

Levitt

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



Letter



"Israel has gifted the world with many spiritual blessings, the foremost being our Messiah." Read on:

Israel—Light To The Nations

By David Parsons, www.JPost.com

"Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the gentiles, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Isaiah 49:6)



Jesus did not arrive out of nowhere, but came according to the promises that God had made to the "fathers"—Abraham, Moses, David, and other Hebrew patriarchs. He was the "light of the world" (John 8:12), but He arose out of the light of Messianic hope and expectancy already given to Israel. Even Jesus Himself said: "Salvation is of the Jews." That is, the very concept of world redemption came to us through the people of Israel.

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Dividing God's Land

By Ludwig Schneider
Israel Today



In Joel 3:1-2, God states that He will bring back the people of Judah and Jerusalem and then enter into judgment with the nations who have scattered His people and divided His land.

God calls the Jews My people and Israel My land. Nations that come against the Jewish people and the Land of Israel are thus coming against God's own possession: "The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6). God has even sworn to give Israel to the Jewish people—"the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob" (Genesis 50:24). *(continued p. 3)*

To better understand this biblical principle, consider that light is often used as a metaphor for truth in Scripture. It reveals eternal realities, illuminating the way things really are, since our spiritual understanding can often be veiled.

“Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me...” (Psalms 43:3)

This aspect of light as a revealing agency of eternal truths is especially so regarding the true nature and character of God, which brings us to Israel’s central role in being a “light to the nations.”

The nation of Israel has gifted the world with many spiritual blessings, the foremost being our Messiah. It was also through Israel that God chose to reveal His nature and character to the world.

In His covenants with Israel, God reveals His personality. We see His grace and faithfulness, His holiness and justice. This is summed up in one powerful passage in Exodus where God describes His own attributes to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:5–7).

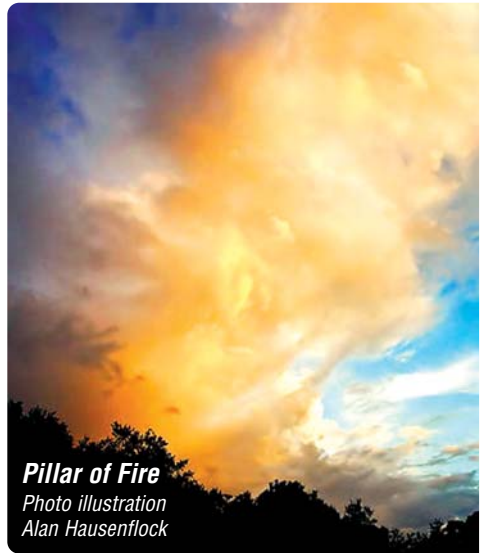
Through the revelation at Sinai, we understand that He is the awesome and all-powerful Creator, and yet He does not want to stay out there in eternity forever. Rather, He loves creation and wants to interact with humankind, even to “dwell” with us (Exodus 29:43–46; Revelation 21:3).

The Sinai revelation gave rise to ethical monotheism—belief in the one true God and Creator of all, Who is ultimately good and holy and engaged with the world, and to Whom we will all give answer some day, thereby encouraging us to live uprightly.

Humankind’s highest wisdom in ancient times gave us the Greek pantheon of selfish gods. But Israel insisted the Creator is not like that; He is merciful, holy, slow to anger, and ever open to the repentant soul.

This was a precious light shining forth into darkness. And the Israelites were made custodians of this light for all peoples.

We see this in the visible symbols of light which God placed in the Wilderness Tabernacle, and later at the Temple—the menorah and the holy fire that fell upon the altar. The light of God’s glory and presence was also seen in the pillar of fire that accompanied Israel in the desert, and was reflected in the glory that shone upon the face of Moses.



Pillar of Fire

Photo illustration
Alan Hausenflock

Israel has carried this magnificent light for generations, and indeed the Apostle Paul lists “the glory” as one of the great redemptive gifts to the world which “belong” to Israel (Romans 9:4). Thus, Christians should be forever grateful for this divine light which has come to us through Israel. ★

Having just visited Greece, Turkey, and Israel, I can attest to the difference between the God of Abraham and the gods of the Greek pantheon. The yearning in mankind for a Father in Heaven is innate; it is the “God-sized hole” in the heart. The Greek poets reached to invent that Father but fell short with their all-too-human little gods with various frailties. Not so with the God of Abraham. Paul introduced the Greeks to *Abba*, *El Shaddai*, and *Ha'Rishon v'HaAcharon* (the First and the Last) and changed the world forever. —Myles

Therefore, the struggle over the division of the Land is not simply a political conflict between the State of Israel and the Palestinians. In reality, the nations, under pressure from the Palestinians, are challenging God to a duel. God will enter into severe judgment with the nations who have divided His land and will condemn them in the Valley of Jehoshaphat—meaning the Valley of Decision (Joel 3:2).

One might question whether Joel's prophecy applies to our time. Joel lived in the post-exilic period around 400 BC, or some 100 years after the return of the Israelites from the Babylonian exile. So, one could deduce that he was referring to the Babylonians. Yet neither the Babylonians nor the Assyrians ever divided the land.

Joel does not accuse just one nation—as would be the case with Babylon—but rather all the nations who have scattered Israel as a people and divided the Land of Israel. Therefore, it is clear that he is referring to the time after the dispersion of the Jews throughout the nations following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD.

The Roman leader Pompey had already divided the land between 63–55 BC and allocated it to the Idumeans, the Itureans, the Samaritans, and the Ptolomeans, leaving only the small area of Judea for the Jews. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Byzantines occupied Israel, followed by the Persians, then the Muslims, the Crusaders, and finally the Ottomans, who were defeated by the British in 1917.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration, which was incorporated into the British Mandate by which pre-state Israel was governed from 1920 to 1948, states: "His Majesty's

Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." The Mandate granted to the Jews the entire area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, and from Mt. Hermon in the north to Eilat in the south. This was formally recognized in 1922 by 52 states in the League of Nations; it was revised by the UN, founded in 1945, in the Partition Plan of 1947.

The Partition Plan divided the area that was initially assigned by the League of Nations solely as a Jewish state into two states, one Jewish and one Arab, with Jerusalem as an international zone to be administered by the UN. The Jews accepted the division of their Promised Land. The Arabs flatly rejected it.

The fact that the United Nations was asked to decide for or against a Palestinian state reflects the events prophesied by Joel, that one day all

the nations will be judged by God with regard to their position on His land and His people.

Blessed is he who decides in favor of God and His land.

Civilizations rise and fall based on their decisions regarding the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:3). The U.S. has never been this alienated from Israel in word and deed. Believers in America must stand for and speak out for our Middle East ally in the face of worldwide pressure and at the risk of losing popularity. Now is the time and we are the people. —Myles



Dividing God's Land brings God's Judgment

Waiting for Martin

By Myles Weiss



**Where's the Muslim *Martin*?
Where is the voice of reform
that will transform this religion of over
one billion people?**

We need a voice similar to **Martin** Luther, who challenged the forces of corrupt Christianity. In his day, he dared to call for the end of selling indulgences, that vile practice that enslaved poor families who purchased their hopes of eternity with their meager finances. The church of Luther's era sold empty promises. Luther demanded change. He spoke out for a more spiritual future for those who followed Christ. He called on leaders to admit their failures and change their ways. Regarding the Jewish people, he "flew well, but landed poorly." When the Jews did not convert following his revelations, Luther became an anti-Semite. However, his contribution to the family of faith must be acknowledged. He led the way for each of us to have a direct relationship with Messiah and not remain dependent on a priestly class.

Where is the voice in Islam today to withstand the stranglehold that the mullahs and imams have on the hearts and minds of everyday Muslims?

We need a voice like **Martin** Luther King Jr., who challenged the forces of segregation and spoke up for the civil rights of black people in America. He used non-violent protest to draw attention to shameful bigotry. His voice changed our country.

Where is the so-called moderate Muslim majority? Why do we not hear from them daily, standing against the radical Koran-carrying leaders who foment war around the world? Apparently they are as afraid as Western leaders, unwilling to make a public declaration of the issues—as Dr. King did in America.



Where is a voice like Dr. King's in today's Islam?

Perhaps we need a voice like **Martin** Short. Yes, Islam needs to lighten up and laugh! This Martin's self-deprecating, comedic styling may be instructional for the Muslim world. Islam has a desperate need for a sense of humor. It is a tragic fact that the world is accepting Islam's declaration that *any* expression of humor regarding Islam is "hate-speech"! The ability to laugh at oneself is seemingly absent from the mentality of mainstream Islam. If it is present, we need to hear it.

We are waiting for the "religion of peace" to demonstrate a self-correcting movement toward moderation. We are waiting for the masses of Islam to demand corrections to jihadist theology. We are waiting for the civil rights enjoyed by Muslims in America and Israel to be granted by Muslims to women, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. in Muslim lands.

We are waiting for a kind, humanity-enhancing humor that reaches across differences and celebrates the universal human condition by "lightening up" and laughing a little.

Where is the Muslim voice of humor, life, laughter, and love?

We are waiting ... for Martin. ★

Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



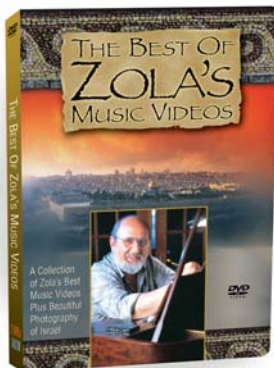
Q. Jesus said He did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. And He did keep kosher because He was Jewish. We know He never ate pork or other non-kosher food ever. How do we reconcile this?

A. Jesus also made sacrifices in the Temple on Passover (Mark 14:12; Luke 2:41–42). Must we do that, too? Of course not, because His once-for-all-sacrifice on the Cross put an end to those sacrifices that were required under the Law (Hebrews 9–10).

We can't pick and choose doing parts of the Law we like or what is convenient; if you are going to be justified by the Law, you have to obey all of it. But Christians are not justified by the Law; we are justified by the blood of Jesus. Either He fulfilled all the law in His life or He didn't.

