

Levitt

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



Letter



There is a biblical prosperity message here for both lovers and haters of Israel. —Jeff

The Curse of Plenty

By Rabbi Benjamin Blech
www.aish.com



Jews used to joke in a semi-serious sigh, if only Moses had had a better sense of direction and turned right instead of left, we could have been heirs to all those precious oilfields in the Middle East. Instead we got Israel, and the most even God could say about it is that it's a land flowing with milk and honey.

If we are really God's chosen people, why did He allot the most valuable natural resources to our neighbors? Why did the Arabs get the oil while we got stuck with so much sand and desert?

It's a puzzle that has perplexed us for years. But thanks to some remarkable findings by economists and social scientists, we've discovered an answer: it was divine providence that protected us from what Richard Auty labels "the curse of natural resources."

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Record Tourism To Israel

www.globes.co.il



A record 1.6 million tourists visited Israel in the first half of 2010, up 39% compared with the first half of 2009, and up 10% compared with the first half of 2008—the previous record, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

The Ministry of Tourism estimates income from incoming tourism (excluding air travel) reached \$1.55 billion in the first half of 2010. This figure is about 35% higher than the income from tourism in the first half of 2009 and similar to the figure in the first half of 2008.

See page 36 for upcoming Zola Tours.

Sea of Galilee tour boat

It seems, as a great deal of research now proves, countries rich in natural resources bear a burden that ends up stifling real growth and prosperity for their people. As counter-intuitive as it may seem, there is a link between abundance of natural resources and poor economic development. Petroleum producing countries are an excellent example. From 1965 to 1998 gross national product per capita in OPEC countries decreased on average by 1.3% while in the rest of the developing world per capita growth was on average 2.2%.

In the past few months, commentators have discussed the effects of this “curse of plenty” as it looms in the future for Afghanistan. It’s recently been discovered that there is approximately \$1 trillion worth of minerals beneath this seeming wasteland. So what does this mean for the country and its inhabitants? Many experts in third world resource politics argue that almost certainly it portends only bad things to come. Warlords and tribal chieftains will almost surely now have reason to fight for many decades to come because the treasures of victory are so enticing. A land flowing with titanium is not destined for tranquility.



And it isn't only conflict over newfound wealth that explains why a surfeit of natural resources so often ends up being a curse instead of a blessing. When countries have riches readily available just for the taking under their feet, they are not really motivated to make maximum use of their brains. Ingenuity is the product of need; resourcefulness, initiative and inventiveness are the ways people who have to struggle for prosperity grow to greatness.

Just imagine if in 1948 Jews had come to a land welcoming them with the oil reserves of their neighboring Saudi Arabia. We would never have seen the creation of the country that is a world leader in so many areas of scientific achievement, of medical breakthroughs, of pioneering accomplishments that are nothing short of miraculous. Without oil, Israelis realized that they had to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows—and their brows of course were the place they kept their brains.

That's why, in retrospect, the greatest blessing of Israel is that it wasn't cursed with an overabundance of resources that would make intelligence and brainpower unnecessary. All God chose to give us were milk and honey. Not because these are the two most valuable items in the world, but because they are the metaphors for the true blessings of life: Mother's milk, essential for well-being; and honey, sweetness that makes life worth living.

Human beings need lives of meaning. Sweet lives are the result of spiritual fulfillment. So God promises us that He will nurse us with the milk of His mother love and sustain us with the honeyed sweetness of His constant care and concern.

And who would trade that for all the oil in the world?



Mosque At Ground Zero?

On a Sunday in June, a multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalition of Americans opposed to Islamic violence and intolerance rallied at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City.



Port Authority Police and FDNY firefighters are seen here gathered beneath this banner.

(Below) America is a tolerant country that allows free worship for all its citizens. But our tolerance has limits. Do we have to tolerate the ideology of Muslims who preach intolerant Islam?



The head of the Israel College of the Bible, Dr. Erez Soref, flew in from Tel Aviv last week to be filmed for our new series on the Messianic Revival. We also interviewed my dear friend Dr. Michael Brown. These and others from within the Jewish-Believing world are helping me put together this story that ABC, CBS, NBC, or Fox News could never really get right.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



Another friend, Rabbi Marty Waldman, is the spiritual leader of one of the world's premier Messianic Jewish congregations. Baruch HaShem Congregation has grown from a small classroom to a massive, multi-million-dollar facility, frequented by swelling masses of people—Jews and non-Jews alike. It illustrates a maturing Messianic community—one you would appreciate knowing.

Baruch HaShem, Dallas, Texas



With Rabbi Marty and the elders' blessings, our film crew visited and taped profoundly inspirational footage for our TV series on the Messianic Revival. Our cameras captured the gorgeous building, the wonderful people, the dynamic worship music, dance, and the anointed message. I spoke that day, and clips of my message *The Miracle of the Modern Messianic Revival* will debut in each of the series' programs. Rabbi Marty also will appear with me, and you'll get to hear his heart and his story.

Through this four-part series, you will experience the revival that's taking place in the States, around the world, and particularly in Israel. This ministry's TV program is going to take you to it, walk you through it, and enable you to hear the voices that are

contributing to it. It'll be inspirational, informational, and evangelical.

We spend millions of dollars per year to broadcast on non-religious networks in order to reach an audience that misses out on Christian TV. Though it takes years before some viewers offer support, we believe these are tithes and offerings well invested. This Messianic Revival story is sure to bolster the faith of Jesus Believers who have no faith network yet.

Following the Revival series, our TV producer Ken Berg suggested that we create a fun- and fact-filled, interactive "Did you know?" mini-series. In a state-of-the-art college classroom, he wants me to walk viewers through a book of the Bible in a way that demonstrates how looking at it from a Jewish perspective makes the entire enterprise come alive. I'm thinking of taking on John's Gospel.

If you've ever experienced the blessings associated with sowing into Gospel ministry, **let me mention that we'll need some help** with the new TV series' production and distribution.

My wife, Patty, is joining me on our Fall 2010 Tour to the Holy Land, which pretty much guarantees that I'll be even more congenial than usual. Please think about joining us. It is late and space is limited, but if you call 214-696-9760, there's still a chance you can catch that ride and fly with us to the Middle East in October. If you can't, don't worry; there's another tour in March. See more info. on page 36.

Your messenger,

Jews Still In God's Plan

By David Ettinger
www.sbcBaptistPress.org



God has not turned His back on the Jewish people, **Bruce Mills** (above) told members of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship in Orlando, Fla.

Explaining that the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) “came from a Jew to Jews,” Mills said that God still loves the Jewish people and that “all Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26) when “the full number of the gentiles has come in” (Romans 11:25). Mills presented his views prior to the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Mills, a founding deacon at Jerusalem Baptist Church, used as his primary text Jeremiah 29:11—“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Mills pointed to a crucial moment in Israel’s history to illustrate that God still has a plan for the Jewish people. When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, the Roman governor said to the people, “I am innocent of this man’s blood... It is your responsibility!” (Matthew 27:24). The people then answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!” (Matthew 27:25).

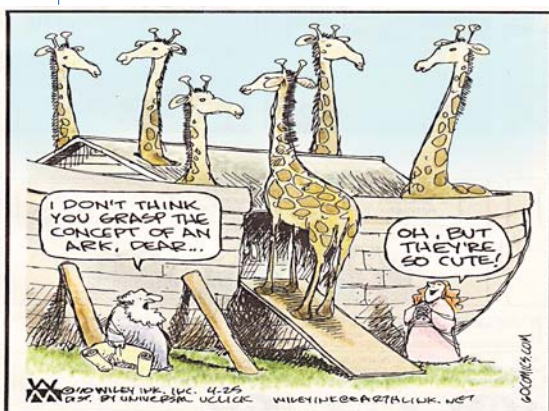
This statement of apparent condemnation, Mills said, “can also be taken as a proclamation of salvation. After all, it is by the blood of Jesus that all of us—Jew and gentile—are saved.” He went on to explain that, as the hymn declares, the blood of Christ is “‘the balm of Gilead’ that can heal the sin-sick soul,” both Jew and gentile.

Affirming that the Jewish people are still very much alive in the plan of God, Mills urged the Church to make them a priority in evangelism, not just a secondary option. “Salvation is from the Jews [John 4:22],” he said. “It’s not from the English, not from the Germans, and not from the French. Salvation is from the Jews. It is a fact of history. And Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, the King of the Jews, and Savior of the world.”

The message, Mills said, is clear: **The Church should be evangelizing the Jewish people because they are the conduit through which Christ came into the world.**

“Jesus is the only hope for both Jews and gentiles,” Mills concluded.

Ben Martin, an International Mission Board representative serving in Israel, told the group that the efforts of the Church to bring salvation to the Jewish people are proving fruitful as “more Jews know Christ today than at any time since the first century.”



