

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 20, 2017 (30th of Tishrei, 5778)



JERUSALEM'S LOST THEATER DISCOVERED UNDER WESTERN WALL: A rare 200-seat theater from the Roman period and eight large ancient stone courses recently unearthed under Wilson's Arch near the Western Wall by the Israel Antiquities Authority were presented at a press conference in the Old City this week. The site's excavators on behalf of the Authority, Dr. Joe Uziel, Tehillah Lieberman and Dr. Avi Solomon, said the dig was initiated to date Wilson's Arch, but turned into far more when the theater was discovered. "We did not imagine that a window would open for us onto the mystery of Jerusalem's lost theater. This is a relatively small structure compared to known Roman theaters such as at Caesarea, Bet She'an and Bet Guvrin," said Lieberman. "This fact, in addition to its location under a roofed space, in this case under Wilson's Arch, leads us to suggest that this is a theater-like structure of the type known in the Roman world as an odeon. In most cases," he continued, "such structures were used for acoustic performances. Alternatively, this may have been a structure known as a bouleuterion, the building where the city council met. Interestingly, the archaeologists believe the theater was never used. "A number of findings at the site indicate this, among them a staircase that was never completely hewn," said Solomon. "It is clear that great effort was invested in the building's construction, but, oddly, it was abandoned before it was put to use. The reasons for this are unknown," he added. "But they may have been connected to a significant historical event – perhaps the Bar Kokhba Revolt. The findings will be presented to the public during a conference called "New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Environs," which will take place at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to mark 50 years of archaeology since the unification of the city. (J.Post)

BAR ILAN RESEARCHERS TARGET, SHRINK METASTASIZED GROWTHS: Bar Ilan

researchers have announced a breakthrough medicine which attacks metastasized cancer growths. Prof. Uri Nir, of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University, and his team have identified an enzyme that supports the survival and dissemination of metastatic cells, and developed a synthetic compound that targets the enzyme and kills the metastatic cells in mice with cancer. Their research has just been published in the journal Nature Communications. When leaving the primary tumor, cancer cells possess greater tools to survive in very harsh conditions, such as shortage of basic nutrients like glucose. Metastatic cells can safeguard against this metabolic deficiency by reprogramming their energy generation system. Prof. Nir and his team found the existence of an enzyme (FerT) in the mitochondria (an organ which generates energy within the cells) of cancer cells that they couldn't find in the mitochondria of normal cells. When they targeted the enzyme in the laboratory, the malignant cells failed to produce energy and died. (Arutz-7)

ISRAELI WINS NASCAR EURO CHAMPIONSHIP: Israel's Alon Day made local motor sport history on Sunday 15 Oct. 2017, clinching the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series championship in Zolder, Belgium. The 26-year-old ended his sensational season by winning the previous day's race in Zolder and then settling for fourth on Sunday, knowing that he had already secured the title simply by completing the first lap. Day won four races in all this season, with Saturday's victory being his third straight in the playoffs and the 10th in the CAAL Racing driver's career. "It is such an amazing feeling," said Day on Sunday after bringing CAAL Racing a first championship in its 41-year racing history. "Finishing the season like this is the sweetest thing I can ask. I am so happy for the CAAL Racing team, they did a great job all season long." (J.Post)

JEWISH COACH LEADS COLOMBIA NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM INTO WORLD CUP: Led by its Jewish Argentine coach, Jose Pekerman, Colombia's national soccer team will play in the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Colombia qualified for next year's World Cup in Russia with a 1-1 draw against Peru last week in the final round of matches in the CONMEBOL South American group. Pekerman was born in Villa Dominguez in the Argentine countryside, one of the main centers of Jewish immigration to the country. Pekerman, a former midfielder with the Argentine national team, took over as Colombia's coach in January 2012 and led Colombia's return to the FIFA World Cup in 2014 following a 16-year absence from the world championships of soccer's governing body. In June 2016 he led Colombia to a third place in the prestigious Copa America, held in the United States. Pekerman is the only Jewish member of a team participating in the FIFA World Cup for the second year in a row, albeit from the bench. (J.Post)

