



BAT KOL NEWS



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Netanyahu, arriving in Israel, says 'world heard' what he said about Iran deal

Source: JTA-3/4/2015



Benjamin Netanyahu delivers his message to Congress

JERUSALEM (JTA) – In his address to Congress, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu argued that the proposed nuclear deal being negotiated with Iran will lead inexorably to a nuclear-armed Iran and war in the Middle East. “This deal has two major concessions: One, leaving Iran with a vast nuclear program, and two, lifting the restrictions on that program in about a decade,” Netanyahu said in his speech Tuesday morning. “That’s why this deal is so bad. It doesn’t block Iran’s path to the bomb, it paves Iran’s path to the bomb.” Netanyahu argued that the deal under consideration, which is being negotiated with Iran by the United States and other world powers, would let most of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure stay in place, including thousands of centrifuges. That would leave Tehran with a very short “breakout time” with which it could produce nuclear weapons, he said. Netanyahu concluded his speech with a biblical quote from Moses, first in Hebrew, then in English. “Be strong and resolute, neither fear nor dread them,” he said, then added, “May Israel and America always stand together, strong and resolute.”

Upon returning home, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he heard “encouraging responses” from U.S. lawmakers after his speech before a joint meeting of Congress. “After my short visit to the United States, I return to Israel knowing that many around the world heard what Israel has to say about the impending deal with Iran,” Netanyahu said Wednesday morning upon landing at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv. Netanyahu said he presented an alternative to the proposed outline nuclear deal, which the world powers, known as the P5+1, hope to initial before the end of the month. “I presented a practical alternative, which would impose tougher restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program, extending Iran’s breakout time by years. I also called on the P5+1 to insist on a deal that would link the lifting of those restrictions to Iran’s ceasing its sponsorship of terrorism around the world, its aggression against its neighbors and its calls for Israel’s destruction,” Netanyahu said. Netanyahu said he “heard encouraging responses from both Democrats and Republicans. They understood that the current proposal would lead to a bad deal and that the alternative is a better deal.”

Obama: Netanyahu said ‘nothing new’ and offers ‘no viable alternative’

Source: JTA-3/4/2015



(JTA) – President Barack Obama said there was “nothing new” in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s address to Congress. He also said that Netanyahu “didn’t offer any viable alternatives” to the nuclear agreement currently being discussed with Iran by the world powers, on Tuesday from the Oval Office, in a transcript released by the White House. Obama said that he did not watch the speech since he was on a video conference when it took place, but that he “did have a chance to take a look at the transcript.” Obama called on Congress and Netanyahu to “wait until there’s actually a deal on the table that Iran has agreed to, at which point everybody can evaluate it; we don’t have to speculate. And what I can guarantee is that if it’s a deal I’ve signed off on, I will be able to prove that it is the best way for us to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.”

Ki Tisa

Exodus 30:11-34:35

The people of Israel are told to each contribute exactly half a shekel of silver to the Sanctuary. Instructions are also given regarding the making of the Sanctuary’s water basin, anointing oil and incense. “Wise-hearted” artisans Betzalel and Aholiav are placed in charge of the Sanctuary’s construction, and the people are once again commanded to keep the Shabbat. When Moses does not return when expected from Mount Sinai, the people make a golden calf and worship it. G-d proposes to destroy the errant nation, but Moses intercedes on their behalf. Moses descends from the mountain carrying the tablets of the testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments; seeing the people dancing about their idol, he breaks the tablets, destroys the golden calf, and has the primary culprits put to death. He then returns to G-d to say: “If You do not forgive them, blot me out from the book that You have written.” G-d forgives, but says that the effect of their sin will be felt for many generations. At first G-d proposes to send His angel along with them, but Moses insists that G-d Himself accompany His people to the promised land. Moses prepares a new set of tablets and once more ascends the mountain, where G-d reinscribes the covenant on these second tablets. On the mountain, Moses is also granted a vision of the divine thirteen attributes of mercy. So radiant is Moses’ face upon his return, that he must cover it with a veil, which he removes only to speak with G-d and to teach His laws to the people.



Ki Tisa Haftorah

I Kings 18:20-39.

