

Levitt

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



Letter

"The Jews Are A Disease"—p.34

The Evil that Israel Faces

By **Michael Freund** / JPost.com

French President Francois Hollande recently stressed that Europe will take steps to get Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table. "We shall make sure that both the United States and Europe can support the revival of negotiations that can lead to a two-state solution," Hollande told reporters.

The international community has clearly lost sight of the very nature of the struggle in which Israel finds itself, one that pits it against a foe that is bent on Israel's destruction.

Despite Israeli concessions since the 1993 Oslo accords, the Palestinians have refused to forsake violence and intimidation; neither have they shown a willingness to make even minimal compromises in order to forge a final agreement.

This is not a battle over borders, but a clash of civilizations.

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Israel—The Only Free Country in MidEast

CAMERA.org

Maybe they were too busy bemoaning the state of Israel's democracy to do any actual reporting, but the news media ignored a report by FreedomHouse.org, an independent watchdog group dedicated to the expansion of freedom around the world, that rated Israel as the only free country in the Middle East.

In the 2013 edition of its annual report, *Freedom in the World*, the organization wrote:

Israel remains the region's only Free country. In recent years, controversies have surrounded proposed laws that threatened freedom of expression and the rights of civil society

(continued p.3)



The Evil that Israel Faces continued from cover

March 11th marked the second anniversary of one of the most brutal Palestinian terror attacks in the region's history. **Hakim Awad** and **Amjad Awad** (*below*) slaughtered five members of the Fogel family in the Jewish community of Itamar.

With chilling cruelty, the two perpetrators went from room to room, slashing the throats of Ruth and Udi Fogel and three of their children: Yoav (11), Elad (4), and three-month-old Hadas.



After their capture, the two terrorists expressed no remorse for their actions, saying that had they known that two other children had been sleeping in the Fogel home at the time, they would have murdered them as well.

Many Palestinians reacted with sheer joy to news of the massacre, as though their team had just won the World Cup. Thirty-two percent of Palestinians said they supported this despicable act of murder.

The slaughter in Itamar, like the bus bombings, rocket attacks, and kidnapping of soldiers throughout the years, says a lot about Palestinian society and its leadership, that it countenanced such behavior and continues to laud the perpetrators of such terror as heroes.



Clearly, these are not people with whom a lasting agreement can be forged, however much Israel or the international community might wish it.

It is time to drop the delusion that has underpinned the peace process all these years and admit the obvious: the Palestinians do not truly wish to live in peace with Israel. They have had ample opportunity to do so, but have rejected every offer, even the most generous, with nary a bit of compunction or regret.

What the world fails to grasp is that the key to peace lies not in removing Jews from their homes, but rather in uprooting delusions of possible victory from the hearts of Palestinians. As long as they continue to think that the Jewish presence in the Middle East is temporary and that time and international backing is on their side, Israel's foes will press forward with their aggressive intentions, employing violence and terror to achieve their goals.

This type of malevolence cannot be negotiated with, nor can reason prevail over it. Confronted by such enmity, Israel does not dare to empower it still further by yielding to its demands. The evil we face must be opposed, not appeased.



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Aviel Schneidder

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organizations. In most cases, however, these measures have either been quashed by the government or parliament, or struck down by the Supreme Court.

In other words, Israel’s democracy works. By contrast, both Gaza, under Hamas, and the West Bank, under the Palestinian Authority were rated “Not Free,” as was Jordan. Lebanon and Egypt ranked as merely “Partly Free.” In a section called “Worst of the Worst,” Freedom House cited three of Israel’s neighbors: Sudan, “ruled by a leadership that has elements of both radical Islamism and a traditional military junta,” Saudi Arabia, “an absolute monarchy with severe social controls,” and Syria, “a dictatorship in the midst of a bloody civil war.”

If you look at a map of world freedom, you have to enlarge it quite a bit to see the sliver of green freedom that is Israel in the sea of yellow (“partly free”) and purple (“not free”) that is the Middle East and North Africa.

Given the hyper-focus on Israel by the press, one might expect news outlets to at least mention this positive evaluation of the Jewish State. However, although Israeli and Jewish outlets reported the Freedom House study,

CAMERA could not locate any mainstream news media that covered it. More embarrassing still, even Egypt’s *Daily News* wrote: Egypt is now one of six countries in the Middle East that is classified by Freedom House as “partly free.” Eleven are classed as “not free,” while Israel is the region’s only “free” country.

One newspaper in a country that has only recently been upgraded to “partly free” covered Israel’s “free” ranking but news outlets in “free” countries did not? One has to ask why the hesitancy to report something positive about Israel’s democracy. ★



Survey Findings		
FREE	90 (46%)	3,046,158,000 (43%)
PARTLY FREE	58 (30%)	1,613,858,500 (23%)
NOT FREE	47 (24%)	2,376,822,100 (34%)



The Dry Bones

Classic Zola:
1979—(34 years
ago)



Ezekiel 37 represents one of the most striking visions and clear fulfillments to be found in the Bible. Some prophecies elude us in their subtlety or raise controversies among interpreters. Others are yet to be fulfilled, so we cannot know if a point of view is correct. But God Himself explains the vision of the Valley of the Dry Bones within the chapter; its fulfillment—the restoration of the Jewish nation to the land of Israel—is abundantly clear to all who live today. The chapter begins with Ezekiel faithfully reporting his arcane vision in which he was taken to preach in a valley of dead, bleached bones.

God bids Ezekiel, **“Prophecy upon these bones and say unto them, ‘O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’”**

Some preachers complain about speaking to dead audiences!

Ezekiel does as he is told and the bones gather themselves into human bodies, “but there was no breath in them.” At the end of the vision, God tells Ezekiel, “Prophecy unto the wind...and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” The wind (the Holy Spirit) throughout the Bible provides true life to human beings dead in their sins. God breathed upon Adam to make him live; the Lord breathed the Holy Spirit on His disciples, and the Holy Spirit Himself described that great day of Pentecost as “a rushing, mighty wind” (Acts 2:2).

GOD’S EXPLANATION

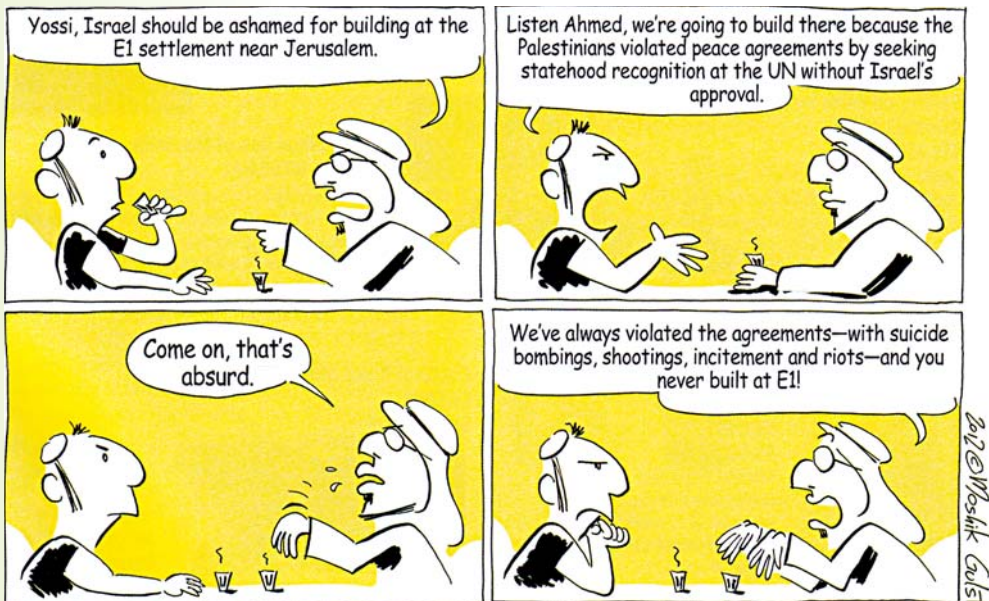
In Ezekiel 37:11–14, God gives the complete explanation of the confounding vision, saying, **“These bones are the whole house of Israel... and I shall place you in your own land.”**

The vision was of a future event, after some great dispersion of the Jewish people out of the land. This is clear from various phrases in the ensuing chapters. This is no small regathering of the people in exile, such as the return from Babylon,

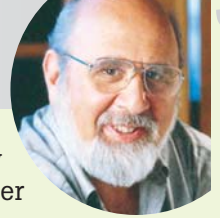
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When Yossi and Ahmed Meet



Dry Bones: Zola continues



but rather a worldwide, latter-day restoration. It is spoken of by many other prophets, and the language — “It shall be in the latter days” (Ezekiel 38:16)—identifies the time with certainty.

