

As Jews celebrate Purim and Esther, I wonder if God hasn't ordained this striking story "for such a time as this." -Jeff

Captive Israeli's Tale Becomes Kids' Book

By Matti Friedman, Associated Press

Years before he was a soldier seized by Palestinian militants, 11-year-old Gilad Shalit penned a simple parable about how enemies can get along.

His story, "When the Shark and the Fish First Met," has now been published as a children's book that teaches tolerance—while its author, now 21, is in his second year as a captive in the Gaza Strip.

The tank crewman was seized in June 2006 by Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip in a cross-border raid into Israel. Two of



his comrades were killed in the attack. Secret negotiations on a prisoner swap deal have stalled.

The story Shalit wrote as a fifth-grader in 1997 was published with its 64 pages illustrated by 29 Israeli artists. The project is also on display in a gallery in Nahariya, the Mediterranean coastal town where Shalit was born.

In the story, a shark is about to eat a little fish, but the fish persuades the shark to let him live. Instead, the two play hide-and-seek underwater and become friends.

continued next page

INSIDE HEMS	•
■ The Dutch In The Clutch	3
■ Shalom From Sandra	.4-5
■ Patrick Cox	6
■ Classic Zola	7
■ DeSeifering Our World	8
■ Violence Against Women	9
Our Man In Jerusalem	10
■ Bible Study by Jeff1	2-13
■ Select Briefs1	
■ Bulletin Board	18
■ Hebrew Lesson	19
■ Jesus & Judaism	
■ Mark: On Another Subject	21
■ Letters To ZLM2	
■ News Items2	
■ TV Airing Schedule	
•	

Misplaced Faith



By Cal Thomas, www.JewishWorld Review.com

During his recent trip to Israel, President Bush visited several places that reaffirmed his faith, including Bethlehem and the Sea of Galilee. Then exhibiting a faith greater than believing that Jesus could walk on water, he asserted that "peace" could be attained between Israel, the Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors. One exhibition of faith has some historic roots and witnesses: the other is rooted in fantasy.

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CAPTIVE ISRAELI'S TALE... continued

But their mothers disapprove. "The fish is an animal we eat. Don't play with it!" the shark's mother tells him.

"The shark is the animal that devoured your father and brother—don't play with that animal!" the fish's mother tells him.

After avoiding each other for a year, the two meet again. The shark says, "You're my enemy, but shall we make up?"

The fish agrees, and eventually the two announce their friendship to their mothers.

"Since that day, the sharks and the fish have lived in peace," wrote Shalit.

One of Shalit's teachers found the story while doing spring cleaning last year and brought it to his family, said Noam Shalit, Gilad's father.

Misplaced Faith continued

Since 1937, there have been 18 formal attempts by commissions, conferences, resolutions, summits, and other gatherings to persuade the Jewish lamb to lie down with the Arab lion. All have failed. This latest attempt by President Bush, like those of presidents before him, will also fail, no matter the level of rhetoric or pressure on Israel to "do more." As Hillel Halkin wrote in the January issue of *Commentary*, "When time after time a problem cannot be resolved, it is reasonable to suspect that it may be irresolvable, at least in the manner in which it is conceived."

That manner of false conception is that the Palestinian side, in conjunction with Arab and Muslim states, will stop trying to destroy Israel if a new state is created in the region. From such a state, enhanced by a "right of return" that would flood Israel with enemies of Zionism and encourage them that the end of the Jewish state is at hand, would come the final days of Israel's modern existence.



Israel Is Not Alone

By Anshel Pfeffer, The Jewish Chronicle, The JC.com

Americans' support for Israel is at an almost all-time high, while their image of the Palestinians has never been lower, according to a new survey by international pollster, Stanley Greenberg, advisor to President Bill Clinton and British Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

The survey measured public opinion in the U.S., France, and the U.K. regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Iranian threat. In the U.S., Britain, and France, clear majorities believe that Iran should be prevented from achieving nuclear weapons.



Won by One!

Will you please help us build our army of Jewish-loving, Christian Zionists? If everyone on our mailing list would speak to one or more like-minded friends, and encourage them to call us at 1-800-WONDERS to request our Levitt Letter, we could double our outreach overnight. Please help. Notify a friend today. Have them contact us today and help us build "an army of one."

Thanks. — Jeffrey Seif

The Dutch in the Clutch



By Jack Kinsella, www.OmegaLetter.com

When America was little more than a collection of coastal villages dotting the Eastern Seaboard, the Netherlands was among the world's wealthiest and most powerful nations. By 1776, the Dutch ruled vast colonial empires from Indonesia to Africa. The Nazis invaded, conquered, occupied, and even tried to erase the Netherlands from the map in the mid-20th century—but the Netherlands remained Dutch—tulips, dikes, wooden shoes, and all. That is until the youth movements of the '60s and '70s abandoned Dutch traditional values, rejected Dutch nationalism, and embraced multiculturalism, sexual "freedoms," legalized drug abuse, euthanasia, and especially, unrestricted immigration. The once-great Dutch empire was reduced, said Princess Maxima, wife of Holland's Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, to what she described as a place where "a typical Dutch person doesn't exist."

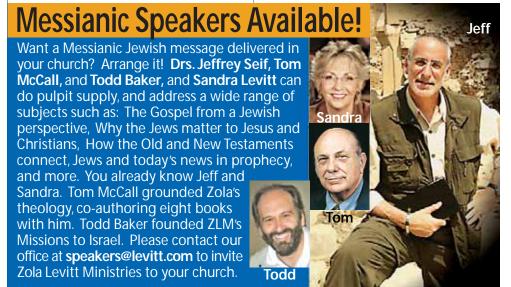
Her comments have tapped into a growing feeling among many Dutch who fear the rise in Muslim extremism in their midst and the loss of their own national identity.

"The debate about Dutch identity is

too often held at a very trite and trivial level, as if the discussion is between Brussels sprouts and wooden shoes," said Bart Jan Spruyt, founder of the Edmund Burke Foundation, a conservative think tank. "What is really at stake, due to frivolous immigration policies and decades of multicultural indifference, is the identity of the Dutch nation as a part of the history of Western civilization."

The Dutch model for immigration allowed new immigrants to separate into ethnic groupings known as "pillars," meaning people of different ethnic backgrounds, faiths, or political persuasions had their own churches, schools, newspapers, television and radio broadcasters, and labor unions. The result was a hodgepodge of unassimilated ethnic groups loyal only to their communities, their home countries—or Islam.

In 2004, the Dutch Ministry of the Interior concluded that out of a population of just sixteen million, there are close to one million Muslim immigrants, and that of that number, roughly fifty thousand are radical jihadists. It also concluded that recruitment in the Netherlands for the armed radical Muslim struggle—mainly among descendants of immigrants—is not incidental but rather a trend. Holland—with its disproportionately high Muslim population—is the canary in the coalmine.



Psalms 121: 8 "The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore."

shalom From Sandra Psalm 121 is my traveling companion. I read it or recite it as I am about to take off in an airplane. I admit that I am a white-knuckle flyer. Funny, isn't it, with all the traveling I do? Zola would hold my hand and pray for us as the plane started down the runway. He would also tell me some corny joke to take my mind off the fact that we were hurtling down the runway at astronomical speeds, trying to defy gravity with all the luggage on board and land

Someone once said that traveling is an education in itself. I have to agree. I get to learn about new cultures, architecture, and people; I get to fellowship with other Believers and see what the Lord is doing in their lives.

safely at our destination.

Recently, I was in St. Louis to attend a retirement/birthday banquet for my friend Kathleen Murray who retired from the U.S. Army after thirty-three years of service. The dinner was held in a church, as I would expect because Kathleen is a Believer; but the *people* made it an outstanding event. Many members of the armed services came. some in their uniforms, and veterans of Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Korea, and Iraq. We opened with a prayer and the Star Spangled Banner. Then, with our hands over our hearts we pledged our allegiance to the American flag.

I think the last time I said the Pledge of Allegiance was when I was in high school. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation under God (yes, we said under God), indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Such simple words until you really say and think about each one.

We sang several patriotic songs,

but the one that will stay with me is "America the Beautiful"—such a wonderful visual of America. Again, a song that I had not sung in a long time. On one hand, I was proud to have sung these songs and on the other, I wondered why they were not sung more often. It was an evening I will not forget soon. Proud to be an American, I stood a little taller as I left the banquet, which was quite

something as I am already 5'8" and I had on three-inch heels. I was indeed taller.

In St. Louis, I was taken to "The Hill." the Italian part of town. Most of the twostory "shotgun" houses were neat and tidy. No broken-down cars, no trash in the yards, everything in its place. I felt like I was stepping into a different part of the world. And I had some of the best Italian food I have had in a very long time. Before lunch was finished, we knew the waiter, the owner, the owner's son, the chef, etc. A big, wonderful, Italian time.

I try to visit a Holocaust Museum in every city that has one — and St. Louis has one. Interestingly, while I visit these museums, the picture of the suffering of the Jews never changes—just the location of the museum changes. Local Jewish people give their yellow stars, photos, and other mementos of that dark period of Jewish history.



Some even give their time to tell the story so that no one forgets.