Goliath's Hometown Uncovered

By Maayana Miskin
www.IsraelNationalNews.com



Philistine iron knife with ivory handle

An ongoing archaeological excavation in Tel Tzafit continues to unearth the ruins of what was once the city of Gat—described in the Bible as the hometown of Goliath. Professor Aren Maeir, who is directing the dig, spoke to Arutz Sheva's Hebrew-language news service to discuss the latest finds.

The site, inhabited at times by Canaanites and at other times by Philistines, has remnants from many periods of history. "We are focusing on the Canaanite period, the Philistine period, and the Israelite period, and for now we're primarily in the Philistine period," he said.

One of the most interesting finds was a piece of writing containing, among other things, Philistine names, some of which were similar to the name "Goliath."

"We've found a rich variety of artifacts"

showing that Gat was a major city at that time, he continued. "We are now discovering remnants from metal craft and bronze, and from the destruction of the city at the hands of King Chazael of Aram as described in the Second Book of Kings."

Findings show that Chazael and his army laid siege to the city until its residents had exhausted their food supply, then attacked. Dozens of buildings were found that were demolished by the invading army.

Other buildings appear to have collapsed in an earthquake, possibly the one mentioned at the beginning of the Book of Amos, Prof. Maeir said.

The relationship between the nation of Israel and the Philistines was more complex than people tend to assume, Maeir revealed. "The Philistines... were often more than just enemies. We can see this in the Bible as well, for instance, in the fact that Samson married a Philistine woman," he said. There appears to have been crossover between the two cultures—for example, findings show that elements of Philistine cooking became common among the Israelites as well. ★



Muslims Told to Change Prayer Direction

Muslims in Indonesia learned they have been praying in the wrong direction after the country's highest Islamic authority said its directive actually had people facing Africa instead of Mecca. Now they are to shift slightly to the northwest, the head of the MUI told Reuters. No need to knock down any mosques though.



Source: The Malaysian Insider

Israel, My Love

In 1973, I was thunderstruck by my first trip to the Holy Land. What an amazing, edifying and spiritual experience that was! I subsequently composed a music album, *Israel, My Love*, now available on CD and tape at our online store [and on p. 19].



In September [2000], I took my 66th tour of the Holy Land, if I'm counting right; but in any case, it was the best one of them all.

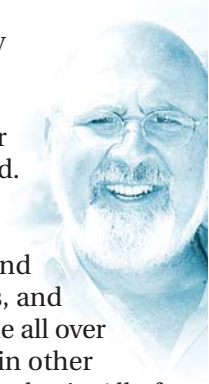
That's a comment I typically address to the pilgrims at our final banquet on each tour, and truly, I always mean it. Each time I see this wonderful Land, my love for it grows sweeter, and my eagerness to be there for my promised 1,000 years grows greater.

We are living through a very difficult time for the Promised Land, perhaps as difficult as any it's ever endured. When I tell people that Jerusalem has been destroyed to the ground 29 times and rebuilt after each destruction, they are saddened.

But when I stand with them on the Mount of Olives, look over this magnificent city, and remind them that it will be theirs not only for the Kingdom to come but for all eternity, they are overjoyed. Jerusalem will endure forever, even in eternity, when the Lord says there will be "a new Heaven and a new Earth and a New Jerusalem!" (Rev. 21:1, 2).

How wonderful it is to know that this is, indeed, our home, and that what has always been called the Promised Land is at this moment biblically promised to us! I thank God that I belong to the Christians who are properly respectful of Israel and oriented to pray for support for that Land, rather than the other group,

regardless how many professors, pastors, seminary presidents, and the like turn their backs on the Holy Land. This ministry is very inspiring; we can do television and music and books and newsletters, and we are talking to people all over the country and even in other countries on a constant basis. All of that is very inspiring, indeed. But the most inspiring part of all is Israel.



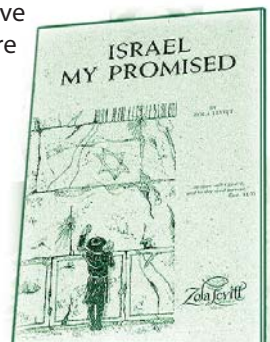
I'm in favor of every single Christian visiting the Holy Land, even presidents of seminaries, if they'll take the trouble to go. Israel changes people. Israel makes everyday Christians better Christians and ministers better ministers and presidents better presidents. The mighty are humbled by Israel, and it is a good place to meet not only God, but also yourself.

After visiting the Promised Land for the first time, a Jewish Believer once said, "I used to read the Bible in black and white. Now I read it in color!"

Go with anybody's tour. I'm all in favor of everybody seeing the Land with me or with someone else. That's not the important point. Ultimately, we'll all go for a 1,000-year tour with our Lord Himself! ★

Israel, My Promised booklet

See Israel through the eyes of a faithful son who has made the land of his Father his life's work. A love letter from a sincere writer to his homeland. An intensely personal and heartfelt look at God's country, one of the most misunderstood lands in all history.



(See p.18 to order)

New Shopping Mall In "Starving" Gaza

By Tom Gross, www.TomGrossMedia.com

This new mall opened in July 2010. If there "are no building materials allowed into Gaza," how did they build this shopping center, or the new Olympic-size swimming pool pictured below?



Meanwhile, Hamas leaders deliberately leave some Gazans in plastic tents in order to fool gullible Western journalists and politicians who are brought to Gaza to witness a staged "humanitarian crisis." (example right) ►



A Palestinian newspaper photo shows Gazan children in the newly built Olympic-size swimming pool that opened in May 2010, despite continuing claims by some Western journalists and NGOs that there are no building materials and a severe shortage of water in Gaza.



Israel daily ships food, water, and much more into Gaza.



Open and Ready for Business!

The "other side" of the non-stop account of suffering heard from popular U.S. media.



DHEA Triples Fertility



An anti-aging dietary supplement already sold in drug and health food stores could triple a women's chance of getting pregnant, and help her carry the baby to term, according to a new report by Israeli researchers.

www.Israel21c.org

Scientists from the Meir Medical Center and Tel Aviv University (TAU) found a statistical connection between the over-the-counter hormone supplement, DHEA, and successful pregnancy rates in women undergoing treatment for infertility.

In the first controlled study on the effects of the supplement, Prof. Adrian Shulman, the director of the IVF Unit of the Obstetric and Gynecology Department at Meir Medical Center, and a professor on TAU's Faculty of Medicine, decided to test the efficacy of DHEA, a naturally occurring steroid found in the brain that is used worldwide to treat the effects of aging, after hearing anecdotal evidence from his patients and the medical community on the benefits of using the supplement during fertility treatments.

He and his fellow researchers conducted a study in which a control

group of women received treatment for poor ovulation, and another group received the same treatment with the addition of the DHEA supplement. The latter group, of around 20 women, took 75 mg of the supplement daily for 40 days before starting fertility treatments, and continued for up to five months.

Not only were women who combined infertility treatment with DHEA more likely to conceive, the researchers discovered, they were also more likely to experience a healthy pregnancy and delivery. "In the DHEA group, there was a 23% live birth rate as opposed to a 4% rate in the control group," explains Shulman, who recently published the results of the study in *AYALA*, the journal of the Israeli Fertility Association. "More than that, of the pregnancies in the DHEA group, all but one ended in healthy deliveries."

DHEA, for 5-Dehydroepiandrosterone (5-DHEA), plays an important biological role in humans and other mammals. Produced in the adrenal glands, it is also synthesized in the brain. ★

AFTER CAREFULLY RECONSIDERING THE PENALTY OF STONING FOR HER OFFENCE OF ADULTERY, THE IRANIAN COURT IS PREPARED TO SHOW SAKINEH MOHAMMADI ASHTIANI MERCY AND COMPASSION...



See stoning verdict article at levitt.com/news/page/2/#post-2454



WE'LL BEAT HER WITH STICKS, ELECTROCUTE AND HANG HER INSTEAD.



“Dirty Jew” in Manhattan



By Rabbi Hanoch Hecht, www.collive.com

I am walking in Manhattan, getting from one meeting to the next, when I hear a voice slanting the words “dirty Jew” at me.

As I turn around to see who said them, I am slightly surprised to see a young boy, Caucasian, about 11 or 12 years of age. What’s even more astonishing is that his mother is standing right behind him, apparently not caring about what her son is saying, nor rebuking him in any way, or even apologizing to me on his behalf.

Living in the 21st century, where it is all about equality and tolerance, about acceptance and love for a fellow human being, no matter his age, race, religion, background, or anything else that might make him different, has me mistakenly thinking that the world is improving.

The fact that this mother let her son say what he said, and did not reprimand him, makes me wonder what this new generation is being taught. When an 11-year-old boy has no clue

about tolerance and respect for one another, and thinks that calling someone “dirty Jew” is acceptable or even cool, then I think it is safe to say that we are in big trouble.

Anti-Semitism alone isn’t the only problem, but it’s a significant one.

In truth, and simply put, it is the lack of accepting another human being for whatever reason. The reasons are irrelevant. No matter what our differences may be, and at the risk of sounding too idealistic, we can and must overlook them for the sake of living in peace.

