

How our family celebrates the Feast of Tabernacles

Here in the north, planning for Sukkot requires consideration of the temperatures, especially when Sukkot is in October. This year, Sukkot starts in September, so we may not be such Frozen Chosen this year. Even so, the evenings are definitely crisp, so soups and stews are some of the best foods to serve during the feast. I recommend planning at least a week in advance so you don't need to worry about your menu items during the feast.

Yom Kippur and Messiah's return

There are many Messianic prophecies in the Bible, but what is found in Zechariah 12 in particular regarding mourning (i.e. genuine, travailing repentance) is very much related to Yom Kippur. We know that Messiah Yeshua will come back after the time of the tribulation and wicked nations will be about to attack Jerusalem. Adonai Tzva'ot will handle it: "It will happen in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zech.12:9).

Could Tzelophehad's inheritance be given to daughters?

Parashat Pinchas ([B'midbar/Numbers 25:10 – 29](#)) 5781 B"H
(Updated 7/19/22 5782)

The Law had been given, but clarification was needed

By [Numbers 25](#), Israel had *Torah* (God's instructions), but different situations arose in Israel's history which needed clarification.

One such instance occurred in [Numbers \(B'midbar\) 27](#) when a man named Tzelophehad (commonly spelled, [Zelophehad](#), in English translations) died in the wilderness.

He was survived by **5 daughters**.

Tzelophehad's family

It appears Tzelophehad had been a decent man.

Nothing is said about his wife, so she may have died many years earlier.

Yet somehow Tzelophehad managed to raise up 5 thoughtful daughters:

Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

Machlach's name refers to "sickness." If she was the firstborn, as suggested by the name-order listing in the Bible, perhaps her mother struggled during childbirth. Noah's name is derived from a word meaning, "movement," referring to

"trembling" or "quivering." Perhaps she was seen as "nervous" or "anxious." Choglah's name is a bit more obscure, probably meaning, "partridge" according to Strong's Hebrew Concordance. Maybe she was a crier as an infant, because, according to the [International Standard Bible Encyclopedia](#), partridges were known for their loud cries that attracted plenty of attention. Milcah is a form of Malchah, meaning "queen," and Tirtzah describes a "favored" one or one in whom there is "delight."

These women knew right from wrong and just from unjust. They were respectful of Moses and they concerned themselves with a legal matter, demonstrating that they also respected YHVH.



The legal precedence was such that sons received a father's inheritance.

But Tzelophehad had no sons!

He did, however, have some independent thinkers!

His daughters concerned themselves with an issue of fairness, seeking justice, not only for themselves, but for the legacy of their father.

TZELOPHEHAD'S FIVE DAUGHTERS

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Moses & Eleazar hear the daughters' petition

Tzelophehad was never part of [Korah](#)'s clan. Tzelophehad's daughters made a special point to ensure their father's legacy would in no way be connected to Korah.

Tzelophehad had nothing to do with the rebellious uprising.

[Read about Korah, the \(wicked\) Social Influencer of their day HERE](#)

Machlah, Noah, Choglah, Milcah, and Tirzah appeared before Moses, Eleazar, and the princes of the entire Israelite assembly at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

No sickness or nervousness would keep them from walking in favor.

They did not seek attention for attention's sake.

The 5 sisters had in them the confidence that they were daughters of Israel, queens in the royal kingdom of a holy nation blessed by the Almighty One. They were bound as sisters, and they made their petition *together*.

[“Why should our father’s name diminish from his family just because he had no son? Give to us property among our father’s brothers.” \(Numbers 27:4\)](#)

A verdict from on high

Moses didn't make a decision until he had consulted the Supreme Law-Giver, *ADONAI*. Moshe prayed and the LORD responded to him that Tzelophehad's daughters were right:

They ***should*** be given the inheritance of their father, and the commandment would stand for all of Israel.

There was only one caveat (described in [Numbers 36](#)) which was that the daughters had to marry within their tribe.

Individual and community rights

These five brave women took a stand for their human rights. Some would say they remained limited due to the provision that they must marry within their clan, but culturally speaking,

they were still granted significant freedom to marry whoever they wished within their tribal grouping.

Rabbi Johnathan Sacks, of blessed memory, delves deeper into the human rights discussion that arises from [Numbers 27](#) in his article titled, [Complexity of Human Rights](#). Of particular interest, the dichotomy of the individual rights justly pursued by the five daughters of Tzelophehad and the group or tribal rights that are also an important part of wholesome justice.

Today, most people are only focused on their *individual* rights, to the exclusion or disregard of the needs and rights of the wider society. This can lead to major distortions in appropriate social justice. The “me” culture of today forces wider society to adapt to *outlandish policies* demanded by at times defiant individuals, in a less-than-holy and unjust way.

