

# ISRAEL INTERCESSORY PRAYER ITEMS

July 31 – August 7, 2020

## SPECIAL ALERT – TWO GREAT VIDEOS TO WATCH:

**New Initiative: 24/7 Prayer for Aliyah** – Dean Bye of Return Ministries

<https://youtu.be/9YfK7CI8Mwc>

**New Insights: Isaiah 19 Highway** – Watchmen for the Nations

<https://www.facebook.com/watchmenforthenations/videos/750819932399562>

## 1. TISH B'AV 2020

Beginning on Wednesday (Jul 29) evening and continuing on Thursday was the day of fasting known as Tisha B'Av on the Hebrew calendar. Tisha B'Av simply means it is the 9th day of the Jewish month of Av. However, Tisha B'Av is much more than just a date on a calendar. This peculiar day holds great significance for the Jews, as it is expressly linked with Israel's destiny.

Jewish tradition regards Tisha B'Av as the day the Children of Israel were prohibited from entering the Promised Land. You will recall, God commanded Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan, one from each of the tribes of Israel. They returned with tales of a land flowing with milk and honey. However, Israel feared the inhabitants of the land. Of the 12 spies, only 2, Joshua and Caleb, had faith that God would deliver the land into their hands. God had delivered them from slavery and Egypt, parted the waters of the Red Sea, protected them, and miraculously provided for their every need. Yet the nation of Israel was consumed by fear and doubt, thus God decreed that a generation would pass away, wandering in the wilderness, before Israel would be allowed to enter His Land.

**The 9th of Av has marked some of the most harrowing days in the history of the nation of Israel:**

- On the 9th of Av, in the year 586 B.C., the First Temple, built by Solomon, was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and the Babylonian captivity began.
- On the 9th of Av, 70 A.D., the Second Temple, that which was standing during Christ's ministry, was destroyed by the Romans, precisely as Jesus predicted in Luke 19.
- Also, on this day, in the year 135 A.D., the famous Bar Kokhba revolt was squelched when Bethar, the last Jewish stronghold, fell to the Romans.
- One year later, in 136 A.D., the Roman Emperor Hadrian established the heathen temple to Jupiter on the site of the Jewish Temple. Hadrian rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city, and renamed the land as 'Palestina', to distance its Jewish heritage. (This attempt to disavow the land from its Jewish roots was echoed by the British in their labeling the land "Palestine.") The date when the Temple area was plowed under by the Romans was the 9th of Av.
- On March 31, 1492, the Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella issued a royal decree that all Jews must leave Spain. The deadline was set for August 3rd of that year. If any Jews were found in Spain after this period they were to be killed. On the Jewish calendar, it was the 9th of Av.

**If that weren't enough, the 9th of Av is also the day of:**

- The declaration of the Crusades by Pope Urban II in 1095
- The burning of the Talmud in 1242

- The signing of the edict by King Edward I in 1290 expelling the Jews from England
- The start of the First World War in 1914
- The mass deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp in Poland in 1942
- The bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center by Arab terrorists in 1994 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which killed 86 and wounded more than 120.
- In 2005, the 9th of Av marked another milestone in Israel's history. That year Tisha b'Av marked the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. All 21 Gaza settlements were evacuated along with four of 120 settlements in Judea-Samaria. The withdrawal marked the end of Israel's 38-year presence in the Gaza Strip. Approximately 9500 Jewish settlers were made to leave their homes, some were forcibly removed. The withdrawal took place amid a backdrop of widespread protests.

**Below are some happenings in 2020:**

**The Tisha B'Av night procession of the Women in Green movement took place on Wednesday night under the coronavirus restrictions, with only fifty marchers allowed to participate.** The Women in Green emphasized that the fifty marchers represented the thousands of marchers who had arrived from all over the country every Tisha B'Av night for the past 25 years. The procession, which opens every year with a reading of the Book of Lamentations, is an ancient Jewish tradition that was banned under the British Mandate and renewed in the 1990s by the Women in Green. The procession concluded with the singing of 'Hatikvah' and 'I Believe', and the marchers made their way to prayers and mourning in the Western Wall plaza.

**In the morning hours of Tisha B'Av, 803 Jews ascended the Temple Mount. An additional 175 ascended in the afternoon, for a total of 978 Jews.** The ascent took place in groups of 20 at intervals of several minutes. Police removed some ten Jews from the compound for committing the crime of bowing—this while thousands of Muslims are allowed to prostrate themselves on the hallowed ground every day.

**At least 18 worshippers were detained for praying or prostrating themselves at the holy site, actions still deemed illegal for Jews at Judaism's holiest site.** The detainees were released after their personal details were recorded. They may face legal action in the future. The police also arrested several Muslims who reacted violently to the Jews' visits at the holy site. At the Kotel (Western Wall), the authorities limited the number of Israelis entering the site to 1,000 to enable them to maintain social distancing during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Kotel plaza is usually packed with tens of thousands of visitors on Tisha B'Av.

**Arab arsonists on Wednesday (Jul 29) night set fire to the ancient archaeological site of Susya (Susiya), almost ruining the famed synagogue at the site.** The incident occurred as Israel marked the day of mourning of Tisha B'Av, on which the destruction of the two Temples is commemorated. Shortly after midnight, four firefighter crews were alerted to the site to extinguish a large blaze that broke out following the arson. The fire quickly approached the old synagogue and there was a great fear of it being damaged, but the firefighters were successful in saving it. The fire consumed a large area of antiquities park and it is yet unclear if damage was caused to finds dispersed throughout the important archaeological site. (**Note:** The Susya heritage site contains rare finds, and according to many archaeologists, the quality of the finds discovered at the synagogue is unique on a national scale. Years after the destruction of the temple, in Susya in Judea, a large Jewish community settled and preserved the memory of Jerusalem in the customs of purity, and the many mikvahs (ritual baths) found at the site testify to this. In addition, mosaic inscriptions were found in Hebrew, the synagogue was built with features from the Temple, and a three-dimensional seven-branched Menorah was found there.)

