

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Temple Institute Moves Ahead With Plans For Third Temple

BY TOM OLAGO NOVEMBER 08, 2016

The Temple Institute is unrelentingly pulling out all the stops via a multi-faceted approach to ensure that the 3rd Jewish Temple will finally be built. If sheer zeal and commitment alone could accomplish the project, it would certainly have been accomplished a long while ago.

But as Andrew Tobin for the Times of Israel recently reported, the problem for proponents of this project is that the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem is sacred not only to Jews but to Muslims and Christians too.

The site includes the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, two of the most significant shrines in Islam.

The Temple Institute's growth has coincided with increased mainstream support for Jewish access to the Temple Mount. A large minority of Israelis now opposes the restriction on Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount, according to polls.

The ardent drive to build continues to manifest in various ways. The Temple Institute, dedicated to rebuilding the ancient holy site, is now using new internet tools to bring its message to the masses.

A new YouTube video message titled “It's Time To Build” was released ahead of the Jewish fast day of Tisha B Av (which commemorates the Second Temple's destruction in 70 CE by the Romans) as part of the Temple Institute's strategy of using the new tools of the internet to bring its ancient message to the masses.

The phrase encapsulates the group's controversial mission to rally Jews to reconstruct the temple that was the heart of their religion until its destruction 2,000 years ago.

Tobin further notes that over much of those two millennia, mourning the loss of the temple and longing for its restoration has been central to Jewish thought and practice.

“Our goal is to raise the consciousness of the Jewish people and all humanity toward the central role that the holy temple plays in the life of mankind,” Rabbi Chaim Richman, the Massachusetts-born co-founder and the international director of the Temple Institute said. “We're very much focused on getting the message out on all the channels of social media and all the things people are into today. Most of my work is internet related.”

The Temple Institute focuses on preparing the objects and skills needed for the sacrifice of animals and the esoteric rituals that were carried out by Kohanim, or priests, in front of crowds of Jewish pilgrims before the last temple's destruction. All its work is led by a rabbinical council and based on meticulous analysis of Jewish scripture and academic research.

The institute has reconstructed nearly all the sacred vessels needed to perform the services in a rebuilt Temple, including the High Priest's breastplate featuring the 12 precious stones of the tribes of Israel, the half-ton golden menorah and the musical instruments of the Levitical choir.

The group also works to build support for its mission and itself, which is where the internet comes in. After his cable television show that aired in Texas was canceled in 2006, Richman found an audience for his temple-centric scriptural exegesis online.

These days, his weekly TV and radio shows are among the 914 videos that appear on the Temple Institute's YouTube channel, which has more than 17,000 subscribers and 4.6 million views. The group's Facebook page has more than 186,000 followers. The Temple Institute email newsletter, which you can sign up for on its website, lands in 24,000 inboxes every week.

Most content is in English, to maximize reach, including to the many evangelical Christians who support the group, many through tax-exempt charities in the U.S. For many evangelicals, the construction of a third Temple fulfills a prophecy about the Second Coming of Jesus.

In a further demonstration of commitment to re-establishing the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, the Temple Institute announced it is opening a school for training Levitical priests for their eventual service in a new temple, based on a recent jta.org publication.

The institute ran several pilot programs in recent years and now "is embarking on a mission to teach Kohanim all the practical skills required to serve in the Third Holy Temple," it said in a statement.

According to the Institute, the curriculum at the Nezer HaKodesh Institute for Kohanic Studies will include courses on the Temple service, theory and practice and the role and application of modern technology in the Third Temple.

In a separate report, David Israel for jewishpress.com noted that the curriculum at Nezer HaKodesh will also include courses such as *The Sacred Temple Vessels: Aspects of Engineering and Design*; and *The Mathematics of the Holy Temple*.

