



# HOPE for ISRAEL

*"O Israel put your hope in the LORD..."* Psalm 130:7

## A Word from Moran



*"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"* Deuteronomy 7:6-9

### Shalom from Jerusalem!

May the grace of our God strengthen you and give you peace in Messiah Yeshua until the day of His return. We are devoting this issue of our newsletter to two main issues: first, there is the question of "Will History Repeat Itself?"; and secondly, the amazing miracles connected with the reestablishment of the Jewish State in the Land of Israel.

If you, dear reader, read my opening statement and say in your heart, "Oh no, here we go again, more Zionist propaganda," or simply don't really understand why you should care or be involved, I want to encourage you to read on. I truly believe that the writings in this newsletter will help you to better understand what "Zionism" is and why it matters to all who love the LORD. We desire to raise awareness of a dangerous reality happening today in front of our own eyes; sadly, it is ignored by many, but in fact, it is a clear sign of where we are on God's timeline

for this world. This reality, as you will read in the article "Will History Repeat Itself," is the anti-Israel movement, which is rapidly gaining momentum in the world today. The growing calls for boycotts of Israel in every facet, from academics, agriculture, financial markets, social causes, consumerism, cultural institutions, and even in international sports, is a cause for concern.

A mere 70 years after the Nazis' brutal murder of six million Jewish people in World War II, we again find ourselves in a similar anti-Semitic and anti-Israel atmosphere! In fact, we see the same slandering statements, comics, and articles circulating, which took place prior to the rise of the Nazi regime. The major difference today is something which Martin Luther King Jr. foresaw when he said, "When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism."

In recent meetings with a few tour groups in Israel, I asked how many of them were aware of a movement called BDS (Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions) against Israel. Only a handful of people knew what I was talking about, which, sadly, is one of the greatest victories of this movement. If the opposition of the BDS can be kept quiet, or at least ineffective, then the BDS is effective at doing what it aims to do – to hurt Israel in all areas and make it suffer for the suffering it supposedly inflicts on the Arab people in the disputed territories.

So, why should you care? As followers of Messiah (Jew and Gentile, alike) we are to care

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# MIRACLES: *Re-birth of the Jewish State in the Land of Israel*

After the horrors and tragic losses of the Holocaust, floods of survivors from Europe fled to Eretz Israel, to the land that remained in the hearts of the Jewish people for thousands of years. The re-birth of the State of Israel in 1948 was more than just the fulfillment of 1,900 years of dreams long hoped for – it was also the modern fulfillment of ancient biblical prophecies. For centuries the Jewish people were living off of faith and prophecy that they would one day return to the Land of Promise. Now, in our lifetime, the prophecies given thousands of years ago have unfolded before our very eyes in the 20th and 21st century. The many miracles that we have witnessed for this to take place are simply astounding. The following are testimonies of some of the great miracles that God has performed – from the survival of the Jewish people in the midst of persecution and separation from their ancient homeland, to the establishment of the Jewish State, and what He has done to cause

billion global population. Yet, historically, this tiny people group has been singled out for intense hatred and extermination for centuries – the Crusades, the Inquisition, Muslim oppression, pogroms and in modern times, the Holocaust. After six million lives were taken, this tiny, persecuted, scattered people survived. Not only have they survived – they have thrived.

## **The War of Independence 1948 – Ezekiel 37: 4; 11-14**

*4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!' Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live." 11-14 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause*



the land and the people to flourish and multiply.

## **An Eternal People – Deuteronomy 4:27**

*"And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you."*

It is purely a miracle that the ancient Israelites of biblical times still carry a remnant of people and faith that has lasted throughout the centuries. All other ancient peoples like the Assyrians, Babylonians, Jebusites and the Canaanites are extinct, but the Jewish people have survived throughout the generations. No other people group has survived such scattering and remained a nation. History shows us how ancient peoples and civilizations became assimilated into other groups and nations and eventually any trace of the original was gone. How is it then that the Jewish people were scattered to the four corners of the earth, yet still remain a known people group? The answer – it's simply a miracle!

