



KEFIR

March 6, 2020

YOUNG LIONS CLUB

**MIDDLE
EAST
UPDATE**

From Israel

DAN STOLEBARGER

<http://holygroundexplorations.com>

HGE 20 / 21 TOURS



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MAY 20-29, 2020 - ROCK CHURCH ISRAEL TOUR

OCT 25 - NOV 3 - ISRAEL 2020 - Lake City

NOV 13-22 - WALKING THE BIBLE - Anthem 2020

REVEALING ISRAEL - HGE Spring - FEB 10-19, 2021

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN - MAY 18-27, 2021

REVEALING ISRAEL HGE Fall - SEPT 29 - OCT 7, 2021



MUSINGS

"We have no reasons to think that Middle Eastern politics were any less complicated in the first century that in the twentieth. On the contrary, there is every reason to suppose that there were just as many tensions, problems, anomalies and puzzles then as now— just as much reason for some to throw up their hands in despair, for others to grit their teeth and forge ahead, and for others again to try to forget the whole 'situation' in the struggle to survive."

—*N.T. Wright*



THIS WEEK

HGE 2020/2021 TOURS

MUSINGS

THIS WEEK

NEWS BITES

TALMIDIM XI

ELECTION RESULTS

ISRAELI ELECTIONS

J-POST

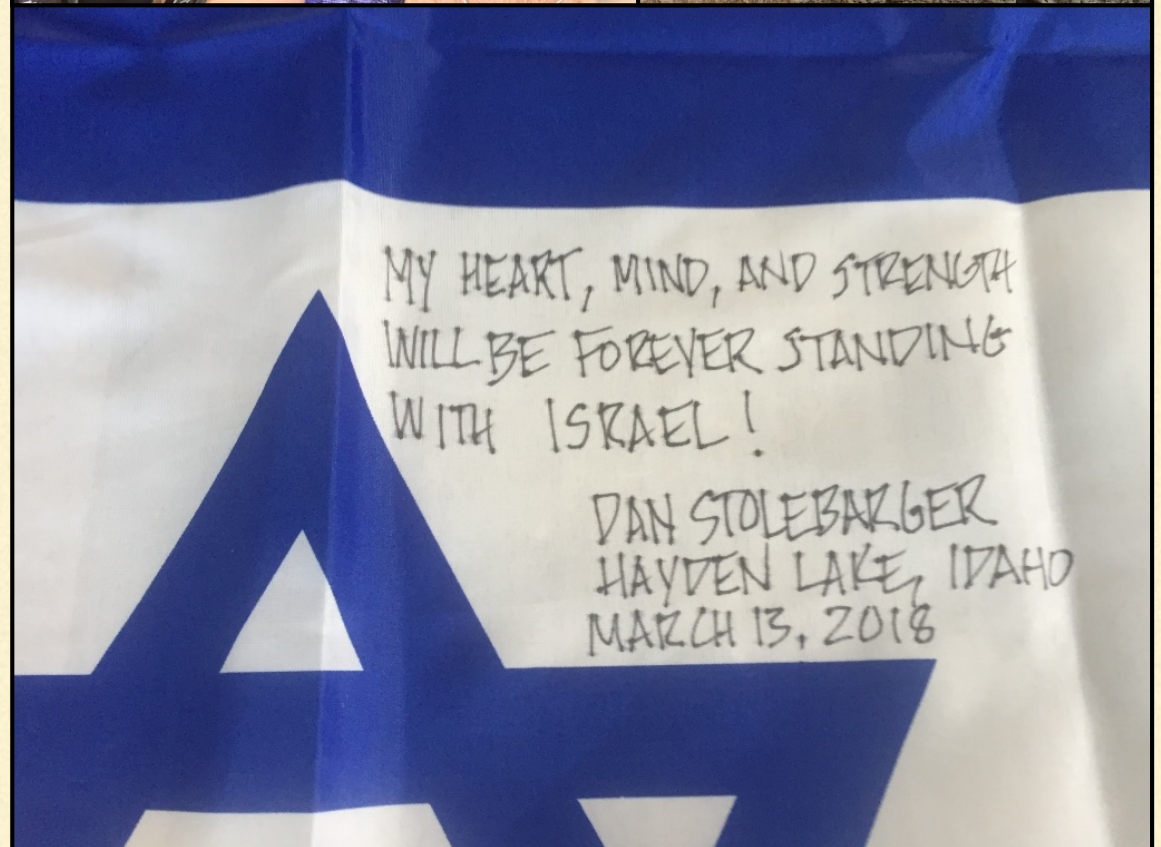
SNIPER ATTACK THWARTED

JORDAN / ISRAEL TREATY

ISRAEL VS IRAN

REDLINE ALERT

SPRINGS OF HOPE



NEWS BITES

AIPAC - VP Michael Pence: noted that America stands with Israel is due to a passage in the Bible saying: "And we stand with Israel because we cherish that ancient promise that Americans have always cherished throughout our history: those who bless her will be blessed".

