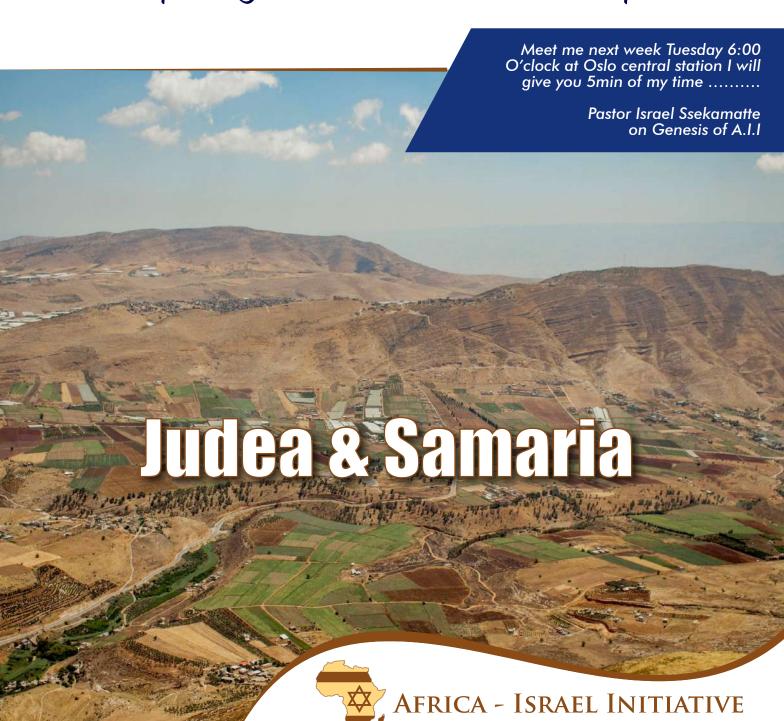
II EDITION

## AFRICA-ISRAEL JOURNAL

### Exploring Africa Israel Relationship



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### 1. EDITOR'S DESK

Shalom.

Welcome to our second edition of Africa Israel Journal (A.I.J), we are just about to turn our calendar to the last page of the year, this year having been unique to each of us presenting its own share of challenges as well as opportunities I appreciate that A.I.I was able to launch its first Edition of Africa Israel Journal, this was not a easy task but it took the hand of God. Therefore, I give Him all the glory.

Before I delve into our September edition I acknowledge members of A.I.I who participated by writing articles in the inaugural edition of our Journal which literally set the pace and precedent of the A.I.J. A.I.J is an open access Journal. Therefore if you have not had a copy I encourage that you get one from our

website.http://www.africa-israel.org/. available

both in French and in English.

This Journal focuses on Africa blessing Israel based on A.I.I mandate to help Israel fulfill its end time obligation. September edition is dedicated to Judea &Samaria; it also happened that our Journal was officially launched by Mr. Yossi Dagan who is head of Samaria Regional Council. I am sure you will find it informative and engaging as you read along.

Africa continues to play a key role in blessing Israel following our faith in God and believing in the Bible A.I.I presents to you our second edition of A.I.J. our love for Shomron, Judea regions in Israel.

Shalom.

Pastor.

**Geoffrey Mabwai Sosingot**. Editor. Africa Israel Journal.

Email: geoffrey@africa-israel.org



### 2. SECRETARIAT REPORT

The year has been a very challenging one especially due to the covid 19 pandemic. We begun the year with celebrating the International Holocaust Remembrance Day this being our second anniversary on the event the response was better than the previous one. The event was held in Nairobi Kenya, and a number of evangelical leaders from around Kenya attended. The event was graced by his Excellency Hon Eyal David Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Kenya. As travel restrictions started to take effect our operations were greatly curtailed since most of our stakeholders were affected. It become apparent, the only way to proceed with our activities was to go online.

#### **Zoom meetings:**

We have been able to have three consultative meetings via zoom with our leaders across the continent. They have been very fruitful and the outcome has given us roadmaps for the future. One of the outcome was our newsletter which has been a pipe dream for some time.

On 6th August we were able to launch our Africa Israel Journal (via zoom meeting) which will open unlimited opportunities for A.I.I. The Launch was a success and was graced by the Shomron Regional Council head Mr.Yossi Dagan. Also present was Mr. David Haiivri Shomron council member and Mr Chen Ben Lulu the director of

International affairs for the Shomron. Over 20 African nations were represented during the event and I appreciate all who made time to attend by logging in, this was a total success.

We appreciate our editorial team lead by Pastor Geoffrey Mabwai and his team for the passion and professional work they have done and dedication to this project. Also our President Bishop Joshua Mulinge has been very supportive and entire board of trustees.

The secretariat is hoping for your continued support God bless.

#### **Pastor Nicholas Otieno**

Head of Secretariat, Africa Israel Initiative.

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# 3. GENESIS OF A.I.I

It was August 2010 when I met Pastor Erik Selle in Oslo after a long struggle.

It all began when the Lord sent me on a missionary trip to Sweden and Norway in July 2010.

And as I was in Guds ord Church in Oslo were I had been given a small sofa for a bed during the night, I met a man called Svein Olav who asked for my name, and when I told him that my name is Israel! He right away told me that I need to meet a young man (Erik) who loves the nation of Israel and is a great teacher on Israel's relationship with the church.

