



KFIR

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Week of July 21, 2017



Dan Stolebarger
Holy Ground Explorations



holygroundexplorations.com

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Jordanian lawmakers praise Temple Mount terrorists. House of Representatives Speaker Atef Tarawneh calls Temple Mount terrorists "**martyrs who watered the land with their blessed blood.**" The damage Israel inflicts on Arab holy sites and Al-Aqsa is the reason for the continued resistance, he says.

Netanyahu: We won't allow Iranian foothold on Israel-Syria border.

Iran aims to set up military bases in Syria, but Israel will not tolerate this, PM Netanyahu tells French President Emmanuel Macron.

Hezbollah Presence in Lebanon Nothing Less Than 'Iranian Occupation,'

Christian Journalist Asserts - "This is an occupation." Daou scoffed at Sadek's assertion that Hezbollah was composed of Lebanese fighters and officers, not Iranians. "So what if they are Lebanese? Whose orders do they obey?" he asked.

Voters See Anti-Semitism As a Serious Problem In U.S.: "A new Rasmussen Reports... survey finds that **65% of U.S. Voters think anti-Semitism is at least a somewhat serious problem in America today.**



2 ISRAELI POLICE GUARDS KILLED

"In an extraordinarily brazen assault early Friday, three Arab citizens of Israel armed with guns and knives killed two Israeli police officers guarding an entrance to Jerusalem's holiest site for Jews and Muslims, an emotional and volatile focal point of the Israeli-Arab conflict. **Police officers pursued the assailants inside the compound and exchanged fire; all three assailants were killed.** The police announced that they had evacuated and closed the compound, and helicopters circled above the area after the attack. The closing of the holy site is an exceptional and potentially explosive measure; Israeli-imposed restrictions on Muslim entry to the compound have prompted spasms of rioting in Palestinian areas in the past." [[NYTimes](#)]



HAIEL SITAWWE & KAMIL SHNAAN



Haiel Sitawe, 30, and Kamil Shnaan, 22, named as officers slain at Temple Mount. Both cops were Israeli Druze; Sitawe leaves behind wife, three-week-old son; Shnaan is son of former Labor MK Shachiv Shnaan; funerals in their northern villages open to public

Haiel Sitawe, 30, was not supposed to be on patrol Friday, filled in for friend, police chief reveals at funeral; thousands attend funeral for Kamil Shnaan, 22, son of former Labor MK. Father of Staff Sgt. Maj. Kamil Shnaan, former MK Shachiv Shnaan: Even on this most difficult day, I am saying enough blood -- enough war. Police Commissioner Roni Alsheikh says Shnaan and Staff Sgt. Maj. Haiel Sitawe "died defending Jerusalem."



HAMAS, WEAPONS & WAQF

Hamas on Saturday called on Palestinians to attack Israeli security forces and settlers after a deadly shooting attack at the Temple Mount Friday, which left two Israeli police officers dead and spurred the government to close the holy site to Muslim worshippers.

On Saturday, the White House condemned the attack in a strongly worded statement. "The people of the United States are heartbroken that terrorists brutally gunned down two Israeli police officers," said press secretary Sean Spicer. "There must be zero tolerance for terrorism. It is incompatible with achieving peace and we must condemn it in the strongest terms, defeat it, and eradicate it." Hamas, meanwhile, staged a rally celebrating the attack.

Weapons were Hidden in the Holy Site. Police now believe that the weapons used in Friday's Temple Mount terror attack were hidden in the holy site days ahead of the attack. The police are investigating if the terrorists received any inside help, specifically from Waqf officials, who may have hidden the weapons, two Carl Gustav machine guns, a pistol and knives.



TEMPLE MOUNT PROTEST

The Muslim religious authority charged with managing the Temple Mount joined with other Islamic groups on Monday to call on Muslims "to reject and boycott all the Israeli aggression measures, including changing the historical status quo including imposing the metal detectors."

The call followed Israel's installation of metal detectors at the entrance gates to the Mount, following Friday's deadly shooting attack by three Israeli Arabs which killed two Israeli police officers. The gunmen emerged from the compound and opened fire at a group of police officers just outside, killing two of them, using weapons that had apparently been stashed earlier on the site.

