

NEWS BYTES

January 11, 2023

No. 1096

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

"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

Third Temple Baby Steps - Temple Activists Petition For Passover Sacrifice



In the wake of National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir ascending to the Temple Mount to commemorate the Tenth of Tevet on Tuesday, the Return to the Mount activist group petitioned the minister to permit the Biblical Passover offering at Judaism's holiest site.

Rafael Morris, the head of Return to the Mount, told Israel365 News that there is actually strong grassroots support for reinstating the Passover offering on the Temple Mount.

"We have lots of people, private and even in the government, that support this quietly but who are scared to say so in public," Morris said. "And there's no reason why we shouldn't do it."

Morris pointed to the exponential growth in the number of Jews ascending to the Temple Mount

"One hundred years ago, it would have been crazy and an incitement of the Arabs to talk about a Jewish state in Israel," Morris said. "Eighty years ago it was a crazy incitement to talk about Jews praying at the Kotel (Western Wall) or Hebron. The Korban Pesach (Passover sacrifice) is a Biblical commandment the Jewish people perform for thousands of years in Jerusalem. It is the most normal thing."

"Where we are today, to bring the Passover sacrifice is quite a small step," Morris said.

Morris emphasized that this "small step" is necessary and must necessarily be on the Temple Mount.

"The only place Jews can perform the hundreds of commandments described in the Torah is on the Temple Mount," he said. "It is not our most holy site. It is our only holy site. Without the Temple Mount, we cannot be Torah Jews."

"Not bringing the Korban Pesach (Passover offering) carries the punishment of Karet, the most severe punishment described in the Bible. And since King David consecrated the Temple Mount 3,000 years ago, the Temple Mount has been the heart of Judaism and the only place we can perform these mitzvot."

Morris emphasized that the Passover offering is essentially intended to prepare the animal to be consumed in a respectful manner.

"Few people criticize the Samaritans who carry out the same ritual every year that they learned from us," Morris said. "People come from all over the world to see it."

Morris explained that the entire Temple Mount movement was once considered fringe in Israeli society but is becoming more mainstream.

"Ten years ago, the Temple reenactments were described in the Israeli media as extremist incitement carried out by a bunch of crazies," Morris said. "The police and municipal authorities used to complain when we applied for permits. Now they come to us and ask us when we are going to apply."

"The Temple events are considered a positive cultural contribution and people are more willing to admit that Arab threats of violence are what shouldn't be tolerated."

He added that the opposition to Ben Gvir visiting the Temple Mount is explicitly racist.

"This is a human rights issue but it is more than that," Morris said. "The people who oppose Jews going to the Temple Mount also oppose Jews living in Tel Aviv. It is the same thing. If we don't have the right to be Jews on the Temple Mount, we don't have any right to be here."

Morris said that if given the okay by the government, everything is in place to jump-start the Biblical ritual.

"We have everything we need and we have been practicing for over a decade but we still don't really know all the questions," he said. "Mitzvot are practical and the actual performance is part of the learning process. Before we returned to Israel, we really had no clue how to practically perform Shemittah (agricultural sabbatical) and we are still working on it. We are much better prepared for the Passover offering and what we don't know, the rabbis and Kohanim (priests) will work on."

Printed below is the petition from the organization:

Monday, January 2, 2023

To the right honorable

MK Itamar Ben Gvir

Minister of National Security

Re: Passover sacrifice of 2023

Greetings,

As you know, we, the "Return to the Mountain" movement, have been engaged for the last decade in activities concerning the issues of the Temple Mount and the Temple, and one of the main subjects we deal with is the offering of the Passover sacrifice in our days.

Every year we make many efforts to promote the Passover sacrifice both on the conceptual-educational level and on the practical level. Every year we try to offer the sacrifice in its place and time.

In past years, several applications were submitted to the Israel Police in order to fulfill the commandment in an approved and coordinated manner.

The importance of the Passover sacrifice is well known to you from your past activities, but nevertheless, it is important to note that this is a positive commandment, the abstention of which carries the punishment of karet - spiritual death, something that otherwise exists only in the mitzvah of circumcision - a mitzvah of the people of Israel have given their lives for generations to preserve this important mitzvah.