Paul said Messiah Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law for Believers (Romans 10:4). He completed the Law by His life and ministry. Jesus explains how He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets in Luke 24:27: "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets He explained to them in all the Scriptures concerning Himself." In other words, He showed how He was the answer to prophecy, His life and ministry the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

Nowhere in the New Testament are we required to place ourselves under the ordinances of the Law—like eating Kosher, offering animal sacrifices, etc.—since Christ Jesus has fulfilled all those requirements for us. For more on the Believer's relationship to the Law, see *New Testament Believers & The Law* by Paul and Nuala O'Higgins (available at Amazon.com and other booksellers). ★



Also see page 17 for more of Zola on DVD

The Best of Zola's Music Videos On Two DVDs

This collection combines all of the music television that our ministry used to offer on three separately packaged VHS tapes. Don't confuse these productions with the music programs that we included over the years at the end of various television series. Instead, our production team made a special effort to pair on-location video footage with Zola's favorite music selections for viewing pleasure, presented here uninterrupted by our TV programs' customary announcements and travel spots.

DVD I ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO I — 53 MINUTES

The beautiful music of *Zola Levitt Presents* with magnificent video footage from the Holy Land. Features excerpts from the albums *Next Year in Jerusalem; Messiah; Israel, My Love; and The Beginning of the End*.

ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO II — 60 MINUTES

A second collection of music from *Zola Levitt Presents*. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompanied by Zola's original compositions from the albums *Zola's Songs by Lamb, Beloved Thief, Return to Galilee, and Beyond Words*. A fine marriage of music and video footage.

DVD II ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO III — 78 MINUTES

This third collection of Zola's Music includes beautiful scenes of Israel and Greece accompanied by music from *Living Waters, The Holy Land Today, Unto the Gentiles, and Israel: By Divine Right* as presented on our television program.

Order on page 18

Surf Israel!

By Eitan Shishkoff

You can't call Israel's Haifa coast a surfers paradise. But you can catch some decent waves when ocean storms stir up the normally calm Eastern Mediterranean waters. I've seen plucky lads (rarely any females) in their thermal wetsuits in mid-winter, grabbing every swell imaginable. With today's short, pointy-nose boards, the better riders are able to milk many twists and turns out of each brief ride.

One summer, as a 12-year-old Southern California boy, I fell in love with surfing. The board I learned on was 9.5 feet, fully twice my height. To carry it, I folded a towel 14 times (well, OK, 4 times) to keep my head from being disfigured by the weight of the monstrous piece of fiberglass-covered polyurethane foam.

Although 50+ years have passed since that summer, my fascination with the sport has not faded. Thus, when I met Todd McWerthy, a young man passionate about Jesus and about surfing—we hit it off. Todd was drawn to Israel a few years ago and gained a love for the land, the people, and the surfers. Now he's made a film that weaves all of these together.

Todd envisions opening the Israeli surf scene to the rest of the world, thus revealing an adventure-loving, peaceful nation rather than the war-mongering oppressors we're portrayed as by many of the international media. Watching Todd's film, which premiered in Israel in November, my heart was touched by the sense of community and friendship Todd achieved in a relatively short time of getting to know the surfers and surfboard makers here.

Messianic-Jewish lore includes the surfing background of Dr. David

Eitan and Connie Shishkoff



Stern, translator of the *Jewish New Testament* and author of numerous groundbreaking works, including the *Jewish New Testament Commentary*. Long before finding Yeshua or gaining respect as a pre-eminent biblical scholar/spokesman for our movement, Dr. Stern co-authored the 1963 classic *Surfing Guide To Southern California*. It's even got awesome photos of Lunada Bay, where I grew up. Long a resident of Jerusalem, Stern (76) actively surfed until very recently.

Messianic Rabbi Barney Kasdan of San Diego, California, does his fellow Jewish Believers proud by appearing in Todd's film, catching a wave near Tel Aviv. His explanation of the Messianic significance of the Passover Seder provides viewers with a tasteful introduction to Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah.

As you can tell, I still love surfing and I'm enthused about this documentary. For more information, contact Todd at todd@walkingonwater.com. He's poured himself into this project and is a true friend of Israel. ★



Author with son David in the Outer Banks, NC 1987

Our “Good Friends” the Saudis

By Zola Levitt

Just when you think the U.S. is waking up to the truth about Israel’s rights, somebody muddies the waters of effective Middle East strategy.

In the midst of continued terrorist atrocities by Palestinian murderers against Israeli citizens comes the knee-jerk reaction of the U.S. to throw its support behind Saudi Arabia’s “innovative” plan to broker peace in the Middle East. This plan, offered by Crown Prince Abdullah, seeks to reduce the size of Israel, increase the territory of the Palestinians, and all without bothering to deal with the continued murder of Israelis.

The United States returns to its mantra of “peace, peace, peace.” When it comes to the oil-rich Arab states, we continue to bow down in the throne rooms of Saudi Arabian despots in exchange for an uninterrupted flow of oil at reasonable prices. We call them “allies” and “friends,” but do we really know the Saudis? Wasn’t Osama bin Laden raised in Saudi Arabia?

Recently, a court in Saudi Arabia concluded a case involving rape. The victim received 65 lashes and six months in jail. That’s right. The victim was punished. The attacker, her brother-in-law, received 4,750 lashes plus six years in prison—not for rape, but for having relations with his sister-in law.

Why do I bring up this heinous injustice? Because for all the years

Washington has called Saudi Arabia our ally, we’ve been telling you that it is our worst enemy. Think of it. After September 11, 2001, President Bush was quick to reiterate our position of “cooperation” and “friendship” with the Saudis, but the fact is that we have nothing in common with this backward, feudalistic dictatorship. They are not democratic. They openly violate the most basic of human rights, disallow any religious expression except Islam, and foster a culture of hate which, in fact, gave us 15 of the 19 terrorists who attacked us on September 11.

We came to their defense against Iraq, putting our lives on the line for their citizens (and oil), but they visit New York with a bit of cash and tell us, “How tragic, but it is your fault.” They’ll sign their names to the list of coalition partners, but don’t expect them to offer any real support against al-Qaeda. “Bin Laden is one of ours,” they tell us, “and even though he’s been bad, most of our people adore him. What can we do? Besides, America is getting too chummy with Israel and we give millions to Arafat’s fight against the Zionists.”

Don’t expect much help from our “friends.” But don’t ruffle their feathers too much; we wouldn’t want gas prices to go up. ★



Back To The Holy Land



Israel is the same! Galilee has not moved, Jerusalem is still there, and I love the people and the land as much as ever. I thought 2008's tour would be my last time in Israel. God had other plans. Wow, what plans He had for me!

Fall Tour 2011 started in Athens, Greece. Or as one of my friends said, "I was on the riot and rocket tour." Yes, we saw some of the Greek riots. If you lived in the suburbs and the ruckus was downtown, would you know it? You would, but you'd be far from it. Same as in Greece. The Parthenon was closed because of the strikes, so we regrouped and went to Mars Hill and walked around the Parthenon. They are within a block of each other. The pilgrims got a taste of what it must have been like for Paul when he spoke of an "unknown God" on Mars Hill. On Patmos, our pilgrims sensed what John must have felt and seen as he wrote his Revelation; and again on Ephesus, where Paul preached against the idols. Real sights and real insights.

I have always thought of Greece as a great prelude to Israel. Sort of a warm-up for the big game. We arrived in Tel Aviv, spent the night on the Mediterranean coast, and headed to Galilee. We stopped along the way to see Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, and Megiddo; continued through Nazareth and Cana, and ended with the view of the Sea of Galilee. And that was just the first day!

Best memories of the tour: Galilee—the area of our Lord, Yeshua; and the pilgrims praising and worshiping on a first-century fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. We all felt the Holy Spirit that morning as we sang and prayed. As usual, I started crying as the *Star Spangled Banner* played and then *HaTikvah*, Israel's national anthem.

We finished with *Amazing Grace* in Hebrew. I tell you, there was not a dry eye anywhere.

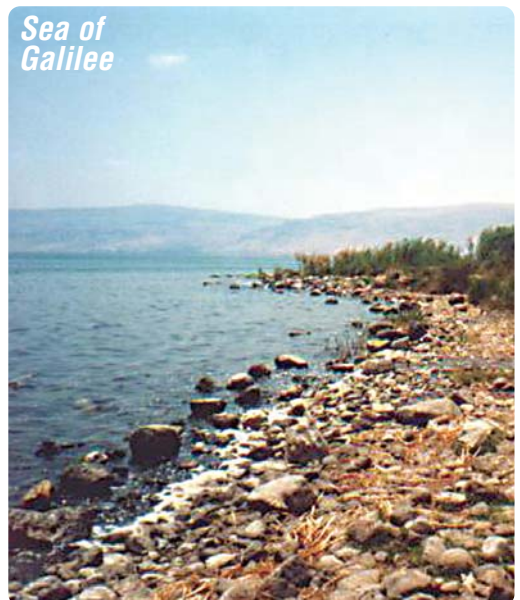
We each left a piece of our heart as we planted trees with our own hands and prayed over the Land of Israel. Then came Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Gideon Springs, where faith is tested.

Finally, Jerusalem and the overlook at Mt. Scopus at sunset—our first glimpse of the Holy City/the City of Gold/God's Eternal City. As we toured the Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall, Mt. Zion, Yad Vashem, and finished at the Garden Tomb, all of our senses were touched. It will not be our last time in Israel.

I got to spend time with Myles and Katharine Weiss as we toured. God made sure I got to know these wonderful people. Zola had a time with this ministry, Jeff and I had a time, and now Myles and Katharine have their time. I am convinced that these are the right people at the right time. They possess great knowledge and compassion. I cannot wait to see where God is leading this ministry.

God bless you,

Sandra





Israel Awaits You

By Tracie, Zola Tours
Manager



I just returned from leading my 7th trip to Israel. This trip, I've told many, was my most spiritual—and that's really saying something.

The bulk of the credit goes to our new tour pastors, Myles and Katharine Weiss. You may have already experienced their gentle teaching on our television program, *Zola Levitt Presents*. Certainly, Myles and Katharine are qualified to lead our tours. Aside from having led many other Holy Land pilgrimages, they both attended Bible college. They also pastor a Messianic congregation and speak regularly to large audiences. If your pastor would like to invite them to speak at your church, write to speakers@levitt.com or call (214) 696-8844.

Shepherding others through the Holy Land requires more than knowledge of the Bible and biblical sites. It requires a humble spirit, an ear pressed close to God's heart, a passion for His Land, and a heart for fellowship. Myles and Katharine have shown me a countenance and spirit that are too rare for teachers in the spotlight: they pour out their time and energy to benefit

the pilgrims and glorify God. They're only too happy to answer questions, provide prayer, and deliver devotions at tour sites. Consequently, our pilgrims connect the dots as never before between their Bible and Israel.

