

LEVITT LETTER

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.” – Romans 10:1

A variety of reactions surfaced after President Bush gave his much-delayed speech on Middle East peace and a proposed Palestinian state. Yasser Arafat, alone in the world, even denied that the president was calling for his removal. Many agree that the plan sets “high hurdles” for any future Palestinian government to clear, as Fox News’ Brit Hume described it. Even the most ardent Israel supporters can sometimes see developments like this from different angles, as our two excellent cover articles demonstrate. Write and let me know how you see it. — Zola



ZOLA LEVITT

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Bush is Rewarding Terrorism

By Daniel Pipes, *National Post*

U.S. President George W. Bush has been adamant since Sept. 11 about stopping terrorism, but he took a firm step in the opposite direction in his speech.

He should have told the Palestinians clearly and unequivocally that their 21-month campaign of violence against Israel is unacceptable and must conclude before any discussion of rewards can be started. Instead, the President outlined his



U.S. President George W. Bush announces his plan for the peace in the Middle East as National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice (L), Secretary of State Colin Powell (2nd L) and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (R) listen.

vision for a “provisional” Palestinian state and demanded an end to what he called “Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories.” Both of these constitute very major benefits to the Palestinians; as such, they represent rewards for suicide bombings, sniper attacks, and the other forms of terrorism.

This not only does grave damage to the President’s proclaimed war on

terrorism but it sends a signal to the Palestinians to expect further rewards for yet more violence. True, there was much in his presentation about the virtues of local elections, independent auditing and market econom-

ics, but the only message that will stick is a cruder one: Terrorism pays.

Bush’s outline for action then went on to make a large number of mistakes about the specifics of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Here are some:

Misreading Palestinian opinion: Bush declares that only a small minority of Palestinians subscribe to the means or views of the terrorists.

Dispensing with Arafat

By George Will, *The Washington Post*

President Bush’s statement was the most clear-sighted U.S. intervention in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis in the 35 years since the 1967 war, and perhaps in the 54 years since the founding of Israel. It enunciated a policy that makes eventual peace at least conceivable, and meanwhile frees the president to pursue the global anti-terrorism agenda articulated in five other speeches in the past year.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Baby Boomer: See details on page 16



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

“The hatred of a few holds the hopes of many hostage.” But this is false; nearly every opinion survey, political speech, mosque sermon and other indication suggests that a substantial majority of Palestinians enthusiastically support the campaign of violence against Israel. This has the ominous implication that practicing democracy, as the President calls for, would lead — ironically — to a more aggressive policy toward Israel.

Moral equivalence: Bush implies a basic commonality between the plight of Israelis who suffer terrorism and the Palestinians who inflict it. “It is untenable for Israeli citizens to live in terror. It is untenable for Palestinians to live in squalor and occupation.” To see the error of this statement, change it to “It is untenable for American citizens to live in terror. It is untenable for Afghans to live in squalor and occupation.”

Victimology: Palestinians have “been treated as pawns,” says the U.S. President. Not so: Since 1967, the Palestinians have had an increasingly autonomous and powerful voice in running their own affairs. Especially since the creation of the Palestinian

Authority in 1994, they have been in control of their own destiny. To portray them as victims suggests they would behave differently once they have a formal state. In fact, every sign points to a continuation of the present policies.

Good governance the key: “True reform will require entirely new political and economic institutions based on democracy, market economics and action against terrorism.” This is a touching but naive belief in the wonders of decent ruling institution. To be sure, autonomous local leaders, multi-party elections and honest politicians are all to the good, but how might they lead to a reduction of hostilities? This view has things precisely turned around: Democracy, market economics and anti-terrorism will only follow a far more fundamental change, namely a Palestinian willingness to accept the existence of Israel. A Palestinian state that continues to seek the destruction of the Jewish state by nature cannot be democratic.

Overemphasizing terrorism: “There is simply no way to achieve [Palestinian-Israeli] peace until all

parties fight terror.” Palestinian terrorism has caused terribly tragedies but it is not the heart of the problem. Terrorism, after all, is but a tactic in the service of a war aim. That war aim — the destruction of Israel — is the heart of the problem. For example, it is perfectly possible to imagine a future Palestinian state that does renounce terrorism and instead builds up a conventional force of planes, tanks and ships with which to attack and destroy Israel. Along these lines, it is noteworthy that Bush did not call on the PA to reduce the size of its armed forces.

A house cannot be built from a blueprint that gets wrong the terrain, the size and shape of the plot, and the building materials. Likewise, a political program cannot work if it is premised on errors.

By rewarding terrorism, the Bush speech sets back the current war effort; by misunderstanding the Palestinian-Israeli war, it is rendered unworkable as a serious effort at conflict resolution. In all, it represents a disappointment and a missed opportunity. ■

The Believers TV Series

This collection of eight programs will stir your heart and thrill your soul with the dramatic testimonies of Jews in Israel who have come to know Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah) as Lord. These doubly Chosen Ones share with you their experiences as believers and treat you to lively Israeli music as they worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in song.

Zola interviews Israeli-born believers and Messianic Jews from the United States who have returned to the land of their fathers. You'll hear from courageous proclaimers of the Gospel who have suffered persecution for His name's sake, a former rabbinical student, and a faithful son of Abraham who praises the Messiah despite his encounter with cancer. Zola also talks with his longtime friend, a Palestinian who was a Muslim before Christian missionaries told him of the Jew who was sent that he might know God. *Please order from page 15.*

PROGRAM TITLES:

- The Galilee Experience • The Seed of Abraham
- He's Alive • In the Valley of the Shadow
- They Are Not Ashamed • Make a Joyful Noise
- Son of Ishmael, Daughter of Abraham
- Though He Slay Me...



Glory! – The Future of The Believers study booklet

Prophecy studies often deal with the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Armageddon and other cataclysms to befall an unbelieving world. This delightful study deals with the happy events prophesied for the believers: the Rapture, the Marriage Supper, the Kingdom, etc. The future for those who believe.

Eighty-one days had passed since the president's last intervention, which was the last gasp of the bankrupt policy of attempting to be an "honest broker" between terror and its victims. That April 4 statement was an uncertain trumpet, as in its absurdly mild chastisement of Yasser Arafat for not "consistently" opposing terrorism. Since then, better administration thinking has been signaled by frequent references to the "corruption" of Arafat's Palestinian Authority, a thugocracy that has been the real occupation force since it came from Tunisia to Gaza and the West Bank eight years ago.

