

A close-up photograph of two lions, one in profile facing left and one behind it looking slightly to the right, set against a dark background.

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Middle East Update



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ISSUES

The UN's cultural arm UNESCO has passed a resolution that challenges Jewish and Christian historical ties to the holy sites in the Old City of Jerusalem. Twenty-four countries voted in favor, six against and 26 abstained from the vote, according to reports in Israeli media. The resolution, postponed from July's meeting of the board in Istanbul, refers to the Temple Mount only by its Muslim names, which critics say is tantamount to ignoring the Jewish link to the site, considered the holiest spot in Judaism.

With its eyes on the potential launch of an Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative after next month's presidential election, the Obama administration is "manufacturing a crisis" over settlement construction, to exert diplomatic pressure on the Jewish state, The Weekly Standard reported on Sunday, citing sources in Congress and the American Jewish community.

It is so tempting to think that anti-semitism died out when Nazi Germany was defeated. But, unfortunately, anti-semitism is rampant in large swaths of Europe and the Middle East. Hatred just spreads in a grassroots manner - often without any government leading the pack. In some ways, that makes it even more dangerous.



Ammunition Hill

Police officer and civilian killed, 4 wounded in Jerusalem vehicular terrorist attack.

The attack took place at two different locations. A white car stopped and opened fire at the Ammunition Hill light rail station, located at the Central Police Headquarters intersection, injuring those standing at the station. The driver then drove to the Shimon Hatzadik station and opened fire, wounding more passersby. He was then reportedly eliminated by a Special Patrol unit of motorized police as he tried to escape into the Arab Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.



Fatah Facebook Page

- ❖ Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction lauded the actions of the terrorist who murdered two Israelis and wounded at least six on Sunday morning in a shooting spree in Jerusalem, the research institute Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) reported.
- ❖ According to the report, Fatah honored Silwan resident Musbah Abu Sbeih - whom it called a "martyr" for Allah, as he was killed by Israeli security forces after going on his bloody rampage. In two separate postings on its official Facebook page, Fatah praised the killer and declared both a day of mourning and a general strike on his behalf.



PA Riots in E. Jerusalem

- ❖ Violent Palestinian riots erupt in multiple locations in the capital over Yom Kippur • One Palestinian killed, five arrested as security forces are attacked in the Issawiya, Silwan, Jabel Mukaber, and A-Zaim neighborhoods, police spokeswoman says.
- ❖ Riots broke out in several locations in east Jerusalem on Yom Kippur, as the Palestinian residents of the Issawiya, Silwan, Jabel Mukaber, and A-Zaim neighborhoods clashed with Israel security forces seeking to maintain order throughout the capital on Judaism's holiest day.
- ❖ Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said Wednesday that masked Palestinians hurled stones and fire bombs at policemen patrolling Silwan on Tuesday night.
- ❖ According to Samri, the troops felt their lives were in danger and opened fire at their assailants, killing one Palestinian. The rioters fled deep into Silwan, taking the casualty with them.



Trouble Brewing



While Hebron gets the press, Jenin and Tulkarem are the sleeping giants Israel should be worried about. Maj. Hanan Shwartz of the Menashe Brigade discusses Palestinian security cooperation, olive harvests and the round-the-clock effort to keep two West Bank cities calm. Though Palestinian violence and terrorism in Jerusalem and Hebron dominate headlines, it's Jenin and Tulkarem that keep Maj. Hanan Shwartz up at night.

The chief operations officer for the IDF's Menashe Brigade, Shwartz warns that those two northern West Bank cities – hotbeds of terror activity during the Second Intifada – could again become fountainheads of violence against Israeli civilians and security forces. "I'm always worried," he said.



PMW

PMW's report "[The PA's Billion Dollar Fraud](#)," is having a major international impact, on both the image and funding of the PA. The PMW report shows that according to PA law and in practice the PA continues to finance terror by paying salaries to terrorist prisoners, contrary to its promises to donor countries.

Last Friday, Britain froze £25 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority in response to PMW reports

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Lawmakers in Germany, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Sweden and the US also call to change, limit, or cut financial aid to the PA in response to PMW reports



Weekly Torah Portion

Gleanings from Deuteronomy 32

vs 11-13 - like an eagle. God is likened to an eagle who gently rouses its nestlings and hovers over them before entering the nest. Unlike other birds that carry their young by their claws, eagles carry their young upon their wings, declaring, "if an arrow is shot, it will pierce me rather than my child" (Midrash Tachunah). God alone carried Israel this way and no "alien power," that is, no intermediary or angel helped (see Exodus 33:2-3).

vs 15-18 - Prosperity brings dissolution. Good fortune is a serious challenge to a nation's moral standing. From this the sages infer that prosperity can be a greater challenge to your relationship with God than poverty. Prosperity leads to the idea that we do not really need God, and therefore leads to apostasy. "A full stomach leads to many sins" (Berachot 32a). As King David warned, "Let their table become a snare for them" (Psalm 69:22; Romans 11:9).



