

Levitt Letter

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." —ROMANS 10:1



Nothing is sacred. Christians and Jews both suffer underneath Muslim jurisdictions. —Jeff

"O Little Once-Christian Town of Bethlehem"

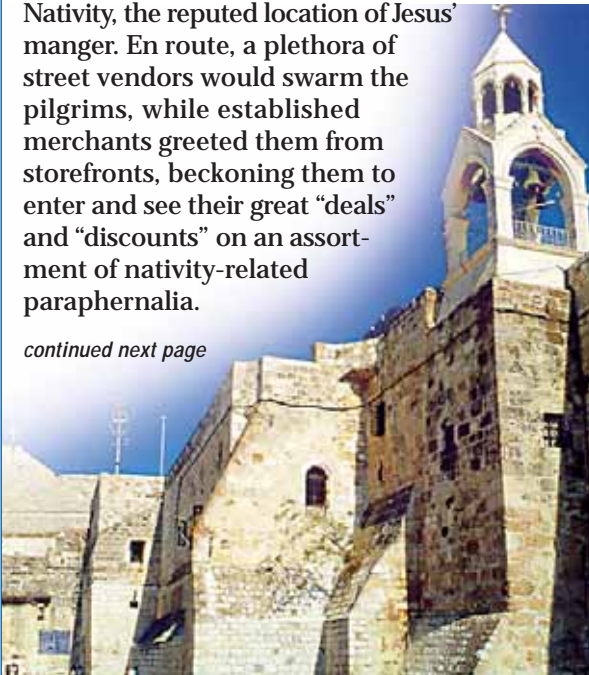
By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif



Last month, the *Levitt Letter's* cover story was "Christian Arabs Are Vanishing" and I wrote an accompanying piece called "The First Muslim Conquest of the Holy Land." The two stories exposed readers to the initial Muslim conquest of Israel and showed that another assault is in the making. Mindful of the Christmas season, which on the Church calendar runs for twelve days from December 25 to the eve of Epiphany on January 5, let's continue along this line but focus on the little town of Bethlehem.

In days past, visitors anxious to get a glimpse of Jesus' city of birth would get off their tour buses and make haste to the Church of the Nativity, the reputed location of Jesus' manger. En route, a plethora of street vendors would swarm the pilgrims, while established merchants greeted them from storefronts, beckoning them to enter and see their great "deals" and "discounts" on an assortment of nativity-related paraphernalia.

continued next page



INSIDE ITEMS ▼

- UK Think Tank.....3
- Shalom From Sandra.....4
- Led To ZLM.....5
- Classic Zola.....6-7
- DeSeifering Our World.....8-9
- Our Man In Jerusalem.....10
- Editorials.....11-14
- Bulletin Board.....18
- Hebrew Lesson.....19
- Select Briefs.....20-21
- Letters To ZLM.....22-25
- Editorials.....26-31
- TV Airing Schedule.....30

Americans See Israel As Ally

By Jonah Newman,
www.JPost.com



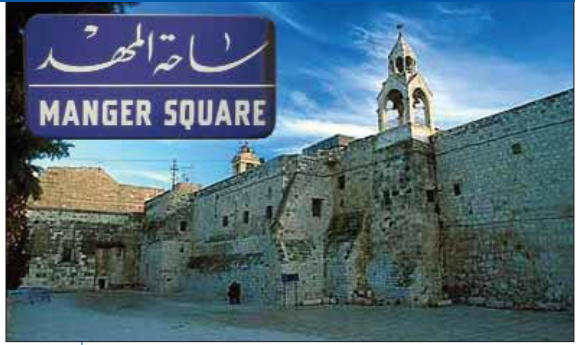
A large percentage of Americans continue to support the State of Israel, especially in relation to the Palestinians and the "war on terror," according to a survey released by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

The survey reveals that a large majority of Americans, 65%, see Israel as an important ally. A 2005 ADL poll showed nearly identical numbers, indicating that American support for Israel has stayed strong and relatively constant over the last few years.

This support comes despite the common belief that America's friendship with Israel makes the U.S. a bigger target for terrorists. Though 65% of respondents expressed this conviction, 57% said that the U.S. should continue to give Israel its support. ★

Pin available on pg. 17

The onslaught could be annoying at times, but we took it all in stride. First, these people were only trying to make a living, so why begrudge them that? Second, those traveling with me probably enjoyed some exposure to the energies inherent in Middle Eastern marketplaces.



That was *then*—during the “boom.” What about *now*? Recently the city of Jesus’ birth has tragically gone “bust.” Though “wise men still seek Him,” fewer are seeking Him in the city of His birth. During the boom days, 91,276 pilgrims typically visited Bethlehem each and every month—before the Muslim occupation. Now, according to the city’s mayor, Victor Bataresh, **tourism is down over 90%**. The decline is horrific.

The locals who greet pilgrims these days are dispirited and downcast. Gone are the enthusiasm and optimism that once resonated from “Manger Square” and permeated the bustling city of the Messiah’s birth. Now a travailing misery index shinnies upwards as the economic index plummets downwards.

With a 65% unemployment rate, and with no forecasted turnaround in sight, the city that once brought Light into the world now sits in darkness.

Unlike Mary, who was once turned away to the tune of “no room at the inn,” those wanting to stay the night in Bethlehem have no problem finding a room. The once-bustling tourist city averages 2,000 empty hotel rooms per night. It’s much easier to find a room in the city of Jesus’ birth than to find a Christian: an exodus is on as Christians flee Bethlehem en masse.

In 1948, Bethlehem was 85% Christian; it is now 12%—and declining fast. UmmahNewsLinks.com reported in “Christian Population on Decline in the Holy Land” that “Most of the Christians here [in Bethlehem] are either in the process of leaving, planning to leave, or thinking of leaving.”

In conjunction with that particular trend, Ummah noted the “native Arab-Christian population has dipped below 2 percent of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab East Jerusalem.” With the overshadowing Muslim Palestinian birthrate among the highest in the world, there are concerns that the Christian minority may become extinct in the region within the next sixty years. Tragic.

As you might expect, many blame the Jews for the decline. As with just about every other problem on planet Earth, many see Jews as the principal culprits: in this case, ruining the Christian Arabs in Israel by the State’s presence. Demonic-inspired Jew/Israel-bashing aside, the abuses that Christian Arabs suffer under Islamic Arab overlords are unreported—or under-reported anyway—pressing Christian Arabs to seek better lives outside Muslim jurisdictions. This is the real problem. The Palestinian Authority seems either unwilling or unable to assist their Christian Arab citizens.

Peace and Goodwill?

While we remember Jesus’ birth and sing tunes anticipating “peace on Earth and goodwill toward men,” let’s remember how Christian brethren are suffering in the land of Jesus’ birth. Mindful of that, let’s not delude ourselves with the popular, politically correct fantasy that by ceding more and more real estate to Muslim terrorists we are purchasing peace for the people of the Middle East. It may sound good in theory, but is not borne out in practice.



UK Think Tank Downgrades Christmas

By James Chapman, www.DailyMail.co.uk

Christmas should be downgraded in favor of festivals from other religions to improve race relations, says an explosive report. The Labor Party's favorite think-tank says that because it would be hard to "expunge" Christmas from the national calendar, "evenhandedness" means public organizations must start giving other religions equal footing.

The report robustly defends multiculturalism—the idea that different communities should not be forced to integrate but should be allowed to maintain their own culture and identities. And it says immigrants should be required to acquire some proficiency in English and other aspects of British culture "if—but only if—the settled population is willing to open up national institutions and practices to newcomers and give a more inclusive cast to national narratives and symbols."

It adds:

"We can no longer define ourselves as a Christian nation, nor an especially religious one in any sense. The empire is gone, church attendance is at historically low levels in England, and the Second World War is inexorably slipping from memory." The presence of bishops in the House of Lords, for instance, is condemned as an "anachronism" that should be removed.

Sayeeda Warsi, the Conservative Party's spokesman on community cohesion, said: "Their comments betray a breathtaking misunderstanding of what it is to be British. These proposals could actually damage cohesion. You don't build community cohesion by throwing out our history and denying the fundamental contribution Christianity has played and does play to our nation. As a British Muslim I can see that—so why others can't just staggers me. The thought of (prime minister) Gordon Brown sharing responsibility with me for bringing up my children sends a shiver down my spine. I thought we got rid of communism?"



“And they gathered there to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon”

Revelation 16:16

Shalom From Sandra



Greetings and *Shalom* (peace) from Israel. Each time we bring a tour to the Holy Land, my greatest joy is watching the pilgrims' love of the Lord and Israel come alive when they visit their spiritual home. They can and will make a difference. I always say that Texas is where I live, but Israel is my home.

On each tour I like to ask the pilgrims about their favorite site in Israel. They often talk about the Mount of Beatitudes, Galilee, Golan, Masada, Jerusalem, the Garden Tomb, and the David and Goliath battlefield. More recently, I hear about the 4,000-year-old site of Megiddo. I think we all have the End Times on our minds, and the last and final battle will be fought at Megiddo.

When we first approach Tel Megiddo, it looks like a big pile of rocks or a large mountain with gouges in it. “Tel” is Hebrew for mountain, but underneath lie layer upon layer of history from past civilizations.