Meet me next week
Tuesday 6:00 O'clock at
Oslo central station I will
give you 5min of my time
......

Pastor Israel Ssekamatte on Genesis of A.I.I

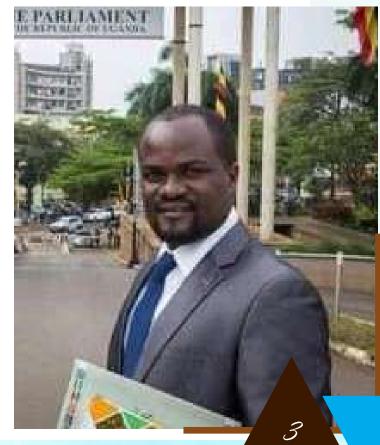
Svein Olav then took me to Erik's mother in law (who went to be with the Lord 5 years ago) she had been one of the greatest supporters of Israel during the world war. She straightaway gave me Erik's phone contact who was away in Israel for a youth trip at that time.

I then left Oslo back to Stockholm where I called Erik several times and his only response was " am busy please but try to call me next time" he did not put into consideration the expensive calling cards that I used to call him from Sweden calling Norway.

Within me I had a spiritual conviction that this man had something that would change the continent of Africa and I was not to rest until I get him down.

And after several failed attempts, Erik finally responded and said "Meet me next week Tuesday 6:00 O'clock at Oslo central station I will give you 5 minutes of my time". That was a breakthrough.

After that breakthrough call I took a Subway to Stockholm central station and booked a train ticket to get me from Stockholm to Oslo on Tuesday which is a 7 hours' journey just to meet a honored preacher for 5 Minutes.



When we finally met for the 5 minutes I made him understand why he needed to come to Africa, as I looked at my watch he simply cut my long story short and told me he saw Jesus in my Eyes and he was ready to come with me to Africa.

And when he came to Uganda which was his first visit to Africa in November 2010 we had such a wonderful seminar which was the doorway and the beginning of the great Africa - Israel revival we are having today.

looking Back 10 years ago in August 2010 when I met Erik in Oslo and what was to be a 5 min meeting has become a great movement across Africa, USA, Europe, and just of recent God has opened Australia, I thank God who brought us together with my brother from another mother.

I am grateful to God for my Great spiritual father Bishop Joshua Mulinge whom God used to Anoint me and teach me about connecting with people from all across the world and through him God has blessed Africa tremendously.

Ebenezer has brought us a mighty long way and am sure he is taking us further.

Pastor.

#### **Israel Favorite Ssekamatte**



# 4. LOVER OF ISRAEL TESTIMONY

Israel is much more than a tiny piece of land in the Middle East. She is living proof that the Jewish people have survived against all odds, and will continue to survive -- and thrive.

Israel's citizens live in a constant state of the alertness. They don't know when or where the next terrorist attack will occur, they don't know which countries will turn against them in the court of world opinion, they don't know how their economy will fare. But thanks to the evangelical narrative they do know that they will continue to live their lives with some semblance of normalcy, they do know that, unlike many other nations and counterparts, they will continue to cherish life.

Many of the world's most advanced technological and health care innovations originated in Israel. For a country the size of New Jersey, this is nothing short of remarkable. I smile every time I hear of another Israeli breakthrough.

I am also particularly proud of the fact that hospitals in Israel treat everyone alike – would-be suicide bombers, terrorist victims, innocent bystanders and heroes. Walk down the hospital hallways and you'll see kippot alongside keffiyahs and crosses, in particular hadassah hospital.

Regardless of politics, I support Israel. I am a Zionist, and that transcends party lines. Likud, Labor, right, left, religious, secular etc, it's of no consequence to me. The only thing that matters is Israel's existence.

To me, Israel is a gem in the midst of a turbulent region. She's perhaps a little rough around the edges, but it's nothing a little polishing can't fix. Israel feeds my spirit and



Mr. Hakims photo taken during Feast of Trumpets
- Rosh Hashanah festival in Nairobi Kenya.

my soul. She is an intoxicating mélange of sights, smells, tastes, sounds. From the rosy Jerusalem stone to the buoyant Dead Sea to the mouth-watering falafel food stands, Israel awakens my senses. She is filled with irony, as a Shabbat melody is pierced by the wails of sirens... followed by the wails of the terrorists' latest targets and then, a deafening silence.

I live in Kenya but Israel is in my heart. I think of Israel constantly. I think of her when I check my emails daily for updates from different organizations and people that support Israel. I think of Israel at sunset when it hits me that according to the Jewish culture, a day starts in the evening. I think of Israel when I hold look at the walls of my home, covered with the Israeli and Jerusalem flags. Or when I put on a piece of jewelry crafted by Israeli artisans. I think of Israel every time I glance at my star of David.

This is the only land in the entire world that God has not only put His name in it but has also demarcated its border lines. I cannot remove Israel from my being. I am Israeli, she is me, we are one. When all else in the world seems dark and hopeless, The God of Israel is my beacon of hope. Am Yisrael Chai.

Joshua Akim.

Email: joshakim4jc@gmail.com



# 5. REPORT FROM FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES

#### Good News !!!

Shalom! Shalom! To all the friends of Israel and to the people of Israel.

We are very happy to see how God has been working since 2018, the year when we received the trust of senior officials of Africa Israel Initiative (AII), to develop this great vision in Francophone countries.