The lesson from [Numbers 27](#) is that when an individual pursues justice in a righteous and holy way, then their needs can and should be addressed, and the wider society will benefit from that individual situation.

Machlah, Noah, Choglah, Milcah, and Tirzah would marry within the tribe, for their own benefit, but also for the benefit of the nation of Israel.

Families come first, and this Scripture passage illustrates that.

The 5 daughters of Tzelophehad were blessed and heard because of their faithfulness and obedience, and the nation of Israel prospered, even to this day.



[Korah: the Rebellious Social Influencer](#)

Balaam & Balak: Conspiring to curse Israel

King Balak was terrified of what would come to his kingdom once the Israelites arrived. Israel had just decimated the Amorites, so this king had reason to be concerned. Balak's fear rubbed off on his people. Numbers 22:3 says "Moab was filled with dread because of B'nei Y'Israel [the children of Israel]" (Numbers 22:3). The Moabites knew Israel was strong, both in number and in power.

Dead Bodies, a Red Cow, Snakes, and the King's Highway: The makings of a

movie, or an intense Numbers Bible Study?

Parashat Chukat ([B'midbar/Numbers 19-21](#)) 5781 B"H (Updated 7/15/22 5782)

We continue our study through Numbers today.

Most people probably don't count the passages of Scripture in [Numbers 19-21](#) (known as *Parashat Chukat*) as among the most understandable or relatable of the Bible.

This portion of Scripture definitely won't be the favorite of anyone uncomfortable with dead bodies!

The Red Heifer and Bible Prophecy

These chapters talk about a red heifer that is to be burned so that, mysteriously, its ashes can purify an unclean individual who has touched a dead body. Specific instructions are given about how to be purified if you've touched a corpse, what to do if an open container without a lid fastened on was in the tent when someone died there . . . lessons on decontamination, in a sense. Relatedly, the origins of medical advice, [quarantines](#), and cleanliness are all rooted in Torah: even the serpent symbol used today by the medical community was loosely inspired by Moses' bronze snake in [Numbers 21:9](#).

The puzzling role of the red heifer that is described in [Numbers 19](#) is a source of much debate surrounding the Third Temple and the fulfillment of end times prophecy. *PBS Frontline* has an interesting article in its Apocalypse series describing some of the issues around the red heifer in modern context titled, ["Forcing the End: Why do a Pentecostal cattle](#)

[breeder from Mississippi and an Orthodox Rabbi from Jerusalem believe that a red heifer can bring change?](#) Perhaps you will find it interesting reading, along with an article humorously titled, [“In Quest of the Holy Cow”](#) from *Israel my Glory*.

While red cows exist, they have not existed in Israel until very recently, 2018 to be specific. That means that for over 2,000 years, there was no red heifer anywhere in Israel. CBN news reported on the [2018 red heifer](#) and since then, there have been other candidates. Ever heard that Crystal Lewis song, [“People get ready, Jesus is coming?”](#) Yeah. It’s true. He’s coming back! Get ready.

[**LINK: Holy cow! Prophecy fulfilled after red heifer is born at Temple of Israel**](#)

A stutterer told to talk . . . to a rock

While it is impossible for us to fully understand the LORD’s reasons for each instruction given in His Word, we can rest assured that He **does** have a reason for everything, even if we don’t understand.

Moshe (Moses) of all people, knew to obey God’s instructions, yet, on one famous occasion, he let his emotions get the best of him. When the people complained that they had no water to drink, *ADONAI* told Moshe to **speak** to a rock, and it would “give out its water” ([Numbers 20:8, TLV](#)).

In [Numbers 20:10](#), Moses called the people “rebels” (an insult in their day) and pounded on the rock twice rather than speaking to it.

We generally assume this is because Moses was angry.

He might also have been extraordinarily nervous.

Speaking was not Moses' *forte*. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Water from the Rock

Moses called the people 'rebels' (an insult in their day) and pounded on the rock twice rather than speaking to it.

We generally assume this is because Moses was angry.

He might also have been **extraordinarily nervous**.

Speaking was not Moses' *forte*.

He stuttered... so the idea of talking to a rock in front of the entire nation of Israel was probably not something he was too eager to do.

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Was Moses indeed a stutterer? Neurologists and theologians don't collaborate as much as perhaps they should, but an article in [First Things](#) looks at the evidence from *neurological science* that **CONFIRMS** the widely-held interpretation/assumption that Moses stuttered.

