

Levitt Letter

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

FEATURES

The Christian Era in the Middle East is Over


"Israel has become the only safe haven for Christians in the Middle East," Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren wrote in a recent op-ed published in *The Wall Street Journal*. "Christians are being forced from lands they've inhabited for centuries."

Today, there is only one Middle Eastern country where the number of Christians has grown: Israel. Christians numbered 34,000 people in 1949, are now 163,000-strong, and will reach 187,000 in 2020 [*millions* if ZLM, God willing, is successful—Ed.].

By **Giulio Meotti** ([cont. p.2](#))



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Israel at the Olympics

By Abigail Klein Leichman
www.Israel21c.org



Efraim Zinger's ringtone is ABBA's "The Winner Takes it All." A perfect choice for the secretary-general of Israel's National Olympic Committee. As Zinger's crew feverishly gears up for the London Olympic Games from July 27 to August 12, he speaks about his plans and dreams for the 40 or so athletes who will board the plane to London.

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FEATURE STORY CONTINUED...

The Christian Era in the Middle East is Over

By Giulio Meotti, IsraelNational News.com

Israel is the only safe haven for Christians in the Middle East.

Muslims are banishing all traces of pre-Islamic history. It is time for Christians to recognize Israel's survival as critical and vital also for them. Instead, some Arab Christians embrace Islam and demonize the Jews.

"As Christian leaders in Palestine, we were appalled by the baseless allegations you published in *The Wall Street Journal*," says one letter signed by many Arab Christians, published in the Palestinian media. "The Israeli occupation is the primary reason why so many members of the oldest Christian communities in the world have left the holy land, Palestine. Our reality is one of occupation, oppression, and loss."

Even more dramatic is the collapse of Christian Arab society following Israel's handing over of large parts of Judea and Samaria to the Palestinian Authority. Christians suffered the most from the mafia-style rule of Yasser Arafat's kleptocracy.

Christian sites and cemeteries were desecrated by Muslims. Slogans like "Islam will win" and "First the Saturday People, then the Sunday People" have been painted on walls, and PLO flags were draped over Christian crosses. Ramallah was 90% Christian before the 1948 War of Independence and Bethlehem was 80%. Today Ramallah is a large Islamic city, and Bethlehem's Christians are near extinction.

Given their common status as minorities within an overwhelmingly Islamic region, you might expect Christian Arabs to find common cause with Jews and Israel. But Eastern Christianity's traditional hatred of Judaism, combined with futile hopes for assimilation within the Arab world, has closed off that option.

As the letter clearly shows, Arab Christians are lost to Islam. This historical process has been explained by Bat Ye'or, the most important historian of "*dhimmitude*" (the subjugation of non-Muslims). [See the process explained at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1jt>.]

Arab Christians feed the Islamic crocodile hoping it will eat them last. But, it is devouring the Christian lamb. Indeed, the Christian era in the Middle East is coming to an end. After Arab nationalism failed to eliminate Israel, Arab Christians are building a Palestinian identity that is hostile to Israel. Criminalizing Zionism, which Arab churches made a condition for "Muslim-Christian rapprochement," grants the elimination of the Jewish State priority over defending the rights of their own beleaguered communities.

Arab Christians have been Islamicized. Supported by the Vatican and the Orthodox Churches, they choose the war against the Jews. They will be paid back with their own extinction. ★

Giulio Meotti is an Italian-Christian author and journalist.



Summertime Blues



This interesting information about God's timing and divine plan for the Jews appeared in the July Personal Letter. Here is a more concise version, suitable for sharing.

Scripture tells us "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). This brilliant note from God reminds us that good and evil co-exist in this fallen world. When entire seasons are peppered with trouble, it is all the more important to "lean on the arm of our beloved" (Song of Solomon 8:5). So it is for the Jewish people, who have a remarkable history of midsummer woes.

Tisha B'Av is an annual fast day in Judaism, named for the ninth day (Tisha) of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar. The fast commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, which occurred about 655 years apart, but incredibly, on the same Hebrew calendar date!

Tisha B'Av falls in July or August in the Western calendar—July 29 this year. The day focuses on commemoration of five events:

- the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem
- the destruction of the rebuilt Herodian Temple
- the sin of ten of the twelve scouts sent by Moses who spoke disparagingly about the Promised Land
- the razing of Jerusalem following the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD
- the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt against the Roman Empire

Over time, Tisha B'Av has become a Jewish day of mourning not only for these events, but also for later tragedies, including:

- Pope Urban II declared the First Crusade on July 20, 1095. His marauding soldiers killed 10,000

- Jews in the first month.
- Jews were expelled from England in July 1290.
- Jews were expelled from Spain in August 1492.
- On July 28, 1914, World War I broke out, causing unprecedented devastation across Europe and setting the stage for World War II and the Holocaust.
- On the eve of Tisha B'Av 5702 (July 23, 1942), the mass deportation began of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, en route to the Treblinka death camp.
- The Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina was bombed, killing 86 and wounding 300 others, on Monday July 18, 1994 (10th of Av, 5754).

As Tisha B'Av approaches each year, we pray for deliverance. We pray for mercy. It is awesome that the concluding signature of the Tisha B'Av blessing says, "Blessed are You, O Lord, Who consoles Zion and builds Jerusalem."



Yeshua is the cure for the "summertime blues." ★



Hamas Leader: “Palestinians” Not From “Palestine”

By Sam Costanza, www.Inquisitr.com

Hamas Minister of Interior and National Security Fathi Hammad recently announced on Egyptian Al-Hekma television that the Palestinian-Arabs do not actually come from the land of Israel, renamed Palestina by the Romans following the suppression of a Jewish revolt in Judea some two millennia ago. This is in line with the obscure and politically incorrect fact that many of those now calling themselves Palestinians arrived during a period stretching from the end of the Ottoman rule in the late nineteenth century through the British Mandate period that ended in 1948, during which time the Zionist movement revolutionized the economy of what was an Ottoman backwater with a scarce and poor community considered part of the Syrian district.

“Who are the Palestinians?” Hammad asked the television audience? “We have many families named Al-Matzri, whose roots are Egyptian. Egyptians! They came from Alexandria, Cairo, Dumietta, the North, from Aswan, and Upper Egypt. We are Egyptians. We are Arabs. We are Muslims. We are a part of you.”

Half of all Gazans, he stated, came from Egypt, the other half from Saudi Arabia.

These statements stand in stark contrast with Palestinian Authority propaganda which paints the Palestinians as having lived in the land “from time immemorial” and which claims that they are, in fact, descendants of the Canaanites. Sometimes the PA propaganda machine appropriates ancient Jewish history as its own and even claims that Jesus was Palestinian, rather than Jewish.

Asking for help from his Egyptian brothers, Hammad stated, “Al-Aqsa and the land of Palestine represent the spearhead for Islam and for the Muslims. Therefore, when we seek the help of our Arab brothers, we are not seeking their help in order to eat, to live, to drink, to dress, or to live a life of luxury. No. When we seek their help, it is in order to continue to wage jihad.”

Because Palestinian nationalism developed in the 1920s, prior to which it was subsumed under the popular Pan-Arab nationalist ideology, it is considered artificial by many. In the 1970s, PLO leader Zuheir Mohsen told the Dutch newspaper *Trouw*:

Between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese there are no differences. We are all part of ONE people, the Arab nation. Look, I have family members with Palestinian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Syrian citizenship. We are ONE people. Just for political reasons we carefully underwrite our Palestinian identity. Because it is of national interest for the Arabs to advocate the existence of Palestinians to balance Zionism. Yes, the existence of a separate Palestinian identity exists only for tactical reasons. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a new tool to continue the fight against Israel and for Arab unity.

See story and video at:

<http://wp.me/pieUD-1kb>



“During the last century, since the establishment of the modern Olympics, about 80 countries have never gotten any medal, and more than 125 countries never won a gold,” Zinger relates. “We’ve won a few medals and one gold.”

To be exact, Israel has won 7 medals in 14 Olympic Games since 1952. The first two were awarded at the 1992 Barcelona Games, both in judo. Since then, Israel has won at least one medal in each Summer Olympics.



“After coming back from each Olympic Games, we spend a year analyzing the Israeli athletes’ performance and making goals and targets for the next delegation,” says Zinger. “By the end of 2009, we had decided on three targets for 2012.”

The Olympic Committee’s first goal is to return from London for the sixth time in a row with at least one medal for Israel.

The second is to see a female Israeli athlete on the winners’ podium. “At Athens and Beijing, females made up 50% of our delegation, and it’s time to see them make another step forward, onto the podium,”

says Zinger. The final goal is to capture a medal in a new discipline. The Jewish state’s two strongest areas are traditionally watercraft sports and judo.

Zinger describes Israel’s Olympic team as “a group picture” of Israeli society. “You can find men and women, people from big cities and from little towns in the north and south, people born in Israel and people born abroad. This is Israel at its best. The common thing they share is that they are the best in their fields.”

Kosher food will be available at the Olympic Village dining room, which will seat 5,000 and operate on a 24-hour basis. The Israelis will stay at the village along with about 16,000 others.

This year carries special poignancy because it marks 40 years since Arab terrorists murdered 11 Israeli Olympic athletes and coaches at the Munich Games. Though the IOC has turned down requests from Zinger and from Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon to open the London Games with a minute of silence in commemoration of the tragedy, the Israelis will hold a private ceremony. ★



Israel: The Center of Divine History Part 1

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.

