

**KFIR**

# MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of April 14, 2017



Dan Stolebarger  
Holy Ground Explorations



[holygroundexplorations.com](http://holygroundexplorations.com)

# HEADLINES

CAIRO (AP) – Egyptian churches in the southern city of Minya said on Tuesday that they will not hold Easter celebrations in mourning for 45 Coptic Christians killed this week in twin bombings of churches in two cities during Palm Sunday ceremonies.

The persecution of Christians around the world, but especially in the Muslim world, has reached an all-time high—with 2016 being the “worst year yet.” according to Open Doors, which recently released its annual report.

In defiance of the US, which is demanding that the PA completely stop financial rewards to families of terrorist "Martyrs" (*Shahids*), the PA is now raising the payments to the "Martyrs'" families. These PA payments include lifetime monthly allowances to families of suicide bombers, and other murderers who were killed during or after committing their crimes.

BEIRUT (AFP) – Washington's UN ambassador said that Syria's President Bashar Assad cannot stay in power after a suspected chemical attack that prompted the first direct US military action against his government.



# ISIS TARGETS CHRISTIANS

***ISIS has claimed responsibility for two church bombings in Egypt that have claimed the lives of at least 43 people and wounded over 100 more.***

A church in Alexandria was bombed on Sunday, the second church to be attacked in Egypt in a matter of hours.

Egypt's Health Ministry stated that an explosion at a church in the coastal city of Alexandria has killed 11 people, and wounded at least 35 others.

An Egyptian policeman reportedly prevented the suicide bomber from entering the church, dying while saving many lives. Another policeman is reportedly among the casualties.

This is the second Islamic terror attack targeting Egypt's Coptic Christians after a bomb in a church in the Nile Delta town of Tanta killed 27 people and wounded more than 70.

The explosion went off at Saint Mark's Church in Alexandria, where Pope Tawadros II had earlier celebrated Palm Sunday and left just ahead of the attack.

The Islamic State (ISIS) terror group has claimed responsibility for both attacks.

