

ISRAEL UPDATE

March 12, 2023

TOPICS

- Ancient Prophecies
- The Modern Miracle
- Some contemporary thinking
- The World's Only Hope



“10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS IN ISRAEL”

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Sign #1: The Diaspora

The Bible prophesied the Jewish diaspora. The Nation of Israel would dwell for many years outside of their country and promised land. After this time had elapsed they would return to their ancient possession. The predictions were exact and complete making the nation's return a supernatural happening of our age. A modern miracle. They were dispersed for over 1,900 years. They are there again today.

- Hosea 3:4-5 – “For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.”
- Hosea 6:1 – “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.”

To see the rest of the passage fulfilled, Israel needs only to turn to God. For David to become their king once again, there will be a resurrection from the dead.

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Sign #2: The Return

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible passages predict the return of Israel to the land of Palestine. Here are only two.

- Ezekiel 20:34 – “I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered — with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.”
- Isaiah 11:11-12 NIV – “In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.”

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Sign #3: Buying back the land

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. just as the nation of Judah was being destroyed and the people taken captive into the land of Babylon. He spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting nearly a century ago – they bought back the land.

- Jeremiah 32:44 NIV – “Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD.”

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Sign #4: Israel – Reborn in a day

Israel, a nation that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was born in a day.

- Isaiah 66:8 NIV – “Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children.”

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Sign #5: The order of return

The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from the western countries of Europe, especially Germany. Then they came in great numbers from Russia (north) during the end of the 1980's. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south. This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet.

- Isaiah 43:5-6,21 – “Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children 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...” “... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”
- Psalm 107:2-3 NIV – “Let the redeemed of the LORD say this — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

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Sign #6: A pure language

With the return of the nation, the ancient Hebrew language has been revived and become the official language of the state. Prior to this happening, the Jews spoke an impure form of the language called Yiddish. The return to a pure common language was again predicted by the prophets.

- Zephaniah 3:8-10 KJV – “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, [even] the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering”.

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Sign #7: The shekel

After nearly 2,000 years the shekel has been reinstated as the common monetary unit in Israel, again, just as predicted.

- Ezekiel 45:12-16 NIV – “The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel.”

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Sign #8: Named cities of Israel

There are many cities in Israel that bear the ancient names of previous Jewish cities. Some of these that bear their Biblical identification include: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being destroyed, Ezekiel the prophet predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in the exact locations.

- Ezekiel 36:11; 24 KJV – “And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”

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Sign #9: Cities excepted – never to be inhabited

Jesus pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins today.

- Matthew 11:21-23 NIV – “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.”

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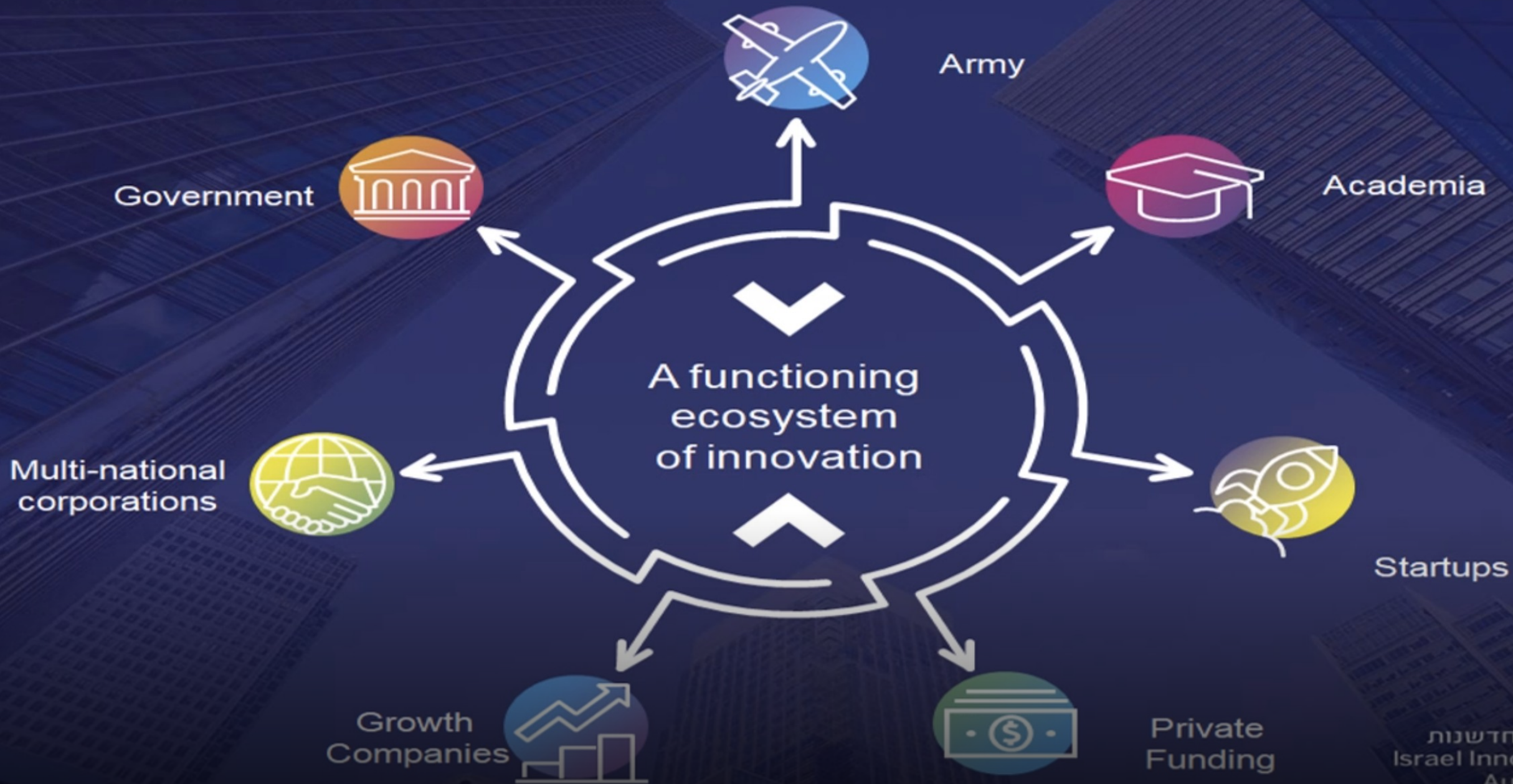
Sign #10: From desolation to productivity