The number 7 represents completion, as in Gen. 2:2,3. I believe that the Lord used my seventh and the Weisses' first Zola Tour to complete the past and inaugurate this new phase for our tours, television program, and newsletters. I am delighted to partner with the Weisses and promote their teaching and leadership. Guess what, friend? We have made room for you on the spring tour by adding a second bus. It would be a privilege for me to talk with you about our March, June, or October 2012 tours.

At the tours' farewell dinners, pilgrims relate that they didn't expect to bond so quickly or so deeply with one another. Such friendships blossom quickly because each group consists of people with the same heart and spirit. They all seek to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and know Him more deeply and intimately. It is a joy and privilege to have Myles and Katharine leading that effort! If you think you'd like to join us in 2012, I'd love to talk with you. Please contact me at (214) 696-9760 or via email at travel@levitt.com. I hope to hear from you soon. ★



David Minay,
lead driver for
Zola Tours

World Ports Safer With Tracking Technology

As a Toyota sedan approaches a busy airport, an Israeli-developed vehicle identity recognition (VIR) system instantly gives security personnel a summary of the car's make and model, the country or state that issued the license plate and the holder of the plate.

Much more than simply tracking users at this sensitive security point, the VIR is also a first alert. What if the car is recognized as a Corolla but the plate is registered to a Ford Focus owner? Either the license plate was switched or the car is stolen—a clear red flag.



VIR is the newest product of Hi-Tech Solutions (HTS) Israel, which has specialized in optical character recognition (OCR) solutions since 1992. Forty countries use HTS products to fight terrorism and crime, as well as manage cargo, traffic and toll roads—including all ships leaving the ports of the United States.

The privately held Rishon LeZion-based company owns its technology. It does all development at a customer service and R&D center in the northern Israeli town of Migdal HaEmek.

Each of Ports America's 42 seaports in the U.S. is equipped with HTS technology to speed merchandise from ship to shore and keep tabs on it at the same time. At these ports and 15 European and Asian ports as well, the software identifies every container in real time during loading and unloading, and cross-checks information on the source and destination of the container.

By Abigail Klein Leichman
www.israel21c.org



HTS recently completed a successful cargo-scanning pilot program at a major airport in Europe, and its system has been digitally scanning cars entering Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv for several years, alerting security personnel if any driver is listed as a suspicious person. Similar systems are installed at other airports and at entrances to office and residential complexes.

Border crossings are another hot spot where HTS technology is increasingly deployed around the world. HTS vice-president Meta Rotenberg says border patrols are primarily concerned about smuggling of drugs, weapons, and even people. The company's software counts and monitors every vehicle coming in and out.

Recently, the company began to integrate its recognition software on handheld devices used by municipal inspectors and police officers around the world for maintaining order in cities, roads, and parking areas. That can extend to catching speeders, monitoring municipal traffic loads, and tracking down stolen vehicles. ★

They say, "You're never alone in Israel"—a tongue-in-cheek reference to the high tech security measures used to protect the country. Our recent trip into Bethlehem illustrated this sentiment clearly: The birthplace of Yeshua has been so commandeered by Muslims that the border crossing is difficult for everyone. The Israelis are forced to monitor, check, and re-check vehicles for terrorist supplies. The situation causes a hassle for the honest Arab inhabitants, and a potentially deadly assignment for the uniformed and armed Israelis.

—Myles

Selective Sisterhood

By Katharine Weiss

After twenty-five years of marriage, I can honestly agree with the old rumor “Jews make the best husbands.” At least my Jew—Myles—has been a wonderful friend, father, and follower of Yeshua. Every *Shabbat* (Sabbath), he praises me as a Proverbs 31 woman (even if I don’t always feel like one), and reminds all who are present when I light the candles that the Light of the World came through the womb of woman.

He honors me and requires our children to do the same. Myles is generous and likes to lavish me with gifts even though he hates to shop. In fact, he is the opposite of the stereotypical portrait of the “cheap” Jew. I feel loved.

I have good news for you women: Whether you are married or not, if you are a Believer, you have the greatest Jewish husband in this world! He always believes the best in you and has written you the most beautiful love letter ever. He is watching over you at all times and delights in your unique expression of His love to this world. He is the most generous King and provides you with His gifts and blessings. I hope you feel loved.

Sadly, this is not the case for the women of Islam. What a painful picture, to see

them virtually entombed in a head-to-toe shroud. What wounding, to see what their ideology does to them in the name of “modesty” and “virtue.” Many are prisoners of a perverse demand for “holiness” that is mandated and enforced by men.

So the question arises: Where are the usually vocal members of the Western feminist movement? Why the silence?

Islam’s treatment of women should be a front-page issue for feminists. In its most virulent forms, the practices of Koran-following Muslims produce abusive systems of power differentials between the sexes. In some cases, such as in Saudi Arabia, it takes the form of ineligibility to obtain a driver’s license. In more primitive societies, Islam requires genital mutilation to prevent pleasure in God-ordained intimacy.

Barbaric?

Absolutely, and yet the same people who insist on the right to any form of sexual expression are seemingly absent when these issues of Islamic oppression are raised. The Steinems and Greers and even the currently omnipresent Oprah never say a word against Islam. We must speak out—for the women of Islam and against the ideology that enslaves them. ★

I love this woman—smart, funny, gorgeous, and spiritual. —Myles



Myles &
Katharine Weiss

Myles and Katharine—In Your Church?

Our new *Zola Levitt Presents* television hosts and tour pastors, Myles and Katharine Weiss, are available to teach “up close and personal.” Christian couples have seen remarkable results from the Weisses’ marriage enrichment seminar “From This Day Forward”—Ancient Wisdom for Contemporary Couples.

Combining a Friday night/Saturday half-day marriage seminar with a Sunday message on Israel and the Jewish Roots of the Gospel optimizes teaching time and the church’s budget. It also seamlessly connects the Testaments and provides practical life applications. To invite Myles and Katharine, your church’s administration can contact our office at (214) 696-8844 or email us at speakers@levitt.com, Attn: Speaking Engagements.

Tiny Token of Christian Faith from 6th Century Jerusalem

By Matti Friedman, Associated Press

A tiny, exquisitely made box found on an excavated street in Jerusalem is a token of Christian faith from 1,400 years ago, says Yana Tchekhanovets of the Israel Antiquities Authority, one of the directors of the dig where the box was found.

When the lid is removed, the remains of two portraits are still visible in paint and gold leaf. The figures, a man and a woman, are probably Christian saints, possibly Jesus and His mother.



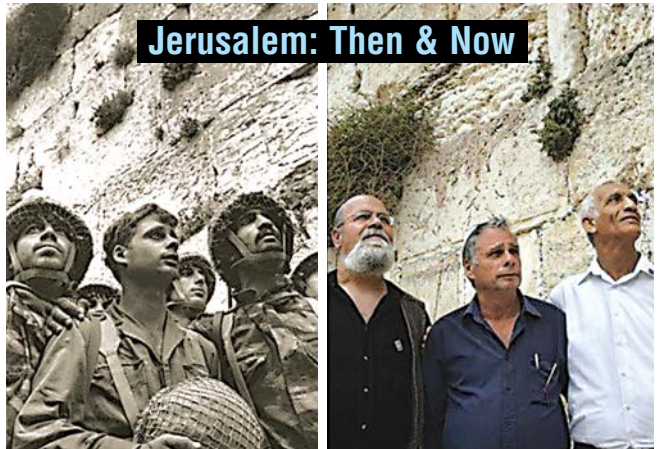
Byzantine 0.8 by 0.6-inch Christian icon box made of bone with a cross carved on the lid, likely carried by a Christian Believer who lost it on one of Jerusalem's streets around the end of the 6th century A.D.

The box was found in an excavation outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City in the remains of a Byzantine-era thoroughfare. Uncovered two years ago, it was treated by preservation experts and extensively researched before it was unveiled at a recent archaeological conference.

The box is important in part because it offers the first archaeological evidence that the use of icons in the Byzantine period was not limited to church ceremonies, she said. Part of a similar box was found three decades ago in Jordan, but this is the only well-preserved example to be found so far. Similar icons are still carried today by some Christian Believers, especially from the Eastern Orthodox churches.

The relic was found in the City of David excavation. The politically sensitive dig is located in what is today the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, just outside the Old City walls in East Jerusalem, the section of the Holy City captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War and now claimed by Palestinians as their capital.

To sum it all up: the relic, precious to Christians, is most likely from the 6th century—*before* Islam existed. The neighborhood, King David's, has been part of the Jewish capital for 3,000 years. The land WON by Israel in 1967, is NOW claimed as the capital for what Muslims hope will be the 57th Muslim state. That Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran and prayers are directed toward Mecca must be minor points. One wonders what other treasures and illuminating finds will be unearthed in other "politically sensitive" digs. —Myles



Thirty-Five Million Americans Harbor Anti-Semitism

By Corky Siemaszko, NYDailyNews.com

Millions of Americans harbor an ugly secret—they're suspicious of the Jews.

A nationwide survey released recently by the Anti-Defamation League found that 15% of the country holds deeply anti-Semitic views—and that number appears to be growing.

"It is disturbing that with all of the strides we have made in becoming a more tolerant society, anti-Semitic beliefs continue to hold a vise-grip on a small but not insubstantial segment of the American public," the ADL's Abraham Foxman said.

Old stereotypes about Jews being pushy and controlling the economy are festering—especially among the least-educated Americans, the survey found.

Among other things:

- 19% answered "probably true" to the statement "Jews have too much control/influence on Wall Street," a five percentage point increase since 2009.
- 14% agreed with the statement that "Jews have too much power in the U.S. today," an increase from 13% in 2009.
- 15% agreed Jews are "more willing to use shady practices."
- 16% agreed that Jewish "business people are so shrewd, others don't have a chance."
- Other anti-Jewish canards continue to be believed by millions of Americans.
- Some 31% believe the Jews were responsible for crucifying Christ.

- And 30%—a percentage that has stayed steady since 1964—insist Jews are "more loyal to Israel than to America."

- Nearly half of all respondents agreed with the statement that Jews "stick together more than other Americans." And a quarter of the country says Jews "still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust."