Archaeologists have discovered at least 20 layers of cities, each built on top of the previous one's destruction. These layers include a 4,000-year-old Canaanite temple, one of King Solomon's stables for 500 horses, and an underground water system built by King Ahab 2,800 years ago.

We climb to the top of Tel Megiddo for the view of the entire Jezreel Valley—the largest valley in Israel, measuring 15 by 30 miles. It was the channel that connected the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean. It was the ancient Roman *Via Maris*, the way of the sea. It was a trade route from Egypt to Mesopotamia. Talk about a visual! I can see almost all the way to the port of Haifa.

Megiddo has seen its share of wars. In 609 B.C., the Egyptians defeated King Josiah.—2 Kings 23:29. (These were not Muslim Arabs. The ancient Egyptians were not Arabs, and Islam wouldn't be invented until the 7th century A.D.) When the British fought the Turks in WWI, Megiddo played a key role in the British victory, and their commander, General Edmund Allenby, gained the title of Viscount Allenby of Megiddo. Even Napoleon wrote that Megiddo would make an optimal battlefield.

I seem to be in Israel each time a peace process is trotted out. I am comforted in knowing that God is in control of the End Times, and not man. In 2007, Israel celebrated the 40th year of Jerusalem's reunification; 2008 will mark Israel's 60th year as a modern nation. Peace, Peace....

My prayer for all of us in 2008 is that we rediscover where real peace comes from and not overemphasize the New Year's resolutions that will be forgotten in a month. God is in control.

Make visiting Israel one resolution you keep this year. And, please, pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Blessings,

*For Holy Land
Tour info see
page 32.*



Led To, and Working Through, Zola Levitt Ministries

By Jerry Hodges,
ZLM Broadcast Syndicator

During one week in 1986, I received letters from two ministries. The letter from Zola stated that all bills had been paid and his ministry was in good financial condition. He advised his supporters that sacrificial giving was unnecessary. The letter from a second ministry implored readers to give as much as possible—quickly! Broadcasters, it explained, were about to drop their TV program. This four-page letter had double underlines, highlights, and supposedly personal notes printed in blue along the margins.

God made an impression on me that week, and my wife and I quit contributing to all television ministries—except for Zola's. I had no idea that 20 years later I would be negotiating television airtime contracts for *Zola Levitt Presents*. My lengthy history with the ministry influences the recommendations I make.

I prayed long over the huge commitment the ministry made in 2003 to begin broadcasting on ION (then called PAX). God used this decision to strengthen our outreach for when, two years later, TBN, our primary broadcast network, dropped us. The ION network's Thursday morning broadcasts became the new backbone of our television ministry. God also led us to a Friday afternoon time on Daystar, a rapidly expanding network. I strive to approach each new airtime contract with careful prayer and ministerial discernment. We recently added the God's Learning Channel network on Sunday evenings at the request of many.

In 2003, Berg Productions began shooting all our television footage in High Definition—without extra charge to the ministry. ABC Family

will begin airing our programs in HD in February 2008, and ION will follow suit later in the year.

Jeff and Sandra had a desire to take *Zola Levitt Presents* globally to viewers with no other way to receive this type of teaching. We realized there would be no financial support from regions in Europe, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union—that we were embarking on a ministry outreach that would involve purely red ink. After prayerful consideration, we initiated broadcasting on GOD TV, the largest international Christian broadcaster. Their telecasts reach Europe, Africa, New Zealand, and Asia. Beginning in January, the Russian Broadcasting Network will carry *Zola Levitt Presents*, translated into Russian.

Driving our message into the heart of Islamic expansion, we bring the Light of Jesus into spiritual darkness. Only your loving gifts make this possible. For as long as you support our efforts, we will do our best to steward each dollar wisely.

This is a formidable challenge for us, just as expanding onto ION (PAX) was four years ago. Please ask your friends to get on board with our ministry. If each supporter adds just one more supporter to our family, we can maintain our new frontiers and possibly expand farther. ★



A NOTE FROM ZOLA

December 1991 *Levitt Letter*

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous support. I am always conscious of the fact that this ministry belongs to its donors and that it is our privilege to work for the King and for you. I am sincerely grateful for all you have done for us.

Your giving testifies to the fact that you support Believers bringing you the truth. You can count on us to bring you the straight story as we see it and not influenced by sponsors or networks with an ax to grind. We are not anti anything, except the devil. We have no soap to sell and we observe the dictum of our Lord, "everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37).

On the crucial subject of Israel, you know that with us you are getting the most accurate and fair coverage of that complex nation by people who know the place and travel there often. Television is the prime way to get the Gospel out quickly and to a great number of people. Too much going on around us suggests the coming of the tribulation period and the transition to the thousand-year Kingdom.

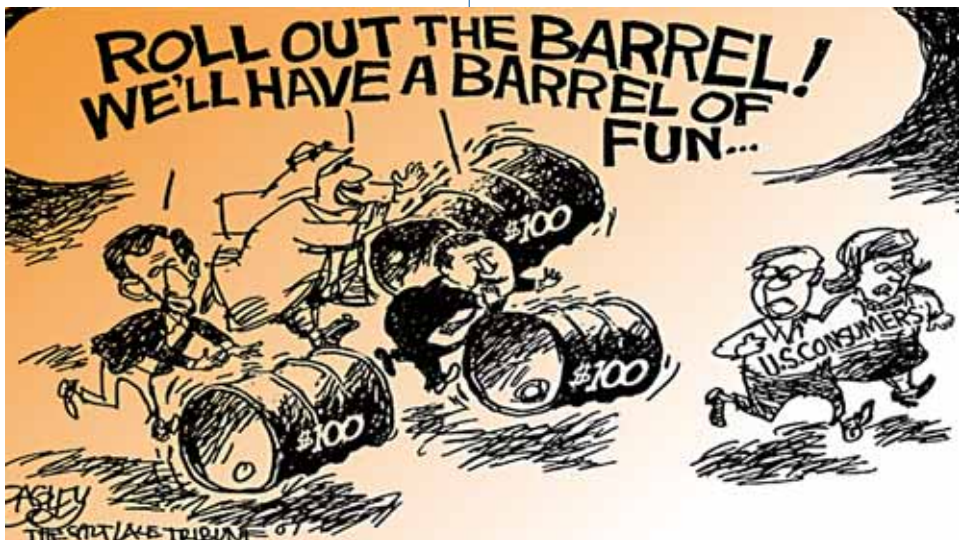
I now come to the part of my ministry I like the least, and that is asking you for your continued support. I have

always thought of myself more as a soldier than a beggar and I merely ask you, as those who are willing to field an army in this battle of "principalities and powers," to send along the needed supplies. Romans 10:14-15, to which we often refer, asks, "How shall they preach except they be sent?"

The fact is, we do what we're supposed to do. We have very low reserves and no profit whatsoever. When the IRS man came riding up to search for our profits, I told him, "I thought non-profit organizations were not supposed to have profits." That was a new one on him!

In this ministry we don't ask for your support for ourselves. The support you give us determines how many programs we can make and, therefore, how much ministry we can accomplish for you. It escapes some Believers that the accomplishments of a ministry they support are reckoned to their account, not to the ministry's. Paul made this clear when he commended the Macedonian Church for their support and told them he coveted it because he desired more ministry for *them*:

For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. — Phil. 4:16, 17



The end of the year is when you receive the biggest advantage for your tax deduction. Many of our major supporters give their most substantial gifts right at the end of the year and thus they earn the most interest on their funds throughout the year, but still get the tax deduction for the whole year. The coming year promises to be a year of still more prophecy developments, clashes of “nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom,” and, unfortunately, more “wars and rumors of wars.” I would deeply appreciate it if you could provide us the budget to be ready for these critically important events which deeply affect the spiritual position of virtually everyone in America.

Thanks for all you’ve done. God knows your good works. Never forget that there will be a night when He will come for us and “Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh!”

A NOTE FROM MARK



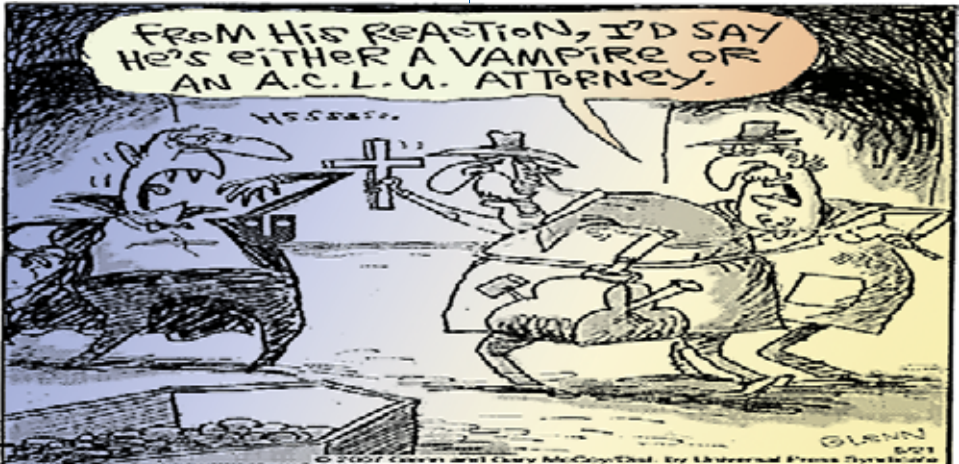
What I love most about Zola’s writing is that I hear his voice when reading it. He spoke from the bottom of his heart and taught straight from the Bible. Fortunately this ministry’s teaching via televisions remains the same since Zola’s passing—and since day one, for that matter—biblically accurate and fair.

