

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 18, 2019 ***(13th Nisan, 5779)***

Yachad Miniseries

*is now offering free shipping for
orders over \$50.00 on all CDs, Books,
Jewelry and Judaica items:*

Call 770-641-3000 ext. 6



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For April 2019

3D LASER IMAGING SHINES NEW LIGHT ON 'LAST SUPPER' SITE: The arched stone-built hall in Jerusalem venerated by Christians as the site of Yeshua's Last Supper has been digitally recreated by archaeologists using laser scanners and advanced photography. The Cenacle, a popular site for pilgrims near Jerusalem's walled Old City, has ancient, worn surfaces and poor illumination, hampering a study of its history. So researchers from Israel's Antiquities Authority and European research institutions used laser technology and advanced photographic techniques to create richly detailed three-dimensional models of the hall built in the Crusader era. The project helped highlight obscure artwork and decipher some theological aspects of the second-floor room, built above what Jewish tradition says is the burial site of King David. "We managed, in one of the holiest places in Jerusalem, to use this technology and this is a breakthrough," said Amit Re'em, Jerusalem district archaeologist at the Israel Antiquities Authority. Re'em pointed to reliefs of what he described as the symbols of the "Agnus Dei", a lamb that is an emblem of Christ, and the "Lion of Judah" on keystones in the hall's vaulted ceiling. "It tells the story of this room," Re'em said. "It delivers the message of the Last Supper Room, Christ as a Messiah, as victorious, as a victim - and the lion, the lion is a symbol of the Davidic dynasty. They combine together in this room." Ilya Berkovitch, a historian at the INZ research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences who worked on the project, said the endeavor opens "incredibly new horizons" with enormous potential.

ISRAEL TO THE MOON: WORK ON BERESHEET 2.0 HAS BEGUN: The Israelis involved in last week's failed lunar landing said one of their primary goals had been to inspire a new generation of children to get involved in science and space exploration. As such, they stressed to all the students watching the event live the importance of getting back up after falling down. Putting his money where his mouth is, SpaceIL chairman Morris Kahn, the South African-born billionaire who provided much of the funding for the Beresheet project, announced over the weekend the immediate launch of project Beresheet 2.0. "We started something and we need to finish it. We'll put our flag on the moon," Kahn said during a Saturday 13 April

2019 appearance on Israel's Channel 12 News. "Project Beresheet 2 begins tomorrow. A mission team will be meeting to start work. This is also a good lesson for the youth. I said that if you fail you need to get up and try again and this is an example I have to give them." Israel's Beresheet lunar lander came tantalizingly close to successfully executing a soft landing on the moon last Thur. 11 April 2019. A sensor failure several kilometers above the moon's surface resulted in the main engine cutting out. Control room engineers were hampered in their effort to quickly restart the engine by a temporary loss of communication with the craft. By the time they were able to restart the main engine, Beresheet was only 150 meters from the surface and falling too fast. Even so, as the heads of NASA noted in subsequent statements and tweets, this group of Israelis had managed to inspire the world by launching and nearly completing the first privately-funded and operated mission to the moon. And they aren't done yet.

ISRAELI DELEGATION LANDS IN ETHIOPIA TO HELP FIGHT WILDFIRE: Under the guidance of PM Netanyahu and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Defense, a special delegation of firefighters arrived in Addis Ababa on Sunday morning 14 April 2019 to help extinguish the huge fire that has raged for two weeks in the Simien Mountains area in northern Ethiopia. The Israeli team from the fire and rescue unit together with an expert from the Home Front Command made their way to the fire area where they joined the local firefighting forces. The arrival of the delegation was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa after the Government of Israel immediately acceded to the request of the Ethiopian government for assistance in extinguishing the fire. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa are providing the delegation and the local forces with all necessary assistance in its various aspects.