The president said that the primary prerequisite for peace is change not in Israel's policy but in Palestinian leadership, and sweeping "reform and institution-building." Almost everyone relevant — including the president, most Israelis and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — believes a Palestinian state is desirable. But it is desirable only if its values are not those of founding fathers who dispatch suicide bombers to school buses, are not the toxic brew of Arafatism — terror and corruption.

The policy of "land for peace" produced peace — Israel yielded the Sinai, 91 percent of the land captured in 1967 — with a peaceful man, Anwar Sadat. But that policy is a sterile irrelevance as a response to Arafatism, which does not disguise its objective of acquiring all the land of Israel.

A slice of Czechoslovakia in September 1938 inflamed the recipient's appetite for the rest of it six months later. Today, only the delusional can believe that gratitude for the powers granted to a "provisional" Palestinian state will predominate over resentment about powers withheld. Furthermore, the withheld powers that would make a Palestinian state provisional will not be withheld for long. Who will enforce any restrictions on the "provisional" state's armaments or diplomacy? The "world community"?

The United Nations with its animus against Israel?

So in making even a "provisional" Palestinian state conditional on the selection of new Palestinian leadership "not compromised by terror," and on the establishment of democracy and a market economy, the president has tried to make extreme noncompliance less probable. He also has kicked the can of this crisis down the road. Hence he can devote his attention to the anti-terrorism agenda he has stressed in five major speeches.

In his Jan. 29 State of the Union address, the president said: "We'll be deliberate, yet time is not on our side. I will not wait on events while dangers gather."

On Dec. 11, at the Citadel, he said: "For states that support terror, it's not enough that the consequences be costly — they must be devastating."

On April 17 at Virginia Military Institute he said that the Taliban was only "the first regime to fall in the war against terror."

On May 23, in Berlin, he said: "Regimes that sponsor terror are developing these weapons [of mass destruction] and the missiles to deliver them. If these regimes and their terrorist allies were to perfect these capabilities, no inner voice of reason, no hint of conscience would prevent their use."

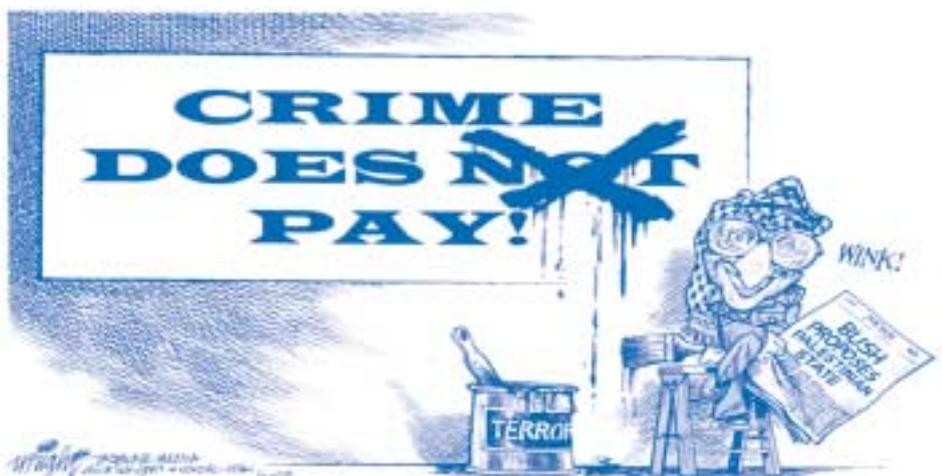
On June 1 at West Point he said that at today's "perilous crossroads of radicalism and technology," Cold War doctrines of containment and deterrence are inadequate: "We must take the battle to the enemy... the only path to safety is the path of action."

"the only path to safety is the path of action."

But for many months the Middle East crisis — more precisely, the war against Israel's homeland security — has threatened to paralyze U.S. action on this larger imperative. Paralysis is the aim of terrorists for whom chaos is a strategy.

Writing in *Parameters*, the journal of the Army War College, P. H. Liotta of the Naval War College warns against enemies who target not America's military but, among other things, America's "national security decision-making process." Such enemies seek to "induce decision paralysis." Liotta cites an adage from India: "One way to kill a tiger is to distract it from so many different sides that it tries to run in every direction at once."

The president effectively circumscribed the Israeli-Palestinian distraction. The path he has charted to peace through Palestinian regeneration is a long one. Meanwhile, for the president there is, elsewhere, "the path of action." ■



CNN's Sins Find Them Out

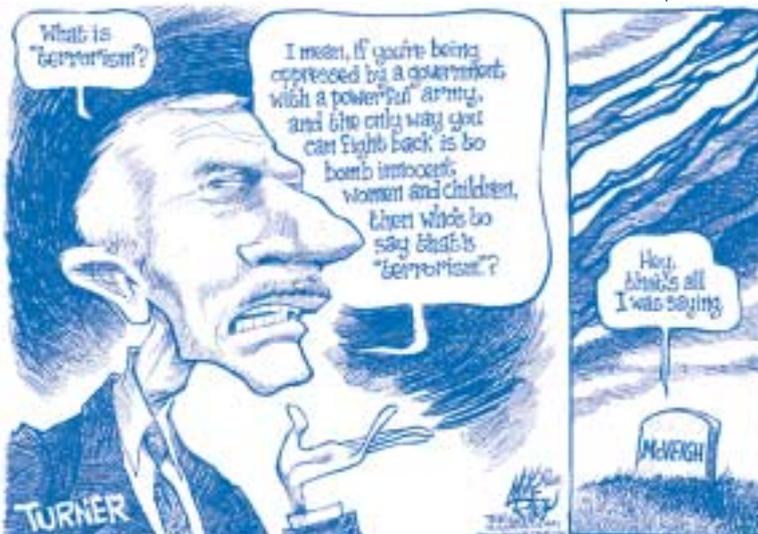
By Zola Levitt

I began watching CNN from its inception up until Fox News came on, at which point I never watched it again. It was a thankless part of my work to monitor its virulent anti-Semitism. In the 1980s it presented a news story that seemed to compliment an Israeli bus driver. I sent CNN a note to tell them that that story was the first pro-Israel item I'd ever seen on that network.

One of the drawbacks of our Israel tours has been having to come in from a quiet, spiritually-uplifting day of touring and teaching only to watch CNN's lies about violence in the land. In a recent *Associated Press* article, CNN excuses its unconscionable anti-Israel behavior as a "mistake," but frankly the network is only concerned with cash. Their "mistakes" have caught up with them now in this recent fiasco thanks to their founder, Ted Turner, who stated that the Israelis were terrorists. The Israelis are now about to shut CNN out and let Fox News in.

