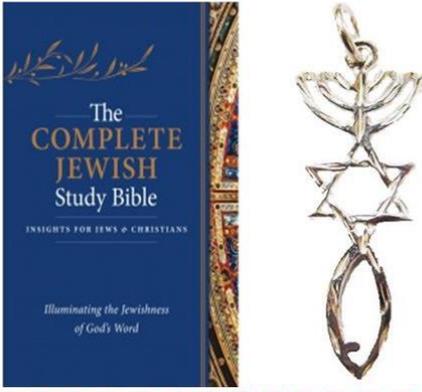


Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 3, 2019 **(30th Sivan, 5779)**

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The image shows two items: on the left, the cover of 'The Complete Jewish Study Bible' with a blue background and gold text, and on the right, a silver Judaica pendant featuring a Star of David and a menorah-like design.

[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2019](#)

‘THE STRONGER WE MAKE ISRAEL, THE SAFER WE MAKE THE WORLD’: Former USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley discussed the USA diplomatic efforts in the Middle East at the Israel Hayom Forum for USA-Israel Relations held in Jerusalem late last week. Interviewed by Dr. Miriam Adelson, Haley said that her approach as UN ambassador of “kicking” anyone she saw doing the wrong thing “was the only approach we could use. You had a situation where there was this organization of 193 countries that were anti-American and anti-Israel, continuing to give us a hard time, but had their hand out for aid. I didn't want to just be another ambassador. I felt the American people deserved that,” said Haley, who added that she would not do anything differently because “the truth needed to be said, without any apology.” Addressing the USA-led conference in Bahrain last week which the Palestinian Authority boycotted, the former ambassador said that she has seen the USA peace plan which she described as “well thought out, detailed, doable. It does things that would improve the lives of the Palestinians, but would not compromise the security of Israel. We're not going to beg the Palestinians to come to the peace table, but it says a lot about the PA that they wouldn't want better for their own people. The Palestinians deserve better. I think the Arab community will see over time that they can't continue to babysit the Palestinians” added Haley.

Asked what Israel should do if the Palestinians insist on rejecting the peace deal, Haley replied, “I think we should see how the peace plan plays out. We have to see where the Palestinians are, this is a moment of truth for them. Do they want to continue living the way they are living, or see what opportunity could look like?” Israel is mistreated and singled out at the UN, argued Haley, because “Arab countries realized after 1967 that they'd never defeat Israel. They did all they could, which was to go after Israel in the UN. Because of their wealth, the oil, they went to all the little countries and said, you need to vote with us. Behind closed doors, a lot of those ambassadors respect Israel. Israel is the one bright spot in a really rough neighborhood. The better and stronger we make Israel, the safer we make the world.”

HALEY COMMENTS ON THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND IRAN: In a continuing interview on Thur. 27 June 2019, Dr. Miriam Adelson asked Former USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley what is the true number of Palestinian refugees, as far as the United States is concerned? "The number of actual Palestinian refugees is classified. There are multiple people working to get it unclassified. I think we should because it speaks to the truth of that scenario," replied Haley. "I looked into UNRWA and the Palestinian refugees. I wanted to find out what they did. What I found was an agency that didn't want to be told what to do. The way they count refugees is to say any Palestinian anywhere in the world is a refugee. They want to give refugee status for generations going forward. The USA has given the Palestinians \$6 billion. We've done our part. But when we went to UNRWA and said, you should reform, they refused," she continued, referring to the UN agency for "Palestinian refugees". "When they wouldn't make the reforms we demanded, the president was courageous to say we wouldn't give any more. Why should we be more responsible for the Palestinians than the Arab world?" On Iran, Haley stressed, "We don't want war. The president doesn't want war. Iran is the No. 1 threat we are facing. The Obama administration did not help. They went in thinking they could bring peace, but all they did after bringing in a plane full of money was spread war. Look at Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan. Iran's tentacles started going everywhere. The deal didn't work. The president was right to pull out - the Iranians were still testing ballistic missiles, still selling weapons, still supporting terrorism, and we were giving them money to do it. Defunding them slowed down the nuclear process, but it did not slow down their culture of hate. They're still saying 'Death to Israel,' 'Death to America.'"

