

Levitt

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



Letter

An Eternal Covenant p. 4

Thanksgiving: A Jewish Perspective

By (Rabbi) Naftali Silberberg / Chabad.org

We Americans are a thankful lot. Our calendar is dotted with days when we express our gratitude to various individuals. On Veterans Day, we thank the members of the Armed Forces for their dedicated service; on Memorial Day, those courageous men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our liberties and democratic lifestyle. On other selected days, we pause to thank different historic individuals who have made valuable contributions to our nation.

And then there is Thanksgiving. The day when we thank God for enabling all the above—and for all else He does for us.

There is no doubt that this great country's historically unprecedented success and prosperity are due to the fact that its Founding Fathers recognized that there is a Supreme Being who provides and cares for every creature.

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The Most Anti-Semitic Act

By Sid Roth
CharismaNews.com



The most anti-Semitic act I know is to so love and honor your Jewish friends that you do not share the Gospel with them. I am a Jew and Israeli citizen and, like Paul, would give up my very life for my brethren after the flesh.

I am grateful for the recent years' Christians Bless Israel Nights. God knows Israel needs friends and support. But to bless the Jew and Israel and intentionally withhold the Gospel on these nights is *not* Christian.

I am in favor of infomercials that raise money to help persecuted Jews return to Israel. But to take Christian money and not help Jews who believe in Jesus is wrong!

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Thanksgiving... *continued from cover*

They understood that since God sustains and gives life to every being, it follows that every being has certain “unalienable rights” upon which no government can impinge.

These strong morals upon which our republic was founded express themselves to this day in American life. “In God We Trust” on the dollar bill reassures us that, as a people, we still recognize and acknowledge the Source of all our achievements.

As Jewish citizens of this land, we always look to the Torah (Five Books of Moses) for additional insight. What light does the Torah shed on thankfulness?

Actually, one particular *mitzvah* (commandment) is completely devoted to expressing gratitude—the *mitzvah* of *bikkurim* (“first fruits,” Deuteronomy 26:1–12). During the Temple eras, every farmer was commanded to bring to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem the first fruits which ripened in his orchard. There he would recite a passage thanking God for the Land and its bountiful harvest, and give the fruits to the *Kohanim* (priests). The *Midrash* (O.T. commentaries) extols the great virtue of this *mitzvah*, saying that the Land of Israel was given to the Jews as a reward for the *mitzvah* of *bikkurim* they would observe after entering the Land!

With all the thankful prayers that occur on a daily basis, why the need for a specific *mitzvah* to emphasize the point? And why the great reward for this particular form of expressing thanks?

The rabbis point out one obvious difference between *bikkurim* and all the other ways we thank God: *bikkurim* involves more than just words—it requires a commitment; the gratitude must express itself in deeds. *Bikkurim* implies that our thankfulness to God cannot remain in the realm of emotions, thoughts, or even speech, but must also move us to action.

While the *mitzvah* of *bikkurim* at the Temple is not practicable today, its lesson is timeless. Our gratitude to God must express itself in the actions of our daily life. Giving back the “first of our fruit,” the choicest share of the crop, is the only appropriate way to thank God for giving us *all* our fruit.

It’s likely that America’s founders gave thanks in harmony with the Hebrew Calendar. The crops are in, we celebrate with feasting, and pray for future good harvests.

Thanks to God!

—Myles



Illustration: Sarah Kranz



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Most Anti-Semitic Act

(Sid Roth continues from cover sidebar)

I am concerned about Christians who are more concerned about Jewish roots than Jewish souls.

I am concerned about traditional Jewish rabbis who are exalted on Christian television yet *hate* Jews who believe in Jesus.

This is the set time to favor Zion. The spiritual scales are being removed from the eyes of Jewish people. But Paul says in Romans 10:1, 14

“My heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.... How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

And we read in Ezekiel 3:17, 18

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. ... When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning ... to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

It’s time for the emperor to put on his clothes. Someone has to tell him that he is naked. ★



An Eternal Covenant

Katharine
Weiss
ZLP Co-host



Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all lay varying claims to Jerusalem and the Land of Israel. Although Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran, Muslims have a fantasy about Mohammed and his flying horse leaving Earth 1,400 years ago from what Jews and Christians call the Temple Mount. In reality, historians can identify actual places where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and throughout the Land 2,000 years ago.

The Jews have a 4,000-year presence in the Holy Land. Israel's very name comes from the Jewish patriarch Jacob, whose name was changed to "Israel" by God Himself.

I love the symbol of the menorah, which represents God's eternal covenant with Israel and the Jewish people. The menorah illustrates God's light, presence, blessings, and anointing. The menorah is part of the blueprint for the wilderness tabernacle, which Moses received by revelation on Mount Sinai. It was part of the Almighty's instructions about how the Hebrews were to meet with Him.

Beginning with "You shall make a lampstand of pure gold..." the Lord gives detailed instructions on how to fashion the menorah. Exodus 25:31 and the following verses describe the magnificent work of this essential article of God's house.

The menorah has such a powerful historical and spiritual meaning that I was overcome with thanksgiving when I read of a recent discovery at the foot of the Temple Mount. Third generation archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology was directing a "routine" excavation when the team uncovered a seventh-century medallion inscribed with a menorah, a shofar, and a Torah scroll, all in excellent condition!

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...Covenant: Katharine continues

I thought of our TV series *The Stones Cry Out*. Yeshua warned us that if we did not proclaim Him, the very stones of the Earth would do it! (Luke 19:40) This archaeological find tells us that there is more to come, and that God is confirming His Word as well as His gift of land to the Jewish people.

The dramatic size of the piece (approximately 4 inches in diameter) and the inscribed menorah, shofar, and scroll indicate that it was not likely personal jewelry, but may have been a decoration for a Torah scroll.

In 1947, just before the rebirth of Israel as a nation, God's "birthday present" in the form of the Dead Sea Scrolls verified the Bible's authenticity. Now, God is once again confirming His choice of the Jewish people and the Land itself.

He calls the Jewish people (and those of us grafted in) to be a light—a menorah—to the world.

Indeed He says,

"It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob,
And to restore the preserved ones of Israel;
I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,
That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth." — Isaiah 49:6

[See p. 32 for more on Dr. Eilat Mazar.](#) ★



ARCHAEOLOGIST Dr. Eilat Mazar
showcases her team's historic
findings at a press conference.

Photo: Daniel K. Eisenbud



Thanks for the Real New Age!

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Co-host



After reading this column's title, I can just see the headlines: "*Messianic TV Host Admits He Believes in New Age.*" No doubt too many would misunderstand the meaning. However, my subject is this fact of earthly life: Yeshua is coming again, and He is bringing His Kingdom with Him. That promises to be something so new, so fresh, and so full of resurrection life that it is tantamount to a new Age. But it is categorically different from the "new age" of contemporary popularity, which is very old. The temptation to become "as gods" appeared in the Garden of Eden and still tempts many.

Baby-Boomer Jewish believers in Yeshua came to faith after wandering. For example, I grew up in a kosher home, was required to attend Hebrew School three days per week, and trained for my Bar Mitzvah at a solid Conservative synagogue in "the old country"—New York City. After my Bar Mitzvah, I joined the Woodstock parade, spiritually adrift for twenty years.

My world had been divided into two groups: the chosen, gifted, funny, (and sometimes annoying) Jews — and everyone else. The "everyone else" meant Christians. We didn't know many Muslims, Hindus, or Buddhists. We thought all others were Catholics and church people, who hated us. Jesus was a Jew who became a Catholic and was worshipped by gentile followers who weren't smart enough to know that it's delusional to worship a man. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christ, must have been happy that he turned out so well, such a big shot.

The idea of a Jew following Jesus was such a *shonda* (Yiddish for "shame") that doing so was out of the question. In fact, it was the only path we were

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Real New Age: Myles continues



forbidden to tread. We could be Buddhist, agnostic, Hindu, Wiccan, Marxist, communist, or embrace any ideology as long as we avoided Jesus. Looking at the Nazi-branded number tattoos on the arms of shopkeepers, friends, and relatives was all it took for any post-war kid to understand: that's what "Christians" do to Jews. Many of us became what we call "BuJews"—a philosophical mutation of Jewish culture and varying degrees of Eastern, often Buddhist, spirituality.

The finer points of discerning genuine Christians who love the Jewish people were unknown to my friends and me. The "Jewishness" of Jesus was, likewise, unheard of. His identity as THE Jewish Messiah? Absurd.

Yet, in spite of all the roadblocks to faith caused by two millennia of Replacement Theology and persecution by those wearing the label "Christian," God birthed the modern Messianic movement. Why?

