



DISCOVER the MIRACLES of MODERN ISRAEL

Genesis 12:7



“The Lord appeared to Abram and said,
To your offspring I will give this land.”

– **Genesis 12:7**

Israel is a land of miracles.

Since Abraham first set foot in this land of promise thousands of years ago, a remarkable series of amazing miracles and extraordinary circumstances have shaped the nation as it’s grown and flourished — and these miracles continue to give hope to the people of Israel!

A Nation Born of Miracles . . .

The miracles begin with Abraham — he is 100 and Sarah is 90 when their miracle baby, Isaac, is born.

His great grandson, Joseph, is promoted in Egypt so he can protect a fledgling nation.

After **400 years of slavery**, Moses miraculously delivers the Israelis and leads them to the Promised Land.

His successor, Joshua, brings the Israelis over the Jordan River to begin claiming their inheritance — starting with the miraculous victory at Jericho.

Throughout the history of Israel, we read of miracle after miracle . . .

Deborah confronts Jabin . . . Gideon defeats the Midianites . . .

Samson challenges the Philistines . . . Esther crosses Haman . . .

David battles Goliath . . .

Perhaps most people are familiar with these stories of ancient miracles.
But not everybody is aware that the miracles continue in modern Israel!

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The *Miracle* of the Militia

At the end of World War I, Israel (then called “Palestine”) was designated as a national home for the Jewish people and placed under British Mandate — an arrangement officially confirmed by the League of Nations in 1922.

But increasing restrictions on Jewish immigration and the Arab riots in 1920 and 1921 demonstrated to the Jewish population of Palestine that they could not depend upon their British rulers to protect them. So for their own defense they began forming independent militia units in the larger towns and several of the settlements. This underground defense organization was known as the Haganah.

The Haganah had grown and was better organized by the time of the Arab riots in 1929. Every city had a militia of several thousand members, and most of the adults and youth were involved in the smaller villages and settlements. The Haganah provided training for their volunteers and for their officers, and had begun surreptitiously importing light arms from Europe.

Then Magen David Adom (MDA) was founded on June 7, 1930, in Tel Aviv by seven Israeli doctors. They set up a one-room emergency medical service in a dilapidated shack to handle the casualties from the deadly riots. In 1931, a second MDA group was formed in Haifa, and a third group of emergency responders gathered in Jerusalem in 1934. The following year, the MDA groups around the country united to form a national emergency medical organization, serving both the public and the Haganah. This group totaled several dozen volunteers and one small truck converted into an ambulance.

During the next wave of anti-Jewish riots, the Arab Revolt in 1936–1939, the Haganah was

no longer a loosely organized militia — it had become a significant military force — and MDA continued to grow as it became more skilled in caring for the wounded. MDA also began providing first-aid training to the Haganah and auxiliary police.

In 1940, a group of dedicated and concerned Americans founded American Red Mogen David for Palestine (known today as American Friends of Magen David Adom) to support the fledgling MDA by raising funds for upgraded medical supplies and blood services in Israel.

In the spring of 1947, David Ben-Gurion took over the reins of the Haganah, and one year later the newly formed Provisional Government of Israel appointed the Haganah as the official army of the Jewish State, “Zeva Haganah Le-Yisrael” — The Israel Defense Forces.

So the failure of an indifferent British government to protect Jewish neighborhoods from hoodlums led to the formation of an informal underground militia that grew over 20 years to become a highly trained professional army . . .

Which turned out to be a miracle on May 14, 1948, when the British Mandate in Palestine ended and the British departed, and five neighboring Arab armies — Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq — immediately declared war against Israel.

But the new homegrown army was ready for their attack. Israel was miraculously prepared to stand its ground as the new Jewish State — with a mature and trained military force, the IDF, to provide its first line of defense, and a well-organized emergency medical service, the MDA, as its second line of defense.

The *Miracle* of Independence

As the British left Israel on May 14, 1948, with the armies of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq gathered around its borders, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Palestine, stood at the podium at the Tel Aviv Art Museum and spoke words the Jewish people had been longing to hear for more than 2,000 years:

“We hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called Israel,”

As expected, the Arab armies surrounding Israel immediately attacked. “It will be a war of annihilation,” Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League declared. He predicted a war that would be viewed as “a momentous massacre in history.”

At that time, Israel had no tanks or cannons. Their air force consisted of nine outdated planes. The Haganah had 60,000 trained fighters, but less than 19,000 were fully equipped for battle.

