

Levitt

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



Letter



As long as we are giving thanks... Ps. 26:7

Thank God for the Jews!

By Myles Weiss

Thanksgiving is upon us. Many believe that the Pilgrims knew the Hebrew calendar and the Feasts of the Lord in Leviticus 23. The indigenous "Americans" placed here by God helped the Europeans survive the harsh winter. The natives and newcomers joined in a harvest celebration bearing the marks of *Sukkot*, the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. (See Sandra's column in October's *Levitt Letter*.) *Sukkot* has the autumn feel of gratitude for sufficient rain and bounteous crops, along with prayer for God to continue His blessing through the approaching winter. There was mutuality between those fleeing oppression and those welcoming them. Many of my Native American friends—pastors and leaders—tell me that their various tribes had generations of dreams and yearnings for the Creator to reveal Himself in a new way. They were awaiting the scrolls that spoke of Him, and many were grateful to hear the Word.

(continued on p. 2)



Rabbis' observance of Sukkot

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Jewish In China

By Bob Davis, Online.WSJ.com

For much of the past millennium, Jews in Kaifeng—descendants of merchants who arrived here from Persia, probably around the 11th century—have been struggling with an existential question: What does it mean to be Jewish?



Zhang
Xinwang

The handful of Kaifengers who go to Israel are sometimes floored to discover they need to go through a rabbi-certified conversion to be accepted as Jews, while the ones staying home squabble over which of them are really Jewish.

The question has surprising consequences in this dusty walled city in central China. According to the Chinese government,

(continued on p. 3)

Every day is a good day to be grateful, especially for those of us who have been called out by the King, the Messiah Yeshua. We are able to “tabernacle” with Him thanks to His substitutionary death. When God called Abram/Abraham, He promised a blessing to the whole world. Genesis 12:1–3 reminds us that Abraham’s seed *through the line of Isaac* would bless all the nations of the world. This has multiple meanings. The most obvious: Messiah would come from Isaac and offer salvation and eternal life to those outside the covenants of Israel (1 Cor 12:2, Eph. 2:12). (See Zola’s book and CD *Jesus the Jew’s Jew* on p. 36.)

But God is SO generous that He did not stop at the gift of eternal life. He gave intelligence, inventiveness, and industry to His people. The Jewish people, those descended directly from Abraham *through Isaac*, are a blessing beyond proportion relative to how few their people number. Look at the incredible contributions to mankind from the chosen sons of Abraham:

www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/all/

http://www.jinfo.org/Nobel_Prizes.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates

(chart)

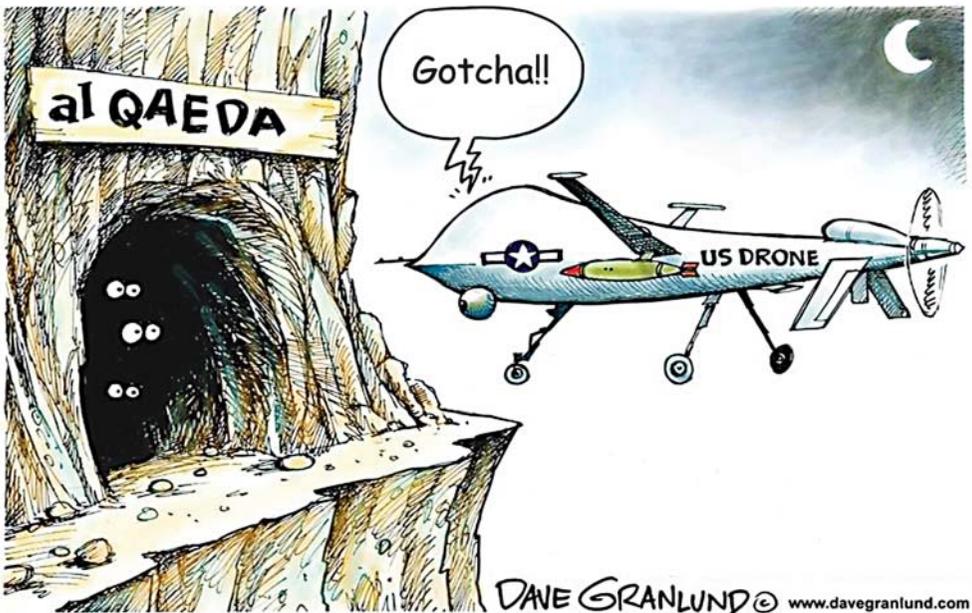
Although constituting 0.2% of the world population, between 1901 and 2010 Jews won 27% of the Nobel Prizes for Physiology/Medicine, 25% for Physics, and 42% for Economics.

“We owe to the Jews...”
—CHURCHILL

“We owe to the Jews,” wrote Winston Churchill in 1920, “a system of ethics which, even if it were entirely separated from the supernatural, would be incomparably the most precious possession of mankind, worth in fact the fruits of all wisdom and learning put together.”

These are awards for *real* accomplishments, not the Alice-in-UN-Wonderland-type where murdering terrorists win “peace” prizes, and genocidal dictators serve on “human rights commissions.”

These contributions were made despite so many intellectuals dying in Nazi gas chambers. As we give thanks in the American tradition, perhaps we should also thank God for our Jewish friends and for all of the blessings we enjoy that have come through them. ★



there are no Kaifeng Jews because there are no Chinese Jews. Judaism isn't one of China's five official religions and Jews aren't designated as one of the country's 55 official minorities. Orthodox Jews have a similar view, though for different reasons. Kaifeng Jews trace their heritage through their father, as Chinese traditionally do, while Orthodox Jews define Judaism as passing through the mother.

"They may stem from Jewish ancestry, but they aren't Jewish," says Rabbi Shimon Freundlich, who runs the Orthodox Chabad House in Beijing. "There hasn't been a Jewish community in Kaifeng in 400 years."

Except there is one, though it's divided and diminished. Somewhere between 500 and 1,000 people in the city say they are descendants of Kaifeng Jews and cling to at least some Jewish traditions. A canvas poster at 21 Teaching the Torah Lane announces the street as the site of a synagogue that was destroyed in an 1860 flood and never rebuilt. Inside a tiny courtyard house, "Esther" Guo Yan works as a tour guide and sells knick-knacks decorated with Jewish stars.

When tourists stop by, she quizzes them on Jewish ceremonies, like what prayers to say when lighting Sabbath candles. As the granddaughter of a Kaifeng Jew, she says the Orthodox standard on Judaism is unfair: "We read the Torah with Eastern thoughts; deal with it."

The first Jewish merchants arrived when Kaifeng was in its heyday as the Song dynasty capital. They married the local women and rose to become mandarins and military officials. Over the centuries they blended in ethnically and were forgotten by the world until 1605, when a Jewish scholar from Kaifeng met a Jesuit missionary in Beijing. The missionary then spread the news that Jews had been living in China for centuries.

The Kaifeng Jewish population is thought to have peaked at around 5,000, but by the early 1900s, none could read Hebrew and the community's Torah scrolls were sold to collectors.

These days, many in Kaifeng turn to Messianic Jew Timothy Lerner to learn Hebrew and Jewish customs. Mr. Lerner acknowledges that his visa was revoked by the Chinese government in 2006 for evangelizing, but says he doesn't try to convince anyone to follow his religious beliefs. He says he set up the "Kaifeng Israel School" to help Kaifeng Jews "learn the Jewish lifestyle" and move to Israel, where about a dozen of them have taken up residence. ★



Cover photo:
Zhang Xinwang calls himself "Moishe."
Bob Davis/The Wall Street Journal

Kaifeng's last synagogue, (left) destroyed in an 1860 flood, stood at 21 Teaching the Torah Lane, now an alley of courtyard houses. Bob Davis/The Wall Street Journal

Islam vs. Liberty

By Marvin Olasky, online.WorldMag.com

This year showcased demonstrators for freedom in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere in the Muslim world. But with democratic experiments stalling, Americans are asking: Do devout Muslims, for theological reasons, see liberty as an enemy? Is it by accident that societies with a Protestant base typically have developed free institutions, and societies with a Muslim base typically have not?

In a Texas university class of 30, only a handful knew the biblical belief that we are helpless in our sins and that our only hope lies in God's grace because of Christ's sacrifice. Most students identified Christianity with a set of moralistic rules: Obey them and you're good. What they saw as Christianity is more like Islam. Muslims do not recognize original sin. They contend that Allah through his prophet Mohammed laid out the rules for moral living, and that we are naturally capable of following all of them. Christians say only Christ meets that standard.

Muslims believe that Islamic *sharia* law can lead to a just society. Christians don't think a set of rules will make things right. The whole Old Testament shows that. God cares about what's in man's heart—and liberty reveals it. Will we love and trust God, or go our own way? Scripture says: Apart from God's grace, we go our own way. Muslims, though, see Allah's tests not as a push for us to cry out for mercy, but as a placement exam for heaven. The harder the test you pass, the higher the reward.

The difference between the two religions is profound. Christians emphasize God's grace in changing people like Jacob and Joseph (liars and braggarts), Samson and Paul (self-reliant), Gideon and Peter (through God's grace lost their fear and became courageous). These men had to become aware of



their own limitations because often we don't realize how much we need God until we have no other alternative. We do not reach God: He reaches us. God values heart obedience, which shows up when we are free to disobey.

What to Christians makes the Bible ring true—its record of drunken Noah, incestuous Lot, etc.—is exactly what makes it ring false to Muslims. Muslims believe that Allah picked leaders to carry his messages because of their strong character, which enabled them to obey the rules. *In Christianity the last shall be first. In Islam the first shall be first.*

Muslims respect Jesus as one of the 25 prophets listed in the Koran, but not as our Redeemer: Since we have no compulsion to sin we have no need of one. Christians know that Jesus was “pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities ... by His wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Christians want man to be given enough freedom to come close to hanging himself, so that realizing his sin he turns to God. Muslims say man is good but will go wrong if given freedom.

How does this work out in practice for devout Muslims? Visit <http://wp.me/pieUD-107> ★

I'm not sure about Christians *wanting* man to come close to hanging himself ... but, Christians know that their God died for them, whereas committed Muslims know that their god wants them to die for him. Big difference! —Myles

Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Q. Are we still under the Law? I thought all of that was nailed to the Cross. What about the Feasts ... are we still bound to observe them? Kippas and shawls, mezuzahs and Seders?

I am serious in my walk with Christ and don't want to do anything to jeopardize that closeness with Him. When Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law, not abolish it, what did He mean? If He didn't abolish it, what did He do with it?

A. New Covenant Believers are not under the dominion of the Mosaic Law. You can find an excellent summation from Scripture at www.GotQuestions.org/not-under-the-law.html (excerpted below):

The Apostle Paul clarifies the effects of original sin in Romans 2:12, stating, "All who sin apart from the law will perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law." All men stand condemned before God, whether they are Jews or not, or to put it another way, whether they have the Law of God or not.

