

Newsbytes

The First Watch

July 18, 2018

No. 881

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccapleton.org

“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

Israel ranked 8th most powerful country in the world

By MICHAEL BACHNER 8 July 2018, 4:52 pm 20

Two of three new F-35 fighter jets land on an airstrip in the Israeli Air Force's Nevatim base in southern Israel on June 24, 2018. (Israel Defense Forces)



An international survey has ranked Israel as the eighth most powerful nation in the world for the second consecutive year, narrowly ahead of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The annual survey by the US News & World Report was published during the weekend, based on the answers of more than 21,000 people from four regions.

The survey ranked 80 countries on a range of issues, including power, cultural influence, economy and entrepreneurship, with the categories adding up to an

overall “best countries” ranking.

Israel was ranked 30th on the best countries list, the same ranking as last year, with Switzerland and Canada taking the first two slots.

But in the power ranking Israel was ranked inside the top ten, behind the United States, Russia, China, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Japan, in that order. Neighbors Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were ranked 9th and 10th, with fellow Middle Eastern countries Iran and Turkey ranked 13th and 14th.

“For its relatively small size, the country has played a large role in global affairs,” the magazine said in its description of Israel, which — following US President Donald Trump’s December recognition — listed Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel also made the top ten in the list of “movers” — up and coming economies — where it was ranked 10th. The UAE, India and Singapore were the three highest-ranked nations in that category, respectively.

The Jewish state was ranked lower in the rest of the categories: 25th in entrepreneurship, 29th in heritage, 33rd in citizenship, 35th in quality of life, 40th in cultural influence, 64th in openness for business and 70th in adventure.

I don't think I would care to travel to Euro-stan in these times:

Faithless, Craven and Cowardly - The British Government's Brexit Betrayal

JULY 8, 2018 Melanie Phillips Melaniephillips.com

We don't yet know whether Brexiteers in the Conservative party will seek to bring down the Prime Minister Theresa May over the UK negotiating position that she forced through Cabinet on Friday.



We don't yet know whether the EU will accept her "compromise" package or will reject it with the contempt they have shown until now at any suggestion of a "pick and mix" approach to the EU's customs union and rules.

But what we can say with near-certainty is that what Mrs. May has done is put in serious doubt a Conservative victory at the next general election – and maybe at any further general election for a long time after that.

For she and her cowardly and faithless colleagues have betrayed Brexit voters, betrayed democracy and betrayed the British people.

In voting as they did on June 23 2016 to leave the EU, the British people made a solemn declaration of belief in the value of democratic sovereignty, national self-government and Britain regaining the power to decide its own laws, to conduct its own trade deals in the best interests of the country, and to rule itself once again with its own policies passed by its own parliament as the independent nation it once was.

Ever since that historic vote the Remainers – who by definition do not value democratic self-government and national sovereignty which they are all too happy to see subsumed under EU control – have sought every means possible to undermine and reverse the Brexit vote.

On Friday, they succeeded. This was a Remainer coup. Mrs. May is insisting that her package would deliver Brexit. This is false.

It would leave the UK tied to a number of EU policies and thus unable to make policy in such areas for itself; it would destroy the UK's ability to negotiate trade deals in the best interests of the nation; it would leave the UK still to some extent under the thumb of the European Court of Justice. Thus the UK would remain deprived of national sovereignty and the power to govern itself as an independent nation.

Moreover, Mrs. May's package would leave the UK in a worse position even than as a member of the EU. For under her terms, the UK would be bound by a number of EU rules and policies but with no say over them at all.

(Indeed, some Remainers fantasize that engineering just an outcome would fuel pressure for a second

referendum and a vote to stay in – ignoring the fact that there can be no return to the status quo ante, since the triumphant EU would insist that, in order to remain, the bloodied UK would have to abolish the pound and join the Euro.)

Does Mrs. May understand this? Is she Machiavelli in kitten heels – or is she just too narrow-minded, too incapable of grasping any big idea other than the survival of her government, too personally defensive, too psychologically clenched against viewpoints that challenge her own to be remotely competent?