In its statement, the Waqf called on the faithful not to enter the mosque by passing through the metal detectors, adding, "If the metal detectors continue to be imposed, we call upon the people to pray in front of the gates of the mosque and in the streets of Jerusalem."



TIME FOR A CHANGE?

After this morning's terrorist attack on the Temple Mount, the response from the Israeli Right was that something has to change. For **Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan** and **Jerusalem Affairs Minister Ze'ev Elkin**, the response was to consider tightening security. **Others challenged the status quo of the past 50 years, by which the Jordanian Islamic Trust, known as the Waqf, manages the site. Culture Minister Miri Regev called to reduce the Waqf's area of responsibility to the Al-Aksa Mosque alone, and not the entire Mount, and to open the area to all, at all times of day.** Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan said Jews should be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount, which they are forbidden from doing today. Despite the calls for change, Netanyahu reassured Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that the status quo would remain. Abbas had called Netanyahu to condemn the attack.



STAY TUNED!

The Islamic Waqf's jurisdiction over the Temple Mount is over and Israel will now work to reestablish Jewish sovereignty over the holy site, said Knesset Member Avi Dichter (Likud) on Tuesday.

"Israel is the sovereign on the Temple Mount, period. The fact that the Waqf became a sovereign on the Temple Mount ended last Friday," declared Dichter, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and former head of the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), on Israeli public radio, *Israel National News* [reported](#).

"The question of our policy [at the Temple Mount] may not be clear to the Palestinians, but it is very clear to us... The Mount will remain under the control of the Israel Police."

Should Israel use the unexpected opportunity to take back control of the Temple Mount, the significance and implications would be beyond imagining. The Mount has not been under lasting Jewish control for thousands of years. If Israel succeeds in regaining sovereignty, it will be a triumph worthy of two millennia of Jewish prayer and longing, not to mention an unprecedented opportunity to [begin reconstruction of the Mount](#) and Temple as they were in Biblical days.



PA TERRORIST BUDGET

The Palestinian Authority's 2017 budget shows a "huge increase" in the funding of salaries for imprisoned terrorists and the families of "martyrs," an Israeli research institute revealed on Wednesday.

According to [Palestinian Media Watch \(PMW\)](#), the amount of money allocated by the PA for payments to terrorists jailed in Israel rose 13% this year to \$158 million – compared to \$135 million in 2016. During the same time frame, disbursements for family members of dead terrorists increased by 4% – to \$197 million from \$183 million.

Overall, PMW said, the PA is spending \$355 million this year on the direct funding of terrorism.

Marcus continued, "This is a slap in the face to the United States and the other European donor countries who have all condemned this practice and have demanded that the PA stop immediately if they want to receive foreign funding. **I expect that this information will have a great effect on the [Taylor Force Act](#) right now before Congress.**"



SYRIA CEASEFIRE

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said he opposes the deal brokered by the United States and Russia that led to an open-ended ceasefire in southern Syria, saying it does not sufficiently address Iranian military ambitions in the area.

Placing himself at odds with US President Donald Trump on the issue, Netanyahu told journalists in Paris that the agreement perpetuates Iranian plans to set up a disruptive long-term presence on Israel's northern border, something he has repeatedly vowed that the Jewish state won't tolerate.

"Israel is aware of Iran's expansionist goals in Syria," a statement from Netanyahu's office said. The prime minister said that while the plan aims to keep Iran (12 miles) away from the Israeli border, it did not address Iran's plans to cement its presence in Syria, which, he said, included the establishment of a naval and air force bases.

"Senior Israeli officials told Haaretz that when Jerusalem obtained the text of the deal, it discovered that in defiance of its expectations, the Americans and Russians had ignored Israel's positions almost completely. "The agreement as it is now is very bad" one senior Israeli official said. "It doesn't take almost any of Israel's security interests and it creates a disturbing reality in southern Syria. The agreement doesn't include a single explicit word about Iran, Hezbollah or the Shi'ite militias in Syria." [Haaretz]



EMBASSY MOVE?