selah

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks writes: "One of the most striking features of Jewish life is that from Israel to Palo Alto, Jews are among the world's most enthusiastic users of information technology and have contributed disproportionately to its development (Google, Facebook, Waze). But we still write the Torah exactly as it was done thousands of years ago - by hand, with a quill, on a parchment scroll. This is not a paradox; it is a profound truth. People who carry their past with them, can build the future without fear." [\[RabbiSacks\]](#)



Feast of Tabernacles

- ❖ Enjoy this feast and remember that at the heart of the celebration is the remembrance of how God provides. For the Israelis they will sleep in their *sukkahs* that will allow them to feel the wind and see the stars each night. This will remind them of how God provided for them in the wilderness when they were delivered from Egypt. It's time to bring all the harvest in and most of all to REJOICE. This is the one feast that the people are commanded to be JOYFUL! At the end of this Feast will be Simchat Torah which is when the new Torah portions will start anew.

Chag Sameach -
Dan Stolebarger





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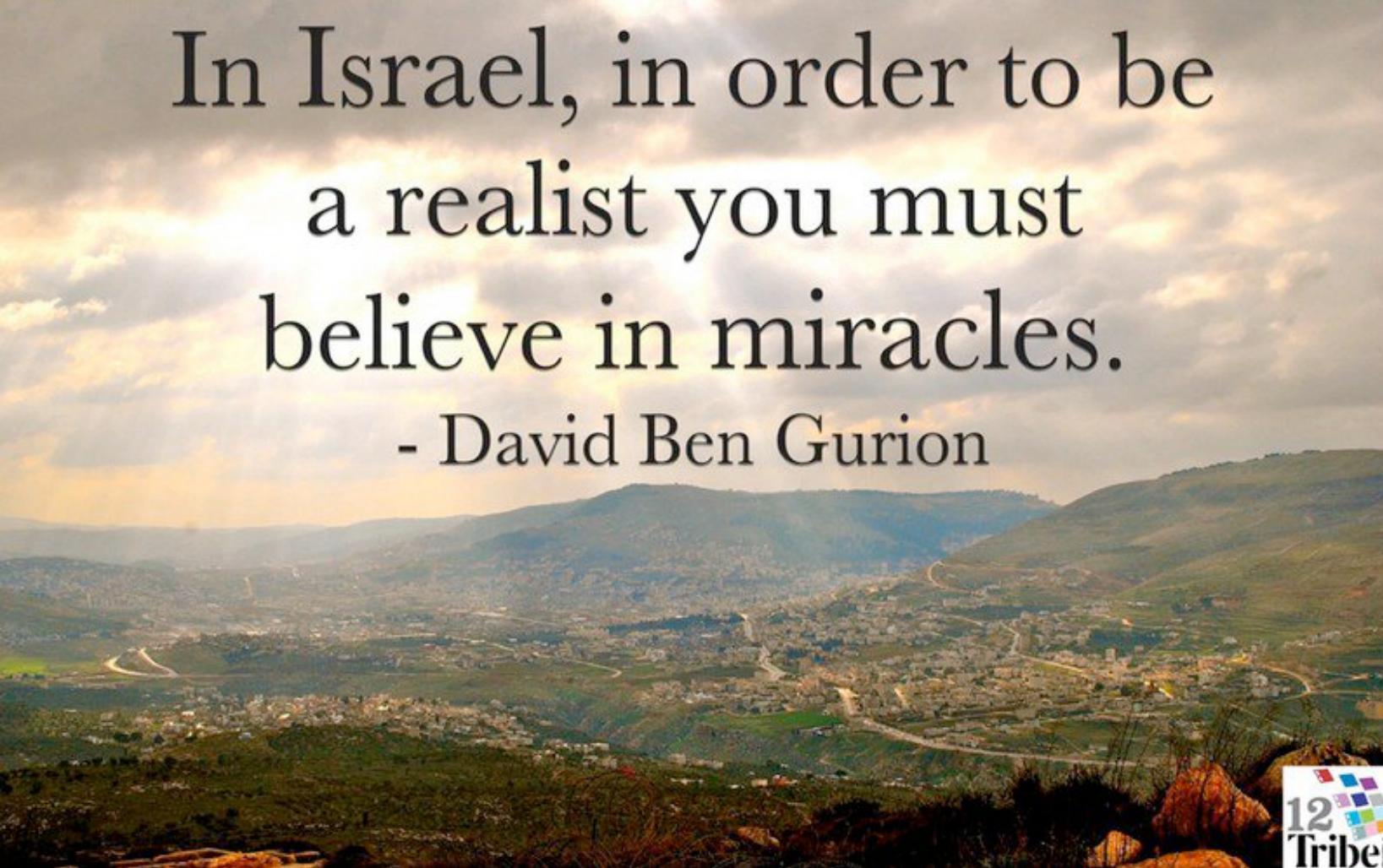
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In Israel, in order to be
a realist you must
believe in miracles.

- David Ben Gurion