ELECTION - Turnout highest since 2015 as voters defy predictions of apathy, virus fears. 71% of Israelis vote, despite analysts' prediction turnout could be depressed by fatigue for 3rd election in a year.

ELECTION - Israeli president likely to chose Netanyahu to form gov't during week of his corruption trial Iran's military build-up in Syria remains a red line for Israel.

GOLAN SNIPER - The IAF has carried out thousands of attacks to thwart Iranian entrenchment in the war-torn country.

In Israel, Avigdor Lieberman announced he would support a bill that would prevent a prime minister under indictment from forming a government, giving a potential 62-vote majority to such legislation.



TALMIDIM XI



Lions, Tiger and Bears ... OH MY! Is now being replaced with Rockets, Elections and Snipers ... OH MY - OH MY! Last week we were greeted in Sderot with rockets and then this Tuesday as we visited the Golan and went on our geo-political Jeep Tour with our friends Elon and Erez from No Other Land Expeditions, we were interrupted while we were on the Syrian border by the IDF telling us that we needed to 'take cover' since we were too exposed and that there was a sniper alert! Hopefully the rest of the week will be less anti-climatic :-). We will be painting and working in a greenhouse in the lower Galilee.

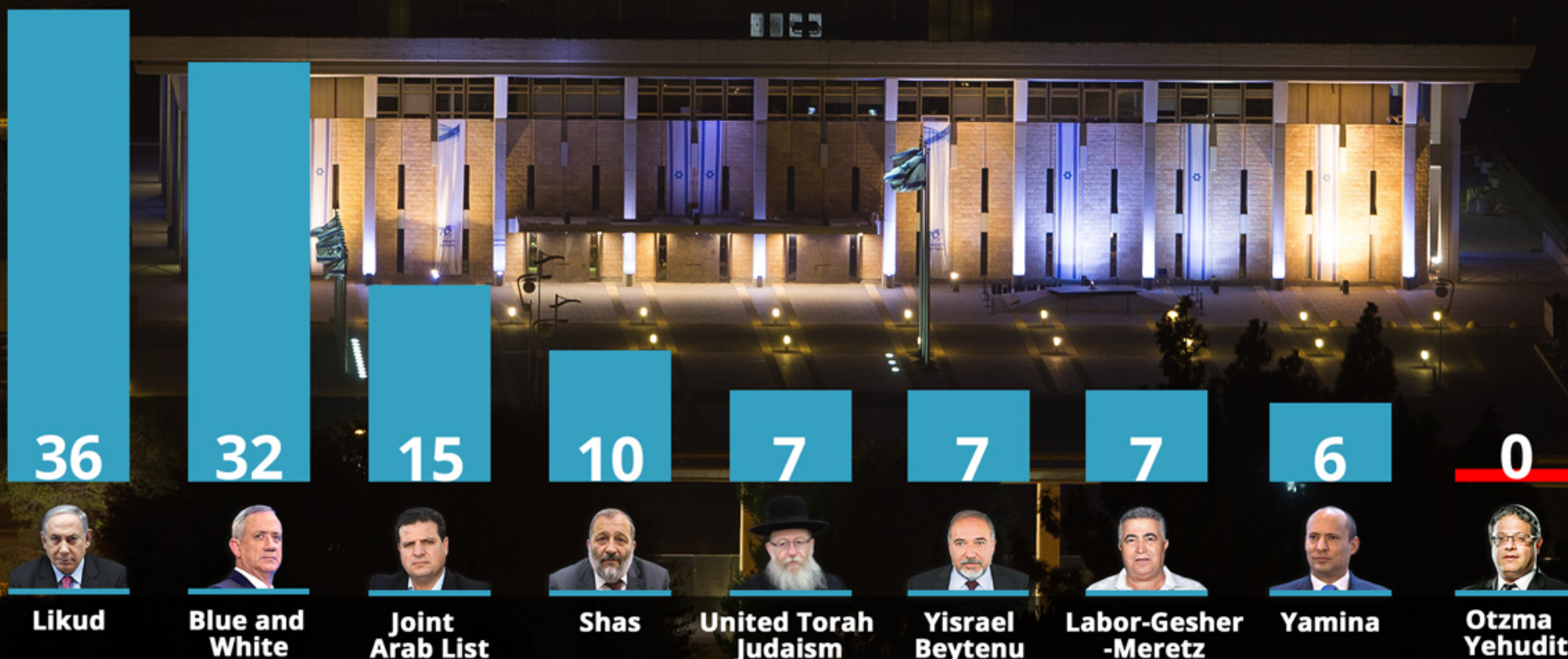
Now for the disclaimer ... Our Talmidim Group goes to places that regular Tours do not go! Never let FEAR dictate whether or not you come to visit this incredible Land!



