

ISRAEL



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AM YISRAEL CHAI • 1948-

ANNIVERSARY

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

BY PASTOR JOHN HAGEE

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ISRAEL

— 75 YEARS OF MIRACLES —

The year 2023 marks Israel's 75 years of statehood. The rebirth of the modern Jewish state is one of the greatest miracles of the last century. In fact, the survival of the Jewish people as a culture, still anchored to the same Holy Scriptures, the same language, the same traditions, and the same land for more than 3,000 years might be one of the greatest miracles of all time.

In spite of the abuses and tragedies the Jewish people have endured throughout history, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are living and prospering in the land that God promised them in the book of Genesis. Israel's history over the years has been a continuous demonstration of the Lord's protection and blessing.

The miracle of Israel at 75 is perfectly summed up in the Hebrew phrase *Am Yisrael Chai*, which means “The people of Israel live!” Israel and the Jewish people have suffered the adversity of defamation, delegitimization, dispersion, persecution, systematic annihilation, and devastating wars—and they have not only supernaturally survived—they have thrived!

Just 75 years after its rebirth, which began with almost nothing, Israel is one of the most successful nations on earth. The descendants of Abraham have built cities out of swamps, transformed the desert into farmland, and received their fellow Jews who were dispersed to the four corners of the globe. Today, God’s beloved people are flourishing, peace-loving, and compassionate, and they are a blessing to the nations as promised in Genesis 12:2.

This book will highlight how God’s hand has remained upon Israel since He made covenant with Abraham. You’ll also learn how Christians United for Israel has served a divine purpose in blessing and defending Israel (Genesis 12:3). My hope is that you will feel inspired and motivated by Israel’s amazing account and take your place as one of the pivotal players in the greatest human story ever to unfold on the stage of modern history.

Thank you for standing with Israel
and the Jewish people,

Pastor John Hagee

Founder and Chairman
Christians United for Israel

This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the ^{provisional} Government thereof. The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new Jewish state.

Israel *State of*



Harry Truman

Approved,
May 14, 1948.

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THE PALESTINE POST

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STATE OF ISRAEL'S BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv on Friday, and it was named. came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was named. (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem (of terms) of the city falling to the Jews. At the

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and the morning Palestine was crowded here in its history. For the first time in Palestine men and women in the State of Israel were declared citizens. The State of Israel took its first steps towards independence as a fully equipped and organized state. The Jewish people were united in a common purpose. The Jewish people were united in a common purpose. The Jewish people were united in a common purpose.

On Friday afternoon, when Tel Aviv was proclaimed, the Jewish people were united in a common purpose. The Jewish people were united in a common purpose. The Jewish people were united in a common purpose.

some time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was razed from the ground. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a medi-

ator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29. Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem Tel Aviv road was still under way, and the Jewish Army of the north, Akko town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its position in Western Galilee.

Jews Take Over Security Zones

The Jewish security forces took control of the security zones in the western part of the State of Israel. The Jewish security forces took control of the security zones in the western part of the State of Israel.

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Two Egyptian Spitfires bombed Tel Aviv on Sunday, dropping incendiary bombs and causing damage. One of the planes was shot down by the Israeli air force.

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

Two columns of Arab forces crossed the southern border of the State of Israel. The forces were reported to be moving towards the interior of the State.

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

The United States has recognized the State of Israel. The recognition was announced by the State Department on May 14, 1948.

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Members of the Etzion settlement were taken prisoner of war by Arab forces. The settlement was captured by the Arab army.

Special Assembly Adjourns

The United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after discussing the Palestine issue. The assembly was unable to reach a final agreement.

Proclamation of Head of Government

The head of the Provisional Government of the State of Israel issued a proclamation. The proclamation called for the unity and cooperation of the Jewish people.

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EXILE AND RESTORATION

Israel is the only nation in the history of the world that was created by a sovereign act of God. But that didn't happen in 1948. It took place nearly 4,000 years before when God spoke to Abraham and made an everlasting covenant with him and his descendants.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob very clearly included both the Jewish people and the land of Israel in His unconditional covenant.

I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. GENESIS 17:6-8 (NIV)

When the Lord used the word “everlasting” to describe His covenant with Israel, He meant exactly that—it stands forever! And furthermore, He did not say it once—this eternal land covenant with Abraham and his descendants is recorded 22 times in Scripture.

Remember this foundational truth: the God we serve does not break a covenant. The Bible says,

“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations...I am the Lord that keeps covenant for a thousand generations” (DEUTERONOMY 7:9).

A generation, according to Genesis 15:16, is technically a hundred years—therefore, a thousand generations translates to 100,000 years. Subsequently, the Hebrew meaning of Deuteronomy 7:9 actually translates, “I am the Lord who keeps covenant longer than forever.”

*O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, “To you, I will give the land of Canaan. As the allotment of your inheritance offspring of Abraham, His servant, O descendants of Jacob, His chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; His judgments are throughout the earth. He is ever mindful of His covenant, the promise He gave for a **thousand generations**, that He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac, and confirmed in a decree for Jacob, for Israel, as an eternal covenant, saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your allotted heritage.” PSALMS 105:6-11*

God gave Abraham and his descendants, through Isaac, the title deed to the land of Israel, and it has never been revoked. Yet, through the centuries that followed, the

Jewish people were driven from their land and scattered among the nations of the world in what is called the *diaspora*, a term that refers to the Jewish people living outside of the land of Israel.

The Jewish people base their right to the land of Israel on at least three biblical and historical facts:

1. God promised the land to the patriarch Abraham through an irrevocable covenant recorded in the book of Genesis (*GENESIS 12:1*).
2. The Jewish people settled and developed the land as described by the prophet Jeremiah (*JEREMIAH 24:6; 42:10*)
3. The international community granted political sovereignty to the Jewish people through the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the United Nations' partition resolution of 1947, and Israel's admission to the UN in 1949.

Despite the fact that many of the Jewish people were forced into exile through the centuries by the Assyrians in 722 BC, the Babylonians in 605 BC, and the Romans in 70 AD, they always maintained a presence in their historic homeland. Even though Jews were not always in political control of the land and were not always the majority of the land's population, they have lived in Israel continuously from the time of Joshua's conquest more than 3,200 years ago until the present day.

Throughout the thousands of years of exile and anguish, Abraham's descendants never lost hope of returning home. Instead, they clung to the many promises God had given the Hebrew prophets that one day the children of Israel would be restored to Zion and reclaim their inheritance.

And as promised time and time again in Scripture, God's mighty hand began to gather the exiles back to their Promised Land,

Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name. Be mindful of the promise You gave to Your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you turn back to Me, faithfully keep My commandments, even if your dispersed are at the ends of the earth, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I have chosen to establish My name.'

NEHEMIAH 1:8-9

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted. And binds up their wounds. The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; He gathers in the exiles of Israel. He heals their broken hearts and binds up their wounds. PSALMS 147:2-3

In those days, the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.

In those days, the House of Judah shall go with the House of Israel; they shall come together from the land of the north to the land I gave your fathers as a possession. JEREMIAH 3:18

“For behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,” says the Lord. “And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.” JEREMIAH 30:3

“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ but, ‘The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. Assuredly, a time is coming – declares the Lord – when it shall no more be said, “As the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt,” but rather, “As the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the northland, and out of all the lands to which He had banished them.” For I will bring them back to their land, which I gave to their fathers.

JEREMIAH 16:14-15

Thus says the Lord God: “When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob. And

they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God.” Thus said the Lord God: When I have gathered the House of Israel from the peoples among which they have been dispersed, and have shown Myself holy through them in the sight of the nations, they shall settle on their own soil, which I gave to My servant Jacob, and they shall dwell on it in security. They shall build houses and plant vineyards and shall dwell on it in security when I have meted out punishment to all those about them who despise them. And they shall know that I the Lord am their God. EZEKIEL 28:25-26

Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.” And you shall declare to them: Thus said the Lord God: I am going to take the Israelite people from among the nations they have gone to, and gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them a single nation in the land, on the hills of Israel, and one king shall be king of them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. EZEKIEL 37:21-22

The appointed time for the rebirth of Israel had come at last.

INDEPENDENCE

After 30 years of promises from Great Britain and other world leaders, in 1947, the Jewish people finally received formal approval from the United Nations General Assembly for the restoration of an independent Jewish state in the land of Israel. According to the UN's partition plan, the Jews would receive a tiny fraction of the land originally set aside for them by previous agreements.

UN Resolution 181 was passed on November 29, 1947. Desperate Jewish leaders accepted the offer of disjointed scraps of territory in the hopes of reuniting with their covenant land. News of the UN's vote caused Jewish families to dance in the streets of Jerusalem and celebrate worldwide. Arab leaders, however rejected the partition plan, and the local Arab population immediately began six months of attacks against their Jewish neighbors. Nonetheless, preparations for statehood went forward.

Israel was not created in order to disappear - Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy, and it honors the sword of freedom.

- John F. Kennedy



UN PARTITION PLAN MAP - RESOLUTION 181



Regardless of the opposition, on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's official independence. Eleven minutes later, President Harry Truman became the first world leader to officially recognize the State of Israel. In that historic moment, God miraculously restored the land of Israel to His people, and Isaiah's ancient prophecy was fulfilled:

Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. ISAIAH 66:8 (NIV)

ISRAEL'S PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of

all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE “ROCK OF ISRAEL,” we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional council of state, on the soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath Eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 [14th May, 1948].

Signed by Ben Gurion and —other pioneers.



David Ben-Gurion signs Declaration of Independence during a ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum.

However, the celebration was short-lived. The next day, five Arab armies attacked Israel. Short on manpower and resources, and with virtually no international assistance, Israel miraculously survived and even gained ground. But independence came at a high cost. Israel lost 6,373 people in the War of Independence, nearly one percent of its entire population.

After more than a year of fighting, the Arab nations agreed to an armistice and withdrew from Israel. For the first time in nearly 2,000 years, the Jewish people could return to their God-given national home.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

BUILDING A NATION

From 1949 to 1967, Israel's population grew quickly as Jewish immigrants flooded back to their homeland from all over the world. Jews who had suffered in post-WWII refugee camps were finally allowed to leave Europe. These Holocaust survivors brought a wealth of knowledge and skills to the reborn state but very little else.

At the same time, the surrounding Arab nations were so enraged by Israel's existence that they began to harshly persecute and evict their Jewish citizens. As a result, more than 850,000 Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa were forced to flee the communities where they had lived for nearly 2,000 years. These families lost everything—their homes, their possessions, their ancestral heritage, and their religious artifacts—all was left behind.

Some refugees chose to settle in the United States or Europe, but without hesitation, Israel opened its doors to welcome all Jews from every nation to their new home. Families poured in from Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen. Their descendants are collectively known as the *Mizrahi* community, from the Hebrew word meaning “eastern.” Today over 50% of Israeli Jews trace their roots back to Mizrahi refugees.

Collectively, Israel's new immigrants were bound together by adversity and the unique experience of pioneering a barren land. United by their divine destiny, they learned to speak Hebrew, a biblical language that had been resurrected and modernized by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda during the late 19th century.

The Jewish people also formed collaborative farming communities known as *kibbutzim*, where they worked together to transform the arid land into green fields. Need became the great motivator for Israeli pioneer Simcha

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord.

- Zephaniah 3:9

Blass, who invented the world's first drip irrigation system. Blass not only transformed Israel's agricultural industry but also revolutionized how farmers all over the world irrigated their crops.

Because much of the country was a parched desert, Israel faced a severe water shortage for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Finding a way to provide a reliable source of water to all of its cities and

farms was critical—Israel had to be a water secure nation. Subsequently, the government initiated a massive project to transport water from the Sea of Galilee in the north, to the center of the country, and the southern communities in the Negev—necessity was truly the mother of invention.

Now Israel had to replenish the depleting fresh water source of the Sea of Galilee, which had sustained life for thousands of years. Today, Israel successfully pumps water from the Mediterranean Sea, removes the salt through reverse osmosis, and sends it across the country to maintain the water level of the Sea of Galilee. At present, approximately 75% of the nation's drinking water comes from the Mediterranean Sea, which is the highest per capita usage of desalinated water in the world.

Israel flourished and grew stronger through the Lord's blessings, coupled with hard work, determination, and ingenuity. Once again, God fulfilled His prophecy through the Jewish people,

*The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them,
And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose...*

ISAIAH 35:1 (NIV)

BUILDING A GOVERNMENT

To build a nation, you must build a government. And Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, did exactly that. He and his administration established a parliamentary democracy based on proportional representation, where the people vote for a party, not a candidate.

In simple terms, the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) is comprised of 120 seats, and each party is allotted a percentage of those seats based on the percentage of

votes it receives. Therefore, if a party receives 10% of the popular vote, they have 12 seats in the Knesset.

BUILDING AN ARMY

To build a nation, Ben-Gurion realized that Israel needed to build a strong army to defend itself from its enemies. He recognized that Israel's Arab neighbors would attack at every opportunity. Additionally, Russia was no longer supplying the Jewish nation with military weapons, and the U.S. had an arms embargo in place until after the Six-Day War. Israel needed armaments and soldiers, so it negotiated with countries willing to sell them arms and to increase its military, they initiated a universal draft to include women.

Today, the internationally recognized Global Fire Power (GFP) index ranks Israel's military among the top 20 in the world. This score is defined by several categories ranging from the number of military units and financial standing to logistical capabilities and geography.

BUILDING AN ECONOMY

To build a nation, Israel needed to build a strong economy. So the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish National Fund, The Jewish Agency, and Israel Bonds raised capital to aid in social programs, to build infrastructure and national parks,

to settle new immigrants, as well as funds for industrial development.

The newly formed nation sought public, governmental, and private support from the U.S. Thankfully, the U.S. provided substantial loans to Israel, creating the opportunity for economic survival and eventual growth and prosperity.

In 2021, Israel was ranked 26 of the world's major economies and 33 on the list of the wealthiest countries. Affected by the world's response to Covid, in January of 2023, Israel's inflation rate was about 5.4%, however, comparatively, the United States inflation rate was 6.4%, with the European Union rate coming in at 8.6%.

Israel's early years were riddled with turbulence. Now 75 years later, they have overcome most of their initial struggles while others have merely morphed into modern trials; nonetheless, the Jewish nation and its people continue to persevere.

Yes, the new nation established a democratic government, an effective army, and a resilient economy, and through pioneering discoveries, their desert began to *blossom like a rose*. However, peace remained elusive as Israel's Arab neighbors continued to brazenly threaten the Jewish people with annihilation.

THE SIX-DAY WAR

Increasing terrorist attacks along Israel's borders plagued the Jewish people for years. In 1967, the nation faced a potential invasion of nearly half a million Arab troops positioned along their borders. Daily, Arab leaders spoke openly of their desire to wipe Israel off the map and their plan to massacre every Jewish man, woman, and child:

The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear – to wipe Israel off the map. – *IRAQI PRESIDENT ABDEL RAHMAN AREF, MAY 31, 1967*

In April of the same year, Syria threatened Israel's water supply from the Jordan River and called on Egypt to join the attack. In May, Egyptian troops expelled UN forces stationed in the Sinai desert and closed off Israel's access to shipping routes. The United States and Israel's European allies refused to intervene and warned Israel not to initiate a war.

OUTNUMBERED

By June, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq joined Syria and Egypt and positioned themselves to invade Israel at the same time. It was clear that if Israel did nothing, the Arab armies gathering on its borders would obliterate the Jewish

ISRAEL AFTER THE SIX-DAY WAR



state. The combined Arab armies had approximately 547 thousand troops to Israel's 264 thousand, more than 2,880 tanks to Israel's 800, and 957 combat aircraft to Israel's 300.

Faced with the impending threat of annihilation, Israel was forced to invoke its right of self-defense, a basic doctrine of international law, enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. After weeks of preparing for the coming carnage, Israel launched a surprise pre-emptive air strike.

On June 5, after three weeks of rising tension, the Israeli Air Force caught the Egyptians off guard and demolished 18 different airfields eliminating roughly 90% of the Egyptian air force while it sat on the ground. Israel then expanded the range of its attack and decimated the air forces of Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. In addition, Israeli troops swiftly captured the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which under Syrian control was used as a base from which to terrorize the Israelis living down below in 1981. And in 2018 Pres. Donald Trump formally recognized the Golan Heights as being under Israel's full and legal control.

For six days, God's covenant nation would continue to fight and win inexplicable victories over their enemies.

MIRACULOUS VICTORY

The miracle of the Six-Day War not only transformed the way the world saw Israel, but the way Israelis saw themselves. No longer was the Jewish state seen as weak. Instead, just 22 years after the Holocaust, the young nation's military ability had been fully established.

