (1948), the Basic Laws of the parliament (the Knesset), and the Israeli citizenship law fill many of the functions of a constitution.
- The text of **HATIKVAH**, the **ISRAELI NATIONAL ANTHEM**, was written by the Jewish poet Naphtali Herz Imber in 1878. The anthem speaks of the hope of the Jewish people to live as a free and sovereign people in the Land of Israel.

*“As long as deep in the heart,  
The soul of a Jew yearns,  
And towards the East  
An eye looks to Zion,  
Our hope is not yet lost,  
The hope of two thousand years,  
To be a free people in our land,  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.”*





# The Fulfilment of the Day of Pentecost and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

■ Kees de Vreugd  
Theologian | Christians for Israel International & Editor  
| Israel & the Church

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit did not occur just somehow or somewhere. The Spirit came “like the blowing of a violent wind from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting”. This house was in Jerusalem. And it happened “when the day of Pentecost was fulfilled”, as it literally reads. This is one of the days for which Jews from all corners of the earth go up to Jerusalem.

It is Jerusalem where, according to Luke, salvation history takes place. Jesus went there to fulfil His departure (*Luke 9:31*), literally, His ‘exodus’. And there, the disciples received the power of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses “in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. Jerusalem is the heart and the centre.

## The Day of Pentecost

And there were the disciples, gathered together on the fiftieth day. Seven weeks are counted, starting from *Pesach* (Passover). On the second day of the feast of unleavened bread, a sheaf of the first harvested grain – in Israel, this is barley (*John 6:9*) – was brought to the priest as a thanksgiving offering. This sheaf is called *omer* in Hebrew. From then on, the days must be counted, “seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord” (*Lev. 23:15*). This is the day of the first fruits, the feast of weeks (*Numbers 28:26 and Deuteronomy 16:9-12*). The commandment in *Deuteronomy* adds a remarkable aspect: “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.” In other words, Pentecost is still Passover, too.

In *Deuteronomy*, the last day of the feast of the unleavened bread is called in Hebrew a *Atzeret*, meaning either assembly or final day. And it seems as if this final day covers seven weeks. Thus, *Shavuot* becomes seven weeks of *Pesach*, and on Pentecost, seven weeks are fulfilled.

## Gift of the Torah

It is not entirely clear from the historical sources whether *Shavuot* was already celebrated as feast of the giving of the *Torah* in the time of the New Testament. However, a reference to this aspect of *Shavuot* may be found already in the *Book of Jubilees* (2nd BC). Interestingly, the Greek wording of *Acts 2:1* would also suggest that the disciples



Israelis seen at a celebration for the Jewish holiday of Shavuot in kibbutz Sarid, in Emek Yizrael. | Photo: Flash90

were together at the dawning of the new day. In other words, they had spent the night together – for what other reason would that be than praying and contemplating the teachings of Jesus?

It is still a Jewish custom today to study *Torah* together during the night of *Shavuot*. When I lived in Jerusalem, I experienced the joy and the excitement that radiated from the faces of the *Torah* students when they arrived at the Western Wall, at dawn, after this night of study, to say the morning prayers.

Even in Christian tradition, the connection between the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of the *Torah* has been noticed. Nobody less than the church-father Augustine shows in a letter to *Januarius* that the revelation on Mount Sinai fell on the feast of weeks: “We learn, that after the Jews observed the first Passover with the slaying of the lamb as appointed, fifty days intervened between that day and the day on which upon Mount Sinai there was given to Moses the Law written with the finger of God; and this finger of God is in the Gospels most plainly declared to signify the Holy Spirit: for where one evangelist quotes our Lord’s words thus, “I with the finger of God cast out devils” (*Luke 11:20*), another quotes them thus, “I cast out devils by the Spirit of God”

(*Matthew 12:28*). In other words, there is a strong connection between the *Torah* and the Spirit. “We know, says Paul, that the Law is spiritual.”

