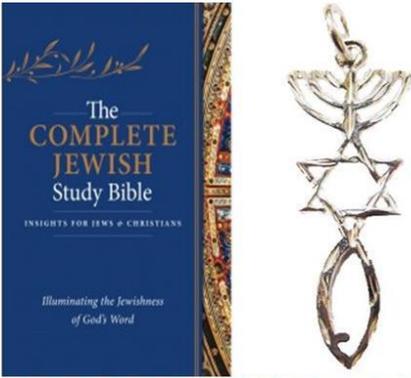


# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 3, 2019*** ***(4<sup>th</sup> Tishrei, 5780)***

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## **[For the Yachad Report Newsletter For October 2019](#)**

**ISRAEL IS HOME TO OVER NINE MILLION PEOPLE:** As Israel celebrates the holiday of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) the population of the Jewish state numbers around 9,092,000 people. 74% of the total population - some 6.744 million residents are Jewish. The Arab population runs about 21% or close to 1.907 million people. The population of others (non-Arab Christians and other religions) is approximately 4.8% or 441,000 residents. Also, the number of Jews in the world has been recorded at 14.8 million, an increase of about 100,000 compared to the beginning of last year. Approximately 8.1 million Jews live outside Israel, about 5.7 million of them in the USA.

**TOURISM AT RECORD LEVELS AS ISRAEL'S NEW YEAR ARRIVES:** Israel's tourism reports continue to be good news this year with arrivals in the country during the past 12 months reaching new levels of 4.6 million people. Statics reveal this to be an 18% increase in visitors since this time last year. Israel's Tourism Ministry reported on the eve of Rosh Hashanah that the past 12 months of tourism have resulted in NIS 22.4 billion (\$6.36 billion) in revenue, compared to NIS 19 billion (\$5.4 billion) the previous year. Tourism Minister, Yariv Levin attributes the impressive increases to what he calls, "the strenuous work and revolutionary changes made by the Tourism Ministry, with an emphasis on expanding accommodation options in the country and reducing the cost of vacationing in Israel." Director-General of the Ministry of Tourism Amir Halevi said, "The momentum in the tourism industry creates opportunities and we are happy with the trend of increasing numbers of entrepreneurs who see tourism as an economic growth engine and invest in Israel." Last week, an estimated 82,000 tourists arrived in Israel. Another 24,000 were expected to arrive ahead of Rosh Hashanah the ministry said.

**IRAN'S ROUHANI: ONE MISTAKE CAN IGNITE THE MIDDLE EAST INTO A RAGING FIRE:** The confrontation between arch-foes Iran and the USA has spiraled following assaults on Saudi oil facilities last month that Washington, the EU, and Riyadh attribute to Tehran despite its denials. Iran's

President Hassan Rouhani warned global leaders on Wed. 25 Sept. 2019 that the Gulf region is "on the edge of collapse, as a single blunder can fuel a big fire." Rouhani last week ruled out nuclear talks until newly imposed American sanctions have been lifted. Trump's response to the Iranian demand was expressed in his speech before the UN last week, in which he stated that "As long as Iran's menacing behavior continues, sanctions will not be lifted, they will be tightened." The USA has since taken its sanctions campaign against Iran to unseen heights.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced days ago that five Chinese nationals and six entities transacting with Iran, including two associated with the Costco Shipping Corporation, had been sanctioned. This was on the heels of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's announcement earlier in Sept. 2019 that Washington had "cut off all source of funds to Iran" with new sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic's Central Bank. At UN meetings last week Rouhani criticized the European parties to the nuclear deal for their failure to protect Iran's interests by shielding them from USA penalties. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Thur. 26 Sept. 2019 that European countries were unlikely to help Iran against USA sanctions and that Tehran "should give up all hope" in that regard. London, Paris, and Berlin have in fact taken a much more critical stance toward Tehran since a recent spike in tensions in the Gulf that have been blamed squarely on the Iranians.