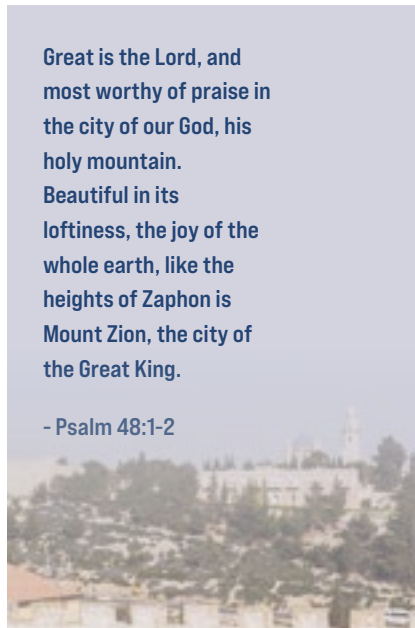
The undeniable Divine intervention, and the courage and resilience of the Jewish people created a surge of national pride which changed the fabric of Israeli society.

The whole of Jerusalem and all of Judaism's holiest sites were back under Jewish control for the first time in 2,000 years. The year 1967 also triggered a revival of Judaism. Over the past 50 years, Israel has rightly established itself as the epicenter of worldwide Torah study.

The reunification of Jerusalem and the gradual but steady economic development in Israel had a magnetizing effect, drawing the interest of Jewish people worldwide. Many moved to Israel (made aliyah), and still more became increasingly rooted in Israeli life.

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise in the city of our God, his holy mountain. Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

- Psalm 48:1-2





General Moshe Dayan walking victoriously up to the Temple Mount on June 5, 1967 at the end of the Six-Day War.

A NEW DAY

Israel's standing among the nations changed after 1967 as well. Prior to the Six-Day War, Israel was a diplomatic outcast. Despite the United Nations' support in the 1940s, Israel soon sank into political isolation.

Several third-world countries aligned with Arab interests as did the large Communist bloc, which dominated Europe, China, and parts of Latin America. The U.S. arming of Israel increased *only after* the war, but prior to it, Israel stood "alone" as they faced off the world. In the wake of the Six-

MAP OF ISRAEL - TODAY



Day War victory—Israel’s political prowess among nations transformed for the better.

However, for Israel’s enemies, it was a different story. They became even more enraged following the humiliating defeat of the Six-Day War. The Arab countries’ losses in the conflict were disastrous. Egypt’s casualties numbered more than 11,000, Jordan numbered 6,000, and Syria lost 1,000 people. The Arab armies also suffered crippling losses of weaponry and equipment. The defeat’s lopsidedness demoralized the Arab public as well as political elite.

The miraculous victory of the Six-Day War came at a steep price. Israel lost 777 soldiers and 2,586 more were wounded in the battle. The number of fatalities may seem small compared to the Arab casualties but proportionate to Israel’s total population at the time, this death toll is on par with all the U.S. casualties suffered during the eight years of the Vietnam War.

THREE NO’S

Although Israel had decisively won the Six-Day War, almost immediately they offered to give up the vast majority of its newly acquired territory in exchange for peace. On June 19, 1967, the Israeli government proposed to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and the Golan Heights to Syria. Despite the immense economic value and strategic military benefits resulting from controlling these territories, Israel

was willing to sacrifice this prized land if the Arabs would agree to acknowledge the Jewish state's right to exist.

However, the Arab leaders were in no mood to negotiate. Stung by their humiliating defeat and incensed by the mere suggestion that Jews had a right to live anywhere in the land, they immediately rejected Israel's offer of a permanent peace treaty. Instead, the leaders of eight Arab states gathered at a conference in Khartoum, Sudan, on August 29, 1967, where they pledged to continue their battle with Israel. The Khartoum Declaration was the first of many severe warnings to the Israelis that their expectation of possible peace was a "pipe dream."

The Arab League Conference of Khartoum formulated the consensus that still underlines the policies of most Arab states in conflict with Israel today. Among several Israel-related issues decided at the conference, a resolution was adopted by the Arab League that became an official position against the Jewish nation. This resolution includes the infamous "*Three No's*," which essentially slammed the door on any possible progress toward peace:

No Peace with Israel.
No Recognition of Israel.
No Negotiation with Israel.

To this day, the fundamental philosophy of the "Three No's" is a major obstacle to establishing peace between Israel and many of its Arab neighbors.

JERUSALEM

AN UNDIVIDED CAPITAL

“For three thousand years, Jerusalem has been the center of Jewish hope and longing. No other city has played such a dominant role in the history, culture, religion and consciousness of a people as has Jerusalem in the life of Jewry and Judaism. Throughout centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained alive in the hearts of Jews everywhere as the focal point of Jewish history, the symbol of ancient glory, spiritual fulfillment and modern renewal. This heart and soul of the Jewish people engenders the thought that if you want one simple word to symbolize all of Jewish history, that word would be ‘Jerusalem.’” - Teddy Kollek

The battle for Jerusalem was one of the defining moments in modern Israeli history. The Jewish people had lived continuously in the city of God from the time King David conquered Jerusalem in 1,000 B.C. and established it as the capital of the Jewish kingdom. A Jewish presence remained in Jerusalem even under foreign rule when the Romans sacked the city in 70 A.D., to the time of the British Mandate, which ended in 1947.

But then, during the 1948 war for independence, Jordan captured Jerusalem, and Israel lost the eastern half of the city. All Jews were forced out of their homes, and none were allowed to visit the Temple Mount or the Western

Wall. The holiest site in the world for Judaism was taken from them, and for more than 19 years, the Jewish people mourned their profound loss.

During the Six-Day War, Israel had no initial intention of fighting against Jordan to recapture eastern Jerusalem. However, when King Hussein ignored Israel's pleas to stay out of the war, Israeli paratroopers stormed the Old City on June 7, 1967. Four hours later, Israel had regained control of the Temple Mount, and the world witnessed IDF soldiers weep as they touched the Western Wall (Kotel) for the first time in their lives. The image of young Israeli paratroopers reverently looking up at the Western Wall of King Solomon's Temple came to symbolize national redemption.



David Rubinger's iconic image of three Israeli paratroopers looking up at the Western Wall.
PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID RUBINGER / HULTON ARCHIVE / GETTY

Brigadier General Shlomo Goren, who later became the Chief Rabbi of Israel, sounded the shofar and led his troops in prayer. There, at the hallowed Wall, Israel's soldiers jubilantly rededicated Jerusalem to the Lord and mournfully remembered the lives that were lost during the liberation of the Holy City.

IDF Commander Mordechai "Motta" Gur addressed the soldiers at this momentous event with these moving words,

"For some two thousand years the Temple Mount was forbidden to the Jews. Until you came – you, the paratroopers – and returned it to the bosom of the nation. The Western Wall, for which every heart beats, is ours once again. Many Jews have taken their lives into their hands throughout our long history, in order to reach Jerusalem and live here. Endless words of longing have expressed the deep yearning for Jerusalem that beats within the Jewish heart. You have been given the great privilege of completing the circle, of returning to the nation its capital and its holy center. Jerusalem is yours forever." JUNE 7, 1967

After years of separation, the Jewish people had access to their holiest sites once more. Under Israeli authority, Jerusalem was made safe for people of all religions to live in as well as freely worship according to their own traditions.

LAND FOR PEACE

The outcome of the Six-Day War did not only anger the Arabs, but the United Nations also viewed Israel's control of the newly acquired land with disapproval. However since the beginning of time, nations have recognized the right of the victors in war to retain control of territory rightfully won in battle.

However, the United Nations decided that this right was not valid where Israel was concerned. Consequently, on November 22, 1967, the Security Council passed Resolution 242, which established the principles to guide the negotiations for all future efforts to influence peace between Israel and the Arabs.

The Security Council's permanent members included China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union. The non-permanent member countries were Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Mali, and Nigeria—the vote was unanimous.

Jerusalem is the house of the one God, the capital of two peoples, the temple of three religions and she is the only city to exist twice—in heaven and on earth: the peerless grace of the terrestrial is as nothing to the glories of the celestial.”

- Simon Montefiore



Aside from the major points, the significance of Resolution 242 is that it was accepted by Israel and most Arab countries at the time. Its primary points include:

- The call for a “just and lasting peace in the Middle East,” implying mutual recognition.
- Israeli withdrawal “from territories occupied” during the war.
- The right of all states, including Israel, to “secure and recognized boundaries” that include “guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state.”
- “A just settlement of the refugee problem.”

In 1974, Lord Caradon, the Resolution 242 lead, stated, “It would have been wrong to demand that Israel return to its positions of 4 June 1967 because those positions were undesirable and artificial, they were just armistice lines. That’s why we didn’t demand that the Israelis return to them, and I think we were right not to.”

The resolution refers to existing states and calls for a just settlement of “the refugee problem” and does not include the words “Palestinians” or “Palestine.” As a result, Israel does not interpret the resolution as containing a reference to a Palestinian “right of return.”

Israel has consistently shown its willingness to trade land for peace; in stark contrast, Palestinian rejectionism

has consistently undermined efforts to end the conflict. The Palestinian leadership has yet to truly accept Israel's existence as a nation—they want *peace*—one *piece* of Israel's land at a time.

PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF RETURN

By definition, the Right of Return is a principle of international law that guarantees a person's right of voluntary return to, or re-entry to, their country of origin or of citizenship. However, Palestinian leaders have taken the Right of Return a giant step further. They claim that international law guarantees the Arabs that willingly left the fledgling state of Israel in 1948 *and all of their descendants*, the "*right to return*" to their former homes in Mandatory Palestine and a right to the property they left behind before the War of Independence in what is now Israel. Even during alleged peace negotiations, the Palestinian leadership continuously seeks to find a way to destroy Israel, including their own definition of the Right of Return.

Prior to Israel's War of Independence in 1948, the Jews urged Arab inhabitants to remain in the area and become part of the emerging state. However, the majority of Arabs fled and settled as refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, believing their leaders' promises that they could return after the Jews were driven into the sea.

Israel's declaration of statehood clearly called on the Palestinian Arabs to participate in building the nation and promised equal rights for all, regardless of religion or ethnicity. A promise that was fulfilled for the 150,000 Arabs at the time who remained and became Israeli citizens.

Despite billions of dollars in international aid through the United Nations Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA), the

[Israel] is not an occupying nation. As an evangelical Christian, I am convinced by my read of the Bible that for more than 3,000 years, in spite of the denial of so many, this [land] is the rightful homeland of the Jewish people."

- Mike Pompeo



number of Palestinian refugees continues to increase even today. Additionally, Arab leaders made a deliberate decision not to build permanent housing for the refugees or allow them to integrate into society, choosing instead to keep them in camps as political pawns and as symbols of Arab suffering.

The "amended interpretation" contradicts all previous definitions or historical precedents of what constitutes a person as a refugee and is also only used in the case of Palestinian refugees. Consequently,

while in 1948, there were 750,000 refugees, this figure has now morphed to enormous proportions. In 2012, there were estimated to be 4,950,000 registered patrilinear descendants of the original "Palestine refugees." Today,

more than 6 million Arabs are claiming Palestinian refugee status.

Arab leaders refuse to negotiate over their supposed “*right of return*,” making the refugee problem another tool of war against Israel. Israel’s acceptance of the Palestinian refugee definition would amount to national suicide. Such policy would end the Jewish character of the Jewish state—by sheer numbers, the world’s only Jewish state would cease to exist.

TITLE DEEDS

It is interesting to note that in addition to the God-given promise of the land to Abraham and his descendants, scripture also records the purchase of three plots of land, by Abraham, Joshua, and King David.

In Genesis 23, Abraham negotiates and buys a burial plot for his beloved wife Sarah from Ephron, the Hittite,

After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

So, the field and its cave were deeded by the Hittites to Abraham as a burial site. [GENESIS 23:20]

A century later, Jacob buys land to pitch his tent, and eventually, the embalmed body of Joseph was buried there,

And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants. [GENESIS 24:32]

In Deuteronomy 12:5, God informed the Israelites that He had chosen His dwelling place in the Promised Land long before they entered it. In due course, under God's direction, King David purchased Mount Moriah, where the first temple was built,

...So, David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 50 silver shekels, built an altar to the Lord there, and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings... [SAMUEL 24:24-25]

It is no coincidence that these three plots of land are some of the most contested in the world—Hebron, Samaria (West Bank), and the Temple Mount.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

YOM KIPPUR WAR

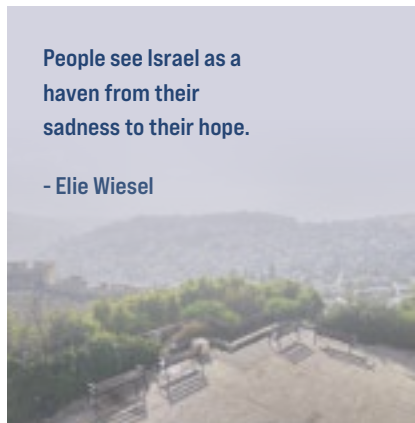
On Saturday, October 6, 1973, Israel was quietly preparing for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), the holiest day in Judaism, when suddenly, the solemn atmosphere was shattered.

Catching the Israel Defense Force (IDF) completely unaware, Egypt and Syria launched a simultaneous surprise attack against Israel on two fronts. The Egyptian onslaught came across the Suez Canal, deploying five divisions totaling 100,000 soldiers, 1,350 tanks, and 2,000 guns in addition to heavy mortars. Facing them at the time of the attack were 450 Israeli soldiers spread out in 16 forts along the length of the entire canal and only 290 tanks scattered throughout the Sinai.

Simultaneously, Syrian forces launched their offensive against Israeli positions breaking through to the Golan Heights. As Israeli generals quickly improvised battle strategies, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir asked the United States for aid. Six days after the war began, President Richard Nixon, motivated by fears of an Arab

**People see Israel as a
haven from their
sadness to their hope.**

- Elie Wiesel



victory backed by the Soviet Union, authorized a massive emergency airlift of weapons to Israel.

Though vastly outnumbered, Israel once again shocked the world by surviving the initial attacks and rallying to push the invaders back across the borders. Eighteen days after Egypt and Syria first attacked Israel, the Arab leaders agreed to a ceasefire rather than suffer further losses.

PROPAGANDA WAR

Israel won the Yom Kippur War, but 2,688 Israeli soldiers sacrificed their lives to protect the Jewish homeland. It was an agonizing price to pay. Angered and stunned by yet another miraculous Israeli victory, the Arab world realized that conventional warfare against Israel was futile. Changing their strategy, they sought to isolate Israel from sympathetic foreign governments by declaring an oil embargo against the West. The oil ban lasted from October 1973 to March 1974; however, the propaganda war worked as nations began changing their policies toward Israel.

I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have in it now. I believe it has a glorious future before it – not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization.

- Harry S. Truman

This model of economic warfare became the foundation for the

anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement around the world.

After the Yom Kippur War, foreign attitudes toward Israel grew increasingly hostile. In November 1975, the United Nations General Assembly declared that Zionism was a form of racism and labeled the Israeli government as the racially prejudiced occupier and oppressor of the Palestinian people. Resolution UNGA 3379 compared Israel to the apartheid regime in South Africa, a smear campaign that was a lasting detriment to Israel's international reputation. The UN later revoked the resolution, but the damage was done.

Although the United Nations assisted in bringing about the state of Israel in 1948, it has disproportionately targeted the Jewish nation as the sole perpetrator of human rights violations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since 2015, the General Assembly has adopted 140 resolutions criticizing Israel while, in the same period, it has passed 68 resolutions against all other countries, and has unjustifiably condemned Israel more than all nations combined.

PEACE WITH EGYPT

Israel's first peace treaty with an Arab state began with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. Sadat shocked and angered the Arab world by standing in the Knesset and declaring to the world that he sought peace between Egypt and Israel.

Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, received this pronouncement in good faith and began making difficult - and often unpopular - decisions to achieve peace with Egypt. The Carter Administration sought worldwide support for the negotiations and asked religious leaders to pray for success. Finally, in 1978, the Camp David Accords began and after a series of meetings, a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed on March 26, 1979.



Celebrating the signing of the Camp David Accords: Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The concessions Israel made for peace were painful. Menachem Begin agreed to return 91 percent of the territory it had won in the Six-Day War to Egypt and willingly gave up the strategic and economic benefits of the Sinai Peninsula. But peace with Egypt was the first step in achieving the security the Jewish people had sought for decades.

Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for their courage in participating in the Camp David Accords. Unfortunately, the Arab League rejected Sadat's actions and just two years after making peace with Israel, members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad assassinated Sadat.

A *fatwa*, which is a religious ruling authorized by an Islamic leader, sanctioned Sadat's murder. The assassination was issued by Omar Abdel-Rahman, known as "The Blind Sheikh." Abdel-Rahman was an influential figure for al-Qaeda terrorists, known for issuing fatwas that called for, plotted, and carried out several acts of terrorism. Abdel-Rahman, a rallying figure for al-Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood among other extremist groups, was arrested in 1993, tried,

In Israel, free men and women are every day demonstrating the power of courage and faith. Back in 1948 when Israel was founded, pundits claimed the new country could never survive. Today, no one questions that. Israel is a land of stability and democracy in a region of tyranny and unrest.