If we are without Christ, we are justly condemned in God's sight by the Law that was given to His servant Moses. The Apostle states in Romans 2:14-15 that the gentiles have the essence of God's legal requirements already ingrained and so are just as much without excuse [as Jews without Christ].

The Law is the issue that has to be dealt with in order to bring us into a right relationship with God. "Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ ... because by observing the law no one will be justified" (Galatians 2:16). This passage reveals that the Law cannot justify or make righteous any man in God's sight, which is why God sent His

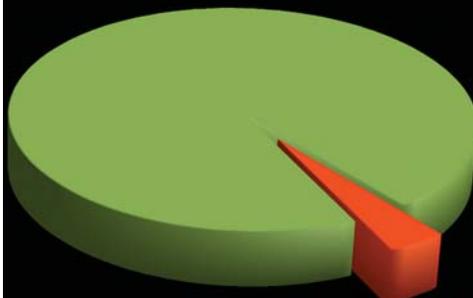
Son to completely fulfill the requirements of the Law for all those who would ever believe in Him. This does not mean that Christians are to be lawless—a teaching called antinomianism. Rather, it means that we are free from the Mosaic Law and instead are under the law of Christ, which is to love God with all of our being and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Christ became the end of the Law by virtue of His sacrifice on the cross. The Law no longer has any bearing over us because faith in Christ who satisfied the righteous demands of the Law restores us into a pleasing relationship with God and keeps us there.

With regard to the Feasts of Israel, there is no problem with Christians celebrating the Jewish Feasts as long as the Christian keeps in mind that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of these Feasts. He is the One who gives them substance and reality (see Colossians 2:16-17). The Feasts have a prophetic and Christological importance that has relevant meaning for the Church today. For a good presentation on these Feasts, we recommend that you read Zola's study booklet, *The Seven Feasts of Israel* (offered on p. 18, CD on p. 19).



96% of Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank live under Palestinian Authority control.



If the PA leaders really wanted a state, they would have had one in 2001.

More Info at: <http://wp.me/pieUD-11w>

Metula and Security

By Eitan Shishkoff

While vacationing at a northern kibbutz, I took my daughter to an early bus to get back to her IDF base. A sudden inspiration carried me through the town of Kiryat Shmona, climbing toward the higher elevation of Metula, four miles up the road. Metula is the northernmost town in Israel. It sits on a high ridge overlooking Lebanon.

I found myself interceding for these vulnerable Israeli towns. They are RIGHT on the border and have endured innumerable attacks. From the mid-1970s until 2000, when Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon, rocket fire was an almost daily affair. In the 34 days of the 2006 Second Lebanon War, 1,012 rockets hit Kiryat Shmona. Half of the town evacuated, and the other half endured the bar-rages in bomb shelters.

As I drove, I began calling on the God of Israel, declaring His protection over the area and reminding Him of His protective attributes, oft-cited in Scripture: High Tower, the Rock of our salvation, our Defense, our Savior, our Shield, He who surrounds us with songs of deliverance. These prayers became more than a remote request for blessing. The tangible, ongoing need of my northern countrymen infused me with fresh, passionate faith.

Arriving at a stunning outlook point called Dado Lookout, I was greeted by a pre-sunrise view of the upper Hula Valley. Orchards and fertile fields became visible as the sun slowly broke through low morning clouds. I felt more alive than usual, as if God was pulling me close and opening a curtain on just

Eitan and Connie Shishkoff



one small portion of His grandeur. At the same time, I began reflecting on our people, Israel. A longing welled up in me. A longing for my people to know our true Defender/Redeemer, Messiah Yeshua. My intercession became a cry for the revelation of His atoning mercy here in *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel) where He was born, lived, manifested the Glory, was executed, and conquered death. Then it hit me, in a simple parallel with the security needs of Metula and Kiryat Shmona.

In order to convey the reality of Yeshua as Israel's Messiah to Israel, we must be secure. Unashamed, restful confidence that comes from Him is the foundation for reaching out in love (Isaiah 30:15). These towns are open to attack, yet they are fully functioning, content with their sensitive positions. They know their importance and, without pretense, proclaim Israel's return to our ancient home. Is this not what I am called to do? He is my Shepherd and Commander, my Healer and my Comforter. If God is for me, who can be against me? (Rom. 8:31) That being the case, interacting with my fellow Israelis, or anybody else, becomes an opportunity—an opening for Him to touch another through me.

May these northern towns dwell securely, and may we enter a new level of inner security, to make Messiah known. ★



Metula, with Mount Hermon in distance

I Completely Disagree

By Zola Levitt

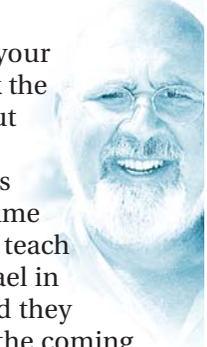
In the May and June [1996] issues of this newsletter, I discussed the late Dr. J. Vernon McGee and his stance on the biblical relevancy of today's Israel. We have since been in contact with Col. Ridgely O. Ryan, president of *Thru The Bible Radio*, which is the ministry Dr. McGee established. In his most recent letter, Col. Ryan wrote:

“Dr. McGee ... stated on many occasions how important an understanding of Israel is to a proper interpretation of the Scriptures. It was his opinion that God was not working through that nation today but that they would be in the center of world affairs after the Rapture.... He was indeed a friend of Israel, although he did not see the present-day events regarding the nation as the fulfillment of prophecy.”

Although I appreciate the emphasis Dr. McGee placed on the importance of Israel in the Scriptures, I completely disagree with him on his opinion of modern Israel. I do not understand how anyone, having witnessed the miraculous preservation of this tiny country, could think that God has not had a hand in bringing about the restoration of Israel as a nation. There is an enormous amount of Scripture devoted to the return of the Jewish people to their Land. Deuteronomy 30:4-5 is just one passage that is being fulfilled before our eyes: “If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will He fetch thee: and the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and He will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.” The immigration of Jews from all parts of the world since 1948 agrees so precisely with this Scripture that it seems almost foolish not to regard it as a work of God.

I am bringing this to your attention not to attack the work of Dr. McGee, but because a number of evangelical seminaries have fallen into this same kind of thinking. They teach the importance of Israel in the Old Testament and they emphasize its role in the coming Tribulation, but they skip the modern nation entirely. I think they've fallen for the media line. Having been conditioned by their local broadcasters to see Israel as the bad guy, they try to find a theology to make that view work. But a view that contradicts Scripture *can't* work. When the Tribulation starts, Israel will already be in the Land. It is absurd to think that the Jewish people will all have their bags packed, ready to move in the morning after the Rapture.

I think proponents of this unfortunate thinking are in danger of coming under the warning of Genesis 12:3, that those who curse the seed of Abraham will themselves be cursed. Israel is the most important country in the world to Christians. It will be our home for a thousand years, and that could start seven years from today. ★



Dry Bones



Fishing for the Next Generation

By Morgan Arnold
Social Media Manager



Have you ever wondered how you can share Jesus Christ across the globe? Maybe you can't take mission trips to exotic lands, but you *can* communicate the Good News of the Gospel via the Internet—with social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Growing in popularity, social media connect people who otherwise might not meet. According to an Internet World Statistics study, of the 2.1 billion Internet users, 60% regularly utilize social media. The most popular social media platform, Facebook, has more than 800 million users (50% of whom log on to FB on any given day) and represents one-third of all Web users (excluding China where Facebook is banned). Facebook users are numerous enough to be the third largest “country” in the world. So how can we effectively reach this electronic community?

Here are some ways Christians can use social media to the glory of God:

News and Information—Via Twitter or Facebook, you can receive up-to-the-minute news from *The Jerusalem Post* and other news outlets. As you become more aware of the day-to-day happenings, your prayers can be more specific as you “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6).

Communication with Missionaries—Many missionaries still send out monthly newsletters. However, increasing numbers are able to communicate daily praise reports and prayer requests to prayer warriors and financial supporters. Also, the doses of encouragement that Christian workers receive in return can combat the loneliness, frustration, and disappointment that they experience.



Worldwide Evangelism—Facebook is a free and easy way to connect with others and share your faith. By networking with friends and family, we are able to build relationships with people outside of our normal social circles. As we interact with these individuals, opportunities arise to share the “hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). In addition, the Gospel, via social media, can penetrate many places where Christianity is outlawed and Christian workers are banned. Unbelieving minds can be enlightened and hard hearts softened by the Holy Spirit as a result of your social media relationships.



With the above activities in mind, **Zola Levitt Ministries is proud to announce that it has stepped up its own social media efforts.** If you have a Facebook account, please go to our official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ZolaLevitt, and click “Like.” Furthermore, please follow us on our official Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/#!/ZolaLevitt>. We'll be regularly broadcasting news and information related to Israel, Bible prophecy, and the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Social media are a powerful way for this ministry to exhort Believers and evangelize unbelievers. With your help we can all build a worldwide “electronic net” to reach more “fish” who need the Savior. ★

THE ARGYLE SWEATER By Scott Hilburn



This is the Way, Walk in It—Isaiah 30:21

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Traditionally, Gospel ministry in Tiberias, Israel has been met with hardness of heart and indifference from our Israeli audience. At one point during our walk on the Tiberian streets last June, Ralph said, “Go ahead down the street” as he felt led by the Holy Spirit to stop and pray and ask the Lord to open a ministry door. Ralph’s obedience to the Spirit’s leading resulted in an open door for me and an opportunity to share Yeshua’s love for Israel.

I passed by a sunglasses shop and felt called inside. Unsure at first, I walked to the end of the street and prayed. Again, the Holy Spirit prompted me and I went into the store. Two pleasant young Israeli women, **Bethel and Naami**, (right) asked me why I come to Israel so often (several times a year). This question gave me a wonderful opportunity to tell both of them about how this ministry seeks to bring Yeshua back to His people and to place in their hands the New Testament Scriptures emphasizing that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies made about the Messiah in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament).

After about twenty minutes of conversation concerning how these Messianic prophecies identify Jesus as the Messiah, I offered both women the New Testament Scriptures in Hebrew. Naami declined, saying that if it was about Yeshua, she did not want it because what she believed as a Jew and what is believed about Yeshua

are not the same. I told Naami that I respected her beliefs concerning Judaism, but pointed out that Yeshua is nevertheless an integral part of the Jewish belief in the Messiah—Jews wrote about Him, Jews followed Him, and He came to offer salvation as the Messiah to the Jews first in the Land of Israel. So to read about Him from a book like the New Testament—written by all Jews—is a very Jewish thing to do and consistent with biblical Judaism!

I explained that when I accepted Yeshua the Jewish Messiah, He made me into a Jew in spirit and poured into my heart a profound love for the Jewish people through whom He came into the



Two Israelis heard about Messiah via our To The Jew First ministries.

world (Romans 2:28–29; 5:5). Bethel was moved by these words direct from the Holy Spirit to her through me. She accepted the Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts to learn more about Yeshua. Naami helped me to say in Hebrew why I do this no matter what Israelis may or may not think: because when I received God’s forgiveness and salvation 26 years ago, He commanded me to go and tell His People (the Jewish people) that He loves them and is coming again soon.

