

# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update October 10, 2019*** ***(11<sup>th</sup> Tishrei, 5780)***

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The image shows two items side-by-side. On the left is a book with a purple cover titled 'GOD'S APPOINTED TIMES' in large yellow and red letters. Below the title, it says 'A Practical Guide for Understanding and Celebrating the Biblical Holidays' and 'BARNEY KASDAN'. On the right is a clear glass bottle of 'Anointing Oil' with a gold cap. The label features a picture of a person and text including 'Anointing Oil' and 'Jerusalem of Gold Anointing Oil'.

## ***For the Yachad Report Newsletter For October 2019***

**AN UNEXPECTED WEEKEND SURPRISE FOR ISRAEL - THUNDERSTORMS AND RAIN:** Israelis were delighted on Saturday, 5 Oct. 2019 with an unexpected downpour and an unseasonal drop in temperatures. Thunderstorms and rain were reported in Jerusalem and throughout the center of the country - including in Tel Aviv, and as far south as the Gaza area. Temperatures are expected to be average throughout the rest of the week including on Wed. Yom Kippur.

**COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES IN NON-AGGRESSION PACT:** Israel's Foreign Minister announced on Sunday, 6 Oct. 2019 that plans for non-aggression agreements with several Arab nations are moving forward. Posting on Twitter, Katz said the deal would bring an end to the conflict with the Arab signatories and help to promote non-military cooperation until a peace agreement is reached with the Palestinians. Media sources reported that the draft text focuses on cooperation in the fight against terror, and in advancing economic interests. Katz further said that he had presented the plan to Arab foreign ministers and to USA envoy Jason Greenblatt at the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last week. "I will continue to work to strengthen Israel's status in the region and around the world," said Katz.

**EFFORTS CONTINUE IN ISRAEL TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT:** Top politicians in Israel continue to advise that the Jewish State is in a crisis with the ongoing standstill in efforts to form a new government. No coalition had been formed as of the eve of Yom Kippur, following the second round of national elections this year in Sept. 2019. MK Avigdor Liberman, head of the Yisrael Beytenu party, over the weekend appealed once again to PM Binyamin Netanyahu and Blue and White Chairman MK Benny Gantz to create a unity government. "In light of the state of national emergency, the economic challenges, and the security threats in the north and south, and from other more distant places, I reiterate my call to Prime Minister Netanyahu and MK Benny Gantz: Show responsibility and leadership, put your ego aside and stop

with the games, the spins, and the time-wasting. The State of Israel needs a strong and stable unity government."

Liberman addressed leaders of the nation on the eve of the 46th year since the 1973 Yom Kippur war: "Tomorrow will mark 46 years since the Yom Kippur War broke out," he wrote on his Facebook page. "This war left scars and the memories of its fallen are forever engraved in the hearts of Israeli society. As we remember those who fell during this war, we must also remember, especially at this moment, the legacy they left us - a legacy of bravery, determination, leadership, and a love for the Land and the People. We are now at a political crossroads. The results of the elections lead us to a single conclusion: The people want a unity government."

**JEWISH BOY IN AUSTRALIA FORCED TO KISS MUSLIM CLASSMATE'S SHOES:** Imagine if this were your child: A photo showing a 12-year-old Jewish student being forced to kneel to kiss the shoes of a Muslim classmate has been circulated on social media. According to the mother of the boy in the photo, the school showed a disappointing lack of response, with officials saying they would not take responsibility for the incident since it did not take place on school property. The mother said she later talked to the parents of the Muslim student, who reportedly disapproved of their son's actions. The incident occurred at the Cheltenham Secondary College in the town of Cheltenham, a Melbourne suburb. In a second incident that took place at the Hawthorn West Primary School in Melbourne, a 5-year-old Jewish student was harassed with a number of anti-Semitic insults, including being called, a "Jewish cockroach." Both Jewish boys have left their schools. Chairman of B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation Commission, Dvir Abramovich, said that such episodes are part of a broader movement of anti-Semitic bullying. "There is mounting evidence that families are forced to take their children out of public schools and to enroll them in Jewish day schools due to a growing sense of insecurity and fear that their kids will be harmed simply because of who they are," said Abramovich.