- Ronald Reagan



and ultimately convicted in 1995 on dozens of charges, including conspiracy in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Abdel-Rahman died in February 2017 while serving a life sentence in a U.S. prison, but the Muslim Brotherhood lives on.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

OPERATION BABYLON

For years, while the world looked the other way, Israel watched Saddam Hussein's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons with alarm. France helped Iraq build research facilities and resisted Israel's urgent warnings that Saddam Hussein intended to use nuclear weapons to perpetrate a nuclear holocaust against the Jewish nation.

America's Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger, and Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, agreed with the Israeli assessment of the Iraqi nuclear program's goal of destroying Israel, but the United States refused to act. Despite estimates that Iraq was only 5 to 10 years away from acquiring nuclear weapons, and even some reports saying that Saddam could have the bomb within a year, world leaders would not take the threat seriously.

Israel did not have the luxury of hoping for the best. Past experience had proven that when an Arab dictator declared he intended to wipe Israel off the map, it was not an empty threat. History had also proven that Israel could not rely on any of its allies, including the United States, to intervene on its behalf when it came time for war.

After Israeli intelligence confirmed Iraq would complete the bomb within a year, Prime Minister Begin ordered a covert strike on the Osirak reactor. On June 7, 1981, fourteen F-15s and F-16s flew at low altitudes over enemy


airspace and launched a surprise attack on the nuclear facility. The mission was over in less than 90 seconds.

Immediately, a firestorm of criticism erupted around the globe. The United States was furious and voted for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel for the attack.

While watching the news coverage in San Antonio, I grew extremely frustrated with the worldwide outrage over Israel's strike on the Iraqi nuclear plant. I was so upset that I decided to plan the first Night to Honor Israel. To my surprise, the local Jewish community was skeptical of my offer of support—they believed I had a hidden agenda.

A gesture of unconditional love and support had never been extended before, but thanks to the courage of a

righteous orthodox rabbi, the Jewish community agreed to the event. Despite death threats and harsh opposition from antisemites, I went forward and hosted the Night to Honor Israel with the backing of my family, our church, and my newfound friend, Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, of blessed memory.



**Without Jerusalem, the
land of Israel is as a
body without a soul.**

- Elhanan Leib Lewinsky

On the appointed night of September 10, 1981, the crowd of Christians and Jews that gathered in the Lila Cockrell Theater experienced a divine

sense of brotherhood. To demonstrate our support, the Christians in the room raised ten thousand dollars and presented the gift to Israel's Hadassah Hospital. As Rabbi Scheinberg gave the final benediction, the director of security quietly informed me that they had just received a bomb threat to the building.

Thankfully, no bomb went off that night in San Antonio—instead, a new movement exploded within our hearts. In the years after that historic night, Rabbi Scheinberg and I, along with the help of thousands of Christians and Jews in cities around the country, held hundreds of Night to Honor Israel events for over 40 years. It is my great privilege to report that through our united efforts, Christians United for Israel now hosts over 30 pro-Israel events every month throughout our great nation in churches, on college campuses, and within local communities.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

AIPAC coming to Houston – Page Seven
 Beth Yeshurun honors 'Builders' – Page Nine
 Nazi propaganda in Germany – Page Thirteen
 Jewish plane crash victims – Page Seventeen



Since 1908 – newsworthy!

Jewish Herald-Voice

Led by Rev. John C. Hagee, Pastor of the Church of Castle Hills, San Antonio

Concerned Christians join with Jewish community during an extraordinary 'Night To Honor Israel'



On Music Hall stage (from left) during "A night to honor Israel" are Rabbi Herbert Yoskowitz, Rabbi Joseph Radinsky, Cantor Irving Dean, Harriet Moser, Herman Goldberg, Mrs. John Hagee, Rev. Hagee, John Cross (back to camera), Rev. W. A. Wilkerson, Rev. Earl Banning, Moshe Gidron, and Hans Mayer.

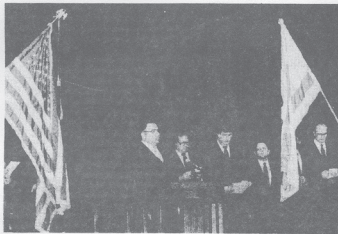
By Arnold Rosenzweig
 "We're here to introduce a new era in America – an era of unity, mutual respect, and lasting peace – an era when Jew and Christian stand hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, and announce to a hostile world that we are united in brotherhood."

That was the dramatic announcement made by the Rev. John C. Hagee of the Church of Castle Hills in San Antonio at "A night to honor Israel" on Thursday, Jan. 21, in Houston's Music Hall.

About 1,800 persons at the Music Hall could see the message – "Israel: You are not alone" – emblazoned on the Music Hall's stage. The frequent proclamations of brotherhood were repeatedly followed by shouts of "Amen."

During the evening of interreligious good will and harmony, Barbara Shuberg, president of the Houston chapter of Hadassah, received an \$8,000 offering for the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Pastor Hagee, the dynamic



Standing during the singing of the national anthems of the United States and Israel are (from left) Cantor Irving Dean, Rev. W. A. Wilkerson, Rev. Earl Banning, Moshe Gidron, Hans Mayer (behind the flag), and Harold Goldstein.

force behind "A night to honor Israel", spoke on "Our love for Israel". In his address, he declared:

"There are thousands of Chris-

tians in America who are prepared to actively support Israel and to show that Israel is not alone. If democracy does not work for all, it works for no one.

"We're here tonight to say it is time for the Jewish people to hear the voices of their friends loud and clear. It is time for us to speak up for Israel and to stand

up for Israel. Let our courage and conviction replace cowardice and complacency."

During his address, Pastor Hagee also paid tribute to his former athletic coach, Herman Goldberg, who was on the stage with other dignitaries there.

Expressing his "personal love and appreciation to the Jewish community for their contributions" to his life, Pastor Hagee asserted that Goldberg's "moral character, impeccable ethics, his competitive spirit, standard of excellence in athletics and academics molded the lives of everyone who played for him."

He's the only man on earth, Pastor Hagee said, "who took a paddle and gave me a swat for not wearing a hat on the basketball court in the winter".

Goldberg's objective, the minister said, was: "You keep this end warm – or I'll warm the other end." This was coach Goldberg's version of "Heads you win, tails you lose," Pastor Hagee added,

(Continued on Page Ten)

Our first Night to Honor Israel in Houston, Texas on January 21, 1982.

FIRST LEBANON WAR OPERATION PEACE FOR GALILEE

Lebanon has long been a safe harbor for terrorist groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hezbollah.

The PLO was created in 1964 during the Arab League Summit in Cairo, Egypt with the alleged purpose of the “liberation of Palestine.” In reality, its main objective was the destruction of Israel through acts of terror.

True to their mission, in 1978, PLO terrorists penetrated the northern border of Israel with Lebanon and murdered 39 innocent victims, 13 of whom were children. After this attack and others like them, Israeli forces crossed into southern Lebanon pushing the terrorists back from the border but to no avail—the terror war continued.

Even after the United States helped broker a ceasefire agreement in 1981, the PLO repeatedly violated the truce, continuing to build their forces and increase their arsenal while killing Israelis along the way.


During the 11-month “ceasefire,” Israel suffered 270 PLO terror attacks that killed another 29 Israelis and injured more than 300. By June 1982, Israel could no longer tolerate the relentless assaults and as a result, the IDF

moved into Lebanon to drive out the Palestinian terrorists through “Operation Peace for Galilee.”

Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan, defended the Israeli operation, saying, “No sovereign state can tolerate indefinitely the buildup along its borders of a military force dedicated to its destruction and implementing its objectives by periodic shelling and raids.”

The war in Lebanon was fought on two fronts—on the ground and in the media. Despite a series of attempted ceasefires by the Israelis, the PLO orchestrated incitements that generated required responses from the IDF. Unfortunately, the world press chose to accept the PLO’s propaganda and blamed Israel—rather than the instigators—for the violence.

In addition, for the first time since Israel’s rebirth as a nation, there was an intense internal debate over the war. As a result, the IDF pulled most of its troops out of Lebanon by 1985. Israeli civilians continued to suffer terror attacks along the Lebanese border after the withdrawal and in the following 14 years, nine Israeli civilians were needlessly murdered and 248 more were wounded by radical extremists.



**The better and stronger
we make Israel, the
safer we make the
world.**

- Nikki Haley

In May of 2000, Israel fulfilled its obligations under the Security Council Resolution 425, which called upon Israel to immediately cease its military action and withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory. Israel may have temporarily succeeded in the ground war against the PLO terrorists, but they did not win the propaganda war and once again paid a heavy price with the loss of 1,216 lives.

While the clashes between Israel and the PLO were happening in the early '80s, Hezbollah (*the party of god*) gained strength and took root in southern Lebanon with the financial and military backing of Iran. Hezbollah later published an "open letter" identifying the United States as one of Islam's principal enemies and calling for the "obliteration" of Israel.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

OPERATION MOSES

In 1950, shortly after Israel's rebirth, the Knesset passed an extraordinary law that essentially defined the nation's fundamental purpose: The *Law of Return* established that "Every Jew has the right to immigrate to this country..." signaling to the world that Israel's 2,000 years of wandering was officially over.

A Jewish community, believed to be the descendants of King Solomon and Queen Sheba, was established in Ethiopia sometime after the destruction of the first temple around 587 BCE. In 1975, Israel's Chief Rabbinate recognized the Ethiopian Jewish community's status as Jews (Falashas) giving them the right to immigrate to Israel under Israel's Law of Return.

For centuries, these displaced Jews had been faithful to the Torah and Jewish customs handed down to them by their ancestors. After Israel became a state, they desperately wanted to join their Jewish brothers and sisters in the Promised Land.

There was one major obstacle: Ethiopia forbade the Jews to leave. Unwilling to accept the government's decision, thousands of Ethiopian Jews, endangered by the Ethiopian Civil War and widespread famine, secretly traveled to the Sudanese border to await their transport to Israel.

The journey was grueling, and nearly one-third of the Ethiopian Jews perished along the way and once arriving in Sudan, they were placed in refugee camps, where they encountered antisemitic persecution. After learning that thousands of fellow Jews were dying while trying to reach their spiritual homeland, Israel initiated a rescue mission called Operation Moses.

On November 21, 1984, the Israeli Mossad collaborated with the CIA and the Sudanese State Security to covertly smuggle nearly 8,000 Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan. In the next seven weeks, cargo planes made more than 30 secret flights to extract the immigrants while Israel clandestinely paid Sudanese officials to look the other way.

Operation Moses gave thousands of Ethiopian Jews the hope of a new life fulfilling 3,000 years of longing to be reunited with their beloved Israel. Today, 75 years after Israel's rebirth, and after several rescue operations, there are over 160,500 Ethiopian Jews living and thriving in their Jewish homeland, fulfilling the words of the Lord through the prophet Zechariah,

Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east And from the land of the west; I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.' (ZECHARIAH 8:7-8)

In May 1991, Israel initiated another covert military operation to airlift a second wave of Falashas (Ethiopian

Jews] to Israel. Operation Solomon, the largest ever individual aliyah mission undertaken from any country in the world, consisted of 35 Israeli aircrafts which transported 14,300 Falashas to Israel in just 36 hours. Eight children were born during the airlift symbolizing the beginning of new life in their beloved biblical homeland.



Over 1000 refugees in one Israeli aircraft heading to the Promised Land.

FIRST PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

In December 1987, a four-year period of terrorism broke out in Israel termed an *intifada*, Arabic for “violent uprising.” What was reported in the world press as spontaneous mob violence was soon exposed to have been purposely orchestrated and encouraged by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, led by Yasser Arafat.

Under his direction, orchestrated lies were spread in Gaza that Israel had killed four Palestinians in retaliation for the stabbing death of an Israeli. Throughout this violent uprising, leaflets were distributed dictating the targets and when and where the attacks would take place. Amidst the escalated chaos, infighting began between the PLO leadership and Hamas, the fundamentalist Islamic organization. This internal struggle was termed, the *“Intrafada.”*

Huge riots broke out among the Palestinians, and each additional death added fuel to the fire. Arabs were viciously executed for political reasons by Palestinian death squads, and soon these fatalities exceeded the number killed in clashes with Israeli troops.

“As a Jew I am aware of how important the existence of Israel is for the survival of us all. And because I am proud of being Jewish, I am worried by the growing anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the world.”

- Steven Spielberg



Many of the Palestinian victims were targeted by fellow Palestinians based on accusations of collaborating with Israel. The murder among their own people grew so out of control that the PLO began to try to put out the fire it ignited and fueled.

In the eyes of the international community, as in times past, Israel deserved all the blame and was harshly condemned for the required force it used in an attempt to quell the terrorism.

Enemy propaganda continued to circulate that Israel was murdering Palestinians, triggering an investigation by the United Nations. The inquiry determined the stories were false, but the damage was done and for the next four years the *intifada* expanded.

The IDF reported thousands of terrorist attacks targeting both Israeli soldiers and civilians. Casualties only mounted as six Israeli civilians and 11 IDF soldiers were killed, while more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and 1,700 Israeli soldiers were wounded.

As the *intifada* continued, Arafat lost control of his people, empowering Hamas even further. Backed by the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, a violently anti-Semitic group, employed an even more extreme ideology than the PLO. Instead of being a secular nationalist movement, Hamas created an Islamist society of religious radicals for the purpose of engaging in a holy war against the Jews.

Once again, the Jewish people were the targets and the Palestinian people were the pawns. Eventually, the internal reign of terror between radical Arab rivals claimed the lives of nearly 1,000 Palestinians. Prior to the *intifada*, Jordan had been the only Arab state willing to grant citizenship to the Palestinian people. This position changed after the violent uprising, resulting in over one million Palestinian Arabs losing their Jordanian citizenship.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

OSLO ACCORDS

Israel's previous success in trading land for peace with Egypt led them to believe they could accomplish the same with the Palestinians. In 1988, Yasser Arafat announced a plan for a two-state solution, and by 1993 Israel began secret negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders worked on a plan to divide the West Bank, known to Jews and Christians by its biblical name of Judea and Samaria. The name "West Bank," first used by Jordan, is the landlocked territory on the west bank of the Jordan River with the Kingdom of Jordan on the east bank of the same river.

In the years since 1967, Jewish pioneers had built thriving towns in Judea and Samaria and Israel's leaders wanted

most of this land to become a recognized part of the nation in any final peace agreement. Under this plan, the united city of Jerusalem would also remain within the boundaries of Israel. After eight months of peace talks, Israel and the Palestinian leadership reached an agreement.

The security of Israel is a moral imperative for all free peoples.

- Henry Kissinger



The Oslo Accord, signed in September 1993 by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was an agreement based on a set of principles for further negotiations. Among the conditions, the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism while Israel agreed to recognize the PLO as the leader of the Palestinian government. Under these terms, they pledged to continue seeking a solution to the conflict.



U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the signing ceremony for the Oslo Accord, September 13, 1993.

The success of the accords encouraged Jordan to negotiate its own separate peace treaty with Israel. As a result, a cooperative relationship was formed between Jordan and Israel in October 1994.

A second round of talks between Israel and the Palestinians, known as Oslo II, took place in 1995. The two parties agreed to a temporary system of government

for the Palestinian Authority that still gave Israel security control over strategic areas. The agreement was supposed to expire in 1999, but the peace process stalled, and the temporary arrangement has hung in limbo since.

Although Yasser Arafat assured Israel and the United States that he had renounced violence and recognized Israel's right to peacefully exist, he relayed to his Arab audiences that the negotiations were just a mechanism to buy time and gain a better position from which to launch future attacks against the Jewish state.

During the period after the Oslo Accords, between September 1993 and September 2000, nearly 300 Israelis were killed by terrorists. Any trust gained between Israel and the Palestinians during the Accord negotiations deteriorated and peace remained elusive once again.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

ISRAEL IN THE 1990s

Despite decades of wars and terror attacks, by the 1990s Israel had become a global powerhouse of innovation. As a tiny nation dependent on making the most out of every resource, Israel, by necessity, developed a philosophy of collaborative creativity.

Israel's government amended its economic policies in the 1980s providing funding and incentives for startup companies and inventors. The government investment in the private sector led to a boom in high-tech growth. By providing venture capital for inventors and allowing private individuals the freedom to manage their work unhindered, Israel unleashed a powerful growth engine.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Israel experienced a huge wave of immigration as Russian Jews fled the former U.S.S.R. The Israeli government invested in programs to provide newly settled engineers and scientists with the resources they needed to become entrepreneurs in Israel.

