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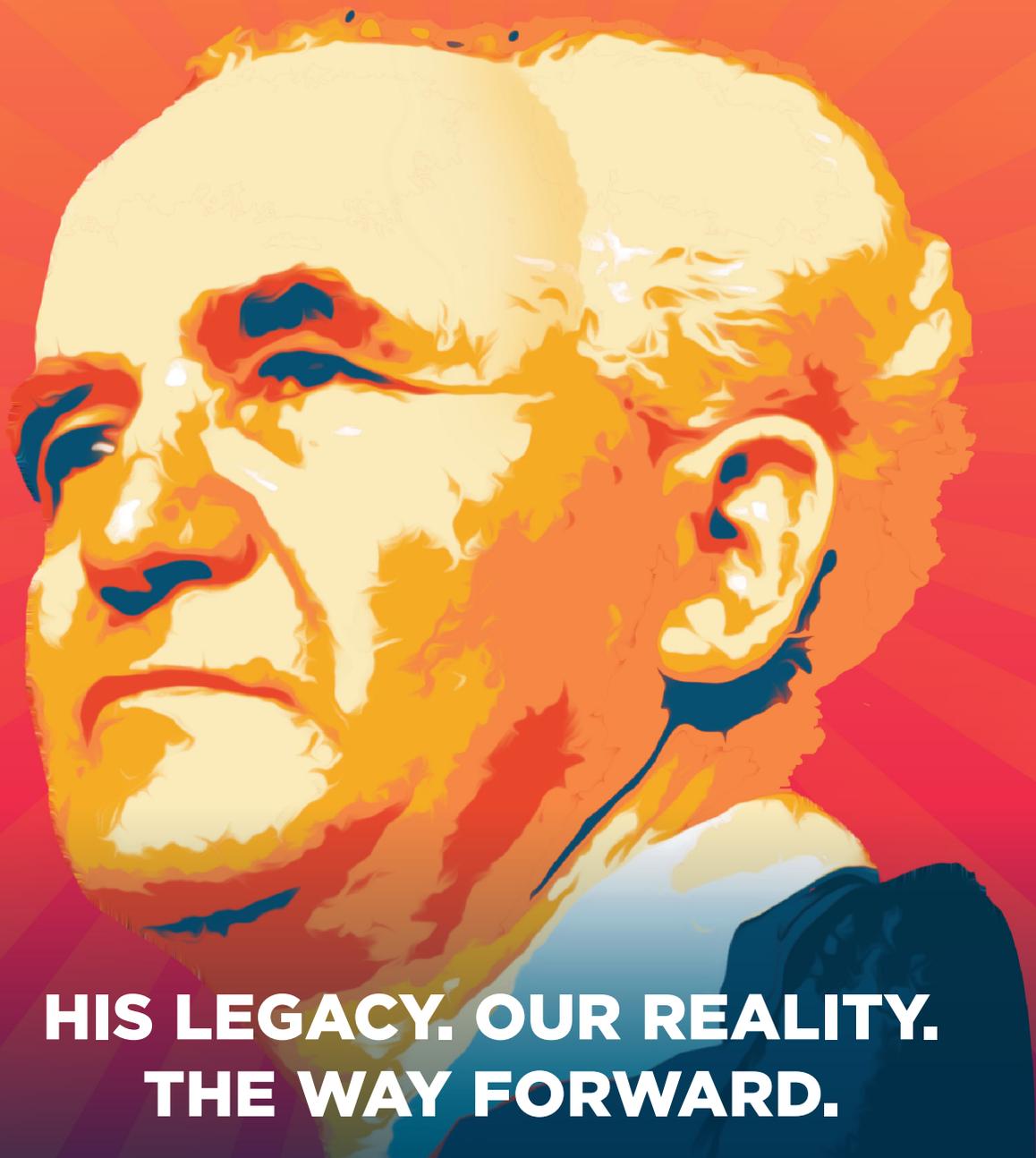
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BEN-GURION DAY IN THE USA

Ben-Gurion Day Talking Points

NOV 19, 2025



**HIS LEGACY. OUR REALITY.
THE WAY FORWARD.**



Table of Contents

Introduction	04
The Bible as Israel's Foundational Document and a Moral Compass	05
Education: A Fusion of Science and Scripture	06
Resiliency, Endurance, and Perseverance in Time of Hardship	07

Introduction

Ben-Gurion Day is a time to reflect on the foundations of modern Israel and what it means to the Jewish people as an opportunity to reflect on vision, endurance, and rebirth.