I also got to visit with Evelyn, the owner of a storefront ministry. Evelyn wants to share the Gospel with any and all who visit. By the way, Evelyn is eighty-six years old. Her ministry is in a strip shopping mall, next door to a Chinese florist, a Japanese restaurant, a deli, and other ethnic businesses. St. Louis is a designated refuge city in the United States, so the population mix includes many cultures from all over the world. What an opportunity to tell the good news to everyone!

Yes, traveling is an education. I have learned that we each have a job to do for the Lord. Like Kathleen in the Army, or Evelyn, who in her later years has discovered that she still has a job to do for God. I encourage you to do the job God has given you.

While we're on the topic of travel, let's travel to Israel! Jeff and I would be blessed to show you your eternal home. Our summer tour will be from June 9-19, and our fall tours depart on October 14 and 19. Please contact Abel for more information at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or call 800-WON-DERS (1-800-966-3377) anytime. This is Israel's 60th anniversary as a modern nation. Help us celebrate this victory. What other nation after 2000 years of dispersion has come back to its country of origin and made a go of it. NONE, only Israel. So please, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, Blessings,

Indivisible Under God

By Hillel Fendel, www.lsraelNationalNews.com

Two Jerusalem organizations have sent a letter to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, reminding him that discussions with U.S. President Bush or PA Chairman Abbas regarding a possible division of Jerusalem are in violation of Israeli law.

A prominent lawyer for the Victims of Arab Terror (VAT) and Twenty-Four Shifts organizations penned the letter, warning Olmert that if he does not announce an end to all talks over the future of Jerusalem, he will be considered in violation of the law.

The letter makes the point that Clauses 5 and 6 of one of Israel's cardinal laws — Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel—mean that Jerusalem's status as the united and sole capital of Israel may not be compromised.

The first clause of the law in question, passed in 1980 under Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Yitzhak Navon, states, "Jerusalem, whole and united, is the capital of Israel." Clause 5 stipulates the precise area of Jerusalem, while Clause 6 states, "No authorities relating to the area of Jerusalem and that is in the legal purview of the State of Israel or the Municipality of Jerusalem shall be transferred to any foreign political or governmental element, whether permanently or for a set period."

Clause 7 states that Clauses 5 and 6 may not be changed except if another Basic Law is accepted by the majority of the Knesset.



Just Pretending

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor

Last year, a total of 2,774
Palestinian rockets or
mortars were launched at Israeli
civilians from Gaza. That's more than
seven a day. People died but the toll
on the people of southern Israel is
incalculable. Children learn to keep
track, all the time, of the nearest
shelter so that they can run for cover
when sirens once again announce
another deadly attack.

Gaza was part of ancient Israel but the Jews were driven out temporarily by the Romans around 61 AD. Later, Napoleon and the Ottoman Caliph would do the same. Throughout history, though, Jews returned to Gaza. The medieval poems of the chief rabbi of Gaza, Israel ben Moses Najara, were known even in 14th Century Italy. In the 15th Century, Rabbi Abraham Azulai wrote Biblical commentary in Gaza that is still read today.

In 1929, Muslim rioters killed more than 130 Gazan Jews over some bizarre conspiracy theory. British authorities "solved" the problem by bowing to demands that Jews be banned from Gaza. Many were forced to abandon homes and properties; a pattern that would be repeated all over the Middle East in modern Israel was reborn.

In 1946, Jews returned again, mostly farming the Gaza Strip. In 2005, these "settlers" were forced out when Israel gave the territory to Palestinian authorities. There are no Jews in Gaza today. A tiny minority of Christians remains, but their numbers continue to dwindle.

The two "political parties," Hamas and Fatah, are fighting one another for control of Gaza. Hundreds of Palestinian combatants and civilians have been killed or wounded in their civil war, but Hamas has still found the

resources to turn Gaza into a staging area for the bombardment of Israel.

It was not surprising, therefore, that rocket attacks on Israel continued right up until President Bush's recent visit to Israel. What was surprising was that the president called, in Israel, for an end to the "occupation" of the West Bank. It was the first time he's used the word and it was hailed by the Islamic world as a victory for Islam.

Let me make it clear that the Bush statement was entirely symbolic, and he knows it. He also said that Palestinians must first repudiate their goals of turning all of Israel into an Islamic state and driving Jews from the region. Gaza's political leaders, however, refuse even to pretend that they want a two-state solution.

The question, therefore, is "Why do WE pretend?" The answer is that this administration wants to counter the charge that America is biased in favor of Israel. He also wants to bolster the position of Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah leader who is seen as preferable to the

Hamas government currently lobbing rockets into Israel.



Did pretending help? No.

Israel finally struck back at Hamas agents after a series of deadly attacks, killing at least 18 operatives. Whose side did the moderate Mahmoud Abbas take? He condemned the act of Israeli self-defense as a "massacre."

Worried about the U.S. economy, President Bush then went to Saudi Arabia. Not only had he condemned the "occupation," he had just agreed to sell the Saudis precision-guided weapons that could be turned against Israel. Politely, he asked in return that the regime increase petroleum production to hold oil prices down. The Saudis smiled and declined.

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By Zola Levitt (Levitt Letter, Feb. 1996)

Dear Mr. Levitt-

My friend J. L. wrote her essay on how she belives in satan cause my teacher said "write an essay about a toy from X-mas" but J.L. doesn't belive in god nor haven. Should I stay her friend or stay away from her. Cause I love and belive in god. Plese give me good advice. [Note: this is the original spelling, from an 11-year-old.]

Thank you for your letter about your friend who does not believe in God or Heaven. First of all, you should pray about this situation and ask the wisdom of God. Our job as Believers is to tell all people about Christ and the love of God — even those who believe in Satan and not God. If J.L.

believes you and comes to Christ, then you two are better than friends, you are really sisters in Christ. If she does not believe you after you have sown this seed, then perhaps you should pick another friend. All of us who believe in Christ find it much easier to be close friends with other Believers than with unbelievers. But even if J.L. does not believe in Christ, remember that God loves her. You still need to be willing to be nice to her so you can be a good example, so maybe some day she will come to Christ. — Zola

Website Feedback:

From L.G. —

Thank you for continuing the ministry of Zola. Because of Zola and his TV program, I have met my Messiah Yeshua. I am eternally grateful.

Just Pretending continued

The president had the opportunity to speak the truth, to tell the world that those who pray and work for the destruction of the Jewish people are evil-period. Instead, he has played along with the abominable lie, pretending that Israel is as much at fault as its neighbors.



Now, lest you think I'm just bashing Republicans, let me turn my attention to Barack Obama. Much has been made of Obama's faith and relationship with Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., the minister of Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ. Unfortunately, few know that last year the church magazine awarded

its Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Trumpeter Award to someone they said "truly epitomized greatness."

The man was Louis Farrakhan, the anti-Semitic American Muslim who says Jews are "bloodsuckers" who controlled the slave trade—a particularly vile lie given the centrality of Muslims in that trade. He has even blamed the Holocaust on the Jews themselves.

Obama, when asked about the award, insisted he disagreed with it, but my question remains the same. Why did he go along with it, "pretending" it's okay to belong to a church that thinks Farrakhan's hatred of Jews is okay?

I've heard it said that most people in Nazi Germany didn't hate Jews, that they just "pretended" everything was okay and went along with the program. The greatest acts of evil ever perpetrated on the world were made possible by people who just played along, pretending everything was all right.

It wasn't. It's not.



DESEIFERING OUR WORLD

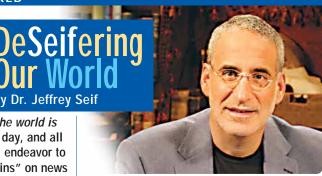
"Why do you people talk about the Jews so much?" It's a fair question and a recurring one. As you might suppose, whether or not Sandra and I speak

about the Jews—and Israel—the world is talking about the Jews—every day, and all around the world. Sandra and I endeavor to give biblical and prophetic "spins" on news that is often passed off as political.

"Why do you people talk about Islam so much?" At face value this is a fair question, too. We dedicate a lot of newsmagazine space to Islam-related stories, and some readers might feel we're using too much to "bash" another religion. Our doing so concerns the fact that little Israel is surrounded by enemies who have an Islamic persuasion, are hell bent on Israel's demise, and energetically marshal resources in accordance with those passions.

That the U.S. presently has many, many thousands of troops in harm's way in Islamic countries contributes to our need to educate people on the nature of the religion and the energies being unleashed at its extreme. Irrespective of whether or not we talk about Islam, Americans are getting an education by Islam's adherents who, by slamming airplanes into our buildings and threatening our security, are making themselves known. From my perspective, America needs reliable information; the "politically correct" media outlets that refuse to speak the truth about elements of this "religion" are doing us all a disservice and ought to be sued for malpractice.

"Why do you people talk about Israel so much?" When God led Abraham to what the Bible calls the "Promised Land," He wasn't simply thinking about this Hebrew man's real estate needs and interests. According to the Sacred Text, God had His own agenda —one that entailed making His ways known on Earth through Abraham's offspring, by means of how He dealt with them in this God-given "homeland"—Israel. Ezekiel speaks of what God would do in and through Israel in the "latter days" (38:8) by quoting God as saying that He is for Israel (36:9a). Ezekiel goes on to quote the Lord as saying, "I will magnify myself... and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord" (v. 23). This, of course, will happen through



Israel—the nation that is God's prophetic timepiece.