**POLL: 75% OF LA COUNTY JEWS VIEW ANTI-SEMITISM AS A SERIOUS THREAT:** Three-quarters of Jewish people in Los Angeles County view anti-Semitism as a serious threat, a new survey found. The Pat Brown Institute (PBI) for Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles conducted a poll of more than 1,800 Jewish voters in Los Angeles county. The results showed strong support for the survival of Israel as a Jewish state and also very significant fears of growing anti-Semitism. According to the findings, 41% of the participants said that anti-Semitism is an "extremely serious" problem, and 31% said they consider it "very serious." More than three-quarters of those polled expressed strong support for the state of Israel and its survival and also said that remembrance of the Holocaust is "essential" for them.

**EARLY BRONZE AGE "NEW YORK CITY" FOUND IN ISRAEL:** A huge city – a megalopolis according to the Israel Antiquity's Authority, at least in relation to the Early Bronze Age, has been uncovered in Israel. Excavation directors Itai Paz, and Dr. Dina Shalem described the site as a city "where thousands of inhabitants, made their living from agriculture, lived and traded with different regions and even with different cultures and kingdoms in the area. This is the Early Bronze Age New York of our region; a cosmopolitan and planned city," the directors said in a statement released on Sunday 6 Oct. 2019. The archeological discovery was made alongside Israel's newest city, Harish, during new roadwork activity there.

**SEPTEMBER WAS A BILLION DOLLAR MONTH FOR ISRAELI STARTUPS:** With three more months to go until 2020, Israeli startups are set to surpass the record-breaking figure of \$6.4 billion raised in 2018. \$5.9 billion has been raised so far in 2019. Based on information from Israeli companies, more than \$1 billion was raised in Sept. alone. According to reports, the true figure is likely higher, as some companies do not disclose investment statistics. Israeli tech companies raised \$650 million in July 2019 and \$350 million in August 2019, according to research sources.

**UNITY GOVERNMENT TALKS END IN ANOTHER DEADLOCK:** The Rosh Hashanah holiday commenced this year on Sunday evening, 29 Sept. 2019, with still no progress toward forming Israel's next government. Negotiators from PM Binyamin Netanyahu's Likud party and the Blue and White bloc led by contender Benny Gantz adjourned shortly before sundown Sunday without a breakthrough. Netanyahu was given the authorization to form the country's next government but lacks sufficient support to form the narrow right-wing coalition he favors. Gantz meanwhile is saying he won't sit in a government with anyone facing criminal prosecution. The Prime Minister for the past two years has been warding off indictments for three corruption cases. Unable to form a government, Netanyahu according to wide-spread speculation, will hand back the mandate early in what analysts say is a critical effort at timing aimed at stalling the indictment process. This is being viewed as a move closer to a third round of elections, believing that rival Blue and White bloc will have no better success behind Benny Gantz.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE - BLUE AND WHITE PARTY LEADER GANTZ IS NOT PLANNING TO SHARE THE POLITICAL THRONE WITH NETANYAHU:** Hopes for renewed talks between PM Netanyahu and Blue and White leader Benny Gantz following the Rosh Hashanah holiday were dashed on Tuesday evening, 1 Oct. 2019. Prospects for a unity government dissipated as Netanyahu's political rival Gantz, at the end of the festival, canceled any future talks between the two parties. Blue and White sources called the move part of a strategic and deliberate design to weaken the Prime Minister's chances for remaining in power. One senior official in Blue and White said, "Netanyahu won't toy with us. Benny Gantz will be prime minister, and Netanyahu will climb down and resign. His time is over." When a second official was asked whether or not negotiations on a possible unity government had been "blown up", he responded, "We will never sit in a government with Netanyahu. That's what we promised our voters." Blue and White is happy that Netanyahu was the first one tapped to form the next government. Senior officials in Blue and White said their party would have a better chance of forming a government if it was the second in line. Blue and White also reportedly believes that it will have a better chance of forming a government due to increased pressure from the other parties to avoid a third election.