Chapter 37 also explains the sign of the two sticks, wherein Ezekiel realizes that Israel and Judah will be made one again (37:16–17), a fact which the exiled prophet of Judah could not have appreciated from his viewpoint in Babylon. The northern 10 tribes of Israel had been deported by Assyria better than a century before his lifetime, and they are still referred to as “lost tribes,” even though they were never lost (the NT Book of James is addressed to “the Twelve Tribes”).

God continues His explanation of Ezekiel’s vision all the way to the coming of the Kingdom to Israel and the reign of the Messiah (37:24–25). He even takes the opportunity to certify that His Temple will be rebuilt in the Millennium and that the whole world will know Him (37:27–28).

Israelis are convinced of this prophecy; few Bible students quibble about its meaning. An occasional Mormon will claim that the two sticks represent the Bible and the Book of Mormon, but their meaning is most plain in God’s explanation of the vision.

Please also read “Ten Lost Tribes: Found” on page 33. I use its premise to correct congregational folks who are in danger of being swept up in the “two sticks” heresy that tries to identify all Believers as lost Jews. While there are communities of genuine Jews around the world reuniting with their Jewish brothers, there is no magical “missing tribe” of spiritual Believers in Western churches. —Myles



ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION: OBSTACLE TO PEACE?

A Palestinian construction worker builds a home in the Jewish settlement of Ma’ale Adumim, facing a pastoral view of Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives. “We do not object to the construction work here,” he says. “We have been working here for years now. At least we get paid an honest wage by the Jews.”



Temples Come and Go... and Come Again!

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Co-host



The Temple Mount may be the center of the universe. It is ground zero for the coming rule of Messiah. According to the *B'rit Hadashah* (NT), Yeshua will return to the nearby Mount of Olives; the prophet Ezekiel predicts that the glory of God will re-enter the Temple through the Golden Gate / Messiah's Gate / Eastern Gate.

There is no more-contested piece of real estate in the world than the small nation of Israel. In that land, the hot spot is the Temple Mount, and the searing white-hot place is the Western Wall, because it is closest to "*HaMakom*" (Hebrew for THE Place), the Holy of Holies of the former Temple.

Ironically, Islam—which continually tries to erase the Jewish history of Jerusalem and Israel—draws much of its lore and foundational teaching from Jewish ancestors. However, along with its historical debt to Judaism, Islam has continually tried to block the inevitable: the Messianic promises connected with the area and the coming, rebuilt Third Temple.

The Ottoman sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sealed the Golden Gate in 1541. Jewish tradition claims that the Messiah will enter Jerusalem through this gate. Scholars agree that Suleiman sealed the Golden Gate to prevent the Messiah's entrance. The Muslims also built a cemetery in front of the gate. This was to stop Elijah, the forerunner to Messiah, from passing through the Golden Gate.

The action was based on Jewish tradition: According to Islamic teaching, Elijah is a descendant of Aaron, and thus a priest (a *kohen*). Since Jewish priests are not permitted to enter a cemetery, Elijah would be stopped. However, this premise is weak because a *kohen* is permitted to enter a non-Jewish cemetery.

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Temples: Myles continues



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Approximately 150 years ago, British archaeologist Charles Warren excavated layers of red earth containing shards dating from the First Temple period. The first *lamelekh* ("to the king") ring seals found in Israel were discovered in this red earth. These are official seals embossed on the handles of jugs from the time of King Hezekiah (8th century BC). Based on the information gathered by Warren, the site represents a rare point of contact between Second Temple-period construction and earlier ruins from the First Temple period.

The grounds are full of historical artifacts. The Muslim cemeteries cause political tussling and highly charged negotiations. ZLM cooperates with the Israel Antiquities Authority to sift through the rubble that is painstakingly revealed. Just last summer, one of our pilgrims found a 2nd century BC coin! (*Levitt Letter*, Aug. '12, p. 15) I will never forget the jubilation on the face of the attending archaeologist. It was a significant find, further validating the historical authenticity of Jewish presence on the Mount. The Gospel is going around the world. The fullness of time is upon us. The return of the Lord is very near.

Our saying "From Golden Gate to Golden Gate" describes the ends of the Earth: from the San Francisco Bay to the Temple's Golden Gate. Several months ago, Katharine and I stood between the graves and the Gate and prayed, "Even so, come, Lord Yeshua!" (Rev. 22:20). ★

"Come, Lord
Yeshua!"



Katharine & Myles near Eastern (Golden) Gate

His Face is on Every Page!

Katharine Weiss
Zola Levitt Presents
Co-host



On the road to Emmaus, Yeshua revealed Himself to His disciples and left us a template for opening the eyes of His Jewish brethren today. It is a 7-mile journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, but for the two students it was a slow, morose walk. They talked together about everything that had recently happened in Jerusalem (Luke 24:13–14).

24:15 As they talked and discussed, Yeshua himself came up and walked along with them, **16** but something kept them from recognizing him. **17** He asked them, “What are you talking about with each other as you walk along?” They stopped short, their faces downcast; **18** and one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Yerushalayim who doesn’t know the things that have been going on there the last few days?”

They recounted to Him the events regarding His own arrest and crucifixion and the miracle of His apparent resurrection. In their own words, they tied His deeds to prophetic promises and His authority with God and man. The disciples despairingly confessed their hope that He had been the redeemer of Israel.

As only He can do, Yeshua completely surprised them!

25 He said to them, “Foolish people! So unwilling to put your trust in everything the prophets spoke! **26** Didn’t the Messiah have to die like this before entering his glory?” **27** Then, starting with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them the things that can be found throughout the *Tanach* (OT) concerning himself.

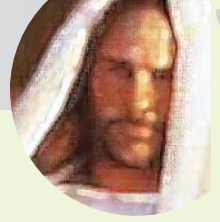
As I read this, I asked the Lord, “How did You reveal Yourself to Moses and the prophets?” With further study, I found that the person and work of Messiah is in

[\(continued next page\)](#)

*“Supper at Emmaus” by Caravaggio—
Christ revealed to the disciples
in the breaking of bread*



His Face: Katharine continues



each of the 39 books of the *Tanach*. This is where His Jewish brethren can find Him.

In Genesis, He is the seed of the woman.

In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb.

In Leviticus, He is our High Priest.

In Numbers, He is the glory of God who takes us through the wilderness.

In Deuteronomy, He is the living Word.

The New Testament (*B'rit Hadashah*) confirms each aspect:

- Galatians 4:4 tells us of the fullness of time when God sent forth His Son, made of a woman.
- Paul tells us that He is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).
- According to the writer of Hebrews, Jesus is our High Priest who intercedes forever for us (Hebrews 6:20).
- Like the Israelites in the desert, we can look to Yeshua for supernatural provision on our journey (Matthew 6:11).
- John begins his gospel by telling us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!"

There is much more to this story! So much, that John ends his gospel:

"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen." (John 21:25) ★



Tourists gather on the Road to Emmaus

What We Can Learn from David Hartman: 1931-2013

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF / Our Man in Haifa, tents-of-mercy.org



David Hartman (shown below), rabbi, author, and innovative Jewish teacher passed into eternity at the age of 81, earlier this year. He was an American Jew, born into a poor, ultra-Orthodox family in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1971, Hartman emigrated to Israel, and established the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, an educational center with remarkably broad appeal to many segments of the Jewish community—both religious and secular. His creative approach to Jewish life—seeking to integrate modern concepts of personal liberty with a love for Torah—touched both disillusioned *yeshiva* (religious school) students and IDF (military) officers.

Hartman drew from the works of Maimonides, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan. Each of these men emphasized the need to integrate biblical revelation with the forward movement of scientific discovery. As a rabbi speaking to the modern challenges of Israel, David Hartman became known for his intellectual honesty, his humor, his understanding of people and their relationships, his passion,

his tolerance, and his spontaneity. He refused to be shaped by existing molds, but charted new territory with admirable energy and vision.

Why is Rabbi Hartman's life relevant to us, followers of Yeshua? I believe that his dedication brings us fresh inspiration. We are called by authors in the New Covenant to rise up and change the worn out, failed solutions of our civilization. "If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). "Then He who sat on the throne said 'Behold, I make all things new'" (Rev. 21:5). We have been given a new song (Psalm 96:1) and are exhorted to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

Here are some quotes from Hartman. Especially as a resident of Israel for the past twenty years, I find them salty and energizing.

"Love of Israel is not love of the land; it's love of the people living in the land."

"I want to return the Torah to the Labor Party (note: a liberal, secular Israeli political party), to the entire people of Israel. I don't want religion to be the private property of certain people. I don't want the length of the sidelocks to be the determining factor."

