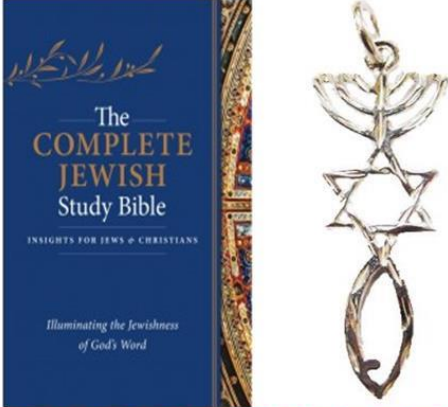


# ***Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update August 10, 2023 (Av 23, 5783)***

***Yachad Miniseries***  
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The advertisement features two items: on the left, the cover of 'The Complete Jewish Study Bible' with the subtitle 'Insights for Jews & Christians' and the tagline 'Illuminating the Jewishness of God's Word'; on the right, a silver-colored metal pendant with a Star of David and a circular element below it.

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***'Israeli Hero': Chen Amir Murdered in Tel Aviv Terror Attack, Shooter Killed on Site;*** Tel Aviv city inspector Chen Amir was killed in a terror shooting in the popular pedestrian mall Nahalat Binyamin in Tel Aviv on Saturday afternoon, August 5, Israel Police said. Amir and his colleague were patrolling on motorcycles when they noticed a suspicious person in the popular mall packed with cafes and restaurants and approached him, police said. The suspect initially refused to answer their calls, and as the pair got off their motorcycles, the man pulled out a handgun and opened fire toward the guards, shooting Amir in the head and critically injuring him. The other guard responded swiftly and killed the terrorist who was identified as 22-year-old Kamal Abu Ahmed from the town of Rumannah near Jenin. Abu Ahmed was a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist organization and had been wanted by Israeli security forces for the past six months for terrorist activity in the Jenin refugee camp. Amir was married and had three daughters, and his family agreed to donate his organs per his previous wishes. He was described by his father and sister as a humble, gentle, and very modest person who “was always at the top, wanting to protect civilians”. “Chen is the most wonderful man in the world, an amazing husband, a wonderful person, and the father of three daughters,” his widow said “I hope we can get through this, me and the girls”. “You are an Israeli hero, our king,” friends of Chen Amir shouted over his grave. (JPost / VFI News)

***Palestinian Authority Minister Filmed Burning Jewish Property in Broad Daylight;*** The head of the Palestinian Authority's "Colonization and Wall Resistance Committee," Minister Moayad Shaaban, and other committee members were filmed on Thursday, August 3, destroying and burning property belonging to a Jewish farm near the village of Avnei Hefetz in Samaria. The Palestinian Authority minister was filmed during Arab riots led by him, as he destroyed and burned the farm's property, including a shack

built near a cistern to be enjoyed by tourists to the area. In addition to Shaaban, additional committee members were filmed, including Morad Shitawi, the coordinator for the committee's northern district. Even though the riot and vandalism occurred in broad daylight and the perpetrators were unmasked, no arrests have been made. The committee even proudly took to its official Facebook page, writing, "The head of the Wall Resistance and Settlement Committee, Minister Shaaban, the staff of the committee and the residents of Kafr Al-Labd remove and burn a nucleus of a settler located on the lands of the town east of Tulkarm." (INN / VFI News)

***Lebanon Warns PA's Abbas that Troops May Intervene If Refugee Camp Clashes;*** Lebanon's caretaker prime minister called Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday, August 3, to demand an end to the volatile situation in the country's largest Palestinian refugee camp, warning that Lebanese troops may intervene to stop the fighting that has left dozens dead and wounded. Najib Mikati's call with Abbas came after days of sporadic clashes between armed Palestinian factions in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon. Mikati called the fighting a "flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty," and said it was unacceptable for the warring Palestinian groups to "terrorize the Lebanese, especially the people of the south who have embraced the Palestinians for many years," according to a statement released by his office. Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, which is home to about 50,000 people, has been rocked by fierce battles between Abbas's Fatah party and Islamist groups Jund al-Sham and Shabab al-Muslim. The fighting has so far killed more than a dozen people, wounded dozens more, and displaced thousands. Meanwhile, one day earlier, Israel's top army brass and its president visited the Lebanese border amid heightened tensions with the Iranian proxy group Hezbollah. The Lebanese people "don't deserve the Iranian spell that kills and ruins many parts of their country. They definitely don't deserve the involvement of Hezbollah, which undermines their stability and well-being," he said. (TOI / VFI News)

