

Good news from Israel

AT 70, ISRAEL'S ECONOMY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS: In 1948, conventional wisdom considered the newly re-established Jewish state insolvent economically and indefensible militarily, a basket case. In the 30 years from 1987 to 2017, Israel's population doubled, *[Netanyahu years, much of it.]*

its per capita GDP went from \$8,000 to \$41,000; its exports, from \$10 billion to \$102 billion; independent energy resources, from 4% to 65%; life expectancy, from 75 to 82 years. Since the year 2000, Israel's economy has grown 65%, the second best among OECD countries. (Jewish News)

"Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." Ps. 35:27
[Now we segue into a chapter of doom and judgment.]



Mattityahu (Matthew) 24:1

בְּיֵאָתוֹ מִבַּיִת הַמִּקְדָּשׁ לָלֶכֶת לְדַרְכּוֹ נִגְשׂוּ תַלְמִידָיו לְהִרְאוֹת לוֹ אֶת בְּנֵינֵי הַמִּקְדָּשׁ.

As Yeshua left the Temple and was going away, his *talmidim* came and called his attention to its buildings.

[A little more info in the parallel passages.]

Mark 13.1 As Yeshua came out of the Temple, one of the *talmidim* said to him, "Look, Rabbi! What huge stones! What magnificent buildings!"

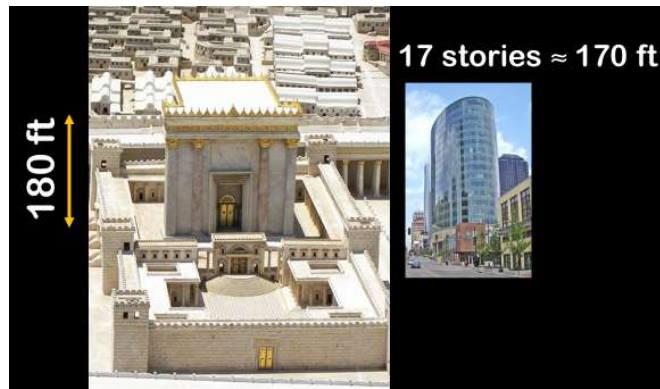
Luke 21.5 Some people were remarking about the Temple, how beautiful its stonework and memorial decorations were.

[I didn't really have a good perspective on this until this study ...]

Made of marble and gold, Herod's temple was taller than a fifteen-story building. Built on the exact location of Solomon's temple and the temple Nehemiah constructed, it could accommodate hundreds of thousands of pilgrims at one time and was twice as large as the largest temple enclosure in Rome.

[<https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/herods-temple>

We don't usually GET the glory of this building!]



[<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/herods-temple-avi-yonah.jpg>]

Larger and more magnificent than ANY other temple of antiquity, known throughout the Roman world. Keener p 560 Certain sense of its invincibility. See doors and figure 30 feet.]



[https://www.google.com/search?q=golden+vine+of+the+Jerusalem+Temple&safe=active&source=Inms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj7ue3Kx9_ZAhWLOFMKHcLTC6kQ_AUIDCgD&biw=1282&bih=933#imgrc=AbD6B9jYL7UN2M:]

The cohen on the right side, on the ladder, is adding gold leaves.]

The Golden Vine was one of the most remarkable in all the Temple precincts. [Talmud] *Middot* records that “A golden vine stood over the entrance to the sanctuary, trained over posts; and whosoever gave a leaf, or a berry, or a cluster as a freewill-offering he brought it and the cohenim hung it thereon.” This vine was so famous that even Tacitus (History 5.5) wrote about it. Messiah may also have alluded to this very feature of the Temple when he said in John 15.1: “I am the true vine.”

[<https://www.ritmeyer.com/2015/12/14/the-gold-of-the-jerusalem-temple/>]

Tacitus was the Roman general who demolished the Temple. Some say unintentionally.]

A thousand priests trained as masons by Herod worked on the temple, as did ten thousand highly skilled laborers using ten thousand wagons. Some limestone blocks of the supporting platform weighed more than five hundred tons.