“In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology.”

- Shimon Peres



These programs eventually expanded to include Israelis of all backgrounds causing the nation's high-tech industry to produce several inventions that positively impacted the world.

Classic examples include a group of three young computer programmers who created the world's first commercial firewall software in 1993. Their virus protection technology soon grew into one of the world's leading cyber security companies. Another invention that came out of Israel in 1998, the PillCam, revolutionized the way doctors diagnosed patients. Considered common today, this ingestible camera provides doctors with a clear video recording of the intestinal tract.

Because Israel was compelled to develop its own infrastructure so quickly, it was and is uniquely equipped to aid developing countries with agriculture, water management, education, medicine, and other areas critical to survival and growth. As Israel's economy grew, the Jewish state began looking for ways to reach out to the rest of the world with humanitarian aid through the Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV).

In 1994, Israel provided medical aid for Rwandan refugees. Since 1995, Israeli doctors, through Save a Child's Heart, have provided free life-saving heart operations to over 6,000 children from around the world. Half of these

patients are from the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Jordan, and other Arab nations.

In 1998, Israel gave medical aid to flood victims in Central America, and in 1999, Israel aided Turkish earthquake victims. In 2008, Israel provided food aid to the Congo. A year later, Israeli medical teams provided relief to storm victims in the Philippines. Israel's 200-strong relief team was the first on the scene in January 2010 after the earthquake hit Haiti, helping save thousands of lives.

Recently, IDF Home Front Command dispatched a 150-person search-and-rescue team to Turkey after they experienced a devastating earthquake that killed thousands in southeastern Turkey and neighboring Syria earlier this year.

Israel has also provided humanitarian support to Ukraine after Russia's invasion to include establishing a field hospital. The Jewish state has also provided a safe haven for thousands of Ukrainian Jews who have fled their war-torn nation.

Israel values all human life and assists those in need, regardless of their ethnicity, religious beliefs, or geographical location. No matter the disaster, time and time again the Jewish nation's humanitarian missions are carried out quickly, effectively and with compassion, saving thousands of lives. Over the last several years, the IDF has sent 31 humanitarian missions around the world.



Israel's "Olive Branches" Humanitarian Aid Delegation after the earthquake in Turkey in February 2023.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

2000 CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

Having successfully brokered the Oslo Accords, U.S. President Bill Clinton was eager to try again for an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement before the end of his last term in office. Accordingly, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accepted Clinton's invitation to a summit at Camp David in July 2000.

Barak offered Arafat 91% of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and 100% of the Gaza Strip for a Palestinian state. The Prime Minister even offered the Palestinians sovereignty over the Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, a plan that would divide the very heart of Israel and cause great emotional pain to the Jewish people.

Arafat refused the extraordinary offer and gave no counter-terms. The two-week summit ended without a deal.

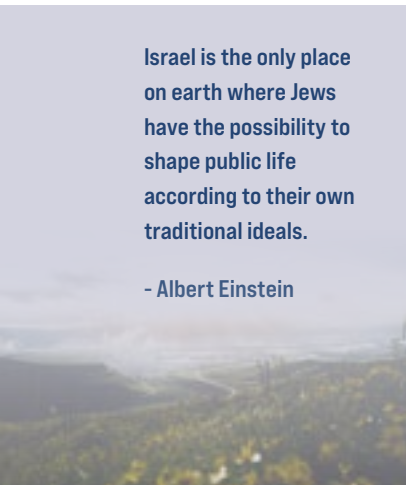
No peace with Israel.
No recognition of Israel.
No negotiation with Israel.

SECOND PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

After the 1967 war, Israel immediately granted control of the Temple Mount to the Muslim religious authorities in Jordan. This gesture was extended to avoid a religious war over access to the two Islamic holy sites on the Temple Mount: the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Israel also restricted Jewish access to the Temple Mount and for over 55 years, Jews have been forbidden to pray at one of the holiest site in Judaism.

Israel is the only place on earth where Jews have the possibility to shape public life according to their own traditional ideals.

- Albert Einstein



In September 2000, Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem after receiving permission from the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Organization, who promised, “If Mr. Sharon refrains from entering the mosques on Temple Mount, there will not be any problem.”

However, even with official Palestinian consent, Sharon's visit was used as a pretext by the Palestinian Authority to spark violent riots among their people. Actually, Yasser Arafat instigated the riots and planned this second *intifada* in advance. In fact, there were reports that the violence had begun before Sharon entered the Temple Mount.

In November, the U.S. sent a committee to Israel to investigate the root of the violent uprising, and in April 2001, the Mitchell Report officially concluded that the Second Intifada was not caused by Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount.

The Second Intifada was a significant event in Israel's history, similar to the War of Independence, the Six-Day War, and the Yom Kippur War. This violent Arab uprising was more deadly than the first due to the radical increase in suicide bombings. No one was safe. Over 1,000 Israelis were murdered through various acts of terror, compelling Israel to build a security barrier in 2002 through Jerusalem and parts of Judea and Samaria, to protect innocent civilians from sniper fire and suicide bombers.

In spite of the security barrier's obvious necessity, pro-Palestinian propagandists managed to convince many in the media and the international community that the fence was a burden to ordinary Palestinians. Anti-Israel activists oversimplified the issue and labeled the life-saving security barrier an "apartheid wall," a fabrication that still exists today.

The United States tried to broker a peace agreement that would stop

Our society is illuminated by the spiritual insights of the Hebrew prophets. America and Israel have a common love of human freedom, and they have a common faith in a democratic way of life.

- Lyndon B. Johnson



the unrelenting terror. At the beginning of the Second Intifada, Prime Minister Ehud Barak accepted a proposal from President Clinton in December 2000, that was even more generous to the Palestinians than what had been offered at Camp David five months earlier. Once again, Arafat said no.

No peace with Israel.

No recognition of Israel.

Nor negotiations with Israel.

After Arafat's refusal to make peace, the United States, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations formed a mediating body called the "Quartet." In 2002, without appropriately consulting Israel, the Quartet created the "Road Map to Peace" and laid out a process based on the land for peace scheme. Over the years, it has become unclear what work the Quartet actually does and whether it has relevance to what is taking place in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The Road Map to Peace failed but Israel's security fence succeeded. In 2002, there were 47 suicide bombings, and by 2006, this number dramatically dropped to three. From September 2000 until the end of 2006, more than 3,000 terrorist attacks originated in the West Bank, resulting in the deaths of 1,622 people. By comparison, since 2007, when most of the fence was erected, until mid-2022, there have been 141 terrorist attacks killing a total of 100 people.

WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA

Since its rebirth as a modern nation, Israel has held true to the fundamental goal to live in harmony with its Arab neighbors. Establishing peace is not only part of the foundation of Jewish tradition—it is also a “declared policy of the State of Israel” and this quest has come at a great price.

In an attempt to ease tensions with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon initiated a Disengagement Plan in 2005 which called for Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern Samaria. The plan’s dual purpose was to increase Israel’s security and create yet another opportunity for peace with the Palestinians.

Sharon believed that in order for this peace proposal to succeed it required the great sacrifice of the over 9,000 people that lived in 25 settlements. After many years of sacrifice and extensive labor to establish a good and prosperous life, brave pioneer families had to abandon their homes and livelihoods at the mandate of the Israeli government—it was heartbreaking.

Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Ayalon called the Disengagement Plan “a test case for peace.”



Soldiers remove holy books from the synagogue in the Israeli community Kfar Darom. The evacuation of Kfar Darom was part of the Gaza Disengagement, which occurred during the summer of 2005.

Israel's sacrificial gesture of goodwill and faith in the peace process was met with the immediate takeover of Gaza by Hamas. This radical terrorist group had no interest in a peace agreement and used their new political power and strategic position on Israel's border to begin launching daily rocket attacks into Israeli cities.

The unprovoked attacks soured many Israelis on the idea of exchanging land for peace and Hamas's unfettered domination of the Strip has haunted Israelis and Gazans ever since. Hamas' unrelenting pursuit of evil has led to tremendous suffering on both sides of the border. To this day, Hamas terrorists use their own people as human shields and divert humanitarian resources away from the Gazan people to buy weapons, build bunkers, and dig tunnels for their continued and escalated war with Israel.

Hamas currently controls the Gaza Strip since their violent overthrow of Fatah in the territory in 2007. They continue to oppress their citizens, denying them fundamental freedoms and arresting and torturing any who dare criticize their regime. Hamas stockpiles a rocket arsenal and periodically launches volleys of rockets at Israeli civilians.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a smaller Iranian-supported terror organization in the Gaza Strip, maintains a rocket arsenal as well as a tense relationship with the ruling Hamas. Both groups are pledged to Israel's destruction

So far, in 2023, 60 Palestinians are reported to have been killed, and 18 Israelis and one Italian have been murdered in terror attacks. Almost all of the Israelis killed are civilians, the youngest being just six years old. Most Palestinian casualties reported have been members of terror organizations and were killed in raids against terror groups or in preventing terror attacks.

Needless to say, the Palestinians failed the “test case for peace.”

SECOND LEBANON WAR THE ISRAEL HEZBOLLAH WAR

The Second Lebanon War was a 34-day military conflict in Lebanon, Northern Israel and the Golan Heights. On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah terrorists crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border and ambushed an IDF patrol, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two others.

The United States and Israel have enjoyed a friendship built on mutual respect and commitment to democratic principles. Our continuing search for peace in the Middle East begins with a recognition that the ties uniting our two countries can never be broken.

- George W. Bush

In the ensuing conflict, Israel bombed known Hezbollah strongholds while radical Islamists launched rockets at Israel's northern population centers. For nearly five weeks, Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets per day into Israel, and consequently, Israeli families were forced to sleep in their bomb shelters.

To make the war worse, the IDF faced an enemy that purposely hid among the civilian population in Lebanon. The terrorists stored their weapons in private homes and fired their rockets from neighborhoods filled with women and children.



Knowing that Israel values all human life, Hezbollah used the Arab people as human shields, making this barbaric tactic their heinous signature.

Israel was under intense international pressure and criticism for the unavoidable civilian deaths. By divine arrangement, Christians United for Israel was formed in February of that year. In just four months, CUFI mobilized over 3,600 CUFI members who descended on Washington, D.C. for our first national Summit. At the exact time the war broke out, CUFI members from every state in the union met with members of Congress and urged them to support Israel against the tidal wave of international condemnation. It was a time when Israel desperately needed friends, and by the grace of God, we were prepared to speak out during their hour of need.

We stand with Israel for the same reasons America has always stood with Israel: her cause is our cause, her values are our values, her fight is our fight. We stand with Israel because we cherish that ancient promise, that those who bless her will be blessed.

- Mike Pence



The war ended with a ceasefire on August 11, 2006. Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon without destroying Hezbollah, but the IDF was able to severely cripple their operations. Two years later, Hezbollah released the bodies of Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, the two kidnapped IDF soldiers captured at the start of the

war in a prisoner exchange for five known terrorists. One terrorist was Samir Kuntar who was previously convicted of viciously murdering four Israelis, including a father and his four-year-old daughter.

After his release, Kuntar received Syria's highest medal bestowed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Israel laid to rest the remains of its fallen soldiers. Kuntar assumed a senior operational role in "building up Hezbollah's terrorist infrastructure in the Golan Heights" and with the assistance of Iran and Syria, he helped organized terror cells charged with carrying out attacks against Israel. On December 19, 2015, on the outskirts of Damascus, Kuntar was killed by an explosion in the midst of the Syrian Civil War.

The Second Lebanon War took the lives of 164 Israelis.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

OPERATION CAST LEAD

After three years of sustained rocket fire from Gaza, Israel's people could take no more, and as a result, the IDF entered Gaza on December 27, 2008.

Hindered by Gaza's dense population and the fact that Hamas terrorists hid among the civilians, the IDF faced a huge challenge. Hamas launched many of its rockets from schools, hospitals, and buildings owned by the United Nations. When Israel retaliated, the international media focused its reports on Israel bombing schools instead of blaming the terrorists for using human shields—once again, the propaganda war fixated itself on vilifying the Jewish people.

To save as many innocent lives as possible, Israel voluntarily gave up the strategic advantage of surprise. The IDF sent voicemail messages and fliers in Arabic to thousands of Gazan residents before executing an airstrike. This course of action gave civilians time to evacuate, however, it also warned the terrorists, giving them time to escape. During the operation, Israel lost nine soldiers.

On the other hand, a new day had dawned for the pro-Israel movement. During the three weeks of fighting, CUFI staff and lay leadership organized multiple events around the country to draw attention to Israel's extraordinary

efforts to save innocent lives. While Israel was getting hammered in the media, Christians United for Israel was able to rally support in American communities and college campuses.

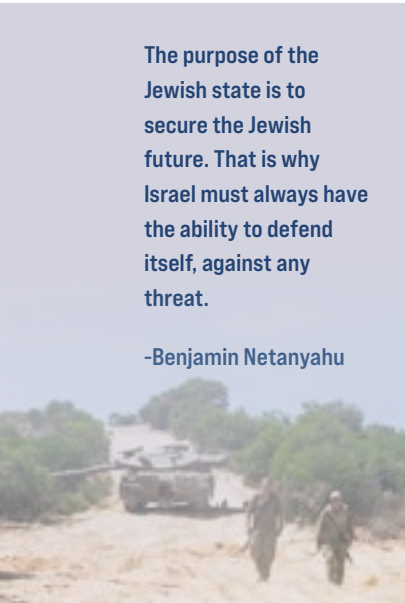
Twenty-two days after beginning Operation Cast Lead, the Israeli security cabinet decided to end the war. Following the ceasefire, the Chief of the General Staff declared that “The objectives set at the beginning of the operation have been achieved in their entirety. The infrastructure and structure of Hamas have been hard hit, and these new conditions significantly change the security situation in the southern region of Israel.”

THE GOLDSTONE REPORT

The purpose of the Jewish state is to secure the Jewish future. That is why Israel must always have the ability to defend itself, against any threat.

-Benjamin Netanyahu

On September 15, 2009, a fact-finding mission was established by the United Nations to investigate Israel’s alleged “war crimes” during Operation Cast Lead. Spearheaded by South African, Judge Richard Goldstone, the findings presented a biased and highly problematic legal analysis of Israeli conduct before and during the operation. The central and most explosive assertion of the Goldstone Report



was that Israel intentionally killed Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

However, in April of 2011, Judge Goldstone published a column in the Washington Post titled, “Re-examining the Goldstone Report on Israel and War Crimes,” where he retracted the key positions expressed in the report. The article presented a new appreciation of IDF activities during the Gaza operation. Goldstone questioned the validity of the initial report and condemned Hamas’ flagrant disregard for the Law of Armed Conflict as it continued to target civilians indiscriminately in its rocket and mortar fire.

Goldstone unequivocally stated that the *fact-finding mission* did not have the relevant information needed to draw any well-founded conclusions. Goldstone also wrote, “Israel, like any other sovereign nation, has the right and obligation to defend itself and its citizens against attacks from abroad and within.”

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

ISRAEL IN THE 2000s

Fueled by the startup boom in previous years, Israel's high-tech industry took off in the first decade of the new century. The successful entrepreneurs of the 1990s became venture capitalists who invested in the next generation of promising ideas. Foreign investment in Israeli startups also increased as industry leaders around the world recognized the value of Israel's scientific, medical, and hi-tech advancements.

Flash drive technology was invented in Israel, and after its release in 2000 this new data storage system was quickly adopted by every nation in the world. One of the most popular navigation smartphone apps, Waze, was developed in Israel in 2008. Millions of people in major cities all around the world now use this app to track the flow of traffic and find the best route to their destination. Google, which has operated a research and development (R&D) center in Israel since the mid-2000s, purchased Waze and helped jump-start global interest in Israeli startup companies.

Google's partnership with Israel has been profitable. Its R&D center in Tel Aviv created Google's "autocomplete" search engine feature. Another tech giant, Microsoft, also operates centers in Haifa and Herzliya. Israeli computer scientists developed Microsoft's motion-sensing cameras and facial-recognition software.

The so-called “original instant messenger” was a free-to-download app developed by an Israeli Internet company. After determining a need for a universal communication system, ICQ, (I Seek You), allowed Windows users to send each other messages in real-time. This convenient and centralized system quickly and positively impacted a global audience.

Another Israeli invention, Watergen, is producing clean drinking water out of thin air using nothing more than a portable generator. BioBee, who headquarters in a kibbutz in northern Israel’s Beit Shean Valley, is a multinational company that focuses on biological pest control. BioBee reduces the use of pesticides in agriculture, using the natural power of insects to make crops safer to eat and their habitat a more secure place to be.

