



How Well Do You Know Israel?!

By Mrs. Esther Tokayer

1. During the time period between 1300 and 1967, Jews were limited to standing below the seventh step on the eastern staircase leading up to the entrance to Cave of the Patriarchs. True or False
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. What was the character of the Jewish community in Hebron pre-1929?
 - a. Zionist pioneers
 - b. Polish immigrants
 - c. Natives to Hebron
 - d. Sephardic Jews only
3. What happened in 1929 that saw Jews evacuated from Hebron?
 - a. 67 Jews were killed in riots
 - b. The British made a deal with Jordan
 - c. It was part of a partition plan
 - d. It was part of prisoner exchange
4. Who had called for the riots in 1929?
 - a. The Arab League
 - b. The Mufti of Jerusalem
 - c. No one, it was spontaneous.
 - d. Yassir Arafat
5. When are Jews allowed to enter Ohel Yitzhak in the Cave of the Patriarchs today?
 - a. Anytime they want
 - b. Only for morning prayers
 - c. 10 days a year
 - d. only Shabbat Haye Sarah
6. Who controls the Cave of the Patriarchs today?
 - a. The Waqf since 1995
 - b. The Waqf since 636
 - c. The Chief Rabbinate since 1967
 - d. a joint council of rabbis and imams
7. What is the name of the Jewish town adjacent to Hebron?
 - a. Bet Lehem
 - b. Kiryat Arba
 - c. Be'er Sheva
 - d. Nahlaot
8. Who said, "Human life is undoubtedly a supreme value in Judaism, as expressed both in the Halacha and the prophetic ethic. This refers not only to Jews, but to all men created in the image of God."
 - a. David BenGurion
 - b. Abba Eban
 - c. Rav Shlomo Goren
 - d. Rav Aryeh Levine

Answers:

1. (a) Jews were expelled from Hebron for a brief period during the time when Crusaders controlled Hebron. They returned when they were permitted. The Mamelukes built steps to enter the Cave of the Patriarchs. At first the Jews were only allowed to ascend to the fifth step but after a time they were permitted to ascend to the seventh. When Israel captured Hebron in the Six Day War they destroyed those very steps.
2. (c) There were both Ashkenaz and Sephardic families that were native to Hebron, with brief periods where Jews were expelled throughout. Those same families continued to return to Hebron.
3. (a) Almost ten percent of the Jewish population was killed in the 1929 riots. The riots were coordinated attacks on Jews throughout the country as a result of rumors that the Jews were attacking the Mosque on the Temple Mount. About 30 families returned in 1931, only to be forced to leave again in 1936 with another round of riots.
4. (b) The Mufti had incited the crowds in the Mosque on the Temple Mount that the Jews wanted to attack the Mosque and that all Moslems should defend it. Religious leaders throughout Palestine took up the call, causing violence throughout the country that the British could not control. Jewish Agency did send emissaries from the Haganah to defend the community in Hebron. They were turned away by the community that thought they had a good relationship with their Arab neighbors. It is important to note that there were some Arab families that had defended their Jewish neighbors.
5. (c) Jews are permitted to pray in the outer building all the time, but are only permitted to Ohel Yitzhak which is the largest room, ten days a year. Shabbat Haye Sarah is one of those ten days.
6. (a) In attempts to further the peace process, the Netanyahu government signed the Wye Accords in 1995, that gave control of the Cave of the Patriarchs to the Waqf in Hebron.
7. (b) Today there are over 6,000 Jews living in Kiryat Arba
8. (c) Rav Goren was the Chief Rabbi of the IDF during the Six Day War and was the first Jew to pray and blow a shofar in the Cave of Patriarchs since Jews were expelled from Hebron.

Food for thought @ your Shabbat table: Why would a few hundred Jews choose to live amongst a hostile Moslem population?