

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update September 5, 2019 ***(5th Elul, 5779)***

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The image shows two items: on the left, a book with a purple cover titled "GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES" by Barney Kasdan, subtitled "A Practical Guide for Understanding and Greasing the Beilal Holidays"; on the right, a glass bottle of "Anointing Oil" labeled "Jerusalem of Gold Anointing Oil".

For the Yachad Report Newsletter For September 2019

IRAN THREATENS TO TAKE A 'STRONG STEP' AWAY FROM NUCLEAR DEAL: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last weekend that Iran has expanded its breach in the nuclear deal increasing its stock of enriched uranium and refining it to a higher purity than allowed. On Mon. 2 Sept. 2019 Iran threatened to take a further “strong step,” away from the agreement by the end of this week if Europe fails to deliver new terms by the deadline. Iranian spokesman Ali Rabiei reinforced the cut-off date Iran had set for Europe to offer it a way to market its crude oil globally. Heavy USA sanctions imposed after President Donald Trump withdrew America from the deal over a year ago have halted those sales. Rabiei described Iran’s strategy as “commitment for commitment.” “Iran’s oil should be bought and its money should be accessible to return to Iran,” Rabiei said. On Tues. 3 Sept. 2019 the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Behrouz Kamalvandi said Iran is able to resume production of 20% enriched uranium within two days.

IRAN CONSTRUCTING LARGE MILITARY BASE IN SYRIA: Multiple intelligence sources reported this week that Iran is constructing a massive military base in Syria capable of housing thousands of troops and storing precision missiles. Sources claim the base, named the Iman Ali Compound, is being built by the Iranian Al Quids forces. The largest military base Iran has constructed in Syria to date is expected to be completed within months. It is located a mere 200 miles away from a USA military installation.

FRANCE: \$15 B. TO IRAN IN RETURN FOR BETTER BEHAVIOR ON NUCLEAR DEAL: French President Emmanuel Macron this week offered the Islamic Republic \$15 billion to keep Tehran from making further moves to reduce its commitment to the 2015 nuclear agreement. The French government seems to be stammering and stuttering as to how exactly to carry this off, but the offer, according to Iranian officials, has officially been made. One source close to the negotiations said, “The question is to know if we can reach this \$15 billion level, secondly who will finance it, and thirdly we need to get at the very least the tacit approval of

the United States.” Actually, USA President Trump has imposed still further sanctions on Iran this week, and national security adviser John Bolton has made it clear that he opposes the French proposal. So does Israel’s PM Benjamin Netanyahu who stood against the 2015 agreement with Iran and pressed USA President Donald Trump to abandon it. Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official said in response to France’s offer: “We are still discussing it. It should be guaranteed that we will have access to this amount freely and also Iran should be able to sell its oil and have access to its own money.” A second Iranian official said the EU and particularly France should convince the USA to cooperate with them. “If not,” he threatened, Iran is very serious about decreasing its nuclear commitments.”

France’s bailout package is posed to compensate Iran for oil sales lost to USA sanctions. A senior American official said the core of the package is a \$15 billion letter of credit, equal to about half the revenue Iran would expect to earn from oil exports in a year. In return for the money, Iran would agree to return to compliance with a 2015 nuclear accord. Iran has said that if the talks fail, it will escalate its nuclear activity starting Friday 6 Sept. 2019. It might be asked if France’s meddling in the USA's strong measures to curb the Islamic Republic’s bad behavior is not something akin to suggesting “land for peace” to unrepentant terrorist entities, or the Palestinian Authority paying salaries to killer terrorists in Israeli jails?

ALIYAH RISES BY 30%: Jewish aliya (immigration) to Israel rose by nearly 30% in the first half of 2019 over the same period last year. The sharp increase in newcomers, 16,005 arrivals, has been attributed to Russian speakers from countries facing financial problems, nationalism, and crackdowns on civil liberties. The majority of immigrants came from Russia, where aliyah rose by 72% to 7,884 arrivals this year, and Ukraine, which saw a 9% increase to 3,007 immigrants.

FDA APPROVES ISRAEL’S GROUNDBREAKING CANCER TREATMENT: An innovative drug to prevent the proliferation of cancerous cells has just received FDA approval. The drug, a first of its kind in the world, was developed by Israeli scientist Dr. Sharon Shacham. During a trial that led to XPOVIO's approval, 40% of leukemia patients saw their tumors shrink while patient life expectancy increased by three to five times as a result of the treatment. The drug is now undergoing advanced clinical trials for patients with brain cancer, lymphoma, myeloma, sarcoma, and uterine cancer.