Dr. Thomas McCall, the Senior Theologian of our ministry, has written many articles for the *Levitt Letter*. He holds a Th.M. in Old Testament studies and a Th.D. in Semitic languages and Old Testament. He served as Zola’s co-author, mentor, pastor, and friend for nearly 30 years. This article details the historical events of the last two centuries that led up to the establishment of the modern nation of Israel. This article originally appeared as installments in the *Levitt Letter* from May 1994 to February 1996. Part 1—the following portion, first appeared in the May 1994 *Levitt Letter*.

Introduction: Biblical history is the history of Israel. It is different from all other histories. Secular scholars consider the movements of nations and armies to be the core of world history. Church historians, on the other hand, consider the great ecclesiastical conferences and development of denominations and institutions to be at the heart of human history.

It is remarkable, but the Bible alone views history from the vantage point of Israel, especially from Genesis 12 through Acts 8. The prophet Isaiah, for instance, envisioned Israel as occupying “the center of the earth”: *In that day shall Israel be ... a blessing in the midst of the earth* (Isa. 19:24).

From Acts 9 through Rev. 3, the focus of the Bible is more on the Church, local and worldwide. With Rev. 4, however, Israel resumes the center-stage position and continues as such until the end of the Scriptures. Thus, the vast bulk of the Word of God revolves around Israel, the Chosen Nation of God. [\(continued on p.7\)](#)



Trekking and Seeking

By Eitan Shishkoff

In the northern reaches of India, where the mighty Himalayas begin to rise, a substantial number of young Israelis wander the remote trails. These post-army, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veterans are transient, seeking, fun-loving, and blowing off steam.

One village's economy is now more supported by Israeli tourism than by local denizens. And there in the far north, life-changing conversations are being initiated. The conversation starters? Young Jewish Believers who take time and personal finances to fly there to spread the Gospel—and for a little exploring of the landscape themselves.

Eitan and Connie Shishkoff



pace is slower, the connection with nature more immediate, and the locale far-removed from the pressures of life in the Middle East. This is a key. Life has to be more than what they have experienced—and it is! But most are not ready to encounter the Jewish Messiah at home in His own land where He suffered in their place and conquered death to earn the crown of David. Hence, a peaceful village in India provides an exotic opportunity to review life's foundation and to consider, usually for the first time, the love of Israel's God through His Son.

Stewart and Chantal Winograd pioneered a Messianic congregation in Minsk, Belarus back in the 90s. They are no strangers to hardship. Now they are hosts, team leaders, and mama and papa to these outreach workers. Their passion is to see Israeli youth discover the "Morning Star." In their words: "God has given us a wide-open door to touch the lives of young Israeli travelers with His love and the good news of Yeshua. During the spring of 2012 alone, He enabled us to reach more than 100 Israelis. Conversations were heartfelt and meaningful. Many gladly received the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament) and good Messianic literature. We have been able to purchase a building that we call 'SunRise!' We intend for it to serve as an international Messianic worship, prayer, training, and outreach center in the Himalayan Mountains of India."

If you are interested in knowing more, visit their website at www.reachinitiative.com. And please pray that all of the Yeshua-centered efforts to reach our searching Israeli youth will lead them to Yeshua. ★



It is indicative of the times we live in that Israeli youth are flocking to places like India, Thailand, New Zealand, and the mountains of Peru. Their hearts yearn for something they haven't yet found. After the intense commitment of serving in the IDF (three years for men, two years for women), they are ready to "get out of Dodge" and see what the rest of the world is like.

Why are the Israelis—known for their toughness and practicality—flocking to these remote environs? Because the



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“Thy Kingdom Come”

After the “500-Year” program, many of you wrote in to obtain a chart of how I had divided biblical and modern history. We had not offered such a chart, and frankly the divisions are my own and approximate. I just happened to notice that biblical and modern events affecting Jewish affairs seemed to fall into 500-year cycles. The chart (*r*) outlines the major events which begin each cycle. I have refined the study somewhat since the program aired.

The dates are rounded to the nearest 500 years; the actual dates (when known) are in parentheses. The events are all cataclysmic, for better or worse. The whole system describes 6,000 years of work, and 1,000 years of rest (the Kingdom), making up a cosmic “week.” The Father worked with men 2,000 years, the Son 2,000 more—culminating in His actual appearance—and the Spirit the last 2,000 years. Evidently, the final 1,000 years should be coming very soon. Food for thought, in 1981 A.D.

JEWISH EVENTS IN BIBLICAL & MODERN HISTORY IN 500-YEAR CYCLES

4000	B.C.	- Adam
3500	B.C.	- Noah
3000	B.C.	- The Flood (Noah was 600 yrs. old. (Gen. 7:11))
2500	B.C.	- Tower of Babel
2000	B.C.	- Abraham
1500	B.C.	- Moses
1000	B.C.	- David, Temple I (970)
500	B.C.	- Temple II (516)
0		- Jesus
500	A.D.	- Mohammed (ca. 570–632)
1000	A.D.	- Crusades (1096–1291)
1500	A.D.	- Inquisition (1480–ca. 1800)
2000	A.D.	- Holocaust (1938–45)
		- antiChrist, Kingdom (1,000 additional years)



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Israel: The Center of Divine History

Part 1 continued from p.5

Christ in the Background / Israel in the Foreground One also can say that the Scriptures center in Christ as well, because the entire Bible points toward the first and second comings of the Messiah. In many ways, though, the message of Christ is in the background, frequently apparent but often somewhat hidden in types, shadows, and cryptic prophecies. Sometimes these great truths were not clear in their significance until the first coming of the Lord, when He and the Apostles explained their meaning in the Gospels and the Epistles.

Other Nations Mentioned Only As They Contact Israel Israel, however, was always in the foreground, through the patriarchs, the kings, the prophets, the movements of the nation in and out of the Promised Land, and the various reactions of the Israelis to the first coming of Christ. The nation Israel was always center-stage, and the Bible mentions gentile nations only insofar as they had contact with the Chosen Nation.

The Scriptures present Egypt in relation to Moses and the Exodus; the Canaanites as the object of the Conquest; Babylon as it figured in the destruction of the Temple and in the Captivity; Persia as it brought about the restoration of Jerusalem; and Rome as it had an impact on the New Testament scene. Through all these contacts with the gentile nations, Israel remains the nation around which scriptural history revolves. ★

Read the whole essay at www.levitt.com/essays/dh or read future segments in this newsletter's coming issues.

A Messianic Perspective of the Palestinians

By Daniel Juster, Director
www.TikkunMinistries.org



There is one large barrier barring unity between Arab Christians and Messianic Jews: how we view the modern State of Israel.

Most Arabs fled the area during the 1948 War of Independence to await the extermination of the Jews by the invading Arab armies. Israel also emptied some Arab towns that were considered important to its security. Though many Arab Believers profess their forgiveness, the memories are painful.

In addition, some Israeli soldiers at checkpoints can be brusque. However, we must never forget that ... checkpoints ... are a necessary response to Muslim terrorism.

Inspiring stories of Israeli good deeds are often downplayed in the Arab Christian community which developed a theology out of their pain, interpreting the Scriptures through their own suffering and disregarding the context of the Scriptures. **This is faulty exegesis.**

These negative experiences explain why Palestinian Christians often find Replacement Theology attractive. They conclude that the promises to the Jewish people have ended. They cannot reconcile the scriptural promises to Israel with their own suffering. They ask, "How can God's promises result in Christian suffering?"

A reading of the Bible in context makes it clear that the promises to the Jews still stand, including the return to the Land of Israel.

In understanding the conflict in the Middle East, those holding a replace-

ment perspective unfortunately misunderstand some key issues. Arab Christians claim that the primary problem is the "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza by Israel. **This is a terrible mistake.**

[In 2005,] Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza only to get Hamas rockets in return. Jordan occupies the area that was intended for a Palestinian State; but no one speaks of occupation. True, Great Britain had colonial designs in the area; but Islam and Arab conquests have been the major colonial forces, destroying far more indigenous cultures than the British.

However, none of this is as important as the rise of fundamentalist Islam. No Muslim state practices the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is especially true regarding religious freedom. With all of Israel's faults, one can change one's convictions here without the threat of death. The condition of women in Muslim countries is deplorable, as is the treatment of Christian minorities. A study of Islam reveals a violent history. When Muslims adopt a faithful obedience to the mandate of Islam, they turn to violence as the way to spread Islam and maintain its dominance.

The biggest reason for the lack of peace in our day is the spirit of Islam. Its manifestation in the Arab world and many other lands shows that we are dealing with a demonic power that is of much greater concern than any "occupation." This is the root problem today: a violent Islam that wants to take over the whole world.

I live with people who do not know Yeshua; but it is a better place to live than any Muslim state. It is a better place for Arab Christians, and even for Arab Muslims than many Islamic countries. If we forget these facts, our justice issues, though real and important, will not be understood in proper perspective. But, ultimately, we must stand with Israel as the nation battling Islam. ★



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Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Q ■ **Jews don't accept Jesus as God's Son or their personal savior. Why? If they believe the Old Testament, why wouldn't they believe the New Testament? Do they have more proof of the Old than the New?**

If God made us all in His image, why are the Jews the "chosen people?" Doesn't this show favoritism?
—S.L. (LA)

A ■ **Israel's problem with Yeshua being the Messiah is one of partial blindness and unbelief as Paul reveals in Romans 11:25.**

Typically, Jewish apologists twist the Messianic prophecies in order to avoid the obvious conclusion that they point to Jesus being the Messiah. But many

in Israel are opening to the fact that He fulfilled many of the Messianic prophecies found in the Old Testament. I see this each time I go to Israel to witness, three times a year.