USA LAUNCHES WATER PROJECT IN JERICHO: The United States government on Sunday 15 Oct. 2017, launched a \$10 million project to improve access to wastewater treatment and water for Palestinian Arab farmers in the Jericho area. Greenblatt has been among Trump's aides seeking to restart Israeli-Palestinian Arab negotiations. USA officials have spoken of improving the Palestinian Authority's economy and infrastructure as part of their efforts. The project announced Sunday aims to increase the number of homes connected to the Jericho area's wastewater treatment plant previously built with Japanese assistance by about 10,000 residents. That would leave some 70% of Jericho residents connected. Recycled wastewater would then be available to Palestinian Arab farmers in the area, it said. Palestinian Water Authority chairman Mazen Ghunaim said "this project will have a positive and direct impact on creating jobs and economic growth." (Arutz-7)

IAF HITS SYRIA AFTER MISSILE ATTACK ON ISRAELI AIRCRAFT: A Syrian surface-to-

air missile battery opened fire Monday morning, 16 Oct. 2017 on Israeli aircraft flying over southern Lebanon, an IDF spokesperson reported. In response to the attack, Israeli Air Force planes returned fire, destroying the surface-to-air missile battery which had attacked them. Israeli fighters dropped four bombs on the SA-5 missile battery According to the IDF, the Syrian missile battery opened fire on the IAF planes while they on a routine reconnaissance mission over southern Lebanon. Israeli officials say the IDF notified the Russian military regarding the air operation and engagement with the missile battery before IAF planes opened fire. No Israeli casualties were reported, and no IAF planes were damaged. "We hold the Syrian regime responsible for anti-aircraft fire and any attack originating from Syria," said IDF spokesperson Jonathan Conricus. (J.Post)

‘THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IS A TERRORIST ENTITY’: Israeli politician Naftali Bennett called the Palestinian Authority a “terrorist entity” and declared that Israel must not negotiate with a joint PA-Hamas government. Dealing with the Israeli response to the internal reconciliation agreements between Hamas and the PA, Bennett said that “A Palestinian government that relies on Hamas has become a national terror government. Israel must not cave in and hold negotiations with it.” According to Bennett, “Hamas continues in these days to plan the murder of Israelis and to dig terror tunnels, and it sets in its mind’s eye the goal of destroying Israel. Hamas signed a reconciliation agreement with the PA with the goal of clearing itself and enjoying legitimacy, even as it grows stronger against us.” Bennett added that “The conclusion is clear: The PA is a terrorist entity. We must not negotiate with it, we must not grant it gestures until conditions are fulfilled: The return of Israeli citizens and the bodies of Israeli soldiers, the comprehensive dismantling of weapons and the adoption of the Quartet conditions.” (INN) *Hamas, the ruling terrorist group in the Gaza Strip has never once backed down from its policy of hatred and destruction of the Jewish state. Pray Israel will never be cornered into accepting this enemy in dialogues for peace. Pray also the Hamas terrorist group will continue to be boycotted by the UN until it renounces violence against Israel.*

COURT FREEZES HALF A MILLION SHEKELS IN PA FUNDS: Israel's Law Enforcement and Collection System Authority recently issued a lien for 513,000 shekels (\$146,900) belonging to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The lien is in response to the PA's refusal to work together with Israel to pay the legal fees after the Jerusalem District Court ruled that the PA tortured, jailed, and murdered PA residents accused of colluding with Israel. The document contained over two thousand pages detailing the torture which Arabs underwent at the hands of the PA, as well as the legal grounds upon which the ruling is based. "We are pleased with the results of the case, which garnish half a million shekels from the PA's money," the prosecutors' lawyer said. "We believe that the State of Israel will quickly implement the lien, expressing the Israeli government's commitment to help those who helped protect its sons from terror, death, and mourning - and paid not only with their health, but sometimes with their lives as well. There are others who are working now to prevent terror attacks, and they are looking to see whether the Israeli government is willing to stand by them if necessary." (Arutz-7)

TRUMP DECERTIFIES IRAN DEAL, PROMISES TOUGHER APPROACH: USA President Donald Trump announced in a White House speech on Friday 13 Oct. 2017 that he has decertified the Iranian nuclear deal as part of a new and tougher approach towards the Islamic Republic. “We cannot and will not make this certification,” Trump said. “We will not continue down a path whose predictable conclusion is more violence, more terror and the very real threat of Iran’s nuclear breakout.” While the decertification stops short of pulling out of the agreement, the move hands the decision over to Congress to decide whether to reimpose sanctions originally lifted in 2015. Under the 2015 deal, which was negotiated along with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and China, the Trump

administration must certify every 90 days whether it believes Iran is in compliance with the agreement. According to Trump, the new strategy to deal with Iran will include working with allies to counter Tehran's "destabilizing activities and support for terrorist proxies in the region," as well as addressing the "regime's proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons that threaten its neighbors, global trade and freedom of navigation. As I have said many times, the Iran deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into," the president declared. Trump also verbally denounced Iran as a "fanatical regime" whose "aggression continues to this day", pointing out that "the regime's two favorite chants are 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel'. (Algemeiner)