"We are extremely excited to announce this new step toward the restoration of the Holy Temple service. We call first and foremost upon Kohanim worldwide to support this special project, which signifies a return to their birthright. We have chosen to use IndieGogo as a tool to enable as many people as possible to be a part of this historic initiative," Rabbi Chaim Richman, international director of the Temple Institute, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, many Jews and Christians await with great anticipation the rebuilding of the 3rd Temple. For Jews, a long-held passionate desire to see the temple restored will finally be fulfilled.

For Christians, although there is some debate on the timing of the rebuilding of the temple the overall focus is more on the exciting impact of this eschatological event on God's prophetic time-clock.

It will signal the imminent return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and the fulfillment of the new Heaven and the new Earth under His divine righteous and eternal rulership. (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1)

Sanhedrin Asks Putin and Trump to Build Third Temple in Jerusalem

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz November 10, 2016

"Thus saith Hashem to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open the doors before him, and that the gates may not be shut." Isaiah 45:1

The Nascent Sanhedrin is calling on Russian President Vladimir Putin and US president-elect Donald Trump to

join forces and fulfill their Biblically-mandated roles by rebuilding the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Hillel Weiss, spokesman for the Sanhedrin, contacted Breaking Israel News to announce that the election of Trump, who has promised to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, coupled with Putin's expressed desire for the Temple to be rebuilt, prompted the Jewish court to send a letter offering the two the opportunity to act as modern-day Cyrus figures: non-Jewish kings who recognize the importance of Israel and the Temple.

Cyrus the Great, King of Persia in the sixth century BCE, announced in the first year of his reign that he was prompted by God to make a decree that the Temple in Jerusalem should be rebuilt.

Thus saith Koresh king of Paras: All the kingdoms of the earth hath Hashem, the God of heaven, given me; and He hath charged me to build Him a house in Yerushalayim, which is in Yehuda. Ezra 1:2

Cyrus sent the Jews under his rule back to Israel with a considerable sum of money with which to rebuild the Temple. The Sanhedrin plans to call on the two world leaders to take up this ancient Biblical decree and support the Jewish people in their holy mission.

Rabbi Weiss explained that the US elections have made the eternal Jewish dream a very real possibility.

"We are poised to rebuild the Temple. The political conditions today, in which the two most important national leaders in the world support the Jewish right to Jerusalem as their spiritual inheritance, is historically unprecedented," Rabbi Weiss told Breaking Israel News.

The Sanhedrin's letter notes that Trump's upset victory was due to his support of Jerusalem, and reminds Trump of his campaign promise to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, effectively recognizing the city as the capital of Israel. The Jerusalem Embassy Act, passed in Congress in 1995, initiated the moving of the embassy, but has been vetoed since every American president since. The Sanhedrin calls on Trump to withhold the veto after he takes office.

The Sanhedrin also recalled Putin's connection to the Temple in its letter. During his third official trip to Jerusalem in 2012, Putin paid a late-night visit to the Kotel (Western Wall). When he arrived at the holy site, the Russian leader stood in silence for several minutes, offering up a personal prayer, after which he read Psalms from a Russian-Hebrew prayer book.

An Israeli bystander called out in Russian, "Welcome, President Putin." Putin approached the man, who explained the importance of the Temple Mount and the Jewish Temple. Chadrei Charedim, an Orthodox Hebrew news site, reported that Putin responded, "That's exactly the reason I came here – to pray for the Temple to be built again."

After this remarkable exchange, the Sanhedrin sent a letter to Putin calling on him to fulfill his prayer. At the time, President Putin did not respond to the Sanhedrin's request, but now that the incoming US president is a potential ally in the project, the Sanhedrin believes it is time for Putin to take an active role in rebuilding the Temple.

In addition to its requests concerning the Temple, the Sanhedrin is also calling on Putin and Trump to renew the 1920 League of Nations resolution known as the San Remo treaty, which essentially enabled the creation of a Jewish State by dividing the Ottoman Empire. It incorporated the Balfour Declaration, issued by Great Britain in 1917, which gave official recognition and backing for the establishment of Israel.

