

# Israel News Desk

With BPF Secretary Steve Lloyd  
October 2022

Shalom, dear friends,

***Genesis 13:16-17 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.***

Israel - Israel's population has reached 9,593,000. Of the total, 7,069,000 are Jewish, 2,026,000 Arab, and 498,000 neither.

The population grew by 187,000 over the past year, a rise of 2% with 177,000 babies born and 53,000 people dying (4,400 from COVID). The country welcomed 60,000 immigrants. The report predicts that the population will reach 10 million in 2024, 15 million in 2048 and 20 million in 2065. The Jewish Agency has announced that there are about 15.3 million Jews worldwide, that's a growth of 100,000 on last year. The global population of Jews is still a million fewer than it was before the Holocaust. The remainder of the Jewish people that are not in Israel, 6 million live in the USA, 442,000 in France, 394,000 in Canada and 292,000 in the UK, 145,000 in Russia, 118,200 in Australia and 118,000 in Germany.

Israeli archaeologists have discovered a burial cave from the time of Rameses II on one of Israel's most popular beaches, in the Palmachim National Park just south of Tel Aviv.

They unexpectedly revealed the ceiling of the cave, which was filled with dozens of pottery and bronze vessels just as they had been placed during the burial ceremony, about 3,300 years ago.

It is thought that the burial chamber belonged to the hard-hearted Pharaoh who finally told Moses to take the Israelite slaves out of Egypt. At last one relatively intact skeleton has been found.

Israel Antiquities Authority Official Dror Citron was the first to identify the space as he dropped, wide eyed, into the cave which seemed frozen in time.

Dr Eli Yanai, an IAA expert on the Bronze Age said it was a 'Once-in-a-life-time find'. "It's not every day that you see an Indiana Jones set - a cave with vessels on the floor that haven't been touched for 3,300 years. We are talking about the late Bronze Age. These are precisely the days of the famous Rameses II - the one some identify with the story of the Exodus".

Israel PM Yair Lapid announced in September that it could supply 10% of the gas that Europe received from Russia last year when he was at a press conference in Berlin. Supplies of the gas could start next year.

Lapid was in Germany to strengthen bilateral co-operation with Germany. "Some will certainly say that military partnership between Germany and Israel is a historical irony" he said. "I consider it proof that we have drawn the necessary conclusions from the past."

Germany is looking to bolster its air defence system, and may purchase Israel's Arrow 3 anti-satellite system. If it does purchase the system, Germany will be the only country outside of Israel to have such an anti-satellite system.

Researchers at Tel Aviv University have found that Bats should not be blamed for spreading COVID-19. Their findings are contrary to consensual opinion. But the Israeli study found no evidence that the flying mammals were to blame. The theory that it was spread by bats in China caused unnecessary stress and confusion worldwide, the researchers said.

UK - Prime Minister Liz Truss has vowed that the UK will 'stand shoulder to shoulder' with Israel. Speaking at the recent Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, she said that "In this world - where we are facing threats from authoritarian regimes who don't believe in freedom and democracy - two free democracies, the UK and Israel, need to stand shoulder to shoulder and we will be even closer in the future".

She also proclaimed that she was a "huge Zionist and huge supporter of Israel", and pledged she would "take the UK-Israel relationship from strength to strength".

She also addressed concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions, the Prime Minister asserted: "Believe me, the UK will never allow - together with our allies - Iran to get a nuclear weapon". She has also stated that she will review the location of the British embassy in Israel to ensure the strongest footing within Israel. Her comments were backed up by Health Minister Rob Jenrick, who said "We have a site in Jerusalem there waiting to go." It is time we took responsibility and built that embassy and recognised that the true capital of the State of Israel is obviously Jerusalem".

Ukraine - Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has lashed out at Israel, saying that he is "shocked" by the Jewish State's lack of support for the Ukrainian war effort. He said on French Television network TV5 "Israel has provided us with nothing. Nothing, Zero." he added "I do not blame the leaders, I state the facts: You can see Russia's influence on Israel. I understand that they need to protect their country, but according to my intelligence, they continue to export weapons to other countries".

Back in March Zelensky addressed the Knesset members in an online speech stating "in Israel, we know very well that Iron Dome, your missile interception system, is the best - we know that you know how to stand up and protect your interests and also help Ukraine protect the Jews of Ukraine". He went on: "One can often ask why we cannot receive weapons from you, why Israel did not impose serious sanctions on Russia". Israeli PM Yair Lapid revealed that "We have excellent medical teams and hospitals that have opened their doors and hearts to Ukraine's injured". Israel has delivered tons of humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Please continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem in these last days and for the men and women serving in the Israel Defence Forces as they continue to protect the people and the Land that God gave them.

Maranatha,

Steve