This year, in light of the political situation and the establishment of a "fully right-wing" government for the first time in a long time, there is an actual possibility that the offering of the Passover sacrifice will be carried out by a large group of Jews in a dignified, approved and permitted manner, authorized by all the various factors, first and foremost by the Israel Police, which is under your authority as the new Minister of National Security of the State of Israel.

We hereby address you with an update and a request, an update that this coming Wednesday (January 4, 2023) we will submit a request to the Israel Police for holding the event, and with the request that you act with all the powers given to you by virtue of your new position to approve this request as soon as possible so that we can organize at all levels (logistic, halachic, bureaucratic and others) as soon as possible.

There is a golden opportunity to return the crown to its former glory and to renew the Passover sacrifice for the first time in about two thousand years, a move that will advance the Geulah, Redemption, immediately and will be recorded in the pages of history as the beginning of the building of the third Temple.

The European Union's War on Israel

by Bassam Tawil January 9 Gatestone Institute



A confidential leaked document, composed by the European Union mission in east Jerusalem, shows that the Europeans are actively working with, and on behalf of, the Palestinian Authority to take over Area C of the West Bank -- although the area was clearly agreed on, by both Israel and the Palestinians, until further negotiations, to be Israeli control. (Image source: iStock)

The European Union (EU) argues that it respects democracy and shares with Israel the values of an open and democratic under rule-of-law-based society. If that is true, then why does the EU not respect the decision by the Arabs and the Israelis

to mutually come to the table to negotiate their own borders? Why is the EU secretly helping the Palestinians take over Area C of the West Bank through illegal construction?

A confidential leaked document , composed by the EU mission in east Jerusalem, shows that the Europeans are actively working with, and on behalf of, the Palestinian Authority to take over Area C of the West Bank -- although the area was clearly agreed on, by both Israel and the Palestinians, until further negotiations, to be under Israeli control.

The Oslo Accords, signed between Israel and the Palestinians, established the administrative division of the West Bank into three areas: A, B, and C.

Area A is under the exclusive control of the Palestinian Authority; in Area B, the Palestinian Authority exercises administrative control but shares security control with Israel. The majority of the Palestinians live in these two areas.

Area C is exclusively controlled by Israel.

The Oslo Accords are called an interim agreement because they were supposed to be the basis for subsequent negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis and the preliminary to an eventual comprehensive peace agreement. The preamble of the agreement speaks of "peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity and security, while recognizing... mutual legitimate and political rights" of the parties. The aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is, among other things, to establish a Palestinian Interim Self-government Authority for the Palestinian people. By 1996, as stated in the Oslo Accords, negotiations on the permanent status issues, including borders, would be started.

The EU, however, has chosen to ignore the decision made by the Israelis and Palestinians to reach a permanent and comprehensive peace agreement through negotiations. It has also chosen to encourage the Palestinians to break the law through illegal construction and land grabs.

Instead of pressuring the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table with Israel, the EU is helping the Palestinians illegally seize control of large parts of Area C -- in direct violation of the Oslo Accord.

The EU, in short, is encouraging the Palestinians *not* to return to the negotiating table with Israel. Instead, the EU is telling the Palestinians that the EU will help them steal land as an alternative to reaching a peaceful settlement with Israel through negotiations.

"The European Union is committed to contribute to building a Palestinian State within 1967 borders and mobilize to this purpose its political and financial tools," the document states.

"The viability of the two-state solution is being steadily eroded by the progressive fragmentation and 'creeping annexation' (by Israel) of Area C. This calls for an enhanced, articulated and robust nexus approach mobilizing European political and financial means."

According to the document:

"The EU's Area C program aims to foster the resilience of people, services and institutions, to reinforce Palestinian presence in Area C and to protect the rights of Palestinians living in Area C. The program contributes to serving Area C communities and Palestinian presence therein, so as to preserve Area C as part of a future Palestinian state."

Dr. Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor, told the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS) that "since 1980, EU policymakers have sought to create a Palestinian state, and for the past two decades, they have used a network of NGO subcontractors to promote this objective.