Please continue to support our outreach by designating your donations “To the Jew First Fund.”



Keeping Bugs Out Of Food

Insect infestation is one of the biggest problems facing food manufacturers and distributors, who fight a constant battle to keep bugs out of factories and warehouses. Many pesticides are off-limits to food producers because of their toxicity, which makes this struggle even tougher.

"After some study, we discovered a perfectly natural and safe way to keep insects away from food," says Prof. Shlomo Navarro, co-founder of Israel's Bio[pack]. "Our solution is natural, safe, long-lasting, and unlikely to be something a bug could build up resistance to, unlike chemical pesticides." Bio[pack]'s compound can be applied to food packaging or used alone around a warehouse perimeter as an area repellent.



Navarro and his colleague Fadel Mansour of Israel's Volcani Agricultural Research Center based their revolutionary product on scientific research into naturally occurring pest repellents in plants.

Agriculturalists long knew, for example, that spearmint plants repel ants, coriander repels aphids, horseradish keeps away Colorado potato beetles, tomatoes repel cabbage maggots, and

By David Shamah
www.israel21c.org



potatoes keep Mexican bean beetles at bay. Navarro and his team, however, were the first to isolate and extract the specific chemical elements in plants that repel bugs. Bio[pack]'s solution combines numerous repellent elements into a single product.

Navarro, Mansour, and five fellow scientists hold patents for processes to extract natural insect repellents from fruits and vegetables and infuse them in plastic, aluminum wrap, cardboard, and other types of food packaging

Unlike chemical pesticides, Bio[pack]'s natural repellents don't allow for the possibility of insects building up resistance to the elements. "Resistance is a process that takes place when an element gets inside an insect population, and some of the population survive," says Navarro. As people do, bugs can get used to poisons, handing down resistance to subsequent generations of insects—with a new, resistant generation often appearing in a matter of weeks.

"Since our product is a repellent, the insects just stay away from the area where it is applied, so there is little chance of insects building up resistance," he explains. ★

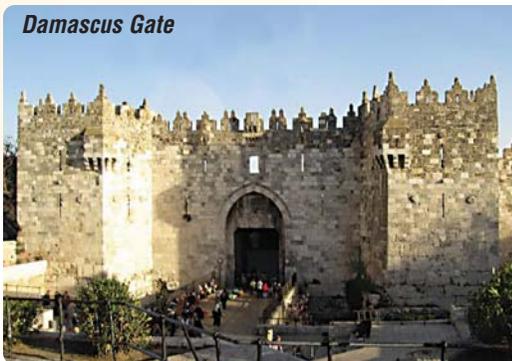


Jerusalem's Walls Restored

By Matti Friedman, Associated Press

Israeli experts are nearing completion of a restoration of the 500-year-old walls of Jerusalem, the holy city's dominant architectural feature and a unique record of its eventful and troubled history.

The first restoration of the walls in nearly a century, it has required decisions about which of the walls' many idiosyncrasies are flaws to be corrected and which have earned a place in Jerusalem's story and are thus worth preserving: such as the falcon nests, the hundreds of machine-gun bullets, and the botched restorations of years past.



Jerusalem's stone walls are 2-1/2 miles long and include seven gates.

A disintegrating protective barrier of cinderblocks erected on top of the existing wall by Jordanian troops about 50 years ago, for example, was dismantled. Then it was recreated to serve as a reminder of the divided city that existed before Jordan lost East Jerusalem to Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Bullets pancaked into the stones at Zion Gate—remnants of fierce fighting there in 1948—were left in place. Hundreds of almond trees that grow inside the walls, however, were removed. Their roots, extending between the Ottoman stones, damage the wall.

Israeli archaeology and other work in East Jerusalem has often been contentious but there has been little opposition to this restoration, and at Damascus Gate, merchants seemed pleased that centuries of grime had been removed and the gate restored to something of its former glory.

The Old City walls were completed by Sultan Suleiman in 1541, fearing a new Christian Crusade to wrest the city from Islamic control. His engineers constructed 35 watchtowers, firing slits for archers, and grates from which burning oil could be poured on invaders rushing the gates. The carved lions that gave Lions' Gate its name were leftovers from the 13th century. The ornamental carvings set in an outer wall near Jaffa Gate were the work of Crusader masons.

The new Crusade that Suleiman feared did not materialize, and Christian conquerors only arrived nearly four centuries later in the form of the British general Edmund Allenby. Entering Suleiman's walls after receiving the Turkish surrender in 1917, Allenby famously dismounted and strode through Jaffa Gate on foot in a gesture of humility.

At the grandest of the Old City's seven entrances, Damascus Gate, crews worked for ten months repairing and cleaning the stones; much of the work was carried out at night so as not to interfere with business. Ornamental stone spikes of the wrong shape placed atop the battlements by the British during the last restoration, in 1920, were removed. They were replaced with handmade copies of the original Ottoman stones.

During the project, a team also scanned the entire length of the walls with 3-D laser equipment, mapping every stone and locating dangerous bulges. The crew noted dozens of falcons and common swifts that nested in the walls. The crevices were left untouched to avoid disturbing the birds. ★

Time Is Running In Israel's Favor

By Yoram Ettinger

www.TheEttingerReport.com

1. Time is running in Israel's favor, as evidenced by the "global economic walk" and irrespective of the "global political talk." In 1948, Israel had no significant exports. In 2010, Bank of Israel documented a \$6.7 billion current account (mostly trade balance) surplus, featuring the U.S., Europe, India, and Turkey as the chief trading partners. Israel is a global leader in medical, telecommunications, software, and defense industries.

2. Israel is NOT isolated: 3.45 million tourists visited Israel during 2010—proportionally equal to 138 million tourists visiting the USA (60 million tourists visited the USA in 2010, an all-time record).

3. Israel-Turkey trade volume surged 140% since the Islamic party, AKP, assumed power in 2002: \$3.45 billion in 2010 compared with \$1.4 billion in 2002.

4. A game changer: From a nearly

total reliance on imported energy, Israel will become—by 2014—a major exporter of natural gas.

5. Silicon Israel: In 1992, there was no venture capital activity in Israel. In 2011, Israel's high tech attracts the leading global companies (e.g., Microsoft, GE, Intel, Siemens, IBM), venture capital funds (e.g., Sequoia, Greylock, OrbiMed, Accel), investment banks (e.g., Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley) and private investors (e.g., Warren Buffett, Eric Schmidt).

6. In defiance of geopolitical constraints, limited natural resources, and global economic turbulence, Israel sustains growth: 5.2% GDP, 3% (of GDP) budget deficit, 5.7% unemployment, 2.7% inflation, 3.25% interest rate, stable currency (the Shekel is one of the 14 globally-traded currencies), \$75 billion foreign exchange reserves. War and terrorism have been bumps on the road of an impressive growth.

7. Gallup well-being poll, April 19, 2011: Israel is rated 7th in the world, ahead of New Zealand, Holland, Ireland, USA, Austria, Brazil, Britain, Mexico, etc. ★



*Gethsemane
See Israel tours
on page 36*

Jerusalem Scholars Trace Bible's Evolution

By Matti Friedman, Associated Press

Scholars in a corner of the Hebrew University campus have been quietly at work since 1958 on one of the most ambitious projects attempted in biblical studies—publishing the authoritative edition of the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Bible, and tracking every single evolution of the text over centuries and millennia.

And it has evolved, despite deeply held beliefs to the contrary.

For many Jews and Christians, religion dictates that the words of the Bible in the original Hebrew are divine, unaltered, and unalterable. For Orthodox Jews, the accuracy is considered so inviolable that if a synagogue's Torah scroll is found to have a minute error in a single letter, the entire scroll is unusable.

But the ongoing work of the academic detectives of the Bible Project shows that this text was somewhat fluid for long periods of its history, and that its transmission through the Ages was messier and more human than most of us imagine.

Michael Segal, the scholar who heads the project, and his colleagues toil in relative anonymity. Their undertaking is nearly unknown outside a circle of Bible experts, and many members of the university's own staff have never heard of it.

This is an endeavor so meticulous, its pace so disconnected from that of the world outside, that in more than five decades of work the scholars have published a grand total of three of the Hebrew Bible's 24 books. (Christians count the same books differently, for a total of 39.) A fourth is due out soon.

If the pace is maintained [and the Lord

tarries—Ed.], the final product will be complete a little over 200 years from now. This is both a point of pride and a matter of some mild self-deprecation around the office.

Bible Project scholars have spent years combing through manuscripts such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, Greek translations on papyrus from Egypt, a printed Bible from 1525 Venice, parchment books in handwritten Hebrew, the Samaritan Torah, and scrolls in Aramaic and Latin. The scholars note where the text we have now differs from older versions—differences that are evidence of the inevitable textual hiccups, scribal errors, and other human fingerprints that became part of the Bible as it was passed on, orally and in writing.



In an example from the Book of Deuteronomy, a passage referring to commandments given by God “to you” once read “to us,” a significant change in meaning. The Book of Jeremiah is now one-seventh longer than the one that appears in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Some verses, including ones containing a prophecy about the seizure and return of Temple implements by Babylonian soldiers, appear to have been added after the events happened.

The year the Bible Project began, a priceless Hebrew Bible manuscript arrived in Jerusalem after it was smuggled out of Aleppo, Syria. This was the 1,100-year-old Aleppo Codex, considered the oldest and most accurate version of the complete biblical text in Hebrew. The Bible Project's version of the core text—the one to which the others are compared—is based on this manuscript. ★

Middle Eastern Christians and Anti-Semitism

by Aymenn Jawad, www.JPost.com

There is a widespread belief among Iraqis that some external force was behind the uprisings across the Middle East. What outside conspiracy could be responsible for the Arab Spring? George Saliba—the Syriac Orthodox Church's bishop in Lebanon—offers us a simple answer: he declared, “the source ... behind all these movements, all these civil wars, and all these evils” in the Arab world is nothing other than Zionism, “deeply rooted in Judaism.” The Jews, he says, are responsible for financing and inciting the turmoil in accordance with The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

These remarks are not an isolated case among Middle Eastern Christians. The anti-Semitic trend became especially apparent in the aftermath of Iraq's assault last year on the Syriac Catholic Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad.

Two months after the atrocity, the Melkite Greek Patriarch Gregory III Laham characterized the attacks on Iraq's Christians as part of “a Zionist conspiracy against Islam ... and it aims at undermining and giving a bad image of Islam.”

Similarly, Iraqi priest Father Suheil Qasha claimed that the Jews consider all gentiles to be beasts, and asserted that the “real danger” to Middle Eastern Christians came from Zionism. He went on to state that those who perpetrated the attack on the church in Baghdad were certainly not Muslims, but probably those trained and supervised “by global Zionism.”