Senator Charles Grassley, on behalf of the Senate Finance Committee, is

investigating six major ministries about their expenses, compensation, Rolls Royces, and private jets. Contrary to us, most of them teach the “prosperity gospel,” (i.e., that God blesses faithful believers with material wealth). In addition, because they were founded as churches, they don’t file tax returns with the IRS. They also opt not to submit financial information to Charity Navigator, which rates the efficiency of non-profit organizations.

We *do* file tax returns with the IRS, which audited our outreach again since Zola wrote the article above. They again gave us a clean bill of health (for details, see the “State of the Ministry” article in the December 2002 *Levitt Letter*, archived at www.levitt.com). We also furnish tax returns and independently-audited financial statements to Charity Navigator. For the last three years in a row, Charity Navigator gave us four stars, their top rating for efficient financial stewardship. Only 0.61% (that’s **zero**-point-six-one—less than one percent) of our revenue goes to fundraising and only 11% to administration, including our rented basement suite and our ’97 station wagon.

To the glory of God, we run a tight ship and deliver first-rate Bible teaching where it does the most good. Prisoners and senior citizens, who are unable to contribute more than prayer, routinely thank us (well you, actually) for bearing their share of our burden. Thanks for continuing to be yoked with us in this mighty work for the Lord. ★



I'd like to share with you one of the most incredible stories I have ever heard—all true and without exaggeration. It is the sort of story on which movies are based, and standing at such an important time in history as this, I trust that you'll be blessed by it.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



In downtown Chicago—where I once lived—stands a dignified statue of General George Washington, flanked by a notorious anti-Semite named Robert Morris and a benevolent Jewish philanthropist named Haym Salomon. The Force that drew these opposites together is worth considering.

In his book, *Life of George Washington*, Washington Irving noted that “Congress commenced the war [with Britain] without adequate funds and without the power of imposing direct taxes. To meet the pressing emergencies, it had emitted paper money... [which was] irredeemable and of no intrinsic value.” America was broke from the start, and as the war dragged on, Washington personally felt the pinch. Officers had been promised \$3.00 per month and enlisted men, 20 cents. To cover this, worthless paper money was circulated. But money that wasn't worth the paper it was printed on sank morale: desertions became commonplace in the volunteer army.

Robert Morris was known as the Financier of the Revolution because of his role in securing financial assistance for the patriot cause. Over and over again, broker Haym Salomon offered to help, but Morris would have none of his Jewish money. Morris thought it beneath him to solicit help from someone he referred to as “the little Jew” and “Jew broker.” Nevertheless, pressed by others to make good on accounts, he eventually leaned on Salomon.

Being prejudiced and insensitive, Morris appealed to Salomon on the Jewish high holiday of Yom Kippur.

He dispatched his official courier to the Philadelphia synagogue where Rabbi Gersom Mendes Seixas was conducting the service. As instructed, the courier brazenly disregarded the day's importance, entered the synagogue, and interrupted the service to give Salomon the following note:

My Dear Mr. Salomon,

The terrible emergency of the moment necessitates my turning to you at this hour. The office of finance has been unable to procure sufficient funds to cover the enclosed notes... I must beg of you to act immediately with whatever resources you have to satisfy our distress. —Robert Morris

Haym Salomon requested permission to speak to the synagogue. On a day and place where Jews are to forget



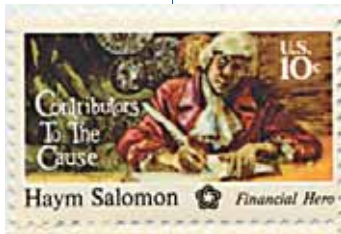
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business, he went to the podium and asked the Jews assembled there to rise to the occasion and attend to the business at hand—saving America. Within fifteen minutes, he raised \$20,000—and the rest is history.

Time and time again afterward, Salomon dug deep. The archives of the Library of Congress report that Salomon arranged financing but “turned over all the commission he earned. He also pledged his personal fortune to the Bank of North America... [personally] paid the salaries of James Madison and at least two other future presidents, underwrote most of the expenses of Lafayette’s army... and neither he nor his heirs ever collected a dime of what was due him from the government.” He gave to the grave.

Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, professor emeritus at Harvard University, said of him: “It looks as though his credit was better than that of the whole thirteen united states.” Apparently his credit was stronger than his health. Weakened by tuberculosis that he contracted while incarcerated in a British prison, Salomon eventually succumbed to complications at age 45 on January 6, 1785. He died penniless, having given his entire fortune to the war effort.

In honor of this Jewish philanthropist’s memory, for America’s Bicentennial the U.S. Postal Service printed a commemorative stamp which read: “Haym Salomon: Financial Hero” on the front, and on the sticky side: “Financial Hero: Businessman and broker Haym Salomon

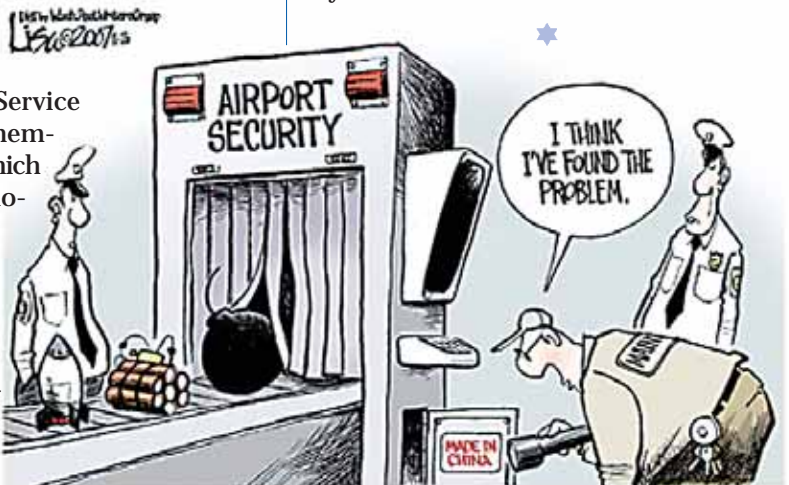


was responsible for raising most of the money needed to finance the American Revolution and later to save the new nation from collapse.” Stamps are rarely printed on the back. Hopeful, however, that his memory might stick, the postal service did us all a service by commending him this way.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says he was a “U.S. patriot who was the principal financier of the fledgling American republic... He subscribed heavily to government loans, endorsed notes, gave generously to soldiers, and equipped several military units with his own money... In addition, he made private loans to prominent statesmen James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe.”

The sources tell us that, over and again, he used his personal resources and influence to assist the cause. In addition to loans he arranged from other sources, Salomon gave approximately \$800,000 in 1784 dollars of his own fortune. America never repaid its debt to him. If one takes that figure and adds interest over the last two-hundred-plus years, America owes his family \$2.5 trillion.

America cannot repay that debt. However, with Dr. David Allen Lewis—who wrote *Forgotten Patriot: The Story of Haym Salomon*—I believe that America should at least remember it and consider its implications, especially now that Salomon’s Jewish people are fighting a battle royal on the other side of the Atlantic.



Then and Now, A Land of Milk and Honey

By Will King,
www.imagesofisrael.com



Will King

Archaeologists working at the site of Tel Rehov near Bet Shean have unearthed proof that Israel was a “land flowing with milk and honey,” or at least with honey. Excavators found the remains of three rows of bee-hives, estimated to have held around 100 total hives, during this season’s dig sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The beehives are the first of their kind found in all of Israel.



According to a Hebrew University press release, each row contained at least three tiers of hives, each of which is a cylinder composed of unbaked clay and dry straw, around 31 inches long and 16 inches in diameter. One end of the cylinder was closed and had a small hole in it, which allowed the bees to enter and exit. The opposite end was covered with a clay lid that could be removed when the beekeeper extracted the honeycombs. Experienced beekeepers and scholars who visited the site estimated that as much as half a ton of honey could be culled each year from these hives.

confirming the site’s importance during the Israelite kingdom.

The term “honey” appears 55 times in the Bible, 16 in the description of Israel as “the land of milk and honey.” Many believe that the term refers to honey produced from fruits such as dates and figs. Bees’ honey is mentioned explicitly only twice and relates to wild bees. The first instance describes how Samson culled bees’ honey from inside the

corpse of the lion in the Soreq Valley (Judges 14:8-9). The second occurs in the story of Jonathan, King Saul’s son, who dipped his hand into a honeycomb during the battle of Mikhmash (1 Samuel 14:27).

While the Bible tells us nothing about beekeeping in Israel at that time, the discovery of the apiary at Tel Rehov indicates that beekeeping and the extraction of bees’ honey and honeycomb was a highly developed industry as early as the First Temple period. Thus, it is possible that the term

“honey” in the Bible indeed pertains to bees’ honey.