The idea that problems such as the Northern Ireland border are otherwise simply insuperable is absurd. The fact remains that Britain held – and still holds – the major card in its own hands. The EU needs Britain more than Britain needs the EU.

That doesn't mean there are no downsides from leaving: of course there are.

But a real leader would have said to the country something like this: “Look, there are going to be hiccups and problems and we may well have to bite on a few painful bullets. But the upside is that, overall, our economic future is very bright indeed if we make the cleanest possible break; and politically, we will once again be independent and in charge of our own laws and destiny. And for that most precious of all gifts we will pay a price if we have to, just as this country has always buckled down and paid a price for liberty – which is really what Britain is fundamentally all about”.

And to the EU, such a real leader would have said something like this: “The people of Britain have spoken and we are now leaving you. We will not seek a deal; we will take our chances with WTO rules and tariffs because even with all that we'll still take you to the economic cleaners; but if you would like to offer us a deal, you'll find our door is always open because we'll always be your friends. Good bye!”

In the event, Mrs. May's negotiating position was beyond risible. She dismissed the innate strength of her country relative to the EU economic and political basket-case and instead – incredibly – approached the (possibly terminally) stricken Brussels behemoth as a nervous supplicant. Unsurprisingly, the EU promptly punched Britain in the solar plexus and is now preparing to kick it in the head.

As for the Brexiteers in Cabinet, they have all been revealed as beyond pathetic. According to media reports, as Friday's marathon meeting wore on – after a brief, flailing and juvenile eruption by Boris Johnson – they all ended up supporting this appalling travesty.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that they were all measuring their leadership ambitions against each other and so collectively were unable to present a united front. It was self-interest first, national interest last. Not one of them has resigned. “Friends” of Boris Johnson say he can do more to fight for Brexit by staying within Cabinet. Really? He has now put his name to Brexit's betrayal. He will not be forgiven.

All these people have now shown themselves unworthy of leading their party. They do not deserve to be in office; the Conservative party no longer deserves to be in government.

People are rightly worried that Jeremy Corbyn, Labour's far-left leader, may become Prime Minister. That fear has helped Mrs May fight off any possible challengers. Jeremy Corbyn has been her human shield.

But here's the thing. If the choice is to be between Mrs. May's Brexit betrayal and a Corbyn government, many may well now be thinking they'd either actually prefer Corbyn, who at least remains personally hostile to UK membership of the EU – or far more lethally, that there's no longer much point in trying to stop him.

Because if Britain really is to remain tied to the EU, the UK parliament will increasingly become no more significant than Westminster regional council within the Brussels empire. So who cares if Corbyn becomes

Prime Minister, this thinking would go, since the EU won't let him do half of what he wants to do anyway?

And that's the worst danger of all from this debacle: that the British people will simply lose faith not just in the wretched Conservative party but in the democratic process which will become increasingly meaningless.

That said, this thing is far from over; indeed, it may have only just begun. For if the EU sticks to its previous intransigence, it will reject the British government's offer and insist that it makes further concessions to the EU's rules which even Mrs May dare not make.

Which means, prepare now for "no deal". Which Britain should have done right from the start.

But however this finally ends, Mrs. May and her craven colleagues have done real damage – to themselves as politicians, to the Conservative party and to democracy itself.

Israeli right dreams of third temple in Jerusalem

Shlomi Eldar July 10, 2018

Israeli right-wing politicians resumed visits to the Temple Mount after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled the ban on Knesset members visiting the site.

The ban imposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on visits by government ministers and Knesset members to Jerusalem's Temple Mount lasted three straight years, barring some experimental interruptions in 2017. Netanyahu's decision at the time was prompted by riots at the site and the so-called individual Palestinian intifada, which broke out in the fall of 2015. The murder of Alexander Levlovich in September 2015 and the murders of Eitam and Naama Henkin in the West Bank in October 2015 signaled the beginning of the intifada.

The tension in Jerusalem was intense, and the Palestinians accused Israel of seeking to change the status quo at the Temple Mount complex. Netanyahu feared that the Palestinians would view visits by right-wing ministers and Knesset members as provocations, engendering further violence. And so, he rightly issued the ban. Since then, the political right has applied relentless pressure on Netanyahu to lift it.