Being 6th-generation Americans, my family has had the pleasure and honor of living in this blessed country for the past 130 years. I sincerely look forward to continued residence in this great nation, happily and peacefully. It is the job of parents everywhere to educate their children to become accepting and respecting individuals.

We must teach our youth how to love and care for a fellow human being, for the country they live in, and the planet they live on. We must instruct our future leaders and world inhabitants how to live in harmony among themselves. It is the only way to survive. ★

September 11 Remembered



Perceptions Of Jews

By
Renowned Gentiles

“If there is any honor in all the world that I should like, it would be to be an honorary Jewish citizen.”

—A. L. Rowse
(1903 – 1997),
English authority
on Shakespeare



Most Jihadis Are Nitwits

By Daniel Byman and Christine Fair
www.TheAtlantic.com

They blow each other up by mistake. They bungle even simple schemes. Our terrorist enemies trade on the perception that they're well trained and religiously devout, but in fact, many are fools and perverts who are far less organized and sophisticated than we imagine. Their leaders and recruiters can be lethally subtle and manipulative, but the quiet truth is that many of the deluded foot soldiers are foolish and untrained, perhaps even untrainable. Acknowledging this fact could help us tailor our counterterrorism priorities—and publicizing it could help us erode the powerful images of strength and piety that terrorists rely on for recruiting and funding.



Nowhere is the gap between sinister stereo-type and ridiculous reality more apparent than in Afghanistan, where it's fair to say that the Taliban employ the world's worst suicide bombers: one in two manages to kill only himself. In Afghanistan, as in many cultures, a manly embrace is a time-honored tradition for warriors before they go off to face death. Thus, many suicide bombers never even make it out of their training camp or safe house, as the pressure from these group hugs triggers the explosives in suicide vests.

Many Taliban operatives are just as clumsy when suicide is not part of the plan. In November 2009, several talibs transporting an improvised explosive device were killed when it went off unexpectedly. The blast also took out the insurgents' own shadow governor in the province of Balkh.

If our terrorist enemies have been successful at cultivating a false notion of expertise, they've done an equally convincing job of casting themselves as pious warriors of God. The Taliban and al-Qaeda rely on sympathizers who consider them devoted Muslims fighting immoral Western occupiers. But intelligence picked up by Predator drones and other battlefield cameras challenges that idea—sometimes rather graphically. One video, captured recently by the thermal-imagery technology housed in a sniper rifle, shows two talibs in southern Afghanistan engaged in intimate relations with a donkey. Similar videos abound, including ground-surveillance footage that records a Taliban fighter gratifying himself with a cow.

Pentagon officials and intelligence analysts concede privately that our foes also have a voracious appetite for pornography—hardly shocking behavior for young men, but hard to square with an image of piety. [see related stories *Pakistan #1 In Pornography Web Searches and Brains Not Required For Jihad* at www.levitt.com/news]

Tawdry though this predilection for porn may be, it is not necessarily trivial. There is, after all, potential propaganda value in this kind of jihadist behavior. Current U.S. public diplomacy centers on selling America to the Muslim world, but we should also work to undermine some of the myths built up around our enemies by highlighting their incompetence, their moral failings, and their embarrassing antics. Beyond changing how the Muslim world perceives terrorists, we can help ourselves make smarter counterterrorism choices by being more realistic about the profile and aptitude of would-be attackers.



Frank Stockton

The World's Oldest Hatred

By Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, shmuley.com

Hatred of Israel is just another manifestation of the world's oldest hatred.

Why else would British academics ban their Israeli counterparts and not, say, the Chinese whose human rights abuses and slaughter of innocent civilians at Tiananmen Square took place before the whole world? The Turks bomb Kurdish independence fighters on a regular basis and continue to deny their genocide of more than a million helpless Armenians. Yet their condemnation of Israel over the Gaza flotilla gains international currency. Hugo Chavez brutally dismantles Venezuelan democracy, imprisons his political opponents, locks up judges, and persecutes a free press that criticizes him. But his condemning Israel as genocidal is lauded by countries throughout the world. And the UN censures Israel on a monthly basis while countries like Libya sit on its Human Rights Council. **If that isn't rank anti-Semitism, then the word has no meaning.**

Like any moral democracy fighting for its very life, Israel is going to make mistakes. But compared to Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and so many other of its neighbors, it is positively angelic. Disagree? Well, rather than engage in useless and endless debate, let's employ John F. Kennedy's famous argument delivered in the summer of 1963 in his memorable "Ich Bin Ein Berliner" speech. Kennedy addressed the two world systems that were in mortal conflict, Capitalism and Communism. Two world systems each claiming to be righteous and asserting the other to be evil. How to adjudicate between them? Kennedy did so with memorable eloquence: "Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us."

I say the same thing to you. If Israel really is so terrible, if its government is so evil, then let's put it to the Kennedy test. If all of Israel's most rabid critics were forced to choose to live either in Israel or under Hamas in Gaza, or under Assad in Syria, or under Ahmadinejad in Iran, or under Abdullah in Saudi Arabia, or even in Communist China, which would they choose? In Israel, they would have the freedom to mercilessly assail their government on the radio, in print, and in public squares. In any of these other countries they would be locked up or killed midway through their inaugural speech. In Israel, if they were female they would enjoy absolutely full rights and equal protection under the law. In Iran or Saudi Arabia, they would be severely punished for not adhering to a certain dress code.

Yet it is Israel which the world hates. Go figure.

Or perhaps there is no need. This kind of hatred has a long and cruel precedent. It comes in many guises. Today it targets Israel but at its root, it's just good old-fashioned, unbridled, unapologetic Jew-hatred. Ecclesiastes had it right. There is nothing new under the sun. ★

Dry Bones KING SOLOMON AND HIS ADVISER



Conflict In The Koran

By William Kilpatrick, FrontPageMag.com

Every now and then you hear calls from critics of Islam for Islam to reform itself—for mosques and *madrassas* (schools) to teach against the Islamic doctrines that inspire terrorists. A dramatic example of this demand occurs in the film *Fitna* when filmmaker Geert Wilders invites Muslims to tear the offending pages out of the Koran. In one scene you can hear the sound of tearing pages in the background.

If thy page offend thee, pluck it out?

The only trouble with this sort of recommendation is that it assumes that there is enough positive material in the Koran and other foundational documents to form the basis for a reformation. But is there?

According to Moorthy Muthuswamy, an expert on political Islam, “61 percent of the Koran talks ill of unbelievers or calls for their violent conquest and subjugation, but only 2.6 percent talks about the overall good of humanity.” Hmm. Seems as though that would amount to an awful lot of offending pages.

It’s a similar story when you turn to the *sira*, the biographies of Mohammed. Take the earliest of these, the one written by Ibn Ishaq. Of the 130 short chapters

which detail the life of Mohammed after his arrival in Medina, over 70 are about raids, battles, and assassinations or else they are about preparations for raids and battles, division of spoils, odes upon battles, names of those who fought, etc. According to a content analysis done by Bill Warner of the Center for the Study of Political Islam, at least 75% of the *sira* is about jihad. These are inconvenient facts for those who hope Islam can be reformed. No matter how reform-minded you may be, it is difficult to come up with a symbolic interpretation of the Koran’s numerous calls to make war on unbelievers, since that was literally what Mohammed did.

So, rather than encourage Muslims to remove the violent and hateful parts of the Koran, it might make more sense to encourage them to renounce it *in toto*. The “good” parts of the Koran are so bound up with the “bad” parts that trying to separate them is an impossible task. Besides, there is no warrant in Islamic tradition for picking and choosing. Islamic authorities say that the Koran given to Mohammed is a replica of the original which is inscribed on “imperishable” tablets in heaven. And, just for the record, “imperishable” beats “set in stone” by a wide margin. Talking of reforming Islam by re-interpreting the Koran is like talking about reforming a marble statue. Some things don’t lend themselves to reformation.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM By MIKE PETERS



Iranian Fighter Turned U.S. Spy: Tehran Will Attack Israel

By Dudi Cohen, www.YNetNews.com

A former fighter in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) turned U.S. spy offered a rare glance into one of the most complex countries in the Middle East.

During a conference held at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Reza Kahlili (pseudonym) predicted that Iran will eventually attack Israel, Europe, and the Persian Gulf states. He called for a preemptive strike on the regime in Tehran, but not on the Iranian people or the country's infrastructure.

Kahlili accused the Obama Administration of being naïve. According to him, the American overtures are viewed by the Iranian regime as a sign of weakness, while the Iranian people consider the efforts to engage the regime an act of betrayal against their struggle for freedom.

“This is a messianic regime. There should be no doubt—they are going to commit the most horrendous suicide bombing in human history. They will attack Israel, European capitals, and (the) Persian Gulf region at the same time,” said Kahlili in one of his first public appearances to promote his new book.

Kahlili said he joined the Revolutionary Guard following the Islamic revolution of 1979, but volunteered to work for the CIA when he became disillusioned with the Khomeini regime after witnessing acts of rape, torture, and murder. Kahlili arrived at the conference wearing a surgical mask, sunglasses, and a baseball cap to conceal his identity. Out of concern for his safety, as well as that of his family inside Iran, his voice was also disguised.