In Israel today an estimated 90,000 beehives produce some 3,600 tons of honey annually. Additionally, Israeli

dairy cows are the most productive in the world, averaging 25,432 pounds of milk per cow per year, compared to just 18,747 pounds from cows in America. Whether in the time of Kings or Prime Ministers, when Jews are in their homeland, Israel really is a “land of milk and honey.” ★



Additionally, various experts found and are studying the remains of several bees, honeycombs, and beeswax. Carbon-14 dating of the hives’ remaining organic materials places them (and Tel Rehov) between the mid-9th and mid-10th centuries B.C.—around the end of the reign of King Solomon,

God's "Funny Sense of Humor"

By Paul Calvert, www.CrossRhythms.co.uk

"Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring you offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you, I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Isaiah 43:5-6

God is fulfilling Old Testament prophecy. Lena Greshko, originally from the Ukraine, tells why she moved to Israel:

"I loved my grandmother, who was Orthodox Jewish. She died when I was 10. Every week she would go to the synagogue, reading the Jewish Bible. She was the kindest and nicest person I ever knew.

"I remember one Passover she was crying because she wanted to go to Jerusalem, but it just wasn't possible; so I knew about Jerusalem from a very early age.

"When I was a child I lived in a very Jewish area. The Jews there were ashamed and tried to cover their Jewish background. But many Jews were very wealthy—they had good jobs and had a good life; I don't remember having any difficulties there.

"Then I met my husband. He was an Orthodox Ukrainian. I got baptized in that church because I wanted to marry him. I also became a singer in the church, but the roots of anti-Semitism ran deep. The Christians really did hate me. It was very open; they tried everything to get me out of the church.

"After 2 or 3 years they succeeded and I left, saying never again will I have anything to do with Christians; they were the worst people in the world.

"Looking back, I was really sad to see that the Christians had the answer to

life, yet they were ruining their testimony through hatred and anti-Semitism.

"Later on the Ukraine changed when the Soviet Union fell. Life was difficult, people were hungry and without work, so I started to think about Israel until the point when I made a decision to come.

"I have been in Israel for 11 years. My husband didn't want to come, so I was alone with my three children, but I felt I was home in Israel.



Lena's son (on the right) with friends.

"When I came, I wasn't looking for my Jewish identity; I was looking for a home. But when I became a Believer in Jesus, I had a new identity: I was Jewish and proud of it, and also a Believer in my Jewish Lord and Savior.

"In the past I had said that Christians are the worst people in the world and now I am one. I think God has a very funny sense of humor.

"Many Jews think that when you become a Believer in Jesus you are leaving your Jewish identity, but I felt I was becoming a fulfilled Jew. My identity is in Him.

"My prayer is that the Israelis would come to know Jesus as their Savior, and that the plans for the Jewish nation would be fulfilled because Jesus is coming again to this land."

We are finalizing a broadcast arrangement with a major network in the former USSR, which means our programs will be formatted for, and distributed to, a Russian-speaking audience throughout the former Soviet republic. Please pray that the Lord enables us to reach a harvest in 2008 amongst Jews and non-Jews in the former USSR.
—Jeff

Slain Christmas Angel

By Alison Leigh Cowan,
www.NYTimes.com

The United Methodist Church is the kind of politically active place where parishioners take to the pulpit to discuss poverty in El Salvador and refugees living in Meriden. But few issues engage its passions as much as the death penalty. Church-sponsored adult education classes promote rehabilitation over punishment.

The Methodist congregation in Cheshire, Connecticut, has been largely quiet, however, in the wake of the murder of some of its own: the victims were popular and active members of the church—Jennifer Hawke-Petit, 48, and her two daughters, Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11. Last July, two men broke into the family's home. Mrs. Hawke-Petit was strangled and her daughters died in a fire that police say was set by the intruders.

The killings have spurred debate about how the church should respond to the crime and whether it should publicly oppose the punishment that may follow. "It'd be dishonoring to her life to do anything violent in her name," said Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt, a church member who is the director of the ministry resource center at Yale Divinity School Library. "That's not the kind of person she was."

The surviving husband, William Petit, a physician, supports capital punishment and is said to be "strongly in favor of executing these guys, once they're found guilty," despite objections from within the church. The killings have even caused some congregants to reconsider their personal views.

The slain Mrs. Hawke-Petit taught Sunday school. Her daughter Michaela played the flute and sang in the church; Hayley learned how to wield a drill while doing home improvements for the disabled with the church's summer

teen brigade. The Petits participated in the church's annual Living Nativity pageant, posing as human statues in the parking lot for 20-minute shifts in support of local charities. Mrs. Hawke-Petit often played Mary or a shepherdess.



Hayley, Michaela, Jennifer & William Petit

They, of course, didn't participate this Christmas. In considering this senseless tragedy, I'm struck by how many Christians believe that bringing capital judgment to the murderers of these women is, itself, "violent" and incongruous with Christian faith and virtue.

While there is something Christian about taking up for the perpetrators, the Bible gives credence to the state's judging the guilty (Rom. 13:1-7, esp. v. 4). As a minister, I would visit these women's murderers on "death row," encourage their repentance and inform them of God's forgiveness. I would walk with them to the electric chair, and assure them that they'll meet a gracious God on the other side of the grave, assuming they have made peace with Him on this side. This is simple to me. But the United Methodist Church in New England doesn't see it this way.

In like manner, it sides with Islamic terrorists in the Middle East and opts for the castigation of the Jews there. The UMC readily aids rapists, murderers, and terrorists, and abandons victims. If we are ever going to have peace on Earth, men and women will need to boldly stand up, speak up, and struggle against the darkness when called upon. Anything less is an insult to common sense and Christian virtue—not to mention a disservice to the oppressed.

— Jeff ★

Sunni Violence in Baghdad “Disrupted”

By Joshua Partlow and Amit R. Paley, Washington Post Foreign Service

The top U.S. commander in Iraq, **Gen. David H. Petraeus**, said that the Sunni insurgent group al-Qaeda in Iraq has been disrupted and no longer operates in large numbers in any neighborhood of the capital.



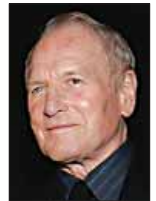
“In general, we think that there are no al-Qaeda strongholds at this point,” General Petraeus said. He added: “They remain very lethal, very dangerous, capable at any point in time, if you will, of coming back off the canvas and landing a big punch, and we have to be aware of that.” Petraeus, speaking to reporters during a trip to the southern outskirts of the capital, attributed the reduction of violence in part to military operations outside the capital targeting areas where car bombs and other explosives are manufactured, before they can be deployed in Baghdad. He said one of the last remaining al-Qaeda in Iraq strongholds in Baghdad had been the southeastern section of Dora, a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the southern part of the city, but after military operations over the past two weeks, “that was reduced, certainly.”

Great report! Let’s pray that many more locals take up the struggle to free their country from oppression and, while at it, let’s thank God that the sentiments of some in the United Methodist Church in New England (see previous story) don’t prevail in Iraq—at least not yet. Some would no doubt be predisposed to take up the cause and underscore the alleged injustices perpetrated upon the terrorists by those mean-spirited freedom fighters. — Jeff

“Butch Cassidy” Helps Sick Kids

www.jta.org

Paul Newman is opening one of his Hole in the Wall camps for ill children in Israel.



The Jordan River Village camp will be the latest in the network of camps the actor and philanthropist started in 1988. The camp is to open by October 2008, according to an announcement released after a New York City fundraiser for the camp. Other camps have been founded in the United States, Ireland, Britain, and France.

Newman helps raise money for the camps, which seriously ill children attend for free, through his lines of food products. Haim Topol, the Israeli actor, is chairman of the board of the Jordan River Village camp. ★



Someone needs to tell the reverends that well-wishing isn't enough. Society needs biblical answers to its assorted hurts!



Holy Land Foundation Mistrial

www.adl.org

In a major terrorism case, a federal jury in Dallas failed to come to a unanimous decision on most counts on the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) terrorism-financing trial.

The federal government accused HLF, a Richardson, Texas-based Muslim charity and five organizers, of funneling over \$12 million to individuals and organizations linked to Hamas, designated a U.S. foreign terrorist organization in 1995. After 19 days of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict in October, 2007, and the judge declared a mistrial because the jury was deadlocked on most counts.

The government has alleged that HLF and its top leaders conspired to provide aid to a terrorist organization and the families of suicide terrorists. The indictment also charged that HLF provided more than \$12.4 million to individuals and organizations linked to Hamas between 1995 and 2001. The group allegedly raised a total of \$57 million since its incorporation in 1992 but only reported \$36.2 million to the IRS, according to the indictment.

During the three-month trial, the government introduced hundreds of documents into evidence and called ten witnesses, including a secret agent for the Israel Defense Forces, who reportedly testified that HLF supported charities controlled by Hamas. The defense called five witnesses to court, including Edward Abington, former U.S. consul general in Jerusalem and State Department intelligence officer.

On one occasion, after the jury and judge left the courtroom for a break, a defendant yelled, "This trial is an extension of a Zionist conspiracy."

After the judge declared a mistrial, the head of Hungry for Justice (HFJ) coalition declared that "this was an Israeli trial tried on American soil" and issued a press release stating, "The charges brought against these individuals were viewed by many people in this country and worldwide as an attempt to block humanitarian assistance to Palestinians suffering under a brutal Israeli occupation."



In December, 2001, President Bush announced that the FBI and the Treasury Department had moved to seize the assets of the HLF. The action was said to be a part of the administration's policy designed to choke off financial support in the war on global terrorism.

