

## Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times"  
- Strategic Partner
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

### Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

if the credit for this great victory of "human achievement" was given to the Lord. The founders of the State found an acceptable compromise: Instead of mentioning God by name, they referred to the ambiguous "Rock of Israel."

But we believers in Yeshua know it was **ADONAI** who has preserved Israel as a nation and a people and, against overwhelming odds, has brought her back into the Land in accordance with prophecy:

1. Isaiah 66:8, 9 – In 70 C.E., Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jewish people were dispersed to the "four corners of the earth." Many believers have waited for this prophecy of 'a nation brought forth all at once' to be fulfilled. Sixty-two years ago, it was! **ADONAI** "re-birthed" the nation of Israel.

2. Isaiah 11:10-12 – This passage is not referring to the return from Babylon. The nations were not experiencing revival at that time. During the revival of the Gentiles, the Jewish people would miraculously return to Israel from the four corners of the earth. (That's in *our* time!)

3. Jeremiah 16:14, 15 – The Jewish people would return to Israel from the "Land of the North." More than 1 million "from the North" have come to Israel in the last two decades.

### YOM YERUSHALAYIM (Jerusalem Day)

The recapturing of the Old City of Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War is annually celebrated by state ceremonies, parades through downtown Jerusalem, festive meals, and with singing and dancing. One of the themes of this day is *Built-up Jerusalem is like a city that was joined together* (Psalm 122:3).

It is nothing short of miraculous that the State of Israel stands today! We can say, "evan ma'asu habonim hayeta l'rosh pinah"—the stone the builders rejected; (the nation despised by the world) today stands tall and proud.

For Messiah Yeshua's Glory,

Joel Liberman  
Executive Director

# International Messianic Jewish Alliance

## האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

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### ESSAY # 171

## ISRAEL'S SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS

Shalom *Chaverim* (Friends) and Co-Laborers,

The ancient land of Israel is beloved, holy, and a precious trust of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One of the most remarkable aspects of Jewish life is that we are connected as a people. Yet, Jewish anti-missionary organizations would try to say otherwise in their unfounded rhetoric concerning Messianic Jews. Recently, Israel observed several special annual commemorations, which the Messianic Jewish community worldwide also celebrated.

### YOM HASHOAH (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

There is no other event as important, disturbing, or horrifying. No other calamity has done more to shape self-identity and galvanize commitment to Jewish survival and continuity than the murder of six million of our own in Europe. It was during the late 1940s that the Israeli government and American Jewish leaders first debated establishing a day to honor the six million. We were just coming to terms with the unspeakable losses. Thousands of families were wiped out without even one grave marker being erected. Survivors had to start new lives without their mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, children and siblings. So when Holocaust Remembrance Day was established on April 12, 1951, there was finally the opportunity to mourn publicly.

Over the years, more horror stories have emerged. The atrocities did not happen in secret. World leaders knew what was taking place. They either gave it their tacit approval or were reluctant to recognize the scope of what was occurring. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a painful reminder of unspeakable evil made manifest in a civilized world. We remember the Holocaust each year to make sure it never happens again. The fact remains that failure to remember the Holocaust means a failure to learn and a greater chance of history repeating itself.

## What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

## National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Israel
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

When Jewish leaders in Israel and America discussed the need for a Holocaust Remembrance Day, they were hesitant to create a memorial so focused on death, loss, and powerlessness. That's why Israel's Knesset designated the 27th of the Jewish month of Nisan to coincide with the start of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Our Jewish people managed an unparalleled demonstration of courage at that time. This act of resistance was a sign that we could fight back, even if we failed, in the end. In that way, the memory of persecution and death is linked with the recollection of Jewish valor.

Throughout our history, whatever terrible challenge we faced or tragedy we endured, we have never lost hope. We are moved by the words found on a concentration camp wall that reads, **"I believe in the sun when it is not shining. I believe in love when I feel it not. I believe in God when He is silent."**

Our responsibility in the face of the calamity of the "Shoah," is never to lose hope. Such a loss would hand Adolph Hitler (and the Adversary behind his actions) the victory he has been denied. We must contend for hope when we see the persistence of anti-Semitism, particularly in Arab countries, and by a haunting resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe. The State of Israel—which Theodore Herzl imagined to be the solution to the problem of hatred against Jews—has become a pretext for ongoing anti-Jewish racism. The success of Zionism, the thoroughly legitimate national expression of the Jewish people in our Land, has inadvertently fueled anti-Semitism. Having no legitimate political basis, it runs much deeper than politics. Why else would the new anti-Semites traffic in insidious Holocaust denying? The cry "Never Again!" is being tested today.

In addition, let us understand that the "Shoah" is a lot more than man's inhumanity to man. It represents an outpouring of demonic fury against the Jewish people! In a sense, it was just another effort of many by Satan and his forces to obliterate the Jewish people. Why would he mark Israel for special treatment? Because God's plan to redeem mankind involves Israel. The Scriptures and the Messiah came through Israel (Isaiah 2:1-4; Romans 11:15).

### YOM HAZIKARON (Memorial Day)

As a prelude to the celebration of Israel's annual Independence Day, Yom HaZikaron is a day to give tribute to those who died fighting on behalf of Israel. It is solemnly marked throughout the country. Young people in uniforms from the various

branches of the Israel Defense Forces line the Western Wall Plaza, a memorial flame is lit, followed by songs and prayers and speeches. Each year, families of fallen soldiers are invited to attend, representing those who have lost a son, daughter, spouse, husband or wife.

Most everyone must serve in the IDF for a period of time, and because each family has been touched by the death of a soldier—a relative, a neighbor, a teacher, a co-worker's child—Yom HaZikaron truly honors and blesses the memory of those who died while serving their country. Perhaps because there is a direct link to the nation's Independence Day, the Israelis see the correlation between the patriotism of serving and dying for one's land linked to the freedom and independence of the nation. Unfortunately, that aspect is often lost here in America.

In Israel on this day, a siren wails and the nation pauses. People get out of cars or buses, and pedestrians pause. For two minutes, the nation comes to a standstill to remember their war dead and the incredible cost of those lives to their family and to the nation of Israel. Silence descends everywhere—upon the streets of Haifa and Tiberias, the hills of Jerusalem and the beaches of Tel-Aviv. There are tears for the struggle as well as blessings, as people give thanks for the sacrifice, and pray for comfort and redemption.

### YOM HA ATZMA'UT (Independence Day)

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion, who had helped build up the Labor Party and founded the *Histadrut* (the General Federation of Labor), announced the birth of the State of Israel. The Proclamation of Independence, 979 Hebrew words that took about 20 minutes to read, stressed the unbroken link between the Land and the Jewish people; referred to Theodore Herzl (father of modern Zionism) and the Balfour Declaration (1917); stated that it would be "open to Jewish immigration and the in-gathering of exiles"; that it would "promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants" and be based on liberty, justice, and peace "as envisaged by the prophets of Israel" and that it would loyally uphold the principles of the U.N. Charter.

It called upon the U.N. to assist the Jewish people in the building of the State, and appealed to the Arab inhabitants of Israel to play their part in the development on the basis of **equal** citizenship and due representation in all its bodies and institutions. To the Arab States and people, the Proclamation offered peace and neighborliness.

Religious people insisted that the name of God appear in this momentous acknowledgement of national redemption. The secularists refused to sign

## Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

