April 20, 2018

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE

Pray for God’s wisdom to prevail over all White House decisions, especially towards Israel. Pray for Israel! Use our free special report prayer guide: Celebrate Israel, God’s Chosen.

“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.” (2 Thes 3:3)

The historical date of infamy for the United States, Israel and her enemies falls on April 19/20

The historical date of infamy for the United States, Israel and her enemies falls on April 19/20 and sometime April 21. I watch annually the April 19-20 news in line with the pattern of major historical U.S. events/wars that have set the tone for the rest of the year, which I share in a weekly news report every April and will again this year.

The following are a few of the important and timely highlights with the tensions between Israel and Iran intensifying, not to forget Turkey’s and Russia’s significant roles in Syria and the United States.

Here are the key historical dates that pertain to the Jewish people and Israel:

Anti-Jewish riots break out in Palestine — April 19, 1936.

USSR performs nuclear test at Semipalatinsk, Eastern Kazakhstan, USSR — April 19, 1985.

Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, becomes the 265th pope — April 19, 2005.

Massive BP Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, began on April 20, 2010. (The Obama administration was considering stopping their automatic support for Israel at the U.N. Security Council at the time of the major oil spill.)

The historical date of infamy for Israel and her enemies — April 20-21

This date has also had a dramatic impact on Israel and Jews. In the last 2,000 years, Jews have had many enemies and many antagonists, but three, in particular, stand out:

Birth of Rome/Roman Empire
Islam/Mohammad

Nazi Germany/Hitler

**What do they have in common? They were all born on April 20/21.**

The birth of Rome (by Romulus) is dated as April 21, 753 B.C.

The birth of Mohammad is dated as A.D. April 20, 571.

The birth of Adolph Hitler was April 20, 1889.

**Additional information:**

Israel faced the Great Arab Revolt of April 19, 1936.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began April 19, 1943.

The ascension of Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt occurred on April 18, 1954. Nasser was Israel’s lead antagonist for almost two decades. He was responsible for three wars with Israel from 1956–1970. He was also responsible for the first United Arab Republic from 1958–1961, a concept that could reach a more cohesive realization in the coming years.

To say the least, this has been a very significant period of time for centuries. Furthermore, Iran has dominated the Middle East news every April since 2006.

**Could a war with Iran take place in April or sooner? I’m not sure, but we are certainly closer to the date.**

**Israel’s 70th year celebration, April 18-20:**

Israel’s 70th year celebration is April 18-20 in Israel — very interesting timing. They have a 70-hour spectacle planned. Click here for details: [Times of Israel](http://timesofisrael.com)

Israel became a state on May 14, 1948 but based on the Hebrew calendar the 70th anniversary falls within this April period.

Iranians are brilliant and strategic, but Jeremiah 49:35-39 will be fulfilled. Many Iranians will come to the Lord Jesus. Israel’s skill is pre-emptive strikes, and they have an attack plan from which Iran and Hezbollah will never recover. (I have included that below.)

Former Clinton and Obama peace negotiator Dennis Ross complained late last week that Trump has been all talk on Iran, but Trump is very wise and will share his plans with only a handful of people.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo, one of Vice President Pence’s closest friends, who was one of the most outspoken members of Congress against the Iran nuke deal, gives President Trump intelligence reports five days a week. Pompeo is a devout Christian, a friend of Israel and a brilliant man. He graduated top of his class at West Point and became editor of the Harvard Law Review when he attended Harvard Law School.

President Barack Obama fired **General James Mattis**, the head of Central Command, without even calling the general to let him know he was being replaced.
The *Weekly Standard* wrote:

Pentagon insiders say that he rubbed civilian officials the wrong way — not because he went all "mad dog," which is his public image, and the view at the White House, but rather because he pushed the civilians so hard on considering the second- and third-order consequences of military action against Iran. Some of those questions apparently were uncomfortable. Like, what do you do with Iran once the nuclear issue is resolved and it remains a foe? What do you do if Iran then develops conventional capabilities that could make it hazardous for U.S. Navy ships to operate in the Persian Gulf? He kept saying, "And then what?"

