

# Israel Uncovers 1,700 Year-Old Mosaic in Lod

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*“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.” Ps. 119:114*

**ISRAEL UNCOVERS 1,700 YEAR-OLD MOSAIC IN LOD:** According to Dr. Amir Gorzalczany, the director of the current excavation, the diggings at the site exposed a villa that included a large luxurious mosaic-paved reception room, known as a triclinium. An internal columned courtyard, also with mosaics, and a water system were also uncovered. “We found evidence for Mediterranean luxury that characterized the Roman Empire, including attributes such as fresco wall paintings,” said Gorzalczany. The mosaics depict realistic and fantastic animals, complex geometric designs and marine scenes that incorporate a multitude of fish and two ships. “The archaeological excavation that we carried out this month has contributed significantly to our understanding of the villa building” said Gorzalczany. (J.Post)

**CHRISTIAN-ERA POTTERY FACTORY UNVEILED IN ISRAEL:** Israeli archaeologists on Tues. 31 July 2018 unveiled a major pottery plant which produced wine storage jars continuously from Roman to Byzantine times. The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) said that excavations near the town of Gedera, south of Tel Aviv, revealed the factory and an adjacent leisure complex of 20 bathing pools and a room used for board games. Excavation director Alla Nagorsky said that from the third century AD the plant produced vessels of a type known to historians as "Gaza" jars for an unbroken period of 600 years. "This kind of a place is not built in an instant," she said. "An engineer worked on it. The site is exceptionally designed." "The continuous production of these jars probably

indicates that the business was a family one, which passed from generation to generation," the IAA said in a statement. It said the remains of around 100,000 jars found buried at the site were probably discarded rejects.

Alongside the factory, it added, were two Byzantine bathhouses, at least one with a heating boiler and 20 "finely constructed" pools, connected to one another by channels and pipes. The archaeologists consider that the water complex served both the local population and the many travelers along the ancient main road connecting the port of Gaza with the centre of the country. At Gedera, the IAA said, the games room was "a rare and surprising discovery". In it were boards used for playing backgammon and "mancala", games which are still popular in the area. The Gedera pottery works may have built the leisure centre for its employees, just as today's hi-tech companies provide recreation facilities for their workers.

(AFP) **No matter what part of the land in which you might find yourself, Israel will unfold evidence of her ancient past and innovative future. *"For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust."* Ps. 102:14**

**JOIN US IN JERUSALEM FOR THE SUCCOT CELEBRATIONS 2018:** This year's dates are September 25-27, 2018. Tickets are going fast so reserve your places now at: <https://succotcelebration2018.eventbrite.com>. The Bible teaches us the importance of remembering and celebrating the goodness of our Father at all times. Even in the middle of the barren desert, God gave the Israelites coverings, food, water and clothing. Vision for Israel feels honored to be the outworking of His care in Israel in the challenging times she still faces as a nation. Even through increasing poverty and threats to Israel's safety as a nation, we see new measures of His faithfulness and His everlasting love! During this memorable time, let's unite in Israel for Succot 2018 to thank and praise Him. We will: experience praise and worship with Paul Wilbur, Joshua Aaron, and local teams; enjoy teachings from Dennis Greenidge, Benjamin Siegal, David Herzog, Barry and Batya Segal, and more, focused on Israel and the Middle East. We will also walk and dance on the

streets of Jerusalem during the annual Jerusalem parade!

**TRUMP WARNS UN FOR HYPOCRISY ON PLO, HAMAS AND ISRAEL:** Last year, Iran's contribution to UNRWA was zero. Algeria's contribution to UNRWA was zero. Tunisia's contribution to UNRWA was zero. USA Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said days ago that "Last year the United States gave 364 million dollars. And that's on top of what the American people give annually to the Palestinians in bilateral assistance. That is another 300 million dollars just last year, and it averages to more than a quarter of a billion dollars every year since 1993." Haley delivered this stern warning: "But we are not fools. If we extend a hand in friendship and generosity, we do not expect our hand to be bitten. And as we extend our hand, we also expect others to extend their hands as well."

