



KFIR MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of December 16, 2016



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ISSUES

A senior-level Palestinian delegation headed by chief negotiator Saeb Erekat is set to arrive in the US this week in an effort to pressure the Obama administration into making a last-minute diplomatic move against Israel before the president leaves office in a few weeks.

Hezbollah Targets are Acquired - The IDF has published a map revealing that Hezbollah has taken over more than 200 towns and villages in southern Lebanon since the 2006 Second Lebanon War. Some private houses have become rocket launching sites, headquarters and warehouses for rockets. The targets displayed on the map will be attacked by the IDF should a new war be launched on the northern front.

Trump State pick Tillerson has ties to Gulf, not Israel - WASHINGTON – President-elect Donald Trump's reported choice for secretary of state is no stranger to the Middle East, yet when it comes to Israel he has very little experience.

Assad and allies commit war crimes in Aleppo, while US stands idly by
The Obama administration is watching as the Russian-Syrian-Iranian axis commits an unprecedented massacre, even by Mideast standards



OBAMA, KERRY, ABBAS WATCH

- ❖ Palestinians preparing new Security Council draft – report. Aim is to win UN approval for resolution condemning settlements before Obama leaves office
- ❖ Longstanding US policy has been for years that any resolution to the conflict should come from direct negotiations between the parties and not be imposed from the outside.
- ❖ However, speaking to the Saban Forum in Washington earlier this month, Kerry did not completely rule out the possibility that the US would support a move at the United Nations.
- ❖ On Wednesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel remains concerned that Washington could back a Palestine-related resolution at the Security Council before January 20. “With every passing day that possibility becomes less likely, but until then it’s still there,” Netanyahu said.

