

PROPHETIC *Newsletter*

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MAY 2018

Published by World Prophetic Ministry, Inc. (800) 622-2767
National Processing Center • PO Box 150439 • Grand Rapids, MI 49515

Israel at 70 – A Light to the Nations

This May marks a historic occasion in world history – the 70th anniversary of the re-birth of the nation of Israel. Specifically, on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. U.S. President Harry S. Truman officially recognized the new



HINDSON

nation on the same day. Literally, overnight Israel became a nation and took its place on the world stage. Earlier that day the British army had withdrawn from the area in accordance with the termination of the British mandate in Palestine.

The fledgling nation was almost immediately attacked by Arab ground forces while Egypt launched an air assault.

Michael Oren, Israel's current Deputy Minister of Public Diplomacy and historian explained the tenuous situation, "Then there were 600,000 people here, about the size, half the size of a mid-sized American city

and with basically handguns fighting six Arab armies that came within 25 miles of Tel Aviv. It's hard to imagine." Israel had no economy, no allies in the region, no actual army, and limited technology, yet they survived against these odds.

Seventy years later it is clear that Israel has not only has survived but thrived.

Oren went on to say, "Our economy has one of the most highest growth rates in the world. We have one of the most powerful armies in the world; we're a world leader in technology and Israel is regularly listed as one of the seventh or eighth most powerful countries in the world."

Oren believes it was a miracle from God. In spite of continual threats from the enemies that surround the tiny nation (Israel is roughly the same size as the state of New Jersey), Israel serves as a continuing miracle. Not only did the tiny nation survive but she has thrived and now serves to fulfill the prophetic role of being "a light to the nations" by helping other nations



in need.

During a press conference Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once answered a question by a reporter as to why Israel reaches out to help so many other nations when it's surrounded by enemies on all sides?

Netanyahu told the audience, "Because we're a light to the nations. It's a fulfillment of that great prophecy. In fact that is what Israel is doing. It's doing it in places like Haiti and the Philippines or Mexico."

The list could go on, easily adding the U.S. for the recent assistance Israel has provided in discovering cyber-crimes and computer hacking directed against America. As Israel continues helping the world through humanitarian outreach, bringing innovation to global investors, or using technology to stop cyber-crimes around the globe, many believe these are simply a fulfillment of Israel's mission to the world.

In many ways Israel is acting as the "light to the nations" predicted by Isaiah in 49:6. Yet, this could not have taken place until the 2,700 year old prophecy of Ezekiel 37 was fulfilled with the re-birth of the nation of Israel as the dry bones of a once formerly dead

nation came together. This actually began in the late 19th century AD as the Zionist movement gradually influenced Jews from all over the world to emigrate to Israel in hopes of resettling the land.

Significantly, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the nation of Israel as fulfilling the biblical prophecies of Israel returning to

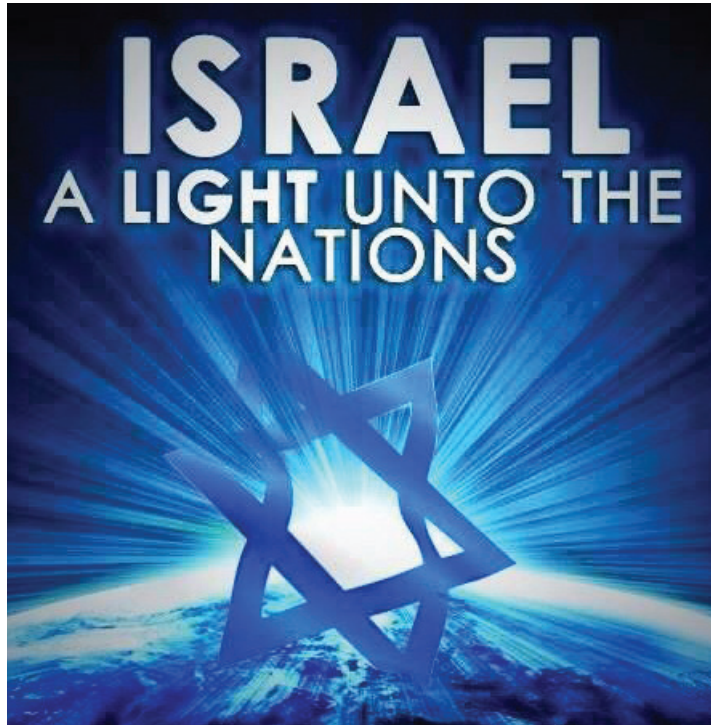
the Holy Land as taught in numerous passages including the remnant of God's people being assembled together and set up as "an ensign [banner] for the nations" Isaiah 11:10-12.

Likewise, the fact that the nation of Israel was "born at once" "in one day" was predicted in Isaiah 66:8. The fact that the nation of Israel would be reestablished in the land she formerly

occupied was prophesied by Jeremiah in 16:14-15 and again in 23:7-8.

