

World Must Push Back Against Holocaust Denial

By Rachel Hirshfeld

www.IsraelNationalNews.com

Speaking at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** called on the international community to “act against anti-Semitism,” saying “we must respond when criticism of the Israeli government policy crosses over to anti-Semitism.”

“It’s important to note that every generation produces extremist voices denying that the Holocaust ever happened,” Clinton said. “And we must remain vigilant against those deniers and against anti-Semitism. When heads of state and religious leaders deny the Holocaust from their pulpits, we must not let their lies go unanswered.”

“When we hear Holocaust glorification and public calls to ‘finish the job,’ we need to make clear that violence and bigotry will not be tolerated,” she continued. “And, yes, when

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The Takeover Continues! 28

Iran's President Calls Israel an “Insult to Humankind”

By Rick Gladstone
NYTimes.com



Iran's president fanned the flames of confrontation with Israel again, calling Israel “an insult to humankind” in a speech on the annual Iranian holiday that calls for the Palestinian reclamation of Jerusalem from Israel's control.

The speech by the president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has become known for his baldly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic remarks, came as tensions had been intensifying with Israel, which regards Iran's nuclear program as an existential threat.

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Holocaust Denial continued

criticism of Israeli government policies crosses over into demonization of Israel and Jews, we must push back."

The Secretary of State called for the U.S. to "act before the match is struck," in an apparent reference to Syria and Iran. When a "fire is at full blaze, our actions will be less effective," Clinton added.

"We said 'never again,' but every day we see campaigns of harassment and violence aimed at the destruction of a particular group. This is the definition of genocide," she concluded.

The museum released a recent poll showing that substantial majorities of Americans believe that genocide is still possible and favor implementing policies of prevention. ★

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani Freed! *But Church still suffers persecution.*

By Michael Fletcher www.examiner.com

Update!

Originally sentenced to death for his Christian faith, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani of Iran has been acquitted of apostasy charges and released from custody. After a six-hour hearing in early September, he was released and able to return to his family.

Sources report that, while he was cleared of charges of apostasy, he was charged and convicted of attempting to evangelize Muslims. The sources report that he was sentenced to three years, but credited with time served.

The story of Pastor Youcef has traveled around the Internet, Facebook, and Twitter for months, [see his story at <http://wp.me/pieUD-11a>]. He was arrested in 2009 and charged with apostasy. In 2010, he was sentenced to death and the Supreme Court of Iran upheld the sentence. Islamic sharia law gives an apostate three days to recant.

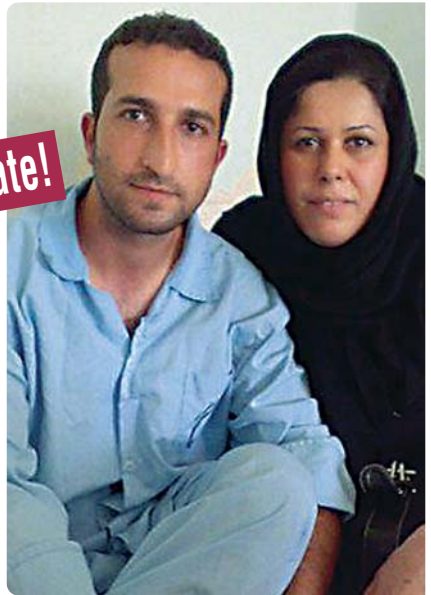
Pastor Youcef stood firm in his belief in Christ and refused to recant his faith.

While Pastor Youcef has been released, in *Commentary* magazine under the title "Nadarkhani Released, but Iranian Christians Still Persecuted," Ben Cohen writes: "We should remember, before we get too carried away with the image of a kinder, softer Iran, that Nadarkhani is not the only Christian who has been imprisoned for his beliefs." ★

This was a classic instance of public pressure assisting the righteous outcome. Many Christians mobilized world opinion on Pastor Youcef's behalf. Messianic Believers need to continue to cover him and his family in prayer as he faces repercussions from vengeful Islamists. —Myles

Americans must embrace the reality of history's lessons and thank God for the opportunity to stand with Israel. —Myles

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...“Insult to Humankind” continued from cover

Speculation has raged in the Israeli press about whether the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to order a military strike on uranium enrichment sites in Iran that Israel suspects are part of a clandestine effort to build nuclear weapons. Iran contends that its uranium enrichment is peaceful.

Ahmadinejad's speech, as reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), added some new and incendiary flourishes to a theme he had pushed for his entire presidency. “The very existence of the Zionist regime is an insult to humankind and an affront to all world nations,” the news agency's English-language report on the speech quoted him as saying. “Confronting Zionists will also pave the way for saving the whole humankind from exploitation, depravity, and misery.”

In another passage, Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying that Jerusalem Day, which the Iranians call Quds Day after the city's Arabic name, was “**an occasion for all human communities to wipe out this scarlet letter, meaning the Zionist regime, from the forehead of humanity.**”

A violently anti-Israel message was also the theme of Jerusalem Day commemorations in Beirut, Lebanon, the home base of Hezbollah, the militant political organization that fought a war with Israel in 2006 and is aligned with the governments of Iran and Syria in what they call the axis of resistance. Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary general, said in a televised speech that its arsenal of missiles trained on Israel included precision-guided rockets that could transform “the lives of hundreds of thousands of Zionists into hell.”

Israel considers Iran its most dangerous adversary because of Iran's suspect nuclear program, missiles capable of hitting Israeli targets, and support for militant Palestinian groups on Israel's borders. Both Ahmadinejad and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have regularly excoriated Israel's existence, but Israel harbors particular antipathy toward Ahmadinejad, who has denied the Holocaust and predicted in a speech early in his tenure that Israel would one day be “wiped off the map.” ★



Jeremiah's View of Iran Informs Our Day

The silence of the world was evident recently when Iran hosted 120 nations in Tehran. The leaders of these “non-aligned” countries sat in quiet agreement while Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei called Israel “bloodthirsty wolves that control the world media.” No one in attendance walked out in protest. Non-aligned ... indeed!

“He who is not for me is against me,” said the King of the Jews (Luke 11:23). Perhaps this also applies to His imperfect chosen brethren. We Believers need to raise our voices in praise, **thanksgiving**, and prayer and make sure we “give Him no rest” (Isaiah 62:7). We need to intercede on behalf of Israel as the world continues to spew hatred against this tiny country.

Can we understand what is coming to Iran in the days ahead? Only by looking at the Scriptures. The media and the headlines see through a glass darkly, and only understand in part what is coming in the Middle East.

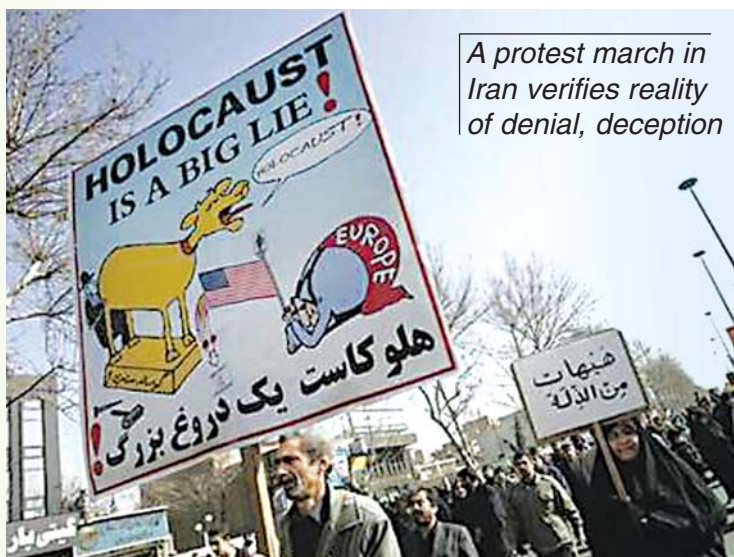
One of the ancient names for Iran is Persia. Another is Elam. Elamite Jews witnessed as the Holy Spirit poured out in Acts 2:9. They were part of that great company that experienced the birth of the Church.

Jeremiah 49:35–39 prophesies concerning Elam. In these verses, Jeremiah declares that the fulfillment of this prophecy will come about in the last days. “Thus says the Lord of hosts [angelic armies], ‘Behold I am going to break the bow of Elam, the chief part of their strength.’” Elamites were renowned archers, and their main weapon was the bow. Today, Iran’s chief weapons are their missiles and launchers, which can reach all of Israel. These are likely the bows of old, reconfigured for our day.