Haley emphasized that Arab countries' giving more money was not the only issue confronting them: "Too often, the Arab countries give just enough money and mouth just enough uncompromising words to stay out of the crosshairs of Palestinian representatives. But if they really cared about the Palestinian people, they would not do that. Instead, they would condemn extremism and they would put forth serious ideas for compromises that could end this struggle and lead to a better life for the Palestinian people. They would tell the Palestinian leadership how foolish they look for condemning a peace proposal they haven't even seen yet." Haley called out both aberrant PLO and Hamas leaderships: "The Palestinian leadership has been allowed to live a false reality for too long because Arab leaders are afraid to tell them the truth. It is time for the regional states in particular to step up and really help the Palestinian people, instead of just making speeches thousands of miles away. Those regional States - Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon – can really help by sitting down with Israel and negotiating an end to the 100-years old Arab-Jewish conflict as formulated 51 years ago by UN Security Council Resolution 242. Delivering this message to the UN has been long overdue." (Arutz-7)

## **ISRAEL TRYING TO PREVENT A MASSACRE OF SYRIANS ON GOLAN**

**HEIGHTS BORDER:** Israel has asked Russia to ensure that Syrian government forces do not harm or massacre civilians in the south of the war-torn country as they complete their takeover of the area bordering Israel's Golan Heights from rebel groups. Israeli officials passed on the message to the Kremlin via diplomatic channels on Monday night, 30 July 2019 as the Syrian government regained control of the frontier for the first time in seven years, after ISIS-linked groups gave up their last pocket of territory in the area. In recent years Israel has been engaged in a massive multi-faceted humanitarian relief operation to keep thousands of Syrians along the border from starving or falling ill due to the lack of food and basic medical care. The Jewish state has also treated thousands of people in field hospitals on the border and in public hospitals, mostly in northern Israel, since 2013. Since 2016, as part of Operation Good Neighbor, more than 600 Syrian children, accompanied by their mothers, have come to Israel for treatment. Hundreds of tons of food, medical equipment and clothing have also been sent across the border to Syria. (Koenig) **Israel has made friends of many former enemies in Syria with her constant stream of compassionate aid to a stricken people. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."**  
**Mat. 5: 44-45.**

## **RUSSIA: DEAL REACHED TO KEEP IRAN 85 KM FROM ISRAELI-SYRIAN**

**BORDER:** After Israel rejected an offer to keep Iranian forces 100 km from border, Russian Presidential Special Envoy for Syria Alexander Lavrentyev claims "As we took into account the Israeli concerns, we managed to attain the pullout of Iranian units 85 kilometers (some 53 miles) from the Israeli border." Last month, Israel rejected a Russian offer to keep Iranian forces in Syria 100 km (62 miles) from the border, with PM Benjamin Netanyahu telling Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov that it was not enough. "We will not allow the Iranians to establish themselves even 100 kilometers from the border," Netanyahu told Lavrov, according to an Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity. He further clarified that Israel will maintain full freedom of operations for the IDF, and detailed what the removal of Iran from Syria should entail: "First of all, all the long-range weapons must be removed from Syria; precise weapons production must be stopped; other strategic weapons, such as air defense, must be removed as well; the border crossings that allow the smuggling of these weapons must be closed, including on the Syrian-Lebanese border where weapons are smuggled into Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Syrian border through which weapons are smuggled from Iran into Syria itself." Russia has warned it would be unrealistic to expect Iran to fully withdraw from the country. However, Moscow has said it wants to see the separation of forces on the frontier preserved. (Ynet) **Iran is a dangerous and unpredictable enemy with a vision to destroy Israel that has been stated repeatedly over the decades. In its alliance with Syria to fight off opposition groups to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iran has steadily gained a much desired foothold in that country and is within far closer striking range of the Jewish state. What one official sees is "the Iranians will increase, slowly but steadily, to get themselves not just entrenched in Syria but entrenched within the Syrian army, and this is what they are doing. They will work to upgrade the arsenal of missiles and develop them with much more accuracy and will pursue their efforts to establish intelligence facilities, etc." Continue to pray for the safety of Israel's northern both by heaven and Israel's security forces. "Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."**  
*Ps. 121:4*

**JEWISH CAMP FORCED TO EVACUATE DUE TO FOREST FIRES:** Campers and staffers were evacuated from Camp Tawonga in Northern California Tues. morning 31 July 2018, due to potentially harmful smoke from backfires set by firefighters battling the Ferguson Fire near Yosemite National Park. The main fire

has so far burned 57,000 square miles of forestland. At least 16 active wildfires are scorching California, killing at least eight people and destroying more than 1,000 homes and businesses. (JTA)

*The suggestions, opinions and scripture references made by JNN writers and editors are based on the best information received.*