ELECTION RESULTS

Projected seats

with 90% of the votes counted



ISRAELI ELECTIONS



Israeli daily *Yediot Aharonot* reported that some in Blue and White were urging the party's leaders to at least explore the possibility of a unity government.

An anonymous source within the party cited a proposed unity government deal from after the September elections, which Blue and White turned down, telling *Yediot* that if the party had taken the deal, "Benny Gantz would be taking office as prime minister in two weeks and replacing Netanyahu, instead of giving a concession speech."



ELECTION RESOLUTION



Veteran Israeli political strategists say that contrary to what happened after the last two elections in 2019, this time Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will succeed in gathering a majority to form a government, *Israel Hayom* reported on Wednesday. “[Netanyahu] is the only one who can form a government,” he said. “Also because Gantz and Liberman cannot ignore the absolute Jewish majority that gave Netanyahu a clear victory, and also because from a moral point of view, some members of the Center-Left parties won’t allow [fourth elections] to happen.”

Ariel Sender, President Trump’s campaign manager in Israel, sees two strong prospects. “The more realistic possibility is Blue and White joining this government, with them getting a relatively large amount of power and also presenting their public with the argument that in this way they are protecting Israel’s justice system,” he explained.



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Unhappy Returns

Palestinians 'deeply disappointed' by rise of Right bloc
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National opportunity

Gil Troy on why a unity government is Israel's best option
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TheaterNetto 2020

Plays will compete for NIS 10,000 Nissim Azikri Best Actor Prize
Page 16

Rivlin, Netanyahu set to clash over mandate to form government

Likud seeks defectors for 61-MK blocking majority

• By GIL HOFFMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared Monday's election "the biggest win of my life" in his victory speech at Expo Tel Aviv, which started at 2:20 a.m. Tuesday. But by late Tuesday, it appeared there was no guarantee he would even be given a chance to form a government.

Likud sources said Netanyahu wanted to form a government as soon as possible and that he aimed to complete the process before his corruption trial begins on March 17. But President Reuven Rivlin will be taking his time in enabling a government to be formed, the exact opposite of what he did after the April and September elections.

Rivlin will not begin consultations with factions about their recommendations to form a government before



PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu is seen after meeting with party leaders in the Knesset yesterday. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

will wait to receive official results from the head of the Central Elections Committee,

date for Rivlin to give a mandate to form a government is Tuesday, March 17, the start of Netanyahu's trial.

and final," the President's Residence said.

One possibility for Rivlin is not to grant any candidate

KAN veteran political analyst Yaron Deckel reported Tuesday night. He could instead give the mandate straight to the Knesset, initiating a 21-day period in which any candidate could form a government.

Meet the potential defectors, Page 2

Netanyahu convened a bloc of right-wing parties on Tuesday at the Knesset to begin the process of forming a new governing coalition. The MKs decided they would continue to coordinate as a bloc under Netanyahu's leadership to form a right government as soon as possible. They also decided to rule out adding other parties except the Joint List.