As for favoritism: Remember Tevye the Milkman's insightful question in *The Fiddler on the Roof*: "Couldn't You choose someone else once in a while?" When God chooses someone—or a group of people, like Israel—it is not favoritism. There is nothing intrinsically good that would merit God's selection of anyone or the Jewish nation. Rather, it is solely who God is. He is gracious and merciful to choose *any* of us when we *all* deserve His judgment instead. The Lord even told Israel in Deuteronomy 7:7–8 that He did not choose them because of their own merit or worth but because of His love and faithfulness to them. It is the same for us in the Church when He saved us (see Ephesians 2:4–10).



FIND THE CONCEALED COMMANDOS Three elite recon soldiers camouflaged themselves beyond recognition as part of their standard field operations and were photographed by the IDF's Spokesperson unit. Can you spot them? (See answer on p.14)

Enduring All for the Elect of Israel

By Dr. Todd D. Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian

For a year, the Lord urged me to give a Jewish Bible (OT) with a New Testament (*B'rit Hadashah*) to Ilan—the lead tour guide for Zola Tours. But I never had an opportunity until the most recent Gospel outreach in spring.



Ilan and Todd

Before going down to dinner one night in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit quickened me to grab a combined Bible and two Gospel tracts. In this minor detail, the Lord again worked His major plan of Gospel revelation through the Hebrew Scriptures. Ilan came over to my table in the dining room to talk about the day's activity. When he learned that we regularly give out Old and New Testament Bibles written in Hebrew, he asked if he could have a copy. Of course, I had the Book that I had grabbed "on impulse!"

Ilan wanted to read it to improve his understanding of first-century Israel. I see God bringing an inquiring Jewish soul to learn about Israel's Messiah.

Ministering in Tiberias the next day was tough. Many here are not open to hearing about Yeshua's Gospel. Ironically, this was the location of many of His miracles and teaching.

My ministry partner, Kenny, and I visited the various shops, speaking with owners and workers. During last fall's outreach, Harvey Zion and I had talked with Peleg—a pizza shop owner who was receptive to hearing about Yeshua. We hadn't had a Bible to leave with him then. When Kenny and I arrived at Peleg's, the shop was under renovation, and we did not see Peleg. So, we ate lunch at the restaurant next door. I wondered if the Lord would complete our Gospel witness to Peleg. Suddenly, Peleg came out of the building to put something in his motorcycle and went back inside. Kenny and I quickly paid the bill, and rushed over to see him. Peleg remembered me and also that I had promised him a Hebrew Bible with New Testament. He received it happily.



Peleg and Todd

Praise God! Our day, which began with everyone rejecting the Word, triumphantly concluded with a curious Israelite, open to examining the scriptural proof that Yeshua is the Messiah.

We endure all things for the sake of the elect so that some of the Jewish people in Israel also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10). ★



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ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCIENCE

Israel Brings Smarter Water Tech to California

Much of America may be blessed with loads of fresh water, but in the heart of California wine country—Sonoma County—more than half a million people cannot take for granted that they'll receive a constant supply of water for home, industry, and agriculture.

A new partnership between the county and IBM-Israel is "smartening up" the region's water system with automatic leak detection and water-management systems to help California reach its goal of reducing water usage 20 percent by 2020. Running as a pilot program since October, the technology will soon be available to counties across the United States.

Pnina Vortman (*top right*) heads the IBM Smarter Water Program based in Haifa at the IBM Research labs. Her team has developed new software tools to optimize valve pressure, using data from gauges and sensors throughout the system. The project will also

By Karin Kloosterman
www.israel21c.org



Pnina Vortman

help anticipate and circumvent crises like burst pipes.

"We do work in other areas, like traffic and energy; but we decided to put more effort on water, because in Israel, water technology is one of our strengths," Vortman said.

This strength is badly needed around the world. In Sonoma County, where water managers once relied on "guesstimates" to optimize water flow and management, the new IBM tool gives them an easy way to assess pressure adjustments based on the real number of users, weather patterns, and environmental conditions.

Energy savings, less wear on the infrastructure, and better water quality are added benefits of smarter water management developed by the Israeli team. ★



ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEDICINE

Breast Tumors Destroyed with Ice

By Viva Sarah Press, www.israel21c.org

The Israeli biomedical company IceCure announced that its IceSense3 device successfully removed benign breast tumors from patients taking part in a recent clinical trial in Japan.

"The clinical trial destroyed small tumors by cryoablation, without the need for a surgical procedure. We believe that cryoablation is an innovative approach best suited for treating small tumors in the breast," said IceCure CEO **Hezi Himmelfarb** (*above right*).

An ultrasound-guided procedure penetrates the tumor and then destroys it cryogenically—engulfing it with ice. No sutures are required and the entire

process takes about 10 minutes.

While cryoablation has been used to remove tumors of various kinds for years, Himmelfarb says IceCure's device possesses advanced needle technology that doesn't require reaching past the tumor; it holds promise as a potential treatment option for malignant breast tumors.

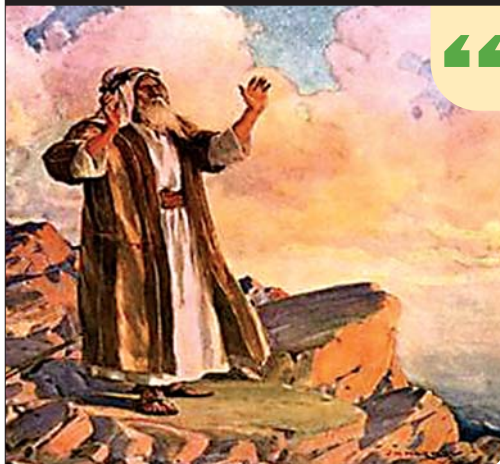
An Israeli invention for freezing and destroying benign breast tumors.



Hezi Himmelfarb



ISLAMIC “LOGIC”



Ask a Muslim “Who Led Whom Out of Egypt?”

By David Ha'ivri, IsraelNationalNews.com

While visiting the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, I was escorted by a member of the Islamic Waqf to make sure that I didn't pray on the holy mountain—Jews are not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount for “fear of disturbing the peace,” to Israel's shame. I asked him when the Al-Aqsa mosque was built. With a straight face, he responded that it was always there.

I hadn't expected that, of course, and asked him again. Maybe he meant that the mountain was always there. So I made it clear that I meant the mosque that is located on the southern extension of the Temple Mount that was built by Herod. (Historically, the entire platform on which the Al Aqsa mosque sits didn't exist during the First Temple period.)

It turned out that this “learned” member of the Islamic clergy actually believed that the structure of the Al-Aqsa mosque was just there, from the beginning of time. This conversation greatly helped me understand the Muslim Arab mindset and culture. Facts are not really important to them and can be made up or even changed as needed.

Don't take my word for it. Search YouTube for **“Moses was a Muslim who led Palestinian Muslims out of Egypt”... or**

click <http://wp.me/pieUD-1kk>. You will see that Islamic clergy are teaching this concept without blinking, convinced that the Israelite heroes of the Bible were all Muslims.

This is the new Replacement Theology. Not only Holocaust denial as heard from the leaders of Iran, Muslims now deny (or co-opt) all the foundational points of Jewish history! Like claiming that the Jews are not direct descendants of the Children of Israel who were led out of Egypt by Moses and into the Promised Land by Joshua. In the video, you learn that King David was a Muslim who defeated the mighty Goliath.

In trying to bring stability to this region, it is important to understand the rhetoric of those who oppose Israel as part of their religion. We are dealing with people who celebrate being detached from reality as part of their worship of Allah. Does this force us to give up hope for lasting peace between Israel and its Muslim neighbors? I suggest the opposite.

We must accept our neighbors for who they are and recognize their culture as a given. It is unrealistic, in my opinion, to believe that we can turn them into a society that embraces Western concepts and values. Stretching the truth is deeply embedded in the mindset of the Muslim and Arab cultures. I do not mean this as an insult, but suggest that we accept it as a fact and work with it.

There is hope for peace in the Middle East—not because Muslims and Arabs love us, but because Jews are a peace-loving people, and God gave us the brains and physical means to protect our borders and our nation.

Muslims can believe whatever they like as long as they know that they can't overrun us. ★



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Inventing Mohammed?

By Robert Spencer (*right*)
www.AmericanThinker.com

While many don't accept Mohammed's claim to be a prophet, few doubt that a man named Mohammed in the seventh century claimed to receive messages from Allah. Would it matter if Mohammed never existed? A billion Muslims believe he did, and they are not going to stop because of historical investigations. Yet, indications that Mohammed's life is more legend than fact have considerable implications for today's political scene.

A few of the weaknesses in the traditional account of Mohammed's life and the early days of Islam:

- No record of Mohammed's death in 632 appears until a century after that date.
- Accounts written by the people the Arabs conquered never mention Islam, Mohammed, or the Koran. They call the conquerors "Ishmaelites," "Saracens," and other names, but never "Muslims."
- Arab conquerors' coins and inscriptions don't mention Islam or the Koran for the first six decades of their conquests.
- The Koran's existence is not mentioned by the Arabs or the Christians and Jews in the region until the eighth century.
- We don't hear about Mohammed, the prophet of Islam, and about Islam itself until the 690s during the reign of Caliph Abd al-Malik.
- In the middle of the 8th century, the Umayyad line of Abd al-Malik is supplanted by the Abbasid dynasty, during which period biographical material about Mohammed begins to proliferate. The first complete biography of the prophet of Islam appears at least 125 years after the traditional date of his death.