In the City of David, the place where Jerusalem began, the evidence of all that was lost is being revealed, bringing to light not only what was lost but also the incredible endeavors to reveal and rebuild Israel's beloved and eternal capital.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=6&v=n9sjlBcWajk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=n9sjlBcWajk&feature=emb_logo)

*Father, bless Your people following this Tisha B'Av season! Thank You that Your love for Your people is always on display – even when You discipline them for their sins (Jer. 30:11; Heb. 12:5-8). Many Jews have experienced serious deep trauma. Abba, reveal to them Your Son, and turn their mourning into rejoicing and praise (Isa. 61:3) Allow the climax of Lamentations to ring incessantly in the hearts and minds of Jews at this time. Abba, reveal to Your people Your Son so that they can love truth and peace in a biblical way and so that we may see this fasting period turned into a time of joy and rejoicing (Zech. 8:18-19). Pour out a spirit of repentance as Your people recite Lamentations 5:21: "Turn us unto You YHWH, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old."*

"It is by YHWH's covenant-love that we are not consumed, and because His mercies do not fail. They are renewed every morning: great is Your faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22-23)

## 2. ALIYAH UPDATES:

Two groups of 78 future IDF soldiers landed in Israel on Monday (Jul 27) in flights organized by Nefesh B'Nefesh, with 50 more expected in the next few days. The recent arrivals are part of the Lone Soldiers Program, referring to IDF volunteers who do not have immediate family in Israel to support them during their service. As part of their enlistment, they become Israeli citizens. Ethiopian-born Aliyah and Integration Minister, MK Pnina Tamano-Shata, said, "These young men and women who chose to make Aliyah from North America and will enlist in the IDF to serve in the front lines of Israel's defense and security are our people's greatest pride. Along with the citizens of Israel, I salute them as an inspiration to us all." Friends of the IDF (FIDF) director Maj.-Gen. (res.) Meir Klifi-Amir added, "Their decision to come to Israel and enlist in the IDF is a brave and noble act, one that is rooted in a deep sense of mission, determination, and love of the State of Israel. This is true Zionism."

*Lord, supply all the needs of all organizations – both Jewish and Christian – who are dedicated to helping Your people return home (Psa. 24:1; 50:10-12; Hag. 2:3). Thank You, Lord, for the huge numbers of Jews wanting to return. Please do not let anything stop these Jews from losing sight of this goal (Jer. 51:9-10). Prepare Israel to receive, absorb and guide all new immigrants (Jer. 23:3). Wake up the Church to its biblical responsibility to be part of this – to pray, to pay and to proclaim the truth that God is returning His people to His land for His holy name's sake (Ezek. 36:21-24). Please preserve El Al if for no other reason than to fly Your people home (Isa. 60:8). Lord, show rabbis in exile that there is no biblical call for them to remain as rabbis in exile, but there is a command for them to come home. Continue to use Covid-19 and rising anti-Semitism to mess up all the comfortable cages of Your people living outside of Your land (Jer. 16:16).*

"How shall we sing YHWH's song in a strange land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her skill. If I do not remember you, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy." (Psa. 137:4-6)

## 3. ISRAEL POST-ELECTION UPDATES:

**Israel's Cabinet last Sunday (Jul 26) approved a plan to grant nearly every Israeli citizen a one-time cash payment to help stimulate the country's struggling economy, which has been hit hard by the coronavirus crisis.** According to the \$1.9 billion proposal, single Israelis 18 years of age and older will receive \$220, couples with one child will receive \$586, two children \$733 and three or more children \$879. The grants will be awarded to all citizens except those earning over \$186,000 per year and public employees earning over \$8,700 a month.

**Last Friday (Jul 24) evening, about 5,000 people protested near PM Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem, calling for his resignation.** Netanyahu and his family spent the Shabbat in their private villa in Caesarea, with some 500 demonstrators kept a good distance from the estate. After patiently waiting for the demonstrations to disperse close to two hours after the official end of the demonstration, 11 pm, police dispersed the remaining demonstrators using water cannons. Clashes broke out between police and protesters, 12 people were arrested detained, including protesters and right-wing activists affiliated with the Betar Jerusalem soccer team who attacked several of them on a side street as they left the demonstration. **(Note:** Eleven days have passed since the first major demonstration at the PM's residence, since the first detainees and the first water cannons. In these 11 days, there have been at least eight large demonstrations in front of the residence, each one bigger than the one before.)

**About a thousand protesters held a demonstration Tuesday (Jul 28) night in front of the home of Minister of Internal Security Amir Ohana, following the publication of recordings in which Ohana was heard scolding the Jerusalem district commander, Superintendent Yaron Yedid, demanding that he put an end to the demonstrations in front of PM Netanyahu's official residence on Balfour Street.** The event began as a supposed 'unorganized protest', in which thousands of people gathered. This suspicious, of course, because there is no such thing as an unorganized protest. Someone gets paid to distribute protest invitations, someone loads crates with T-shirts that say "Crime Minister" and someone hands out those horrible vuvuzela horns that have been robbing neighbours of their sleep at every demonstration for many weeks. Some have accused former PM Ehud Barak of funding these spontaneous demonstrations, and some point to the 'New Israel Fund' with all its affiliate groups. Regardless of who actually paid, from Pyongyang to Portland, if protesters take to the streets, someone paid. At one point, the participants started a procession, accompanied by police officers. In a brawl that broke out, the police began making arrests. Later a stone was thrown over a journalist's head. Police arrested the stone-thrower.

### **So, why are there so many people protesting/demonstrating in Israel?**

- In Tel Aviv, protestors took to the streets of Jerusalem this week to prevent the passing of a controversial law that would give PM Netanyahu and his government powers to impose extensive COVID-19 restrictions on the population without parliamentary oversight until June 2021.
- Israeli citizens are also outraged at inconsistent, arbitrary lockdown measures affecting small businesses and at inadequate government support as the unemployment rate rose to 20% from 3.9% prior to the pandemic.
- As lawmakers review the proposed new law, dozens of protestors chained themselves together to block the entrance to Israel's parliament. Four people were arrested as police dispersed protestors.
- Over 2,000 protestors demonstrated outside Netanyahu's official Jerusalem residence in a lawful protest that had been coordinated with police. Protestors called for Netanyahu's resignation.
- At a separate demonstration, restaurant owners whose businesses have suffered under the government's inconsistent lockdown measures complained, "We decided to act because on Friday we got news in the morning that we have to shut down, then in the afternoon, we got news that we can operate again until Tuesday. In the middle, we heard two different other decisions. So, we have the feeling that nobody is driving the car and this car is about to go into a rock."
- At another protest, citizens expressed outrage that Netanyahu continues to serve as Prime Minister while on trial for corruption.