**ABBAS VOWS AT UNITED NATIONS TO GIVE HIS LAST PENNY TO JAILED TERRORISTS, RECEIVES APPLAUSE:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas made a speech on Thurs. 26 September 2019 at the UN General Assembly. He informed world delegates that despite Israel's demands, the Palestinian Authority will continue to pay salaries to terrorists. "Even if I had only one penny, I would've given it to the families of the martyrs, prisoners, and heroes," said Abbas who then received a round of applause from the crowd. The fact that Abbas continues to hold to his support of jailed terrorist murderers of Israeli men women and children is sick and deluded. That global leaders applauded his immoral unshakable loyalty to those who kill and maim others in the name of peace, is beyond belief. The PA regularly pays terrorists who are imprisoned in Israel, as well as families of dead terrorists who carried out attacks against Israelis. The PA policy of paying higher salaries to terrorists serving longer sentences means that the more heinous the deed and deadly the terror attack, the more the terrorist is rewarded by the PA for committing murder. Despite calls from both Israel and the United States to stop the practice of paying terrorists, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly stressed that "families of the martyrs will continue to receive their allowances in full." Abbas at the conclusion of his UN speech which included more rounds of verbal attacks against Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and the Trump Administration had the audacity to claim that "Our hands are always extended for peace."

**CHURCH GROWTH IS EXPLODING IN IRAN - WITHOUT BUILDINGS - MAJORITY OF LEADERS ARE WOMEN:** More Iranians have come to faith in Jesus (Yeshuah) in the last 20 years than the 1,300 years since Islam swept through Persia-combined. A new film tells the story of the "fastest-growing church" in the world, an underground, persecuted Christian movement in a country known for exporting radical Islamic terrorism - Iran. People in Iran, a Muslim-majority nation, are fleeing Islam in droves as believers bow their knee to Yeshua and become aggressively pro-Israel, according to a recently produced documentary "Sheep Among Wolves Volume II." The film, was directed by Dalton Thomas and produced by Frontier Alliance International Studios. "What if I told you Islam is dead?" one unidentified Iranian church leader says in the documentary. What if I told you the mosques are empty inside Iran?" he continues. "What if I told you no one follows Islam inside of Iran? Would you believe me? This is exactly what is happening inside of Iran. God is moving powerfully inside of Iran."

The pastor adds: "What if I told you the best evangelist for Yeshua was the Ayatollah Khomeini? The ayatollahs brought the true face of Islam to light and people discovered it was a lie. After 40 years under Islamic law, they've had the worst devastation in the 5,000-year history of Iran." Thomas describes the uniqueness of what he calls the Iranian Awakening. "It owns no property, no buildings, no central leadership,

and is predominantly led by women," he said. The documentary claims "Muslim-background Iranians are leading a quiet but mass exodus out of Islam and bowing their knees to the Jewish Messiah -- with kindled affection toward the Jewish people." A leader of the Iranian underground church explains their goal is not planting churches but rather making disciples, the majority of whom are women. "Disciples forsake the world and cling to Jesus (Yeshua) 'till he comes. Converts don't," the leader said. "Disciples aren't engaged in a culture war. Converts are. Disciples cherish, obey, and share the word of God. Converts don't. Disciples choose Yeshua over anything and everything else. Converts don't. Converts run when the fire comes. Disciples don't. We find people of peace through prayer. We even find locations through prayer," he says. "Yeshua has come in their dreams or he's come miraculously in their lives. When we hear this, we know that Yeshua has gone ahead of us."

**HALF BILLION BIRDS FLOCK TO A GALILEE MIGRATION PARADISE:** October and November are two of Israel's most beautiful months. Sun rays no longer bring the earth to soaring temperatures but are softer, falling in long golden slants across the valleys and hills. Winds cease to be filled with dust, are balmy, are more gentle, and grapevines turn vermilion shades. Then come the occasional, brief showers. Adding to the splendor of the months, close to a billion birds fleeing wintery temperatures in Europe, pass through the northern Galilee's Hula Valley. They are bound for warmer homes in which to pass the coming season. October is one of the best months for birding in Israel. The weather is excellent and migration is evident everywhere. The first week is very good for soaring birds with impressive flocks of White Pelicans, Common Cranes, Black Storks and Eagles and the wetland fill with wintering waterfowl. Throughout November more than 400 known bird species will pause for several days in Israel, then resume their journey to Africa. A cloudy autumnal sky filled with thousands of birds, gathered and soaring in perfect V form, seems a final and perfect conclusion to the year's harvest and coming chilly season. Finally, November is the month of the International Hula Valley Bird Festival that offers a wide selection of birding tours and activities led by the best tour leaders in the country.