Given the biblical importance of the stories we tell on national television—and in our own unique, Messianic Jewish way—we try not to shudder in response to the criticisms or the costs associated with bringing the stories to you. However, at times we have to pause and catch our breath because of the millions of dollars involved in doing what we do. We're helped along by remembering that God is at the helm; His guidance is evidenced, in part, by the support He sends us through you, gifts that both confirm the Message and affirm the messengers.

The Zola Levitt Ministries production engines are gearing up for a new, updated prophecy series on Ezekiel, what we're calling Ezekiel and the Middle East "Piece" Process. Because of the associated bills, I need to ask you not just to "stay tuned" for the upcoming series, but to "pray tuned." To "tune" speaks of making a minor adjustment. People speak about tuning into a program, tuning an instrument, and taking the car in for a tuneup. I mention this because if you can make a "minor adjustment" and fine tune what you spend—and send a donation our way for this upcoming Ezekiel series—you can help us make a major difference.

Your money goes to TV production and distribution. I don't drive a Rolls Royce, live in a mansion, fly a private jet, or keep a yacht at a marina. If you help us with our missions, you know that you are doing just that: supporting a mission. God will be pleased. I will be grateful to you.

We need the funds now, it is true. But, I will love you whether or not you can participate in giving. I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Levitt Letter* whether you give a dime, a dollar, or nothing at all this time around.

Yours,



Arab Newspaper: There Must Be Violence Against Women

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy, www.YemenTimes.com

This title may sound strange, but it's actually *not* just a way to attract readers to the topic because I really do mean what it indicates. Violence is a broad term, especially when used regarding women. In this piece, I want to shed light on those instances where violence against women is a must.

Occasionally — if not daily — we hear about events occurring in Islamic and Arab societies. Some human rights organizations recently have attacked violent acts against women, standing against any type of violence — even that between a father and daughter — and citing the cases of some women as examples.

Disciplinary relationships between husbands and wives, fathers and daughters, or sisters and brothers provoke argument from human rights organizations. Personally, I don't think fathers or brothers would undertake disciplinary behavior unless there was a reason for it.

Fathers should handle their daughters

via any means that suits their mistake. I believe it is better to use violence to a certain extent. Shall such women then complain to the police against their fathers or brothers? It's really amazing to hear this.

Dear readers—especially women—don't think that I hate or am against women; rather, I simply mean to preserve the morals and principles with which Islam has honored us.

I hope my message is clear, since it's really quite relevant to the future of our societies, which must be protected from any kind of cultural invasion.

In recent months, I have become more aware of "honor killings," when, for the sake of the honor of the family, a Muslim man can kill family members—usually women. Were Islam to prevail over Christianity in a clash that many believe is inevitable, women everywhere would be subject to beatings within the constraints listed on page 6 of the September 2007 *Levitt Letter*, posted at www.levitt.com/newsletters/2007-09.pdf See also

The complete article is posted at www.levitt.com/news.



Bush Visit: No Bang For The Buck

By Will King, www.imagesofisrael.com



The recent visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority by U.S. President George W. Bush was indeed one of historic proportions. However, it will be remembered more for what was said than what was seen and done on the ground.

The United States is certainly the best friend that Israel has in the world today, and when a representative of the U.S. speaks, people here tend to listen. Not just the politicians, but also the ordinary Israeli citizens hear the latest statement by Bush or Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice concerning Israel and the peace process, and discuss it in the coffee shops.

Compare that to when the United Nations or European Union makes a statement concerning Israel—it barely makes the papers. This underscores the weight that the Israelis see the U.S. carrying in the peace process as opposed to the rest of the nations involved, and speaks to the credibility of the U.S. as well.

You can imagine the great excitement, then, when it was revealed that Bush would be making a visit here; but the reality failed to live up to the hype. Scared off by the massive security operation of over 10,000 Israeli police and army troops, as well as the predictions of gridlock in down town Jerusalem, most Israelis simply stayed home those few days.

More protesters than hand- and flagwaving supporters lined the streets, and the turnout at the protest rallies was considered poor even by the organizers. Foreign media crews brought in especially to cover the event—struggled to find "man on the street" or other human-interest stories as there were very few people out and about to talk with.

With Bush and his entourage thoroughly isolated from the Israeli people, focus returned to the statements coming out of the various meetings. Most people here perceived the statements of Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to be of no consequence whatsoever. The two men seemed to have formed a mutual admiration society. However, most people saw it for what it was, two lame ducks trying to watch each other's back. Bush leaves office in less than a year; Olmert could go at any time.

While he was in Ramallah for a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Bush seemed to be a mouthpiece for the Palestinian Authority. He said, "There should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967." The use of such a politically charged word as "occupation" is an instant turnoff for most Israelis and only discredited anything he might have said afterwards.



In the end, the President's visit was simply a high profile—and highly expensive—trip to the Holy Land. Perhaps during his next visit (in May) Bush can focus on energizing the sides

to take action, and spare us the wasted

words.

Scouts On The Outs

By Rebecca Hagelin, WorldNetDaily.com

Finding an organization more all-American than the Boy Scouts would be hard. This organization is up there with baseball and apple pie. According to its charter, it exists to "promote... the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others... and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues."

Since 1910, that's exactly what the Boy Scouts has been doing. Thousands of men today in positions of leadership, from soldiers to salesmen, began learning lessons in responsibility when they were Scouts. Which makes it all the more curious that the city of Philadelphia is determined to kick its local Scout council—the "Cradle of Liberty," seventh largest council in the nation—out of the building it's been meeting in for 80 years.

The Scouts may not be facing a formal eviction, but that's the upshot of an ultimatum that Philadelphia's city council delivered to the group. Eight decades ago, the Scouts made an agreement with the city to pay a nominal rent of \$1 a year. How much is the city demanding that they pay now? \$200,000. Sadly, that's not a misprint. The Scouts really are facing a rent hike of \$199,999.

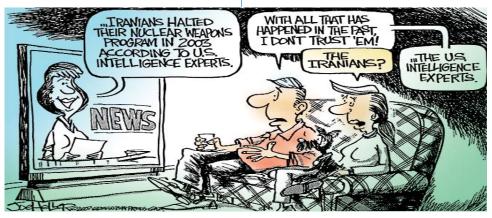
The blatant unfairness of the situation is galling—especially when you consider that the Scouts built the building with their own money, and then gave

it to the city in 1928. The Scouts' lease was "in perpetuity," notes Bob Unruh, news editor for WorldNetDaily, but the city doesn't seem to care.

You may be wondering: Have the Scouts done something wrong? Oh, yes. In our politically correct age, they have committed a major sin: They prohibit openly gay men from serving as Scout leaders. Never mind that the U.S. Supreme Court already ruled several years ago that the Boy Scouts is a private organization entitled to set its own membership policies. City Solicitor Romulo Diaz—an open homosexual, according to media reports—is spearheading the campaign against the Scouts.

Perhaps a bigger question is, who's next? According to Jeff Jubelirer, a spokesman with the Philadelphia Scouts, dozens of other groups could be targeted next. Will their tax-exempt status be questioned? Jubelirer asks, "How are [city officials] going to justify differentiation in treatment? There are wonderful arts organizations, museums, and a public radio station. They're on that list."

Fortunately, the city's disgraceful campaign against the Scouts hasn't gone unnoticed by the public. Indeed, writes Bob Unruh, "Citizens outraged by the city's ultimatum crashed the email system of the Philadelphia mayor's office." But, he also notes, Philadelphia isn't alone: "City officials in San Francisco and Boston have made similar decisions to displace the Scouts because of the group's behavior code."



Spring Queening:"For Such a Time as This"

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Esther—or Hadassah as she was also known—was a "drop dead gorgeous" Jewess who, in her teenage years, went from rags to riches and replaced a displaced Vashti as Queen of the Persian realm (Esther 1:10-2:18). The complete story is told in the Old Testament book that bears her name, and is celebrated annually by Jews the world over, this year on March 21.

An abbreviated version of the springtime story follows.

A queen named Vashti had a falling out with her husband Ahasuerus (1:1-12). He happened to be one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in all the world—and yet perhaps one of the most foolish. Scripture notes that he was "drinking it up" at a party (1:5-9)—and lost his wits; Jewish tradition adds to the account in vv. 10-12, informing us that the drunken king wanted his wife, Vashti, to make an appearance and—how can I put it? dance among his friends in her latest "Victoria's Secret" outfit (vv. 10-11). Not inclined to be the drunken king's "trophy wife," Vashti embarrassed the pathetic king by flatly refusing (v. 12). Angered by her disobedience and public insult, the dumb king consulted his dumber-yet advisors, who reassured him that manly prerogatives needed

to be enforced; to save the kingdom's husbands from such wifely insurrection, he had no recourse but to secure a divorce—and find a replacement for his now-estranged trophy wife.

The book of Esther tells how the young beauty's success was spirited along by the guidance of an advisor of her own: an astute cousin named Mordecai (2:5-7). Believing that the opportunity of a lifetime needed to be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity, Mordecai placed his beautiful teenage cousin in the "Persian Idol," "Become-the-Next-Queen," "All-or-Nothing," beauty contest. After beating out her rivals in a hotly contested "Idol" competition (2:12-18, esp. v. 17), Esther took the crown, married the "rich and famous" but worthless King Xerxes I (also referred to as Ahasuerus). Though her hubby held sway over 127 provinces, from India to Ethiopia, he had trouble ascertaining and managing what was happening right under his nose: enter the wicked advisor Haman—an ancient Jew-hater!