"Even though it drains my energy and I am weak—Israel is the place. If we can't make it here, we can't make it anywhere."



David Hartman was indeed a man of the heart. May we all live from the heart—a heart for the God of Israel, for His Messiah, and for the full redemption of *Am Yisrael*, the people of Israel. ★



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ZOLA'S HEBREW WORD OF THE MONTH:

אִישׁ
(EESH)
MAN

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David Hartman: Illustration courtesy Britni Rummell

Islamic Cleric Rapes and Kills 5-Year-Old Daughter

BY MICHAEL STONE / Examiner.com

Fayhan al-Ghamdi ▶



In Saudi Arabia, an Islamic cleric who admits to raping, torturing, and killing his daughter received a fine for his heinous crime. Saudi media report that the father paid \$50,000 in “blood money” for his crime, but was not required to serve any time in prison.

Fayhan al-Ghamdi, (top right) a popular Islamic preacher who has made numerous television appearances promoting Islam, confessed to the crime. Reports indicate that he had doubted his five-year-old daughter’s virginity. (His crime was so brutal that we will not describe it here. —Editor.)



Lama al-Ghamdi died last October.

The amount her father was fined

for the brutal rape, torture, and murder would have been doubled if Lama had been male. In Saudi Arabia, Islamic law is interpreted to mean that a father cannot be executed for murdering his children, nor can husbands be executed for murdering their wives.

Human rights activists point out that judicial leniency towards male abusers

and murderers reflects the highly problematic nature of the male guardianship system in Saudi Arabia. Currently all women in Saudi Arabia are considered minors, and all are automatically assigned to the care and judgment of their most immediate male relative. This system of male guardianship gives the male relatives the power to sell girls legally into child marriages and to ban adult women from work, travel, and obtaining medical operations.

Burkas to Stop Baby Girls from Tempting Muslim Men

By Mohammad Alyousef
English.AIArabiya.net

A Saudi cleric has called for all female babies to be fully covered by wearing the face and body veil, commonly known as the burka, citing reports of little girls being sexually molested.

In a TV interview on the Islamic al-Majd TV, Sheik Abdullah Daoud stressed that wearing the veil will protect baby girls. The sheik backed his assertion with claims of sexual molestation against babies in the kingdom, quoting unnamed medical and security sources. ★



The first article above describes the problem; the next article describes the Islamic solution, depicted by the devolution of women’s rights in this photo series of family portraits.

Ask The Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q.1 When will Gog and Magog attack Israel? (Ezekiel 38:18–23)

A.1 The war of Gog and Magog will occur prior to the seven-year Tribulation, since Israel will be burying bodies for a seven-year period (Ezekiel 39:9). This kind of activity will not happen during the 1,000-year Kingdom of Messiah, which will commence after the Tribulation concludes. Ezekiel says that this battle will occur in the Last Days when all of the nations of Ezekiel 38:1–6 are aligned—which they are today!

Q.2 How many biblical covenants are there?—God-covenants, not man-to-man covenants.

A.2 The Bible reveals *eight* covenants that God made with mankind:

- (1) The **Edenic** Covenant (Genesis 1:28–30; 2:15–17)
- (2) The **Adamic** Covenant (Genesis 3:14–19)
- (3) The **Noahic** Covenant (Genesis 8:20–9:17)
- (4) The **Abrahamic** Covenant (Genesis 12:1–3)
- (5) The **Mosaic** Covenant (Exodus 19–24; Deut. and Leviticus)
- (6) The **Davidic** Covenant (2 Samuel 7:4–17)
- (7) The **Land of Israel** Covenant (Genesis 17:7–8; Deut. 30:1–10)
- (8) The **New** Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–37; Matt. 26:27,28 2 Corinthians 3:6)

Q.3 I have heard that the year, the month, and the date of the restoration of Jerusalem in 1967 was prophesied by three Old Testament prophets. Two of them were Ezekiel and Haggai. Who was

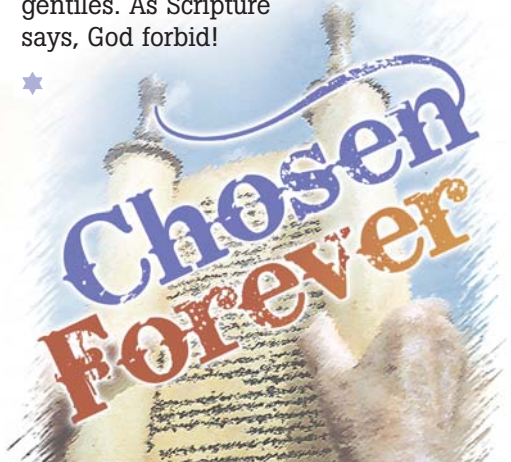
the third prophet? And could you cite the verses?

A.3 Such claims are too obscure to be valid. However, we have the clear prophecies that Israel is restored in the Last Days and we can look to them for assurance that God keeps and fulfills His Word to Israel (Isaiah 11:11–12; 49; Ezekiel 36–37; Amos 9:14–15).

Q.4 I always believed that Israel is “the chosen” nation/people of God. But doesn’t Eph. 3:6 void that premise? Are not the “chosen ones” of the New Covenant those who choose to receive the offering that is Christ?

A.4 While it is true that the redeemed of the Church are God’s “chosen” in the present Age, Ephesians 3:6 in no way teaches that Israel has been cast aside in favor of the Church. This is the erroneous premise of Replacement Theology.

God chose the Jews as His people *forever* and will never cast them away—a truth throughout Scripture (Is. 49:15; Jeremiah 31:35–37; Romans 11:1). And that is all there is to that! Gentiles (non-Jews) have been “grafted in” to the salvific blessings that Israel enjoys—and that is the point of passages like Ephesians 3:6. God has not “unchosen” Israel in the process of choosing the gentiles. As Scripture says, God forbid!



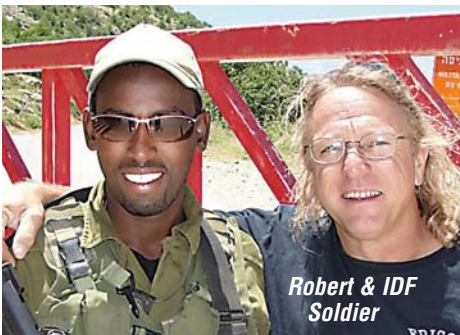
One Hungry Heart After Another / BY ROBERT WILLIAMS

Visiting Israel as a To The Jew First *shaliach* (definition at right) provided me an opportunity to experience the Lord's faithfulness. Todd Baker's and my ministry started upon arrival in New York City. The bus driver who took us from JFK Airport to our hotel was a Russian immigrant and Jewish. When we told him where we were headed and why, he got very excited about our mission and accepted Messianic tracts and a complete (Old and New Testaments) Hebrew Bible from us.



Many Israelis happily receive Bibles from TJF.

During our trip, we handed out 53 complete Hebrew Bibles and countless tracts explaining Messianic prophecy.



Robert & IDF Soldier

At the currency exchange in Tel Aviv, the young Israeli attendant asked about our mission ... but he cut us short by asking, "Is it from the Bible? About Yeshua? I want it!" He was looking over his new prophecy tracts as we left.

In the shuttle to our car rental, the driver asked us to "pray for the health of Israel and for her to receive guidance

from Yeshua."

We did, and she received a complete Hebrew Bible and some tracts. And that's how the trip went for the entire 10 days I was there!

shaliach \shah-LEE-ack\ /n, /pl **shelichim** \shell-LEE-kim\ : one who is sent, an emissary.

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Rom. 10:15.

To the Jew first... Rom. 1:16

"The Promised Messiah" tract is available at:

www.levitt.com/announcements (third item down).



I purposely didn't preconceive expectations for the trip, but the Lord delivered one hungry heart after another ... fertile ground for us to effortlessly plant seeds. Bless the Lord.

I will never forget seeing the hundreds of Israeli Jews we spoke with gladly receive the Gospel. I believe the Lord draws them through their practice of the Law and the Feasts. As Todd reminded me often, the purpose of the Law is to show us our inability to keep the Law and point us to our need for Jesus Christ as Savior; the Feasts are a type and shadow of the Messiah. Israeli Jews seem to be making the connection.



Todd shares Yeshua

ZLM is wise to choose its To The Jew First *shelichim* from graduates of its *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies* (see p.19). The correspondence course gave me the tools I need to minister to non-believers, and brought to life the Scriptures at every biblical site we visited. My TJF experience changed my life, and I swear it changed my DNA.