Despite the fact that the United States had quickly recognized the new government of the Jewish state — which brought rejoicing in Israel — the US did not want to provide Israel with any weapons to defend itself and imposed an arms embargo on the entire region. However, ambulances and blood collection vans donated by American supporters did arrive and played a critical role in MDA's response in treating soldiers and civilians injured in the attacks.

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar and my daughters
from the ends of the earth.”

– Isaiah 43:5-6

Isaiah 43:5-6





Miracles of War

During Israel's War of Independence, the town of Safed, for example, was under the control of heavily armed Arab troops that fought off the Israeli forces for months. Then in late April, a new mortar nicknamed "The Davidka" was delivered to the Israelis. "The Davidka" was not accurate, but it was loud and evoked fear. The next day, the demoralized troops were quickly defeated.

A supply convoy of 24 homemade Israeli armored trucks and cars heading toward a kibbutz under attack managed to get lost and accidentally crossed into Lebanon — and then encountered a Syrian convoy carrying ammunition and artillery. The Israelis opened fire and hit the lead vehicle, a gasoline tanker — which exploded, igniting a nearby truck loaded with hand grenades, which exploded and lit up a few more trucks. The blasts could be heard for miles. After the surviving Syrians abandoned their vehicles, the Israelis scavenged what they could and took many of the captured vehicles and weapons with them. When they finally reached the kibbutz, they discovered the Arab troops had fled — apparently concerned the Israelis had invaded Lebanon.

An Israeli platoon that was trying to capture Mount Zion instead found themselves

surrounded by hundreds of Jordanian troops. When they were down to two dozen bullets between them, the Israelis agreed they would fight together to the end. Suddenly the Jordanian soldiers dropped their weapons and ran away crying, "Abraham! Abraham!" Later, after the war, a Jordanian soldier encountered the platoon commander and told him that the terrified men had seen a giant vision of Abraham in the sky protecting the Israelis!

During the war, Magen David Adom worked tirelessly to provide emergency ambulance and blood services — entirely with the support of volunteers and donors. When the Magen David Adom Law was enacted by Israel's parliament in 1950, shortly after the war, MDA was established as Israel's official national Red Cross society. But the mandate did not provide government funding, so American donors stepped up their efforts to supply MDA with the necessary equipment.

After the War for Independence, there was one final unexpected miracle for the new Jewish state — instead of controlling approximately half of the country as allocated by the United Nations at the British departure, the Israelis now possessed over 78% of the land! Over the next couple of years the Jewish population doubled as 700,000 Jews settled in Israel.



The *Miracle* from a False Report

In May 1967, President Nasser of Egypt received false reports from the Soviet Union that Israel had deployed troops along the Syrian border in preparation for military action.

Nasser immediately sent troops and heavy artillery to the Sinai Peninsula along Israel's border. He expelled the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) — which had been stationed by the United Nations in Sinai to act as a buffer between Israel and Egypt. Then he closed the Straits of Tiran to any Israeli ships or any ships transporting military equipment to Israel. At the same time, the Iraqi army sent troops and armored units to the Jordanian border.

“The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are poised on the borders of Israel,” President Nasser of Egypt declared, “while standing behind us are the armies of Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan and the whole Arab nation. This act will astound the world. Today they will know that the Arabs are arranged for battle, the critical hour has arrived.”

Israel's two main allies, the United States and Britain announced they had no intention of getting involved. The US state department released this statement: “Our position is neutral in thought, word and deed.”

Israel stood alone.

Six days later, however, Israel had successfully defended itself against all its enemies, had more than tripled its land, and had full possession of the holy city of Jerusalem — along with the Temple Mount, various holy sites, the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights!

With the city of Jerusalem reunited following the Six-Day War, there was more territory under the jurisdiction of MDA's Jerusalem Station — which required more supplies and personnel. And as new immigrants continued to arrive to make their homes around the country, additional MDA stations were constructed to serve the growing population.

Jeremiah 16:14-15

“However, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but it will be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors.”

– **Jeremiah 16:14-15**





The *Miracle* of a Bold First Move

When the sun came up on June 5, 1967, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon were in position to attack Israel.

At 7:14 a.m., Major General Motti Hod, the IAF Commander, sent 196 Israeli warplanes to strike Egypt — almost Israel's whole air force! Only 12 planes remained behind to protect Israel. The planes flew low to avoid radar detection and stay below the range of SA-2 surface-to-air missiles. Most of the planes flew out over the Mediterranean and then veered toward Egypt, and the rest flew over the Red Sea. Instead of attacking at dawn, their plan was to strike at 7:45 a.m. when the Egyptian pilots would be eating breakfast.

