

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle
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Israel's Election was its usual cliffhanger, only bringing to a result after 6 weeks of complicated negotiations, 90 minutes before the final deadline. The coalition finally cobbled together was described by Isaac Hertzog, the opposition leader, "a national failure government". With its majority of only one it looks destined for early failure, being at the mercy of every member with his own agenda.

The most right wing government in Israel's history was described by Saed Ereket, the chief Palestinian negotiator, as "a Government of war". Nachman Shai, a member of the opposition Zionist Union Party, said that granting Ayelet Shaked, age 39, as the Justice Ministry was "like putting a pyromaniac in charge of the fire brigade."

Ms Shaked is a secular Jew from Tel Aviv, an advocate for women – yet a member of the Jewish Home Party, a party dominated by male settlers. She has struggled to align her personal views with those of the party, she supports a ban on public transport on the Sabbath, yet drives on that day! Critics mocked her as hypocritical. She provoked a storm during the Gaza war by saying "during war the enemy is an entire people, their elders and their women" arguing that "Israel should kill the mothers of the martyrs". She has previously worked for Benjamin Netanyahu where she met Naftali Bennett of Jewish Home and the two are described as "inseparable". Mr Bennett describes her as "the party's greatest warrior". She wants to reign in the power of the High Court and also targets human rights group B'Tselem. She also objects to journalists interviewing Israel's enemies. Mr Netanyahu was reluctant to give her the Justice Ministry for personal and political reasons but Mr Bennett threatened to go into opposition if the Prime minister did not comply. The only alternative to the present coalition would have been a deal with the left. The coalition is made up of Mr Netanyahu's Likud party, Mr Bennett's Jewish Home Party and ultra orthodox parties.

Likud retains the defence and intelligence ministries but Mr Netanyahu has been accused of giving away too much to keep the smaller parties on side.

At the end of last week Mr Netanyahu was ready to present a government to the president but the last minute announcement that Avigdor Lieberman would take his Y'israel Beiteinu party into opposition resulted in the current agreement.

With only 61 seats the new government will find it virtually impossible to legislate and it seems likely that Mr Netanyahu will bring the left in and give the Foreign Ministry to its leader Isaac Hertzog, alternately Mr Lieberman might relent and rejoin the coalition in his old position – Foreign Minister. It seems significant that Mr Netanyahu has retained this position in case of problems as he has something to offer to buy support.

Mr Herzog previously declined to be part of the coalition without Tzipi Livni, who is an anathema to Mr Netanyahu, and also because he wanted to be Prime Minister for at least one year.

All together it seems a nightmare scenario but we must remember that God is in control and bringing Israel to a position where they will recognise Him as their Messiah and only true friend. With Europe and America already turning away from Israel it may well be that Israel is nearer to being friendless. God Knows what he is doing and we realise these are without doubt the last days. We may try to conjecture but all we are intended to be certain of is what is revealed in His Word. "Let's discern the times", Matthew 16v1-3 but not give way to too much speculation. Let's get focused on the Bible not the internet! With Israel surrounded by her enemies and under constant threat and with the world riddled with hatred and anti Semitism let's renew ourselves to see the salvation of Jewish people before the Lord's return for His church. Let's also pray for the peace of Jerusalem, a command of scripture Psalm 22v6. Certainly we should seek to bless the Jews in every way we can, but not as some organisations do to the exclusion of blessing them with their greatest blessing – their Messiah and Saviour and the True Unfailing friend.

CANADA I quote here below extracts from Canada's Prime Minister's message to Israel on Independence Day, it's 67th birthday recently:- "Tonight at sundown marks the 67th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel the realisation of the Jewish peoples long standing dream to establish a modern Jewish state in their historic homeland. Israel continues existential threats, such as cowardly terrorist attacks against civilians, denial by some of it's neighbours of it's right to exist the new anti Semitism, boycotts, divestment, sanctions and continuous attempts to deligitimise and demonise the world's only Jewish state. The government of Canada remains resolute in our commitment to defend Israel's right to exist. This is absolute and non negotiable. The story of Israel is a great example to the world. It is a story of a people whose response to suffering has been to move beyond resentment and build a most extraordinary society, a vibrant democracy, a freedom loving country, with an independent rights affirming judiciary, and innovative, world leading 'start up' nation. Israel has much to celebrate. I speak on behalf of all Canadians".