NETANYAHU: GIVING UP THE JORDAN VALLEY WILL ENSURE WAR: "Loss of Israeli control over the Jordan Valley will lead to war," PM Netanyahu said on Thur. 27 June 2019. It was his second strong statement within days about the security importance of the stretch of territory between Jerusalem and the country of Jordan. Israel has long claimed that it must retain military control of that area, particularly in light of larger regional threats from Iran. "There are those who say that if we do not hand over the Jordan Valley, there will be no peace. I say: If we deliver the Jordan Valley, war will be assured." Netanyahu made similar comments to USA National Security Advisor John Bolton, who visited Israel earlier last week. Bolton assured Netanyahu that he believed that the Jordan Valley was a strategic asset to Israel. But when questioned later by media sources, he urged the public to wait for the rollout of the political aspect of the Trump Peace Plan before commenting on what Israel's final borders should be.

25 FIRES RAVAGE SOUTH, 100 BY FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK: Twenty five fires ravaged the South of Israel on Thur. 27 June 2019 as incendiary balloons from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip continued to fly into Israel. There were some 100 fires from incendiary devices reported in southern Israel last week including 19 fires on Wed. 26 June 2019. Blue and White MK Alon Shuster, who is a member of Kibbutz Mefalsim, which was hit by an incendiary kite and ignited on Thursday, slammed PM Netanyahu, saying: "It looks like Netanyahu really doesn't care about allowing the world to burn, all that matters is that he escapes the court." Netanyahu is facing an indictment for bribery, breach of trust and fraud. Shuster further slammed the current administration for what he called "criminal negligence" of Gaza border communities. Former Education Minister Naftali Bennett also blamed the government for not doing enough to combat the fires. "The South is burning and the government is busy with elections. When incendiary balloons began I warned that the terrorists must be hit," he said, "but my opinion was rejected in the cabinet and now we have 19 fires in a single day." The number has since risen.

ISRAELI COMPANIES BOOSTED NEW YORK ECONOMY BY OVER \$30 B. IN 2018: Israeli-founded companies operating in New York directly contributed \$18.6 billion in revenue in 2018, a new study by the independent New York – Israel Business Alliance has revealed. The economic benefit to the state by 506 Israeli companies has surged to \$33.8b. The publication of the report accompanied the arrival of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in Israel last week, seeking opportunities with Israeli businesses that can strengthen the state's economic development agenda. The companies directly employ 24,850 residents of New

York, and indirectly employed a further 27,502 based on additional demand for locally-sourced goods and services. "While Silicon Valley may be perceived as a dream destination for start-ups, New York is where Israeli start-ups are best positioned for success," New York – Israel Business Alliance founder and president Aaron Kaplowitz told media sources. "Today, there are more direct flights between Tel Aviv and the New York metropolitan area than all other American cities combined. Conducting business with the Eastern Standard Time also allows for the most business day overlap.

NFL QUARTERBACK GETS BAPTIZED IN JORDAN RIVER DURING ‘LIFE-CHANGING’ TRIP TO ISRAEL: Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson, who set records as a rookie and will be going into his third season this fall, was submerged in the Jordan River, the same place the Bible records Yeshua was baptized, during his first trip to the Holy Land co-sponsored by America's Voices in Israel. "It is simply overwhelming," Watson explained. "To be baptized in the waters of the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of the Galilee, and visit one of the first towns where Jesus (Yeshua) preached his Gospel – I am truly in awe of this wonderful land and the wonderful people who live here." The organization takes Latino and African-American celebrities, athletes and political leaders on a weeklong trip to experience Israel for themselves and combat the widespread negative perception in the mainstream media against the Jewish state. Last year the group brought Mario Lopez to the Holy Land and he was also baptized.