CNN damage control announced that they would be airing a few programs focused on the victims of terror. This is laughable; they have almost never done that. Palestinian Saeb Erekat's statement that CNN is losing its objectivity in favor of the Israelis is pure propaganda as usual. Claims that CNN serves as a voice for Israel is typical of the defenses of the *Dallas Morning News*, the *New York Times*, and other such "innocents" who claim to be evenhanded in their reporting. I stopped both newspapers coming to my home a long time ago.

Make no mistake about it: Ted Turner's slander is typical of CNN reporting. It is one of the world's worst anti-Israel organizations. ■



Preschool of Hate

By Joseph Farah, *WorldNetDaily.com*

An Islamist school in the Palestinian Authority territory of Gaza teaches children as young as 5 the techniques of urban guerrilla warfare, jihad against Jewish settlers and martyrdom missions to kill Zionists.

The school — called Islamic University, or Mosque — is so proud of its programs for some 4,000 students that it boasts about them on its public, Arabic-language website, www.jislamia.org — a site well-illustrated with photos of small children in full-dress battle uniforms.

On the website's "news" page, an article, translated from Arabic, describes a graduation ceremony for elementary-level schoolchildren who learn, beginning at the age of 5, to covet the city of Jerusalem, learn about suicide bombers as "martyrs" and to hate "Zionist criminals."

...Mohammed Hussein Nasr Allah, secretary general of the Iranian-backed, Lebanese-based terrorist organization Hezbollah, has visited the school and addressed the children. The terrorist leader told the children they "will never have to face the Zionists alone for the Hezbollah is with them forever."

...What's the goal of this institution? "The staff hopes it will produce a generation of children able to kick the Zionists out of Palestine and liberate the Palestinians." ■

(See page 16 for more frightening scenes)

The Truth

If Arabs put down their weapons, there would be no more violence.

If Jews put down their weapons, there would be no more Israel.

Coffee: Arab Style

News Briefs

Last month we ran a piece describing how the hugely popular Starbucks Coffee — a Jewish-owned company — was coming under attack by the Arab world. This month we're letting you know about another gourmet coffee company, Caribou Coffee (www.cariboucoffee.com).

Headquartered in Minneapolis, Caribou Coffee Company claims to be the nation's second largest gourmet coffee establishment, with stores in eight states.

A reader recently brought it to our attention that, unlike Starbucks, Caribou Coffee is not under an Arab boycott or harassment. The reason? It is owned by Arabs.

Records indicate that the company was sold to Crescent Capital (www.crescentcapital.com), an investment firm located in Atlanta, GA. Crescent owns 88% of Caribou Coffee. Interestingly, Crescent Capital is a U.S. arm of the First Islamic Bank (www.firstislamic.com) of Bahrain. Caribou and a number of other American companies are owned wholly or in part by this Arab bank. And First Islamic Bank has obtained the services of Sheikh Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi to advise them in the matter of *shar'iah*, Islamic law. This "advisor" is an outspoken fundraiser for the Palestinians.

Now, we're not telling you which coffee to drink, but in this day of muddled diplomatic initiatives — calling the Saudi Arabians our "friends," for instance — it helps to know just whom you're dealing with. After all, that was the purpose of the FBI shutting down these so-called American charities like the Holy Land Foundation that in actuality were funneling donations to terrorist groups like Hamas. ■

Couldn't Happen to Nicer Guys

By Melissa Radler, *The Jerusalem Post*

A pro-Palestinian student group whose members tried to incite an anti-Semitic riot at San Francisco State University last month was suspended from operating on campus for one year, the university announced this week.

Members of the General Union of Palestinian Students surrounded a group of pro-Israel demonstrators at a May 7 rally, yelling, "Hitler didn't finish the job" and "Get out or we will kill you," and threatening the mostly-Jewish crowd with physical harm. In addition to the suspension, the group also lost its funding for one year and had its Web site shut down. According to a university release, the measures were taken because the group "violated procedures and guidelines for rallies/demonstrations." ■

Saudi Arabia bans 'Star Of David'

By Michael Freund, *The Jerusalem Post*



Saudi Arabia's Commerce Ministry has launched an investigation to determine why various products bearing a "Star of David" had been brought into the desert kingdom, the English-language *Riyadh Daily* reported.

The ministry, according to the report, had dispatched "inspectors of commercial fraud" to various parts of the country to confiscate items such as children's toys, candy, and laser discs because they bore the six-cornered symbol.

The companies behind the products were ordered to withdraw them from the marketplace, the newspaper said.

Wasn't it Saudi Arabia that offered a plan for the Middle East that included the recognition of the State of Israel and peace with the Arab nations? — Zola



A demonstrator outside a Starbucks cafe in Beirut. A group of Lebanese and international demonstrators clinked traditional Arab coffee cups and urged people to boycott the American chain, which they accuse of supporting Israel. (Reuters)

For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more." (Psalm 83:2, 4)

ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD

THIS Year in Jerusalem!



We offer several options for our Fall Festival Tours of Greece and Israel. Our Deluxe Israel Tour departs on October 22 and returns on November 1. The Grand Petra tour begins on October 19 and meets with our Deluxe Tour. The Ultra Grand group will enjoy the Grand Petra tour plus a 7-day Greek Isle Cruise & Land excursion that returns on November 9. Our Biblical Greece Tour embraces both land and sea from October 30 through November 9. Please request your color tour folder from Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours, or 1-800-WONDERS anytime.

New Year's Resolution

Make a resolution for the Jewish New Year to Join Zola for his 75th anniversary tour to Israel. For those of you who send in your deposit before the Feast of Trumpets (Friday, September 6), you will receive a 7.5% discount on your tour cost. Plan ahead and enjoy the savings.

Loaves & Fishes

The Palestinians' worst air disaster in history occurred today when a small 2-seater plane crashed into a cemetery early this morning. Palestinian search and rescue workers have recovered 828 bodies so far and expect that the number will climb as the digging continues into the night.

Trees for Anatot

As you probably know, we have adopted Anatot, an Israeli settlement which Jeremiah purchased in 590 BC when Jerusalem was under siege (Jer. 32:9). You may remember Anatot's rather barren appearance from the back cover of the June *Levitt Letter*. Good news: Anatot is planting trees for the same \$10 apiece that we have been sending to the Jewish National Fund! Anatot will even give you a certificate for each tree that you sponsor. Now you can designate trees for the Anatot Forest. They make especially meaningful living gifts.
(See article on page 11)

World Vision Turns Blind Eye

One of our viewers sent the following email to NewsVision@wvi.org:
"We were wondering if you have an Israeli Jewish child that needs sponsoring. We are not interested in helping the future terrorists of the world (Arabs) but are always interested in helping the people and country that God loves, Israel."

World Vision's reply: none.