Anti-Semitism extends to the Coptic Orthodox Church, which, serving around 10 percent of Egypt's population, is the largest single church in the Middle East and North Africa.

Many would explain away this anti-Semitism by pointing to the anti-Jewish sentiments that are mainstream among the Muslim populations of the region. Living in such an environment—the reasoning goes—Christians would naturally be careful not to denounce deeply held convictions among their Muslim neighbors for fear of provoking persecution.



However, the cancer of hostility toward Jews among Middle Eastern Christians goes much deeper than that. Indeed, it is telling that other non-Muslim minorities that have suffered discrimination and violence at the hands of Islamists—including the Yezidis, Mandeans and Bahá'ís—have never blamed Jews or Zionism for their persecution; their religions have not featured anti-Semitic doctrines.

Ultimately, anti-Semitism among Middle Eastern Christians is entrenched in charges of deicide (i.e., of killing Jesus) against the Jewish people as a whole. As Saliba put it, Jewish conspiracies are “only natural” because the Jews repaid Christ for His miracles by crucifying Him.

It is clear that Eastern churches have yet to move beyond the noxious anti-Semitic motifs repudiated by the Vatican in 1965. If anti-Semitism in the Middle East and North Africa is to be eradicated, the burden will evidently not be a task for Muslims alone. ★

Jawad is an intern at the Middle East Forum and a student at Oxford University.

This important article should open the eyes of the Church. Let's make certain that we are on the Lord's side in this crucial matter. —Myles

In October's *Levitt Letter* (p. 15), we showed how boxing is bridging Israeli-Palestinian differences. Here is another sport building such bridges.

From Enemies To Teammates

By Dan Goldberg, www.JTA.org

Sulaiman Khatib is an ordinary Palestinian with an extraordinary past. Born in the West Bank near Jerusalem, he grew up as a “freedom fighter,” as he describes it, fighting against the Israelis by throwing stones and preparing Molotov cocktails.

But in 1986, when he was just 14, he and a friend stabbed some Israeli soldiers. Khatib was arrested and sent to prison for 10 years. He spent most of his time behind bars learning Hebrew and English, reading about Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi, and studying the histories of other conflicts—all of which, he said, led him to a startling conclusion.

“I believe nonviolence is the best way for our struggle and for peace on both sides,” Khatib, 39, said of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Khatib led a team of 24 Israelis and Palestinians to Australia in a unique bridge-building exercise: to compete in an international competition of Australian-rules football, a hybrid of American football, Gaelic football, and rugby.

Participating in a tournament alongside 18 teams—including ones from the United States, Canada, South Africa, Britain and New Zealand—was the easy part for the Israelis and Palestinians; preparing was much harder.

Kamal Abu Althom said, “Many people I know are opposed to my participation in activities with the Israeli side.”

Nimrod Vromen, an Israeli player: “For me, it’s easy. For the Palestinians, they actually have their lives threatened playing on this team.”

The media coverage of the team’s visit—amid a campaign to boycott Israel by targeting Israeli-owned Max Brenner chocolate shops across Australia—has been “unprece-



24 Israelis and Palestinians came together as a “Peace Team” to play Australian-rules football. (Jonathan Davis)

ented,” said Tanya Oziel, executive director of the Australian branch of the Peres Center for Peace.

Off the field, the team’s arrival in Australia’s capital prompted the Parliamentary Friends of Israel and the Parliamentary Friends of Palestine groups to join forces for the first time. “Nothing has bridged the two communities like this,” Oziel said. “The Peace Team is like a beacon for other communities in conflict.”

Being defeated in the mid-rounds meant they lost any chance of winning the International Cup trophy. It’s not the toughest reality that they’ve had to face.

One week into their trip, news broke of the terrorist attacks near Eilat, which left eight Israelis dead. The younger Israeli players—just dismissed from the army—took it more emotionally. The older ones told them, “Remember that what you’re doing here is proof that we are doing it better.”

Regardless of their failures on the field or their feats off it, the Peace Team’s two-week trip to Australia was an unbridled success, Oziel said. It’s what happens next that concerns her.

“I’m more worried about the backlash when the boys get back home,” she said. “There’s still resentment. Some of our boys are under threat for being involved in normalization projects with Israel. It’s very sad.” ★

How attainable fellowship is and how fragile it can be to retain! Let’s pray for more neighborly interactions—and the safety of Arabs who dare to mix it up with Jews on the playing field. —Myles



For You Are My Lamp

By John J. Parsons

כִּי־אַתָּה נִרְיִי יְהוָה וְיְהוָה יִגִּיף חֹשֶׁךְ־כִּי:

For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

(2 Sam 22:29)

כִּי	חֹשֶׁךְ	יִגִּיף	וְיְהוָה	יְהוָה	נִרְיִי	אַתָּה	כִּי	
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)
choshki		yagi'ah	vadonai	Adonai	neri	atah	ki	
my darkness		will lighten	and the LORD	LORD	my lamp	Thou (are)	For	

In the holy place of the tabernacle (*mishkan*), a seven-branched lamp stand (menorah) held seven individual lamps (*nerot*) that represented God's perfect light. The seven lamps of the menorah contained pure olive oil inside almond-shaped containers, suggesting the seven eyes of the LORD mentioned in Zechariah 4:2. Together, the menorah and its seven lamps were referred to as the Perpetual Lamp (*ner tamid*), a source of light that illuminated the Bread of Presence (*lechem panim*) and the Altar of Incense (*mizbeach haketoret*) within the holy place. The lamp was to be attended to every morning and evening during the time of the burning of the sweet incense (symbolizing prayer), and was never to be extinguished (Lev. 24:2).



In this verse, King David metaphorically calls the LORD his Perpetual Lamp—that is, the Source of holy light that enables him to see. Just as the radiance of the menorah caused the darkness of the holy place to be dispelled, and illuminated both the Bread of Presence and the rising plume of sweet incense, so the presence of the LORD in the heart of faith causes the inner darkness of the soul to be overcome, revealing the provision and presence of God (John 1:5,9). Indeed, David would have understood this metaphor to refer to his future descendant, (the promised “Son of David”) who would be the True Light of the world (Psalm 132:17, John 1:9, 8”12, 12:46).

Living in view of God's Light itself gives us light to see (John 3:20-21). Jesus is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His Person, who upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3).

Beholding the radiance of the Lord Jesus drives away our inner darkness, feeds our soul, and enables us to have authentic communion with a holy God.



Psalms of Ascent

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Jeff and Sandra examine Psalms 120 to 134, which are known as the “Psalms of Ascent.” While these psalms may have been sung by ancient Jews going up to the Temple in Jerusalem, they are surprisingly appropriate and timely for Believers today. Eitan Shishkoff from Haifa and the music of Marty Goetz are also featured.

Psalms 120 & 121 From the UN headquarters in Jerusalem and nearby Ein Prat, Jeff reminds us that King David had to deal with deceitful enemies and times of distress but realized that his sure source of help was the Lord.

Psalms 122 & 123 A mantra of this ministry is “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” from Psalm 122. This city has had its share of battles, yet it is still central in the hearts of Jews and Christians as we look to the Lord for mercy and ultimate deliverance.

Psalms 124 & 125 Even though Israel’s opponents have been many and fearsome, the Lord has sustained Israel these many centuries. King David saw divine protection and likened it to the mountains that surround Jerusalem.

Psalms 126 & 127 Out of captivity and sorrow, the Lord brings joy through deliverance. The Israelites have returned to the Promised Land. From the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount, Jeff reminds us that human efforts to build are in vain without the Lord’s protection.

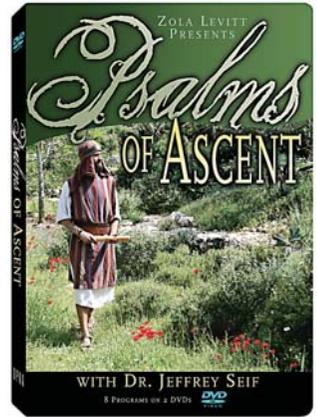
Psalms 128 & 129 At the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, Jeff considers the Psalms’ clear teaching that fear of the Lord and honoring His ways bring blessings to individuals and families. Israel as a nation has seen much affliction, but the Lord’s support is unwavering.

Psalms 130 & 131 At the Western Wall, Jeff speaks of God’s ears that are open to our cries for help. Always there, He faithfully pours out His forgiveness and redemption. The God of Israel provides contentment to our souls like a mother comforts her child. Eitan Shishkoff reminds us of our need to pray for an awakening among His People.

Psalms 132 & 133 David wanted to build a temple in Jerusalem because he knew the Lord had chosen it. Zion became His abiding place and remains His to this very day, despite replacement theology. In this fractious world, dwelling together in unity is a blessing.

Psalms 134 Sandra and Jeff conclude this series having seen many coming up to Jerusalem, seeking and praising God. On the Mount of Olives, Jeff invites all Believers to journey together to our ultimate destination. Marty Goetz sings a wonderful rendition of “Benediction.”

The Valley of Armageddon lies peacefully waiting for the Prince of Peace to return.



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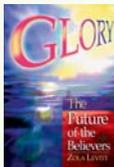


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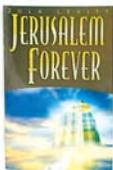
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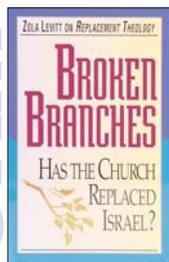
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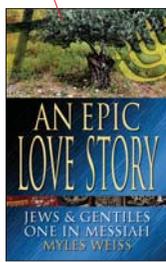
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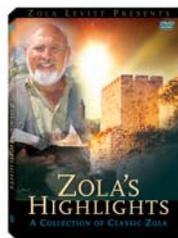
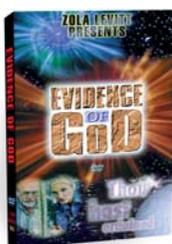


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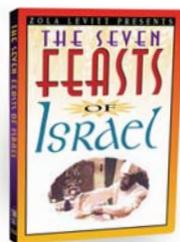
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Now you can see online a window into the world and times of Jesus. The Dead Sea Scrolls date from approximately 200 B.C. to about 68 A.D. Most were written in Hebrew on parchment, and they include the oldest known biblical manuscripts in existence. To see five of the 950 manuscripts, including the Great Isaiah Scroll, visit <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il>.

You can order our *Secrets of the Scrolls* TV series and transcript on page 18, or view the series at www.levitt.tv/media/series/DSOS.