***Israeli Tourist, 19, Attacked in Berlin in Possible Anti-Semitic Incident;*** An Israeli tourist was attacked by three men in Berlin on Saturday evening, August 5, with German media reporting Sunday that the police were looking into a possible anti-Semitic motive. Yonatan Yisraeli, 19, told Israeli media that he was walking to the supermarket in the city's Kreuzberg district with a good friend, "and suddenly a car pulled up beside us." Yisraeli said that the passengers asked them something in German, and they responded in English that they were not from Berlin. "Suddenly, two seconds later they started hitting us, hitting me," he recounted. "I fell on the floor, I didn't understand what was happening," he added. "I think that they were Arab, but I couldn't say for sure," he added. "When they were done they got in the car and blasted music that I think was in Arabic." Yisraeli said he believes that they were singled out for attack because the pair was speaking Hebrew on the phone. "We were speaking in Hebrew, not quietly." Yisraeli was taken to a nearby hospital with light injuries to his arm and face, and the pair then alerted police. Similar hateful incidents happen daily in other parts of the world as well; Jews reportedly remain the primary target of hate crimes in Canada compared to other religious groups and in the UK, online anti-Semitic incidents skyrocketed by 37% during the first half of 2023. (TOI / VFI News)

***Russian Drone Attacks 40,000 Tons of Ukrainian Grain Destined for Israel;*** Russian drone attacks early on Wednesday, August 2, damaged almost 40,000 tons of grains which were expected by countries in Africa and also in China and Israel, Ukrainian deputy prime minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said. The Russian state news agency said that overnight Russian strikes on the Ukrainian port of Izmail had hit the port and grain infrastructure housing foreign mercenaries and military hardware, as well as a naval ship repair yard. The news agency cited Sergei Lebedev, a man it described as a coordinator of an underground group in the Ukrainian port city of Mykolaiv and who it said had sources in Izmail, Ukraine's main inland port across the Danube River from Romania. It quoted Lebedev as saying that there had been eight separate Russian strikes on Izmail and that an oil terminal had been hit, a repair yard for Ukrainian naval

cutters, a port building thought to house foreign forces, and a grain storage unit and elevator where it said foreign military hardware was stored. (JPost / VFI News)

***Following US Approval: Israel to Sell David's Sling Weapon System to Finland;*** Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, the Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense, Maj. Gen. (res.) Eyal Zamir and Director of the IMOD Directorate of Defense R&D (DDR&D), and Brig. Gen. (res.) Dr. Daniel Gold were notified on Wednesday, August 2, by the US Department of State about the administration's decision to approve Finland's procurement of David's Sling Weapon System. The Director of the Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO), Mr. Moshe Patel, led the process together with counterparts from the Finnish Ministry of Defence. "David's Sling" is an advanced missile defense system that is co-developed and co-produced by the Israel Ministry of Defense's IMDO and the US Missile Defense Agency. The industrial team is led by Rafael Advanced Systems. The system intercepts advanced threats, including ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and more. Under the procurement agreement, Israel will sell the David's Sling Weapon System to Finland, which includes Israeli-US co-produced interceptors and Israeli-produced missile launchers and radar systems. The Finnish version of the system will be jointly developed by Israeli and American industries, led by Rafael Advanced Systems and Raytheon Technologies Cooperation, in partnership with Finnish industries, each contributing to specific tasks. The system will be integrated into Finland's command and control systems. (INN / VFI News)

***Israel's Gas Reserves Grew by 40% over Past Decade, Report Says;*** Israel's natural gas reserves have grown by 40% over the past decade due to increased drilling and exploration activities, an industry report said, even as production soared. The growth came amid five-fold growth in offshore gas production since the start-up of Israel's first major producing Tamar field in 2013, the report prepared by consultancy BDO for the Israeli Natural Gas Trade Association said. Israel's gas reserves grew from 780 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2012 to 1,087 bcm at the end of 2022, while 119 bcm was extracted over the same period, according to the report. The growth in reserves was due to several new discoveries, including Energean's (ENOG.L) Olympus field, which has been renamed Katlan, as well as further exploration activity around hubs including the Chevron (CVX.N) operated Leviathan field. The eastern Mediterranean region has seen a rapid expansion of natural gas production over the past decade, following the discovery of major resources in waters off Israel and Egypt. (REU / VFI News)

