

“A PLAN FOR PEACE IN JUDEA”

Allan Leicht

A Greek bouzouki band rehearsing in a cave on Crete, largest of the Greek Islands, stumbled on a rare, ancient parchment scroll that seems to be the text of a public address, possibly delivered in a synagogue in Judea during the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire (167-160 BCE). The author would appear to have emigrated from Judea to Crete, perhaps as a refugee, and assimilated into ancient Greek society. While the authenticity of the scroll is still under careful archaeological scrutiny, a rough translation has been smuggled out of the archives of the Greek Antiquities Authority. Bereshith, The Beginners' newsletter, makes no claim for the authenticity of the content, but leaves the reader to judge for him- or herself.

A Plan for Peace in Judea

Diogenes ben Menashe

This war must stop now. These fundamentalist priests, these Hasmonian fanatics who are igniting a futile uprising against the Emperor Antiochus IV Epiphanes will bring disaster to the entire Jewish nation. The cheering in the streets of Jerusalem this morning, the adulation of the hooligan Yehudah ben Mattityahu, called “HaMaccabee,” is a prelude to our annihilation.

My fellow Jews, it is not good news that these extremist Maccabees have defeated the Syrians at Nahal al-Haramiah. One battle does not make for victory. There is no cause for celebration: this minor triumph is illusory, fleeting, fatally misleading. Do these zealots – this Yehudah, his hotheaded brothers from Modi'in and their rag-tag band of rebels – do they truly believe that they can defy the Seleucid Empire?

Eyewitness reports describe an even larger Syrian force marching to Jerusalem with weapons of mass destruction that will transform this radical revolution into a bloodbath and the destruction of the Jews. Elephants! General Seron, with twice as many warriors as Apollonius commanded in Judea, is marching south with elephants! Armored elephants! What will Judah ben Mattityahu do against a herd of armored elephants? Is he Joshua ben Nun? David ben Yishai? Gideon ben Yoash? Alexander of Macedon?

It runs in the family. It began with Mattityahu the Cohain of Modi'in, the father of these terrorists who was the inspiration for this misbegotten revolution. Priests. Levites, all Levites. Like Pinchas ben Elazar before him, Judah ben Mattityahu is a zealot, son of a zealot, Levi, the son of a Levite. Through the tribe of Levi there has flowed an uncontrollable streak of rebellion, violence and carnage since their ancestor of the original twelve sons of Yaakov massacred the population of the City of Shechem. And we poor, ordinary, peace-loving Jews of Judea pay the price. Zealots. Fanatics. Extremists.

Peace now! Negotiation! Disengagement! We call upon all forces to withdraw, lay down your arms. The true Jews of Judea stand ready to reason together. We are the great majority of Jews who see the value and the beauty of the worldly, Hellenistic social order. We have never found Greek culture to be in conflict with Jewish standards. On the contrary, our two cultures can co-exist in symbiotic harmony and we have incorporated the glory that is Greece into the wisdom of Judea.

There is much in Judaism that is in need of reform. There is more than one way of observing the Sabbath. Why can we not enjoy the Sabbath and go to the theater for the drama of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides? Circumcision is an

offense to Hellenistic sensibility. Why mutilate our infant sons so that they are scarred for life, outcasts in a modern world that glorifies bodily perfection? Antiochus Epiphanes bears the sacred burden to uphold the discipline and ordered conduct of the Empire, to which our Judea must conform for the common good. We must accommodate our calendar to the Empire's calendar. It is impudent to expect the majority to accommodate to us. Our months should be their months, not the other way around.

As for the Temple in Jerusalem, here the Hasmonians show their selfish colors. Is it our welfare, freedom and prosperity they are defending? Who has the most to gain or lose where it concerns the Temple in Jerusalem? Priests! Cohanim! Hasmonians! Is it any wonder that the family of Mattityahu has fomented this rebellion in the name of “religion”? Whose religion is this, anyway? It is their domain they are protecting -- their franchise, wealth and license to collect tribute. Their “Temple” is their livelihood, not the Jewish people's. Priests must have a temple, mustn't they? Even if it means annihilation for the rest of us.

Well, my good priests, my dedicated Cohanim, the game is over. You no longer have a Temple all to yourselves. The Emperor is modernizing Judaism, liberalizing Judaism, popularizing Judaism. And most of your fellow Jews applaud the Emperor, I am glad to say. You believe you are going to win this revolution and rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem. You are hoping for, praying for, a miracle. You will need one. But the age of miracles, I am compelled to inform you, has passed. This is the age of reality in politics.

I hereby call upon all the true Jews of Judea. We call for an international conference to begin a process towards peace – a peace process. Rome, Antioch, perhaps Damascus – Athens would be nice – a location of the choosing of the Emperor, and there we will talk peace. We will negotiate. We will unite the nations, and as united nations we will reform and reconcile our modern Jewish nation to the modern international community.