NETANYAHU CONGRATULATES TRUMP FOR NOT RECERTIFYING IRAN DEAL: Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu congratulated President Donald Trump after Trump announced on Friday 13 Oct. 2017 that he will not certify Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal. "I congratulate President Trump for his courageous decision today. He boldly confronted Iran's terrorist regime," said Netanyahu in a statement. Netanyahu, who was a prominent opponent of the deal when it was signed in 2015, reiterated that the deal paves the way for Iran to get a nuclear weapon. "If the Iran deal is left unchanged, one thing is absolutely certain- in a few years' time, the world's foremost terrorist regime will have an arsenal of nuclear weapons and that's a tremendous danger for our collective future," he said. "President Trump has just created an opportunity to fix this bad deal – to roll back Iran's aggression and to confront its criminal support of terrorism. That's why Israel embraces this opportunity. And that's why every responsible government concerned with the peace and security of the world, should do so as well," he added. (Koenig)

DEFENSE MINISTER: EUROPEANS PUTTING HEADS IN THE SAND: Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman slammed Great Britain, France and Germany on Saturday 14 Oct. 2017, for their opposition to the steps USA President Trump announced against the Iranian nuclear deal. The leaders of the three European countries, whose companies have made massive business deals with Iran, issued a joint statement saying they "stand committed" to the deal and are concerned about the implications of Trump's refusal to back it. "The Europeans continue to put their heads in the sand, exactly like they did before World War II," said Liberman "The leaders of Europe prefer to run away from reality." Liberman praised Trump for sending the Iran deal back to Congress for reevaluation, calling it a "courageous and correct decision." The defense minister added that "Israel must be ready to handle Iran by itself without the USA." (J.Post)

ISIS DEFECTOR WARNS UK FACES MORE TERROR ATTACKS: A former ISIS commander has warned that ISIS terrorists are using the internet to recruit potentially deadly ISIS sleeper cells in the UK. ISIS leaders are sending propaganda over the internet to further radicalize potential recruits and 'encourage jihad', according to Emir Abu Abboud al-Raqqawi - who held several high-ranking positions within the Islamic religious police force. In an interview, he has revealed the chilling details of how multi-lingual and sophisticate terrorist recruiters are helping to establish sleeper cells in Western Europe. "Migrants inside the caliphate are in touch with their friends in the Western world. Their friends and family in Sweden, in Germany, in France, in the UK, in Turkey, in Azerbaijan or in other parts of the world," said al-Raqqawi. "When they're ordered to attack, for example, an airport or a supermarket, then they just do it," said the former commander. He also detailed how potential recruits are further radicalized over the internet. He said prospective members are sent publications, videos and other documents that 'encourage Jihad' and show Muslims being killed in Syria and Iraq." His revelations follow a series of terror attacks in the UK, including the Manchester Arena bombing on 22 May 2017 that killed 23 people. (UK Daily Mail)

REPORT: BRITS BLAME IRAN FOR HACK TARGETING PARLIAMENT, PRIME MINISTER: Iranian government hackers conducted a sustained cyberattack over the summer targeting UK politicians including PM Theresa May, successfully compromising dozens of email accounts belonging to members of Parliament, British news media reported Saturday 14 Oct. 2017. State-sponsored hackers traced to the regime in Tehran targeted about 9,000 email accounts associated with dozens of members of British parliament, cabinet ministers, Mrs. May and others during a 12-hour-long brute force attack waged 23 June 2017, according to a secret intelligence assessment. Ninety email accounts in all were compromised as a result of the attack, or about one percent of the total accounts targeted, the reports said. The prime minister's emails weren't at risk because Mrs. May uses an account associated with the Prime Minister's office rather than Parliament, but intelligence officials believe it's inevitable the hackers obtained sensitive material. The USA has repeatedly accused Iran of hacking American targets in the past, but Britain has failed so far to publicly blame Tehran with waging any cyberattacks against the UK. (Washington Times)