When the Islamic regime took over Iran in 1979, approximately five million Iranians fled their homeland. I grew up in New York with some of the Jews who ran for their lives during that time. Many Iranians are coming to know the Lord in Europe, Canada, and the USA. Katharine and I have ministered alongside some of these amazing, born-again Persians. Their testimony is that after coming to know

Jesus, they supernaturally received a love for Israel and the Jewish people.

Continued next page



A protest march in Iran verifies reality of denial, deception

Myles To Go / By Myles Weiss
A Modern Mordecai Revisits Persia



Hormoz Shariat (the “Billy Graham of Iran”) daily beams the Gospel through satellite TV into Tehran, where people gather in homes to hear him preach the Good News. They respond in droves to become Believers! Knowledgeable sources estimate that there are currently at least a million Believers inside Iran.

God is countering the rising evil in Iran. He overcomes evil with good. Regarding Iran, He says, “I shall set my throne in Elam [Iran] and shall destroy from there the king and princes.”

The time is coming when the Lord will remove the evil leaders of Iran and make Iran a revival center for reaching the Islamic world.

As Israel deals with war, and as America’s (and every nation’s) fate is decided by our decision to stand (or not) with the Jewish people, Believers have a role to play. We can make the effort to turn the course of events through prayer—to agree with the words of Jeremiah.

P.S. My parents named me after my grandfather, Mordecai. God has called me to “seek the good” of the Jewish people. That includes working to see salvation come to the Iranians. ★



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Faces of evil continue to threaten Israel

Stop Trying to Kill Me!

Last month, you read the background for Zola's speech at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. View at link below right. Here's the transcript:

I'm in the Hall of Names right now. There are big volumes here containing sheets of paper—3.8 million sheets of paper—each one the record of a human being. For 30 years they've been collected in an effort to humanize those who perished in this Holocaust. In each box we find a little bit of evidence—where somebody was born, where they were killed, who their parents were. It's an almost hopeless task, maybe a little more than half done. If six million were killed, we're not quite there yet. But they have relatives, friends. You see, they died in such a dehumanized way. Their families were taken away from them. Their possessions were taken away, their jewelry, their clothing. They went into those ovens naked. Even their gold teeth were pulled out for use by the Reich. The hair was taken from women to stuff mattresses. And finally their names were taken away and they were given numbers on their arms—permanent tattoos as if those numbers would have to be used for a long time. Once in a while you do meet somebody these days with his number. Most of those numbers weren't used very long.

This effort to individualize these human beings is a holy effort. Here are documents signed by relatives who looked for a grandfather, a mother. Some of my family is in here. It would be hard for me to find them because my name is so common. Halevi, the Levite. You say Levitt because it sounds very American, but my name is Zelig Halevi—Zola, the Levite. Hundreds of thousands of my relatives are in here. My father came from the old country. He came before the Holocaust. Thank God for that. He came from Latvia. A lot of people were lost in Latvia, among them my father's father. He was a shoemaker and that's what I know about him. He was a shoemaker named Mr. Halevi.

I can't find my people but I can find someone else's people here. Let's look into one of these boxes. I'm afraid a lot of people share a box here, a little like the way they died. Here's somebody, a little girl. Her name—Elitzke. Her father's name was Abraham, her mother's name was Flora. She died in Auschwitz in 1944. She was born in 1938. So was I.

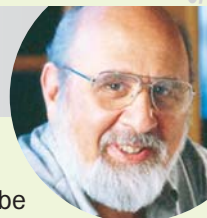
It brings up the whole subject of anti-Semitism. I don't know if you know it, you who are faithful viewers of the TV program, but I get an awful lot of anti-Semitism. One day I opened an envelope and the paper inside had just three words: "You stink, Jude." Not "Jew" but "Jüde"—J-Ü-D-E—the German spelling with the umlaut over the U, the two dots, so I'd get it clearly that I'm

Yad Vashem—Hall of Names



Classic Zola: 1982—30 years ago

Zola's 1982 speech at Yad Vashem



hearing from a Nazi. And we've got some Nazis in America. Oh, they're pantywaists compared to the originals. Nothing much to be afraid of. But how disgusting to think that they're among us.

Well, I want to tell you something while I'm here. Don't try to kill me again. Don't try to kill me again! Not because now I'm armed and ready, but because it's wrong. Pharaoh killed me—he took my people in slavery. Nebuchadnezzar killed me—he threw down my Temple of God and took away my people of Judah in captivity.

"Don't try to kill me again."

Antiochus killed me—he put a Greek statue in my Temple and he sacrificed a pig on my altar. Titus killed me—he threw down my Second Temple. He burned my Holy City. He dispersed my people throughout the world. The Muslims killed me—they put their shrine on my land, on my Temple site. The Crusaders killed me—they came carrying crosses to teach me peace. They pushed my people into wooden synagogues and burned them to the ground. The inquisitors killed me—slowly, with the rack and the torch. The Turks killed me—they came here to Israel. They plowed seawater into the Valley of Sharon. They desecrated my land. The British killed me—they wouldn't let me come back, after this! When I survived this Holocaust and came here in ships, they sank in the harbors before they would let me back into my land. And now the PLO wants to kill me.

Well, let me ask you something. What have we done? Do you remember us attacking anyone? Do you remember us persecuting anyone? We have a longer history than any of you—not "longer" but ten times as long, twenty times as long! We have a pretty good record, except they keep coming to kill us.

Don't do this anymore.

Remember what they did to us. We came here personally to show it to you so you would remember. For God's sake, let my people go.

And *Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim*, pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

www.levitt.tv/media/watch/090
(The speech occurs at
19:35–27:27 minutes.)

Memorial to Janusz Korczak (author, doctor, and educator), who cared for orphaned Jewish children and went with them from the ghetto, to the concentration camp, and into the gas chamber rather than terrify them with the knowledge of what was to happen to them.



Hanukkah [Dec. 8–16]

Leviticus 24:1–4 The Lord Adonai said to Moses, “Order the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from crushed olives for the light, to keep lamps burning always. Outside the curtain of the testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron is to arrange for the light to be kept burning always from evening until morning before Adonai; this is to be a permanent regulation through all your generations. He is always to keep in order the lamps on the pure menorah before Adonai.”

This fall, I have described for you the Lord’s Feasts of *Rosh Hashanah*, the start of the Jewish new year; *Yom Kippur* and its solemnity; and *Sukkot* with its thankfulness for shelter. Now we celebrate freedom of worship with the *Hanukkah* holiday. This year it begins on the evening of December 8 and is observed until sundown on December 16.

Hanukkah dates back to the year 175 B.C. when the Greco-Syrian emperor Antiochus IV ruled Judea (a part of Israel). He decreed that the Jews were to worship pagan Greek gods; they were also commanded to consider Antiochus a god. In the Temple in Jerusalem—the heart and soul of Judaism—Antiochus placed his idols and pigs’ blood as sacrifices on the altar, extinguishing the light of the menorah. [Continued next page](#)

See *The Feast of Lights* DVD offer on page 20



Shalom from Sandra

Celebrate the Light of the World!



Our hero Mattathias Maccabeus and his son Judah (the Hammer) battled for three years before taking back Jerusalem, driving Antiochus back to Syria, and reclaiming the Temple. However, when they entered the Temple, they found utter filth and defilement.

After cleaning the Temple and building a new altar, they found enough oil to light the menorah for one day. They filled the menorah and lit it—thankful for even one day—and began the eight-day process of preparing and sanctifying oil for the menorah. Yet, each evening when they lit the menorah, it stayed lit ... and did so for the eight days until the new oil was ready. A great miracle happened here!

By tradition, we eat food fried in oil during the Hanukkah season.

I become a regular at the local donut shop, getting a jelly-filled goodie each day for eight days. Jelly donuts beckon me as do Hanukkah potato *latkes* (pancakes). Best ever latkes are at the Quarter Cafe in Jerusalem. I also light my Hanukkah menorah, technically called a *hanukkiyah*. Its eight candlesticks (because the oil burned eight days) outnumber the six on a regular menorah. Each menorah has a *shamash* (servant of Adonai) candle in the center. On the first night of Hanukkah, I place a candle in the farthest-right candleholder, then light it with the *shamash*, and leave it lit for at least thirty minutes. The second night, I place another candle in the holder to the left of the first one, light it, and then light the first one, and so on for eight nights. Place the candles right to left, and light them left to right.

