

Israel and its Neighborhood

Israel, on the southeast shore of the Mediterranean Sea, is at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. Its area is roughly 20,000 square kilometers (8,000 square miles), the size of New Jersey, bordered by Lebanon to the north, Syria to the northeast, Jordan to the east, and Egypt to the southwest. Israel has security control from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Israel has extended its law to the Golan Heights, an extension recognized by the United States. It has overall security control over Judea and Samaria ("the West Bank") and Gaza. In the former, since the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority exercises administrative authority over Arab residents. This geographically diverse nation, the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people, features fertile valleys, arid deserts, the mountainous Galilee, and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth.

Unfortunately, Israel is offensive in the eyes of some neighbors. This has led to wars and terror attacks, orchestrated these days from Teheran through proxies of the radical Islamic regime of Iran.

In August 2020, the United Arab Emirates joined Egypt and Jordan in making a formal peace pact with Israel in the Abraham Accords, championed by President Donald Trump. Now, with a tailwind from Washington, additional nations may yet pursue normalization in the coming years. For the Jewish people, returning to our homeland, strife and struggle are part of our story. It's the price of returning home in a rough neighborhood. The main thing, says Rabbi Nachman of Breslau, is to be unafraid.

כל העולם כולו גשר צר מאוד



והעיקר לא לפחד