The lack of historical record suggests that if Mohammed existed at all, he was substantially different from the traditional portrayal.



Making sense of this.

If the Arab forces conquering territory in the 630s were not energized by the teachings of a new prophet, how did the Islamic character of their empire arise? If Mohammed did not exist, why was it considered necessary to invent him?

Every empire of the day had a civic religion. The Byzantine Empire was Christian; Persia was Zoroastrian. The Arab Empire needed to quickly unify huge expanses of territory where different religions predominated. It needed a compelling political theology to provide the foundation for the empire's unity and secure allegiance to the state.

As the seventh century became the eighth, the leaders of the Arab world began to speak specifically about Islam, its prophet, and eventually its book. A warrior-prophet would justify the new empire's aggressive expansionism. Mohammed's teachings and example give those conquests a theological justification beyond criticism.

Islam is a political faith: the divine kingdom is of this world, with Allah's wrath and judgment to be expected not only in the next life, but also in this one, to be delivered by believers.

Mohammed, the messenger of Allah came into existence only after the Arab Empire was firmly entrenched and needed a political theology to anchor and unify it. The political aspect of Islam preceded the religious aspect.

The non-Muslim world can better understand the global jihad threat by examining the origins of Islam. ★

Robert Spencer, director of Jihad Watch, has warned for years of the danger posed to Western civilization by Islam.



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Iran: "War with U.S. and Israel Inevitable"

By Shlomo Cesana and Reuters
www.IsraelHayom.com

For years, Israel has cautioned against Iran's intentions and the dangers of its nuclear ambitions, but in May, former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar gave the world yet another reason to heed those warnings. Speaking to a crowd in Jerusalem, Aznar recalled a meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in which Khamenei expressed his intention to destroy Israel.

"In a private discussion we held in Tehran in October of 2000, Ali Khamenei told me that Israel must be burned to the ground and made to disappear from the face of the Earth," Aznar told the audience. The former Spanish prime minister went on to say that Iran's

spiritual leader also said, "Iran's war against the United States and Israel is inevitable."

Aznar was in Israel as a guest of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, currently headed by former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Dore Gold.

Gold asked him, "When Khamenei was talking about wiping Israel off the map, was he referring to a gradual historical process involving the collapse of the Zionist state, or rather its physical, military termination?"

Aznar answered, "He meant physical termination through military force." The former Spanish leader also told the crowd that Khamenei described Israel as "an historical cancer, an anomaly," and said that he was "working toward Iran defeating the United States and Israel in an inevitable war against them." ★



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DID YOU FIND THE CONCEALED COMMANDOS?
*If not, don't feel bad; we didn't either at first.
The circles shown above reveal their locations.*

Zola Tours Summer Pilgrims Can Join an Archaeological Dig!



Christian De Jesus participated during this year's tour finding a very significant coin, related to one of the important events of Jerusalem's glorious history: the Maccabean revolt. As described by the authorities at the City of David site:

The coin was minted by Antiochus IV "Epiphanes," who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175 B.C. to 164 B.C.

The Jewish revolt led by the Maccabees against Antiochus broke out in the year 167 B.C. and ended at the year 152 B.C. after a series of battles. The result of the revolt was the first independent Jewish monarchy since the First Temple Period.

The coin, in perfect state, was recognized immediately. The image of Antiochus is seen on the front of the coin. The reverse shows a Greek goddess, probably Hera, with the legend "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΟΧΟΥ" meaning "Antiochus the King."

We thank the group for their wonderful discoveries, and for helping us reveal the glorious history of the Temple Mount and Jerusalem.

Chris relates his tour experience:

As a first-time pilgrim to the Land of Israel, I felt like a lost coin. It only made sense to go with a group of Believers. After a brief introduction by ZLM, my main impression is that this Land knows itself to be—with divine inscription—the Land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That holy description was not what came to mind, however, when I was sifting through ancient cereal from a bucket at the Temple Mount Antiquities Salvage Operation.



I had to ask someone if the lemon drop in my hand was in fact a coin or not. Who Antiochus was and the time period from which the coin was in use mattered less, initially, than my delight in giving it to someone who knew those fine details. A gentleman nearby described the half shekel's rich significance. I hunger to learn more about the Bible Land's very special context in history. The local students can amazingly distinguish between all the tiny artifacts. Separate bins for pottery, glass shards, bones, metals, mosaic stones, and worked stones helped us organize our efforts. But only a trained eye can do the final work, separating the chaff from the wheat. The project's necessity and the opportunity it offers to outsiders proves to me that the God of Israel works all things together for good (Romans 8:28). ★



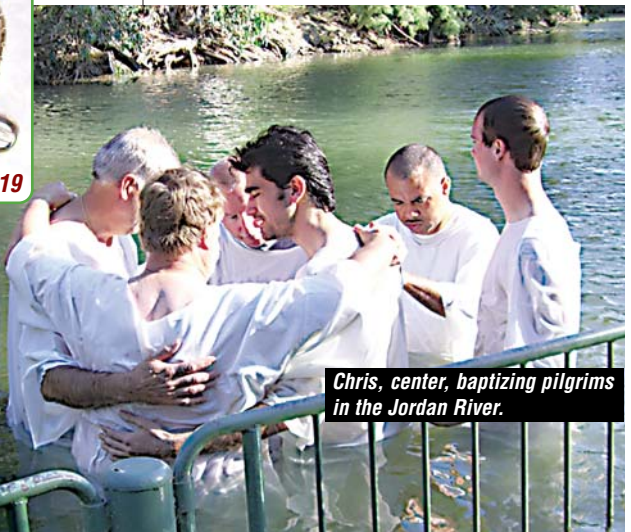
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Half Shekel Key Chain



Order on p.19

These tear-drop key chains each contain an authentic half-shekel coin from Israel and cite the very important verses of Exodus 30:13-16 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Reminiscent of the days when each child of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-shekel coin to make an atonement for his soul. Put your half-shekel in your pocket —salvation is now free!



Chris, center, baptizing pilgrims in the Jordan River.

Hebrew Lesson



The Centrality of Heart ...

By John J. Parsons

מִכָּל-מִשְׁמָר נֹצֵר לְבָבְךָ כִּי-מִמֶּנּוּ תוֹצְאוֹת חַיִּים

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” – Proverbs 4:23

מִ	כָּל-	מִשְׁ	מָר	נֹ	צֵר	לְ	בָבְ	ךָ	כִּי-	מִ	מֶ	נּוּ	תוֹ	צְ	אוֹת	חַ	יִים
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)
cha-yim	to-tze-ot	mi-me-nu	ki	lib-be-kha	ne-tzor	mish-mar	mi-kol										
life	issues (of)	from it	for	your heart	guard	from all that you guard											

All life flows from the heart, whether it is physical life or spiritual life. And just as the physical heart supplies life-giving blood through the arteries to the various organs of the body, so our *faith*, our “spiritual heart,” supplies the means of life and grace to the organs of the spirit. And just as the physical heart can be obstructed or blocked, so faith can become constricted and hindered by sin, impeding the free flow of the Divine Presence. Therefore since the heart represents the “engine” that sustains life, it is vital that we attend to the heart’s needs in order to be healthy people.

In our verse, notice that the word *mishmar* refers to the act of guarding someone closely, like a prison guard or warden might keep watch over a prisoner. The phrase translated “with all vigilance” (*mikol-mishmar*) literally means “more than anything that might be guarded,” and is used here to *intensify* the command to exercise vigilance. This is a matter of spiritual priority: God commands us to watch our heart more than *anything* else.

The flesh is weak, and we are quick to go astray in our affections, and therefore the heart is easily divided, obstructed, and liable to failure ... Despite its frailty, however, from it are *totze’ot chayim*, or the “issues” of life. In the Bible, the word *totze’ot* is used to refer to the borders of a territory or the boundary of a city. In other words, from the heart a “map” or “chart” of your life is being drawn that expresses the course of your life ... Purity of heart represents inner healing, which means being single-minded in your affections and awake before the LORD.

How you choose to guard your heart will determine the “road” of your life. If we keep ourselves from the “artery-clogging” effects of sin, we will experience the free flow of compassion, encouragement, and joy. The faithful heart is *open*—it believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things (1 Cor. 13:7).

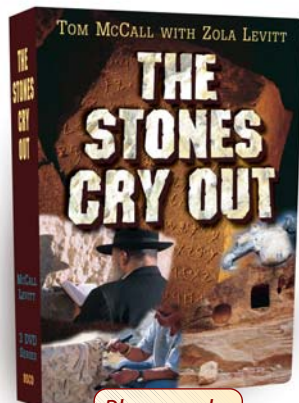
It is your personal responsibility to guard your heart from negative influences—a duty that is connected with yielding yourself as a vessel or “steward” of the kingdom of God. We must regularly ask God to enlighten “the eyes of the heart” according to His wisdom and power (i.e., truth revealed in Scripture), and to impart the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our desires and affections so that they conform to the character of the Messiah. **May God help each of us to guard our hearts... Amen.**



The Stones Cry Out DVD and Transcript

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

Twelve 30-minute TV programs. Offered on page 18.