Happy Thanksgiving

O give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good; For His
mercy is everlasting.
1 Chronicles 16:34



Pamphlet of the Month:

An Estate Planning Quiz

Your answers to this informal 25-question quiz may reveal areas of your estate and financial plans that merit consideration. The true-false questions serve as a checklist of sorts. A grading scale at the end suggests where you stand between “unusually prudent” and “your loved ones will probably experience significant difficulties.” To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Wanted: Assistant Editor

This is a part-time volunteer opportunity that would involve 10–20 hours per month. You’re a gifted writer and proof-reader who is called to contribute your efforts to the Lord’s work. In addition, you read voluminously about Israel, particularly newspapers and newsmagazines. In fact, sometimes you wish you could offer suggestions to the *Levitt Letter’s* editor. Now’s your chance! If you’re interested in helping take this ministry’s publications to the next level, please write to Mark’s attention with your qualifications and experience. Prepare to join an elite team of warriors for the Lord who strive to wield His Word in spiritual battle.

Zola’s Tours to Israel:



See page
36 for details



The Dove's Reserve



By Mark Levitt

wise as a serpent

So much easier said than done. If we tithe 10% and save 10%, we stay drier on rainy days. "Into each life some rain [tears] must fall." —Henry Longfellow

By *rainy days*, I mean financial challenges such as a job loss or sudden expense. First, of course, you'll have savings to fall back on. Second, you'll be accustomed to living on just 80% of your income (or more if you don't tithe). Pay yourself (save) before paying others (spending). Frugality during prosperity helps us weather life's storms. Sorry for the pun.

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Pr. 22:3, 27:12). The serpent wisely knows this; the dove gently abides it (Mt. 10:16).

Below is a friendly exchange between financial guru Dave Ramsey and one of his readers. See more from Dave Ramsey in the Serpent installments that are archived toward the bottom at www.levitt.com/essays: "Buying a Car" and "Navigating the New www.Cars.com."

Dear Dave,
I've just started listening to you and trying to clean up my finances. Who exactly is this "Murphy" you always talk about?
—Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,
The Murphy I talk about isn't an actual person, or even a real family. There's an adage called **Murphy's Law**, and it goes something like this: "If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong." In other words, if you're alive and walking around, bad stuff will happen to you sooner or later. It's not even about being pessimistic or negative, it's just a fact. Sooner or later it's going to rain, and that's why you need an umbrella.

I tell people all the time that having an emergency fund of three to six months worth of expenses saved up is great Murphy Repellant. Think about it. A lot of your big problems seem to leave when you have \$10,000 to \$15,000 sitting around. An emergency fund can turn a disaster into nothing more than a minor inconvenience.

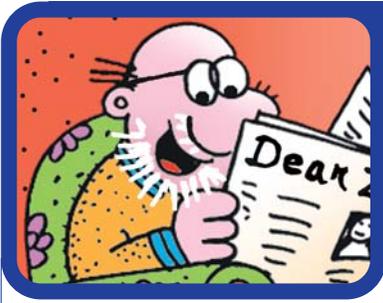
So, it's just a saying. But there's still a whole lot of truth in that little saying, Jennifer. If you're properly prepared, you can keep Murphy away from your door!
—Dave

Such pearls of wisdom won't apply very well to certain families who live below the poverty level (please don't take this article as an indictment). In fact, this ministry has never had six months worth of reserves on hand. However, I strive to practice what I preach by steering clear of extravagances while avoiding penny wisdom and pound foolishness.

Chances are, many of you who are reading this article can both save more for yourselves and help God's work, such as this ministry, more than before. Okay, you already knew that yesterday. What I'm telling you today is that, counterintuitive though it is, you may be happier in the long run doing so. To the rest of you who already save and donate all you can afford, please relay these thoughts to someone younger.

Super Serpent Savers Tip

I reduced my electricity rate from 13.1 cents per kWh to 10 cents with just one telephone call. All I did was switch from my provider's month-to-month plan to a one-year agreement on their Secure 12 with 20% Wind promotion. Doing so will save me more than 20%! My provider happens to be Reliant in Dallas. Maybe you could ask your utility company what discounts they can offer you on a six-month or one-year fixed-rate contract.



Letters to ZIM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From N.R. (CT): If the Arab Spring has revealed anything, it is the bankruptcy of the argument that it is the Jews' fault ... though of course that hasn't stopped the madness in that direction. **Bingo! The "Arab Spring" is more likely a spring-board for the Muslim Brotherhood to gain power in the Middle East.** —Myles

From J.E.M. (AR): We receive no TV channels and so I occasionally watch an episode at www.levitt.tv. Thanks much. God bless as always. I appreciated the work of Dr. Seif with the clarity of his message and his obvious zeal. May the new folks be effective in the Lord's hands. **As my Jewish grandmother used to say, "From your mouth to God's ears!"**—Myles

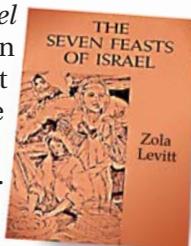
From S.P. (WV): Years ago, a friend gave me some of Zola's music tapes that I enjoyed for many years. I am glad to find CDs on your website with this wonderful music I have been missing for so long. Thank you. **All 22 of Zola's albums are offered on page 19. The two 8-packs (each with eight albums on four CDs) at \$49 per set work out to be about \$6 per album, which is half of what they sell for individually. Such a deal!** —Mark

From A. & E. DeM. (TX): Love your ministry about/to the Jewish people and Israel. May God continue to bless your wonderful work among and for His Chosen People. May God richly bless you in your important work, ministry, and your families.

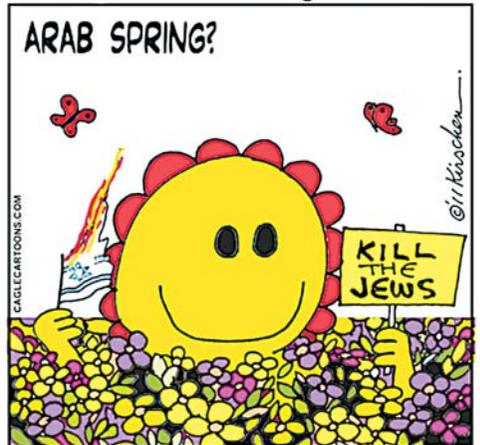
From D.H. (NC): What do I have to do to get extra *Levitt Letters* for our congregation? **Your congregation can actually subscribe. And you can put extra copies in the library there. Just ask and we will send.** —Mark

From A.J.M. (CANADA): I watch your programs on your website. Please don't go to the expense of sending the *Levitt Letter* internationally. I always download the pdf to print and read it. **If you are spending ten cents per page to print, then it would be cheaper for us to mail you hard copies that would be more suitable for you to leave afterward in doctors' offices and church libraries. Let us know.** —Mark

From R.T. (CA): I picked up Zola's booklet *The Seven Feasts of Israel* in the used book section at a church bookstore. It cost 25 cents. I guess the store felt the booklet was worth only 25 cents. To me, it was priceless.



Dry Bones



Blasphemous Cartoon

Dear ZLM,

I usually enjoy the *Levitt Letter*, but the September issue with its “Jesus clears the Temple” cartoon was an exception. I feel the cartoon at best was inappropriate and at worst blasphemous, a violation of the third commandment. The Lord is not some skateboarding dude, but rather the King of Kings, Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Everlasting Father, Wonderful, etc., etc. When we see the Lord in person, I think we shall be prostrate on the ground in awe. My two cents. C.W. (CA)



Dear C.W.—

An up and coming generation of skateboarding students of the Bible do most of their reading on digital devices such as iPhones and iPads. And most of the “television” they watch appears on their computer screens. Just like you, they’re created in God’s image. Whether or not they would relate to the cartoon you dislike, they definitely will embrace this ministry’s social media campaign. Please see the related article on page 8.
—Mark



P.S. And I agree with you. Even Superman, reputed to leap tall buildings in a single bound, would (if he were real) be prostrate in awe.

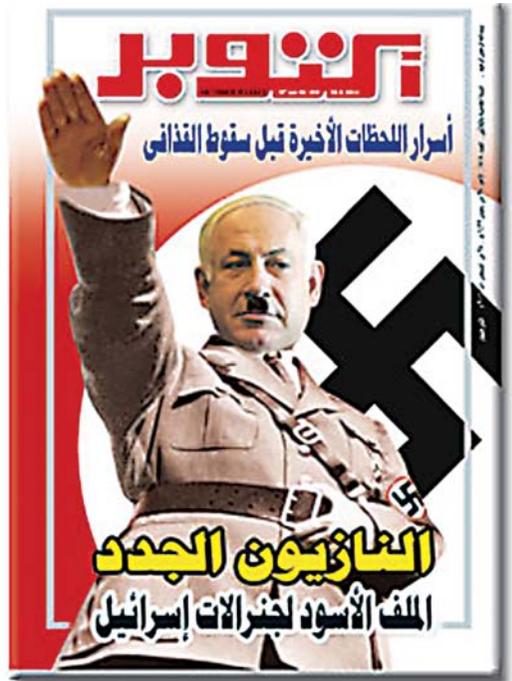
Another Two Cents

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been receiving your magazine for a number of years now. But p. 6 of the September issue really caught my attention when I saw the cartoon “Jesus Clears the Temple.” I found it not only in poor taste, but also rather blasphemous. I can hardly wait for your comeback!
—Sincerely, J.P.

Dear J.P.—

I’d like to point out that our sense of humor comes from God. Remember also that Islam forbids ANY depiction of Mohammed. I expect that a teenager who relates to Jesus clearing the Temple on a skateboard may want to know why that is a pun and look up the Bible story. Guaranteed: he won’t forget that Jesus cleared the Temple. —Editor



ARAB PROPAGANDA: Speaking of the so-called “Arab Spring,” here is how one liberated nation is springing into action. Cover of a prominent Egyptian magazine portrays Netanyahu as Nazi Hitler. The article goes through a history of Israel’s supposed “war crimes” which they claim are on par with those of Nazi Germany.

Never give the devil a ride.....
he will always want to drive.



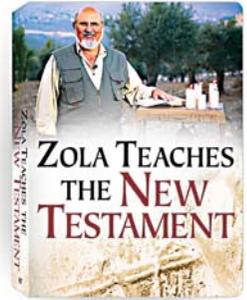
Bet You Can't Read Just One

Dear ZLM,

I became a Christian in 1984 after an encounter with Jews for Jesus. I liked *Zola Teaches the New Testament* and want more. Much more. I'm hungry to learn more truths from the Word. And I want it from the Hebraic perspective that you offer. V.H. (VA)

Dear V.H.,

If a particular topic fascinates you, try typing it into the search field at levitt.com to see related news articles, blog entries, etc. from our vast archives. —Mark



This set of six CDs in a handsome album is offered on page 19.

Spreading the Message Home by Home

Dear ZLM,

We are Hebrew Christians, part of the One New Man (Ephesians 2), and have a searing burden for our Jewish family. We will be opening up our home for our first Messianic Bible Study and will work to earn the diploma offered by your ministry's *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. We are also learning Hebrew. God is moving and the clock is ticking. —C.A. (IL)

Dear C.A.—

I appreciate your zeal and encourage you in reaching for your family and the community around you. Both my Jewish mom and sister received Yeshua before they left this Earth. Don't give up on your studies OR your intercession. He is faithful. —Myles Note: *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*, a large book available on p. 18, is an inexpensive but effective way to expedite your Hebrew learning.