Israel’s integrative medical and technological advancements are equally miraculous. The Jewish people are literally inventing ways to help paraplegics walk, give sight to the blind, create water out of thin air, and cure the worst diseases known to mankind. From discovering a compound that disables cancer cells, to creating an

Over the past seven decades, the Israeli people have built a country where Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and people of all faiths are free to live and worship according to their conscience and according to their beliefs.

- Donald J. Trump



artificial cornea, and developing the world's first bone implant—Israel is at the forefront of major medical breakthroughs.

Among the many inventions is NaNose, a breathalyzer that can detect the symptomatic odor caused by some cancerous tumors, Parkinson's dementia, multiple sclerosis, and many more diseases. The SniffPhone aims to further simplify this diagnostic process by making the technology accessible via a plug-in that can be attached to smartphones.

Paralyzed from the waist down, Dr. Amit Goffer developed a way for paraplegics to stand upright, walk, and even climb stairs. ReWalk by Argo Medical Technologies is an “exoskeleton-esque” robot that is powered by a backpack battery and receives movement signals from a wristwatch. This Israeli invention is one of the greatest in the field of science.

Millions of people owe their lives to the flexible heart stent—a tube-shaped device used to open up arteries in the treatment of coronary heart disease and blockages, preventing the need for open-heart surgery.

Israel has also played a vital role in humanitarian aid in the 2000s for natural disasters. In 2001, an earthquake measuring 7.7 hit Gujarat, India killing approximately 20,000 people, injuring 167,000, and leaving 600,000 people homeless. The search and rescue soldiers of the IDF were there, creating a 100-bed field hospital that treated

1,300 of the injured, performed 52 surgeries, and delivered 12 babies.

In 2004, a truck drove into the lobby of the Taba Hilton in Egypt, exploding and killing 31 people and wounding 159 more. The IDF Medical Corps and Search and Rescue teams worked for three straight days helping treat as many victims as possible. The same year Sri Lanka was hit by a major earthquake and tsunami, creating deadly flooding and destroying large areas in Southeast Asia. Israel was one of the first three countries to send a team of medical and logistical personnel to assist in the recovery efforts, bringing with them 60 tons of emergency supplies.

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, Israel's first responders brought 80 tons of critically needed goods and equipment donated by Israeli companies. A year later, a five-story building collapsed in Nairobi, Kenya and Israel sent a team to assist with the rescue efforts. Three days after a massive earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in January 2010, the swiftest and most critical medical response came from Israel as the IDF established a fully functional field hospital in the devastated city.

From 2010 to 2021, Israel has aided numerous nations that have suffered catastrophic disasters. Among them are, Colombia, Japan, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ghana, the Philippines, Nepal, Syria, Mexico, Brazil, Albania, Honduras, Guinea, and the United States.

On June 24, 2021, a 40-year-old building collapsed in Miami killing ninety-eight people. Members of the “Helping Hand” delegation of the IDF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assisted in the search and rescue efforts for missing persons in the rubble of the collapsed building.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, at 4:17 in the morning, Turkey and Syria were hit by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, resulting in over 57,000 casualties. The IDF responded by deploying the “Olive Branches” Humanitarian Aid Delegation. They established a field hospital where over 140 Israeli doctors and nurses, provided medical treatment to 470 patients. By the end of their mission, the search and rescue team extracted 19 survivors from the rubble, one was a two-year-old baby, and another was a 65-year-old man.

Whether the world admits it or not, we have Israel to thank for making our lives safer and stronger.

MADE IN ISRAEL

When Israel was reborn 75 years ago, it was a barren country with no natural resources, little water, and more than half of its land was arid desert. The only thing Israel had going for it were the Lord’s blessings and the innate creativity of its people.

More than seven decades later, Israelis have turned their country into an oasis of technology and innovation. With

the most startups per capita worldwide, and the third highest number of patents per head, the Jewish nation has become one of the leading contributors in the world of high-tech innovation. The following are a few of the many Israeli innovations that are transforming and enriching lives across the globe.

1. **PillCam:** Founded by Dr. Gavriel Meron and developed by Given Imaging in Yokneam, Israel's Startup Village. The pill revolutionized the world of gastrointestinal imaging and diagnosis by developing a miniature camera within a pill.
2. **ExAblate:** Developed by InSightec in Haifa, is a magnetic resonance-guided focused ultrasound surgery system that thermally ablates, or destroys, tumors inside the body.
3. **Copaxone** (glatiramer acetate): Developed by a doctor at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is the world's top-selling treatment for multiple sclerosis.
4. **Sambucol:** An elderberry extract formulated by Israeli virologist Dr. Madeleine Mumcuoglu, is the first line of defense against human, swine, and avian influenza strains.
5. **ReWalk Exoskeleton:** Invented by Israeli quadriplegic Dr. Amit Goffer and developed by Yokneam-based Argo Medical Technologies, is

a device that includes leg braces with motorized joints and a backpack battery system, enabling paraplegics to walk and climb stairs without assistance for up to 12 hours a day.

6. **WatchPAT 200:** Developed by Itamar Medical, based in Herzliya, is a miniature sleep lab worn on the wrist and one finger to diagnose and identify the source of sleep problems in the privacy of your home.
7. **EndoPAT:** Another creation of Itamar Medical, is a heart-smart device, which has received a seal of approval from the Mayo Clinic, uses a fingertip test to measure cardiac health, and can even predict whether the patient will suffer a heart attack in the next seven years.
8. **Brainsway:** Based in Jerusalem, this is a painless, non-invasive deep electromagnetic stimulation device for the brain that can ease addiction, depression, autism, and a range of other brain disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.
9. **Powermat:** The Jerusalem-based company allows you to embed a power grid in about anything – a desk, a kitchen counter, airport seats or the inside of a car by positioning electronic devices on a power hotspot.

10. **Babysense:** Developed by Israeli company HiSense. This device is a no-touch, no-radiation apparatus designed to prevent crib death by monitoring a baby's breathing and movements through the mattress during sleep.
11. **Deep Breeze:** The Akiva-based company has developed an innovative medical device that will allow COPD patients to be monitored remotely from home. It can also image, diagnose and monitor patients suffering from asthma, congestive heart failure and other conditions affecting the lungs.
12. **The Emergency Bandage:** Designed by an Israeli military medic, Bernard Bar-Natan. It can be applied with one hand and is used to stop bleeding from hemorrhaging wounds caused by traumatic injuries in the field. First used for saving lives during a NATO peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and is now used by the armies and special forces of the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries.
13. **Superbug Detective Kit:** Invented by 91-year-old Hebrew University professor, Prof. Nathan Citri. This simple diagnosis kit for antibiotic-resistant superbugs can identify the type of bug in minutes rather than the current five days.



14. **Drip Irrigation:** Developed by Israeli engineer Simcha Blass, who noticed a tree that was fed by a leaking water pipe grew larger than the neighboring trees in the Israeli desert. Today, Netafim is recognized as the worldwide pioneer in smart-drip and micro-irrigation, revolutionizing the agricultural industry worldwide.
15. **Playstation3:** The idea for the powerful chip came from Sony-Toshiba-IBM and was turned into an actual product through the collective efforts of thirty researchers working in Israel. IBM Haifa Circuit technology engineers at the IBM Haifa Development Lab played an integral role in developing the cell broadband engine chip controller that powers the Sony Playstation3.
16. **Disk-on-Key:** Developed by M-Systems, a company founded by three Israelis. The data

storage device has become as universal worldwide as the paper clip.

17. **ViaDerm:** Based in Lod and developed by TransPharma Medical, is a drug delivery system that uses a no-fail, painless battery-operated applicator loaded with pre-measured drug patches, allowing the medication to diffuse through the skin and into the bloodstream. ViaDerm was developed for patients who must take daily injections for conditions such as diabetes and osteoporosis.
18. **Windows NT and XP Operating Systems:** Microsoft's two most popular operating systems, were primarily developed in Israel.
19. **Magshoe:** Developed by IDO Security, this scanning device screens the lower body and feet with a simple step-on device that takes just seconds, maximizing security lines.
20. **Checkpoint Software Technologies:** Founded in Ramat by 25-year-old Gil Shwed and two of his friends, this modern commercial computer network firewall offers vital protection from the dangers of cyberspace making the company one of the world's leading providers of IT security solutions.

21. **ICQ (I Seek You):** An internet wide instant messaging computer program developed by five young in computer geeks from Israel took the world by storm.
22. **Mobile phones:** The original cell-phone technology was developed by Israelis at Motorola's Israel R&D center. Most all of the technology in our mobile phones can be traced back to Israeli engineering, from the tool that guards your mobile identity to a new keyboard solution. Israeli expertise keeps our phones from getting bigger yet stay on the leading edge.
23. **Oracle Israel and the Amazon Kindle:** The Java platform inside Amazon's best-selling Kindle was developed in Herzliya, Israel.
24. **Digital Printing Press:** An Israeli inventor Benny Landa, revolutionized the world of digital printing when his Rehovot company, HP Indigo, launched the E-Print 1000, enabling sprinters to print directly from a computer file. HP Indigo has become the world leader in digital commercial presses and is ranked number one in the US high volume digital press market.
25. **PrimeSense:** Invented in Tel Aviv, this digital device allows users to "see" in 3D and transfer control from remote controls and joysticks to hands and body. PrimeSense is the leading

business provider of low-cost, high-performance 3D machine vision technologies for the consumer market and makes the core component in Microsoft's Xbox and Kinect gaming systems.

26. **Anobit:** This chip, invented by Israeli flash memory developer, significantly improves the endurance, performance and cost of flash storage products and systems. The chips are used in Apple's iPhone, iPad, and MacBook Air, as well as in several Samsung devices.
27. **Waze:** An Israeli startup which developed a mobile smartphone app that can determine where traffic is flowing or slowing, based on user-generated data from the phone's GPS.
28. **Babylon:** Babylon.com is the world's official online translator, providing online users with a dictionary, translation software, language learning solutions and English writing enhancement. Babylon has one hundred million desktop installations in 231 countries and is available in seventy-five languages and forty million daily unique visitors.
29. **Shaker:** Founded by five students from the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center, this award-winning virtual bar application takes Facebook to the next level by recreating social experiences

online, allowing people to socialize and meet mutual friends with shared interests.

30. **Quicktionary:** Developed by Wizcom Technologies in Jerusalem, is a portable electronic pen that scans printed text and instantly translates it into other languages. The translation is displayed on an LCD screen and kept in memory so that it can be transferred to a computer.
31. **Krav Maga:** An eclectic self-defense system developed by Israeli immigrant, Imi Sde-Or, who became the chief instructor for Krav Maga at the IDF School for Combat Fitness. Sde-Or refined Krav Maga for both civilian and military use. The defense system is used widely in Israel by the IDF, the Mossad, Shin Bet, the CIA, FBI, US marshals, US police departments and SWAT teams.
32. **Mobileye Products:** An advanced driver-assistance system that warns the driver of an impending accident in enough time to avert a collision. Vehicles fitted with the system have a 40-50% drop in the number of accidents. Mobileye is now a standard feature in new models made by BMW, General Motors, Volvo, Hyundai, Ford, and Citroen.
33. **Rummikub:** A game invented by Romanian immigrant Ephraim Hertzano who hand-made the sets and sold them door to door. The game took

off and become Israel's number one exported game and eventually the best-selling game in the US.

34. **Seamiotic:** The Tel Aviv based company connects a power plant flue to a series of algae-munching ponds which convert harmful carbon dioxide emitted by the power plants into fuel and nutraceuticals.
35. **AORA:** The world's first gas turbine solar thermal power station. Located in the desert near Eilat, the small-scale system uses solar receivers fitted with 100-kilowatt gas turbines. The receivers heat air to about 1,000 degrees Celsius using the sun's energy, then direct the heated air to a turbine which subsequently converts thermal energy into electric energy.
36. **Desalination:** Israel's IDE Technologies leads the world in the process of turning seawater into drinking water, with four hundred desalination plants in forty countries producing two million cubic meters of water a day. Their latest system uses runoff steam from a power plant to help run the desalination machinery, producing water for the power plant, drinking water for the community and salt.
37. **Snowmaking:** IDE Technologies has developed the Vacuum Ice Maker technology, which is

used in a range of all-weather snowmaking and refrigeration applications. IDE products are used to cool the world's deepest gold mine in South Africa and provide snow to ski resorts in Austria and Switzerland.

38. **Grow Fish Anywhere:** This Israeli company has discovered a way to raise fish on land, without pollution problems. The fish are grown in tanks whose water is treated by biological filters and specially developed bacteria, adding fresh water only when it evaporates. The system can be set up to raise saltwater fish anywhere in the world, even in the desert.
39. **AfiMilk:** A global leader in computerized systems for dairy farming and herd management. The company, which was founded by a member of a kibbutz, introduced the world's first electronic milk meter, computerized management systems, and cattle ID tags in more than fifty countries worldwide.
40. **The Cherry Tomato:** The modern cherry tomato, with its long shelf life, abundant growth, disease resistance and robust appearance and taste, is a result of Israeli research from botanists at the Agriculture School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

[GENESIS 12:3]

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

OPERATION MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

In June 2014, three teenage Jewish boys disappeared while hitchhiking near the city of Hebron. Authorities soon determined that they had been kidnapped and for 18 agonizing days Israel's soldiers, police, and security services launched a massive search for the young men.

Israeli civilians who were familiar with the terrain joined the search mission. Tragically, they eventually found the boys' bodies hidden under a pile of rocks fifteen miles from where they were abducted. It was quickly determined that the missing teens had been murdered almost immediately after their capture.

The kidnapping shook Israeli society and awakened Israel to the growing threat of Hamas' influence in Judea and Samaria. As a result of the search, hundreds of Palestinian suspects were arrested by the IDF. Israel also acted against many terrorist infrastructures to include 63 institutions of the Hamas-run Dawa network which teaches radical Islamic ideology all the while establishing a terrorist recruitment system within mosques, schools, and hospitals throughout Judea and Samaria.

During Operation My Brother's Keeper, hundreds of sites were searched resulting in the arrest of roughly 400 suspects and the confiscation of many weapons. Eventually, Israel learned that Hamas was behind the

kidnapping and they also funded the three terrorists responsible for the murders. One of the terrorists was eventually captured and imprisoned, while the other two were killed during a firefight with the IDF.

Palestinians were loudly proclaiming their support for the murderers of the teenagers on the internet. University students in Nablus and Abu Dis demonstrated their support for Hamas and the kidnapping. Thousands of young people raised Hamas flags as students stood in front of the cameras raising three fingers, representing the three dead Israelis.

Millions of Jews and Christians worldwide who had prayed for the safe return of Gilad, Eyal, and Naftali shared in Israel's national heartbreak as if the boys were part of their own families.



Eyal Yifrach (19 yrs), Gilad Shaar (16 yrs), and Naftali Frenkel (16 yrs)

OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE

For eight years, Israelis along the border with Gaza had endured daily rocket fire from Hamas. But in the summer of 2014, while Israel was searching for the three kidnapped teenagers, the rocket attacks suddenly escalated.

For weeks, Israel's government sought to negotiate a ceasefire without success. Then on July 7, Hamas fired over 100 rockets into Israeli neighborhoods in one day—the situation became intolerable—Israel had to act.

On July 8, the IDF responded with a massive ground incursion into Gaza. Sending in soldiers to fight in the cramped streets and booby-trapped buildings of the Gaza Strip was not an easy decision. It put Israeli soldiers in extreme danger, but it also minimized the chances of civilian casualties.

TERROR TUNNELS

As the IDF entered Gaza, they were caught unaware of an even more dangerous threat. Hamas had secretly built a network of sophisticated underground tunnels beneath the border with Israel. The terrorists intended to use these tunnels to infiltrate Israel's towns to kidnap and murder Israeli citizens.

Several times during the war, Hamas sent groups of terrorists into Israel through these secret tunnels, sometimes disguised in IDF uniforms. Thankfully, none of their planned massacres succeeded, but the discovery of this new threat alarmed Israel. The tunnels had to be destroyed.

Meanwhile, around the world, antisemitism surged during the fighting. Massive anti-Israel rallies were held in several Western countries and members of the Jewish community were attacked and threatened. The pressure on Israel to withdraw from Gaza before their mission was complete grew intense.

Israel desperately needed a friend, and Christians United for Israel became one of the leading voices speaking up in defense of Israel's right to defend itself. During our Washington, D.C. Summit in July, nearly 5,000 CUFI members convened in the nation's capital to take a stand for Israel and send a clear message of support to Congress. Following the Summit, CUFI placed multiple full-page ads in national newspapers exposing Hamas's stated vow to destroy the Jewish state.

Then in early August, CUFI organized an emergency solidarity mission to Israel and brought fifty U.S. pastors, one from every state, on a tour of the cities threatened by Hamas rockets and tunnels. The delegation brought hope and comfort to the Jewish people, both in Israel and

abroad, by publicly demonstrating their unconditional support for Israel's morally justified acts of self-defense.