- Others also called for justice for the May 30 police killing of unarmed Palestinian Iyad Halak, who suffered with autism.

**A special poll presented Wednesday (Jul 29) morning reveals that the Likud, led by PM Netanyahu, continues its dive and would reach only 31 seats if the elections were held immediately.** Blue&White and Yesh Atid, which before their split had 33 seats, now reach only 29, 10 for the fragment led by Gantz and 19 for Lapid's faction. Yair Lapid is currently the head of the opposition in the Knesset. The survey shows that within about two months:

- Likud has lost 10 seats in the Knesset, starting on May 27, when the same pollster showed the ruling party with 41 seats. Each consequent poll published since that peak has shown a steady decline, which reached its lowest point so far Wednesday morning.
- The Joint Arab List is getting stronger, going from 15 to 16 seats;
- Yamina (Naftali Bennett) increasing from its current 6 to 13 seats,
- Yisrael Beiteinu up from 7 to 8 seats.
- The Haredi parties remain the unchanged, Shas with 9 seats, United Torah Judaism with 7.
- Meretz gets 7 seats, while its former partners which abandoned the left-wing coalition, Labour and Gesher, evaporate.
- Otzma Yehudit, Derech Eretz (a 2-man splinter group from Blue&White), and Habayit Hayehudi also go puff.

If the elections were held today, the right-wing bloc, along with the Haredi parties, would have only 47 seats. The opposition party Yamina, if it were asked nicely, could bring that figure up to 60. The center-left-Arabs bloc would control 52 seats. Avigdor Liberman once again can join a broad, right-wing coalition or produce complete equality between the two blocs.

**Yamina Party chairman and former Defense Minister MK Naftali Bennett called on the government to alter its strategy for handling the coronavirus crisis, pushing for a more proactive approach aimed at "eradicating" the pandemic.** In an interview, Bennett blasted PM Netanyahu and Alternate PM Benny Gantz, accusing them of failing to work aggressively to end the ongoing crisis. Bennett said, "The prime ministers are busy fighting each other, and they have put politics ahead of the State of Israel. That is very serious, but right now we need to fix it, to crush the coronavirus, and to start fixing our economy. We have no time, this is urgent." Bennett concluded that Israel must work quickly to end the pandemic, pointing to the ongoing economic recession – possibly the worst in Israel's history.

*Lord, we rejoice in 1 Corinthians 1:29 which reveals to us the reason why You so often use the weak and foolish: So that no flesh should glory in His presence. Either help this government move in a more united way or move Israel to new elections. In this we simply ask for "Your will to be done" because we are not certain which is best (Luke 11:2). For Your people's sake, decrease the chaos in the government and increase the order (1 Cor. 14:33). Protect PM Netanyahu from all spiritual, physical, and emotionally attacks (Zech. 2:5). Move on him to call upon You (Psa. 50:15). Confront him in any area in which he is putting his needs above Israel's (Prov. 21:1). Increase the number and influence of all the "sons of Issachar" in Israel's government (1 Chr. 12:32). We plead for You to oversee, and overrule if needed, all of Israel's government's plans (Prov. 19:21). Quickly mature the next generation of Israeli politicians to have the wisdom and ability to bear the burden of Your nation into the future. We thank You for many of them (Psa. 118:1). Protect the legitimate demonstrations over the government's handling of the coronavirus crisis and the economy – but prevent them from turning to rioting and violence. Enable the police in dealing with all professional agitators from either the right or the left (Prov. 12:13). Enable them to do this quickly and efficiently (Eccl. 8:11). O, Lord God, fight against the spirits of lawlessness and anarchy that run in the streets (Psa. 35:1; 68:1).*

**"Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)**

#### 4. ISRAEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES:

**The Israel Ministry of Health reported 1,968 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours on Thursday (Jul 30) morning.** There are 336 patients in serious condition, including 99 on ventilators. The national death toll has reached 497. This is a significant slowdown in the number of seriously ill cases and fatalities when compared to March-April. The number of patients requiring ventilation, in proportion to the number of cases, has dropped by 80%.

**Israel's national Coronavirus project manager Prof. Ronni Gamzu on Tuesday (Jul 28) evening unveiled his plan to fight the spread of the virus in the country and announced that the IDF was joining the battle and was establishing a designated headquarters.** Gamzu, who assumed his new role only a few days ago, stressed that the key to the success of his plan is regaining the trust of the citizens, who feel that the government has been conducting itself in an unprofessional and unreasonable manner. The plan includes significantly increasing the number of tests, cutting the infection chains with the new IDF apparatus, transparency with the public in order to re-create trust, classifying local authorities by color according to Corona data, and releasing restrictions in places where the data is positive. Gamzu presented graphs showing that states that maintained mask-wearing experienced less morbidity less and called on the public to wear masks. He said he hopes to bring the number of daily tests in Israel to 60,000 a day.

**Increasing numbers of Israelis have reported feeling anxiety and concerns over their ability to pay their bills during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic,** the Central Bureau of Statistics reported on Sunday, releasing the results of a poll measuring what it called "civil resilience."