TRUMP PUTS SANCTIONS ON IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER: USA President Donald Trump targeted Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top Iranian officials with sanctions on Mon. 24 June 2019 taking a dramatic, unprecedented step to increase pressure on Iran after Tehran's downing of an unmanned American drone. With tensions running high between the two countries, Trump signed an executive order imposing the sanctions, which USA Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said would lock billions of dollars more in Iranian assets. Trump told reporters the sanctions were in part a response to last week's downing of a USA drone by Iran but would have happened anyway. He said Khamenei was ultimately responsible for "the hostile conduct of the regime" in the Middle East. Trump said the sanctions "will deny the Supreme Leader and the Supreme Leader's office, and those closely affiliated with him and the office, access to key financial resources and support."

IRAN SAYS LATEST USA SANCTIONS ENDS ‘CHANNEL OF DIPLOMACY FOREVER’: A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a tweet on Tues. 25 June 2019 that the new USA sanctions that target Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other Iranian officials permanently end any chance of diplomacy between countries. The comment was followed by Iranian President Rouhani, who mocked the White House and said it is "afflicted by mental retardation." The USA and Iran have seen tensions increase exponentially in the past few weeks after an initial USA sanctions' squeeze that Washington said led to the attacks on two oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The situation became increasingly dire last week after Tehran admitted to downing a \$100 million USA Navy drone. Abbas Mousavi took to Twitter to call out President Trump's latest decision to impose additional sanctions and said the sanctions means "closing the channel of diplomacy forever. Trump's desperate administration is destroying the established international mechanisms for maintaining world peace and security," the tweet read. John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser, later said the USA is open to negotiations, all Iran needs to do is "walk through that open door." Trump, for his part, has been largely credited for his show of prudence while dealing with a hostile country. Trump appears hesitant to enter another hot war in the region but said that his "restraint" is not limitless.

RUSSIA SIDES WITH IRAN AGAINST ISRAEL AND USA: Russia's top national security adviser, Nikolai Patrushev, spoke out on behalf of Iran during trilateral meetings with Israel and the USA in Jerusalem on Tues. 25 June 2019. Patrushev rejected the view held by the USA and Israel that Iran represents "the main threat to regional security" and said Israeli airstrikes in Syria against Iranian forces and its proxies were "undesirable." Iran "was and remains our ally and partner," he stressed. Patrushev also said the Russian

Defense Ministry had determined that the USA drone downed by Iran days ago had entered Iranian airspace, as Tehran claims. Moreover, he lauded Iran's ongoing presence in Syria.

IRAN AND THE LOOMING THREAT OF WAR: The average observer of international affairs will almost certainly claim that we are closer than ever to war with Iran. Why is this the most prevalent prediction? In short, because Iran is determined not only to undermine regional security through its ballistic missile and unmanned aircraft programs but also because it seeks to damage the world's energy markets by blocking international waterways in the Arab Gulf and the Sea of Oman. Tehran's plan is to use the Revolutionary Guard Corps to target USA vessels in the Arab Gulf, while their agents in Yemen — the Houthis — threaten Egypt and Sudan with missiles. Iran, on its end, continues to believe that Trump will lose his 2020 election campaign and find himself out of the White House. They are forgetting, however, that there is a large chance that Trump will win a second term and come back to punish Iran for its provocations. Now, Iran, through both its statements and its actions, intends to increasingly extend its control over the waters of the Arab Gulf. It will again try to attack the international maritime and commercial vessels in international waters. There are many signs pointing out to a rapid escalation on the ground, suggesting that if Iran continues to pursue its hostile actions, it will be confronted by a resolute American response.

The new USA Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, John Abizaid, a four-star general, and military expert, recently declared that the USA will not wait for Iran to carry out an attack before it retaliates. Instead, it will strike Iran rapidly and firmly in pinpointed preemptive operations. It is very likely that over the course of the next few weeks we are going to relive the notable American strike on the Iranian fleet in April 1988, which took place after an Iranian mine blew up the USS Samuel Roberts in the Arab Gulf. It is almost certain that such a thing may happen soon, especially given President Trump's short temper. If Iran chooses to further escalate the situation, it is likely to do so throughout the entire region: in Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. But the USA, while talking about avoiding war, is preparing for a military confrontation with Iran. It is deploying more and more forces to the region and drawing plans for an attack. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani might be saying that his country is not interested in war, but we are all too familiar with Iranian hypocrisy to know that this is a lie. Iran is unable to read the political map and learn from its past mistakes and it will pay for its arrogance dearly.