US President Calvin Coolidge ratified the San Remo agreement in 1925, thus making recognition of a Jewish State legally binding by US law. The Sanhedrin emphasized that it is imperative at this time, when the Palestinian Authority is attempting to rewrite world history by campaigning against the Balfour declaration, to strengthen the historic American commitment to the State of Israel by readopting the agreement.

Rabbi Weiss emphasized that supporting the Jewish claim to Jerusalem would bring benefit Russia and

America, as well as the entire world.

“The leaders of Russia and America can lead the nations of the world to global peace through building the Temple, the source of peace,” Rabbi Weiss explained. “This will offset the disgraceful UNESCO resolutions that are the root cause of increasing terror and violence.”

Last month, the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) passed two resolutions denying any connection between the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people, ceding to Islam a religious monopoly on many of Judaism’s holiest sites.

Netanyahu to Medvedev: Israel Will Prevent Iran Military Presence in Syria

JNS.org — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu informed his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, that the Jewish state will prevent Iran from growing its military presence and influence in the region.

In a Thursday meeting in Jerusalem, Netanyahu said Israel’s two non-negotiable objectives concerning Iran are to “prevent [it] from achieving nuclear weapons” and to stop it “from establishing itself militarily in Syria, on the ground, in the air or at sea.”

Netanyahu also noted that Israel is “determined to prevent [Iran] from bringing about the establishment of Shi’ite militias, which it is organizing, and of course, the arming of Hezbollah with dangerous weapons aimed at us.”

In First Statement on Mideast Since Election Victory, Trump Proclaims ‘Love and Respect’ for Israel
“I love and respect Israel and its citizens,” President-elect Donald Trump told Israel Hayom on Thursday evening, after his meeting...

Despite warm relations between Israel and Russia, the latter remains a staunch supporter of embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is backed by Iran and its Lebanese terror proxy Hezbollah.

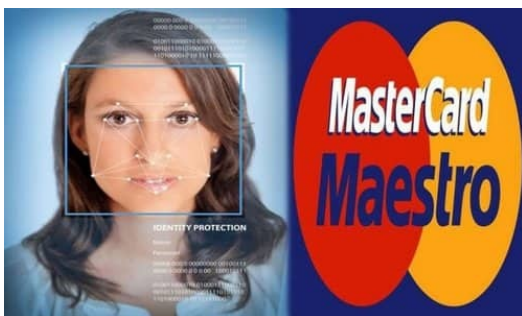
At the meeting, Medvedev hailed the strong bilateral ties between Israel and Russia, noting the “special values” the countries share.

“Every time I visit Israel I feel at home,” he said. “Our countries have common challenges, primarily terrorism. Terror threatens the entire world, but in this region it is felt particularly strongly.”

Medvedev’s visit is part of bilateral exchanges marking the 25th anniversary of Russian-Israeli diplomatic relations. Earlier this year, Netanyahu and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin made separate visits to Moscow.

Facial Payments Could Become The New Norm

by Tom Olago prophecynewswatch.com



For many years now, virtually the entire world has become accustomed to plastic cards - punching in PIN numbers or swiping cards to make withdrawals or payments.

The use of fingerprint readers has followed closely as a useful additional authentication method. But how about walking into a supermarket and paying for your groceries with - of all things - a 'selfie' of your face?

Welcome to the era of facial payments. That certainly doesn't mean your broad smile or good looks - that criteria might erroneously disqualify and aggravate a good number of honest and well-to-do shoppers.

Rather, it's one of the soon-to-come advances in facial recognition techniques that will enhance the ability of security systems to identify buyers positively.

Jerome Traisnel, in an article published late September in finextra.com, explained in more detail exactly how this works:

1. In order to pay with a selfie, MasterCard requires users firstly to upload a photo which is converted into a binary string using facial recognition authentication technology.
2. To authorize all future payments the user simply snaps a quick selfie, and if it matches with the original upload, the payment is validated.
3. MasterCard has instituted security checks in place to detect suspicious behaviour such as detecting the user's location and where the purchase is being shipped to. Furthermore, the app requires the user to blink, in order to ensure that it is a live photo of the user, and not a fraudster taking a photo of a photo.