Three hours before the attack, Egyptian intelligence sent a message to the command bunker in Cairo that an Israeli airstrike was in the works. A junior officer signed the communication, but evidently it was not forwarded to the commander-in-chief.

In Northern Jordan, Egyptian radar operators at the Ajloun facility detected low-flying aircraft over the Mediterranean and sent the code word "Inab," ("war") to Jordan military headquarters, where it was encoded and sent to Cairo. However, the Egyptian codes had

been updated the previous day and the Jordanians had not been notified.

Although the Egyptian's anti-aircraft system was capable of destroying all of Israel's warplanes, no order was given to launch these missiles. In fact, they had been partially shut down to avoid shooting down Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer and Lt-Gen. Sidqi Mahmoud who were en route from al Maza to meet with high-ranking Iraqis at Bir Tamada in the Sinai.

Israel's warplanes attacked in waves — one group struck, one prepared to attack, one headed back to refuel and reload. Some of the planes made bombing and strafing runs to destroy the Egyptian planes on the ground, while others bombed the tarmac with new French-designed missiles that destroyed the actual runways so none of the surviving planes could take off.

The airstrike was a tremendous success! Miraculously, the Egyptian Air Force was completely destroyed within the first few hours of the war! Then the Israeli warplanes turned on Jordan (destroying most of its air force as well) and Syria (destroying half its air force) and ended the day by destroying one airfield in Iraq!



More Military *Miracles*

During the Six-Day War, there were reports that the Egyptian soldiers defending the Kusselma outpost saw a giant hand appear in the sky — and when Israeli forces arrived they found their equipment destroyed and the base abandoned.

The battle for Ammunition Hill, a Jordanian military post in East Jerusalem, may have been the fiercest struggle of the Six-Day War. Since an air strike in such a populated area would result in high civilian casualties, Israel sent in a company of paratroopers. Unfortunately, Israeli intelligence seriously underestimated the number of Jordanian troops defending the well-fortified bunkers — so the weary Israeli paratroopers met an entrenched Jordanian force three times larger than expected. Miraculously, it took only four hours for Israel to win the battle and take the hill. Ammunition Hill is now a cherished national memorial site and museum.

When a small Israeli platoon charged Tel Fakhr, they didn't realize it was the most heavily fortified position that the Syrians controlled in the Golan Heights. However, the Syrian captain instructed his men to wait to fire until the Israelis got close to the perimeter of heavy fire, but he waited until they were too close. "The Jews are already inside," he learned moments later. "We've taken heavy casualties."

On the last day of the war, Israeli forces continued to struggle to retake the Golan Heights in an uphill battle against 75,000 entrenched troops. After seven hours of heavy

fighting, Israel had gained control of the main sectors. The next morning, the Israeli forces returned to discover the Syrian troops had hurriedly pulled out of the Golan — leaving weapons and supplies behind.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, a general and chief rabbi of the Israeli army, is featured in the iconic photos of his arrival at the Western Wall with young IDF soldiers, as he holds a Torah scroll and blows a shofar.

Then the next day he conquered the holy city of Hebron and the Cave of the Patriarchs by himself!

When Rabbi Goren and his driver entered Hebron that morning, there were white flags and white sheets hanging from windows and rooftops. Rabbi Goren had gotten underway after the soldiers and assumed the Israeli forces had already recaptured the city, so he continued heading to the holy site, the Cave of the Patriarchs.

The large iron doors of the Cave of the Patriarchs had been locked to Jews for 700 years, so when Rabbi Goren arrived, he shot the lock with an Uzi machine gun — the bullet holes can still be seen today — but the doors wouldn't budge. So Rabbi Goren used chains and his jeep to pull open the doors.

Hours later, after the Israeli troops established their perimeter and made their assault on Hebron, they were surprised to find the city surrendered and the Israeli flag flying over the Cave of the Patriarchs.

The *Miracle* of Surprise

On Yom Kippur in 1973, the “Day of Atonement,” the holiest day of the year in Israel, as the entire nation was fasting and praying, Egypt and Syria attacked.

More than 200,000 Egyptian troops and 1,000 tanks came up from the south and crossed the Suez Canal into the Sinai Peninsula, and 150,000 Syrian troops and 1,200 tanks came down from the north into the Golan Heights.

Although Israel military intelligence had been aware that Egypt was conducting “training exercises” near the Suez Canal, the nation was not prepared for the invasion.