Dear Friends:

Back in the 1980s I used to be a fan of the Texas Rangers baseball team. But then in the 90s they began selling off the better players, they cut salaries, and essentially became a farm team for the better ball clubs. Talent was valuable and the owners were selling that talent for profit. George W. Bush was a big investor in the Rangers. I recall he took about \$14 million out of the team, knowing as little about baseball as he does about Israel.

Money is what moves professional sports and so much else in our world. This is true of Ted Turner, the CNN media mogul who called the Israelis "terrorists" recently. Why did he do it? He's always been anti-Israel, but no doubt he is beholden to Arab petro-dollar advertising to keep his billions flowing.

Now we have Xerox, Enron, Global Crossings, WorldCom and even America's decorating diva, Martha Stewart. She's worth multiple millions of dollars, but it appears she may have forfeited it all in one shady deal for a few hundred grand. With Enron, thousands of workers have lost their jobs and financial futures while the big guys cash out with rich rewards. It's not easy to explain why Ken Lay or the Arthur Andersen CEOs, who possess \$100s of millions, will cheat people in order to have a few million more. It's doubtful any of these fat cats will suffer as a result.

Government is becoming like the leadership of Enron, Andersen, and the others, selling out our citizens for money, too. Dr. Daniel Pipes of the Middle East Forum (see our cover article) testified recently before Congress about the corruption involved in our dealings with Saudi Arabia, acquiescing to its petty grievances while doing nothing to rescue American citizens held hostage there. He cites that American officials are too often attracted to the potential cash rewards

offered to them in their post-government private-sector careers. Here is some of his stinging testimony:

...[Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan] boasts of his success cultivating powerful Americans who deal with Saudi Arabia. "If the reputation then builds that the Saudis take care of friends when they leave office, you'd be surprised how much better friends you have who are just coming into office."

...The heart of the problem is a very human one. Americans in position of authority bend the rules and break with standard practice out of personal greed. One finds over and over again that old Saudi hands are doing very well once they leave office.

...I think we have a culture here, a culture of obsequiousness that is very distinct to Saudi Arabia, and I think requires your urgent attention to think through mechanisms to prevent the Saudi government in effect from preemptively bribing our officials, by keeping a lure out there for them.

This kind of corruption among our government officials not only harms American lives, but also adversely affects our foreign policy in other areas of the world. Israel is being sold out, too. The whole place. It's being sold by George W. Bush to the Saudis for a shaky alliance in preparation for an attack upon Iraq, and maybe even just to maintain America's oil contracts.

In my experience, the media is like Enron to Israel. The left-leaning, anti-Semitic bent of much of the media covering Israel is bankrupting this

A Note From Zola



stalwart democracy in the Middle East. The media and their sponsors who pay in petro-dollars and the like are cashing in with rewards while the Israelis suffer day after day from the lies and half-truths pouring over the airwaves.

Throughout our six tours during this last Intifada, not one passenger saw any incident of unrest or was put into harm's way. Nine million people carry on their daily lives in Israel without being involved in a bombing. Think of it: If we covered every shooting or crime in Dallas or Washington, D.C. the way Israel is covered, the world would have a completely different opinion of us.

The media covers Israel because they're allowed to. What's going on in Libya or Iraq or Iran? The media are not there. The murdered *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl is a good example of how journalists

are treated in these Moslem nations. So news organizations rush to Israel to cover a relatively few violent incidents compared to what other nations

face all the time. Reporters are allowed to move freely in Israel, so much so that they're stepping on one another. They find the worst stories imaginable, following that lofty journalistic creed "if it bleeds it leads," and so the world gets a false picture simply because covering such stories in Israel is convenient and entertaining to consumers around the world.

Israel is being sold out...the whole place.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Letters to Zola

Some letters have been edited for space.

Dear Zola:

Ya know, I'm one of those people who grew up as a bigoted Christian (how's that for an oxymoron?). But reading all the online articles [www.levitt.com] has really helped me to "connect the dots" between the Old and New Testaments. There is a certain amount of peace which comes with being cured of blindness. Thanks for what you do. — PS



Zola

Arabs in my whole life! Even with kids who are ignorant and don't know any better... you, by far, is the most ignorant person! — BE

Dear BE:

Your deep-seated anger and hatred is evident in your letter. Arab Muslims killed over 3,000 Americans on September 11. Arab Muslims kill Israeli schoolchildren, grandmothers, and other innocents nearly every day in Israel. Arab Muslims continue to threaten the security of the free world. Israelis do not hide tanks inside their houses. The Bible does not teach its followers to kill all unbelievers as the Koran does. When you are old enough, you may begin to understand these realities, if you genuinely seek the truth. — Zola

Dear Zola:

Thank you for your ministry. What pleases me is your strong desire (and success) with presenting the TRUTH of the ENTIRE Bible. Your message is not diluted with "religion" — it is straight Judeo-Christian as the Lord intended from the very beginning.

I am so thankful, Zola, that as a Jewish man — chosen of God — He opened your eyes and heart to the gospel of Christ, Messiah. Praise Jesus! — LS

Dear Zola:

I've been listening to your program for at least six years. I have been blessed beyond bounds as a result of supporting Israel. I get very upset when I hear my fellow black Americans speak out against Jews and Israel (namely, the nation of Islam). I am black but was blessed to be raised to know that those who curse Israel will be cursed and those who bless Israel will be blessed. I totally share your views on Replacement Theology. I know that Israel has specific promises just for it! I hide my face in shame when I hear my brethren say that the Church is Israel. My mother did not raise a fool! It is impossible for God to lie. If He makes a promise He can't break it. In my view, people who displace Israel's promises made by God need to wake up and smell the coffee! Our Savior is a Jew. — AN

Dear Zola:

"I STRONGLY disagree"

I have to say that I STRONGLY disagree with what you show "tries" to say about Arabs and Muslims. First off, Arabs are NOT terrorists! Look at Timothy McVeigh, he's a white Christian man who tried to blow up and kill his OWN people!!!! Muslims do not believe in suicide, so all the suicide bombers that claim they are Muslims, are really sinners!! Read the Quran, Bible, and Torah, they are ALL SIMILAR!!! Palestinians are not the ones killing Israelis with cannons, bombs or missiles! Look at the TV where it is not biased (unlike your show), there is a TON of Israelis inside Palestine with TANKS inside their HOMES and TERRORIZING their homes by kicking them out and shooting every picture on their wall. I am speaking the truth when I say that. Palestinians are innocent people who have been occupied by Israelis. Look at you, a Jew, controlling the media to make them believe that Muslims are bad people. Muslims are not on the wrong path and they do not need help. The person who needs help is YOU!! Now get your facts straight before you say them on the TV and stop trying to make more people racist like you. When I'm old enough to start paying taxes, I'm gonna make sure your show is off the air because I do not want any of my money going to racist people like you! Go make friends with a Muslim or even an Arab, since Muslims are of all races, and see how different they are than how you claim them to be! Another thing, when I saw your show, I was about to cry because I have never seen or heard so much hatred towards Muslims and

Dear Zola:

You are so right about living in the End Times. It has motivated me to "witness" even more than ever. I have heard comments like: Oh, brother, here comes "the end of the world" himself.