MasterCard has explained that, for now, the new service will only be used in certain contexts where additional authentication is required. However, with a number of companies expressing interest in payment by selfie, including e-commerce giants Alibaba and Amazon - this area appears set to experience a lot of investment and development in the near future.

As recently explained by Conner Forrest for techrepublic.com, Mastercard will debut this new system dubbed 'Identity Check Mobile' in partnership with BMO Financial Group. The system will allow mobile users in North America to verify their identity for mobile payments with a selfie or fingerprint in early 2017.

According to a press release announcing the expansion, BMO customers in the US and Canada will have access to the technology sometime in the first half of 2017. The feature was rolled out in 12 European markets the first week of October.

Mastercard and BMO partnered on a soft launch earlier this year, according to the release, and conducted a survey after the initial roll-out. They found that 74% of respondents said biometrics--like fingerprints or selfies--were easier to use than traditional passwords, and 90% said they believed they would use biometrics for online payment security in the future. By eliminating the need for traditional passwords, and speeding up the mobile payment process, the goal is to increase the conversion rate for online shopping.

"Making the online payment experience near frictionless and more secure is a priority for Mastercard," Ajay Bhalla, president of enterprise risk and security for Mastercard, said in the press release.

"Moving this technology beyond the pilot phase is a significant milestone in the evolution of payments. Online payments are being revolutionized and now we are making Identity Check Mobile a reality for commercial use in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and soon, the world," Bhalla concluded.

Mobile payments are booming, and a report from IEEE (the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) claimed that this payment method could officially kill cash by as early as 2030. Broadening the options for payment verification could speed the adoption rate for mobile payments while, hopefully, adding some extra security.

In March, Google launched its own innovation in the mobile payments space, adding a hands-free option for verification.

A pilot program called Hands Free uses wireless technologies to prove a user is in a store, and they can complete a purchase by giving the cashier their initials. Another version of Hands Free relies on images only, matching a picture taken of the purchaser to a picture in their profile.

Is the success of the Mastercard/BMO initiative, therefore, a foregone conclusion - just awaiting the final rollout in order to reap the full benefits?

Not so fast. According to Justin Lee for biometricupdate.com, it remains to be seen whether the technology will succeed. The challenge, though, is not so much on the side of the technology-- it has more to do with how well and quickly end users adapt to it.

"In order to win over users, MasterCard's app needs to run invisibly and be ready to anticipate behaviour based on contextual data, such as the tilt of the phone," Rakowski said.

"The technology will only catch on if customers feel comfortable enough to use the app, it feels intuitive and meets performance expectations. For MasterCard's tech team, what the customer does before and after the payment is as important as the transaction itself.

For example, if biometric fingerprint technology is used in conjunction with the selfie across a quick succession of bill payments, performance issues might arise.

When an app packs in during the middle of a transaction, the customer is often left in the dark, and won't know if the payment has gone through, causing more issues than the new feature sets out to solve."

Despite whatever teething problems may arise, biometric technology still seems poised to be guaranteed its place as the future of payment authentication. Recent indications of this trend are encapsulated by the following notable developments:

- A report from Juniper Research titled "Top 10 disruptive technologies in fintech: 2016" reportedly listed biometrics as the number one technology to transform ecommerce;
- According to Visa's 2016 study, fingerprint recognition was voted the most favorable biometric authentication method by consumers due to ease of use and security;
- Fiserv's report found that fingerprints trump passwords in terms of security in the eyes of consumers;
- 41% of consumers stated they would feel secure using a password as an authentication method to confirm their identity when using a mobile app, compared to 62% for fingerprint technology, thus proving that this technology holds huge potential for the payment security market.

