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Middle East Update



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ISRAELI ISSUES

- ❖ This week's Middle East Update will just be a PDF PowerPoint because of the needed bandwidth to upload video here in Israel. We have been here for a few days and my sense is the the winds of political change are starting to blow. The new Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman dramatically shifts Bibi's coalition further to the right and it also broadens his coalition so that groups like Shaas and the United Torah Party have less control. We will have to see what effect this will have on immigration, the drafting of the orthodox into the IDF as well as enforcing shabbat throughout Israel.
- ❖ The French proposed 'Two State Solution' international gathering is being rejected by Israel because Israel believes that the only real possible solution will come about only when the two parties to sit down to negotiate; not outside countries or God forbid the UN. Bibi claims that he will clear his schedule and meet with the PA, 'anytime and at any place.'
- ❖ For Israel the two non-negotiable items would be the need for the PA to recognize the existence of State of Israel and that the new West Bank (Palestina) State would be demilitarized. Can you imagine rockets flying from the West Bank (like in Gaza) to major population centers like Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, as well as being within striking range of Ben Gurion Airport.



ISRAELI NEWS HEADLINES

US casts wary eye on Israel's new coalition - State Department says adding Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beytenu party to PM Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition "raises legitimate questions" about direction of Israeli policy • Netanyahu, Lieberman reiterate commitment to peace.

Netanyahu offers French PM alternative peace initiative - PM Benjamin Netanyahu meets with visiting French PM Manuel Valls in Jerusalem • Netanyahu: I'm willing to fly to Paris for direct negotiations with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. All issues will be on the table

While **the Obama White House** has expressed skepticism over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for direct negotiations with the Palestinians, the same US officials remained silent after the Palestinians rejected Israel's offer to meet.



8 Minutes to Destroy Israel



- ❖ Ahmad Karimpour, a senior adviser of Iran's elite Al Quds military unit, declared that the Revolutionary Guards will "raze the Zionist regime in less than eight minutes," if Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei gives the order, according to the semi-official Fars News Agency.
- ❖ Khamenei has repeatedly stated his goal to destroy the State of Israel, which he refers to as the "Zionist entity," and the Islamic Republic has been increasing its military and nuclear capabilities notwithstanding the nuclear deal that it concluded with the Six Global Powers, led by the Obama administration, in the summer.



RON DERMER - IRAN

Ron Dermer, turning to discuss Iran, slammed the “narrative” that Iran is divided between moderates and extremists, and that a nuclear deal reached with the country last year will empower its better angels.

In a world of fiction, Iran will “become a partner” of the US in its fight against Islamic extremism, he said mockingly. “In a world of fiction, a richer Iran will curb its aggression, end its support for terrorism.”



TORAH Highlights

Thought I would start including some gleanings from our KFIR Torah Club. Here are some comments from Glen Iverson from one of the Leviticus portions:

37 He told him, “You are to love *ADONAI* your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.’ **38** This is the greatest and most important *mitzvah*. **39** And a second is similar to it, ‘You are to love your neighbor as yourself.’

19 “Observe my regulations. “Don’t let your livestock mate with those of another kind, don’t sow your field with two different kinds of grain, and don’t wear a garment of cloth made with two different kinds of thread.

As gentile believers, this doesn’t make sense and we’re looking for the “why”. To the Hebrew writer, God establishes a pattern while to the Greek mind, we’re looking for a logical conclusion for every statement. Paul highlights the spiritual significance to this pattern in 2 Corinthians 6:14 in the statement: “do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers”. As we’re set apart and not to be like the world, God details the importance of this concept even to the smallest detail in not wearing cloth with two kinds of thread. We’re to separate, not find a way to accept other beliefs in a spirit of ecumenism. Yeshua didn’t come to bring the world together, but divide: GLEN INVERSION



Quotable Quotes

I keep a list of quotes that I come across each week and I thought I would share those with all of you as well:

The Jews are a nervous people - 1900 years of Christian love has taken a toll on us.
Benjamin Disraeli

"Not everyone whose eyes are closed are asleep; and not everyone with open eyes can see." ***Anthony Demerol***

"Grace is the mother and nurse of holiness, and not the apologist of sin." ***Charles Spurgeon***



The Immortal Jew?

In an article written over one hundred years ago, Mark Twain wrote the following about the Jewish people:

If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people.... His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? ("Concerning the Jew," in *Harper's Magazine*, June 1899.)

Star of David on U.S. Bill

Throughout the US, millions celebrate the birthday of George Washington. The history of Washington's exploits is well known to every child in the nation, yet few realize the role played by Chaim Solomon, a Jew who championed freedom in the New World as much as Washington did.

In recognition of Solomon's role in winning independence for the US, Solomon was asked by General Washington, after the Revolutionary War, what thanks he wanted for his help.

Solomon didn't ask for money or land.

He requested of Washington that the six-pointed Star of David symbol be a part of the new nation. He felt that in this way, in the years to come, it would be known that a Jew played a part in the winning of democracy.

Washington told him that not only would the symbol become a part of the nation, but it would become part of the seal of the US. And it did. On every dollar bill, in the right hand corner where the seal appears, the Star of David can be seen in the configuration of stars above the eagle.

- Heritage, Florida Jewish News





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