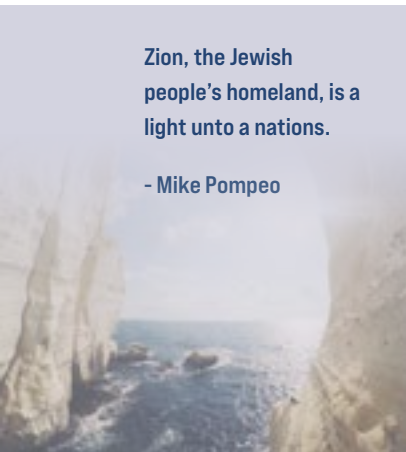
Soon after, Hamas finally accepted a ceasefire agreement.

Israel had successfully destroyed many of the tunnels

beneath the border and dealt a crippling blow to the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. Yet for this success, Israel paid the great price of losing 64 soldiers and three civilians during the operation.

**Zion, the Jewish
people's homeland, is a
light unto a nations.**

- Mike Pompeo



Israel's humanitarian actions during the war were finally recognized. An independent assessment of NATO's military leaders exonerated and praised Israel, stating in its 2015 report that the IDF had conducted

itself with the highest possible moral standards.

In late 2021, Israel announced the completion of a sensor-equipped underground wall on its border with Gaza. This high-tech counter-measure to the Hamas terrorist tunnels used to blindside the IDF during Operation Protective Edge is 40 miles long and 20 feet high. Among its range of defenses, the "smart fence" includes an above-ground wall, a naval barrier used to detect infiltration by sea, control centers, cameras, radars, sensors, and a remote-controlled weapons system.

The majority of Hamas' terror tunnels were eliminated during Operation Guardian of the Walls in May 2021, when the Israeli Air Force carried out a series of massive raids that destroyed miles of offensive tunnels and eliminated dozens of Hamas terrorists.



Palestinians have built large and advanced underground tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border that they use to smuggle weapons, explosives, ammunition, and drugs into the Gaza Strip.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

THE IRAN DEAL

The tragic miscarriage of American foreign policy known as the Iran Deal, or more formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has gone down in history as one of the worst foreign policy blunders of modern times. Even before its consequences were fully revealed, we saw how this bad agreement jeopardized Israel's and America's security, as well as the security of the entire free world.

Shortly after coming to office, President Obama decided to pursue a nuclear deal with Iran that he said would be a historic achievement and end decades of hostility between Iran and the West. But time revealed just how much Obama was willing to put America's and Israel's safety at risk to get an accord inked on paper, yet even before these details came to light it was clearly a fatally flawed agreement.

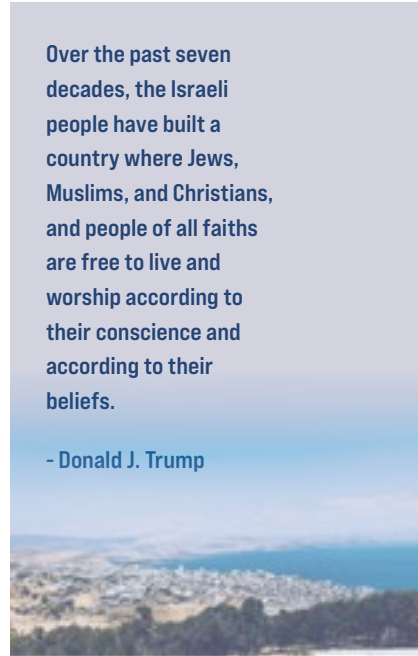
In 2015, after years of negotiating with Iran to set aside its nuclear program for a short period in exchange for lifting decades of crippling international financial sanctions against the Iranian government, President Obama and the leaders of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the European Union reached an agreement with Iran.

This “Bad Deal,” as many refer to it, essentially gave Iran two paths to a nuclear bomb, even though they made it abundantly clear that they intend to use the weapon first against Israel and then against the rest of the Western world—to include America.

According to the theological interpretation of Islam held by Iran’s leaders, there is an end-of-times scenario in which the Mahdi, a descendant of the prophet Mohammed, returns and leads the forces of the true believers in the final battle with the infidels. What is particularly alarming are the repeated pronouncements of Iran’s leaders indicating their belief that the time for this apocalyptic struggle is now. Since the 1950s, the threat of nuclear apocalypse and mutually assured destruction has helped deter the use of nuclear weapons. But for Iran’s leaders, that threat is an incentive rather than a deterrent.

Over the past seven decades, the Israeli people have built a country where Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and people of all faiths are free to live and worship according to their conscience and according to their beliefs.

- Donald J. Trump



Under the JCPOA, international inspections to verify Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program were ridiculously weak, and Iran adamantly refused to even allow inspectors into its military sites once the Deal was signed. Iran simply ignored the agreement’s feeble conditions and continued

to enrich uranium to the level needed for a nuclear bomb. They also maintained their program to develop ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Even so, due to the impotence of the Deal, Iran could have simply followed the JCPOA to the letter and still obtained a nuclear bomb within a little more than a decade, since it automatically expired in 2031. Furthermore, key restrictions against Iran's military program and other international provisions hindering Iran's nuclear weapons program began to phase out as early as 2020.

The JCPOA also gave Tehran access to over \$150 billion in previously frozen funds. Iran put a significant amount of money from the Deal's sanctions relief into building its military and international terrorism programs. Today, more than ever, Iran's nuclear ambitions represent an existential threat to Israel and the entire Middle East, Europe, and even America with a nuclear war, and the JCPOA is largely to blame.

CUFI fought hard against the Iranian nuclear threat and the dangers of making a bad deal for years—even before Obama was elected and made it his number one foreign policy goal. On the day Obama announced he had signed the JCPOA in July 2015, CUFI was in Washington, D.C. at our 10th annual CUFI Summit. The same day, we brought over 5,000 of our members from all fifty states to meet with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill and expressed our opposition.

In the months leading up to the final agreement, CUFI spearheaded an aggressive nationwide grassroots campaign against the Iran Deal, generating more than 400,000 emails and countless phone calls to Congress. Our members attended 101 town hall and constituent meetings with Congressional leaders and their staff in their home states and districts. As a result, we succeeded in persuading bipartisan majorities in both Houses of Congress to vote against the JCPOA. But, unfortunately, supporters of the Iran Deal used a procedural maneuver in the Senate to block the resolution disapproving of the agreement from ever coming to a vote.

In 2018, under the Trump administration, the United States withdrew from the JCPOA and began a “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic by imposing harsh economic sanctions on that regime. Predictably, Iran responded with resistance, ramping up its aggression against the West through a series of provocative actions, including the sabotage and seizure of oil tankers in the international waterway the Straits of Hormuz and the downing of a U.S. drone over international airspace.

Furthermore, the Iranian regime began to openly flaunt its nuclear progress, attempting to use its belligerent pursuit of a nuclear program as a threat to European powers and as a bargaining chip for Europe’s assistance in negotiating with the U.S. to lift crushing sanctions re-imposed by the Trump administration.

AN EVEN WORSE IRAN DEAL?

As a result of President Trump's maximum pressure campaign, upon taking office, President Biden found himself in an enviable position of strength, expressing a determination to potentially reenter an agreement with Iran, provided the New Deal was longer and stronger. Indeed, any deal with Iran, if it occurs, must be significantly more comprehensive than the undeniably flawed agreement the U.S. made in 2015, and it must address Iran's support for terror and serial human rights abuses.

However, please note that while President Joe Biden has promoted strong sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. initially relied on Russia to help broker the new agreement with Iran. In the same breath, Russia used the proposed New Deal to strengthen their hand against the West in the context of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The Biden Administration has already waived sanctions on Russia's state-run nuclear energy company Rosatom to allow a \$10 billion contract to expand Iran's nuclear power plant at Bushehr.

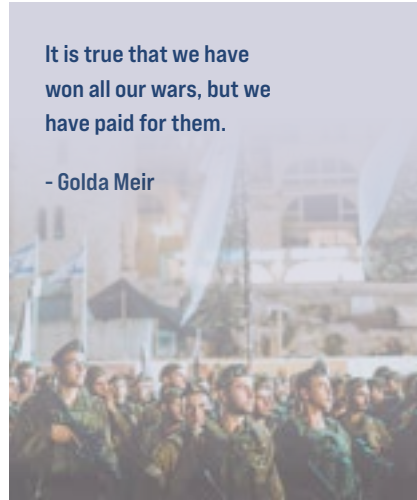
In an interview with Iran's official news agency, referring to the pending New Deal, senior Russian diplomat Mikhail Ulyanov said, "Iran got much more than it could expect... Realistically speaking, Iran got more than frankly I expected, others expected."

The details of the new proposal effectively enabled Iran to continue to advance its nuclear program while simultaneously receiving sanctions relief. Among other unfathomable capitulations, the New Deal would have lifted sanctions on a host of Iranian banks and companies involved in terrorism giving Tehran immediate access to an estimated \$86.1 billion to \$130.5 billion in foreign assets to be used for funding its terrorist proxies around the world, to include Hezbollah – Iran’s largest and most dangerous terrorist proxy.

As of this writing, however, the proposed weaker deal has not moved forward, as Iran overplayed its hand, demanding that the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) be removed from the American list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. This requirement would have been particularly horrific as since its founding in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran underwrites nearly every militant Islamist organization in the world and is the leading sponsor of terrorism worldwide. The Islamist regime in Iran has viewed terrorism as an essential component of its foreign policy and a tool for waging war against its enemies and a means to spread Islamic revolution.

**It is true that we have
won all our wars, but we
have paid for them.**

- Golda Meir



Moreover, the New Deal would have effectively ignored the fact that since the original JCPOA was signed in 2015, Iran's ballistic missile arsenal has grown in size, reach and accuracy. Iran can now deliver more missiles with greater accuracy to much farther distances, making all U.S. military bases and allies in the Middle East and parts of Europe within range. And any new agreement with Iran would likewise have to ignore their provision of suicide drones to Russia for use against Ukrainian civilians, as well as Russia's plans to provide Iran with modern fighter jets.

As we have been since our founding, CUFI remains committed to countering Iran's malevolence through sanctions on the Islamic Republic and via efforts to disrupt military and financial support of the terrorists Iran backs.

What is clear is that the United States has a moral responsibility to not only cease doing business with a malicious regime that is feverishly pursuing nuclear weapons but also to ensure that the regime does not use the threat of nuclear weapons development to facilitate torturing and murdering innocent people within their country and abroad.

Moreover, all of this has been taking place as brave Iranians have been in the streets for more than 200 days, protesting the regime's brutality. As of this writing, more than 750 brave souls have been killed and another 30,000 arrested as a result of the Iranian people's efforts to overthrow the regime in Tehran. The U.S. has an

ethical obligation not to empower the Iranian regime as it commits mass human rights violations against its own people, aids Moscow's war crimes, and threatens the U.S., Israel and our allies with annihilation.

In reference to the ongoing battle with Israel's enemies, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel is continually confronting Iran's evil activities, as the Islamic Republic's attempts to attack the Jewish state are unending:

"I can tell you one thing: There is a limit to the number of miracles that history can grant a nation, and the people of Israel have already received an extra portion of such miracles. Therefore, we only have one choice: To stand together, united. I say that together we will stand and together we will continue to be victorious."

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

STABBING INTIFADA

On Rosh Hashanah, September 2015, a wave of violence originating in Jerusalem began to spread across Israel. This hostility was once again fueled by the hateful and deceitful rhetoric of the Palestinian Authority.

Believing the often-used lie spread by Palestinian media that Israel was threatening the Muslim holy sites on the Temple Mount, Palestinian men, women, and even children began terrorizing Israelis in the streets and in their homes. These assaults, which lasted more than two-and-a-half years, became known as the “Stabbing Intifada” or the “Knife Intifada” because of the frequent use of stabbing attacks.

In the first several months, hundreds were injured in the riots and terror attacks. Jewish civilians were attacked in their cars, at bus stops, near holy sites, and even in their own homes. Twenty-seven Israelis were murdered before the end of 2015. Over the next few years, that number grew to include over 60 innocent victims brutally killed, and over 900 more wounded. Along with the stabbings, many victims were shot, rammed with vehicles, firebombed, or stoned.

One of the victims was Taylor Force, a young American citizen on a study abroad trip in Israel. Taylor, who had served his country in Iraq and Afghanistan, was fatally

stabbed by a Palestinian terrorist near Tel Aviv on March 8, 2016. The 28-year-old's tragic murder led to the Taylor Force Act in the United States, a piece of legislation designed to cut off the flow of American tax dollars to the Palestinian Authority until the PA stopped all payments to terrorists.

The Palestinian Authority has a bedrock policy of rewarding terrorists or their families with a lifelong pension worth more than most Palestinians could hope to earn in their lifetime. This financial incentive to commit deadly terror was funded by international foreign aid to the tune of \$350 million a year. When Americans discovered their tax dollars were being used to reward terrorism, they were outraged.



Taylor Force

Christians United for Israel took up the Taylor Force Act as our top legislative priority in 2017. Our members sent over one million emails to Congress, demanding that they pass the Taylor Force Act and end the PA's "Pay-to-Slay" policy. By the end of 2017, the House of Representatives passed this legislation and sent

it on to the Senate. Senate leaders then included the Taylor Force Act in the final omnibus spending bill passed by Congress on March 23, 2018. It was signed into law by President Trump, representing a major legislative victory for CUFI and an important step toward making the people of Israel safer.

However, in 2018 and 2019 the PA attempted to creatively hide their continued payments to murderous terrorists. Their monthly budget performance reports clearly listed the transfer expenditures of the “Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs,” which was primarily payments to terrorist prisoners, as roughly \$156 million to \$161 million. Throughout 2020, numerous statements by PA and PLO officials confirmed that the PA continued to pay hundreds of millions of dollars a year in terror rewards in a roundabout way so there would be no reference to them in their budget.

In May 2022, Abbas again vowed to continue payments to prisoners and ‘martyrs,’ through their Pay-to-Slay program. As an example, Karim and Maher Younis were released from an Israeli prison in January 2023 after serving 40-year sentences for murdering an IDF soldier. During their incarceration, they each received nearly \$100,000 from the PA.

In March of 2023, independent efforts were initiated in the U.S. Senate and the Knesset to address the ongoing Palestinian Authority’s financial sponsorship of terror

activity. These efforts were in partial response to the rash of deadly Palestinian terror attacks that have left 17 Israelis and one Ukrainian national dead since the beginning of the year, including the recent killing of an American Israeli citizen and an Italian tourist.

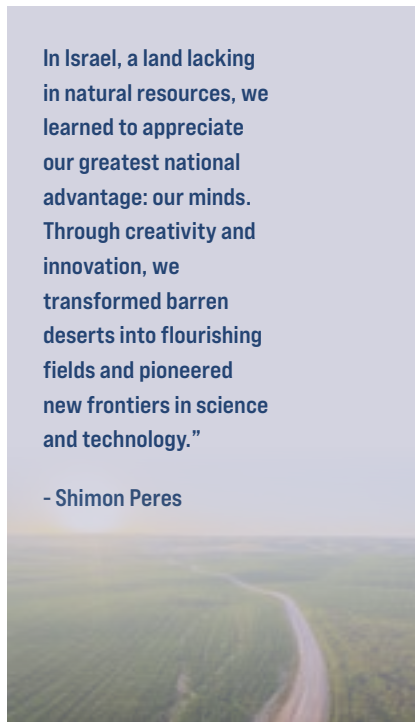
In the U.S., Senator Cotton and Congressman Lamborn along with several co-sponsors reintroduced the Taylor Force Martyr Payment Prevention Act that targets foreign banks that are used as part of the PA process for Pay-to-Slay. The bill would deter foreign banks from processing “martyr payments” for the Palestinian Authority by cutting off their access to the United States financial system.

In a heartrending statement, Stuart and Robbi Force, the parents of Taylor Force said:

Speaking from personal experience, we can say that this is not a theoretical problem. The family of the terrorist who murdered Taylor, celebrated as a hero by Hamas, has been receiving martyr payments as a reward for his despicable actions. No foreign bank from any country, particularly those which claim to be U.S. allies, which participates in rewarding those who kill innocent Americans should be able to evade

In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology.”

- Shimon Peres



SURROUNDED BY VIOLENCE

Iran has been firmly entrenched on Israel's northern border since 2011 when the Islamic Republic's military began operating in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime during the Syrian Civil War.

On the morning of February 10, 2018, Iran invaded Israeli airspace by sending an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV or drone), equipped with explosives, across Israel's border. Iran's presence in Syria had posed a serious threat to Israel's security; however, the drone invasion was more than a threat—it was seen as a flagrant attack by Iran's government on Israel's sovereignty. By any definition, it was an act of war.

