HGE - MIDDLE EAST UPDATE - WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2018





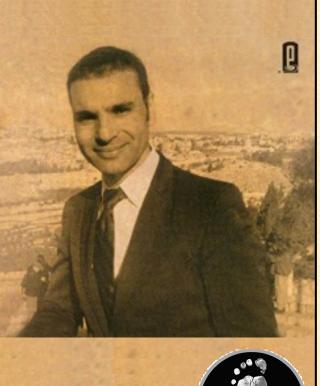
HOLY GROUND EXPLORATIONS presents

MIDDLE-EAST UPDATE

Guest Speaker:

Amir Tsarfati

Tuesday, September 25 KROC Center - Couer d'Alene







WHAT'S INSIDE

DAN IN ISRAEL
WEEKLY HEADLINES
SIMPLE TRUTH
WHY?
NOW?
UNBELIEVABLE!







What an amazing time we are having here in the Land ... where it all began! Sharon and I are enjoying an amazing time here with our 10 year old grandson - Jackson Levi Stolebarger.

We have been dreaming about this opportunity to just "pour into" our grandson about the Israel of the Bible. Today, we will head up north to Caesarea Philippi and be asking the question ... "Who is Jesus?" Can't wait to hear his answer.

As far as a Middle East update - the four days that we have been here have been relatively calm. I think this whole region is waiting to get the so-called ultimate peace plan from Trump. I am sure that will set things into motion (just don't know at this time what will happen), but I do know who does! Shalom from the shores of the Galilee

WEEKLYLEADINES

- * U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly agreed in principle that Iranian forces should exit Syria when they met in Helsinki in July, according to a U.S. administration official familiar with the meeting.
- * While Israel's border with the Gaza Strip is the most quiet it has been in weeks, a senior Israeli official quoted by *Times of Israel* indicated that any potentially longstanding deal with the Hamas terror group would require the return of Israeli captives and the remains of IDF soldiers.
- * Palestinian president lashes out at US over Gaza situation: "Abbas... said of U.S. officials: "I swear to God, they are liars." Abbas added that he believes the U.S. is trying to promote Gaza aid projects to serve its own interests." PA leader admits efforts to torpedo Israel-Hamas truce talks "Either we take responsibility for the West Bank and Gaza under one state or Hamas will," Mahmoud Abbas states If excluded from cease-fire negotiations, Ramallah will spare no effort to impede any deal reached between Hamas and Israel, he warns.







Nothing short of Palestinian groups explicitly admitting defeat and renouncing their war on Israel will bring relief to Gaza or make two states possible. Even if we believed Abbas and Fatah really wanted peace, as long as Hamas is armed and in control of any territory, that isn't possible. While we should all pray that a ceasefire is reinstated and holds for as long as possible, until this basic conundrum is addressed, the efforts of the Trump administration and others to promote peace will continue to be an exercise in futility.



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Why is the United Nations negotiating with a terror group that is sworn to Israel's destruction? Why, instead, are the UN and Egypt and other parties not demanding that Hamas disarm and relinquish control of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who have been held hostage for the past 11 years? Why is the UN apparently prepared to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the Gaza Strip while keeping Hamas in power and even allowing it to become stronger? Why is the UN being allowed to play the role of savior of Hamas? The next time Hamas targets Israeli civilians, perhaps the UN and all those who are now trying to appease Hamas will have some answers.

Bassam Tawil, a Muslim Arab, is based in the Middle East.





If Israel wants to destroy Hamas, and liberate the Gaza Strip from its iron-fisted Islamic rule - now more than a decade old - there will never be a better time. President Trump is the most pro-Israel leader the US has ever produced, and his team of Middle East negotiators are so frustrated are so frustrated with Palestinian intransigence that they have called for cutting economic aid to Gaza. If Israel were to undertake a tough ground assault, with Hamas hiding behind (willing participating) civilians in hospitals and in booby-trapped buildings, it would - finally have a friend in the White House who would withstand international pressure and allow it to fight until victory. Joel Pollack - Breitbart News



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres suggested military force to protect Palestinians from Israel.

- Providing a "more robust UN presence on the ground."
- Pouring in more UN humanitarian and development aid to "ensure the well-being of the population."
- Creating a **civilian observer mission** that would be present in sensitive areas such as checkpoints and near Israeli settlements, with a mandate to report on protection issues.
- Deploying an **armed military or police force**, under a UN mandate, to provide physical protection to Palestinian civilians.

Israeli Ambassador **Danny Danon's response**: "The only protection the Palestinian people need is from their own leadership."