These talking points equip educators, leaders, and speakers with quotes and insights from David Ben-Gurion that connect his vision to the challenges and opportunities we face today. Each section pairs his own words with context to help frame meaningful conversations, speeches, lessons, or social media posts.

This year's theme — His Legacy. Our Reality. The Way Forward. — runs through every point, showing how Ben-Gurion's ideas on identity, resilience, and moral leadership remain a blueprint for building a just and innovative society. By sharing them, you keep his legacy alive and relevant, inspiring action and reflection for the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

01 | The Bible as Israel's Foundational Document and a Moral Compass

- A.** For Ben-Gurion, the Bible was not just history but the very force that shaped and sustained the Jewish people. Its values of justice, compassion, and shared purpose were, in his view, essential to guiding the modern State of Israel in governance, community, and moral responsibility.

Quote:

“The Bible is the source of the Jewish people’s moral strength and spiritual identity. It created our nation, and it must guide the life of our nation today.”

- David Ben-Gurion. *Speech at the Bible Contest, 1958.*

- B.** Ben-Gurion saw the Bible as the central pillar of Jewish nationhood; a unifying epic that connected the Jewish people to their land and one another. Its moral vision, grounded in justice, compassion, and human dignity, served as both anchor and blueprint for a just society in the Land of Israel.

Quote:

“We must build our future on prophetic ethics: ‘Man is created in God’s image,’ ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

- David Ben-Gurion. *Ben-Gurion diary, September 1948.*

- C.** Ben-Gurion saw the Bible not merely as a chronicle but as the blueprint of the Jewish people’s rebirth. For him, it preserved collective memory across centuries of exile and persecution, while also issuing a moral mandate for national renewal. It framed how Israelis should remember their past and act with purpose in the present, shaping the ethos of justice, responsibility, and unity guiding the modern state.

Quote:

“If one wishes to understand the miracle of Jewish survival and the rebirth of our state, one must look to the Bible. It is both memory and mandate.”

- Attributed to David Ben-Gurion, *commonly cited in reflections on his views.*

02 | Education: A Fusion of Science and Scripture

- A.** Ben-Gurion believed Israel's future depended on merging modern science with the timeless ethics of the Bible. He saw progress and tradition as partners, not opposites; science to develop and defend the land, and the Bible to guide those achievements with moral purpose. This dual foundation, he argued, would create a society that could thrive with both innovation and integrity.

Quote:

“At the foundation of our education must be two things: science and the Bible.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *address to the First National Bible Quiz, 1958.*

- B.** For Ben-Gurion, rebuilding the Jewish state required raising citizens fluent in both modern skills and ancient values. He envisioned Israelis who could master science, agriculture, and industry while drawing moral direction from their heritage. Capable of building cities and institutions without losing their ethical compass.

Quote:

“The greatest task of our generation is to create a new type of Jew — one who is both rooted in tradition and equipped for the modern world.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *speech to the Teachers' Association, 1950s.*

- C.** Ben-Gurion saw the desert as both a national challenge and a metaphor for personal growth. Education, he believed, must teach young people to master the land through technology and agriculture while developing self-discipline, humility, and moral clarity. National strength, he argued, begins with inner strength.

Quote:

“We must cultivate in our youth both the ability to conquer the desert and the wisdom to conquer themselves.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *speech at the Negev Conference, 1953.*

03 | Resiliency, Endurance, and Perseverance in Time of Hardship

- A.** Ben-Gurion saw Jewish history as proof that spirit outweighs circumstance. Even without sovereignty, the nation endured through culture, faith, and memory. This resilience, rooted in conviction rather than force, fueled his belief that Israel could rise from hardship into a state grounded in both historical justice and future promise.

Quote:

“Since the loss of our political independence in the Land of Israel, many believed we ceased to be a nation. But the Jewish people endured — not through land or state, but through spirit, culture, and tradition.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *National Autonomy and Neighborly Relations*, 1926.

- B.** For Ben-Gurion, true power came from an unshakable will to endure. Through centuries of displacement, the Jewish people rebuilt time and again because of shared vision and perseverance. He believed this inner strength could overcome military, political, and economic challenges alike.

Quote:

“Our strength is not in numbers or wealth, but in spirit and determination to survive and rebuild.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *speech to Mapai Central Committee*, 1947.

- C.** Ben-Gurion credited Jewish survival to unwavering belief. Not only in God, but in identity, destiny, and continuity. This conviction preserved language, culture, and tradition through exile, enabling the people’s eventual return and the rebirth of the State of Israel.

Quote:

“The Jewish people never ceased to exist because they never ceased to believe.”

- David Ben-Gurion, *address to the Knesset*, 1950.



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