God also said that the people of Israel would be left few in number while they are scattered among the nations. Today, the Jewish people number 12 million worldwide, a minuscule 0.2 percent of the 7.2

*you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from the your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land."*

The prophet Ezekiel was given a vision by God of a valley of dry bones (the whole house of Israel) and breathed life into them, gave His Spirit and brought them to the land of Israel. After the mass graves were filled with the bones of millions of Jewish men, women and children, and the horrors of the Holocaust came to an end, God fulfilled this prophecy given thousands of years ago when He brought the lifeless remnant of the Jewish people back to the land of Israel, breathing new life into them.

Even though God banished the Israelites from the land He had given them as a result of their disobedience, He also declared that in the "latter days" He would bring them back and re-establish them in the Land of Promise. The prophet Jeremiah wrote of a great restoration that would overshadow the exodus out of Egypt:

*"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that it shall no more be said, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from*

the land of Egypt,' but, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers" (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

Never before has a nation been destroyed, its people dispersed to the ends of the earth, and then, nearly two thousand years later, re-gathered to their homeland and reestablished as a nation. A miracle of re-birth happened on May 14, 1948 when Israel declared itself an independent state. The fulfillment of prophecy was seen so vividly that day when David Ben-Gurion read *The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel*.

When Israel declared itself an independent state on May 14, 1948, still another miracle occurred. The armies of seven Arab nations marched on the newborn state, boasting to "push the Jews into the sea." Outnumbered 100 to 1, Israel not only defended itself but also won victory over additional territory. Yigael Yadin, Israel's commander of operations in the Independence War, could only give explanation of Israel's victory by saying, "It was a miracle!"

as a compass to know what kind of trees to plant and where. Today, Israeli pioneers are developing biblical principles of agriculture to help the Arava and Negev deserts yield produce. The desolate wasteland has now blossomed into an agricultural giant that exports food worldwide – purely a miracle.

### **The Miracle of Immigration – Isaiah 43: 5-6**

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, who I have formed, even whom I have made."*

God fulfilled His Word when He said that He would call His sons and daughters from the four corners of the earth. In Ben-Gurion's Independence Day speech, he declared that Israel "will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion." He gave an open invitation to all Jewish people worldwide to come home, and the floodgates were opened. During the first three years



### **The Wasteland Blooms – Ezekiel 36: 33-35**

*Thus says the Lord God, "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by. They will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'"*

Barren land transformed to the fertility of ancient Israel is a miracle and prophecy that we are seeing fulfilled before our very eyes. In the days before the State of Israel, when the local territory was referred to as "Palestine", most of the region was a swampy wasteland, irreclaimable for agriculture. As the floods of Jewish immigrants from Europe started buying tracts of land and cultivating the soil, the wasteland slowly began to bloom. In Israel's modern era, archeologists have discovered the presence of more than 70 ancient settlement sites in the Jordan Valley alone, each with its own well for water. Wells that can be traced back to biblical times were found and are now used as water supplies for residents throughout Israel. The people began to plant trees and forests in the arid country, using the Bible

of statehood, the average number of immigrants arriving to Israel reached 18,000 a month, some months the figure exceeded 30,000. Between May 15, 1948 and June 30, 1953, the Jewish population of the country doubled. By the end of 1956, Israel's population had nearly tripled, reaching over 1.6 million new immigrants. Imagine the economic shock of absorption. The Jewish people kept pouring into Israel over the decades from every corner of the earth. In the 1980's and early 90's, the Israeli government undertook special airlift operations in order to bring Ethiopian Jews to the country. By 1998, over 800,000 Jewish people arrived from the former Soviet Union. Israel's population increased from 650,000 in 1948 to 8.3 million in 2015. This miracle of absorption will continue until all the people of God throughout the world return to their homeland.

We have seen how God entered history when He preserved the people of Israel throughout the centuries, brought them back to their homeland after prolonged years of persecution and has now helped them to flourish and thrive in their home – the State of Israel. We have seen the faithfulness of God to fulfill His promises, and now we look for future miracles that will take place when God

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# Will History Repeat Itself?

The Holocaust of the twentieth century was the greatest genocidal act against the Jewish people in modern history; six million Jewish brothers and sisters were inhumanely killed. However, the death of these six million did not occur overnight. It was a prolonged and systematic undertaking by the Nazi government in Germany from 1933-1945 under the dictatorial leadership of Adolf Hitler.