Testimonies like Robert's are vital expressions of ZLM in the world today: the Gospel not only goes forth, but it changes the *shelichim* who spread it. You can encourage this outreach by designating offerings specifically to the "To The Jew First" Fund. —Myles ★



How Christians Lose Credibility with Israelis

BY AVIEL SCHNEIDER / *Israel Today*

Vicar Wm. Shomali ▶



The reaction last November seems to be the reaction whenever a flare-up occurs between Israel and its neighbors: "What is happening in Gaza is a vicious circle of violence," William Shomali, the vicar-general of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, told Vatican Radio. "It's difficult to know who started it."

It's as if Israel's leaders woke up one day and decided to kill Palestinians! No mention was made by him or other Church officials of the countless Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli communities that prompted the punishing air strikes on Gaza. Naturally, this "Christian" response sparked outrage among Israelis. For them, Christians are uninterested in Jewish suffering and Israel's right of self-defense. "When there's conflict, it's always our fault," a taxi driver remarked. "But even when it's quiet we don't get any support." To Jews, those who speak for the Catholic Church speak for all Christians. In private conversations, you repeatedly hear the opinion that Christians will never change, that they will always hate the Jews.

A headline on Israeli website Arutz 7 read, "The Vatican on Gaza: Israel is a Baby Killer." Another article said that for the Vatican, the babies of Israel's rocket-battered southern town of Sderot are not even worth mentioning.

Israel's blockade of Gaza is aimed at preventing weapons-smuggling to Hamas. But the former Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Palestinian Michel Sabbah, told the Vatican News Agency that it's an "absurd embargo which makes the daily lives of a million and a half people inhumane." Sabbah joined with more than 100 Christian leaders in an appeal to the international community to recognize Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. Among those signing the petition was Greek Orthodox Archbishop Atallah Hanna, an Israeli Arab who supports Palestinian suicide bombings as legitimate acts of "resistance" to the "occupation."

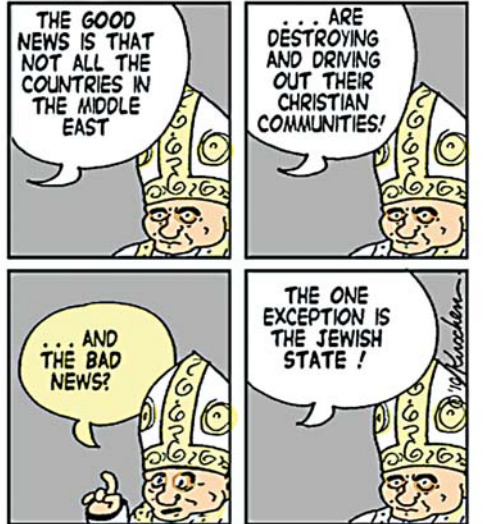
The Vatican was silent about the rocket barages that preceded the Israeli offensive. It was only after Israel began attacking the rocket launching sites and other terrorist infrastructure that Pope Benedict himself and other senior Church officials loudly condemned the violence.

"During the Cast Lead operation in 2009, Vatican officials called Gaza 'a concentration camp,'" the Arutz 7 article noted. "After the Nazi comparison did its work, the Jesus-killer motif has now returned to the Catholic Church." For Israelis, such comments by the Vatican send a clear message that Christians are opposed to a Jewish state. There is no differentiation between Catholics and Protestants; from an Israeli point of view, they are speaking for all Christians.

Many Israelis are unaware of the worldwide support for Israel among born-again Christians who stand on God's Word and promises to the Jewish people. Negative statements against Israel by senior clergy are reminiscent of Church history and cause all Christians to lose credibility in the eyes of the Jews. And once lost, such credibility is difficult to win back. ★



Dry Bones NEWS FOR THE POPE?



Come with us to Israel, provide a firsthand rebuttal to this article and demonstrate Christian love.

ZLM Bulletin Board

Chip on Her Shoulder?

Do yourself a favor: don't watch the "Hebrew Mamita" YouTube video at <http://bit.ly/zOtHBb>. Just when a young Jewess seems to do justice to the Chosen People's frustration at being maligned for 4,000 years, out from her mouth pops an expletive.



She rhythmically rants about the persistent perception that, "Funny, you don't LOOK Jewish" is a compliment. Then she goes on and on about how she should be proud that she happens to look Jewish.

Then again, if you can endure one expletive, you'll enjoy her stand-up routine. Perhaps you can overlook the splinter in her eye.



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Pamphlet of the Month

The booklet entitled **"I'd Like to Give But..."** describes some of the most common concerns people have about making charitable gifts. It also presents a number of alternative ways to give. One of them may provide the solution that enables you to meet your own obligations while also making the contribution you'd like. It touches upon considerations such as cash on hand, retirement planning, and providing for heirs. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



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Yeshua beckons us to **"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation"** (Mark 16:15).

"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel:



See page 36 for details



Hebrew Lesson



The Weapon of Praise

By John J. Parsons

מִהֶלַל אֶקְרָא יְהוָה וּמִן־אֵיבֵי אֲנֹשֶׁי

*“I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.” (Psalm 18:3)*

יְהוָה	אֶקְרָא	מִהֶלַל	וּמִן־אֵיבֵי	אֲנֹשֶׁי	
(1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)
Adonai	ek-ra'	me-hul-lal	u'min	oy-ye-vai	i-va-she-a'
the LORD	I will call	to be praised		and from my enemies	I will be saved

When you are feeling oppressed or otherwise troubled, use the “weapon of praise.” Satan and the powers of darkness simply cannot stand before someone who is offering up sincere thanks to God in anticipation of their personal deliverance.

Calling upon the LORD means more than simply keeping a positive attitude, though having a positive attitude (i.e., hope) and using *ayin tovah* (a good eye) is surely part of the arsenal we use to “fight the good fight of faith.” Victory over the dark powers comes through verbally affirming (confessing) our faith in God’s Presence and trusting in the deliverance given in Yeshua our Savior (Rom. 10:9). We must repent of our attitude of defeat and **believe** in the victory: **As we call** upon the LORD **so are we** delivered from our enemies.

It is written that the LORD is “enthroned among the praises of His people” (Psalm 22:3), and therefore offering earnest praise is our direct line to the Divine Presence. Praising the LORD also causes the power of the Evil One to be cut off, his eyes blinded, and his malice thwarted. For example, when Israel went to battle, the *shofar* (ram’s horn) was sounded and great cries of praise went up to Heaven. “So on they went, ahead of the army chanting, *hodu l’adonai, ki leolam chasdo* — ‘Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever!’” And the scripture says, “...when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set an ambush against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were routed” (2 Chron. 20:22). Our victory over darkness is found in praise and hope, even when we are tested in the midst of the battle. Friends, use the weapon of praise!

Praise God **despite** your present difficulties by anticipating good to come: “Though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be found on the vines, though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, and though the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet **I will rejoice** in the LORD; **I will take joy** in the God of my salvation” (Hab. 3:17–18). Augustine renders the phrase “God of my Salvation” (*Elohei Yishi*) as “God my Jesus,” since “Jesus” (i.e., Yeshua) literally means YHWH saves. Always remember that we never fight for, but always **from**, the place of His victory.

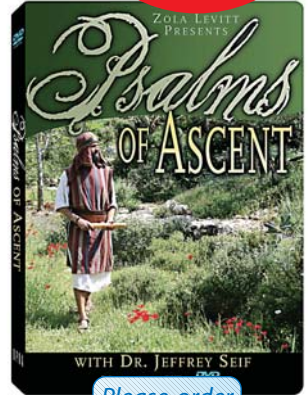
The joy of the LORD is our strength, and we find that strength in Yeshua, our risen and victorious Savior. ★



Psalms of Ascent

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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



Please order
on page
18

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

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

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

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

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

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

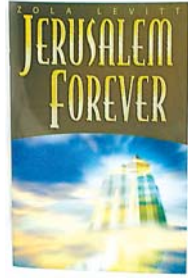
Psalms 132 & 133 David wanted to build a temple in Jerusalem. He knew the Lord had chosen it. Zion became His abiding place and remains His to this very day, despite Replacement Theology. In this fractious world, dwelling together in unity is a blessing.