Because He is preparing Earth for a new Age! That's why we co-labor with the Lord through this ministry to see His name lifted high. God is not willing that any perish, but that all come to eternal life (2 Peter 3:9). We want as many as possible to join us in the benevolent theocracy that the King of kings will bring to Earth. ★

Katharine and Myles with ZLP film crew, co-laborers on location at the Dead Sea in Israel



The Meaning of 'Allahu Akbar'

By Andrew G. Bostom
PJMedia.com



What are Muslims saying when they shout, "Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!?" Is it "Thank God! Thank God!?"

One English translator of the 14th-century Muslim jurist (1292–1350) Ibn Qayyim's *The Way to Patience and Gratitude* opts for "Allah is Greater" as the specific translation of "Allahu Akbar." On page 463, the following explanation is provided:

...I preferred using "the Greater" to "the Greatest"... Allahu Akbar literally means "Allah is Greater" with the comparative mode. Yet, this does not mean that He (Glory be to Him) is not the Greatest, nor does it mean that there is anything that is put in comparison with Him. This is because when the Muslim says it, he means He is "Greater" than anything else, which, consequently, means He is the Greatest. This use gives more influence. This may be why it is used in Arabic this way, otherwise it should have been used as "Allahu al-Akbar," in the superlative mode. Surely, Allah Knows best.

E. W. Lane's classical 19th-century *Arabic English Lexicon*, elaborates (p. 2587) on the preferred "elliptical" meaning:

[Allah] is the greatest great [being] or [Allah] is greater than every other great [being].

"Allahu Akbar" has been employed by Muslims as a jihadist war cry dating from its declaration by Islam's prophet Mohammed when he made an aggressive proto-jihadist foray on the Jews of the Khaybar oasis. Here is how the phrase has been rendered into English by pious Muslims from the canonical hadith collection (Sahih Bukhari 4:52:195):

Narrated Anas: The Prophet set out for Khaibar and reached it at night. He used not to attack if he reached the people at night, till the day broke. So, when the day dawned, the Jews came out with their bags and spades. When they saw the Prophet; they said, "Muhammad and his army!" The Prophet said, "Allahu-Akbar! (Allah is Greater) and Khaybar is ruined, for whenever we approach a nation (i.e. enemy to fight) then it will be a miserable morning for those who have been warned."

The intellectual and moral blindness of U.S. political and military leaders to the doctrine of jihad continues to engender self-destructive "solutions" to global jihad depredations, in Syria and across the globe. ★



Thanks be to the real God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that this vital truth is being heralded here. I have been wincing for over a decade whenever the mythology of "Thank God" is pitched in the media. This is, was, and always will be a triumphant cry proclaiming the (alleged) superiority of Islam over all "infidels." But God...! Yeshua the Jewish Messiah will have the final cry of victory. It began with "It is finished" 2,000 years ago! There's the difference: our God gave His life for us, He doesn't take our lives. —Myles

Goal of Islam: Dominance in U.S.

BY BRENDAN KIRBY / Blog.al.com



Abukhdair

Mohammad Abdul Rahman Abukhdair, 25, (right) had been scheduled to go on trial later this year. However, on the day of his recent pretrial conference, he switched his plea to guilty.

Federal prosecutors agreed to recommend a 15-year prison sentence for the charge of conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists.

The plea comes four months after co-defendant Randy “Rasheed” Wilson, pleaded guilty in the case. Wilson, a convert to Islam, met Abukhdair online. Both men now will be sentenced in December.

Although the defendants ultimately agreed to fight for Islam in Africa, court records indicate that Abukhdair initially favored terrorism at home. At one point, during a conversation about AQI—al-Qaeda in Iraq—Abukhdair suggested that he and Wilson would be AQUSA—al-Qaeda in the United States.

“I don’t know if you guys understand the greatness of a jihad operation in the U.S., man,” he told Wilson and an undercover FBI agent in February of 2012.

Abukhdair told the agent that an Egyptian sheik was wrong to suggest that he give up jihad for *da’wah*, a more peaceful form of proselytizing. The goal of Islam, the defendant said, was to take over the world, and the means of achieving that goal was the sword of jihad.

Abukhdair planned to take hostages and demand the release of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, the so-called “Blind Sheik” implicated in the 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center; and Aafia Siddiqui, a scientist serving an 86-year prison sentence for assault with intent to murder investigators during a 2008 interrogation.

“We just shoot it out with police,” Abukhdair said, according to his plea document. And if U.S. officials did not comply with their demands, the defendant said, “Well, at the very least, we kill them all.” ★



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Haifa: City of Promise

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF Our Man In Haifa



Haifa is a progressive city. The third largest urban center in Israel, it boasts an international seaport with a heavy emphasis on commercial shipping. When the Mediterranean is calm, we can see freighters lining up in the bay, waiting to unload their wares. Heavy industry, including a large oil refinery and chemical processing plants, have earned Haifa the label of the “working man’s city.”

At the same time, Haifa has in no way lagged behind in the digital revolution. The city perched on the side of Mount Carmel’s coastal range has been a pioneer in the field of hi-tech. Her “Matam” hi-tech park buildings display names of today’s heavy hitters in the Information Age: Google, Microsoft, Intel, IBM.

like *Beit Chesda* (House of Mercy), *Beit Eliahu* (House of Elijah), *Kehilat HaCarmel* (Carmel Assembly), and *Israel Chai* (Israel Lives) all worship *Yeshua* (Jesus) in Hebrew and Russian.

On Rosh Hashanah 5774 (2013/2014), to the sound of multiple shofars, a Haifa Messianic congregation dedicated its own facility after renting for a dozen years. Radically remodeling a former city courthouse, the fellowship established permanent residence on a busy commercial street. *Shavei Tzion* (Returning to Zion) serves Haifa with a passion. Their ministries include food distribution, a children’s music school for Arab and Jewish families, a Bible college, care for Holocaust survivors, an Internet/television broadcast, international Messianic newspaper in Russian, and a guest house. All of this takes place under their new roof!



**Shavei-Tzion
Messianic church
dedication**

There’s another salient fact about this bayside town of nearly 300,000 (600,000 including the surrounding “metro” area). It is the Israeli city that most successfully integrates its Jewish and Arab citizens. At local businesses, government agencies, restaurants, and parks, one is likely to find Arab Israelis and Jewish Israelis living and working side by side.

This multicultural face of Haifa also holds true for its Messiah-centered houses of worship. Churches conducting services in Arabic include Baptist, Nazarene, and Assemblies of God. Messianic congregations with names

Of course, I’m partial to this Haifa community because it was born out of Tents of Mercy, the work we helped launch in 1995. The leader of *Shavei Tzion* is a spiritual son of mine. To say that I’m proud of him would be an understatement.

But the implication for Haifa is clear. The Messianic Jews are here to stay, and they are making the city a better place to live. After years of poverty, persecution, and pioneering, we are gaining a hearing for the eternal truth of Israel’s Messiah, *Yeshua*. On the slopes of Mount Carmel we can now proclaim, “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace...who proclaims salvation” Isaiah 52:7. ★

The cooperation Eitan describes is a foreshadowing of the Psalm 133/John 17 unity that will characterize the Messianic Age. — Myles

Muslim Paranoia

CLASSIC ZOLA: 1990—23 years ag



The common denominator of the most serious problems in the world right now is Islam. Americans are continually confounded by the behavior of those who practice it.

A recent letter to *The New York Times* made this point eloquently. The writer had previously worked with an American corporation that trained the Saudi National Guard. He began with a story of some documents that had been submitted to a Saudi brigadier general concerning the operation of American tanks. The information was complex and had a number of footnotes, which were indicated by asterisks (*).

The letter related:

The next day I was summoned to his office, where I encountered a visibly angry general. He pointed to the asterisks and asked what they were. I explained that they referred to footnotes. He asked how many points were on the stars on the American flag and I answered "five." He then said that the Saudi star has seven points, and the Israeli star has six points.

He said that each asterisk in my study had six points, and it was therefore obvious I was trying to ruin his reputation by having him forward to his superiors a study filled with Israeli stars. He would accept no further explanation from me, trashed the study, and never spoke to me again. My effectiveness in dealing with him from that time on was destroyed.

The average American cannot appreciate the stark fear and extreme hatred the Muslims have for any other religion.

The letter went on:

In our relations with Arabs, we must keep in mind that we are encountering people with vast cultural differences from our own. . . . They are suspicious to the point of paranoia. Life is a matter of suspicion, directed not only against Jews, but also against Christians and other Arabs. Several years ago, Saudi Airlines suspended operations for several

days while the airline logo was revised when one of the Saudi princes noticed that the spaces between the "S" and the "A" in Saudi created a Christian cross. Television antennas on the top of houses are not allowed to resemble crosses.