Please order
DVD from
p.18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Also see pages 28 & 29 for related articles.)



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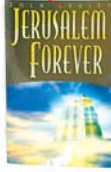
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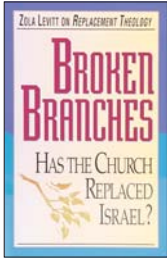
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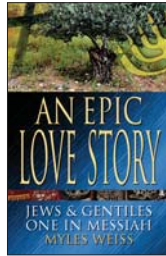
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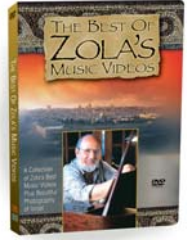
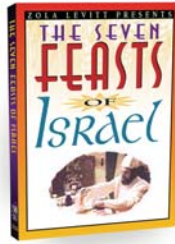


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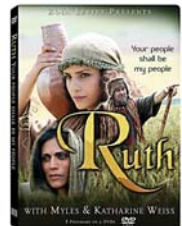


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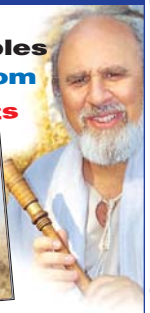
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ZLM Bulletin Board

Couldn't happen to nicer guys!

High-ranking Iranian officials confirm that their computers were exposed to a data-mining virus called Flame. The new virus is very similar to the Stuxnet worm that previously compromised Iran's nuclear-weapons program but is potentially even more destructive. Though no one has taken responsibility for the attack, Iranian officials said the virus resembled Israeli malware. (Israel never comments on such matters.) Under President Obama, the U.S. has reportedly been expanding the cyber weapons program that was started during the Bush Administration.



Pray for
the peace of
Jerusalem

How Many Times ...

... would Israel fit inside various nations?

How easily would it fit into your state? To find out, click on the interactive world map near the bottom of

www.lookisrael.com/files/justbig.php,

then select a continent, nation, or state for a visual comparison.

Below that, an Israel Land Mass Comparison section gives actual area dimensions.



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Pamphlet of the Month

If you own a home or other property that you no longer wish to live in or manage, a charitable gift of such property can efficiently meet multiple goals. The 20-page pamphlet **Giving Real Estate** addresses topics including 1) property that has grown or decreased in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution.

Its *Technical Advisory Section* touches upon 1) real estate held long-term, 2) depreciated real estate, 3) limits on the income tax charitable deduction, and 4) special gift opportunities with personal residences and farms.

To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

New Tour Videos

Three questions seem to vex prospective pilgrims to Israel and Greece: 1) Is Israel safe? 2) What about Greece? and 3) Why Zola Tours? Travel Manager Tracie answers these questions in three brief videos at

www.levitt.com/tours.

Scroll down. Click on various tours to see their dates, itineraries, and brochures.

You can even register online. The Fall Tour is rapidly filling up! Call Tracie today at (214) 696-9760 to reserve your seat with a refundable deposit.



“Come Home!”

Zola
Tours to
Israel:



See page
36 for details



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Fair-Weather TV Evangelists



Mark Levitt

(Letter from Mr. W.P., South Holland, IL)

Hi to all my TV preachers,

All YOU folks send me mail every few days asking for donations. My wife and I were always donating to all of you. In 2011, my income was \$29,515. My donations to all of you totaled \$11,159. I sent my last donation checks in early November. We fell on HARD TIMES, and my wife of 43 years died in late November, in my arms at home. It is now several months since you have received a check from me. Yet, you all ask still for donations.

Not ONE of you has sent a personal letter to ask why I don't send a check. If my buddies at the tavern don't see me for two or three weeks, my phone is ringing off the wall. They ask, "W., what's wrong? You need some help with something?"

Now each so-called apostle of God says, "Please send ME MORE money." There is something WRONG with YOU FOLKS. So, take me off your mailing list, because you all are a bunch of HYPOCRITES. God sure would not have acted like you. I hope you take my letter to heart.

Dear W.P.—

You contributed more than 37% of your modest income to the work of the Lord. Some folks who make twice what you earn are doing their best to contribute half as much. In fact, you probably have paid for the *Levitt Letters* and TV programs for many who rationalize donating zero despite making three times as much.

Unlike larger ministries that have church congregations or endowments, this ministry doesn't have the resources to personally monitor our supporters. We do pray over prayer requests that

a note
from mark

come in. And you can always fellowship with likeminded Believers at our chat room and discussion board at www.levitt.com (click on "Discussion").

Correct me if I'm wrong, but you probably have unpaid bills in the wake of losing your beloved wife. Perhaps you believe you were too generous with your support. The enclosed check is from our Good News Benevolence Fund, which is usually depleted, but God always provides. It represents half of your last year's contributions. Make no mistake about it: we already spent your contributions—*invested* is more like it—so this is not a refund. Instead, it represents a helping hand from your brethren to a Christian soldier who, after giving sacrificially, finds himself in need.

Please continue watching *Zola Levitt Presents* and reading the *Levitt Letter*. You've paid ahead and now should be fed. God must have plans for you that require some extra patience and prayer on your part. Please, let us know how you're doing. ★

Wow! This is a *mensch*-like move that makes me very glad to be part of the ZLM team. Way to go, Mark! —Myles



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Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From L.C. (TX): Zola Levitt Ministries is one of the very few truly defending the faith and proclaiming the truth of God's Word regarding Israel and the Church. May God bless your ministry and your families.

From K.G. (WI): I love receiving your *Levitt Letter* and wish you could do it weekly. I devour it from cover to cover each time it arrives to bless me. Kind words, thanks.—Editor

From B.Y. (MI): Please broadcast the classic Zola programs as often as possible. I wasn't familiar with your program then, so it is all new to me. You're right; the original Zola programs have a lot of teaching in them. You can watch them anytime at www.levitt.tv. —Editor

True and Pseudo Christians

Dear Myles and Katharine,

Please don't call anti-Semites "Christian." There have been terrible evils done to the Jews under the symbol of the cross and in the name of Christ. Luke 6:45 says, "out of the heart the mouth speaks." Anyone can call themselves "Christian," but "you will know them by their fruits" Matt. 7:16.—B.W. (OK)

Dear B.W.—

Thanks for your sincere concern regarding people identifying as "Christians" and yet holding virulent anti-Semitic viewpoints. You are right on target in discerning the difference between "Christian" and "disciple." Anyone can call himself a Christian. The word appears only three times in the New Covenant, often as a pejorative reference. On the other hand, there are over two hundred references to "disciples" in the NT, and taken together, they point to a life of getting as close to The Rabbi as possible—and not turning back. Disciples love what their Master loves. You are accurately picking up on one thing very close to His heart: His own Jewish people, all His family, and some a part of His bride.
—Blessings, Myles and Katharine



What a Tour!

Dear Tracie and Myles and Katharine,

I want to thank you for pouring yourselves into the spring tour where my wife and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Tracie, your energy and dedication to detail may not have been noted by your pampered guests, but I noticed. Gratitude is too seldom shown—witness only one of the ten lepers returning to thank Yeshua for His healing—so I want to assure you that you have mine.

M & K, I wish God's hand on your ministry. Thanks for your energy, discernment and vision. We will enjoy following you along. —R.R. (NY)

Dear R.R.—

We were blessed to have you celebrate your anniversary with a Zola Tour of Israel. I can't think of a better way to thank God for a good marriage than by walking the Holy Land among the people He continually calls His wife, alongside the Bride He has called to His Son. May the next 25 years of marriage be even better!

—Shalom shalom,
Myles and
Katharine

At the Southern Wall of Jerusalem



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Levitt Letter Fan

Dear folks at *Levitt Letter*:

I LOVE your cartoons! Thank you for not letting the sourpusses stop them. What a blessing and always “on the mark.”

I forward your articles about Israeli technology, medical advances, inventions, etc. to Israel-bashers who say that Israel is a drag on American prosperity.

As a Jew (unconverted!), I'm uncomfortable when you come on real strong about converting us, but of course that is your business.

Sincerely, —B.M.K.

Dear B.M.K.—

Those who face the Judgment Seat of Christ without the Blood of the Lamb probably will say our newsletters (and television programs) didn't come on strongly enough. Please keep reading, particularly the June *Personal Letter* (www.levitt.com/letters/2012-06) regarding Jesus' Jewishness. —Mark

Shalom, B.M.K.—

I can relate to your conflict regarding our emphasis on the Jewish need for Jesus. I was in that same position in 1984. What is so refreshing is that you express it in the spirit of dialogue and goodwill—very Jewish! I personally am compelled to share my experience with Yeshua because it has been transformative, and I am grateful to those who shared with me. Many blessings on your house and your future! —Myles

Wetlands

Dear Myles,

I truly enjoy reading your monthly *Levitt Letters*, but after reading the *May Personal Letter*, I find I need to comment. In the first paragraph, it states, "Swamps are being drained, vineyards planted" I understand the heart behind what is written, but to write that "swamps being drained" is a good thing is such antiquated thinking. That sounds like something from fifty years ago when there was a lack of understanding and knowledge of the value and biodiversity of wetlands. —M.B.