President Trump has the right people in place and is a president who won’t be bullied. President Trump’s actions will continue to accelerate final day events.

General David Petraeus stated a few years ago that Syria was the most complex military situation in the world, and that was before Donald Trump was elected president and became involved in Iraq and Syria and publicly warned Iran.

**Netanyahu’s possible legal diversion of an attack on Iran**

The following is from Aaron David Miller, who is Jewish. I have thought about the same “wag the dog” scenario.

Israel might do a pre-emptive strike earlier than President Trump’s May 12 Iran decision. Turkey had a bad two weeks against the Kurds. The U.S. took out some of Assad troops last week and Russian mercenaries. According to the Israeli Air Force (IAF), Israel just took out a significant part of the Russian-built anti-missile and anti-aircraft system in Syria.

Miller worked for four U.S. administrations. He is currently Vice President for New Initiatives and Director, Middle East Program, Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

**Quote from Aaron David Miller:**

Forget today’s headline re: Iran/Israeli/Syrian clash. Consider possible trend line: Trump withdraws from Iran nuclear deal; Netanyahu indicted and looks for diversion; Trump pushes for war against Iran; redlines collapse; and region trips into devastating Israeli-Hezbollah war. (Bill Koenig – White House News Correspondent and Koenig World Daily News)

**EXAMINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL**

We are so happy to share this excellent explanation of the importance of Jerusalem by Liberty University Professor Randall Price. Pray that the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon the children of Israel. Pray that they will turn their hearts to God’s Son while it is still day.

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.” (Ps 125:2)

My wife and I were graduate students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem when our daughter was born at nearby Hadassah Hospital. We were so proud, and we felt our kinship to the Land of Israel was nearly complete — until we went to the American Consulate in Jerusalem to get our daughter’s first U.S.
Passport. The line designated for “country of birth” read “Jerusalem,” not “Israel.” When I inquired of a consulate official, I was told bluntly, “the U.S. does not recognize Jerusalem as part of Israel.”

It has now taken 70 years for the U.S. to officially change that policy and finally recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. For many who are not apprised of the facts but have only heard political propaganda through the mainstream media, this act of recognition may seem troublesome. Some media have even explained it as President Trump’s attempt to reward pro-Israel evangelicals whom he credited with his election victory. So, let’s review the facts from historical, religious, and political perspectives.

Historically, Jerusalem became the capital of Israel by decree of King David 3,000 years ago, based on his understanding of God’s own choice. It has remained Israel’s capital ever since, and though other nations conquered and settled in the Land of Israel, none ever declared Jerusalem as their capital. Over the past 2,000 years, even during times of occupation and persecution, a Jewish community resided there and maintained it as their “eternal capital.”

From a religious perspective, the Bible, which mentions Jerusalem more than any other place (about 800 times), states, “the Lord has chosen Jerusalem and will dwell there forever” (Psalm 132:13-14) and expressly calls upon God’s people to never forget Jerusalem and to “exalt it above their chief joy” (Psalm 137:5-6). There, Israel’s kings ruled and the Temples stood. Jerusalem was, and is, at the center of the prophets’ predictions of worldwide peace and blessing at the coming of the Messiah (Isaiah 2:2-4). For this reason, it was called “the City of the Great King” (Psalm 48:2), and Israel, uniquely, has guaranteed religious freedom and access to all religions in Jerusalem since it regained sovereignty in 1967.

Recognition of these facts by President Trump was nothing more than following through on the historical reality of the city, the religious precedent going back to biblical times, and the political intentions of the U.S. government and past presidents.

What will be the outcome? There has been, and will be, political protests by those who have sought to undermine these facts with their own revisionist view based on a religious agenda of supersessionism. There will continue to be condemnation from the politically biased United Nations General Assembly. However, the U.S. act of recognition serves the interest of renewing the peace process in the Middle East.

As for my daughter, it now means she will get a new passport with a long-awaited change affirming that being born in Jerusalem means being born in Israel!

