

Israel News Desk

with
BPF Secretary Steve Lloyd

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." Psalm 2: 1-6

Israel – Jewish immigration to Israel in 2021 exceeded the previous year by 30% even with COVID restrictions. According to the Aliyah and Integration ministry, the Jewish Agency and Nefesh B’Nefesh, 27,057 immigrants became Israeli citizens in 2021 compared to 21,120 in 2020. The number in 2019 before the pandemic was 35,651. “Aliya continues to break records”, said minister Pnina Tamano-Shata, “Despite the pandemic and its limitations, aliya to Israel did not stop, and we’re happy to welcome tens of thousands of olim who chose to make aliya this year. She went on to say “Olim are an incredible growth engine for the Israeli economy and are a national, economic and moral powerhouse for the nation”.

UK – The BBC has been branded antisemitic by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre – and placed third on its annual “Global Antisemitism Top Ten” List. First and second place went to Iran and Hamas, respectively.

Centre head Marvin Hier told the *Daily Mail* that “people might be surprised to see the BBC on the list, but the decision to place the BBC at number three came after months of intense debate and discussion. “We believe the BBC has been guilty of several incidences of antisemitism during the past year. “People might assume we would put neo-Nazi groups on our list, but the BBC is there because when a globally recognised organisation allows antisemitism to creep into its reporting, it makes it all the more insidious and dangerous.”

Back in December the BBC claimed that Jewish youngsters targeted by antisemites in London were guilty of an “anti-Muslim slur”. This has proved to be inaccurate, according to the Board of Deputies. Two independent reports were commissioned by the Board following widespread anger at the BBC for its report of the attack on Jewish youngsters celebrating Chanukah in Oxford Street.

But the BBC’s report of the incident claimed: “A slur about Muslims can also be heard from inside the bus.” The Board commissioned forensic linguist Professor Ghil’ad Zuckerman, who found there was no remark made against Muslims in any part of the footage, in either Hebrew or English.

The doors of Israel are about to be opened to UK visitors this month. Up to now the UK has been on Israel’s red list, but Ilana Gens, head of the health ministry’s Public Health Services Headquarters told a Knesset committee that this list would soon be empty. This would mean that finally, Brits could be able to visit their loved ones in the Jewish state as well as holiday there.....unless, of course, souring Covid figures force yet another rule change in the meantime.

South Africa – At the end of 2021 South Africa’s Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, died at the age of 90, he was an outspoken critic of Israel.

In 2014, he called for a global boycott of the Jewish state. The noted civil rights leader who became the first black archbishop of Cape town also compared Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians to the apartheid regime that discriminated against blacks in his native South Africa. In 2014, in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* Tutu declared his support for the BDS movement as a peaceful means of opposing Israeli occupation.

ran – Again at the end of 2021 Iran threatened to blow up Israel’s powerhouse nuclear city of Dimona. This was as well as blasting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. Tehran simulated an attack against Israel’s Dimona nuclear reactor during military drills that included the launching of multiple ballistic and cruise missiles. The elite Revolutionary Guard published a video showing a mock-up of the site as a target for an attack. The Iranian ‘war games’ were intended to send a warning to Israel, the country’s top military commanders said. Britain condemned the launch of ballistic missiles during the “war games” stating “These actions are a threat to regional and international security, and we call on Iran to immediately cease its activities”.

Scotland – The organisation set up by University of the West of Scotland to promote excellence in teaching the Holocaust in schools has been awarded new funding. The Scottish Government grant will enable Vision Schools Scotland, founded by UWS in partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust, to further support and reward schools who demonstrate innovation and good practice in Holocaust education, while also offering continued professional development opportunities for practitioners.

UN – According to an article in the January 7th 2022 edition of the *Jewish Telegraph* the UN is the biggest Israel hater of all. There have been clear signs that Arab hostility towards the Jewish state is on the wane. The Abraham Accords normalised Israel’s relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, an Israeli defence minister can make a very public visit to Morocco and even Saudi Arabia allows flights to and from Israel to cross over its territory. But there remains at least one bastion of anti-Israel enmity – the United Nations, where systematic, organisational prejudice against the Jewish state reigns supreme. Every year the UN routinely passes, with massive majorities, a series of blatant anti-Israel resolutions. In 2021 there were 17 enacted. In December 2021, the General Assembly called upon Israel to withdraw from the “occupied Syrian Golan” with delegates voting to hand over the Golan to Bashar Assad’s murderous regime. But the story doesn’t end with these multiple resolutions, as some of them establish UN organs whose sole mission is to further propagate an anti-Israel agenda. UNESCO has adopted positions that ignore Jewish historic, cultural and religious ties to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall in Jerusalem as well as the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron. But probably the most egregious example of a UN body plagued by anti-Israel mania is the Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which has a permanent agenda item targeting one country alone, Israel, and has passed more resolutions condemning the Jewish state than against all other countries combined. It is only America that has the motivation and capability to stand up to UN bigotry, and it evens out the playing field. May it continue to do so.

Please continue to pray for the Nation of Israel, they are still the Apple of Gods eye and He still has a plan for them, pray for those making Aliya, and the men and women of the Israeli Defence Forces who are on constant alert against the enemies of Israel.

God bless you

Steve

‘Maranatha’