The LORD had his reasons for commanding Moses to trust Him and *speak*. The rock contained water and could respond to verbal command. What's more, Jesus Christ the Anointed One, *Messiah Yeshua*, warned the Pharisees that rocks would cry out if the believers ceased from praising their Father ([Luke 19:40](#)). But ultimately, the command to speak to the rock in Meribah was not so much to prove that such a feat could be done as it was a test of faith! Moses failed to obey, and it cost him: he and that generation would not live to see the long-awaited

Promised Land.

In any case, water *did* gush out of that rock, quite a sight to see.

Something out of a movie?

The LORD provides for the Israelites' needs, but the people can't seem to shake their grumbling addiction.

They complain there is no bread, no water, and that they are sick of manna.

By [Numbers 21:6](#), ADONAI's patience had grown thin. He sent poisonous snakes which started biting people and many died. God is long-suffering, so even after all of this He makes a way for healing and restoration. Moses is instructed to construct a bronze snake on a pole (*nehushtan*), which would provide healing whenever a bite victim looked at it.

So many supernatural occurrences! These accounts in the book of Numbers really seem like something out of a movie!

Unlike a movie, however; all of what is written in Scripture is completely true. The Author is your Creator, and He will be your Savior if you will turn to Him in faith!

The King's Highway

If all of this wasn't enough trial and tribulation, the Israelites had to traverse land that was controlled by enemies.

In ancient times, there was a highway that connected the north to the south for purposes of travel and trade. This highway was known as the "King's Highway," and it was rightly named, because different *kingdoms* controlled access to the main road.

The King of Edom would not allow Israel to pass through their

territory, nor would King Sihon and Og of the Amorites.

Israel had to wage war.

Israel won and began to live in the land which had belonged to the Amorites.

Israel's history is full of struggle and strife, but ultimately, **Israel wins.**

Today, as believers, we are part of Israel. We, too, have rebelled and fallen short of the expectations set out for us by the Word of God. Yet, in His infinite grace, mercy, and love, the LORD God of Israel has made a way for us.

We do not deserve permission granted to walk upon His Holy Road, but we walk the True King's Highway, and He gives us victory along the way.

I am reminded of a hymn we sang growing up:

The King's Highway

I know not where the road will lead
I follow day by day,
or where it ends: I only know
I walk the King's highway.
I know not if the way is long,
and no one else can say;
but rough or smooth, up hill or down,
I walk the King's highway.

And some I love have reached the end,
but some with me may stay,
their faith and hope still guiding me:
I walk the King's highway.
The way is truth, the way is love,
for light and strength I pray,
and through the years of life, to God
I walk the King's highway.