Since then, five nations have opened up to the vision: Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, the Ivory Coast, the Republic of Togo and the Central African Republic (CAR) which has already made giant strides towards the conflagration of this vision at the level of its National Assembly.

Indeed, All-CAR officials are already in contact with their nation's parliamentarians for Israel: they had meetings that have resulted in these parliamentarians agreeing to the All's

vision and they are about to send a letter to KNESSET. However, we are preparing for the next few days for the establishment of the respective National Offices of All-CAR and All-Ivory Coast.

In conclusion, we say that news are very good in these nations and we await the effectiveness of the opening of the borders for the relaunch of our activities.

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# 6. NIGERIA PARLIAMENTARY ISRAEL ALLIES CAUCUS (NPIAC) TO COLLABORATE WITH EMBASSY OF ISRAEL FOR MUTUAL BENEFITS

Courtesy Call To His Excellency, Ambassador Shimon Ben-Shoshan, Ambassador the State of Israel to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The leadership of NPIAC held a strategic courtesy to the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria at the Israel Embassy in Nigeria on Tuesday September 8th, 2020.





- 1. The delegation includes the Chairman, Hon. (Rev.) Dr.Ossai Nicholas Ossai PhD, the Nigerian Director, Rev. Barr. (Mrs.) Sally Williams Chinedu, and Desk Officer, Amb. Sunday ChibuzoOkereke, and was warmly received by His Excellency the Ambassadoraccompanied by Chikadibia-Meenu, Public Diplomacy and Culture Officer to the Embassy of Israel, Nigeria.
- 2. The Nigerian Caucus Chair while felicitating with the Ambassador on the latest historic peace agreement between the State of Israel and United Arab Emirates (UAE); informed His Excellency the Ambassador that the delegation were at the Embassy to familiarize with him, intimate the Ambassador of the establishment of the Nigeria Parliamentary Israel Allies Caucus in the National Assembly, and discuss strategic areas of collaborations between the Embassy and the Nigerian Caucus for the mutual benefits of both countries.
- 3. The Chairman also informed the Ambassador of the official inauguration of the Nigerian Caucus scheduled for third week of October 2020 in Abuja, Nigeria and the commitment of the leadership and Members of the Caucus to work with the Ambassador foster new frontiers of partnerships including legislative

exchange programmes, development forums, agriculture, and stand against anti-Semitisms, anti-Zionist and BDS for the mutual benefits. On membership recruitment, the Chairman stated that the Caucus has concluded plans to expand its membership to the Nigerian Senate and to the State Legislative Assemblies across the country.



4. The Nigerian Director, Rev. Dr. Sally Williams Chinebu in her contribution, informed the Ambassador of the numerous programmes and legislative interventions undertaken by the Caucus since inception and the Caucus plan to build unique alliances with faith based organizations to advance mutuality of interests between Nigeria and Israel. She promised working with the Chairman and Caucus members to deploy the reach of the Caucus secretariat to organize out-

reaches to promote the interests of both countries.

- 5. The Honourable Ambassador in response expressed appreciation to the NPIAC delegation for the historic and pledged to work with the Nigerian Caucus in building enduring partnerships to strengthen ties between Nigeria and Israel.
- 6. The Ambassador noted that this year marks the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Israel and called for Nigeria to use the opportunity of the enviable diamond jubilee anniversary to consider the urgent need to move the Nigerian Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.
- 7. He further pledged to work with the Caucus to host a successful Maiden Inaugural Ceremony including facilitating the attendance and active participation of other Ambassadors and friends of Israel in Nigeria.
- 8. The Meeting resolved as follows:
- a. That the State Israel is strategic and importanttoglobal peace and development.
- b. That the Nigerian Caucus and the Israel Embassy in Nigeria will collaborate in the areas of legislative exchanges, cultural and peace building exchanges; agricultural training and innovation, security, education, science and technology.
- c. Take deliberate steps to promote and strengthen diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Israel.
- d. Work closely to push for the relocation of Nigerian Embassy in Israel to Jerusa-

lem;

e. Support activities and engagements that promote mutually beneficial unique interests of both countries.





# 8. EVANGELICAL BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

#### THE ANNEXATION OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA

- by Vivienne

# Annexation or restoration: Whose land is it actually?



Monthly column by Vivienne Myburgh



News media in South Africa and elsewhere frequently portray Israel as an illegal occupier of Palestinian land. And, according to recent reports, the state of Israel has imminent plans to perpetrate further land grabs. What are the facts? Vivienne Myburgh national director of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem in South Africa addresses the land issue.

Let us start by clarifying that the only one who recently "annexed" the land concerned was Jordan during the War of Independence in 1948 when they joined five other Arab armies in attacking the newly-formed State of Israel with the intention of annihilating the Jewish state.

In 1967 Jordan again attacked Israel, along with other Arab nations. Israel won the war and ended up not only ejecting the invading Arab forces but also capturing and holding some 5 000 km2 over and above the areas allocated to it by the original United Nations partition plan of 1947. The captured territory included Israel's ancient

biblical homeland of Judea and Samaria (so-called "West Bank") and East Jerusalem.