The miracle of Hanukkah lies in the testimony of Adonai's power and in the story of a small army of men who fought for their religious freedom. May it ever be!

Blessings,
Sandra



Tomatoes and the Promises of God

BY OUR MAN IN HAIFA: Eitan Shishkoff, tents-of-mercy.org

Israel is known for its lush fruits and vegetables. It's the land of milk and honey, right?

But Israel shares the agro-economic challenges of all industrial countries that must market their produce. Next to a large photo of beautiful red tomatoes fresh from the vine, Israel's best-selling newspaper reported this fall a dramatic price increase in the popular tomato and other often-used veggies. Just this year, tomato prices rose 100% since May and 300% since March!



**Price up
100% since May,
300% since
March!**

This basic food cost, along with significant hikes in gas (now 3rd highest in the world), defy most Israeli budgets. Our average income is simply not able to keep pace with the rapidly rising prices of goods and services. Is this any different from Greece, Zambia, Ecuador, the Philippines, or the United States? In one sense, no. The entire world is pulling itself out of economic woes.

What makes Israel different is the promise of prosperity—made by Almighty God—to be experienced when we Jews return from exile.

"This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden ... Then the nations ... shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate" (Ezekiel 36:35, 36).

Well, we've returned from exile. And even

with the price increases, the country is not doing badly. In the categories of investments, startup companies, and inflation rates, Israel is remarkably healthy. With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and startups, Israel has the highest concentration in the world of such enterprises though it is the hundredth-smallest country. Only the Silicon Valley in California has drawn more venture capital funds. Israel is #2

in the world! Outside the United States and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies. This small nation has made an astounding mark on the world economy and applied technology.

"A mixed bag"

So, what are we to say about the disparity between the promised robust national economy

and the pain in the pocketbook?

Israel has yet to enter its fullness as the resurrected nation God promised.

We are a mixed bag. There's good news, and then there's not-so-good news when you look at the deep sins and corruption in high places. Bottom line? It's time for us Believers to intercede for a widespread revival and a turning to the righteous reign of God and His Messiah, as foretold by Israel's prophets.

We are blessed to have Eitan and his team on the frontline/finish line with up-to-date eyewitness reports. The Messianic community is the first fruits of resurrection life that will continue to increase until Yeshua comes! —Myles ★



Eitan and Connie Shishkoff

Ask The Chaplain

BY DR. TODD D. BAKER: ZLM Staff Theologian



Q. Question from J.B. (PA):
Hello—Shalom! Peace, love,
and blessings to you in Our
Lord Jesus Christ!

I feel that we (the grafted vine) have lost something by not celebrating our adopted Jewish heritage and traditions, and I desperately want the fullness of what God has for all of His children. However, I have been told that as part of the grafted vine, I should not celebrate the Jewish observances, nor do I have a right to do so. I love my Christ. He is Jewish. He is Christian. He is mine. I want to share in all of Him. It is obvious that the New Testament Church observed all the celebrations of the roots of our faith. I also understand their desire to remove stumbling blocks for new Believers. But I want that fullness for my child, for my husband, for our family. Where do we fit in as Believers?

Also, I have been trying to understand the Catholic concept of petitioning Mary and the saints for additional prayer. I understand the Jewish position from Deuteronomy 18:11, 12 and Ecclesiastes 9:5 that the dead are dead. However, on the cross, Jesus did tell the thief that surely on that day they would be together in paradise; so apparently when we pass, we are still alive. But, I cannot connect with the concept of prayer to the saints or Mary—only to God through Christ, as Jesus would come in our place before God in supplication for us. Jesus told us how to pray, and He did not indicate that we should pray to Mary or to the “saints” or anyone else for prayer.

The Catholic would say, however, that as we ask each other to pray about situations, we should ask those who are alive in Christ to pray as well.

What is your position on this?

Your teaching has been a great blessing. Thank you kindly for your time and concern for me. God bless us ... and I do pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

A. Sandra’s articles on observing the Lord’s Feasts and traditional Jewish Holy Days (see *Levitt Letter* issues from March, April, May, September, October, and page 8 of this issue) should help you feel comfortable celebrating as a grafted-in branch. None of it affects your salvation; none of it is required anymore. But they are lovely traditions to create family memories of respect for the Jewish culture.

Nowhere does Scripture bid us to ask the dead to pray for us. This kind of action falls under the practice of necromancy (any attempt to communicate with the dead) and is condemned throughout Scripture (Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; Deuteronomy 18:11; Isaiah 8:19).

Neither prayers to the dead nor praying for the dead was ever sanctioned by the Lord or the Apostles, nor is the practice found in the early Church. This is a vain tradition which contradicts what the Bible teaches. ★

THE ARGYLE SWEATER

By Scott Hilburn



The Mystery of God

The more time Myles and I spend in ministry, the more I become aware of the mysteries of God. The Creator is so awesome that any human attempt to understand Him inevitably concludes that He is beyond our comprehension. We find ourselves face to Spirit with His mysterious nature. When He reveals something of Himself, we call the insight revelation. The Greek word *mysterion* (mystery) is not something unknowable. Rather, it is what can only be known through revelation.

However, in the Hebrew Scriptures (*Tanach*), when Yahweh reveals something of Himself, it is called a secret, from the Hebrew word *cowd*, meaning secret or intimate counsels. He allows us to see into His person most clearly through Jesus. The New Testament discusses 22 mysteries. For example, Ephesians 3:3 talks about the mystery of the one new man described in Ephesians 2:15, and Ephesians 5:31–32 speaks about the mystery of the Bride of Christ.

We love to stop on our Israel pilgrimage at The Temple Institute. There, zealots are gathering and fabricating all the materials needed for the next Temple. One docent sparked our curiosity when she told us that the ancient harp had 22 strings. She asked our group when the number appears in Hebrew or Israeli life. The group was silent and finally Myles spoke up. In the Hebrew alphabet—the “aleph-bet”—there are 22 letters! Each corresponds to a string, allowing the Levites to communicate divinely with one another musically. What a mystery! Unfolding before us, the music of the spheres invades the realm of humanity. No wonder music is such a vital part of our life of faith! Praise is the door through any circumstance, and is the highway through our troubles. “Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” (Isaiah 61:3)

We could spend our entire lives studying theology and never take all the mystery out of God. While He is gloriously predictable in keeping His promises, He is also stunningly unpredictable in *how* He keeps them. The word

“In the Hebrew alphabet—the “aleph-bet”—there are 22 letters! Each corresponds to a string...”



By Katharine Weiss
Zola Levitt Presents co-host



is clear; He pursues us but His ways are beyond anticipating. The patriarchs suffered through delays in their lives—think about the promise of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah—or seemingly human interferences, such as Joseph’s brothers throwing him into the pit, which brought him to prison, which eventually brought him into the palace. We are on a journey to know God and His plan for our lives and it causes us to depend on Him and trust Him in order to see His plans unfold in our lives. If we are able to keep our heart fixed on the fact that God works all things together for good (Romans 8:28) in spite of setbacks that happen in our lives, He will—through the *mystery* of His plan—bring us through to His purpose. ★



Messianic Speakers Available

Myles and Katharine are available to teach in your church. Topics include the Jewish Feasts, the continuing significance of Israel in prophecy, the Jewish roots of Christianity, and more. Invite them for a weekend, and they can add a marriage seminar to the Bible teaching of your choice. Please contact our office at speakers@levitt.com or call (214)696-8844 to invite the Weisses to your church.



Abraham & Sarah en route to fulfill their destiny. Scene from *Abraham* TV series (see p.17)



Proclaiming the Gospel to Jerusalem's Poor

BY DR. TODD D. BAKER: ZLM Staff Theologian



On *Shabbat* (Saturday Sabbath) in Jerusalem, Robert Williams and I walked down an empty side street and spotted a dejected, haggard street person. He had a plastic cup into which people had dropped coins. His two pet ducklings and canary caught our attention. We dropped ten shekels into his cup. **Igor** (*below*) emigrated from Russia several years ago, and was now a down-and-out, unemployed street person.

Like Jesus, we are sent by the Lord to preach the Gospel to the poor (Luke 4:18). Igor listened as Robert and I told him of the great hope for those who trust what Yeshua did for the salvation of sinners. As Igor listened to our Gospel message, his saddened countenance seemed to lift and his physical frame to renew (Hebrews 12:12–13). Robert and I concluded our witness by giving Igor the complete Jewish Bible. In it, the Messiah is prophesied and then revealed in Yeshua—"a gift more precious than the ten shekels we gave you" (Acts 3:6). Igor was visibly touched and invigorated. As we walked away, he was already looking through the Scriptures and the Messianic Gospel tracts from this ministry.

