

Israel Newsdesk
with BPF Secretary
Steve Lloyd
October 2020

Lev 23:40-43 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

As I write to you we are in the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, having had the feast of Trumpets and then Yom Kippur, the most holy day in the Jewish Calendar, we now celebrate this great feast that reminds the Jewish people of Gods provision in the wilderness and his presence with them, but it is also a time to look forward to the day when Jesus Christ, their Messiah will tabernacle with them and rule for a 1000 years. It was on the last day of this feast that Jesus made two Messianic statements – ***I am the water of life***, and, ***I am the Light of the world***.

Israel – Over the last few weeks we have seen amazing things happening internationally with Israel and her neighbours. Many of the Muslim countries surrounding Israel are starting to recognise her and wanting normal relations with her.

The UAE was the first to normalise ties, and the UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan stated he wanted to visit Jerusalem and to pray at the al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount. President Rivlin has sent him an official invitation to visit Israel and Jerusalem.

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, Oman, Sudan and Qatar may also be going to follow suit.

Bahrain has already agreed to allow flights from Israel to the UAE to cross its airspace.

The peace deal with the UAE could mean a boost for a desert oil pipeline that Israel once operated as a secret joint venture with Iran.

Are we entering an age of peace for Israel? Where does that leave the Palestinians? And the BDS movement?

Many Arab countries are fed up with the Palestinians refusal to enter into negotiations and accept Israel, but also with Iran on the rise and making threats towards Saudi Arabia over Mecca, there is a need for the Arab nations to have Israel as a powerful ally.

Israel and Lebanon have reached an agreement to hold negotiations on their maritime border, after a years-long impasse. The dispute is over who has rights to drill for natural gas. Talks are expected to begin after the Sukkot holiday in Naqura, a city in southern Lebanon near to Rosh Hanikra, where the headquarters for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is located.

I believe the prophetic clock is ticking, is the way being paved for a time of peace in the middle east? Keep watching.

Population growth – The population of Israel has risen to 9,246 Million. It grew by 150,000, or 1.6% - this year. More than 170,000 babies were born, 44,000 people died, and 25,000 people moved to Israel. The population is expected to reach 10 million by 2024.

Embassy moves – Since President Trump announced the moving of the US Embassy to

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Jerusalem, there have been several other countries following suit. Just recently Serbia and Kosovo have announced such moves. If it indeed does happen, Kosovo will be the first Muslim Majority country to open an embassy in Jerusalem. Chad and Malawi are also believed to be considering moves to Jerusalem. Honduras hopes to move before the end of the year if the pandemic allows. This is great news for Israel.

USA – Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a trailblazer in life – and also in death. She became the first woman, and notably, the first Jew – to lie in state in the US Capitol.

She died at the age of 87 of complications from pancreatic cancer, just as Jews the world over were celebrating the new year.

The flag-draped casket of Ginsburg drew members of Congress, Top Military Officials, friends and family, to the Capitol's grand Statuary Hall, paying respect to the cultural Icon who changed American law and perceptions of women's power. She will be buried along side her husband, Marty, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Please continue to hold Israel in your prayers, I urge you to continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the IDF and IAF as they continue to serve and protect the nation.

The Lord is not far away.

Maranatha

Steve.