On July 3, Netanyahu addressed a letter to Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, saying that lawmakers could visit the Temple Mount once every three months. The first of the ministers to implement his "right" to visit the site after Netanyahu's decision to lift the ban was Uri Ariel, the minister of agriculture and a member of HaBayit HaYehudi. Ariel has made no secret of his yearnings for a third Jewish temple to replace the two destroyed ones. "We hope and pray for Tisha B'av to be a day of happiness and for the temple to be rebuilt, so that there will be no more fasts and we will be able to bring all the sacrifices that we read about in this week's Torah reading," Ariel said. "God willing, a kohen's [Jewish cleric] blessing will be bestowed on all those ascending the Mount."

Ariel was citing the prophet Zecharia and referring to the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av, a day of fasting and mourning on which tradition has it the temples were destroyed. Tisha B'Av falls this year on July 22, and Ariel was essentially exhorting believers and temple loyalists to follow his example and thus turn the day of mourning into an occasion for "happiness." Knesset member Sharren Haskel of the ruling Likud Party visited the site shortly after Ariel, and additional lawmakers who advocate the temple's reconstruction, such as Shuli Mualem of HaBayit HaYehudi and Yehuda Glick and Amir Ohana of the Likud, followed suit.

The timing of the renewed visits is probably not a coincidence. It comes just three weeks after Netanyahu's June 18 meeting in Amman with King Abdullah of Jordan, the site's Muslim custodian, after which his office issued a statement saying the prime minister "reiterated Israel's commitment to maintaining the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem." Did Netanyahu discuss with the monarch his desire to lift the ban and thereby ease the political right's pressure on him? Possibly. The fact is that following the meeting, the Knesset's chief security officer issued a letter on July 5 advising all Knesset members interested in going to the Temple Mount to coordinate with police.

According to a recent report by the Yeraeh movement dedicated to promoting a Jewish presence on the Mount, the number of Jews visiting the site has increased significantly, reaching 22,000 in 2017. The group describes itself as an initiative by volunteers who greet Jewish visitors to the site and report on events there; its report forecasts a further significant rise in the number of visitors in the next few years because of its activities.

The demand by government ministers and lawmakers to experience for themselves the site of the temple, Judaism's holiest site, appears legitimate. Haskel, for example, explained after her visit that it was wrong to depict the experience as being only religious in nature. "The Temple Mount is at the very heart of millennia of Jewish culture and history. ... One cannot separate the special place from our Israeli-Jewish identity, it is part of us," she said.

However, right-wing Knesset members, Temple Mount loyalists, the Yeraeh movement and recently formed youth advocacy groups have an ulterior motive. They not only want to experience the place where the ancient temples stood, they want to reconstruct the temple "speedily, in our times."

Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher with the anti-occupation Ir Amim nongovernmental organization, told Al-Monitor, "It won't be the Messiah who will resurrect the temple, but rather them, the organizations and right-wing movements [that] dream of rebuilding it with their very own hands." Tatarsky added, "After all, in order to rebuild the Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock must be destroyed."