Genesis 12v3 states that God will bless those who bless Israel. Canada must surely be blessed by God.

BRITISH ELECTION God is not mocked. The same verse I quote above also says those who curse Israel will be cursed. For an illustration of this truth look no further than Bradford where 2 MPs, George Galloway and David Ward who I have written about previously for their anti Semitic views have both lost their seats! It is noted that the SNP, very anti Israel, have had a landslide victory, is God lining them up for judgement?

NEPAL Israel is winning friends for it's speed and professionalism in Nepal, saving many lives. They were the first to organise an aid and rescue mission within hours of the earthquake which struck 2 weeks ago. Israel sent more people than any other country 260 in all, following the disastrous earthquake. Their field hospital in Kathmandu has treated 500 people, performed 50 operations and delivered 5 babies, 3 of which were by caesarian section and the work goes on. Israel provided 2 operating theatres, 4 intensive care rooms, 80 beds and neonatal care. In the last week alone their nursing team treated 234 sick and wounded and performed 15 operations. Israel has sent the largest ground response with a huge presence of Israeli soldiers, doctors and rescue workers, the largest of all the international aid teams. Additionally World Jewish Relief has provided tents, food and medical kits. Avigdor Lieberman announced that Israel will adopt a village in Nepal and assist its reconstruction. 200 IDF soldiers will remain in Nepal to treat the injured & Israel will donate a field hospital to Nepal. Why didn't the News Channels mention this? Because it's Israel!

A Jewish Rabbi borrowed a helicopter to carry food and water to Israeli hikers stranded after the earthquake, 25 were airlifted to safety. A Jewish centre in Kathmandu has fed hundreds of people with lentil soup and given them warm clothing and supplies.

ANTISEMITISM Two Jewish residents in Paris were assaulted by members of a pro-Palestinian group called Gaza Firm Fast Frialg. The attack took place in Paris's 11th arrondissement, the site of the 2006 kidnapping of Ilan Halimi, a French Jewish salesman who was tortured to death! Jewish groups in Europe are realising they can no longer rely solely on their intelligence services or the police and threadbare security organisations to protect them. A conference on anti Semitism in Brussels under the title "*A Defining Moment for Europe*" was told by one European Jew "*The way we want to live our lives is longer possible*"!

PEACE TALMS TV has reported that peace talks between Israel and Hamas, indirect talks that is, have been taking place for 4 months in Qatar. Hamas require a seaport in Gaza and a lifting of the partial blockade.

TONY BLAIR Never tired of intervening all over the world has written to the judges who have convicted former Prime Minister Ehud Olmet for corruption, to ask them not to send him to prison! One cannot imagine his intervention in legal matters will meet with anything but short shrift.

HAMAS 100 000 Gaza teenagers have graduated from a terrorist training camp. They used live ammunition and heard sermons in praise of armed attacks. All wore military uniforms and were taught how to kill Israeli's. Some were as young as 15!

IRAN Persia of Ezekiel 38/9 has admitted it is arming both Hezbollah and the Palestinians. It says this is to confront Zionism.

WATER Such is the situation in Israel that water prices are dropping. This is the result of conservation, drip irrigation, delivering straight to the plant roots and desalination, plus excellent winter rains. Despite all this the Galilee is still 3 metres below capacity.

FRUIT Israel continues to create new fruit. The latest addition to the list are the grape tomato, sweeter strawberries and pomelits (a cross between grapefruit and a pomela). All are hybrids. Coming shortly – seedless cucumbers and watermelons and the Orr Clementine, small sweet and easy to peel. Truly God has gifted the Jewish People.

Keep praying for Israel, visit if you can and watch M&S for latest produce.

God bless you

David