Dr. Randall Price teaches courses on biblical and Judaic studies as a distinguished research professor in the Rawlings School of Divinity. (Excerpts from Dr. Randall Price at Liberty University) - Price is the author or co-author of 30 books and has produced five films in Israel. He also leads annual tours to the Holy Land and is curator of the Liberty Biblical Museum, which houses many of the biblical artifacts he has collected throughout his career.
GATHERING OF THE EXILES: AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, JEWS COME HOME TO ISRAEL

Pray for a peaceful and triumphant return of God’s people to their land of hope and promise. You will be blessed by our new, free daily email devotional--God Keeps Covenant: God’s Heart for Israel. Click to sign up.

Then say, “Save us, O God of our salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name, And glory in Your praise.” (1 Chron 16:35)

Nearly 70 years before the rebirth of the modern State of Israel, the Jewish people began to return to their ancient homeland, as the prophets foretold. And they’re still coming.

It's called 'aliyah' – literally 'going up.' Taken from biblical times, the term describes the Israelites going up to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple. Today, it means immigrating or returning to Israel.

They come from all over the world to a place many have never been. Yet the Jewish people have longed to return to this land for thousands of years.

Sarah, 32, emigrated from France with her husband and baby. Dilan said he emigrated from because "I love Israel!" Debbie, 29, is a psychologist who emigrated from Cordova, Argentina. Nikita emigrated from Russia. He studied nuclear physics and loves Israel.

Gadi emigrated from Brooklyn, NY. "I'm a lawyer in New York and I'm here because it's the only Jewish state there is and I love it here."

Why They Come

CBN'S Scott Ross spoke to some of the new immigrants at a center where many live when they first arrive.

"You're American. Why did you come?" Ross asked Katharine, 26, from Arizona, USA.

"It's a beautiful country. I love it here. Arizona's beautiful, but it's not Israel," she said.

"Because it's a country for Jewish (people)," said David Rujinsky, 21, from the Ukraine. "It's my dream to live here. It's hard to live (the) Jewish religion in Ukraine. I think it's my country, my home."

"Rio de Janeiro is a dangerous city. And the economy there is not so good," Ilan, 29, from Brazil told Ross.

"You said it's a dangerous city there, but Israel's surrounded by people who would like to destroy this land and would like to see the Jews pushed into the sea. You don't feel any fear here, any anxiety?" Ross asked him.

"No, not like in Brazil. I have five friends in Brazil who got (shot) – one died, another one (lost) movement in her left arm. So for sure I feel safer here than in Brazil," Ilan said.

Gathering of the Exiles

Last year, 27,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel, including more than 3,600 from the US.
Ross spoke with Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency, which oversees bringing the Jewish people home.

"For almost 3,000 years we were disconnected, but we were praying for Jerusalem. So it's really the gathering of the exiles and it continues every day," Sharansky told CBN News.

"I'm very proud to be head of the organization now which brought 3.5 million Jews from the creation of the State of Israel and 700,000 from Arab countries; a few hundred thousand Jews from concentration camps from Europe; one million from (the) Soviet Union. We reached Ethiopia and brought more than 100,000 Jews, (and also) the Lost Tribes," Sharansky said.

"What is it that inspires people to do this – (to be) uprooted from their culture, their country, everything they know to come to an unknown land?" Ross asked.

"I lived a life of an absolute assimilated person, without roots and I know how shallow, how decadent is life without identity -- when you can't really connect yourself to anything, when you don't have any heritage to give to your children," Sharansky said. "And then, I also discovered a different life, life with identity, life inside history."

Sharansky made headlines in the 80s as a political prisoner in the former Soviet Union. International pressure led to his release and he immigrated to Israel in 1986.

"I meet with a lot of new immigrants and I love to be in the airport to see the moment of going down from the airplane because you think that after each of these people, there are at least 50 generations of Jews who were praying and dreaming about coming to Jerusalem," Sharansky told us. "And here each of them (is) closing a huge circle of thousands of years of exile."