DONALD TRUMP TOUTS MOVES TO PROTECT RELIGION'S FREEDOM: President Trump told a group of social conservative activists on Friday 13 Oct. 2017 that he's keeping his pledge to stop Washington from meddling in people's faiths. "In America, we don't worship government, we worship God," Trump told the Value Voters Summit in Washington. He pointed to the revocation of the Johnson Amendment that prohibited nonprofit organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. "We will not allow government workers to censor sermons or target our pastors, our ministers or our rabbis," he said. "These are the people we want to hear from and they will not be silenced any longer. For too long politicians have tried to centralize authority among the hands of a small few in our nation's capital," he said. "Bureaucrats think they can overrule your values, meddle in your faith and tell you how to live, what to say and how to pray. But we know that parents, not bureaucrats, know best how to raise their children and create a thriving society." (Washington Times)

HOLIDAYS ON TEMPLE MOUNT SEE 30% RISE IN VISITS: Headquarters of Third Temple organizations presented data according to which there has been a significant increase in the number of visitors to the Temple Mount during the holidays in general and in the past week in particular. According to the report, 2,159 Jews went to the Temple Mount during the past week. From the beginning of the year until the holiday of Succoth, 3,364 Jews ascended the Temple Mount." The headquarters also noted that apart from the fact that the Temple Mount was closed this year to Jews during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it was also open to Jews during the holidays one day less than last year. This was due, among other things, to the decision made in 2000 to ban Jews from entering the Temple Mount on Fridays and Saturdays. The organizations measured peak visit times, which indicated a continuous rise. "Visitors to the Temple Mount during the last five days of the week set a new record." (Arutz-7)

USA WITHDRAWS FROM UNESCO: The Trump administration announced on Thurs. 12 Oct. 2017 that the USA will withdraw from UNESCO, the UN's educational, scientific and cultural body. The Paris-based body is known for designating World Heritage sites like the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria and Grand Canyon National Park, but it has struggled for relevance as it becomes increasingly hobbled by regional rivalries and a lack of money. A fight over who will next run the organization highlighted the Trump administration's concerns: one leading candidate, Qatar's Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, has been openly accused of anti-Semitism by Jewish and Israeli groups. "This decision was

not taken lightly, and reflects USA concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organization, and continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO," the State Department said. "I wish to express profound regret at the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from UNESCO," said Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in response to the USA decision. "Universality is critical to UNESCO's mission to strengthen international peace and security in the face of hatred and violence, to defend human rights and dignity." Bokova did not address Israel or anti-Semitism - part of the reason for the American exit from the organization. In recent months, UNESCO members have pushed the body to recognize Jerusalem as a holy site exclusive to Muslims, without recognizing its Jewish roots. Trump administration officials such as Nikki Haley, its UN ambassador, have warned for weeks that pulling out would be a possibility if the body fails to reform. (Reuters)

ISRAEL TO JOIN USA IN QUITTING UNESCO: PM Netanyahu announced Thurs. 12 Oct. 2017 that Israel will be exiting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) over the organization's anti-Israeli bias, following a similar announcement by the Trump administration. The leading contender for the post of head of UNESCO is a Qatari delegate. The Simon Wiesenthal Center protested the choice, writing that candidate Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari has repeatedly endorsed anti-Semitic works and denied Jewish connection to Jerusalem. Earlier this year, UNESCO declared the ancient city of Hebron, King David's first capital and home to the tomb of the biblical patriarchs, an endangered Palestinian heritage site. Last year, UNESCO passed resolutions declaring that Israel has no rights to Jerusalem, and described the Temple Mount and Old City of Jerusalem as Muslim holy sites.

The Prime Minister instructed the Foreign Ministry to prepare Israel's withdrawal from the organization alongside the United States. Netanyahu added that he "welcomes the decision by President Trump to withdraw from UNESCO. This is a courageous and moral decision because UNESCO has become the theater of the absurd and because instead of preserving history it distorts it." The USA decision to leave the UN's cultural body was met with praise from Israel's coalition and opposition politicians alike, citing UNESCO'S 'anti-Israel bias'. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said that "the important decision taken by the USA regarding UNESCO demonstrates a determined struggle against the industry of lies. UNESCO lost its moral mandate with a string of absurd resolutions which distorted history and its time it paid the price." (Artuz-7)