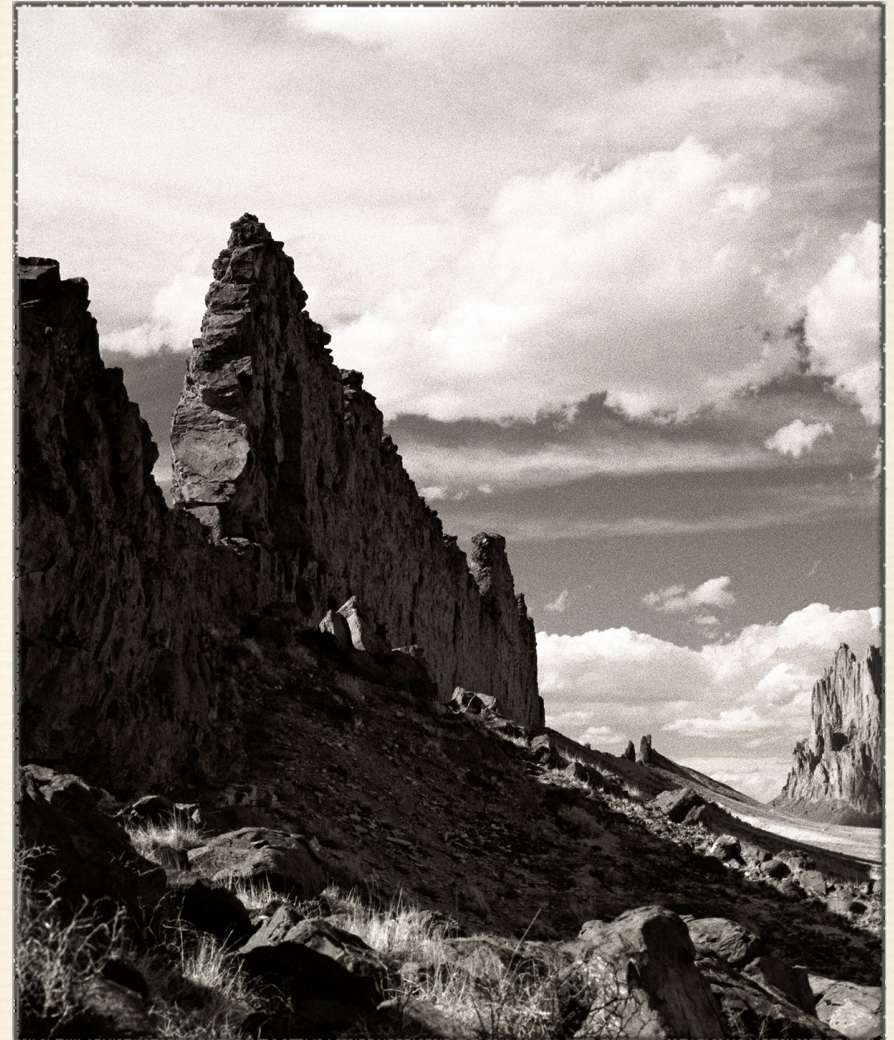


THE MIDDLE EAST MESS

According to the UN's own legal opinion: Judea, Samaria and Gaza do not belong to any country at the moment. Therefore, it is wrong to call them 'Occupied Territories'. They used to be a part of Jewish land 2000 years ago and were allocated by the League of Nations for the creation of Eretz-Israel in 1922. There was never an Arab country in Palestine.

So-called Palestinians are Arabs and Muslims who moved to the territories during the last 130 years, after the Zionist pioneers started to revitalize the land.

Arabs have no intention of living in peace with Jews. When the former president of Egypt Nasser was asked: Why do you continue to fight Israel after so many defeats? His answer was: "Because. We need to win only one war!" Please make no mistake, the Arabs' aim is total destruction of the Jewish state!



IRAN THREATENS TEL AVIV

- ❖ Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that because the “Zionist regime and its supporters” have paved the way for terrorism throughout the Middle East – causing Muslim states to be preoccupied with their own internal woes – the only recourse for the Palestinians was jihad against Tel Aviv, the semi-official state news agency Fars reported.
- ❖ According to the report, Rouhani made this statement during a meeting in Tehran with the leader of the Gaza-based, Tehran-backed terrorist organization Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Ramadan Shalah. Refusing to refer to the Jewish state by name, Rouhani also said that, because world public opinion understands the “usurper regime” has never sought peace, the Palestinians can make a good case and have a strong argument for engaging in armed “resistance.”



ISRAEL'S F-35 - ADIR (MIGHTY)



- ❖ The arrival of the F-35 fighter planes in Israel is described by a senior IAF official as a game-changing development. The Israeli Air Force (IAF) on Monday evening received its first two 17 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 stealth jets from the US.
- ❖ **Lockheed Martin official in Israel to CNN's Ian Lee:** "If you compare the F-35 to the F-16, which Israel has right now, is like comparing the iPhone 7 to a flip phone."



