

## **Is changing the clocks a waste of time?**

### **A permanent change**

In September 1999 there were four Israeli Arabs who wanted to perform a terrorist act. And they had noticed that the luggage in intercity buses was not checked very carefully.

So they had the following idea: they would go out in teams of two, and one of the team of two would take a suitcase, load it with a time bomb, into an intercity bus, and ride on the bus for a few stops and then get off leaving the suitcase on the bus.

His compatriot would follow the bus in a car and when the man on the bus got off he would jump into the car and they would drive away, and eventually the timer would go off and the bus would explode. That was their idea.

Well they smuggled in two time bombs from the Palestinian west bank that were set for 6.30pm in that September 1999. And they went out in two teams as they had planned, one to the city of Tiberias, one to Haifa. As both cars approached those two cities at 5.30pm, the cars exploded.

When the security forces were looking into what caused that problem, they found that the time bombs had been set by Palestinian time, which was under Palestinian daylight saving time at 6.30. But Israel had just switched the day before to standard time and so under Israeli time, the times on the bombs were 5.30 not 6.30.

The Palestinians that had smuggled in the bombs didn't notice that difference and so the bombs went off an hour early, so they killed the terrorists rather than killing their intended victims – two bus loads of people.