DANNON TO UNESCO: 'THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL: Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon praised the Trump administration's decision to pull the USA out of a UN organization responsible for a series of high-profile anti-Israel resolutions in recent years. "UNESCO has become a battlefield for Israel bashing and has disregarded its true role and purpose. Today's decision is a turning point for UNESCO. The organization's absurd and shameful resolutions against Israel have consequences. Today is a new day at the UN, where there is price to pay for discrimination against Israel." Danon added: "The United States stands by Israel and is a true leader for change at the UN. The alliance between our two countries is stronger than ever." (INN)

'THERE CANNOT BE 1 LAW FOR ISRAEL AND 1 FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD': Professor Eugene Kontorovich, Director of International Law at the Kohelet Policy Forum, responded to the decision of the Trump administration to pull the USA out of the UNESCO world heritage organization. "The USA has quit UNESCO over its long history of anti-Semitic resolutions,

culminating its denial of Jerusalem and Hebron's Jewish history. That is particularly welcome move by the USA” said Prof. Kontorovich. He predicted that the administration would pull out of other UN bodies if they continued to display their anti-Israel bias. "Also, if the USA quits UNESCO over purely symbolic resolutions, it is quite likely to quit UNHRC in a few months when it actually begins blacklisting American companies for their ties to Israel. The days of applying a double standard to Israel seem to be coming to an end. There cannot be one international law applied to Israel and another for the rest of the world." (Arutz-7)

‘UN IS BECOMING A PRO-BDS, ANTI-ISRAEL LOBBY’: Israel’s Internal Security Minister, Gilad Erdan praised the Trump administration’s announcement on 12 Oct. 2017 that the USA will be leaving UNESCO, following the organization’s passage of multiple resolutions against the Jewish state. “The USA decision to leave UNESCO is just, and shows the depth of the USA-Israel friendship,” Erdan tweeted. Erdan warned that UNESCO was not the only UN body serving as a de facto anti-Israel lobby, and called for the USA and Israel to put the international organization on notice that pro-BDS actions by the UN would lead both countries to withhold all funding of the UN. “Now is the time to officially announce that if the UN publishes a blacklist of companies that operate in Judea and Samaria, the USA and Israel will cut off all funding. The UN is turning itself into an anti-Israel delegitimization and BDS organization, and there is no reason American and Israeli taxpayers should foot the bill.” (Arutz-7)

REPORT: HEZBOLLAH TERRORISTS ENTERED GERMANY AMONG REFUGEES: Hezbollah terrorists have entered Germany since mid-2015 as part of the wave of refugees from the Middle East, according to a German intelligence report. The report released this month shows increased membership for Hezbollah in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. North Rhine-Westphalia is home to the Imam-Mahdi Center in the city of Münster, which is a meeting place for Hezbollah members, according to the report. Additional cities where Hezbollah is active in North Rhine-Westphalia are Essen, Bottrop, Dortmund and Bad Oeynhausen, it continued. According to Germany’s federal intelligence agency, there are 950 active Hezbollah operatives in the Federal Republic. USA Canada, Israel and the Netherlands classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. The intelligence document noted that Hezbollah’s goal is the “destruction of the State of Israel as well as Islamic domination over Jerusalem.” (J.Post)

FATAH, TERRORIST GROUP HAMAS, SIGN PALESTINIAN RECONCILIATION DEAL: Palestinian negotiators from rival Hamas and Fatah factions signed a reconciliation deal on Thurs. 12 Oct 2017, ending a decade-long split following talks mediated by Egypt in Cairo, with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas calling it a “final” accord. Under the agreement, the Judea & Samaria-based Palestinian Authority is to resume full control of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by 1 Dec. 2017. Hamas was not prepared to disarm. The Islamist terror group was said to have instead agreed, under the terms of the emerging reconciliation deal, that it would not use its weaponry unless a resort to force was approved by a joint panel. The deal was signed in Cairo by new Hamas deputy leader Saleh Arouri and Azzam al-Ahmad, the head of the Fatah delegation for the talks, at the headquarters of Egypt’s intelligence service. Israel condemned the agreement, as it does not require Hamas as first disarm. Israel has been clear that it would not enter negotiations for a peace agreement with Hamas, a terror organization that calls for Israel’s destruction. (Times of Israel)

Donate



Robert I. Solomon: Messianic Rabbi, rabbisolomon@yachad.com

Jeffery Blalock: Ministries Coordinator, jeffery@yachad.com

Yachad Ministries, 950 Pine Grove Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075

E-mail: info@yachad.com, Web Page: www.yachad.com

Phone: 770-641-3000 (ext. 6)

Sharing Yeshua in unity with both Jew and Gentile