Shortly after the Iranian UAV entered Israel's air space, the IDF responded by shooting it out of the sky with an Apache helicopter. As an act of deterrence and self-defense, the IDF then sent eight fighter jets into Syria and destroyed the Iranian command post that had launched the drone. These jets were immediately attacked by a barrage of Syrian anti-aircraft missile fire, which managed to critically damage one of the Israeli jets and caused it to crash as it crossed back into Israel. Two IDF pilots ejected before the crash, and one was seriously injured.

Tensions escalated as Israel mobilized a massive counterattack against both Syrian and Iranian forces. With

overwhelming force, Israel's fighter jets destroyed four Syrian command posts and eight Iranian command posts, sending a clear message to Iran and Syria that Israel will not tolerate attacks on its sovereignty or attempts to prevent Israel from exercising its right to self-defense.

As soon as Christians United for Israel learned about what took place, we sent an email to our then four million members reporting the facts surrounding the situation and urged them to share the IDF's video footage of Iran's drone attack. As a result, over 187,000 people viewed the footage on the CUFI Facebook page. In a separate Facebook Live broadcast that reached an additional 61,000 households, CUFI provided an analyses of Iran's act of war and Israel's necessary response. At the end of the day, over four million people learned the truth that the mainstream media ignored.

Iran, its terrorist army Hezbollah, and their Syrian allies continue to pose a dangerous threat on Israel's northern border. Although the 2018 conflict did not escalate into a full-blown war, it easily could have, and it proved once again that Iran is eager to provoke war with Israel.

MARCH OF RETURN

In March 2018, another serious threat emerged along Israel's western border with Gaza. Hamas announced that it would sponsor a massive "March of Return" toward Israel's security fence in anger against Israel's 70th

anniversary as a modern nation. A longstanding goal of Palestinian leaders has been to force Israel to accept the “return” of millions of Palestinians descended from those who fled the war in 1948. As defined preciously in this book, the “return” they speak of would mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

It is important to reiterate that Israel withdrew totally from the Gaza Strip in 2006, and Hamas has had complete control of Gaza since 2007. This “march of return” was not a protest against Israel’s so-called occupation. It was not a protest against a disputed border, because the current border between Gaza and Israel follows the same line that has existed since 1949. The bottom line is that these riots were not a protest at all—they were a sustained act of choreographed mass terrorism.

Remaining true to their threat, beginning on the morning of Passover, March 30, 2018, tens of thousands of Palestinians began rioting along the Gaza security fence in an attempt to provoke a violent response from the IDF soldiers opposite them. This violence was methodically organized and scheduled to increase daily for over six weeks up to the day Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, the “catastrophe,” also known as Israel’s Independence Day anniversary. Hamas further incited the Palestinians to be as violent as possible by offering a reward of \$3,000 to the family of any Palestinian killed during the riots, and \$500 for anyone seriously wounded by the IDF.

The Prime Minister of Gaza and top Hamas official, Yahya Sinwar, visited the border demonstrations on March 30 and publicly declared that his goal was to “erase this border.” While they used civilians, including women and children, as cover for their terrorist activities, Hamas attacked IDF soldiers across the fence with gunfire, Molotov cocktails, and stones. Some terrorists attempted to plant explosive devices along the fence, while others tried to set fire to it. When the IDF was able to clearly identify those known to be Hamas operatives or observed individuals in the act of sabotaging the fence or attacking IDF soldiers, they responded with lethal force to protect Israel’s border from infiltration.

The international media, predictably, focused their coverage on distorting Israel’s acts of self-defense and reported that the IDF had willfully killed Palestinian civilians. Had the main stream media cared to investigate, many of the men who were illuminated were identified as known terrorists through Hamas’s own photos.

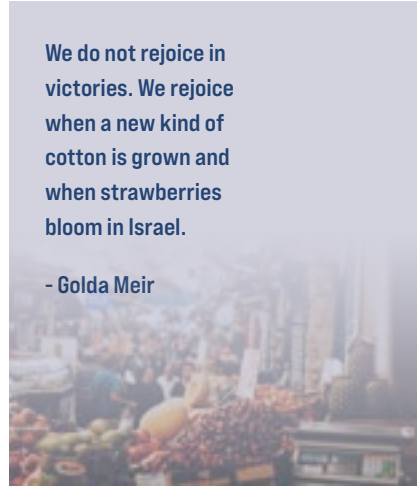
The media also ignored obvious acts of provocation and aggression by the Palestinian rioters and insisted the demonstrations were merely “peaceful protests.” Meanwhile, these “peaceful protesters” burned thousands of tires along the border to obscure the IDF’s vision as they continued to try to sabotage Israel’s security fence and invade the Jewish state.

Of course, Israel cannot and will not allow its border to be breached by even a single terrorist, much less thousands of hostile combatants. It might seem that the “march of return” was a futile act, but it was designed to be a clever propaganda weapon to inflict massive political damage on Israel through staged photos, video footage, and deliberately inaccurate casualty reports. And sadly, the media and the United Nations fell for it.

CUFI, however, was ready to take action. On the first day of the violent demonstrations, we emailed our members to provide them with the up-to-the-minute truth about what was happening in Gaza. In the following weeks, we countered the false media narrative with regular social media updates and expert analysis that reached hundreds of thousands of people online. We made sure that an army of informed Christians was equipped to extinguish the lies being spread about Israel during this orchestrated violent uprising.

We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown and when strawberries bloom in Israel.

- Golda Meir



JERUSALEM'S JUBILEE

MY JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, the center of the universe.

Jerusalem, the City of Gold.

Jerusalem, the undivided capital
of the covenant nation of Israel.

Jerusalem, the place that the God of Abraham,
Isaac, and Jacob calls home.

Jerusalem, the experience that
forever changed my life.

From the moment I first walked the ancient cobblestone streets of that Holy City, I sensed a divine presence there—a kind of supernatural peace known nowhere else.

I have traveled the world but only Jerusalem has felt like home.

Jerusalem is where Abraham, the father of all who believe, placed his beloved son, Isaac, on the altar of sacrifice at Mount Moriah, displaying his absolute faith in God Almighty.

Jerusalem is the city King David conquered 3,000 years ago, making it the eternal capital of Israel.

Jerusalem is where Jeremiah and Isaiah penned the principles of righteousness that became the moral foundations of civilization.

Jerusalem is where a rabbi named Jesus of Nazareth established the covenants of my faith that are chiseled in the depths of my soul.

Jerusalem is where Messiah will rule the earth for 1,000 years of perfect peace in the world to come.

Jerusalem is the city that holds my heart.

When I first prayed at the Western Wall, I stood next to a rabbi who bowed his head at every mention of God's Holy Name. I knew the Lord was listening to his prayer and at that very moment I heard the Lord speak to my heart to bring Christians and Jews together in an atmosphere of unconditional love and mutual respect. It was a seemingly impossible task were it not for the help of the Almighty.

I entered the city of Jerusalem a pilgrim... and walked out of its gates a Zionist. I believe all that the Holy Scriptures say of Jerusalem and have dedicated my life to sharing these truths with the world.

Yes, this Holy City has forever changed my life.

Jerusalem is forever—for as poets have declared, "Jerusalem is the port city on the shore of eternity."

ISRAEL'S UNDIVIDED AND ETERNAL CAPITAL

At the beginning of 2017, Christians United for Israel declared a year-long celebration of Jerusalem's Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of the reunification and restoration of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital. Along with the celebration, CUFI made the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and President Trump's campaign promise to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem a top priority.

Proclaiming that 2017 was the year of Jerusalem's Jubilee was much more than an entertaining way to celebrate an anniversary. Both the Bible and history indicated that God does everything at an appointed time, especially when it comes to Israel.

The importance of the Jubilee year comes from Leviticus 25:10-11(NIV),

“Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines.”

From this passage, we know God measures time in modules of 50 years, and at the end of each module, He declares a year of Jubilee. However, God's prophetic clock only runs when the Jewish people are in the Promised Land of Israel.

This prophetic clock last stopped when the Roman Army under General Titus destroyed the Second Temple as they conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD. According to the historian Josephus, over one million Jewish people were slaughtered in the siege and tens of thousands more were taken as slaves to Rome or dispersed among the nations of the world.

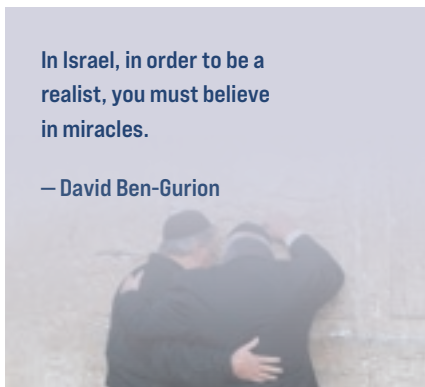
The clock began ticking again in 1917, with the creation of the Balfour Declaration. This British pronouncement stated that the Jewish people could return and rebuild their national home on a small piece of land representing a portion of the total real estate given to them by God in the book of Genesis.

When you add 50 to 1917, you reach the year 1967 when in just Six-Days, Israel miraculously defeated five Arab armies that came against them. The astonishing victory of the Six-Day War more than doubled the size of Israel's land mass. But more importantly, Jerusalem was reunited with the State of Israel for the first time since 70 AD when Rome besieged it. This war was a war of miracles—and this year was a year of Jubilee.

Finally, from 1967, add 50 years and you come to 2017. I believed with all my heart that this Jubilee Year would

In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.

— David Ben-Gurion



be monumental for Israel and the Jewish people. In April, members of CUFI's executive leadership and I had the honor of meeting with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House. It was the first time in 8 years that CUFI had direct access to the administration, and of course, Jerusalem was on the agenda. We addressed the importance of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, something the last three presidents had failed to do despite the law Congress passed mandating the move over 20 years prior.

That was the beginning of an ongoing conversation that allowed me to personally speak to the President about the importance of announcing to the world that the United States recognizes that Jerusalem is the eternal and undivided capital of Israel. After considerable discussion, the President pointed his finger at me and said, "Other presidents have failed you, but I will not fail you!"

Throughout the rest of the year, CUFI members sent the president over 135,000 emails asking him to move our embassy. God's prophetic clock hovered on the edge of striking 50 as the appointed time drew near. And on December 6, 2017, President Donald Trump stunned the world and all the foreign policy experts by publicly announcing that the United States of America recognized Jerusalem as the official capital of Israel. The President demonstrated the courage other presidents did not—he made a promise and kept that promise.

Furthermore, President Trump announced that his State Department would immediately begin preparations to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On May 14, 2018, Diana and I, along with members of our CUFI team, including Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, of blessed memory, were honored to be in God's Holy City for the ceremony officially moving our U.S. Embassy to the rightful capital of the State of Israel.

Ambassador Friedman gave me the profound privilege to present the benediction at the Embassy Ceremony. The following is that prayer.

Our most gracious heavenly Father, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God who calls the stars by name...and measures space with the span of His hand...the God who is the King of the universe.

We gather here to thank you for the joy of living and seeing this glorious and historic day. We thank You for the state of Israel, the Lone Torch of freedom in the Middle East, who lives and prospers because of Your everlasting love for the Jewish people.

It was You, O Lord who gathered the exiles from the nations and brought them home again. It was You who made statehood possible. It was You that gave a miraculous victory in 1967 when Jerusalem was reopened to worshippers of all faiths.

Jerusalem is the city of God.

Jerusalem is the heartbeat of Israel.

Jerusalem is where Abraham placed his son on the altar of the temple mount and became the father of many nations.

Jerusalem is where Jeremiah and Isaiah penned principles of righteousness that became the moral foundations of Western civilization.

Jerusalem is where Messiah will come and establish a kingdom that will never end.

We thank You, O Lord, for President Donald Trump's courage in acknowledging to the world a truth established 3,000 years ago that Jerusalem is and always shall be the eternal capital of the Jewish people.

And because of the courage of our president...We gather here today to consecrate the ground upon which the United States Embassy will stand reminding the dictators of the world that America and Israel are forever united.

We thank You for our ambassador, David Friedman, and pray Your anointing upon him as he opens the doors of the U.S. Embassy to receive the nations of the world.

Let the word go forth from Jerusalem today...That Israel lives!

Shout it from the housetops...Israel lives!

Let every Islamic terrorist hear this message...Israel lives!

Let it be heard in the halls of the United Nations...Israel lives!

Let it echo down the marble halls of the presidential palace in Iran...Israel lives!

Let it be known to all men, that Israel lives because “He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.”

As King David prayed 3,000 years ago, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all its inhabitants.

Let the Name of the Lord be glorified today.

For the Defender of Israel today, tomorrow, and forever is here!

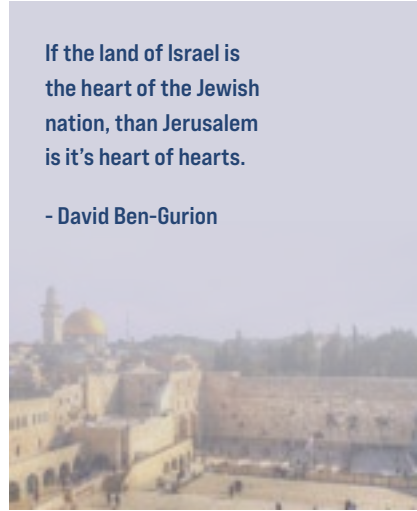
Can we all shout hallelujah and Amen!

This was yet another miraculous year for Israel and the Jewish people since the 75th anniversary of its rebirth as a modern nation.

If the land of Israel is the heart of the Jewish nation, than Jerusalem is it's heart of hearts.

- David Ben-Gurion

NOTES OF REFLECTION:



A NEW DECADE

On January 28, 2020, I stood in the East Room of the White House when President Trump unveiled the “Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People.”

This proposal was straightforward and realistic in its approach to achieving sustaining. It was by far the best plan of its kind set forth by any American administration to date, a plan that would ensure Israel had defensible borders, a united Jerusalem, sovereignty over biblical holy sites, and provide an opportunity for the Palestinian leadership to choose peace and prosperity.

The Israelis accepted the plan, but sadly, and predictably, the Palestinian Authority’s President, Mahmoud Abbas, rejected the proposal outright, calling it a “conspiracy.” Meanwhile, many Palestinians demonstrated in the streets, protesting the proposal, in a “day of rage.” Although the plan would have ended the conflict and enabled Palestinian prosperity, the Palestinian leadership rejected it, just as they had every other proposal that included the existence of Israel.

No peace with Israel.

No recognition of Israel.

No negotiations with Israel.

Later, on September 14, 2020, I sat on the White House lawn, along with other CUFI leaders, as the groundbreaking Abraham Accords were signed. Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain fully normalized their diplomatic ties. The historic agreements, brokered by the United States, came after a decades-long stalemate between Israel and her Arab neighbors.



Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. President Donald J. Trump, and Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan signing the Abraham Accords.

In October of that same year, history was made yet again as Sudan—the country in which the Arab League agreed upon its infamous Three No's—joined the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in normalizing its ties with Israel. Morocco soon followed suit. In the span of five short months, these four Arab states joined Egypt and Jordan in making peace with Israel. While the Saudis remained on

the outside looking in, it was clear they were a potential partner as well.

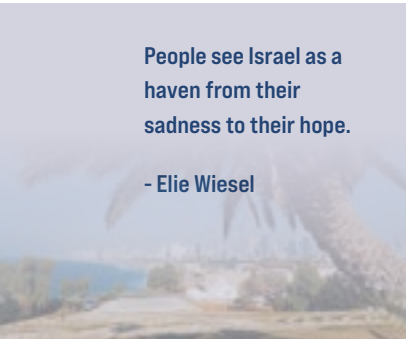
The agreements were dubbed the Abraham Accords because they united the children of the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Yet, ominously, at the start of the ceremony, over a dozen rockets were launched from Gaza into Israel, wounding two Israelis—including a father of 15 who was distributing food to the needy at the time of the attack.

Although the rocket attacks showed that there remained much work to be done in pursuit of peace in the region, it was a historic day marking a landmark shift in the Middle East.

These milestones would have been unthinkable even five years prior, let alone a decade ago. And the millions of

members of Christians United for Israel played no small part in this miraculous progress. In fact, at Cornerstone Church's 40th annual Night to Honor Israel in San Antonio in October 2020, attendees heard from none other than His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States,

who sent a heartfelt video message to the gathering of Christian Zionists. His Excellency stressed the importance



People see Israel as a haven from their sadness to their hope.

- Elie Wiesel

of cooperation between Israel and her allies against Iran, and his message showcased how critical the work of CUFI and its members in defending Israel and standing with the Jewish people truly is.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

CUFI'S WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS

With over 10 million members in January 2023, CUFI has become an integral part of the pro-Israel tapestry, playing an indispensable role in helping make Israel more secure and the Jewish people, both in Israel and abroad, safer.