The Justice Department has said that it will retry the case on deadlocked counts.

Dallas Morning News editorial: **Dozing in Dallas**

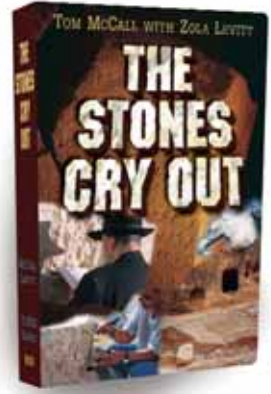
There are times when one takes consolation from Winston Churchill's observation that democracy is the worst system in the world, except for all the others. Contemplating the Holy Land Foundation jury's deliberations—in light of post-trial revelations—is one of those times. Take, for instance, the unidentified juror we'll call Sleepy. She dozed off during testimony and, according to a fellow juror, spent much of the 19 days of deliberation dozing, snacking, and wailing when prodded to take her task seriously. Justice is supposed to be blind, not lazy and dumb.

Living in Dallas, I had the opportunity to watch and read about this trial daily, and the injustice saddened me. May we never forget that God is in control and we are fighting a spiritual battle.
—Sandra ★

The Stones Cry Out DVD and Transcript

In recent decades, many marvelous, new archaeological discoveries have greatly illuminated and validated the biblical record. Zola Levitt, Thomas McCall, and the production crew of *Zola Levitt Presents* journeyed to Israel and Jordan to film the archaeological sites and interview the experts. We found, just as our Lord said about this remarkable Land, that indeed *The Stones Cry Out*.

Twelve 30-minute TV programs. Offered on page 16.



The Tunnel. Zola takes a tour through the Hasmonean tunnel that runs along the outside of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. From Jerusalem we get a journalist's perspective on the Palestinian uproar that occurred in September 1996 when the tunnel was opened to the public.

A Tale of Two Temples. A recently unearthed marketplace provides clear visual evidence of the Roman destruction of the Temple and its surrounding walls. We travel north to Mount Gerizim to view the excavation of a Samaritan temple that was patterned after the great Temple in Jerusalem.

Rulers in Stone. Many first-century finds are being unearthed at Caesarea, an ancient city on the Mediterranean coast. The first extra-biblical reference to Pontius Pilate was found there, as well as a full-size Temple replica. At Tel Dan in northern Israel, the "House of David" has been confirmed archaeologically. We also discover there an altar complete with metal incense shovels.

The Jerusalem That Was. At the Bible Lands Museum, we find a model of Jerusalem as it would have looked in 586 B.C. In the historic City of David, we examine the architecture of a four-room house, typical living quarters of the ancient Israelites.

Past and Future Destruction. Ongoing excavations at Hazor have unearthed various artifacts, including idols from the time of the Canaanites, and evidence that confirms the burning of the city recorded in Joshua 11. We examine not only the prophetic significance of the Valley of Armageddon, but also the archaeological discoveries at Megiddo.

Archaeology and the Scriptures. In Jerusalem, Zola explains the history of events at the Citadel, which is also called "David's Tower." We discuss archaeology's role in illuminating Scripture, and hear from a spokesman with the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

Cities of the Past. In New Testament times, Zippori was a thriving cultural center in Galilee that probably influenced Jesus as a boy growing up in Nazareth. Going back to Old Testament times, we travel to the precise location of Ekron, one of five prominent cities of the ancient Philistines.

Shadows from the Past. Just over a hundred yards from the Garden Tomb is another chamber of tombs that authentically date from the time of the first Temple. These tombs help us understand the burial customs of that day. We visit Qumran near the Dead Sea, and the cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

A Tale of Three Cities. In biblical times, a business relationship existed between three cities located in the Jordan Valley: Beit Shean, Rechof (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). Today, these sites are in different stages of excavation. We visit each one to examine the significant finds and establish the cities' interrelationship.

The Rose Red City. The ancient Nabataeans were famous for their skill in rock carving. We travel to Petra, their capital, situated southeast of the Dead Sea in the modern kingdom of Jordan. This "rose red" city is known around the world for its magnificent buildings carved into the native rock.

A Man Crucified. The Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem proudly displays a man's heel bone that has been pierced by a nail. It is the first archaeological proof of Roman crucifixions in Israel.

Truth from the Stones. Zola discusses how the archaeological artifacts shown throughout this series illuminate Scripture, and how Believers can be encouraged when "The Stones Cry Out."



Qumran near the Dead Sea

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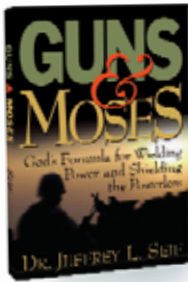
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ZLM Bulletin Board

Prepare to Be Disappointed...

...if you visit our headquarters. Our ministry's "HQ" isn't much. No grand fountains, modern art, or palatial accommodations. It's essentially a rented, 3,500-s.f. basement space filled with about a dozen desks, some good office equipment, lots of Bible teaching materials in a sizable warehouse/shipping area, and casually dressed, very willing workers for our Lord. Hiring outside vendors for our printing, mailing, tape duplication, etc. has allowed us to stay small. When the Rapture comes, we won't leave much behind.



Worldwide Terrorism Watch

For a perpetually updated global display of terrorism and suspicious events, visit www.globalincidentmap.com and choose between types of events, dates/times of occurrences, and cities/countries. "Surprising" describes its ongoing stream of round-the-clock bulletins on incidents involving aviation, arson, assassinations, bombings, chemical attacks, shootings, arrests, and the list goes on. Consider it a real-time fulfillment of Matt. 24:6: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars."

5 New Television Stations

Our ministry recently began broadcasting on a small, yet popular network of full-power independent television stations known as **God's Learning Channel**. On Sunday evenings at 7:30, you can see us in the following cities:

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Farwell, TX	KPTF-18
Roswell, NM	KRPV-27

Please see page 30 for a brief list of our major television networks. You can see our full national television schedule at www.levitt.com or request a free hardcopy by contacting our office.

Are You Anti-Semitic?

Anti-Semitism may exist now more than ever in implicit rather than overt form. The various tests at <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> use symbols associated with race, age, gender, religion, and more to analyze the extent to which subjects are prejudiced. The Religion IAT (Implicit Association Test) contrasts symbols from Judaism with those of several other religions. Subjects rapidly indicate which symbols relate to Judaism and, in a later phase, test their word association. This is a secular test, and the results have surprised many. To read an article about it, visit www.levitt.com/news.

"Come Home!"

Zola's
Tours to
Israel:



See page
32 for details





The Promised Child and Son By John J. Parsons

כִּי־יֵלֶד יֶלֶד־לָנוּ בֶן נִתַּן־לָנוּ

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... Isaiah 9:6a

כִּי־יֵלֶד יֶלֶד־לָנוּ בֶן נִתַּן־לָנוּ

(4) (3) (2) (1) (1) (4) (3) (2) (1) (3) (2) (1)

nit-tan-la-nu ben yul-lad-la-nu ki-ye-led

has been given to us a son has been born to us for a child

During the days of the divided kingdom, faithless King Ahaz of Judah fearfully anticipated an invasion by Syria and Israel (Isa. 7:1-2). Isaiah reaffirmed that David's kingdom would indeed be established forever and even gave the doubting king a sign: A virgin will bear a son and call him "God with us" (Isa. 7:14).

Later Isaiah foresaw the Assyrian invasion of Israel in 722 BC but again affirmed the promises of God given to David. Despite the present darkness, "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isa. 9:6-7).

Now many Jewish commentators consider the promised child as Hezekiah, the successor to Ahaz and Messianic hope of Israel at the time. They believe this because the verbs (*yulad and nitan*) are in the perfect tense (suggesting completed action). However, it should be noted that the perfect tense is likewise used in Isaiah 5:13, which states that Israel had already gone into *galut* (exile) when it was clear this hadn't occurred yet. Regardless, the hope that one of David's descendants would establish the kingdom of God upon the earth is a recurring theme in Isaiah, and Hezekiah's birth signified God's presence with Israel during a precarious time in Jewish history.

But notice that the language of Isaiah 9:6-7 refers to the ideal King of Israel (i.e., the Messianic hope) in terms that can be read as God's Presence embodied on earth. The four terms used to describe this King (v6) clearly transcend the historical person of King Hezekiah. For example, the word *pele* in *pele yo'etz* (wonderful counselor) is used in Judges 13:18 regarding the name of the Angel of the LORD (who in verse 22 is identified as God). *El Gibbor* (Mighty God) is clearly a title for the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 10:20-21; Psalm 24:8). *Avi'ad* (Father of eternity) refers to God as *Avinu Malkenu* (see Isaiah 63:16, 1 Chron. 29:10; Psalm 68:5; Mal. 2:10). And as for *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace), both the Talmud and Scripture refer to "the Name of God as Peace" (Shab. 10b, Judges 6:24). It is clear, therefore, that these terms are designations for the LORD God of Israel and not merely that of a human being.

Now while Jesus is indeed the ultimate fulfillment of the verse, there remains an eschatological dimension: He is not currently ruling and reigning as Israel's King on David's throne, since that will occur after His Second Coming during the Millennial Kingdom. Perhaps that is why the verse says, 1) "unto us a child is born" (the First Advent), and 2) "unto us a son is given" (the Second Advent). At the end of days, when the Christ returns as Israel's King, the Jewish people will comprehend the full meaning of these verses and then "all Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26).