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing, and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. Should we say, “Again, just as predicted!”

- Isaiah 27:6 NIV – “In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.”
- Isaiah 35:1-2 NIV – “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy....”



➤ What Makes Israel Successful?



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“If the Arabs put down their weapons today there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.”

Benjamin Netanyahu

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"O God, do not keep silence;
do not hold your peace or be still, O
God!

For behold, your enemies make an
uproar; those who hate you have raised
their heads.

They lay crafty plans against your
people; they consult together against
your treasured ones.

They say, "Come, let us wipe them out
as a nation; let the name of Israel be
remembered no more!"

Psalms 83:1-4

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”For they conspire with one accord;
against you they make a covenant— the
tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
Moab and the Hagrites (Ishmaelites),
Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia
with the inhabitants of Tyre; Asshur also
has joined them; they are the strong arm
of the children of Lot.”

Psalms 83:5-8

“Let them be put to shame and dismayed
forever; let them perish in disgrace, that
they may know that you alone, whose
name is the LORD, are the Most High over
all the earth.”

Psalms 83:17-18

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“Woe to Nebo, for it is laid waste!
Kiriathaim is put to shame, it is taken;
the fortress is put to shame and broken
down; the renown of Moab is no more.
In Heshbon they planned disaster
against her: ‘Come, let us cut her off
from being a nation!’”

Jeremiah 48:1-2

“Because you said, ‘These two nations and these
two countries shall be mine, and we will take
possession of them’—although the LORD was
there— therefore, as I live, declares the Lord GOD,
I will deal with you according to the anger and envy
that you showed because of your hatred against
them. And I will make myself known among them,
when I judge you. And you shall know that I am the
LORD.

Ezekiel 35:10-12

HOW DO I PASS THE ISRAEL TEST?

GEORGE GILDER – PRAGER U.COM

How do you respond to people who excel you in invention, creativity, and wealth? Do you envy them? Do you feel their success somehow diminishes you? Or do you admire what they've achieved and try to emulate it?

+ These questions sum up what I call “The Israel Test.”



• In the 1880s, European Jews settled in mandate Palestine and wrought an agricultural miracle in that desolate territory, then sparsely populated by a few score thousand Jews and a couple hundred thousand Arabs.

The Jewish settlers drained malarial swamps, leached salt from the soils, terraced the barren hills, and planted millions of trees. They massively expanded the capacity of the land and enabled it to support a substantial Arab population.

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In the two decades between 1921 and 1943, Jews quadrupled the number of enterprises, multiplied the number of jobs by a factor of 10, and increased the level of capital investment a hundredfold. Far from displacing Arabs, they provided the capital for a major expansion of Arab farms and enabled a sevenfold rise in Arab population by 1948, to a level of 1.35 million, the largest in the long history of Palestine. In other words, the Arabs came to what would soon be the State of Israel - because of the Jews.

By comparison, Trans-Jordan, now known as Jordan, with the same geological endowment and four times the land, but no Jews, was able to sustain a population density only one tenth of the population density of Palestine.

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Crucial to Israel's accomplishments were world leading technological advances in the recovery of water through desalinization, drip irrigation, and sewage recycling.

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 - Over the past fifty years, Israel has increased its population tenfold, its agricultural production sixteen fold and its industrial production fifty-fold while actually reducing net water consumption by ten percent since 1948. This huge expansion of effective water resources enabled the land to support not only more Jews, but also millions more Arabs.
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HOW DO I PASS THE ISRAEL TEST?