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



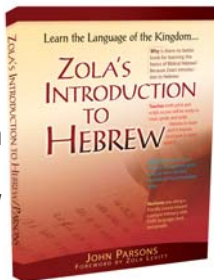
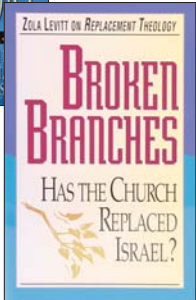
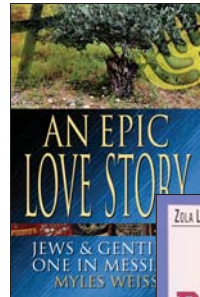
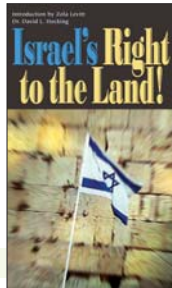
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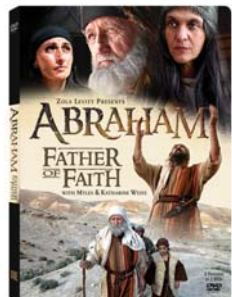
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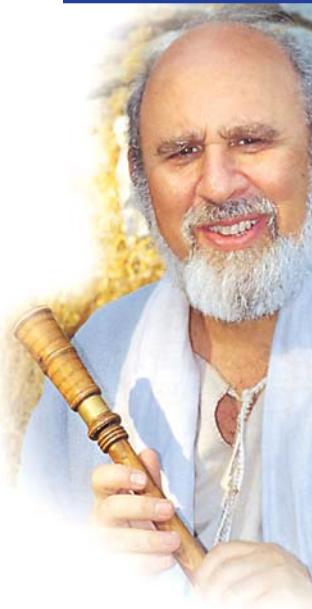
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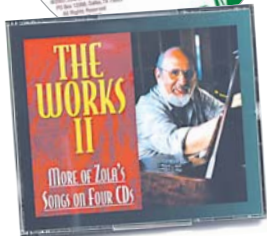


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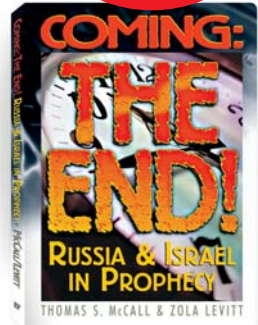


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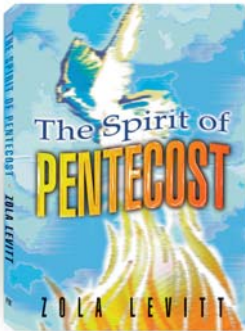
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ITEMS

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This study of a primary end-times prophecy is vital for all who believe the Scriptures. One chapter, *A Strategy for Unbelievers*, even tells unbelievers how to cope with the Tribulation Period! This basic book of prophecy analyzes the world situation in surprising terms. Hal Lindsey called it “a must-read for everyone who wants to know where we are on God’s timetable.”



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page 18

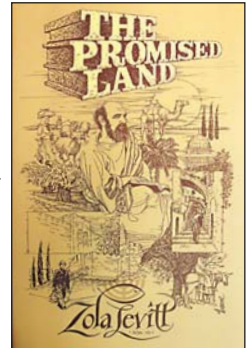


The Spirit of Pentecost study booklet by Zola Levitt Also available as a teaching CD

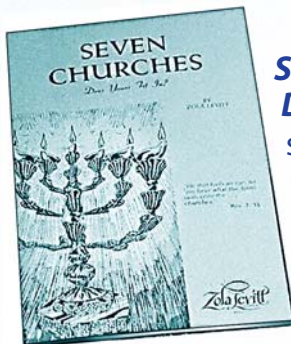
An insightful look at Peter’s stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel. Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The “birthday of the Church” is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

The Promised Land study booklet

Travel with Zola and the on-location television crew as they film in various parts of the Holy Land. An interesting and entertaining behind-the-scenes look at Israel, with photos and colorful descriptions of sites shown on weekly *Zola Levitt Presents* programs.



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Index



Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In? study booklet by Zola Levitt

The Lord appeared to the Apostle John at Patmos and dictated the dramatic Revelation of Jesus Christ. He began with commentary on seven churches of the time, which has remained an object lesson for all generations—the seven churches of Asia as seen by the Head of the Church.

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Small Acts, Big Love

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Last month's *Serpent* article (p. 21 of the March *Levitt Letter*) spoke to stewardship aspects of strengthening a marriage. This Note offers the essence of **"Small Acts, Big Love: People Who Put Their Mates' Needs First Make Themselves Happier Too."** The complete *Wall Street Journal* article is posted at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1Ca>.

"Saying 'I love you' is just words," says Mr. Kline, a 42-year-old engineer from Shoemakersville, Pa. "I like to do things that require effort, planning and a little bit of sacrifice. It shows you are putting the other person first."

Researchers call this "compassionate love"—recognizing a spouse's needs and concerns and putting them ahead of your own. "It's not just making people feel good," says Harry T. Reis, a University of Rochester professor of psychology. "It's a way of communicating to the other person that you understand what they are all about and that you appreciate and care for them."

Small selfless acts between spouses aren't just nice—they also are necessary, experts say. When you are compassionate to your spouse, it increases your own happiness at least as much as the other person's.

Accept, don't judge. Give your spouse time and space to do what he likes to do—even if it annoys you. One small loving gesture—or many—can go a long way.

It's important not to expect payback, other than a thank you. You're not supposed to trumpet what you are doing, Dr. Reis says. "The 'I'll take your needs into account

if you take my needs into account' path to relationship improvement is guaranteed to fail," he says.

10 Marriage Sweeteners—ways couples can show "compassionate" love to improve a relationship:

- Put your spouse's goals first.
 - Try to understand your spouse's thoughts and feelings.
 - Accept, don't judge.
 - Be open to your spouse's requests.
 - Modify your plans for your spouse's sake.
 - Do something special for your spouse.
 - Express tenderness and caring.
 - Go out of your way to "be there."
 - Show respect and admiration.
 - Show that you value your spouse.
- Two words: Thank you.

From last month's article: "In marriage, to be content at all, each party has to continually keep a positive balance in the 'goodwill account' that each has in the other's heart." Hopefully the pointers above will inspire you (and those with whom you share this article) to strengthen marital bonds. Some of these concepts are applicable to your relationship with Jesus (AND to appreciating all that He does for you)! ★





Letters to ZLM

A Third Temple?

Dear ZLM,

Will there actually be a third Jewish Temple constructed before the second coming of Jesus? –B.

Dear B.,

Yes, Bible prophecy is very clear—in both the Old and New Testaments—that a third Temple will be built prior to the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation. In the middle of this Tribulation (three and a half years into it), the antiChrist will go into the Holy of Holies to stop the animal sacrifices and demand that he alone must be worshiped as God. This event is called the Abomination of Desolation (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1–2). –Todd

Zola Tours are the Best!

Dear ZLM,

If I weren't so old (87), I would go again to Israel. Your tours are the best! God bless –D.B.W. (PA)

Dear D.B.W.—

Thank you for the encouraging note and the generous donation. We hope that we have your enthusiasm for the issues of the Kingdom should we live to your age. Your message is a refreshing missive borne on the wings of eagles! Be blessed and be a continued blessing to all those around you.

Shalom –Myles & Katharine

Apocrypha

Dear Todd,

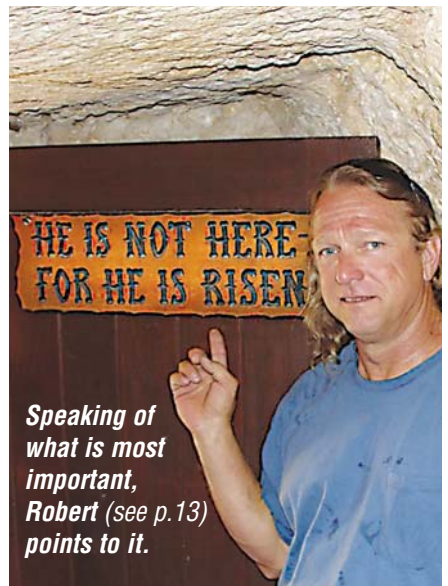
How important are the Books of Enoch and Jasher to the Christian faith? They are mentioned in the Bible so they must be important. –K.K.

Dear K.K.—

These are apocryphal books and important only insofar as you quote a line or verse from them. However, keep in mind that they are not inspired books of Scripture. Neither ancient Judaism nor the early Church recognized these books as part of the biblical canon. The inspired canon comprises 66 books from Genesis to Revelation. –Todd

"A trip to Israel is worth 10 years of Sunday School."

—Zola Levitt



Speaking of what is most important, Robert (see p.13) points to it.

The Big Lie Technique Still Works

Dear ZLM,

Here is my History of Palestine, submitted in response to your State of "Palestine" Quiz (January 2013 *Levitt Letter*, p.6). You stated: "Anyone able to answer any of the above questions will receive the Dry Bones award for creative and imaginative writing." You imply there can be many winners, not just the person with the best "history," so I look forward to receiving my award from you.

—In Christ, M.K.G. (MO)

Dear M.K.G.—

WHOA! Before you enjoy the award for understanding "Palestinian" history, you may need to "un-leap" back from the incredible gap you jumped in your narrative. You provided a lovely history of the *Philistines*, including Emperor Hadrian's renaming of Israel in honor of these Aegean (Greece) based, seaborne enemies of the ancient Jews. You even call them Philistines throughout your essay.

