



June 2021

*From the President's Desk***It Is Time To Go Back To Basics!**

By Daniel Gwertzman

"And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:11-12)

As of June 1, 2021 most of the Corona restrictions placed on the population of Israel will be lifted with the exception of wearing a mask inside buses, shopping centers, and other closed spaces. The mask restriction for closed public spaces is expected to be lifted a few weeks afterward provided there is no dramatic increase in corona virus cases. Tourism to Israel is still limited owing to the different infection rates in countries abroad. What will our new reality look like and how has it been influenced by all the upheavals we have experienced all over the world?

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)

What will happen in our world depends on discernment and judgment. To have discernment and judgement one must return to the roots of one's faith and rise above envy, strife and divisions.

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (1 Kings 3:9)

What we see on television, twitter and in demonstrations is an outpouring of hatred for the Jewish people and Israel. This was accompanied by physical attacks on Jews and on synagogues all over the world and the denial of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. This is very far indeed from the Word of God. It is "The Socialism of fools" which is anti-Semitism that promotes the idea that Jewish wealth and power is the source of social injustice in the world. The Bible takes the opposite view that the Jews are the source of blessing in the world.

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)

The enemies of Israel call out for peace, justice and judgment and they seek to bring Israel before the world court in the Hague and condemn it in the United Nations. This is not where judgment, peace and justice will come from.

"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knowest me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:24)

Yes, judgment will come, but we must look up to the Lord for it and it will be in Jerusalem and it will be for the Nations.

On the evening of May 26, 2021 a blood moon was seen all around the world. This is the year's biggest full moon known as a super flower moon which occurs when spring flowers are in bloom and when the moon is at the closest point to the earth in its orbit. At that time it is 7% larger and 15% brighter than normal. In the Bible this is a sign that judgment is coming.

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." (Joel 2:31)

The place of judgment will be in Jerusalem in the Valley of Jehoshaphat and the judge will be the judge of all the earth and it will be the nations who will be judged for how they have treated Israel and the Jewish people. All those who call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance. As for those gathered below there will be judgment.

"I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land." (Joel 3:2)



(Photo: Breaking Israel News)



What does the Lord ask from all His faithful ones at this time of turmoil? What are the true foundations of our faith that we can build our future on that will be our salvation and our source of hope in this time of upheaval?

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

If you ask me this sums up the truth of the Word and those who acknowledge it are not far from the Kingdom of God.

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

May was a difficult time for Israel and its friends around the world. On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, Dr. Eilat Mazar, passed away at the age of 64. She was one of the great secular archaeologists of Jerusalem who had the Bible in one hand and the tools of excavation in the other. For her the Bible was the most important historical source. Among the many things she discovered were King David's Palace, King Solomon's walls and seals belonging to King Hezekiah and possibly to the Prophet Isaiah.

We are also now receiving more requests for Bibles as the result of people wanting to draw closer to the Word. We need your support now more than ever to meet this demand and to help those in need at this time. Jerusalem is not just a City, it is the Center of the Spiritual Universe.

"Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her." (Ezekiel 5:5)



View across the Kidron Valley
(Photo: Wikipedia)

Showers of Rockets

By Amit Hizak

It is sad that most international funds directed to the welfare of the people in Gaza are used by Hamas to terrorize Israel where there is a population of Arabs as well as Jews who live and work together to create a better future. There have been so many years of attacks from Gaza on Israeli citizens who are obviously protected by God and the Iron Dome technology targets most rockets before they land, which avoids loss of lives and damage to property.



We all pray for civilian victims of hate and ask our friends at this time to also pray for Peace and if possible support us to help these people in their many needs to sustain their families being unable to work, caused by the pandemic, bombings and lack of peace. Many thousands worked in hotels and the tourist industry in various ways which has been halted for over a year.

My dream is of cooperation with our neighbors instead of fighting, this will take time to happen, but we must never give up, we are all people of great faith.

"He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight." (Psalms 72:13-14)

Israel – The Miracle Continues

By Pastor Harold Maxey

On May 14, 1948 (the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar), David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, publicly read the Declaration of Independence of Israel. 73 years later, Israel celebrated this anniversary on April 15. A holiday known as Yom HaAtzmaut. The days roll in and out, but each one is a miracle. Sometimes, a miracle is sudden, a one-time event. Like a physical healing or deliverance. But miracles can be ongoing too. They can be perpetual and enduring, continually finding new life at the dawn of each new day. Just in time. Even on the brink of despair. Incalculable and continual miracles within a larger one. Since the exile from Egypt, until today, God has been up to something big. There is no other way to plainly put it. Israel is God's modern-day miracle. However, this miracle,

the State of Israel and the ingathering of its people, is a continued culmination of the miraculous over the millennia (Psa. 68:19; Lam. 3:21–26). A crescendo is imminent.

