

MASON'S IN ISRAEL



The first Lodge in the Holy Land was the "Royal Solomon Mother Lodge" No. 293, under the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, whose first meeting was held in the King Solomon's Quarries of Jerusalem in 1873. Earlier, an occasional assembly of Masons performed a Secret Monitor ceremony in the same location in 1868. The next Lodge to be formed in Israel was officially established in Jaffa. Around 1890, a group of Arab and Jewish Brethren petitioned the Misraim (Egypt) Rite, based in Paris, but active in Egypt, and founded the Lodge "the Port of King Solomon's Temple", working in French.



Not long after its creation, the Lodge received a large influx of affiliate members, French engineers who had come to build the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway. In 1906 it changed its name to "Barkai" (Dawn), and joined the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel. Three other Lodges were constituted before World War I, when the country became a British Mandate. Under British rule, a number of Lodges were chartered by the Grand Lodges of Egypt, Scotland, and England, and the Grand Orient of France. A special case is that of the five German-speaking lodges founded in Israel in 1931 by the Grand Master of the symbolic Grand Lodge of Germany, M.W. Bro. Otto Müffelmann, who, realizing that the rise of Hitler sounded the death knell for Freemasonry in

Germany, went to Israel and founded Lodges in the three main cities: Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, and Haifa. The first National Grand Lodge in Israel was constituted on 19333 , even before the creation of the State, and brought together all the Lodges that had been working under Egyptian or French jurisdictions. The English-speaking lodges refused to join the new Grand Lodge. Lack of recognition by the United Grand Lodge of England resulted in almost complete international isolation. But in 1953, Brother the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, consecrated the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel with 30 Lodges and M.W. Bro. Shabetay Levy, Mayor of Haifa, was installed as its first Grand Master.

Today the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel has 55 Lodges working in all centres in 9 different languages.

Famous Israeli Freemasons

Shabtai Levy (1876–1956), was a lawyer, the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel and the first Jewish mayor of Haifa. When the British established a Haifa city council in 1920, Levy was elected as an independent. Starting in 1934 he served until he became Haifa's first Jewish mayor in 1941. During the Israeli War of Independence, he used his influence on the Arab community to try to keep Arabs from leaving the city. The Shabtai Levy Home was established in Haifa, providing a wide range of services to underprivileged children.

Nadim Mansour is a Palestinian Arab of Orthodox Christian religion. He is Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel until 2013 and is the third Palestinian Grand Master -

Yakob Nazih, (1933-1940) and Jamil Shalhoub, (1981-1982). A Grand Master of Arab origin shows that peace between Palestinians and Israelis can prevail.

Sir Moses Montefiore (1784-1885) was initiated in Moira Lodge in 1812. He was knighted in 1837 by Queen Victoria. In August of 1840, together with the French Lawyer and high-ranking Masons Adolphe Cremieux, he led a delegation to Turkey and secured the release of the captives of the Damascus blood libel. In 1863, supported by the British government, Sir Moses Montefiore successfully petitioned the Sultan of Morocco to guarantee the safety of Morocco's Jews. His carriage and his windmill are in Jerusalem.



Rabbi Leon Templo (1603-1675) brought to London models of the Jerusalem Temple and the Tabernacle in 1675, which he had been exhibited in Amsterdam. Leon Templo was also an expert in heraldry. His work so impressed Laurence Dermott, the first Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ancients, that he took a design by Leon Templo as the basis for the coat of arms of the Ancients. When the two Grand Lodges of England merged to form the present UGLE (1813), this design was incorporated in its coat of arms.

Yitzhak Rabin (1922–1995) was an Israeli politician, statesman and general. He was the fifth Prime Minister, serving two terms in office, 1974–77 and 1992 until his assassination in 1995. In 1994, Rabin won the Nobel Peace Prize together with Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat. He was assassinated by right-wing Israeli radical Yigal Amir, who was opposed to Rabin's signing of the Oslo Accords. Rabin was the first native-born Prime Minister of Israel, the only prime minister to be assassinated and the second to die in office after Levi Eshkol. He was a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

Theodor "Teddy" Kollek (1911–2007) was mayor of Jerusalem from 1965 to 1993, and founder of the Jerusalem Foundation. Kollek was re-elected five times, in 1969, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1989. After reluctantly running for a seventh term in 1993 at the age of 82, he lost to the future Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert. During his tenure, Jerusalem developed into a modern city, especially after its reunification in 1967. He was once called "the greatest builder of Jerusalem since Herod."

Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu (1949-) is the first Prime Minister of Israel who was born in Israel. He served in Israel's special forces and also as the Chairman of the Likud Party, as a Knesset member, as the Health Minister of Israel, as the Pensioner Affairs Minister of Israel and as the Economic Strategy Minister of Israel. Netanyahu served as the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations from 1984 to 1988, member of the Likud Party, and was Prime Minister from June 1996 to July 1999.

Shimon Peres GCMG (1923-) is a President of the State of Israel. Peres served twice as the eighth Prime Minister of Israel and once as Interim Prime Minister, and has been a member of 12 cabinets in a political career spanning over 66 years. Peres was elected to the Knesset in November 1959 and, except for a three-month-long hiatus in early 2006, served continuously until 2007, when he became President. He held several diplomatic and military positions during and directly after Israel's War of Independence. Peres won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize together with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for the peace talks that produced the Oslo Accords.

Ehud Olmert (1945-) is an Israeli politician and lawyer. He served as Prime Minister of Israel from 2006 to 2009, as a Cabinet Minister from 1988 to 1992 and from 2003 to 2006, and as Mayor of Jerusalem from 1993 to 2003. Olmert and his government enjoyed healthy relations with the Fatah-led Palestinian National Authority, which culminated in November 2007 at the Annapolis Conference. However, during his tenure as Prime Minister, there were major military conflicts with both Hezbollah and Hamas.

David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973) was a founder and the first Prime Minister of Israel. He was Executive Head of the World Zionist Organization in 1946. As the de facto leader of the Jewish community in Palestine in 1948, he formally proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel, and was the first to sign the Israeli Declaration of Independence. Ben-Gurion led the provisional government of Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and united the various Jewish militias into the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Following the war, Ben-Gurion served as Israel's first Prime Minister. Ben-Gurion was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.

Ehud Barak (1942-) is an Israeli politician who served as Prime Minister from 1999 to 2001. He was leader of the Labor Party until January 2011 and held the posts of Minister of Defense and Deputy Prime Minister in Binyamin Netanyahu's government. He is a graduate in physics, mathematics, and economics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Stanford University. He served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces and became Chief of General Staff in 1991, serving until 1995.

Ariel Sharon (1928-) is an Israeli statesman and retired general, who served as Israel's 11th Prime Minister. He was in a permanent vegetative state since suffering a stroke on 4 January 2006. He died Jan 11/2014 at 85 years old. Sharon was a commander in the Israeli Army since its inception in 1948. As an army officer, he participated in the 1948 War of Independence, the Qibya massacre of 1953, the 1956 Suez War, the Six-Day War of 1967, and the Yom-Kippur War of 1973. After retiring from the army, Sharon joined the right-wing Likud party, and served in a number of ministerial posts including Israel's Prime Minister from 2001 to 2006.

DASYD MINISTRY "DO AS YESHUA DID" dasydministry.org Jerry Hennig (Jan/25)

Excerpt from Jerry's Teachings only.