POMPEO SAYS NETANYAHU'S 'ANNEX JUDEA & SAMARIA' TALK WON'T HURT PEACE PROSPECTS: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in an interview late last week that PM Netanyahu's talk about annexing parts of Judea & Samaria won't hurt USA President Donald Trump's upcoming peace plan. "I think that the vision that we'll lay out is going to represent a significant change from the model that's been used," Pompeo said. He added that "we've had a lot of ideas for 40 years; they did not deliver peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Our mission goal is to put forward a vision. Ultimately, the Israelis and the Palestinian people will have to resolve this for themselves." Netanyahu said in interviews during the last days of his reelection campaign that he will consider annexing parts of Judea & Samaria after the elections. The White House has remained silent on that issue so far. Pompeo did not provide new details about the plan, but said that the administration's vision for peace is "different" and "unique," and that it would be a vision "that tries to reframe and reshape what's been an intractable problem that multiple administrations have grappled with - multiple administrations in Israel, as well." Last week, Pompeo refused to endorse a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

REFORM, CONSERVATIVE JEWS TO TRUMP: 'DON'T LET NETANYAHU ANNEX JUDEA & SAMARIA': Nine Jewish groups, including five associated with the Reform and Conservative movements, wrote to President Donald Trump asking him to preserve the two-state solution in the face of a pledge by Israeli PM Netanyahu to annex West Bank [Judea & Samaria] territory. "We believe that it will lead to greater conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, severely undermine, if not entirely eradicate, the successful security coordination between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and galvanize efforts such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that are intended to isolate and delegitimize Israel," said the letter released Friday 12 April 2019. "It will create intense divisions in the United States and make unwavering support for Israel and its security far more difficult to maintain." The warning that annexing territory would "create intense divisions" in the United States was significant coming from the leadership of two of the largest religious streams in the USA, with a combined membership that would constitute an overwhelming majority of synagogue-going Jewish Americans.

ONE-THIRD OF AMERICANS DON'T BELIEVE 6 MILLION JEWS MURDERED: Almost one-third of American adults believe that significantly less than 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, according to a recent survey. The survey, conducted by Schoen Consulting on behalf of The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, found that 70% of USA adults say fewer people seem to care about the Holocaust than they used to. 58% believe something like the Holocaust could happen again. According to the survey, 11% of all USA adults and 22% of millennials haven't heard of, or are not sure they have heard of the Holocaust. In addition, 31% of USA adults and 41% of millennials believe that 2 million Jews or less were killed during the Holocaust. 45% of adults and 49% of millennials could not name a concentration camp or ghetto. Similarly, 41% of adults did not know what Auschwitz was, while a full 66% of millennials were unable to identify Auschwitz. The survey did, however, point to a desire for Holocaust education and improvement in the quality of Holocaust curriculum. Most USA adults, 93%, believe all students should learn about the Holocaust in school, and 80% said it is important to keep teaching about the Holocaust so it doesn't happen again.

JEREMY CORBYN IN LEAKED RECORDING: ANTI-SEMITISM EVIDENCE 'MISLAID, IGNORED': UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has admitted that evidence of anti-Semitism in the party may have been "mislaid, ignored or not used" by his staff. A secret recording obtained by UK weekly, The Sunday Times, revealed Corbyn as making these remarks during a Feb. 2019 meeting with Barking Parliament Member Margaret Hodge, who is Jewish. Hodge has been victim to anti-Semitism in the party, and in July of last year, she came to blows with Corbyn in which she called him an "anti-Semite" and a "racist" to his face. In the recording, Corbyn refers to his reasons for appointing former cabinet minister Lord Charlie Falconer to look into the Labour's anti-Semitism complaints and review the process. "The point of him [Falconer] is that he will look at the speed and efficiency of dealing with cases," Corbyn said in the recording. "I was concerned that evidence was either being mislaid, ignored or not used and that there had to be some better system." A Labour spokesperson told UK media sources that the tape showed Corbyn's desire for "robust and efficient" procedures and to "rebuild trust with the Jewish community." However, the party as a whole "dismissed the claims. "Meanwhile, days ago the Jewish Labour Movement voted to pass a motion of no confidence in Corbyn with its national secretary Peter Mason stating that reports of "delays, inaction, and interference from the leader's office showed the party's processes were 'incapable of dealing with anti-Jewish racism.'" The Jewish Board of Deputies also penned a letter to the paper in response to the recording saying it proves their concerns about Labour's apparent "partisan and corrupt" disciplinary process, adding that "History will not be kind to them."

