

# ISRAEL INTERCESSORY PRAYER ITEMS

September 18-25, 2020

**1. 'SHANAH TOVA' – 'HAPPY NEW YEAR'** - Rosh Hashana - the Jewish New Year also known as the Feast of Trumpets begins Friday (Sep 18) evening. The first of the Biblical autumn festivals, Rosh Hashana/Yom Teruah/Feast of Trumpets celebrates the birth of the world and humanity. Symbolic foods such as apples and honey are central to the holiday, symbolizing the sweetness, health, success and good deeds which Jews hope the coming year will bring. This year is 5781 on the Biblical calendar. The theme of Rosh Hashanah is the proclamation of God as King and as sovereign and supreme...including the blowing of shofars throughout the first day of the feast...99 trumpet blows followed by one last blast called the 'last trump' [gadola tekiah].

The ten days starting with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Yom Kippur are commonly known as the 'Days of Awe' (Yamim Noraim) or the 'Days of Repentance'. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur. One of the ongoing themes of the Days of Awe is the concept that God has "books" that he writes names in, writing down who will live and who will die, who will have a good life and who will have a bad life, for the next year. These books are opened on Rosh Hashanah, but actions during the Days of Awe can alter God's decree. The actions that change the decree are "teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah," repentance, prayer, good deeds (usually, charity). These "books" are sealed on Yom Kippur. This concept of writing in books is the source of the common greeting during this time is "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."

Among the customs of this time, it is common to seek reconciliation with people you may have wronged during the course of the year. The Talmud maintains that Yom Kippur atones only for sins between man and God. To atone for sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible.

*Lord, reveal Yourself to Your people – through dreams, visions, or in the reading of the Word. Lord, we ask for more labourers for this great harvest field (Luke 10:2). Watch over all the seeds that Believers have planted in Jewish hearts this past year (1 Cor. 3:6). Use Gentile brothers and sisters in Messiah to provoke many Jews to jealousy by their love for You and Your people (Rom. 11:11). As observant Jews around the world declare God is Creator and King on Rosh Hashanah, Lord Yeshua show them that You are the One by whom Your Father created and that You are the King of Kings (John 1:1-3; Rev. 19:16). Give the Jewish people at this time a holy dissatisfaction with many of the rabbinic religious rituals – and then give them a deep desire to enter into a real relationship with You (Psa. 57:7; 84:2).*

For there shall be a day, that the watchmen ['notzrim'...the Modern Hebrew word for 'Christians'] on mount Ephraim shall cry, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to YHWH our God'. For thus says YHWH, [to these 'notzrim'] 'Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish, praise, and say, "YHWH, save Your people, the remnant of Israel"' (Jeremiah 31:6-7)

## 2. ISRAEL-UAE-BAHRAIN PEACE AGREEMENT UPDATES:

Writing history on Tuesday (Sep 15), USA President Trump presided over a signing ceremony at the White House establishing formal ties between Israel and two Arab nations, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) and Bahrain. In August, Trump secured an agreement to normalize relations between the UAE and Israel, the first such agreement between Israel and a major Arab nation since 1994 (Jordan). Bahrain requested to join the signing agreement. The countries have committed to the exchange of embassies and ambassadors. They also begin cooperation across a broad range of fields, including education, healthcare, trade, and security, the White House explained. Trump claims the accords are leading to peace between Israel and the Middle East and increased security in the region. Flanked by the flags of all four nations, Trump, Israeli PM Netanyahu, and the UAE and Bahraini foreign ministers spoke to an invited

crowd seated on the South Lawn. **(Note:** The accords marked the third and fourth Arab nations to normalize relations with Israel. It is also the first such ceremony since Jordan took the peace step in 1994, following Egypt in 1979. The only European Union foreign minister attending the ceremony came from Hungary.)

**The EU's executive European Commission has been reluctant to support Trump's Middle East policies, including his decision to move the USA embassy to Jerusalem.** It recently warned Serbia and neighbouring Kosovo that their membership aspirations could be endangered if they move their embassies to Jerusalem. After talks at the White House, Trump said Serbia had already agreed to move its diplomatic mission to Jerusalem. Later, Netanyahu said Kosovo would become the first Muslim-majority state to establish its embassy in Jerusalem. Trump also revised that there will be up to nine nations that are considering the UAE and Bahrain. **(Note:** Egyptian President Al-Sisi hailed the newly announced normalization deal between Israel and Bahrain as a historic success.)

**Jewish and pro-Israel groups instantly applauded Abraham Accord agreements.** At last, "the walls of isolation around Israel are crumbling," Malcolm Hoenlein of the **Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations** said to the media. Jewish groups from both sides of the political aisle applauded the development. The **American Sephardi Federation** executive director said the Emirati and Bahraini normalization deals with Israel exemplify "a new era, but one rooted in history. Muslims and Jews, as in centuries past, will once again be able to channel their considerable talents and resources into projects that will benefit all of humanity." The **American-Israeli Public Affairs Council (AIPAC)** also praised the agreements.

**In Israel, the ceremony and the accords were celebrated with images of the flags of the four nations – the USA, Israel, the UAE and Bahrain — projected on to a section of the walls surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem on Tuesday night (Sep 15).** In Tel Aviv, the word "peace" alternately flashed in English, Hebrew and Arabic on the outside of the city's municipal building. The hearts of Israel's Arabs are with the Palestinian people, but on the other hand, they want to break out of Israel's borders and reach the Gulf states where they can fulfill the Middle East's version economic prosperity. Since the agreement with the UAE was announced, Israeli Arabs mostly talked about the possible economic, academic and tourism benefits it might bring. Thanks to their language, education and religion, Israeli Arabs stand to be the main beneficiaries of the agreements. They can not only do business in the Gulf, but also travel and study there. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority government is furious; its leadership is accusing the rulers of Bahrain and the UAE of "back-stabbing" their Arab brethren.