I have made it clear to "them" that the world didn't listen to Noah, either. They laugh at me or hurry me out. I don't care. Your newsletter has helped me even more as I witness for our Lord. — DG

Dear DG:

"Blessed are you when men revile and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My name's sake" (Matt. 5:7). — Zola

In Israel Today

Israel ♥ You

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israel believes tourists who brave the dangers of Middle East violence to visit the embattled country deserve an award.

A Tourism Ministry spokeswoman said Monday it had launched a “thank you” campaign in which tourists receive a sticker reading “Israel loves you” and a red rose when they arrive and a certificate of appreciation when they depart.

“We wanted to thank every tourist who comes here to support us, as not everyone comes these days,” the spokeswoman said.

The number of tourists visiting Israel has dropped by about half, to 1.2 million a year, since the start in September 2000 of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Tourism revenues have shrunk to \$2 billion a year from \$4 billion.

Each of our passengers always gets a red rose with a card from me saying, “The rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley, to welcome you home.” Now is the time to join us on our Israel tour. We’re giving a 7.5% discount on our October Tour in celebration of our 75th journey to the Holy Land. See page 6 for more details. — Zola

Call 1-800-433-7300 “for Zion’s sake”



By Zola Levitt

American Airlines is quickly losing my confidence... and my business.

My good friend in Israel, Dr. Gerald Schroeder, advised me that he had received his mileage statement from AA addressed to “Held Territories.” Gerald lives in Jerusalem.

I immediately alerted our TV viewers to contact American Airlines to remind them that Jerusalem is still the official capital of Israel. Letters and phone calls have gone back and forth, and here’s briefly what has transpired:

AA made an apology with an explanation that this was simply a computer glitch. Yet, we noted that 1) Israel was never mentioned in the reply, and 2) the reason that AA chose the words “Held Territories” was not clarified. Some human had to have typed in these words in order for the computer to use them, glitch or not. We contacted AA with these concerns and received a phone call from Customer Relations.

At this point, AA apologized once again, stated that this was indeed their mistake, that this was the first they had heard about it, that it would never happen again, and that mailings to Jerusalem would be written as “Israel.”

With production time running out for this edition of the *Levitt Letter*, we contacted AA one more time to see if they would add any further explanation to their apology. AA indicated that some ten individuals were investigating this. The representative also mentioned that one investigator believed that the erroneous country information had been obtained from the ISO (International Organization of Standardization, www.iso.org). The ISO names a country called “Palestine Territories, Occupied,” in their list of nations.

A letter then followed in which we were told that “glitch” was in fact not accurate. Their investigators have not been able to determine the original source for the offensive information. But what got me just before we went to print was the new statement from the AA representative:

In answer to your question about future written references to Jerusalem addresses, we certainly understand the argument for the standard use of Israel. However, in view of what has happened, we want to be very accurate in this regard and we are attempting to identify a globally recognized source to use to update our database.

It appears now that AA is backtracking on its original statement that this would not happen again, as long as they locate a “globally recognized source” that uses terms like “Palestine” or “Occupied” or “Held Territories.” This is unacceptable.

Perhaps you’re an American Airlines customer or just simply bothered that AA or any business would make choices like this. If you want to contact them, their toll-free number is 1-800-433-7300. The democracy of Israel has too long been under attack by the Arab world, by the European Union, by the United Nations, and by the likes of Ted Turner and others who would presume to decide Israel’s fate on their own terms. Make this call “for Zion’s sake.”



Jewish Heritage Calendar

THIS is the best time to order our new Jewish Heritage Calendar for the year 5763, which, on the Jewish calendar, begins in September. You’ll have the dates of Biblical Feasts and Sabbaths and the names of the months, the Holy Days, etc. You will also become acquainted with many fascinating artifacts through colorful pictures and descriptions you may wish to save for years to come. Please order from page 15.

Caution: buying this year’s will make you want next year’s as well!



“His blood be upon us...” Part 2

Matthew 27:25 and the Jewish People

By Todd Baker, Th.M.



Last month we examined the various interpretations of Matthew 27:24-25 and how the misunderstanding of these verses in their context has often led to anti-Semitism through the course of Church history. But what does this passage actually say? Are all Jews forever cursed because of this incident? Let's take a look at the Scripture itself.

The meaning of “children” in the cry of the crowd in Matthew 27:25 does not mean all the subsequent descendants of those Jews who rejected Christ in Matthew 26 and 27. The word in the Greek text of Matthew can also mean a child of parents. In the context of verse 25 it refers to the offspring of the unbelieving Jews of Jerusalem who shouted for Christ to be crucified. This at once limits the meaning to only one generation and corresponds with the judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70.

The same word and meaning for “children” used in Matthew 27:25 is also used in Luke 23:28 where Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem that would fall on them and their “children” for the city's rejection and mistreatment of Him. In Matthew 23:37-39 Jesus rebuked the Jewish leaders of Jerusalem for not letting Him take them and their “children” under His protective wing. The scope of God's judgment for the crucifixion of His Son applies and was limited to the city of Jerusalem and certain inhabitants among the religious leaders and common people who orchestrated the plot to have Jesus killed. It does not extend to their Jewish descendants or national posterity in Israel today.

To read the cry of Matthew 27:25 as an eternal curse on the Jewish people is therefore to press the language beyond its Biblical context. Jewish guilt for the death of Christ in Matthew rested upon a small number of the nation who were there, and to read into these words a curse on all Jews forever is ludicrous (after all, Matthew and his fellow apostles were Jews). Like everyone else in the present age of grace, Jews will not be judged corporately, but judged individually on the sole basis of their acceptance or rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Lord (John 3:36).

The cry of Matthew 27:25 was not a bloodthirsty wish, curse, or prophecy, but rather a cultural idiom of the ancient Near East used to verbally express individual or group responsibility for a solemn action taken. The use and meaning of this expression goes back to the Old

Testament (see Deut. 19:10; Josh. 2:19; 2 Sam. 3:28-29; I Kings 2:33; Jer. 26:15; Ezek. 18:13). Pilate's unwillingness to condemn Jesus prompted the Jerusalem crowd to take responsibility for it themselves, hence the cry “His blood be upon us...” The guilt for the murder of Christ belonged to these Jews alone who stood before Pilate demanding that Jesus be crucified. It was not passed on to all Jews born after them.