The writer has a forgiving attitude [and concluded]:

Our soldiers, however, are in Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Saudi government, and if we are to be effective in our goal of stopping Saddam Hussein, we must make our soldiers aware of Arab sensitivities.

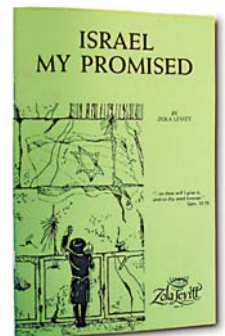
Frankly, I disagree with the writer's conclusion. I don't think American soldiers can put up with such prejudice, nor should they try. What he refers to as "Arab sensitivities," in any other culture would be regarded as the whining of spoiled children.

Our instructions as Christians in regard to the Muslims and everyone else is to pray for them, to love them, and to witness to them. We are to be "wise as serpents, gentle as doves," but above all, to be sure that we are seen for who we are: the disciples of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love." (John 13:35) ★

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 (or see page 18)

Ask The Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. **Should consecrated Christians today hold to all the related “rulings”** in our Hebrew Roots’ Pentateuch’s [first five books of the O.T.] Criminal Justice System, upon which America’s judicial penal system is based? Note, too, that our “grafted into” Hebrew heritage is for 1,000 generations and everlasting.

Please answer with a “Yes,” “Questioning,” or “No,” and then explain.

A. **If I understand your question correctly, you seem to ask:** Are we under the legal economy of the Mosaic Covenant? The answer from Scripture is “No.” We are saved and therefore live under the permanent moral domain and rule of the New Covenant, ratified by Yeshua to take away and replace the Old Covenant, as Hebrews 10:9–18 makes plain.

Beware of the false premise of the “Hebrew Roots” movement – which is neither Hebraic, biblical, nor a return to the true Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Some “Hebrew Roots” groups teach that gentiles are grafted into

the Mosaic Covenant. This movement erroneously conflates all of the biblical covenants together and fails to correctly distinguish between them.

Believers in Yeshua are *not* under the Old Covenant, which was replaced by Jesus with the better promises and realities of the New Covenant that He brought with His death and resurrection (see Hebrews 7–10). The rule of Messiah (given in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5–7) supersedes the Mosaic legal economy. It should be the law every born-again Believer aspires to live under. It will be the law of the Messianic Kingdom when Jesus returns to rule over this Earth for a thousand years (Isaiah 2:1–4; Revelation 20:1–6).

The phrasing of your question led me to expect a prize if I answered “correctly.” Did I win? ★

Well said, Todd. We need to be watchful and guard against sentimentality and a tendency to appropriate “all things Jewish” and then miss *the* point: the New Covenant of Yeshua! —Myles

Believers in Yeshua are not under the Old Covenant. (Also see p. 33.)



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Isaiah 53 & The Way of the Cross

BY TODD D. BAKER

One of the great ironies today is that many Jewish people in Israel—where most of the Bible was written, where the Messiah was born and lived, and where the Gospel originated—don't know the Jewish Gospel and have never read the New Testament (*B'rit Hadashah*) in Hebrew to see how Yeshua fulfilled the Messianic prophecies that are found in the Old Testament (*Tanakh*)!

When David Newton and I participated in this ministry's 27th outreach, the Lord led us to a shop in Jerusalem where I discovered an olive-wood crucifix for sale. Its back displayed a quote from Hosea 14:6 and a commentary about the significance of olive wood: "*His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree.*" The olive tree has always symbolized the glory, splendor, and the very roots of both Judaism and Christianity."



The cross provided a perfect opening to talk with the shop owner, Ilit, about the Messiah's coming and how it was prophesied and anticipated by Israel in the *Tanakh* from Genesis to Malachi. When Jesus came from Nazareth to

the Jews in Israel, He literally fulfilled the expectations (Isaiah 9:1–2).

Pointing to the crucifix, we explained that He came in the first century to die on just such a tree in grand fulfillment of Isaiah 53, written 700 years before Yeshua was born. Ilit was extremely open to proof from the Jewish Bible that shows Yeshua is the Messiah.

While in Tel Aviv, David and I met Shir. When he learned that this ministry travels to Israel three times a year just to bring the Good News of Yeshua to His Chosen People, he became very interested. We gave him a combined Hebrew *Tanakh* and *B'rit Hadashah*, telling him that in this Book, God lays out in great detail His plan for the people of Israel—past, present, and future (see Deut. 28–30 and Rom. 9–11).

We suggested that Shir read up to see how God has executed His plan throughout history right up to the present. In God's plan, He chose Israel through whom to bring the Messiah to redeem the world (Romans 9:5).

Shir told us that this was "a message of great comfort" to him! His words recalled Isaiah 40:1–2—"Comfort ye My people"—where the Lord commands us to comfort His people with the glad tidings of Messiah's coming to redeem and vindicate Israel among the nations. (Isa. 62:1–2)

Shir learned "for the first time" (his words) that Yeshua died for our sins so we might be forgiven. Yeshua is thus the glue that binds the *Tanakh* and *B'rit Hadashah* into one complete story of God that we tell to Israel and to the world. ★

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? Rm.10:15. Please visit: www.levitt.com/announcements#messiah for "The Promised Messiah" printable tract.



Rm.1:16

Islam's Current Violence

BY ROBERT FULFORD (r) / FullComment.NationalPost.com



At this moment, sizable armies of Islamists are pursuing political goals by warlike means while proclaiming their devotion to their faith. Many claim their fighting is inspired by Islamic principles. In some of the worst struggles, Muslims ferociously fight Muslims. All this makes it clear that the idea of Islam as one great global peace movement is at best dubious. Then why do we so often hear that Islam is peaceful? Why would it even come up?

What about Christianity? Isn't it just as bad? Or wasn't it, in the past at least?

Look back in history 400–500 years ago to see what Christians were doing to fellow Christians. The Presbyterian Ayatollahs of 16th century Scotland weren't any different from those in Iran today. The Thirty Years War was a fight to the death between Catholics and Protestants much the same as the fight between Shi'ites and Sunnis today.

But is that an argument? What Christians did in the year 1618 or 1200, or for that matter in Ireland a few years ago, reveals nothing about Islam. Christians have made vicious wars, but that doesn't say anything about whether Islam is a religion of peace or not.

The practices of Christianity have been under serious attack for 150 years or more, the Bible questioned in every detail. As a result, Christianity's political power has been weakened and its warlike propensities limited. Islam badly needs a similar spirit of criticism.

Debate focusing on Islam's meaning and practices should be a routine part of public affairs. Instead it's considered impolite, intolerant, prejudiced, and harmful to community spirit. In Britain, people are warned that if they fail to endorse the idea that Islam is peaceful, they "fuel the arguments of bigots" and insult millions of peaceful Muslims.

With few exceptions, Muslims appear not to want Islam discussed frankly.

Peace-loving Muslims want to believe that their violent co-religionists are so few in number that they can easily be ignored. Phrases like "Islam is peace" and charges of Islamophobia are ways to get potential critics to silence themselves.

Those two notions are both cobwebs in the attic of political correctness. We would do well to eliminate both.



ISLAM
So-called Religion of Peace

ZLM Bulletin Board

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Averting the Tax Man

In her article **"Easing Taxes With Donations,"** *Wall Street Journal*-ist Karen Blumenthal recently wrote that this might be the year for **higher earners** to think about being generous as a way of saving on taxes, either by donating appreciated investments directly to charity or giving them away as gifts. She mentions a Medicare surtax, reduced itemized deductions, and capital gains taxes of 25%, up from 15%. "Giving away appreciated investments allows taxpayers to avoid the capital-gains tax altogether while also getting a tax deduction of up to 30% of the adjusted gross income." To see the complete article, visit <http://wp.me/pieUD-100>.

Pamphlet of the Month

"When Should a Woman Have a Will?" is the title of our featured pamphlet. Its

11 enumerated answers include: when she is single or married, when she has children—minors or adults, or when she owns property. It suggests reviewing estate plans when her marital status changes, when she wants to name her own personal representative, or when she has charitable wishes. Reason #8 explains, "A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs—even for modest estates." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See page
36 for details



Hebrew Lesson



The Great Need For Vigilance

By John J. Parsons

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God; the LORD is One.” – Deut. 6:4

אֶחָד	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	יְהוָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁמַע
(2) (1)	(1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
e-chad	Adonai	e-lo-hey-nu	Adonai	yis-ra-el	she-ma
one	the LORD (is)	our God	the LORD (is)	Israel	listen!

We are living in perilous times—all the more reason that we must “pay more careful attention to what we have heard *so that we do not drift away*” (Heb. 2:1). We must be *anchored* to the truth lest we become shipwrecked in our faith. Drifting occurs slowly and almost imperceptibly, though the end result is as deadly as openly turning away from God in outright apostasy. As C.S. Lewis once wrote, “The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.” The devil seeks to lull you to sleep.