Judea and Samaria was part of the original homeland of the Jewish nation. It was where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived and where they are buried. It includes the areas where Joshua first built the tabernacle at Shiloh and where Israel established herself as a nation around 3 370 years ago. Jesus was a Judean. If He lived in the area today He would be considered an illegal alien by some and would not be welcome in His hometown. This hilly countryside is known as the biblical heartland of Israel.

But let us take a short step back into history to confirm whose land it is legally.

**1917** — during World War I the British war cabinet, under foreign secretary Lord Balfour, agreed to the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, based on their ancient rights to the land. This become known as the Balfour Declaration.

**1919** — after WWI England and France as mandatory powers carved up the former Ottoman Empire. which had collapsed a year earlier, into geographic spheres of influence.

1920 – The Supreme Council of the Allied powers met at San Remo, Italy and ratified Article 22, which confirmed the Balfour Declaration which stated that Britain was mandated to govern the area known as Palestine until a Jewish homeland could be reconstituted. The designated homeland area included most of modern Israel and Jordan and was known as the area of the British Mandate of Palestine.

Let's be clear that there has never been a nation or state called Palestine. The Romans renamed the area of Judea, Palestina in 134 AD in an attempt to wipe off any connection of Israel/Judea to her Biblical heritage. This is the origin of the name Palestine of today.

The mandate's terms were finalised and unanimously approved on July 24 1922 by the Council of the League of Nations, which comprised 51 countries.

It is important to note that these agreements are the last legally-binding agreements regarding the status of what is today commonly called "the West Bank and Gaza".

**1922** — Britain betrayed its promise to the Jews and cut off 77% of the mandate area earmarked for the Jews and gave it to Abdullah (brother of Faisal bin Hussein, who they had given Iraq to), creating the new country of Transjordan, or Jordan, as it was later named.

In reality, two thirds of the original territory promised to the Jews was given to the Arabs.



The League of Nations was dissolved in **1946** and the United Nations was formed. It is important to note that Article 80 of the UN Charter, stated that any previous rights agreed to by the League of Nations, had to be honoured by the new body. This would have included the rights of the Jews to the remaining area of Palestine, as promised.

1947 — Resolution 181: the General Assembly of the UN proposed that the remaining territory (since Jordan had been cut off in 1922) be divided between Jews and Arabs and that they each have a state of their own, with Jerusalem as an international city.

The Jews agreed but the Arabs did not. They refused to recognise a Jewish State. The result was that this resolution never became a binding resolution!

The White Paper of 1939 whereby Britain blocked Jewish immigrants and refugees from WW2 from returning to their homeland was a brutal betrayal of the Jews and contravened key conditions of the British Mandate. There is a clear case to be made for the downward slide of the British Empire since this betrayal — an example of the curse that follows nations who curse the Jews/Israel.

To summarise: the legal rights given to the Jewish people over the mandate area called Palestine were legally agreed to and ratified and have never been nullified.



After the Jews accepted the partition plan of 1947 they went on to declare the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14 1948. The next day the War of Independence broke out, when Israel was attacked by five Arab armies. Jordan went on to annex areas of Judea and Samaria and eventually renamed the area "The West Bank".

The irony is that while Jordan had sovereignty over the territory between 1948 and 1967 nobody called for a Palestinian state. The quality of life for the Arabs living in the area was poor under Jordanian rule but improved dramatically when Israel took control of the territories after '67. Life expectancy increased from an average of around 48.5 years (1948-1967) to 73 years (post '67) for the average Palestinian.

There has never been a nation-state called Palestine and the narrative of a Palestinian people with a national identity was invented by the likes of Yassar Arafat during the 1960s when he headed up the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), supported by Russia. Arafat himself was not a "Palestinian" but an Egyptian who only moved to Jordan/ West Bank area during the early 60s.

The call for Israel to return to pre-1967 borders or The Green line is also referred to by Israeli sceptics as Auschwitz lines due to the fact that a return to those borders would place many Israelis' lives in mortal danger. The PA has never accepted the existence of Israel and has never stopped promoting terrorism. The PA is a weak authority and if Israel relinquished control of the "West Bank", as they did of Gaza in 2005, the PA would most certainly be taken over by radical forces like Hamas, within a short time. Israelis would then face rocket attacks as they do from Gaza. In fact, 75% of Israelis would have 15 seconds to get to a nearby bomb shelter, Israel would be only about 15 km wide in some areas and its borders would be largely indefensible. It would be totally irresponsible to even contemplate the creation of a Palestinian State within such close proximity and within what is clearly their biblical, historical and legal land.

Israel cannot "annex" Judea and Samaria because, as Former prime minister Menachem Begin once said: "You can annex foreign territory. You cannot annex your own country."

In contrast, it is high time that Israel exercises sovereignty over all of her land and supports the brave Jewish families who are settling the land of Judea and Samaria in fulfilment of God's calling for them to do so.

The Arab inhabitants of the area can choose to live once again in peace, side by side with their Jewish brothers. Israel has always offered them peace and prosperity. The choice is theirs.

South Africa and most nations of the world would never agree to what Israel is being asked to do if they were in Israel's position. The hypocrisy of the nations towards Israel needs to stop and the truth needs to be told.



Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.... Who said, "Let us take for ourselves The pastures of God for a possession." ...Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O Lord. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, That they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.