[<https://www.thattheworldmayknow.com/herods-temple>]

John Gill's commentary The Jews give very great praises of the second temple, as repaired by Herod; and it was undoubtedly a very fine structure. They say that he built the house of the sanctuary, "an exceeding beautiful building;" and that he repaired the temple, in beauty "greatly exceeding" that of Solomon's. They moreover observe, that "he who has not seen the building of Herod, has never seen a beautiful building." With what is it built? says Rabbah, "with stones of green and white marble. And there are others say, that it was built with stones of spotted green and white marble." These, very likely, were the very stones the disciples pointed to, and admired; and were of a prodigious size, as well as worth.

Some of the stones were, as Josephus says, "forty-five cubits long, five high, and six broad." Others of them, as he elsewhere affirms, "were twenty-five cubits long, eight high, and twelve broad." And he also tells us, in the same place, that there were, "in the porches, four rows of pillars: the thickness of each pillar was as much as three men, with their arms stretched out, and joined together, could grasp; the length twenty-seven feet, and the number of them an hundred and sixty-two, and beautiful to a miracle."

At the size of those stones, and the beauty of the work, it is said, Titus was astonished, when he destroyed the temple; at which time his soldiers plundered it, and took away "the gifts," with which it is also said to be adorned. These were rich and valuable things which were dedicated to it, and either laid up in it, or hung upon the walls and pillars of it, as it was usual in other temples. These may, intend the golden table given by Pompey, and the spoils which Herod dedicated; and particularly the golden vine, which was a gift of his; besides multitudes of other valuable things, which were greatly enriching and ornamental to it. Now the disciples suggest, by observing these, what a pity it was such a grand edifice should be destroyed; or how unaccountable it was; that a place of so much strength, could easily be demolished.

[John Gill's commentary

Still used by the early Messianic believers, to the end, almost, of the Book of Acts...]

Acts 21.26-27 The next day Sha'ul took the men, purified himself along with them and entered the **Temple** to give notice of when the period of purification would be finished and the offering would **have to be made** for each of them.

Acts 21.26-27 The seven days were almost up when some unbelieving Jews from the province of Asia saw him in the **Temple**, stirred up all the crowd and grabbed him.



[https://www.google.com/search?q=second+temple+of+jerusalem&safe=active&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi5uu_lz-3aAhWBwYMKHVGVA44Q_AUICigB&biw=1165&bih=848#imgrc=tHslaWdSDtDUKM:]

It's hard to get a handle on the grandeur, but if you factor in that the Temple is taller than the H&R Block Tower downtown, it gets more breathtaking.]

Mattityahu (Matthew) 24:2

הַגִּיב יֵשׁוּעַ וְאָמַר לָהֶם: "רְוֵאִים אַתֶּם אֶת כָּל אֵלֶּה? אָמֵן אוֹמֵר אֲנִי לָכֶם, לֹא תִשָּׂאֵר פֶּה אֶבֶן עַל אֶבֶן אֲשֶׁר לֹא תִפֹּל אֶרְצָה."

But he answered them, "You see all these? Yes! I tell you, they will be totally destroyed — not a single stone will be left standing!"

or unbroken, as Munster's Hebrew Gospel reads it: which prediction had a full and remarkable accomplishment; and which is not only attested by Josephus, who relates, that both the city and temple were dug up, and laid level with the ground;

[John Gill commentary]

but also by Maimonides; who tells us that "on the ninth of Av, a day prepared for punishments, Turnus Rufus the wicked, (חרש את ההיכל) "plowed up the temple," and all round about it, to fulfill what is said, "Zion shall be plowed as a field"."

[Maimon. Hilch. Taanot, c. 5. sect. 3. T. Bab. Taanith, fol. 23. 1. & Gloss. in ib

John Gill commentary]

Yer 26.18 "Micah the Morashtite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, thus says Adoni-Tzva'ot: 'Zion will be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem will become ruins, and the mountain of the House as the high places of a forest.'

G-d shakes the apparently unshakeable, the temporal,
to reveal the truly unshakeable.

What in our lives
appears unshakeable?

[Remember the phrase "sound as a dollar"??]

