



# Miraculous Military

Given the current events in Israel, the following article is fitting. Let us begin with the question of how the State of Israel came about. The answer is obvious miracles! In fact, R' Ovadia Hadaya (1889-1969) in *Shu"t Yaskil Avdi* (6:10) describes the miracles of Israel's War of Independence as comparable to the miracles of Chanuka and the splitting of the Yam Suf.

In his book 'A History of the Jews', Paul Johnson wrote: "On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was declared. The next day, five mechanized armies attacked...sizeably larger than the small band of Holocaust survivors defending Israel. The entire armament of the Israeli forces consisted of 17,600 rifles, 2,700 sten guns, 1,000 machine guns and 45,000 soldiers." In 1948, the land ratio of Arab land to Jewish land was 640 to 1. For every acre of land that Jews possessed, the Arab nations had 640. Also, fewer than 5% of Jews alive at that time lived in Israel. A total of 650,000 Jews were surrounded and attacked by nations populated by 50 million Arabs. We were outnumbered 75 to 1.

In addition to this, let's recall that before the United Nations declared Israel an independent state, Palestine was ruled by the British. They had very strict rules against Jews owning guns. Consequently, there surely was no Israeli army; No military drills; no armaments; none of the normal exercises of military units. All of this continued until May 14, 1948. And on May 15, five Arab nations attacked Israel, one day after they were granted official statehood. Furthermore, for decades the Arabs were constantly at war with each other. As a result, they had practice with war. On the other hand, we had no air force, army or navy. Moreover, many times a nation had lost a war because the defending nation had to fight on more than one war front. In 1948, Israel was not fighting on one front alone because there simply was no front. They were being attacked from every side.

Let's remember that between 1948 and 1973, the Arab nations declared war four times on tiny, frail Israel. Yet they did not have one victory.

The secular Israeli newspaper *Maariv* had the following article on April 17, 1983: "...By all

logic and by all human reasoning, everything that happened in 1948 is in the category of the impossible. It was impossible, with the limited arms that the Jews possessed, with the rudimentary international support they managed to garner, with the limited resources that were available to them, to do all that they did. To bring a system of public services into operation from nothing. To establish a military from its beginning. To sustain supplies and minimal services, and to run a war that had no clear delineated front or rear lines, no organized defence, no organized reserves of ammunition, and no expert commanders to lead its battalions!"

Military analysts are still stunned when they study the sweeping military victories against all odds in Israeli wars, as they defy explanation. A cadet at West Point once asked why the Six-Day War was not part of the curriculum. The general explained that Israel's victory in the Six-Day War wasn't studied because at West Point they study strategy and tactics, not miracles. In fact, R' Asher Wade related that when he was a chaplain on an army base in Berlin in 1974, he met a Jewish American officer named Stuart who had started wearing a *yarmulke* although he wasn't particularly religious because of this incident at West Point.

About The Six-Day War in 1967, a German journalist summarised: "Nothing like this has happened in history. A force including 1,000 tanks, hundreds of artillery cannons, many rockets and fighter jets, and 100,000 soldiers armed from head to toe was destroyed in two days in an area covering hundreds of kilometers filled with reinforced outposts and installations. And this victory was carried out by a force that lost many soldiers and much equipment, positions, and vehicles. No military logic or natural cause can explain this monumental occurrence."