But your conclusion demonstrates your great leap: "... in order to keep peace, and since the Philistines have long since disappeared as a distinct people group, why not give their proven descendants whatever they want?"

Yikes! "Disappeared" is right! There is NO lineage—proven or otherwise—between the modern-day Arabs and the Philistines of ancient Israel.

A number of Arab families who lived in modern Israel when the neighboring five Muslim nations attacked newborn Israel in 1948 were advised by their Muslim leaders to flee. They did; and when the Jews won the war, they stayed away. A similar number of Jewish families fled from the Muslim nations of the Middle East and found refuge in Israel.

Consider these differences—

Muslim/Arab nations have refused to absorb their displaced brothers, preferring to leave them in "refugee" camps which breed ignorance and hatred. Those Arabs who chose to remain and enjoy the prosperity of Israel have lived as full Israeli citizens with voting rights and representation in the Knesset. Jews cannot safely live in most Muslim nations.

Here are the answers to the 11 questions on the State of "Palestine" Quiz: There are no answers because none of the conditions that define a nation ever existed in the case of "Palestine." Bottom line: **The homeland of Arabs is Arabia!**

Pray for our Arab cousins—that the revelation of *Sar Shalom* (the Prince of Peace) would overwhelm them with love for the covenant sons of Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob (whose name was ISRAEL). Blessings —Myles



The One New Man

Dear ZLM,

We can no longer afford to lead people to the way of our Jewish ancestors but must now lead them to the way of the One New Man in Christ (Ephesians 2:15) where there are no more references to Jews or Jewish roots and festivals but to His festivals and His roots.

We are all grafted into His Tree—the Tree of Life—once we accept Messiah, and we then partake of His feasts and not Jewish feasts and customs. (Although they may look alike, there are many manmade additions to Jewish feasts.) Jesus is regarded as Jewish; but after His death, resurrection, and ascension, He became the Head of the One New Man who is neither Jew, gentile, nor Greek. Do not be drawn into Judaism; rather be drawn into the lifestyle of *Yeshua HaMashiach* / Jesus the Christ / the Tree of Life. Do not occupy yourself with Jewish lifestyle or that of any Israeli movement. Occupy yourself with the lifestyle of the Lord. Yes, it is good to study and use Hebrew, but only if it leads to a better understanding of the Lord's lifestyle. —M.L. (TX)

Dear M.L.—

Yeshua IS the center of our ministry at ZLM, and while we are always open to learning from the Jewish world, we do not feel that such sentimentality regarding Jewish things sanctifies Believers. Katharine and I have consistently taught this for years. It is all about Messiah. We share your excitement about His coming! —Myles



Allah and God—NOT the Same

Dear Myles,

Why cannot the Author of the Bible be the author of the Koran? —B.K. (TX)

Dear B.K.—

The way to determine the divergent authorship of the Bible and the Koran is by the fruit of their messages. Consider these points:

- Almost all current wars are related to Islam's mandate for domination.
- The pressure to raise children as "*shaheeds*" (martyrs) who will die to murder Jews demonstrates the opposite character of the God who sent His Son to die for humanity!
- The oppression of women by those who strictly follow the Koran is so brutal that it is difficult to even write about it. This is in stark contrast to the God of the Bible who calls women to become a part of His Bride. Everywhere the Bible has gone, women have been elevated in stature and influence.

The comparisons go on; perhaps the most blatant is the call to Muslims to kill Jews and Christians in the End of Days as opposed to Jesus' commandment to "love your neighbor."

Sorry if the facts contradict the sentimental hope for superficial unity, but there it is. —Myles

Offensive Cartoons ... Again

Dear Myles,

In your August 2012 *Levitt Letter* (p. 27), you picture a burka-clad mother and daughter beside two black garbage bags. Believers of Yeshua under YHWH do not approve of this comparison. These two could be future believers in Christ! Why give readers fuel for any level of hatred? You have fallen to the enemy under the guise of “harmless humor.” —In agape, D.H. (MN)

Dear D.H.—

At the risk of resurrecting our “cartoon controversies,” I will address your concern. One man’s humor is another man’s blasphemy; we cannot please all the people all the time.

However, regarding the burka cartoon: if the Muslim world needs anything, it is a sense of humor that could lead to self-reflection and maybe, just maybe, by the mercy of God, a reformation! The need is very great in Islam. Muslims abandoning some of their barbaric practices and joining the 21st century would be a huge blessing to the entire world.

I was so moved by the 2009 Iranian elections in which no one, not even our government, stood with the people in their attempt to unseat Ahmadinejad, that I wrote a song, “The Bride Behind the Veil,” which is circulating through the underground church in Iran. It calls on the very women trapped behind those burkas to step out and find their freedom in Yeshua. Thank God a tremendous (unreported) number are turning to Jesus in Iran. The Bride of Christ IS coming out from behind the veil and donning her wedding garments. —Shalom, Myles

What Are They Thinking?

Dear ZLM,

I cannot understand some of our government’s actions. It seems like they are pushing us into the End Times. —Dr. A.J.W. (TX)

Dear Dr. A.J.W.—

We agree. What would possess our leaders to move the chess pieces closer to an end-times configuration? We pray daily for courage among our legislators. This ministry advises our members to *KEEP LOOKING UP*, because surely our redemption is drawing near! In the presence of the Lord, there is fullness of joy. In spite of seemingly dark decisions in dark times... HE IS LORD! Thanks for caring and for loving what God loves. —Myles and Katharine ★



Student Protest

COUNTER-DEMONSTRATIONS: Arab students at Hebrew University protested against Israel’s November “Pillar of Cloud” operation in Gaza, while Jewish students held a counter-demonstration in support of the Israeli army. Even though Israel was at war with the “Palestinians,” Arab students remained free to exercise their Israeli-granted democratic right to protest. Such demonstrations are forbidden in Muslim theocracies.

Strawberry Leaves' Substance Helps Protect Crops

Israeli Advances
in Science &
Medicine



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich / JPost.com

A novel, environmentally friendly agent that naturally controls fungus and bacteria in agriculture has been developed by the Yisum Research Development Company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The new biocontrol method for protecting plants from pathogens uses yeast isolated from strawberry leaves, is non-toxic, and effective for a large variety of plants.

Agriculture depends heavily on the use of pesticides to increase crop yield. But the widespread use of chemical pesticides has resulted in severe environmental pollution, and many pathogens are developing resistance to the chemicals. In addition, many pesticides are now banned for use, and organic farming may not rely on such substances at all. A major goal, therefore, is to develop new, environmentally friendly tools to control pathogens.

Now, Yisum's new biocontrol agent, based on naturally occurring fungi, not only boosts the plants' resistance to infestations but also



enhances growth. The agent was developed by **Dr. Maggie Levy** from the university's Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology.



Advances: Continued/Medicine

Early Detection of Breast Cancer

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem / HUJI.ac.il

Researchers at the Hebrew University's Institute of Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) have discovered a new mechanism by which breast cancer cells switch on their aggressive cancerous behavior. The discovery provides a valuable marker for the early diagnosis and follow-up treatment of malignant growths.



In a study published in the online edition of *Cell Reports*, conducted by doctoral student **Vered Ben-Hur** (l) in the lab of **Dr. Rotem Karni** (r) at IMRIC, the researchers found that breast cancer cells change the alternative splicing of an important enzyme, called S6K1, which is a protein involved in the transmission of information into the cell.

When this happens, breast cancer cells start to produce shorter versions of this enzyme and these shorter versions transmit signals ordering the cells to grow, proliferate, survive, and invade other tissues.

On the other hand, the researchers found that the long form of this protein acts as a tumor suppressor that protects normal cells from becoming cancerous.

There are several medical implications emanating from the research, say the researchers. One is the use of the newly discovered short forms of S6K1 as a diagnostic marker for the detection of breast cancer. Several new anticancer drugs can inhibit the cancerous activity of the short forms of S6K1. Thus, the detection of these new forms can predict the efficacy of these drugs to treat cancer patients. ★



Researchers at the Hebrew University have discovered a marker for early diagnosis and treatment of malignant cancerous growths.

Good News for Knees

By Abigail Klein
Leichman
Israel21c.org



In a groundbreaking advance, a novel Israeli implant provides a scaffold for the body to regenerate true joint-protecting cartilage.

If you get a cut, break a bone, or scrape an elbow, your bloodstream brings the injury all the necessary nutrients for healing. But if your cartilage gets damaged, you're out of luck. This flexible soft tissue that cushions joints—especially in the knee—has no blood vessels and therefore little ability to heal itself.