## The House

Apparently, the apostles were gathered in a house (*Acts 2:2*). Which house would provide room for 120 people (*Acts 1:15*)? Could it be that they were together in a room inside the temple complex? In Hebrew, the temple is often referred to as the ‘house of the sanctuary’. Furthermore, “Every day, they continued to meet in the temple” (*Acts 2:46*). And where else would they have been noticed by so many people at the same time? Or where else could they have been able to baptise so many people at once? If anywhere, then it was the temple complex that provided enough ritual baths for this purpose.

## Torah and Spirit

On the third day, the Lord descended on Mount Sinai in fire. This was the fiftieth day after Passover. The gift of the Spirit is closely connected to the gift of the *Torah*. The disciples experienced the gift of the Spirit as the renewal of God’s covenant with Israel. They never disposed themselves of Jewish tradition or Jewish identity. Their preaching of the Gospel bears witness to and confirms God’s covenant with Israel.

Signs of Faith  
By Kees de Vreugd

## Kiddush Cup

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

On Friday evening at the beginning of the meal and on *Shabbat* morning, ‘*kiddush*’ is made: a blessing is pronounced over a cup of wine. This also happens on the evening and morning of feast days. *Kiddush* means sanctification, in accordance with the commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, that you sanctify it” (*Exodus 20:8*). The day is therefore set apart from the other days. A cup of wine is poured - preferably so that it overflows a little. The person making the *kiddush* takes the cup in his hand and recites *Genesis 1:31b-2:3*, the text that speaks of the first *Shabbat* of creation. The words “It had been evening, and it had been morning” are said softly, the rest, from ‘the sixth day’ onwards, aloud. Then he pronounces the blessing over the wine: “Blessed art Thou, Lord, our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.” The wording of this blessing is very old. In the time of the Second Temple, it was

already established and in general use (*Matthew 26:29 and the parallel texts in the other Gospels*). The blessing over the wine is followed by thanksgiving to God, who sanctifies Israel with His commandments and has given the *Sabbath* a reminder of His creative work and a memorial of the exodus from Egypt. Finally, God is praised ‘who sanctifies the *Sabbath*’. They then drink the wine.

Incidentally, *kiddush* can also be made with bread. Then two loaves are taken, remembering the double portion of *manna* in the desert. But wine (or grape juice) is preferred.

To honour the *mitzvah* (the commandment) to sanctify the *Shabbat*, a beautiful cup is used, of course, usually made of silver. In fact, in Hebrew, it is called *kos shel beracha*, cup of blessing, because it is also used at other special occasions, such as the *havdalah* (closing of the

*Shabbat*), circumcision and engagement and marriage ceremonies. One often sees *kiddush* sets with one large and several small cups so that everyone can drink from their own cup, while the host makes the *kiddush* over the large cup.



Shabbat eve table with challah bread and Kiddush wine cup. | Photo: Shutterstock



# Operation Peace for Galilee



1982 Lebanon War. | Photo: Wikimedia Commons

## ■ Bryce Turner Christians for Israel New Zealand

For many, memories of the early 1980s include nightly news articles on television bringing updates of war in Lebanon. Footage of injured troops and buildings hit by rockets still echo.

*Operation Peace for Galilee* – later known as the *First Lebanon War* – began in 1982, as Israeli leaders desperately sought an end to a massive escalation in bombings, rocket attacks, and violence wreaked upon the Israeli population by terrorist organisations including the PLO, PFLP, and the PDFLP. Civil war and instability in Lebanon became the perfect background for the PLO to set up and base its operations against Israel.

While the PLO fought to establish its dominance in Lebanon, members of the Warsaw Pact announced their support of the PLO – and opposition to Israel. As East Germany in particular began to strengthen its support for Arafat’s regime, many around the world felt tensions rise as something of an extension to the Cold War played out. With the financial and political support of the Warsaw Pact nations – and their military supplies – the PLO and its associated insurgents steadily increased their attacks on Israel. The might of the ‘East’ was soon to be tested as it again went up against the United States-backed Israel. Whilst not the first time prowess of East vs West military

technology had been contested, the looming conflict became perhaps the most visible display. Many commentators attribute the obvious military and technical superiority of the West during the war as a key factor in the subsequent demise of the Warsaw Pact.