The survey found that the most-educated Americans were the least prejudiced and foreign-born Hispanics were more likely to hate Jews than U.S. born Hispanics.



A new Anti-Defamation League survey found that 15% of Americans hold deeply anti-Semitic views.

- Some 29% of the African-Americans surveyed expressed strong anti-Semitic views.
- On the plus side, even the anti-Semites gave Jews credit for their strong faith in God (79%), being big on family (84%), and for contributing to American culture (64%). ★

An adage says, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you." Just below the surface of any "civilized" culture, anti-Semitism is ready to explode into its next expression against the Jews. Germany was considered the apex of modern civilization in the early 20th century. Blame-shifting and scapegoating are as old as the Garden of Eden, and could happen anywhere, even in America. —Myles

Promoting Hatred For Israel

By Manfred Gerstenfeld, YNetNews.com

This past fall, it became known that the German EVZ Foundation had financed two high school student programs that promoted hatred of Israel. This state foundation was created to compensate Holocaust slave workers and fight contemporary anti-Semitism. In one of the programs, Dutch-Jewish anti-Israel extremist Hayo Meyer came to the Anne Frank High School in Gutersloh. He equated Palestinian suffering with the mass murder of Jews in the Holocaust and termed Israel a “criminal state.”

Since then, in the Nesbru High School in Asker, Norway, an exhibition sponsored by Norwegian Church Aid, was held on “Palestine.” It included a picture of an Israeli flag crossed out and “Murder” written in reverse underneath it. After protest by an Israeli student and some bad publicity, the school finally decided to remove the exhibition. It is crucially important to know much more about hatred spread against Israel and Jews in schools in the Western world. This contributes to the formation of a new generation of Israel haters and anti-Semites.

Very few studies give information on these topics. In the 1990s, Mitchell Bard studied the most widely used history textbooks in American high schools. Regarding Israel, he found them “full of factual errors, oversimplification, omission, and distortion.” Bard concluded that American “high schools are, as far as anti-Israeli teaching is concerned, even worse than universities.”

In 2008, another analysis by Gary Tobin and Dennis Ybarra confirmed this. They also found that Arab and Muslim interest groups try to white-wash and glorify all things Islamic and thus promote Islam. In this way, a whole series of lies has permeated American textbooks. ★

We should not be surprised, but soberly consider how much intervention is needed to awaken society and revive the Church, especially concerning Israel. Replacement Theology reaches its peak in Arab maps where Israel has been literally “wiped off the map” and in textbooks that contain “history” that never happened. The Good News is that a Jewish King is returning to a Jewish Jerusalem to reign over a worshipping world made up of Jews and gentiles—distinctly different, yet with a shared destiny. Only God can work this one out! —Myles



“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars” Matt. 24:6

"Moderate" Abbas Reveals True Colors

By Dan Calic, www.YNetNews.com

The assumption has been that if a Palestinian state is approved, it would be based on pre-'67 borders, which many believe are indefensible. [Ed. Note: Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights when it won the Six-Day War in 1967.] Yet the application presented to the UN by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is not based on pre-'67 borders. It is based on the original 1947 partition plan of UN Resolution 181.

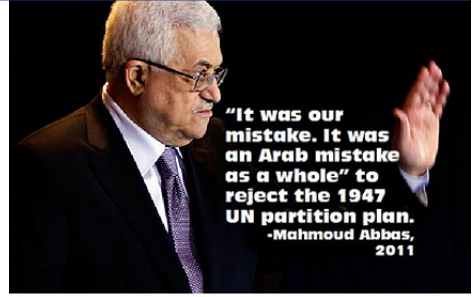
First, aside from the irony of requesting the identical item from the identical body that his Arab brethren rejected in 1947, Abbas's application negates what virtually all proponents of the "two-state solution" have supported, (including the Saudi proposal in 2002): a return to pre-'67 borders.

Second, the area of land designated for Israel under the '47 partition is 5,500 sq. miles—30% smaller than the 8,000 sq. miles the '67 borders encompass.

Third, it would mean that several hundred-thousand Jews now living inside the pre-'67 borders would end up outside Israel and inside a hostile Palestinian state. This is in addition to the roughly 300,000 Jews who have been living in Judea and Samaria who also will be required to move, as Abbas is already on record saying, "there will be no room for a single Jew to live in Palestine."

Thus, potentially over 500,000 Jews would be forced to relocate, even though Israel has a 20% Arab population that is not being asked to move.

Fourth, Jerusalem would no longer be inside Israel. It would be cut off, well inside and completely surrounded by the Palestinian state.



In sixty years, Palestinian Arab leaders will be saying the same about Israel's peace offers that Abbas rejects today.

ElderOfZiyon.com

By requesting the '47 partition lines, Abbas is essentially asking for a second chance to accept a UN resolution his Arab brethren rejected 64 years ago. This alone is precedent-setting. It also demonstrates that he has no interest in peaceful coexistence with a Jewish State of Israel within secure and defensible borders. Rather, his goal appears to be to grab as much land as he can, while remaining committed to "the complete liberation of Palestine, and eradication of Zionist economic, political, military, and cultural existence." (Article 12 of his Fatah Party's Charter)

The Middle East already has 22 Arab countries, with a combined population of more than 300 million. Israel's six million Jews represent 2% of that figure, yet in order get "justice," the Arabs require a 23rd state and the Jews are being asked to slice up their already tiny state. Moreover, if Abbas has his way, Israel will be 30% smaller than the already indefensible pre-'67 borders, and its capital will be in the middle of his hostile state. ★

Dan Calic recently made *aliyah* (moved to Israel), and is a citizen of Israel. For many years, he has written insightful articles for international publications. Here, he strips away the naiveté that plagues Western views of the Middle East conflict. The frustrating one-sided solutions, where Israel gives and the Arabs take, are potentially deadly. —Myles



Healing and Praise

By John J. Parsons

רְפָאֵנִי יְהוָה וְאֲרַפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאֲנַשֶּׂה כִּי תִהְלֹתִי אֲתָהּ

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.” – Jer. 17:14

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------|-----------------|---------|
| רְפָאֵנִי | יְהוָה | וְאֲרַפָּא | הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי | וְאֲנַשֶּׂה | כִּי | תִהְלֹתִי | אֲתָהּ |
| (4) (3) (2) (1) | (1) | (4) (3) (1) (1) | (4) (3) (2) (1) | (5) (4) (3) (2) (1) | (1) | (4) (3) (2) (1) | (2) (1) |
| re-fa-ei-ni | Adonai | ve-ei-ra-fei | ho-shi-ei-ni | ve-iv-va-shei-ah | ki | te-hil-la-ti | a-tah |
| Heal me | LORD | and I shall be healed | save me | and I shall be saved | for | my praise | are you |

It is good to praise and trust the LORD despite our afflictions, and indeed, suffering itself presents an invitation to come before God in prayer (James 5:13). Suffering offers us a *nisayon*, a test, for our hearts to be exercised in ways otherwise rendered impossible should the path of our lives be attended without real struggle.

In this connection I am reminded of a quote from Sadhu Sundar Singh, “Should pain and suffering, sorrow, and grief, rise up like clouds and overshadow for a time the Sun of Righteousness and hide Him from your view, do not be dismayed, for in the end this cloud of woe will descend in showers of blessing on your head, and the Sun of Righteousness rise upon you to set no more for ever.”

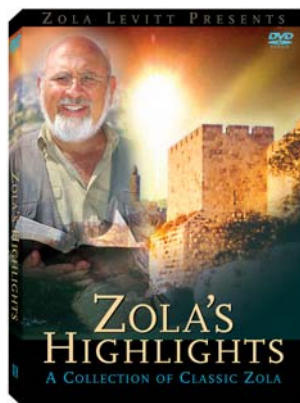
It’s been said that both the devil and God want your soul, but their approaches are diametrically opposite to one another... God offers you a bitter cup that, after it has been duly tasted, will be turned sweet, whereas the devil offers you an artificially sweetened cup that, after it has been duly tasted, will be found bitter to the last of its dregs... When you accept your suffering as ordained by God—by the LORD of Glory who could easily deliver you from all trace of its presence in but the twinkling of an eye—your heartache is sanctified, and your praise becomes more dear to Him. Only the wise and loving LORD knows how bitter waters may be made sweet; only the great Refiner of our souls knows how to bring beauty up from ashes... So heal me, O LORD (even if that means suffering and pain for my life), and I shall be healed; save me, O LORD (do whatever it takes to bring me to the end of myself), and I shall be saved—for You are my praise.

If you are afflicted, troubled, or in any kind of pain, you have a great opportunity to glorify your Father in Heaven by offering Him your praise.... Praising God is the appropriate response to all of reality; the affirmation of God’s glory transforms everything. “Is anyone among you feeling bad? Let him pray. Is anyone feeling good? Let him sing praise” (James 5:13). Remember that regardless of how you presently feel, your emotional life is centered in the Presence of God... As George Mueller once affirmed, **“Be assured—if you walk with Him and look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you.”** ★



Zola's Highlights: A Video Collection of Classic Zola Four 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

These programs celebrate the timeless teachings of the late Zola Levitt, one of the most beloved Bible teachers in America. Highlights from thirty years of television broadcasting are condensed into four half-hour programs that examine Zola's early, mid-career, and later teaching. Trademark, on-location footage from Israel gives viewers insights into the Biblical world and Word.



1. ISRAEL, MY PROMISED Zola taught the Scriptures from a decidedly Jewish perspective. In one of his first series, *Messiah*, Zola taught about Jesus' Jewish beginnings; in *Armageddon*, he talked about The End. This program contains these and more.

2. ISRAEL BY DIVINE RIGHT Drawing on Zola's mid-career teachings, we see him investigate and extol the Gospel's expansion beyond Jews—to non-Jews. Though many knew Jesus as the Savior, Zola wanted the world to know Him as the *Jewish* Savior. This program offers samplings of this emphasis, and also delves into the Dead Sea Scrolls, introduces Islam, and considers prophecy.

3. JERUSALEM FOREVER Zola's contagious love for Israel—which mimics the Scripture's—is apparent in his music, books, and TV productions. This program visits Zola in mid-career when he teaches about the Bible's Jewish roots, emphasizing his trademark topic: prophecy.