**Dire predictions from Barack Obama alumni that moving the USA embassy to Jerusalem, Israel's capital, would ignite widespread violence have not panned out.** There has been no dedicated Arab reprisals since the doors opened with much fanfare in May 2018. And two years later, Arab states are lining up to discuss and cement unprecedented peace deals with Israel that involve not just recognizing the Jewish state but also establishing trade and travel ties. At the signing of the agreements, President Trump said the accords "open the door for Muslims around the world to visit the historic sites in Israel and to peacefully pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem....For generations, the people of the Middle East have been held back by old conflicts, hostilities...lies that the Jews and Arabs were enemies and that Al-Aqsa Mosque was under attack. Constantly, they would say it was under attack...These agreements prove that the nations of the region are breaking free from the failed approaches of the past."

**Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel Issac Herzog spoke last Saturday (Sep 12) with the head of the Jewish community of Bahrain, Ebrahim Nonoo, with whom he has been in contact for some time.** The two officially agreed that The Jewish Agency will collaborate with the Bahraini Jewish community to develop community life and provide additional services, similarly to all Jewish communities around the world. Two weeks ago, Herzog concluded a similar agreement with the UAE's Jewish community. **(Note:** The Bahraini Jewish community is small, totaling 50 Jews. Most of

its members arrived in Bahrain from Iraq decades ago, and earn their living working in commerce and services industries. Nonoo's sister is a well-known diplomat in the Foreign Service of Bahrain, who has served for several years as the Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States.)

**The proposed sale of advanced USA F-35 fighter jets to the UAE is raising concerns among some security experts in Israel that the Middle East could be on the verge of an arms race.** The proposed sale is tainting the otherwise great enthusiasm in Israel for the agreements brokered by the White House to normalize relations with the UAE and Bahrain. A senior figure in Israel's defense establishment warned that there was no guarantee relations between Israel and the UAE would remain amicable. "Things change here rapidly, and we always need to be aware of this. Israel is a small country. Its military advantage allows it to maintain strategic virtual depth. Removing this edge is extremely worrying for Israel's security." He added that the sale "will have a cascade effect, and it will be harder to prevent sales of advanced weaponry to other countries in the region." (**Note:** President Trump said on Tuesday he has no issue with the United Arab Emirates receiving F-35 fighter jets from America, despite objections from PM Netanyahu. Trump also said he would be willing to sell the same arms the United States sells to Israel to other Middle Eastern countries as well. In any case, the USA House of Representatives will have to ratify such a sale.)

**An Italian lawmaker nominated PM Netanyahu for the Nobel Peace Prize Tuesday (Sep 15) in recognition of his efforts to achieve a peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.** Paolo Grimoldi, an Italian member of Parliament who is considered a friend of the Jewish State, submitted the nomination after Netanyahu signed the Abraham Accords together with the UAE and Bahrain at the White House. Grimoldi argued that Netanyahu's cultivation of ties with Saudi Arabia, which has allowed flights between Israel and the UAE to fly over its airspace, further showed why he deserved to receive the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

**The Significance of the Israel-UAE Deal** – (by Jon B. Alterman with Center for Strategic and International Studies. The writer is Director of the Middle East Program at the CSIS in Washington.)

The agreement between Israel and the UAE is more significant for the Arab world than it is for Israel. Israelis may derive a certain amount of emotional security from feeling less isolated in the region, and they may get some marginal advantages that they could not have obtained otherwise in their struggle with Iran. But this will radically change the way Arab states will deal with each other and their problems.

The Emiratis believe they have the strength and self-confidence to deal with any country in the world bilaterally, without 20 other countries standing behind them. I would expect other states to act more unilaterally going forward as well.

Arguably the Iranians will feel more surrounded when their adversaries are cooperating more closely, but in point of fact, the Emiratis were not about to start a war with Iran before, and they are not about to now.

**Israel Has Become Too Valuable to the Arab World to Be Treated as a Pariah** – (by Walter Russell Mead in the Wall Street Journal. The writer is professor of foreign affairs and the humanities at Bard College)

A tipping point seems to have been reached in the Middle East. Resentment of Zionism and sympathy for the Palestinians will no longer be allowed to interfere with what embattled Arab rulers see as a vital relationship. Geopolitically, conservative Arab states have long understood that their interests and Israel's are connected.

The more the U.S. withdraws from the region, the greater the value of Israel to the Sunni Arab world. Growing numbers of Arab leaders believe that Israel is the only country with both the will and the means to help the Arab world defend itself from regional threats. Beyond that, Israel is by any measure the most successful state in the Middle East with the most technologically advanced economy in the region.

The Arab rapprochement with Israel reflects a sober and serious response to realities that no Arab state can ignore. As a military and intelligence partner, as a diplomatic force multiplier, as a trading partner, as a source of investment and of development expertise, Israel is too valuable to the Arab world to be relegated to the status of a regional pariah. It has earned its place in the Middle East.

*While we praise You for Israel's hand of peace being extending to these Gulf Arab States, and for it being reciprocated, we ask that Israelis will not allow any "peace" to deceive them (1 Chr. 12:17). Prevent Israel from doing anything which would bring Your judgment (Lev. 25:23; Prov. 22:28). Do not allow PM Netanyahu's pride to place Israel in a dangerous situation (Prov. 16:18). Protect the UAE and Bahrain from all terrorist and/or Iranian backed attacks (Num. 24:9b). Thank You for the Arab League's open rebuke of the Palestinian Authority (Psa. 35:26; 109:29). Continue to divide the Muslim world and bring down the principality of Islam (Matt. 12:25). Continue to harden the Palestinian leaders' hearts so that there will be no chance for any type of a Palestinian State to be created on Your land (Job 8:22; Psa. 109:29). Sovereignly aid the settlements in Judea and Samaria to grow and prosper (Amos 9:13-15). We ask for the plans to extend sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley to happen in Your perfect timing and that that timing would be sooner than seems possible at this time (Jer. 32:17).*