The blood of Jesus that was cried out for by the Jerusalem crowd in Matthew 27:25 did not bring the Jews eternal condemnation, but was instead the divine means of their eternal redemption and the forgiveness of sins, even for the sin of killing the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's prayer from the cross to God that He would forgive those who killed Him not only included the Romans but also the very Jews in Matthew 27:25 who wanted Him crucified (see Luke 23:34)! Later, on the day of Pentecost, the remission of sins through Christ's shed blood was offered to these same Jewish conspirators by Peter as recorded in the book of Acts. God had not already condemned them, or for that matter all Jews, for the death of Christ. The offer of God's pardon through Christ was in fact extended to all of them and their “children” if they chose to repent (Acts 2:22-39; 3:13-26; 4:4-15). Since Jesus was willing to forgive His own people for their complicity in His death, Christians should realize God can easily save and forgive their Jewish descendants, who played no direct role in the crucifixion of the Messiah.

If indeed Matthew 27:25 meant the Jews are in fact condemned as a race for killing Christ, should not the Italian descendants of the ancient Romans also be condemned for nailing Jesus to the cross? Those within the Church who have favored the anti-Jewish interpretation of Matthew 27:25 would do well to at least be consistent with their racist interpretation. The reason they are not is because they are exclusively biased against the Jewish people.

The anti-Jewish interpretation of Matthew 27:25 is simply false because it plainly contradicts the general teaching of Scripture regarding the present and future reality of the Jews being God's Chosen People (Romans 9-11). This kind of misinterpretation of Scripture is dangerous because such a meaning has helped spawn and stimulate Christian anti-Semitism via the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Russian pogroms, the Holocaust, and more subtly, Replacement Theology.

Christians must repent and ask for forgiveness from the Jewish community for the long historical mistreatment of the Jews done in the name of Jesus Christ. This can start with the Church's theological abandonment of the reckless anti-Jewish meaning of Matthew 27:25 that condemns and labels all Jews with the infamous stigma of “Christ killers.” ■

Ministry Outreach

Last month Sandra Levitt led our annual Kibbutz tour to the Holy Land. She reports that the entire journey was “peaceful, full of warm fellowship, and well-received by the Israelis.” If you couldn’t make it in June, you missed a wonderful opportunity to walk in the steps of our Lord and His Apostles, among many other exciting activities. One of our tour passengers wrote this when he got back:

Waiting for my connecting flight home, I was able to enjoy an excellent view of NYC’s skyline. However, it just couldn’t compare to the hills of Jerusalem. A 10-day pilgrimage to Israel did something incredible to my soul — it allowed the Holy Spirit to connect with me on a deeper, more complete level. It completed the prayer of Jabez, “...bless me indeed.”

Lunch overlooking the Dome of the Rock, prayer at the Western Wall, devotions on Solomon’s Portico where Pentecost occurred, and dinner overlooking the Sea of Galilee — how can I put into words the emotional and spiritual impact of 10 days like this? We were a 15-member family of believers rejoicing, praising God, and connecting to our Jewish roots.

What a heartening testimony! I long for all of you to have that same experience in the Promised Land among the Chosen People.



While in Israel, Sandra presented the residents of Anatot (featured in our June *Levitt Letter*) with a certificate of adoption, signifying that our ministry would stand with them as they re-establish the prophet Jeremiah’s ancient parcel of land. Our good friend Stu Arden interviewed Anatot resident Avi Shapira, which we excerpt for you here:

Stu: How did the settlement start?

Avi: I was not in the original nucleus, but I was told that people who wanted to fulfill the Zionist dream of settling the land, as well as raise the quality of their life, began this settlement. Today, as we near our 20th anniversary, there are about 160 families.



Stu: Was it hard in the beginning?

Avi: The original caravans (trailers) had no showers or toilets, so one caravan was set aside for that purpose. Consequently, most families had “chamber pots” in the

winter. Guard duty was done on muddy paths in the rain until those paths were paved.

Stu: Why did you personally come here?

Avi: Someone told me about the settlement. I came, I looked, and I fell in love with this place. To me it wasn’t “the territories,” it was Eretz Yisrael — the Land of Israel!

Stu: What is your background?

Avi: My family lived in the Old City for four generations, but was forced out in the 1948 war. My wife’s family is from Haifa. We met as children when her family moved to Jerusalem.

Stu: What kind of activities are on the settlement?

Avi: We have guest lecturers, carnivals for children and youth, parties related to various holidays, sports teams, and musicians living here perform for our benefit.

Stu: What kind of people live on the settlement?

Avi: We have native-born Israelis (Sabras), as well as immigrants from countries such as Russia, Romania, Iraq, Yemen, America, and others.

Stu: What services do you offer on the settlement?

Avi: We have a Secretariat (the administrative body), a day care center, and a kindergarten. Our youth are bussed to schools in Jerusalem. Health care, shopping, banking, etc., are all done in Jerusalem. As we grow we hope to provide more services.

Stu: What is your biggest concern?

Avi: Security. If we can’t provide security for our residents we will lose the wonderful sense of community that has been developing here.

Stu: What does it mean to you to be adopted?

Avi: It gives me great pride as well as a wonderful feeling to know that people out there care for us, and that we’re not alone. It is incredible to think that “Christian Zionists” are standing with us, praying for us, and will help us with our critical security issues. No words can express what this means to me, to all of us at Anatot. When Adi and I met Sandra we were overwhelmed with her love for Israel, the Jewish people, and her sincere desire to help our settlement. What words could possibly express the gratitude we feel? I want *Zola Levitt Ministries*, and all the people who will be helping us, to know that we are looking forward to the day that you will come here and see for yourselves how the desert is indeed blooming. Our hearts are open to welcome you, and we are waiting for you to share our warm hospitality. This is such an honor to be adopted, and to everyone I say “Toda Raba” Thank you very much. ■

Zondervan: Purchased by Unbelievers

By Lawrence Ford, Staff Theologian

In our April *Levitt Letter*, we alerted you to a new Bible being marketed by Zondervan Publishers and the International Bible Society. It's called *Today's New International Version*, and it is being published in the face of tremendous opposition from prominent Christian leaders.