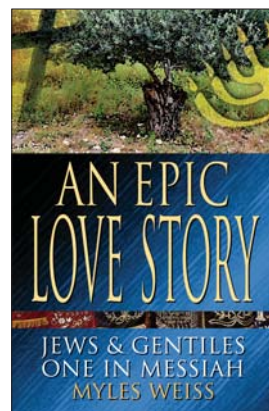
4. FRIENDS OF THE RABBI Viewer interest in how the Old Testament holy days connect to New Testament events made *The Holy Days of Our Lord* one of Zola's more popular series. Zola examined that connection by focusing on those who claimed to follow Jesus: early Believers, Crusaders, and others. The program concludes with an interview with author Tim LaHaye.

NEW! *An Epic Love Story* study booklet by Myles Weiss

Please
order from
p. 18

The God of love is a matchmaker who desires a Bride for His Son, the Bridegroom of Heaven. This Bride, the Church, will consist of both Jews and gentiles. Yeshua's sacrifice enables gentiles to be grafted into the life of Israel and share in the promises of God. Understanding the role of Israel, God's timepiece, is crucial to preparing for the Lord's return. This readable booklet tackles such topics as:

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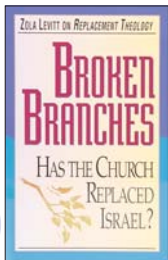
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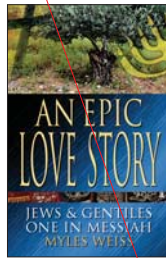
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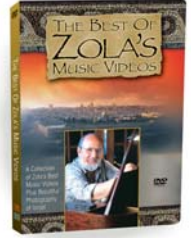


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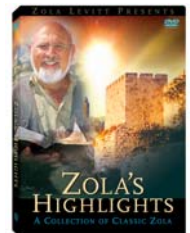
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ZLM Bulletin Board



Jewish Prophecy: Messiah Coming Soon

Jews familiar with an ancient exegesis called *Yalkut Shimoni* say that current tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia matches a prophecy regarding the year in which the Messiah—the King who redeems Israel and the world—is to appear.

In particular, the recent Iranian plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., and Arab nations pressuring the West to attack Iran, appear to fit the sequence of events predicted in the *Yalkut Shimoni*. For a more detailed report visit: <http://wp.me/pieUD-14W>



Israel Depends On You

Israel Today spoke with Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister **Danny Ayalon** about the various revolutions gripping the Middle East, the Iranian nuclear threat, Palestinian intransigence, and growing Christian support for Israel.



"Here in the Middle East, the laws of the jungle prevail and there is no mercy for the weak. And there is no second chance," said Ayalon. "But there are millions of Christians who support Israel, who support the Jewish State, and this is making us much stronger."

Pamphlet of the Month:

"Giving Securities"

American taxpayers have long been allowed to make charitable gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities that are worth more than they cost, take an income tax deduction based on their full current value, and bypass capital gains tax that otherwise would be due on sale. The free pamphlet "*Giving Securities*" explains the basics of harnessing long-standing tax benefits. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Arab Christians Fear "Arab Spring"

In Baghdad, the head of Lebanon's Maronite Church (an offshoot of the Roman Catholic Church) expressed deep concern about the "Arab Spring."

"I support the spring when it is a spring, not when it is a winter," Maronite Patriarch Beshara al-Rai said. "There should be changes in all Arab countries. We need democracy, freedom of expression, and freedom of belief and worship...[But] I fear radical groups might take power and [bring] extremist rule."



ZLP TV Updates

KAZQ:

Albuquerque NM
Tuesday 10:30 am
Thursday 10 pm

WINP:

Pittsburgh PA
Thursday 9:30 am

Saluting From The Afterlife



By Mark Levitt

a note from mark

Zola made some television programs that you're never going to see. In March 2006, he was within a month of meeting his Maker: Metastasized lung cancer had scheduled his graduation to Heaven for April 19. But he insisted that our TV production crew shoot some last-minute teaching. "I'm a soldier," he declared as he waged his final campaign.

Ken Berg has been ZLM's producer since day one. He leveled with me, explaining that the programs, despite Zola's best intentions, weren't up to snuff because Zola looked too ill. Zola had already taught all that he had to convey during prior efforts. And I'm delighted to announce that this ministry is going to give his best teaching a grand finale encore.



Why just now? First of all, Zola's programs were shot in standard rather than high definition (or HD), which we've used since 2006. The window of opportunity is closing before all of our TV networks and stations will require predominantly HD. Second, a buffer of Zola's most perennial classics will nicely segue Jeff's teaching to Myles and Katharine's. Third, we'll buy some time to develop the footage of Myles and Katharine in Israel into top-quality programs.

The new television programs with Myles and Katharine are spiritually stupendous. Many viewers will agree that, with their clear teaching, touching dramas, and ethereal music, they rival and surpass most of what we've produced. Not that Jeff's teaching falls short. Not that we'll ever forget our founder (we'll always have Classic Zola outtakes). But the timing is right to call on Zola for a "hits on parade" last hurrah. What a delight for him and you!

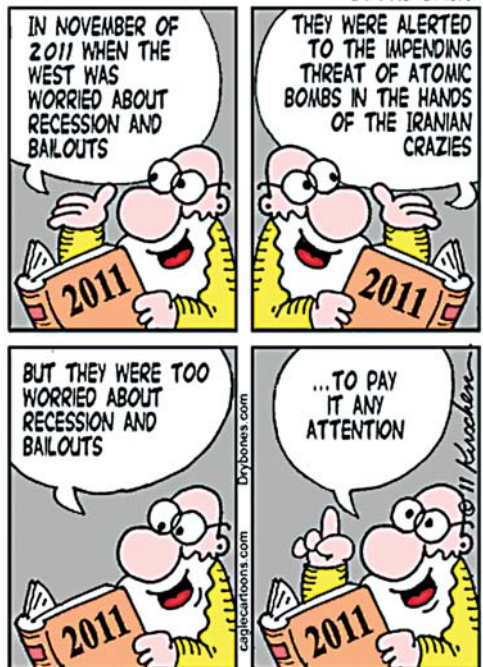
You probably have gathered that I'm a pretty good administrator but, at best, a mediocre theologian. Just as a prize fighter needs an assertive coach, a Bible teacher who speaks to national television audiences relies on an effective administrator. Months ago, ZLM advertised for "The Rocky Balboa (rising champ) of Bible Teachers." Myles fulfills that role; I identify with silver-screen-Rocky's coach, Mickey Goldmill, the character played by **Burgess Meredith**. (Sometimes my soul feels as old as that revered actor looked.)



Before our television broadcasts switch over completely to our newest HD contenders, however, we're going to call on the soldier who groomed me to carry on his life's work. Zola's going to be back on the frontlines (your TV screens) for a couple of memorable months, so you may want to set your recording devices and invite your friends to watch. ★

Dry Bones

MR. HISTORY LOOKS BACK





Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From P.S. (PA): ZLM continues to teach the deeper things of God, like “The Seven Feasts of Israel,” unlocking the meaning of the Feasts to a gentile Believer like me. I loved the picture in the Oct ’11 *Levitt Letter* (p. 25) of the old olive tree that had a young one grafted on top of it. God bless this ministry!

From L.S. (OK): I like that ZLM teaches me about the history of my faith as a whole and not just “church” history.

From R.B. (OH): I used to watch Zola back in the 1980s. I recently watched the new guy on the Internet. I think he’s good too. You bring us gentiles a correct perspective that we do not find in our churches, and you make quality programs, which I appreciate. Thank you for your ministry. I am glad that you are continuing forward.

From B.C. (CO): I wish I had a gazillion dollars so I could order everything I want all at once and support your ministry with a bigger offering! Oh well, a little at a time. Love/will miss Jeff, look forward to future programs. May God continue to bless your ministry!

From T.F. (AZ): I started watching Zola 30 years ago. He changed my life and opened my eyes and soul! I will always be grateful. I miss my teacher and guide. It took me a long time to come back ... but I am!

From M.P. (IL): I saw your TV program this past weekend and learned a lot about a Bible passage that I didn’t fully understand until hearing the explanation from a Jewish perspective.

From A.Z. (MI): Love your programs. Would love them more if you used David Stern’s *Complete Jewish Bible!* It says it perfectly in a Hebrew (Heavenly) way!

From K.C. (KS): We are ordering two Israeli flags this time as our other flag was stolen off the house. Apparently we offended someone. Praise the Lord!

From M.L. (TN): Here’s my gift for the *To The Jew First Ministry*. I am heartbroken and at times disgraced to see anti-Semites among the recent “Occupiers” around America. I know they are always there, but I disliked seeing them grab the spotlight. Keep bringing the Good News of Yeshua to the Jewish people—something worth speaking up about—and a message full of love and hope. Thank you to Todd and other TJF missionaries.



Enjoyable Insights

Dear ZLM,

I enjoy the *Levitt Letter*, especially the articles by Myles and the Hebrew Lesson with John Parsons's insight and challenges in the Word. May the Lord keep blessing ZLM in all your endeavors.

S.M.S. (NC)



Shalom S.M.S.—

Thanks for the kind words about my articles, and I want to say “Amen!” to your assessment of John Parsons's Hebrew Lessons. I grew up in a Conservative Jewish home, attending Hebrew school 3 days per week until my Bar Mitzvah. Even with that background, I consistently learn from John's lessons, and treasure his teachings and Bible exposition. For more fine Hebrew teaching, visit John Parsons's website, www.hebrew4christians.com —Myles

Becoming Familiar

Dear Myles and K.,

You will find a little extra in my monthly giving to make up for those who jumped ship either because of Zola's passing or Jeff's leaving. It is human nature to cling to the *familiar*. You and K. are not “familiar” yet. Remember, it took Jeff a while to reach his “familiar” after Zola's torch was handed to him.

W.S. (MA)

Dear W.S.—

Thank you for the extra gift this month. I especially appreciate the wisdom that you sent with it. You noted that your giving was not based on Zola, Jeff, or Myles and Katharine but an offering to the Lord for His work through ZLM. Blessings —Myles

Zola Tours at the Western Wall



Not Funny!

More comments on cartoons in the *Levitt Letter*, particularly “In God’s Sofa” on page 33 of the November issue and “Jesus Clears the Temple” on page 6 of September’s:

From R.B. (TX): not quite blasphemous, but inappropriate.

From J.W.D. (MS): I was offended ... expect to find this in a worldly magazine not in a Christian publication.