In this week’s haftorah, Elijah the Prophet demonstrates the worthlessness of the Baal, just as Moses chastised the Israelites for serving the Golden Calf, as discussed in this week’s Torah reading. The background of this week’s haftorah: King Ahab and Queen Jezebel ruled the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and encouraged the worship of the Baal deity as well as other forms of idolatry. To prove that G-d alone is in control and provides sustenance, Elijah decreed a drought on the kingdom--no rain fell for three years. When Ahab then accused Elijah of causing hardship for the Israelites, Elijah challenged him to a showdown. He, Elijah, would represent the cause of monotheism, and 850 idolatrous “prophets” would represent their cause. Ahab accepted. The haftorah begins with Elijah, the Baal prophets, and many spectators gathering atop Mount Carmel. Elijah rebuked the people of Israel, uttering the famous words: “How long will you hop between two ideas? If the L-rd is G-d, go after Him, and if the Baal, go after him.” Elijah then stated his challenge: “Give us two bulls and let them [the Baal prophets] choose one bull for themselves and cut it up and place it on the wood, but fire they shall not put; and I will prepare one bull, and I will put it on the wood, and fire will I not place. And you will call in the name of your deity, and I will call in the name of the L-rd, and it will be the G-d that will answer with fire, he is G-d.” The people agreed to the challenge, and the prophets of the Baal were first. The prophets’ entreaties to their god went unanswered. Elijah taunted them: “Call with a loud voice, for you presume that he is a god. [Perhaps] he is talking or he is pursuing [enemies], or maybe he is on a journey; perhaps he is sleeping and will awaken...” As evening approached, Elijah took center-stage. He built an altar, laid his offering upon it and surrounded it with water. “Lord, the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,” he declared. “Today let it be known that You are G-d in Israel and that I am Your servant, and at Your word have I done all these things. Answer me, O L-rd, answer me, and this people shall know that You are the L-rd G-d...” A fire immediately descended from heaven and consumed the offering, as well as the altar and the surrounding water. “And all the people saw and fell on their faces, and they said, “The Lord is G-d, the L-rd is G-d.”

In Jerusalem, seven wounded in suspected terror attack

Source: JTA-3/6/2015



(JTA) — Seven people sustained moderate to minor injuries when a car rammed into a group of pedestrians standing at a light rail station in east Jerusalem. Police are treating Friday morning's incident on Shimon HaTzadik Street as a terrorist attack. Six of the injured are female Border Guard officers who were in uniform when the car hit them, Army Radio reported. Two of the women sustained moderate injuries while the rest suffered minor injuries. The seventh injured was a civilian cyclist, who had moderate injuries, Israel Radio reported. Police said the driver veered from the road onto the sidewalk, before getting out of the vehicle with a knife. He was shot and wounded by a security guard. Susan Turnbull, the chairwoman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, who is in Israel this week, was in a car near the scene of the attack. "We saw probably 20 police arrive from every direction within moments," she told JTA in an email. "The immediate response is breath-taking to behold with police and medical personnel aided by onlookers in a flash." The car used for the attack is registered to an address in Ras al Amud, an eastern neighborhood of Jerusalem. Israel Radio named the alleged attacker as Mohammed Salameh, a resident of the neighborhood. The attack happened on Purim, a Jewish holiday that has been the occasion of terrorist attacks in the past.

ADL condemns Farrakhan's claim that Jews were behind 9/11

Source: JTA-3/6/2015



(JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League condemned Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan as the "leading anti-Semite in America" after a speech in which he blamed "Israelis and Zionist Jews" for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "At a time when anti-Semitic attitudes are at historic lows, Farrakhan's unabashed promotion of anti-Semitism is a throwback to the intolerance of another era," ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said in a statement issued Thursday. Farrakhan, who has a long history of anti-Semitic remarks, delivered his speech Sunday in Chicago as part of his Saviors Day 2015 sermon. "It is now becoming apparent that there were many Israelis and Zionist Jews in the key roles of the 9/11 attacks," Farrakhan said. "If they can prove me wrong, I'll pay with my life, since they want to kill me anyway. Prove me wrong. We're dealing with thieves and liars and murderers." Some of Farrakhan's other claims in that speech relating to Sept. 11 include that "an Israeli film crew dressed as Arabs were filming the Twin Towers before the first plane went in" and "many Jews received a text message not to come to work on Sept. 11." Farrakhan's religious group Nation of Islam, once led by Malcolm X, is labeled as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Farrakhan left the group in 2007 due to health problems but has continued to give public speeches promoting anti-Semitic claims in recent years.