Like many before him and after him, Haman just couldn't stand the Jews, and he stealthily hatched a plot to destroy them (3:1-11). When wise cousin Mordecai learned of dastardly Haman's plot (4:1-17), he informed the lovely Esther who, in turn, got the ear of her stupid husband (7:1ff). The plot to exterminate the Jews was thwarted; Haman was exposed and his family line was executed in the Jews' stead (7:10, 9:14).



SPRING QUEENING: continued

Despite the Hebrew Bible's explicit condemnation of intermarriage, this mysterious Bible book tells the story of how a shrewd Jewish guardian saw an opportunity to get his attractive ward into the Persian king's harem. In this case, his ambition is said to have been guided by Providence—as having happened "for such a time as this" (4:14). What time was it? It was time to help the Jews, given their placement in a world where they were utterly disdained and threatened with extinction at the hands of racist oppressors and fools in Persia. Back then, as today.

Yesterday's Jewish-extermination story was played out in ancient Persia, was it not? Today, forces and voices from ancient Persia—known to us as modern Iran—extol the virtues of a world without Jews (Israel), and call for Jewish destruction. History repeats itself, does it not?

I know there is trouble in the world for the Jews—and I sense that America is abandoning us. More importantly, however, I know that there are Esthers in the world, as well. My principal and principled question is: Will God call forth more and more to offset the abandonment?

In a world where Jews are abandoned and disdained, where Jews are valued at one moment and disregarded the next, I am wondering if you'll be resolute and say: I stand with God's will, His ways, and His means, and I do so by helping Zola Levitt Ministries.

Jews remember the story of Esther annually, through a holiday called "Purim." This year, Purim falls on March 21—what for Christians marks another holy day: Good Friday. If you believe with me that Jesus paid the price for our sins on that day, and if you agree with me that Israel's emergence is a providential prelude to an imminent Reckoning Day, will you help make "Good Friday" a really "good Friday" for the Jews?

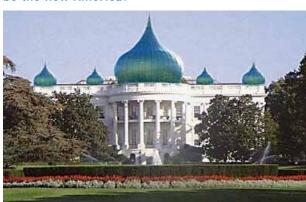
Those who believe that hatred of Israel is diabolical, and who subscribe to a belief that the Messiah is destined to appear soon need to stand up and make His presence known today!

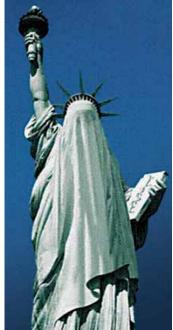
When this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, Sandra, the production team, and I will be in Israel revving the Zola Levitt Ministries engines, and telling His story through a soon-to-be-released TV series, *Ezekiel and the Middle East "Piece" Process.*

I know that millions will love it. I also know that only one in a thousand will actually help pay for it, so I invite you to join the army and—with Queen Esther of yesterday—use your energies and abilities to help the Jewish people.









Preparing For The Third Temple

Israel Today

The Temple Institute in
Jerusalem announced the completion
of the solid gold crown the Bible instructs Israel's high priest to wear while
conducting his duties at the Temple.

The crown took craftsmen carefully following descriptions contained in the Bible, Jewish holy texts, and various historical sources more than one year to make.

The crown will be on display in Jerusalem's Old City until the time that the Third Temple is built on the Temple Mount and Israel's priestly caste resumes its activities there.

The Temple Institute has for decades been preparing the garments and articles needed for the day the Temple is rebuilt. Temple Institute Director Rabbi Chaim Richman told Israel National News the next task is the completion of architectural blueprints for the Third Temple, including cost projections and detailed electrical and plumbing schematics.

Jews: Keep Out!

Israel Today

A group of Israeli Jews who arrived at Jerusalem's Temple Mount to test freedom of religion for Jews in the Jewish state by praying at the ancient compound were turned away by police who claimed a previously unknown Muslim holiday was being celebrated there.

The officers were unable to come up with a name for the alleged Muslim holy day when questioned by the Jewish visitors. Israeli Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter recently threatened to arrest any Jew who was found praying atop the Temple Mount, which,

despite being Judaism's holiest site, is occupied and controlled by Islamic authorities that refuse to tolerate Jewish or Christian prayers.

One day out of the year today and ... how many days tomorrow? — Mark

Muslims Being Muslims-Desecrate Ancient Graves

By Ezra HaLevi, www.IsraelNationalNews.com

Jewish worshippers were stunned to find Arabs had desecrated the ancient graves of the Bible's Joshua, Caleb, and Nun (Joshua's father).

Joshua served as the Jewish Nation's Prime Minister from 1272 B.C. to 1300 B.C. (2488 to 2516 on the Hebrew calendar).



Members of the One Shechem organization that organizes

Caleb's grave

visits to the graves arrived in the village of Timnat (Kifl) Haress, near Ariel in

near Ariel in
Samaria, to prepare for a special prayer gathering, and discovered that Arab vandals had desecrated the village's Jewish tombs. The tombs of Yehoshua (Joshua) ben Nun, Nun, and Calev (Caleb) ben Yefuneh were covered with garbage and feces—both human and animal. Anti-Semitic and Nazi slogans and symbols had been painted in the area.

Nevertheless, organizers cleaned up the damage and worshippers gathered at the tombs that night for special prayers on the tenth of *Tevet*, the day *Kaddish* and other prayers are recited for those whose date of death is unknown, such as Calev ben Yefuneh.

Soldier – Iraqi Child: Unlikely Adoption

By Carrie Antlfinger, www.NYSun.com

Captain Scott Southworth expected to face violence. political



strife, and blistering heat when he was deployed to one of Baghdad's most dangerous areas.

But he didn't expect Ala'a Eddeen. Ala'a was 9 years old, strong of will but weak of body—he suffered from cerebral palsy and weighed just 55 pounds. He lived among about 20 kids with physical or mental disabilities at the Mother Teresa orphanage, under the care of nuns who preserved this small oasis in a dangerous place.

Then, around Christmas, a sister told Captain Southworth that Ala'a was getting too big. He would have to move to a government-run facility within a year.

"Best case scenario was that he would stare at a blank wall for the rest of his life," Captain Southworth said. To this day, he recalls the moment when he resolved that that would not happen.

"I'll adopt him," he said.

There were many reasons why he couldn't bring a handicapped Iraqi boy into his world. He had no wife or home; he knew nothing of raising a disabled child; he had little money, and planned to run for district attorney in his home county.

Just as important, Iraqi law prohibits foreigners from adopting Iraqi children.

Captain Southworth prayed and talked with family and friends.

His mother, who had cared for many disabled children, explained the difficulty. She also told him to take one step at a time and let God work.

Read the heartwarming story of this Christian man and the Iraqi boy at www.levitt.com/news

Treading on the American Flag

Some American Muslims recently trampled the American flag, declaring that Islam is to dominate all other religions. They called America "Crusaders against Islam" and the like. Remember as you watch the video at the link below that this demonstration did not take place in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, or Iran — but in the United States! Be sure to click on the related video links at the end.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLK1Xpc7SMQ





Israeli Eye Doctors Bring Light To Africa

BRIEFS

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

The vision of 61 residents of the Ivory Coast has been restored by two ophthalmologists from Wolfson Medical Center in Holon. Dr. Michael Paul and Dr. Alexander Weinstock took part in an "eye camp" organized by the Foreign Ministry's MASHAV (Center for International Cooperation).

The doctors worked as volunteers to remove cataracts from the eyes of mostly elderly patients. Cataracts, in which the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, are the major cause of blindness in Africa, and there are millions of such cases. Some of the patients had suffered irreversible damage in one eye due to traditional treatment, in which a porcupine's quill is stuck into the diseased eye to "push it in deeper," while the Israeli physicians' surgery saved sight in the other. In some cases, they were able to save even those eyes that had been poked with quills.

Many of the blind patients had been unable to work for decades. As a result of surgery, they were able to see their loved ones for the first time in years and to escape from dependence on others.

"We really did bring light unto the nations," said Paul. Hospital director

Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich said he was proud of the team for their important humanitarian act, "which brings honor to Israeli medicine."

Nazis Taught Arabs to Hate the Jews

By Jeffrey Goldberg, www.nytimes.com

The anti-Semitic worldview, generally speaking, is fantastically stupid. Anti-Semitic conspiracy literature not only posits crude and senseless ideas, but also tends to be riddled with typos, repetitions, and gross errors of grammar, and for this and other reasons I occasionally have trouble taking it seriously.

The German scholar Matthias Küntzel tells us this is a mistake, however. He takes anti-Semitism, and in particular its most potent current strain, Muslim anti-Semitism, very seriously indeed. And across the Muslim world, the very worst ideas about Jews—intricate, outlandish conspiracy theories about their malevolent and absolute power over world affairs—have become scandalously ubiquitous. Hezbollah and Hamas, to name two prominent examples, understand the world largely through the prism of Jewish power. Hezbollah officials employ language that shamelessly echoes Nazi propaganda, describing Jews as parasites

U.S. Torture Tactics

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

Young Iraqi child forced to "give five" by armed U.S. soldier.



and tumors and prescribing the murder of Jews as a kind of chemotherapy.