Even as joyous as the rebirth of Israel is, Bible prophecy tells us that this milestone means the end times are drawing even closer as Zechariah predicted Israel would become an object of scorn in the last days (Zechariah 12:2-3).

Since we can clearly observe the hatred and scorn Israel experiences from all around her, we should be very much in prayer.—PNL



PRAY: Pray that the Lord would tarry in His return and give us additional time to present the truth of Jesus as Messiah to the ends of the earth – and especially to God's people in Israel.



US Embassy to Open in Jerusalem This Month

Keeping a promise the Trump administration made, the United States plans to open a new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. The opening will coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary in May. According to the U.S. Department of State, the Embassy will initially be located in the Arnona neighborhood, in a very modern building that currently houses consular operations of U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem. Those consular operations, including American citizen and visa services, will continue at the Arnona facility without interruption, as part of the Embassy. Elaborating on the functions of these two essential offices, the State Department indicated that the Consulate General Jerusalem will continue to operate as an independent mission with an unchanged mandate, from its historic Agron Road location. Initially, the interim Embassy in Arnona will contain office space for the Ambassador and a small staff. By the end of next year (2019), the United States intends to open a new Embassy Jerusalem annex on the Arnona compound that will provide the Ambassador and his team with expanded interim office space. In a parallel effort, U.S. officials have started the search for a site for

our permanent Embassy to Israel, the planning and construction of which will be a longer-term undertaking.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert was quoted by Fox News as saying, "We are excited about taking this historic step, and look forward with anticipation to the May opening." President Trump formally recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 by directing the State Department to begin the move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. While many criticize President Trump for this decision, it is interesting to observe that an official decision to move the embassy has always been controversial. In fact the official dates back decades. A law passed in 1995 under the Clinton administration indicated that the U.S. officially considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel and even mandated the move of the embassy there. In any event, President Trump was quoted as saying, "This is nothing more or less than a recognition of reality. It is also the right thing to do. It is something that has to be done." Officials report that a ribbon-cutting for the new embassy is slated for mid-

See **US EMBASSY** on page 6

Is Jerusalem on a Cycle of Biblical “Jubilee”?

As Israel makes preparations to observe a significant anniversary of the founding of the modern nation, many have been looking into the history of the nation. This has caused some to notice a potential connection between the city of Jerusalem and the 50-years cycle known in the Bible “jubilee.” Executive Director Juergen Buehler and Vice President



David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem— a Zionist organization based in Jerusalem – have observed some very interesting historical facts. 150 years ago, British archaeologist Charles Warren discovered the original city of David. 50 years later in 1917, Gen. Edmund Allenby captured the city ending 400 years of Ottoman rule. Fifty years after that, in 1967, Israel re-captured the old city and the Temple Mount for the first time in more than 2,000 years. Then fifty years later, in 2017, under the leadership of President Donald Trump the American government decided to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital and also initiated the process of moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Buehler and Parsons both see these events as occurring in keeping with the 50-year cycle known in the Bible as Jubilee.

Speaking to the international news media, Parsons commented that “Something new and exciting is happening for Jerusalem itself that propels it, releases it further into its prophetic destiny.” Parsons added, “redemptive history is unfolding here in Israel. I do believe this

has to do not only with, you know, embassies being relocated here, but you see another level of God’s restoration processes, reaching another level.” He went on to explain, “the greatest outstanding promise that the Bible gives us regarding this nation here is the spiritual restoration of Israel.” Parsons commented that all the biblical prophets who

predicted that Israel would return to the Promised Land also predicted that God would give Israel a new heart. Parsons indicated that the spirit of giving and willingness of Israel to help the nations around her – as can be seen in the numerous humanitarian outreach projects Israel is involved in – is evidence of the new heart God is giving to the Jewish people. Parsons added that as God works in the hearts of the Jewish people to help their Arab neighbors – and enemies – so too must we pray that God would continue to work among the Arab people so that the jubilee would be recognized throughout Israel.

The Bible speaks of the year of Jubilee as a time of rest and redemption for the people and the land. For example, Leviticus 25:9 teaches that a year of Jubilee was to be observed after every 49 years. This fiftieth year was intended to be a time of rejoicing, celebration, worship, and thanks for God’s provision for the Israelites. The ceremonial ram’s horn trumpet was blown on the tenth day of the seventh month to begin a year of redemption. The year of the Jubilee involved

See **JUBILEE** on page 5

Cache of Ancient Jewish 'Freedom Coins' Discovered

The timing of the latest significant archeological discovery in Israel could not be more appropriate. As the nation of Israel is making preparations to celebrate its 70th anniversary as a nation Dr. Eliat Mazar – Hebrew University archaeologist – recently announced the discovery of an ancient treasure trove of rare bronze coins that date from the time of the Jewish revolt against the Romans more than 1,900 years ago. The coins were found at the Ophel excavation – which was recently renewed after a four-year hiatus – in Jerusalem's Old City, located below the southern wall of the Temple Mount. This location connects to the historical records that indicate that Jewish residents hid in a large cave from the Roman Empire's siege



on Jerusalem – from 66 to 70 AD – until the Roman invaders destroyed the Second Temple and the city of Jerusalem. This event instigated the collapse of the ancient nation of Israel that was effectively eliminated from the world scene in 136 AD after the failed Bar Kokhba revolt. Israel ceased to exist as a nation until it was re-born – seventy years ago – in one day on May 14, 1948. The coin that were recently discovered are the last remnants of the four-year Jewish revolt against the invading Roman Empire.