- Excerpts from Psalm 83

#### Vivienne Myburgh

**National Director** 

ICEJ (International Christian Embassy Jerusalem) South Africa

### WHY THE CHURCH MUST STAND BY ISRAEL SIDE

#### - By Apostle Benoit A. Boumsong

We believe that it is important for the Church to really search the Scriptures in order to avoid falling into the trap of pride and arrogance towards Israel, which would expose it to divine judgment.

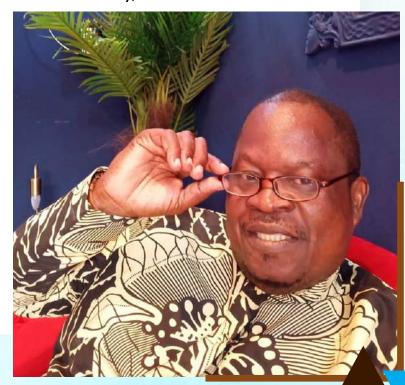
During World War II, a very troubled period in the history of mankind, one of the most horrific events concerning the Jewish people took place: the Shoah, also called the Jewish Holocaust.

The Nazi regime, led by the anti-Semitic dictator Hitler, was the perpetrator of a genocide that resulted in the death of nearly 6 million Jews in public shooting executions and concentration camps, just to name but a few. What is most intriguing about this story is the Church position during these events. Indeed, since the Middle Ages, the Jews were regularly victims of anti-Semitism, because the Christians blamed them for the death of Christ; this phenomenon is called the Jewish deicide. This rampant anti-Semitism within the Church thus led to positions to the disadvantage of the Jews during World War II. The Church also remained neutral, on the other hand, for fear of reprisals.

We must learn from these events today, and understand that not only did the Holy Scriptures foresee the death of Christ (Isaiah 53), but also that Christ had to be sacrificed for the redemption of Humanity, the reconciliation of the

world with God the Father and the introduction of the second flock that we are into the New Covenant.

The Holy Scriptures also declare that there will come a time when all the nations of the world will turn against Israel. In which way? Through the media and testimonials. It is so obvious that we have reached this season. That is why it's crucial to understand why we need to stand with Israel today.



When we talk about Israel, it means:

- 1. A land ownership about which God has made declarations.
- 2. And the people of God to whom He gave a land and the boundaries of the land.

This is a primary issue for the Creator of all things, and His word is non-negotiable. The things God said about Israel were never revoked!

In this article, I have identified seven main reasons that must lead us as a Church to stand with Israel today.

#### Reason 1: It's because Israel is God's choice.

Israel is the only country in the world about which God has said in the Bible in a unique, prophetic, redemptive and repeated way: "It is mine." God speaks of Israel like He does not about any other country on Earth. Israel was raised up to be a light to the nations.

**Isaiah 42:6** "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles"

**Exodus 3:7** "The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering"

**Exodus 5:1** "Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness"

**Exodus 6:7** "I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians"

Listen: Every believer should make the Jews a priority in their value system, because God Himself does so. It may not make sense to some people, but that thought comes under the sovereignty of God.

The Lord chose a people by first choosing a man named Abraham. The Lord said that through the seed of Abraham with Sarah his wife, He would give birth to the promised child, Isaac, and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed... which means that every human being will have access to the blessing of the Almighty God.



#### Reason 2: It's because Israel is the Root.

The Word of God calls the Jews the "root" and the Gentiles the "branches".

Romans 11:16 "If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches"

**Romans 11:17** "If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root"

**Romans 11:18** "...do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you"

Many Christians have been thinking that they are more important than Israel before God. We don't have to be arrogant, but rather fearful, for if God didn't spare the natural branches, He may not spare us either.

#### Reason 3: It is because Israel is the first born of God.

**Exodus 4:22** "Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my first born son"

A Brother in the Faith, Bishop Joshua Mulinge from Kenya said: "Just because you have a second child doesn't mean the first will be kicked out of the house!". Israel being the firstborn in the family, as such we owe him respect. Disrespecting the first born in your family is disrespecting your authority.

This is why God said unto Israel, "whoever curses you I will curse ", Genesis 12:3.

#### Reason 4: It is because we have been given the mandate to pray for Israel.

**Isaiah 62: 6-7** "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."

The whole Church must honor this mandate.

There are three main divine mandates in the Bible:

- The 1st is linked to our success in this world
- The 2nd is linked to our eternal destiny
- The 3rd is linked to the destiny of Israel

Praying for the peace of Jerusalem is the mandate that God has given to "all who call on the name of the Lord"

#### Reason 5: It is because Israel is our source of blessings.

Genesis 12:1-3 "The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make You into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

This scripture helps us understand that Israel is a channel of blessing for individuals and for nations.

Many have believed that their work and their calculations will give them access to the Blessing. But God is the One who blesses!

**Psalm 122: 6** "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."

#### Reason 6: It's because we have the same destiny.

In recent times, a spirit of hostility opposes Christians as much as Jews and will eventually bring persecution to both.

Just as the Scriptures state that there are two witnesses who will be put to death in Jerusalem at the end of time (**Revelation 11**), so there are two witnesses who have stood for God throughout history: Jews and Christians.

Hostility and hatred are directed as much against Christian believers as against Israel, because there is a spirit in the world that rises up against all that is of God and all that is in Him.

#### Reason 7: It's because we have the same ancestor - Christ

**Galatians 3:29** "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Our place in the present order of God's plan ties us inextricably to the Jews as a people, and at the same time to the Land of Israel, according to His Word.