Dear M.B.—

While I respect the importance of wetlands, transforming certain portions of it to arable acreage alleviated much of the malarial suffering in the Land. Having lived in Africa and seen the devastation of malaria, I thank God for prudent use of land, and do not believe it is "antiquated" in all cases. See the article on page 35. (P.S. We didn't have space for all of your comments, but I agree with your opinion on tithes.) —Myles



More Deadly than Replacement Theology

Dear Todd,

I just read your article on dual covenants in the June *Levitt Letter* (p. 9). I am glad that you take a solid stand on this subject. Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews (a Jew's Jew through and through), was told by Jesus, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). Peter in Acts 2:38 said, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." This was 20 years before the first gentile was saved. Zola taught that all covenants were made with the nation of Israel, not with the gentiles; we were simply grafted in—thank God! A group in Ft. Worth does great things for Israel (as far as supporting with money), but when it comes to Jesus, it is total denial with a focus on dual covenants. Because of this, I renounced all involvement with them. People should be educated on their beliefs so they can put their money to work wisely for building the Kingdom. I agree that the dual covenant is one of Satan's tools—far more deadly than Replacement Theology. God bless Israel.—M.B. (TX)

Thanks, M. You are right about the insidious error of Dual Covenant Theology. Please pray for me and my Gospel outreach team. —Todd



blaming Israel

God's Judgment of America

Dear Todd,

Jonathan Cahn's *The Harbinger*—a book of fiction, but supposedly founded on scriptural fact—suggests that Isaiah 9:10 is an ancient mystery that holds the secret of America's future. It draws distinct parallels between the signs given to Israel before its destruction and current events that are unfolding in America today, even specific dates on recent developments.

I do not disagree with Rabbi Cahn's message that America is heading for catastrophe *unless* we turn back to God. But I am uneasy taking one verse from Isaiah and using it to "reveal mysteries that are so precise that they foretell recent American events down to the exact days." I do not want to be deceived when dealing with God's written Word, so if you could let me know (at your convenience) what you think about this, I would be grateful. I understand that Jonathan Cahn is a Messianic Jew. —C.P. (TX)

Dear C.P.—

There are many more passages in Scripture detailing how a nation, who once professed belief in the God of the Bible, will unravel and be ruined if it turns away from Him (Psalm 9:17). Cahn is right about this. But to say Isaiah 9:10 unravels mysteries is a bit shaky, since the text does not say that. But Cahn is definitely right in principle: If America follows in the same footsteps as Israel when it was apostate in Isaiah's day, then judgment will follow. What happened to Israel is an example and pattern of how God deals with humanity and the Church. We had better repent and take notice as a Church and as a nation-at-large, or suffer the terrible consequences (1 Corinthians 10:11). —Todd

"Behind the Scenes"

Dear ZLM,

As longtime followers, we had misgivings about how you handled the Dr. Jeff incident. Nor do we like the King David "Rich Man" Club. It hurts our feelings to give what we can afford, but not "qualify."

Nevertheless, the Lord's Message must be gotten out, and you are still tops for doing that. Also, after watching Mark give a tour of the office in "Behind the Scenes" [Ed.—archived at www.levitt.tv/media/watch/1225], we have seen firsthand how you take care of God's money, and we feel more comfortable about giving to you once again. May the Lord bless each dollar ... abundantly.

—P. and L.N. (IL)

Dear P. and L.N.—

When Katharine and I arrived on the scene here at Zola Levitt Ministries, one of the encouraging aspects of the transition was the attitude of Dr. Jeffrey Seif as he moved on to other callings. You can read his own testimony on p. 4 of the June 2011 *Levitt Letter* www.levitt.com/newsletters/2011-06.pdf#page=4. He did not describe an "incident" as you note. Quite the contrary, Jeff was ready for some new academic and ministry challenges, and Katharine and I pray for the best for him in the days ahead. He filled a huge gap after Zola's passing, and we are grateful to him for it. —Myles



ZLM Supporters

Dear Myles and Katharine,

Zola would be very pleased with how you teach our Jewish roots. Thank you for presenting lessons that are not taught in our churches. Thank you also for Mark's tour of your facilities (posted at www.levitt.tv/media/watch/1225). I am impressed with how you handle your finances. N.D. (OH)

Dear ZLM,

My husband and I decided that we're long overdue in partnering with your ministry and would like to do that now. We never miss *Zola Levitt Presents*. Thank you for your dedication, wisdom, and knowledge. —R. and A.E. (TX)

Dear N., R. and A.—

Glad to hear you will be supporting us. We agree that our "Behind the Scenes" view of the **very** humble ZLM offices illustrates the ministry's commitment to financial stewardship. It is expensive to bring TV from Israeli locations, so we really need all the help we can get. Our message becomes more vital as the day of the Lord approaches. —Myles

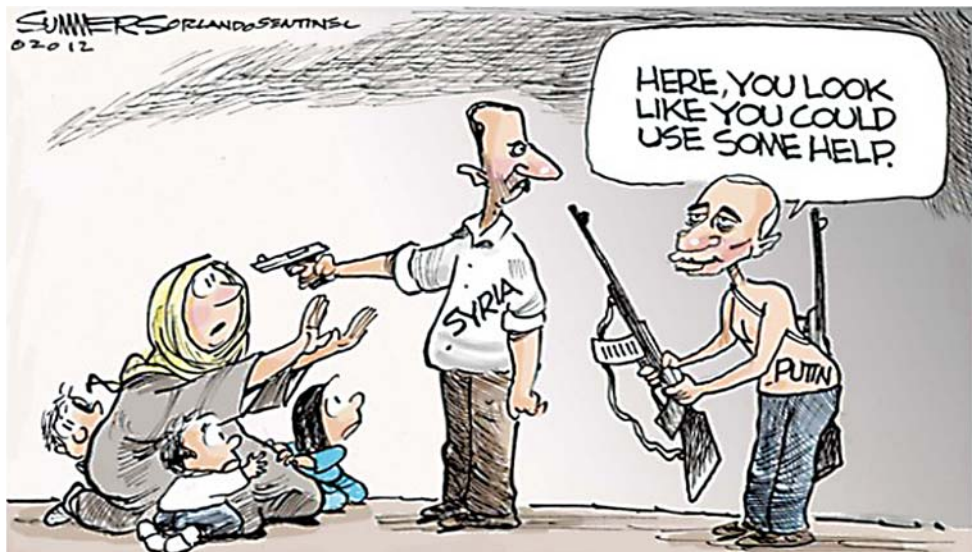
Offended by Cartoon

Dear Pastor Weiss,

We found the cartoon on page 30 of the May *Levitt Letter* to be offensive and inaccurate. The exchange between Obama and Netanyahu portrayed in the cartoon never happened and we consider it a slap in Obama's face, who is in a life-and-death struggle on behalf of the American people. We are middle-class retirees, Christians with a love for Israel. —H. and H.H. (HI)

Dear H. and H.H.—

Whoa! You are reading way too much into that cartoon! It is not about America's internal partisan battles. It is merely a humorous look at American-Israeli politics. Regardless of who serves in America's executive branch, Israel will have to act in its own self-interest regarding existential threats from Iran or any other country. Of course, my hope is that America will continue to stand with Israel, which I believe is the appropriate biblical position. Blessings —Myles



“Widow’s Mite”

Dear Myles and Katharine,

Last fall, I discovered your program while working the late shift. The program has drawn me in. I love the humility of you and the staff, as well as your sacrifices to make every penny count for the Kingdom of God.

I’m not one to send money to religious programs; however, I’m afraid that a lot of people are like me: enjoying the program and expecting it to always be there, yet never supporting it or writing a letter of appreciation. I certainly cannot give as much as I would like. But if we all would send just one or two dollars a week, I’m sure it would be amazing what could be accomplished. Little is much when God is in it! —D.L. (GA)

Dear D.L.—

What struck me so poignantly about your letter was the description of your spiritual journey and the role ZLM has played in it. Your growing awareness of the need to help us culminated in your beginning to send regular financial gifts and also caused you to recognize that if *everyone* gave a little, we could continue and expand what we do. Your letter was like a mini “Pilgrim’s Progress”... a progressive growth into deeper discipleship. Very encouraging! —Blessings, Myles

What Day was Jesus Crucified?

Dear ZLM,

Zola proved three days and three nights! Todd Baker said (p. 5, April 2012 *Levitt Letter*) that Jesus died on Friday, making you sound like heretics. I don’t want anything to do with heretics or Satanic teaching! —B.H. (NE)

Dear B.H.—

This is a frequently asked question that Todd explained in the April article. Todd’s position is Zola’s position. It is addressed many times on the ministry website. These articles are from 1998 and 2012: www.levitt.com/letters/1998-04 and www.levitt.com/news/2012/04/05/what-day-was-jesus-crucified. Zola also wrote a one-page explanation, which we will send to you (and to anyone else who requests it). You can also read it at: www.levitt.com/faqs.html#three_days.

But, you are focusing on the wrong point, B.H. The fact that Yeshua died and rose to live again is what is important to our salvation. The *timing* of His crucifixion and resurrection is merely evidence of God’s divine design; the timing does not affect our eternal life. Satan’s only role here is to distract you with minor issues. Don’t let Satan sidetrack you from your own role in furthering God’s Kingdom. —Editor ★



Illustration of how fundamentalist Muslims treat women



Israel's Top Archaeological Sites

By Abigail Klein Leichman, www.Israel21c.org

Always a magnet for archaeologists, Israel has seen its rich historical layers sifted through and catalogued exhaustively. Israel preserves its most significant archaeological sites as national parks. Last month we looked at Masada, Megiddo, and the caves at Beit Guvrin-Maresha. Here are others:

4. City of David

Dating back more than 3,000 years, when David conquered a narrow hill south of today's Old City of Jerusalem, this area was once the Israelite capital and spiritual center. Surrounded by valleys, the city was fortified against attack with walls and towers. Taking advantage of the nearby Gihon Spring, the ancient builders made a sophisticated water system.