Spiritual danger is just as real as physical danger, though most people pretend it isn’t because it isn’t as easily seen. The danger today is to give up hope, to “go with the flow,” to become numb, to drift away, and to die inside. It is far more dangerous to tranquilly ignore God’s mercy, or to make a *pretense* of knowing God’s grace, than it is to blatantly break His law. Therefore the urgent need is to remember, to *hear*, and to awaken the soul to face the truth about reality. We must focus the heart, concentrate the will, and consciously “set” the Lord always before us (Psalm 16:8). Each day we must awaken from our emptiness to reaffirm the central truth: “Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God; the LORD is one; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deut. 6:4–5). As the Apostle Paul said, “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light” (Eph. 5:14).

The great commandment is always “shema,” *listen*—listen to the voice of God’s love for you; listen to the message of God’s good will for you; listen to the call of the Spirit. But to *truly* listen you must quiet yourself, you must “make space” within your heart, and you must consciously attend to God’s Presence by “setting” the LORD before you.

Therefore we must be *vigilant* to secure our high calling in Messiah: “Let us know; let us *press on* (lit., “pursue after”) to know the LORD; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth” (Hosea 6:3). The day is drawing near, and now—more than ever—we must remain steadfast.

May God help you pursue Him *be’khol levavkha*—“with all your heart”—because He has promised, “You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13).

And may the love of the LORD be upon you, even as you put your hope in Him (Ps. 33:22).



ZLM Store

FEATURED
ITEMS

Esther: For Such a Time as This Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Book of Esther is one of the Jewish people's favorites. In this television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains its details, and points out that, like Esther, we Believers may be alive *for such a time as this*.

Beautiful Inside and Out Does God use women? Yes, He does! We begin by considering Esther's rise and wicked Queen Vashti's demise, and note how God elevates individuals to places of influence—then as now.

Chosen for a Purpose Though wickedness surfaces in various ways in every generation, God positions His people to thwart the devil's plans and fulfill His own. Here, we examine Mordecai and Esther's placement—and our own; for we, too, are called to God's work.

Called to be Courageous Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worth it, and declares, "If I perish, I perish!" Would that we all had such resolve!

Undone by a Woman Unbeknownst to the scheming Haman, our story's courageous heroine hatches her own plan to thwart him. The once-sheepish Esther stands up as a shepherdess, boldly taking on the wolf, guiding the saga to its conclusion.

God Rewards the Righteous God uses irony to give the wicked and the righteous their just deserts. God's ways are often mysterious to us, but we see the eventual triumph of the righteous—then as now.

Justice at Last! Our story's villain comes to his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

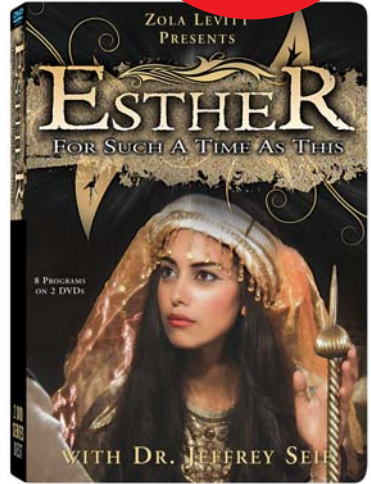
Fight We Must! Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Such spirited self-defense is simply biblical.

The Triumph of God in Human History God turns our mourning into joy, as vividly demonstrated in this concluding program. The Jews are bidden to commemorate God's saving power and goodness in an annual celebration, Purim. We should all celebrate God's goodness, thereby banishing the passing clouds of pain and despair.

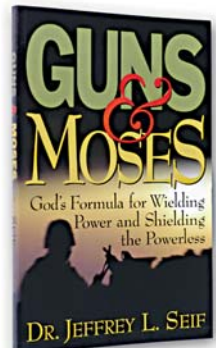
Guns and Moses book by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Jeff draws on his experience as both a police officer and theologian to walk readers through the Law of Moses, the biblical foundation of our Judeo-Christian culture. He describes God's specific instructions on how to use power to secure justice for all and protection for the weak. Anyone wielding any measure of power and influence—parents, professionals, police, presidents, pastors—can benefit from exposure to the writings of Moses, especially since familiarity with God's precepts guides biblically minded people in the Godly use of power in times of war and peace.

Order book online at: <http://store.levitt.com/GM> (or see page 18)

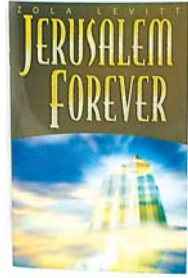


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Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

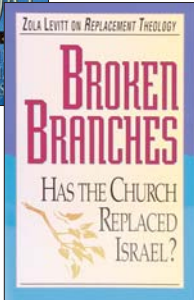
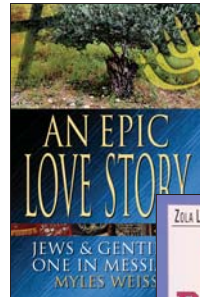
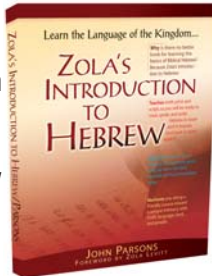
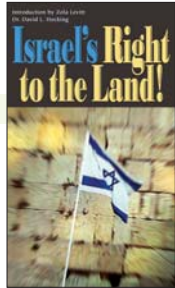
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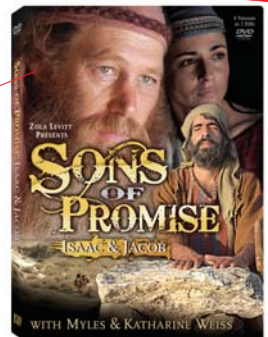


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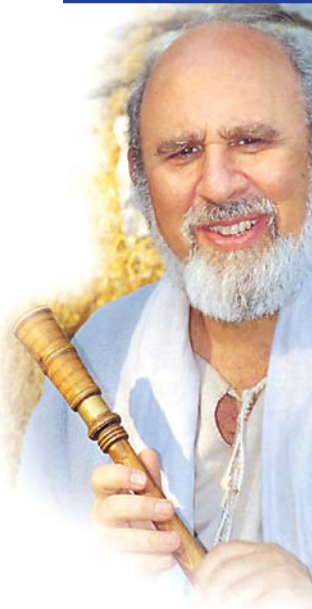
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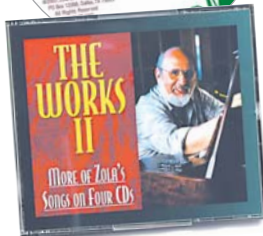
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(Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.)

For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

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Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

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Ezekiel and the MidEast 'Piece' Process

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif and Mrs. Sandra Levitt take viewers into one of the Bible's most mysterious and fascinating books. Ezekiel forcefully predicts Israel's re-emergence as a nation-state at "day's end," and prophesies that neighboring nation-states will marshal military resources to annihilate the fledgling state. Let's consider pieces to Ezekiel's end-time puzzle.

Ezekiel: The Man, His Time, His Message—Then and Now His name means "God strengthens." Reared as a priest in Jerusalem, Ezekiel finds himself among the exiles who are taken to Babylon. His encounter with God in a heavenly vision launches his prophetic message to a wayward people.

Overview—Destructive and Constructive Prophecy A survey of the entire book of Ezekiel—judgment on Judah and the nations around it, Israel's re-emergence, a climactic war, and a restored Temple—with emphasis on prophecy fulfillment today.

Judah's Demise This segment examines particular pieces of prophecy, noting Judah's painful downfall and God's everlasting mercy even so through His promise to gather and rebuild Israel—something that is happening today.

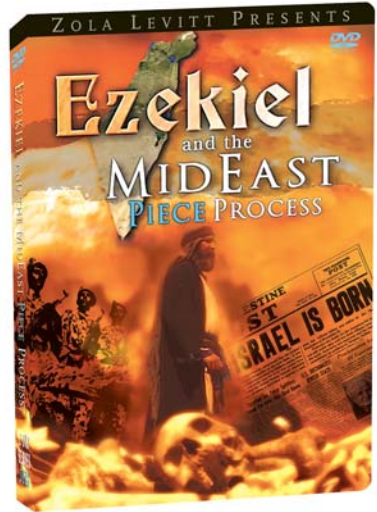
Prophecies of Israel's Last-Days Rise A major piece in God's prophetic, end-times puzzle consists of subsequent predictions of Israel's last-days rise. A once-desolate land has become like Eden.

Israel's Neighbor States Israel will rally against its hostile neighbors; this part highlights Ezekiel's predictions that larger regional forces will mobilize against Israel in a climactic war that they will lose.