When we place our trust in the Redeemer who came through the Jews, we come into the line of those who trusted God according to the revelation of His grace and His plan of redemption.

The Scriptures state that, in a spiritual sense, when you receive the Lord, you become a Jew:

**Romans 2: 28-29** "A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God."

Galatians 3: 26-29 "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

#### **Apostle Benoit A. Boumsong**

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NB: All the Bible references are taken from the New International Bible.



#### 8. BIBLICAL TEACHING BY RABBI:

#### THE CITY OF SHECHEM

- by Mr. David Ha'ivri

#### Shalom!

My home in Israel is just south of the city of Shechem also known to some as Nablus. Many refer to this region as the West Bank and they do not understand why this place is so important to Jews and Christians. If we take a quick look in the Bible we will find many mentions of the city of Shechem and we will realize that this is a major biblical location.

The best place to start might be at the very beginning. If we read the book of Genesis chapter 12, we will learn about Abraham the Patriarch. He heard the voice of God who told him to leave his father's home and to a land that he would show him. Abraham wasted no time and set out immediately to follow the calling of God.

"The LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation" Genesis 12:1

Four verses later we find him at Shechem in the land of Cannan where God promised this land to his seed forever.

Abram went forth as the LORD had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the wealth that they had amassed, and the persons that they had acquired in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, at the terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land. Genesis 12:4-6

At this place God bless the Nations through the seed of Abraham and I will bless those who bless you and curse those curse you Genesis 12:3.

"And I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse him that curses you; And all the families of the earth Shall bless themselves by you".

Genesis 12:2-3

When Joshua son of Nun led the children of Israel into the land of Israel

after the passing of Moses, he brought them to stand between two mountains. Mount Gerezim in the South and Mount Eval in the north. There they recited the blessings and curses of the Torah. Blessing for a nation that would have obey the word of God. This event took place at the city of Shechem.

When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and possess, you shall pronounce the blessing at Mount Gerizim and the curse at Mount Ebal. Deutornomy 11:29

Joseph the Righteous one, the son of Jacob. Who was the second only to the king of Egypt, he who provided for the nation of Israel and for all of the nations during times of famine in hardship. He requested that his brothers promise to bring him to be buried in the land of Israel.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. God will surely take notice of you and bring you up from this land to the land that He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.So Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "When God has taken notice of you, you shall carry up my bones from here. Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. Genesis 50:24-26

The Bible tells us in the book of Joshua and the children of Israel brought the bones of Joseph to be buried in the land of Israel in the field that was purchased by their father Jacob at the city of Shechem.

The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought for a hundred kesitah from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father. The Book of Joshua 24:32

When Rechavam or Rehoboam, the son of Shlomo, King Solomon was to be crowned as the king of the tribes of Israel he came to Shechem to seek approval of the northern tribes. An effort that didn't end well as he was rejected and the nation of Israel was divided into the southern kingdom of Judea whose capital would remain in Jerusalem and the northern kingdom of Israel whose capital would be Shechem.

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to acclaim him as king. The Book of 1st Kings 12:1

Sadly, today the city of Shechem is under the occupation of the Palestinian Authority and our access to pray at the holy places is currently greatly restricted. We pray for change for the better. In the meantime, we can

view Joseph's Tomb and the ancient Biblical city of Shechem from the heights of Mount Gerezim above.

It was my pleasure and honor to be a tour guide for the delegation of Africa Israel initiative with Bishop Joshua Mulinge on tour of the holy places and the Jewish towns and farms in the Shomron region. I pray that again soon I will be able to meet with all of the wonderful people of Africa to visit the Holy Land again. I send you blessings from the heartland of Israel for good health and prosperity.

Shalom.

Mr. David Ha'ivri



#### 9. ISRAEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

#### SAMARIA "SHOMRON"

#### - by Chen Ben Lulu

The Shomron (Samaria) is renowned for being the Land of the Bible. This is where Abraham walked, where Joseph and Joshua are buried, where Joshua's Altar is located, where the prophet Samuel was born, where the famous war at Even He-Ezer took place and many more biblical events occurred. The region is also well-known for its excellent quality wines, just as Jeremiah prophesied: "Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant and enjoy the fruit"

- Jeremiah 31:5.

Since the return of the People of Israel to Judea and Samaria, after the 1967 Six Day War, the Shomron has been prominent in its diverse industry, through which the Shomron Regional Council promotes cooperation and coexistence between Arabs and Jews. In the Barkan Industrial Area alone, there are 164 factories in which approximately 7,200 workers are employed, of whom about 4,000 are Arab residents of Judea and Samaria.

Palestinians employed in the Palestinian economy earn an average of 2,000 NIS a month (approx. 550 USD), without any pension, social benefits or employees' rights. In comparison, those who are employed in Israeli industry earn Israeli wages and enjoy the full protection of Israeli labor law: Employers are obligated to pay a minimum monthly wage of about 5,400 NIS (approx. 1,600 USD). In addition, all employees receive full social benefits: An 8-hour workday, convalescence pay, pension and fully paid leave on both Moslem and Jewish holidays.

Since the cost of living in the Palestinian Authority is much lower than in the average western country, Palestinian workers employed in Judea and Samaria are able to provide for their immediate families as well as many others. Because remuneration is commensurate with qualifications and not according to race or religion, many qualified Palestinians hold management positions in Israeli industry and earn salaries accordingly.

