

ISRAEL NEWS FROM **CALVARY CHAPEL** **JERUSALEM**

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SHARON PLANNING TO BOMB SETTLEMENTS?

Deputy Education Minister Tzvi Hendel (National Union) says there are "secret plans" in the Prime Minister's Office to suppress the Israeli residents in Gaza during their planned evacuation. Hendel told Voice of Israel today that the secret plans include shutting off electricity and all communications (telephone, cellular phones, radio) so that the residents will not be able to coordinate with each other during the eviction. Every building evacuated is to be immediately destroyed - either via bulldozer or explosives.

Hendel also noted that the plan provides for the evacuating forces to act forcefully against the expelled settlers - while at the same time making sure not to clash with the Arabs standing at the community gates and celebrating their victory. Hamas leaders have indicated that they will make sure that the world understands that they forced the Israelis out - and to this end will fire weapons at the departing buses and trucks.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office denied that such a document exists or was prepared. (Arutz 7)

MEANWHILE: SHARON PROPOSES EGYPTIAN ARMY TAKE GAZA

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed that instead of striving for a demilitarized "Palestinian" Gaza Strip, Israel should invite the Egyptian Army to deploy in place of the IDF [Israel Defense Force], thus putting Egyptian forces essentially at the gates of Ashkelon and within 40 miles of Tel Aviv. (Maariv) reports that Sharon revealed his proposal to a group of distraught Israeli brass at a recent meeting and has already made the offer to Egypt. So far Egypt has rejected the opportunity to remove the key element of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty that made possible Israeli withdrawal from the entire Sinai: a series of progressively more restricted limited force zones spanning the Sinai to protect Israel against surprise invasion.

PALESTINIANS DEVELOPING LONG-RANGE MISSILES

General Security Services (Shin Bet) commander Avi Dichter told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Palestinians are trying to develop artillery and other weapons systems that would render the separation barrier ineffective.

He said Israel's planned unilateral disengagement would not have any affect on the Palestinians. "They would be developing such weapons whether we stay or leave Gaza," he said. He also said that he did not think the disengagement would change the Palestinian political map. " Hamas is not going to take over after we leave. The PA has more resources, and Hamas knows this and will not opt for a showdown."

He said that Israel might be forced to invade Gaza for a limited period after the withdrawal, if the Palestinians start using any long-range weapons they would have developed.

SAUDI OIL DRYING UP?

Saudi Arabia faces increasing difficulty in extracting oil as the kingdom's production capacity appears to have peaked after more than 60 years of operations. A leading oil expert told the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies that Saudi oil fields have been operating from as early as 1940 and that the last huge oil field was discovered in 1967. Matthew Simmons, an energy investment banker and regarded as a key adviser of the Bush administration, said the extraction of oil in Saudi Arabia will become increasingly difficult.

"The small number of great but old oil fields in Saudi Arabia that created 'the miracle' are now facing challenges," Simmons said. "The easy oil era is over and Saudi Arabia could face a steady but slow decline in oil production". (MENL)

25% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE JEWS KILLED JESUS

One in four Americans believes the Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus, a new survey shows.

The survey, sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), was conducted in December, before the release of Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ." The film premiered on February 25 in 2,800 theaters throughout the United States, and most showings were sold out.

Anti-Defamation League Director Abraham Foxman says he finds it worrisome that so many Americans already believe the Jews are to blame for the death of Jesus. He says the film, which blames the Jews specifically for the crucifixion of Jesus, may strengthen this perception.

The ADL poll found the belief in the culpability of the Jews was stronger among older Americans, those with less formal education, and among African and Hispanic Americans. (Ha'aretz)

Note from Pastor Kevin: It is clear from the following verses that the

Jew's/Romans were not alone in their killing of Jesus. His death was a result of Jesus' willingness to lay down His life so that we can be saved. He took our sins upon Himself and then accepted the punishment we deserved. Therefore, it was all of us who killed Jesus. We should rejoice that Jesus obeyed the Father unto death, even death on the Cross. In doing so He made a way for us to be saved. He proved His power to give us life by His resurrection on the third day. Praise God that all who have faith in Jesus will also raise to everlasting life!

2 Cor 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJ)

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." (NKJ)

John 12:27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." 29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." 30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. 31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (NKJ)

“SILVER SCROLLS” OLDEST OT SCRIPTURES FOUND

While excavating a burial tomb near Jerusalem in 1979, Gabriel Barkay uncovered the oldest known copy of Old Testament scripture. The priestly blessing, recorded in Numbers 6:24-26, was discovered on two small silver scrolls dated to the 7th century B.C....

“This was a discovery of utmost importance,” said Barkay, professor of archaeology at Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv. “These verses pre-date the famous Dead Sea Scrolls by approximately four centuries. They are the only biblical verses we have from the time of the First Temple [period].”....

Barkay spoke of the discovery at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 18 — one of only two lectures during a trip to America. His was the inaugural lecture offered the seminary's new Center for Archaeological Research....

Steven Ortiz, assistant professor of archaeology and biblical studies and director of the Center for Archaeological Research at NOBTS, served as field archaeologist at the Ketef Hinnom site where the scrolls were found. When Ortiz heard that Barkay was coming to America to lecture at Emory University, he convinced his archaeology mentor to come to New Orleans to speak as well. Asking Barkay to deliver the center's first lecture was an easy decision, Ortiz said....

“It took us three years to unroll it [the larger scroll],” Barkay said. “When unrolled, it was covered with very delicately scratched characters. The first word we could decipher was the ‘YHWH’ — sometimes anglicized as ‘Jehovah.’ This is the name of the Lord in the Hebrew Bible.”....

Until this time no inscriptions with the name of God had been found in Jerusalem....The larger of the two scrolls was only about three inches long when it was unrolled. The smaller one was just over two inches long. Barkay said the thin fragile silver of each scroll was etched with 19 lines of tiny, Hebrew script. It was years before researchers realized that the inscription was an almost exact representation of the priestly blessing found in Numbers. Careful study revealed that the Hebrew characters used were distinctive of the 7th century B.C....

In English the verses read: “The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”....

The find is significant because it helps establish the historicity and the age of Old Testament scripture. In the late 1800s German higher critics began questioning the date the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) was composed in written form. Many of these critics argued that this section of scripture was written some time after the Babylonian exile....According to Barkay, the discovery of this early biblical inscription is an important part of the argument for an early dating of the Old Testament. He acknowledges that the find does not prove that the Pentateuch was written by the 7th century. However, it is strong evidence for that position. <http://www.sbc Baptistpress.org/bpnews.asp?ID17741>

NEWS REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

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