The Valley of the Dry Bones Israel's re-emergence as a nation is dramatized through a startling vision of skeletons rising from their graves, forming a mighty nation. Independence Hall in Tel Aviv serves as the backdrop to a remarkable prophecy fulfilled in our generation.

The Battle of Gog and Magog The nations surrounding Israel are bent on its destruction. Thousands of years ago, Ezekiel foretold an end-times war, but also predicted a miraculous Israelite triumph.

The Restored Temple Ezekiel prophesied a restored Earth and a new Jerusalem Temple from which miraculous healing waters will spring forth. Ultimately, God's ways are known on planet Earth.



Order DVDs online at:
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(or see page 18)

AN END-TIMES
WAR





Generally Speaking

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

When you seek the best value for your donation dollar, it is difficult to do better than the general fund of Zola Levitt Ministries. Our various communications can imply otherwise by offering alternative recipients. *Zola Levitt Presents*, the *Levitt Letter*, and www.levitt.com often publicize other organizations—fellow Kingdom workers, but also competitors for your dollars. Nevertheless, we forward 100% of contributions that donors like you designate to them. It would be nice to know if any organizations promote Zola Levitt Ministries.

Some of them are better funded than we are. Nonetheless, we feel compelled to promote worthy allies in The Great Commission and in blessing Israel so that well-intended donations are used for God's work rather than diverted to less worthy endeavors. (See Sid Roth's story on cover.)

One consequence of our giving spirit—which hopefully emulates the ultimate Giver's—is that our supporters read between the lines and think that our ministry must be financially flush when we're not. It is easy, of course, for us Believers who work for the Lord to feel joyous and wealthy with God's abundance: His gift of eternal life and the pending inheritance of His Kingdom. Knowing that God will meet our needs (as He does the field lilies'—Matthew 6:28) can tempt us toward complacency, lulling us to merely thank you for your support rather than declare we could be doing so much more if only we had the means.

Here are some reminders underscoring the sincerity of our ministerial efforts.

Negligible fundraising. We use only 0.7% (7/10 of 1%) of our resources to request support. No fancy ad agencies, glossy fundraising letters, or gimmicky appeals.

Independently audited financials. For nearly a quarter century, we have offered free access to our tax returns and audited financial statements.

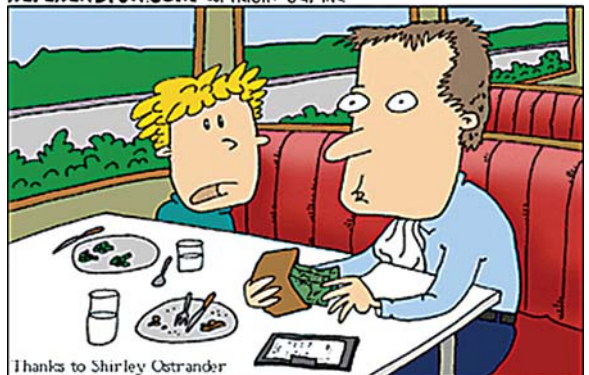
ECFA accreditation. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability monitors not only our stewardship, but also the biblical integrity of our various outreaches in order to ensure that we merit ECFA's seal of approval.

What you see is what you get. Our television program features real, meaty Bible teaching on location in the Holy Land. The newsletters consist primarily of high caliber Bible teaching and biblical commentary on prophecy fulfillment. www.levitt.com gives away much more edification through our video archives than we sell. ZLM consistently delivers quality and substance rather than fund appeals that merely allude to quality and substance.

If you are led to diversify your giving beyond ZLM's general fund, then designating up to 10% of your gift to a sister cause would make better sense than a contribution to an organization that withholds the Gospel from Jews (see p. 1). Just please remember that your *undesigned* contributions are the ones that do the heavy lifting of our mission work in terms of reaching the most people and reaching them most efficiently.



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HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From S.H. (TX): I love this ministry. Happy to support it as much as I can. Thank you for repairing the archives section on Roku. I love to see the “old days” when Zola taught in a long robe on location in Israel. I was a newly rededicated Believer in 2004 but only discovered Zola a few months before he passed away. Then I lost track of the ministry. As I am a long-haul truck driver, it was always hit-n-miss to see the program on TBN.

Now I can see ALL the episodes in order, and they tell such a powerful story. I can't wait to be able to share with family and friends. Sending appreciation for all you do to keep this ministry going. May God's blessings be upon you!

P.S. I watch episodes frequently, 1–4 days a week. Often more than one a day. Sometimes over and over, as I get more understanding of the Bible and of the Jewish perspective each time. ([Note: please see www.levitt.com/roku](http://www.levitt.com/roku))

From YouTube: I'm watching *The Holy Days of Our Lord*. One of the great teachers of our time. YHWH taught me many things through Zola.

From R.D. (WA): In honor to I AM, I pray for many to come to the Lord and I pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

God's Promises

Dear ZLM,

I would like to see Bible scriptures to prove that it is wrong to dislike and go against Israel and the Jewish people.
Sincerely —J.C. (AL)

Dear J.C.—

God was pretty clear in Genesis 12:3 when He promised Abraham and his descendants: “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”

As for disliking: We are not commanded to like, only to bless and pray for. However, if you pray for the welfare of someone, eventually your interest vests in that person (or nation) and dislike fades as an option. Try praying for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) or for your enemy. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how God works. He IS the God of love.

—Editor

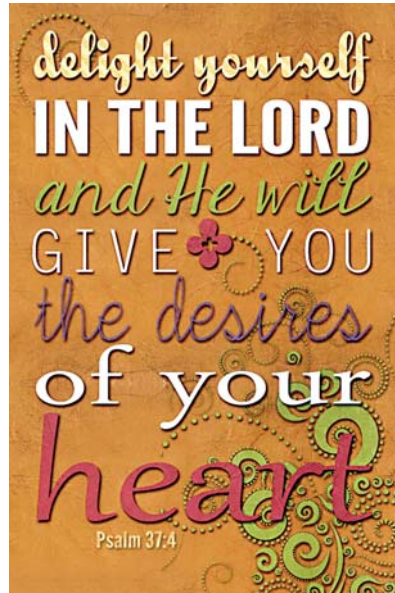


Illustration: Britni Rummel



Islam and Christianity—Nothing in Common

Dear ZLM,

I have been trying to find legitimate information about the difference between Jehovah and Allah. A man recently claimed to me that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are so closely intertwined that they could be one religion. He even made the comment that the God of the Bible is the God of the Koran. I know this is not true, but I need some definite information from a Hebrew perspective to intelligently discuss this. Thank you. —S.T.

Dear S.T.—

Islam and Christianity could never be bridged because they hold beliefs and doctrines that are mutually exclusive. For example, Islam believes that Jesus was just a prophet and not the Son of God. The biblical Christian faith holds to the deity of Jesus and His unique claim to be the Son of God; the New Testament teaches this through and through.

Similarly, if you search for the word “love” in the Koran, you find verses stating, “surely God does not love the sinner.” You find who God does NOT love, rather than who He DOES love. Jehovah and Allah are described by their own books as having different natures, and therefore cannot be the same.

That was the finding some years back. Here’s a site that found a similar result: www.answeringmuslims.com/2012/10/does-allah-love-unbelievers.html

Allah is not the God of the Bible. He originally was the Mesopotamian moon god of Mohammed’s tribe. Your friend’s claims that these three faiths can be joined is easily refuted! For a good historical study and background on this subject, I suggest Robert Morey’s *The Islamic Invasion* and David Goldmann’s *Islam and the Bible*. —Todd



How to Reach Unbelieving Jews

Dear ZLM,

I recently met a Jewish man in the local jail where we minister each week. When I introduced myself and offered him a Bible tract, he said, “I know what you are up to” and walked away.

He wears a white skull cap, has a Bible written in Hebrew (I think), and reads audibly from it almost continuously.

Last night, he opened his Bible to the center, placed his face in it, and was praying and perhaps weeping. Do you have any type of literature that would be helpful to him? IF I can even get him to accept it. I have attempted to speak with him for the past two weeks. I do understand where he is coming from. —K.W. (VA)

Dear K.W.—

I suggest that you witness to this unbelieving Jew by focusing on how Yeshua alone fulfilled the Messianic prophecies found in the Old Testament, and how this proves that Yeshua is the one and only Messiah. Focus on Isaiah 53. A good resource is *Isaiah 53 Explained*, written by Messianic Jew Mitch Glaser. This would be a good start. You can get a free copy at www.isaiah53.com/free-book. —Todd

(See also Todd’s *Shaliach* Report on p.13.)



Mutual Support

Dear ZLM,

I just want to express my thanks to the staff and donors. Your hard work and generous giving makes it possible for inmates like me to receive the *Levitt Letter* each month. The stories and teaching are top notch, and I practically devour each issue with an insatiable appetite. Again, thank you very much. —C.A.S. (VA)

Dear ZLM,

Thank you for your kind reminder that it has been a year since you've heard from me. How time flies! Enclosed is my donation to your excellent ministry.

Please take heart, dear people; don't give up. We're out here listening and learning and passing what we learn on to others. —L.I.K. (WI)

Dear Mark,

Tears come to my eyes when I think of Zola and Moishe Rosen, then Jeff, and now Myles and Katharine who are a blessing to us.

The Lord has blessed us recently, and in turn we will be giving on a monthly basis for the next year. I will still send you my jar of coins in December! (Just for the record, at one time, it used to be my salon \$\$.) Wise as a serpent, Mark? The cost of going to the salon long ago surpassed the amount collected in the jar. So I looked for something better to do with it. It has proven to be the wiser choice!

If the Lord continues to bless us in this way, we pray we will continue to be obedient as well; and if the Lord decides not, well, you'll still get the money collected in the jar at the end of the year. Love you! —J. and R.T.

Dear ZLM,

We love getting the *Levitt Letter*, and are thankful that you don't spend money on all the advertising as other ministries do with flyers arriving daily. Thank you again for your remarkable stewardship. —C. and S.McK. (OK)

Dear ZLM,

I used to watch Zola with my grandmother many years ago. She's gone now. My mother recently began giving me her *Levitt Letters*. I enjoy them and pass them along to my pastor.

I remember Zola saying all those years ago that he didn't expect widows with limited income to give if they could not. I was impressed with that attitude. God does not NEED our money: it is a way for us to be blessed... through giving.

I'm sending something for my own newsletter and to help your letter writers in prison. I'll continue to support this ministry. —B.C. (TX)

Shalom C.A.S., L.I.K., J. and R.T., C. and S.McK., and B.C.—

I am answering you as a group because all of your letters were SO positive and filled with gratitude (and financial pledges!) that I saw a collective sentiment in the batch. There is a viable sense of community among our readers/TV viewers/website fans. One may be in prison and is grateful for the free newsletter, while another adds some extra money to help the Levitt Letter "go to prisoners." Another remembers Zola fondly while someone else has high praise for Katharine and me.

As one ages out, another steps up to send the Lord's message forward. I sense that we are "covering" each other in our recognizing the power of the message and the mission. That is what stood out. This is a great mitzvah (a blessing, colloquially). Many blessings back to you all. Thanks for your kind words and for remembering us in your prayers. Best —Myles



Adventures with Jesus

Dear Myles, Katharine, Mark, ZLM Staff,

In a nutshell: I was taught Replacement Theology. I never questioned it, but left the Church. God guided me back, and “circumstances” (read: God) led me to Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11. I was stunned, but had no idea where to go with this new revelation.

I met Zola’s teaching through a Bible study at my sister’s church based on Zola’s booklet *The Seven Feasts of Israel*. I now own many books, CDs, etc.

One Sunday “I decided” (read: God led me) to walk across the street to that church. The following week a visitor from Atlanta—Murray Tilles, a Messianic Jew—was coming to discuss Bible prophecies regarding Israel and the current struggles of the Middle East. The next weekend, I dragged my sister and half of her church with me to listen to him.

I am a massage therapist. When two young Israeli visitors came for treatment, I told them I was Christian and that a lot of Christians pray for Israel and recognize Israel as God’s chosen people. They smiled and said, “Then you must come to Israel.” So I now have an official invitation to visit Israel. I felt blessed that for thirty minutes I laid hands on them and silently prayed in Jesus’ name that God would bless them and protect them.

Understanding the truths about God’s people is like discovering missing puzzle pieces. Now the picture is complete; current events, history, and Bible prophecies all make better sense. The Bible truly has come alive for me, and Zola Levitt Ministries has been a big part of my education. I want to say thank you, thank you so very much. God bless you all at ZLM. —D.B. (AL)

Shalom D.B. —

What an adventure you are having with Yeshua! I love the stories of awakening that I hear from treasured Christians who slowly but steadily come to understand the “Jewishness” of the whole Gospel story. Coincidentally (yup, it’s God), Murray Tilles and I served together on the Jews for Jesus 1985 NYC Campaign. I was a new Believer and zealous for the Lord. From that day forward, I have never been bored as a Believer. It is high adventure walking with my Messiah. May God continue to bless you with understanding and effectual prayer! —Myles ★





'Hibernating' Crops: Remedy for Drought?

SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) / TimesOfIsrael.com

Professor Shimon Gepstein, a Technion professor and president of Kinneret College in northern Israel, thinks crop loss due to drought will become a thing of the past. By adding some “youth hormone,” his team developed plants that essentially put themselves into a state of hibernation when they weren't getting watered and halted their aging/wilting process until they started getting water again.

The “hibernation” effect was actually a bonus result of research the team was doing on extending plant longevity. Scientists have shown that increasing cytokinin levels can lengthen plant life. By adding cytokinins on a timed basis, Gepstein said, “the normal life cycle of a tobacco plant is four months, but our plant continued to live eight months or more, during which time it continued to bear flowers and fruits, after the standard plant has long since died.”

Encouraging results indeed. But cytokinins had another pleasant surprise for Gepstein. After the experiment, the team left the modified plants in the corner of a lab, assuming they would wither and die. Tobacco plants require watering every two to three days—but weeks later, these cytokinin-strengthened plants were still green and fresh.

While there had been evidence for cytokinin's ability to extend plant life, said Gepstein, “we decided to conduct a controlled experiment, comparing normal plants and genetically modified plants, and stopped watering them for 3 weeks.”

That was enough time to kill off the normal plants—in most cases, the watering process did not revive them—but the cytokinin-laced plants survived, and resumed their growth process with no signs of stress or lowering of cytokinin levels. And, the experiment showed, the rejuvenated plants were able to grow with less water than the normal ones—as much as two-thirds less. The implications of this discovery for Israel and other semi-arid regions of the world are nothing short of history-making, said Gepstein.

“Wheat, for example, is planted in places like the Negev in the winter, but does not grow if rains do not come quickly after the seeds germinate,” he noted. With the seeds in the ground, the land cannot be replanted, and when such crops do grow, they are often unusable. This technology, he said, could keep them alive long enough to ensure a healthy crop.

Although many people shy away from genetically-modified produce, this is different; the only thing being added is the cytokinin, which the plant already naturally produces, and it is not modified.



Cell Phones Could Increase Cancer Risk

MEDICINE: AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY / aftau.org



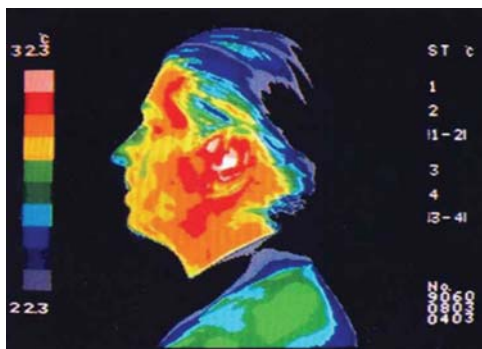
Scientists have long worried about possibly harmful effects of regular cellular phone use, but so far no study has managed to produce clear results. Currently, cell phones are classified as carcinogenic category 2b—*potentially* carcinogenic to humans—by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A new Tel Aviv University study may bring bad news.

To further explore the relationship between cancer rates and cell phone use, Dr. Yaniv Hamzany, of Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine and the Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Department at the Rabin Medical Center, looked for clues in the saliva of cell phone users. Since the cell phone is placed close to the salivary gland when in use, he and his fellow researchers (including departmental colleagues Profs. Raphael Feinmesser, Thomas Shpitzer, and Dr. Gideon Bahar; and Prof. Rafi Nagler and Dr. Moshe Gavish of the Technion in Haifa) hypothesized that salivary content could reveal whether there was a connection to developing cancer.

Comparing heavy mobile phone users to non-users, they found that the saliva of heavy users showed indications of higher oxidative stress—a process that damages all aspects of a human cell, including DNA—through the development of toxic peroxide and free radicals. More importantly, it is considered a major risk factor for cancer. The findings were reported in the journal *Antioxidants and Redox Signaling*.

For the study, the researchers examined the saliva content of 20 “heavy users,” defined as speaking on their phones for a minimum of eight hours a month. (Most participants speak much more, Dr. Hamzany says, as much as 30 to 40 hours a month.) Their salivary content was compared to that of a control group: deaf patients who either do not use a cell phone, or use the device exclusively for sending text messages and other non-verbal functions. Compared to the control group, the heavy cell phone users had a significant increase in all salivary oxidative stress measurements studied.

This field of research reflects longstanding concerns about the impact of cell phone use, specifically the effects of radiofrequency non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation on human tissue located close to the ear, say the researchers. And although these results don't uncover a conclusive “cause and effect” relationship between cellular phone use and cancer, they add to the building evidence that cell phone use may be harmful in the long term, and point to a new direction for further research.



One potential avenue of future research would be to analyze a person's saliva prior to exposure to a cell phone, and then again after several intense minutes of exposure. This will allow researchers to see if there is an immediate response, such as a rise in molecules that indicate oxidative stress, Dr. Hamzany says.



Persian Cat in Space

BY ANDREW MARSZAL / Telegraph.co.uk

Seven months after allegedly sending a monkey into space, Iran's next animal astronaut will be a Persian cat.



Mohammad Ebrahimi, a senior space program official, said Iran's next space capsule could carry the long-haired, flat-faced breed of cat named after Iran's former name of Persia. He said the launch will happen by the end of Iran's current year, which ends March 21, 2014. The report said a mouse and rabbit also are under consideration.

Details of the plan, reported by Iran's official IRNA news agency, follow Iran's claim earlier this year to have launched a monkey out of Earth's atmosphere and successfully returned it home. The feat, however, faced international questions after photos appeared to show different monkeys in pre- and post-launch images.

Ebrahimi said at the time that state media mistakenly sent a photo of an alternate monkey that was not used in the February launch. He insisted just one monkey had been sent on the 20-minute flight to a height of 72 miles and returned safely.

In 2010, Iranian officials said it sent a mouse, a turtle, and some worms on a space flight—part of the country's goals of sending a human into space by 2018 and becoming a leading tech center for the Islamic world.

The new planned launch will be seen as another possible step by the country's ambitious aerospace program that has also raised Western concerns about spillover military applications.



However, the launch is reported to feature a larger, liquid-fuel rocket. Past launches were done with solid-fuel boosters whose technology can also be used in long-range missiles. This could be viewed as an attempt to ease international concerns at a time when Iran's new moderate-leaning president, Hasan Rouhani, is seeking to revive nuclear talks with world powers.

Iran says it wants to put its own satellites into orbit to monitor natural disasters in the earthquake-prone nation, improve telecommunications, and expand military surveillance in the region.

Earlier this year, then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he wanted to be Iran's first astronaut.



The Hatfields & McCoys of Arabia



BY HAROLD RHODE / JewishPolicyCenter.org

The Qataris and Saudis, whose ruling families are distantly related, hate each other, even though they are both Wahhabi fundamentalists. Qatar continually looks for ways to poke the Saudis in the eye; for example, establishing the wildly popular Al-Jazeera. It chose the name because in Arabic it means the entire Arabian Peninsula, which the Saudis, because of their size, clearly dominate. Qatar is a relative pinpoint in size, but the name of its international TV station subtly tells the Arab world it is more important than the Saudis.

Saudi Arabia, in unending battle, established its own TV station which broadcasts out of Dubai—al-'Arabiya — meaning the Arab, or Arabness— which is meant to counter Al-Jazeera.



Author's Note:

There are two TV stations named Al-Jazeera, one broadcasting in Arabic and the other in English. Both owned and operated by the Qatari government, they have completely separate staffs and editorial policies. Al-Jazeera in English is not particularly anti-Western and has interesting content. Al-Jazeera in Arabic is viciously anti-American, anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, and incites its viewers to fight the West. Al-Jazeera English was created to pacify Western governments, who are lulled into believing that since both stations have the same name, they must air the same material.



The Qatari-Saudi animosity plays itself out in many ways, most interestingly in Egypt, Syria, and Turkey. In general, Qatar supports the Muslim Brotherhood, having announced a \$3 billion loan/grant to Egypt when it was ruled by the Brotherhood. The Saudis oppose the Brotherhood, and support the Salafists in Egypt, who received the second largest number of votes in the last election there. These Salafists are theologically much closer to the Saudi view of the world. Both, remember, are inimical to Western interests.

In Syria the same is true. Qatar and the Saudis support different groups, because neither wants the other to have sway over a future fundamentalist Sunni-ruled Syria. Qatar by and large supports the Syrian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, while the Saudis support other Salafist-Wahhabi-oriented groups. ★

Dry Bones

THE HEAD IN THE SAND DICTIONARY



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Where Have All the Bees Gone?

By David Lev / IsraelNationalNews.com



An Israeli scientist says that he has found the answer to a riddle that has plagued scientists for the past several years: Why are bees disappearing? The answer, according to Professor Ilan Sela of Hebrew University, is that they are succumbing to a virus.

Countries all over the world have reported in recent years a drastic fall in their bee populations. The phenomenon has become so widespread that the condition was given its own name in 2006: Colony Collapse Disorder. The disappearance of bees has led many scientists to fear that crops that rely on bees to spread pollen will be negatively affected, resulting in shortages.

Sela says that he has developed, together with an American company, a treatment that rehabilitated up to 70% of the hives that it was tested on. American officials calculate annual losses to the economy due to the disappearance of bees in the past few years to be about \$35 billion.



The Vanishing of the Bees



A South African's Case for Israel

By Peter L. Rothholz / JNS.org



Reverend **Kenneth Meshoe**, a member of the Parliament of South Africa and founder of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), sees irony in how the anti-Israel attitudes of his country's mainstream politicians are depriving them of benefits the Jewish state could bring them.

"African politicians who have contaminated water will boycott Israel, whose technology and scientists could help bring clean water to the many thousands of Africans who now don't have it and need it desperately," Meshoe said.

"I was born in South Africa 59 years ago and I lived through apartheid. I can assure you, Israel is no apartheid state," he said.

South Africa supported the United Nations resolution that created the State of Israel in 1948 and has long enjoyed a cordial relationship with Israel, but tensions between the two nations developed after the Six-Day War in 1967. The ANC (South African political party) supports the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish state, and the annual Israeli Apartheid Week was held for the ninth consecutive year in South Africa in March, with the ANC and the South African Trade Unions among the week's most prominent backers.



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Shiites: Syria War Will Ignite End Times

By Ryan Mauro / FrontPageMag.com

A Lebanese reporter for the Al-Monitor Middle East news service explains that Iran and Hezbollah view the Syrian civil war not only in a strategic context, but in a prophetic one. In their belief, the radical Sunnis will conquer Syria for a short period of time and then Iranian forces will intervene on their way to destroying Israel. The death of Saudi King Abdullah will be a major trigger.

The unnamed reporter points out that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is, like Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, “known for being a strong believer” in the Shiite prophecy that Iran will lead an End Times war against Islam’s enemies. At that time, the *Mahdi* (Muslim messiah) will “reappear” and defeat the infidel.

According to the author, Iran and Hezbollah rely upon a book of prophecies called *Al-Jafr* to guide them. It was passed down to Jafar al-Sadiq, for whom the Jafari school of Shiite jurisprudence is named. Teachers of this book say that the Syrian leader will be killed in a civil war during the End Times.

A Sunni leader will take over Syria and persecute Shiites, Alawites, and Christians. The persecution will continue until an Iranian army invades Syria via Iraq, killing this Sunni leader on the way to capturing Jerusalem. Once Jerusalem is taken, the Mahdi will appear. Interestingly, in a modern context, this means that Hezbollah is fighting to preserve the regime of a man (Bashar Assad) whom they believe will be killed.

Prisoner Release Ignored

By Ryan Jones / *Israel Today*

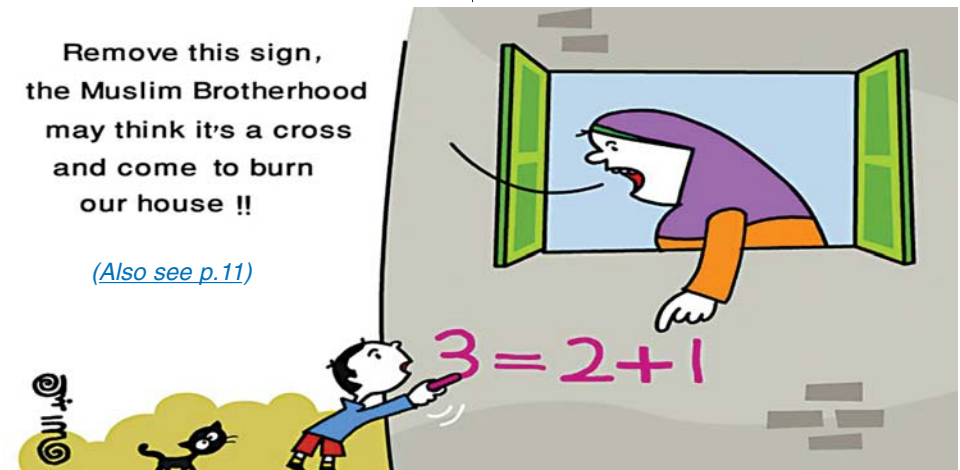
Israel’s release of 26 long-serving Arab prisoners as a precondition for restarting peace negotiations was hailed by the Palestinian Authority as “a major victory for the Palestinian cause.” Nearly all of the prisoners had been jailed for directly taking part in terrorist attacks that killed Israeli soldiers and civilians.