DEMOCRATIC FRUSTRATIONS AHEAD OF THE 2020 USA ELECTIONS: The Democrats were confident that USA President Donald Trump would be impeached, or at the very least lose his credibility, by the time the 2020 elections rolled around. But as soon as Special Counsel Robert Mueller acquitted the president in his investigation, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stepped back from her efforts to impeach Trump. She did so despite great pressure she faced within her own party, partially because she knew that such a move will come back to hurt the Democrats down the road. The dilemma faced by the Democrats now is that they lack leaders like Ted Kennedy, Bill Clinton, or Barack Obama. There is not a single figurehead that can unite and lead the party in the upcoming elections and pose a credible threat against Donald Trump. Even Joe Biden, who is perceived as a prominent politician and a close confidant of Obama, lacks the charisma needed to defeat Trump and win the election. Winning the presidency is very different from winning a seat in Congress. Many clever politicians, who fared well in their bids for Congress, failed miserably at their presidential campaigns. This will likely be the case with the Democratic nominees competing in the upcoming election. The Democrats, whether they admit this or not, are truly frustrated by this situation. And while it is too soon to tell who will win the race, we can confidently say that the Democrats had hoped for a much stronger starting point for next year's campaign.

PALESTINIANS "NOT WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR MISERY," ISRAELI HISTORIAN SAYS: The Palestinian leadership should sign on to the USA economic development plan and worry about their political status later, Hebrew University of Jerusalem historian Gadi Taub told France 24. Palestinians are wrong to reject the \$50 billion USA blueprint to rebuild the Palestinian economy. "This is five times more

than what it took to reconstruct Japan after World War II," he said. "If they stop sinking money into terror tunnels and corruption, they can have Singapore in Gaza. I think the one asset the Palestinians are not willing to give up is their misery. They have a leadership that is keeping them at a state of perpetual victimhood. If it was Zionism, we would have taken the money, built stuff with it, and then tried to move on to other goals, not give it up in advance."

JERUSALEM'S TOMB OF THE KINGS TO REOPEN FOR 1ST TIME SINCE 2010: The Tomb of the Kings, a 2,000-year-old archaeological gem in the heart of Jerusalem owned by France, is to reopen to the public for the first time since 2010, the French consulate said this week. The elaborate Roman-era tomb with stone shelves that once held sarcophagi, considered among the largest in the region, opened on Thur. 25 June 2019, and will re-open on following Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the consulate's website said. Visits will be limited to 15 people in 45-minute stretches. The graves themselves will remain closed to the public for conservation and safety reasons. The vast site, located in east Jerusalem some 700 meters north of the Old City, is hidden behind a wall with a metal gate marked by a French flag. It has been closed since 2010 due to renovations costing around a million euros. A spokeswoman for the French Consulate General said that in opening the site, France was implementing a decision and a commitment "made a long time ago". Jews consider the tomb a holy burial site of ancient ancestors and seek the right to pray there.

'MAGNIFICENT' BAPTISMAL FONT DISCOVERED AT CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY: An ancient 1,500-year-old baptismal font has been discovered during renovation work at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The font is estimated to date back to between 501 and 600 A.D. Ziad al-Bandak, head of a Palestinian presidential committee leading the church renovation, said last week that international experts are arriving in the biblical town to examine the receptacle. Al-Bandak described the Byzantine font as a "magnificent" discovery that had been covered by a larger known vessel. The Church of the Nativity is located about 6.2 miles south of Jerusalem. A restoration project was launched five years ago to overcome decades of neglect at the historic church. Palestinian news agency Wafa reports that a ceremony to celebrate the end of the restoration project, which was planned for Nov. 2018, has been pushed back to May 2020. The postponement will allow the three churches in charge of the Church of the Nativity to undertake a restoration of the church's grotto.



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