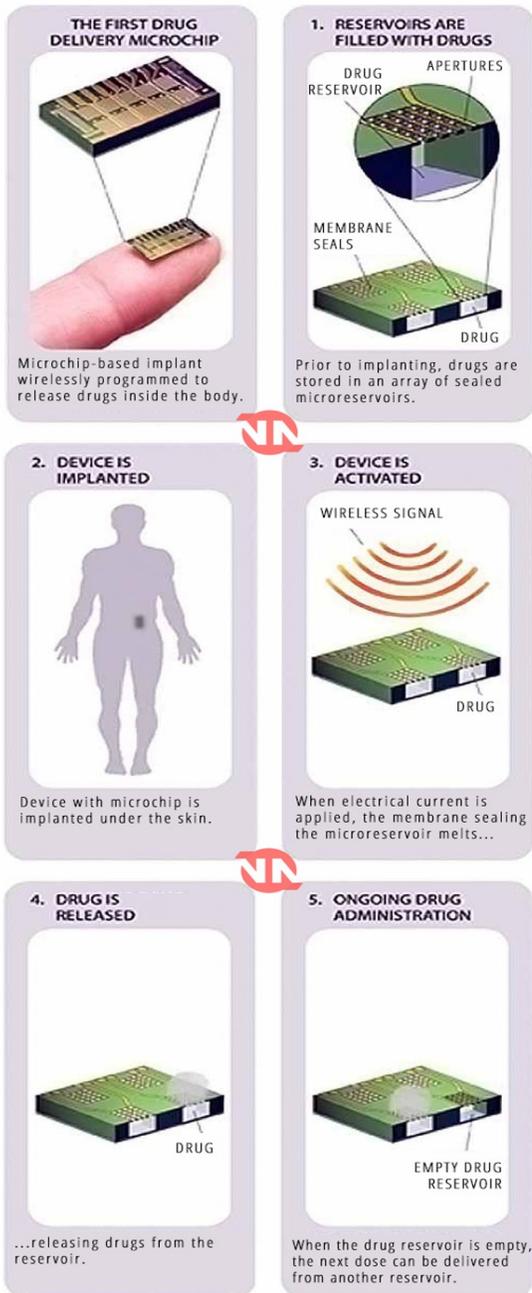
Still, we should remember that according to some of the Jewish Sages (such as Rashi and in the Zohar), the third temple will descend from Heaven all complete and constructed, involving no humankind preparation, destruction or construction.

Be that as it may, Tatarsky said the idea that the temple must be rebuilt is slowly gaining traction, and its advocates believe a growing stream of visitors is the only way to spread the word so that the reconstruction becomes a widespread, popular demand and the right of the Jews to rebuild their destroyed temple can no longer be denied.

Bill Gates Invents Human Microchip with Wireless 'On/Off' Birth Control Switch

Billionaire's new microchipping device due for launch this year By: Jay Greenberg

Billionaire globalist Bill Gates and his team have invented a disturbing new human microchip that is due for launch this year. The new device will be surgically embedded under a person's skin and will act as birth control that can be controlled remotely with an "on/off" switch.



The microchips will act as contraception, allowing the chipped individual, or a third party, to "wirelessly" prevent the possibility of pregnancy with the flick of a switch. The billionaire Microsoft founder says the tiny device, normally embedded in the fleshy part of a person's hand, should be available later this year after testing in Africa is complete.

The tiny hormone-emitting microchip will allow women who decide they are ready to conceive to essentially flip a switch and start trying, according to the MIT Technology Review. Mr. Gates says the devices are not just limited to women though and contain RFID chips, similar to those in credit cards and smartphones, that can be programmed to wirelessly pay for items, unlock doors, or even start a car.

The Bill and Melinda Gates' foundation has invested \$4.6 million in the Massachusetts-based startup behind the device, MicroCHIPS. "The ability to turn the device on and off provides a certain convenience factor for those who are planning their family," Dr. Robert Farra, president and Chief Operating Officer of MicroCHIPS, told the BBC this week.

The new microchips will be remotely accessed and controlled by a third party. According to the Huffington Post, the device can also last up to 16 years -- more than three times as long as any comparable implantable devices on the market, including IUDs.

The technology behind the implant was originally created in the 1990s by MIT researchers Robert Langer and Michael Cima and Ph.D. student John Santini, who later licensed it out to MicroCHIPS.

But the idea for the device apparently came from Bill Gates himself. When Gates visited Langer's MIT lab, he asked whether it would be possible to develop a birth control method that could be used for many years and turned on and off at will, according

to MIT Technology Review. Langer pointed Gates toward MicroCHIPS. The microchips will launch this year after testing in Africa is complete

The tiny chip is designed to be implanted under the skin and stores a supply of the pregnancy-preventing hormone levonorgestrel in hermetically sealed reservoirs on a microchip inside the device. An electric current passes through the ultra-thin seal to melt it, releasing 30 micrograms of the hormone per day. MicroCHIPS still needs to conduct pre-clinical testing on the implant, which it hopes to complete this year, and then file an application with the Food and Drug Administration. MIT Technology Review also noted that the technology will need to be heavily encrypted to prevent hackers from accessing the device.