

Israel, Gas, Gaza, and Weapons

Commentary for January 19, 2009 — Gas Discovery and Ingenious Evil

Two items of interest came across the news wires today. One is good news for Israel. The other news item shows the ingenious nature of Israel's enemies.

First, a huge discovery of natural gas has been found in three gas fields off the coast of Haifa, Israel. The finds were described as **"way beyond what had been anticipated at the location."** In fact, this newly discovered natural gas field is being heralded as **"one of the largest in the world."** Development of an off-shore natural gas field is difficult, expensive, and may take years to bring the gas field into production. These fields are under 5,000 feet of water, but once developed they will go a long way toward boosting the Israeli economy and decreasing Israel's dependence on foreign oil imports.¹

Natural gas deposits are frequently associated with crude oil deposits. Hopefully, crude oil will be discovered soon in Israel just as the Bible predicts. Discovery of drillable oil in Israel would confirm Dr. Martin's evidence originally published in 1981, ["Oil Soon to be Discovered in Israel."](#) Others since 1981 have published information about these prophecies, including companies seeking investors. See also my Commentary ["The Herodium and Oil in Israel."](#)



Map of Israel / Palestine

Natural gas deposit found off the Coast of Haifa

West Bank (Palestinian, ruled by Fatah party)

Gaza (Palestinian, ruled by Hamas party).

Israelis attack Hamas in Gaza
Iranian weapons smuggled to Gaza by sea

1. See the article in the internet edition business news section of the January 18, 2009 *Jerusalem Post*, ["Huge gas reserves discovered off Haifa."](#) The video accompanying the internet article says the discovery contains **"an inconceivable amount"** of natural gas.

Given the usual precision of Scripture, I do not believe that this natural gas find alone would fulfill the biblical prediction of what seems to be crude oil in the land of Israel. After all, the gas find is off shore perhaps miles and not "in" the land of Israel. That being said, the natural gas find is wealth, and wealth is a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

Ingenious Evil: Iran Smuggling Weapons

The second interesting news item is the method that Iran has been using to smuggle weapons into Gaza. A short report by the Israeli security and political analysis website www.Debka.com is titled "[Iranian experts devise special containers for clandestine delivery of arms to Gaza.](#)" It tells of the clever ways Iranians are trying to smuggle weapons into Gaza.

Hamas, a proxy organization of the Iranian government, was elected as the ruling government of the Palestinian population of Gaza in January 2006 over the Fatah party that controls the Palestinian territory in the West Bank. The stated goal of Hamas (in the founding [Hamas Charter](#) of their organization) is to destroy the state of Israel.

"Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths."

• **Isaiah 59:7**

There has been blood on both sides. Both before and even more after the 2006 election, Hamas and their operatives have been firing rockets into Israel. Reports say that some 6,000 rockets have been fired. Israeli casualties have been relatively few but Israeli patience ended and in late December 2008 Israel attacked Gaza to end the rocket attacks by military force.

How were weapons getting to Gaza? Ships carrying weapons have been intercepted by Israel and other nations, other weapons have been smuggled through Egypt, and now a new method of smuggling by sea has been discovered. Israel and Hamas have been negotiating a ceasefire.

"DEBKAfile's military sources report that Israel relayed a warning to Hamas through Egypt that any more Iranian or Syrian attempts to smuggle rockets or other heavy weapons into Gaza by land or by sea would be deemed a breach of the ceasefire and generate Israeli military action to stop them. Our sources further disclose that Iranian marine experts and engineers, after making a study of submerged Mediterranean currents, have designed special containers for the clandestine shipment of arms to Gaza by sea.

The containers are dropped from freighters out at sea, plummet to a calculated depth and carried by the undercurrent to a point close to the Gaza shore. A built-in mechanism then shoots them up to the surface, where Gazan fishermen pick up the bobbing containers. A marine expert on deck of these Iranian freighters guides the captain to the exact location for dropping the container.

This is only one of Tehran's covert tricks for shipping arms to Gaza. To beat them, the United States, Israel and Egypt will need to set a special military-marine intelligence outfit. Iran's huge investment of money and brainpower in this task is a measure of the strategic importance it attaches to its ties with Hamas and through them its presence in Gaza."

• **"Iranian Experts Devise ...," January 18, 2008**

In 2001 Dr. Martin believed that the first step for peace must be a concerted effort by Israel. This is explained in his article "[Israel Should Cease it's Military Conquests Post Haste!](#)" How that will be accomplished remains to be seen. At present the world community, even Arab states, are only mildly condemning Israel for their defensive attacks to stop the rocket firings.

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