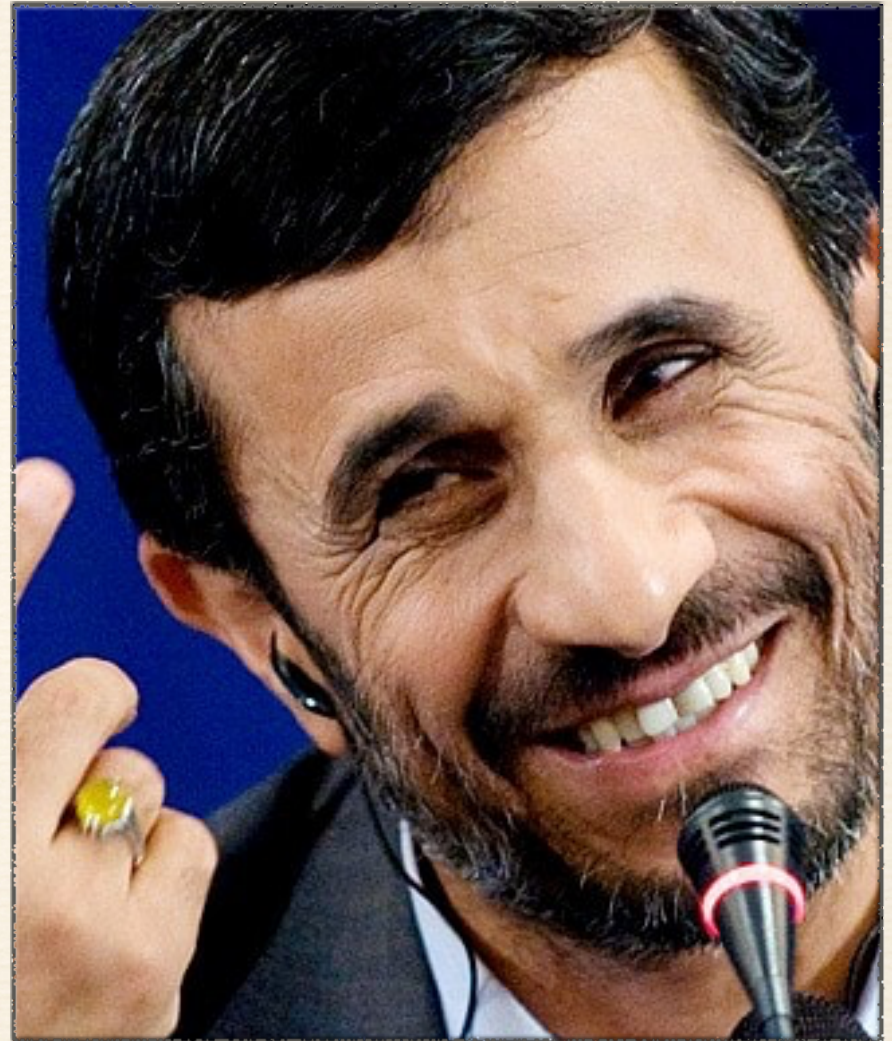


# GUESS WHOSE BACK?

Ahmadinejad ignores Ayatollah's advice, joins presidential race Former President Ahmadinejad known for expanding Iran nuclear program, anti-American, anti-Israel rhetoric.

Current President Hassan Rouhani, who negotiated Iran nuclear deal, not expected to run.

Stay tuned the election will be May 19th. This is the one and the same leader who denies the Holocaust and seeks to wipe Israel off the face of the map!



# RUSSIA & SYRIA

The Trump administration veered toward deeper conflict with Russia Tuesday as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson issued a stern ultimatum to the Kremlin: Side with America and its allies on Syria, or stand with Syrian President Bashar Assad, Iran and the Hezbollah terrorist group.

"We want to relieve the suffering of the Syrian people. Russia can be a part of that future and play an important role, or Russia can maintain its alliance with this group, which we believe is not going to serve Russia's interests [in the] longer term,"

"It is clear to us the reign of the Assad family is coming to an end. We hope that the Russian government concludes that they have aligned themselves with an unreliable partner in Bashar Assad," he said before flying to the Russian capital.

On Wednesday **Russia** just blocked a **UN** resolution to condemn chemical weapons in **Syria**.



# DAVID'S SLING

## David's Sling Becoming Operational

Israel unveiled the latest addition to its multilevel missile defense system with David's Sling. The two-stage radar and electro-optic guided system's range is three times that of Iron Dome. The system is designed to shoot down incoming rockets with ranges of 25 to 190 miles (40-300 kilometers), targeting mostly the missiles that were fired by the Lebanese Hezbollah organization toward Israel in recent years. It will make up the middle tier of Israel's multi-layer missile defense capabilities.

❖ Hezbollah now boasts of over 150,000 rockets in their arsenal.



# TERRORISM

***Islamic terrorists launched rockets from Sinai, on the eve of Passover, two of which landed in southern Israel. ISIS has claimed responsibility.***