Later that evening, Robert and I sat with a pilgrim from Zola Tours at a table in the courtyard of the kibbutz where we were staying. We quietly discussed God's special relationship with Israel and the need for that nation to see from Scripture the proof it gives certifying Yeshua as the Messiah.

In the middle of our discussion, an Israeli Jewish woman—**Leat**—approached from a nearby table, asking to learn more about Yeshua and what the New Testament says about Him! Stunned by her bold curiosity—and impressed that the Holy Spirit had aroused her interest—we eagerly talked with her for almost an hour explaining God's plan for Israel and making the case from the *Tanach* (Old Testament) for Jesus being the Messiah. She had many questions about Jewish belief in Jesus as Messiah and about the eyewitness reports written about Him in the New Testament. I told Leat how Yeshua had intervened in my life, revealing His resurrecting glory and calling me to tell His people Israel about God's everlasting love for them.

We connected for her the Gospel as foretold in the *Tanach* with its full realization in Yeshua's life, death, and resurrection as recorded in the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament). We felt a powerful anointing as we presented the Gospel, and afterward, Leat accepted our gift of the *Tanach* and *B'rit Hada-shah* in one volume. We also gave her study material that explains how Yeshua the Messiah is present in both Testaments. Leat left with the knowledge that the New Testament is not a product of the gentile world but written by *Torah*-believing Jews who recognized Yeshua as the Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. For them, believing in Him was preeminently and primarily Jewish. It still is! ★



Leat had many questions about Jewish belief in Jesus as Messiah.

ZLM Bulletin Board

Israel/Palestinian Conflict

For a six-minute history lesson on the "Peace Process," please watch the video with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister **Danny Ayalon** at <http://wp.me/pieUD-164>. Then you'll be able to answer the following True/False questions and many others:



- 1)** In 1947, the United Nations recommended a partition of Israel that gave the Arabs much more than just the West Bank, but the Arab League declined. **2)** The PLO was chartered in 1964 primarily to "liquidate the Zionist presence in Palestine." **3)** Israel took over the West Bank in a war of self-defense in 1967. **4)** The decades of conflict were not caused by Israel's presence in the West Bank.

Note: you may also want to review "Ten Facts about the West Bank" on page 30 of last month's *Levitt Letter*.



(See page 25
for ABC Family
time change on
Sun. Nov. 18)

Global Jewish Population

One of 514 people on Earth is Jewish—that's 13.75 million of more than seven billion. The Chosen People amount to less than 0.2% of mankind. Their population growth of 0.65% is well below the world average of 1.26%.

Israel has 5.97 million Jews, which is 43% of the global total. The U.S. has 5.46 million, accounting for another 39%. Europe has 1.43 million, or 10%, which leaves 8% for the rest of the world. In the U.S., more than 50% of Jews who married in the last year chose non-Jewish partners, while the figure in Russia was closer to 75%. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/d7rjz5c>

Pamphlet of the Month

**"Is Your Will
Obsolete?"**

Free Item

Contemplate your answer to this important question.

Our featured stewardship pamphlet begins with four examples of how wills can become just as obsolete as yesteryear's technology: with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. The pamphlet also discusses four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, and residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



Thank You for Your Giving Spirit

We appreciate our caring donors! Your generous gifts make it possible for us to provide Bible teaching in many forms to multitudes of viewers, readers, Web surfers, etc. It is time that our ministry acknowledge specific levels of support, and we hope you will prayerfully consider reaching for the next level of giving per year.

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"Come Home!"

**Zola
Tours to
Israel:**



**See page
36 for details**



Hebrew Lesson



The Great Hope of Zion

By John J. Parsons

כִּי אֱלֹהִים יוֹשִׁיעַ צִיּוֹן

For God will save Zion... (Psalm 69:35)

כִּי	אֱלֹהִים	יוֹשִׁיעַ	צִיּוֹן
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)
ki	E-lo-him	yo-shi-a	tzi-yon
for	God	will save	Zion

The word “Zion” is mentioned over 160 times in the Scriptures. That’s more than the words faith, hope, love, and countless others. And since Zion is a poetic form of the word Jerusalem, the number of occurrences swells to nearly 1,000! Since it’s the most frequently occurring place name in all the Scriptures, it’s no overstatement to say that *God Himself is a Zionist*: “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth” (Psalm 50:2). “The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, O City of God” (Psalm 87:2-3).

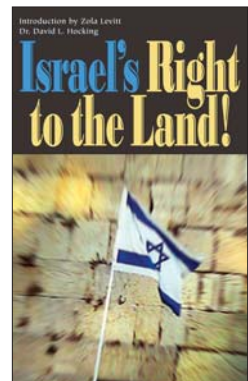
Tragically, many of today’s church leaders regard the ideal of Zion and its great hope as something “quaint,” perhaps even a little bit naive. Many of today’s Evangelical teachers, for example, seem to regard the reestablishment of the modern State of Israel as an historical accident, without any theological significance. They do not regard the Jewish people’s regathering to their ancient homeland as a *miracle*, nor do they regard it as a sign that we are beginning to see the prophesied period known as *acharit hayamim*—“the End of Days” (Deut. 28:64; 30:3-5).

Zion represents the rule and reign of God in the Earth and is therefore synonymous with the Kingdom of God. The entire redemptive plan of God—including the coming of the Messiah Himself and our very salvation—is wrapped up in it (1 Pet. 2:6). It is the “historiography” of God—His philosophy of history, if you will. And this perhaps explains why the world system (and its agency, the devil) routinely mischaracterizes and condemns “Zionism” as a form of racism or injustice.

Friends, how can we forget Zion, “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 12:22)? Is she not “our mother” (Gal. 4:26)? **Are we not her citizens, indeed, her exiles in this age?** ★

Israel’s Right to the Land! **Re-released!**

Just as its title implies, this booklet answers head-on the question, “What right does Israel have to its land?” Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel’s Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all. Let’s spread the Word on who owns the Land (“from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates” Gen 15:18) by divine right!
(Order on page 18)



Abraham: Father of Faith

This eight-part series tells the story of the patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities illustrate the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.

The Calling God chooses Abram from the idol-worshiping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the Ages.

A Man of Altars Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

God-initiated Covenant God makes a covenant with Abram. Myles interviews Itamar Marcus whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the message in Arab-language media and schoolbooks.

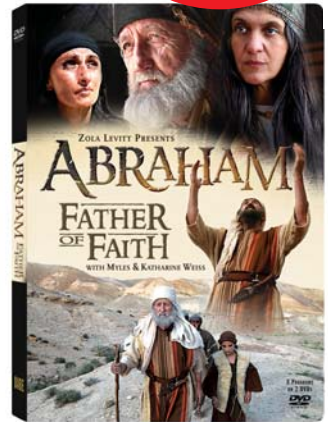
A Domestic Conflict for the Ages Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

The Promised Son Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot. Katharine interviews Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born Jewish interpreter of Arabic-language media.

Deliverance and Increase Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. Myles interviews Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

Circumcision as a Forever Sign God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. Former mayor of Shiloh David Rubin explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.

The Sacrifice Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come. We interview a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.