***Six Wounded in Ma'aleh Adumim Shooting Attack, Terrorist Killed;*** Two people were seriously wounded and four others were wounded in light-moderate condition in a terrorist shooting attack near a shopping mall in Ma'aleh Adumim in Judea and Samaria on Tuesday afternoon, August 1. The suspected terrorist was shot by an off-duty Border Police officer, with footage from the scene showing the suspect laying unresponsive on the ground. The terrorist reportedly was dressed as a security guard, used a handgun in the attack and was carrying a backpack containing extra ammunition. The Shin Bet said on Tuesday that the terrorist was Muhannad Muhammad Suleiman Al-Mazara'a, 20, a resident of the town of al-Eizariya and Bethlehem, near Ma'aleh Adumim, who worked as a cleaner in a community center in the city. Hamas spokesman Abd al-Latif al-Qanou responded to the attack stating "The strikes of the revolutionaries and resistance fighters will not stop in defense of our land and sanctities." The Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist movement responded as well, praising the "heroic Palestinian resistance fighter." Later, on Tuesday evening, a terrorist was shot after attempting to carry out a stabbing attack at the Eshtamoa Junction in southern Judea and Samaria, according to the IDF Spokesperson's Unit. Additionally, on Wednesday afternoon, a suspected terrorist fired out of a moving car in the Jordan Valley and soldiers are currently searching the area for the terrorist, who was not apprehended at the scene. As a result of the shooting, a 31-year-old woman was treated for both shock and for light injuries to the face caused by shards of glass. (JPost / VFI News)

***Iranians Tried to Hack State Employees and Researchers, Shin Bet Says;*** The Shin Bet security agency said Sunday, July 30, that it had uncovered an Iranian phishing campaign against Israeli civilians in recent months, mostly targeting state employees and researchers, in a bid to obtain intelligence on state policy. According to the agency, Iranian operatives would contact Israeli targets on LinkedIn while posing as acquaintances, and the conversation would move to an email, where the operatives would either invite them to a conference by sending them a document with further details, or share a research paper. Documents shared by the Iranian operatives, once opened, would grant the latter permission to the target's computer, according to the agency, which said none of the phishing attempts was successful. The Shin Bet said the initial messages with the Israelis were carefully written based on research the Iranian operatives had conducted into the various targets, with the subject matter being of specific interest to each target. "The Shin Bet, along with its partners in the intelligence community, are working to disrupt and thwart Iranian attempts to collect information on Israeli citizens, and calls on the public to be alert to the "phishing" phenomenon on the Internet," the agency said. (TOI / VFI News)

***Iran Slams Israel for Alleged Strikes in Syria, Possible Saudi Normalization – Analysis;*** Iran is closely watching the reports of potential moves for normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. In a long series of comments to the media by Nasser Kanani, a spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, the regime revealed how closely it is monitoring these developments. In addition, Iran is focused on Syria and it is threatening Israel regarding Syria. Iranian media reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met his Syrian counterpart and slammed Israel's actions in Syria. "We strongly condemn the repeated attacks of the Zionist regime on the territory of Syria and the continuation of these attacks," he said. "This regime is the main source of instability in the region." Amir-Abdollahian hinted that these alleged incidents would not go "unanswered" and that the region would not be "indifferent" to the actions of Israel. Meanwhile, Iran is attempting to seize command of the Syrian army. The takeover was achieved in part by the assimilation of Shiite militias into the Syrian army. According to an Israeli media outlet's assessment, the "al-Imam Hussein Brigade" militia (or at least some of its subunits), was integrated as an organic force within the 4th Division, and the militia operatives actually became division soldiers. Also, Iran is seeking to take over other key parts of the Syrian defense industry, such as its chemical weapons industry, a new report by the Alma Research and Education Center, said on Wednesday, August 2. "Iran's major focus is to develop and manufacture precision missiles and rockets, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on Syrian soil," the Alma report says. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israel and Saudi Arabia to Be Linked by Future Railway – Netanyahu;*** Israel and Saudi Arabia can be linked by a future railway, the opening leg of which Israel is embarking on now with a NIS 100 billion project to construct a high-speed train linking Kiryat Shmona in Israel's north with its furthestmost southern city of Eilat, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday, July 30. He linked that project with the potential of an Israeli-Saudi normalization deal, which is expected to be part of any deal between Riyadh and Washington that is now under discussion between those two capitals. He spoke just two days after US President Joe Biden told supporters at a 2024 campaign event in Freeport Main. "In the future, we will be able to transport cargoes of goods by train from Eilat to our ports in the Mediterranean Sea, and we will also be able to connect Israel by train to Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula. We are working on that too," Netanyahu said. Additionally, Israel's largest solar energy company, SolarEdge, has signed a joint venture with Ajlan & Bros Holding (AHB) to adopt solar energy in Riyadh. The joint venture will support the deployment of smart renewable energy solutions in Saudi Arabia and aligns with the Saudi Vision 2030 initiative, aiming to reduce the country's dependence on oil by the end of the decade. (JPost / VFI News)