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Today the state of Israel with its astonishing achievements in computer science and other high tech fields distills both the genius of the Jews and the misdirected anger of the failed states that surround her.

- The great divide in the Middle East is not between Arab and Jew but between admiration of achievement, along with a desire to replicate it, and envy accompanied by violent resentment.

People who admire success, who pass the Israel Test, tend to be wealthy and peaceful. People who resent achievement, who fail the Israel Test, tend to become poor and violent.

HOW DO I PASS THE ISRAEL TEST?

GEORGE GILDER – PRAGER U.COM

So, again...

How do you respond to people who excel you in invention, creativity, and wealth?

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 - Do you envy them? Do you feel their success somehow diminishes you?
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- +
 - Or do you admire what they've achieved and try to emulate it?

The Israel Test is the central divide in the world today.

How you answer it as an individual test, and ultimately how we answer it as a nation is a test of our own will to triumph over enemies who hate us, as they hate Israel, for what is best within us.

I'm George Gilder -- a non-Jew who has passed the Israel Test -- for Prager University.

GEORGE GILDER

"Gilder's originality, plus the sheer force of his enthusiasm for the extraordinary virtues of the beleaguered Jewish state, sweep away the prevailing vitriol and make for a book that is nothing less than thrilling to read."
—Norman Podhoretz



The **ISRAEL TEST**

WHY THE WORLD'S MOST BESIEGED STATE IS
A BEACON OF FREEDOM AND HOPE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY

WITH A FOREWORD BY SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN

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•“George Gilder has written a superlative defense of capitalism and how it relates to Israel becoming the world’s most advance nation in the development of the new technologies, second only to the United States. Tiny Israel, barely the size of New Jersey, with a population of more than seven million has more brain power than all of Europe.”

•Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfield

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•“Today, an outsized share of the world’s genius resides in Israel.

Israel has become a center of innovation second in absolute achievement only to the United States, and on a per capita basis dwarfing the contributions of all other nations, America included.

How Israel is treated by the rest of the world thus represents a crucial test for human civilization and indeed survival.”

•The Israel Test (pg 95)

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- + ● “Israelis now purify and recycle some 95 percent of the nation’s sewage, including imports of sewage from the West Bank and Gaza – *“They sell us sewage and we give them potable water,”* said an Israeli official. Israel is pioneering ever more efficient forms of drip irrigation and gains some 50 percent of its water from world-leading desalinization plants. With an array of new hydrological innovations, Israel provides the crucial answers to the acute water crisis that afflicts the Middle East and much of the rest of the world. Just as the Israeli settlers enabled the emergence of an economy in Palestine, so they offer the prospect of saving the entire Middle East from water exhaustion and poverty after the oil boom ends.”
- ● •The Israel Test (pg. 61) 2012

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“But without the presence of the Jews, there is no evidence that the Palestinians would particularly want these territories for a nation. When they were held under Jordanian and Egyptian rule between 1848 and 1967, after all, there was no significant move to create a Palestinian state, but there was a continuing migration toward the peace and prosperity that the Jews were creating.

Hostility toward Jews stems not from any alleged legal violations or untoward violence, but from their exceptional virtues. This is the essence of anti-Semitism.”

•The Israel Test (pg. 19) 2012

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“The Israel test forces a remorseless realism. It disallows all the bumper-sticker contradictions of pacifistic bellicosity. Either the world, principally the United States, supports Israel, or Israel, one way or another, will be destroyed. There are no other realistic choices. And If Israel is destroyed, capitalist Europe will likely die as well, and America, as the protected home of productive and creative capitalism spurred by Jews, will be in jeopardy.”

•The Israel Test (pg. 19) 2012

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"We've been around for almost 4,000 years. We have experienced struggle and suffering like no other people. We've gone through expulsions and pogroms and massacres and the murder of millions.

"But I can say that even at the dearth of – even at the nadir of the valley of death, we have never lost hope and we never lost our dream of re-establishing as a sovereign state in our ancient homeland, the land of Israel. And now it falls on my shoulders as the prime minister of Israel at a time of extraordinary instability and uncertainty in the Middle East to work with you to fashion a peace that will ensure Israel's security and will not jeopardize its survival.

"I take this responsibility with pride but with great humility, because, as I told you in our conversation, we don't have a lot of margin for error and because, Mr. President, history will not give the Jewish people another chance."

Benjamin Netanyahu

Quoted from a joint press conference with President Obama.

The Israel Test (pg. 153) 2012

Israel: the eternal hope of the world....

“But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43:1-3

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:5-7

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31



ISRAEL: THE LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY

- “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the *glory of the LORD* has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Isaiah 60:1-3
- For thus says the LORD:
“Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and *the glory of the nations* like an overflowing stream....”
 - Isaiah 66:12

Israel, the eternal hope of the world....

“It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the
nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to
the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.

“For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and
their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they learn war
anymore.”

Isaiah 2:2-4