

**CFI News Insights**

**Christian Friends of Israel**

[**feedback@cfijerusalem.org**](mailto:feedback@cfijerusalem.org)

[**www.cfijerusalem.org**](http://www.cfijerusalem.org/)

July 10, 2021 /Jewish Year 5781

**New Era for Israeli Government**

**Will the “Change Coalition” take root?**

# “For the leaders who took the lead in Israel, For the people who volunteered [for battle], Bless the LORD!” Judges 5:2 AMP.

After Prime Minister Netanyahu was unable to acquire the required 61 of the 120 mandates to establish a permanent government in Israel, Yair Lapid was given 30 days to do so. With an agreement made between him, Naftali Bennett and 6 other party leaders, a new government has been established putting Bibi in the minority. This feat seems remarkable in that the 8 parties that agreed to sit in Knesset majority together are from very disparate ideological camps. This “change coalition” even includes an Arabic Party (Ra’am) which draws its support and identity from Muslim Brotherhood ties.



***Thirty-sixth government of Israel at Beit HaNassi to photograph the traditional picture headed by the President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin. Monday, 14 June 2021*** *(by Haim Tzach, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikipedia)*

Yamina, the party Bennett leads, is actually to the right of the Likud party regarding its position on possible policy considerations. A majority of Israelis lean toward positions expressed by this party, to include a rejection of a two-state solution and the promotion of sovereignty for Israel in Judea and Samaria. This fact allowed Bennett to leverage his participation in the coalition to be the first one in a two year rotation for Prime Minister with Lapid, whose Yesh Atid party is decidedly to the left regarding the issues of Israeli-Palestinian relations, and very much so on social issues, such as acceptance of the LGBTQ community within Israeli mainstream society. On the surface, it appears that the only common denominator these Knesset Members have is that they believe it is time for Bibi to step aside. If they do not have more than that, there is some doubt as to how long the government can last.

For his part, and despite his ongoing legal ordeal, Netanyahu is loath to yield his status just yet. He claims that those on the right, indeed to his right, not only betrayed him, but their own electorate in cobbling together this coalition. He is not even leaving the PM’s official residence yet (even though Naftali has indicated he will not reside there during his tenure). Both PM Bennett and FM Lapid have developed elaborate itineraries since the tenure of this coalition has started and seem to have been embraced by world leaders on the whole in their official duties. The main things to observe now will be the ability of this new group to establish a permanent budget on the heels of COVID and how the new set of ministry heads operate with reference to their effectiveness in establishing and implementing coherent policy.

**Praying for Leaders that Heed the Voice of YHVH**

# “Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] will be rewarded” Proverbs 13:13 (AMP).

As believers, in whatever nation we reside, we are aware that we should pray for our secular authorities as much as our spiritual leaders, if not more so. Wherever we reside, we should also have similar concern for the operation of the government and bureaucracy in the land of Israel, as events on God’s Holy Mountain and in His city Jerusalem, will resonate all the way into our own homes and lives. Some decisions even affect our ability to travel in and out of Israel as God may have us do to serve with, pray for or connect to God’s population here. Beyond our opinions, we should seek the will of Father God regarding the direction and focus of this, or any Israeli government when established, and that those participating within it ought to do likewise.

Reporting from Jerusalem,

**Kim S. Brunson**