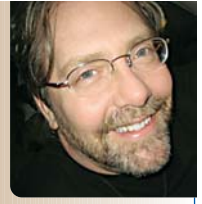
For 10 years, under the code name “Wally,” he relayed the secret operations of the IRGC back to American intelligence, eventually fleeing to the United States. In the aftermath of 9/11, Kahlili re-established contact with his sources in Iran and resumed providing information to the CIA, according to the Washington Institute. ★



“If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.”

—BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

F-16 Fighter



Turning Back to God

By John J. Parsons

חַנּוּנֵי אֱלֹהִים כַּחֲסֵדְךָ כְּרַב רַחֲמֶיךָ מִחַה פְּשָׁעַי

Be gracious unto me, O God, according to Thy mercy; according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgressions. (Psalm 51:1)

חַ	נּוּ	נֵי	אֱ	לֹ	הִים	כַּ	חֲ	סֵ	דְ	כְ	רַב	רַ	חֲ	מֵי	ךָ	מִ	חַ	הַ	פְּ	שָׁ	עַי	
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
fe-sha-ai	me-cheh	ra-cha-me-kha	ke-rov	ke-chas-de-kha	E-lo-him	cho-nei-ni																
my rebellions	wipe out	according to your vast compassion		according to your faithful love	O God	show me favor																

The theme of the Jewish High Holidays is *teshuvah*, a word often translated as “repentance,” though it’s more accurately understood as turning back (*shuv*) to God. In Modern Hebrew *teshuvah* means an “answer” to a *shelah*, or a question. God’s love for us is the question, and our *teshuvah*—our turning of the heart toward Him—is the answer. *Teshuvah* is one of the great gifts God gives each of us—the ability to turn back to Him and seek healing for our brokenness.

Psalm 51 is sometimes called “*Perek Teshuvah*”—the great Chapter of Repentance of the Scriptures. After King David was confronted with the truth of his crimes and the prospect of judgment, he returned to God for cleansing and forgiveness. David’s *teshuvah* reveals that we also can return to God on the basis of His abundant compassion—His *rachamim*. Without God’s love we have no hope for the future.

After the Jews had committed the grievous sin with the golden calf, Moses despaired of ever being able to find favor in God’s eyes again. God, however, called Moses to return to the mountain to learn the meaning of the Name YHVH. While he waited in the cleft of the rock, Moses heard the Divine Voice saying, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Exod. 34:6). This was David’s experience of return, too. Given his great transgressions of the Torah, he was sure that he had lost God’s favor. David needed to rediscover God’s love despite his brokenness and sin.

The greatest demonstration of the compassion of God was given at Mount Moriah, the place of the sacrifice of Yeshua. Just as Moses and David had to confront their own brokenness to hear the Divine Voice, so we need to turn to the cross to hear the cries of YHVH suffering for our own. At the cross we find compassion and healing for our brokenness and sin.

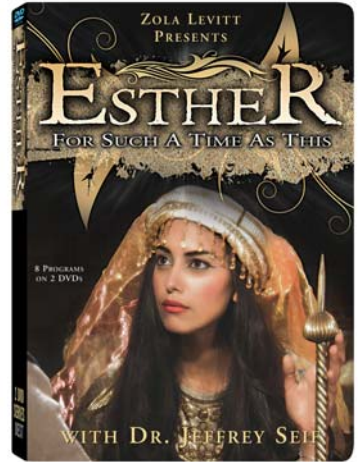
During this season of *teshuvah*, may we once again respond to the Voice of God’s love.



***Esther: For Such A Time As This*—New!**

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Book of Esther is one of the Jewish people's favorites. In this eight-program television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains its details, and points out that, like Esther herself, we Believers may be alive *for such a time as this*. Offered on page 18.



Beautiful Inside and Out

Does God use women? Yes, He does! We begin by considering Esther's rise and wicked Queen Vashti's demise, and note how God elevates individuals to places of influence—then as now.

Chosen for a Purpose

Though wickedness surfaces in various ways in every generation, God positions His people to thwart the devil's plans and fulfill His own. Here, we examine Mordecai and Esther's placement—and our own; for we, too, are called to God's work.

***Please see
next page
to order.***

Called to be Courageous

Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worth it, and declares, "If I perish, I perish!" Would that we all had such resolve!

Undone by a Woman

Unbeknownst to the scheming Haman, the story's courageous heroine hatches a plan to thwart him. The once-sheepish Esther becomes a shepherdess. She boldly takes on the wolf, thus guiding the saga to its peaceful conclusion.

God Rewards the Righteous

God uses irony to give the wicked and the righteous their just deserts. God's ways are often mysterious to us, but we see the eventual triumph of the righteous—then as now.

Justice at Last!

Our story's villain comes to his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

Fight We Must!

Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Such spirited self-defense is simply biblical.

The Triumph of God in Human History

God turns our mourning into joy, as vividly demonstrated in this concluding program. The Jews are bidden to commemorate God's saving power and goodness in an annual celebration. We should all celebrate God's goodness, thereby banishing the transient clouds of pain and despair.

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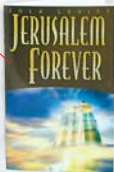
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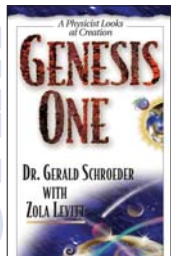
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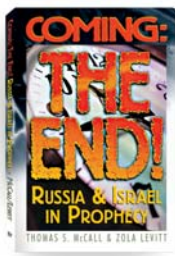
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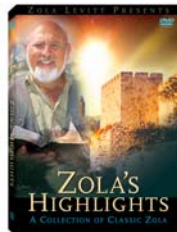
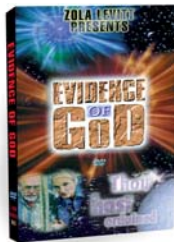


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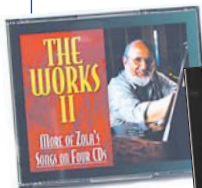
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ZLM Bulletin Board

The Liberal Non-Believer's Case for Israel

For conservative and liberal Believers in the OT and/or NT, it is very easy to argue for Israel. But what about non-believing liberals; why should they uphold the Holy Land? Bret Stephens, a foreign-affairs columnist with *The Wall Street Journal*, offers seven favorable factors during a four-minute video that has been posted on YouTube.com. You can find it by searching "Bret Stephens." Those who favor the liberal (Western) agenda such as equal rights for women, artists' freedom to offend (free speech), and an impartial justice system (jury of peers) will find themselves more at home in Israel than in Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, or Iran.



Improved Internet TV

Levitt.tv now has better video. All of the online videos allow you to jump to the middle of the program in order to pick up where you left off. And, beginning with the *Esther: For Such A Time As This* TV series, the image quality will improve significantly as well. Try watching in full-screen and see for yourself!



Pamphlet of the Month

Whether you contribute to your church, our ministry, or another worthy charity, this free pamphlet may enable you to derive more bang from your donation buck.

7 Ways to Give in 2010

discusses giving the right *property* at the right *time* in the right *way*. Suppose you want to contribute cash, securities, other property, retirement funds, or life insurance. How about future gifts or temporary gifts? What about donating assets while retaining income? This pamphlet touches briefly on concepts that might help you render unto God *before* you render too much unto Caesar. (Luke 20:25) To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

U.S. Armada Off Iran

www.DEBKA.com

Washington has posted a third carrier opposite Iran's shores. It is supported by amphibious assault ships and up to 4,000 Navy and Marine Corps personnel, bringing the total U.S. strength in these waters to three carriers and 10,000 combat personnel.

The USS Nassau (LHA-4) Amphibious Ready Group 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, tasked with supporting the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet area of operations, is cruising around the Bab al-Mandeb Straits where the Gulf of Aden flows into the Red Sea.



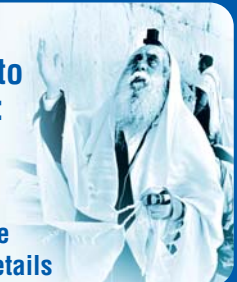
The third U.S. carrier group to reach waters around Iran consists of three vessels.

"Come Home!"

Zola's Tours to Israel:



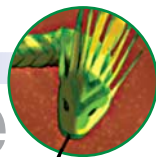
See page 36 for details



Home Ownership vs. Renting



wise
as a serpent



This article is largely excerpted from David Leonhardt's *In Sour Home Market, Buying Often Beats Renting*.

In much of the country, for much of the last decade, renting a home instead of buying would have saved you thousands of dollars a year. In many markets, today's buyers are effectively betting that prices will rise enough to cover the difference.

Data from Moody's [Economy.com](#) and real estate agents can't foretell whether buying or renting is financially smarter. But the data can show whether a buyer will need a big jump in future prices to cover all the costs of owning—down payment, closing costs, property taxes, mortgage interest, repairs, and association fees.