***Saudi Arabia Could Convert Civilian Nuclear to Military, Israeli Expert Warns;*** A former top official for the Israel Atomic Energy Commission has warned that agreeing to Saudi Arabia's demand to

be allowed to build a nuclear power plant as part of a normalization deal with Israel may create a dangerous international precedent and effectively prompt a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. “It won’t matter how many guarantees we receive from the International Atomic Energy Agency,” Ariel (Eli) Levite, who served as principal deputy director general for policy at Israel’s Atomic Energy Commission from 2002 to 2007, told Israeli media, on Monday, July 31. Saudi Arabia has reportedly set three conditions for signing a normalization agreement with Israel — access to advanced American defense technology such as the THAAD missile system, the establishment of a defense alliance with the United States, and a green light to develop nuclear power for civilian purposes. For the last demand, National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said Monday that Israel’s approval would not be required. “Dozens of countries operate civilian nuclear programs. This is not something that endangers them or their neighbors,” Hanegbi added, clarifying that the issue would be solely between Washington and Riyadh. Levite added that there was no problem with nuclear reactors for energy production as long as they are properly maintained. However, he cautioned for an enormous environmental fallout should a security or operational failure occur, and for the possibility of a civilian reactor being converted for military applications. (TOI / VFI News)

***All 15 High Court Justices to Convene for Judicial Reform Law Hearing;*** For the first time in the history of the High Court of Justice, an expanded bench of all 15 justices will consider petitions against the Law to Cancel the Reasonableness Standard in a hearing on September 12, the court decided Monday, July 31. The High Court has never before struck down a Basic Law amendment, and there has been debate about whether it has the authority to do so. The Movement for Quality Government in Israel, one of the petitioners, praised the move to expand the bench. “The [High Court] president did well to include all the judges of the High Court in this important discussion.” In response, Likud MK Boaz Bismuth wrote on X (formerly Twitter): “15 people wearing judges’ robes, replacing 120 representatives of the people... this is the end of democracy.” The court will hear arguments for eight petitions filed in rapid succession. The petitioners include the Israel Bar Association, Smoke Free Israel, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, and the OMETZ movement. September is expected to be a month filled with dramatic High Court hearings, with petitions regarding the Judicial Selection Committee to be heard as well. (JPost / VFI News)

***Israeli Vessel Breaks through Moscow’s Black Sea Grain Blockade – Report;*** An Israeli merchant ship that embarked from the Port of Ashdod Monday, July 31, became the first vessel to openly defy Russia’s blockade of the Black Sea since they pulled out of a deal with Ukraine allowing the country to export grain from its ports in mid-July, a Ukrainian news outlet reported on Monday. Israeli vessel Ams1 seemingly ignored Russian threats and entered the Ukrainian branch of the Danube Monday afternoon, according to Ukrainian reports. It crossed the Black Sea on a direct route from Ashdod Port while the American aircraft P8 Poseidon provided aerial security, and was followed by four more vessels that have either anchored or will anchor in the Danube shortly, the reports added. Russia stepped away from the agreement in mid-July, arguing that demands to improve its own food and fertilizer exports had not been met and that not enough Ukrainian grain had reached the poorest countries under the Black Sea deal. The Black Sea grain deal that Russia withdrew from two weeks ago was brokered by the UN and Turkey a year before in an effort to combat a global food crisis worsened by Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. (JPost / VFI News)

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