Never was this more evident than when Palestinian terrorists in Gaza fired a barrage of thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians in May 2021. Thirteen innocent Israelis lost their lives, and hundreds more were wounded in the attacks. The conflict, which was instigated by Hamas, endangered the lives of both Israelis and Palestinians as the spread of misinformation contributed to the widespread increase of antisemitic attacks around the world.

Though the military confrontation between Hamas and Israel ended after 11 days of fighting, the Jewish state was still fighting an additional war—a public relations war on the international scene.

As both traditional and social media propagated misleading, biased, and false narratives regarding the conflict, antisemitism worldwide skyrocketed to alarming highs. In the UK alone, antisemitism rose a shocking 438%. And according to the Anti-Defamation League, a significant uptick in antisemitic incidents occurred in the U.S. after the conflict began. Jews in New York were

afraid to walk the streets wearing their kippa, and Jews at pro-Israel rallies were attacked. These tragic occurrences underscored what had long been CUFI's strong conviction: anti-Zionism is antisemitism.

To combat the rise of antisemitism during the conflict and to comfort our friends in Israel, CUFI ran a full-page ad expressing our support for the Jewish state in Israel Hayom, Israel's largest newspaper. The message was clear; CUFI stands with Israel and the Jewish people, now and forever.

Shortly after the conflict, in response to the violence against Israel, CUFI traveled with former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, to visit Israeli communities most affected by the rocket fire. On the way, a select group of CUFI's leadership and I stopped in Abu Dhabi to meet with His Royal Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan who serves as the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, to thank him for his country's support of Israel's right to exist and defend itself.

From raising awareness and rallying support for Israel through media outlets, to educating our members about the history of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, to demonstrating our unconditional love in churches, college campuses and communities around the nation, and by standing with Israel and the Jewish people at their time of

need—Christians United for Israel exists for such a time as this.



ISRAEL, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL STANDS WITH YOU

As you, our friends in Israel, have endured thousands of rocket attacks targeting civilian areas throughout the Jewish state, Christians United for Israel (CUFI) remains committed to standing with America's greatest ally.

Over the past several days, we have provided minute-by-minute coverage to millions through social media updates and special briefings, emboldened tens of thousands across our nation to hold Israel solidarity gatherings at their churches and have encouraged our 10 million members to sign our Israel Solidarity Pledge, a promise to remain steadfast in supporting Israel for such a time as this. CUFI and millions of Christians across America stand with you. For Zion's sake we will not be silent. For Jerusalem's sake we will never hold our peace.

Pastor John Hagege
Pastor John Hagege
1981 FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

WWW.CUFI.ORG

CUFI's full-page ad expressing our support for the Jewish state in Israel Hayom, Israel's largest newspaper.

OPERATION BREAKING DAWN

Terrorist attacks within Israel spiked in 2022, exceeding the amount that occurred in 2021 with hundreds more being thwarted by the Israeli military and police. In August of 2022, Israel launched an offensive to stop anti-tank missiles from being fired from northern Gaza into Israel. During the operation, which lasted three days, over 1,000 rockets were launched at Israeli civilians. Over 380 of these rockets were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome, and many misfired and landed in Gaza, harming Palestinian civilians.

Due in part to CUFI's efforts on this front, the U.S. Congress had recently voted to ensure the Iron Dome was replenished after the round of fighting with Hamas in May 2021—and thankfully, because of this measure, innocent lives were saved. It was yet another solemn reminder of CUFI's God given mandate to defend Israel and the Jewish people, now, and forevermore.

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

ISAIAH 62:6-7



The Iron Dome Defense System

Notes of Reflection:

CHALLENGES, OLD AND NEW

Israel is currently surrounded on almost every side by violence in addition to threats of a much larger regional war. Behind the scenes, Iran's invisible hand is pulling the strings of its puppets Hamas, Hezbollah, the Syrian government, and smaller terrorist groups like the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, to squeeze Israel into a vice.

NORTH, EAST, AND WEST

Recently, beginning on April 5, 2023, again on the first day of Passover, Israel was hit by rockets launched from Gaza in the west, Lebanon in the north, and Syria in the east. In all the cases, the trigger was supposedly clashes between Israeli police forces and Palestinians in the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. But the fact that rockets were launched from so many sites points to coordination among more groups than just the Palestinian militant organizations.

Little goes on in southern Lebanon without the approval of Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Shia militia. This fact was underscored by a meeting in Beirut between Hezbollah's secretary-general and Hamas on April 9. Likewise, the launching site on the Golan Heights in Syria is in an area where both Hezbollah and the Iranian armed Quds Force are known to operate with the blessing of another Iranian client, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.

This unholy alliance signals wider regional developments, such as the growing self-confidence of Iran and its proxies following recent “diplomatic” advances.

On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement, brokered by China, to end a seven-year division of diplomatic relations. Additionally, on March 19, President Assad surfaced from the isolation levied on him by the rest of the Arab world after the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, by visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and on April 1, his foreign minister visited Cairo, Egypt.

Even though Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran risk turning local opinion against them, this is a gamble they are willing to take in an attempt to collectively overpower Israel.

THIRD INTIFADA?

The violence between Israel and Palestine has increased during 2023 and has fueled speculation that yet another intifada could be imminent. Since January, in the 75th year of the nation’s rebirth as a modern state, 17 Israelis, one Ukrainian national, and one Italian tourist have been murdered within the borders of the Jewish nation.

As Israel’s leadership calls for calm from all sides after the fatal events, stating it will “return quiet with quiet,” Hamas praised one of the shooting deaths near Jericho and declared, “Never will the crimes of the occupation and its hordes of settlers not be met by further stabbing,

shooting, and ramming, and they will set flames and fires all over the West Bank and Jerusalem.”

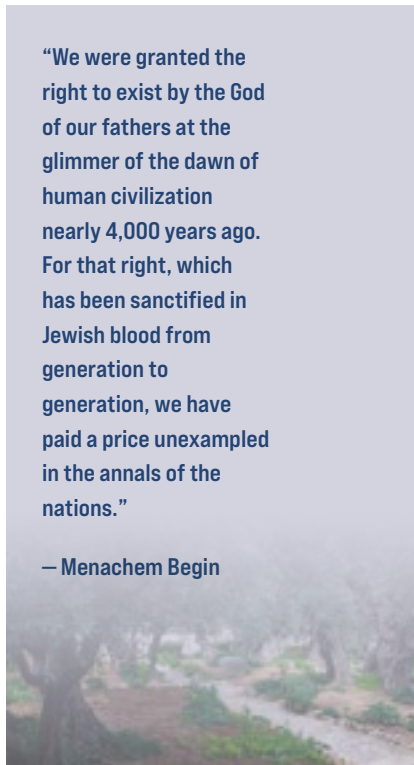
As of this writing, while the Jewish people sat at their holiday tables on the first day of Passover, over 34 rockets were fired from Lebanon, the largest barrage from that border since 2006. Simultaneously, Hamas terrorists in Gaza launched 64 projectiles at Israel and six rockets were launched from Syrian in a rare attack from Israel’s northeastern neighbor.

In response to the rocket attacks from Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, the Israeli Air Force targeted terrorists and infrastructure in all three locations to protect its civilian population from enemy missiles. At the same time, the IDF continued raids against terror hideouts in Nablus and Jericho. Additionally, in response to the increasing violence, Israel began calling up police and army reservists to reinforce their security forces.

Eventually, Israel will be forced to defend itself in a major confrontation with Iran and its proxies. And we can expect the United Nations and the international media

“We were granted the right to exist by the God of our fathers at the glimmer of the dawn of human civilization nearly 4,000 years ago. For that right, which has been sanctified in Jewish blood from generation to generation, we have paid a price unexampled in the annals of the nations.”

— Menachem Begin



to condemn Israel for any defensive action because they continually ignore the acts of aggression that force Israel to respond. What is most important, though, is that Israel is morally and legally justified in defending its sovereignty, maintaining the security of its borders, and assuring the safety of its people.

No matter what challenges Israel faces, or what enemies attack the Jewish state, Israel and the Jewish people will never be alone—millions of Bible-believing members of Christians United for Israel will be standing alongside them, come what may.

NOTES OF REFLECTION:

AM YISRAEL CHAI

After nearly 2,000 years of exile and longing, in 1948, Israel was reborn as a modern independent nation and in the 75 years since, we have seen God perform miracle after miracle on behalf of His beloved people.

Despite all the wars, all the terrorism, and all the sacrifice, Israel has thrived. The people of Israel are alive and well and God has kept His promises to the descendants of Abraham. The desert has bloomed. The barren places are fruitful again. And Israel, as assured by the Almighty, is blessing the nations of the world through its innovations as promised in Genesis 18:18.

Israel's awe-inspiring story throughout the last 3,500 years can be summed up in seven words: Covenant, Struggle, Sacrifice, Perseverance, Restoration, Blessing, and Hope.

As you learned in this writing, since God made an eternal covenant with Abraham, Israel has overcome a relentless barrage of attacks, survived constant struggles and sacrifices, and endured heartbreaking tragedies. This is not a revelation to us who believe what the Word of God says. Our God keeps His covenants for a thousand generations. The world may be mystified by Israel's perseverance and triumph, but we are not.

The miracle of Israel at 75 is that such a tiny nation surrounded by a massive sea of enemies has so quickly become one of the brightest torches of freedom, generosity, courage, and blessing in the world.

While the rest of the Middle East has been a dark place of torment for thousands of Christians and other religious minorities, the Jewish state has been a place of refuge, safety, and prosperity. In Israel, woman, religious, and ethnic minorities are free to pursue their dreams, worship as they choose, and participate in every level of society.

This covenant nation, restored by destitute refugees and Holocaust survivors, bequeathed a legacy of resilience, optimism, and faith to its descendants. With that legacy, the Jewish people have embraced peace instead of war, love instead of hate, and life instead of death.

The truth is that many in the Arab world owe their lives to Israel as well. The doctors and nurses who volunteer to perform lifesaving surgery on children from all over the Arab and Muslim world have given thousands of innocents new lives without asking or caring what their parents think about Israel. And the IDF medics who respond to terror attacks treat a wounded terrorist with as much dignity and proficiency as they do the victims of terror.

Through the foundation of their faith, Israel has found the divine grace to show unconditional love and compassion to all of humanity. Not only do the people of Israel live—they

are an example to the rest of the world of how we can live in peace under the blessings and hope of God.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is unfolding Israel's prophetic destiny before our eyes, and Christians United for Israel is proudly standing with His Chosen People as He fulfills His mighty plan. As the Lord's covenant nation celebrates over 75 years of miracles, we unite with one voice and declare that

Am Yisrael Chai—the people of Israel live!

SEVENTY MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE POSITIVELY IMPACTING ISRAEL

In the 70 days leading up to Israel's celebration of its 70th anniversary, the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the Jewish News Syndicate chose to honor 70 Americans who have invaluable strengthened and blessed Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship since its rebirth as a nation. Christians United for Israel was thrilled to announce that our founder and Chairman, Pastor John C. Hagee, was chosen as the 27th of 70.

Along with historic American icons such as Albert Einstein, Frank Sinatra, Elie Wiesel, and Reinhold Niebuhr, Israel honored Pastor John Hagee for his decades of friendship and generosity to the Jewish State. The JNS story praised and thanked Pastor Hagee for playing a leading role in strengthening the relationship between American

Christians and the State of Israel, beginning with the first Night to Honor Israel in 1981 and culminating in the creation of CUFI which is now over 10 million members strong and growing rapidly.

The Land of Israel is the center of the world—Jerusalem is the center of the Land—the Holy Temple is the center of Jerusalem—the Holy of Holies is the center of the Holy Temple—the Holy Ark is the center of the Holy of Holies and the Foundation Stone from which the world was established is before the Holy Ark.

**- Midrash Tanhuma,
Kedoshim**

“CUFI has become the largest pro-Israel Christian group in the United States, and one of Israel’s most significant and vital sources of support in America.”

- JEWISH NEWS SYNDICATE

We at CUFI are humbled and gratified that the State of Israel chose to honor Pastor Hagee as a man of uncommon courage, conviction, and moral clarity. With God’s help, Pastor Hagee will continue to build his legacy for many generations to come and Christians United for Israel will always be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem.

Thank you for being part of this historic movement. This is only the beginning!

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL (CUFI)'S IMPACT

As the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States, with over 10 million members, **Christians United for Israel (CUFI) is the foremost Christian organization educating and empowering millions of Americans to speak and act with one voice in defense of Israel and the Jewish people.**

CUFI's diversity across political, ethnic, generational, and denominational lines maximizes our impact in communities, in the media, on campus, and in our nation's capital. CUFI is committed to confronting indifference and combating antisemitism in all its forms wherever it may be found.

CUFI ON CAMPUS equips Christian students from across the country with biblical principles and knowledge of the Middle East to be effective voices for Israel on their college campuses. To date, CUFI on Campus has trained over 4,200 students, has a presence on over 230 campuses throughout the United States and has taken over 700 students to Israel.

CUFI HIGH SCHOOL educates high school student leaders to prepare them to combat antisemitism and stand up for Israel now in their high schools and on their future college campuses.

THE ISRAEL COLLECTIVE (IC), a national initiative of Christians United for Israel has taken 1,000 millennial influencers to Israel. The IC communicates the truth about Israel and the Middle East to the next generation through social media and films that highlight the heart and the people of Israel.

DAUGHTERS FOR ZION PRAYER NETWORK (DFZ) is an initiative of Christians United for Israel whose purpose is to organize intercessory prayer groups in America to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, the well-being of the state of Israel and her people, the growth and development of Christians United for Israel, and specific prayer alerts that arise through the year. To date, Daughters for Zion has thousands of members throughout the nation and the world.

CUFI PASTOR LEADERSHIP ISRAEL EXPERIENCE, transforms pastors from spiritual pilgrims to passionate Zionists who share Israel's story with their congregations. The pastors see biblical accounts come to life, and witness the strength, resilience, and kindness of the Jewish people firsthand. Each life-changing pilgrimage positively impacts their lives as well as the lives of people they influence for years to come.

CUFI IMPACT ISRAEL EXPERIENCE identifies key leaders from a variety of spheres in American Society and connects them to the state and people of Israel through a deeply impactful journey to the Promised Land.

THE RABBI SCHEINBERG FELLOWSHIP, established in 2021 in honor of Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg (of blessed memory), was created to foster long lasting relationships between Jewish and Christian spiritual leaders across the United States. This initiative pairs rabbis and pastors to study and grow together in their knowledge and love for Israel, as well as each other and their faiths, through the study of God's Word.

CUFI WASHINGTON SUMMIT is our premier annual event bringing thousands of pro-Israel Christians to our nation's capital to stand up and speak up for Israel and the Jewish people. CUFI members learn from national and international leaders and visit Capitol Hill to encourage every member of Congress to support policies that strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

LEARN WHAT ISRAEL IS

Learn the heart and history of Israel through one of the hundreds of events across the nation every year.

cufi.org/events

MICRO HISTORY VIDEOS

In less than three minutes CUFi's micro-history videos explore significant developments in Israel's history to the trials she faces today. cufi.org/micro-history

EBOOKS

Learn more about Israel, antisemitism, and the Middle East through CUFi's free ebooks. cufi.org/ebooks

CUFI WEEKLY

Don't miss new episodes dropping every Thursday on YouTube to stay informed on all things Israel.

cufi.org/cufiweekly

HOSTING A SMALL GROUP STUDY SERIES

CUFi's small group curriculum using CUFi's The Israel Course enables our members to gather together and learn about Israel. cufi.org/group

JOIN THE DFZ PRAYER TEAM

Connect with thousands of intercessors around the nation to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. cufi.org/dfz

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and LinkedIn for breaking news and engaging educational content. We share Israel's story in real-time with millions of Christians across multiple platforms.

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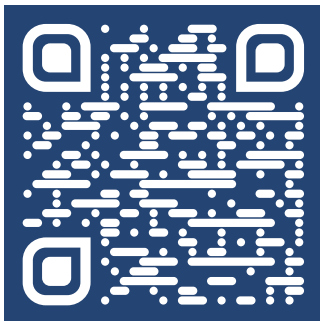
 Christians United for Israel

BECOME A MEMBER

Join over 10 million Christians in standing and speaking up for Israel. Become a CUFI member today! cufi.org/join

BECOME A PARTNER

CUFI is helping make Israel stronger and the Jewish people safer by recruiting, training, and mobilizing thousands of Christians to boldly and effectively combat relentless attacks against Israel and the Jewish people. Help us seize the momentum God has granted us to play a pivotal role in the story of Israel and the Jewish people during this critical moment in history. cufi.org/donate



**HELP US MAKE
ISRAEL STRONGER
AND THE JEWISH
PEOPLE SAFER.**

[CUFI.ORG/DONATE](https://cufi.org/donate)

NOTES OF REFLECTION:
