

Levitt Letter

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

FEATURES

Stop Islamization!

By **Geert Wilders** (right)

The situation in Europe, particularly in my own country the Netherlands, serves as a warning to what might happen in America if you fail to be vigilant.

I have been marked for death for criticizing Islam. After an Islamic fanatic murdered Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh in November 2004 because he had criticized Islam, the police found a letter threatening to kill me as well.

What have I done? I have candidly expressed my views about Islam: that Islam, rather than a religion, is a totalitarian ideology striving for world dominance. [\(continued p.2\)](#)



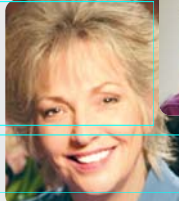
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MUSLIMS NOT READY TO ACCEPT A JEWISH STATE

A Muslim-Arab Who Gets It



By Hisham Jarallah
IsraelMatzav.blogspot.com

[Palestinian president Mahmoud] Abbas is in fact searching for any excuse not to return to the negotiating table with Israel. His demand that Israel stop building in the settlements sounds more like a joke: has he just discovered that there are settlements in the West Bank? Why did his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, negotiate for many years with Israel while the construction in the settlements was continuing?

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FEATURE STORY CONTINUED...

Stop Islamization

By Geert Wilders



I believe that Islam and freedom are incompatible.

Wilders is a nationalist standing up to death threats for trying to rescue the Netherlands from the Islamic invasion that has gripped it. He is a pioneer; other European politicians watch but attempt to remain politically correct in the face of being overrun. Let's pray for similar voices to arise in the mainstream of the European and American dialogues.
—Myles

I want to make clear that I make a distinction between the people and the ideology, between Muslims and Islam. There may be moderate Muslims, but there is no such thing as a moderate Islam. There is only one Islam and it is a dangerous ideology. When Islam becomes strong in a culture, the society becomes less free and more intolerant of non-Muslims.

Europe is on the verge of disappearing. Shortly before her death in 2006, Italian author Oriana Fallaci wrote, **"In each one of our cities is a second city, a state within the state, a government within the government. A Muslim city, a city ruled by the Koran."**

Europe's current immigrants do not share our roots. On the contrary, the Islamization of our society is undermining our Western, Judeo-Christian values, especially among young people. Forty percent of 15-year-old German Muslims consider Islam more important than democracy. Among Muslim university students in Britain, 40 percent support sharia. One in three of those students considers it legitimate to kill in the name of Islam.

In Europe we have sharia wills, sharia schools, and sharia banks. The introduction of sharia law in our societies creates a system of legal apartheid.

Make no mistake: Islam is also coming for America. If we do not stop the Islamization, we will lose everything: our identity, our culture, our democratic constitutional state, our freedom, and our civilization. In Europe we are already losing the right to free speech, the right to criticize Islam.

What we need is a spirit of resistance. Resistance to evil is our moral duty. This resistance begins with expressing our solidarity to all Christians, all Jews, all non-Muslims, all Muslim apostates, all people who are the victims of Islam.

"Resistance ... is our moral duty"

We can see what Islam has in store for us if we watch the fate of the Christians in Islamic countries. The cause of all this Christian suffering is Islam. The only place in the Middle East where Christians are safe to be Christians is Israel. Israel deserves the support of Christians worldwide. In fact, Israel is fighting our fight. Mothers in the West can sleep safely because Israeli mothers at night worry about their children in the army.

We all are Israel. We should all support Israel because Islam's so-called "holy war" against Israel is a war against all of us. ★

—Geert Wilders is a member of the Dutch House of Representatives.



Dance Like David Danced



“When the spirit of the Lord comes upon my heart I will dance/pray/sing like David” –*Lyrics by Fred Hammond*

We are in a season of need: the need to return to the commitment of King David, Israel’s model of ruling under the authority of God.

Israel has many reasons to turn inward and let sadness rule the day. After all, it endures daily threats of attack, and rockets fly from Hamas in Gaza to the south, with thousands more poised and ready from Hezbollah in the north. The fall of Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak has emboldened the Muslim Brotherhood there, and Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad is killing his own people. Even with their internal battles, the countries surrounding Israel still find the energy to direct their hatred towards the Jewish State.

Even major American “Christian” sects are divesting their investments in Israel to protest Israel’s treatment of its Arab cousins. These are the same cousins who, when they reside in Israel, have more freedoms, power, voting voice, and economic well-being than in any Arab or Muslim state. The old neighborhood is in flames; the entire Middle East is reaching a volatile peak.

The headlines are “catching up” to the Bible. God will fulfill His Word. *He is fulfilling His Word!*

It is time for People of the Book—as Muslims call Jews and Christians—to dance/pray/sing like King David.

David’s ability to deal with threats developed incrementally. From his humble beginnings watching over his father’s sheep, David was willing—and God made him able—to fend off a lion and a bear when those stronger beasts threatened his vulnerable sheep. Those hidden victories gave him the confidence he needed to face the giant—Goliath—

who was threatening the whole nation.

But, David’s confidence was in his God, not in himself. He was yielding enough to “co-labor” with God, facing Goliath as a beloved son of Abba. He used the five smooth stones (five is the biblical number for grace) to see the grace of God overcome the spiritual opposition, which had a physical manifestation: a giant. And he gave the glory to the God of Israel.

David increasingly abandoned himself to his God as his conquests multiplied. When he finally brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem, he danced wildly. “And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight” (2 Samuel 6:22). This forever set the standard for abandoned love for God.

Now is the time for David-style love and action. Now is the time to give, to pray, to send, to go, and glorify God in all.

Here’s the song:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Inx1LOGUPQw

Here’s the song and a dance that will make your feet eager to join in:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZuKZyr54Eg



Dry Bones



The First of the Seven Feasts



Leviticus 23:1, 2 "Adonai said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel: The designated times of Adonai which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are My designated times.""

About eight weeks ago, I read the directions on a package of seed for planting and growing morning glories in my garden. "After all danger of frost is gone, plant seeds 3–5 inches in ground, keep moist until sprouted, water, fertilize, water, enjoy the flowers." The directions were clear and simple, so I followed them.

Adonai gives us very clear, detailed directions about the Seven Feasts found in Leviticus 23. There are three fall feasts, three spring feasts, and one summer feast. Here are some of the directions from Leviticus. But, read the entire 23rd chapter of Leviticus for yourself. You can also order *The Seven Feasts Of Israel* booklet by Zola from the ministry. <http://store.levitt.com/SFI>

Rosh Hashanah is a fall feast that begins this year September 16th, at sundown. Lev. 23:23, "Tell the people of Israel, 'In the seventh month, the first of the month is to be for you a day of complete rest for remembering, a holy convocation announced with blasts on the shofar.'" Clear directions.

Same for the directions for Yom Kippur (Atonement), this year September 25th at sundown. Lev. 23:26–32 "The tenth day of the seventh month is Yom Kippur. You are to have a holy convoca-

tion; you are to deny yourselves, and you are to bring an offering made by fire to Adonai. You are not to do any kind of work on that day because it is Yom Kippur, to make atonement for you before Adonai your God." For Jews everywhere, it is the holiest day of the year.

Lev. 23:33, "Adonai said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Feast of Tabernacles/Sukkot for seven days to Adonai."" Sukkot this year begins September 30th at sundown. Interestingly, Adonai mentions that this holiday is a feast and then a holy convocation. More directions, including instructions to live in a *sukkah* (booth/tabernacle) for seven days and to remember that Adonai brought them out of Egypt.

I wrote out all the directions of the Feasts in Leviticus 23 so that I could really look at them. Why? Sometimes I need to read the directions. I want to be watered and fertilized in order to bloom like my morning glories. They are blooming now. I have never seen so many flowers on one plant. Some purple, some pink ... just glorious. I look out my window every day with some pride at all the flowers. And all I did was follow directions.

I think that's what Adonai wants for each of us. Though His directions are easy, I tend to make them difficult. But, when we follow His directions... we bloom!

Sandra



Ultra-Orthodox Jews no longer exempt from serving in the Israeli Army



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And why did Abbas also negotiate with Israeli leaders before Benjamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister more than three years ago—while the construction work was continuing?

By demanding that Israel recognize the pre-1967 lines as the borders of a future Palestinian state, Abbas is actually asking that Israel commit itself in advance to giving him everything—even before the negotiations have resumed.

Abbas's two new conditions—the release of prisoners and import of weapons—came as a surprise even to some Palestinians in the West Bank. It is not even clear how the release of Palestinians who were involved in terror attacks would advance the cause of peace.

It is also not clear how bringing additional rifles and pistols into the Palestinian Authority-controlled territories is supposed to help achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Abbas is right in saying that the peace

process is “clinically dead.” The peace process has been dead for some time now. It died the day a majority of Palestinians voted for Hamas in a free and fair election in 2006.

The peace process died when Hamas expelled the Palestinian Authority from the Gaza Strip and established an Islamic emirate in the area.

The peace process died even long before that. It passed away the day Yasser Arafat said no to former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak at the botched Camp David summit in 2000.

The peace process is dead because a majority in the Arab and Islamic world still has not come to terms with Israel's right to exist.

Hisham Jarallah is a Muslim-Arab journalist based in the “West Bank.”