While several of the bronze coins date to the revolt's early years, the majority date from its final year, known as "Year Four," according to Mazar. During the final year, the Hebrew inscription was changed from the more

See **FREEDOM COINS** on page 6

JUBILEE from page 4

indebtedness (Leviticus 25:23–38) and all types of bondage (Leviticus 25:39–55). All captives were to be set free, slaves were to be released, monetary debts were forgiven, and all lands and properties that had been sold were to be returned to the families of the original owners. In addition, all labor and work was to cease for that year of Jubilee, and those bound by labor contracts were released from their obligations for the year. During the year of Jubilee both the land and the people had rest. Therefore, while the 50-

year cycle of significant events related to the city of Jerusalem is doubtlessly interesting and worthy of our notice, these events do not fit the definition of the year of Jubilee according to the Scriptures. However, the year of Jubilee in Scripture does certainly indicate that God places significance on milestones of history and regularly occurring remembrances of His great work on behalf of His people.

Therefore, perhaps the reoccurring significant events that surround the city of Jerusalem – every 50 years – are indeed of divine origin. As such, we should be in prayer over this situation. — PNL

PRAY: Pray that God would continue to protect the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. Pray that God would allow such significant events to be recognized throughout the land of Israel and the rest of the world so that more people could witness His majesty.

US EMBASSY from page 3

May perhaps to coincide directly with Israel's anniversary of its independence is May 14, 1948.

The decision to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem is one that carries with it some significant prophetic implications. Most importantly is that Lord has promised to bless those who bless Israel, to curse those who curse Israel, and that all the people of the earth will be blessed by Israel (Cf. Genesis 12:3). By acknowledging the correct location of the capital of Israel the United States – as a nation

– will certainly bless Israel with this major step of international recognition. Likewise, with Israel as a strategic trading partner it will be in the greater interest of the U.S. to move the embassy to Jerusalem. Israel has a technologically advanced free market economy. Cut diamonds, high-technology equipment, and pharmaceuticals are among its leading exports and the U.S. recognition of Israel's capital will only stimulate Israel's international trade. With the tenuous situation between Israel and her neighbors continually escalating, such a move by the U.S. will serve to help symbolize our national resolve to support Israel. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for the safety of the U.S. ambassador and the staff of the new embassy. Pray for the stability of the region and for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

FREEDOM COINS from page 5

hopeful expression “For the Freedom of Zion” to the more somber “For the Redemption of Zion,” reflecting their state of mind as they hid from the Roman soldiers and began to recognize that the collapse of their nation was in sight. One thing that Mazar finds extraordinary about this latest discovery is that the large cave dating to the Second Temple Period remained undiscovered for years despite numerous excavations in the area. That makes the cave “a veritable time capsule of life in Jerusalem during the four years its residents fought off the Roman invasion” according to Mazar. Many cannot help but wonder if God kept this from being discovered so that these “freedom” and “redemption” coins could be finally found when they would coincide with Israel's celebration of her 70th anniversary of the nation being re-established. We believe that it is likely more than a mere coincidence that the Israelis who buried these coins witnessed the beginning of the collapse of the nation and the

Israelis who uncovered these coins will witness the celebration of the re-birth of the nation!

The Bible teaches that matters of importance must be attested to by multiple witnesses. This is such a significant principle that it is repeated throughout the Bible. The books of Numbers 35:30 and Deuteronomy 17:6 as well as 19:15 indicate that two or three witnesses are required to settle matters and establish legal charges. This principle is repeated in the New Testament as Jesus reinforced the principal that two or three witness are required for matters of church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17; John 8:17). The apostle Paul repeats this in 2 Corinthians 13:1-2 and 1 Timothy 5:19. While these passages speak to contextual situations and not are not necessarily prophetic, every time I learn of a new significant archeological discovery in Israel I cannot help but think of Jesus' words in Luke 19:40 indicating that “the stones will cry out” in testimony of Him! It seems to be with every turn of the archeologists' shovel that we get another “witness” to the historical accuracy of the Scriptures! — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that Israel would indeed experience freedom and redemption as a nation. Freedom from the danger that surrounds her and redemption for her sin of unbelief in Jesus as Messiah.