**According to the CBS study, conducted earlier this month:**

- 42 percent of Israelis (around 2.4 million people) reported feeling anxiety, up 9% since a previous survey conducted as the country eased its national lockdown in mid-May.
- 21% of respondents reported experiencing a feeling of depression (up from 16% in May) while 19% of the population expressed feelings of loneliness
- 26% said that their mental health had "worsened" or "significantly worsened" during the crisis.
- 8.5% of respondents aged 21 and up said that their non-mental health had deteriorated, a figure which rose to 13% for those 65-years old and up

**A senior delegation from Israel's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDRD) is set to depart for India to develop new and rapid coronavirus tests in cooperation with their Indian counterparts while treating Indian patients with coronavirus.** The Israeli team plans to bring new technologies, on which they had recently worked and tested to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to complete their research and to help India fight the novel coronavirus. Israeli and Indian scientific cooperation in this matter has been going on over several months. The Foreign Ministry also plans to send aid packages to India on the flight, including sanitizing and disinfection equipment to protect medical staff, along with ventilators, which received special authorization to be sent out of Israel. The delegation plans to test four different technologies for detecting coronavirus: sound waves, breathalyzers based on terahertz waves, isothermic identification, and checking polyamino acids. The sound wave testing is based on findings that coronavirus patients' voices change in the early stages of the illness.

**Israel signed the first part of an agreement with California-based Arcturus to have first access to its novel coronavirus vaccine.** The deal signed with Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings Inc. – one of America's leading clinical-stage messenger RNA medicines companies – is to receive some four million doses of the company's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, LUNAR-COV-19. For now, the ministry has signed a binding term sheet. The parties intend to finalize a comprehensive supply agreement within 30 days.

**Interior Minister Aryeh Deri announced in a statement on Wednesday (Jul 29) that his ministry will approve the entry into Israel of foreign students who were planning to begin their studies in Israel this coming October.** Following professional discussions led by Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog, which were held between experts in the Population and Immigration Authority, the Health Ministry and the Foreign Ministry, it was determined that the entry of foreign students would be approved in accordance with those students meeting the isolation requirements as determined by the Health Ministry. The approval applies to foreign students in academic institutions, yeshiva students, Masa students, seminary students, Naale students, high school students, and pre-army program (mechina) students.

**PM Netanyahu has instructed Minister of Tourism Miri Regev to prepare an outline for airplane trips from Israel to Cyprus, Greece, and other "green" states with low coronavirus morbidity rates.** In turn, Regev instructed the Ministry of Transportation, Civil Aviation Authority, and National Aviation Network to quickly arrange an outline for reopening the skies with the Ministry of Health and National Security Council for approval by the Coronavirus Cabinet. According to the operating plan, incoming passengers will be divided into those arriving from "green" and "red" countries, with those from "green" countries defined as having a low morbidity rate, required to quarantine for just five days upon landing, and those from "red," or high-risk countries, obliged to perform a virus check before boarding.

**Representatives of the Airports Authority, the National Security Council, and the Health and Transportation ministries met on Thursday to begin the preliminary work on a tender to hire a private company to establish fast coronavirus testing labs on behalf of Ben-Gurion Airport.** For foreigners looking to enter Israel, the spokesperson told the Post that visitors would arrive at the airport and be immediately screened. They would then enter isolation for around 24 hours while awaiting their results. If the test results are negative they will be able to continue with their vacation. If the test is positive, the visitor would have to remain in quarantine.

**Vitamin D is recognized as an important co-factor in several physiological processes linked with bone and calcium metabolism, and also in diverse non-skeletal outcomes, including autoimmune diseases, cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, obesity and cognitive decline, and infections.** In particular, the pronounced impact of vitamin D metabolites on the immune system response, and on the development of COVID-19 infection by the novel SARS CoV-2 virus, has been previously described in a few studies worldwide. The collaborative group of scientists from the Leumit Health Services (LHS) and the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine of Bar-Ilan University aimed to determine associations of low plasma 25(OH)D with the risk of COVID-19 infection and hospitalization. Using the real-world data and Israeli cohort of 782 COVID-19 positive patients and 7,807 COVID-19 negative patients, the groups identified that low plasma vitamin D level appears to be an independent risk factor for COVID-19 infection and hospitalization.

***Father, use this pandemic for the good of Your people Israel and the true Church (Psa. 103:19: Rom. 8:28). Enable the leaders of all sectors of society to work openly and honestly with the new 'Corona Czar', Ronni Gamzu (Ex. 18:25). Remove all personal animosity from anyone which might hinder him in any way (Heb. 12:15). Thank You that his main burden is to clearly communicate the government's plans to the people. Please give him all the authority he needs to get the job done (Luke 9:1). Abba, thank You for the low number of deaths in Israel (Ex. 8:22). Please continue to shield Your people from the worst effects of this plague (Psa. 115:9). Strengthen and encourage all medical personnel (Psa. 20:1-2). Provide all they need to be a blessing to Israel at his time (2 Cor. 8:15). Use this life-changing time to turn many Israelis unto You and not to look to man (Lam. 5:21).***

**"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." (Proverbs 29:25)**



## 5. ISRAEL TERROR ATTACKS UPDATES:

**A policeman nearly had his gun stolen from him by an Arab suspect in Gush Etzion on Sunday** (Jul 26) evening. The traffic officers stopped a vehicle at the Gush Etzion junction (Tzomet HaGush), south of Jerusalem, for a traffic violation. While writing the ticket, one of the passengers got out of the car and tried to grab the policeman's gun away from him. Police overpowered the man and arrested him. No one was injured.

**The Tel Aviv District Court ruled Sunday that, in order to deter terrorism, a new 2016 anti-terror law permitted seizing funds given by the PA to a prisoner who helped transport a terrorist killer of six Israelis in 2005.** Following a hearing in which the Defense Ministry presented the full intelligence information to the court, it said the evidence was extremely convincing and that the seizure was proper. Defense Minister Benny Gantz said, "My intention is to move forward with a variety of processes...to block the transfer of funds to terrorists and terror organizations."