A simple way to compare is to look at something called the rent ratio: the purchase price of a house divided by the annual cost of renting a similar one. The number 20 provides a useful rule of thumb: a ratio above 20 means you should at least consider renting, especially if you may move again in the next five years or so. When the ratio is well below 20, the case for buying becomes a lot stronger.*

In many large metropolitan areas, the average ratio is now 16 or lower. It was more than 25 in several of these places at the peak of the bubble, about five years ago. With a ratio as low as 16 and low interest rates, the costs of owning can be less than the costs of renting—and buyers will end up worse off only if prices fall considerably more. But ratios of 25 or 30 may indicate a bubble.

Owning a home brings benefits that are not strictly financial, such as stability and comfort. A family confident that it will stay put for a decade or more may be wise to buy today. Sometimes, however, the advantages of homeownership are exaggerated and renting does not get enough respect.

Business columnist Scott Burns offers three situations in which renting is probably better than owning:

Young and mobile. If you are young and likely to change jobs and locations in the near future, owning a house doesn't make sense, because the transaction costs for buying and selling are likely to wipe out any gains you might make from price appreciation.

Older and short in both income and savings. Many couples celebrate their last tuition payment by buying a larger, more expensive house, reducing their ability to save and invest in the years when it is easiest. That's the opposite of what they should be doing.

Others discover that their home equity is the bulk of their net worth. By downsizing or becoming renters, they can reduce their cost of shelter and have a more secure retirement.

People who live in cities where owning costs much more than renting. Sometimes the cost of owning is wildly higher than the cost of renting comparable shelter.

Rather than indicate the better option for you or someone you know, this article may inspire some prayerful research. ★

*These ratios assume nominal property taxes.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters





Letters to ZIM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From R.S. (IL): I'm sorry I haven't contacted your ministry soon enough to keep my *Letter* coming. Could you please start the *Levitt Letter* back up? I watch the mailbox closely, waiting for it! Your ministry is absolutely vital in today's world. Keep up the great work that you do for the Lord. God bless!!!

From A.B. (AZ): Your first episode of *Esther*, "Beautiful Inside and Out," is great; the best you would see anywhere. Looking forward to the next episodes. I hope you will interview the actors again as you did in the series on David. It adds a lot to the story. May our Lord continue to bless the Ministry and each of you.

From A.Z. (OH): Love your show. Words cannot explain how it has helped me come closer to the Lord.

From D.O.: Americans don't understand the danger of Islam because most Americans are only vaguely religious. Most believe all roads lead to God and all religions have pretty much the same ideas about good and evil. Because religion doesn't have much to do with how they think and act and because most people think other people are like themselves, the idea that someone would kill innocent people for an ideology is totally alien. So it's "He must have snapped!" and "He was a very troubled man." NOT! He's a committed Muslim who was willing to go all the way with his faith.



Timing of the Rapture

Dear Jeff,

I know that Zola looked at *Rosh Hashanah* as a possible festival for when the Rapture could take place. But, I am wondering about *Tu B'Av*. According to the Talmud, *Tu B'Av* was a joyous holiday in the days of the Temple in Jerusalem: Unmarried girls would dress in simple white clothing (so that rich could not be distinguished from poor) and go out to sing and dance in the vineyards surrounding Jerusalem, and the young men who had not yet married would go to watch and choose among them wives for themselves. So much about the festival of *Tu B'Av* seems to fit with the theme of the Rapture.

Many people look to Passover or Pentecost in the spring, and many others look to *Rosh Hashanah* in the fall. Why does everyone skip right over *Tu B'Av*?

Any thoughts? —B.B.

Dear B.B.—

Tu B'Av means "15th of *Av*." The matchmaking nature of it in Jewish culture certainly makes it worth considering—as a time when the Lord comes to take His bride. Thanks for sharing. —Jeff

Esther—Best Program Ever!

Dear ZLM,

Esther: For Such a Time is your best program ever, particularly because you compare the evil happenings of Esther's time to present-day happenings. I was saddened to see the inside of the missile shelter that had been made as pleasant as possible for the children even in the midst of life-threatening attacks. Nobody should have to live this way. People need to be made aware of it. As a Christian in America, I feel very powerless against such injustice and cruelty against Israel. I am concerned about U.S.-Israel relations. This program encouraged and strengthened me to continue praying for the peace of Jerusalem, donating to Zola Levitt Ministries, and passing on the *Levitt Letter*. God bless you in all you are doing. —S.C. (TX) [See Esther write-up on p. 17.](#)



When To Write God, G-d.

Dear Jeff,

Neither the *Levitt Letter* nor *Israel Today*—both Messianic publications—writes God omitting the “o” and substituting a hyphen—G-d. But I receive emails using “G-d” from Jewish bloggers and from Jews who believe in Jesus. The way Tamar Yonah from Arutz Sheva—Israel National Radio explained it to me, Jews (Messianic or not) drop the “o” in God because an email with His name can be deleted, or if printed out, can be destroyed later on. Therefore, they avoid the full spelling so as not to use God's name in vain.

Out of respect for Jewish sensitivities, I also spell God with a dash when corresponding with Jews. In my opinion, there is no harm done to my faith since Jews or gentiles, Judaists and Christians both worship the same God of the Torah. And Jesus, after all, came to fulfill the Old Testament, not to annul it as some Christians want to believe. We can read this in Hebrews, chapter 11. My wife equates my use of G-d with political correctness because I'm sensitive to Jewish beliefs. But then Jews also use *Hashem* to refer to God, which goes back to Jews not wanting to utter God's name because of His holiness, so they simply call Him “The Name.”

After I explained my reasons to one couple, they merely said that they would like to hear someone say “God” without the “o.” What is your opinion of my writing G-d in this particular way?

Thank you and God bless, A.B.

Dear A.B.—

Wanting to be sensitive to nuances in the culture, I'll similarly write G-d when writing, let's say, to Orthodox Jews. However, what's important to me is that He is in our heart and that we want to talk about Him. I have no preferences how folk do that. I usually write “God” with no qualms of conscience. —Jeff

BIZARRO By Dan Piraro



Kill ALL Jews? No—Just Those Alive

Dear Jeff,

I am concerned about your loose handling of the truth. On your show you said Iran's President Ahmadinejad, like Haman, wanted all Jews dead. I know he has said that he wants all of Israel evacuated or dead, but I have been watching, and I don't believe he has ever said he wanted to kill all the Jews in reach, which was Haman's plan. There is an important distinction, between Jew and Zionist. While Ahmadinejad may want to kill all Zionists, he specifically states he doesn't want to kill all Jews. Therefore, it is not true to say he would kill all Jews as Haman did. You are not permitted to deceive or lie, even for the purpose of battling evil. Is it not enough that he wants to destroy Israel, and remove all the Jews? It is slander to intentionally misrepresent the facts. —G.S.

Dear G.S.—

Would you tell Moses: "Hey buddy, don't take it as too much of a threat... They are not against all the Hebrews, only those who reside in the land you led them to"? Would you tell David: "Don't take it too personally, they only want your capital, your real estate, and the demise of your army"? Most Jews construe, and rightly so in my opinion, that any and all attacks on the nation state of Israel are attacks on all Jews, personally and everywhere. —Jeff

Paul Settled These Matters

Dear Jeff,

As gentile Christians, we wonder about the importance of the Feast days for today. Are non-Jewish Believers required to keep them? Lately, a lot of people in the Hebrew Roots Movement teach that you must keep the Feasts, attend services on Saturday, never use the name of Jesus, only the sacred names, etc. The Apostle Paul seemed to deal with this, but it has come up again.

Also, we did two courses with Zola years ago, OT and NT survey. Is the rest of the course still available? What is the cost? —A. & C.S. (NM)

Dear A. & C.S.—

With you, I disagree with those who push that Christians are "required" to do this or that. Paul weighed in and said Christians aren't. The Feasts [as laid out in Lev. 23] are marvelous on their own, particularly because they celebrate God's goodness and point to His Son. I enjoy celebrating them, but feel no compulsion to insist that others do so.

The Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies courses are still available, with price determined by the number you acquire. You can find the particulars at store.levitt.com, or request the free informational pamphlet offered on page 19. —Jeff



Blessed To Have Your Blessings

Dear Jeff,

In no way do we want to diminish other ministries, but as Messianic Jews, ZLM is special to us. You have a logical and spiritual balance rarely found in today's teachings. And the transparency by which you and your staff conduct yourselves on TV and in the *Levitt Letter* conveys a feeling of trust like no other ministry. We honor ZLM for being outspoken and bold for the Lord Yeshua. You are continually in our thoughts and prayers. J. & A. DiT. (NM)

Dear Jeff,

I've been receiving the *Levitt Letter* for several years and never felt I could donate. Well, now is the time to start. I look forward to my newsletter every month. You're in my prayers. C.L. (OH)

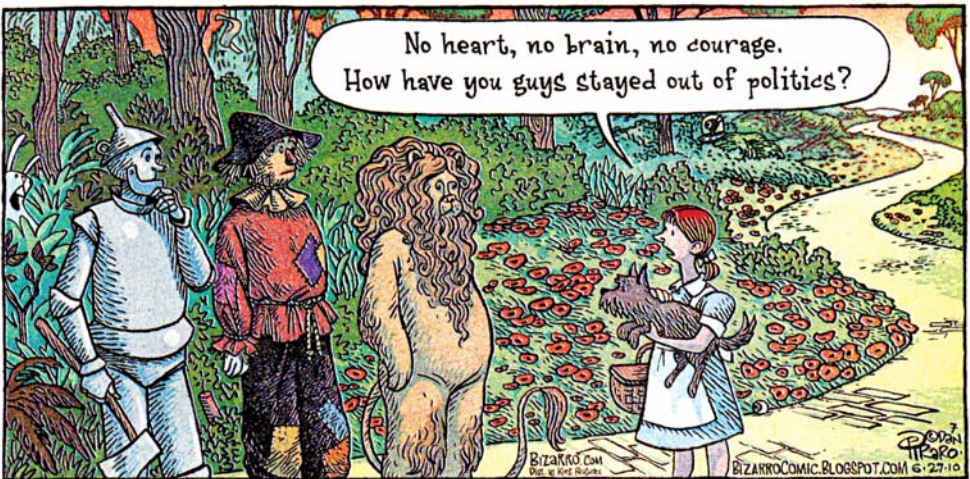
Mentioned Or Not?

Dear ZLM,

Elie Wiesel writes on the cover of your June *Levitt Letter*, "Jerusalem is mentioned more than six hundred times in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures—and not a single time in the Koran." Then, on page 26, Sheik Abdul Hadi Palazzi writes, "Far from negating the historical claims of a Jewish presence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the Koran actually confirms Jewish accounts of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem and supports claims that the Land of Israel was given to the Jews by God." Which of these statements is true? If both are correct, please explain these seeming contradictions. Shalom and Godspeed! J.A.P. (OR)

Good question, J.A.P.—

Noted columnist Dr. Daniel Pipes offered \$1 million to anyone who could find "Jerusalem" mentioned explicitly in the Koran. Though many could use the money, he's never lost a dime on the challenge. The principal issue, and the main point of the argument, is that the city never was an object of Islamic adoration. As I noted previously, Islamic scholars referenced the place where the biblical Temple was built in the capital city and, in so doing, gave credence to their understanding that there was an Israelite presence. The issue today is that revisionist Islamic propagandists argue that there never was any Jewish presence on the Temple Mount. —Jeff ★



What Counts As Propaganda Against Israel?

By Phyllis Chesler, PajamasMedia.com

A secret admirer, perhaps a critic, has sent me a gift subscription to *TIME* magazine. I leaf through its pages and stop at the two-page layout of “The World,” which displays Israel as one of ten world hot spots this week. Israel’s “easing of the Gaza blockade” merits 176 words and comprises a column which is 5 1/2 inches by 2 1/2 inches. By contrast, China’s “easing” of its financial currency restrictions (which may have major world repercussions) merits only 89 words; the refugee crisis in Kyrgyzstan that has displaced 400,000 ethnic Uzbeks merits only 82 words and a photo.

Am I crazy, counting words? Not really. Propaganda works word by word when it is repeated day after day, year after year. The aim of such propaganda is to render Israel a pariah among nations—so that proposals for its elimination will seem reasonable and will achieve as welcome a reception as have the narratives about Israel murdering little Mohammed Al-Dura, committing a massacre in Jenin, harvesting Palestinian organs, or attacking non-violent humanitarians on a boat. We also understand how propaganda fulfills its mission by counting, literally, how many words

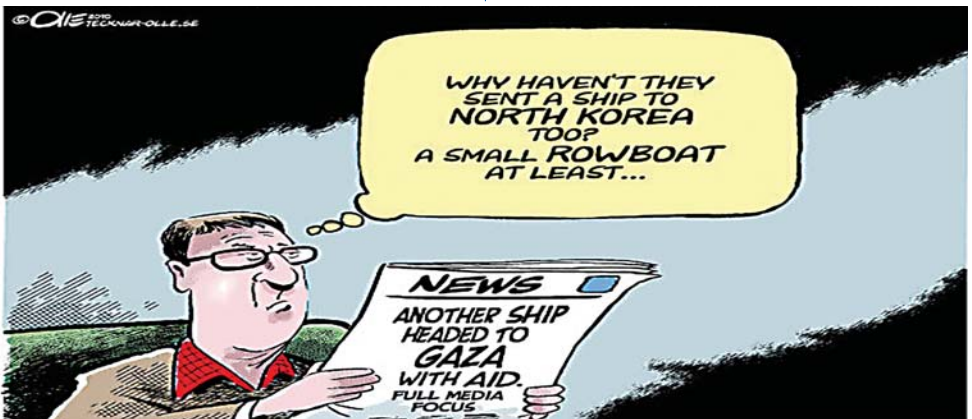
are being used to focus attention on one subject, one special country. Obsessive attention versus benign neglect is also a propaganda tool.

But, some might argue that *TIME*’s editors chose Israel for praise, not blame: they viewed Israel’s “easing” of the “controversial” Gaza blockade as a positive accomplishment. On the other hand, *TIME* ties this “easing” to “the Israeli raid on an aid flotilla which killed nine and drew international condemnation.”

In other words: Lean on the Jew. It works. The fact that the “aid flotilla” bore hired assassins, *shahids*; that the so-called humanitarians knew they were aiding Hamas, an organization deemed a “terrorist” group by the United States; and that Israeli soldiers killed them in self-defense, is not acknowledged here as a contending counter-narrative.

Thus, all the other areas and issues chosen by *TIME*—severe Brazilian floods that left thousands homeless, the rather serious Uzbek refugee crisis, the sentencing of Somali pirates in Holland, the violence that continues, unabated, in Mugabe’s Zimbabwe over the “blood diamonds,” the “loosening” of China’s currency restrictions, the arrest of a major drug lord, etc—deserve fewer words.

Finally, guess which country is shown in the #1 position on *TIME*’s map of the world? Tiny Israel, of course. ★



Why Islam Will Never Accept the State of Israel

By Steven Simpson, AmericanThinker.com

The “Arab-Israeli conflict” is more “Muslim-Jewish” than “Arab-Israeli.” In other words, the conflict is based on religion—Islam vs. Judaism—cloaked in Arab nationalism vs. Zionism. In every Arab-Israeli war, from 1948 to the present, cries of “jihad,” “Allahu Akbar,” and “Idbah al-Yahud” (“slaughter the Jews”) have resonated amongst even the most secular of Arab leaders.

Until the founder of Islam, Mohammed ibn Abdallah, proclaimed himself “Messenger of Allah” in the 7th century, Jews and Arabs lived together peacefully in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Koran is full of verses that can be described only as virulently anti-Semitic.

The *suras* are too numerous to cite, but a couple will suffice: sura 4:47 (Jews have distorted the Bible and have incurred condemnation from Allah for breaking the Sabbath) and 5:82 (Jews and pagans are the strongest in enmity to the Muslims and Allah). And of course, there is the genocidal *hadith* (saying of Mohammed) from Sahih Bukhari, 4:52:177, that would make Adolf Hitler proud: “The Day of Judgment will not have come until you fight with the Jews, and the stones and the trees behind which a Jew will be hiding will say: ‘O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him!’” Thus, the Arab Muslims had their own “final solution” in store for the Jews already in the 7th century.

The fact that Muslims still point to the many hateful verses in the Koran and hadiths should give Jews—not just Israelis—pause to consider if there can ever be true peace between Muslims and Jews, or between Muslims and Israel. When the armies of Islam occupied the area of Byzantine “Palestine” in the 7th century, the land became part of *Dar al-Islam* (House of Islam). Until that area is returned to Islam, (i.e., Israel’s extermination), it remains part of *Dar al-harb* (House of War). It now becomes clear that this is a conflict of religious ideology and

not a conflict over a piece of “real estate.”

Finally, one must ask the question: Aside from non-Arab Turkey, whose relations with Israel are presently teetering on the verge of collapse, why has no other non-Arab Muslim country ever had full relations (if any at all) with Israel? The answer is painfully clear: The contempt in which the Koran and other Islamic writings hold Jews does not exist in the scriptures of the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and other Eastern religions. Therefore, people who come from non-Muslim states do not have this inherent hatred towards Jews, and by extension, towards Israel. But when a people is raised with a scripture that regards another people and religion as immoral and less than human, then it is obvious why such hatred and disdain exists on the part of Muslims for Jews and Israel.



Islam—as currently interpreted and practiced—cannot accept a Jewish state of any size in its midst. Unless Muslims come to terms with their holy writings vis-à-vis Jews, Judaism, and Israel and go through some sort of “reformation,” it will be unlikely that true peace will ever come to the Middle East. In the meantime, unless Islam reforms, Israel should accept the fact that the Muslims will never accept Israel as a permanent fact in the Middle East. ★

Read this entire article and the history behind the conflict at www.levitt.com/news.