From J.B. (GA): trivializes Almighty God! Spreading the Gospel of Jesus is serious business.

From B.P.T. (NC): November issue has 11 cartoons on 31 pages of articles. Frivolous ... and detracts from your serious mission and message.

From A.G. (TX): I feel offended at the comics you put in the *Levitt Letter* ... I don’t think Yeshua would like the jokes ... lighthearted ones like “Jesus Clears the Temple” seem OK.

Dear R.B., J.W.D., J.B., B.P.T., and A.G.—

I hope you don’t mind if I answer these letters as a group, in the interest of space. Several of your letters were lengthy, which makes it difficult for us to reprint them in their entirety. However, they deserve consideration. The cartoons in our *Levitt Letter* have stirred quite a bit of controversy. Some appreciated them, some thought they were inappropriate, and some called them blasphemous. What seems clear from the wide range of reactions is how *subjective* these things can be. I don’t want to minimize our responsibility to be appropriate, but I honestly believe that the cartoons merely “spice” up the magazine, and are not our *raison d’etre* (reason for being).

As a new Believer, I received a pearl of wisdom from Moishe Rosen (founder of Jews for Jesus). He said, “Myles, if it’s not the Bible, read it with a pencil!” In other words, Scripture is sacred, but minor things (especially man’s ideas in print) are just that: minor. They are negotiable, can be crossed out, erased, and debated because they are “subjective.”

The *Levitt Letter* addresses many issues of extreme importance. We use the Bible as our standard of faith and practice. Beyond that, like Jewish people from time immemorial, we employ humor to lighten the burden of life.

Some will “get it,” some won’t. Some jokes hit the target, some miss. Please don’t let cartoons deflect from the thrust of our purposes: the Gospel to the Jew first, the centrality of Israel in God’s plan, and His desire that none should perish. Blessings —Myles



Use Only MY Bible—No, Only MINE!

Dear ZLM,

I would like to see the KJV used as the Scripture source in the *Levitt Letter*. Many people hold to a “KJV only” view, and I am one. How can a Believer trust a “Bible” that is copyrighted for money? Jesus and his martyrs gave their lives so men would have the Word of God freely given, not copyrighted. I entreat you to consider this request and I pray that God will move you.

—J.T. (VA)

Dear J.T.—

There is not one monolithic manuscript that is free from copyist or scribal errors—including the family of manuscripts that comprise the *Textus Receptus* that constitutes the KJV. But the miracle of preservation is such that out of all the 24,000 manuscripts we have (dating from the first century B.C. to tenth century A.D.), and with over 240,000 variant readings or so between them, not one difference changes or denies any major doctrine of the Judeo-Christian faith. When compared, **these manuscripts agree with each other over 98% of the time**, and the less than 2% variance concerns minor issues of grammar, inclusion, or omission—which, again, do not impact any major orthodox doctrine of the faith. God’s miraculous preservation of His Word over the long centuries from original composition to multiple copies is truly amazing!

You might be surprised to learn that modern translations are based on texts older than the KJV (the benefit of further archaeology). Most modern translations—New Revised Standard, New International Version, New American Standard, and even New Living Translation—have incorporated this new scholarship. The New King James did update the OT but still used the *Textus Receptus* for the NT.

Also, the KJV was and is copyrighted! It remains under copyright in the United Kingdom, but is not enforceable elsewhere. —Theology staff

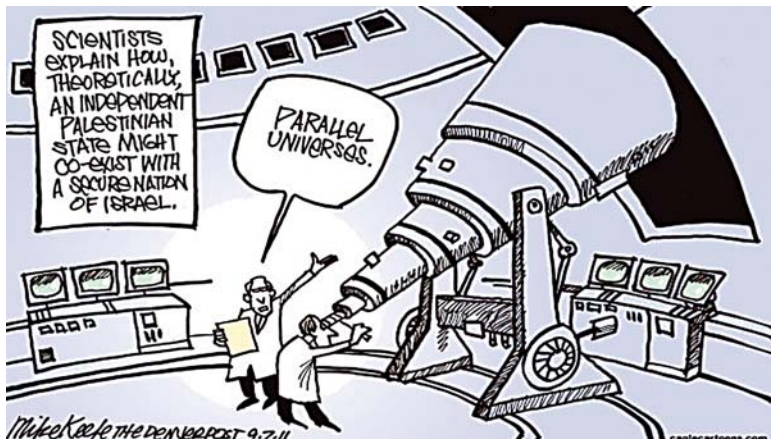
<http://www.kingjamesbible.info/king-james-bible-copyright-status.php>

Israel v. Bermuda

Dear ZLM,

When a catechism teacher told me 4 years ago that the Roman Catholic Church was Israel and that the country that is Israel is no more important than Bermuda, I almost fainted. Actually, I am a boxer and martial artist and wanted to deck him. :) Although I know Buddhism, Hinduism, Shamanism, Vedanta, etc., until I studied Church history, I had no idea how many churches are cursed by God’s Word in Genesis, about blessing Israel and being blessed (Gen. 12:3). Thank God for the gentile clerics who support Israel.

—P.V.S.-R. (AZ)





Answers in a Nutshell from Todd

C. (NJ) asks: Does Ezekiel (40–44) teach that there will be animal sacrifices for the nations during the thousand-year reign of Christ?

A. Yes; Ezekiel interpreted literally says there will be animal sacrifices offered during the Millennial Kingdom. But they will be no more efficacious to permanently take away sin than they were during the Old Testament times. **No sacrifice before or after Messiah Jesus saves.** These sacrifices are memorial in nature, pointing back to the Cross of Christ. For just as the Lord's Supper is a memorial looking back to the Cross, so too do the sacrifices by Israel in the Millennial Kingdom point back to the Cross.

D.F. asks: When did the early Church start building “buildings” to gather in to worship the Lord as a congregation? **A.** The earliest so far discovered is the Upper Room where Jesus celebrated His last Passover on Earth and where James and the Apostles met with the early Church. Archaeologists excavated in the last decade and found the Messianic seal on the mezuzah at the entrance and on anointing receptacles inside the structure. The seal fuses together the Menorah, Star of David, and Christian fish symbol. So **by the late first century**, Believers were already worshipping in building structures. Please see the book about this amazing archaeological find, *The Messianic Seal of the Jerusalem Church* by Raymond Fischer and Reuven Schmalz (at bookstores and Amazon.com).

L.A. asks: Is Islam an offshoot of Old Testament Judaism? Is Mohammed in the Koran reacting to a heretical branch of the Eastern Church in his day that was common in Arabia known as Monophysitism? Did he ever meet Orthodox Christians? **A. Islam is not a deviant form of Judaism:** note that many Koranic utterances call for the destruction of the Jew, whereas biblical Judaism promises that God's love, preservation, and protection of the Jewish people are guaranteed forever. True, both religions forbid eating pork, but this is a superficial similarity. Mohammed did have contact with the Coptic, Syrian, and Arabic Christians—and called for their destruction as infidels. He did adopt Docetic Gnosticism when writing in the Koran that Jesus did not really die on the Cross but only appeared to, as a phantom.

P.A.R. asks: Zola once stated on TV that the Dome of the Rock has an engraving on the top that says, “God had no son.” I have mentioned this to several people, and they do not know what I am talking about. I do not believe that Zola would make this up. **A.** Yes, you heard Zola correctly. Written in Arabic around the circular border of the Dome, it states that **Allah has no son, nor has he begotten or is begotten.** I confirmed this with the late Zvi Rivai, award-winning Israel guide and chief tour guide for Zola Tours for about twenty years. It shows at once the anti-Christ spirit behind the religion of Islam!

BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro



S.M.S. asks: Is this transliteration from Hebrew to English correct? **Zechariah 12:10 in English:** “They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” The key word here is “pierced.” The English translation is “the One they have pierced.” However, in Hebrew, it translates “those who were pierced.” It’s plural, not singular. It is mourning the deaths that were in Jerusalem at the time of the destruction of the First Temple.

A. The Hebrew text of Zechariah 12:10 is third-person masculine singular. The ancient rabbis and the Jewish writers of the New Testament understood it to be **a Messianic prophecy referring to the suffering Messiah**—fulfilled in the death of Jesus when He was pierced in crucifixion (John 19:37).

S.M.S. asks also: I would like your interpretation of Jeremiah 16:16 and whether it refers to an end-times Holocaust. **A.** The historical context of Jeremiah 16 is the Babylonian invasion of Israel in 586 B.C., not the end-time eschatological judgment and Israel “converting” to Christianity. **Verse 16 refers to the soldiers of Babylon** making a meticulous house-to-house search of Jews living in Judah and Jerusalem to either kill them or carry them away captive to Babylon. The first rule of Bible interpretation is context.

S.E. asks: Matthew 5:32 says, “But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” What about physical or emotional abuse? These are not grounds for divorce? A man beats his wife daily and she can’t divorce? **A.** The Word of God in **1 Corinthians 7:15 allows for divorce in case of abandonment.** That would most certainly include abuse where the spouse’s safety is threatened. Logic, common sense, and the attributes of God’s mercy and justice are such that He would not expect anyone to stay married under these heinous circumstances.

Constantine’s “Christianity”

Dear Todd,

On page 27 of the Nov. *Levitt Letter*, Myles said, “Constantine officially broke with the Hebrew roots of the faith in 333 A.D.” What did he do? —D.W.

Dear D.W.—

In 333 A.D., Constantine went after the Jewish elements still left in the Christian faith. With his new paganized form of Christianity—that later

evolved into full-fledged Roman Catholicism—he made it illegal for “Christians” to celebrate the Passover and observe the Sabbath, stating in effect that Judaism was incompatible with Christianity. —Todd



Why Iran Might Welcome Bombing

By Amir Taheri, www.NYPost.com

Israel's quarrel is with Iran's Khomeinist regime. A Shiite version of pan-Islamism, Khomeinism harbors global ambitions. For Khomeinists, Iran is not a nation with its own national interests but part of an Islamic *ummah* (world) that is at war with the United States and its allies. And the Khomeinists are trying to seize control of the Israel-Palestine issue in the hope of seducing the Arabs into accepting their hegemony.

This isn't a new strategy. Egypt under Nasser used it, as did Libya under Kaddafi, Iraq under Saddam Hussein and Syria under Hafez al-Assad. Just as those Arab despots armed terrorist groups against Israel, the Khomeinist regime is using Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah to target the Jewish state.