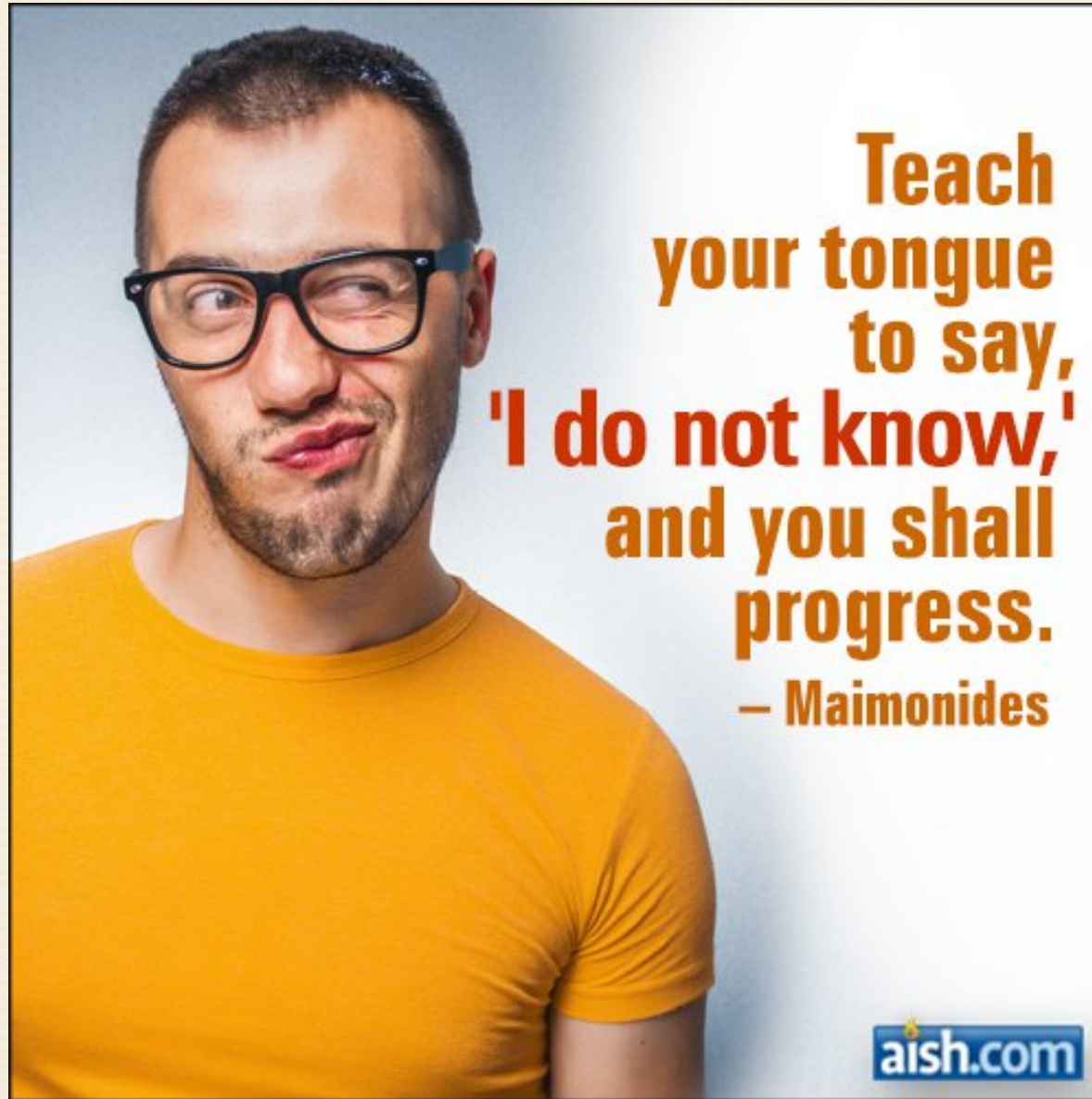
A greenhouse was damaged but there were no injuries when ISIS rockets slammed into southern Israel on Passover eve. Authorities are prohibiting citizens from entering the Sinai Peninsula. In wake of Monday's rocket-launching, Israeli authorities closed the Taba Crossing into Sinai, urging all citizens to return home.

## **No Negotiation with Terrorists**

Abbas advocates genocide of Israeli Jews. Palestinian Authority website boasts of attacks against Israelis by releasing data draped in pride that 93 terrorist attacks against Israelis were carried out just during the month of March. The recent wave of violent attacks against Israelis began in October of 2015.



# QUOTE OF THE WEEK



**Teach  
your tongue  
to say,  
'I do not know,'  
and you shall  
progress.  
– Maimonides**



# HGE - UPCOMING FALL TOURS

Israel - Off The Beaten Path  
with Petra Extension (optional)



Israel - NOV 12-20 / Petra - Nov 20-24, 2017



*Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good and walk in it, and find rest for your souls..." Jer. 6:16*

There are many paths in Israel. OFF THE BEATEN PATH will take in paths not found on "traditc tours - yet they are important paths, ones that should be seen to take in the full breadth of Israe Dan & Sharon Stolebarger and guide, Jane Ben-Ari as we give you a totally different type of expe Included will be a geo-political Jeep Tour on the Golan Heights - see for yourselves what is truly happening along this strategic border of Israel.



**HOLY  
GROUND  
TOURS**

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** Overnight in Tel Aviv right on the Mediterranean Sea.