ALZHEIMER MEDICATIONS AID AUTISTIC CHILDREN, ISRAELI RESEARCHERS FIND: A recent study conducted by Israel’s Sheba Medical Center has noted a marked improvement in the language skills of autistic children after six months of treatment with the drugs Donepezil and Cholin – also used to treat Alzheimer’s patients. 60 children and teenagers aged five to 16, all of who suffered from autism of varying severity participated in the study. Research supervisor, Dr. Lidia Gavis, noted that the brains of autistic patients suffer from a lack of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, which is also lacking in the brains of Alzheimer’s sufferers. She said the drug treatment combined with food supplements had a positive effect on the autistic subjects and called the study a “very significant achievement.”

ISRAEL’S LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT OPENS IN THE NEGEV: Israel’s largest renewable energy project, a \$1.13 billion thermo-solar power plant near Ashalim in the Negev was unveiled last week. The vast solar power resource will deliver electricity to 70,000 households in Israel and is the only facility of its kind in the nation that is able to produce energy overnight. Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said, "In the near future, we will terminate the use of coal and other polluting fuels in Israel altogether, and close the coal turbines in Hadera and later on in Ashkelon. It will be only natural gas and renewables, mainly solar systems."

McDONALD’S-ISRAEL KEEPS ON GOING VEGAN: This week’s good news for Israeli Vegans is that McDonald's expanded its pilot sales of vegan burgers to 40 branches on Wed. 4 Sept. 2019. The “Big Vegan” (there’s also a double-size vegan burger) was introduced two months ago and has until now been sold at only 18 of the chain's 186 branches in Israel, most of them in the greater Tel Aviv area which is known as “vegan

capital of the world. McDonald's-Israel is also planning to open 10 new branches by the end of the year, including the two new restaurants at Ben Gurion Airport.

A UNITED NATIONS' FIRST ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL: Repeatedly since the Oslo Peace Accords were signed in 1993/1995, Israeli sources, including JNN writers have pointed out that a society whose leaders persist in perpetuating hatred and lies against the Jewish state can never be considered a peace partner with whom Israel can reasonably negotiate. These sources have rightly claimed that PA run schools and their textbooks have continued to teach children to abhor the Jewish nation, and to promote its destruction - also that terrorists who have murdered and maimed Israelis, including babies and children, continue to be openly glorified as "heroes." Critics have protested that these declarations have either been overstated or are entirely false. For the most part, the complaints have been ignored. At long last, on Thur. 29 Aug. 2019, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), in a report on the Palestinians, said it was concerned about "hate speech in media outlets, social media, public officials' statements, and school curricula and textbooks, which fuels hatred and may incite violence against Israelis, which at times also fuels anti-Semitism." Some delegates also provided examples of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish content in Palestinian textbooks and state-owned media outlets. The report marked the first time the UN panel had criticized Palestinian officials, which is a landmark occurrence in the decidedly anti-Israel UN organization. Now the facts are official for the entire world to read and mull.

HONDURAS, AND THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU ACKNOWLEDGE JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL: The Republic of Nauru released a statement on Thur. 29 Aug. 2019 that it would join Honduras, the USA, and Guatemala in formally recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel. Israel's Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz said on Twitter, "I commend the Republic of Nauru's important decision. We will continue to strengthen Jerusalem and to bring the recognition and opening of diplomatic missions and embassies in our capital." Other nations, including the Czech Republic, Romania, Lithuania, Australia, and Brazil, have likewise expressed interest in moving their embassies to Jerusalem. In March of this year, Hungary opened a diplomatic trade mission in Jerusalem, which is regarded as an extension of the Hungarian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

SEPTEMBER MAKES ITS ENTRANCE WITH MORE THAN TWO MILLION ISRAELI CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL: Israeli summers are replete with glorious beach weather, family outings, and visitors from abroad joining in the national fun with explorations of Israel's historical and cultural sites. During the final days of August, one can almost feel the change in mood; a brief scent of autumnal fruit on the wind heralding the soon to come harvest holidays, the long golden slants of afternoon sunlight, and a sense that migratory birds will be increasingly spotted. Indeed, summer is winding down and the quieter days are on the horizon. Israeli bookstores, children's shops, and outdoor booths are making their annual profit on children's school supplies and mothers are gladly anticipating a few solitary interludes in the days ahead. Sept. 1 made its entrance on Sunday of this week and school buses filled with youngsters or students on foot making their way to class were seen across Israel. This year's new academic year commenced with over 2,000,000 children of all ages starting or returning to school. All of Israel prays that their little ones will be kept safe from terrorist attacks, violence and that childhood will be enriched and prolonged with good teachers, stimulating lessons and enriched minds and souls.