Yet the Khomeinists appear to welcome a bombing campaign from Israel and/or the United States. Such an attack that is not part of a broader strategy to topple the Khomeinists would only strengthen their regime.

That's what happened in Egypt in 1967, when Nasser was defeated but allowed to remain in power. And in 1986, after Libya was bombed by the U.S. but Kaddafi was allowed to live to brag about his "great victory." Similarly, in

1991 Saddam Hussein was defeated but allowed to remain in power.

In 2006, in military terms, Israel defeated the Lebanese Hezbollah. Hezbollah lost a quarter of its full-time fighters and all its bases close to the frontier, as well as 80 percent of its arsenal. Yet, because its leadership was left intact in Beirut, it could claim "the greatest victory in modern Islamic history."

Another reason that Khomeinists may welcome bombings that only wound them: They face a difficult election next spring, with the threat of another insurrection against their corrupt and bloody rule. A bombing raid would give them an excuse to crush the opposition in the name of national unity and claim fresh legitimacy.

The Khomeinist regime is a mortal enemy of the Iranian people, of Israel, and of the West. Those who are thinking of a bombing raid should remember Machiavelli's advice: "Do not wound a mortal enemy and let him live. Either turn him into a friend or kill him." ★

The U.S. used this strategy in WW II: Destroy, humiliate, and then rebuild. Consequently, Germany and Japan became allies of the United States. Modern battles seem to have lost that edge, and the new rules of engagement require half measures that put our own troops at risk. Israel's experiences in Lebanon and Gaza are prime examples of this warfare without follow-through. Let's pray for wisdom on the part of Israeli and American leaders. —Myles



The Khomeinist regime is using Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah to target the Jewish state.

Adding Magnesium To Water

Israel's Health Ministry wants magnesium to be added to potable water because the increasing desalination of the water supply has removed much of the mineral.

If the Water Authority and other authorities agree, Israel will become the first country in the world to add magnesium to its water.

Of the 1,400 million cubic meters of water that are consumed every year, 300 million are already desalinated from the sea due to the dearth of rainfall, the ministry said. This figure could rise to 750 million in 2020. Desalination, which eliminates the salt, also removes the magnesium, which is vital for normal function of cells.

Recommended human consumption of magnesium, according to the World Health Organization, is 30 milligrams per liter, or 400 milligrams per day. But most Israelis get no more than 200 to 300 milligrams, which is considered very low. Water supplies about a fifth of magnesium to the body; a deficit can cause health problems, such as ischemic heart disease, high blood pressure, and cancers such as ovarian, breast, rectal, and stomach. Thus, the lack of magnesium consumption, the ministry said, is "worrisome."

Perspiration causes the loss of additional magnesium, as does chronic stress, which increases the amount of adrenaline in the body, which causes the mineral to be eliminated through the urine.

The ministry said that a professional, interdisciplinary committee was appointed to look into the matter that included representatives of the Water Authority, the ministry's public health, nutrition, and environmental protection branches, and the Israel Union for Environmental Defense. They wrote that increasing the amount of magnesium in the water would cost

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com



\$36.4 million and save 250 lives a year from cardiovascular disease alone.

However, the plan has its opponents who argue that only 1 percent of the country's water supply is for drinking, thus the mineral need not be added to all supplies, and that there are other ways to give the population additional magnesium such as pills or supplementing food. They also argue that water costs would rise. But the ministry counters that Israel has one of the highest desalination rates and that the population needs supplementation.

Meanwhile, if the decision does go through, the civil and environmental engineering department at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa has developed a better and cheaper method for adding magnesium to desalinated water, making it fit for drinking and agricultural uses. Under the Technion technique, seawater is the source for magnesium, which is exchanged with calcium using a process called cation exchange. ★



Salt deposit at the Dead Sea



When Israel pulled out of Gaza, terrorists moved in.

Arabs Clamor to Join Mossad, IDF

By Shlomo Mordechai & Ryan Jones (r) *Israel Today*



Thanks to the “Arab Spring,” a growing number of Egyptians, Syrians, Jordanians, Iraqis, and others are realizing that Israel is much better than their own totalitarian societies. Therefore, thousands of Arabs from Mideast countries have sent requests to Israeli government agencies seeking asylum, visas, and even offering to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Mossad spy agency.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry told the *Yediot Ahronot* newspaper that it is even receiving requests from “members of Arab parliaments, members of political movements, and other important political figures.”

“You are the only country [in the region] that respects personal freedom,” wrote Dawoud, a computer technician from Iraq seeking political asylum in Israel.

“The people of Israel are the strongest and most cultured in the region,” wrote another young man from Iran who wants to move here with his family.

Houmam from Iraq asked for a loan for treatment for his sick father, saying, “I know you [Israelis] love to help others.”

Most requests were submitted via the Foreign Ministry’s Arabic website, though others wrote directly to the Mossad and IDF.

62 Years Late

By Aviel Schneider, *Israel Today*

On May 11th, 1949, one year after its establishment, the State of Israel was accepted into the United Nations. Today, the Palestinians are seeking recognition as the 194th member state of the UN. But they are 62 years late. Had the Palestinians agreed to the UN Partition Plan, Resolution 181, of November 29th, 1947, like Israel did, they would have become the 59th member state following Israel at 58.

Abba Eban, Israeli statesman and quote-worthy diplomat, said, “The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.”



Instead of accepting statehood and the massive land grant of the day, five Arab armies attacked Israel on May 15, 1948. In doing so, they set the tone for the following decades. Now it is clear that only *Sar Shalom* (the Prince of Peace) can settle the dust stirred up so long ago.

—Myles

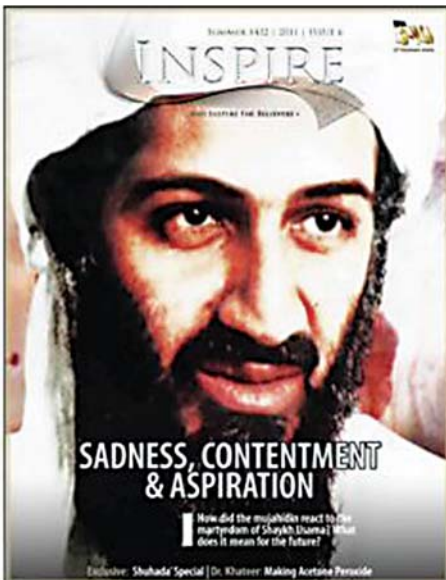


Al-Qaeda's English Magazine *Israel Today*

A little-known fact is that al-Qaeda has been in the business of English-language media for several years. Just two weeks after the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S., al-Qaeda published the seventh issue of its English-language magazine *Inspire*, which is posted online to gain as much exposure as possible.

The latest issue is a tribute to the 9/11 attacks and calls them the "Greatest Special Operation of All Time." Other articles in the 20-page issue praise the Islamic agenda and global jihad, and promise future attacks on all "countries with which Islam is at war."

Hitler's minister of propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, said, "The English follow the principle that when one lies, one should lie big, and stick to it. They keep up their lies, even at the risk of looking ridiculous." It is often simplified as: "Tell a big enough lie long enough, and people will believe it." Putting this into practice, Islam claims to be a "religion of peace." With this repeated lie, it has held the West's emotions captive and numbed our brains until we have been cowed into a politically correct fear of offending Muslims, while they openly call for world domination and celebrate 9/11. Oy vey! —Myles

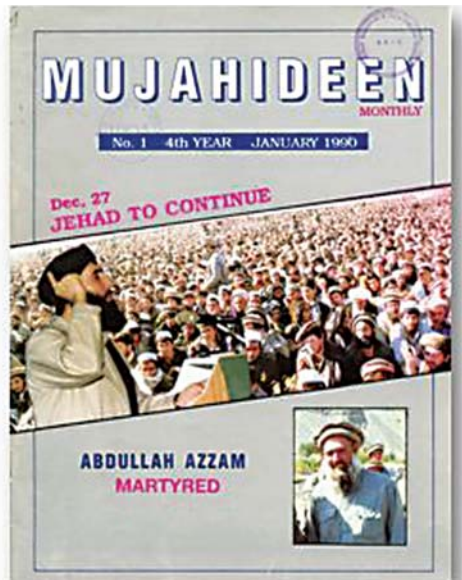


Muzzling the Gaza Media *Israel Today*

In a blatant attempt to restrict freedom of the press, Hamas has announced that journalists must apply for a visa five days before arriving in the Gaza Strip. "This requirement would obviously hinder the ability of journalists to cover Gaza," the Foreign Press Association in Israel said. Until now, journalists have routinely crossed into Gaza from Israel.

Before the Hamas ruling went into effect, Swedish freelance reporter Terje Carlsson was almost denied entry into Gaza, despite having reported from the coastal territory half-a-dozen times before. The reason was that Hamas had decided to blacklist Carlsson's "fixer"—a person who arranges contacts and interviews for visiting journalists and takes them around. After reluctantly allowing him to enter Gaza, Hamas officials instructed Carlsson to find a new "sponsor" that the group approved.

Carlsson says the restrictions are reminiscent of the former Soviet Union and that Hamas wants fixers to know that the only way for them to make money is not to be critical of the regime. "This is a way to tighten the flow of information," he said. ★



Rewriting Jewish History

By Giulio Meotti, www.YNetNews.com

Palestinians are using archaeology to advance their statehood bid. Prominent archaeologist Gabriel Barkai called it “cultural intifada.”

The PA will seek World Heritage status for the birthplace of Jesus—Bethlehem—now that the UN’s cultural agency (UNESCO) has admitted them as a full member. Hamdan Taha, the Palestinian Authority minister who deals with antiquities and culture, also listed Nablus and Hebron among 20 cultural heritage sites which he said could be nominated as World Heritage Sites.

Professor Taha is a pioneer of the new Palestinian revisionism. Last January, *National Geographic* magazine ran a “Travel Palestine” ad that appeared to blot out the State of Israel’s existence. Published by Taha’s Ministry of Antiquities, the ad said, “Palestine lies between the Mediterranean coast and Jordan River.” This is just one example of Taha’s propaganda successes around the world. (See Ben-Hur article on p. 34.)

As their UN bid brings the Palestinians closer to an independent state, the historical and archaeological claims are playing an increasingly prominent role in the building of the national consciousness.