**"You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things." (Jeremiah 31:5)**

### **3. ISRAEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES:**

**The Israeli government approved a three-week nearly total lockdown on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.** The Israeli Health Ministry reported Monday (Sep 14) evening that 3,274 Israelis were diagnosed with the coronavirus since Sunday night at midnight, out of a total of 34,954 tests conducted. Thus far, a total of 160,368 Israelis have been infected with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. (**Note:** This is only ¼ of the projected number of people required to reach herd/community/population immunity in a nation.) The lockdown has been set to begin on Friday (Sep 18); buses will operate at 50 percent capacity and will cease to run on the weekends. In addition, buses will not be allowed to fill with passengers beyond the halfway point. Buses will run Sunday through Thursday at 5 am - 10 pm. Intercity service will stop running on Friday and Saturday evenings and prior to holidays. Buses within cities will continue to operate on Fridays and Saturdays. Israel Railways will also operate Sunday through Thursday from 5 am to 10 pm — but tickets must be purchased in advance. For those with private vehicles and ideas that it might be possible to get to one's family and back despite the lockdown, be warned: Israel Police plan to have hundreds of roadblocks "out there" to stop people with exactly these kinds of plans, and who are in their vehicles traveling beyond that 500-meter limit set by the government. Police say there will be a fine of \$200 for each individual in the vehicle traveling outside their district. All schools have been closed as of Thursday (Sep 17).

**Housing and Construction Minister Yaacov Litzman (UTJ) handed in a resignation letter to PM Netanyahu in protest of the government's plan to lockdown the country, and specifically the synagogues during the upcoming High Holidays.**

Litzman was the Health Minister in previous governments, including during the first Coronavirus wave when the infection was temporarily put under control. Litzman blamed Coronavirus Czar professor Ronni Gamzu as having purposely planned in advance to lock down the country for the holidays. He has been at loggerheads with Gamzu ever since Gamzu was appointed the Coronavirus commissioner. (**Note:** There had been great disunity among the top decision-makers in the government concerning coronavirus procedures and the lockdown. Media meetings have been cancelled and obvious absences have been observed in media releases.)

**The groom and 14 other participants became infected with the coronavirus during a wedding that lasted 6 days in the Arab village of Mizra, between Acre and Nahariyya east of the Coastal Highway.** The happy occasion that turned into a

public health disaster caused an outbreak of corona in the locality, which then spread to a hospital in Nahariya which was already suffering from overcrowding in its corona ward. The bride's father works at the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya and as a result of attending the lavish wedding 35 of his colleagues who came in contact with him were forced into isolation. The medical center is under the heaviest pressure of corona patients in the country. The situation at the institution is so dire that the hospital can no longer admit any more corona patients.

**The most seriously hit municipalities, ahead of the total lockdown that begins on Friday (Sep 18), the eve of Rosh Hashanah, are:** Jerusalem – 4,956 active patients; Bnei Brak – 2,350; Ashdod – 1,506; Petah Tikvah – 1,018; Tel Aviv – 1,015; Beit Shemesh – 1,009; Modiin Ilit – 997; Netanya – 847; Ashkelon – 813; and Umm al-Fahm – 794. **(Note:** The USA will reach 200,000 deaths before Rosh Hashanah, with 6,749,289 cases since the outbreak. The rate of deaths per 1 million in the USA is 600[.06%]; in Israel, the rate of deaths per 1 million is 124 [.012%]).

**The United Arab Emirates Health Ministry announced an "emergency permit" to use a coronavirus vaccine, to be administered in the coming days to health system workers and anyone at high risk of contracting the virus.** The UAE Health Minister said study findings in the final stages of clinical trials in the third phase of the vaccine have shown the vaccine effective and provides a strong response by generating antibodies to the virus. The National Clinical Committee for Coronavirus and lead researcher on the third phase of clinical trials on the coronavirus vaccine in detail about the new vaccine. She said 31,000 people from 125 countries took part in the clinical trials of the vaccine for six weeks, but the vaccine has been successfully tested on 1,000 volunteers suffering from various chronic diseases.

- Preliminary results are encouraging, but studies will continue.
- The side effects are relatively simple and come as expected just like any other vaccine.
- No side effects or dangerous symptoms have been reported

*Whatever happens in the coming days of the lockdown in Israel, we desire for You alone to be glorified, Abba (Isa. 48:11; Dan. 9:19). As we have consistently prayed for Your plan to be manifested, we ask that You would be moving and molding this current lockdown plan into the answer to our prayers (Psa. 50:15). Lord, if the statistics and numbers of the dead and the sick from Covid-19 are being misunderstood – or being used to manipulate the people – please deal with this error or this threat (Num. 23:23). Do not allow fear to come upon Your people (Psa. 66:7; 68:18). Protect Israel from anarchy and lawlessness (2 Tim. 3:1). Guard over Your nation from any further division because of these guidelines (Ezek. 39:25). Wake up the ultra-Orthodox and the Israeli Arab leaders to clearly warn their people of the dangers of disregarding social distancing (Rom. 13:1). Make the believing community in Israel a light to the rest of the nation during the Covid-19 war (Tit. 3:1). Remind Believers how to talk about leaders whom You have placed over this nation (Ex. 22:28). Provide for all Israeli families in need at this time (Isa. 40:1-2; 51:3). Lighten the burden for the hospitals and medical personnel in every way possible (Jer. 32:27). Give wisdom and patience to all the security forces that will be policing the lockdown (Psa. 37:8). Especially be with the young IDF soldiers who will be assisting the police (Luke 21:19). May the security forces have courage and insight in dealing with any violent backlash (Eccl. 8:11).*

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

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

##### **Syria**

Islamic State bombings, attacks and ambushes against Syrian regime and pro-Iranian targets have recently intensified in the central Syrian desert. Russian general Vyacheslav Gladkikh was killed on August 18 by an IED planted by ISIS.

##### **Lebanon**

**Qatar operated a funding network for arms shipments from Europe to Hezbollah using gold shipments traded through Africa.** High-ranking Qatari officials coordinated the payments and offered protection for Doha-based Hezbollah financiers. General Dhalan Al Hamad, a member of the royal family in Qatar, used gold from Uganda to fund this arms trade. Weaponry was purchased in Serbia. The arms, labeled as building materials, were moved through North Macedonia to the Greek port of Thessaloniki and on to Beirut. In addition, the Qatari charities 'Sheikh Eid' and the 'Education Foundation' passed on \$500 million to Hezbollah in 2020 alone. The Austrian think tank 'Mena-Watch' reported these details on Tuesday (Sep 15).