The question is not only why, of course, but how: how did these ideas, especially those that portray Jews as all-powerful, work their way into modern-day Islamist discourse? The notion of the Jew as malevolently omnipotent is not a traditional Muslim notion. Jews do not come off well in the Koran—they connive and scheme and reject the message of the Prophet Mohammed—but they are shown to be, above all else, defeated.

Mohammed, we read, conquered the Jews in battle and set them wandering. In subsequent centuries Jews lived among Muslims, and it is true that their experience was generally healthier than that of their brethren in Christendom,

but only so long as they knew their place; they were ruled and taxed as second-class citizens and were often debased by statute. In the Jim Crow Middle East, no one believed the Jews were in control.

Obviously, then, these modern-day ideas about Jewish power were imported from Europe, and Küntzel makes a bold and consequential argument: the dissemination of European models of anti-Semitism among Muslims was not haphazard, but an actual project of the Nazi Party, meant to turn Muslims against Jews and Zionism.

Read Goldberg's review of Küntzel's book *Jihad and Jew-hatred*— *Islamism, Nazism, and the Roots of 9/11.* (180 pp. Telos Press Publishing. \$29.95) at www.levitt.com/news

Iran Bans Women's Boots: Moral Police Crackdown

Agence France-Presse

Several clerics sitting as MPs in the Iranian parliament have criticized the Tehran police chief for showing excessive zeal by ordering a crackdown on women's high boots.

The police launched a "winter" crack-down on unIslamic dress, following an unusually vigorous summer drive against women whose clothing was deemed flimsy. [See *Levitt Letter*, July '07, p. 16]

Tehran police chief Ahmad Reza Radan said women who wear high boots with their trousers tucked-in would be targeted by the moral police, as well as those who sport hats instead of headscarves and short tight winter coats.

Radan described such fashions as an example of *Tabarroj*, an Islamic term which means revealing one's beauty and bodily contours to unrelated men.



An Iranian woman wearing modern fashion crosses a street in Tehran in 2006. (AFP/File/Behrouz Mehri)

The drive has been criticized by some moderates but the police have insisted the crackdown is popular with the public and necessary to improve security in society.

Iran & Egypt Probe Normalization

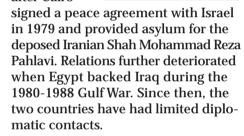
The Jerusalem Post

A senior Iranian envoy held talks with Egyptian officials and religious leaders on ways of restoring diplomatic ties, severed nearly thirty years ago over bilateral and regional disputes.

Ali Larijani, head of Iran's powerful National Security Council, told reporters in Cairo, "So far, we are on a positive track. The dialogue and the discussions

are going on, but we should not be hasty."

Tehran cut diplomatic ties after Cairo



In a speech in May, Iranian hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offered to restore ties with Egypt, a strong U.S. ally. At the time, Ahmadinejad said his country was ready to open an embassy in Cairo as soon as Egypt agreed to do the same in Tehran.

But several issues still remain to be addressed before resuming diplomatic ties with Cairo. Egypt has said that a resumption of ties could only take place if Iran takes down a large mural of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's assassin, Khaled el-Islambouli, and changes the name of a street honoring him. El-Islambouli was one of the army officers who killed Sadat during a military parade in 1981. Egypt executed him by firing squad soon thereafter.

Several times over the last few years, Tehran has said it would change the street name, but the image of el-Islambouli shouting behind bars marked with a Star of David continues to loom down over the street bearing his name.

In God We Still Trust

Gary Bauer, End of Day Report

Last spring, many Americans were shocked to discover that the new \$1 Presidential coins no longer included "In God We Trust" on their face. Instead, the phrase had been moved to the rim of the

coin, where it was unnoticeable and virtually unreadable.



Then, because of a mint "mistake," countless dollar coins were minted that didn't have "In God We Trust" on the rim, either. Atheists celebrated the development, but millions of Americans were not amused.

Legislation introduced by Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Robert Byrd (D-WV) to return "In God We Trust" to its historic place on the face

of the coin has passed both houses of Congress. Congratulations! The people spoke, and it made a difference.



Dry Bones HER HEAVY WORK LOAD









www.drybonosblog.com

Ms. Magazine Refuses Ad On Israel's Women

By Nissan Ratzlav-Katz, www.IsraelNN.com

The widely distributed women's magazine *Ms.* has rejected a paid advertisement by the American Jewish Congress that was intended to draw attention to leading women office-holders in Israel's government. Turning down the ad, *Ms.* magazine editors initially expressed worries about a "firestorm" as a result of the ad's publication, but later added that it was rejected for being partisan to the Israel's Kadima party.



The American Jewish Congress noted that the advertisement "did nothing more controversial than call attention to the fact that women currently occupy three of the most significant positions of power in all three branches of the Israeli government—judicial, legislative and executive."

Ms. magazine's Executive Editor Kathy Spillar said, "Because two of the women in this ad were from the same political party," that showed favoritism, and the magazine's policy is not to get involved in the domestic politics of another country.

According to Director of the American Jewish Congress' Commission for Women's Empowerment, Harriet Kurlander, when she tried to place the ad, she was told it "will set off a firestorm" and that "there are very strong opinions" on the subject. A *Ms.* representative told Ms. Kurlander that the magazine "would love to have an ad from you on women's empowerment, or reproductive freedom, but not on this." The representative failed to elaborate on what "this" referred to, and no one identified what "subject" evoked the "strong opinions."

"Since there is nothing about the ad itself that is offensive, it is obviously the nationality of the women pictured that the management of *Ms*. fears their readership would find objectionable. For a publication that holds itself out to be in the forefront of the women's movement, this is nothing short of disgusting and despicable," stated American Jewish Congress President Richard Gordon.

Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

You can increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses in processing them, plus save your time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, our ministry will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit card.

If you wish to use your **checking account** for donations, please follow directions numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 below:

- 1. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th
- 2. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other
- 3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month's gift.

The monthly transfers will begin in about 4 we	eeks, and you can cancel at any time.
4. Signature	(required for processing)
5. Printed Name	Date Signed
If you wish to use your credit/debit card for dona	ations, please follow directions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 below.
Your charge date will be between the 15th and 2	20th of each month. You may cancel at any time.
6. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$	88 \$12 \$16 Other
7. Credit card: MasterCard Visa C	Discover AMEX Card ID# required

8. Credit card #: ______ Exp. date ___/___

9. Signature _______(required for processing)

10. Printed Name ______ Date Signed ______

ZLM Bulletin Board

Dell: Two Thumbs Down

It is not easy to win this ministry's "Two Thumbs Down" award, which is bestowed about every two years.

Prospective recipients must not only shortchange this ministry in one way or another, but also exhaust our patience in seeking a remedy. Whether you visit www.ihatedell.net or www.ihatedell.org, you will find customers' pet peeves ranging from sales and service misrepresentation to ineffective overseas customer service agents who are difficult to understand because of their broken English and poor telephone connections. Searching "Dell" at www.badbusiness bureau.com yields roughly 700 complaints.



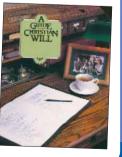
Jeff Is Jewish

Many viewers and readers are surprised to learn that Jeff is every bit as Jewish as Zola. Jeff attended Hebrew school at Yeshiva Academy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and had his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El, also in Harrisburg. His wife, Patty, is Jewish and (not coincidentally) so are his two sons, Jacob and Zachary. Jeff became a completed Jew in 1973, primarily through the witness of an individual handing out tracts on the street.

Why Review Your Will?

Having any kind of a will usually is better than no will at all. Life-changing events often necessitate updating estate plans. For example, if your estate changes, family situations evolve, you move to another state, or tax laws change, you probably will want to re-evaluate your will. The passage of time can impact your preferences and charitable interests. To request a free *Christian Will Workbook* with any purchase

or contribution, please checkmark the box located in the middle of the left-hand column of our order page 32. If you would like to know of a believing attorney near you, please write to Mark's attention in our office.



Our Program-1st with HD

On January 27, Zola Levitt Presents was the first weekly ministry television program to begin broadcasting in High Definition. If you subscribe to DirecTV and have an HD television set, tune into channel 377 on DirecTV for an extra clear picture. You can also see our HD broadcasts on any of the six TCT digital broadcast stations (consult our TV airing schedule at www.levitt.com or request a free copy by mail). The TCT network airs Zola Levitt Presents each Sunday evening at 7:30 and Saturday morning at 6:30, Central Time.

"Come Home!"



HebrewLesson

Irony and Redemption By John J. Parsons



פְּרוּת שָׁלַח לְעַמּוֹ

He sent redemption to his people (Psalm 111:9)



Irony and Redemption

When Moses came with the message, "Let my people go," he told Pharaoh that the LORD made a distinction *(pedut)* between Israel and the other nations (Ex. 8:23). When the first Passover was instituted, this distinction was expressed as the "ransom price" of the death of the firstborn of Egypt, both man and beast (Ex. 4:23; 12:29, Isa. 43:3). Consequently the Exodus was to be commemorated by the Jewish people through the consecration of the firstborn: All firstborn sons of Israel were called to be God's priests, responsible for offering sacrifices on behalf of their families (Ex. 13:2,12).