Although the military operation began in June 1982, the roots of the inciting violence were clear much earlier. In March 1977, the Palestine National Council voted overwhelmingly to continue the armed struggle against Israel and rejected recognition of Israel, as well as Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 as a basis for peace and negotiation. A week later Israel’s UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog addressed the UN Security Council, reminding that the PLO Charter still called for the expulsion of the bulk of the Jewish population and for the destruction of the State of Israel. Herzog reminded the Security Council delegates that “The negation of Israel’s right to exist is a principle accepted by all groupings within the PLO”, and of the PLO assertion that “the claim of a historical or spiritual tie between Jews and Palestine does not tally with historical realities” - ridiculous and unsupportable fiction that remains a favourite amongst enemies of Israel. It was the collapse of a UN-brokered ceasefire that saw *Operation Peace for Galilee* initiated.

Palestinian terrorists had entrenched

themselves in Southern Lebanon where they set about creating an informal state-within-a-state. Operating from bases established there, terrorist groups were deployed to bring death and misery in Israel and abroad. Tension along Israel’s northern border increased during 1981 as barrages of Katyusha rockets and artillery were fired at civilian targets in Israel’s northern Galilee region. On 3 June 1982, Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov was shot and critically wounded near his home in London. The next day Israeli jets bombed PLO ammunition depots and training bases in southern Lebanon. This was followed by a massive PLO bombardment against Israel’s northern settlements, causing extensive damage and loss of life.

On 6 June 1982, the IDF launched *Operation for Peace of Galilee*.

Effectively a war of two parts, the first was a conventional war lasting from 6 June to 23 August 1982, when Arafat’s PLO and its terrorists were expelled from Beirut. The second part, lasting the next three years, was a war against the terrorists.

Whilst the ineffectiveness of the weak Lebanese government and an inability to negotiate a solid peace led to a long, drawn-out conflict, there were some spectacular moments that boosted the moral of war-fatigued Israelis, grieving the loss of thousands of soldiers and civilians. Within hours, the IAF destroyed the Syrian SAM (surface-to-air missile) system, ultimately destroying over 90 Syrian fighter aircraft with no IAF losses. The brand-new Israeli-made mini-RPV (remotely piloted vehicle) played a massive role, in a conflict that confirmed Israeli air superiority in the area.

Although not achieving the lasting peace sought by Israel, *Operation Peace for Galilee* did result in a strip of patrolled land – a buffer or ‘trip wire’ – that allowed Israel at least some warning of impending attacks.

40 years after the war, echoes of terror attacks and the painful loss of sons and daughters serving in the IDF remain a constant reminder of those, literally on Israel’s doorstep, who seek the total annihilation of the Jewish nation.



Chief of Staff Eitan and Defense Minister Sharon on the roof of the IDF in Lebanon during Operation Peace of the Galilee. | Photo: Wikimedia Commons

## Short News

### Self-Driving Taxi



In a video from Mobileye®, the company announces that it is about to introduce self-driving taxis into Israel and Germany. In the video, you see taxis driving trouble-free through Jerusalem during the night. | Photo: Flashgo

### 3D-Printed Ear Corrects Defect

Plastic surgeons at Galilee Medical Center used a 3D-printed ear prosthesis for a child born with a developmental defect. The six-year-old boy had been born with microtia, a deformity that stops the development of a baby’s ear in the womb, usually during the first trimester of pregnancy. Staff from the plastic surgery department at Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya attached the synthetic prosthesis to the child’s head and covered it with skin.

### Parkinson’s Pioneer Receives Israel Prize

Technion Professor Emeritus Moussa Youdim was among the first to identify the genes that are changed in the brains of people with Parkinson’s disease. He will receive the 2022 Israel Prize for Life Sciences ‘for his pioneering, groundbreaking, scientific achievements in neuropharmacology.’ Technion President, Professor Uri Sivan, said Youdim’s “brilliant work has brought about a dramatic change in the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases and literally transformed the quality of life of Parkinson’s patients the world over.” Youdim also developed the widely used Parkinson’s drugs selegiline and rasagiline.