**A massive fire broke out at Beirut Port last Thursday (Sep 10) afternoon, a month after a similar fire had led to a massive warehouse explosion that killed 190 people.** Beirut is still full of shattered glass and rubble from last month's tragedy. Flames were large and analysts suggested they may be coming from oil or other stored products. While some locals take it in stride, others are fearful. They open windows so that another shock wave won't blow down the glass. (Note: The investigation into the August 4 warehouse explosion is ongoing. Due to the political crisis in Lebanon that has seen a cabinet resign and witnessed two visits by the French president to try to pressure the country toward reforms, little has been done to find the culprits.)

**USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday (Sep 15) that France's intervention to resolve the crisis in Lebanon is bound to fail unless the issue of Hezbollah's weapons is not dealt with first.** French President Emmanuel Macron visited Lebanon in early September after the massive explosion in the Beirut port on August 4, and helped Lebanese political parties agree to make Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib, the prime minister-designate. However, he has not yet addressed the major issue of Hezbollah's weapons and power in the country.

**90 soldiers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have contracted the coronavirus in the past week.**

## **Iraq**

**The USA will pull thousands of troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan by November.** USA forces in Iraq will be reduced from 5,200 to 3,000 and troop levels in Afghanistan will drop from 8,600 in June to 4,500. USA forces have been in Afghanistan since 2001 and returned to Iraq in 2014 after the Islamic State overran large parts of the country.

## **Turkey**

**At least 14 Russian fighter aircraft flown by Russian mercenaries of the Wagner Group are engaging in ground strikes in Libya in support of Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter's Libyan National Army (LNA).** It is reported that 3,000 Wagner Group mercenaries are in Libya, together with 2,000 Syrian mercenaries, to support the LNA, while **Turkey has dispatched 5,000 Syrian mercenaries to challenge the LNA.**

*Empower the soldiers guarding all Israel's borders to be very alert – whether on the land, on the sea or in the air (Ezek. 37:10). Use Israel as Your battle-axe and weapon of war against Your enemies on earth (Jer. 51:20-23). Thank You for Israel's recent successful attacks against Iranian weapons and personnel inside Syria. Give divine wisdom to the IDF as it remains on high alert against the threats from Hezbollah coming out of Lebanon or Syria (2 Kin. 6:8-12). Uncover any plots Hezbollah and Hamas may have planned when their leaders met in Lebanon recently (Job 12:22). Please guard all Israel's undercover agents wherever they may be (Deut. 33:29; Psa. 119:114). Lord, provide Israel all the intelligence it needs to know what Turkey is planning. Sharpen Israel's cyber-warfare defenses (Psa. 89:18; 94:22). Keep Israel on the cutting edge in this area of cyber-warfare (Eccl. 7:12). Thank You for Israel's advanced drone program. Anoint the soldiers who guide them (Isa. 31:5). Hold America, both president and congress, to its commitment to maintain Israel qualitative military edge [QME], especially as President Trump is willing to sell advanced military armaments to Arab States. Thank You for the weapons Israel does have – but we proclaim You are Israel's QME (Psa. 20:6-9).*



**“Thus says the Lord of hosts: “They may build, but I will throw down; they shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the Lord will have indignation forever. Your eyes shall see and you shall say, ‘The Lord is magnified beyond the border of Israel.’ (Malachi 1:5)**

## **5. GAZA UPDATES:**

**On Tuesday (Sep 15) night, terrorists from Gaza fired rockets at Ashkelon and Ashdod as the signing ceremony of the peace agreements at the White House took place.** Two residents of Ashdod were injured and were evacuated to hospital. Residents in Ashdod and Ashkelon reported hearing loud explosions and rockets being intercepted over the cities.

**At least 13 rockets were fired early Wednesday (Sep 16) morning from the Gaza Strip toward Israeli territory. Eight of the rockets were intercepted. The rest of the rockets exploded in open areas.** Meanwhile, the IDF attacked Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip. The IDF targeted about ten terrorist targets in a factory for the production of weapons and explosives, as well as in a military compound used for training and rocket fire tests by Hamas.

"The IDF takes all terrorist activity against Israeli territory very seriously and will continue to act as much as necessary against attempts to harm Israeli citizens and their sovereignty. The Hamas terrorist organization bears responsibility for what happens in and out of the Gaza Strip," the IDF statement said.

IDF Spokesperson's Unit said, "Two launches from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory have been identified. The air defense fighters intercepted one launch."

**A commander of Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades said the force has retrieved hundreds of mortar shells from a sunken UK warship off the Gaza coast.** The Royal Navy's HMS M15 was sunk off Gaza in 1917 during World War I. A documentary aired this week by Al-Jazeera shows the retrieval of these arms.

**Gaza on Sunday recorded 100 new cases of coronavirus, bringing the number detected outside quarantine centers to 1,588,** according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The number of people infected in Gaza has thus increased 15-fold in nearly three weeks

***We thank You for Your promised protection of Israel at the time of its regathering (Jer. 31:10). Let the IDF's response to these rocket attacks put the fear of Israel's God on its enemies (Deut. 2:25). If Israel needs to start targeting terrorists instead of just destroying their bases and equipment, please release the IDF to do just that (Joel 3:16). Dry up all the funds of Hamas from Qatar and Saudi Arabia; as well, stop the PA funds from the EU and UN (Isa. 14:29-32). Encourage the peace-loving Palestinians to speak out against their evil leaders.***

**“YHWH your God will put all these curses on your enemies – on them that hate you, and persecute you.” (Deuteronomy 30:7)**

## **6. PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY UPDATES:**

**Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas decided in June to refuse to accept import taxes collected by Israel for the PA that account for 60% of its budget. The result is that salaries are not being paid, families are enduring hardships, and the PA is careening toward bankruptcy.** Even some senior Palestinian officials are grumbling about the futility of Abbas' position. Local banks will soon reach a point at which they will be unable to lend money to the Authority.