Mes Jews/Heb 2.26-28 He has made this promise: Haggai 2:6, 21 "One more time I will shake not only the earth, but heaven too!"

Above is condensed New Testament/Messianic Scripture quote of the Tanakh:

Full quote:

Haggai 2.6-7 For this is what Adoni-Tzva'ot says: "It won't be long before one more time I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasures of all the nations will flow in; and I will fill this house with glory," says Adoni-Tzva'ot.

Hag.2.21-22 "Say to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah: 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, and I will overturn the throne of kingdoms and destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations.

Mes Jews/Heb 2.26-28 Inspired commentary on Tanakh: And this phrase, "one more time," makes clear that the things shaken are removed, since they are created things, so that the things not shaken may remain.

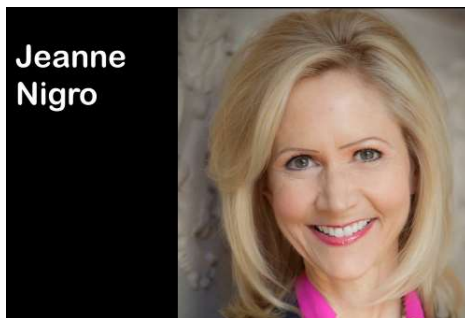
Inspired commentary: Mes Jews/Heb 2.26-28 **Therefore, since we have received an unshakeable Kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may offer service that will please God, with reverence and fear. [It's relatively easy, when seeing the world's wealth, influence, power, to feel shaken.**

Some slides from a guest speaker, Jeanne Nigro ...]

G-d shakes the apparently unshakeable, the temporal, to reveal the truly unshakeable.

What in our lives appears unshakeable?

[In developing this, I remember the presentation we had some time ago, Jeanne Nigro on "Unshakeable"]



INTIMACY WITH GOD is your #1 anchor for Standing Strong in Uncertain Times!!!



Be aware of what BLOCKS intimacy with God!



**Think about the News...
•How do you react?**



These responses may be **JUSTIFIED**, but are they from God?

- **Fear & Stress** (2 Tim 1:7)
- **Frustration & Anger** (Eph 4:26-27, 29, 31-32)
- **Give up, Do nothing, Apathy** (Matt. 25:14-30)



Justified or not, when we react with:

- **Fear & Stress**
- **Frustration & Anger**
- **Give up, Do nothing, Apathy**

We are aligning with the enemy!

We are believing a lie about ourselves or about God!



Spiritual Warfare made SIMPLE:

• With every thought, emotion, word, attitude, & action -- you are either:

- **Aligning with God's Heart** (His thoughts, emotions, words) & growing in intimacy or
- **Aligning yourself with the enemy**



[2 Tim 1.7 For God gave us a Spirit who produces not timidity, but power, love and self-discipline.]

INTIMACY WITH GOD is your #1 anchor for Standing Strong in Uncertain Times!!!

INTIMACY WITH GOD

• You are worried and troubled about so many things. But only one thing is needed (Luke 10:41-42)

• One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple (Ps. 27:4)

INTIMACY WITH GOD

- Your Primary Purpose in Life
- The Only Thing You Cannot Lose
- Will Keep You From Deception
- Will Keep You Strong in Persecution

Growing Deeper in Intimacy with God: "Defensive Strategies"

How will YOU react to uncertain times?

Fleshly Weapons of Warfare:

- Fear, Stress, Panic, Worry
- Anger, Frustration, Offense
- Criticize, Blame & Bash People
- Passivity, Apathy, Hiding, Giving up
- False sense of peace, complacency
- Negativity and Complaining

How will YOU respond?

Results of Fleshly Weapons of Warfare:

- Not a **light** - look like everyone else
- Unable to stand strong in **persecution**
- Susceptible to **deception**
- Unable to **partner** with God to release His plans & purposes

How will YOU respond?

Spiritual Weapons of Warfare:

- Deal with Strongholds: Lies about yourself and God
- Deal with Negative Emotions/Fleshly Responses:

Fear, Stress, Anger, Unforgiveness, Frustration, Bitterness, Resentment, Criticism, Self-Condemnation, Performance, Shame, Hopelessness, Blame

How will YOU react?