If those calling for a boycott succeed in closing Jewish-owned factories, the first to be hurt will be the Arabs of Judea and Samaria: Israeli workers will receive unemployment compensation, and within a short time will find work, whereas thousands of Arab workers will be forced to join the ranks of the tens of thousands of unemployed residents of the Palestinian Authority. They will not receive unemployment compensation by the P.A., thus significantly aggravating their economic situation.

In recent years, the Shomron Regional Council has established an advocacy network that brings prominent politicians, diplomats and media personalities from Israel and abroad to the Shomron. Thousands of tours and visits have been conducted for legislators, civil servants, journalists, business people, intellectuals, heads of key civic organizations, and other agenda and policy-makers from all over the world. These tours challenge visitors to question their preconceptions and to re-examine media messages, highlight opportunities for conflict resolution, and offer a framework for dialogue, understanding and cooperation which can contribute to peace.

This flourishing region offers not only a window to history, Bible and views, but also an important opportunity for real co-existence and wide variety of businesses and industry.

We invite you all to join us and play a significant role in re-building the Land of the Bible, fulfilling the ancient sacred prophesies and telling the truth of the Holy Land to the world.

#### Chen Ben-Lulu

International Relations Executive Director

Advisor to the Mayor

Email: Chenbl@shomron.org.il



#### TWITOPLAST CO LTD.

#### - by Moshe Lev-Ran

Name : Moshe Lev-Ran

Residence : Kibbutz Negba (Near Gaza Strip) Occupation: International Export Manager

22 years at Twitoplast

45 Years of experience in export

- In Judea & Samaria there are 14 industrial zones
- Palestinians & Israelis are employed together: 20,000 Palestinians & 40,000 Israelis
- **Export** in tens of millions of €
- In the **Barkan** industrial zone, the biggest in Judea & Samaria, there are 164 factories
- Employing 8000 workers, of whom 50% are Palestinians and 50% are Israelis
- 60 factories are on the waiting list to open in Barkan
- **Twitoplast** Ltd. is a company privately owned by Mr. Israel & Mrs. Shoshana Twito, focusing on the development and manufacture of plastic & aluminum accessories, primarily for the HAVC market
- We Export to Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda Etc.







OPAL GIZEDO





- One of 164 factories in the Barkan Industrial Zone
- ✓ 120 workers, of whom 50% are Palestinians and 50% are Israelis
- The Palestinians hold various positions such as **Plant Manager**, **Electrical Engineer & Chemist**
- The salaries are the same for Israelis & Palestinians, beginning at about 1500 € per month
- All social benefits and pensions paid according to Israeli law (Almost nonexistent in the P.A)
- In our factory we work like one big family





- ✓ Once a year we celebrate together on a retreat fun day
- Joint trips to Eilat and Aquaba
- Celebrating Jewish and Muslim Holidays
- Celebrating family occasions together
- Hebrew lessons

#### Latest E.U. Ruling Regarding Labeling of Products and BDS Boycott Attempts:

- The Palestinians who work in Israel add about 1.2 billion € per year to the P.A.'s economy
- Over 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel
- ✓ Salaries are more than 200% higher than in the P.A. economy
- One worker feeds about 10-12 mouths
- ✓ In total, over 1,000,000 Palestinians depend on work places in Israel
- The salary that our Palestinian workers get affords them:
   better education for their children
   better food
   better housing

A much higher quality of life and a better future

#### **RESULTS:**

- Hundreds of Palestinians will be fired due to potential closure of Israeli factories
- ✓ The Israeli workers will find jobs easily (3.7% unemployment)
- ✓ There are no jobs in the P.A. (over 20% unemployment)
- sitting at home without jobs or income

Only the Palestinians will be harmed from the boycott and E.U. ruling.



## 10. FEASTS OF GOD & PRAYER FOR ISRAEL:

#### The Fall feasts of The LORD

The fall feasts of the LORD are usually preceded by the month of Elul which encapsulates a time of preparation, repentance, and introspection. It is the 12th and final month in the Jewish calendar (the 6th month counting from Nisan which is the 1st Biblical month). It is a month that connects the past year with the coming year—a time when many Jews reflect on where they stand and where they should be going.

It is called "the month of repentance," "the month of mercy" and "the month of forgiveness." Elul follows the two previous months of Tammuz and Av—months of tragedies that were brought upon the Jewish people through sin. It is taught that in this month, the "King is in the Field," and God is readily accessible, willing to hear our requests and listen to our fervent prayers for the coming new year.

Every day of Elul the shofar is blown and special Psalms recited in anticipation of the High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. At the end of the month begins the Jewish New Year and a season of great celebration. The three fall feasts (Feast of Trumpet, Yom Kippur and the feast of Tabernacles) are celebrated in the month of Tishri.

The number seven, symbolizing Divine perfection is woven into the entire Hebrew calendar. The Shabbat is observed on the seventh day of the week, every seventh year is decreed a sabbatical year and after seven sabbatical years a Jubilee is observed.

Therefore, according to Jewish traditions the seventh month is the most holy of the months. In summary, the feast of trumpets teaches us repentance. The sound of the shofar is a call for all to repent. The Day of Atonement is about our redemption. This is the day peace is made with God while the Feast of Tabernacles is all about rejoicing over the harvest and the goodness of God. It is necessary to pass through repentance and redemption in order to experience His joy.