INCREASING MILITARY ESCALATION ON ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDERS: Tensions continue to mount on Israel's northern borders. The army's Northern Command on Thur. 29 Aug. 2019 canceled all leave for combat brigades serving in the area. Reprisal threats from Hezbollah have continued, following a recent Israeli strike on the terrorist group in Beirut along with airstrikes on an Iranian position in Syria that killed two Hezbollah members. Hezbollah has promised payback for the Israeli attacks at times and places of its own choosing. IDF sources, in turn, have warned Beirut that Israeli counter-strikes could escalate should the Lebanon-embedded terrorist group step up its military aggression. Northern Command chief Maj.

Gen. Amir Baram said that “if an IDF soldier is so much as scratched, our response will be harsh.” Israeli army sources said Saturday, 31 Aug. 2019 that in the past week its “ground forces, air, navy and intelligence forces improved their preparedness for various scenarios in the northern command area.” It posted on Twitter footage of tanks and ground forces being deployed. Israel is rightly concerned about the growing regional influence of Iran and its terrorist allies, such as Hezbollah, in countries like Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. The mounting possibility of a renewed conflict between Hezbollah and Israel is considered to be a grave development that could destabilize a Middle East already fraught with tensions between the USA and Iran.

DANON: UN MUST TAKE A STAND AGAINST IRAN’S AGGRESSION AGAINST ISRAEL: Danny Danon, Israel’s ambassador to the UN, last week issued a formal complaint to the UN Security Council demanding that action be taken against Iran for its ongoing attempts to attack Israel from Syria. He said the international community must “make it clear to Iran that it will not tolerate its regional destructive activities including its central role in supporting terrorism.” Danon accused the Syrian regime of knowingly allowing its territory to be used by Iran and its proxies for terrorist activities, including armed assaults. “It is imperative that the Security Council recognizes Syria’s responsibility in this regard and hold it accountable,” he said.

ISRAEL’S SOUTHERN BORDER VIOLENCE FROM THE GAZA STRIP: WHAT’S THE POINT? On Friday 30 Aug. 2019 some 6,000 Palestinians participated in the weekly “March of Return” protests along the border between Gaza and Israel. The Gaza health ministry said 75 Palestinians were injured during clashes. An Israeli soldier was also wounded. This is each Friday’s tragic norm. Violent Palestinian demonstrations for months have continued on Israel’s Gaza borders in the South. Thousands of Hamas-controlled Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, including entire families with their children, show up to shake their fists, yell threats, hurl rocks and explosives, set off fire balloons, and collectively display their hatred against the Jewish State. When someone gets hurt, especially Palestinian children who are encouraged by Hamas officials to drape close to border fences for publicity reasons, then Israel is immediately smeared by world media. And that is the point; to stir up more anti-Israel bias, distortion, and deception among the nations, and more global pity for the Palestinian “perpetrators” being presented as “victims”. During the week, Israel’s southern community members are often awakened in the night with Iron Dome sirens chasing them to nearby bomb shelters as terrorists lob rockets and explosives from the Gaza Strip.

A further result of the ongoing heartbreak is the sharp rise in the number of Israelis seeking help for PTSD in southern Israel. According to media sources at least 327 people received treatment from mental health services across communities bordering the Gaza Strip this summer due to post-traumatic stress disorder. Such increases in sleep deprivation, emotional trauma, as well as burnout among those working in the emergency services have been caused by another terror-ridden season that has seen hundreds of rockets being fired from the Hamas-controlled enclave, incendiary balloons scorching the local fields, the violent March of Return demonstrations along the security fence, as well as several infiltration attempts. Needless to say, the effects of continued violence on children starting the school year this week is also a matter of grave concern to families and medical officials in Israel’s southern communities.