"So it's a very good place, but it's a very personal decision. And I want to help the people to make this decision, not by giving orders, not by pushing them, even not by shaming them. But simply, by giving them the feeling how good it is," he said. (Excerpts from Julie Stahl and Scott Ross's article on CBN News)

**WHY CHRISTIANS SUPPORT ISRAEL**

God tells us in His Word that “God will bless those who bless Israel.” So we know that this is the heart of God.

“For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye.” (Zech 2:8)

In speeches to fellow Jews around America, I often point out that many American Jews are experiencing cognitive dissonance. The institution Jews most admire — the university — turns out to be the most significant source of Israel hatred in America and the rest of the West. At the same time, the people many Jews most distrust — Christians (especially Evangelical and other conservative Christians) — turn out to be the Jews’ and Israel’s best friends.

Given that these two facts are undeniable, how do many American Jews deal with this dissonance? They largely ignore the Israel hatred on campuses, and they dismiss the authenticity of the Christian support.
They dismiss it by denying it is genuine. Christians who support Israel, they (and non-Jews on the left) argue, do so for two deceptive reasons.

One is they seek to convert Jews.

That Christians seek to convert non-Christians is, of course, true. The primary aim of Christianity, after all, is to spread belief in Christ. But why would anyone think supporting Israel will convert Jews? Does anyone think that Christians who support Israel’s enemies are making Muslims convert to Christianity? The fact is there isn’t a shred of evidence that Jews have converted to Christianity because of Christian support for Israel. Indeed, the Jews who most support Israel are either the most religious or the most strongly identifying secular Jews. Neither is a candidate for conversion.

Another way Christian support for Israel is belittled is by claiming that Christians support Israel in order to hasten the Second Coming of Jesus. But pastor John Hagee, head of Christians United for Israel, the largest pro-Israel organization in America, has said countless times nothing a Christian can do will hasten the return of Jesus; only God will decide when that happens — and in His own good time.

Moreover, even if this were the reason Christians support the Jews and Israel, why would it disturb Jews? It would mean that Christians would support them until Jesus returns. What’s wrong with that?

Having spoken at numerous churches’ “Night to Honor Israel” events, I know how genuine this support is. But last week in Nashville, I witnessed a particularly convincing example of the sincerity of this support. I spoke before thousands of Christians at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention when they gathered one evening solely to express their support for Israel. Maybe five Jews were present. Isn’t thousands of Christians devoting an entire evening to express support for Israel — with essentially no Jews in attendance to witness it — about as convincing a proof of the authenticity of this support as one could imagine?

So, why do Christians support Israel? They believe in supporting American allies and supporting countries that share their moral values. And, unlike the Left, they have moral problems with Islamism, not with Zionism.

But the primary reason virtually every Israel-supporting Christian gives is the biblical verse from Genesis in which God says to Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.” These Christians believe (as does this Jew) God blesses those who treat the Jews decently and curse those who seek to harm the Jews.

You don’t have to be a believer in the God of Abraham or the Bible to accept this proposition. All the Jews’ ancient enemies disappeared from history. And look at what happened to Spain after it expelled its Jews in 1492. One of the greatest powers of the world became largely irrelevant to history within a couple of generations. As for Germans, the perpetrators of the Holocaust, they endured a staggering amount of death and suffering as a result of their support for the greatest Jew hater in history; and their country was divided in half for the next half-century. Likewise, the countries today that most curse the Jews — Arab and other Muslim countries — are among the most benighted countries in the world. If they were to devote to building their countries the money and energy they devote to attempting to destroy Israel, they would be in far better condition morally, socially, economically and politically.
Meanwhile, the country that has most blessed Israel and the Jews is America. No country in the modern period has treated its Jews as well as America has, and no country has stood by Israel as much as America has. And America has been almost uniquely blessed.

These American Christians know something that the secular and left-wing elites do not: The day America abandons Israel will be the beginning of the end of America as we know it.

These people are not fools.

Their detractors are. (Excerpts from Dennis Prager's article in the National Review)