"As this document confirms, Europe's use of labels like support for 'civil society' and 'human rights' were designed to hide the millions of euros given every year to selected allied NGOs, particularly in Area C, to create facts on the ground. Now that the pretense is out in the open, the potential for a major confrontation between Israel and Europe, including over support for NGOs, is very high."

Prof. Eugene Kontorovich, director of international law at the Kohelet Policy Forum in Jerusalem, told JNS the leaked EU document shows that Brussels is taking steps in anticipation of policies by Israel's incoming government to "preserve" lands in Area C.

"There is a rapid annexation of areas surrounding Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria by the P.A. and E.U. This is 'land for peace' without the fake promise of peace... These revelations show that no one should be surprised when the E.U. condemns the new government for trying to save land in Yehuda and Shomron [the West Bank] — they [the EU and Palestinians] are the ones responsible for stealing it."

Jenny Aharon, director of Golden Gate Public Affairs, who advises on EU-Israel affairs and works with EU institutions in Brussels, pointed out that the EU was acting in defiance of its own declared goal.

"In order to comprehend what has transpired with the document and Israel's reaction, it's important to look into the context: the EU has strived to remain a neutral power as it states its opinion on Israel's policies in the West Bank," Aharon remarked.

"It insists that its positions are based on meticulous compliance with international law, EU law and charter, and also the Oslo Accord. This claim is surely defied by the leaked document in which we can see an activist EU striving to help the Palestinians take over Area C, the very area that is designated to Israel's control per the Oslo Accord which the EU claims to uphold."

Aharon noted that while the EU was insisting that Israel abide by the Oslo Accords and that a Palestinian state should be established within the framework of a comprehensive peace agreement, the EU, at the same time, is trying to strip Israel of its rights according to that same agreement, which gave Israel responsibility over security, public order and all issues related to territory, including planning and zoning, in Area C.

"Now that the EU's intentions are exposed, it should reconsider its positions, stop masking its political decisions with laws and put its cards on the table for an honest discussion... They should do that before EU-Israel relations deteriorate any further."

An Israeli organization consisting of more than 16,000 former military, security, and police officers called the revelation that the EU is working on a Palestinian takeover of Area C "an act of blatant hostility and aggression."

In an open letter, the Israel Defense and Security Forum (IDSF) slammed the EU for its confidential policy document:

"According to our professional understanding of national security, the dominant terrain of Judea and Samaria in Area C is key strategic terrain that controls or can threaten most of the modern State of Israel's infrastructure and strategic assets... The EU's reported clandestine activity to undermine Israeli control in Area C and to advance illegal Palestinian development in those areas constitutes a clear and present threat to the security of the State of Israel, and is an act of blatant hostility and aggression."

The founder and director of the IDSF, Brig. Gen. (Res.) Amir Avivi said the EU's activity undermines the Oslo Accords, which established Israel's control over Area C:

"These areas are crucial to Israel's existence in the long term. It's an existential issue. We are the only ones who can define what we need, talking about national security, talking about the Jewish national aspirations. No European country can decide for us what we need, and certainly not go against an accord that everybody should adhere to."

A group of 40 Israeli members of Knesset (parliament) also expressed concern over the policies and actions of the EU. They called on the EU immediately to halt "illegal construction activities in Israel's sovereign territory."

Addressing the EU leaders, the Knesset members wrote:

"Yesterday, we learned of an official policy document of the European Union, a document the gravity of which cannot be overstated, one that leaves no room for doubt as to the one-sidedness and animosity of the EU towards the State of Israel and the Jewish people. The [EU] document completely ignores our people's historical affinity to our homeland, completely ignores the political agreements and the status of the State of Israel in Area C and seeks to establish the 1949 borders as Israel's final-status permanent borders – in complete disregard of the Jewish communities in the area."

The EU policy of funding and encouraging the Palestinian land-grab is beginning to bear fruit.

A report released by the Israeli NGO Regavim, which acts to prevent the illegal seizure of Israeli state land, has revealed that in 2022, illegal Palestinian construction in Area C increased by 80%. The report documents 5,535 new illegal structures built in 2022, compared to 3,076 structures in the same period in 2021.