FOR ZOLA ZEALOTS WHO USE IPHONES, IPADS, ETC.

PODCASTS:
ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS
WWW.LEVITT.COM/PODCASTS.HTML

LEVITT LETTER NEWS MAGAZINE
WWW.LEVITT.COM/LEVLETTER.HTML

LEVITT LETTER EXTRA NEWS FLASH
WWW.LEVITT.COM/NEWS/



**JOIN A VAST, GROWING GROUP EVERY MONTH!
TUNE IN TODAY TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!**

How Do I Get What I Want?

Hello Friends!

Your store is difficult to figure out b/c there is no way to click on an item and read about it. I am sad. Also, I wanted to make a donation to go directly to the Messianic Jews in Israel but your site doesn't let me specify. Oh well. Be Blessed. —C.A.

Dear C.A.—

I bring good news! The website, online store, and all cyber-things Levitt are in the process of receiving a twenty-first century makeover through our new affiliation with Buzz Rocket Media and Splash Media (see page 8). We intend to update and improve all our electronic interfaces and expand our contact with the cyber world through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc.

This is especially significant to me as we prepare to reach the next generation with the message that Zola re-introduced to the Church and the world thirty-three years ago. The Jewishness of the Gospel (Matt. 15:24) and the mandate for the Church to love the Jewish people (Genesis 12:1–3) MUST be imparted to cyber-savvy young people. As a dad of two college kids, I am acutely aware of the disinformation and delegitimization that Israel and the Jewish people suffer on college campuses. —*Brachot* (blessings) —Myles



How To Reach Jews

Dear ZLM,

You are truly a blessing to the Kingdom of the Lord. I would like information about what ZLM is doing to bring the Gospel of Yeshua to American Jews. Also, I “chat” with several American-born Jews who now live in Israel, who believe and practice Torah, and who have no idea what a Messianic Jew is. I would like information on how to approach them with the Gospel without offending their sensibilities. I am not Jewish, but I let my Jewish friends know that I keep them and Israel in prayer. They are very appreciative. —S.S. (LA)

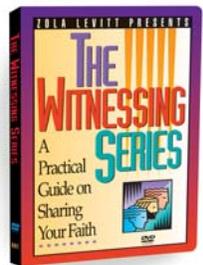
Dear S.S.—

The concept of Jews following Jesus is no longer a “foreign” idea in the Land. There is a saying, “Everyone wants Messiah, but nobody wants Christianity!” That is a typically Jewish way of dividing the heartfelt desire for a personal touch with God from the anti-Semitic mistreatment that many Jews associate with historical Christianity.

My wife, Katharine, has become adept at sensitively sharing her faith. Briefly, she acknowledges specific contributions of Judaism to Christianity, professes her love for Israel, and thanks her listener for her Messiah. You can see an example of her witness in the July *Personal Letter* www.levitt.com/letters/2011-07.html.

Modern heroes in the Land continue to bring the Word to our people. Watch for a new *Zola Levitt Presents* TV series, *Acts: Then And Now... The Story Continues* connecting the ancient work of the Holy Spirit in the early Believers with the work today.

Zola produced “*The Witnessing Series*” *A Practical Guide on Sharing Your Faith* (see pg. 18) that will help you in your evangelism, both here and abroad. —Myles



Dear S.S.,

What is ZLM doing to reach American Jews? You can be sure that thousands of them watch our television program, *Zola Levitt Presents*, and read our news magazines behind closed doors. We often hear from some of them. —Mark

Muslims: Belligerents or Victims?

1) Dear ZLM,

On a recent airing of *Zola Levitt Presents*, I saw a woman co-host make the comment that of the 20 wars going on in the world today, 99% are with Islamic countries. This justified, in her opinion, that the religion of Islam is the problem; but I'd like to suggest that it's the opposing countries that have declared the war on Muslim countries, and so the wars have, in effect, become a repeat of the historic "Inquisition" of sorts.

As Believers in Yeshua, we must be lovers of the truth. If you are like me, you might see that Islamic people have got the bad press, which was completely unworthy and amounts to us in the Christian world blatantly disobeying the 9th commandment to not bear false witness against thy neighbor. In Christian love, —L.B.

2) Dear Levitt & Co.,

I'm extremely angry and disheartened to read the Aug. *Levitt Letter*, particularly pages 12 and 13 which are anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and so tinged with hatred that they do nothing to solve the problems for modern Israel.

You can't tell me that it's good to get on the same low level

as the Muslims who hate Jews, to print extreme or distorted news articles that appear impartial but which are in fact yellow journalism.

I cannot say I am comfortable in continuing to read your stuff. But, by the same token, there isn't too much out there to read from the Messianic Jew viewpoint. I simply write you telling you I disapprove heartily of such articles as "Why Muslim Cultures Lag Behind" or "Maid's Spell Broken."

Serve the cause of Peace, create some mutual respect and understanding, and you may keep your audience. —M.

Dear L.B. and M.—

I agree, the facts are distressing—but Islam is an aggressive ideology with goals that include a worldwide caliphate with global *sharia* (Islamic) law. Under *sharia*, we Christian seekers of peace would be required to pay *jizya* (a tax for infidels). The "religion of peace" moves from *da'wah* (getting host cultures to accept "harmless" Muslim customs) to *jihād* (conquering by sword) based on its population numbers. See <http://wp.me/pieUD-10E>.

So, I completely agree with "The Anti-Jihadist" who connected the current wars to the dictates of the Koran. Please remember always: we LOVE the Muslim people, but we pray fervently for their deliverance from the system that holds them captive. Compare the Koran, Hadith, and Friday sermons with the New Testament. Order the DVD series *Bad Moon Rising* (pg. 18), read my wife's article *God's Love is Stronger than Death* on the cover of September's *Levitt Letter* (www.levitt.com/newsletters/2011-09.pdf), and listen to the testimonies of former Muslims like Walid Shoebat. —Myles



Two Different Responses to our September Personal Letter: Allah and Jehovah are Not the Same!

1) Dear Myles,

We, as in the time of Hanukkah, are battling the assimilation of our brethren into the religion of Constantine. How can you fall for this ... and peddle it yourselves? I loved Zola. It broke my heart when I found out he preached against God's Sabbath. I pray that you will stop this Hellenization of the Believers, repent, and turn back to our Father. It breaks my heart when brethren turn to the ways of the world and turn their back on our Father in Heaven. I pray that you will see the error of your ways. —V.B.

Dear V.B.—

Zola didn't preach against the Sabbath. He confirmed that Saturday—the seventh day—is the Sabbath, and Sunday—the first day of the week—is the “Lord's Day,” the day we remember the Resurrection. Like him, I firmly believe that we are to be merciful towards one another in the choice of worship day gatherings. As the Scriptures declare, “So let no one judge you in food or drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Colossians 2:16–17).

By the way, the Hanukkah story precedes Constantine's confusion by several centuries. The desecration of the Temple by the Greeks occurred in 167 B.C. Constantine officially broke with the Hebrew roots of the faith in 333 A.D., officially plunging the Church into the Dark Ages. Zola combated the continued “Hellenization” of the Church, and we at ZLM still teach the Hebrew foundations of all things pertaining to Yeshua. —Myles

2) Shalom in Yeshua,

Well said, Myles! Jesus speaks all languages (indeed is the Originator of all languages) and recognizes His own Name in any of them. However, the most important language is that of the heart and not just the tongue (otherwise the deaf and dumb would be without hope). And as important as it is to introduce the gentiles to *Yeshua HaMashiach*—the Jewish Son of Man and King of Israel—it is equally important not to hide Jesus Christ—the Son of God and Savior of the World—from the Jewish people.

I don't care what they call me: Messianic, Hebrew-Christian, or Christian, Yehudi Meshichi, or Notzri. I don't care, as long as I am identified with my risen Lord and Savior. And I don't care what language they use to call on Him, just as long as they call on Him. —Y.M.

Well said, Y.M.! —

Our first allegiance is to Yeshua; customs, traditions, and styles of worship are negotiable. It reminds me of the Talmudic saying (Shabbat 31A, attributed to Rabbi Hillel) that the “law can be recited while standing on one foot.” Love God and love your neighbor, as Yeshua said in Mark 12:30–31. —Myles

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



Contrary to cartoon depictions, our bodies will be transformed gloriously. Philippians 3:20–21.

Awesome Holy Days



Dear Sandra,

Your September and October *Levitt Letter* articles on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur reminded me of the first time I heard of those holidays. In 1977 at SUNY, there was a large population of Jewish students. I did not know Yeshua, but I knew that this time was special because the college closed in observance of those holidays.

In 1984, I came to know Yeshua by inviting Him into my heart. I now know what the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays mean to all Believers of Yeshua, and your articles magnified their significance. But even back in 1977, looking from outside in, I stood in awe. Shalom, —M.Z.

Dear M.Z.—

Thanks for acknowledging Sandra's excellent teaching articles on the fall feasts. Isn't it amazing how the feasts of the Lord have inherent power, because they are HIS?

I also came to faith in 1984. On our Israel tours, we have heard poignant testimonies of *Sabras* (native Israelis) who were attracted to the singing and prayers of Christian tourists in the same way that the Jewish traditions attracted you—further evidence of the shared destiny of the “people of the Book,” as the Muslims call us. —Myles



3rd Commandment

Dear Todd,

In the September *Levitt Letter*, you gave an excellent answer to a question about the Third Commandment and the use of God's name in vain. I believe there is yet another aspect that is relevant to why it is so important in today's culture.

Throughout the OT and NT, God goes to great length to demonstrate His sovereignty and establish that it is He who does all things. Throughout history, man consistently established ranks and castes to demonstrate the importance of men. America has striven to break down these artificial distinctions, insisting that all men are created equal. We have succeeded to the point that we attempt to “humanize” everything, including God. This is our big mistake.

Reverence for the names of God is part of worship, and worship is warranted because the Triune God is worthy in every respect. His ways are so far above our ways that we cannot even comprehend the difference.

In Christ's love, —B.Y. (IN)

I Shall Return

“coming back”

Dear ZLM,

In the July *Levitt Letter*, C.McD. asked how John believed the return of Jesus when John looked into the tomb. I was informed that by tradition, when a person left the dinner table and did not intend to return, he signaled that intent by leaving his napkin crumpled. However, if he was coming back, he would neatly fold his napkin and lay it aside. Because the burial cloth that covered Jesus' face was neatly folded and laid aside, this let John know that Jesus was “coming back.” Right or not, I thought it was a beautiful reminder that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

Thank you for all you do, —J.M.A. ★

Juvenile Diabetes Cure Is Closer



Prof. Yuval Dor

There is hope for a future cure of insulin-dependent (type 1) diabetes from Jerusalem researchers who have identified the key signal that initiates production of insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas.