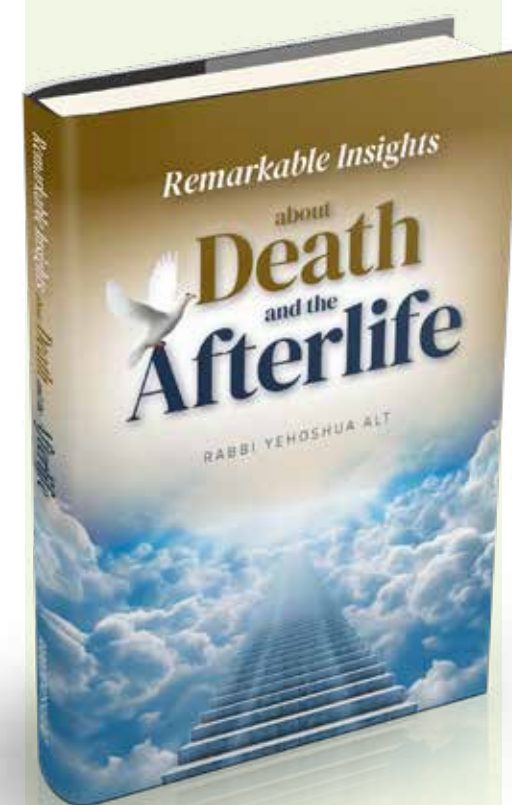
Many open miracles have occurred throughout the existence of the State of Israel. And let us not forget that no other country has faced such overwhelming odds against its very survival or experienced the same degree of endless international demonization or confronted the same relentless challenges to its very right to exist.

In 1991, 39 Scud missiles were fired at Israel by Iraq with 14 exploding in highly populated residential areas of Tel Aviv and Haifa. These Scuds directly killed two Israelis while 11 were seriously injured. The average number of deaths per Scud in 1991 in Israel was .14, in contrast to Scuds that have struck other countries where the average number of casualties per Scud was 18.61. Consider a Scud that hit Bakhtaran, Iran on April 4, 1985 that killed 25. Or the one in Sana'a, Yemen on May 11, 1994 that slew 25. And the one in Grozny, Chechnya that slaughtered 27 on October 21, 1999. And don't forget the four Scuds that struck Aleppo and Tal Rifaat, Syria on February 19, 2013 where 141 perished. The average number of casualties per Scud is 133 times higher outside Israel than in Israel!

In 1991, 39 Scud missiles were shot at Israel. Although many houses were destroyed, miraculously only two Israelis were killed. After this happened, a secular Israeli woman responded: "That wasn't a miracle, because things like this happen all the time in Israel."

Let us conclude with the words of a French author from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jon DeBileda who wrote the following before the Russian Revolution, the rise of Nazi Germany, and prior to the ingathering of millions of Jews to Israel: "In essence, the Jewish people chuckle at all forms of anti-Semitism. Think all you want and you will not be able to find one form of brutality or strategy that has not been used in warfare against the Jewish People. I cannot be defeated says Judaism. All that you attempt to do to me today has been attempted 3,200 years prior in Egypt. Then tried the Babylonians and the Persians. Afterward tried the Romans and then others and others. There is no question that the Jew will outlive us all. This is an eternal people. They cannot be defeated. Understand this! Every war with them is a vain waste of time and manpower. Conversely, it is wise to sign a mutual covenant with them. How trustworthy and profitable they are as allies! Be their friends and they will pay you back in friendship one-hundred-fold! This is an exalted and chosen people!"

RABBI YEHOSHUA ALT



The newly released book "Remarkable Insights about Death and the Afterlife" is now available (as a paperback, hardcover and digitized version) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CNNDCMNC> or by sending an email to [yalt3285@gmail.com](mailto:yalt3285@gmail.com). This extensive and thought-provoking book addresses these questions and many more, providing transformative insights. With a collection comprising over 70 meticulously crafted essays, it eloquently articulates the Torah's viewpoint regarding death and the afterlife. This work stands as an invaluable resource, facilitating readers in acquiring a deeper comprehension of this vital subject. It makes a great gift for friends, relatives, business associates and learning partners. Purchase it at <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP>.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

- What is the ultimate way to elevate the soul of one's parents?
- How does the death process rectify a person's soul?
- What profound life lessons can we learn from gravestones?
- In what ways can the concept of reincarnation help us better understand life?
- What is the idea behind davening at gravesites?
- What will happen at the Resurrection of the Dead?

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