**Another significant diplomatic setback to the Palestinian Authority – Qatar is refusing to grant the PA a loan that will be repaid from the tax funds collected by Israel on behalf of the PA, and has conditioned the grant of such a loan on the resumption of security coordination with Israel.** As previously reported, the PA has asked Qatar to grant them a loan in exchange for the tax funds that the PA has refused to receive from Israel since it severed its ties with the Jewish state, in protest of Israel's plan to declare sovereignty in parts of Judea-Samaria. The PA asked the Qataris to view the tax money held by Israel as a guarantee to repay the loan, and the PA's Minister of Civil Affairs recently visited Qatar and asked for a loan of \$300 million but his application was denied. The Qataris, according to various sources, are now making the loan conditional on the renewal of security coordination with Israel. The Saudis have also refused to provide the PA with an "economic safety net" and also reiterated that the PA must first renew security coordination with Israel.

**Palestinians have reacted with outrage and deep disappointment to the Arab League's refusal to condemn the normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.** The refusal of the Arab League foreign ministers to endorse a Palestinian draft resolution against the Israel-UAE agreement will pave the way for other Arab states to establish relations with Israel, Palestinian officials cautioned. The officials denied a report that suggested the Palestinians were considering withdrawing from the Arab League to protest its attitude toward the Palestinians. The PA declared, "First we thought that the United Arab Emirates was the only country that had stabbed us in the back. On Wednesday, we saw how several other Arab countries have betrayed the Palestinian people and the Palestinian issue. This is a black day in the history of the Palestinians and Arabs." The Palestinian Authority recalled its envoy to Manama after Bahrain and Israel signed the Abraham Accord agreement.

**Palestinian protests against the normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain could lead to an intifada, Palestinian activists warned on Tuesday (Sep 15).** The warning came as Palestinians held protests against the "treacherous" agreements in some parts of Judea-Samaria. The protests, organized by several Palestinian factions that are part of a new group called the 'Unified Leadership of the Popular Resistance', were held under the banner: "Normalization is a crime." Other activists belonging to various Palestinian factions expressed hope that the Palestinian "day of rage" on the day of the signing ceremony of the normalization agreements at the White House would spark an intifada against Israel.

**On Sunday (Sep 13), the PA reported 994 new COVID-19 cases in the Palestinian territories, raising the total number to 39,510; 486 infections were recorded in Judea-Samaria, 408 cases in East Jerusalem, and 100 cases in the Gaza Strip.** Meanwhile, the health ministry reported 12 new fatalities from the COVID-19, bringing the death toll in the Palestinian territories to 250. The PA reports 12,008 active cases.

**During the first wave of the coronavirus in Israel, just 5% of infections were among the Arab community. However, during the second wave, "40% of coronavirus patients who are hospitalized and 30% of newly infected patients come from the Arab community.** Wedding ceremonies are our most problematic issue. In Hebron and Ramallah, weddings were the super-spreaders of COVID-19. Large ceremonies are customary in Palestinian society, where weddings bind the couple to each other - and to the community. In a village, all the residents will be invited.

**White House senior adviser Jared Kushner said on Wednesday (Sep 16) that he is "very confident" the recent Middle East peace agreements brokered by President Trump between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Israel and Bahrain will make an ultimate resolution with Palestine "more likely.** The moves yesterday were the first peace breakthroughs in the Middle East in 26 years. I am very confident that that will make it more likely that there will be a resolution with the Palestinians in a fair way at a time people are ready to make peace." Kushner outlined how historical negotiations in the Middle East have failed because "the incentives have been all wrong" but noted that President Trump has taken a different approach to achieve these recent breakthroughs.



**There are three times more housing evictions proportionately in EU member states than there are regarding Palestinians in Judea-Samaria.** In 2017, there 705,000 evictions in the EU. Yet a search for "housing demolitions" on the EU's official website finds that 80% of the reports on this worldwide phenomenon concern Palestinian construction. In any event, 8,690 new housing units are being constructed annually by Palestinians compared with 108 demolitions, many of which involve sealing only parts of a building.

### **Rejection Is Not a Strategy that Works for Palestinians** – (by Ray Hanania in Arab News-Saudi Arabia)

The USA hosted the Peace to Prosperity Conference in Bahrain last year, which offered Palestinians \$50 billion in economic aid to build a Palestinian state if they would negotiate with Israel. Instead of attending the conference, the Palestinians boycotted it and rejected the USA proposals even before they were published. Palestinians could have commandeered the event just by being there. They could have dominated the message and redefined the international discussion to favor their arguments. In their absence, the USA was able to strengthen diplomatic and political ties with several Arab world leaders including the UAE and Bahrain.

Why shouldn't Trump and Kushner cast us Palestinians aside if we refuse to engage with them, playing the one diplomatic card that has proven over and over again to be ineffective and non-productive - rejection? Is anyone surprised that, after being denounced by the Palestinians, Bahrain would follow the UAE and recognize Israel too?

The Palestinians have been fighting a losing war for more than 70 years. Palestinian refusal to recognize their failures, or pursue an alternative strategic plan other than rejection, has sealed their fate in a growing avalanche of marginalization. The Palestinians have made it easy for the Arab world to make peace with Israel.

***Anoint Believing Palestinians to be a source of truth and light today (Phil. 2:15). Since so many Palestinians have been brainwashed to hate the Jews, we ask that in Your mercy You would "wash the brains" of many of them in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5). Have mercy on Israel's enemies and fill them with shame so that they seek Your name (Psa. 83:16). Shield Israeli Arabs from being infected by the spirit of Jew-hatred and violence that plagues many Palestinians – especially the PA leaders (Ezek. 25:15; 35:5). Send forth angelic protection over this nation to guard Your people during the holidays (Ex. 14:19). Especially guard over those Israelis living in Judea-Samaria (Ezek. 36:4-8).***

**"Elisha prayed, 'YHWH, open my servant's eyes that he may see'. And YHWH opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (2 Kings 6:17)**

**7. 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)*

**The USA Justice Department ordered the Al Jazeera online news platform 'AJ+' based in the USA to register as a foreign agent on Monday (Sep 14), declaring that the outlet is "an agent of the Government of Qatar."**

**Last week, activists from the anti-Israel organization 'Palestine Action' again demonstrated outside Elbit's offices in the UK, spilled red paint in the lobby, and spray-painted graffiti.** Police in riot gear stormed a rally on Friday, removing four protesters by truck. The organization 'Ad Kan' (Up to Here) appealed to Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi to stop the attacks, and was told that the issue was being handled by the Israeli embassy in London and the Foreign Ministry was not clear how Israel can stop these attacks which take place on foreign soil. Members of the Palestine Action group began taking action against Elbit's offices about two months ago as part of their opposition to British companies' cooperation with Israel. The latest attack on the company's offices took place last week. So far, Palestine Action has focused on Elbit, due to the company's close relationship with the IDF. The group's activists broke into the

company's offices in the UK twice last month, attacked the guard and vandalized offices and the lobby. Because of its unique products, mostly high-tech weapons, Elbit has been in the forefront of Israeli companies subject to divestment and boycotts.

