

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle
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I was asked this week why it was necessary to bring news from Israel, are there not other things we should be focusing on. My answer was that all history centres on Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular.

In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem there is a pillar which is described as *'the centre of the world'*, and it's true that biblically north, south, east and west are always in relation to Israel.

Israel lies at the place where Asia, Africa and Europe meet and everything happening in the world today leads to Jerusalem and relating events to the Bible leads to only one conclusion that Jesus, the Jewish and our Messiah is returning soon as He promised He would. Current events in all fields point to His return to the Mount of Olives to defeat all His enemies and establish His kingdom. This should encourage all believers to look up as first, seven years before His return to rule, His coming to take His Church – true believers to Himself. 1 Thessalonians 4v13-18.

I hope all who read this are not just interested in prophecy, but truly born again and living an expectant holy life. If not, it is time to *'seek the Lord while He may be found'*.

Wherever we look today we can only conclude that the Bible's prophets were true prophets.

United Kingdom The Church of Scotland has been heavily criticised for its advice *'do not support Israel'*! They suggest that the Jewish claim to Israel is invalidated by its treatment of the Palestinians. Their recently produced report states, *'The scriptures do not offer any people a privileged claim for possession of a particular territory'*. It goes on, *'Christians should not be supporting any claims by Israel to an exclusive or privileged right to possess territory'*. They describe this as a misuse of the Bible which should not be used as a topographical guide to settle contemporary conflicts over land. They also call for the return of all refugees who left Israel in 1947/48 at the behest of the Arabs who thought they would throw all Jews into the sea and give the refugees their land back. Refugees have not been assimilated into the countries they went to but are kept in camps as political pawns. Their numbers have grown vastly and if they returned that would be the end of the Jewish State. Commenting on the above the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities said, *'The report was an outrage based on weak sources, biased and contradictory'*. *'How arrogant'*, they said, *'to tell Jewish people how to interpret Jewish texts and theology'*. They summed up, *'It is an ignorant tendacious document masquerading as a theological statement.'*

Church members will commence a tour of Israel and the Palestinian territories next week, it's too much to hope they will come back less prejudiced. A study of the Bible might help them! Stephen Hawking has pulled out of a conference hosted by President Peres. He had previously accepted to speak alongside Bill Clinton and Tony Blair but has given in to pressure from Palestinian academics. They said he should throw his weight behind an academic boycott! David Hirsch a sociologist at Goldsmiths College said, *'This boycott is not a pro peace protest, they don't want to see Israel and Palestine at peace they want Israel to disappear'*! The Israel Law Centre said, *'Professor Hawking is hypocritical, he uses a computer based communication system that runs on a chip designed by Israel's Intel team, if he wants to pull out of Israel he should also pull out his Intel Core:7 from his tablet'!*

Ireland Posters depicting tourism to Israel have been defaced in County Cork. Activists placed stickers so that the heading read *'Boycott Israel'*. The posters were funded by *'Irish 4 Israel'*.

Members of the Palestinian Place group are meeting in various places this weekend to protest about *'settlement goods'*. Tragically Britain and Ireland are constantly assailed by protests against Israel which are nothing less than anti Semitic.

Canada The government has announced plans to build a holocaust memorial in the nation's capital Ontario. Canada is one of the most supportive countries in the world of Israel and will be blessed by God accordingly Genesis 12v3.

Hungary The head of Hungary's Raoul Wallenberg Association was attacked at a football match in Budapest, his nose was broken and fans were chanting 'Sieg heil' and 'Mussolini'.

Poland Vandals attacked a Jewish cemetery near Warsaw at the same time as the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Gaza Two rockets struck Israel this week one landed near Ashkelon and one hit Sderot. Gaza still allows rocket fire into Israel on a regular basis.

Syria Israel twice hit arms caches for Hezbollah in the last few days. No response has yet been made. More air strikes are likely in the short term as the news that chemicals are being used seems incontrovertible. Syria described the raids as a declaration of war. Hezbollah is in any event preoccupied with its support of President Assad.

General Whilst French troops battled Muslim radicals only a short time after they had killed the American Ambassador to Libya and the impoverished Muslims were invited to help themselves to a hundred sacrificial animals, a flock of sheep donated by Israel for a Muslim feast, Israel's Ambassador gave the invitation which resonated favourably and was reported on TV. Israeli experts are resident in Senegal advising on farming and the Senegal government have signed over oil prospecting rights in its waters to an Israeli company. Israel's trade with them has tripled. A Muslim leader in Senegal said his attachment to Israel stems from gratitude for its largesse not considerations of real politick.

Abbas The Palestinian leader, hailed the world over as a moderate, insisted last week that Palestinian Arabs who murder Jews cannot be punished for their crimes!

Margaret Thatcher It's not generally known that Margaret and her older sister Muriel, at the respective ages of 12 and 17 raised money to help an Austrian Jewish girl who was Muriel's pen friend, to escape to England. The girl in question, Edith Muhlbauer, now lives in San Paulo in Brazil and says she owes her life and that of her children and grandchildren to the Thatcher family.

North Korea The US Defence Intelligence Agency believes North Korea has both nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. Their assessment is that they might use one!

Mr Netanyahu believes they might sell their research to the Mullahs in Iran and thus an Israeli strike on Iran could become necessary.

Great News Natural gas is flowing from the 'Tamar' off shore field. Mr Netanyahu said, '*This is an important day for the economy of Israel. We are on the way towards independence in the field of energy*'.

Turkey It becomes increasingly evident that Recep Erdogan was less than straight when he promised a renewal of official relations with Israel. Compensation for those killed and injured on the Turkish flotilla to Gaza is still not agreed nor have Turkey moderated their unreasonable demands. The opening of borders and the return of refugees are a non starter and increasingly we can see that Turkey's relation to Ezekiel 38 &39 is unfolding.

The Bible is coming alive, time is short, please pray for many Jews to be saved and pray against the false doctrine of Replacement Theology blighting the Church.