ISRAELI SPACECRAFT STILL MADE IT TO THE MOON: An Israeli spacecraft lost contact with Earth and crashed just moments before it was to land on the moon late Thur.11 April 2019 failing an attempt to make history as the first privately funded lunar mission. The spacecraft lost communication with ground control as it was making its final descent to the moon. Moments later, the mission was declared a failure. "We definitely crashed on the surface of the moon," said Opher Doron, general manager of the space division of Israel Aerospace Industries. He said the spacecraft was in pieces scattered at the planned landing site. Doron said that the spacecraft's engine turned off shortly before landing. By the time power was restored, he said the craft was moving too fast to land safely. The mishap occurred in front of a packed audience that included PM Netanyahu and was broadcast live on national television. The small robotic spacecraft, built by the non-profit SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries, had hoped to match a feat that has only been achieved by the national space agencies of three countries: USA, Russia, and China. "If at first, you don't succeed, try try again," Netanyahu said. He vowed to put an Israeli spacecraft on the moon "intact" in the next two years.

DESPITE FAILURE TO LAND SPACEIL'S PRESIDENT: 'BERESHEET WAS SUCCESS, ISRAELI FLAG ON MOON': The message for those watching is we tried and didn't complete. I think that Israel has to continue and I'm sure we will,' Khan says. News sources spoke to Morris Khan, president of SpaceIL, on

Friday, 12 April 2019 who remains upbeat and optimistic despite Beresheet's failure to land safely on the moon the previous night. As millions of people watched in anticipation for Israel's spacecraft to make lunar history, SpaceIL lost communication with Beresheet minutes before Israel was set to become the fourth country to land on the moon after a successful seven-week journey in space. "I'm happy," the 89-year old South African-born entrepreneur said. "The flag of Israel is on the moon. The slogan of "Small country, big dreams" and Am YisraelChai (the nation of Israel lives) is on the moon. I think we've done something. We got around the moon, we landed on the moon. It just happened to be a hard landing." This is Beresheet (Hebrew for Genesis), and Beresheet was only the beginning. We're only at the beginning," Khan stressed. "We did a very professional job. We were in space for two months. Beresheet behaved beautifully," Khan enthused. "The message for those watching is we tried and didn't complete. It doesn't mean that we stopped. I think that Israel has to continue and I'm sure they will continue. We learned a lot and we proved a lot. We showed that we could get to the moon. There was just a slight technical glitch at the very end at the landing. I don't regard this as a failure. I regard it as a success. "I'm happy tonight," Khan emphasized. "I feel the investment I made was worthwhile."

MIKE DEWINE, OHIO GOV. SIGNS 'HEARTBEAT' ABORTION BAN INTO LAW: A bill imposing one of the most stringent abortion restrictions in the nation was signed into law in Ohio. Republican Gov. Mike DeWine signed the heartbeat bill Thur. 11 April 2019, breaking with his predecessor, Republican John Kasich, who had vetoed the measure twice. DeWine's action came a day after the latest version of the bill, which outlaws abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, cleared the Republican-controlled Legislature. Doctors say a fetal heartbeat can be detected using transvaginal ultrasound technology as early as five weeks into pregnancy before many women know they are pregnant. Even before the bill was signed, the ACLU of Ohio said it was preparing a constitutional challenge to the law on behalf of Pre-Term Cleveland and three other Ohio abortion clinics. The legal challenge is what the bill's backers have always wanted. They hope to provoke a legal challenge with the potential to overturn the USA Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion up until viability, usually at 22 to 24 weeks. "The heartbeat bill is the next incremental step in our strategy to overturn Roe v. Wade," said Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis. "While other states embrace radical legislation to legalize abortion on demand through the ninth month of pregnancy, Ohio has drawn a line and continues to advance protections for unborn babies."