### Free Transport



To encourage the Israelis to more frequently use public transport, the Israeli government has announced a drastic tariffs reform (‘Transport justice’). Israel has some eighty different types of tariffs, whereby people in one town sometimes pay more than double the amount for the same kind of transportation as people in another town. The reform is not only going to level the tariffs but also lower them drastically. Those over 75 don’t even have to pay at all anymore. | Photo: Shutterstock



# Gerda and Goethe

**Kay Wilson**  
Israeli Tour Guide | Author | Cartoonist

“Noble be man, merciful and good,” wrote the German poet Goethe. It was a sentence to be repeated well over a century later by Gerda Weissmann Klein, one of the most inspiring and outspoken Holocaust survivors who sadly passed away at the beginning of April 2022.



Gerda Weissman, aged 11 in Poland. | Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Gerda’s telling of her horrific story throughout the years began with a detailed recorded testimony for the Spielberg Foundation. It was just one of the over 55,000 survivor testimonies Spielberg documented for posterity. She soon wrote her gripping autobiography *All But My Life*, which in turn became an Oscar-winning film *One Survivor Remembers*.

Anyone who heard her testimony would indeed remember Gerda.

Like every survivor, Gerda’s story is also unique, but it is extra special in that Kurt Klein, the American Jewish Soldier who liberated her at the end of the war, went on to become her husband.

By the time she was 21, Gerda had spent three years in concentration camps. Her parents, brother, and her extended family had by then all been murdered. Towards

the end of the war, after a 500-kilometre death march through temperatures well below zero, where even her best friend died in her arms, she was near to death and weighed a meagre 30 kilos.

Coming from an educated Polish family, Gerda spoke German, as did Kurt - her husband to be. It was as an American soldier, when he entered Czechoslovakia with the USA forces, that he came across the skeletal Gerda and asked her to show him the other ‘ladies’. Leading him to a room of 150 sick and dying women, Gerda then pointed at them, quoting the German poet Goethe: ‘Noble be man, merciful and good.’ Kurt, who at that time did not know his parents had been murdered at Auschwitz, could hardly believe that in her dying state, she was able to recite a poem - and one of such nobility. In that very moment of her invoking the chilling call of Goethe to humanity, their future would be sealed.

It took a whole year before Gerda recovered and was able to finally leave Germany for France. By then, Kurt had fulfilled his army service and was also in Paris. The two kept in touch. But despite their affection for one another, Gerda feared that Kurt’s interest in her was motivated by pity. She did not want to be a victim, and she certainly did not want to be a burden. Things were complicated even more because he thought her reluctance to accept his help was a romantic rejection. But despite it all, Kurt was love-stricken. After a lengthy exchange of conversations, they were finally married: but not before stopping at a bombed Paris synagogue. It was there among the rubble that they lit a candle for their murdered families just before their wedding ceremony.

After finally settling in the United States, the couple immersed themselves in volunteer work for Jewish relief. They were married for more than 50 years and brought three children into the world, as well as eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Ten years before she passed away, Gerda was awarded the American Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honour. In her speech that day, she spoke of meeting Kurt and how, not knowing how to react to his kindness, she decided to pray for him instead.

In her kindness and strength, Gerda was the epitome of what a human being can become, despite the horrors endured. When Goethe penned, “Noble be man, merciful and good,” he could very well have been writing with foresight about Gerda Weissmann Klein.



Gerda and Kurt on top of the Eiffel Tower after their wedding (1946).  
| Photo: Journey Through The Holocaust.



Gerda Weissmann Klein received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award for the USA, from President Barak Obama, in 2011.  
| Photo: Official White House Photo

# Jewish Presence in Greece Dates Back to 4th Century BCE

**Jewish News Syndicate (JNS)**

“The Jewish community is an integral part of Greek identity, a fact that has been too often denied for centuries,” Greece’s Chief Rabbi Gabriel Negrin said at the exhibition’s inauguration ceremony. “This history should be passed on to future generations in order to combat ignorance and prejudice.”

A new exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Greece confirms for the first time that the Jewish presence in the country dates back to the end of the fourth century BCE.