King's highway, Evelyn Atwater Cummins

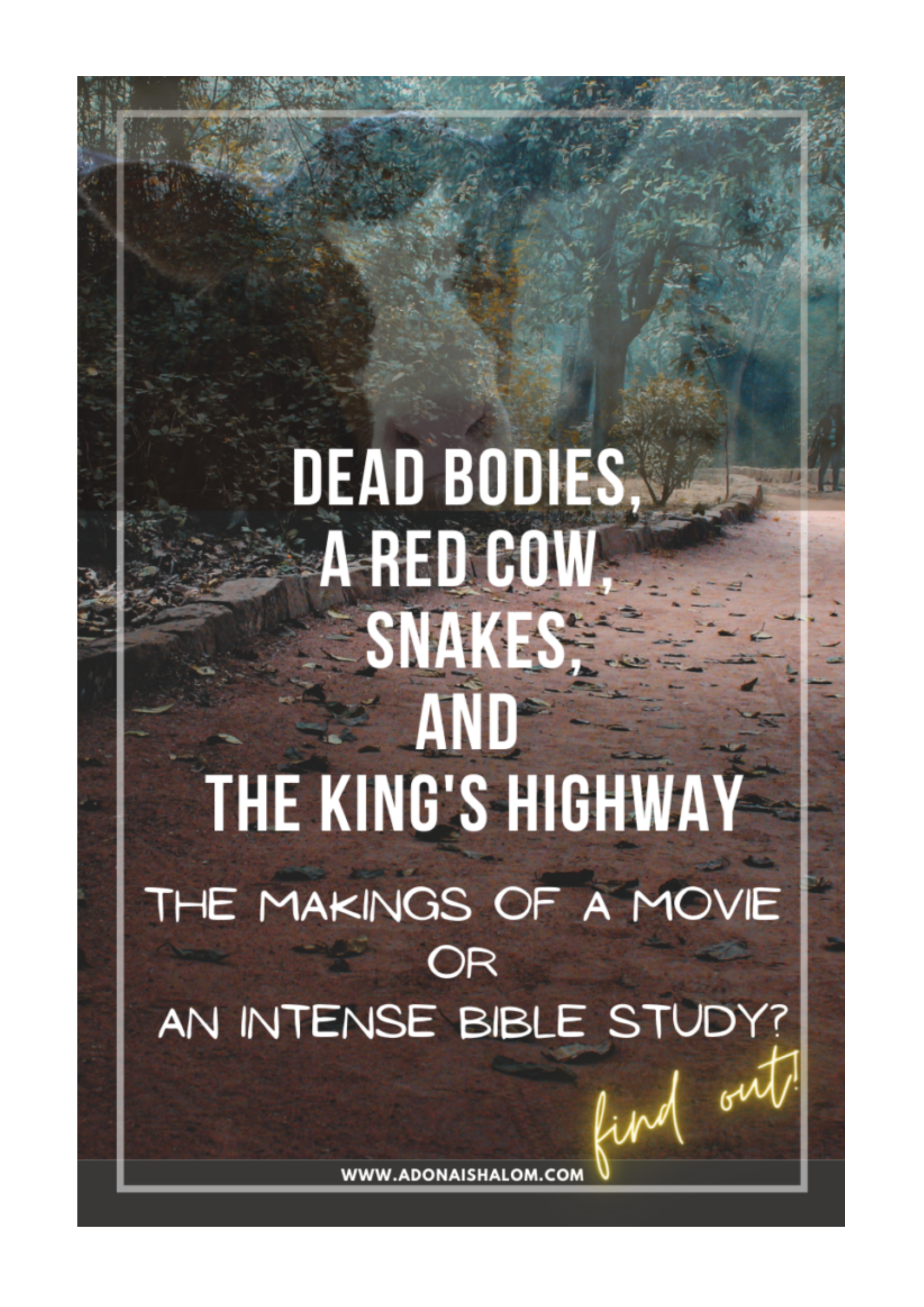


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King's highway, Evelyn Atwater Cummins

Let's continue walking along our King's Highway together as we study the book of Numbers together!



**DEAD BODIES,
A RED COW,
SNAKES,
AND
THE KING'S HIGHWAY**

THE MAKINGS OF A MOVIE
OR
AN INTENSE BIBLE STUDY?

find out!

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Korah: the Rebellious Social Influencer

Today, we have social media “influencers.” Korah was the social influencer in his day. He didn’t get YouTube awards or Facebook fans, but he had enough followers to cause a major disruption. That generation would never make it to the land of milk and honey.

Memorial Day: The Memory of the Righteous is a blessing

What comes to mind when you think of Memorial Day?

If your family is anything like ours, you’ve probably got outdoor plans and a grill to light up. Memorial Day weekend is a wonderful time to enjoy being with family as most people have extra time off of work, and there is certainly nothing wrong with extra family time!

But while you are preparing to barbecue your burgers and Hebrew National hotdogs, I hope you have taken some time to reflect and thank HaShem for the gift of freedom that we have in the United States.

Just a few weeks ago, Israel was attacked by Hamas rocket fire. Safety, security, and freedom are not without cost. We must be thankful for all of those who have defended the United

States, U.S. allies including Israel, and U.S. interests around the world.

Just a few weeks ago, Israel was attacked by Hamas rocket fire. Safety, security, and freedom are not without cost. We must be thankful for all of those who have defended the United States and U.S. allies including Israel. So many soldiers and their families have sacrificed so much for our freedoms, and of those many have been faithful servants of the Eternal One.

Let their service be honored and never forgotten, and as Proverbs 10:7 says: "The memory of the righteous is a blessing."

Haman's wife Zeresh was right about this 1 thing

From Haman to Hamas, Israel is all too often surrounded and attacked by enemies, but fear not, the enemy will never prevail! Baruch HaShem Adonai, the Guardian of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps.

The increase of Israel's border, little by little

The nation of Israel is truly flourishing. The land is prospering. Deserts are blossoming, becoming lush and full of greenery. Israel is an agricultural marvel and nations around

the world are beginning to take note of their agri-tech, though it is no surprise to anyone familiar with the Scriptures:

Replacing replacement theology: is the church the “New” Israel?

For many, many, many years . . . centuries, to be more precise, believers were taught that there is a stark contrast between “the Church” and “Israel.” “Israel” was seen as the “rebellious,” “law-bound,” “old,” “outdated,” “Jewish-other” while the “Church” was seen as the “sanctified,” “free,” “mostly-Gentile,” “new,” “grace-based” non-religion, though “religion” it was and has been. This dichotomy has created a needless split between most of Judaism and modern Christianity.