We need more Arab journalists with this kind of objectivity. Mahmoud Abbas is Yasser Arafat in a suit and tie, not a “moderate” peace partner. —Myles ★



Abbas & Arafat



Israel: The Center of Divine History Part 2

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.

Dr. Thomas McCall, the Senior Theologian of our ministry, served as Zola's co-author, mentor, pastor, and friend for nearly 30 years. Part II continues detailing 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.

Israel Suppressed by the Dispersion

For 19 centuries, the Dispersion suppressed Israel, as the Jews found themselves scattered throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. In reality, the religion of Judaism has reconfigured Israel in such a way that it practically lost its national distinctiveness. Israel is an anomaly, unlike any other people. It defies the common definitions of religion, race, and nationality.

Furthermore, Israel has been adrift from its own Messiah. The Messiah who came first to Israel has become a stranger to most of His own Jewish people. Peculiarly, it is mostly gentiles who worship Him on all the continents of the Earth through a variety of congregations and fellowships.

The Restoration of Israel

So it has been for almost 2,000 years, but in our time things have undergone a remarkable change. Jews by the millions have returned to the Land of Canaan, and Israel is once again a nation on the face of the Earth. There is also a resurgence of faith in Jesus as the Messiah among a minority of Israelis.

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Zionism as a Memory

By Eitan Shishkoff

In the shadow of Mount Tabor, we observed the graduations of two of our grandsons, from first and third grades.

Their school is called Kadoorie, named after the Jewish philanthropist Sir Ellis Kadoorie who donated 100,000 British pounds to be invested in education in what was then called Palestine. This educational center began as Kadoorie Agricultural School, founded in 1933. The original school was reputed to be one of the best schools in the area during the British Mandate period.

Kadoorie School in the shadow of Mt. Tabor



In this relatively isolated rural setting, some of Israel's most famous political and intellectual leaders were educated, including former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Yigal Alon, the popular general; and the poet Haim Guri. Most of the current students come from the surrounding district—the Lower Galilee. This is Israel today. It's not like Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or even Haifa. This is young Israel—non-religious, professional, confident Israel.

Kadoorie School began with young Jews from the towns of Europe, learning to grow crops and to defend themselves. Now, the children carry advanced cell phones and hope to wear the latest fashions. Innocently, not fully under-

Eitan and Connie Shishkoff



of their lives.

The kids are singing a tune popularized when the previous generations were establishing the State of Israel. Their parents also sang it when they were schoolchildren. Via an unapologetic process of socialization, these young Israelis are preparing for the army and for continuing the Zionist dream—albeit, without the primary foundation of The Book.

standing the enormous price that was paid to provide them with a home as Jews, they look on free fields every day

The nation continues. These are the great-grandchildren of those who fought in the War for Independence. How long can it last? Is the historic motivation—the memory of it—enough? Or is Zionism becoming a barren portion of the Promised Land?

A half-moon is suspended convincingly, like a pearl dangling directly

above the arc of Mt. Tabor. As darkness falls, the families disperse following the bake sale, the certificates, and the school productions. I am left with a strangely full, yet empty feeling.

Proud of my grandsons

I certainly am, and thanking God that they are growing up as young Messianic Israelis who know that the blessings of the Galilee come from *Elohei Yisrael* ... the God of Israel. And, at the same time, my heart is burdened for *Am Yisrael* ... the people of Israel ... the ones who do not know the God who chose them. ★

Deuteronomy 32:18—Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you.



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The Missing Sentence

By Diana Butler Bass, blog.BeliefNet.com

When journalists at a press conference asked my Christian colleagues and me what political parties we belonged to, the room seemed a little strained. One person talked about being an independent voter. I kept thinking that the journalists were missing the point by trying to define us by Washington categories instead of theological ones. Unexpectedly, I found myself at the microphone—“coming out” politically to a room full of the mainstream media.

I shared that I have been—in correct chronological order—a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, a Republican, a Democrat, a Republican very briefly, and once again a Democrat; but perhaps the journalist should ask me the same question five years from now. But then, the ultimate confession: One of my proudest possessions is a personal letter from Senator Barry Goldwater (yes, “Mr. Conservative”) congratulating me on being Arizona Teen-Age Republican of the Year in 1976!

The room laughed. And the subject changed back to more important things (like poverty,

the environment, and peacemaking) than our voter registration. But if I hadn't been so intimidated by the cameras, my confession should have extended just one more sentence: “Yes, I've worn all these political labels—depending on issues at stake and candidates in races—but throughout my checkered political history, one label has never changed: Christian; I am a Christian, and all those other labels are secondary to my baptismal journey to live the teachings of Jesus.”

And that's the point: We are Christians. All those other labels—Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative—are secondary to being Christian, our passionate quest to enact grace and live a Christian way of life. As I reflect on my missing sentence, I realize that it sounds like a sentence from Scripture. Not one printed in RED letters, but the plain black words of St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians (3:28): “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” If the Apostle were around for press conferences today, I'm pretty sure he'd add, “there is neither Republican nor Democrat.”

No political party—or nation—has a monopoly on Yeshua. —Editor



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Israel: The Center of Divine History Part 2 cont. from p.5

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of such a radical event—precisely what the prophets said would occur at the Second Coming of Christ. (Ezekiel 37:21) The New Testament also teaches that the Church Age will end with the Rapture of the Church. Following that, the Lord will prepare Israel and the world for the Return of Christ through the awesome days of the Tribulation, the 70th Week of Daniel. All of this assumes that Israel is a nation at the end of the Age.

Israel Again the Center of the World as in the Bible

Once again the focus of history is back on Israel. If we look at the world the way the Scriptures do, we must view all actions of all peoples from the vantage point of modern Israel.

Read the whole essay at www.levitt.com/essays/dh or read future segments in coming LL issues.

If the Scriptures are the Word of God—and this we constantly affirm—then we must conclude that this is precisely how God views the world. It is not easy for us to do this because we normally view everything from our own perspective: our family, our country, our church, and our culture. How can we lift ourselves out of our shell and our circumscribed mold, and begin to view our world from the biblical point of view? It takes considerable effort, concentration, and faith to go against the grain and commit our minds to conforming to the scriptural perspective. It is also somewhat humbling, as well. In America, for instance, we tend to see everything in relationship to the power politics displayed by our armed forces, and our ideas of democracy and constitutional government. We must step down off this exalted cultural pedestal. We must understand that much of what God will accomplish on the Earth between now and the Lord's Second Coming is going to be done in and through Israel. ★

Signs of the End Times


Our Lord warned us that in the End Times, Christians would be persecuted: “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake” (Matthew 24:9)—a verse also applicable to the Jews of Israel, since they were the Christians the Lord addressed.

But there are other Christians in Israel who are presently feeling tremendous pressure, and those are the Palestinian believers in Jesus. Truth to tell, they vary in their commitment to the New Testament, and a small number are what we would call born-again Believers; but **the real issue is that they are Christian enough to be hounded by the Muslims**, who have taken over large amounts of Christian territory in the Holy Land.

I previously pointed out that the Church was silent when the Muslims took over Bethlehem, the very birthplace of the Founder of the Christian faith. In taking over the city, they also took over its largely Christian population. I interviewed a storekeeper in Bethlehem last year, and found him almost too scared to talk to me.

We have printed information on the persecution of Christians in China, Sudan, Egypt, and other Muslim and Communist strongholds. But the persecuted Christians of the Holy Land are largely overlooked by the media and the Church. And they are suffering indeed.

Our Lord did not omit the witness to non-Jewish people in Israel in His time. The Samaritan woman (John 4), the Roman centurion (Matthew 8), the Syrophenician woman (Mark 7), and others exemplify His outreach to those outside of the Jewish faith. Those in the same position today need our protection and our prayers.



I want to be perfectly clear on one point: the Christians are being persecuted by Muslims, and not by Jews. The Jews of Israel have never persecuted Christians, though it has served Palestinian propaganda purposes to pretend that it has happened. When the Israelis have had to close their borders due to Palestinian terrorism, it has affected everyone in the Palestinian territories—Christian and Muslim. This security measure should not be confused with a specific targeting of Christians for oppression.

Christian leaders in Israel are saddened by Western tourists who, they say, kiss the stones Jesus trod on but ignore the living stones of the faith.

The living stones are more important than the dead stones; they represent the continuity of the faith from Jesus’ time to the present.

That’s why the Rev. Fuad Sakhnini, who runs a school and church in the center of Nazareth, is determined to stay, even though two of his sons have gone to America.

“If I leave, if you leave, if that person leaves, who is going to witness?” he asks.

As to the Muslims, their own holy writ teaches that the Christians as well as the Jews are their enemies, to be eliminated by whatever means necessary. And unfortunately, history shows that they have taken this particular tenet of their faith very seriously.

Prescient as only the Lord could inspire, Zola saw the continued harassment of Arab Christians by the majority Muslims. That is why we stand with our Arab-Christian friends. You can see Bethlehem Pastor Naim Houry in the sixth program of our series *Acts: Then and Now* at www.levitt.tv/media/watch/1222. (See Zola’s book on p.36.) —Myles ★



Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd D. Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Q. Of all the Jewish holidays listed here, which ones were man-made and which ones did God specify?

- Sabbath
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Tabernacles
- Sabbatical Year
- Jubilee

I know that God said, “And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever” (Exodus 12:24). Did God specify other Jewish holidays as He did with Passover?

Thank you, —A.S.

A. **Leviticus 23 makes it clear that the Sabbath and the Seven Feasts (below) are from God, not man.** God gave these on Mount Sinai to Moses for Israel. Leviticus 23:4 plainly states: **“These are the feasts of the Lord.”** Leviticus 23 repeatedly tells us, **“the Lord spoke to Moses”** concerning the

divine institution of the Sabbath and the Seven Feasts. So these eight came directly from God.

- Sabbath
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First Fruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Tabernacles

Q. Where do you stand concerning the Talmud? —M.S.

A. The Talmud—the record of rabbinic discussions pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, philosophy, customs, and history—is valuable for understanding the various strands of rabbinical thought that emerged during the time of Jesus. Reading it can help shed light on what the Jewish religious body was thinking at that time and help us better understand the cultural and religious milieu of first-century Israel. It is not, however, equal in authority with God’s Word, as Orthodox Judaism wrongly teaches today. Only the written Word of God bound up and contained in the *B’rit Yeshanah* (O.T.) and the *B’rit Hadashah* (N.T.) has the authoritative distinction of being God’s written revelation to mankind. The Talmud tends to be convoluted and contradictory at times—unlike the inerrant Word of God. ★



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Brothers & Sisters:

Join the King David Club
Help us advance the Kingdom!
When you donate \$10,000,
you will receive the following
with our grateful thanks:

1. One each of all our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth), not just for your library, but also to give away.
2. One \$500 discount on each of up to four (4) of our tours to Israel.
3. One-on-one telephone conference with Myles to discuss this ministry’s goals and visions.

Going & Sowing Seed

By Kathryn Sue Hopper

My husband Robin and I decided it was time to visit Israel. On our flights to Madrid and Tel Aviv, we turned conversations with seatmates and cabin attendants into opportunities to plant seeds of the Gospel and Messianic tracts.

Robin & Sue, Jaffa Gate



In the old city of Jerusalem, a woman in the street selling herbs wanted to be paid when we took her photograph. Robin gave her a few shekels and then offered her a Messianic tract, which she also accepted. I asked directions from a cab driver, thanked him, and offered him a Messianic tract written in Arabic. Reading it immediately, he commented on the bad news of sin. I encouraged him to read to the end where he would find the Good News that Yeshua had offered Himself for the redemption of our sins. An elderly woman sitting on a shaded wall accepted two Hebrew tracts to read while she ate a tomato. She nodded her thanks.

Most everything was closed on Saturday/*Shabbat*, but we found an open McDonald's. A security guard at the entrance spoke a little English, and Robin engaged him in a short conversation about his weapon. When we left, I gave him a tract in Hebrew.

As *Shabbat* ended, other shops opened along Ben Yehuda Street. The young shopkeeper of a military supplies store, Jonathan, was interested that my hus-

band is Jewish and had served in the U.S. Navy many years ago. During his service, he had been stationed in Haifa for training with the Israeli forces. When we asked Jonathan if he was familiar with the *B'rit Hadashah* (the New Testament), he said that he was not religious. I assured him that you don't need to be religious to read it and that I would give him one if he would read it. He said "Yes," and took the copy.

The manager of our hotel in Jerusalem was very helpful. Natan even served us breakfast three mornings, although the hotel boasted a communal kitchen for guests, and usually offered only coffee and tea.



*Jonathan & Robin
at army store*

We also befriended an Orthodox man who was staying there. Joseph and Robin spent time together visiting in the kitchen, and we promised to pray for him at the *Kotel* (Western Wall), which we did several times.

Natan admitted that, though he isn't religious and doesn't understand where God was during the Holocaust, he does like to read, and accepted a Bible in Hebrew. We have kept in touch with him since, and will check on his progress.

Before we left the hotel, Joseph asked us to pray for him. So, Robin and I stood over him as he sat in a kitchen chair. Robin prayed to *HaShem*, his hand on Joseph's back. I prayed to Yeshua under my breath, my hand on Robin's. Robin closed his prayer boldly in the name of *Yeshua Ha-Mashiach*. Joseph accepted a complete (OT and NT) Bible in Hebrew and asked us to keep praying for him. We do. ★



Greener Ties for Jordan and Israel



By Karin Kloosterman
www.israel21c.org

In wealthy Western countries, renewable energy developments are a source of progress, pride, and smart business. For Israel and Jordan, two Middle Eastern countries severely lacking in water and energy resources, renewable energy is a matter of survival.

That's why there's a green twist to the **Trilateral Industrial Development Foundation** (TRIDE), founded in 1996 as a pilot project under the wing of the BIRD Foundation—the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation—to create joint ventures between Israeli, Jordanian, and American companies.

The latest cooperative project will support water, agri-tech, and renewable energy companies in the two neighboring nations, which have a peace treaty but only limited dealings.

BIRD executive director Eitan Yudilevich explains that Jordan is supported heavily by USAID because the U.S. State Department considers it important to contribute to a stable and prospering Jordan for the sake of peace and economic development. TRIDE, run out of BIRD's Israel office, gives matching grants of up to half a million dollars to three partners with mutual goals.

Biofuel from organic waste

TRIDE has already funded a handful of

partnerships, most recently a research project started in 2009 to produce a second-generation synthetic diesel biofuel from organic raw materials.

The Israeli company MME IL, the National Energy Research Center in Jordan, and Florida-based Nibor Enterprises set out to "map the existence of raw materials in Jordan and in Israel and to build a model to see if the process can be financially viable," said Yudilevich.

The next stage is to use the results to set up a plant close to the raw material sources, whether in Jordan, Israel, or on the southern border between the two. The biofuel can be produced from forest residues, olive-processing waste, digester sludge, chicken manure, and all types of organic raw materials.

Business can lead to peace

The so-called Arab Spring hasn't made any difference in how Israeli and Jordanian partners do business, says Yudilevich, who frequently makes the trip over the border. He also notes that looking at the trends, trade has actually improved between Israel and Jordan over the last year. He believes that investing and participating in projects like TRIDE can further advance the peace process in ways that government negotiations cannot achieve. ★



TRIDE brings together U.S., Israeli, and Jordanian companies in joint ventures like producing renewable energy.



ISLAMIC “LOGIC”



Iran Shuts Down “Immoral” Coffee Shops

Reuters

In July, Iranian police shut down dozens of restaurants and coffee shops in a renewed crackdown on what the state sees as immoral and un-Islamic behavior.



Regular officers and members of the “morality police” raided 87 cafes and restaurants in a single district of the capital Tehran and arrested women for flouting the Islamic dress code, according to the Iranian Students’ News Agency.

“These places were shut for not following Islamic values, providing hookahs to women, and lacking proper licenses,” said Tehran police official Alireza Mehrabi, according to ISNA. Women are not allowed to smoke hookahs (water pipes) in public.

Mehrabi said the raid came as part of a plan to provide “neighborhood-oriented” security, and would continue in other parts of Tehran.

Coffee shop culture has flourished in Iran in recent years, offering wireless Internet, snacks, hot drinks, and a place to hang out for Iranian youth in a country where there are no bars or Western-style chain restaurants or cafes.

But that trend has been criticized by conservative Iranians who consider it a cultural imitation of the West and incompatible with Islamic values. The government periodically cracks down on behavior it considers un-Islamic, including mingling between the sexes outside of marriage.

In 2007, Tehran police closed down 24 Internet cafes and other coffee shops in as many hours, detaining 23 people.

Christians and Jews Are the Enemy

Israel Today magazine

During a children’s program on Palestinian Authority TV, a young girl was asked to read a poem that would teach “responsibility and belonging” to viewers young and old. The girl then recited lines that make it clear that Palestinian children are not being taught to live in peaceful coexistence with Jews or Christians, and that future prospects of peace may be grossly exaggerated.

“I taught the world that the Muslim in the name of Allah cannot be defeated,” read the girl, as the poem encouraged Muslims to rise up against the enemy infidels. “They challenge us with the White House, and we challenge them with the [Islamic] awakening and the Ka’ba [in Mecca] ... They [Christians and Jews] are inferior and weaker, more cowardly and despised. They are remnants of the Crusaders and Khaibar [a Jewish village ransacked by the Muslims in 629 AD].”

On a similar broadcast, a young Palestinian girl recited an Egyptian poem that stated, “Our enemy, Zion, is Satan with a tail.” The young host of the show enthusiastically responded, “Bravo, bravo, bravo!” ★



Calls to Destroy Egypt's Great Pyramids Begin

By Raymond Ibrahim
www.FrontPageMag.com

According to several reports in the Arabic media, prominent Muslim clerics have begun to call for the demolition of Egypt's Great Pyramids—or those "symbols of paganism"—which Egypt's Salafi party has long planned to cover with wax.

Mohammed's companion Amr bin al-As and his Arabian tribesmen invaded and conquered Egypt circa 641. Under al-As and subsequent Muslim rule, many Egyptian antiquities were destroyed as relics of infidelity. According to early Muslim writers, the great Library of Alexandria itself—deemed a repository of pagan knowledge contradicting the Koran—was destroyed under bin al-As's reign.

However, while book burning was an easy activity in the 7th century, destroying the mountain-like pyramids and their guardian Sphinx was not (Egypt's medieval Mamluk rulers "de-nosed" the Sphinx during target practice).

Now, however, thanks to modern technology, the pyramids can be destroyed. The only question left is whether the Muslim Brotherhood president of Egypt is "pious" enough—if he is willing to complete the Islamization process that started under the hands of Egypt's first Islamic conqueror.

History is laden with examples of Muslims destroying their own pre-Islamic heritage—starting with Islam's prophet himself: Mohammed destroyed Arabia's Ka'ba temple, transforming it into a mosque. Medieval Muslims in India destroyed their forefathers' temples, and contemporary

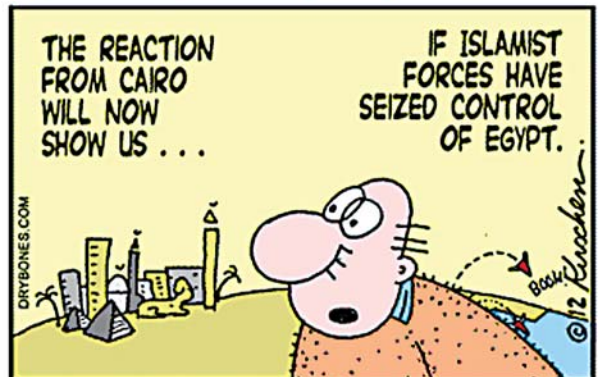
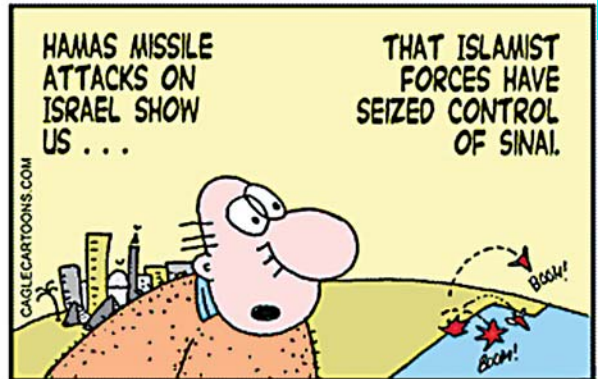
Muslims destroy their non-Islamic heritage in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Malaysia, and Tunisia.

Much of this hate for their own pre-Islamic heritage is tied to the fact that Muslims tend not to identify with this or that nation, culture, heritage, or language, but only with the Islamic nation—the *Umma*.

The same reports discussing the call to demolish the last of the Seven Wonders of the World, also note that Egyptian Salafis are calling on [newly-elected President] Morsi to banish all Shias and Baha'is from Egypt. Under Muslim Brotherhood tutelage, the bottle has been uncorked, and the genie unleashed in Egypt.

Will all those international institutions that look the other way whenever human rights abuses are committed by Muslims—lest they appear "Islamophobic"—at least take note now that the Great Pyramids appear to be next on Islam's hit list, or will the fact that Muslims are involved silence them once again? ★

Dry Bones



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Iran Seeks to Legalize Marriage for Girls Under Age of 10

www.MohabatNews.com

The legal affairs committee of the Majles, the Iranian parliament, has told the press that they regard the law that prohibits girls below the age of 10 from being married to be "un-Islamic and illegal."

According to recently released statistics, in the past few weeks over 75 female children under 10 were forced to marry much older men. In 3,929 cases, bride and groom were both under 14.

In a discussion of the issue organized by the Khabar Online news, conservative lawmaker and spokesperson for the Majles committee Mohammed Ali Isfenani said: "Before the revolution, girls under 16 were not allowed to marry.

"Parents determined to get around the law would often tamper with their daughter's birth certificate. Under the previous constitution, people were

legally regarded as adults when they were 18. After the revolution, the age at which children were regarded as going through puberty was lowered to 9 for girls and 15 for boys."

He added: "As some people may not comply with our current Islamic legal system, we must regard 9 as being the appropriate age for a girl to have reached puberty and qualify to get married. To do otherwise would be to contradict and challenge Islamic sharia law."

He also confirmed that under his chairmanship, the legal committee of the Majles would seek to change the current legislation. ★



Mohammed Ali Isfenani

Girls of marriageable age in Iran, below



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ZLM Bulletin Board

Wanted: Social Media Soldiers

As mentioned on page 8 of the November 2011 *Levitt Letter*, social media puts us only a click away from witnessing to people who need our Messiah. You can build an "electronic fishing net" that wraps the globe by: 1) joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ZolaLevitt and 2) following us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ZolaLevitt>. Almost daily we offer timely teachings, insights, and encouragement from the Word of God. You can then share these uplifting posts with your social network. Become an "electronic evangelist!" Yeshua beckons us to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).



Pray for
the peace of
Jerusalem

"Prayer for the State of Israel"

Here is a music video that will inspire your spirit. Singing in Hebrew is Lieutenant Colonel **Shai Abramson**, who is the Chief Cantor of the Israel Defense Forces. The Israeli Philharmonic and its choir accompany him. Even though there are no subtitles to enable you to understand the lyrics, your heart will soar with praise as you experience the powerful singing and historic film clips. Hanky advised.

<http://wp.me/pieUD-1n3>



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

Life insurance is an especially flexible planning tool that can be used to meet a variety of personal financial needs.

The pamphlet ***Giving Through Life Insurance*** includes six questions to determine whether a gift of life insurance would make sense for you. It also offers seven ways to give by using life insurance. A table summarizes tax benefits, and the Technical Advisory Section addresses basic tax rules, qualified appraisal rules, and more. To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

2011 Fundraising Expenses

To comply with the tax code, we calculated the small percentage of newsletter space and television time that this ministry devotes to fundraising. **Taken together, they account for seven-tenths of one percent (0.7%) of our expenses.**

An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%, which is twenty-eight times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you, the supporter, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for support. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to expand this outreach to new frontiers across the globe ... *Thanks!*

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel:



See page
36 for details



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Hebrew Lesson

Secret of the Most High

By John J. Parsons



יֹשֵׁב בְּסֵתֶר עֲלֵיוֹן בְּצֵל שְׁדֵי יְתָלוֹן

“He who abides in the secret of the Most High
will dwell in the shadow of the Almighty” – Psalm 91:1

יְתָלוֹן	שְׁדֵי	בְּצֵל	עֲלֵיוֹן	בְּסֵתֶר	יֹשֵׁב
(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
yit-lo-nan	shad-dai	be-tzel	el-yon	be-se-ter	yo-shev
will dwell	the Almighty	in the shadow (of)	the Most High	in the secret (of)	the one who abides

One of the great Hebrew names of God is *El Elyon*, often translated as God “Most High.”

The name first appears in the Torah regarding the mysterious figure of Malki-Tzedek, the timeless king and priest of Zion who served “bread and wine” to our father Abraham—alluding to the sacraments later used to commemorate our redemption (Gen. 14:18). Now the name “Elyon” itself comes from a root word that means “to ascend.” For instance, an “olah offering” is a whole burnt offering that ascends upward to Heaven, and “aliyah” means going up to the Land of Israel. “Elyon” expresses the truth that the LORD is the Resurrected One who overcame all the powers of hell and utterly vanquished death’s power. In other words, Elyon is a name for the LORD our God Yeshua.

The sages say that Moses wrote Psalm 91 as he dwelt in the “midst of the dark cloud,” a place of sacred and holy concealment (Exod. 24:18). The thick clouds are a “hiding place” for him (Job 22:14). Notice that the one who “abides” in the secret of the Most High *dwells* in an ascended place of rest—being lifted up above the surrounding madness of this fallen world of flux and shadows. The Hebrew word means to lodge or to “sleep,” connecting it with death and resurrection. By dwelling in the death and resurrection of Yeshua, God will shield you with His Presence and make evil powerless before you.

Since God hides Himself in this world (Isa. 45:15), we must humbly seek His face to enter into the place of His holy concealment in all things. Though God is high above all things, He dwells “with the lowly and the broken of heart” (Isa. 57:15). Therefore the LORD our God is called *Shaddai*—our Sustainer, Provider, Refuge, and Home. When you “abide” in the secret of Elyon—the Ascended One—you are concealed by the dark clouds of His glory, and the presence of Shaddai overshadows you. “The LORD will save you from the ensnaring trap and from the devastating pestilence” (Psalm 91:3).

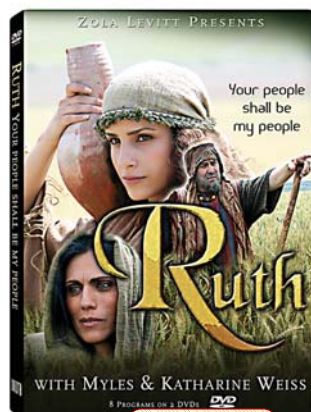
We are made secure only on account of the LORD our God Yeshua, Who gloriously ascended over the powers of this age, the hidden principalities of darkness, and Who made safe passage for us to come by means of His sacrificial death on the cross. Yeshua is the Bridge and the Way to the truth that sets you free. He is the Ascended LORD of Glory, the Master of all possible worlds, and the King over all things. **Nothing can stop Him or thwart His victory secured for those who are trusting in Him. Blessed is His Name forever and ever, Amen.**



Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People

8 TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this eight-program series, we follow the famous love story verse by verse, and watch as Israeli actors re-enact it in their native Hebrew language. Myles and Katharine Weiss, hosts of *Zola Levitt Presents*, explain the biblical characters' journey from darkness to destiny, and Messianic Israeli tour guide Arie Bar David puts it in context by clarifying Israelite culture at the time of Ruth. Sasha and Anya Poberejny provide the uplifting music for this multi-layered story.



Please order
DVDs from
p.18

THE COVERING Naomi and Ruth's journey from Moab to Israel. God is bringing Jews and Christians together as in the first century.

ROAD TO BETHLEHEM After ten years of famine, Naomi returns to Israel. Her faithful daughter-in-law declares, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

FINDING THE REDEEMER Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem at harvest time. The romance between Boaz and Ruth begins to blossom.

BREAKING OF BREAD Boaz asks Ruth to break bread with him. Our heavenly Father invites us into relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus (the Bread of Life). The story of Ruth and Boaz bears a similarity to the relationship of Myles and Katharine—Jew and gentile in the harvest field of the Lord.

VIRTUOUS WOMAN Naomi defies cultural norms and sends Ruth to Boaz's threshing floor where he promises to take care of her.

KINSMAN REDEEMER Boaz desires to be Ruth's husband. However, there is a closer relative who must be consulted first.

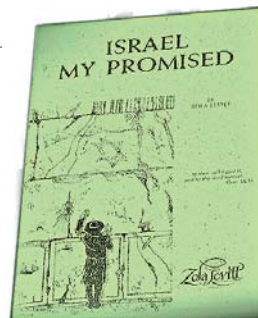
REDEMPTION God included a gentile like Ruth into the family of Israel and the lineage of the Messiah. Ruth's story is a picture of the full restoration available to us because of the blood of Yeshua.

FUTURE OF HOPE Ruth and Boaz get married and raise a family. Naomi's life was changed from tragedy to one of restoration and hope. Yeshua wants to do the same for each of us.

Israel, My Promised Study Booklet

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

Order on page 18



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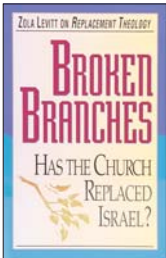
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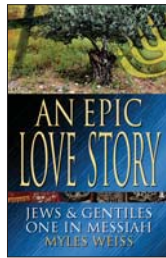
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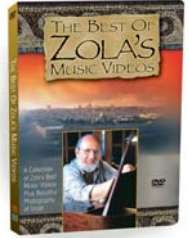
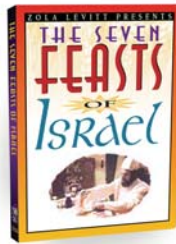


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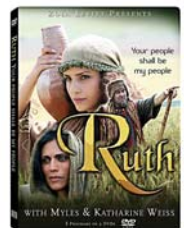


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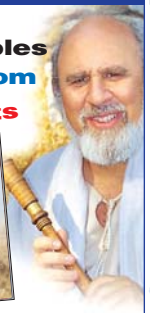
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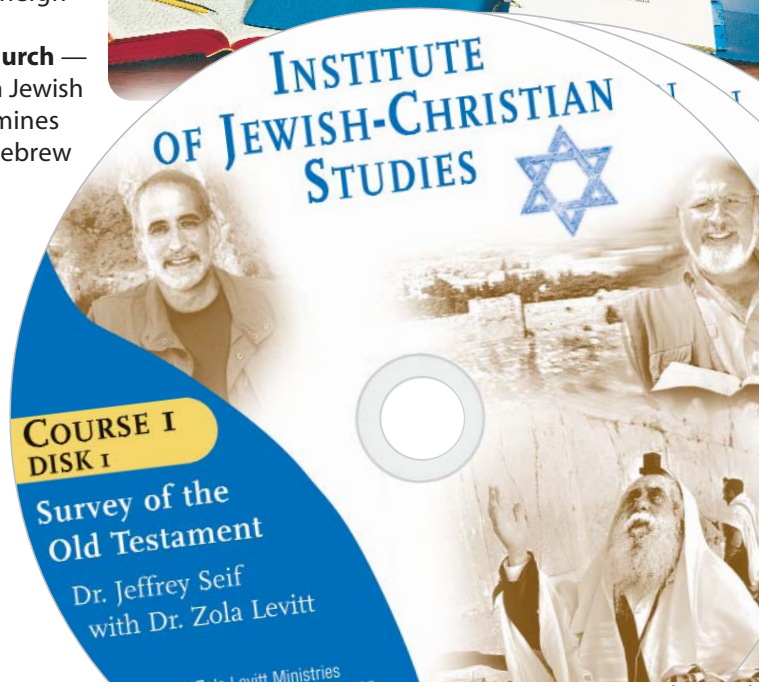
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More info on page 19.



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Cooling Gold Fever

By Mark Levitt



Only one of three reasons for owning gold holds water, according to business columnist Will Deener. Below are excerpts from his article in which he analyzes their merits. Deener's entire article is posted at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1mt> Mark

About a year ago, as gold prices were hitting record highs, gold bugs were brimming with I-told-you-so bravado. Not so much now. After topping out at ~\$1,900 per ounce in August 2011, gold prices currently hover 15% lower at ~\$1,600.

Those who buy gold as a hedge against the end of the world should remember that it will end only once, so their timing had better be right. Truthfully, my position on investing in gold has been consistently inconsistent.

Let me make three observations:

First, people often tell me they own gold as a hedge against a falling stock market. Unfortunately, the correlation between stock returns and gold prices is essentially nil. According to Eric Weigel, senior research analyst at the Leuthold Group, a Minneapolis investment research firm, bonds would be a better hedge against a volatile stock market.

Second, gold investors seek protection against inflation. However, the correlation is not as strong as they believe, and there are better inflation hedges than gold. For example, Weigel advises anyone concerned about inflation to invest in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS).

wise as a serpent

My third and final observation is back on the side of the gold bugs. Gold is a hedge against currency devaluation, and this is by far the best rationale to buy it. Weigel said the correlation between the value of the U.S. dollar and gold has been particularly strong over the past two years. "I think going forward, gold will be a good hedge against eroding currencies," he said.

In sum, if the motivation to buy gold is to protect against a volatile stock market or inflation, there are probably some better hedges. If it is to protect a portfolio against eroding currencies, that's not a bad idea, and at least it's based in fact.

Please see these two related Serpent articles:

1. Depression Asset Builders, p. 21
www.levitt.com/newsletters/2009-06.pdf#page=21
2. A Book Review (The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need), p 7
www.levitt.com/newsletters/2008-06.pdf#page=7

Rather than declaring the merits of gold (or the lack thereof), this article's purpose is to stimulate awareness of some key arguments. Please remember Proverbs 16:16 KJV: "How much better to get wisdom than gold, and good judgment than silver!" Since gold isn't edible, most ZLMers would be better served to maintain three days' (or weeks') worth of water and canned food than a stack of coins.





Letters to ZIM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From B.C. (NC): Please use this contribution to help support the *Levitt Letter*. It is refreshing and uplifting to hear world events as they actually are, rather than reports by politicians and news agencies who have their own agenda. Keep up the good work, God bless the USA and God bless Israel!

Thank you for your donation and kind words of support. —Editor

From R.H. (TN): My first experience watching your show. What a refreshing blessing!

From M.Z. (OH): I love the interviews with Christian leaders in the Land. This past series has been a real blessing. I also love Zola's teaching ... please show more!

From D.T. (GA): I love the *Levitt Letter*. I loved Jeff Seif, but I love Myles and Katharine too! Keep up the good work.

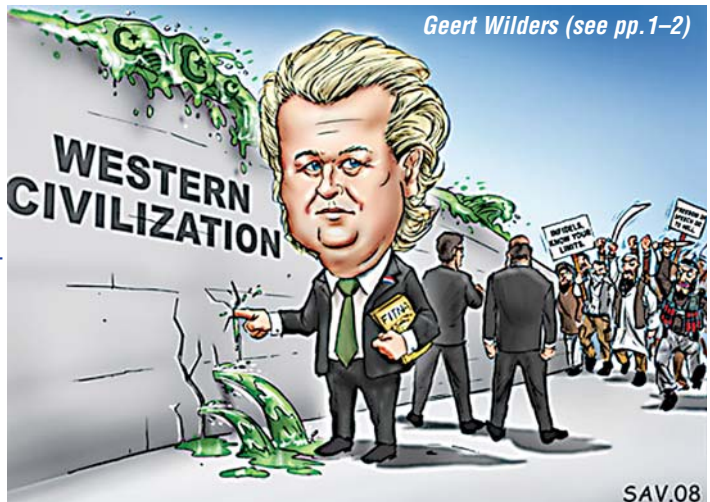
From A.A. (NJ): I would like the *Secrets of the Scrolls* transcript of the DVD as I will be viewing the Scrolls soon in Philadelphia! Also, would you consider putting Zola's music on iTunes? That would allow individuals to order and download immediately to the iPod, etc.

The transcript is available on page 18 of the *Levitt Letter*, under "Books." Your iTunes suggestion is timely. We're already working to put some of our books, TV shows, and music on iTunes and Amazon.com. This will take some work, but stay tuned! Thanks. —Webmaster

From J.S. (FL): I worked with the American Messianic Fellowship in the '70s when Messianic Judaism was in its infancy as far as our generation was concerned. Whenever I caught Zola in a TV program or in a shared prophecy conference, he

always blessed me with his love for Yeshua and his unique insights into the Word and the Jewish mindset.

Thank you for expressing your memories of Zola. I know his family and friends love hearing that he is not forgotten, but remembered fondly by many. —Editor



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From J.S. (CA): I no longer receive your program on TV in my area but catch up on my computer at www.levitt.tv.

From D.P. (FL): I am learning Hebrew and studying the history of where I'll spend 1,000 years. I'm 82 years old and don't know why God waited so long to impress me with this desire. He has a sense of humor.

From S.S. (IL): I like the size of the *Levitt Letter*. I like the science contributions of Israel section. I like the early history of America you have done. I like the cartoons.

From T.B. (FL): Since *Zola Levitt Presents* no longer comes on the TV for my area, I can't record and save your programs anymore. I am unable to purchase the DVDs you offer. My prayers are for you daily. Your comment via email indicates you probably have computer access. **All the programs and all the DVDs** that we sell are available to you for FREE, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week at www.levitt.tv and on your TV via a Roku box (see www.levitt.com/roku). The free programming from this ministry comes from ZLMers who donate regularly to keep the Gospel going out. We also value your prayers. Thanks. —Webmaster

From G.M. (HI): My wife and I are so on board with your ministry that we often wonder how Christians fail to see the living connection between the Jew and gentile. However, we lift in prayer that the Holy Spirit will enlighten them and soon. It will be a magnificent day when all Jews and gentiles are united in Our Lord Yeshua. Amen.—Myles

From C.R. (SC): Yours is the best biblical teaching I have ever heard.

News Sources

J.S. (OR): I get better news from CNN than from ZLM. I'm going with them instead.

N.C. (MN): The *Levitt Letter* is my main source of news about Israel ... and my favorite.

J.P. (MD): Thank you for the *Levitt Letter* each month. I do not read any other newspapers, but when your newsletter arrives, I savor every page and article and cartoon.

Response from Editor: Please don't rely on only one news source, even ours. No one network, station, or publication can do it all. The *Levitt Letter* offers articles from a variety of sources, and biblical analysis of the news. For breaking news and in-depth reporting, log onto our **Levitt Letter Extra News (LLX)** at www.levitt.com/news. You can even "subscribe" for alerts so that when the news hits, it comes right to your email inbox.

NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley



Prison Hebrew Class Update

Dear Myles,

Because of the three Hebrew study books that you sent me last year, our Hebrew class has grown from one to twenty-five students. God bless you and ZLM. —L.D.A. (NV)

One of the most satisfying aspects of this ministry is to hear of spiritual increase in our readers and viewers. Keep on “multiplying” for Yeshua! —Blessings, Myles. Readers who missed L.D.A.’s letter can read it at www.levitt.com/newsletters/2011-07.pdf#page=24



Has the Tribulation Already Occurred?

Dear Myles and Todd,

In the *Levitt Letter* article by Bryan Fischer (July 2012, p. 8), he asserted that all of Matthew 24’s prophecies had been fulfilled by A.D. 70. Is this what ZLM believes? Isn’t this preterism? Isn’t this the opposite of what Zola taught?

Please let me know, for I am highly distraught, disillusioned, and heart-broken if you believe this Replacement Theology. —J.D.

Dear J.D.—

I totally agree with you that the prophecies of Matthew 24 were *not* fulfilled by 70 A.D. The author of this article espouses preterism, as you suggest, and because you took issue with it, a lot of readers just learned what preterism is and to avoid it.

However, I have no problem with the article’s point that the partial blindness over Israel concerning Jesus being the Messiah is lifting; I have seen this myself while sharing the Gospel in Israel for over ten years. The staff here agrees with you that verses 4–51 in Matthew 24 have yet to occur and will happen during the seven-year Tribulation leading to the return of Christ. We selected this article to emphasize the fact that Israel is beginning to see Jesus for who He really is. Even preterists apparently agree on that. —Todd



40th anniversary of the Munich massacre

Fullness of the Gentiles

Dear ZLM,

Was “the fullness of the gentiles” included when all the Tribes of Israel received the Law of God from Moses? Does the Tribe of Ephraim include the fullness of the gentiles? —M.L.

Dear M.L.—

The phrase “the fullness of the gentiles” is found only once in Scripture. Paul uses it in Romans 11:25 referring to the gentile salvation that is predominantly taking place during the Church Age, the current Age. Once all of the gentiles are saved, God will remove the partial blindness that is over Israel concerning Jesus being the Messiah.

This phrase is never used by Moses or in reference to the Jewish Tribe of Ephraim. This Tribe is not gentile, as some claim; it is a Jewish Tribe belonging to the nation of Israel. It has never changed into, nor will it ever become, gentile. (See Ezekiel 48:5–6 for the future restoration of this Tribe to the land of Israel when Messiah returns.) —Todd



More Eschatology (End-Times Events)

Dear ZLM,

Can you please explain to me how Daniel 8:14 should be understood?

One Christian group says that Daniel 8:14 refers to events that happened in 1844 and to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the sanctuary. According to this group, in 1844 Jesus Christ began an “Investigative Judgment.” Is there any basis for this interpretation? —K.M. (ZA—South Africa)

Dear K.M.—

Seventh Day Adventists teach this doctrine, but it is false. Let me explain why. First of all, Daniel in 8:14 is not talking about Christ performing some “investigative atonement” because Jesus died “once, for all.” When we receive His atoning death as payment granting a full pardon from God for our sins, the New Testament says we are forgiven of all trespasses (Colossians 1:21–22; 2:13). There is, therefore, no further need of some deliberation on the matter. The atonement was **finished**, completely and irreversibly when Jesus proclaimed, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

Second, the two thousand three hundred days are *days, not years!* The time period refers precisely to the historical period when Antiochus persecuted the Jews from September 6, 171 B.C. to December 25, 165 B.C. After this evil tyrant’s death, Jews celebrated the cleansing of the Temple with the feast of Hanukkah. Daniel is thus speaking of the time period in which the Maccabean revolt would take place during the 2,300 days. The historical context here in no way applies to Christ’s atonement for the Church! I hope this helps refute the faulty doctrine. —Todd



See related article on p.35.

Letter of Appreciation

Myles,

I enjoy your show; even more, I enjoy your wonderful *Levitt Letter*. I look forward to receiving it each month. I have learned a lot about the Jewishness of Christianity that we don't learn in our churches. Years ago, I would turn on the TV and see Zola's show. I always enjoyed watching him. He was a wonderful teacher, as are you. Thank you for the time and effort you put into your television program and the wonderful news magazine. —S.H. (NC)

It IS a Living Gospel

I bought the DVD *Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People*. Oh my goodness, how much I learned through Katharine and Myles's teaching, the scenes in Israel, and Ari's commentaries of the Land. The study got me so excited that I actually TAUGHT it to the ladies in my church! We had a wonderful time with authentic Jewish food and a wedding ceremony for Ruth and Boaz. The Scriptures came alive for us—ZLM and the Holy Spirit made it all possible. Thank you for serving our Awesome Holy God! —D.C. (IL)

Todah Rabah (many thanks), D.C., for this feedback. Certainly Ruth's story lends itself to teaching in every Age about God's incredible ability to bring us into our destiny. Shalom —Myles

Katharine's Credentials

Dear ZLM,

Is Katharine Weiss actually a "pastor"? —C.W. (GA)

Shalom C.W.—

Katharine is Bible-college trained and functions under my license and ordination as we minister as "one flesh" both in my counseling practice and as teachers of the Word. She is a seasoned minister with much fruit and is often more in demand than I am, especially when people discern her gifting by the Spirit of the Lord. You are wise to check the credentials of your teachers. —Myles



New Faces of ZLM

Dear ZLM,

Since management has changed with Myles and Katharine, there has been a great improvement. Keep up the good work. —F.S.

Dear Myles and Katharine,

Your *Acts: Then and Now* brings me to tears at the end of each episode. Your love of Yeshua melts my heart! —B.G.H.



Dear F.S. and B.G.H.—

Thanks for your encouraging notes about the "Acts" series and our tenure as the new TV hosts of ZLP. It is our joy to be part of this significant ministry, especially as the intensity ratchets up on the world stage. We're praying for even greater ability to expand the ministry and for more Believers to raise their voices on behalf of Messiah and what matters to Him! Blessings, —Myles and Katharine

Anti-Aging Genes Found in Ultra-Orthodox Women



By Dan Even
www.Haaretz.com

Women who give birth after 45 live longer than other women, Israeli researchers have found.

Researchers at Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Karem, found that at least four genes unique to women who conceive naturally after 45 generate an anti-aging effect on those women. The findings were the result of a genetic study of ultra-Orthodox Ashkenazi women from Mea She'arim who have at least six children.

"These findings are unique to Israel; the group of women who give birth at a late age and carry the singular genes could explain the findings," said Neri Laufer, the chairman of Hadassah's obstetrics and gynecology department, who had a leading role in the study. The DNA findings, which were recently reported at a Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society conference, could be the first step toward groundbreaking treatment that could help "rejuvenate the body" of women and men, said Laufer.

"Finding genes identified with the ability to conceive spontaneously at a late age can help us identify more women who carry these genes and are unaware of the possibility of conceiving at a late age," he said. "We also hope it will enable developing medical treatments that activate the genetic quality we identified in other women."