Other methods that are being developed including voice, heartbeat and vein recognition technology. Advancements are also being made in relation to behaviour biometrics. Sensors are already in most smartphones - they include the accelerometer, gyroscope, and of course GPS, which are possible to use in conjunction with other biometric measures to reinforce security.

Russian Aircraft Carrier Admiral Kuznetsov Arrives in Syria

A Russian military source said MiG and Sukhoi jets have been regularly flying over Syria from the Admiral Kuznetsov to 'determine combat missions.'

Haaretz Nov 12, 2016

Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov arrived in the eastern Mediterranean, off the Syrian coast, a naval commander told Russian television. Russia's only aircraft carrier is part of a convoy of Russian warships deployed to reinforce the country's military intervention in Syria.

Sergei Artamonov, the commander of Admiral Kuznetsov, told state TV that the ships have arrived at the "designated zone... in the eastern Mediterranean" and "are now jointly carrying out tasks, maneuvering to the west of the Syrian coast." The remarks were reported by AFP.

According to the report, Artamonov was speaking to Russia-1 via a videolink for a news broadcast that is to air on Saturday evening. The ship commander was quoted as saying that jets have already taken off from the aircraft carrier to survey the conflict area.

"Flights are being carried out from the deck ... they are working on coordination with the shore port," he said. "The flights have been going on practically every day for the last four days."

The Russian Interfax news agency had quoted a Russian military and diplomatic source on Friday as saying that MiG and Sukhoi jets have been regularly flying above Syria from the Admiral Kuznetsov to "determine combat missions."

Interfax said that preparations are underway for the carrier and escorting ships to launch strikes against militants. The fighter jets do not have sufficient range or payload for long sorties. The carrier group's mission near Syria's shores marks the largest Russian naval deployment since the Soviet collapse. It allows the military to test its carrier-borne fighters in combat for the first time. The Admiral Kuznetsov carries about 20 fighter jets, adding to some 30 warplanes Russia has at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia.

A leftover from the days of Soviet power, Admiral Kuznetsov has a long history of mishaps, at sea and in port, and diesel engines which were built for Russia's cold waters – as shown by the column of black smoke raising above it. It needs frequent refueling and resupplies and has never been operationally tested.

Without Effort, Russia Restricted the Strongest Air Force in the Middle East

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.748549>

Over the past few weeks, Russia has finished beefing up its aerial defenses in northern Syria. The Washington Post, after interviewing American experts, published a map last week showing the estimated radius of coverage of Russia's S-300 and S-400 systems, which are bolstered by anti-aircraft missiles on ships in the port of Tartus. The 380-kilometer radius covers Lebanon, much of Turkey and Jordan, the eastern Mediterranean until out beyond Cyprus, a bit of Iraq, and Israel all the way to the northern Negev.

The paper said the Pentagon isn't sure whether, if necessary, it could penetrate these aerial defense systems, since the question hasn't yet arisen. Presumably, America has electronic warfare systems capable of disrupting even dense anti-aircraft coverage. But the Post said Russia's coverage limits Washington's ability not only to launch air strikes on Syrian military targets, but also to create no-fly zones to protect civilians, an idea both U.S. presidential candidates say they support.

Russia's beefed-up deployment also affects Israel, which, according to foreign media reports, has launched numerous air strikes on arms convoys from Syria to Hezbollah in recent years. Based on the Washington Post's map, an Israeli plane couldn't take off from Tel Nof airbase without being tagged by Russian radar. Ever since it destroyed Syria's anti-aircraft systems in 1982, Israel's air force has enjoyed absolute aerial superiority (and therefore, almost complete freedom of action) on the northern front. But that effectively ended the moment Russia decided to beef up its aerial defenses around Tartus. Almost without effort, the Russians managed to restrict the strongest air force in the Middle East.