Influence of the Lamedvavniks

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvavnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to affect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvavnik returns mysteriously to obscurity.

CHAPTER #7- Mapping numbers

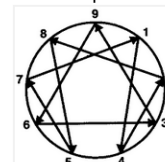
Rabbi Kindberg held Yakov's amulet in his hand and copied only the diagram without the words onto the board. He then numbered each point. "So... would any of you like to comment on this curious received trinket of Yakov Ariehe?"

Yakov Ariehe, the rabbinical student cited what might purport to be the obvious. "Is it a different version of the Mogen Dovid? Does Honi H'Magel or Shlomo H'Melech have anything to do with its origins?"

Avram Yoel, the math professor also offered a comment. "I see a connection with the number 3 and the number 7."

Binyamin Yitzhak, the musician remarked, "If you put the names of the musical notes on each point, I can tell you about inconsistencies of vibrations in this seemingly symmetric diagram."

Shlomo Tzvi, a man with a trained culinary background also responded, "I can liken it to a procedure that takes place in the kitchen when we prepare a meal." The rabbi continued with "Interesting... each of you are on the right track - in your own way. So I will tell you more. In this diagram, the triangle is superimposed on a different depiction of the Star of David, as Yakov Ariehe correctly observed. If the symbol's apex is used in combination with this Mogen Dovid, there would be seven points. Ancient mathematicians, such as the Pythagoreans may have used this as a symbol for expressing irrational numbers such as 1 divided by 3, and 1 divided by 7. Both yielding endless repetitions of the same sequence of numbers, such as .3333... and .142857 142857... But this is just a precursor of how these points interact. Numbering the points of the diagram sequentially on the outside of the circle will show a total of 9; and that there is an internal connection which corresponds to 1-4-2-8-5-7.



In life, things appear to proceed step by step as each moment passes like the sequence of numbers on the outside of the circle. But this diagram begins to teach us that we need to see the internal relationships to each step. For example 1 is connected to both 4 and 7. Actions in the world can be planned. They are intimately interconnected to the desired results of future events. Avram Yoel's perception of the numbers 3 and 7 is quite insightful. But it is Binyamin Yitzhak's remark that will put us on the road to associate this symbol with our Jewish roots. The rabbi erased some numbers and replaced them with the names of 7 musical notes. (To be continued...)

In first, NYC schools to close for Muslim holidays

Source: JTA-3/5/2015



NEW YORK (JTA) — New York will become the first major city to close its public schools for Muslim holidays. Schools will be shuttered for the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha holidays, which rotate around the secular calendar because they are pegged to the Muslim non-leap lunar calendar. Several other smaller municipalities already close their schools for those holy days, including Cambridge, Mass.; Dearborn, Mich.; and Paterson, N.J., but no major metropolis does, according to The New York Times. A 2008 study by Columbia University found that about 10 percent of students in New York City's schools are Muslim, the newspaper reported. The announcement fulfills a campaign pledge by New York City's mayor, Bill de Blasio, who called it a "matter of simple fairness." The announcement came on Wednesday. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha mark's Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

3,000 women hold peace demonstration outside Knesset

Source: JTA-3/5/2015

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Three thousand women protested outside the Israeli Knesset calling for an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

The protest Wednesday was held by Women Wage Peace, an Israeli organization founded after last summer's war in Gaza that supports a peace agreement. According to the Times of Israel, the group has 7,000 members. At the protest, the women formed a circle around the Knesset and chanted "It's reality, not a dream, women make peace." They also sang "A Song for Peace," which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sang at a rally shortly before his assassination in 1995. "It's time for us to be part of the dialogue that revolves around security and peace," Yael Elad, head of the organization's press team, told the Times of Israel. "We sense that women disappear from the public space when you look at TV panels or listen to radio shows. This place is reserved for generals or politicians, but never for women."

AMIT needs your help! צדקה



Founded in 1925, AMIT educates and cares for Israel's youth, including the most vulnerable children in Israel. The AMIT schools promote religious tolerance, service to the state and the recognition that every child is blessed with unique talents and abilities.

Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



שבת שלום

BAT KOL NEWS

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NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES*

SUNDAY (Clock +1 hr ahead)	MARCH 8
Candle lighting	6:42 PM
FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	6:45 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	6:45 PM
Shabbat ends	7:47 PM

*Subject to change per Rabbi's announcements.