After the Exodus from Egypt, however, the Israelites committed the grievous sin of the Golden Calf, of which only the tribe of Levi was not guilty. Consequently the LORD decreed that the Levites were to take the place of the firstborn sons as priests of Israel (Num. 3:12-13). This substitution was represented by means of *Pidyon ha-ben* (the "redemption of the firstborn"), when a father would "redeem" his son by giving five shekels of silver to a priest a month after his son's birth (Num. 18:16, Ex. 13:13).

Jesus, of course, was the firstborn son of Mary and Joseph, of the royal tribe of Judah. After her "purification period" was completed (described in Lev. 12:1-8), Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to fulfill the requirements of *Pidyon ha-ben* (see Luke 2:22-40). Jesus' first time at the Temple, then, authorized the Levites to offer sacrifice on His behalf, though this was ultimately (and ironically) fulfilled at the end of His life when He was executed by their counsel:

"But one of them, Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said to them, '...it is better for us that one man should die for the people, that the whole nation should not perish.' He did not say this of his own accord, but being High Priest that year prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad." (John 11:49-52)

The irony is that those who were appointed as His priests were the very ones who

unwittingly made Jesus their Redeemer! (This greater redemption is called *pedut olam* — everlasting redemption — in Hebrews 9:12). *Pedut shalach le'ammo:* God has indeed sent a ransom for His people in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus, holy and awesome is His name!



Jesus & Judaism

By Jeff Strickler, www.StarTribune.com

Messianic Jews are Jews who believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. Many Jews think that that makes them Christians, but many Christians still consider them Jews. And a whole lot of people are confused.

"The question I get asked the most is, 'How can you be Jewish and believe in Jesus?'" said Ed Rothman, the rabbi at Seed of Abraham Messianic Congregation in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. "And I always say, 'Don't forget that all of Jesus' disciples were Jewish'"

In some ways, Messianic Jews are left facing the worst of both religious worlds. They're subject to anti-Semitism by some non-Jews and shunned by some of their fellow Jews. It could be worse. In Israel, Messianic synagogues have been burned down in protest, said Jan Markell, a Minnesota author and radio talk-show host who, like Rothman, was a pioneer in the state's Messianic movement during the 1970s.

The seeming contradiction between

Judaism and the belief in Jesus as the Messiah disappears if you keep in mind that the term Jewish can be used in cultural and ethnic contexts as well as religious ones, Markell said. Members of Messianic congregations are looking for a worship experience that plugs into their background.

"Many Jews assume that to follow Yeshua [Jesus] is to leave the faith of their fathers and become non-Jews. That's a misperception."

Rothman's parents were shunned by some members of their Conservative Jewish synagogue when he broke away from the fold.

"My parents tolerated my decision because I'd already gone through my surfing phase, my rock 'n' roll phase, and my dirt bike phase, and they expected that within a year I'd move on to a new phase," he said. "When they saw how it grounded me, they said, 'This isn't for us, but it's the best thing that has happened to you."

Zola also dealt with these questions. They are the subject of his book and teaching CD, *How Can A Gentile Be Saved?* Order on pages 31 and 32.



First Temple Seal Found in Jerusalem By John Parsons

Recently I read a fascinating article about the discovery of a stone seal that dates back to the time of the First Temple. The seal, found during an archaeological excavation just outside the Old City section of Jerusalem, has the name *Temach* inscribed in *Ketav Ivri* (First Temple Script). Nehemiah 7:55 identifies *Temach* as a group of Temple servants who returned to help rebuild the Temple after the Babylonian Exile.

According to *The Jerusalem Post* report, the seal is engraved with two bearded priests standing on either side of an incense altar with their hands raised forward in a position of worship. There is some question

whether this depicts a Babylonian cult scene or something else. At any rate, I thought this was interesting enough to post here, since you can see the Hebrew script that was commonly used before Ezra the Scribe standardized *Ketav Ashuri* (the Aramaic-style lettering) for the Jewish people. Note that Yeshua endorsed Ezra's compilation of Tanakh and use of *Ketav Ashuri*, since He referred to *kotzo shel Yod*—the tiniest stroke of the *Yod* (i.e., "tittle" in Matt. 5:18; Luke 16:17), and these calligraphic elements that were not used with the ancient-style script.



"Temach" תמח (tetav Ashusi)

Temple Script (ketav Ivri)

Carter's Recycled Rationales for Killing Jews

By Mark Levitt

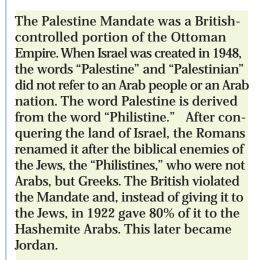
Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah [and] against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. Zechariah 12:2-3

Does it fulfill prophecy when a recent American president, a professed Bible Believer, carries a vendetta against Israel?

The online slide show presentation at www.terrorismawareness.org/jimmy-carters-war reviews and refutes the most persistent claims of anti-Semites and anti-Zionists who seek Israel's destruction. How can a man so educated and influential fall for such propaganda—hook, line and sinker? It must be the devil. Below is a portion of the presentation's content. We've posted a transcription at www.levitt.com/news.

Carter claims Israel is the problem. But Israel is only one-sixth of one-percent of the landmass of the Middle East. Its population constitutes only two percent of the Middle East's total population.

Israel does not seek to control or colonize Palestinian land. The Middle East's disputed land did not belong to the Arabs. For 400 years, it was ruled by the Turks. It was part of the Ottoman Empire (1553-1922). The European powers created Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel out of the ruins of the empire once ruled by the Ottoman Turks.



Israel is not an apartheid state. More than a million Arabs living in Israel enjoy the benefits and equal rights of the only free and democratic society in the Middle East.

Israel's security fence is not a prison. In fact, it was not built to keep Palestinians in, but to keep Palestinian terrorists out. To date it has reduced Palestinian attacks by 90%.

Israel has not occupied Arab land in order to colonize it. All territory that Israel's armies have occupied was first used by the Arab states to attack with the goal of destroying Israel and pushing the Jews into the sea—in 1948,

1967, 1973, 2001, and 2006.

To prevent more attacks, Israeli troops occupied the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, and Southern Lebanon in 1982. After the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords, Israel withdrew most of its

military from the West Bank. Without a peace agreement, Israel withdrew its troops from Southern Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza in 2005. Each time Israel withdrew its troops, the Palestinians responded by launching terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens.





Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

Don't Have a Dime, But I'll Give You My Time

I want to thank you for sending me the newsletter even though I haven't been able to contribute regularly as I once did. I get your program on ABC Family at 1:00 a.m. in my area and I don't have a VCR, so I either stay up or get up to watch. Though Zola is missed, I think Jeff is a wonderful teacher and I appreciate Sandra's wonderful contribution also. I'm sorry this great program isn't more available, because it is probably the most relevant and informative. I really appreciate you, and if I find steady employment I will become a regular partner again.

Honesty, Integrity, Clarity

Dear Sandra, Jeff, and Mark,

The "Charity Navigator" rating of ZLM only confirms the quality of this ministry. I am consistently delighted by the level of honesty, integrity, and clarity in the teaching and presentation of TV programming, and the *Levitt Letter*. It is an honor to be a friend of ZLM. Shalom, V.H.

LEVITT LETTER IS My Resource

Dear Friends at ZLM,

With much appreciation I received my most recent complimentary issue of the *Levitt Letter*. As a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church, I have much sadness relative to my denomination's anti-Israel policies and have moved away from them to other paths for my spiritual journey with the living Messiah, my Emmaus Walk friend, Jesus. I use the *Levitt Letter* as one of my resources.

— M.H.M.

From J.G.

I am shipping off to Iraq for a year and your newsletters are the single best resource that I have for talking to other Marines about our role in the bigger picture of the End Times... thank you greatly and keep up the great work!





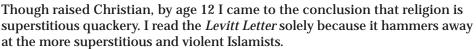
Terrific! Terrific! Terrific!

Dear Sandra, Jeff, and Crew,

The new look of the newsletter is much more compatible with travel. The content remains informational, educational, thought provoking, and to the point. Terrific! Terrific! Terrific! Shalom. P.B.

Opiate Of The Masses?

Jeff,



Every religion borrowed and stole from previous cults; this includes Islam, which combines Jewish, Christian, and Arabic pagan scriptures and tales. Mohammed was simply a politician and scriptural thief; he was not a prophet—nor was Joseph Smith or anyone else. Islam has reigned supreme for 1,400 years because it is a terrorist organization that slaughters all dissenters. Religions are indeed the opiate of the masses; the superstitious gullible yearly pour millions into the bottomless coffers of the swindling clerics of each and every sect.

I pulled myself up by my own bootstraps and have advised the governors of two states. I am a successful real estate broker and have traveled extensively throughout Latin America. You may reprint this. — S.A.H.

Thanks for writing, S.A.H.—

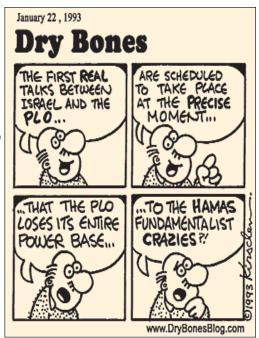
You have advised two governors, are a "successful real estate broker" and have pulled yourself up from your bootstraps, as you say. I am honestly impressed. I am a former high school flunky. I got into college on academic probation in my late twenties and, eventually, went on to get a master's, doctorate, become a college professor, and now this. You came to the conclusion that "religion is superstitious quackery;" I, by contrast, came to the conclusion that Jesus didn't just save my soul, but saved my life—and gave me one far greater than I

would have otherwise had. For that and other reasons, I do not share your disdain. Thanks for sharing it with me, however. And do write again if you feel inclined. —Jeff

Believe it or not, this cartoon is a "Golden Oldie" from fifteen years ago! Back in January of 1993 Israel started negotiations with the PLO just as they began to lose their power base to Hamas. I don't think I could draw a more pertinent comment today about today's situation.