ANTI-ABORTION BILLS APPEAR IN 11 STATE LEGISLATURES AFTER RECENT NEW YORK DECISION TO DECRIMINALIZE ABORTION: Lawmakers in Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Tennessee have all introduced "heartbeat bills" that ban abortions after 6 weeks or after a heartbeat is detected in a fetus, while in Alabama, North Carolina, and Texas, harsher criminal penalties have been proposed for doctors who perform abortions or else fail to provide emergency medical care to babies born in spite of botched abortion attempts. Terri Collins, the Alabama representative whose bill last week compared the "50 million babies that have been aborted since the Roe decision" to "German death camps, Chinese purges, Stalin's gulags, Cambodian killing fields, and the Rwandan genocide" in terms of death toll, expressed hope that the slew of recent "heartbeat" bills might propel a case to the federal level like Roe and redefine the constitutionality of abortion. "Hopefully it completely takes it all the way to the Supreme Court, eventually to overturn Roe V. Wade," she said. While the current set of proposed bills seem to have been stalled in Mississippi and Kentucky, Georgia governor Brian Kemp plans to sign a "heartbeat bill" by 12 May 2019 and advocates, while Ohio governor Mike DeWine has already followed through with promises he made in Jan. 2019 to "absolutely" sign any similar bill that crosses his path. De Wine signed the "heartbeat bill" on Thur. 11 April 2019.

TRUMP ADMIN REVOKES VISA OF BOYCOTT, DIVEST AND SANCTION ISRAEL CO-FOUNDER OMAR BARGHOUTI: The Trump administration pulled a USA visa from Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel (BDS) Co-Founder Omar Barghouti, according to the American Arab Institute. The BDS organization seeks to create economic damage in the state of Israel by boycotting goods and services

from areas they claim are being “occupied” by the Israeli government. Barghouti had been scheduled to appear Thur. morning 11 April, 2019 at the Arab American Institute in Washington, D.C., with anti-Israel journalist Peter Beinart, before having his visa revoked. Barghouti helped found the BDS movement in the early 2000s and has a history of making incendiary and anti-Semitic comments. The BDS co-founder, who was educated at Tel Aviv University, has called for Jewish people to be relegated to a minority in Israel, promoted anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and expressed sympathy for terrorist organizations. Last month, the Israel Ministry of Strategic affairs released a report highlighting the connections between the BDS movement and terrorist organizations. The BDS movement describes itself as a “Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice, and equality.”

PENCE TO NETANYAHU: I APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP: Vice President Mike Pence last week called PM Netanyahu to congratulate him on his election victory. The USA Vice President told the Prime Minister that he appreciates his leadership and joint work with USA President Trump to advance the strong alliance between Washington and Israel. Netanyahu thanked Pence for his regards and for his friendship for the State of Israel over the years. Pence tweeted about his conversation with Netanyahu, writing, “Spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu and offered my congratulations on his historic victory! The bonds between America & Israel have never been stronger. America stands with Israel!” On Wed. 10 April 2019, Trump called Netanyahu from Air Force One to congratulate him on his election victory. The President warmly congratulated the Prime Minister and the people of Israel. Netanyahu thanked Trump for his great support of Israel, including the recognition of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, as well as for the strong stand against the Iranian regime, including the President's recent decision against the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The two leaders again expressed their appreciation for the abiding friendship between them and their countries. They agreed to continue closely working together in the coming years for both Israel and the United States.