Spiritual Weapons of Warfare:

- Deal with Strongholds & Fleshly Responses:
 - Ask God to show you the LIES about yourself or God
 - Confess LIES or Negative Emotions as SIN
 - Forgive
 - Cancel Satan's Authority
- Ask God to show you HIS truth

Growing Deeper in Intimacy with God: "Offensive Strategies"

Intimacy with God is your #1 Purpose!

How will YOU respond?

Focus on "One Thing": Intimacy First!

• Dwell on Him throughout the day:

- What He has done for you
 - How much He desires you
 - How much He values you
 - How much He wants you!

[How many of us spend time daily with G-d. One hour/day?

How many are at our Teerosh, and Shavuot late night prayer coming?]

• Dwell on Him throughout the day:

- Who He is
 - Revelation Ch. 1-3 (eyes flaming fire (v.14); one who loved us (v.5))
 - Revelation 4 - throne room (sardius stone, jasper diamond, emerald (4:3))

• Dwell on Him throughout the day:

- How He sees you
 - Song of Solomon -

"Bridegroom"

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Asher Intrater Prayer is so important that it seems to be the primary work that Yeshua has committed himself to for the past 2,000 years. Apparently, He figured He could get more done by intercessory prayer than by anything else.

Mes. Jews Heb 7:25 – For He lives ever to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34 – He is at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf. Therefore, when we pray by the leading of the Spirit of God, we are actually joining together with Yeshua, interceding together with Him as He intercedes for us. This prayer partnership with Yeshua bears much fruit exponentially for the kingdom of God. This urgent intercession marshals all the powers of both heaven and earth in strategic effectiveness.

[<https://tribe.reviveisrael.org/urgency-of-prayer/>]

T'hilim/Ps 110.1 Adoni says to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

[I've been warned that May could be a dangerous month in Israel for war.]

A 24-year veteran in the Naval special forces shared his concerns for Israel in the next two weeks, especially the day after each of the following dates.

- *May 6: General elections take place in Lebanon. It is expected that Hezbollah will win the majority.*
- *May 12: Trump is expected to make a decision regarding the Iran deal.*
- *May 14: US will move Israel's Embassy to Jerusalem.]*

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[Some examples of shaking and unshakeable revealed.]



[We've all known about Iran's genocidal statements. Seemingly unstoppable. Benjamin Netanyahu said, concerning this, and the Iran deal, "This is 1937 all over again." Hitler build up destructive power and no one intervening. Neville Chamberlain made the Munich deal. "Peace in our time."]

Harold Rhode spent 28 years at the Pentagon and studied in Iran before the 1979 revolution there. The fluent Farsi speaker, who is now associated with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, said his views stem from a wave of recent Iranian infighting.

He said when things are not going well in Iran, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps officials and rival ayatollahs start attacking each other in a public blame game that expresses how exposed and vulnerable they feel their rule has become.

[President Donald Trump, right, talks about Jon Ponder, second from right, from Las Vegas, and FBI Special Agent Richard Beasley, second from left, during a National Day of Prayer event in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Thursday, May 3, 2018. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)]

Jon Ponder, a fatherless kid who grew up on the streets and in gangs. Jon was in and out of jail for years until, at age 38, he was arrested for robbing a bank. He ended up in federal prison, in solitary confinement. That's where, as President Trump put it, "God found him."

After reading the Bible and listening to Christian radio, Jon woke up one night with a jolt to the voice of Billy Graham in his head, and he accepted Messiah.

The first day Jon got out of jail, he had a knock on his door. "It was the man who put him in jail, FBI Special Agent Richard Beasley. "I want you to know that I've been praying for you very strongly," Beasley told him.

"God called me to the FBI in part because of you, Jon." As for Jon, he runs a full-time prison ministry now. <https://hopeforprisoners.org/about-us/>
[https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=WA18E07&f=WU18E03]



[Former bank robber Jon Ponder, now CEO of Hope for Prisoners, and Richard Beasley, the FBI agent who arrested him in 2004. This photo was taken after both had attended a National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House.]

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