The temporary exhibit showcases ancient inscriptions uncovered by the museum that prove Jewish origins in Greece go back centuries, marking “one of the oldest recorded religious and cultural settlements in Europe,” according to the museum.

*Stone Paths – Stories Set in Stone: Jewish Inscriptions in Greece* opened in May 2022 and will remain open to the public through February 2023. It is being co-organised and co-hosted by the Epigraphic Museum in Athens. A total of 10 inscriptions are on display at the Jewish

Museum and about 30 more are on display at the Epigraphic Musuem.

The Jewish Museum’s president, Makis Matsas, said, “The exhibition has a very significant value because, on the one hand, it documents the existence and presence of Jews in Greece since the end of the fourth century BCE, therefore highlighting the Jewish element in Greece as one of the oldest Jewish communities in Europe, but at the same time highlighting the multicultural past of our homeland, Greece.”

One of the Greek inscriptions referring to Jews dates to between 300 and 250 BCE and references a freed slave from Judea, according to AFP. It was discovered at the Amphiareion of Oropos sanctuary near Athens.



Amphiareion of Oropos. | Photo: Wikimedia Commons

“The Jewish community is an integral part of Greek identity, a fact that has been too often denied for centuries,” Greece’s Chief Rabbi Gabriel Negrin told AFP at the exhibition’s inauguration ceremony. “This history should be passed on to future generations in order to combat ignorance and prejudice.”



# A European Café Europa in Jerusalem

■ Anna Rosa S.  
Christians for Israel Austria

Established 55 years ago, the Jerusalem Foundation focuses on the social and local needs of the most vulnerable populations in the city, including the 10,000 Holocaust survivors still living in Jerusalem today. After two years of the coronavirus pandemic, they are becoming increasingly isolated, often finding it difficult to reconnect with the outside world and face psychological, physical and financial problems. This is where the Jerusalem Foundation's Café Europa programme comes in. It was launched over a decade ago to establish a safe and supportive setting for weekly social activities of this population group. The five branches in different neighbourhoods provide their own programme for about 650 men and women, in close cooperation with the municipality and various community centres.

This year, some of them were invited to participate in a special Café Europa event co-organised by the EU Delegation in Israel. At the Davidson Theater, located in the heart of Jerusalem, the two organisers worked together to mark this year's *Yom haShoa* (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which is deliberately observed in Israel a week before *Yom haZikaron* (Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers) and *Yom haAtzmaut* (Independence Day). In his address, EU Ambassador to Israel Dimitar Tzantchev 'bowed his head' to all Holocaust survivors who "went through hell on earth and managed to build a new life in Jerusalem." The European Union delegation to Israel paid tribute to the 6 million Jews brutally murdered by the Nazis and their local collaborators and renewed its solemn pledge: *'Never Again'*.

Some visitors to Café Europa shared their moving stories with European ambassadors, diplomats and journalists present on 25 April. Among them is Jose Levkovich, who was born in Poland in 1926 and whose life changed radically at the age of 13. Separated from his father in a forced labour camp, Jose survived seven concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Mauthausen. The rest of his family were murdered upon arrival at Belzec, making him the only surviving member of his extended family of more than 250: "So many miracles happened in order that I survived." After six years of war, on 5 May 1945, 18-year-old Jose was liberated by the American Army from Ebensee concentration camp in Austria. After the war, he rescued 600 hidden Jewish children in communist Poland. The question of justice also preoccupies him in his subsequent capturing of Nazi war criminals and bringing them to trial. Jose became a member of the police force and testified at their trials. He was responsible for the capture, and conviction at trial, of the 'Butcher of Plaszow,' Amon Goeth, who had nearly killed him. Jose later lived in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, where he met his wife, Perla. They lived in Canada with their three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren until Jose moved back to Israel later in life. Today, he devotes his time to educating young people about the *Shoa* in Israel and around the world. He loves God, Jewish learning, the Jewish people and humanity in general. This could be sensed through his appeal at the end of the event when he called for a comprehensive education of young Europeans regarding the *Shoa* so that *'Never Again'* does not remain just a languid shell.