**TRUMP AT THE UN: IRAN'S 'MONSTROUS ANTI-SEMITISM' WILL NOT BE TOLERATED:** USA President Donald Trump told the UN this week that Iran's anti-Semitic hatred of Israel is unacceptable. He warned Tehran that his administration's recently imposed sanctions against it would not be revoked as long as its "bloodlust" and nuclear drive continued. In describing the dangers of Iran, Trump said that its leaders "conduct ritual chants of 'Death to America' and traffic in monstrous anti-Semitism. He pointed to one example of Iranian bigotry in remarks from the country's supreme leader who said last year that Israel was a malignant cancerous tumor that has to be removed and eradicated. "America will never tolerate such anti-Semitic hate," Trump said. "Fanatics have long used hatred of Israel to distract from their own failures. Thankfully, there is a growing recognition in the wider Middle East that the countries of the region share a common interest in battling extremism and unleashing economic opportunity." He then called on the international community to stand up to Iran. "All nations have a duty to act," Trump said. "No responsible government should subsidize Iran's blood lust. As long as Iran's menacing behavior continues, sanctions will not be lifted: They will be tightened," said Trump.

**THE USA, EUROPEAN ALLIES, AND ISRAEL AGREE IRAN WAS BEHIND SAUDI OILFIELD ATTACK:** Delegates from around the world gathered this week for the annual opening of the UN General Assembly. The main topic of discussions and speeches has centered around the Iranian attack on Saudi oilfields earlier this month. European countries France, Germany and the UK released a statement agreeing "there is no other plausible explanation" except that Iran, not Yemen's Houthi rebels, bear responsibility for the assault. Although blame for the drone and missile strike that sent repercussions throughout global energy industries has been laid at the feet of Tehran, leaders of the three European countries have not suggested solutions to deal with Iran's latest act of aggression. Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who remained in Jerusalem this week due to political upheavals resulting from last week's national elections, responded on social media: "Britain, France, and Germany have said that Iran is responsible for the recent attack on Saudi

Arabia. Let me say on behalf of Israel, very simply: Iran did it. A to Z.” Netanyahu added that Israel will know how to defend itself against this type of aggression and called on all members of the international community to join USA President Trump’s effort to increase the pressure on Iran. Blue and White's Benny Gantz also applauded Trump's call for an international front against the Iranian nuclear threat. “Iran is first and foremost a threat to international peace and is a hostile force against regional stability,” Gantz said. “It is incumbent upon the international community to impose sanctions and to enforce sanctions already in place in order to put pressure on Iran.”

**ISRAELI ENVOY DANON WELCOMES ‘UNPRECEDENTED’ UN REPORT ON COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM:** The United Nations, for decades a hotbed of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias released a report on Monday 23 Sept. 2019 focusing on the shocking rise of anti-Semitism in several countries due to the growing use of anti-Semitic narratives by white supremacists, neo-Nazis and radical Muslim extremists. Such narratives, according to the report, are creating "a climate of fear among a substantial number of Jews, impairing their right to manifest their religion." Also cited was left-wing anti-Semitism in various nations, "in which individuals claiming to hold anti-racist views employ anti-Semitic tropes in the course of expressing anger at policies of the Government of Israel." In certain cases, said the report, “individuals expressing such views have engaged in Holocaust denial; in others, they have conflated Zionism, the self-determination movement of the Jewish people, with racism. They have claimed Israel does not have a right to exist and accused those expressing concern over anti-Semitism as acting in bad faith." The report also noted that the Boycott, Divestments, Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel is "fundamentally anti-Semitic." The author of the report, Special Rapporteur Ahmed Shaheed stressed that "expression which draws upon anti-Semitic stereotypes, rejects the right of Israel to exist, or advocates discrimination against Jewish individuals because of their religion should be condemned." Shaheed urged countries and the UN to root out and prohibit anti-Semitism. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon called the report "unprecedented" and said it "is another example of the change in the UN attitude towards Israel."

**UK LABOUR PARTY’S DENIAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ITS MIDST IS ABSURD:** The British Labour Party and its leader, Jeremy Corbyn, are still trying to ward off long-standing accusations of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias but the masquerade has become an increasingly bizarre display of self-deception and/or attempts at national deception. On Monday, 23 Sept. 2019 Britain's Labour faction called for a future government led by Jeremy Corbyn to approve a boycott of Israeli settlement products. The majority of party members vowed to discard trade agreements with the Jewish state which they claim "fail to recognize the rights of the Palestinians." The anti-Israel motion was passed nearly unanimously as Palestinian flags were unfurled to the shouts of "Free Palestine." The party also appears to have endorsed a Palestinian "right to return" and reaffirmed its opposition to British arms sales to Israel. Unbelievably, a survey published on Sunday, 22 Sept. 2019 revealed that only 23% of Labour members believe the party has a serious problem with anti-Semitism. Labour Friends of Israel director Jennifer Gerber called Monday’s vote "another dark day in the history of the Labour party. Jeremy Corbyn's Labour party is the home for anti-Jewish racists and Israel haters. It's no wonder the Jewish community fears the prospect of Corbyn becoming prime minister," said Gerber.

