

# Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle  
October 2013

Bob Waughman and I have just returned from an illuminating visit to Israel. We were privileged to meet at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, with a rabbi, a member of Yair Lapid's party, members of the coalition. He briefed us on the current situation and answered questions before we were able to sit in the visitor's gallery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the winter sitting, behind bullet proof glass. It was our good fortune that just as we arrived there Mr Netanyahu was called to the rostrum to make the winter opening statement. While we could not understand his statement in Hebrew I detail below excerpts from his speech, courtesy of the Israeli Embassy. He stated: *'It would be a historic mistake to relax the pressure on Iran now, a moment before the sanctions achieve their goal. It is international pressure which has led to internal change in Iran, which has led the Iranians to make any concessions at all and has brought them to the negotiating table. It might eventually lead to tangible concessions on the military nuclear programme. Easing the pressure will not strengthen the moderates but will strengthen the uncompromising views of Iran's real ruler Ayatollah Khomeini and will be seen by him as a victory'*. He went on, *'Nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran along with intercontinental missiles are a danger to both Israel and also the USA and Europe. What would be the reaction if Syria dismantled only 20% of its chemical weapons? This is exactly what Iran is proposing. Just as it must be ensured that Syria destroy all its chemical weapons, Iran must not be allowed to continue its military programme'*.

Speaking also at the opening of the winter session, Shimon Peres, Israel's president said, *'The world must judge Iran by deeds not words. Even if the words are sweet to the ears of those who are used to hearing Ahmadinejad. The Iranian threat is real. The Iranian people are not a threat, the regime is! They have made clear their intention is to destroy Israel.'*

In relation to the peace negotiations with the Palestinians he said, *'As Jews we are obligated to seek peace. Negotiations are not easy; there is a lack of trust on both sides. We must not let cynicism cause us to miss an opportunity'*.

Commenting on this I would personally say that as Christians we would love to see peace for Israel but any peace will not be real, only the coming of the Messiah will bring real peace. Look at what happened when Israel gave up Gaza, hundreds's of rockets falling on southern Israel. Incidentally Ariel Sharon is still alive on life support. I am reminded too of Mr Abba Eban, a great statesman's comment, *'The Palestinians never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity'*. Why? Because they only want to take over the whole of Israel and make it free of Jews. All negotiations must for them lead to that as the ultimate end. **God will have the final word.** God's purposes are unfolding exactly according to His infallible word and the prophetic scriptures point us to the rapture of the church and Christ's return to the Mount of Olives when all His and Israel's enemies will meet their end.

We were also privileged to visit the most northerly base of the Israel Defence Forces on the Lebanese border where we were briefed on the current situation by the Golani Brigades chief spokesperson a female 24 year old lieutenant who gave us the run down on what is happening in South Lebanon as we looked out from an observation point over a large area of Lebanon with many Christian and Muslim villages. Hezbollah has moved into these villages with sophisticated arms and rockets and Israel are monitoring them 24 hours a day but will warn all the Christians and Muslims of any necessary attack. She highlighted the relevant peace at the border but Israelis constantly in a state of readiness for all possibilities.

She also briefed us on the Iranian threat through its proxy Hezbollah and indicated too that Israel constantly monitors Syria but will not intervene unless forced to do so. Two things struck me particularly here, firstly the complete and striking difference in the landscape, fertile, cultivated and covered in trees, vines, orchards etc on the Israel side and a few hundred yards away in Lebanon – totally barren and uncultivated. Secondly, that if a war starts the young people; many doing their army service will be the front line and the first to surrender their lives! How desperately sad!

**Benjamin Netanyahu at UN** Mr Netanyahu gave an impassioned speech on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and in response to Iran's PM Rouhani said, *'The difference between Mr Rouhani's words and Iran's deed are striking. Iran supports the killing of tens of thousands in Syria and Mr Rouhani through proxies seeks to destabilise Lebanon, Yemen, Bahrain and other Middle East countries. Iran sought to assassinate Saudi Arabia's*

ambassador yet Mr Rouhani wants us to join his 'world against violence and extremism. I wish I could believe Rouhani but his savage record flatly contradicts his soothing words. Mr Rouhani's strategy is: -

1. Smile a lot.
2. Pay lip service to peace.
3. Offer meaningless concessions to get sanctions lifted.
4. Ensure Iran retains enough nuclear material to lead to a bomb!"

**Brain Drain** The Jerusalem Post comments on an alleged brain drain. Israel, it says, is a small country that produces the most scientists and engineers per capita of any country. There are not enough positions to go round for these talented and well trained people. 'Wandering seems to be in the Jewish DNA', the article concludes.

Illustrating the above:-

**Nobel Prizes** 3 Israeli scientists won Nobel Prizes for their work in the fields of physics and chemistry.

**Hi Tech** During our visit to Beersheba we were shown a new high tech park under construction and in Tel Aviv there was a digital innovation conference attended by 100s of start ups and leading multi nationals. Tel Aviv is the centre for top technological talent. Truly the Jewish people are especially blessed and gifted by God.

**Cabinet Communiqué 06.10.13** Mr Netanyahu briefed on his discussions in America with President Obama and said, 'We discussed our common interest in preventing Iran from achieving a nuclear weapon Iran they noted had violated all understandings and misled time and again. They also seek Israel's destruction and support terrorism on 5 continents'.

**Earthquakes** 5 tremors took place in Israel while we were there, the last one being 3.3 on the Richter scale. The cities of Safed, Tiberias, Kiriath Shemona, Beit Shan and Eilat are all built above the Syrian/African fault line and we visited all but Eilat and were in Tiberias when the earthquake struck. We did not notice them but cracks had appeared in the roads and buildings the fear however is now of a major quake which often follows minor ones.

**Missiles** Israeli war planes destroyed a shipment of missiles that were to be delivered to Hezbollah near the Lebanese/ Syrian border. A Kuwaiti news source states that Israel has information on the location of long range missiles transferred from Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and is considering action to destroy them.

**Turkey** Has blown the cover of an Israeli run spy ring in Iran. This revelation threatens to destroy the veneer of re established ties between Israel and Turkey. Turkey is seeking leadership of the region and chose the anti Israeli card to build its leadership up said Jerusalem's Deputy Foreign Minister Zeev Elkin.

**Hungary** The former leader of a Hungarian anti Semitic Party has discovered he has Jewish roots and is a grandson of holocaust survivors. He has resigned his position, now keeps the Sabbath. Keeps Kosher and is studying Hebrew!

**Israel** The 99 year old leader of the Lithuanian Ashkenazi community was attacked in his home. A man was arrested by being restrained by followers of the Rabbi.

**Tribe of Manasseh** Hundreds of Indians who claim to be Jews descended from the tribe of Manasseh will begin arriving in Israel next month. 374 have already arrived but those still to come, despite their claims will have to undergo conversion.

Praise God that He will never abandon Israel to her enemies and ultimately Israel will bless the whole world – albeit after very difficult times ahead.

**Zechariah 8v23**

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem Psalm 122 v 6 in these difficult days.**