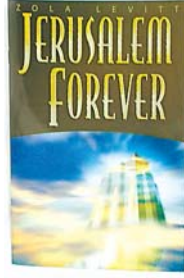
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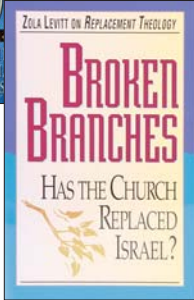
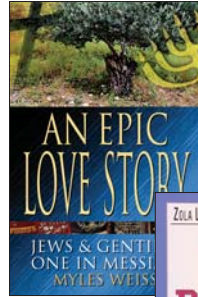
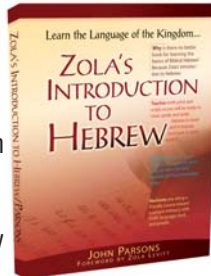
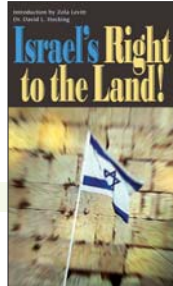


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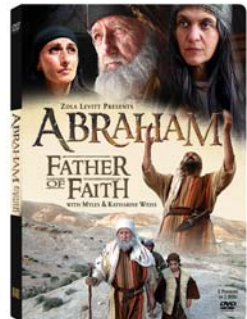
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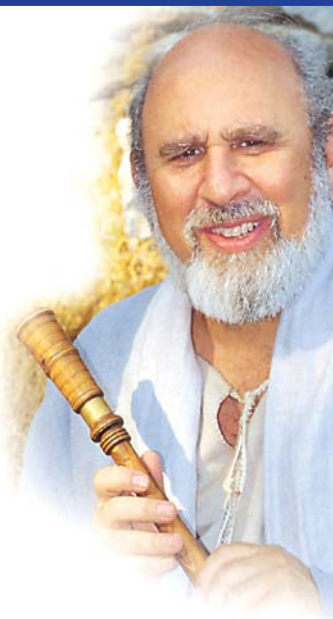


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Zola, Jeff, Myles & Katharine on DVD

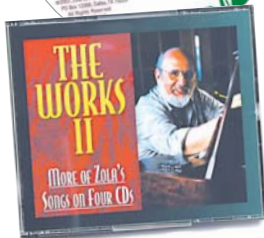
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Music CDs: Hear samples at www.levitt.com

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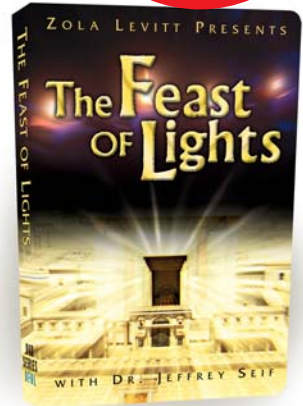
ZLM Store

**FEATURED
ITEM**

The Feast of Lights

Three 30-minute programs on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have massed and threatened the Jews with extinction. However, in every generation, God provided a leader who would shine the Light of God's faithfulness. Hanukkah—the Jewish Feast of Lights—harks back to a time before Christ when a cruel, anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's Deliverer arose, lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. From generation to generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



The Story of Hanukkah

Dr. Jeffrey Seif sets up the story of Hanukkah wherein the abominable Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many throughout history have sought to destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." Also, we learn about harvesting the olive oil and its importance to the golden Menorah, which resided in the Holy Place.

The Light of the World

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world." Speaking from the Messianic synagogue Baruch HaShem, Jeff explains the significance of light to the celebration of Hanukkah as well as its prophetic image of Jesus Christ. Jeff interviews Rabbi Martin J. Waldman about the increase of Messianic Jews in the world today, and we see a timely interview with Zola and Messianic Believer Simcha Davidov.

The Feast of Dedication

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled first by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, as well as the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and don't miss a heartfelt interview in which Zola and Jean Rosenberg look at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today. (*See related article p.8*)

*Please order
DVD from
p.18*



Canaries in the Coal Mines

A NOTE FROM MARK: By Mark Levitt

Ann Barnhardt resembles no canary I've ever seen. Anyone not knowing her might characterize her as a willowy wisp, probably in her early 30s. She dresses stylishly and poses with a pink assault rifle that has hearts on its gun clip. She openly disdains lily-livered political correctness in politicians who exhibit amnesia regarding the U.S. Constitution.

"Jihad works both ways," Ann declares in the context that Christians deserve just as much freedom of religion as anyone—including "muzzies." She's had her fill of threats, you see, from the religion of perpetual rage. Ambassadors and missionaries, like women and children, are optimal targets for cowards, aren't they?



Her website at <http://barnhardt.biz/contact.cfm> gives Ann's home address, telephone number, and directions to where she lives. She publicly invites radical "muzloids" to "come and get me, boys. But I'm not going to lie down for you."

The First Amendment protects offensive behaviors such as desecrating our nation's flag, burning the Holy Bible, and, in "art" and plays like *Corpus Christi*, mocking Jesus by portraying Him as a homosexual. Ann, however, is infuriated by the double standard

that Americans like Ambassador Chris Stevens become fair game whenever a loose cannon burns a Koran or makes an unflattering movie trailer like *Innocence of Muslims*.

Ann took it upon herself to use bacon to bookmark the Koran's most violent and perverted passages. Then she tore them page by page from the book and burned them individually prior to igniting the whole book (see video link below). Maybe her days are numbered. However, she has ranted about radical Islam for years and no terrorists have dared to become sufficiently offended to target her. Either that or she has made them disappear.

Because canaries are more sensitive to carbon monoxide than humans, they die sooner than coal miners when oxygen levels fall, thereby warning when the coal mine's air becomes unsafe. Ann is arguably a canary for American Christians in that, so long as she survives, you and I have yet to be assassinated like ambassadors and missionaries in Muslim theocracies.

This ministry is also a canary in a coal mine since our survival and the work we do depend on adequate "oxygen"—sufficient numbers of pro-Israel, two-Testament Believers who uphold our Bible teaching enough to pray for us and regularly support us. Since you appreciate our efforts enough to be reading this *Levitt Letter*, I need to tell you that we must receive more support to thrive in the coal mine that our society has become. With your help, Myles, Katharine, and I can continue serving as beacons—to Believers and unbelievers alike—that there's Good News even as the end draweth nigh. (Luke 21:28)



ANN BARNHARDT burns a Koran that is bookmarked with bacon strips:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRQ3X4N1vmc





Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From D.E.W. (FL): Myles's writing is not only clear and concise, but is so full of love that it often brings tears to my eyes.

From E. and V. K. (PA): Zola was right: "the answers *are* in the back of the Book." Funny how we can read the Bible and think we understand until we listen to your messages and realize how much of the reading we didn't understand until you explained it!

From Rev. S.P. (New Zealand): I get incredible knowledge, insight, and inspiration from your *Levitt Letters*, broadcasts, and materials. I really appreciate Zola Levitt Ministries. Myles, you are a true servant of Adonai. God be gracious to you. [Dear D.E.W., E. and V. K., and Rev. S.P. —A collective blessing to you for your kind words about our writing and ministry. Thank you all for the feedback. May He continue to bless you through ZLM. —Shalom, Myles and Katharine](#)

From R.R. (NC): I will always regret missing the opportunity to see Zola when he was here with us—I discovered this ministry after Zola went home to the Father. But I am pleased to have his presence in his divine music and teachings. All God's best blessings be upon you.

From S.D. (TX): I just finished reading the September *Levitt Letter* and was especially blessed after listening to Lieutenant Colonel Shai Abramson sing in Hebrew the "Prayer for the State of Israel." (<http://wp.me/pieUD-1n3>) Thank you for including it on your Bulletin Board. God bless all of you at ZLM.

From Rev. M.D. (TX): We plan to use your DVD series *Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People* for a study in our church. I'm sure they will love it as my wife and I did. Thank you.



"UH-OH.... RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! LOOKS LIKE HE GAVE THAT ONE TWO THUMBS DOWN!"

Scholarly Questions—and Answers

Dear Todd,

The gentile survivors of the Tribulation will be judged (Matthew 25:31–46). When Jesus refers to His brethren, is He referring to the Jewish people only or also to the saved gentiles?

I understand that at the end of the Tribulation, the Jewish people will be judged separately. What verses mention this? Does this judgment of the lost Jewish people take place in Israel, or some other land?

Where is the valley of Jehoshaphat; and what is its significance? Thank You. —M.C.



Dear M.C.—

The “brethren” in this Matthew passage likely refers to the 144,000 Jewish Believers and Evangelists who survive the Tribulation period. The nation of Israel will indeed be judged separately from the gentile nations.

Please see the prophecy of Ezekiel 20:33–44 where the Messiah, as Israel’s Good Shepherd, will purge Israel when the complete return of Jews to Israel occurs at the Second Coming.

There are two possible locations for the Valley of Jehoshaphat: Some believe it is the Valley of Kidron in Jerusalem or the Valley of Armageddon in northern Israel. Wherever it is located, the valley will play a geographical role during the battle for Jerusalem and Armageddon when the Lord Jesus returns to rescue Israel and secure the Holy Land for His Millennial Kingdom. —Todd

To The Jew First Mission Outreach

Shalom to everyone at ZLM and the Jews in Israel listening to Pastor Todd.

We are very thankful for your outreach in that special Land, for your dedication and perseverance. May Yahweh behold all that you do to add blessings to yours. —Shalom Rabah, B. and N.P. (WA)

Dear B. and N.P.—

Thanks for the kind words. Please continue to ask the Lord to provide the funds, Bibles, and Gospel tracts so we can continue our schedule of taking the Good News of Yeshua as Messiah back to His people in Israel three times a year. We are one of only a few ministries doing this on a continual basis. Blessings in Jesus the Messiah —Todd.