The Holocaust that spread across Europe throughout WWII is history's most poignant illustration of anti-Semitism. The term *anti-Semitism* originated in 1879 by German journalist Wilhelm Marr, denoting the hatred of the Jewish people and all the liberal ideologies connected to them during that time, such as equal civil rights, constitutional democracy, free trade, socialism, finance capitalism, and pacifism.

The most common manifestations of anti-Semitism throughout history were pogroms, political propaganda, and economic boycotts specifically directed against the Jewish people. We will see here how these three manifestations came about in Nazi Germany and compare that with the ever-increasing spread of anti-Semitism in the world today. If we are seeing similar manifestations today in different pockets of the world, should we worry that history will repeat itself?

## Pogroms

*Pogrom* is a Russian word meaning "to wreak havoc, to demolish violently." Historically, pogroms were carried out in the Russian Empire starting as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century. These pogroms were violent attacks carried out against the Jewish population by non-Jews. The perpetrators of pogroms organized locally, and sometimes with government or police backing. The Nazis orchestrated a nationwide, single night campaign of street violence known as *Kristallnacht*, which involved burning down synagogues, destroying Jewish-owned homes and businesses, and physical assaults on individuals.

With little to no irony, we are witnessing very similar kinds of violent attacks predominantly throughout Western Europe. This past year alone, violent riots erupted on the streets of Paris where protestors trapped hundreds of Jews inside a synagogue. On separate occasions, rioters attacked Jewish-owned stores in a Jewish suburb of Paris and a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the window of a local synagogue in Germany. Rioters in the streets of London were chant-

ing "Heil Hitler" and "Oh Jew, you will die," and carrying signs that read, "Hitler you were right". In December 2014, three young men broke into the home of a young French-Jewish couple and raped a 19-year old woman. These appalling acts are perpetrated under the guise of solidarity with the pro-Palestinian cause and opposition towards Israel's actions in Gaza and other Palestinian-controlled territories.

## Political Propaganda

Within a few years of the Nazi regime, pogroms were followed by a dramatic surge in discriminatory, anti-Jewish political propaganda. During the first six years of Hitler's iron rule, he ordered over 400 decrees and regulations aimed specifically at the Jewish population, greatly restricted their public and private lives. In 1945, the Nuremberg Laws were enacted, essentially legalizing racism. The laws deprived Jews of German citizenship, prohibited intermarriage between non-Jewish Germans and Jewish Germans, racially defined the Jewish people by blood and called for the separation of "Aryans" and "non-Aryans". The regime's main goal was to ensure that the Nazi propaganda was integrated throughout art, music, theater, films, books, radio, educational materials, and the press. In the words of Hitler himself in an excerpt of his book *Mein Kampf* (1926), "Propaganda tries to force a doctrine on the whole people... Propaganda works on the general public from the standpoint of an idea and makes them ripe for the victory of this idea."

We see similar uses of propaganda among the Palestinian and international community. Strong evidence shows that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas are systematically indoctrinating young and old to believe that Jews/Israelis are an evil, Zionist enemy. The same people that are supposed to be Israel's "partner for peace" are using propaganda tools such as media, education, and all forms of cultural structures to demonize and promote religious hatred. For instance, schoolbooks for all Palestinian children where the Palestinian Authority (PA) Ministry of Education has jurisdiction contain material that repeatedly reject Israel's right to exist. Evidence of this is found on all the maps of "Palestine", as Israel is nowhere to be found. Even television shows for young children on Palestinian TV networks encourage kids to annihilate the Jewish people. Youth are trained to believe that acts of terrorism and suicide bombings

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## Word from Moran

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about the things for which God cares. Our hearts are to align with His, and love that which He loves. From the first book of the Bible, we see a very special relationship between God and a group of people that He chose for His own possession – Israel. God chose Israel because of His love for them – not because of their own merit; God stayed faithful to Israel because of His faithfulness and His grace. The mere fact that Israel exists today – as you will see in detail in the continuation of this newsletter – is nothing but a great miracle of God’s unending faithfulness.