In his victory speech, the prime minister said he would form a national government. He did not



DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL contender Michael Bloomberg asks a question during a live televised town hall event in Manassas, Virginia, on Monday. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

Virginia Dems say main goal is to stop Trump

• By OMRI NAHMIA
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

MANASSAS, Virginia - The did not deter voters from casting their ballots at the Barrett Elementary

Particularly because I think [President Donald] Trump will mop the floor with him if he was facing Bernie. He will just say we're going to make this country into Venezuela, which isn't true, but people believe Trump when he says



SNIPER ATTACK THWARTED



The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson confirmed Monday that a vehicle across the Syrian border was hit by an Israeli airstrike in order to thwart a "sniper attack." "A short while ago, IDF troops identified an attempted sniper attack in the northern Golan Heights area," the IDF spokesperson said in a statement. "In response, IDF troops targeted the vehicle involved in the attempted attack." Earlier, the Syrian state-run *SANA* news agency reported that a vehicle was targeted in an aerial attack near Quneitra that involved one missile.



Israel's Defense Minister Naftali Bennett said "Even on the day of elections, our enemies try to harm us, harm Israeli citizens and disrupt our daily routine. On this day as well, as on any day of the year, we will cut off the hands of the enemy and won't let them disrupt our lives."



JORDAN / ISRAEL PEACE TREATY



Relations between Jordan and Israel are at their lowest ebb since the signing of the 1994 peace treaty between the two countries, and the treaty itself is now “at risk,” Jordanian Prime Minister Omar Razzaz said on Monday.



According to Razzaz, Jordan is angry about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s pledge to extend Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and parts of Judea and Samaria as set forth in the U.S. “Prosperity to Peace” plan, and about Israeli “violations of the sanctity of Muslim and Christian endowments in Jerusalem.”



ISRAEL VS IRAN



If Israel does decide to bomb Iran, the U.S. government has made it a little easier. The U.S. State Department has approved an Israeli request to buy eight KC-46A Pegasus aerial tankers. Including support equipment, spare parts and training, the deal is valued at \$2.4 billion, with the first aircraft arriving in 2023.



The sale "supports the foreign policy and national security of the United States by allowing Israel to provide a redundant capability to U.S. assets within the region, potentially freeing U.S. assets for use elsewhere during times of war," said the State Department's Defense Security Cooperation Agency. "Aerial refueling and strategic airlift are consistently cited as significant shortfalls for our allies. In addition, the sale improves Israel's national security posture as a key U.S. ally."



RED LINE ALERT

THE JERUSALEM POST • THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

NEWS

As Iran passes uranium enrichment threshold, Israel stays quiet

On Tuesday, the IAEA reported Iran has far exceeded the low enriched uranium levels for a nuclear bomb

ANALYSIS
• By YONAH JEREMY BOB

The International Atomic Energy Agency has finally shown a backbone and yet Israel and Iran seem to have reached a quiet ceasefire in the nuclear standoff.

els of enrichment. This may be the same reason that Iran is staying quiet.

With all of its violations and noise, it is actually maintaining a careful, conservative strategy which will not unduly provoke Israel – and maybe even the US – into a preemptive strike.

Still, there is no question

months or even less.

Will the IAEA get answers from Iran? Probably not. At the end of the day, the agency's tougher tone is welcome and helpful, but the real keys to breaking the deadlock are in the hands of the EU-3, China and Russia.

The EU-3 (France, Germany, Britain) has made it

through with their threat to snap back full UN global sanctions on Iran, as long as Tehran does not move to higher levels of enriched uranium or kick out inspectors.

Incomplete cooperation with the IAEA probably will not lead the EU-3 to pull the trigger without a new smoking gun showing that

to break out, as opposed to clandestinely perform some noncommittal off-the-books

And so the awkward Israeli-Iranian nuclear ceasefire has brought an even more awkward moment, in which the

normally quiet IAEA is loud and the main story is a deafening silence.



IRAN PARADES its missile arsenal during a military ceremony commemorating National Day in Tehran last year. (WANA via Reuters)

Just ran across this article in the J-Post today. As you can see Israel is remaining silent but something tells me that this is a RED LINE that is being crossed and we should keep our eyes and ears open! NO big surprise (at least for me) is Israel launches a preeminent strike.



SPRINGS – LISA



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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!