The “Big Lie Technique”

By Mike Seid, www.JPost.com

In an interview with *In Jerusalem* for a cover story on how religious leaders view the capital, the former mufti of Jerusalem, Ikrema Sabri, has claimed that there never was a Jewish temple on the Temple Mount, and that the Western Wall was really part of a mosque.

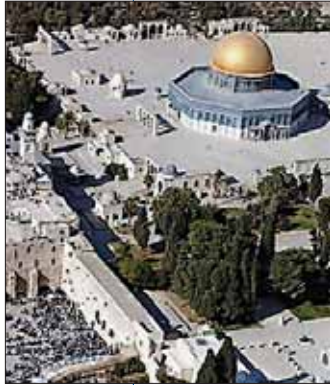
“There was never a Jewish temple on Al-Aksa [the mosque compound] and there is no proof that there was ever a temple,” he said. “Because Allah is fair, he would not agree to make Al-Aksa if there were a temple there for others beforehand. There is not a single stone with any relation at all to the history of the Hebrews.”

Israeli Citizens Sue Waqf Over Temple Mount Destruction

Biblical Archaeological Society

A group of 150 Israeli citizens, who represent a broad cross section of the Israeli public, have initiated an unprecedented criminal prosecution of Waqf (Islamic Trust) leaders in Jerusalem, alleging that they have engaged in the deliberate destruction of ancient Jewish relics on the Temple Mount. The indictment was filed utilizing a seldom applied section of the criminal code. If convicted, the Waqf officials may face years in prison.

In recent months the Waqf has brought in bulldozers and heavy digging equipment to carry out “renovations”.



Israeli archaeologists who have sifted through the discarded earth were shocked to discover a great number of Jewish artifacts brutally trashed by the bulldozers. A wall from the outer courtyard of the Second Temple is believed to have been completely pulverized.

The court papers contend that the recent accelerated destruction is part of a four-decade-long campaign by the Waqf to eradicate all evidence of the historical Jewish connection and claim to the Temple Mount.

Shurat HaDin (Israel Law Center) alleges that the Israeli government, in its political cowardice, has consistently refused to undertake any concrete actions to stop the criminal activities of the Waqf, thus abandoning the millennia-long Jewish claim over the Temple Mount and allowing Islamic extremists to rewrite history in Jerusalem.



HOSTILE HUGGING:

(below)

Proof of abuse by U.S. troops — what the media missed.



Muslims, Christians Clash in Egypt

By Salah Nasrawi, Associated Press

Muslims and Coptic Christians clashed after Friday prayers over a land dispute, leaving 20 injured, security officials said. Police arrested 50 people following the clash in Minya province, about 130 miles south of Cairo, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The clashes began after prayers when Muslim villagers in Izbat el-Abid protested against the extension of a monastery in a nearby village, claiming the construction was on state property. Police had to ask for reinforcements from throughout the province to control the clash, the officials added. Coptic Christians make up an estimated 10 percent of Egypt's 76.5 million people. They generally live in peace with the Muslim majority, though occasional clashes occur.

Iraqi Christian Granted Asylum

Associated Press

An Iraqi Christian who used migrant smugglers to enter the United States after escaping persecution in his home country has been granted political asylum and will be allowed to remain. The immigration judge, William Peterson, granted a request from the man, Aamr Bahnan Boles, in Harlingen, Texas. Mr. Boles escaped from Iraq and made his way through Mexico to the Texas border near Brownsville where he was captured with two other young Iraqi men as they swam the Rio Grande in April 2006. They claimed asylum on grounds they were subjected to brutality and threats in Iraq because of their faith. Mr. Boles served six months in prison on a charge of illegal entry while the F.B.I. investigated his claim. In January 2007, he was released and has been staying with a relative in Sterling Heights, Michigan. ★



Royal Mail Returns to the Religious Theme After Criticism from the Church of England

Christmas Stamps

uk.Reuters.com

A selection of Christmas stamps showing a religious theme issued by the Royal Mail.

In 2006, the Royal Mail stamps were criticized for a lack of Christian illustrations. Religious groups said the 2006 stamps — depicting Santa, a snowman, a Christmas tree, and reindeer — took the “Christ out of Christmas.”



“Ten Commandments” Returns

It's a movie about the Bible, but family-friendly Disney Co. moved heaven and earth to make sure the word “God” was stricken from some advertisements promoting the recent animated film, *The Ten Commandments*.



Letters to ZIM

Comments from www.levitt.com Visitors

From C.B.—

Thank you for bringing your *Bad Moon Rising* series to the public. I was a 20-year-old dependent American Air Force wife in Bavaria, Germany. I visited Dachau in 1946 and was horrified to see blood stains still on the walls of the gas chamber. The ovens and the trenches where people were shot—all the terrible things they thought up to torment the innocent Jews. As a young sheltered girl, I didn't know how cruel humans could be to other people. I am now 82 years old and much wiser because of our precious Lord and Savior. Thank you for all you are doing. My prayers are with you for God's guidance and love as you minister.

From D. and S. K.—

Thank you for the *Zola Levitt Presents* programs online. We recently discovered that our CD burner program will burn MPeg4 files into DVD format. So now we can watch *ZLP* on our bigger TV screen instead of on the computer monitor. That is nice in that we can't get *ZLP* on our cable TV here in Western Canada. Blessings!

From Mr. and Mrs. S.—

We are sending you our tithe, as we have received greatly from your ministry. We would like to support your ongoing efforts to "speak the truth in love" to the Jew first, and then to the nations. Thank you for your bold stand against the enemies of God and His Chosen People. We would like to designate half of this for the "To The Jew First" fund. Grace and Peace.

From B. and J. J.—

We just received our first magazine and could hardly put it down. I'm so glad to be able to read the truth. Thank you so much.



Muslims: 397 — Jews: 159

To the Editor:

Speaking as both a physician and attorney, let me say that one problem in fighting the Islamic goal to destroy all Western civilizations, especially the United States and Israel, is that we (the Western world) treat the Islamic terrorists as criminals from a law-abiding civilization and culture. Instead, we must treat them as foreign combatants, without uniforms, from a civilization and culture that is genocidal. When we change our thought paradigm we will attack, destroy, and change their schooling, media, culture, and religion. All these factors are causative of the genocidal, primitive civilization known as Islam. By the way, this year Islam and Judaism's holiest holidays overlapped for 10 days. During this time, Muslims racked up 397 dead bodies in 94 terror attacks in 10 countries. Meanwhile, Jews worked on their 159th Nobel Prize.

A.W.

Greetings Dr. A.W.—

I wish we had people like you in office. —Jeffrey Seif

“Bad Moon Rising” Missing From My TV!

Dear ZLM,

When *Bad Moon Rising* disappeared from my TV network after only two episodes, I assumed that ABC Family and the other DirecTV networks had succumbed to political correctness and pulled it. I was thrilled to find it on your website. This should be prime-time television on all the networks and should be shown in schools all over the globe. Please keep this series available for purchase on your website and keep the archive available for viewing as long as you possibly can. Zola before and now Jeff and Sandra have produced many life-changing shows, but this series destroys Satan's deceptions that ensnare so many. May His light continue to shine through all of you!

God bless you,

B. G.

Dear B. G.—

The broadcasters who opted to not air our *Bad Moon Rising* series were concerned that some of its Holocaust footage was too graphic for their viewers. The following letter asserts that it is, in fact, graphic. Fortunately, beyond ABC Family Channel (with whom we remain friendly), no other networks or television stations have pre-empted the series. — Mark

(continued next page)



Venezuelan president **Hugo Chavez**, who called President Bush the “devil” at the UN in 2006, was told by Spain’s King **Juan Carlos** to “shut up” during a recent Ibero-American summit. The king’s outburst has been downloaded in Spain as ringtones and t-shirts. news.bbc.co.uk

Too Graphic To See Again

Dear Sandra and Jeff,

I like what you are doing with *Bad Moon Rising* because being born in England, I'm familiar with it firsthand. I do not know any other way you can express it without showing it; but if you do show it, I will just have to leave the room—it is too much for me to see again. We have watched your programs for years and love them. Sincerely,
D. W.



Dear D.W.—

Jeff wanted this series to ensure that no one would ever forget the horrors done to the Jewish people. The survivors of the Holocaust are dying off at an alarming rate every year. If we do not tell their story often, who will? —Sandra

Why Is Israel Afraid to Be Israel?

Dear Jeff,

The article in the November *Levitt Letter*, “Why Is Israel Afraid to Be Israel?,” was right on. Over and over in Scripture, God tells the Jews He has given the Land to them, and the Arabs have no part in Jerusalem or the Land. I agree wholeheartedly with the article. Why don't the Jews wake up and realize God will fight for them if they will only call on Him? Thank you for blessing God's Chosen People,
D. B.

Dear D. B.—

Your asking “Why don't Jews wake up?” reminds me of the imperative for there needing to be a preacher. Please pray for us that God would use our ministry to extend His grace to His people in these precarious times. —Jeffrey Seif

Band Uniform and Cigarette—Not Right

Dear Mark,

Not having purchased bifocals yet, I sometimes have to take off my glasses to read, which I did while reading page 7 of the November 2007 *Levitt Letter* to get a closer look at the photograph of Zola in band uniform.