WHERE’S THE “WHY” IN ISRAELI MEDIA REPORTING ON DISABLED PROTESTERS? Journalism 101 says the questions needing to be answered in basic reporting include, “Who, What, Where, When,” and “Why”. What happened to the “Why” in Sunday’s 1 Sept. 2019 reports on demonstrations being carried out that day by the disabled, which were published in two of Israel’s leading daily newspapers? The first “breaking news” update read: “Train movement in the section between Shefayim and Beit Yehoshua was temporarily halted following a disabled protest in the area.” The second source update informed readers that “traffic in the Shefayim area was resumed shortly after it was halted following a protest from disabled activists.” Reporters who penned these brief sentences in both cases left out the “why,” of what motivated these people with disabilities to protest. Have media outlets been advised to keep the activities of these low income, in many cases impoverished people in Israeli society, “hush-hush” this year- to not grant them major coverage lest their cause is taken up by concerned citizens? In short, the disabled in Israel, along

with the elderly, Holocaust Survivors, orphans and widows need financial help from the government to live with dignity. After a year of negotiations and dozens of wildcat protests blocking roads and snarling traffic with wheelchairs, or protesters arm and arm, some leaning on crutches, the Knesset in Feb. 2018 raised the stipend for the disabled to NIS 3,700 (\$1,050) a month - with the promise of a further increase in the near future. Activists claimed then, as they claim now, that this sum is insufficient to meet their basic needs, and that the promises of “more to come” have never materialized. Ayal Cohen, leader of the protest group said in 2018, “The State of Israel makes a unilateral law about the disabled stipend without coordinating or agreeing with the leaders of the disabled and continues to leave the disabled of Israel in poverty and abandoned.” Little has changed since then. May the “why” of the disabled protesters in Israel be heard by all this time around with mercy and increased provision!

NETANYAHU CALLS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP END IRANIAN ATTACKS ON ISRAEL: PM Netanyahu on Mon. night, 26 Aug. 2019 called on the international community to “act immediately” to end murderous Iranian attacks on Israel as well as Iran’s aggression and expansion in the Middle East. He also reiterated that Israel’s government would continue to defend Israel’s security “however that may be necessary.” The comments come amid heightened tensions in Israel’s North, following the IDF’s large-scale military operation last weekend in Syria to thwart a plot by Tehran to attack Israeli communities using “killer drones.” Netanyahu also spoke against the backdrop of threats from Hezbollah chief Hasan Nasrallah who accused Israel of recently attacking a terror base deep inside Lebanon. Nasrallah responded to the attacks by saying that Israel will “face the consequences and I repeat: the country will face the consequences.” Netanyahu in a warning to the Lebanese government said that Israel will hold it responsible for Hezbollah attacks from Lebanese territory, and it will target its infrastructure if Hezbollah launches rockets from Lebanon.

IRANIAN ‘QUDS FORCE’ COMMANDER RESPONSIBLE FOR DRONE ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL: Iranian General Javad Ghaffari, under the direct orders of the 'Quds Force' Commander Qasem Soleimani, led last weekend’s Iranian drone attack against Israel. Ghaffari currently serves as the commander of the Iranian forces in Syria and leads the Iranian efforts to embed itself in Syria. As Israel successfully blew the “killer drones” to bits, it was indeed another sad outcome for Iranian chief Soleimani’s years-long dream of successfully striking Israel. While Israel admitted being behind the explosions that rocked the Syrian skies, Iran on Sunday 25 August 2019 denied that anything had happened. Nevertheless, Hezbollah Twitter accounts released pictures of two operatives killed in the strike. Another Iranian operative was also said to have been killed. A day earlier across the border in Lebanon, the Hezbollah terrorist group reported that two Israeli drones – one of which was armed – crashed in Beirut causing damage to the group’s media office and injuring three people. Hezbollah warned that it would respond to the loss of its terrorists in Syria and the drones over Beirut at a time that suits the group.

NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWS THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AND SWITZERLAND IN SUSPENDING FUNDS TO UNRWA: New Zealand announced this week that it is suspending aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The USA, a major donor, stopped funding to UNRWA last year, while the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium have temporarily suspended aid following allegations of corruption and misconduct among UNRWA's top brass. The funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency is on hold until the release of the Oct. 2019 report by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services. Matters being investigated include those of misconduct among UNRWA’s top leaders, corruption, links to terror groups, the perpetuation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and anti-Semitism. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it expected UNRWA to “cooperate fully with the investigation and to report back on the findings and recommendations.” From January to June 2019, New Zealand provided nearly \$1.6 million to UNRWA.