*We bless You for Israel's army which is willing to not only protect the people of Israel but also to serve them in times of non-military crises...like we have seen during this COVID pandemic (Ezek. 48:19). We ask for blessings from Your throne upon the IDF's leadership (Judg. 3:10; 6:14). Continue to anoint IDF Chief of Staff Avi Kochavi in his important role (Neh. 11:14; Zech. 10:5). Keep him humble and able to listen to what the other IDF leaders see and think (1 Pet. 5:5). Guard his relationship with PM Netanyahu and the new defense minister, Benny Gantz (Eccl. 4:12). Help the IDF leaders to access Your divine wisdom. As well, cause Israel's government leaders to seek Your divine help to see into the near future (Josh. 5:13-15). Allow Messianic believers in the IDF access to some of these leaders and to have an opening to share with them the prophetic scenarios which are laid out in Scriptures (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:8).*

**"He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him."** (Psalm 91:15)

## 6. JUDEA-SAMARIA UPDATES:

**PM Netanyahu and USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday (Jul 28) that President Trump's peace plan was still on the table, although neither leader gave any indication as to when Israel would extend sovereignty to those parts of Judea-Samaria for which the plan provides.** Netanyahu and Pompeo gave their remarks at an event to launch a new Knesset caucus headed by Likud MK Sharren Haskel. This assembly works with 42 caucuses around the world, including one that focuses on strengthening Christian support for Israel. In a letter read at the event, Netanyahu remarked that the Trump plan "has the potential to overcome past failures by offering the Palestinians the path of peace and reconciliation." Then, Netanyahu added that the plan permits Israel "to reach the secure borders that Israeli governments have long sought" and "acknowledges that Jewish people are not foreign occupiers in Judea and Samaria."

**Should Israel push forward with the extension of sovereignty over Judea-Samaria?** Imagine what Israel would look like now if it had declined to apply its law to eastern Jerusalem just after the Six-Day War. Israel's action cemented the Jewish claim to Jerusalem, and by extension the legitimacy of its claims to those areas of the land occupied by Jordan from 1949 to 1967. It put down an important marker that it would not part with this territory lightly. At the time, the UN Security Council condemned the move; not a single nation supported it. But it created a new reality, which eventually pulled in supporters including the USA in 2017. This would have been impossible had Israel not staked its claim in the face of opposition.



## **7. GOLAN HEIGHTS/SYRIA/LEBANON/IRAQ/TURKEY UPDATES:**

### **Syria**

**60 pro-Iranian militants have been killed in attacks targeting over 10 sites belonging to Iran and pro-Iranian militias in Syria since May.** A large number of ammunition and weapons depots were destroyed. Iran has meanwhile intensified recruitment operations among Syrian youth in southern and eastern Syria, with 11,700 militants recruited so far.

**After munitions were fired from Syria toward Israel last Friday (Jul 24), Israeli attack helicopters struck several Syrian army observation posts and intelligence facilities near Quneitra in southern Syria.** Targets included "observation positions and intelligence-gathering tools inside Syrian posts. The strikes injured two soldiers, hit three sites and caused fires.

**The Russians have established their own strong militia in the Syrian Golan Heights.,** The "Huran Army" is headed by a local rebel commander who fought against Syrian President Assad. The militia, with Muslim officers from the Caucasus, is hostile to both Iran and the Syrian regime. Many of the militia's recruits were rebels who in the past benefited from Israeli aid, with treatment at hospitals, food and medical supplies.

### **Lebanon**

**The IDF thwarted a Hezbollah attack near Mount Dov along the border with Lebanon on Monday (Jul 27).** Three to five Hezbollah operatives crossed the border into Israeli territory and were identified by the IDF, which opened fire with machine guns and tank shells. The cell fled back into Lebanon without firing at IDF troops.

**The Israel Defense Forces deployed additional reinforcements to the country's Lebanese and Syrian borders on Tuesday (Jul 28), indicating it was bracing for more violence along the frontiers after an alleged attempted attack by the Hezbollah terror group the day before.** Israeli officials expect an attack on Israeli troops by the Lebanese terror group within the next 48 hours, before the start of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha on Thursday (Jul 30) night. Over the past week, Hezbollah has threatened some form of retaliation for the death of one of its fighters last week in Syria in an airstrike that it attributed to Israel, but which the Jewish state has not officially acknowledged conducting.

**The patriarch of Lebanon's Maronite Church, Beshara Al-Rai, joined a growing roster of Lebanese leaders who think that the main culprit behind the country's free-falling economy is Hezbollah and its endless wars.** In a visit to President Michel Aoun, Al-Rai called for restoring Lebanon's regional neutrality. Al-Rai also said that national defense should be the job of the Lebanese Army alone. Al-Rai said later that Lebanon used to be "the hospital of the Arabs, the hotel of the Arabs, the tourism of the Arabs," and that it was Lebanon's neutrality that allowed it to play such roles.

### **Iraq**

**British SAS special forces have killed at least 100 ISIS fighters including British jihadis in northern Iraq and Syria in the past three months.**

***God please help the Lebanese to overthrow their wicked Hezbollah tyrants (Zech. 11:1). Move Lebanon into a position of being able to live in peace with Israel (1 Kin. 5:1-12). Pour out the fear of Israel's God on all Hezbollah's leaders – especially Nasrallah (Isa. 2:19). Save many Hezbollah members but destroy that wicked organization (Matt. 5:44; Isa. 14:30). Let Hezbollah fall into the trap it constantly tries to set for Israel (Psa. 9:5-6, 15, 19-20). Continue to send confusion and chaos in the Hezbollah and Iranian leadership (Psa. 129:5). Thank You for overseeing the increase of IDF forces in the north (Prov. 21:31). Give wisdom to the believers in Israel's north and in Lebanon on how to pray (Col. 1:9). Remove all anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist influences from the true Lebanese Church (Num. 24:9b). We bless You for the angelic protection You have placed on all of Israel's borders (Psa. 34:7).***

**“Now also many nations are gathered against you, that say, 'Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion'. But they do not know the thoughts of YHWH, nor do they understand His counsel, for He shall gather them as sheaves into the threshing floor. Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion, for I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hoofs bronze, and you shall crush many people, and I will devote their gain unto YHWH, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth.” (Micah 4:11-13)**

## **8. GAZA UPDATES:**

**An RPG head attached to a bundle of balloons launched from Gaza was found in southern Israel on Monday (Jul 27) in an agricultural area near the border with the Gaza Strip.** This comes a little more than a month after a balloon attack from Gaza on the fields of Kibbutz Nir Oz, where local volunteer and professional firefighters rushed to put out at least four spot fires in the Eshkol Region. While the world’s attention has been focused on the coronavirus pandemic and protests against racism, terror groups in Gaza have continued to send incendiary devices into Israel. Sending balloons across the border with the Jewish state was also attempted by an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia, which announced in June on its website that it had launched balloons with photos of high-ranking “martyrs.”