I hold out the hand of peace to Yehudah ben Mattityahu and his brothers Yochanan, Shimon, Elazar and Yonatan. I will petition Emperor Antiochus to pardon Yochanan ben Mattityahu for his insane assassination of the Emperor's Governor Nicanor. I believe that the Emperor will consider amnesty if the Hasmonians abandon this fanatic campaign and return to the bosom of the modernization, the Hellenization of the Jewish nation under the enlightened guidance of the Emperor Antiochus.

Peace now – before the elephants arrive!

[The editors trust that all the readers appreciate the author's sense of humor and tongue-in-cheek style of writing.]



Allan Leicht is an Emmy Award winning writer/producer whose credits include Adam and Kate and Alley.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Dr. Victoria Chernyak and Stas Krasinski

Rebecca Epan and Nimrod Chotzen

Mazal Tov to parents

Lorraine and Rafi Epan

Aryel Goliger and Pesach Gordon

Mazal Tov to mother Hannah Zilbergeld Gordon

Geraldine Katz and Geoff Rose



Mazal Tov to grandfather Dr. Stuart Blaustein

Karen and David Fishof, on the birth of a girl,

Talia Yocheved

Tracy and Sander Gerber, on the birth of a girl, Shanna Eve

Rachel (Rosner) and Eugene Kontorovich,

on the birth of a girl, Sarah

Miryam and David Noll, on the birth of a boy,

Schneur Zalman

Elena and Jonathan Rieu,

on the birth of a girl, Elizabeth (Elisheva)

Mazal tov to grandfather, Gustave Rieu

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Julia Fleisch

Mazal Tov to parents Meira and Tom Fleisch

Jonathan Hadi

Mazal Tov to parents Roberta and Robert Hadi

Racheli Thau

Mazal Tov to parents Devorah Altman

and Rabbi Brian Thau

Avi Chaim Rosalimsky

Mazal Tov to parents Deborah and Mark Rosalimsky

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Donna Rinsky (D'vorah Deena bat Malka)

Mariam bat Blima

CONDOLENCES

Maya Finch, on the loss of her mother, Viola Lydia Finch

Susan Baron and Dr. Lynn Burkes,

on the loss of their father, Albert Burkes

Mary Swartz, on the loss of her husband, Jerry Swartz (4/05)

Margo Cates, on the loss of her father, Ted Cates

Audrey Daum, on the loss of her mother, Phyllis Daum

Howard Stotsky, on the loss of his father, Nat Stotsky

THANK YOU

Roberto Novig for brilliantly ushering the High Holiday

Beginners Services, once again

Irwin Mandel for generously cleaning the Tallitot for the

High Holiday Beginners Services

CONGRATULATIONS

To Steve Reich on his 70th birthday and for winning the 2006

Praemium Imperiale Award, the “Nobel Prize” for music

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Fri December 15, 2006 - 24th of Kislev
 Chanukah Candles before 4:11 PM
 Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM

Sat December 16, 2006 - 25th of Kislev
Vayeshev CHANUKAH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:11 PM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:11 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Sun December 17, 2006 - 26th of Kislev
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:01 PM

Mon December 18, 2006 - 27th of Kislev
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:01 PM

Tue December 19, 2006 - 28th of Kislev
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:02 PM

Wed December 20, 2006 - 29th of Kislev
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:02 PM

Thu December 21, 2006 - 30th of Kislev
ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:02 PM

Fri December 22, 2006 - 1st of Tevet
ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles before 4:14 PM
 Candle Lighting 4:14 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM

Sat December 23, 2006 - 2nd of Tevet
Miketz CHANUKAH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:20 PM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:14 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Mon December 25, 2006 - 4th of Tevet
LEGAL HOLIDAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri December 29, 2006 - 8th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:18 PM
 Mincha 4:25 PM

Sat December 30, 2006 - 9th of Tevet
Vayigash
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:25 PM
 Mincha 4:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:18 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM

Sun December 31, 2006 - 10th of Tevet
ASARA B'TEVET
 Fast Begins 6:08 AM
 Morning Services 6:50 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Fast Ends 5:09 PM

Mon January 1, 2007 - 11th of Tevet
NEW YEARS DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri January 5, 2007 - 15th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:25 PM
 Mincha 4:30 PM

Sat January 6, 2007 - 16th of Tevet
Vayechi
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:30 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:25 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:35 PM

Fri January 12, 2007 - 22nd of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:32 PM
 Mincha 4:35 PM

Sat January 13, 2007 - 23rd of Tevet
Shemot
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:35 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:32 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM

Mon January 15, 2007 - 25th of Tevet
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri January 19, 2007 - 29th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:40 PM
 Mincha 4:45 PM