Since it was Yom Kippur, the majority of Israeli soldiers were at home or synagogue when the attack began. However, since it was Yom Kippur, the nation’s roads were empty and communication lines were open — simplifying a rapid mobilization of military personnel.

MDA began deploying emergency medical teams and resources immediately, evacuating casualties from border communities, and transferring wounded soldiers to hospitals.

In the Golan Heights, Israeli forces were massively outnumbered by Syrian troops with hundreds of tanks during a decisive four-day battle in the Valley of Tears. By the final day, the remaining Israeli tanks were nearly out of ammo — in one sector there were fewer than two shells per tank. But Israeli commanders kept the tanks in position and moving forward. Then it was over. Unexpectedly, the Syrian forces began to withdraw, ending their assault on Israel.

This conflict is known as the Yom Kippur War, and in a matter of days Israel had shut down the Egyptian offensive in Sinai, and expelled Syria from the Golan Heights. Miraculously, it took 19 days for Israel to recover from their surprise and successfully win the war on both fronts.



“Though you search for your enemies,
you will not find them.
Those who wage war against you
will be as nothing at all.
For I am the Lord your God
who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, Do not fear;
I will help you.”

- Isaiah 41:12-13



More Modern *Miracles*

Although Israel was not involved in the Gulf War, Iraq threatened to attack Israel with chemical warfare in 1991. But the weather began changing around that time and winds shifted from normal seasonal patterns to blow from the west across Israel into Iraq — which would blow any chemical weapons directly into Iraq! Iraq wisely abandoned any plans for chemical warfare.

In 1991, Iraq fired a series of 39 Scud missiles at Israel in an effort to draw the Jewish State into the Gulf War. Some of these missiles were intercepted by US-supplied Patriot missiles. Others missed Israel completely and landed in the Mediterranean Sea. There were even reports by radar operators watching missiles knocked off course by sudden bursts of wind. Some of the missiles hit land, but did not explode. Several disappeared completely. Instead of 39 missiles in Israel, there were 39 miracles!

During the First Lebanon War in 1982, MDA continued to step up as Israel's "second line of defense" to treat military and civilian victims. The new MDA National Blood Services Center, inaugurated in 1985, was constructed with a generous outpouring of help from American donors. Today, the center supplies nearly all of Israel's blood needs. It also houses the MDA Cord Blood Bank, a public cord-blood storage facility and research center.

The Second Lebanon War began in 2006, just days after the International Red Cross welcomed MDA as a member. As rockets pounded northern Israel, MDA treated more than 2,600 victims, supplied more than 20,000 blood units, and brought humanitarian aid to more than 30,000 people in bomb shelters.

When communities in the western Negev came under attack during the 2009 Gaza War, MDA again went on high alert — racing to the scene of 1,180 rocket attacks and treating 770 casualties. Miraculously, only four civilians lost their lives.

As terrorist attacks in Israel become more frequent, MDA continues to provide a high level of medical care to victims, often under dangerous, life-threatening conditions.

In recent years, Israeli intelligence has become aware that Hamas, a terrorist group in Gaza, has been digging tunnels under the border that would allow terrorists to cross into Israel undetected. Recently 13 terrorists came up out of a tunnel into a field near Kibbutz Sufa, expecting to take cover in the tall wheat. What the terrorists weren't expecting was that the week before a group of Haredi Jews in Bnei Brak would harvest the crop early for religious reasons — leaving them exposed and easily intercepted by Israeli forces.



The *Miracle* of Magen David Adom

By necessity, Israel has become a world leader in emergency medical services and now is the most experienced mass-casualty response organization on the planet.

From Magen David Adom's humble beginning with a handful of volunteers 85 years ago, there are now more than 15,000 heroic EMTs and paramedics who serve in this volatile corner of the world. More than 13,000 of these brave, compassionate and highly trained men and women are volunteers. They handle more than 600,000 medical, emergency or disaster situations a year — more than one a minute — and in many cases they put their own lives at risk to help people in critical need.

Beginning with one converted ambulance in 1935, MDA now has a fleet of more than 1,000 ambulances — some are among the most technologically advanced Mobile Intensive Care Units in the world, and others are heavily armored because of the need to protect EMTs, paramedics and their patients from relentless terrorist attacks.

As Israel's population continues to grow, so does the need for emergency medical services. With the support of American donors, MDA stations are being renovated and new stations are being built around the country, new medical and emergency-response technology is being developed, paramedics are being trained in the latest rescue techniques and MDA is saving lives in Israel every day!

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
– **Genesis 12:3**

When you support *Magen David Adom*,
you are becoming a part of
tomorrow's miracles.

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