What's going on?! Sometimes I feel like I'm in the movie "Groundhog Day", waking up each morning to the same day... but which everybody else thinks is new!

So how about you?
Do you have that "Groundhog", I've been here before, Deja Vu, feeling also?
—Yaakov Kirschen



Mailing List Management

Dear ZLM.

I have received the *Levitt Letter* for the past several years. It tells me facts not reported on television or in the printed news media.

I have been watching with interest the fulfillment of the last-days events as recorded in Ezekiel. They have followed God's Word faithfully, which is why I understood all that happened when Israel became a modern nation.

Question: Since you do not charge for a subscription to the *Levitt Letter*, how long can someone receive it without making a contribution, and how do you know when they move or die? My brother-in-law is 84 years old and has moved in with us from another state. The publication stopped going to his former address some time ago. I think you see the situation. Perhaps you should mention this in your newsletter. Please accept the enclosed contribution and add the following addresses to your mailing list.

May God continue to lead and guide you until we meet with Him, G.M.G.

Dear G.M.G.—

As a rule, we like to hear from people once a year—if only to say: "I read the *Levitt Letter*, but can't afford to make a donation." That, alone, would prompt us to retain a subscription. —Jeff

Inmates Write Us

Dear ZLM,

I have agreed with everything in the *Levitt Letter* and only wish I'd known about you long before I came to prison. I enjoy your TV program and appreciate the no-nonsense information. I'd like my donation to go to the Lone Soldier Fund; I served my country for twenty years and understand the deprivation encountered by a soldier.

Boker Tov to you all, H.R.

Dear Sir.

I received the 16 Levitt Letters I requested, but the mailroom refused to let me have more than one copy. I explained that I wanted to hand them out, and asked that they be put in the chapel, but was refused. I am truly sorry that I wasted your time and expense. I am quite sure that if they had been Muslim, I could have handed them out.

Please forgive me; and thank you, J.D.A.

Hey, J.D.A.—

Don't worry about it. I appreciate that you're trying to advocate for what we do. Really. — Jeff



Jesus, Rapture Us Outta Here!

Greetings,

My wife and I truly enjoy your ministry. Dr. Seif is a great addition. After years of study, we have come to the conclusion that the pre-Tribulation rapture teaching is false and that it is a big part of the reason the Church is "asleep at the wheel." The majority of Christians we know say that the End Times are nothing for us to worry about because Jesus is going to rapture us out of here and the Tribulation will be the problem of the unsaved only. This seems to be why Israel is not on the minds of many Christians today. Which side of this

issue does ZLM come down on? Grace be with you, —M. and T. M.

Dear M. and T.M. —
Zola and Dr. Tom
McCall co-authored
Raptured. It evenhandedly
debates the various views of when
the Rapture might happen and finds
the pre-Tribulation view to be the
most credible. You can order a copy
of this book from page 31. —Mark

Free Podcasts!

I want to thank you guys for making some of Zola's audio teaching tapes available via iTunes. His teachings have blessed me very much. Please continue adding these teachings to iTunes for the benefit of all your listeners. May God richly bless you, J. F.

Dear Readers—

Take J.F.'s advice and get Free Podcasts! Visit www.levitt.com/podcasts.html to download copies of our weekly television programs, etc. Just follow the directions once you get there. —Mark

Bible With A View

Hi,

If you don't already have this, how about a DVD "Bible Narration" product that is both audio and video? This

could be a trip through the Bible as you watch the lands, maps, etc. and listen to someone read The Word. Or you could just listen and ignore the video while doing something else, like painting, etc.

This would be great for laptops and home PCs.

Thank you, M. L.

Dear M.L. —

What a terrific idea... so worthwhile, in fact, you can order precisely what you've suggested at:

www.parable.com/thebiblechannel or by calling (724) 251-9070 during office hours EST. Watchword Productions contracted with our ministry more than a decade ago to use our on-location television footage from Israel as a backdrop to Bible reading that is accompanied by music. You can order the whole New Testament or just the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, or Revelation. —Mark

Zola Levitt Ministries Is Too Negative!

Dear Jeff—

I have always looked forward to receiving and reading your publication. I must say, however, that I am very disappointed in your [ministry's] recent comments in "A Note from Mark" on page 7 of your January *Levitt Letter*. Shame on you. It is beneath any supposedly Christ-centered ministry to cast doubt on or speak negatively of any other ministry. This is never pleasing to the Lord. Is jealousy a factor here? I hope you are able to see your wrongdoing in this and repent. — Yours, E.F.

Thanks for writing, E. F. In speaking of "Christ" never being "negative," I must say that I am wondering if you are talking about the biblical personality who made a whip of cords and drove moneychangers out of a Temple, called folk "broods of vipers" and, every now and again, rebuked His followers for their lack of faith. If you are—and I assume you are—I encourage you to reassess your gracious but overly simplistic perspective.—Jeff

A Falafel Story: Only in Israel

By Laura Ben-David, www.lsraelNationalNews.com

When trying to explain to people the uniqueness of Israel and Israelis, I find that a story speaks volumes. This story speaks a library.

One evening, after traveling we stopped at an unfamiliar falafel store in Jerusalem. We were hungry and tired, and looking forward to some quick food before returning home.

Glancing around, we determined that only falafel was sold there. The proprietor watched us expectantly. As I moved toward the counter, he asked, "Do you want falafel?" Seeing nothing else on the menu, I said, "Yes, just deciding how many."

He replied that, unfortunately, there was no pita left, but would I like him to run to the store and buy some? Not seeing any other way to hold the falafel balls and salad together, I replied that yes, I would very much like for him to get some pita for our falafels. Then I realized that he hesitated because he was the only one manning the store. So, I offered to watch the store while he was gone. He accepted and dashed off.

While waiting, I wondered why the owner would trust a total stranger, and what I would do if someone came in and wanted falafel. I would tell them we were waiting for the pita. This was true, of course. A customer who had already eaten got up to pay. This, I wasn't ready for. He seemed to have lots of change, so I offered to take his money for him. After all, that was my job at the moment, wasn't it?

The customer briefly sized me up, perhaps a bit suspicious, then finally explained that he had only 11 shekels, while the falafel he ordered was priced at 14. He wondered if he could come back the next day to pay the difference.



I was momentarily stumped—though not more than if he'd asked me for change! I asked the man if the proprietor knew him, but he said "No." He suggested that I just describe him as "the religious man who sat at the corner table." I thought, "Hmm...that kind of describes 90% of the customers, but what the heck."

Moments later, the owner returned and I gave him the 11 shekels along with the explanation. He was positively delighted! I had done exactly what he would have done. I was even more delighted.

Realize that in Israel, a perfect stranger may tell you to lose weight, but that same stranger will also trust you with the shirt on his back. In five years, I may have learned how to navigate the Israeli system; but in those 15 minutes, I was *part* of the Israeli system. And it felt really good.

Nap = Long-Term Memory

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

If you "sleep on it" by taking a daytime siesta, you may find that the nap speeds up the consolidation of your long-term memory, according to new research conducted at the University of Haifa's Center for Brain and Behavior Research.

A 90-minute nap during the day is enough to quicken the storage of long-term memory, said Prof. Avi Karni and Dr. Maria Korman, who have just published their research in the prestigious journal *nature neuroscience*.

"We still don't know the exact mechanism of the memory process that occurs during sleep, but the results of this research suggest the possibility of speeding up memory consolidation, and in the future we may be able to do it artificially," said Karni.

See the full article and how to improve your memory at www.levitt.com/news.

Treating Alzheimer's— Through The Nose

By Nicky Blackburn, www.lsrael21c.com

For Professor **Beka Solomon** it was obvious. If it isn't possible to send drugs to the brain to treat Alzheimer's disease the normal way because of the blood-brain barrier that prevents drugs from moving from the bloodstream into the brain, then send them through the nose instead.

Solomon, of the Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology Department at Tel Aviv University, has

been working in this field for the last 13 years after years of research in immunotherapy. She found in mouse trials that filamentous phages, a harmless bacterial virus found almost everywhere from the depths of the ocean to the lining of the stomach, can be an effective treatment against Alzheimer's disease when carried to the brain through the nose.

Alzheimer's is a debilitating disease that leads to progressive loss of memory and cognitive functions, and a great deal of suffering for both the person afflicted and their loved ones. In the U.S. alone, there are now more than five million people living with Alzheimer's, but there is currently no

drug on the market that can cure or effectively stop the progression of this disease.

The cause of this disease and other neurological diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is widely concluded to be plaque formation, which causes inflammation in the brain. Up to now, scientists working on a cure for the disease have focused on dissolving and preventing plaque formation, but most have come up against two problems: firstly, the difficulty in developing drugs that pass through the highly selective blood-brain barrier; and secondly, unwanted side-effects of inflammation and hemorrhaging.