Wisdom Of The Jewish Oracle

www.aish.com

Let your mind be as a floating cloud.
Let your stillness be as a wooded glen.
And sit up straight. You'll never meet
anyone important with such
rounded shoulders.

Spice Up Pain Management



Red, green chili peppers

An Israeli researcher has discovered that the property that makes chili peppers hot could be used to stop pain. What people fear most about any medical procedure is not the operation itself but the pain that goes with it. But anesthesia has its drawbacks with side effects like loss of consciousness, wooziness, and numbness.

“The holy grail of any local anesthetic treatment is to stop pain without causing any other effects,” says **Dr. Alexander Binshtok** of Tel Aviv University’s Sackler School of Medicine. That noble goal may now be within reach with a new approach based on the common chili pepper.

Dr. Alexander Binshtok



Chili is credited with a variety of healing properties, such as easing the digestive system and clearing congestion. But by joining capsaicin, the substance that makes chili hot, with QX-314, a chemical derivative of the common local anesthetic lidocaine, Binshtok and his colleagues are able to target selective pain fibers and effectively block the pain—without any side effects.

The new approach has the potential to change multiple applications of local anesthesia, from the dental office to the delivery room. Epidurals are one example of a pain management technique that will be revolutionized by this red-hot medication.

Epidural anesthesia compromises body function to the point where a woman cannot walk and her ability to “push” during labor is limited. With the new pain drug, she will be able to do both painlessly, says Binshtok, thus elimi-

By Edmund Sanders
www.Israel21c.org

nating the need for an epidural.

Then there is the problem of the pain suffered by millions of Americans with chronic inflammatory diseases, neurogenic diseases, or cancer.

“Many people suffer from chronic pain but we don’t understand why,” says Binshtok. “Nobody knows what turns normal or protective pain to chronic or non-protective pain, and we don’t yet understand the agents or molecules that turn normal into chronic pain.”

Binshtok explains that some lucky people carry a specific genetic variance that makes them more resistant not only to pain but to the development of chronic pain after surgery. Understanding this mechanism could be the key to solving pain problems.

As a postgraduate student, Binshtok was part of the research team from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Harvard Medical School (HMS) that succeeded in selectively blocking pain-sensing neurons in rats without interfering with other types of neurons, giving hope that someday there will be an anesthetic that blocks pain but doesn’t paralyze or numb the patient.

This fall, Binshtok will be directing his own pain management lab at Tel Aviv University. His work will study what happens on the periphery when painful stimuli attack the skin, and will attempt to understand “how the process is analyzed by pain fibers, and then how it is processed by the neurons in the spinal cord” which modify pain signals.

And while he warns that there is still more testing and research to be done before a “magic bullet” miracle drug is produced, he is confident that it will come. ★

Islam Forbids Playing Music

By Laura Clark
www.DailyMail.co.uk

Muslim pupils in Britain are being withdrawn from music lessons because some families believe learning an instrument is anti-Islamic. The move comes despite the subject being a compulsory part of the national curriculum. While parents have legal rights to withdraw children from religious and sex education classes, no automatic right exists to pull them out of lessons such as music.

One education expert said up to half of Muslim pupils were withdrawn from music lessons during Ramadan. And The Muslim Council of Britain said music lessons were likely to be unacceptable to around ten percent of the Muslim population in Britain.

However, in certain branches of Islam—such as Sufism, which is dominant in Pakistan and India—devotional music and singing is actually central to the religion. But some Muslims believe that playing musical instruments and singing is forbidden according to Islam.

At Herbert Morrison Primary in Lambeth, 29 percent of children come from mainly Somalian Muslim families. Headmistress Eileen Ross said some parents “don’t want children to play musical instruments and they don’t have music in their homes.”

“It’s not part of their belief, they feel it detracts from their faith.” Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and education experts raised concerns over the findings.

The Open University’s Dr. Diana Harris, an expert on music education and Muslims, said she had visited schools where half of the pupils were withdrawn from music lessons by their parents during Ramadan. “Most of them really didn’t know why they were withdrawing their children,” she said. “The majority of them were doing it because they had just learned that it wasn’t acceptable and one of the sources giving out that feeling was the Imams.”

A spokesman for OFSTED said: “Music is an important part of any child or young person’s education. Any examples of pupils being treated unequally would be a matter of significant concern.”



Pupils in a music class at a British primary school: Some Muslim families have withdrawn children for religious reasons.



Rabbi Eliezer Wolff is seen in Amsterdam, Netherlands. A secret video showing Jews harassed on the street in Amsterdam has prompted Dutch authorities to consider using “decoy Jews” —undercover officers wearing yarmulkes—to combat hate crimes.

A Novel Dutch Idea To Fight The Rising Anti-Semitism

By Toby Sterling, Associated Press

Reports of increased anti-Semitism and a secret video showing Jews harassed on the street in Amsterdam have prompted Dutch authorities to consider using “decoy Jews”—undercover officers wearing yarmulkes—to combat hate crimes.

No decision has yet been made to use the tactic. But the country’s justice minister and Amsterdam’s acting mayor both say they are considering it. And advocacy groups say intimidation has become a serious issue for Jews in the Netherlands.

“For ten years now, Jews who are recognizable as such from their clothing can’t walk peacefully on the street,” the Center for Information and Documentation Israel, a Jewish activist group, said in a statement recently. “The perpetrators of this kind of incident almost always get away unpunished.”

Amsterdam’s acting mayor, Lodewijk Asscher, has also said he would consider the idea of using decoy Jews and other “unorthodox methods” to combat racism. However, his spokeswoman, Tessel Schouten, said the city doesn’t yet have specific plans to do so.

Presbyterians Still One-Sided On Israel

By Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, HuffingtonPost.com

How many sour notes does it take to render a piece of music impossible to listen to? While there may be no scientific answer, reasonable people can agree that playing too many ruins the tune. Such is the case with a report overwhelmingly adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) at its recent biennial General Assembly held in Minneapolis.

While removing some horrendous anti-Israel and anti-Jewish language from a 172-page report called “Breaking Down the Walls,” significant one-sided anti-Israel bias remains.

Presbyterian Church representatives voted by a 4-1 margin (558-119) to adopt the report, which most disturbingly calls for withholding U.S. aid as a means to pressure Israel to make peace and cease settlement activity. Those who argue that the Church merely reaffirmed a longtime position are missing the point. Singling out Israel has always been insidious, particularly in today’s environment where Israel is the target of well-orchestrated campaigns that question its legitimacy.

Thanks and appreciation must be given to the many courageous Presbyterian leaders across the country who volunteered their time and resources to alert and educate their fellow Presbyterians about the horrendously bigoted, unfair, and unbalanced anti-Israel provisions being proposed as Church policy. We must remain vigilant and work harder to remove the continuing anti-Israel bias from Church policies. Until then, the Presbyterian policy on the Middle East is simply painfully discordant.

Iran Promotes “Islamic” Haircuts

By Saeed Ahmed and Mitra Mobasherat, CNN

The Islamic regime, which strictly enforces head coverings for women, recently issued grooming guidelines for the guys.



Among the do's that are now don'ts? The '80's Prince-style pompadour preferred by many young Iranian men, the Steven Seagal-style ponytail; and the “business in the front, party in the back” sentiment of the mullet—also popular among the Persian populace.

The approved styles have a distinctly 1950s look to them: short on the front and sides for the most part. But the gel-slathered, combed-back 1980s look also received the government's blessing.

The “Islamic” haircuts were unveiled at the Hijab and Chastity Festival, a fashion event designed to show how the country's youth can be stylish yet not run afoul of the fashion police.

“Hair styles have been designed based on the shape of the neck, beard, the size of the chin, and provincial cultures,” said Jaleh Khodayar, the secretary of the festival. Her comments were reported by the semi-official Mehr news agency.

“In designing these hairstyles, we have not tried to go backward. On the contrary, we have tried to make our designs a mixture of our traditions and Iranian culture, as well as the latest fashions, and by doing so confront

the cultural assault by the West (on our country).”

Majid, a 32-year-old Tehran resident who did not want to give out his last name, shrugged his head in amusement. “I don't think these young men will stop wearing these hairstyles, even though in my opinion they are actually pretty strange,” he said. He prefers his own hair on the short side.

To the outside world, the crackdown on cuts may represent further restrictions by an already restrictive regime. But in one way, they are a loosening of guidelines: No photographs of acceptable grooming styles feature models with full-grown beards—a look, a la President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, that Iran had encouraged for years.



A logo designed to represent NASA's latest assignment, to be more Muslim friendly

It Didn't Begin With The Holocaust

By Sharon Lapkin, FrontPageMagazine.com

Over sixty-five years ago, Nazism massacred six million Jews in Europe. But anti-Semitism didn't begin with Adolf Hitler. Jew-hatred has been an affliction of Western civilization since the Roman historian Tacitus maligned the Israelites in the first century A.D.