The primary focus of complaint is its *gender-neutral* stance, which in simple terms means that the translators have replaced certain references to "he" or "him" or "man" or "father" with "they" or "them" or "people" or "human" or "parents." Some feel that the translators sought to make the Bible more palatable to those who lean toward the feminist agenda in Christian circles. This is only their opinion. But why does the publisher feel that the very words of Scripture must be altered to make women feel more included? For centuries, men *and* women have been reading the Bible as it is and making accurate interpretations and applications of Scripture.

Recently, a representative of the International Bible Society wrote in to voice his dismay at the widespread criticism of the Bible that his organization publishes. When referring to the Christian leaders who have voiced their opposition to the new translation, he indicates his doubt in the scholarship of these individuals: people like Dr. John Walvoord, Dr. J. I. Packer, Dr. John MacArthur, and over 100 others.

You can study the complete history of this controversy, including the names of the many leaders who have rejected this translation at the website of The Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, www.cbmw.org (or call them at 1-888-560-8210), as well as at www.no-tniv.com. You can also visit the website for the International Bible Society at www.tniv.info for their side of the story (a toll-free number for Zondervan Publishers, a Rupert Murdoch company, was not readily available on their website). Zola reminded me that it was Zondervan Publishers that vehemently objected to and threatened the ministry when he and Tom McCall were alerting the Christian public to the errant textbook by Robert Gundry. This publisher, he discovered, had sold out to unbelievers years ago.

In June of this year at their annual convention, the 16 million-member Southern Baptist denomination officially rejected this translation for use in SBC churches, bookstores, and agencies. Remember, this is the Bible translation that IBS and Zondervan agreed *not* to publish when they faced the same widespread complaints and opposition in 1997.

When a translation (or any book for that matter) like this from such an influential publisher is strongly rejected by so many scholars and church leaders, and when that publisher breaks faith with prior agreements and pushes it out there anyway, it's only prudent to let you know about developments that could affect the way you understand Scripture. ■

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" (2 Cor. 6:14)

Hebrew Lesson

By John J. Parsons



For the LORD knows the way of the righteous (Psalm 1:6a KJV).

קִים	דִי	צַדִיק	דֶרֶךְ	יְהוָה	יָדַעַתְיוּ	כִּי			
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	
kim	di	tsa	rech	de	adonai	ah	dei	yo	ki
(the) righteous			way (of)	The LORD	knows		For		

Remember! Hebrew is read right to left...

Hebraic Insight

In Hebrew, the theological term "omniscience" is sometimes rendered *yediat hakol*: "knowledge of everything." *Adonai* knows all of the birds and animals in the earth (Psalm 50:11); He *knows* when people sit down and rise up (Psalm 139:2); He even *knows* what people are going to say before they say it (Psalm 139:4). But in addition to knowing all of the facts of reality, this *pasuk* (verse) tells us that Adonai also knows the way (*derech*) of human beings.

The word *derech* means more than the objective facts that might constitute "the what" of a person's life (though that is obviously included), but involves an intimate knowledge of "the how" of that life. *Derech* is the subjective way someone chooses to live his life: it is primarily a word having to do with a heart attitude and disposition of inner character.

Adonai knows the way of the righteous (*tsaddikim*). The righteous one (*tsaddik*) genuinely trusts in Adonai's provision for justification and acceptance through the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah as the personal *kip-parah* (ransom) for sin. Adonai especially knows this inward heart attitude of the *tsaddik* since this constitutes the goal of His redemptive purposes: Adonai saves us in order to know us and to love us! Faith in His righteous way is our truth and our life (see John 14:6).

We have access like the networks to military experts. — Zola

Understanding Operation Defensive Shield – Part 1

By Capt. Will King, U. S. Army

Many critics of Israel have stated that the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) intentionally targeted civilians, committed atrocities, and massacred innocent Palestinians during their battle at the Jenin refugee camp in April. To better understand these false claims from a military perspective, it is important to look at the tactics employed by the IDF during this operation.



Israel's stated objective in Operation Defensive Shield was to destroy the terrorist infrastructure based in Judea and Samaria, including those terrorists taking sanctuary in the refugee camps. Israel had three possible courses of action (COA) that would have accomplished this goal: aerial bombing, engaging with tanks, and clearing with infantry. However, Israel also chose to impose on themselves an added operational restriction: minimizing civilian casualties.



The first COA Israel could have pursued was aerial bombing. The Israeli Air Force is the dominant air force in the entire Middle East and would

enjoy air supremacy within their own airspace. The average Palestinian terrorist is armed with a Kalishinakov or M-16 rifle. These weapons have a maximum effective range of about 400 meters, and a maximum range of about 1350 meters (there are some variations between these models, mostly based on the difference in caliber). Obviously, the planes flying overhead would be well out of range from these weapons, allowing the pilots to deliver their munitions with no fear of being shot down. However, the problem with aerial bombing is that it is not always accurate. Yes, Israel does possess precision-guided munitions (PGMs), but even these are not 100% accurate all of the time. And when the targets are dispersed within a refugee camp full of civilians, accuracy is a must. Another problem is that the Israelis knew terrorists were operating within the camp, but they did not necessarily know precisely *where*. Aerial bombing and PGMs work best when the target is known, clearly identifiable, and free of surrounding obstructions (such as civilians).

Most civilized countries, thanks to technological breakthroughs and advances such as PGMs, have abandoned the carpet bombing techniques used during World War II and adopted an entirely new doctrine when it comes

to dealing with cities and civilian populations. However, unlike the West, many “rogue countries” (such as Iraq and North Korea) intentionally incorporate cities and civilians into their battle plans by positioning military equipment in and around protected sites. The immediate result is a tactical delay while Western commanders evaluate the military necessity of bombing a target within a school or mosque. They want to avoid as much as possible a potential strategic victory for the enemy that could come from displaying the propaganda and pictures of the destroyed site in the media and the resulting shift in world opinion against the Western attackers. Although aerial bombing would have maximized protection of their own troops, Israel chose not to pursue this COA in Jenin because, among other reasons, this would not have limited civilian casualties within the camp.

The second COA open to Israel was to use tanks to destroy the terrorist bases. Although this COA would put IDF soldiers more at risk than aerial bombing by placing them on the ground, it would still afford them a good deal of protection. The posted maximum effective range of the Merkava MK I and II tanks is 1800 meters, and 2500 meters for the MK-III (source: Ironsides). This would allow the IDF 800 to 1000 meters of standoff range versus the average Palestinian terrorist with a rifle. The tank crews would also be inside of the heavily armored tanks, which would increase their survivability, as compared to the gunmen who operate either from buildings, houses, or out in the open.