**IRAN'S LEADING GENERAL SAYS DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL IS NOW AN OBTAINABLE GOAL:** A decades-long dream for Iran, according to Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commander Gen. Hossein Salami is about to come true. In comments delivered to an audience of IRGC leaders on Monday 30 Sept. 2019, and carried by multiple news outlets, the military commander said that wiping Israel off the map is now an "achievable goal" thanks to the country's technological advances. He continued that his country has "managed to obtain the capacity to destroy the imposter Zionist regime," four decades after the Iranian Revolution. Israel's Brig.-Gen. Dror Shalom, head of the IDF Military Intelligence Research Division, has not brushed off this week's habitual saber-rattling from Iranian military and religious sources, but rather warned that Israel is in a much more complex reality than it was in the past, "and it's only getting worse." Shalom estimates it will take Iran two years to build a nuclear bomb. He also said this week, "I think it's very likely" that Quds Force commander Maj.-Gen. Qassem Soleimani will shoot at Israel from Iraq. "It could be surface-to-surface missiles, cruise missiles, or long-range UAVs. He has UAVs that can fly 600-700 miles which he has used in the Persian Gulf. My working assumption is that it's only a matter of time until he tries."

**SAUDI CROWN PRINCE CALLS FOR FIRM ACTION AGAINST IRAN TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC WAR:** Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in a media interview aired on Sunday, 29 Sept. 2019 that a regional war with Iran would bring about a catastrophic blow to the global economy. The Saudi royal advises a firm non-military solution to tensions with the Islamic Republic. He warned that in a military scenario with his country's regional foe, "supplies will be disrupted and oil prices will jump to unimaginably high numbers that we haven't seen in our lifetimes," the prince said. "The region represents about 30% of the world's energy supplies, about 20% of global trade passages, about five percent of the world GDP. Imagine all of these three things stop," he continued. "This means a total collapse of the global economy, and not just Saudi Arabia or the Middle East countries." The Crown Prince also said that

Iran's attack on Saudi oil facilities last month was the work of a "fool." "There is no strategic goal. Only a fool would attack five percent of global supplies. The only strategic goal is to prove that they are stupid and that is what they did," said the prince.

**TRAVELERS: FREE BED & BREAKFAST - NO HOSPITAL INSURANCE NEEDED FOR THOSE REQUIRING CARE:** During the migration season some 500 million birds pass through Israel. Especially prominent are white storks; half a million stop in Israel for food and rest. Also pelicans - some 40,000 of which fly over the region in spring and autumn - consider Israel to be their preferred inn of hospitality. In addition to bed and breakfast sites for transitory feathered friends, Israel is providing extensive hospital care for injured birds – both for the local population and for those just passing through. Especially during times of migration, the struggle against nature and environmental changes prove to be fatal to individual birds. In Israel, thousands of birds are being treated in the Israeli Wildlife Hospital which has been in operation for 14 years. Birds often arrive in the hospital with severe injuries and have to go through complicated orthopedic surgeries that call for a long rehabilitation period. In order to be released back into the wild, these birds require a second rehabilitation period that focuses on re-learning how to fly and practicing it. A new facility will soon allow them all the air time they need before being released. The Israeli Wildlife Hospital, operated by the Nature and Parks Authority and the Ramat Gan Safari Park is building an immense enclosure, set to become a flight school for injured birds before they return to the wild.

**ISRAELI DOCUMENTARY WINS EMMY:** Israeli cable network, YES. recently won its third documentary award. The honor came this year for a film called "Trophy" which looks into the controversial sport of animal hunting in Africa and the USA. It discusses the issue of endangered species and whether the hunting industry is contributing significantly to the demise of animals facing extinction. The Israeli documentary won the Emmy for Outstanding Nature Documentary at the 2019 News and Documentary Emmys. YES previously won Emmy documentary awards for "Google Baby" in the Outstanding Science and Technology Programming category in 2011 and "Forever Pure," about the Beitar Jerusalem soccer team's extremist fans, for Outstanding Politics and Government Documentary in 2018.

**BIBLICAL KINGDOM OF EDOM UNEARTHED:** Newly published research has uncovered the story of the wealthy biblical kingdom of Edom, located in parts of Israel and Jordan that existed during the 12th-11th centuries BC. University Prof. Erez Ben-Yosef said researchers were able to identify and characterize the development of Edom. "Our results prove it happened earlier than previously thought and in accordance with the biblical description." According to their study, published days ago by the scientific journal PLOS ONE, the kingdom's affluence was built on a "hi-tech network" of copper, the most lucrative commodity in the region at the time. Copper was used to craft weapons and tools, and "copper smelting was essentially the hi-tech of ancient times," said Ben-Yosef.



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