ISRAELI MILLENNIALS HELPED RE-ELECT NETANYAHU: Israel's young people supported Netanyahu's Likud and smaller parties that help him form governing majorities. Born close to or after the 1993 Oslo peace accords between Israelis and Palestinians, and coming of age during a wave of violence known as the second Palestinian intifada, Israel's millennials take a harder line on security and peace than older generations. Netanyahu's pollster, John McLaughlin, said, "They like his policies on security and the economy."

RECORD TOURISM CONTINUES IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2019: After making seasonal adjustments, the Central Bureau of Statistics, reports that there was an average of 391,000 visitors to Israel each month, in the first quarter of 2019, which equals a record of 4.7 million tourists per year, compared with a monthly average of 374,000 per month in the final quarter 2018, which represented an annual rate of 4.5 million tourists. In 2018, a record 4.12 million tourists came to Israel, up 14% from 2017, which was also a record.

BEACHES AND BALLOTS ON A SUNNY SPRING DAY: Israelis took advantage of a national holiday on Tue. 9 April 2019, casting their ballots to decide on the makeup of the 21st Knesset before heading off for some fun. More than two million eligible voters cast their ballots by 2 pm Tuesday, seven hours after the polls opened. The turnout was at 35.8%, slightly lower than the corresponding 36.7% turnout in the 2015 elections. In route to the beach or to forms of fun, Israelis all over the country took time to make their voices heard in choosing their representatives in the Knesset. Dale arrived at the polling station in Tel Aviv with her grandchildren. "They need to see what democracy is," she said. Her grandchildren enjoyed the democratic experience: "We took the ballot slip, and then grandma took a picture of grandpa voting, and it was really fun. Now we're going to photograph the spring flowers." Hadar Fuchs Rubel of Haifa said her young daughter Neta, who accompanied her to the polls found herself with an unexpected dilemma – who to vote for. "She deliberated between the ballot slips," Hadar said. "The elections are extremely critical for me," said Sylvie, at a polling station in Tel Aviv. "I plan to go to the beach for a while, but first I am exercising my right to vote."

"As far as I'm concerned, these elections are fateful, and therefore I had a serious dilemma between going with my heart and going with my head," said Rachel, also from Tel Aviv. Rachel's young son said he knows almost everything about the elections. He named the leading candidates in the elections, Benny Gantz and Benjamin Netanyahu, and claimed to have read the Blue and White party's political platform before arriving at the polling station. Aside from their desire to vote and fulfill their civic duty, many Israelis had already planned their day of freedom. Anat and Guy Koren of Jerusalem welcomed the chance to spend the day together in the middle of the working week. "We were glad to vote early, and had the honor of going after President Rivlin," they said. "Now we are trying to decide between the Botanical Gardens in Jerusalem or perhaps a trip to the beach to catch some rays and some waves." Tamar Lapid of Rosh Ha'ayin, who was voting this year for the first time, arrived at the ballot box ready for a dip in the sea. "I am in my bathing suit," she said. "Everyone is on holiday and going to the beach."

86-YEAR-OLD LEAVES HOME FOR FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS TO VOTE: Zina Bar-Ness, aged 86, had been unable to leave her home in Bat Yam, just south of Tel Aviv, for the past 15 years, due to a medical condition. But on Tue. 9 April 2019, she was determined to get past the front door so that she could vote. Leading up to Election Day, Bar-Ness decided she must make an effort to vote. She began practicing the route from her home to the polling station so that on Tuesday she could exercise her democratic right. Bar-Ness was mum on who she intended to vote for, but was happy to explain why she is so anxious to make the effort. "Everyone needs to vote," she said. "We need to not talk so much and do more. We need to vote and talk about peace." Her effort on Tuesday she said is "for the sake of the country. I want peace in our country," she says. "I have grandchildren, I have children," she says. "We deserve peace even after so many years."