Dear B. and N.P.—

Thanks for your special acknowledgment of our “To the Jew First” ministry. Todd and his team continue to bring the Good News to the Jewish people and all who will listen in Israel. Certainly, *Sar Shalom* (the Prince of Peace) is the answer for the Middle East. You can support these efforts by designating a donation for this part of our ministry. In so doing, you share in the reward of turning souls to the Lord! —Shalom, Myles

Where Was Israel?

Dear ZLM,

When and how did the original dispersion of the Jews happen? Was there no Israel after the dispersion until 1947? Thanks for answering.

—D. and K.S.

Dear D. and K.S.—

Historically, the Jewish people of Israel dispersed twice. The first—a two-parter—occurred with the northern Kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C. by the Assyrians, followed by the dispersion of the rest of the Jews by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The second and most recent dispersion occurred in 70 A.D. by the Romans. Israel as a people and ethnic nation continued in a scattered state as Bible prophecy repeatedly indicates (Deuteronomy 30; Isaiah 11:11-12; 49; Ezekiel 36, et al.). —Todd

Jesus Was a Jew!

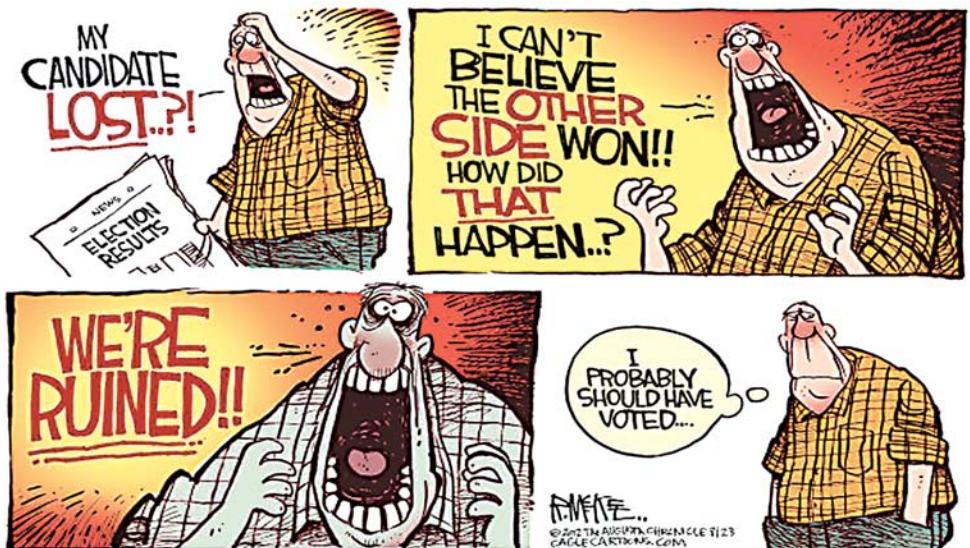
He was indeed!

Dear Todd,

We went to Israel and ... surprise; we found out that Jesus was a Jew. Back at home, we started asking questions and got involved with a small Messianic congregation here. I have been hearing a debate about one law or two laws. It seems the more I read, the more muddled I get. You are so good at explaining biblical issues: could you please shed some light on this subject so we don't get off on some kind of unnecessary teaching? My husband and I want to do what pleases God. —R. and P.A.

Dear R. and P.A.—

The Bible clearly states there is one God, and one way to Him—through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6). There are not two different ways to salvation, one for Jew and another for gentile. All must come to God through Messiah Jesus (See Acts 4:12 where Peter addresses the Jews on this matter and Acts 10:43 where he says the same thing to gentiles). The Law was given to show us that we are sinners, both Jew and gentile, and it serves to point us to the way of salvation from its condemnation. The Law leads both Jew and gentile to the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 1-3; Galatians 3:19-25). It's that simple. —Todd



Which Bible?

Dear ZLM,

Could you share what Bible Myles Weiss reads from? Likewise, Katharine's as well. —Blessings, A.R.

Dear A.R.—

Katharine and I both use the New KJV for a basic Bible. I also use David H. Stern's *Complete Jewish Bible*; for Hebrew, I use a downloaded program from HebrewWorld.com. —Myles

Trying to Love Muslims

Dear ZLM,

Please cancel the free subscription. We are fighting a war on sin and your magazine makes it harder to love Muslims.

Mr. and Mrs. M.M. (TX)

Dear Mr. and Mrs. M.M.—

We try to separate our genuine love for the Muslim people from our grave concern about the Islamist ideology and agenda. It's a version of "love the sinner, but hate the sin." In His infinite sense of humor and irony, God has had me personally co-labor with and support Arab-Christian ministries and former Muslims. Here's hoping you overcome your difficulty in loving Muslims.

—Myles



Believers need to pray for the children of Muslims—those innocents who are taught hatred and encouraged to commit murder and suicide. Who is protecting these little Muslims? Who can, but the Lord? We can educate adults all day long, but if the Lord reaches the children growing up in Muslim homes, it will save all of our tomorrows, and theirs.

The article in September's *Levitt Letter* (p. 12) about the children's TV show training child-soldiers highlighted the need to pray for these little ones.



Sunday Nov. 18 Change on ABC Family Network TV

Beginning the third Sunday morning in November (11/18), **ABC Family** will broadcast *Zola Levitt Presents* a few hours before church:



5:30 a.m. on both coasts ET/PT
4:30 a.m. CT/MT



This replaces the prior airtime. Be sure to set your DVRs, VCRs, etc. so you catch our brand new interview with terrorist-turned-Bible-teacher, special guest **Walid Shoebat**. The following Sunday (11/25), we'll begin our updated archaeological series *The Stones Cry Out*. (Satellite viewers: please check your listings.)

How Israel Fights Desertification

With desert covering a large part of its surface, Israel has had to quickly develop solutions for its lack of arable land and potable water. Israeli achievement and research now span the globe in tackling problems common to all desert dwellers.

"We've done a lot of research on drought because we have this problem on our doorstep," says Prof. **Pedro Berliner**, director of Israel's Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev Desert.



Israel's top techniques to combat desertification:

Looking to the ancients

They lived in the Land of Israel more than 2,000 years ago in the heart of the Negev Desert, yet built a sustainable community that provided food, firewood, and fodder for animals.

Prof. Berliner developed a modern-day version of the Nabatean floodwater collection system. His low-tech approach redirects floodwaters to dike-surrounded plots in which trees or shrubs are planted. Going one step farther than the Nabateans, "we not only plant trees and between them rows of crops, but use legume shrub-like trees which can absorb atmospheric nitrogen through their root system," Berliner says. Soil fertility is maintained at practically no cost, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the system.

Making the most from the sun

In developing nations, people still cut trees for firewood. Rain washes away the topsoil, leaving worthless sand behind. "Israel is helping combat desertification by making solar power a viable alternative to the conventional way of chopping down trees for firewood," Berliner says.

Help fish swim in the desert *(photo below)*

Professors from Ben-Gurion University helped perfect a system that takes low-quality brackish (salty) water and pumps it into pools for raising marine fish. This provides an entirely new source of protein, and income, for desert-dwellers.

Alternative crops in the sand

Many drought-tolerant crops can thrive in the hot desert sun: algae for biofuels or nutraceuticals presents a novel way to grow a high-value product on seemingly valueless land. Israel is growing in the desert argan trees for their prized oil.

Continued next page



Israeli Advances in Science & Medicine

By Karin Kloosterman www.Israel21c.org



Green building

The Blaustein Institute focuses on homes that require no air-conditioning, even during the day when the heat is most intense. Factors such as wind direction, sun angles, and daily temperatures are considered.

More crop per drop

Modern drip irrigation is widely used across Israel to get the best crops using the least water. Israeli drip-irrigation techniques are shared with other countries via MASHAV, the Israeli government program founded under Golda Meir to share Israel's newfound expertise in desert agriculture.



Roots of research

The Volcani Institute's scientists study drought resistance in plants, and also breed new varieties of vegetables and fruits to get the maximum yield of product per volume of water used.

Wastewater management

A whopping 50 percent of Israel's irrigation water comes from recycled wastewater, and much of this recycles through JNF (Jewish National Fund)-planted forests.