In 1267 in Vienna, the Catholic Council decreed that all Jews had to wear *pileum cornutum* or horned hats, so the public could identify them as offspring of the devil. And half a century earlier the Council of Paris forbade Christian midwives to attend Jewish women—who they proclaimed, were bringing the brood of the devil into the world.

The Archbishop of Canterbury closed every synagogue in his diocese in 1282, and eight years later King Edward I expelled the remaining 17,000 Jews from England and stole their property. They fled to Europe, but most were thrown into the sea by order of the ships' captains.

In Russia in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century, Jews were routinely tortured and put on trial for alleged blood-drinking. Later, they were burned alive in pogroms, as the public were warned to hide their children from the vampire Jews who sought to kidnap them and drink their blood at Passover.

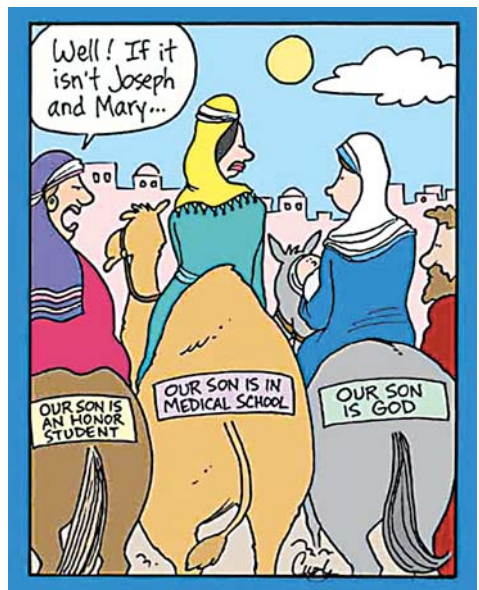
Throughout history Jews have been referred to as dogs. When Martin Luther designed his eight-point plan to rid the world of Jews in 1543, he demanded, "They must be driven from our country" and "we must drive them out like mad dogs."

In the mid-nineteenth century, leading French writer, Leon Bloy wrote, "It is impossible to earn the esteem of a

dog if one does not feel an instinctive disgust for the synagogue." And in 1871, Pope Pius IX said in reference to Jews, "of these dogs, there are too many of them at present in Rome, and we hear them howling in the streets, and they are disturbing us in all places."

Nor did the massacre of Jews cease with the defeat of Nazism in the Second World War. The Kielce Pogrom in Poland, in 1946, saw Jewish Holocaust survivors being lured out of their homes by neighbors who spent five hours publicly murdering them in cold blood as the local government and church stood silently by. This event—almost two years after the Holocaust—resulted in tens of thousands of Jews fleeing Poland.

Dagobert Runes, in 1968, stated that Jews have been persecuted through vampire trials and Black Death accusations, through the Count Rindfleisch campaign (146 Jewish communities were exterminated in six months), the Hussite wars (almost the entire Jewish population of Prague perished) and the Chmielnicki bloodbath (a brutal Cossack who massacred Jews), the Russian pogroms, Romanian barbarism, and the Nazi Holocaust. Prior to Nazism, he stated, Jews were burned alive. At least, he said, Hitler gassed his victims before he burned them. ★



The Goldberg Brothers *Inventors of the Automobile Air Conditioner*

Here's a little factoid for automotive buffs or just to dazzle your friends.

The four Goldberg brothers—Lowell, Norman, Hiram, and Max—invented and developed the first automobile air conditioner. On July 17, 1946, the temperature in Detroit was 97 degrees.



The four brothers walked into old man Henry Ford's office and sweet-talked his secretary into telling Ford that four gentlemen were there with the most exciting innovation in the auto industry since the electric starter.

Henry was curious and invited them into his office. They refused and instead asked that he come out to the parking lot to their car.

They persuaded him to get into the car—which was about 130 degrees—turned on the air conditioner, and cooled the car off immediately.

The old man got very excited and invited them back to the office, where he offered them \$3 million for the patent.

The brothers refused, saying they would settle for \$2 million, but they wanted the recognition by having a label, "The Goldberg Air Conditioner," on the dashboard of each car in which it was installed.



Now, old man Ford was more than just a little anti-Semitic, and there was no way he was going to put the Goldberg name on two million Fords.

They haggled back and forth for about two hours and finally agreed on \$4 million and that just their first names would be shown. And so to this day, all Ford air conditioners show—Lo, Norm, Hi, and Max—on the controls. ★

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Israeli Business Ventures That Inspire Peace In The Middle East

By Karin Kloosterman, www.Israel21c.org

Peace in the Middle East may seem elusive, but Jews and Arabs across Israel are working hard to create bridges though business. Making peace in the Middle East will never be an easy task, but what many people don't realize is that even in the midst of conflict, there are thousands upon thousands of Israeli people working dedicatedly for coexistence and the promise of a better life.

Some of the most effective of these peace projects are those based on business. Peace through prosperity is not a new concept, but as Yoav Stern, director of the Business and Economics Department at the Peres Center for Peace, admits, projects like these help build confidence.

It's a "win-win-win game," says Stern. "I think that what's unique in these kinds of businesses is the fact that the interests are clear for all sides. In order to have a sound business project you must identify the interests of all sides; not just the Israelis, not just Palestinians.

"They are very good ideas when you want to build confidence measures," he adds. "The business community is a very good engine for the peace train and without its commitment and involvement peace will not come," he asserts.



Karin Kloosterman

The Levitt Letter will introduce the top ten business ventures that inspire peace in the Middle East, one each month. Here is the second in our series.

Babcom

Want to outsource your call and customer service centers? Want to fuel a little Middle East peace? Instead of working with India, consider the services of Babcom. Based in the Galilee region, Babcom hires a significant number of Israeli Arabs and trains them as call center managers who work for both local and international companies. Functioning as a strategic partner, Babcom provides a cost-effective service for companies worldwide.

Co-founded in 2008 by Imad Telhami and Dov Lautman, Babcom was set up to meet its customers' long-term goals and to provide customer call services in Hebrew, Arabic, English, and Russian. The company works with large cellular providers in Israel.



SOCIALISM ILLUSTRATED...



Hadassah Generosity

By Barbara Sofer, www.Hadassah.org

Israelis are among the first to cross the world to help others as an expression of their values, the need to help the oppressed, and not to stand idle while others are in trouble. Let's look behind the scenes at Hadassah staff who participate in this proud Israeli mission.

Dr. Revital Hivert was supervising students at the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Dentistry when the phone call from the Israel Police urged her to go home and pack for Haiti. "I packed T-shirts, jeans, and sneakers," said Dr. Hivert. "Only at the briefing at Ben Gurion Airport did I realize there would be group showers, and asked my son to drop off my bathing suit."

Unlike the other 44 doctors in the Israeli mission, Hivert was recruited to attend to the dead. For the past decade she has volunteered for the police unit which identifies the dead from their dental records.



"Our first request came from Holland. Several couples had come to Haiti to adopt children, and the hotel where the new families were staying had collapsed."

She was able to identify the parents from dental records, and the children, who had no dental records, with chest X-rays in their adopting files. How did she cope? "One of my teachers said that just as you have to wear protec-

tive clothing and gloves, you have to create a protective covering for your heart, or you'll never be able to think. So many lives are touched by this work that I have no choice but to overcome my feelings."

In Haiti, she was called away from her sacred if grisly task by the doctors tending the living. A nine-year-old girl was brought in with a jaw so shattered that she couldn't eat. Lethal infection was already spreading. The IDF field hospital had brought no maxillofacial surgeons in the airlift. The closest specialist was military physician Dr. Haim Lavon, whose training is in ear, nose, throat, and neck surgery. Lavon was ready to operate, but he was unsure how to realign the teeth. Together, Lavon and Hivert became a medical duo, removing infected bone, making sure not to sacrifice permanent teeth. Said Lavon, "You can imagine how joyous we felt when later in the day this little girl started to eat."

"Being in Haiti was about Zionism, being part of an Israeli team with ultimate support for each other, and dedication to the task," she said. "On a personal level, there's also a satisfaction that I was able to land on a grass field in a foreign country, and to function at a high professional level. And, for me, there was also that feeling that as a woman I was able to cope with the toughest and be a living representative of our Hadassah values."

A special moment took place Friday night, while they were waiting for the equipment to arrive via Florida. "We sat on our sleeping bags in the field as the sun set. The El Al crew had given us all the little in-flight wine bottles, so the rabbi made *kiddush* (traditional blessing and prayer recited over wine on the eve of the Sabbath). And we all sang. It was a supreme spiritual moment." ★

Another story next month.



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Caution: buying this year's will make you want next year's as well! This is the BEST time to order our new Jewish Heritage Calendar for the year 5771, which begins in September. You'll have the dates of biblical feasts and Sabbaths, and the names of the months, the Holy Days, etc. You will also become acquainted with many fascinating artifacts through colorful pictures and descriptions you may wish to save for years to come.

Please order from page 19.

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Jeff

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