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS VISITED NATIONAL PARKS OR WERE ABROAD ON ELECTION DAY: Election Day in Israel is a national holiday and a rare weekend-like day for Israelis. The Nature and Parks Authority announced late Tuesday afternoon 9 April 2019 that more than 150,000 people were visiting the country's extensive network of national parks. The most-visited sites were national parks at Caesarea, Masada, and Tel Aviv, and nature reserves at Banias in the Golan Heights, Ein Gedi in southern Israel, Ayoun in the Galilee and Tel Dan in northern Israel. Israelis also visited the beach in large numbers on the exceptionally warm day. Interurban public transportation was free for the public for Election Day. Meanwhile, some 60,000 Israelis were out of the country. Media sources reported from Ben Gurion Airport on Tuesday that some of the Israelis leaving the country had scheduled their trips before new elections were called at the end of last year. Others said they used the opportunity of a free day off to plan a vacation. Still, others said they had business meetings they could not reschedule. Israel does not have the option of absentee voting except for diplomats and emissaries serving abroad.

TRUMP CONGRATULATES NETANYAHU ON ELECTION VICTORY: USA President Donald Trump, who gifted PM Benjamin Netanyahu with recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights just two weeks before the elections, congratulated Netanyahu on his elections victory. "I'd like to congratulate Bibi Netanyahu; it looks like that race has been won by him." Trump called Netanyahu a "great ally" and "a friend," and characterized the campaign as "a well thought out race." Trump also said that Netanyahu's re-election will improve the chances of peace in the region. "The fact that Bibi won means we'll see some pretty good action in terms of peace." he said. "Everybody said, and I never made it a promise, 'you can't have peace in the Middle East with Israel and the Palestinians.' But I think we have a chance, and I think now we have a better chance with Bibi having won"

AIRBNB REVERSES POLICY BANNING LISTINGS IN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN JUDEA & SAMARIA: Airbnb said this week that it had reversed its decision to remove listings of properties located in Israeli settlements in the West Bank [Judea & Samaria). In Nov. 2018, the company provoked uproar in Israel and a flood of litigation when it said that it would eliminate about 200 listings in the West Bank [Judea & Samaria] settlements that are "at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians." Airbnb's

announcement on Tue. 9 April 2019 came after it settled four lawsuits filed against it in the USA and Israel. According to a statement from the company, Airbnb will allow listings throughout Judea & Samaria but will donate all profits from its business in the region. An Airbnb spokesman said the chosen humanitarian nonprofit organizations would not be related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

‘NO FISHING’ SIGN SUBMERGED IN KINNERET RISING WATERS: A no-fishing sign accustomed to a low Kinneret was photographed completely submerged, as the blessed rains this year continue to fill Israel's freshwater lake. Each additional centimeter in the Sea of Galilee is 1.7 million cubic meters, equivalent to one billion, seven hundred million liters, or 374 million gallons of water. It comes out that for every centimeter the Kinneret rises, an individual could take a continuous shower for 2,776 years. Since the beginning of the rainy season, the lake has risen by about three meters. The Kinneret has to rise another three meters to be full.

TRUMP: ‘ILHAN OMAR KEEPS ASSAULTING JEWS’: President Donald Trump slammed Minnesota Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar on Tue. 9 April 2019 accusing her of ‘targeting’ and ‘assaulting’ Jews, after Omar accused a Jewish adviser to the president of being a “white nationalist”. Omar, who has been embroiled in a string of controversies sparked by her accusations against AIPAC and American supporters of Israel, accused White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller – who is Jewish - of being a “white nationalist”. “Stephen Miller is a white nationalist,” Omar tweeted Tuesday. “The fact that he still has influence on policy and political appointments is an outrage.” Later that day, President Trump slammed Omar in a series of tweets, accusing her of targeting Jews. “What’s completely unacceptable is for Congresswoman Omar to target Jews, in this case, Stephen Miller.” Miller, a former aide to then-Senator Jeff Sessions, was tapped to serve as President Trump’s senior adviser following the 2016 election. He has been seen as one of the principal architects of Trump’s immigration policies.



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

To unsubscribe [click here](#).