**The Central District Court in Lod handed down a sentence of 3.5 years in prison to a young man accused of involvement in the Duma arson attack in which three members of the Dawabsheh family were killed in 2015.** The 32 months the man has already spent in prison will be counted towards his sentence and he will spend a further ten months in jail. The 22-year-old suspect was a minor when the crime occurred. His lawyers, Adi Keidar and Zion Amir, intend to appeal the verdict and sentence to the Supreme Court. The suspect was convicted following a plea bargain deal of conspiracy to commit a crime and a number of other price tag offenses after the court threw out the confessions he made during interrogation by the Shin Bet. The dismissal of the confessions due to torture techniques forced the prosecution to withdraw most of the charges against him. (**Note:** Earlier this week, the court sentenced Amiram Ben Uliel, accused of being the mastermind of the Duma murders, to three life sentences.)

**Leila Khaled had been invited by San Francisco State University to address a forum on Gender, Justice and Resistance.** For decades, Leila Khaled has been a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is designated as a terror organization by the USA, Canada, and the EU. In August 1969, she was one of the hijackers of TWA Flight 840, which was en route from Rome to Tel Aviv before being diverted at gunpoint to Damascus. A year later, Khaled took part in an attempted hijacking of El Al Flight 219 from Amsterdam to New York City. A horrific mass murder was averted when the grenade Khaled carried aboard the plane failed to detonate. She was later released in an exchange for hostages seized in another PFLP hijacking. (**Note:** Moshe Raab writes, "On Sept. 6, 1970, my mother, my four siblings and I were on a flight that was hijacked by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorists. Imagine my horror and disgust when I read that hijacker Khaled, a member of the PFLP, is a convicted terrorist. She is a symbol not of justice and resistance, but of wanton terrorism and death. What will she teach the students? The proper way to hijack an aircraft?")

**A study by the Schoen Cooperman Research company, commissioned by The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), indicates that a significant amount of historical misinformation exists out there in the cultural world of American young people under 40,** from the question of where the Holocaust took place, to which war the Holocaust is associated with, to who caused the Holocaust.

- 11% of the Millennials and Gen Z respondents believe the Jews caused the Holocaust; 22% believe the Holocaust is associated with World War I; and 48% can't name a single concentration camp, death camp or ghetto.
- Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of USA Millennials and Gen Z does not know that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. Additionally, a majority of US Millennials and Gen Z (59%) believe that something like the Holocaust could happen again today.
- There is little knowledge about concentration camps, death camps, and ghettos other than Auschwitz-Birkenau. Of the more than 40,000 concentration camps and ghettos in Europe during the Holocaust, 48% of respondents could not name any. Only 44% of US Millennials and Gen Z are familiar with Auschwitz, 6% are familiar with Dachau, and awareness of Bergen-Belsen (3%), Buchenwald (1%), and Treblinka (1%) is virtually nonexistent.
- Looking at Holocaust denial, respondents were first asked in a yes/no fashion whether or not the Holocaust happened – and 10% said it did not happen or were not sure.
- Respondents were then asked which of a series of statements came closest to their view and 23 percent of respondents believe the Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died has been greatly exaggerated, is a myth, and did not happen, or are unsure.
- Nationally, slightly more than 1-in-10 (12%) US Millennials and Gen Z have never heard or don't think they've heard the word "Holocaust" before.

## **Arab Muslim Philosopher Fights Against Islamic Fundamentalism** – (by Ed Husain in Spectator-UK)

Bassam Tibi has been fighting Islamist fundamentalist ideas for the past four decades. His speeches, essays, and more than 40 books detail the ways in which Islamists are inimical to most of Islam's history. He once wrote, "Islamists invented the formula of 'Islamophobia' to defame their critics." The word "serves as a weapon against all who do not embrace Islamist propaganda, including liberal Muslims."

"The Enlightenment started in medieval Islam," Tibi tells me. He makes an important distinction between mufti Islam, the world of the fatwa-givers, and the world of Enlightenment Islam. The mufti world of Islam is "leading Muslims backwards," Tibi says. He seeks to explain, revive, and promote the Islam of the early Enlightenment - the "Islam of Light" - which he defines as advocating the primacy of reason. He has long thought it interesting that Arabs constitute only a fifth of the world's Muslims, yet seem to direct most modern Muslim thought.

## **When Tel Aviv Was Bombed - by the Italians** – (by Ofer Aderet in Ha'aretz)

On Sep. 9, 1940, 80 years ago, Italian warplanes bombed Tel Aviv, killing 137 people. Ha'aretz called it "indiscriminate bombings," noting the attack on "a city whose only 'sin' is that it's Jewish." Italy, an ally of Nazi Germany, launched the planes from Rhodes that dropped four tons of bombs. Tel Aviv historian Ilan Shchori recounted, "There was total shock. No one had expected it. Tel Aviv had been calm." On June 12, 1941, French planes killed 13 in Tel Aviv when a bomb fell on a home for invalids near the Habima Theater. On July 15, 1940, 10 Italian planes dropped 50 bombs on Haifa. Another bombing, on July 24, left 46 dead, with another 90 wounded.

Historian Nir Arieli at the University of Leeds has documented 30 attacks by French, Italian and German warplanes on Mandatory Palestine during World War II, which killed over 200 civilians.