**A disagreement among Hamas’ leadership over unity with the Fatah faction may end the ‘unity move’ even before it took off.** Mahmoud al-Zahar, a senior Hamas figure in the Gaza Strip, announced Tuesday (Jul 28) that a date for the “Unity Festival,” planned by Jibril Rajoub of the Fatah and Saleh Aruri of Hamas, has yet to be set. However, various sources deny rumors that the “Unity Festival” will be postponed or canceled. Sources in Ramallah and the Gaza Strip say that the crisis is the result of an internal dispute within Hamas and because senior members of the organization oppose this move. Various sources indicate that Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Yihya Sinwar, who heads Hamas in Gaza, oppose the renewed unity with Fatah. However, the Hamas leadership in Judea and Samaria and the leadership of Hamas’ prisoners support the move.

**The IDF released video footage Thursday (Jul 30) afternoon of the capture of a Hamas terrorist who attempted to infiltrate into Israeli territory from the Mediterranean.** The incident occurred a month ago, when the terrorist attempted to swim from the Gaza Strip to the Israeli coast. Israeli naval forces spotted the terrorist and captured him before he reached the shore. The 24-year-old Hamas terrorist is a resident of the northern Gaza city of Jabalia. During his interrogation, he revealed that he was a member of the Hamas terrorist organization's air defense network, and that, in the event of an Israeli operation in the area, he had been ordered to fire an anti-aircraft missile at incoming Israeli helicopters. He was first recruited by Hamas in 2013, and has served in the terror group's air defense team since 2018.

**Israeli company ‘Watergen’ and the ‘Arava Institute for Environmental Studies’ recently donated a much-needed water generator to Nasser Medical Center in Khan Younis, Gaza's second largest hospital.** It can produce up to 5,000 liters of drinking water a day from the humidity in the air. The first machine was installed at the municipal building in Abasan al-Kabira, while the second was installed at the Rantisi Medical Center in Gaza City two months ago.

**At the very early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, Israeli doctors reached out to Palestinian health-care workers, offering to share their expertise and provide assistance, and the Palestinians accepted the help. Every week, Israel sends medical equipment to Hamas-controlled Gaza.** During July 12-18 alone, Israel transferred 163 tons of medical supplies there. It also facilitated the delivery of equipment from Turkey and the UAE to Gaza and Judea-Samaria.

**"Hamas is not interested in a confrontation with Israel," says Col. Amit, the Intelligence Officer of the IDF Southern Command. "The governing component in Hamas is getting stronger. From the start, Hamas had two identities - a**

religious resistance organization and a national movement. Since 2007, it has also taken on an identity as the sovereign power in Gaza, and it is being assessed as such on a daily basis. The main factor that determines the reality of Hamas is the economy. It's the first thing that both the leaders and the public wake up to, and the last thing they go to sleep with...It does everything with a long-term ceasefire in mind, because it has no other solution...Ideologically, it has not changed. It still does not want the State of Israel to exist...But there is no urgency for it for that to happen immediately." Gaza is one place that has coped with the coronavirus pandemic successfully. Hamas implemented forced isolation of three weeks for whoever enters Gaza, and strict daily rules. Hamas is a serious organization. They closed everything. Every guideline of our Health Ministry was enforced over there."

***Protect Israel's off-shore oil platforms from all sea based attacks (Psa. 74:13; 78:53). Do not allow the very hot weather from withering the alertness of the IDF soldiers (Isa. 21:6, 11-12). Be a medical shield over the IDF against Covid-19 (Psa. 91:5-6). Thank You for the Israeli Navy. Position them exactly where they need to be (Psa. 29:3-4). Continue to bless and use the Israeli Air Force, and also place them in the right positions (Isa. 31:5). Continue to cause Israel to be a blessing to the Palestinians in Gaza...may many see the love and generosity of Israel. Turn the hearts of the Palestinian people to You, the God of Israel!***

"Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing. And those who fight with you shall perish. You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as ceasing." (Isaiah 41:11-12)

## **9. PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY UPDATES:**

The Palestinian leadership's decision to abolish all bilateral agreements and understandings with Israel and the USA has led to increasing the suffering of Palestinian citizens, who pay a high price for the abolition of the agreements and coordination of daily life with Israel. Shukri Bishara, the Palestinian Minister of Finance, had said earlier that the Palestinian budget is facing an 80% drop in financial resources due to severing ties with Israel, refusing to receive tax revenues via Israel, and the coronavirus crisis.

Amid questions about the continued viability of the Palestinian Authority, Dr. Harold Rhode, who served for 28 years as an advisor on the Islamic world in the Office of the USA Secretary of Defense, said the collapse of the PA "may present an opportunity for the Palestinians for a brighter future with less oppressive and younger leadership." The leadership of the Palestinians should be clan and family-based since this is the way things are decided on the ground, said Rhode. "The PA-appointed leaders are outsiders. As the locals say, most of the foreign funds are skimmed off the top by the thugs that rule over them, and the people actually get next to nothing of all this aid."

A structure built illegally at the entrance to Hebron in Area C, which is exclusively controlled by Israel, was not being planned as a center for coronavirus tests but as part of a private car dealership. Palestinians working at the site told Civil Administration inspectors that they were building a car showroom for a Palestinian businessman from Hebron. The inspectors also spotted a sign with the name of the new car dealership. "Contrary to the false claims, this was not a center for coronavirus testing," a Civil Administration spokesman told media. PA Ministry of Health officials said that they were unaware of plans to build a coronavirus center in Hebron.