They call their discovery a breakthrough that could help researchers find ways to restore or increase beta cell function in people with this type of diabetes, which usually appears in childhood.

The work on the multi-year project was led by **Prof. Yuval Dor** (*top*) of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada and colleagues from the Hadassah University Medical Center. The study was published in a recent issue of the journal *Cell Metabolism*.

"Our work shows that as the glucose level is increased in the blood, it tells the beta cells to regenerate," said Dor. "It's not blood glucose per se that is the signal, but the glucose-sensing capacity of the beta cell that's the key for regeneration."

This was the first time that this sensing of a high level of glucose has been shown to be the "trigger" that induces beta cells to regenerate.

In people suffering from type 1 (juvenile-onset) diabetes, the immune system launches a misguided attack on the insulin-producing beta cells as if they were foreign cells, resulting in the cells' decline of insulin production and eventual loss of function.

Without insulin, the body's cells cannot absorb glucose from the blood and use it for energy. To cure type 1 diabetes, methods must be developed to increase beta cell replication and mass, thus the potential therapeutic importance of the current study.



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com

S&P Raises Israel's Credit Rating To A+

www.JTA.org

Standard & Poor's has upgraded Israel's credit rating to A+. The new rating means that Israel's Finance Ministry can borrow at a lower interest rate with lower financing costs. Israel's rating had been A; the highest rating is AAA.

S&P said, "The rating action reflects our view of Israel's improved economic policy flexibility as a result of strong growth and careful macroeconomic management." The agency went on to say that "Israel is on a credible path toward continued government debt burden reduction and stronger external indicators."

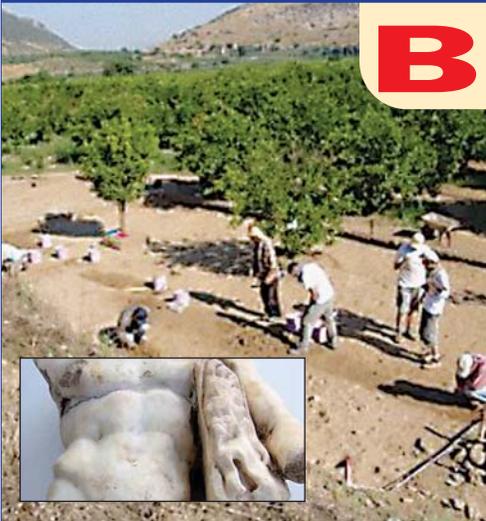
Stanley Fischer, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, in reaction to the upgraded credit rating, said the Israeli economy would continue to justify the confidence given by the upgrade and that the bank through its monetary policies would target price stability, employment, growth and financial stability.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the upgrade was the international economic community's "certificate of honor and of responsibility regarding investments in Israel."

Netanyahu added, "This is a message to investors. This is a good country. This is a country that, in complete contrast to the global trend, is improving and maintaining a correct and responsible economy, and therefore it is worthwhile to invest in it."





Statue of Hercules exposed at Horvat Tarbenet in the Jezreel Valley (Israel Antiquities Authority)

Headless Hercules Excavated In Israel

www.CBSNews.com

Archaeologists have uncovered a rare second century marble statue of Hercules in northern Israel. The excavations in Israel's Jezreel Valley were carried out at Horvat Tarbenet, a site that was a Jewish settlement in the third century AD.

The statue, thought to have decorated a bathhouse pool that was also exposed during the course of the excavations, is of exceptional artistic quality, according to Walid Atrash of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"Hercules is depicted in three dimensions, as a naked figure standing on a base. His bulging muscles stand out prominently, he is leaning on a club to his left, on the upper part of which hangs the skin of the Nemean lion, which according to Greek mythology Hercules slew as the first of his twelve labors," he said.

The same excavation has also turned up a complex featuring dwellings, a well, and a large pool thought to have been part of a Roman bathhouse. Archaeologists believe that the site underwent a number of changes between the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Captain Jihad Now A Comic Book Hero

Associated Press



In Jakarta, Indonesia, the real life adventures of former al-Qaeda-linked terrorist Nasir Abas have become a new comic book depicting him as a militant villain who transforms into an invaluable ally in the fight against terrorism.

The story of the soft-spoken 42-year-old is well known in Indonesia. He went from helping train Muslim militants who carried out the deadly Bali bombings in 2002 to informing police about the inner workings of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network. He also joined a government program to convince convicted terrorists that killing unarmed civilians is wrong.

Abas says he hopes the colorful comic by a nonprofit publisher, titled "I Found the Meaning of Jihad," will help teach children not to make the same mistakes that he did.

Palestinian State Should Be Free of Jews

By Oren Dorell, www.DailyAlert.org

The Palestine Liberation Organization's ambassador to the U.S., Maen Areikat, said in early fall that any future Palestinian state should be free of Jews. Such a state would be the first to officially prohibit Jews or any other faith since Nazi Germany, which sought a country that was "*judenrein*," or cleansed of Jews, said Elliott Abrams, a former U.S. National Security Council official.

Israel has 1.3 million Muslims who are Israeli citizens. Jews have lived in Judea and Samaria, the biblical name for the West Bank, for thousands of years.

Veiled Egyptian Woman Raped

By Manar Ammar
bikyamasr.com



In a new indication that sexual violence is not restricted to how one dresses in Egypt, a fully-veiled woman was kidnapped and gang-raped for an entire day in Giza. Police arrested five men and have charged them with kidnapping, rape, and robbery. Investigators are looking for another three suspects allegedly involved in the crime.

The woman, 33, unidentified by local reports, was reportedly out buying groceries before three men dragged her into a vehicle, covered her eyes, and took her to an unknown apartment. The three called five other friends and they all took turns raping her for a full day, according to the woman's testimony.

The five who have been arrested have confessed to police and told them about the others who were involved in the crime. One of the arrested men had been released from prison three months earlier, also for kidnapping and raping a woman in Giza.

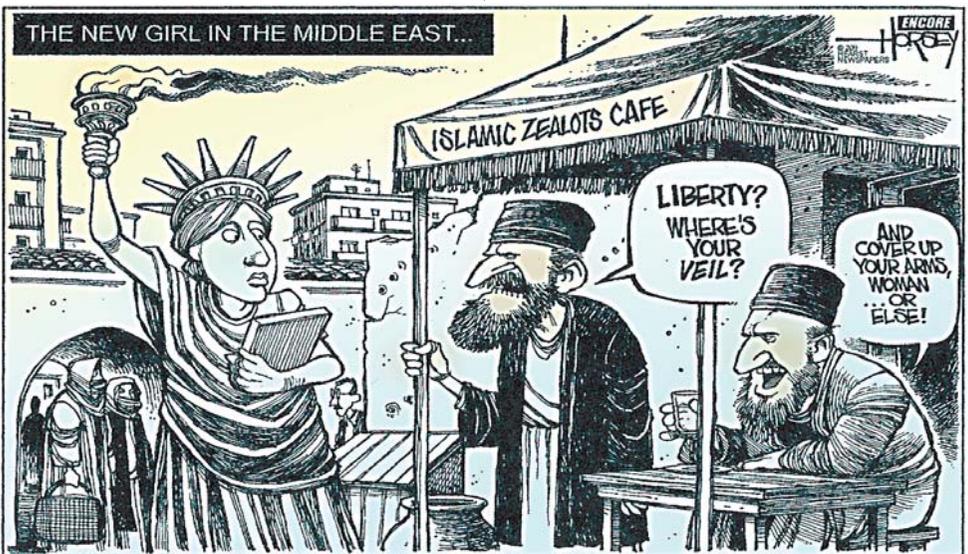
Internationally, Cairo is known for its safety, but growing and daily sexual harassment and assaults have left many questioning the city's status.

According to a 2008 study published by the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR), 60 percent of Egyptian women and 98 percent of foreign women are harassed on a daily basis. The ECWR warned that harassing foreign women would lead to the loss of millions of pounds. A number of foreigners said they would never return to Egypt. 14 percent of all foreign women said they would either never return to Egypt or tell their friends not to visit.

With violence against women on the rise, many wonder if the authorities will do anything to impede these crimes.

"The man was in jail before for kidnap and rape, yet he was let go and he did it again," stated Mona Hassan, a 28-year-old researcher in Cairo. She asked the question that is certain to be on many women's minds: "What will they do with these men? We need harsh laws that ensure a woman's right to walk on the street. It is unacceptable what is happening to Egypt and its women."

If rape were about passion, the veil might have "protected" her. But rape is about power. Sexual harassment is about power. So, Muslims, why the veil if not to demonstrate power over women? —Editor ★



Moral Priorities in Iran

www.AzarMehr.blogspot.com

It is wrong to assume that you will be arrested in Iran only for political dissent or for not observing the state's Islamic dress code. You risk incarceration if you dare to have fun, particularly if it's group fun and if it is in public.

Recent arrests in Iran include those who participated in a water pistol fight in a park in Tehran. The fun event was organized on Facebook.

Desperate to have some fun, lots of people took to the idea: young and old, adults and kids. It wasn't even the pre-elections period, when the strict rules are relaxed and a "feel good" factor induces people to vote for the state-approved candidates.

The first official to condemn the event also criticized law enforcement for not breaking up the "immoral" gathering that went on from 9 a.m. to noon. Park authorities managed to stop the massive water pistol fight only after they thought to cut the water supply.

The state-controlled media condemned those "who are endeavoring to dilute our Islamic values."

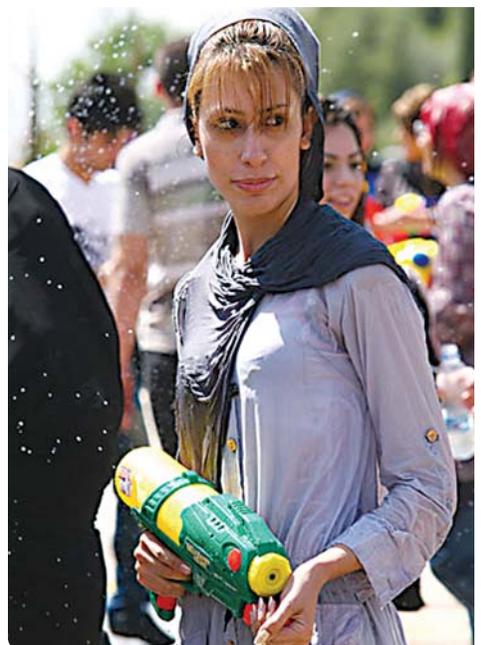
A similar event in another park the following Sunday was simply too much for the authorities. Tehran's chief of police said, "Police will definitely deal swiftly with those who try to break the social order."