**‘RIGHT OF RETURN’: AN IMPOSSIBLE PALESTINIAN DEMAND:** When Israel was created in 1948, Arab states and Arab Palestinians attacked the Jewish community in Palestine and the Jewish state, vowing to "drive the Jews into the sea." Some 725,000 Arab Palestinians - at the behest of Arab leaders to leave their homes until they destroyed Israel - voluntarily fled the area. Arab armies lost the war, however, and those who had left wanted to return after Israel’s miraculous victory over five Arab nations. They were encouraged by their defeated leaders to cause violence and upheaval from the inside. Understandably, the plan was blocked. Countless opportunities to resettle under better conditions and more UN refugee aid is given to the Palestinian people than any other refugee group in history has not budged them from passivity and bitterness. Palestinian Arabs claim any peace agreement with Israel must allow the descendants and

families of these refugees, now numbering five million to return to Israel. If Israel were to agree to this Jews would become a minority in their own state. Return of the refugees would put an end to the Jewish homeland. On 30 March 2018, the so-called 'Great March of Return' a series of Palestinian protest demonstrations was launched near the Gaza/Israel border. The demonstrations which continue weekly each Friday demand that Palestinian refugees and their descendants be allowed to return to the land they voluntarily fled a generation ago. These protests rapidly turned into and remain to this day occasions for violent border riots on the part of Palestinians including attempted infiltrations into Israel and the use of various weapons against IDF soldiers and outposts. The march has two distinct strategies. The first is to garner international sympathy for the (self-induced) plight of Gazans and Palestinians. The second strategy - through Hamas terrorists who are attempting to approach and attack the border - is to use the demonstrators as human shields for the group's terrorist ambitions, as well as to provoke a strong Israeli response that will result in headlines condemning the Jewish state. The so-called right of return has long been a nonnegotiable closed door on the part of Israel. This utterly outrageous Arab demand fulfilled would destroy the Jewish identity of the nation.

**HEZBOLLAH TERRORIST CONDUCTS SURVEILLANCE OF NYC FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES:** Alexei Saab, 42, of Morristown N.J. was charged on Thur. 19 Sept. 2019 in a nine-count indictment for providing material support to the Lebanon-based Hezbollah terrorist organization. The New Jersey resident spent 22 years training with and scouting terror-attack locations for Hezbollah. Saab supplied the terrorist organization with intelligence on the Port Authority, Grand Central Terminal, the New York Stock Exchange and the city's two airports, according to the federal indictment against him. Saab also inspected dozens of other locations in New York City, including Times Square, the Empire State Building, the UN headquarters, and the Statue of Liberty. Detailed information recovered from his computers included photographs and details on the structural weaknesses of these locations. "While living in the United States, Saab served as an operative of Hezbollah and conducted surveillance of possible target locations in order to help the foreign terrorist organization prepare for potential future attacks against the United States," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers. "Such covert activities conducted on USA soil are a clear threat to our national security." Saab joined Hezbollah in 1996 and his earliest activities with the group include spying in Lebanon on the movements of Israeli soldiers, and intelligence-gathering in Istanbul. In 2000 he received extensive training in military tactics, including how to construct bombs and other explosive devices. Saab entered the USA in 2000 using a Lebanese passport. He became a naturalized USA citizen in 2008.

**ISRAEL'S RHYTHMIC GYMNAST QUALIFIES FOR 2020 OLYMPICS IN JAPAN:** Israeli rhythmic gymnast Linoy Ashram won a bronze medal at the all-around world championships in Baku, Azerbaijan last week. Ashram now qualifies to participate in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The bronze medal awarded on Friday 20 Sept. 2019 was Ashram's sixth medal of the competition. Israel's national baseball team will also be heading for the Olympics in 2020. It will be Israel's seventeenth appearance at the Summer Olympics.



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