***Lord, we again bless You for the IDF's Chief of Staff Avi Kochavi who seems to be the right man in at the right time (Psa. 80:17). Continue to surround him with godly and wise counselors (Prov. 20:18; 24:6). Keep the IDF above the fray of political correctness and politics in general (Psa. 44:5-8). Use the IDF as the place where future unity among Israelis is***

*created and solidified (Isa. 11:12-14). Help Defense Minister Benny Gantz to be all he needs to be for Israel today (Zech. 9:13). Guard all soldiers – in fact all Israelis – from kidnappings and car-rammings (Psa. 121:1-3).*

**“And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that YHWH fought against the enemies of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 20:29)**

**10. THE LIGHT SHINES INTO THE DARKNESS** *(This weekly commentary documents incidents where God shines his light into the darkness and exposes pending attacks, injustices and terror incidents. It also documents situations where the goodness of God breaks through into evil circumstances)*

**Members of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido's party and others held an inaugural meeting of the Venezuelan Parliamentary Israel Allies Caucus on Monday (Jul 27).** The caucus called to re-establish ties between Venezuela and Israel and for an embassy to be opened in Jerusalem. Both Guaido and Nicolas Maduro have claimed the presidency since January 2019. More than 50 countries recognize Guaido, while 20 recognize Maduro, who became president in 2013 after the death of Hugo Chavez. Israel recognized Guaido as president.

**The Iranian Nour news agency, considered close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), reported that Jordan assisting USA Air Force F-15 combat aircraft to intercept an Iranian passenger plane flying to Beirut last week.** The report claimed that Jordan permitted American "warplanes and drones" to take off from al-Azraq air base in Jordan, from where drones were also dispatched to assassinate Qassem Soleimani in Iraq. Jordan denied that it was involved in the Soleimani mission. (**Note:** Relations between Iran and Jordan are correct, and the accusation against Jordan is unusual. Iranian attempts to operate in Jordanian territory against Israel have met with limited success in the face of counter-intelligence actions by Israel and Jordan.)

**On July 14, Bari Weiss, the acclaimed author of ‘How to Fight Anti-Semitism’, resigned as op-ed editor and columnist at the New York Times, citing harassment about the frequency with which she wrote about Jewish topics, as well as being called a "Nazi and a racist" by her colleagues.** During a Zoom conference on Thursday (Jul 30), she said, "It's not enough for a Jew to be an anti-anti-Semite. That's not what we were put on earth to do. We were put on earth to be Jews. The more deeply I connected to my own Judaism, Jewish history, the stronger my conviction has become. I am just extremely clear on who I am, what I'm about, and what I'm fighting for. A lot of people think [my resignation is] nuts, like, why would you give up the prestige of that? For me, it's extremely clear: I am part of a line of a people that is about values that are way bigger than any fancy platform or title. That's really what drives me."

**Army Gen. Mark Milley, the USA Joint Chiefs chairman, made an unannounced visit to Israel last Friday (Jul 24) to discuss "regional security challenges."** He met with senior Israeli military and intelligence leaders and held a video conference with PM Netanyahu. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that in his talks with Milley, he emphasized "the need to continue the pressure on Iran and its proxies."

**The USA Senate and House of Representatives last week approved \$3.8 billion in defense assistance for Israel as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.** The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) said the money "will help Israel protect itself against continuing security threats."

**Long before the coronavirus outbreak, the Shin Bet security service was secretly tracking Israelis' cellphones in a clandestine program to fight the Islamic State terror group that lasted for at least two and a half years, and may still be ongoing.** The classified program, whose name is under gag order, was approved by a team of senior Justice Ministry

officials, headed by then-state attorney Shai Nitzan as well as Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, but was not subject to parliamentary oversight, legislation, or any regulations. Under the program, the cellphones of most Israelis were exposed to Shin Bet tracking. The report did not say exactly what type of data was gathered, though it stated that the security service tapped into databases held by mobile phone companies to harvest information — apparently without the companies' knowledge.

**The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is gradually obtaining support in its endeavors to normalize relations with Israel, with economic and security interests behind the rapprochement.** The Southern Transitional Council (STC), the Yemeni secessionist movement sponsored by the UAE, has recently shown a willingness to establish relations with Israel, with which it is currently in secret talks. The same has been said for Khalifa Haftar, head of the Libyan National Army. Palestinians close to Mohammed Dahlan, the chief security adviser to Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, are also committed to normalizing relations with Israel.

*Lord, let Your light shine into the darkest areas of the earth. Expose all plots to harm Your people...both Jews and Christians. Thank You that there is increasing coordination between the agencies who are in charge of security and protection. We bless the security forces and police forces around the world...they have an impossible job to protect all the people all the time. Give them much wisdom and great alertness, we pray!*

"YHWH discovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light." (Job 12:22)

## **11. ANTI-SEMITISM UPDATES:**

**This just-released Tisha B'Av video sends a powerful message to all Jews living in the USA.** It features a number of well-known Rabbis from the USA and Israel:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=12&v=Sp3E4GRwn4s&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=Sp3E4GRwn4s&feature=emb_logo)

**Anti-Semitic graffiti was sprayed Thursday night on the wall of a train station in Mühlhausen, Germany.** Unknown vandals sprayed a Third Reich flag on the wall, alongside an image of a man urinating on an Israeli flag. Local police have opened an investigation into the issue. Every week there are such several such incidents of this type.

**Anti-Semitic incidents in the UK have dropped by 13 percent in 2020 compared to the year before, likely due to COVID-19 lockdown regulations, but the 789 events reported between January and June still represent the third-highest number on record for that period.** The two months that saw the lowest number of recorded incidents, March and April, with 102 and 98 incidents, respectively, coincided with the period when coronavirus lockdown measures were most highly enforced, with religious institutions, schools, restaurants, and other venues closed. The regulations were relaxed in May, which saw a subsequent rise in anti-Semitic events, and the numbers continued to rise in June.

*Thank you, Father, for giving us the privilege to pray for the Jews to return home...and to be living in this day to see it being fulfilled (Mal. 1:5). We bless You for the new Israeli minister of Immigrations and Absorption, Pnina Tamano-Shata, an Ethiopian woman who has a genuine heart to help Jews return and to get settled in Israel. Thank You for this awesome answer to prayer (Isa. 57:13-15; 62:10). We thank You for the Lone soldiers who have come to Israel in this past week! What a joy to see seniors strolling in the streets of Jerusalem (Zech. 8:4). Lord, please change the hearts of Christians who think that praying for Your people to return is "nice but not really necessary" to Your kingdom purposes today (Luke 13:35). Reveal Your heart concerning Aliyah to all Believers in the world today!*

"He that scattered Israel will gather him, and guard him, as a shepherd does his flock." (Jeremiah 31:10b)

## 12. IRAN UPDATES:

**In the past two weeks, Iran has reported about 200 deaths every day, compared with 150 daily deaths at the end of March. Hospitalizations are growing quickly, with more than 1,600 patients admitted over the past 24 hours on Tuesday (Jul 28).** President Rouhani's government has warned that 25 of the country's 31 provinces are in an emergency or are suffering from an alarming level of risk. Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and home to the country's most important holy site, has seen a 300% rise in coronavirus cases in recent days.

**Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they launched ballistic missiles from "the depths of the Earth" on Wednesday (Jul 29)** during military exercises. On Tuesday, the Guards struck a mock-up of a USA aircraft carrier with missiles near the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian Sukhoi Su-22 fighter-bombers also targeted positions on Bani Farur Island in Iran's territorial waters.

**The recent series of unusual events in different locations around Iran has received growing interest from the media, but not every explosion or fire is the result of foreign subterfuge.** Recent research by Tiziana Corda at the University of Milan revealed that such events frequently occur in Iran. There have been at least 97 fires or explosions between mid-May 2019 and the end of July 2019 in power plants, factories, hospitals, research centers, naval vessels, and arms depots. At least some of the recent events are clearly related to the dismal condition of Iran's infrastructure, which is a result of lackluster maintenance, negligent management, and human error.

**The Persian-language 'Iran Watch' news site reported last Thursday (Jul 23) that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards identified the person who caused the explosion at the Natanz nuclear facility on July 2:** "Ershad Karimi, who was a contractor for many years and responsible for launching the uranium enrichment course at the Natanz nuclear plant...Ershad Karimi detonated the centrifuge hall with his team, and caused great damage to the country's nuclear industry as well as the prestige of the system."

**The USA said last Thursday (Jul 23) that it had intercepted an Iranian passenger plane as it flew over Syria, after Iranian state television accused Israel of the encounter, calling it "provocative and dangerous."** USA Central Command said an "F-15 on a routine air mission...conducted a standard visual inspection of a Mahan Air passenger airliner at a safe distance of approximately 1,000 meters from the airliner. The professional intercept was conducted in accordance with international standards."

**A new agreement between China and Iran has received significant attention, according to which China will invest in Iran.** But it is doubtful whether this deal has substance. It seems more like a statement of intent meant to serve Iranian interests by giving hope to the public. The deal includes no concrete elements. However, Tehran's stock market is somehow booming. The Telegram channel of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps encourages the public to invest in the stock exchange. People who can't make a living are selling their cars, farmers are selling their tractors, in the hope of getting rich via the stock market.

***Thank You for the growing Iranian Church. Provide all their needs at this time (Phil. 4:19). Continue to allow this "war-between-the wars" to remain just that and not break out into a major conflict – until it is Your time to deal with Iran's wicked leaders once and for all (Jer. 49:38). Remind Israel's leaders of the lesson the Jews have learned from history: that they can believe in the threats of their enemies more than in the promises of their friends (1 Kin. 2:5-6; Psa. 120:7). Bring the Iranian leaders to a place of humility and submission to You, Father. Confuse the evil plans of those***



***who plot terror and destruction! Thank You that Covid-19 has slowed the aggression of Iran. Protect Israel from all evil plans of Iranian leaders and their counterparts!***

**“Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered: let them also that hate Him flee before Him...Rebuke the company of spearmen...scatter the people that delight in war.” (Psalm 68:1, 30)**

### **13. ISRAEL GOOD NEWS ITEMS:**

**The Embassy of Israel in Kathmandu on Wednesday (Jul 29) delivered 400 units of personal protective equipment, 1,000 KN95 masks, 10,000 surgical masks, 5,000 pairs of surgical gloves, and 500 liters of sanitizer to Nepal's Ministry of Social Development.**

**Israeli medical imaging technology start-up ‘Nanox Imaging Ltd’—based in Neveh Ilan—has secured \$110 million in funding to support the roll-out of the ‘Nanox.ARC’ in countries worldwide.** This is a novel digital x-ray device intended to provide end-to-end medical imaging services—including image repository, radiologist matching, online and offline diagnostics review and annotation, and connectivity to diagnostic assistive artificial intelligence systems, as well as billing and reporting. The Nanox System will promote early detection of medical conditions that are discoverable by x-ray” screenings—including x-ray based imaging modalities such as CT, mammography, fluoroscopy, and angiogram.

**A 1,300-year-old church has been uncovered in the Galilee region of Israel. Working with the Kinneret Academic College, Israel’s Antiquity Authority discovered the church in the Circassian village of Kfar Kama.** The church measured 12 × 36 m, with a large courtyard, a narthex foyer, and a central hall. Particular to this church is the existence of three apses (prayer niches), while most churches were characterized by a single apse. The nave and the aisles were paved with mosaics which partially survived. Their colorful decoration stands out, incorporating geometric patterns, and blue, black, and red floral patterns. A special discovery was the small reliquary, a stone box used to preserve sacred relics. According to experts, the newly excavated church was probably an important part of Christian life in the Byzantine period. It is situated close to Mount Tabor, which is where Christians believe Jesus was transfigured.

**About 1,300 years ago, a 25-meter-long ship sank just a few dozen meters from the coast of Israel. Most likely, nobody perished in the incident.** But its plentiful cargo included 103 amphorae filled with all forms of agricultural products, numerous daily objects used by the crew, and many other unique features, such as several Greek and Arabic inscriptions. They were swallowed by the sea and the sand, which preserved their secrets for centuries. The shipwreck has offered archaeologists unique insights into the life of the region at the time of the transition between Byzantine and Islamic rule, trade routes, and ship construction.

***Thank You, that You continue to bless Israel. Thank You that You have chosen to bless the world through the Jewish people. May the world see these inventions and discoveries as a fulfillment of Your promise to Abraham!***

**“The LORD had said unto Abram, ‘Get out of your country, from your kindred, and your father's house, unto a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (Genesis 12:1-3)**