**DAY 2 - 4:** Travel to Jerusalem where we will be staying inside the walls of the Old City for three nights. While in Jerusalem, visit **OLD SYNAGOGUE TOUR, RABBINICAL TUNNELS, TEMPLE INSTITUTE, BURNT HOUSE, JERICO** with **ST. GEORGE'S MONASTERY** and **FRIENDS OF ZION MUSEUM**. Also planned is an incredible landscape of the Judean desert on a fully guided **JEEP TOUR**.

**DAY 5 - 7:** Travel to the Galilee where we will stay for three nights at a kibbutz hotel right on the shores of the Sea, away from the hustle and bustle of Tiberias. Our time in the north includes: **TSIPORI, NAZARETH VILLAGE, CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MT. ARBEL** (with an option to hike up), **MAGDALA, GAMLA** (with hike to the synagogue) and **MT. BENTAL**. On Shabbat, we will have a Shabbat Service at our hotel. In addition, while in the Golan Heights, we will take a geo-political **JEEP TOUR** to hear and see for ourselves exactly what is happening on this strategic border.

**DAY 8:** We travel to **JAFFA** for one night. En route, visit the grottoes at **ROSH HANIKRA** and the **VALLEY OF ELAH**.

**DAY 9:** Before bidding farewell to Israel, we will enjoy a leisurely morning, a tour of **JAFFA**, as well as a **FAREWELL DINNER**. Those departing will be taken to the airport.

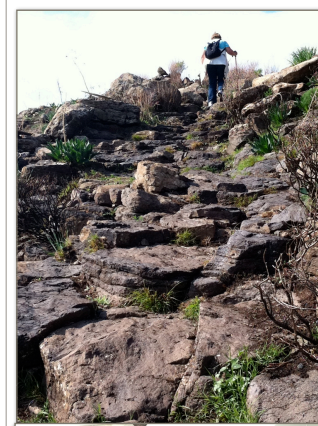
## BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

**Pricing:** \$2995 LAND ONLY per person double occupancy

## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ⊗ Hotels: 1 night Tel Aviv, 3 nights Jerusalem, 3 nights Tiberias, 1 night Jaffa
- ⊗ Meals: Breakfast daily, 4 Lunches, 5 Dinners
- ⊗ All Sightseeing and Entrance Fees including two JEEP TOURS
- ⊗ Gratuities for Guide and Driver
- ⊗ Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage per person
- ⊗ All ground transportation

See Registration Form for complete pricing and the Terms & Conditions for the "fine print."





## PETRA EXTENSION - Nov 20-24, 2017

[NOV. 20: We will spend the night in Israel following the Farewell Dinner for the Off the Beaten Path Tour.]

**DAY 1:** Today we depart for the southernmost tip of Israel, **EILAT**, where we will spend the next 3 nights.

**DAY 2:** An early morning departure from the hotel where we drive the short distance to the border at Aqaba. After crossing over, we drive to **PETRA** – We begin the day with a guided tour but then you are set free to be adventurous on your own. You can ride camels, donkeys, hike or travel via animal up to the Monastery – your choice. We will set a meeting time to meet at the entrance and then travel to **EILAT** for the remaining two nights, arriving in time for a later dinner.

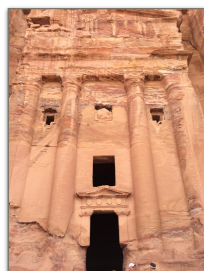
**DAY 3:** Free day in **EILAT**

**DAY 4:** Late check out. We will visit **TIMNA** where we will take in the magnificent **SOLOMON'S PILLARS**. The highlight, however, will be the tour at the Tabernacle. We continue to travel north and will arrive at the airport around 7pm, following dinner.

### INCLUDED IN THE TOUR:

- \* **Four nights hotel stay:** 1 night Jerusalem, 3 nights Eilat.
- \* **Meals:** 4 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners
- \* **Visa for entry into Jordan**
- \* **Guided tour and entrance fees to all sites**
- \* **Baggage handling:** 1 bag per person

*[Due to Passover in Israel, complete details will soon be available.]*





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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ZuVTJAfG0STUFQjWwnz3A>

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**Email** - [dan@hgkfir.com](mailto:dan@hgkfir.com)