The Islamist Ascendancy

Post-revolutionary Libya appears to have elected a relatively moderate, pro-Western government. Good news, but tentative because Libya is less a country than an oil well with a long beach and myriad tribes. Popular allegiance to a central national authority is weak. Yet even if the Libyan government is able to rein in the militias and establish a functioning democracy, it will be the Arab Spring exception. Consider:

Tunisia and Morocco, the most Westernized of all Arab countries, elected Islamist governments. Moderate, to be sure, but Islamist still. (Islamists advocate Islam as a religious *and* political system.)

Egypt, the largest and most influential, has experienced an Islamist sweep. The Muslim Brotherhood didn't just win the presidency. It won nearly half the seats in parliament, while more openly radical Islamists won 25 percent. Combined, they command more than 70 percent of parliament—enough to control the writing of a constitution (which is why the generals hastily dissolved parliament).

Syria and Jordan could well be next. And the Brotherhood's Palestinian wing (Hamas) already controls Gaza.

What does this mean? That "Arab Spring" is a misnomer. This is an Islamist ascendancy.

Its vehicle was military dictatorship, and Gamal Nasser led the way. He raised the flag of pan-Arabism, merging his country with Syria in 1958. That absurd experiment—it lasted exactly three years—was to have been the beginning of a grand Arab unification which, of course, never came. Nasser also fiercely persecuted Islamists—as did his nationalist successors, down to Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and the Baathists, Iraqi (Saddam Hussein) and Syrian (the Assads)—as the reactionary antithesis to Arab modernism.

But the self-styled modernism of the Arab-nationalist dictators proved to be a dismal failure. It produced dysfunctional, bureaucratic, corrupt regimes that left the citizenry (except where papered over by oil bounties) mired in poverty and repression.

Continued next page



The Takeover Continues

By Charles Krauthammer www.WashingtonPost.com



Hence the Arab Spring, serial uprisings that spread east from Tunisia in early 2011. Many Westerners naively believed the future belonged to the secular, tweeting kids of Tahrir Square. Alas, this sliver of Westernization was no match for the highly organized, widely supported Islamists who effortlessly swept them aside in national elections.

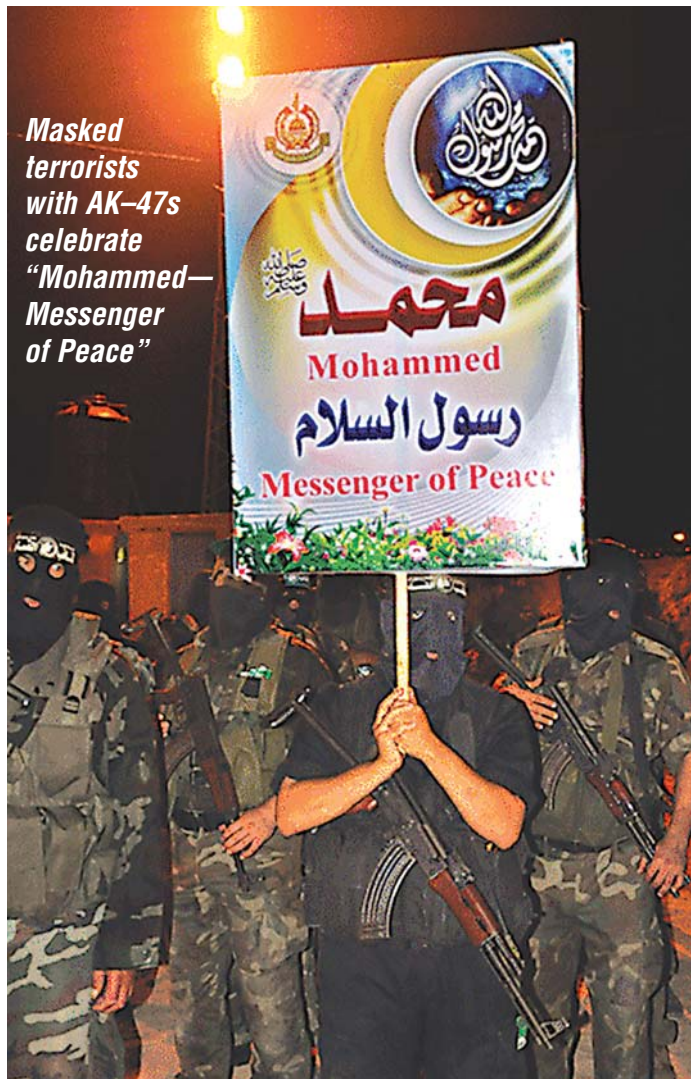
This was not a Facebook revolution but the beginning of an Islamist one. "Islam is the answer," the Muslim Brotherhood preached and carried the day. But what kind of political Islam? On that depends the future. The moderate Turkish version or the radical Iranian one?

As for moderate Islamism, if it eventually radicalizes, it too will fail and bring on yet another, future Arab Spring where democracy might actually be the answer (as it likely would have been in Iran, had the mullahs not savagely crushed the Green Revolution). Or it might adapt to modernity, accept the alternation of power with secularists, and thus achieve by evolution an authentic Arab-Islamic democratic norm.

Perhaps. The only thing we can be sure of today, however, is that Arab nationalism is dead and Islamism is its successor. This is what the Arab Spring has wrought. The beginning of wisdom is facing that difficult reality.

From the beginning, I called this the "Arab Springboard for the Muslim Brotherhood." Even as events unfold with murderous rage and anti-Western fervor, the media and the political class in America continue blindly to deny the facts. Pray!
—Myles

Masked terrorists with AK-47s celebrate "Mohammed—Messenger of Peace"



SELECT NEWS



Arabs Don't Read

By Ikram al-Yacoub, English.alArabiya.net

Earlier this year, a debate on how to foster reading habits among Arab youth was prompted after the Arab Thought Foundation released its fourth annual cultural development report that said the average Arab child reads "six minutes" a year in comparison to the 12,000 minutes its Western counterpart spends.

It also reported that an Arab individual on average reads a quarter of a page a year compared to the 11 books read by an American and 7 books by a Brit.

Soon after these statistics were released, skeptical and furious debates took place on social media like Twitter, with people highlighting the number of challenges facing their society. Family trips to libraries are considered rare across the Arab world. Hind Saud, a student, tweeted that TV has become the focal gathering point for families. "We never had a chance to read or discuss a book together as a family."

Another survey on reading habits in the Middle East in April 2011 made for a depressing read. Only one in five read on a regular basis and among those under 25—nearly 65 per cent of the 3,667 questioned by Yahoo! Maktoob Research—about one in three seldom or never read a book for pleasure.

A general lack of educational opportunities in poor Arab countries can also add to these facts. Research for the Arab League region estimates that about 100 million people—almost one in three—struggle to read and write.

***But they can
count many
ways to commit
jihad on both
hands over
amateurish
film trailers.***



BRIEFS



Indian Police Say Iran Behind Attack

www.IsraelHayom.com

After Indian officials alleged that Iran was involved in the bombing attack on an Israeli diplomat in New Delhi earlier this year, Delhi police now conclude that the suspects behind the attack were members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, *The Times of India* reported.

In the attack, Tal Yehoshua Koren, the wife of the Israeli defense ministry's attaché in India, was seriously wounded.

Iran has held Israel responsible for the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists.

According to information in the investigation report, Masoud Sedaghatzadeh, a sales employee in a commercial company in Tehran, is believed to be the operational head of the group. He masterminded the attacks against Israeli targets in Georgia, Bangkok, and Delhi.

Following the July terrorist bombing of a tourist bus in Bulgaria—which killed five Israelis and a Bulgarian—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of being behind the attack.

Hebrew U—Anytime, Anywhere, Free

By David Shamah, www.TimesOfIsrael.com

Hebrew University, already a world-class institution, is joining other universities in offering courses over the Internet, open to anyone, anywhere, at anytime—similar to courses at MIT, Princeton, and Stanford.

The new courses are the result of a deal with Coursera.org, which offers 200 undergraduate and graduate courses in a broad range of disciplines. The main difference between Coursera and other online learning experiences, say the founders, is the intensity of the work and the ability to interact with professors.

The new collaboration with Hebrew University is a homecoming for HU alumna Daphne Koller, one of Coursera's founders. Koller and her partner Andrew Ng started Coursera as a way to democratize higher education and "share the wealth." Koller said, "Coursera is dedicated to creating better educational opportunities. We're fortunate to have the support of top academic institutions like Hebrew University as we move toward our shared goal of providing a high-quality education to everyone around the world." ★



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Iranian men watch anti-Israel demonstration.

John the Baptist's Bones?