#### Feast of Trumpets – Rosh Hashanah

On **18th Sept 2020** we commemorate the Feast of Trumpets. This was given by God at the foot of Mt. Sinai as we read;

**Lev 23:24** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

The Bible does not give the name or the title of this feast. It simply calls it "Yom Teruah" – the day of blowing the trumpet. The blowing of the trumpets became the distinguishing characteristic of the day, calling the people's attention to the awesome festival that was to follow – the Day of Atonement.

The blowing of the shofar was a memorial but the scriptures do not say of what. Certainly the blowing of the shofar reminded the people that the seventh month had begun. It was distinctive from that of the silver trumpets blown on other new moons. Silver trumpets were sounded at the daily burnt offering and at the beginning of each new month according to the text below;

**Num 10:10** Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the Lord your God.

#### The Shofar

The shofar has always held a prominent role in the history of God's ancient people. Rabbis have delighted in quoting its long history of biblical usage: "The shofar was created for the welfare of Israel.

- The Torah was given to Israel with the sound of the shofar (Exo 19:19).
- Israel conquered in the battle of Jericho with the blast of the shofar (Josh 6:20)
- Israel will be advised of the advent of the Messiah with the sound of the shofar (Zech 9:14)
- The LORD will sound the shofar at the time of the ingathering of the exiles of Israel to their place (Isa 27:13)
- The shofar was blown to signal the assembly of the Israelites

- during war (Jud 3:27; 2 Sam 20:1)
- The watchmen that stood on the walls of Jerusalem blew the shofar to warn the people of impending danger (Amos 3:6; Jer 6:1; Eze 33:6)

The shofar did not always strike a fearful note.

- It was also blown at the start of the Jubilee year (Lev 25:9)
- The accession of a new King to the throne was announced by the sound of the shofar (1 King 34:39)
- It is also reminder to everyone that God is Sovereign **Psa 47:5** God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a shofar.

The sound of the shofar at the feast of Trumpets beckoned the people with a message of;

- Shabbat rest
- A Holy convocation
- A time to present special burnt offering to the LORD

The blowing of the shofar was also intended to remind the people of the awesome event of the giving of the law and their promised obedience. It alluded to the fact that God is faithful and that He also required them to be faithful unto Him.

#### The offerings of the feast of Trumpet

The specific offerings during the feast of Trumpet are recorded in **Num 29:1-6** which included;

One bullock, one ram, seven he-lambs with the proper meal offerings together with a he-goat for a sin offering. These were to be presented in addition to the offerings of the new moon and the regularly scheduled daily offerings.

#### The New Testament and Rosh Hashanah:

There is no mention in the New Testament that Jesus Christ observed the feast. However, in *Matt 24:29-31* Jesus Christ tells his disciples that a shofar would herald the new age. This re-gathering of the faithful occurs in the context of judgement and restoration, which are themes of Rosh Hashanah. The blowing of the shofar symbolized to the Jewish mind the process of God's judgment, Israel's repentance and Divine restoration.

In 1 Thess 4:16, Apostle Paul spoke of the end times and the sound of the shofar. This re-gathering of the end times will be announced by the "voice

of the archangel and with the **shofar** of God". It was common Jewish teaching during this time that the shofar would announce the resurrection of the dead. Paul was reminding believers that God will remember His covenant and re-gather His people to Himself.

There is a deep connection between the Feast of Trumpets in the Torah and the Seven Trumpets of the Book of Revelation. The Revelation Trumpets warn of the disasters leading up to the Second Coming of Yeshua. The 7th Trumpet gives the final prophetic revelation of the plan of God. (Revelation 10:7).

John heard loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15). Here we see the blowing of the shofar being linked to the theme of God's Sovereignty. God will recapture the rebellious world and restore His Sovereignty through Jesus Christ.



#### **PRAYER FOR JUDEA & SAMARIA**

- Sister Ann Ruhiu

### Israel's Plan to Exercise Sovereignty over Judea and Samaria

(Annexation of 30% of the West Bank Block C) and the Jordan valley

• Pray the Lord will watch over and uphold the everlasting covenant He made to Abraham concerning the land of Israel [Genesis 15:18; Genesis 17:7.8)

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates - .... (Genesis 15:18)

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me 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 are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and to your descendants after you; and I shall be their God (Genesis 17:7,8)

 Pray the land promised to Abraham will be restored full to Israel, according to the word of the Lord [Psalm 16:5,6]

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a delightful inheritance.

Declare the Lord's word over the people and the land of Israel:
 He promised to restore them to the land and to plan them with all of His heart and soul (Jeremiah 32:41)

I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all of my heart and soul

- Pray that the Lord will scatter the plan of the nation's being hatched to try and hinder the annexation in this opportune moment.
- Pray that the Palestine Authority (PA) cunning and crafty plot to delay and derail the annexation (and set up Israel to be under pressure) will totally fail. The PA has suddenly given a counter offer to the US plan. This is after refusing to negotiate for 27 years (since the 1993 Oslo accord that had offered them 97% of the West Bank). At the realization that the annexation is on course they have suddenly brought this out and offered to negotiate.
- Pray that the Lord will frustrate the rising opposition to the annexation among the nations of the earth [Psalm 2]

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles."

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."





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