However, an Israeli medical device company is now offering a safe and effective, off-the-shelf cartilage regeneration solution. CartiHeal's trademarked Agili-C can be implanted in a single-step arthroscopic procedure. In clinical studies, it was shown to regenerate true hyaline cartilage (the most abundant type of cartilage in the human body) after six months.

Founder and CEO Nir Altschuler says that this is a breakthrough in the field—the “Holy Grail” in orthopedics—because other experimental treatments generate only “hyaline-like” cartilage, which is actually a non-lasting fibrous tissue rather than the real deal.

“Our clinical results, to date, confirm rapid cartilage and bone formation, as clearly visible on MRIs and X-rays,” says Altschuler. “Patients are reporting significant improvement in pain level and return to normal function, including sports.”

The implant has earned the European Union's CE Mark of approval, and the company is currently running post-marketing clinical studies at leading centers in Europe.

[*\(continued next page\)*](#)

Agili-C



Good News: Continued



Cartilage can't repair itself

There are approximately 1.2 million cartilage repair procedures performed annually worldwide, and these surgeries mainly aim for pain relief since it hasn't been possible until now to regenerate true hyaline cartilage.

Altschuler says Agili-C has the potential to heal the problem at an early stage and halt further joint degeneration. Therefore, it might have the potential to prevent the need for more radical procedures, such as knee replacement, down the road.

The implant provides a scaffold that enables stem cells to climb up from the bone marrow, form vessels within the scaffold, and regenerate tissue, Altschuler explains.

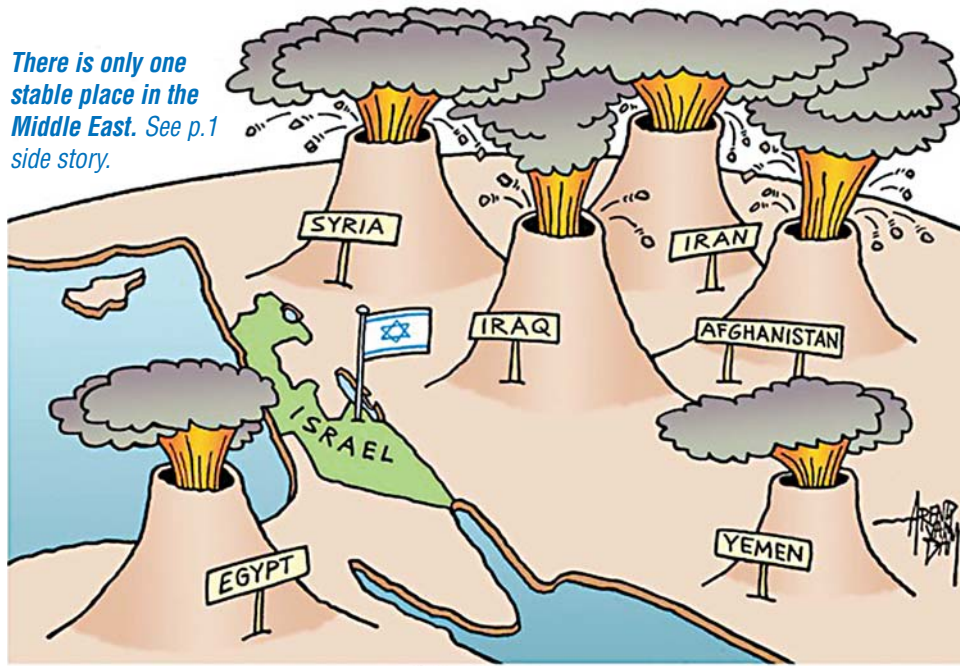
Within a few months, the top layer becomes cartilage while the bottom layer becomes bone – each identical to the body's own tissues. The regenerated cells gradually dissolve the implanted scaffold and the joints are nearly as good as normal.

The first patient to receive Agili-C was a 47-year-old Slovenian man, a former athlete whose knee cartilage was damaged due to a volleyball injury six years before the June 2011 surgery. Unable to enjoy sports, he suffered on and off from knee swelling and pain.

Six months after receiving the Agili-C implant, the patient was on the ski slopes. A year from his surgery, he completed a 180K cycling marathon, according to company officials. ★

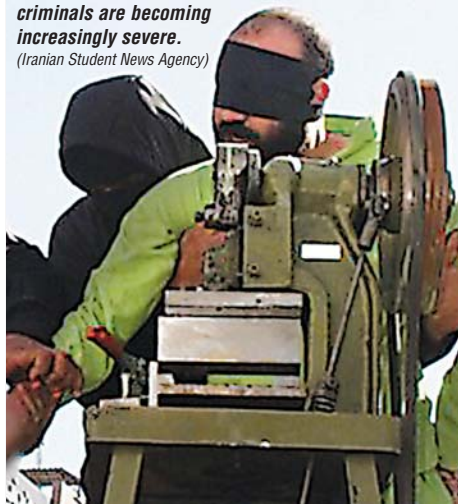


There is only one stable place in the Middle East. See p.1 side story.



political landscape

ISLAMIC HIGH-TECH: Sentences against criminals are becoming increasingly severe.
(Iranian Student News Agency)



Iran Unveils Finger Amputating Machine

By Phoebe Greenwood / Telegraph.co.uk

Photographs appearing to show a blindfolded man having his fingers severed by a mechanical amputation device have been published by an official Iranian press agency.

According to the ISNA news service, the prisoner used to demonstrate the brutal contraption had been convicted of theft and adultery by a court in Shiraz the previous week.

A series of pictures showed three masked officials, clad entirely in black, holding the man's right hand in a vice while one turns a wheel operating the guillotine in the manner of a rotary saw. In none of the four closely cropped images does the bearded prisoner's expression register pain, suggesting that he may have been drugged.

The Iranian government's deplorable human rights record has been well documented. Public executions (including death by stoning) and torture (including flogging and amputation) are routine.

How long will the West dance around the horrible truth that Islam, unchecked, descends deeper into every manifestation of evil known to man? While the Jews create new ways to heal (see p.28), Muslims work on more sophisticated ways to torture and maim. —Myles

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Anti-Missile System Protects Passenger Jets

IsraelHayom.com

An Israeli defense technology company, Elbit Systems Ltd, has successfully tested an anti-missile system designed to protect commercial passenger jets against shoulder-launched missiles

Elbit said its C-MUSIC system proved effective a number of times in protecting a Boeing 707 aircraft.

In 2002, militants fired two surface-to-air missiles at an Israeli charter plane shortly after takeoff in Mombasa, Kenya. The missiles missed their target but spurred an Israeli effort to improve countermeasures.

Elbit says the new system can be applied to any aircraft. It says it integrates advanced fiber laser technology with a thermal camera to protect against missiles fired from the ground.





Middle East Mustaches

By Tim Hume / CNN.com

Thick, handsome mustaches have long been prized by men throughout the Middle East as symbols of masculine virility, wisdom, and maturity.

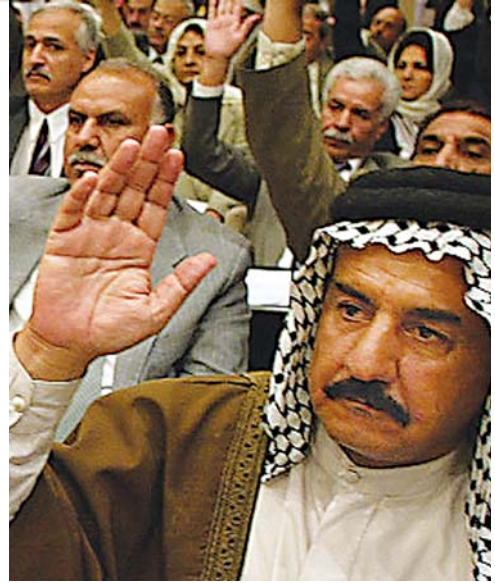
Turkish plastic surgeon Selahattin Tulunay and Pierre Bouhanna, a Paris-based surgeon, have been performing increasing numbers of mustache implants. Bouhanna says the majority of his patients come from the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Lebanon, and Turkey, with men traveling to France to have the surgery performed.

"My impression is they want to establish their male aspect," he said. "They want a strong mustache."

Both surgeons use follicular unit extraction in which groups of hairs are taken from areas of dense hair growth to be implanted in the mustache area. Patients are generally aged between 30 and 50, and able to fly home the day after the procedure, which costs about \$7,000, performed under local anesthetic.

Andrew Hammond, a Saudi Arabia-based journalist and author on Arab popular culture, said the mustache has a long history in the region. "A mustache was a big thing, ever since the Ottoman time," he said. "Most Arab leaders have mustaches, or some form of facial hair."