Rena Quint also cares about the education of youth and has shared her story not only at this event but many times with people around the world: "We survivors want to talk. It is important that we do so while we still can." She has received numerous awards and is frequently interviewed by the media in Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and South Africa. She grew

up in Brooklyn and never told her classmates that she had spent her early years in a Nazi ghetto, forced labour and concentration camps and had lost all members of her family. She survived as a child alone in Nazi-occupied Poland, thanks to a series of surrogate mothers, until they too died. "I never knew exactly who I was. Everyone was dead; no one could confirm to me that all my memories were really true. I had six different mothers. One time I was a boy, another time a girl. I was born in Poland, then in Germany." Later, she moved to Israel, started volunteering at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem and found her birth certificate and her parent's marriage certificate. She realised that all her memories were true. She has become the main English-speaking speaker at Yad Vashem today. Rena survived the *Shoa* with her faith in God and love intact. She and her husband, Emanuel Quint, a lawyer and Jewish scholar, have four children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rena is the prime example of the power of feeling like a survivor, not a victim.

Vienna-born Lily Schechter also attended the event as a regular visitor to Café Europa: "It's not always easy because I'm not very social, and I'm 89 years old." Although all visitors share the same background, their experiences are not the main focus of social or cultural activities. Many visitors, such as Lily Schechter, Jose Levkovich or Rena Quint, are therefore able to connect with people who have lived through similar things. Although it is not always easy to leave the house and be social in these times, Café Europa brings together many survivors who are no longer primarily victims but who continue to live their lives in dignity even in old age.

| Photos: Jerusalem Foundation



Jose Levkovich speaking at the Yom haShoa event.



Five survivors share their stories with the attendants of this special event.

## 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](http://www.c4israel.org.nz)



# After 20 Years, Sisters Make Aliyah

## The Jewish Agency for Israel

About 20 years ago, Workanesh (45) and Ataklit (40) parted from their parents, brothers and sisters. While their parents, brothers and sisters fulfilled their dreams of making *Aliyah* to Israel, the two sisters remained in Ethiopia with their husbands and small children.

Despite the sadness of parting and being without their mother for the first time in their lives, they were thrilled for their family and prayed too they would soon follow. But as the years passed, their day for *Aliyah* never came. The sisters struggled not to fall into sadness and despair. They held on to faith and one another, praying that they would be reunited with their parents and family in Israel. The sisters never parted; when one lost hope, the other would remain strong.

Without their mother by their side, they gave birth, raised their children and went through happy, as well as harsh and sad, times on their own. Their mother in Israel also

shed many tears for the grandchildren she had never met.

The sisters left their villages and went to Gondar to live with the Jewish community and to apply for *Aliyah*. Their life became that of a refugee in their own country. Their husbands struggled to get work, being told that because they were from the Jewish community they were regarded as outsiders who would only stay temporarily. Why should someone hire them? They work in daily jobs, often more than 12 hours a day, for about 15 US dollars for the entire day of work.

A few weeks ago, Ataklit finally received the message she had been waiting for nearly 20 years: she, her husband and their six children (23, 21, 19, 17, 15 and 13) are approved to make *Aliyah*! She was overjoyed but, at the same time, was deeply concerned. Can it be that her prayer has been answered but not that of her sister? Workanesh put on a happy face for her sister, but she cried herself to sleep at night. After two days that felt like an eternity, she too

received the message she longed for: she, her husband and their nine children (24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10 and 5) are all approved for *Aliyah*!

Their family in Israel are waiting for them excitedly. Their mother, counting the days until she can embrace her daughters and grandchildren.

The children now have a new dream – after they make *Aliyah*, they wish to join the IDF, to defend their homeland and then go on to higher education. When asked how they have so much hope after such a long wait? They reply that now that this long-awaited dream and prayer have been fulfilled, they believe their future dreams and prayers are also just a matter of hard work, faith and time.

The family is expected to arrive in Israel on 1 June. Please help the Ethiopian Jews who are eligible to make *Aliyah* and reunite them with their families! To donate, complete the coupon below.



Workanesh and her family. | Photos: The Jewish Agency for Israel

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