However, potsherds show that the city was already inhabited more than 5,000 years ago, a small walled city in the Middle Bronze Age at the time of the biblical Patriarchs. The City affords great views of Mt. Zion and the Temple Mt. Visitors descend into the underground tunnels through which the city was conquered and residents fled, down into hidden springs where kings were crowned, and into the dark flowing waters of Hezekiah's Tunnel.



*Hezekiah's tunnel
in the ancient City
of David*



5. Herodion

In 2007, archaeologists finally discovered the remains of Herod the Great's tomb after 35 years of digging up all sorts of architectural and cultural treasures at Herodion (also called Herodium) in the Judean Desert.

Herodion was one of the largest royal sites in the Roman-Hellenist era, sometimes described as an ancient royal country club. It also served as a hideout for rebels during the Bar Kokhba Revolt against Roman rule (132–136 AD), and even as a Byzantine leper colony.

6. Ramat Rachel

An ancient water reservoir was uncovered here in 2010 with the aid of a 250-ton crane to remove the five 10-ton rocks forming the collapsed top of the cave in which the water was stored.

Now a kibbutz and conference center on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, Ramat Rachel was first settled in the days of the Judean monarchy (800–700 BC). In turn, it was home to Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic settlers, and then lay abandoned for about 1,000 years until Jewish pioneers rebuilt it in the 1930s. **Site finds:** a luxurious Assyrian palace, a Roman villa, a bathhouse, gold coins from the Second Temple Period, a dovecote, and a Byzantine church. *(Cont. next issue)*



*Ancient dovecote
(columbarium) at
Ramat Rachel*



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Ancient Jewelry Found

By Stephanie Pappas, www.LiveScience.com

A jug wrapped in textiles and hidden in a northern Israel home more than 3,000 years ago turns out to hold a literal treasure trove of gold and silver jewelry, archaeologists announced recently.



The jug, excavated from a house in Tel Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley in northern Israel, is an unusual place to find jewelry, according to Tel Aviv University archaeologists. Even the jewelry itself is odd: Among the pieces is a beautiful golden earring decorated with ibexes, or wild goats.

“For unique items, we work to find parallels to help place the items in their correct cultural and chronological settings,” the researchers said in a joint statement, “but in this case, we still haven’t found anything.”

Archaeologists first found the ceramic jug in 2010. It dates back to about 1100 B.C. and likely belonged to a Canaanite woman who lived in the house. Canaan was an historical region made up of what is today Israel, Lebanon, and parts of Syria and Jordan. Tel Megiddo was an important city-state in this region until the early 10th century B.C.

After washing the dirt out of the vessel, researchers were surprised to find beads, earrings and a ring. No one knows why the jewelry was stored in the jug.

“It’s clear that people tried to hide the collection, and for some reason they were unable to come back to pick it up,” Tel Aviv University archaeologist Israel Finkelstein said in a statement.



The collection includes several moon-shaped earrings, known to be popular in Canaan in this era. Other pieces, especially some of the gold items and beads made from carnelian, may hail from Egypt, the researchers said. Carnelian and gold were popular in Egyptian jewelry, they said.

Egypt ruled Tel Megiddo for a period ending in the 12th century B.C., just before the date of the jewelry. The pieces may have been left behind when the Egyptians left the area, or the Canaanites might have been influenced by Egyptian style and mimicked their baubles.

The researchers are planning to analyze the textiles found around the jug as well as the jewelry itself to get more clues about its origin. If the golden goat earring is a mixture of gold and silver, for example, it may be local craftsmanship. If it’s pure gold, it’s more likely from Egypt, a nation with lots of gold but little silver. ★



SELECT BRIEFS



Shebab soldiers in Somalia

Bounty: Camels for Obama

Agence France Presse
English.AIArabiya.net

Somalia's al-Qaeda-allied Shebab rebels recently mocked a U.S. offer of up to \$33 million for tip-offs enabling the arrest of its top leaders, saying they would give 10 camels to anyone who helped locate Barack Obama.

Al-Qaeda an Imminent and Growing Threat

By Gabe Kahn, IsraelNationalNews.com

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said recently that al-Qaeda is still a serious and imminent threat, and is spreading geographically.

"The core of al-Qaeda that carried out the 9/11 attacks may be on the path to defeat, but the threat has spread, becoming more geographically diverse," Clinton said ahead of a counter terrorism meeting. "We will always maintain our right to use force against groups such as al-Qaeda that have attacked us and still threaten us with imminent attack," she added.



Although the group has been dealt blow after blow after its core leadership ranks were destroyed, Clinton said, "the danger from terrorism remains urgent and undeniable."

Clinton was referring to the recent killing of al-Qaeda number two Abu Yahya al-Libi on June 5, after a U.S. drone strike dealt one of the most decisive blows to the group since the killing of its mastermind, Osama bin Laden.

The highest price put up by the U.S. State Department was for Shebab chief Ahmed Abdi aw-Mohamed—more commonly known as Godane or Abu Zubayr—with a \$7 million bounty for information on where he is hiding.

"I can assure you that these kinds of things will never dissuade us from continuing the holy war against them," said another senior Shebab leader, Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, or "Shongole," in a message carried on several websites. "The dollar is the camel of today," he said. He was referring to an offer of 100 camels made for the prophet Mohammed when he was fleeing Mecca for Medina, according to the Koran. Khalaf added: "Whoever informs the mujahedeen fighters of the place where Obama can be found will get 10 camels and for (U.S. Secretary of State Hillary) Clinton, we will offer 10 roosters and 10 hens."

The State Department said in a statement announcing the bounty for seven Shebab leaders that "the group is responsible for the killing of thousands of Somali civilians, Somali peace activists, international aid workers, journalists, and African Union peacekeepers." The Shebab still control large parts of southern Somalia, but African Union troops, government forces, and Ethiopian soldiers have clawed back several key bases from the insurgents.



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It's all about a Wedding!

By Christine Colbert (See DVD on p.32)

Scripture provides a “unified field theory” using a Jewish wedding metaphor that Zola’s teaching emphasized. Jesus/Yeshua used the wedding metaphor, and even *began* His earthly ministry by “turning water into wine” at a wedding celebration in Cana.

The ancient Hebrew culture surrounded marriage with a rich, if somewhat folksy, tradition. A young man identified a young woman to share his life, and gathered his financial resources. Visiting the young woman’s home, he would pour a glass of wine and extend it to her. If she chose to drink it, she accepted his proposal. He would then make arrangements for a “dowry.” If she did not “drink the cup,” he would gather his things and leave.

Yeshua asked His disciples, **“Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?”** (Matthew 20:22) He framed this question in the language of the Jewish wedding.

If the young woman agreed to marry the young man, he would return to his father’s house and begin preparing a place for her—sometimes not much more than a room added to his father’s home. But this room was often referred to as their “mansion.” Lest the prospective groom be hasty in his enthusiasm to begin married life, *only his father could determine* when the addition was complete and permit his son to go

get his bride. When townsfolk inquired about the wedding date, the groom replied, “Only my father knows.”

Grooms often went to claim their brides in the middle of the night. This increased the suspense and excitement of the event. The bride-to-be had to be ready to leave with her groom at a moment’s notice.

In Mark 2:19, disciples of John the Baptist asked Jesus why His disciples didn’t fast, as they and the Pharisees did. He answered by characterizing Himself as the bridegroom. **“How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.”**

The Church is frequently described as the “Bride of Christ.” Yeshua tells us that we are to be ready—that He will come for us at a time when we don’t expect Him (Matthew 24:42–44). He tells us in John 14:2–5 that, like the groom of old, He is **“going to prepare a place”** for us. **“In My Father’s house are many mansions.”** And when asked about the timing of last-days’ events, He replies, **“Only the Father knows.”**

Jesus sounded the Wedding note from that first wedding at Cana throughout His ministry on Earth. And finally, in Revelation, His angel speaks of the coming marriage supper of the Lamb! The Bible is the Creator’s letter of love to His creation—*it’s all about a wedding!* And every one of us has the *very real hope* of being Jesus’ bride! ★



Jewish newlyweds beneath a *chuppah* (wedding canopy)



Israel Viewed Negatively Around the World

www.JPost.com

Israel retained its position as one of the world's most negatively-viewed countries, according to the BBC's annual poll.

With 50 percent of respondents ranking Israel negatively, Israel keeps company with North Korea, and places ahead of only Iran (55% negative) and Pakistan (51% negative).

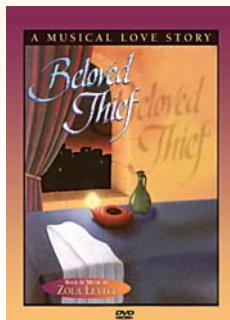
The 2012 Country Ratings Poll was conducted among 24,090 people worldwide, and asked respondents to rate whether the influence of 22 countries was "mostly positive" or "mostly negative." Evaluations of the Jewish state, already largely unfavorable in 2011, worsened in 2012. Out of the 22 countries polled, the majority in 17 of them view Israel negatively, while only three (the U.S., Nigeria, and Kenya) view Israel in a positive light.