UNRWA NEEDS TO GO: Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, recently said of UNRWA, (the UN Relief and Works Agency) that it "lashes out against America and engages in anti-Semitic incitement." He further charged UNRWA with allowing Hamas terrorists to use its facilities to target Israeli civilians. Likewise, Israel has raised the issue in the international arena. PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said UN funds should be transferred to Palestinians through different UN channels and "UNRWA should be abolished". UNRWA is the only UN refugee agency dedicated to a single group of people. It knowingly abets the misery of the Palestinians and programs them from the cradle to the grave to support terrorism and genocide against the Jewish state and its people. UNRWA targets its services to people of Palestinian descent it calls "refugees" for political reasons. (Fewer than 1% of the UNRWA refugees would actually meet the Refugee Convention definition.) Over the past 70 years, while the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has permanently resettled tens of millions of refugees, UNRWA has resettled no refugees. It is now responsible for the fifth generation of descendants of the Arabs who left Israel in 1948-49. By contrast, Israel has absorbed more refugees from Arab and Muslim countries than the number of Arabs fleeing the Arab-inflicted wars against the Jewish State. Additionally, Israel has absorbed millions of immigrants from around the world as citizens.

ISRAEL SENDS AID TO HELP CONTAIN DEVASTATING AMAZON FIRE: PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, 25 August 2019 furthered strengthened Israel's friendship with Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro by offering aid to fight raging forest fires in the Amazon. The fires have caused global concern this month. PM Benjamin Netanyahu phoned President Jair Bolsonaro on Sunday to offer assistance in putting out the Amazon blaze. Israel agreed to send a firefighting aircraft and flame-retardant materials. Bolsonaro expressed his gratitude to Netanyahu and to other heads of states who he said, "helped us overcome a crisis that only interested those who want to weaken Brazil." Brazilian far-left activists have used the blaze to express their anger against the right-wing Bolsonaro, who was elected by nearly 60% of voters, putting an end to 15 years of governments with openly anti-Israel stances. Additionally, world leaders and celebrities seeking to denounce the administration have unwittingly misled millions on social media by either sharing photographs of the fire-engulfed area that are years old or images taken in other parts of the world. Among other things, they claimed that the "world's lungs" were burning up and that Bolsonaro was not doing enough to stop it.

HAPPY WINNERS AND SORE LOSERS IN JUDOKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: On Wed. 28 August 2019 Israeli judoka Sagi Muki won the gold medal at the Judo World Championship in Tokyo. This is Muki's first medal at the World Championship, having won the European gold medal in 2015 and again in 2018. In the quarter-finals, Muki faced Egyptian Mohamed Abdelaal, who in a show of poor sportsmanship, refused to shake Muki's hand after having lost to him. A handshake between winning and losing opponents is a traditional gesture of respect at the end of a Judo match. On another front, Muki was expected to face Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei in the finals. However, the Iranian lost the semi-finals and failed to face Muki. It was expected that had Mollaei won against his Israeli opponent, he would not have shown up for the medal ceremony so as not to stand on the podium alongside Muki.

EL-AL TO LAUNCH THREE NEW FLIGHTS A WEEK TO JAPAN: EL-AL, the flag carrier of Israel, is rated to be the world's most secure airline. Since its introductory flight from Geneva to Tel Aviv in September 1948, the airline has grown to include destinations to Europe, Middle East, Americas, Africa, and the Far East from its main base in Ben Gurion Airport. This week, El Al opened sales for its first-ever tickets for Tel Aviv-Tokyo flights. El-Al's inaugural flight route to Tokyo, Japan, will launch on 11 March 2020, with three direct flights weekly on the airline's new Boeing 787 Dreamliner planes. Until 9 Sept. 2020 for a roundtrip ticket costing a mere \$999, including luggage, passengers can fly to and from the 'land of the rising sun'. Flying time will be between 11.5 and 12.5 hours. Miki Strasburger, Vice President of Commercial and Aerospace Affairs at El Al said that the new route will "advance and develop Japanese tourism to Israel and significantly strengthen the economic and diplomatic ties between Israel and Japan."

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