Former Congressman Allen West warned Trump of the consequences for failing to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem: "If you have made this a campaign promise and you have spoken about this and don't follow through, then there is a loss of credibility. Then, how are you seen in the eyes of someone like (Palestinian President) Mahmoud Abbas?" explained West. Moving the embassy demonstrates that "we will not be intimidated by the leader of a terrorist gang, which is what Fatah is." [[JewishInsider](#)]



Pence reassures CUFI crowd that it's only a matter of time until Trump moves the embassy to Jerusalem: "I promise you that the day will come when President Donald Trump will move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," Pence said to loud applause. "It is not a question of if, it is only when." Pence also reassured the crowd that while certifying Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, the President "will not allow Iran develop a usable nuclear weapon. This is our solemn promise to the American people, to the people of Israel and to the world." [[JewishInsider](#)]



BIBI - CUFI

WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Christian evangelical audience in Washington on Monday that they were Israel's best friends in the world, in an address notable for the pointed absence of any reference to US President Donald Trump or his administration's efforts in the region.

"When I say we have no greater friends than Christian supporters of Israel, I know you've always stood with us," Netanyahu told the cheering crowd at Christians United for Israel's annual conference. "You stand with us because you stand with yourselves because we represent that common heritage of freedom that goes back thousands of years." "America has no better friend than Israel and Israel has no better friend than America," Netanyahu continued. "And Israel has no better friend in America than you."



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"NO ONE HAS EVER
BECOME POOR BY
GIVING."
-ANNE FRANK*

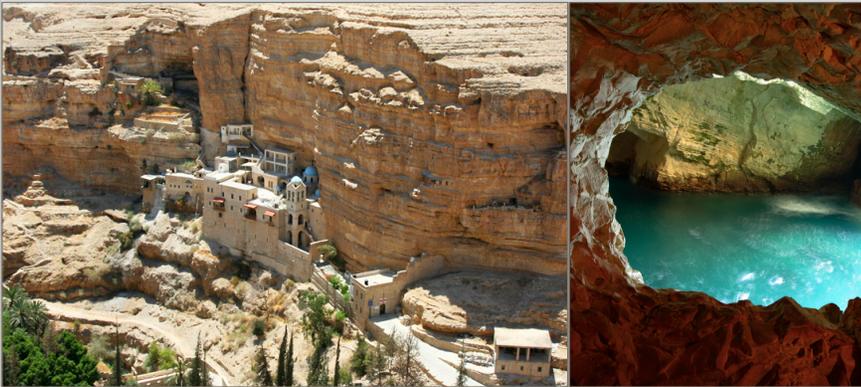


HGE - UPCOMING FALL TOURS

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.

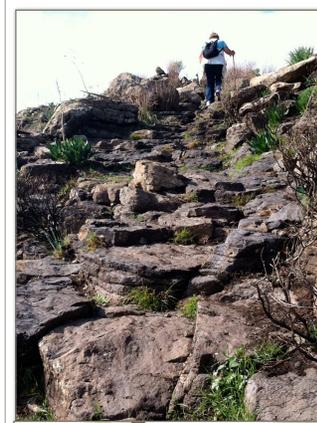
BEATEN PATH INCLUSIONS:

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 (optional): Nov. 21-24, 2017 (1 night Jaffa; 2 nights Eilat, 1 night Petra)*

Israel is the land where it all began and **PETRA** just may be the land where the "end" may be centered. It's one thing to see all the sites where prophecy has taken place and has been fulfilled, but then there are the places where the fulfillment is yet to come. During the Tribulation period, God will provide a refuge for His people...many believe that Petra is that place.

Also included is a visit to the replica **TABERNACLE at TIMNA** where you will learn more in 30 minutes about the Tabernacle than you probably have learned in a decade. All this plus the resort city at the southernmost tip of Israel, **EILAT**, where at night you can see the lights of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, all at the same time. Add to this an overnight in Petra where our hotel is located right across the street from the entrance. This extension is not often offered so take advantage of this departure date.

*NOTE: Those staying on for Petra will spend Nov. 20th in Jaffa before beginning the Petra extension on Nov. 21st.

For complete brochure information:

<http://holygroundexplorations.com/israel-tours/israel-off-the-beaten-path-tour-petra-extension/>





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Email - dan@hgexplorations.com