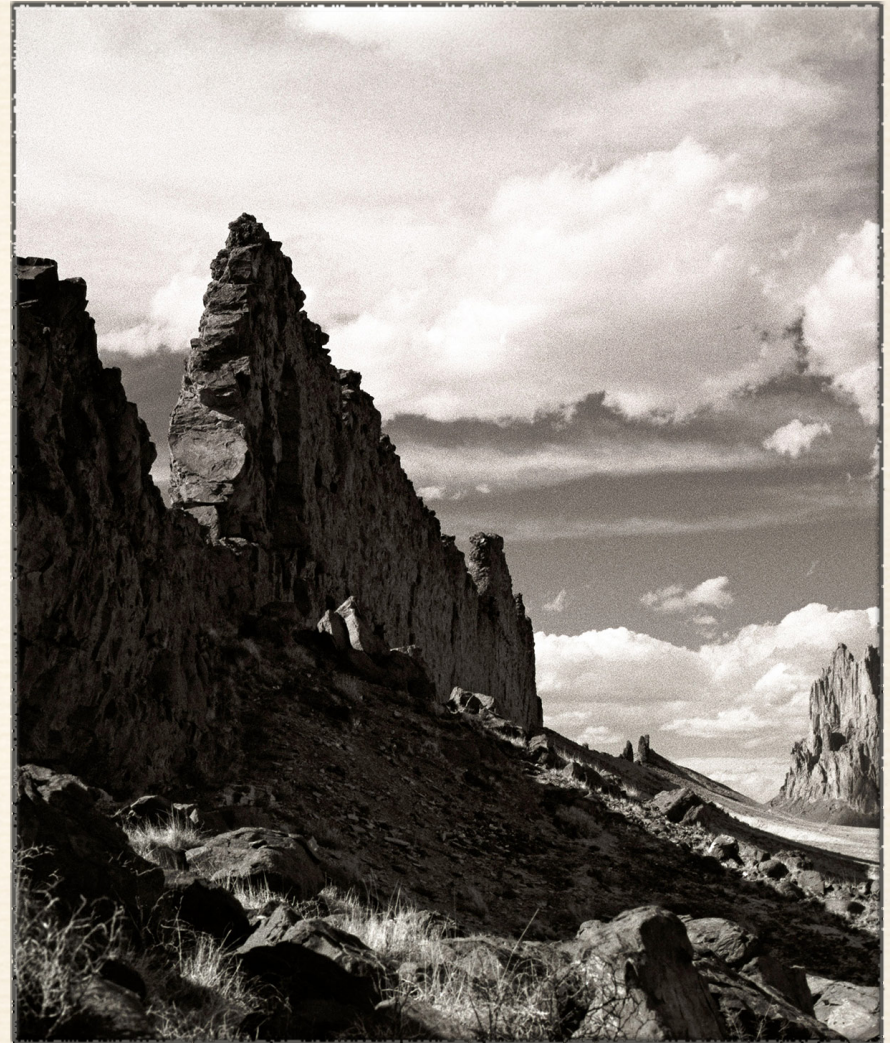
BOTH SIDES OF AMONA

Another Gush Katif Must not be Allowed!

Hundreds of young men and women have come from around the country in recent days to the town of Amona to be there when police security forces come to dismantle the town by the December 25 deadline set by the High Court.

A Middle Left View

The Amona business is really crazy in my opinion. It is a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, partly built on proved private Palestinian owned land. Israeli court ruled that it is illegal and must be removed, but the government is postponing it all the time. Now, here's the twist, Netanyahu wants to evacuate it, the legal advisor of the government says it's must be removed, but because of coalition pressure from Naftali Bennet, they are now in the process of passing a law that will make the illegal, legal. It will not stand in the supreme court, and Bibi says it himself, but he does not want to be portrayed as the one who harmed the settlements.



QUOTABLE's - SELAH

History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely only after they have exhausted all other alternatives.- Abba Evan

The heart sees better than the eye.- Yiddish Proverb

Truth lives long and yet does not grow old.- Imre Binah



TORAH PORTION

LOVING LEAH

Some of my Torah musings - Another look at God's crazy mad love for Israel

I have been wrestling awhile now with the concept of God's love for Israel ... you know - "the apple of His eye." And one question that always comes to mind is: *Does this love of Israel mean that He loves Gentile believers to a lesser degree?*

As we have been reading through Genesis for our Torah Portion study I have been reminded of Jacob's first wife Leah. Jacob seemed to be smitten with Rachel and the Sages point out that Leah was loved but it seemed like being hated because of Jacob's crazy love for Rachel. And yet, it is Leah that lays with Jacob (Israel) in the cave of Machpaleh!

So why is that and what happened to Rachel? The Sages suggest that Rachel died in childbirth because she took Laban's household gods and because Jacob pronounced a curse on the one who was guilty of this action thus she died upon entering Eretz Israel. And so, we have Rachel (dearly loved) buried outside of Bethlehem. Now, hang with me because there is a lot of layers to this onion.

From my viewpoint I see the Jews, in a sense as Rachel - the apple of God's eye and Leah as the Gentile Bride of Christ. I believe that God will always have a "crazy love" for the Jewish people and He will in no way take back His unconditional promises to them. But like Rachel, because of their current unbelief, they are on the outskirts of the town of Bethlehem weeping.

Now we have Leah, the so-called unloved one. It is Leah who bears Jacob's first sons and interestingly enough one of her sons is Judah, the tribe from whom Yeshua would descend from and of course His birth would be in Bethlehem - the place where Rachel is buried. But it is Leah, the green eyed bride (according to the Chumash), who now lies side by side with Israel in the cave of Machpaleh. Is it me or can you see glimpses of Israel and the Church in this picture? Kind of reminds me of the layers of Ruth (Gentile Bride) and Naomi (who represents Israel).



But now back to Rachel. Interesting that she died having Benjamin (the son of my right hand) and that her other son was Joseph who received a double portion. And needless to say Joseph was deeply loved as well!

This is the one thing I do know ... the love of God is vast and one day the Church and Israel will be side by side in the Kingdom of God. I love the image that is painted at the end of the Revelation given to John by Yeshua:

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names[i] of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:9-14



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