

THE BANNER ABOVE: PROPHECY AND A FLAG

MESSAGE NOTES

*In that day the heir to David's throne[b]
will be a banner of salvation to all the world.
The nations will rally to him,
and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.[c]
11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time
to bring back the remnant of his people—
those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt;
in southern Egypt, Ethiopia,[d] and Elam;
in Babylonia,[e] Hamath, and all the distant coastlands.
12 He will raise a flag among the nations
and assemble the exiles of Israel.
He will gather the scattered people of Judah
from the ends of the earth.*

Isaiah 11:1-12

COULD THE FLAG OF ISRAEL BE A CONTINUAL TESTIMONY TO THE WHOLE WORLD OF HOW GOD BUILDS A PEOPLE?

When David Ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel on Friday, May 14, 1948, the nation of Israel came into being. Strangely enough, however, Israel at that time had no flag. Nearly six months went by before a flag was chosen and adopted. It was doubly strange that when at last the flag was chosen it was not unveiled first to the inhabitants of that ancient land.

It was first unfurled at the United Nations headquarters at Lake Success, New York, on the occasion of Israel's acceptance into the family of nations.

Video Here – <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2030/2030899/>

WHY DID IT HAPPEN THAT WAY?

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isaiah 11:10-12).

Mary Elting in her book, *Flags of All Nations*, confirms the deep religious significance attached to the origin of the flag.

The blue and white stripes of the Israeli flag are those of the prayer shawl that men wear at religious ceremonies.

Flags of the World by E.M.C. Barraclough adds that it was:

"inspired by the tallith, the traditional Jewish prayer shawl."

Mary Elting and Franklin Folsom, *Flags of All Nations and the People Who Live Under Them*, p.74.

**But what about the symbol that is upon this flag of testimony?
This was a surprise.**

Actually, this emblem was not that which Jewry considered its most distinguishing symbol. The Book of Jewish Knowledge states:

Although the Magen David- the "Star of David" or "Jewish Star"-has been universally used in modern times by Jews and their enemies alike as a graphic symbol of Jewish national identity, this was not at all the case in earlier Jewish historic periods. Then the representation of the seven-branched Menorah served as the traditional pictorial motif. When the Second Temple was destroyed, the Menorah, and not the Magen David-"Star of David"-as so many erroneously believe, became the principal decorative art symbol of the Jewish faith.

E. M. C. Barraclough, *Flags of the World*, p. 196.
Nathan Ausubel, *The Book of Jewish Knowledge*, p. 263. 10Ibid, p. 277.
Ibid, p. 277.