



**KAFIR**

**JANUARY 3, 2020  
YOUNG LIONS CLUB**

**MIDDLE  
EAST  
UPDATE**

*From Idaho*

**DAN STOLEBARGER**

<http://holygroundexplorations.com>

# HUGE 2020 TOURS



**MAY 20-29 - ROCK CHURCH ISRAEL TOUR**  
**OCT 25 - NOV 3 - ISRAEL 2020 - Lake City**  
**NOV 13-22 - WALKING THE BIBLE - Anthem**





# THIS WEEK

NEWS BITES

US EMBASSY ATTACKED

HADI FARHAN AL-AMIRI

US & ISRAEL RED LINES

PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE

ANTI-SEMITISM

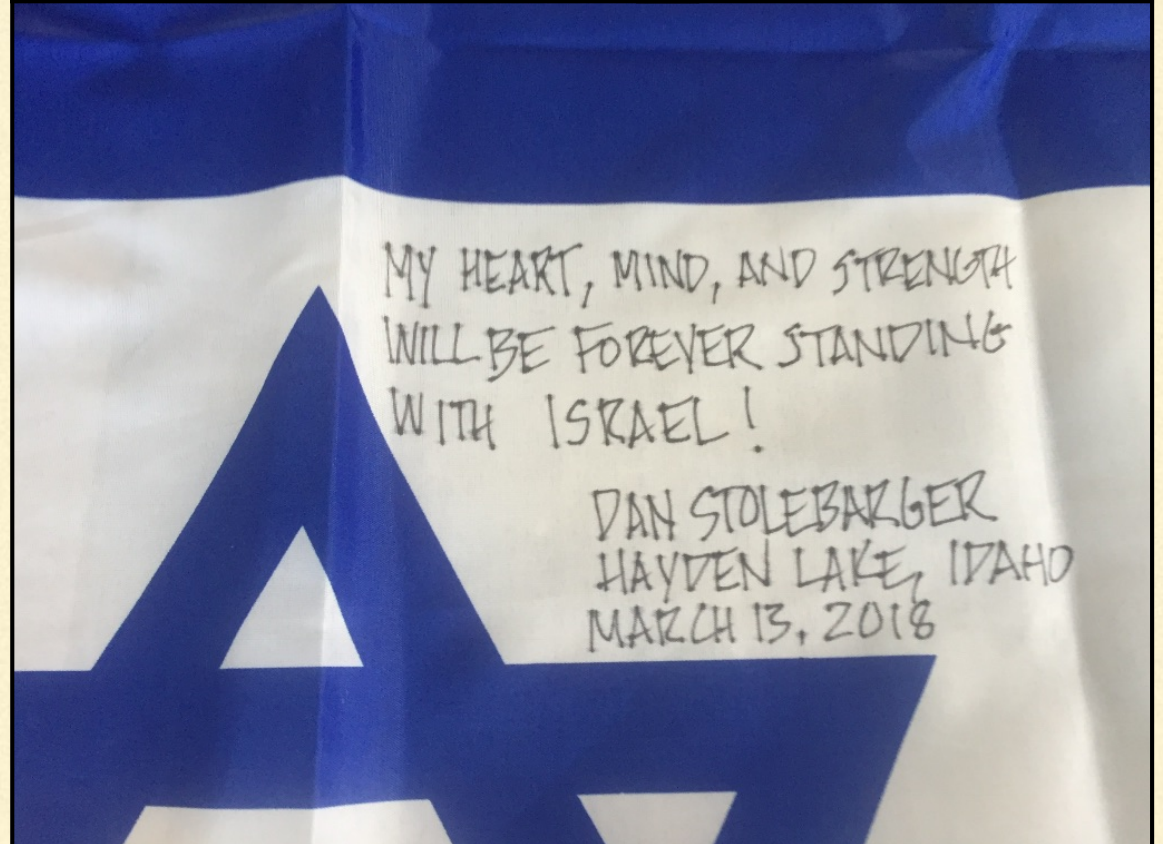
PA 2020 RHETORIC

BIBI'S PLATFORM

TROUBLING TIMES

JESUS - 1ST SHAHID

QUOTE OF THE WEEK





# NEWS BITES

Amid rabid anti-Semitism in the US, Left finds way to blame Trump. Despite the president's recent executive order designed to protect Jews on college campuses, members of the Left are convinced that Trump is responsible for anti-Semitism in America.

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake hit at 5 AM local time on Friday less than 30 miles from the 1,000-megawatt Bushehr nuclear power plant, Iran's only operating nuclear power plant located on the southwest Gulf coast.

Days of torrential rainfall this week have brought the water level in the Sea of Galilee, Israel's major freshwater lake, up by some 20 centimeters (7.9 inches), local authorities reported Saturday.

Netanyahu Trounces Rival in Landslide Likud Primary Victory. After winning the Likud primaries by a landslide, the PM is expected to argue that the public has given him a vote of confidence, meaning he needs immunity to be able to run the government without needing to deal with a trial.





# US EMBASSY ATTACKED



Twice in a span of 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to humiliate the world's preeminent superpower by striking at one of its main symbols, and in the same exact way. In many ways, Tuesday's humiliation was even more stinging. The "Green Zone" in Baghdad, which houses the US embassy along with other embassies and government buildings, is a fortified area, perhaps one of the most guarded compounds on the planet, surrounded by outer and inner security rings of Iraqi soldiers and security personnel. Dozens of roadblocks and checkpoints are positioned on the roads leading to the Green Zone.

In hindsight, it appears the compound's guards stood idly by, didn't try preventing the thousands of protesters from entering through the main gate and allowed them to advance unimpeded toward the US Embassy, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build.