The former Vatican archbishop in Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, who just promoted an appeal to the UN and U.S. to “stop the Hebraization of Jerusalem,” and the current Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, who is denouncing the “Judaization of the city,” are just two major Christian figures who embraced Taha’s rhetoric.

Taha is also mastering a new Palestinian denial meant to cancel any trace of Jewish presence in the Holy Land. According to Taha, the Bible is a “mythological narrative.”

On the outskirts of Nablus, Tel Balata, site of Joseph’s Tomb, is one of Judaism’s holiest sites. Despite Tel Balata being identified with ancient Shechem in Samaria, where the Israelites buried Joseph’s bones when they

returned from Egypt, Palestinians now claim that the tomb in reality is the final resting place of Sheikh Yusuf Dukat, a locally venerated Muslim who lived about 150 years ago.

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared in 2010 that two religious sites, Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem and the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, would be among 150 Israeli heritage sites considered for renovation, Taha declared that the Jewish character of the two holy shrines was “artificial” and “a robbery.” He said that even the Dead Sea Scrolls were “stolen” from Palestinians.

Palestinian archaeological revisionism aims to nullify Jewish connection to the land



On October 21, 2010, UNESCO formally declared that Rachel’s Tomb is the Bilal ibn Rabah mosque, endorsing one of Taha’s lies. The world is now told that the Jews stole the past, that the Jewish monuments are Arab treasures stolen by the Zionists, and that the Jews are no more than invading colonizers.

Archaeologist Barkai once said that this revisionism is even worse than Holocaust denial. Yet for now, Palestinians are winning the war to rewrite history. ★

Muslims are rewriting the story of the peoples, the land, and the past. They are raising their children with propaganda to hate Jews and Christians. The next generation of Jews and Christians is underinformed about the truth of the conflicts. You and I have an obligation to pass on understanding to the up-and-coming Believers. —Myles

Forbidden Fruit

A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest meet at a New Year's luncheon. Old friends, they begin their usual banter.

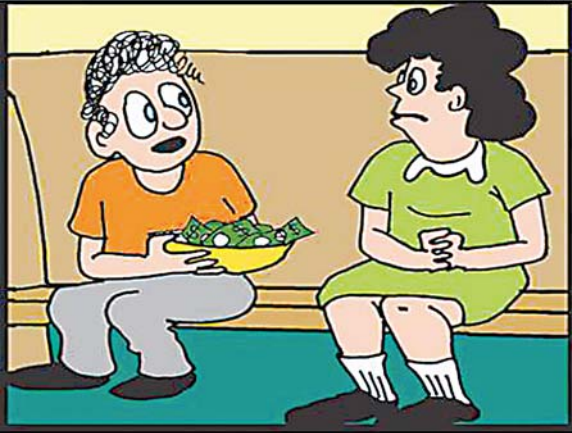
"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teases the rabbi.
 "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

With a big grin, the rabbi answers, "At your wedding."



Note: Zola liked to end this joke somewhat differently: "Try marriage; it's better than ham!" ★

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



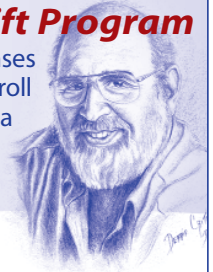
"GOD IS A BETTER MONEY MANAGER THAN THE GOVERNMENT, 'CAUSE HE ONLY NEEDS TEN PERCENT."

Last Chance! Charitable IRA Contribution

Certain IRA holders (aged at least 70½) may contribute directly from Individual Retirement Accounts to tax-exempt organizations. This is a convenient, tax-efficient way to give. Contributions of up to \$100,000 may be made through Dec. 31, 2011, and must be initiated with the IRA administrator. A direct contribution from an IRA to a qualified organization is excluded from taxable income. Donors should consult with their financial advisors and determine whether to seize this limited-time giving opportunity.

Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

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



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

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

The monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks, and you can cancel at any time.

4. Signature _____ (required for processing)
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Ben-Hur—A Palestinian?

Blog.camera.org

The *Los Angeles Times* has converted Judah Ben-Hur, the fictional enslaved Jewish nobleman who serves as a protagonist in Charlton Heston's 1959 Hollywood blockbuster, into a "Palestinian nobleman."



In September, the paper reported:

Based on the novel by Lew Wallace, the period drama revolves around Judah Ben-Hur (Heston), a Palestinian nobleman who is enslaved by the Romans, engages in one of the most thrilling chariot races ever captured on screen, and even encounters Jesus Christ.

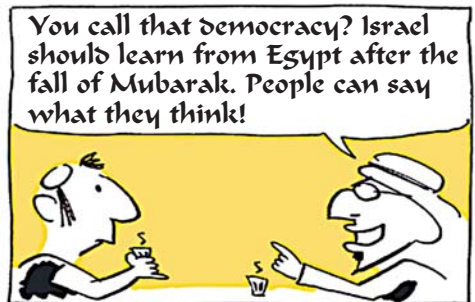
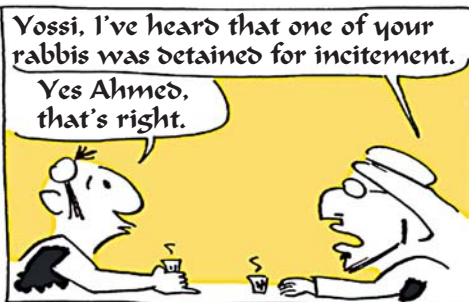
Of course, there was no such place as "Palestine" in the time of Jesus, since the Romans didn't rename Judea as "Palestina" until a hundred years after the death of Jesus (a fact that even *The*

New York Times had to correct). (See "Rewriting Jewish History" on p. 32.)

In earlier coverage, the *Los Angeles Times* had correctly described Ben-Hur's Jewish/Judean identity. For instance, a March 15, 2001 article referred to "the rich, honorable Jewish man Judah Ben-Hur;" a June 17, 1994 article correctly described him as "the Judean;" and a Sept. 14, 1990 article referred to him as "prince of Judea."

Perhaps the paper's 2011 remake of Ben-Hur, the Judean, into Ben-Hur, the "Palestinian," is testament to the success of ongoing efforts to mislead the masses into believing that a sovereign Palestinian entity did in fact exist before 1948, either in antiquity or in more recent history. ★

To understand how deeply this revisionist history runs, see Zola's TV series on DVD *Whose Land is It?*, offered on page 18. In it, he interviews Hanan Ashrawi, an Arab spokeswoman for then-PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Her creative rewriting of history is mind-boggling. Zola keeps his cool and allows Christian Arab commentators to challenge her bizarre conclusions. It is a must-see for anyone on this Israel trail! —Myles



MilesKast 011

The Crucifix Provokes Muslims

By Raymond Ibrahim, www.Hudson-NY.org

The Washington, D.C. Office of Human Rights confirmed that it is investigating allegations that Catholic University violated the human rights of Muslim students by not allowing them to form a Muslim student group and by not providing them rooms without Christian symbols for their daily prayers. The investigation alleges that Muslim students “must perform their prayers surrounded by symbols of Catholicism—such as a wooden crucifix, paintings of Jesus, pictures of priests and theologians which many Muslim students find inappropriate.”

John F. Banzhaf III, a George Washington University professor, asserts that Muslim students are “particularly offended” because they have to “meditate” at the school’s chapels and cathedral, where they pray while “having to stare up and be looked down upon by a cross of Jesus.”

Banzhaf notes that neighboring Georgetown University, a nominally “Christian” university, “provides its Muslim students with a separate prayer room and even a Muslim chaplain”—as if it is not well known that Georgetown’s Arab and Islam departments receive much largesse by way of donations from the radical Wahhabis of Saudi Arabia—who, incidentally, refuse to permit churches, or even a Bible in their country.

Conversely, consider Muslim behavior toward Christian symbols, specifically the crucifix, where Muslims are the majority and thus in charge.

A Christian student in Egypt who refused to obey his Muslim teacher’s orders to cover up his cross was strangled and beaten to death by the teacher and fellow students. When the headmaster was informed of the attack, he ignored it and “continued to sip his tea.” As usual, Egyptian

media, insisting the conflict was “non-sectarian,” covered it up.

The Maspero massacre, in which the Egyptian military killed dozens of demonstrating Christians—including running over live Christians with armored vehicles—was a product of anti-Christian sentiment. Muslims insisted that a Coptic church be stripped of its dome and cross, so it would not resemble a church. As a Muslim elder put it, “the Cross provokes us and our children.” When Christians refused to budge, Muslims destroyed the church. This is what Christians were protesting when the Egyptian military mowed them down to cries of “*Allahu Akbar*” (Allah is Greater”).



Coptic Christians carry cross and pray

Where Islam is weak, Muslims, spearheaded by Islamist organizations like the Council on American Islamic Relations [CAIR], demand respect for their “human rights.” Where Islam is strong or dominant, Muslims simply violate the human rights of others. In all cases, the motivation is the same: to suppress all things “infidel” until, in the words of the Koran (2:193), “idolatry is no more and Allah’s religion reigns supreme.”

Spot on! My friend former Muslim terrorist Walid Shoebat wryly notes, “The evangelicals will give you a headache, but the Muslims will take your head off”—a disparity deftly illustrated in this article. —Myles





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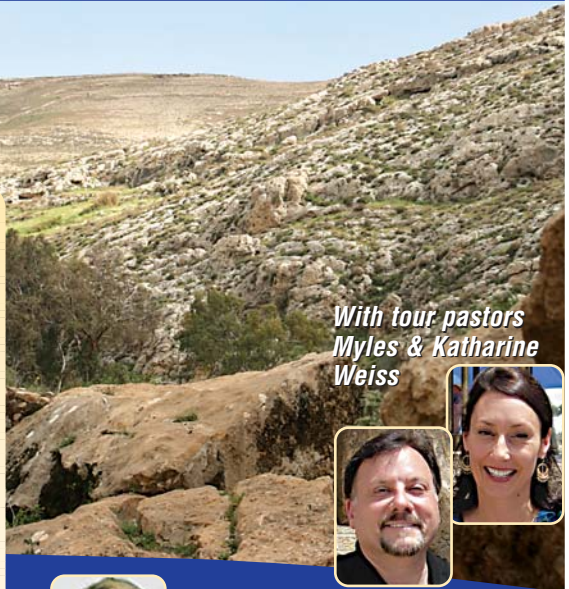
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