The EU's support for the Palestinian efforts to take over Area C is actually undermining the prospects of reaching a peaceful settlement between the Palestinians and Israel. The EU has not only damaged any chance for a negotiated settlement, but has duplicitously endorsed the Palestinians' ongoing attempt to impose a solution on Israel rather than -- as both parties involved agreed upon -- to reach one through negotiations.

It is time to tell the EU to mind its own business and stop its anti-democratic meddling in other countries' affairs.

Cultish Climate Agenda

By Jan Markell January 7 olivetreeviews.org

Can We Resist the Green Dragon in the Coming Year?

To the secular left, climate is king. Maybe I should say it is a god. Environmentalism has become a religion. People enthusiastically worship mother earth and scoff at God the Father. This has been a fifty-year process that officially began in the early 1970s with Earth Day. The left decided that anyone who disrespected the earth was suspect. So, how far will they go? Many voices are warning of climate lockdowns coming in 2023.

I am quoting online journalist Michael Snyder who writes, “Climate change lockdowns are here, and if people don’t respond very strongly to this, it is likely that we will soon see similar measures implemented all over the western world. The elite have always promised to do ‘whatever it takes’ to fight climate change, and now we are finding out that they weren’t kidding.”

He says, “Over in the UK, residents of Oxfordshire will now need a special permit to go from one ‘zone’ of the city to another. But, even if you have the permit, you will still only be allowed to go from one zone to another ‘a maximum of 100 days per year.’”

He concludes, “Oxfordshire County Council yesterday approved plans to lock residents into one of six zones to ‘save the planet’ from global warming. The latest stage in the agenda is to place electronic gates on key roads in and out of the city, confining residents to their own neighborhoods.”

Covid lockdowns set the gold standard. Many felt they could trust government to be for the people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Government is for advancing a control agenda. Now the lockdown mentality resurfaces for the green dragon.

Criticizing today’s green agenda does not make one anti-environment and in favor of dirty air and water! Because mankind was created in His image, God gave men and women a privileged place among all creatures and commanded them to exercise stewardship of the earth (Gen. 1:26-28; Psalm 8:6-8).

How has the church responded? Some 25 years ago, they jumped on the climate change bandwagon. Articles on the website of the National Association of Evangelicals feature a push to recycle and an emphasis on what the Bible says about environmentalism, which they claim suggests we are “killing the planet.” They state that “loving the least of these” (Matthew 25:40) has climate implications.

What happened to emphasizing winning the lost while there is still time? This has been the message of evangelicalism my entire life. Social justice and climate issues are pushing this aside. I would think that the evangelical pulpit would be stating the obvious: God controls the weather, and man has nothing to do with it!

The recent climate conference in Egypt much of November 2022, called COP 27, revealed the cultish agenda. The conference called for a new ten commandments for climate justice and repenting from climate sins. They called for a new covenant—a covenant between man and creation. If they could only understand that God plans a new heaven and new earth.

Yet 120 nations were in attendance doing their due diligence for the earth. The media downplayed the event, so only a few outlets gave it serious attention. Fortunately, many online sources revealed the bizarre behavior the world thinks is normal.

Stewardship implies caretaking, not abusing. We are to intelligently manage the resources God has given us, using all diligent care to preserve and protect them.

But now this has become a green dragon! And this, just like Covid, could change our way of life and cause us the loss of even more freedoms. Are people going to roll over and cave to new rules and regulations, and even be immobilized with new forms of lockdowns? Many caved for Covid and went along with school closings and businesses closing their doors. But government doesn't know best!

I believe this will be the left's big push in the new year. You can be persecuted for your carbon footprint, for not heating with solar panels, and for the kind of car you drive.

These are Covid policies re-born. Yes, it is leftist lunacy, but it also falls under the references in the Bible to end-time strong delusion (2 Thess. 2:8-12). And some churches will go along with this! I encourage them to be about the business of winning souls while there is time and spending very little time worrying about carbon footprints. Satan has masterfully gotten our churches to get their focus off of eternal issues and onto a hundred distractions.