The world, and everything in it, belongs to God. God alone brought His children, Israel, back to the Land that He promised to Abraham. Not only is this a fulfillment of prophecy, but also amazing proof that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the one true God, and that He is faithful to the end. What great comfort and hope we can take in that fact!

May our Lord richly bless you!

*Moran*

## MIRACLES

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fulfills the final prophecies, including that all Israel will be saved! As David Ben-Gurion prophetically proclaimed in His speech, we are “placing our trust in the Rock of Israel.” 🌍

## PROJECT UPDATE Women’s Bible Study

In May 2014, a staff member of Hope for Israel established a women’s bible study for young women in Jerusalem who had recently completed their army service. The idea of this group came as a result of the questions and concerns many girls were expressing in one-on-one counseling sessions with

## Will History Repeat Itself?

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are honorable forms of jihad. This type of political propaganda coming from the Palestinian leadership is guaranteeing that the next generation of Palestinians will grow up seeing Israel as an illegitimate enemy to be hated, fought, and destroyed, rather than as a neighbor to negotiate with and to ultimately live beside in peace.

Not only does this type of disinformation appear within the Palestinian communities, but is also evident throughout the Arab and Western world. With Iranians making public cries of “Death to Israel” and the denial of the Holocaust becoming a prominent theory spreading throughout the Middle East, it is evident that there exists a tremendous misconception about the Jewish State. In the Western world the Jewish state is oftentimes portrayed as an evil, colonial power and Zionism and Israel are equated with terms such as occupation, racism, imperialism, genocide, and apartheid.

### Economic Boycotts

After the Nazis came to power in Germany, the new regime decided to stage an economic boycott against the Jewish community of Germany. On the day of the boycott, Nazi soldiers stood in front of Jewish-owned department stores and retail establishments, and the offices of professionals such as doctors and lawyers, to prevent customers from bringing their business to the Jewish community. The Star of David was painted in yellow and black across thousands of doors and windows, with accompanying anti-Semitic slogans. Signs were posted saying, “Don’t Buy from Jews” and “The Jews are Our Misfortune.”

A similar campaign is occurring today, however, on a much more global scale. Internationally reaching initiatives such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) aim to use economic, political, and academic leverage to place pressure on Israel as a way of supporting the Palestinian agenda. Governments, companies, organizations and individuals are boycotting the buying and selling of goods, products and services from Israel. Their claim for justification is that Israel is an apartheid state and practicing genocide, thereby deserving of boycotts. In addition, there are a growing number of universities boycotting Israeli universities and professors, forbidding any form of collaboration. Much of their effort has warped into anti-Semitic propaganda inciting hatred and at times violence towards the Jewish people and calling for the eradication of the State of Israel.

### Conclusion

The disproportionate targeting of the Jewish people and the Jewish State is becoming widespread. In the aftermath of the moral and societal failures that made the Holocaust possible, it is imperative that we confront all forms of hatred and anti-Semitism emerging in our modern era. Anti-Semitism of old has now taken on a new form and we can oftentimes recognize it as anti-Zionism or anti-Israel. The Nazi persecution of the Jewish people began with hateful words, escalated to discrimination and dehumanization, and culminated in genocide. After comparing the Nazi use of pogroms, political propaganda and boycotts, we can easily conclude that we are seeing similar kinds of genocidal pledges that were witnessed in the time of Nazi rule. The question is on which side of history will you stand? Will we let history repeat itself? 🌍

our staff member. They raised important issues concerning their daily walk with the Lord. After meeting with a number of young women, it was clear that many of them were struggling with similar issues and needed a place

to find encouragement in the faith alongside other young women in similar positions.