...Iran will be held fully responsible for lives lost, or damage incurred, at any of our facilities. They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a Warning, it is a Threat. Happy New Year!  
DONALD TRUMP





# US IRAQI EMBASSY



Iraqi Shiite militia supporters broke into the US Embassy compound in Baghdad on Tuesday after smashing a main door and setting fire to a reception area, prompting tear gas and sounds of gunfire.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw flames rising from inside the compound and at least three US soldiers on the roof of the main building. There was a fire at the reception area near the parking lot of the compound but it was unclear what had caused it. A man on a loudspeaker urged the mob not to enter the compound, saying: "The message was delivered."



The embassy attack followed deadly US airstrikes on Sunday that killed 25 fighters of the Iran-backed militia in Iraq, the Kataeb Hezbollah. The US military said it was in retaliation for last week's killing of an American contractor in a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base that it had blamed on the militia.





# HADI FARHAN AL-AMIRI



The *Washington Post* reported on Tuesday that one of the leaders of the riots that threatened the embassy in Baghdad was Hadi al-Amiri, head of the Badr Organization, one of the largest pro-Iran militias in Iraq.

Hadi Farhan al-Amiri, the Iraqi Minister of Transportation at the time, was a guest of former President Barack Obama at the White House in 2011.





# US AND ISRAEL RED LINES



**Red lines:** Seth Frantzman [writes](#) in The Daily Beast that – despite the close alliance between Israel and the U.S. on the Iranian threat – the two countries have very different red lines. “For Israel, the red line has been Iran’s effort to transfer precision guided munitions through Iraq and Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon, and its increasing role in Syria close to Israel’s borders,” he noted. “For the Trump administration, the red line has become further Iranian proxy attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq or Syria.”





# PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE



The Trump administration is willing to take preemptive strikes to protect US forces and personnel in Iraq, top Pentagon officials said today, after Iran-backed forces breached the American Embassy in Baghdad earlier this week in response to Pentagon airstrikes.

Defense Sec Mark Esper told reporters "The game has changed, and we're prepared to do what is necessary to defend our personnel and our interests and our partners in the region."

The Pentagon's decision to leave wiggle room for preemptive strikes comes after the US launched precision guided bombs against five targets housing Khataib Hezbollah on Dec. 31, prompting the embassy breach.





# ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE RISE



You can't ignore a spike in antisemitic attacks in the New York area. A man armed with a machete injured five people at a Chanuka celebration in the New York area on Saturday night. On Friday morning, a man walked into Chabad's world headquarters in Brooklyn and chillingly threatened to shoot it up. See local coverage for details on the other attacks. To the outrage of the Jewish community, one suspect was released without bail thanks to loopholes in bail reform laws.



According to stats released by the FBI, Jews were victims in 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes in 2018. More on that at the Jerusalem Post and Voice of America.





# PA 2020 RHETORIC

Some 135 Palestinian non-governmental organizations rejected financial assistance from the European Union over a refusal to renounce ties to terrorism.

As 2019 ended, the Palestinian Authority emphasized that it views the entire State of Israel as "Palestine" and rewards anyone who reinforces this message. Accordingly the PA Ministry of Education awarded first prize in an art competition to a student who in her painting included the PA map of "Palestine," which presents all of Israel as part of "Palestine" together with the PA areas and the Gaza Strip.





# BIBI'S PLATFORM



Netanyahu pointed out that in 2017 the US administration had recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and in 2018 had relocated the US Embassy in Israel to the city, not to mention leaving the 2015 Iran deal - "and this year, we annexed the Golan Heights and [the US] stated that settlements are legal," he said.



"Our rivals would not have achieved that - not only because they aren't capable of it, but because that is not their path. In the next few years, we will decide on our borders. We will get the Americans to recognize the application of Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley, and all the settlements in Judea and Samaria, and we will make peace deals with Arab states," Netanyahu declared.





# TROUBLING TIMES



Are places of worship no longer safe? No matter what religion one associates themselves with, everyone wants to feel safe at the place they pray and when they celebrate religion. It is a tragic reality that it seems places of religion are under attack.



The night before this Church attack, five Jews were stabbed in Monsey, NY at the rabbi's house next to the synagogue. They were having a Hanukkah celebration. Is that such a crime to be celebrating religion and to be happy? It is horrific that anyone would destroy that. But sadly, this antisemitic attack was one of many in the New York area recently.

How many more victims can our world handle?





# JESUS - 1ST SHAHID



There were repeated new claims this week, by senior Palestinian leaders and the official press, that Jesus was a "Palestinian" and the "first Palestinian." A senior Palestinian leader this week also referred to Jesus as the "first *Shahid*," or Islamic Martyr, which many believing Christians find very offensive. According to the Islamic tradition, which the Palestinian Authority has repeated many times to its people, among the rewards that the Islamic Martyr receives in Islam's paradise are 72 dark-eyed virgins. Whereas claiming that Jesus who was a Judean (Jew) was a Palestinian is nonsensical for believing Christians, saying he is now in Islamic Paradise with 72 virgins is seen by many as defamation.





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# QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“A people cannot be called “settlers” in their own ancestral and Biblical heartland!”







**KFIR**

DAILY PSALM  
DAILY BIBLE READINGS  
WEEKLY MIDDLE EAST UPDATE  
WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our KFIR Global Community, please send them to our website to get signed up. We have had great growth this year but believe God wants to continue growing this Group that seeks to be devoted to the WORD, to PRAYER and to be like the sons of ISSACHAR, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do!