The convergence of the ingathering of exiles and the establishment of an independent Jewish state in 1948 was met by the hostility of many surrounding and invading forces and continues to this day. Yet, Israel survives, and continues to thrive. Even the most ferocious enemies of the State of Israel privately admit that they are out of their league when it comes to modern warfare, technological advancement, innovative and creative capabilities, and a desire to survive. The hatred is hot and great, but Israel's desire to survive is greater. This is a miracle in and of itself. What people could survive such hatred,



threats, war, boycotts, setbacks? I am convinced that no other people could bear it. Only God's chosen that are led by His hand can say, Onward! (Isa. 11:11–12; Jer. 23:7–8).

Life is a miracle. But each breath is a miracle too. Little miracles within the miracle of life. This is a perfect analogy of what God continues to do for Israel. Each day He breathes new life. A breath of fresh air into this tiny nation which has become a cup of trembling to the whole world. On average, a person who is sitting at rest breathes about 16 breaths per minute. Doing the math tells us that we breathe about 960 breaths an hour, 23,040 breaths a day, 8,409,600 a year. Without much exercise we breath about 672,768,000 times if we live until we are 80. The little miracles within the life of Israel are immeasurable. And nothing can stop them. These bones are the whole house of Israel. Hope is not lost. The cutting off has ended. Your graves are opened. My Spirit has breathed the breath of life into you. Into the land of Israel, I am bringing you (Ezek. 37:1–14).

Now, there have been big miracles too! No doubt. Like the recognition of the Zionist movement by certain enlightened nations, the modern-day establishment of Israel itself, the continual ingathering, the Six-Day War, the wilderness in bloom, etc., too many to do the subject justice here, but we must not take the little, unseen, and incalculable, miracles in the life of Israel for granted. God is at work. He is working among His people and His work will continue until His original intent comes full circle and culminates in His final intent. His people, in His place —Eden restored— eternally living in His Presence (Isa. 9:6–7; 65:17; 66:22–24; Dan. 2:44–45; Rev. 21, 22).

I am privileged to serve the Jerusalem Center. We are all privileged. I consider the AMI Center to be a miracle. Its work and bridge-building concepts are straight from the heart of God. We are lovingly, by the grace of our Lord, part of this miracle. You continually become a part of the miracle with every prayer, every financial gift, every visit, and every kind word of encouragement to Daniel and those who labor tirelessly there. You might not have thought of this, maybe you have, but our dear Brother Shlomo, who accepted us and loved us like his own, was a miracle. God raised him up to be a bridge. He paid dearly for that call. But what a miracle. He remained faithful, and I believe the fruit of this great miracle has not yet been realized. We have not replaced anybody. We have been grafted in. We can be one in Him. In the Word. In the Creator of heaven and earth. We are one because God is a God of miracles (Eph. 2:14–22).

Credit is due to the people of Israel for their determination to build a homeland. But ultimately, the glory belongs to the God of Israel. The God of miracles... the God of all the little miracles too (If there really is such a thing). This modern-day miracle, the nation and people of Israel, is a continuation of what God has been up to all along. He is revealing Himself to His creation. Israel has been, is, and shall continue to be, a light to the nations of the world. I am, and will be, eternally grateful that the Light of the world has come to me (John 1:1–14). I too, consider myself, and you, to be a miracle of God. As many who have experienced the miracle-working power of our Lord can boldly declare, "If He did it before, He can, and He will, do it again." Yes, it is a certainty, terrible days

are ahead. But our Lord is The God of miracles. The miracle continues...



Jerusalem Statistics

By Ingrid Willner

Every year before the Jerusalem Day the Central Bureau of Statistics presents new figures and trends including population, employment etc. in the capital.

Population: The population of Jerusalem was 952,000 at the end of 2020, which is 10% of the whole population of Israel. Jerusalem continues to be the biggest city in Israel. The figure for Tel Aviv was 451,500, Haifa 283,600 and Rishon LeZion 251,700.

Jerusalem has a young population: The median age of Jerusalem residents was 24 years in 2019. The median age of the entire population in Israel was 30, and in Tel Aviv and Haifa the age was 36 and 38.

The Jewish population is 62% and the Arab 38% in Jerusalem (2018). Fertility rate of Jewish women 4.4 and Arab women 3.2 children.

The population that live below the poverty line in Israel is 15% among Jews and 47% among Arabs. In Jerusalem 27% Jews and 59% Arabs.

High-tech is the most rapidly developing employment field. In 2020, the number of high-tech employees was 19,300, which is 6.2% of the employees who work in the capital. Since 2015 high-tech is on an upward trend.

