

# Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

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April 2018

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## Celebrating 70 ‘Supernatural’ Years

God is fulfilling His promises to the Jews for the exaltation of His Holy name

Louis XIV, the Sun King, asked Blaise Pascal, the noted French philosopher, to give him proof of the supernatural. Pascal replied: “Why, the Jews, your Majesty—the Jews.”

We find there are two categories of daily news feeds directed to our domain. One consists of little more than insulting *tweets* exchanged between those who should know better and those who really don’t matter. The second category is ALL OTHER NEWS, where we do in fact find incredibly encouraging reports—many of them emanating from biblical Israel.

For the people of Israel, and especially her longsuffering and most patient prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the dark night of the Obama years has passed. The United States is officially moving its embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem this month, even as Israel celebrates its 70th birthday as a nation. According to press reports, President Trump is considering a schedule change, so he can personally oversee a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Israel’s eternal capital city.

In other breaking news, tiny Israel is now ranked among the top 10 most powerful and innovative countries in the world in two separate surveys published by major American media outlets.

U.S. News and World Report ranks “...Israel as the 8th-most-powerful nation based upon its military might, strong international alliances, and economic and political influence. The survey, conducted in collaboration with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the BAV Group, is based upon data collected from some 21,000 people in four different global regions who were asked to associate 80 nations with specific qualities.”<sup>1</sup>

This report, however, is much more than just encouraging. As Pascal would say, it’s “supernatural!”

Speaking at the annual Independence Day reception hosted for the diplomatic community, Benjamin Netanyahu said that this [year] is not only the 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, but also the 70th anniversary of the rebirth of the Jewish people, which he said had nearly become extinct. “Jews,” noted Netanyahu, “were subjects of pity or derision and victims of many pogroms, the worst of all being the Holocaust.”<sup>2</sup>

Rabbi Dovie Schochet, a London-based high school teacher and freelance writer, reinforces Netanyahu’s remarks, reminding his readers that for almost as long as the Jewish nation has existed, its people have been harshly persecuted and dispersed to many foreign lands. “These times of national displacement,” he writes, “are known in Hebrew as *galut*, exile. Four “primary periods of exile are known as *arba galuyot*.”<sup>3</sup>

Schochet says the prophet Daniel had a vision pointing to the four exiles of the Jewish nation... (*I saw in my vision by night...four great beasts*). “Each creature symbolized an exile that the Jewish people were to undergo. The first was Babylon, the second Media-Persia, the third Greece,

and finally, Edom, commonly identified as Rome.” <sup>ibid</sup>

While many Christians are familiar with these biblically-recorded prophetic events, Schochet says few are aware that Jews were forced to leave England in 1290, France in 1306, Spain in 1492, and Portugal in 1497. Further, by order of the pope, Venice’s Jews were locked up in a ghetto in 1516, Lithuania’s Jews were ordered to wear a yellow hat in 1710, [and] in more recent times, Hitler ordered German Jews to wear a yellow star, and six million Jews from all over Europe perished in the Holocaust that followed. <sup>4</sup>

Arguably, things that have led captains of science, technology, industry, and agriculture to rate Israel 8<sup>th</sup> in the world, strongly suggest that we are living in that day spoken of by the prophets. Surely it is by the hand of the Lord that Jacob is experiencing such blessings in a land almost bereft of natural resources.

Observers note that much has been achieved due to Israel’s special emphasis in the areas of advanced education and scientific research. “Two examples of this synthesis are Israel’s military infrastructure and its agriculture, both critical to the nation’s survival.” <sup>5</sup>

“Faced with well-equipped Arab armies and difficulty in obtaining weaponry from abroad, the Israeli leadership determined to do what it could to provide its own weapons. In 1951, the government launched Israel Aircraft Industries and the Technion opened an aeronautical engineering department; both have proved to be “wise investments.” Agricultural innovations, aimed at producing food for a rapidly growing population, have included drip irrigation, agro-mechanical equipment and, more recently, the use of plant genetics to produce better-yielding and more disease-resistant crops.

“Cybertech Israel, the largest annual cyber-technologies event outside of the United States, is a yearly occurrence at the Tel Aviv convention center. The 2018 event, held during the last week of January, hosted over 13,000 attendees and 120 global technology companies presenting technology solutions in finance, transportation, utilities, defense, R&D, manufacturing, telecommunication, health and government.

“The Bloomberg Global Innovation Index is a list published yearly in January, highlighting the 50 most innovative and impressive countries in the global technology market. In the 2018 list, Israel is ranked number ten in the world, dropping six places compared to 2015.

Further, “Israel’s high-tech sector attracted a staggering \$5.24 billion in investment during 2017, according to the Israel Venture Capital Research Center (IVC). This number represents a 9% increase over 2016’s amount. Four large deals worth over \$100 million each contributed significantly to this growth. In the fourth quarter of 2017 alone, Israeli tech companies raised \$1.44 billion. Exits from Israeli high-tech companies (mergers, acquisitions, and IPO’s), totaled \$7.44 billion in 2017.” <sup>ibid</sup>

### **“I will bring them back to this place”**

To be honest, here in the USA, we are most wearied by network “news-talk,” Hollywood, and big-city politics. Our fervor, however, comes from serving the *Living God*, who long ago said to His prophets:

*“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in my fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. They shall be My people, and I will be their God (Jeremiah 32: 37, 38).*

Best wishes to our many friends in Israel. May your 70<sup>th</sup> national birthday be blessed!

*Rick Forcier*

<sup>1</sup> [jns.org/israel-ranked-as-one-of-the-worlds-most-powerful-and-innovative-countries/](https://jns.org/israel-ranked-as-one-of-the-worlds-most-powerful-and-innovative-countries/)

<sup>2</sup> [jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Netanyahu-urges-foreign-diplomats-to-speak-out-against-Iran-551267](https://jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Netanyahu-urges-foreign-diplomats-to-speak-out-against-Iran-551267)

<sup>3</sup> [chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/3671017/jewish/Discover-the-Four-Exiles-of-the-Jewish-People.htm](https://chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/3671017/jewish/Discover-the-Four-Exiles-of-the-Jewish-People.htm) (Dovie)

<sup>4</sup> [chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-met-israel-70th-grossman-20180412-story.html](https://chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-met-israel-70th-grossman-20180412-story.html)

<sup>5</sup> [jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-science-and-technology-in-israel](https://jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-science-and-technology-in-israel)