***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)

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

With the authorized 1992 Danish Bible translation in place, the Danish Bible Society (DBS), nevertheless, issued a revised New Testament in 2012 completely omitting the word "Israel" or replacing it with "Jews" or "us". The strange reason for this extraordinary action was, as Danes recall, to prevent Danish Lutheran Christians from confusing biblical Israel with the modern State of Israel. Danish Christians protested vehemently. Unperturbed, in 2020 DBS published a complete and revised Bible with the same anti-Israel New Testament version intact, plus a translation of the Old Testament, replacing the word "Israel" with "us", as in Psalm 121:4 ("He who watches over Israel [DBS: 'us'] will neither slumber nor sleep"), as Jan Frost reports.

**A staggering 71% of Jews in Europe have experienced an anti-Semitic attack, according to a poll conducted by the European Union (EU) among young Jews in the continent.** The survey was presented on Tuesday to the Knesset's Subcommittee on Israel-Diaspora Relations.

On university campuses, which are allegedly safe spaces for freedom of expression, Jews are forced to hide their identity, and "Israeli Apartheid Week," held each year throughout North America, becomes a festival of Jew-hatred and calls to destroy the Jewish state.

- A student at George Washington University shared with the committee the difficulties Jewish students face, the anti-Semitic attacks on campus and on the way to the campus, and verbal attacks in which Jews are called racists, murderers of Palestinians and are derided as people who carry out crimes against humanity.
- The poll, which was presented by a Jewish student from Austria, showed that despite the anti-Semitic attacks, 80% of young Jews in Europe feel European.
- Another student said lecturers depict Israel as an Apartheid state and the atmosphere on campus is anti-Israeli, which causes some Jews to hide their identity, while others emphasize it.
- A graduate of the University of California stressed the need to define to students what anti-Semitism is and how it can be combatted.

Israeli Foreign Ministry official Ruth Cohen-Dar said all of Israel's embassies are working with local authorities and university heads to curb anti-Semitism, and MK Ariel Kallner suggested that members of parliamentary friendship groups in the Knesset turn to their counterparts in foreign parliaments and ask that they act within student associations in order to improve the anti-Israel atmosphere on campuses.

**White House senior adviser Jared Kushner said Friday that the two normalization deals between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain affirms Israel's commitment to allow all Muslims to visit and pray at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque.** He said Israel's control of the holy site has been "distorted by the extremists" who claim "that the mosque is 'at risk' or 'under attack' by the Israelis as a way to drive hatred. Through these agreements, all Muslims throughout the world can travel to Israel, whether it's through the UAE or through Bahrain.... Those people will be able to visit the al-Aqsa Mosque and show their friends on Facebook and on Instagram that it's open, and that Israel is respectful of their religion." Kushner added that the normalization deal brokered last month between Israel and the UAE had "been more popular than we expected, which is why this next agreement came so quickly....It's an inevitability that all countries in the Middle East will normalize with Israel."

**PM Netanyahu spoke on Saturday (Sep 12) with Danish PM Frederiksen and thanked her for her "steadfast position in defense of the Jewish community and the ancient tradition of circumcision."** Several Danish political parties have launched another campaign to ban male religious circumcision in the country. Frederiksen told the Danish media that "many Jews do not find it compatible to live in a country where circumcision is banned, and I simply do not think we can make a decision with which we do not live up to our promise – that the Jews will remain part of Denmark." In the conversation with Frederiksen, Netanyahu noted that "this was a matter of maintaining Jewish identity through the generations" and that he "appreciates how the Danish people protected the Jewish community during and after the Holocaust." He added that he hopes that this commitment will also continue in the future. The leaders also discussed dealing with the challenges of the coronavirus. (**Note:** Female circumcision has been banned in Denmark since the early 2000s. It is also illegal for Danes to travel abroad to have their girls circumcised. It is estimated that about 1,000-2,000 boys are circumcised in Denmark annually, mostly from the Muslim and Jewish communities.)

**Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday spoke of her "shame" over rising anti-Semitism in Germany as the Jewish community warned the coronavirus was acting as a "catalyst" stirring up anti-Jewish hatred.** Merkel said, "It is a disgrace and a source of deep shame for me to see the expressions of racism and anti-Semitism in our country in these times." Merkel called on German citizens to "never remain silent" over the phenomenon. The German government's anti-Semitism commissioner had warned in April that hatred against Jews was spreading in Germany along with the new coronavirus. He cited conspiracy theories circulating online such as false claims that the pandemic was the result of a failed bioweapon test by the Israeli secret service.

***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 month! 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)**

## **9. IRAN UPDATES:**

**Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari was executed last Saturday (Sep 12) after being convicted of stabbing a security guard to death during anti-government protests in 2018, in a case that has sparked an international outcry.** Afkari was convicted of killing Hassan Turkman, a water company security guard, and other charges. Iran's Supreme Court rejected a review of the case in late August. Afkari, a 27-year-old Greco-Roman wrestler, had said he was tortured into making a false confession, according to his family and activists, and his attorney says there is no proof of his guilt. Iran's judiciary has denied Afkari's claims. Afkari's attorney accused authorities of denying his client a family visit before the execution, as required by law. **(Note: Germany has broken off trade talks with Iran following this execution.)**

**Iran has a long history of assassinating people:**

- In 1989, Abdul Rahman Ghassemlou, secretary-general of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, was gunned down in Vienna by Iranian assassins.
- They also murdered Ghassemlou's successor and have hunted down Kurds, Ahwazi activists, and others throughout Europe.
- Tehran has received the blank check that Palestinian terrorists once got in Europe: As long as Iran targets non-Europeans, it can hit whomever it wants.
- In 2018, Iran plotted to kill a dissident in Denmark, according to Dinn Borch Andersen, the chief of Danish intelligence.
- Tehran tried to blow up an opposition meeting in Paris in 2018. A 2017 killing in Turkey targeted an exiled TV executive.