Sat January 20, 2007 - 1st of Sh'vat
Vaera ROSH CHODESH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:45 PM
 Mincha 4:30 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:40 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:50 PM

Fri January 26, 2007 - 7th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:48 PM
 Mincha 4:55 PM

Sat January 27, 2007 - 8th of Sh'vat Bo
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:55 PM
 Mincha 4:40 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:48 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:55 PM

Fri February 2, 2007 - 14th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:57 PM
 Mincha 5:00 PM

Sat February 3, 2007 - 15th of Sh'vat
Beshalach TU B'SHVAT
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:00 PM
 Mincha 4:45 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:57 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:05 PM

Fri February 9, 2007 - 21st of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:05 PM
 Mincha 5:10 PM

Sat February 10, 2007 - 22nd of Sh'vat
Yitro
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:10 PM
 Mincha 4:55 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:05 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:15 PM

Fri February 16, 2007 - 28th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:14 PM
 Mincha 5:20 PM

Sat February 17, 2007 - 29th of Sh'vat
Mishpatim SHEKALIM
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:20 PM
 Mincha 5:05 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:14 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:20 PM

Sun February 18, 2007 - 30th of Sh'vat
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Mon February 19, 2007 - 1st of Adar
ROSH CHODESH PRESIDENTS DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri February 23, 2007 - 5th of Adar
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:22 PM
 Mincha 5:25 PM

Sat February 24, 2007 - 6th of Adar
Terumah
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:25 PM
 Mincha 5:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:22 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:30 PM

Thu March 1, 2007 - 11th of Adar
TA'ANIT ESTHER MUKDAM
 Fast Begins 5:19 AM
 Morning Services 6:50 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha 5:15 PM
 Fast Ends 6:18 PM

Fri March 2, 2007 - 12th of Adar
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:30 PM
 Mincha 5:35 PM

Sat March 3, 2007 - 13th of Adar
Tetzaveh ZACHOR EREV PURIM
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor
 after Main Minyan
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:35 PM
 Mincha 5:20 PM
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor
 after Mincha
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:30 PM
 Maariv & Megila reading 6:30 PM
 Maariv & Late Megila Reading 9:15 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:40 PM

Sun March 4, 2007 - 14th of Adar PURIM
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Extra Megila Reading 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM
 Early Mincha 4:55 PM
 Mincha 5:40 PM

Mon March 5, 2007 - 15th of Adar
SHUSHAN PURIM
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM

Fri March 9, 2007 - 19th of Adar
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:38 PM
 Mincha 5:45 PM

Sat March 10, 2007 - 20th of Adar Ki Tisa
PARAH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:45 PM
 Mincha 5:30 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:38 PM
 REMEMBER to set your clocks forward
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:45 PM DST

Fri March 16, 2007 - 26th of Adar
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:46 PM
 Mincha 6:50 PM

Sat March 17, 2007 - 27th of Adar
Vayakhel-Pekudei HACHODESH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:35 PM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:46 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:55 PM

Tue March 20, 2007 - 1st of Nisan
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri March 23, 2007 - 4th of Nisan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:53 PM
 Mincha 7:00 PM

Sat March 24, 2007 - 5th of Nisan Vayikra
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:45 PM
 Mincha 6:45 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:53 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:00 PM

Fri March 30, 2007 - 11th of Nisan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 7:00 PM
 Mincha 7:05 PM

Sat March 31, 2007 - 12th of Nisan Tzav
SHABBAT HAGADOL
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Mincha 6:30 PM
 Shabbat Hagadol Drasha 6:55 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:00 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:10 PM

Mon April 2, 2007 - 14th of Nisan
TA'ANIT BECHORIM EREV PESACH
 Morning Services 6:30 & 7:30 AM
 Latest time to eat Chametz 10:14 AM
 Latest time to burn Chametz 11:26 AM
 Candle Lighting 7:04 PM
 Mincha 7:10 PM
 Begin seder after 7:53 PM

Tue April 3, 2007 - 15th of Nisan
PESACH
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 6:20 PM
 Mincha 7:05 PM
 Yom Tov candles after 8:04 PM
 Maariv 8:04 PM
 Begin seder after 8:04 PM

Wed April 4, 2007 - 16th of Nisan
PESACH
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 6:20 PM
 Mincha 7:05 PM
 Maariv 8:04 PM
 Yom Tov ends 8:04 PM

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbaton - \$40
 Fri-Sat, Dec 15-16, 2006
 March 23-24, 2007

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons
Saturdays 12:30 PM- \$20
 Jan 6, Feb 3, March 3, May 5

Beginners Schmooze
Mon, 8:15 pm - Free
 March 5, May 7

Beginners Chanukah Party
\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
 Mon, Dec 18, 7:00 PM

Purim Party
\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
 Sat, March 3, 8:15 PM