The limitations aren't just military, but also diplomatic. Israel and Russia have set up a mechanism to prevent clashes in Syrian airspace, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has met with Russian President Vladimir Putin four times over the last year to further that purpose.

Having no other choice, Netanyahu has nurtured his Russian romance. But in reality, this romance is about as romantic as Donald Trump's groping of women. It's a romance to which Israel was forced to consent once the Russian bear decided to move into its backyard.

Russia apparently reinforced its aerial defenses in response to American condemnations of its bombing of

Aleppo, and due to concern, apparently unwarranted, that the Obama administration might actually take military action against Syrian President Bashar Assad. Though Russia's economy is crumbling, Putin keeps pushing the envelope, including with frequent hints about the danger of nuclear war, attempts to sabotage the U.S. presidential election and surprising moves in the Mideast, like this month's announcement that Russia and Egypt will hold a joint military exercise.

But since Russia invests great effort in confusing and deterring its rivals, its real intentions are hard to decipher. And the fact that Israel's intelligence community curtailed research into Russia after the Soviet Union collapsed doesn't make understanding Putin's plans any easier.

The journal "Eshtonot," published by Israel's National Defense College, made a first effort to explore these questions in depth in its latest issue. This issue features a wide-ranging analysis of Russia's intervention in Syria, its strategic significance and operative lessons by Dr. Dmitry Adamsky, a senior lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya who also teaches at military colleges.

Adamsky described the Kremlin's decision making as a well thought-out process based on long-term strategic thinking. He said Russia sees itself as engaged in self-defense against Western aggression in both Eastern Europe (the conflict in Ukraine and efforts to expand NATO) and the Arab world (NATO's operation in Libya and the West's abandoned effort to promote regime change in Syria).

Russia's intervention in Syria, he wrote, is its first such move of the post-Soviet era and its biggest military operation since the war in Afghanistan in the 1980s. The Russian army's Central Command rehearsed the operation, code-named Operation Caucasus 3, about two months before sending forces to Syria in September 2015. Russia had two main reasons for intervening, Adamsky wrote. First, it wanted to protect Assad's regime, and through him Russia's interests in Syria – first and foremost its warm-water port in Tartus. Second, it feared that a victory by Sunni jihadists in Syria would spur Islamist terror inside Russia. Russia has at least 20 million Muslims, mostly Sunnis, and the uprising against Assad has attracted thousands of volunteers from the Caucasus.

Russia, he continued, feared the Assad regime was about to fall, and that a rebel victory would deprive it of both its foothold on the Mediterranean and its web of alliances in the region. In addition, Russia wanted to break its international isolation and weaken the sanctions imposed on it over the fighting in Ukraine. Sending forces to Syria diverted Western attention from Ukraine and forced the West to treat Russia as a key player in the Mideast and worldwide.

Adamsky's article would seem to be required reading for senior Israeli military officials. Russia's presence in Syria has sharply changed the strategic reality in which the Israel Defense Forces operates. Russia's success in Syria isn't yet complete, nor has Putin met his original timetable. In autumn 2015, he expected a three-month offensive in which Russian air power and Syrian troops, with Iranian backing, would capture Aleppo and Idlib and clear the rebels from northeast Syria. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who heads the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force, visited Moscow and promised to send more than 2,000 Revolutionary Guard fighters, and Russia hoped this would end the most active and dangerous phase of its Syrian intervention.

The Iranian forces did arrive, but other problems quickly emerged. Assad's troops, worn down by years of fighting, barely functioned; Hezbollah suffered heavy losses; and Iran's spiritual leader, Ali Khamenei, ordered the Iranian troops home, leaving only a few hundred advisers in Syria. This forced Russia to move to plan B, exemplified by its carpet bombing of Aleppo in recent months – a war crime committed in full view of the world, with no regard for the consequences.

Assad has regained some territory and blocked the rebels' momentum. But the Sunni rebels haven't stopped fighting, and so far, Russia's intervention doesn't seem to have brought the end of the war any nearer.