At least four of the genes identified by the researchers as part of a DNA fingerprint allowing women to give birth past 45 were found to inhibit apoptosis, or programmed cell death, generating an anti-aging effect in the women. Three additional genes found in the women are also associated with longevity.

The seven genes were among 60 that distinguished the DNA of women who conceived naturally after 45 from Ashkenazi women of the same age who had their last child by the time they were 30.

Hospital researchers also conducted a study on mice to examine whether certain anti-aging proteins are secreted during pregnancy, making it easier for the body to rejuvenate itself. They found that older pregnant mice—roughly comparable to women in their 40s—recovered from liver damage faster than mice that weren't pregnant.

"They found that pregnancy leads to secreting a protein that enables the liver to recover faster," said Laufer.

"Perhaps exposing older women who have trouble getting pregnant, or even men, to these proteins could rejuvenate the body and enhance its ability to recover at an older age." ★



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Orthodox women try on hats during a designer fair in Jerusalem.

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. In the last issues we looked at Masada, Megiddo, and the caves at Beit Guvrin-Maresha, the City of David, Herodion, and Ramat Rachel. These sites round out the top archaeological destinations:

7. Tzippori

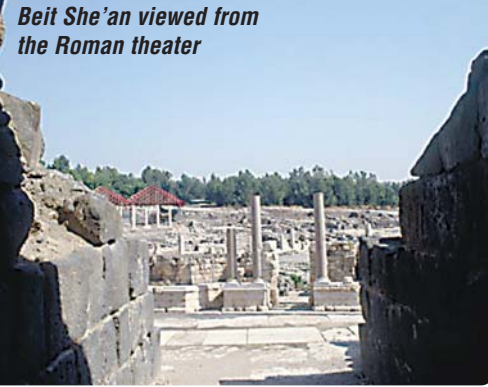
Tzippori (Sepphoris), the traditional birthplace of Mary, was an important scholarly city in the hills of Lower Galilee, west of Nazareth. Herod conquered it in 37 BC, but 33 years later it was destroyed by the Romans following rebellions there. However, Herod Antipas restored it to become "the ornament of all Galilee," and it served as the seat of the Sanhedrin (the Jewish high court) and a preferred residence for Talmudic sages until the mid-fourth century AD.

Site finds: remains of the Crusader church commemorating St. Ann, a Crusader fortress rebuilt in the 18th century, a synagogue with a restored mosaic floor; and a 250-meter-long, first-century AD underground water system.



Mosaic detail from Tzippori

Beit She'an viewed from the Roman theater



thrived there until an earthquake in 749 AD. **Site finds:** an amphitheater where gladiators fought, a Byzantine bathhouse; and the main, colonnaded Paladius Street.

8. Beit She'an

First settled about 5,000 years ago on a fertile mound and like Megiddo to its west, it was once a center of Egyptian rule over Canaan, conquered by King David and later destroyed by the Assyrians.

At the time of Alexander the Great, Beit She'an became a Greek polis with colonnaded streets, temples, theaters, markets, fountains, and bathhouses. Eventually, Jews, pagans and Samaritans lived together there, and grand public buildings went up. Early Christians built churches, and a linen industry

Site finds: a 7,000-seat Roman theater, an

9. Gamla Nature Reserve

Situated in the central Golan Heights, Gamla combines nature and history: It is home to Israel's highest waterfall, a unique number of raptors, and one of the world's most ancient synagogues.

Ancient Gamla was a prosperous Jewish town in the Second Temple Period.

Site finds: a synagogue pre-dating the destruction of the Second Temple, an aqueduct, a ritual bath. A memorial pays tribute to the Golan's first settlers killed in Israel's wars.



An ancient oil press at Gamla



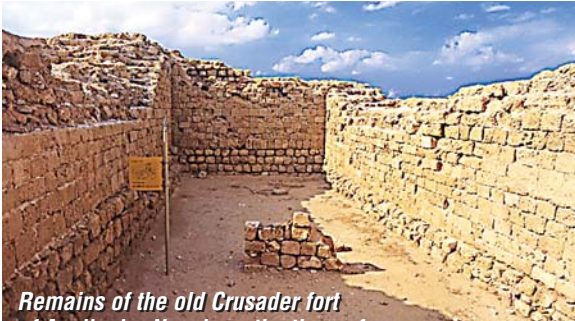
Crusaders' Gold

By Rob Waugh, www.DailyMail.co.uk

A pot of gold from the Crusades worth up to \$500,000 has been found buried in an ancient Roman fortress in Israel. The coins were buried by Christian soldiers of the order of the Knights Hospitalier as the Crusaders faced an unstoppable attack by a huge Muslim army.

The knights were annihilated in April 1265.

The coins—worth a fortune even in 1265 when they were thought to have been buried—were deliberately hidden inside a broken jug to prevent them from being discovered. The fortress was destroyed in April 1265 by forces of Mamluks



Remains of the old Crusader fort of Apollonia. New investigations of the 13th-century layers have yielded hidden treasures.

“The idea was to put something broken in the ground and fill it with sand in order to hide the gold coins within. If by chance somebody were to find the juglet, he wouldn’t excavate it, he wouldn’t look inside it and find the gold coins. Once we started to sift it, the gold came out.”



Ruined fortress offers a unique insight into the lives—and deaths—of the Knights Hospitalier

The Roman fortress in Apollonia National Park has yielded a huge number of archaeological treasures—but scientists excavating layers from the thirteenth century were stunned to unearth a literal pot of gold. The clay container had more than 100 gold coins from the time when the Crusaders occupied the fortress, originally built by the Romans.

The excavations are offering a unique insight into Crusader fortifications in the Middle East. The layer of Crusader artifacts has lain nearly undisturbed since 1265. Muslim Arsuf was conquered by the Crusaders in 1101 and re-conquered by the Mamluks in 1265. The town’s abandonment after its Mamluk destruction led to a unique archaeological setting in which the Crusader layers were left largely undisturbed by later settlement activities. ★

who overwhelmed the Crusaders—and the treasure survived due only to the quick thinking of one of the defenders.

According to Oren Tal of the University of Tel Aviv, the gold was found in a small, partly broken juglet.



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SELECT BRIEFS



A bear at the Ramat Gan Safari licks a popsicle to cool down.



Lemurs beat the heat with popsicles.

Israel's Safari Animals Beat the Heat with Popsicles

By Viva Sarah Press, www.Israel21c.org

As temperatures continue to rise, the animal populations at Israel's zoos are finding it tough to cool down. The Ramat Gan Safari staff came up with a novel way to keep the animals cool: popsicles.

The custom-made popsicles came in three flavors: fruit, fish, and blood. Bears, tigers, monkeys, wolves, lemurs, and penguins clamored for the yummy cool treats as the mercury rose.

And just as humans have preferences, the animals are no less picky. The lemurs prefer sweet, fruit flavor ices while the tigers covet the frozen red meat treats.

Israeli Diva Reaches Out to Iran

By Shlomo Mordechai, *Israel Today*

With war looming between Israel and Iran over the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, one of Israel's top singers, Rita, is reaching out to the Iranian people with the universal language: music. And it just so happens that the language of this music is—Persian!

That is the pop sensation's mother tongue, though she has long since been speaking the holy tongue, Hebrew. She was born **Rita Jahan-Foruz** in Tehran, Iran, 50 years ago. She immigrated to Israel with her family in 1970 at the age of eight, but her mother continued to sing songs in her native Farsi.



The album, *All My Joys*, revives old Persian hits with a Mediterranean-Israeli flavor. In a TV interview, Rita quipped that she'd like to sing a duet with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has threatened to wipe Israel "off the map." "Maybe I can soften him with my feminine charm," she said.

Response from Iranians has been overwhelmingly positive. "Rita, I want one of these concerts in Iran," wrote a fan on YouTube in response to a song posted there. "You are another pride for Iran."

Among the many e-mails she has received from Iran one said: "The beautiful and emotional songs you sing in this time of war, this crazy time of Islamic control, give an overwhelming feeling of closeness and love between the countries of Iran and Israel."

Rita's message of peace transcends national conflicts, and shows that Israelis and Iranians can connect as ordinary people. In a video message to the Iranian people posted on the Persian website of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Rita said: "I hope that we all live alongside each other by dancing and singing because this is what will last." ★



Roots of Tension in the Arab World

By Ido Aharoni, www.NYDailyNews.com

In Syria, body parts are strewn across the streets of Damascus while heart-breaking images—row upon row of children's corpses—flash across the TV screens in our living rooms. In Bahrain, doctors are thrown into jail for treating injured protesters.

In Iran, the mullahs defy international sanctions in an unrelenting quest to achieve nuclear breakout capability—a breakpoint that would undoubtedly set off a nuclear arms race in the region.

Yet, incredibly, 18 months into the Arab Spring, we're still being fed the myth that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the root cause of all instability in the Middle East. Its resolution, we are told, would alleviate all tensions solving the most pressing problems in the region.

Just recently, the brutal Assad regime had the audacity to argue before the UN Human Rights Council that Israel's occupation remains the main obstacle for peace and stability in the region. This from a regime that is running 27 "torture centers" across the country and has slaughtered thousands of its own people in a civil war that can potentially ignite a major conflagration.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is neither the defining issue of the region nor the principal source of Arab discontent.