Negative perceptions of Israel in European countries have continued to rise, reaching 74% in Spain (up 8%), 65%

Beloved Thief (See p.31) Musical DVD and CD

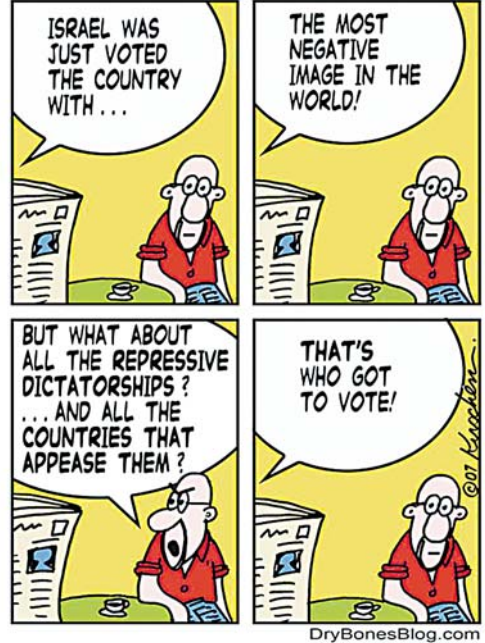
The ancient Israeli wedding customs, as they parallel the great moment of the coming of the heavenly Bridegroom, are portrayed in exciting Israeli music and drama. This fully-staged musical with fine actors and singers in period costumes of first-century Israel is an enchanting and inspiring hour, worthy of many repeated viewings. (Romantic secret: the leading actor and actress met on the set and married in real life!)

Offered on pp.18 & 19



Dry Bones

NOT JUST ANOTHER
PRETTY FACE . . .



DryBonesBlog.com

in France (up 9%); while in Germany and Britain, the negative views remain high but stable (69% and 68% respectively). In other Christian countries, perceptions of Israel are worsening, including in Australia (65%), and Canada (59%).

Among Muslim countries, perceptions of Israel have continued to deteriorate. Of particular concern for Israel is its southern neighbor, Egypt, where 85% of the population views Israel negatively, up 7% since 2011.

In Asian countries, public opinion on Israel is growing increasingly antagonistic. In China, just 23% of those surveyed view Israel positively compared with 45% negatively. In India, overall opinion has shifted from being divided in 2011 to leaning negatively. In South Korea, negative views of Israel rose a full 15% (to 69%), while positive views decreased 11% (to 20%)

The saving grace for Israel is the United States, where the proportion of people viewing Israel negatively has decreased 6 points to 35% since 2011. This statistic marks the most positive views on Israel expressed in the U.S. since tracking began in 2005. ★



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Biblical Humor

Moishe Goldberg was sitting on the lawn sunning and reading, when he was startled by a car crashing through a hedge and coming to rest on his lawn. He helped his elderly neighbor out of the driver's seat and sat him on a lawn chair.

"My goodness, Ruben," he exclaimed, "are you still driving?"

"Yes," Ruben replied. " I am old enough that I don't need a license anymore.

"The last time I went to my doctor he examined me, and asked if I had a driving license. I told him 'yes' and showed it to him. He took scissors out of a drawer, cut the license into pieces, and threw them in the wastebasket.

"'You won't be needing this anymore,' he said.

"So I thanked him and left." ■



A cheerful heart is good medicine – Proverbs 17:22



A small boy proudly approached his father. "I know what the Bible means!"

Confused, his father asked, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I know!"

"Okay," his father smiled. "What does it mean?"

The young boy replied excitedly, "It's 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'" ■

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ABC-Family Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	1 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12 am Mon	1 am Mon

DirectTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	8 pm Wed 3 pm Fri	9 pm Wed 4 pm Fri	10 pm Wed 5 pm Fri	11 pm Wed 6 pm Fri

DirectTV—Channel 369 **Dish**—Channel 263

Inspirational Network Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	3:30 am Wed 12 pm Sun	4:30 am Wed 1 pm Sun	5:30 am Wed 2 pm Sun	6:30 am Wed 3 pm Sun

DirectTV—Channel 364 **Dish**—Channel 259

TCT pm DirectTV Channel 377 –
Consult www.tct.tv
for viewing schedule

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

New Series from Israel Airing Often!



Israel is a Hotbed for High-Tech Research

By Lucas Mearian

www.ComputerWorld.com

Israel has long been a nation that draws in big corporate R&D facilities and acquisitions. Microsoft and Cisco both built their first non-U.S. R&D facilities there. Google has two R&D centers in Israel; Intel has four. Intel also has two manufacturing facilities there that employ 7,000 workers. Motorola's largest development center is also located in Israel.

In 2010–2011, Israel was ranked No. 1 in the world in terms of the quality of its scientific research institutions by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.

Because of Israel's diminutive size and its location, technological innovation is more a matter of "life and death," stated Orna Berry, former chief scientist of Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Labor. "Many of the technologies, if we don't invent them, we also [could not] buy them. It's a political issue.

Consequently, we often need to be self-sufficient in certain technologies. On the other hand, being first to market often gives us an opportunity to have a place in the market."

Israel's military-industrial complex is also tightly intertwined with academia, helping to develop and promote programs that foster technology innovation and corporate incubation. "Israel is extremely focused on turning knowhow into economic or defense value as a policy," Berry said.

Mark Peters, an analyst with market research firm ESG, agreed. "What Israel has to offer is a large population of students steeped in mathematics and science. The country has no natural resources to speak of and doesn't export any significant retail items," Peters said.

"When was the last time you saw a tag that said 'Made in Israel?'" Peters asked. "For Israel, education is all about sophisticated science and math. As a country, they're not focused on low-margin products. They're always at the advanced level." ★



R&D Centers In Israel



Battling Israel's Most Formidable Enemy—the Mosquito

By Matti Friedman, www.TimesOfIsrael.com

Israel Kligler—university professor, Zionist, and public health pioneer—played an outsize role in defeating malaria in then-called-Palestine beginning in the 1920s. Countering the mosquito-borne disease was not a minor medical success but a crucial victory that paved the way for the growth of Jewish settlement and the eventual establishment of the State of Israel.

In 1920, having a doctorate in microbiology in New York and research on yellow fever in South America, Kligler gave up a promising career in the U.S. and arrived instead in British-ruled Palestine, committed to putting his scientific knowledge at the service of the Zionist project.

He found a land devastated by malaria. The illness was, a 1921 British report said, “by far the most important disease in Palestine.” Much of the territory Jews had purchased for settlement was in lowlands infested with malaria—the main reason the land was available—and the disease was decimating the inhabitants. Some settlements had been abandoned altogether as a result.

Turkish soldiers at one border garrison had to be replaced monthly because all would contract malaria in little over a week. An estimated 90 percent of British soldiers at the town of Beit Shean were ill within 10 days.

“There is little doubt that the static condition of Palestine during the last several centuries is due almost entirely to malaria,” Kligler himself wrote a decade after his arrival. Describing the coastal plain, he wrote: “One sees large

stretches of richly watered, potentially cultivable land inhabited only by a few Bedouin tribes, all infected with malaria, and eking out a precarious existence from the proceeds of baskets made of marsh reeds, and from the milk of buffaloes which wallow in the marshes.” **If the Zionist project was to succeed, this had to change.**

At the time, malaria was treated chiefly by administering quinine tablets. This wasn't working, and Kligler had a different idea: Concentrate not on humans but on the mosquitoes. The Malaria Research Institute that Kligler helped set up began draining marshes and spraying areas where they found concentrations of larvae. He developed ways of dealing with the different kinds of mosquitoes, and thought up methods like periodically changing the direction of water flow in an irrigation canal to eliminate the mosquito population breeding inside.

Combined with a general improvement in public health under the British Mandate, the results were striking. From 633 people treated for the disease in 1923, by 1928 the number was 16. In 1925, the League of Nations Health Organization—the precursor of today's



League of Nations malaria commission in Palestine, 1925. Israel Kligler—bald man in the second row, far left

Courtesy Zalman Greenberg

World Health Organization—sent its Malaria Commission to Palestine. The members of the commission met Kligler and were struck by his success.

As a direct result of Kligler's campaign, land that had previously been considered barely inhabitable could be settled. By the time Kligler died in 1944, at age 55, the disease was in steep decline. By 1967, Israel had been declared entirely free of malaria. ★



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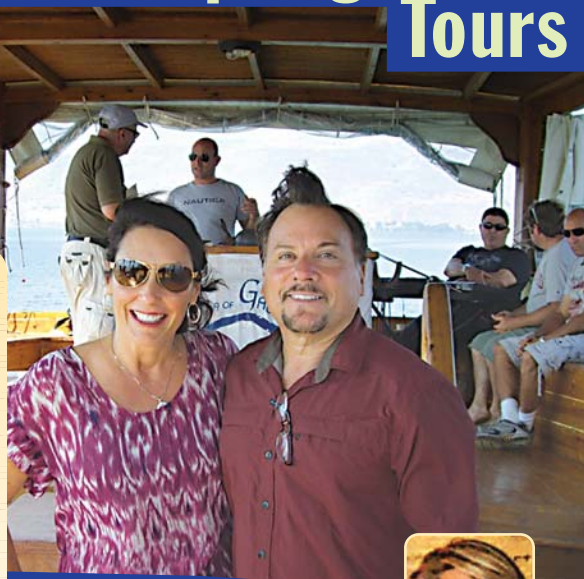
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