In her research, Solomon shows that by administering non-lytic filamentous phages in small doses through the nasal passages, the phages have a direct and rapid route to the brain. There they lock onto the extracellular plaques associated with Alzheimer's and dissolve them, reducing inflammation in the brain without any side effects. The body then gets rid of the waste naturally.

To read about this treatment's clinical trials and wider medical applications, please see the full article at www.levitt.com/news



"The Single Greatest Zionist Enterprise"

www.JPost.com

Jewish immigration into Israel dropped 6% in 2007, reaching a 20-year low



of just under 19,700 immigrants, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption announced.

The best years for *aliyah* were just after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Over 400,000 Jews arrived in Israel between 1989 and 1991. Since then the immigration rates have been dropping steadily, a trend aggravated by the outburst of the Second Intifada: 60,000 immigrants arrived into Israel in 2000, but only 35,000 arrived in 2002.

The most significant drop was in immigration from the former Soviet Union, with 15% fewer arriving in Israel than in 2006.

Jerusalem was hailed by the ministry as the leader in immigrant absorption, with over 14% of immigrants deciding to settle there. Minister of Immigration Absorption Ya'acov Edri said that the decline in Jewish immigration "should be a wakeup call. We should do everything we can to increase the rate of aliyah. The ministry intends to invest great resources to that end in the coming years. Aliyah is the single greatest Zionist enterprise in our sixty years of statehood."

In addition to upholding Israel's population needs in our prayers, we need to pray for Jewish Believers in Jesus in Israel, period. On the basis of Jewish Christians no longer being considered "real" Jews by some of the religious in Israel, some of those Jewish Believers in Jesus (along with their supporters) are being rejected by some authorities and are being escorted to the borders to be ejected. Israel wants and needs more Jews; sadly, however, some feel that though Israel needs Jews, it doesn't need ones like me—or friends like you. —Jeff

E.U. "Aid"

By Nissan Ratzlav-Katz, www.IsraelNN.com

Security agents of the Israel Airport Authority (IAA) discovered two tons of material used to manufacture explosives on a truck supposedly delivering humanitarian aid for residents of the Palestinian Authority. The discovery was made at the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) checkpoint at the Kerem Shalom Crossing into southern Gaza, a transit point for goods from Egypt destined for the PA.

The bomb-making ingredient was found by IAA officials during routine and random inspections of vehicles supposedly carrying humanitarian supplies into southern Gaza. According to security sources, the chemical compound, made from fertilizer, is used as fuel for PA rockets and in the manufacture of incendiary devices. The quantity of material discovered was sufficient for hundreds of rockets.

EEC 2 SUGAR

EXPORTED FROM EU

Security officials have yet to determine the source and destination of the explosives supplies.

The smuggling incident was the second of its kind in less than a month. In late December, IDF soldiers discovered 6.5 tons of potassium nitrate hidden in sacks marked "sugar" and earmarked for needy Arabs in Gaza. Potassium nitrate is a banned substance in Gaza, Judea, and Samaria due to its use by terrorists for the manufacturing of explosives and Kassam rockets. The bags were marked as humanitarian aid from the European Union, Gaza's biggest source of assistance.

While security officials investigating the December case do not assume that the potassium nitrate was sent by the European Union, they have noted that terrorist groups have learned to take advantage of such shipments. An IDF source said at the time, "This is another example of how the terror organizations exploit the humanitarian aid that is delivered to the Palestinian population in Gaza with Israel's approval."

A Movie Worth Seeing: "Against All Odds"

By Stan Goodenough, www.lsraelInsider.com

This year, Israel celebrates the 60th anniversary of its miraculous rebirth.

All those who love the God of this ancient and modern land and its modern and ancient people, will rejoice at the double miracle of their survival. And we will declare our faith in the glorious future and hope that lies ahead for them.

In 2006, a Christian filmmaker produced the 13-part docudrama series, *Against All Odds*. It has been screened in the United States by local churches, and it will be screened by PBS according to the website: www.AgainstAllOddsTV.com.

Investigative journalist Michael Greenspan describes some of the thoughts that went through his mind when producer Bill McKay asked him to consider presenting the series.

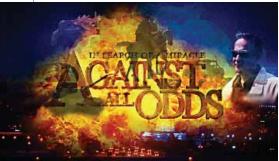
"A production company in L.A. was doing a film about unexplainable phenomena during Israel's wars. Some of the stories were actually being called 'miracles.' They wanted to know if I was interested.... Personally, I find it hard to believe in miracles....

"Yet I couldn't escape the possibility that this assignment might help me explain how my people managed to survive two thousand years of exile, and then build a nation out of almost nothing. If there are miracles, Israel itself has to be one.

"Born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, it was just one day old when it was attacked by twelve Arab armies that the world fully expected would annihilate it. Israel didn't even have an army. There was one tank and five cannons with which to fight back an armada against them. And yet, Israel won. How?

"Every time Israel has been attacked,

Pentagon and Kremlin leaders have declared defeat as inevitable. In 1973, the odds of surviving were so impossible that Prime Minister Golda Meir considered suicide. The cabinet drew up plans for a government in exile. Complete annihilation was a certainty.... The military experts at West Point won't study



Israel's wars, because the outcomes are too impossible.

"How did Hebrew become the only dead language to be revived after 2,000 years? Why would millions of people from around the world leave their homes and move to a desert wasteland to build new lives for themselves? How did these people manage to turn a land of more than 80 percent desert into one of the largest food and flower exporters in the world? Why have incredible achievements in science, medicine, and new technologies happened here in greater concentration than anywhere else?

"There are no logical answers. Some say these things can only be explained as miracles. But are they? I decided to take the assignment."

In a powerful, moving and effective way, *Against All Odds* proclaims loudly to the people of Israel: Behold your God.

It is He who has brought them back home, and it is He who has promised to keep them in their Land even if the whole world musters itself together to get them out.

That's what I'm talking about. Can't wait to see it! — Jeff

Read more at www.levitt.com/news

TV AIRING SCHEDULE (below)

British Airways Bans Cross—Update

www.aina.org

A Christian British Airways employee who sued the company after it required her to cover up a cross necklace while on the job has lost her discrimination suit, but she vows to return to work wearing the cross. [see *Levitt Letter*, Jan 2007 p. 22]

"No Christian should be forced to hide her faith in the workplace, particularly when a double-standard exists, targeting only Christians for discriminatory treatment," said her lawyer. "This case should be of particular interest to the American customers of British Airways who understand and value religious liberty."

Regarding appealing the case, Eweida commented, "It's not over until God says it's over."

Tola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule



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FEATURE ITEM

The Age of Terror TV Series

Eight 30-Minute TV Programs on Two DVDs

When God chose Israel as His people, He not only placed them at the crossroads of history, but also at the center of the empires of their times. Time and again, this little country has endured siege and upheaval, destruction and exile, only to rise from the ashes and start anew. In this series, Zola takes you from the terrors of the ancient past to presentday conflicts and the battles yet to come.

In each of these programs, Zola is joined in the studio by Walid Shoebat, an ex-Muslim terrorist who was born in

Bethlehem. Walid provides unique insights into the world of terrorism and sounds a clear trumpet of warning concerning the days ahead. His testimony of faith is poignant and his view of biblical prophecy commands your attention.

The Assault on Israel Visiting Dor on Israel's coast, Zola paints a picture of Israel's ancient enemies, the Phoenicians and Philistines, He highlights the many assaults from foreign powers against God's Chosen Nation and suggests that the coming antiChrist may be of Greco-Syrian heritage.

History of the Mount Atop the Mount of Olives, Zola presents the fascinating history of the Temple Mount, the place that saw God save Isaac from sacrifice, that saw Temples raised and Temples destroyed, and where restored Israel looks forward to a final Temple that will herald Messiah's return.

Rewriting History At the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount, Zola presents the history of the area and the current efforts by the Muslims to expand their place of worship within the Mount: excavations that have led to bulges and a weakness within the supporting Temple Mount walls.

Mark of the Beast From the Mount of Olives, Zola pictures the antiChrist entering the future Temple and claiming to be God. Antiochus, a Syrian king who in 168 B.C. violated the Holy of Holies and defiled the Temple with unclean sacrifice, was a forerunner of this antiChrist.

Battle of the Gods On location at the Dor Museum, Zola talks about the Phoenicians and Philistines who settled in the area thousands of years ago, bringing their false gods with them. Elijah challenged the priests of Baal, and with fire from Heaven, the God of Israel proved that He alone is God.

A Cup of Trembling At a strategic position overlooking Jerusalem, Zola outlines the three key attacks this city has received since Israel became a state in 1948. Armageddon is next, and again the might of the world will not prevail.

Siege of the Holy Temple At the Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, Zola reviews the history of the Jewish Temples, from Solomon's to Herod's. The Roman siege of 70 AD, depicted behind Zola, symbolizes the many empires that have come against God's Holy Place.

When Good is Called Evil From Tel Aviv, Zola reminds the viewer that Israel is a safe, thriving country. Despite the media's efforts to portray it as a battleground, this little nation is a secure, efficient democracy in which deserts bloom and God's Chosen People await His coming.

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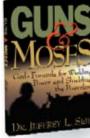
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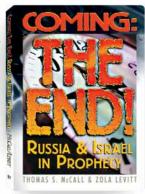


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