Education: The capital has Israel's largest and most diverse education system with 293,600 students.

Economy: Jerusalem is the second largest financial center in Israel with 344,300 employees working in the city, 9% of all employed in Israel. Tel Aviv has 349,000 employees (11% of the employees in Israel). Before the pandemic there was extremely low unemployment among Arabs, only 3%, which was similar to that of the Jews.

Tourism: Jerusalem has 11,110 hotel rooms which is more than Eilat. In 2019 the number of overnight stays at hotels in Jerusalem was 5,180,000, among them 20% were Israelis and 80% foreign tourists.

Visits to selected sites in Jerusalem by religion:

- Western Wall 62 % Jews, 77% Christians and 35% Muslims.
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre: 4% Jews, 75% Christians and 40% Muslims
- Yad Vashem: 16% Jews and 24% Christians and 0% Muslims
- Via Dolorosa: 3% Jews, 68% Christians and 38% Muslims
- Al-Aqsa Mosque: 0% Jews, 3% Christians and 67% Muslims



Letter from Jerusalem

By Prof. (Emeritus) Meron Medzini (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Israel has just emerged from another round, the fourth in less than sixteen years, with the Hamas terror organization based in the Gaza Strip. The results of this round, known as Operation Guardian of the Walls, seem to be similar to those that preceded it - inconclusive. What led to this flare-up and what can we expect in the coming days and weeks?

Hamas seized power in the Gaza Strip in 2007, two years after Israel unilaterally withdrew all its settlements and presence from that tiny strip of land. This organization is sworn to attain the elimination of Israel by any means at its disposal. It has been recognized as a terrorist organization by many governments, yet enjoyed the support of a number of Arab states but notably that of Iran. Iran that vows to erase Israel off the face of the earth, armed and funded this organization. Previous attempts by Israel to undo this fundamentalist Islamic body, were only partially successful. They were stymied partly by growing international concern for the wellbeing of over 2 million civilian hostages in the most densely populated area on earth.

Whenever Israel seemed to be attaining significant military gains, by destroying the capacity of Hamas to bombard Israel with rockets and mortar shells, using predominantly its air force, Israel was accused of committing war crimes against civilians, even though the rockets were launched from private homes, schools, hospitals and even mosques. This seemed to be the case last week. When it appeared that Israel had almost completed wiping out much of the threat, inevitably there were civilian casualties and this raised the concern of many nations and governments. Although they did support Israel's right to self-defense, many challenged what they called Israel's disproportional response.

Many years ago, when I was head of the Israel Government Press Office, I was taught a lesson by a veteran foreign journalist: When Arabs kill Arabs – no news; when Arabs kill Jews- no news, when Jews kill Arabs – news. Many of those who lashed out at Israel's precision bombing have forgotten the hundreds of thousands of dead Syrians in the ten years of civil war in that country, of tens of thousands Lebanese in decades of civil war in Lebanon. The list is endless. Israel had to take into account the advice of friendly nations, chief among them the United States, now led by the Biden Administration, and acceded to its demands that it de-escalates its response to over 4000 rockets fired at Israeli population centers.

But this round was different from the previous ones in other respects: It involved Israeli Arabs in mixed cities in Israel such as Jaffa, Lod, Haifa and Acre. It focused on the Temple Mount, where Al Aqsa Mosque is considered to be the third holiest shrine in Islam. It brought religion into the arena. Once again the Palestinian question rose to the forefront of international attention after a long period of being dormant due to the Abraham Accords negotiated by the Trump Administration.

Now that the guns fell silent, the next question is where do we go from here? Can there ever be a political solution to the conflict, or shall we witness another round in a year or two? Israel would like to see a long term settlement that would transform Gaza into a Middle Eastern Singapore, but the chances for that are slim.

As long as Hamas can rely on Iran for arms, on Qatar for monthly cash payments of 30 million dollars, on Israel to allow the delivery of food, medicine, power and oil and political support from Turkey, they have no real incentive to pursue a political-diplomatic solution that is being called for by the international community.

While Israel attained significant military achievements in this round, the picture is dimmer when it comes to political gains. This means that we must make preparations for a possible fifth round whose results could be similar to the fourth. Israel did buy itself a few more years of relative tranquility along that front, but its people and leaders are realistic enough to realize that they must always be on the alert to ensure the security and safety of Israelis, wherever they live in Israel, as we sadly discovered last week.

While Hamas celebrates what it calls its victory over Israel, there is no joy in Israeli towns near the Gaza Strip and even further inland. There will be no victory parades here. We shall grit our teeth and carry on with the task of healing the wounds, burying the dead, tending to the injured and continue with the historic task of nation building, a formidable task that my generation, that of my children and now of my grandchildren, has been assigned by Jewish history.



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