To me the cigarette seems placed and not part of the original photo. If this is the case, I strongly urge you to make an editorial correction. Several news agencies have staged photos about the conflict in the Middle East that portrayed the nation of Israel in a negative light. ZLM must perform at a higher standard.

QUOTE OF THE CENTURY?

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad:

“I wanted to visit Ground Zero to prevent 9/11 becoming another ‘false idol’ like the Holocaust.” —Sept. 2007



If the cigarette is part of the original photo, please accept my apology. Note that I am not stating that smoking is good. And I miss Zola too.

Sincerely, S. F.

Dear S. F.—

Rest assured that ZLM's high standards remain intact. But your email took me back to fond memories of laughing on several occasions with Zola over an accusation in the early '90s that our television footage originated from New Mexico rather than the Holy Land. "If only our accuser could direct us to exactly where in New Mexico we could get such great shots of the Mount of Olives, etc.," we mused, "then we wouldn't have to travel so far and go to such expense!" Now, less gleefully, I say to you, "If only Zola hadn't smoked all those years!" The cigarette probably looks out of place to you, as it would to most anyone, because Zola was a handsome, clean-cut kid who hadn't learned yet how to pose with a cancer stick. No apology necessary. Good luck with those bifocals. —Mark

Arabic Broadcast Swimming Right Along

Jeff,

Are you broadcasting in Arabic in Europe yet? My buddy likens your efforts to bring the Good News to others in their own languages to salmon trying to swim upstream—it's possible, but a difficult task.

J. S.

Dear J. S.—

Yep. We're broadcasting in Arabic and English, in Europe. As of this report, however, I must report that responses have been rather lackluster. Please pray for the endeavor, as we're excited by the prospect of our Arabic cousins coming to a saving faith in our common Messiah, Yeshua. —Jeffrey Seif

Can't Handle The Truth!

Dear Jeffrey, Sandra, and Mark,

I asked my associate pastor to read your newsletter and allow me to put some out for people to take. His reply in a note read, "I found it very interesting and also found myself in agreement with much of it; however, it takes a strong stand on hot-button issues and conveys a somewhat aggressive tone that doesn't quite fit what we would make available to our congregation, especially visitors and guests. Thank you, though, for bringing them to my attention."

I have to admit I was a little shocked, but mostly disappointed. I hope his response was not a common one. A lot of people are missing out.

With Love in Christ,

M. Y.

Dear M. Y.—

Fearing to be offensive is a trap that many well-intended ministers fall into. Absent gut-level, real-world engagement, faith communities are left with boring services, filled only with nice, poetic, syrupy rhetoric. It is little wonder that action-prone men, particularly, often complain of finding church boring. It wouldn't be that way if men stood up from behind the pulpit instead of hiding behind it. —Jeffrey Seif



Eid Of Green

www.FOXnews.com

The Empire State Building was aglow in green in mid-October to honor the Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

The 102-story building routinely lights up its famous spire to honor everything from traditional holidays to sporting events to notable charities to “the myriad ethnic groups living in the New York City area,” according to the building’s website.

The Empire State Building’s tower was first lit up in colors in July, 1976, when red, white and blue were used in celebration of the American Bicentennial. A new lighting system that allows a wider range of colors was inaugurated the following year, when blue and white lights flashed to announce the New York Yankees had won the World Series

Sharia By The Inch

www.IBDeditorials.com
Investors’ Business Daily

In a monumental nod to political correctness, the Empire State Building lit up green in honor of the Muslim holiday *Eid*.

Six years ago, Islamic terrorists screamed “Allah is Greater!” as they slammed fuel-laden jumbo jets into two other New York skyscrapers. Six years ago, New



Yorkers were worried about the Green Menace.

What’s next, Ground Zero festooned with crescent moons and stars? Political correctness is running amok. Every October, the White House holds a Ramadan dinner for Muslim leaders and activists, even though we are still waiting for them to condemn Islamic terror groups by name.

This year, to their delight, President Bush praised, and even suggested we all worship Allah. “I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion, prays to the same God,” he said, adding, “I believe that Islam is a great religion that preaches peace.”

A nice sentiment. But militant Muslims believe peace cannot be attained until Islam dominates the globe. We know this by the words they’ve been caught on tape mouthing to Muslim audiences.

Ignorance and blind tolerance make it easier for the Islamists to make inroads. Inch by inch, *sharia* [Islamic law] is creeping into our society. ★

Iran’s Secret Weapon: The Pope

By Jeff Israely, Time.com

The diplomatic chess game around Iran’s nuclear program includes an unlikely bishop. According to several well-placed Rome sources, Iranian officials are quietly laying the groundwork necessary to turn to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican diplomats for mediation if the showdown with the United States should escalate toward a military intervention.



Women Distract Muslim Men From Sleep, Prayers

By Leo Lewis, www.TimesOnline.co.uk

Women who wear figure-hugging clothes are giving Muslim men sleepless nights and distracting them from prayer, a prominent cleric said yesterday.

Attacking the appeal of modern Malaysian women, **Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat**—a fundamentalist Muslim cleric who controls the main opposition party and one of the country's 13 states—said that provocative clothes were a form of “emotional abuse.”



Clothes that are modest by Western standards were, he said, stopping the country's men getting a good night's sleep. “We always [hear about] the abuse of children and wives in households, which is easily perceived by the eye but the emotional abuse of men cannot be seen,” Mr. Nik Abdul Aziz said. “Our prayers become unfocused and our sleep is often disturbed.” Like so many of his previous outbursts, the comments drew instant criticism from women's groups.

Previous advice from Mr. Nik Abdul Aziz to Malaysia's women included the suggestion that they would be at a lower risk of being raped if they abandoned their lipstick and perfume. Mr. Nik Abdul Aziz posted a diagram of an appropriately dressed woman on his party's website. The picture shows a woman in a baggy, floor-length dress with a scarf covering her hair.

As the minister of the northeastern state of Kelantan, Mr. Nik Abdul Aziz has imposed fines on Muslim women who fail to wear headscarves, and imposed other draconian restrictions.

The Price For Speaking Up In Arabia

Associated Press,
www.TheGlobeAndMail.com

A Saudi court sentenced a woman who had been gang raped to six months in jail and 200 lashes—more than doubling her initial penalty for being in the car of a man who was not a relative. [See original account in January 2007, *Levitt Letter*, page 21]

The decision by the Qatif General Court came in a case that sparked rare debate about the kingdom's justice system when it surfaced. In its decision, the court also roughly doubled prison sentences [originally from 10 months to five years] for the seven men convicted of raping the 19-year-old woman. According to *Arab News*, the court said the woman's punishment was increased because of “her attempt to aggravate and influence the judiciary through the media.”

The woman has said that the attack occurred as she tried to retrieve her picture from a male high school student she used to know. While in the car with the student, two men got into the vehicle and drove them to a secluded area, where she (a Shiite) was raped by seven (Sunni) men, three of whom also attacked her friend.

Under Saudi Arabia's interpretation of Islamic *sharia* law, women are not allowed in the company of men other than their relatives.

After the woman's attorney argued the verdict was too lenient for the rapists and unjust for the victim, the court confiscated his license to practice law.



Public Broadcaster in Hands of Radical Muslims

www.nisnews.nl

Until recently, the Netherlands had two Islamic public broadcasters: the moderate NMO and the orthodox Dutch Islamic Broadcasting Organization (NIO). Media watchdog Commissariaat voor de Media demanded that the two merge so the Islamic faith would have a single representative body in the public system. But this resulted in NIO staging a coup of NMO.

NMO has 2.5 transmission hours on TV each week. Following the coup NMO now consists of eight directors, all of them representing orthodox currents. The representatives of the liberal Alevitic and Ahmadiyya currents, who ran NMO until recently, say they have been kicked out.

One of the members of the new board of directors is believed to have close ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Another is chairman of the Al Farouq mosque in Utrecht whose imam was deported from the Netherlands in 2001 for espionage for the Libyan secret service. Also among the eight directors is a member of the radical movement World Islamic Mission.

The Commission for the Media says it has “no indications” that anything is wrong. It will only instigate an inquiry if the Justice Ministry or the secret service AIVD requests it.

MP Jeroen Dijsselbloem expressed his concern over “the increasing influence of conservative Islam within various Islamic organizations in the Netherlands.”

The Dutch government can't afford to pay for bodyguards for Ayaan Hirsi Ali, but they have plenty of money for a public broadcasting operation for radical Muslims! — Editor

Only Goes to Mecca

By Patrick Goodenough,
www.CNSnews.com



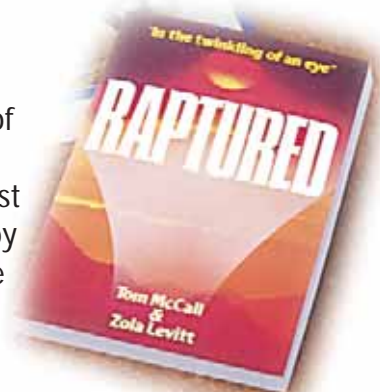
Coming soon? A car designed for Muslims, complete with a compass to indicate the direction of Mecca for prayers and a compartment to house the Koran and prayer scarves.

Proposed by Iran, the plan is under consideration by Malaysia's national automaker Proton, the company's managing director said.

Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir said that the proposed model, which the Iranians suggested be called an “Islamic car,” could be produced in Malaysia, Iran, or Turkey. ★

Raptured book

The Rapture of the Church, discussed fully, with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are presented in an evenhanded debate about which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth—Believer and unbeliever alike. Must-reading for anyone planning to be Raptured! Available on page 16.



Israeli Prostate Cancer Treatment

www.Israel21c.com

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer found in men, other than skin cancer, and affects one man in six. While today, more than 99 percent of patients are alive five years after diagnosis of prostate cancer, a couple of decades ago that survival rate was more like 40 percent, or lower.

Even given such promising leaps and bounds, prostate cancer remains nothing to treat lightly. But a scientific development that has emerged from Israeli labs is proving to be an effective treatment for prostate cancer when radiation proves unsuccessful.

Researchers based at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, have developed a light-sensitive drug based on the plant pigment chlorophyll. Called Tookad—after the Hebrew term meaning “the warmth of light”—the drug remains harmless until exposed to a laser beam, at which point it becomes toxic. Injected into a patient, Tookad can be activated by doctors through the use of optical fibers, allowing the selective destruction of the blood vessels which feed the tumor, while leaving healthy tissue intact.

“Chlorophyll is designed by nature to harvest solar energy for photosynthesis, so it has high absorption of light,” explained Prof. **Avigdor Scherz** of the Weizmann Institute’s Plant Sciences

Department, who together with Prof. **Yoram Salomon** of the Biological Regulation Department, invented the new photo-sensitive drug.



“In general, we see that the therapy results in the complete destruction of the blood vessels connected to the tumor, and necrosis of the entire tumor.”

This kind of approach, known as photodynamic therapy (PDT), did exist prior to the development of Tookad. But the new drug proved vastly more effective than its predecessors, which were based not upon chlorophyll, but upon hemoglobin pigment. Unlike other PDT drugs, which remain in the body for a long time, Tookad is flushed out within two hours, reducing the need for patients to avoid sunlight for lengthy periods following treatment.

Tookad also has the great advantage of being able to absorb near-infrared light, which penetrates more deeply and efficiently than other wavelengths. Using Tookad, a single illuminated optical fiber can reach and eradicate a tumor with a diameter of up to 4 centimeters, and even larger growths can be treated by using several fibers. What this means is that the Israeli-developed drug is effective against large, solid tumors that previously had evaded the reach of other PDT drugs.

Phase I/II clinical trials are currently underway in the U. S., U. K., Canada, France, and Israel as second line therapy for prostate cancer patients for whom alternative treatment strategies have failed. ★

THE HAMAS “LION KING”

After sparking international outrage with a Mickey Mouse look-alike [see July '07 *Levitt Letter*, page 10], Hamas has adopted another Disney figure, the Lion King, this time to target its rival Fatah faction. The cartoon, shown on Hamas-run Al Aksa TV, portrays Fatah as cigarette-smoking rats that bomb Hamas institutions and shoot children. The lion (Hamas) crushes some of the rats with his paws and sends others scurrying away.



Smell A Rat? This is how Hamas sees the rival Fatah faction.

America's Place In The World

On February 14, 2002, Colin Powell was asked how he felt representing a country commonly perceived as "the Satan of contemporary politics." Here is the relevant part of his reply: "Far from being the Great Satan, I would say that we are the Great Protector. We have sent men and women from the armed forces of the United States to other parts of the world throughout the past century to put down oppression."



"And when all those conflicts were over, what did we do? Did we stay and conquer? Did we say, 'Okay, we defeated Germany. Now Germany belongs to us? We defeated Japan, so Japan belongs to us?' No. What did we do? We built them up. We gave them democratic systems which they have embraced totally to their soul. And did we ask for any land? No, the only land we ever asked for was enough land to bury our dead. And that is the kind of nation we are."

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

IONNetwork (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

DirecTV—Channel 255 **Dish**—Channel 181

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon

DirecTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:00 pm Fri	4:00 pm Fri	5:00 pm Fri	6:00 pm Fri

DirecTV—Channel 369 **Dish**—Channel 263

TCT on DirecTV

TCT is Channel 377 on DirecTV:
Visit www.tct.tv for your area's schedule.

NOTE: If you are unable to view *Zola Levitt Presents*, please contact your local cable company or refer to your satellite directory.

Our entire TV Airing Schedule is posted at
www.levitt.com.



Which Humans Get Rights?

By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen,
www.FreeRepublic.com

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency story was about Israel cutting supplies of fuel to the Gaza Strip in response to Palestinian rocket fire into Israel.

It said that Israel's Defense Ministry announced it was reducing fuel supplies to Gaza by between five and 11 percent as part of sanctions aimed at pressuring Hamas to stop shooting rockets from the territory. The government plan, it said, was for Israel to also reduce electricity supplies to Gaza, at some point.

Gaza's 1.5 million Palestinians are evidently entirely dependent on Israel for fuel imports, some of which are paid for by the European Union. Israeli security sources say the cutbacks would likely affect only gas for private cars while Gaza's one power plant would continue to get fuel.

Nevertheless, ten human-rights groups petitioned Israel's High Court of Justice to overturn the sanctions, arguing they amount to collective punishment. Israel counters by saying this is the non-violent means it's come up with for dealing with constant Palestinian rocket attacks, and that the only alternative would be a military one that would cause heavy casualties.

So, I'm a little baffled. These human rights organizations are annoyed over the "collective punishment" of fuel-related sanctions, which may make it harder for Gazans to fill up, but seem to have little trouble with actual potentially death-producing rocket attacks. Why? Does the fact that Israel has a modern army make its citizens fair game for random terrorism and murder? Isn't constant rocket fire into Israeli population centers "collective punishment?" And why is Israel, a

non-oil-producing country, the Palestinians' sole source of fuel and why is the European Union paying for it?

Israel can't buy fuel through normal channels, but must do so circuitously because no oil-producing Arab country wants to risk incurring the wrath of the Islamist extremists in their midst. Israel still gets fuel, but the extra trouble is reflected in the prices at the gas pump—about \$6 per gallon when I was there several months ago.

I can't help wondering why the surrounding Arab countries, which are essentially swimming in crude oil, are not donating it or selling it at reduced rates to their Palestinian brethren? They're very generous with their hateful, murder-inciting rhetoric. But they don't seem willing to put their oil where their mouth is.

Curious.

And more frustrating is the complete acceptance of this weird, counter-intuitive status quo by much of the world, who seem to say that the Israelis are responsible for the well-being of those bent on their destruction, and, in fact, must supply them with the means to continue their attacks. I can't believe any nation other than Israel would be expected to operate under those conditions.

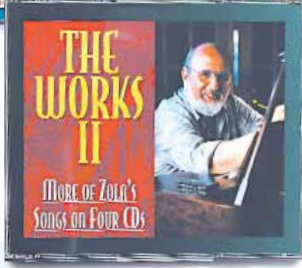
Despite the incongruity of the situation, no type of self-defense on Israel's part appears to be morally acceptable to these "human rights" folks. You know? One might be tempted to think that to the "human rights" groups, Jews aren't human—or at least they're not entitled to the same type of rights as other humans.





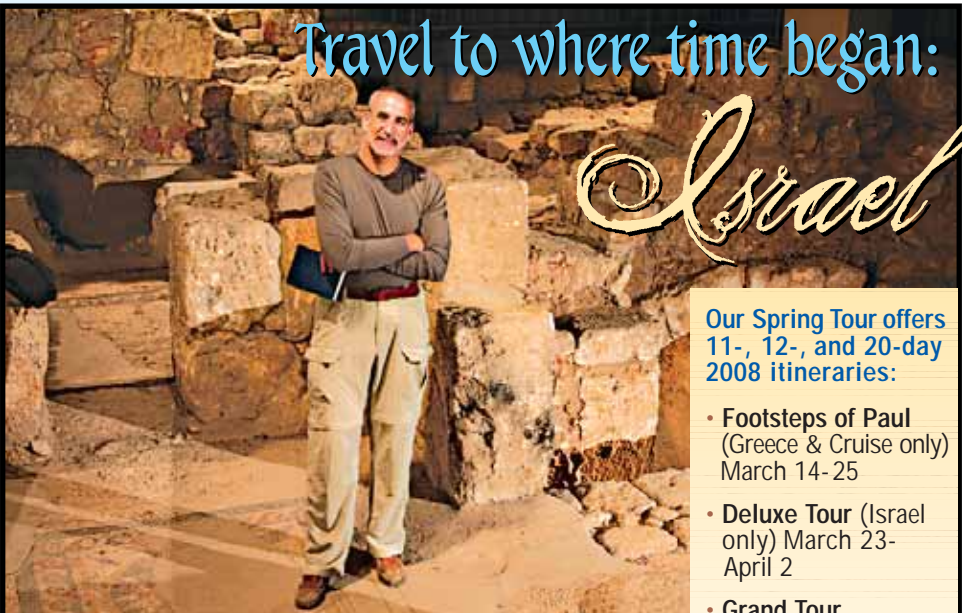
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Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



Jeff and I invite you to traverse Israel's most significant biblical sites. Contact our Travel Manager Tony to request a tour brochure during business hours at (214) 696-9760 or call 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377) anytime. — Sandra



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