This is happening when the crime rate is soaring throughout Iran. Police are unable to deal with numerous knife fights and stabbings that have also included lethal attacks on several Iranian celebrities. Some of the knife attacks have taken place in front of the police, who have simply looked on without daring to interfere. There is



also an alarming increase in gang rapes of women, like the one during a private birthday party, where armed gangs that included members of the local Basij stormed into the party, locked up the men, and raped the women.

Police took several hours to turn up for the rescue and the official reaction of the local Friday prayer leader was to blame the women who were raped, because they had "provoked the peeping local youth by dancing in their own property without observing the proper hijab." These comments seem to have provided justification for several other gang rapes reported since. Yet an innocent water pistol fight in which the young and old can have fun, no one is hurt, and all enjoy themselves, is unthinkable and un-Islamic behavior!



Keeping Kosher

A Jewish man was in a supermarket in Baltimore. He saw an African-American woman trying to get her young child to put down a candy bar he had picked off the shelf.

"Latrell, you put that down! It's not kosher!"

Intrigued, the young man decided to investigate.
"Excuse me, ma'am, are you Jewish?"

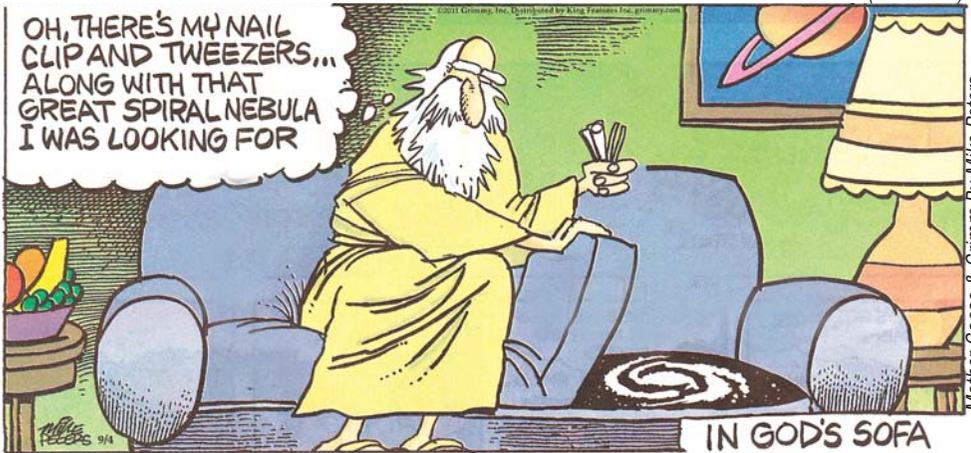
"No."

"So, why did you say that?"

"'Cuz I see all those Jewish mothers saying that to their kids, and it works—so I decided to try it." ★



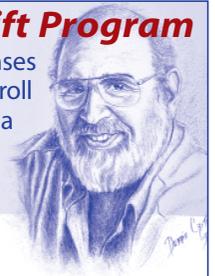
Contrary to God's misplacing the Milky Way Galaxy, even the hairs on our heads are numbered. (Luke 12:7)



Mother Goose & Grimm By Mike Peters

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Is Islam Misrepresented?

By Amil Imani, www.FamilySecurityMatters.org

As the print and electronic media penetrate every aspect of life, their influence increases greatly in shaping views and behavior of the public. The power of the media is a mixed blessing. On one hand, it can serve to expose injustices, wrongdoings, and flaws. On the other, it is able to propagate misinformation and outright disinformation.

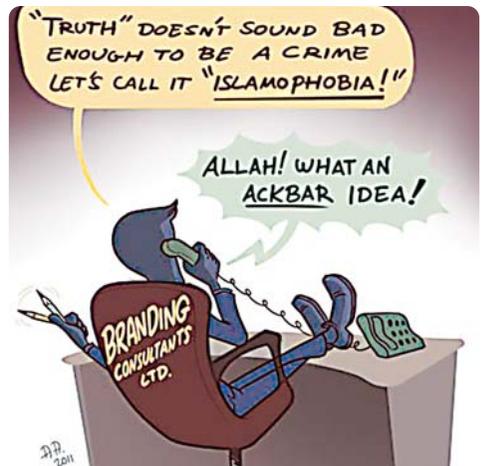
Manipulation and control of the media is of critical importance to the rule of totalitarian states. Free societies, although less subject to laundered information, are still at considerable risk of being selectively informed or misinformed outright.

A case in point is the media's portrayal of Islam, articulated by politicians and pundits—the talking heads on television and radio, as well as the analysts who write for newspapers and magazines. Time and again we hear and read that Islam is a religion of peace, in spite of the fact that Islam has been a religion of violence from its inception to the present.

While radical Muslims kill, behead, and rape, the mainstream media (MSM) insist that the civilized world accept Islamic culture under the rubric of multiculturalism. Muslims use the multiculturalism umbrella only in non-Islamic lands to shield themselves from the criticisms that those who know Islam shower on this cult of violence peddled as the religion of peace.

Multiculturalism is never printed in the Islamic press, and never appears in any form anywhere in Muslim countries. This multiculturalism gambit is Islam manufactured to pull the wool over the eyes of non-Muslims while Muslims carry on with their unrelenting campaign of eradicating anything or anyone non-Islamic everywhere in the world.

Those of us who have freed ourselves from the enslaving yoke of Islam, know the dirt of this plague on humanity. We have experienced Islam firsthand from the inside. We have studied the Koran, the Hadith, and the Sunna. We have seen Islam in action where it holds sway. Some of us even tried desperately to cling to this security blanket that was wrapped around us from birth. Yet, the more we studied and the more we experienced Islam, the more our efforts to remain in the fold became untenable.



We broke away from Islamic slavery and found it to be our solemn duty to expose this fraud of a religion, help other Muslims free themselves from it, and warn the good-hearted and gullible non-Muslims against falling prey to it.

Former president George W. Bush, on several occasions, attributed the horrific violence committed under the banner of Islam to a small band of extremists. The former president's assertion was based on either ignorance about Islam or his desire to avoid inflaming the already charged feelings of many about Islam. In any event, truth was sacrificed and the public continues to cling to the false notion that Islam is a peaceful religion. Even a cursory examination of Islam's history and texts conclusively proves the exact opposite of peacefulness. Islam was, and continues to be, a movement of unbridled violence. ★

Join this examination at:
<http://wp.me/pieUD-11t>

Israel's Hostile Neighborhood

By Richard Cohen, WashingtonPost.com

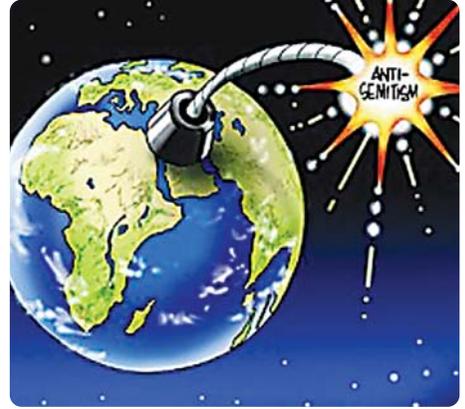
Back in 1953, an Egyptian army officer was asked what he would write to Hitler if he were still alive. "My Dear Hitler," he began gushingly. He proceeded to extol the German dictator for, among other things, creating dissension between "the old man Churchill and his allies, the sons of Satan." Years later, as the president of Egypt, he was murdered for making peace with the Jewish state. His name was Anwar Sadat.

The peace that Sadat manufactured is now unraveling. The Israelis and the Egyptians have traded insults of all sorts, and now the Israeli Embassy has been sacked by a Cairo mob. The Israeli ambassador is gone. The Israeli-Egyptian peace is in jeopardy, and so is the cordial rapport Israel once had with Turkey. Along with Iran and Ethiopia, Turkey helped make up what was called "the strategy of the periphery," the relationship that Israel's founding prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, established with non-Arab nations. But Iran now is Israel's mortal enemy, Ethiopia hardly matters, and Turkey is bristling with hostility.

Israel's dilemma is that the Middle East, for all the talk of revolution, is slipping backward. Turkey is possibly evolving into an Islamic republic and is reasserting its historical role as a regional power. Iran toppled its modernizing, Westernizing shah with pro-Israel proclivities, and in 1979 became a theocracy. And Egypt, long the leader of the Arab world, may find it cannot lead its own people. The peace with Israel has little support among the populace. It's not just that Israel is not loved, it's that Jews are hated.

Think back to Sadat's pretend letter to Hitler eight years after the ovens of Auschwitz were demolished and the world was coming to grips with the enormity of the Holocaust. Not only could an Egyptian magazine solicit

such letters, but an army officer with the intellectual wherewithal to someday run the country was an entrant. This suggests a society in which the Holocaust was thought to be a Jewish concoction, a Jewish exaggeration, or some sort of just deserts.

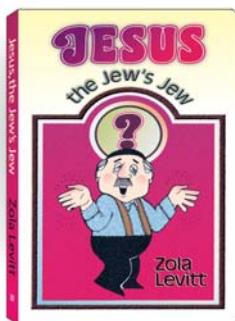


Since those days, the situation has evolved but not necessarily improved. The entire Arab world has been drenched by a steady drizzle of government-approved or -tolerated anti-Semitism. It would take willful, historical ignorance to dismiss the possible consequences.

The clock must move backward for the United States as well. It took Harry Truman just 11 minutes to recognize the new State of Israel in 1948. The Arab world has the oil, the geography, and the numbers. But the United States has the moral obligation to stick by the sometimes-obstreperous democracy it felt morally obligated to embrace. The Obama administration has to show no daylight between it and Israel.

Leaders come and go, but what remains are values and cultural forces that transform glacially. Sadat proved this. He was a confounding character who showed what is possible and what is not. It's clear he changed greatly over the years. It's not so clear his country has. ★

Nations, civilizations, and empires rise and fall according to their treatment of the "least of these My brethren" (Matthew 25:40). —Myles



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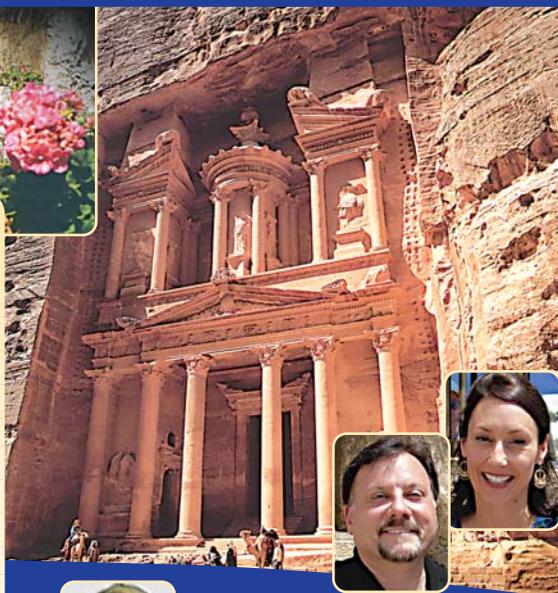
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