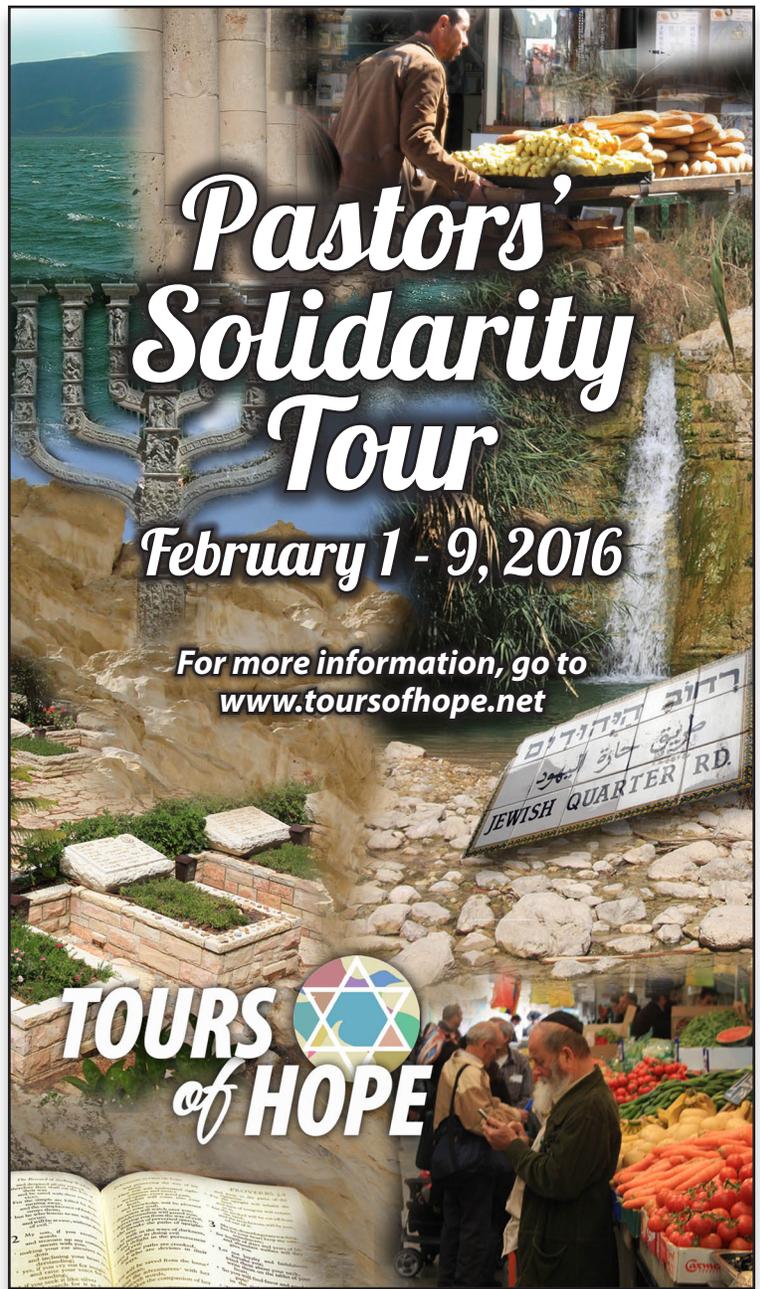
Since that time, the women’s bible study has expanded and evolved to reach a variety of women at different stages of life, all with a shared desire to be strengthened in their relationship with God and one another. The purpose

of the gathering is to help women develop the ability to understand and apply God’s

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For more information, go to [www.hope4israel.org](http://www.hope4israel.org)



# Pastors' Solidarity Tour

February 1 - 9, 2016

For more information, go to [www.toursofhope.net](http://www.toursofhope.net)

TOURS of HOPE

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Word in such a way that they will bear fruit in their daily lives. It is to equip them to grow in the Word and their relationship with God without having to lean on "intermediaries" such as congregations, family and friends.

Looking back at the first year since the women's group was established, we are blessed to witness great fruit from these monthly meetings. The girls are being strengthened personally and are encouraging one another in all aspects of life—work, family, dreams and visions for the future. One of the girls who attends comes from a family where

she and her mother are the only believers. She shared how the bible study has strengthened her and her mother to be praying for the salvation of the entire family. Another girl, when openly expressing her heart, said "I've been so confused and far from God, but now I am reading His Word daily. Halleluiah! Glory be to God!"

It uplifts us as we see these women pressing forward in faith and growing in the likeness of our Messiah. He is faithful to pour out His mercies and loving kindness on His children every day. 🌍

## Final Word

**In order to accomplish the great work the Lord has for us, we do need your prayer and financial support. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Hope for Israel ministry.**

**Please make all checks payable to Hope for Israel.**