Considering the 1,300-year-old span and depth of the Sunni-Shiite divide, the century-old Israeli-Arab conflict seems brief by comparison. In truth, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a convenient sideshow to the real problems within Arab societies and an implausible excuse used by Arab dictators who have ill-served the interests of their own populations and are now reaping the consequences of that neglect.

Protesters marching against their own repressive regimes throughout the Middle East are demanding freedom, human rights, and a more equitable distribution of national resources and wealth. More than an Arab Spring, this is a Winter of Arab Discontent: Discontent that is a result of high unemployment rates within societies that are predominantly young (the median age in Egypt is 24).

According to a survey conducted by public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, "Earning a fair wage and owning a home are now the two highest priorities for young people in the Middle East." In short, people would like a job and to be able to put food on the table.

But while it is critically important to bring about a full and fair resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, recent events should serve as a reminder to us all: When discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a regional perspective on the true nature of Arab discontent is imperative. ★

Aharoni serves as Israel's consul general in New York. In 1993–94, he was a member of Israel's team in negotiations with the Palestinians.



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Syrian protesters hurl stones at the Israeli army along the Syria-Israel border last year. Syria's Bashar Assad and others never miss a chance to point the finger at Israel—but the Arab Spring is proof that the Jewish State is not the obstacle to peace and stability.

Amen

By Ludwig Schneider
Israel Today magazine



Though the word “Amen” may be one of the most widespread and commonly used Hebrew words, many people do not know what these three Hebrew letters (*above*)—or aleph-mem-nun—mean. Most people regard “Amen” as simply the final word delivered in a prayer or church service. Thus we have the saying, “As certain as the ‘Amen’ in church.”

By saying “Amen,” one is expressing confirmation, showing agreement with everything that has been said.

Although the “Amen” was a common response in the Psalms, it was not permitted in the hymns sung during the Temple service. Instead of saying “Amen,” praises would be answered with “*Baruch HaShem*/Blessed be His Name.” The purpose of forbidding “Amen” in the Temple liturgy was to emphasize the superior sanctity



“Amen” in song

Later on, God is again identified as the “Amen” in Revelation 3:14, “Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness” (although in this case the reference is to Jesus).

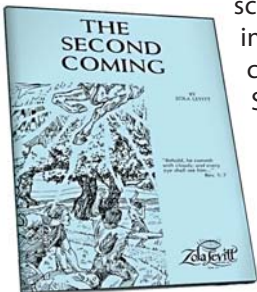
In the New Testament, Jesus begins many sayings with “Amen,” which is translated as “truly” or “verily.” It is a way of affirming that what is being said is true: “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:18). It is a promise sealed with an oath. And Paul writes that “as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen” (2 Corinthians 1:20). “Amen” is not a pious cliché; it originates with God and carries the force of an oath.

Nevertheless, the “Amens” that appear at the end of the Lord’s Prayer and many books of the New Testament were added on later. They do not appear in the original text. ★

The Second Coming Study Booklet

Various theories of the Lord's return and the Kingdom are examined in detail.

Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming and the Rapture of the Church.



Offered on p.18



Biblical Humor

Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked." ■



A cheerful heart is good medicine – Proverbs 17:22



News

A Jewish man sat in the coffee shop reading an Arab newspaper.

A friend approached him and, very upset, asked, "Moshe, have you lost your mind? Why are you reading an Arab newspaper?"

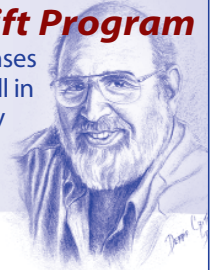
Moshe replied, "I used to read the Jewish newspapers, but what did I find? Jews being persecuted, Israel being attacked, Jews disappearing through assimilation and intermarriage, and Jews living in poverty. I got depressed!

"So I switched to the Arab newspaper. Now what do I find? Jews own all the banks, Jews control the media, Jews are all rich and powerful, Jews rule the world. The news is so much better!" ■



Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

Increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses of processing them, plus save you time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, ZLM will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit/debit 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)
5. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____

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10. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____
11. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th

Africans Choose Israel Over Europe

By Aviel Schneider, *Israel Today Magazine*

"Israel is more attractive than Europe," said Kidana Issar, a 26-year-old migrant from Eritrea. "We can get to Israel faster and more cheaply."

The newcomers are often portrayed as "refugees," but the government says the vast majority are economic migrants seeking work and a higher standard of living than in impoverished Africa. Israeli officials have dubbed them as "infiltrators" who are threatening security, the economy, and the Jewish character of the state.

Even the Eritrean ambassador to Israel, Tesfamariam Tekeste, admitted that the "Eritreans are seeking work and are not really refugees."

Exodus to the Promised Land

It all began in 2005, when the first Sudanese refugees fled the genocide in Darfur and came to Israel. When word reached Africa that Israel was a nearby safe haven, thousands more headed to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and with the help of Bedouin smugglers, crossed the porous border into Israel. Over the past couple of years, the wave has turned into a flood, with 1,000 to 2,000 Africans illegally entering Israel each month. After the grueling trek across the desert, these Africans receive food, water, and medical treatment in Israel.

"Nobody ever treated us as kindly as the Jews in Israel," an Eritrean named Aisha, 32, told us. "Back home, we heard that Israel is a paradise which does not deport refugees."

In the first stage, the migrants fly from various African countries to Cairo. There they meet with Bedouins who, for \$1,000 or more, bring them to the Israeli border.

A Fifth Column?

"These are economic migrants who enter Israel illegally, just as they do in Europe," geography Professor Arnon Sofer said. "As one of the most densely-populated countries with half of it a military zone, Israel cannot take on more people. But Israel became a hit with the Africans. The infiltration through the Sinai is relatively easy, the people are getting humane treatment here, and they are set free on the streets of Israel."

Though most are Muslims, the migrants feel safer in Israel than in Arab countries, where they would be detained and expelled, if not abused. As the only democracy in the region, and with a relatively high standard of living, Israel for these Africans is "the land of milk and honey."



"We chose Israel because people here treat us with dignity," a migrant said. "I heard this from my uncle who fled to Israel six months before I did." But not everyone has such a positive view of the Jewish state. "This country is not yours, it is God's land," Khaled, a Muslim from Sudan, said on Israeli television. "You have no right to decide our fate." Sofer fears a fifth column. "This is dangerous," he says. "The majority of African migrants are Muslims who would take sides with the Arabs in the event of war." ★

Muslims Coming to Christ ... Through Dreams

By Sarah Stegall, www.CharismaMag.com

Christians ministering quietly in the Middle East say Muslims are coming to Christ at an unprecedented pace despite intense persecution of those who leave Islam.

"Probably in the last 10 years, more Muslims have come to faith in Christ than in the last 15 centuries of Islam," said Tom Doyle, of e3 Partners, a Texas-based missions agency. A former pastor, Doyle has been to the Middle East some 80 times, where he said both Muslims and Jews are turning to Christianity.

When more than 200 former Muslims were baptized last year during a training conference in Europe led by Iran-born evangelist Lazarus Yeghnazar, Brenda Ajamian, a former missionary to the Middle East who partners with Yeghnazar's 222 Ministries International, said the event was unlike anything she'd seen during her years ministering in Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

"That many Muslims who converted to Christ in one place boggled my mind because missionaries have worked in the Arab world and Muslim world generally for years and without much fruit," Ajamian said. "God is at work among Muslims."

Ajamian said that particularly in Iran, where the cleric-led government has attempted to quash pro-democracy movements, "People are fed up with the kinds of lives they lead. ... They're turning to Christ even in spite of the very real possibility of persecution and death and imprisonment."

Radio, television, and Internet-based Christian programming have been key in evangelizing Muslim nations. But many Muslim-background Believers have said they came to Christ after having dreams and visions of Jesus.

"I can't tell you how many Muslims I've met who say: I was content. I was a Muslim, and all of a sudden I get this dream about Jesus and He loved me and said, 'Come, follow Me,'" Doyle said.

Doyle notes that the supernatural is an important part of the Islamic faith. Through the course of his life, Mohammed claimed to have had visions and encounters, particularly of the angel Gabriel.



"God is going into their context," said Doyle. But instead of finding guidance from Allah, Muslims are finding Jesus.

Haytham Abi Haydar, pastor of the Arabic Fellowship Alliance Church in Dearborn, Michigan, has also heard of Jesus coming to Muslims in dreams.

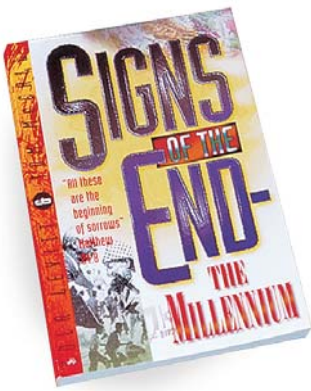
Ajamian said churches of Muslim-background Believers are growing "like wildfire" both in the Middle East and in Europe, which has seen a boom in immigration from Muslim nations.

"The Muslims that are saved ... it's like they can't tell the story fast enough," Ajamian said.

Christians in many Muslim nations can be imprisoned or killed for converting from Islam. But Ajamian said the persecution is a sign that God is answering prayers for the Muslim world. "There's a move of God," she said. "The devil doesn't like it, but there is a huge move." ★



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