Christa Salamandra, associate professor of anthropology at City University of New York, said that "traditionally, a luxurious mustache was a symbol of high social status," and figured heavily in matters of personal honor in the Arab world. Men swore on their mustaches in sayings and folk tales, used them as collateral for loans and guarantees for promises, and sometimes even shaved



their opponents' lips as a punishment.

The notion of a man's personal honor being bound up with his mustache appears to have survived into more recent times in some areas. In 2008, militants in Gaza abducted a Fatah opponent and shaved off his mustache to dishonor him.

The American diplomat Joel Barlow, posted in 1795 as U.S. consul to Algiers, wrote to his wife that he had grown a thick black mustache, which gave him "the air of a tiger," and had proved useful in his work in the region. ★

"Having a mustache was always a big thing, ever since the Ottoman time ... I think culturally it suggests masculinity, wisdom and experience."

Andrew Hammond, commentator on Arab popular culture

Archaeology: Samson Coin

Archaeology
By Leon Watson
DailyMail.co.uk



A tiny seal has been uncovered that could be the first archaeological evidence of Samson, the Bible's slayer of Philistines.

Archaeologists discovered the ancient artifact while excavating the tel of Beit Shemesh in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem. It appears to depict the Old Testament story of Samson, whose might was undone by his lust for the temptress Delilah, and his fight with a lion.



The seal, which measures less than an inch in diameter, shows a large animal with a leonine tail attacking a human figure. The level of the excavation where it was found dates to roughly the 11th century BC, when Israelite tribes had moved into the area after Joshua's conquest of Canaan. It was a time when the Jews were led by ad hoc leaders known as judges, one of whom was Samson.

The location of the find was close to the River Sorek that marked the boundary between the Israelites and their Philistine foes. The location also indicates that the figure on the seal could represent Samson, according to Israeli archaeologists Professor Shlomo Bunimovitz and Dr. Zvi Lederman.

Beit Shemesh is regularly mentioned in the Old Testament, most notably in 1 Samuel 6—the book of the ruler immediately after Samson—as being the first city encountered by the Ark of the Covenant on its way back from Philistia after having been captured by the Philistines in battle.

Israelis and Diaspora Jews are at the forefront of scientific, archaeological, medical, and agricultural breakthroughs. How is it that the court of world opinion vilifies this small band of creative and generous people? Only God can settle this, and HE WILL. In His time and in His way, He will vindicate the Jews ... and He will be known! —Myles



Find: The ruins of the ancient biblical city in the tel of Beit Shemesh, located near the modern city.



Ten Lost Tribes: Found

By Asher Intrater
ReviveIsrael.org



The kingdom of Israel reached its height at the time of David and Solomon, approximately 1,000 years before the time of Christ. During the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam, the northern ten tribes of Israel split away from Judah and Benjamin, dividing the kingdom into the northern tribes of Israel and the southern tribes of Judah.

From this division rose a hope to be reunited by the future Messiah (Ezekiel 37:12ff). The northern tribes of Israel were taken into captivity by the Assyrians in the eighth century BC and the southern tribes of Judah followed in the sixth century BC. The Bible records the captives of Judah returning to the land of Israel during the fifth century BC.

Lacking a major description of the restoration of the northern tribes, speculation has risen over the years: "Where are the lost ten tribes?"

Many Christian cults claim to be descendants of the ten northern tribes. This includes groups in Japan, Native Americans, some elements in Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and parts of the Christian Zionist movement.

The truth: there are no ten lost tribes. During the time of the captivities, members of each of the northern tribes returned to the area of Judah. After that, the name Judah—or the Jews—referred not only to Judah but to the Benjaminites, the Levites, and the remnant of all the northern tribes.

All the tribes of Israel are included in what we call today the Jewish people. Here are four of seven basic biblical facts proving this position. (See all seven at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1A9>.)

- **2 Chronicles records many times that members of the northern tribes immigrated to Judah after the kingdom division.**
 - **After the Babylonian captivity, the nation of Israel was restored under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. Extensive genealogy lists indicate that the northern Israelites kept family records and knew which tribe they were from.**
 - **Yeshua ministered all over the land of Israel and never mentioned the possibility of any lost tribe floating around somewhere. He was called to go to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6).**
- In the same way, the Apostles addressed the crowds of Jews in the first century as the descendants of Israel. (Acts 2:36)**
- **In Romans, chapters 9 to 11, Paul expresses his prayer for the Children of Israel to be saved. This biblical remnant of Israel that fulfills the prophecies is the same group who rejected Yeshua in the first century. Not some lost tribe, but Jews living in Israel at that time.**

The falling away of Israel has meant the salvation of the gentiles. The drama of Romans 9–11 only makes sense if speaking about the Jewish people. If someone thinks it refers to Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses, the whole meaning of the passage is lost. That viewpoint would destroy the promises of God to Israel, the purpose of evangelism in Israel, and the meaning of the reconciliation between Israel and the Church in the End Times. ★



“The Jews Are A Disease”

MEMRI.ORG / The Middle East Media Research Institute



In an article posted on the Jordanian news website donianews.net, journalist Adnan Al-Rousan compared the Jews to a malignant disease that spreads throughout the world and must be excised from the root. The following are excerpts from the article:

“The Jews are behind the disasters [afflicting] all peoples of this world. The Jews are behind all the troubles of the Arab and Islamic nation. The Jews are those who encourage rivalry between Christians and Muslims, because only by [causing] such rivalry can they gain control over the world’s resources. The Jews are a disease that spreads throughout the global body, and the world cannot rest until it removes this disease from the root.”

“The Jews are those who funded the film [*Innocence of Muslims*] that harmed the Prophet, and several Americans, in their extreme foolishness, produced this film, which caused Muslim resentment and led to the killing of the American ambassador to Benghazi...”

“The Jews know that Muslims cannot respond to harm against the Prophet Muhammad by harming the Christian or Jewish faith, or by cursing another prophet, since Muslim morals are not the morals of the Jews or the extremist Crusaders in the U.S., and Islam is a mighty religion that will not stoop to that level in this dialogue. Mighty Islam built cities, countries, and cultures, and did not carry out acts of slaughter like the Jews, who were cruel to children in Jenin, Hebron, Jerusalem, and Gaza.”

“The Jews are cowards in war; we remember the South Lebanon war [of 2006] and the pictures of Israeli soldiers weeping and packing their diapers out of ‘bravery and courage.’

“Nobody likes the Jews and nobody ever liked them. They are usurers, crooks, and cheats; they make false

promises, and they are thieves. I will not ask anyone to read the Koran in order to know the traits of the Jews; [instead] I will present the testimony of one of them. Read Shakespeare’s play *The Merchant of Venice* and behold how the Jew acts and thinks; observe the Jewish behavior to Christians.

“What benefit did the Jews gain by cursing the Prophet Muhammad, them and the remnants of the new Crusaders in the U.S.?... Who is the terrorist now? Isn’t it the Jews who are the lowly terrorists, this despicable people that does not want peace with anyone in the world? Aren’t they the terrorists?”

“One day they will leave here, humiliated and banished. We will banish them from Palestine, from all of Palestine... The Jew cannot live unless he is facing women and children with his finger on the trigger... They will leave our country sooner or later. They will leave because they are foreigners, they will leave because Allah promised it, and they will leave because they are also stupid.”



Holocaust Remembrance Day:

sunset April 7—sunset April 8, 2013
Remember the six million (6,000,000)
Jewish lives that were lost during the
Holocaust.



To
Index

JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

Great Team

Gabriel, the mayor of a small Israeli town, is walking past a construction site with Sara, his wife. One of the construction workers stops and calls out to Sara.

“What’s new, Sara?”

“Why, it’s nice to see you again Avi,” Sara replies. She turns to introduce her husband to the construction worker, and they speak for several minutes.

After the mayor and his wife continue on, he turns to Sara to ask how she knows him.

“Oh,” she says, “We went together in high school. I even thought about marrying him.”

Gabriel begins to laugh. “You don’t realize how lucky you are. If I hadn’t come along, today you would be the wife of a construction worker!”

Without hesitation, Sara replies, “Not really. If I had married him, he’d now be a mayor.” ★

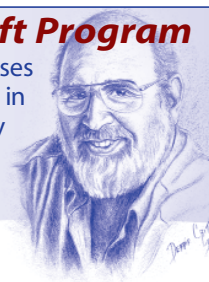


A cheerful heart is good medicine –
Proverbs 17:22



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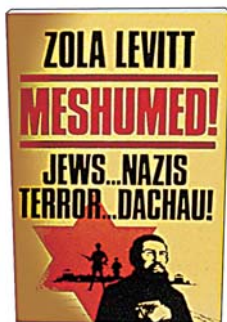
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