Although tanks can be very accurate, one must first be certain that the target is a terrorist. Without clear indicators on the outsides of buildings and houses to identify them as terrorist bases, the Israeli tanks would not be able to accurately determine if those were valid. Additionally, even when a tank round hits its target, collateral damage from debris can be expected if operating within a built-up area. In other words, even if the IDF has a clearly defined terrorist target that they engage and destroy with a tank round, civilian casualties are still possible from the debris caused by the ex-ploding building. Israel therefore again chose not to use this COA as it would have endangered civilians.

In Part 2, we'll look at the third COA, which Israel used in rooting out terrorists in the Jenin refugee camp, and how this option actually placed the Israeli army on moral high ground. ■

Will King is a Captain in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps, with past Infantry experience. The views and statements expressed in the article above are solely his, and should not be interpreted as representative of the U.S. Government in any manner whatsoever, official or otherwise.

When I had a radio show, I was offered opportunities to do company endorsements. In the advertising world, this person is called by the Biblical term "whore." Sounds terrible, I know, but the idea is there. I was solicited by companies to talk up a product or service, and I used to tell them, "Okay, let me try it out and make a judgment on it. Then we'll talk about endorsements." Nobody took me up on this. Some actors and athletes never take money for endorsing something they don't use.

Bad news about the Israelis is purchased, and the media are acting like advertising whores, endorsing the views of left-leaning anti-Semites who pay with petro-dollars.

The media are for sale. The government is for sale. The rich and powerful become more rich and powerful. Corruption is dripping from our nation's rafters. And the real victims are those being sold out by the powerful.

Biblically-speaking, Israel is now being pushed into that End Times posture where they'll be willing to sign a peace treaty with practically anyone, followed by the rise of the Antichrist and the terrible judgments of the Tribulation.

USA Today recently ran a front-page story on the corporate meltdown taking place because of WorldCom, Enron, and the like. Big business is losing face and executives are betraying their faithful workers. I see this as another signal that the End Times are moving closer to fulfillment. Jesus said in Matthew 24:10, "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another." This is exactly what's going on today. Companies are betraying employees. Governments are betraying citizens. And nations are collectively venting their hatred toward Israel and God's Chosen People. Logic, reason and basic morality are turned upsidedown as more and more people love evil and hate good.

President Bush's speech in June to announce his Middle East plan for peace was both celebrated and criticized around the world. Lots of tough talk about terrorism and homicide bombings. But then I find a report that tells of the White House trying to stop legislation that would curb our relationship with Syria because of its sponsorship of terror. It's the Bush Doctrine turned on its head; the "read my lips" speech all over again. Why would he, how could he, ever think that America would stand by and have a friendly "coalition" relationship with Syria, a backwater primitive regime shut off from the rest of the world whose population is kept illiterate, and who allows Hamas, Hizbollah, Islam Jihad and other terrorist groups to freely operate there?

When I attended Ulpan in Jerusalem (a language college for new immigrants), we were taught how to write in Hebrew. It was not a problem for me since I had been to Hebrew school, but there was a mature woman in our

class, a mother of two, who was having a terrible time. One day she began to cry. The teacher approached her and the woman said something complicated in Hebrew. "I'm from Syria," the teacher translated for her, and told us, "She is a Syrian and has never held a pencil or written any kind of language in her life."

The friendship that America has traditionally maintained with Israel has often been the result of evangelical Christians who continue to offer ardent support for the Chosen People. Christian tour groups, especially, bring such encouragement to the Israelis when others have deserted them.

October is another opportunity to show your support for the Jewish people during our Fall Tour. This trip, in particular, will be a unique experience for all of us, since the Israeli government will be celebrating our 75th tour to the Holy Land. We're pulling out all the stops and planning a festive atmosphere with many special events as we tour Israel. In fact, in celebration of our 75th tour, we're offering a special 7.5% discount to those who sign up (see page 6). Call Tony now for details and a full-color brochure at (214) 696-9760 or 1-800-WONDERS anytime. And hurry, it might be your last chance before the Rapture!

We've changed around our domestic tours a bit and want to update you on our new schedule. The Great Passion Play tour will be held in Eureka Springs on the weekend of September 14-15 in celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. We had a great time of teaching and tours in June and want to invite you to reserve your place now for this wonderful Israel site in our own land. In addition to the famed Passion Play, there are a number of fascinating Old and New Testament sites, along with a full-size tabernacle. Call Tony for information.

Our next "Little Israel" tour will be held on Saturday, November 16, in Dallas at the Biblical Arts Center. The last tour here was packed to overflowing, so reserve your spot early.

And let me know how we can assist you in your Christian life. These are such volatile times in which we live and we need one another more than ever. Your comments are read and considered, your suggestions for programs and articles are appreciated, and your requests are posted and prayed for each day as the mail comes in to our offices. And thank you for interceding for this ministry. The Lord is at work. His coming is near!



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Future Citizens in Bush's "Palestine"

By Zola Levitt

The world has been voicing its outrage at the "baby boomer" picture discovered in the family album of a Palestinian member of Hamas wanted by the Israeli army. Initially, the Palestinians tried to deny its authenticity, but an *Associated Press* report clearly indicates that this picture is a vivid reminder of a greater problem: the Palestinians raise their children to hate Jews.

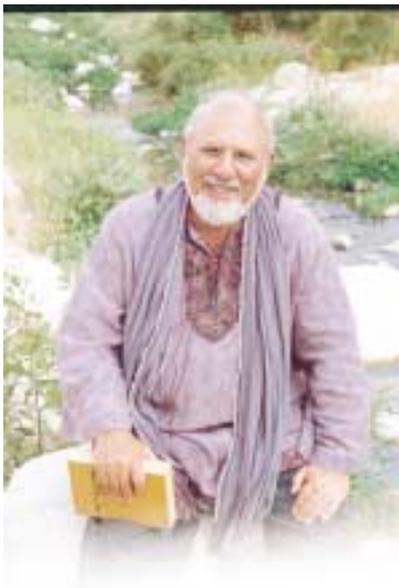


"The [Israeli] army," said Palestinian Labor Minister Ghassan Khatib, "distributed the picture 'to tell the world that the Palestinians are teaching their children how to hate Israel and how to act against Israel' — and I just want to say this is correct." Khatib even cited recent polls that found a majority of Palestinians support homicide bombings. Someone claiming to be the child's uncle told *British Sky News* that the picture was authentic. These other pictures are authentic, too, and are being distributed in the Arab world. The Israelis don't need to bother with propaganda, the Arabs demonstrate their hatred for the entire world to see.



There are millions of people around the world claiming to be "occupied" by some other power, and yet the only ones teaching hate and blowing up innocent civilians like this are the Palestinians. And these are the people we are insisting should become a nation!

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