Discovered in 2010 among the ruins of a Bulgarian church, the remains include six human bones: a knucklebone from the right hand, a tooth, part of a cranium, a rib, and an ulna, or forearm bone.

DNA and radiocarbon testing of collagen from the knucklebone show that the remains likely belonged to a Middle Eastern man who lived in the first century A.D., which fits with the story of John the Baptist.

According to the Bible, John was a cousin of Jesus Christ, so the finding means scientists might have DNA from a relative of the Christian Savior Himself—although proving it is likely impossible.

"The problem is we don't have a baseline for comparison," said study team member Thomas Higham, an archaeological scientist at the U.K.'s University of Oxford. As such, the current study can't confirm—or for that matter, disprove—that the bones belonged to John the Baptist.

The fate of John the Baptist's remains is a topic of much speculation among biblical scholars, but what is known is that, in the third and fourth centuries, reports began to appear of his bones being housed in various churches as holy relics to attract pilgrims—not an uncommon fate for the supposed remains of biblical figures.

"Since this church dates to the fifth century, we thought that perhaps these bones would be fourth or fifth century as well. But we were surprised when they turned out to be much older than that," said Higham, whose work on the bones was funded in part by the National Geographic Society.

The scientific analysis of the bones hasn't yet been submitted to a journal, though the results are featured in the new National Geographic documentary *Head of John the Baptist*.

The relics were found during an excavation on the island of Sveti Ivan—"St. John" in Bulgaria. Entombed in a small marble sarcophagus, the bones had been buried beneath the church altar. The archaeologists who originally discovered the bones also found a small box made of hardened volcanic ash buried nearby



Archaeology/The Stones Continue to Cry Out!

By Ker Than News.NationalGeographic.com

in an older part of the church. The case bears an ancient Greek inscription that mentions John the Baptist and his birthday. It also asks God to “help your servant Thomas.”

One theory is that “Thomas” brought the box—which tests suggest originated from Cappadocia, a region of what’s now Turkey—to the island.

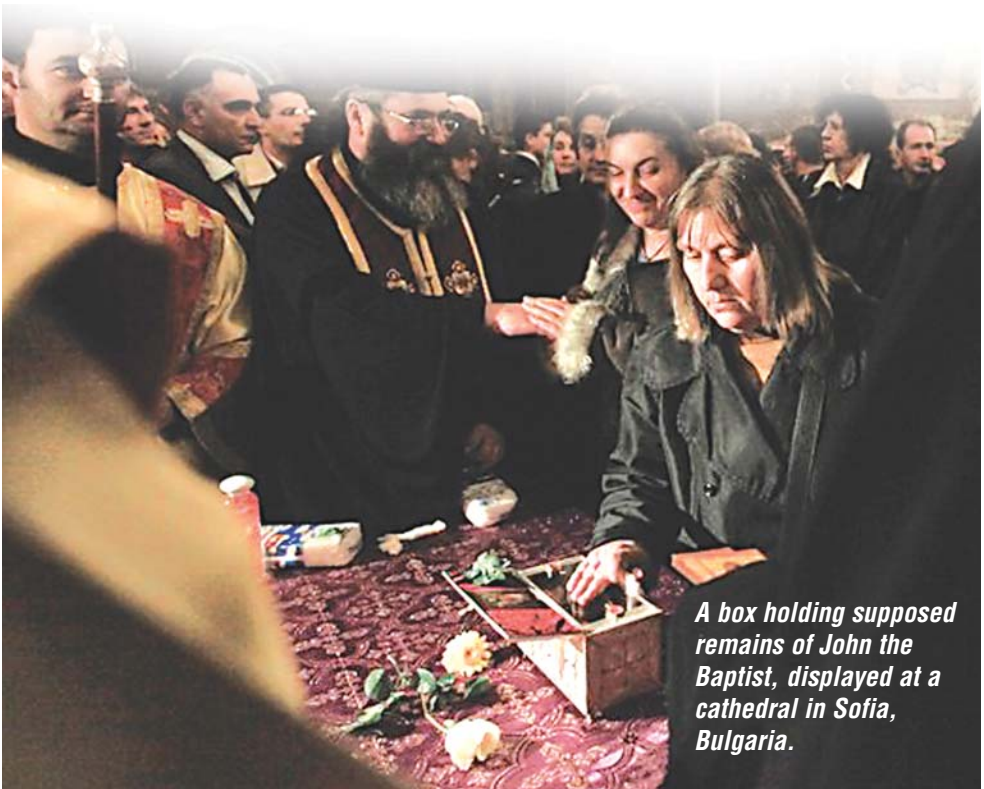
“We think this box was the original box that brought the bones to the island,” Higham said. “When the new church was built, the bones were put into the marble sarcophagus.”

While the new results suggest the bones are from John the Baptist’s time and place, archaeologist Andrew Millard said scientists will probably never be able to definitively say whether the relics belonged to the biblical figure.

“The question really is how well they could have identified the remains of John the Baptist in the fourth century. They could’ve opened the wrong tomb in a cemetery.”

Watch for our updated series *The Stones Cry Out* which demonstrates how archaeological science verifies the truth of the Bible. The earth continues to yield its relics and shout that the Word is alive. —Myles

Watch part of the testing of the purported John the Baptist relics:
<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/relic-samples/>



A box holding supposed remains of John the Baptist, displayed at a cathedral in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Israel: The Center of Divine History

PROPHECY FULFILLED 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 35 years. This article originally appeared as installments in the *Levitt Letter* from May 1994 to Feb. 1996. Read the whole essay at www.levitt.com/essays/dh or find other segments in this newsletter's issues. Here, Dr. McCall continues detailing the historical events of the last two centuries that led up to the establishment of the modern nation of Israel.

The Jewish Dream of a Restored Israel

Throughout the Dispersion, there have always been some Jewish people living in the Land. Mostly they lived in Galilee, but sometimes they were able to get to the remaining shrine of their revered Temple Mount, the Western Wall in Jerusalem. There was always the religious conviction that the Jews would ultimately return to the Land "en masse" in the Days of the Messiah. Maimonides and other famous rabbis fostered this teaching. They had the firm belief that when the Messiah comes, there will be universal peace.

There were a few aborted and short-lived attempts at migration. For instance, many Jews attempted to return to Jerusalem during the reign of Emperor **Julian the Apostate** (4th century) and at the time of Sabbatai Zvi (17th century). However, there was no serious movement back to Israel until the Zionists began their organizing movements in the latter half of the 19th century.

In the 20th century, Zionism resulted in 4.8 million of the world's 13 million Jews living in the Promised Land! ★



*God's light settles
on Jerusalem's
Temple Mount*



Jewish humor, etc.

Farsighted

A Jewish mother is walking down the street with her two young sons. A passerby asks her how old the boys are.

"The doctor is three," the mother answers, "and the lawyer is two."

Nearsighted

A nearsighted rabbi glanced at the prayer request. It read: "Hiram Steinberg having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

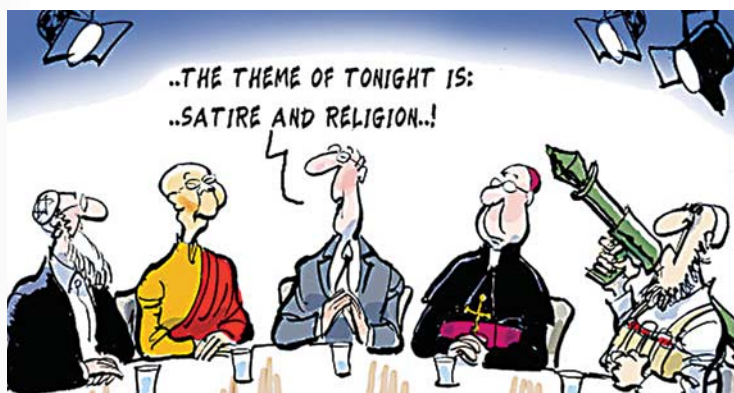
Failing to observe the punctuation, he startled his audience by announcing: "Hiram Steinberg, having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."



A cheerful heart is good medicine –
Proverbs 17:22

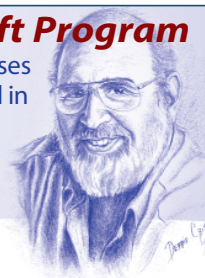


P.S. For a humorous and poignant marriage renewal, please ask your church to invite Myles and Katharine. [For details, please see page 13.](#)



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Israel

*Aerial
photo of
Temple
Mount*

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