**The USA recently sanctioned 11 companies for allegedly shipping and selling Iranian petrochemicals.** The USA Treasury Department sanctioned six companies on September 3 based in Iran, the United Arab Emirates and China for allegedly supporting Triliance Petrochemical Co. Ltd.'s continued involvement in the sale of Iranian petrochemical products, including efforts by Triliance to hide or otherwise obscure its involvement in sales contracts. Triliance was blacklisted by the United States in January. Also on September 3, the USA State Department imposed sanctions on five entities for allegedly knowingly engaging in a significant transaction for the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport or marketing of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran. The department further sanctioned three principal executive officers of the sanctioned entities. The latest sanctions exemplified the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign since withdrawing the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, re-imposing sanctions under it, along with enacting new penalties against the regime.

**Two Iranian nationals were indicted on Tuesday (Sep 15) in connection with a coordinated cyber intrusion campaign at the behest of the government of Iran.** Hooman Heidarian, 30, and Mehdi Farhadi, 34, stole data pertaining to national security, foreign policy intelligence, non-military nuclear information, aerospace data, human rights activist information, and intellectual property, including unpublished scientific research. These Iranian nationals infiltrated computer systems and targeted intellectual property and often sought to intimidate perceived enemies of Iran, including dissidents fighting for human rights.

***Thank You for the growing Iranian Church. Provide all their needs at this time (Phil. 4:19). Continue to allow Israel to repel all Iranian initiatives to expand their control in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. 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)**

## **10. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) UPDATES:**

**The International Criminal Court on Wednesday (Sep 16) dismissed an appeal against a decision not to probe Israel over a deadly raid on an aid flotilla to Gaza in 2010.** Nine Turkish citizens died when they attacked Israeli commandos as they boarded the Mavi Marmara ship, which was trying to breach the embargo on Gaza. One more died in hospital in 2014. The Hague-based tribunal's prosecutor Fatou Bensouda found in December there was no basis to proceed with a full investigation. The Comoros, the Indian Ocean nation where the ship was registered and which made the original complaint, had challenged that decision. ICC judges said on Wednesday that the court "rejects Comoros' request for judicial review of the prosecutor's decision not to open an investigation". The ICC was set up in 2002 to deal with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

***Abba, we thank You for this rejection of the false claims by Comoros. Father, we thank You that the USA is taking formal action through sanctions to deal with the ICC. Abba, bless all the nations that support Israel...we pray that the Canadian government will be pro-Israel in all future resolutions at the United Nations. (Num. 24:9). Confront all lukewarm nations. (Rev. 3:15-16). Father, wake up leaders in the nations to see that support of the ICC brings a curse upon their country; may Christians stand in the gap before You, crying out for mercy for their nation's actions (Hab. 3:1-2).***

**“Fear not, for I am with you. I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give up', and to the south, 'Keep not back. Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth; even everyone that is called by My name, for I have created him for My glory. I have formed him; yes, I have made him...This people have I formed for Myself. They shall show forth My praise.” (Isaiah 43:5-7, 21)**

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

**Israel's Doherty Tower has signed a series of agreements with the UAE's DP World to cooperate in shipping and port activities, the companies said on Wednesday.**

**Soccer star Lionel Messi is the new face of the Israeli company 'OrCam', which makes devices that help the visually impaired identify their surroundings.** “It's a tremendous satisfaction to help improve the lives of blind and visually impaired people,” Messi said Wednesday in a promotional video. “OrCam My Eye is amazing! It's magical.” Messi, considered one of the best soccer players of all time, will be a brand ambassador for the Jerusalem-based company for three years. This is not Messi's first stint promoting an Israeli company. In December 2017, the Tel Aviv-based Sirin Labs hired him as its global ambassador. That company developed what it says is an ultra-secure mobile phone using blockchain technology. OrCam was co-founded in 2010 by Amnon Shashua and Zvi Aviram, who also co-founded the self-driving car technology company Mobileye. OrCam devices attach to a user's glasses frames and convert visual information into audio that is relayed to the user's ear.



**A novel treatment for Alzheimer's, developed by one of Israel's top scientists, is preparing to launch a Phase 1 clinical trial and, if successful, it could change the course of the disease and arrest its progression.** The therapy, developed by ImmunoBrain Checkpoint and based on 20 years of work by Prof. Michal Schwartz of the Weizmann Institute of Science demonstrating that the immune system is needed for the maintenance of healthy brain function and repair, would contribute to the understanding of the biology of Alzheimer's disease. The Phase I trial will specifically test ImmunoBrain Checkpoint's proprietary antibody, IBC-Ab002, which is targeted to enhance the immune system and induce brain repair processes in individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Earlier this month, the company won a \$1 million grant from the Alzheimer's Association to help get them closer to the trial. Schwartz, who is now the company's chief scientist, is considered one of Israel's most renowned scientists. A recipient of the EMET Prize, she made revolutionary contributions to brain research, showing the role of the immune system in maintaining the brain's health, and helping mitigate its dysfunction.

**Durban pediatrician Dr Thesi Reddy (non-Jewish) was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this year and was given nine months to live.** South African Friends of Sheba Medical Center got him to Israel, where Sheba surgeons used advanced techniques to remove the entire tumor. Amazing.

**A team of Israeli and American researchers funded by the National Geographic Society and the Israel Science Foundation have uncovered new evidence that an earthquake may have caused the destruction and abandonment of a flourishing Canaanite palatial site about 3,700 years ago.** The findings were published last Friday (Sep 11). The group made the discovery at the 75-acre site of Tel Kabri in Israel, which contains the ruins of a Canaanite palace and city that dates back to approximately 1900-1700 B.C. The excavations are located on land belonging to Kibbutz Kabri in the western Galilee. The researchers could see areas where the plaster floors appeared warped, walls had tilted or been displaced, and mudbricks from the walls and ceilings had collapsed into the rooms, in some cases rapidly burying dozens of large jars. Researchers found forty jars within a single storage room of the palace. An organic residue analysis conducted on the jars indicated that they had held wine; it is described as the oldest and largest wine cellar yet discovered in the Near East. Recently, the team has found four more such storage rooms and at least seventy more jars, all buried in the collapse of the building. All evidence is pointing to an earthquake that caused the whole city to be evacuated.

***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)**