But outside the Palestinian territories, the prisoner release was hardly mentioned. All of the leading Arab daily newspapers — *Asharq Al-Awsat*, *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, and *Al-Arabiya* — did not bother to report on the event. It’s another sign that with all the turmoil and bloodshed in the Arab world, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is on the back burner. ★



Remove this sign,
the Muslim Brotherhood
may think it's a cross
and come to burn
our house !!

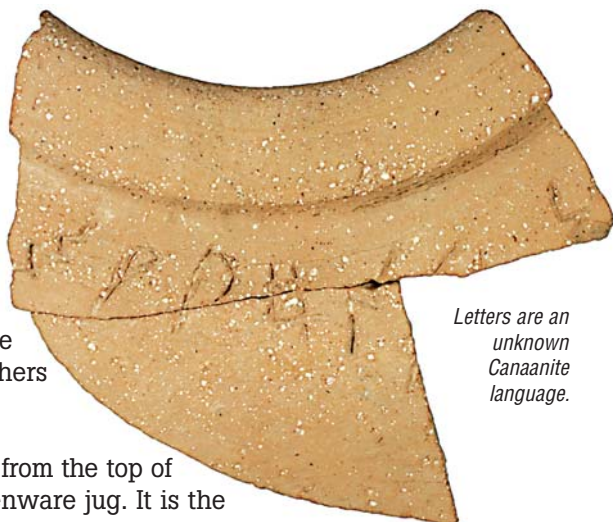
(Also see p.11)



Oldest Inscription Found in Jerusalem, But No One Can Read It

ARCHAEOLOGY: By **Stuart Winer**
TimesOfIsrael.com

An ancient inscription that was recently discovered in Jerusalem and dates back to the time of King David has researchers scratching their heads.



Letters are an unknown Canaanite language.

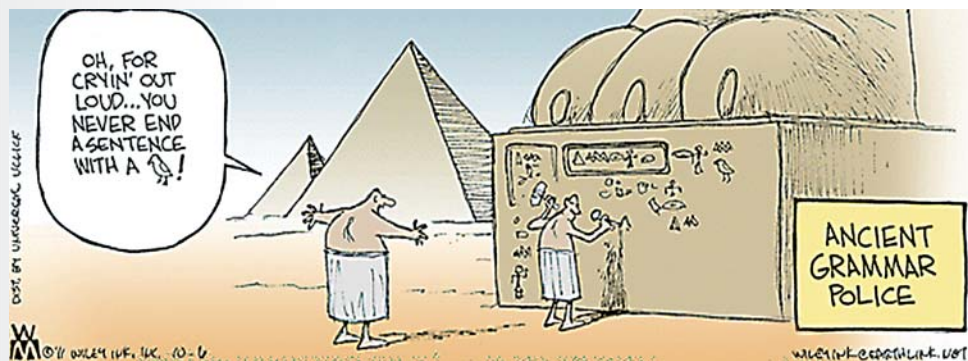
The 3,000-year-old text comes from the top of what remains of a large earthenware jug. It is the earliest alphabetical written text ever uncovered in the city, according to a statement from Hebrew University, whose researchers found the artifact. (Dated to the 10th century B.C., the artifact predates by 250 years the earliest known Hebrew inscription from Jerusalem, from the period of King Hezekiah at the end of the 8th century B.C.) The characters are legible, though only the first letter and last few now remain. Moreover, it is in an unknown Canaanite language.

Archaeologist Eilat Mazar, who is leading the dig that found the inscribed fragment, speculates that the text names the owner of the jug, its destination, or perhaps its contents. Mazar reckoned that the text comes from the Jebusite people who lived in the area at the time, or some other Canaanite tribe that called Jerusalem home at the time of King David, around 1000 B.C.

Researchers from the Hebrew University found the artifact at a dig along the southern wall of the Temple Mount enclosure. The southern wall meets the Western Wall, remnants of the ancient wall that surrounded the Temple courtyard, at a corner that has been extensively explored by researchers and developed as an archaeological park.

The jug, along with pieces from six other jugs typical to the period, was found in the ruins of a large structure, beneath the floor (where the shards were apparently placed in ancient times to shore up the floor). ★

[\(See pp. 4-5 for more on Dr. Eilat Mazar.\)](#)



Should Gentiles Keep Torah?



BY RON CANTOR (r) / MessiahsMandate.org

Some congregations teach that God calls gentiles to keep the Torah, just as Jews. Let me make two points:

1. Jewish Believers are called to live a Jewish life according to Scripture as a matter of *calling* (Romans 11:29).
2. Living a Jewish life has no bearing whatsoever on our salvation, which is obtained solely through faith in Yeshua alone.

While Believers are free to keep the entire Torah, *it is not required*. [See also p. 12.] Let's look at the Word of God.

A. The Jerusalem Council. In Acts 15, the very first theological council (Messianic leaders who had been preaching the Good News to the gentiles) gathered to discuss: *Do gentiles have to convert to Judaism in order to be saved?*

After hearing impassioned testimony from Peter, James ruled in Acts 15:19–21: "... we should not make it difficult for the gentiles who are turning to God."

The prohibitions set by James addressed how former pagans, now Believers, could *worship*. They would live by universal laws (i.e. 10 Commandments), but in their liturgical life—how they worshiped—they had to forsake pagan practices like drinking blood or lying with temple prostitutes.

B. God called Israel to be a separate nation. Israel was chosen from among nations to be a light to the rest of the world (e.g. Is. 42:6), a calling not voided by the New Covenant: "God's gifts and call are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29). Nowhere does the New Covenant command gentiles to live as Jews.

C. Paul's Words to Gentiles. When gentiles were taught that they had to be circumcised in order to be saved, Paul blew a gasket! Paul taught that it is "faith alone, through grace" that we are saved (Eph. 2:8). He could not have been clearer regarding the requirement that gentiles keep the Law of Moses: "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?" (Gal. 3:2).

Why Then Are Jewish Believers Commanded to keep the Torah? Good question. Let me repeat: no one will be saved through works of the law—Jew or gentile. While gentiles are free to keep the Torah, it is not their calling. They may worship on Saturday or keep kosher, but they are not compelled. Jews are *called* (see #1, above). My eating a lobster will not affect my salvation, but I would not be staying true to my calling as a Jew.

Gentile Believers receive full membership in the end-time community of God's People without having to convert to Judaism. A great example of this can be seen in the lives of Titus and Timothy. After coming to faith, Timothy (who was Jewish through his mother) was circumcised, whereas Titus, a Greek, was not (Gal. 2:3). In fact, Paul circumcised Timothy just before starting on his journey to tell the gentiles that they are not compelled to keep the whole Torah (Acts 16:4).

If you read the New Covenant without commentary, I am confident that you would come away with these two New Covenant truths:

1. Of course, Jews who find and follow the Jewish Messiah are still Jews.
2. Gentile Believers become one with Israel, but are not required to live as Jews.



A Clear-Eyed Muslim

BY ALI SALIM / GatestoneInstitute.org



No matter how hard we Muslims try, we are never able to end the connection our lives seem to have with the Jews. Watching Arab and Islamic television brings the conclusion that our only unity is having the Jews as a common enemy, with our lives dependent on them.

We treat the Jews the way the rabid Christian anti-Semites treated them in the Middle Ages, blaming them for every illness, tragedy, and misfortune. That lends the Jews a Satanic power: They can manipulate events around the world and are historically responsible for planning and carrying out every evil that exists. We blame them for the failures of Islam while only we are at fault for the catastrophes that befall us. We accuse the Jews of wanting to rule the world, but one of the causes of our illness is that we expect Islam to take over the world.

Regression and the lack of social and governmental flexibility, along with poverty and ignorance, perpetuate the impotence of the nation of Islam and make it impossible for us to progress. While we have dreams of ruling the world, we wallow in disease and poverty, and we are behind the times in all the modern fields of endeavor. We find comfort only in bringing masses of children into a world with nothing to offer them.

Today Christianity is a normative social value, a matter of personal conscience, and practices enlightenment rather than violence and oppression. The separation of church and state made it possible for Westerners to progress, and gave them a tremendous advantage over the rest of the world. We, on the other hand, are still living in the Dark Ages.

The Christians' enlightened, moderate attitude toward Muslims in European cities causes Islamic extremists to

escalate their violence toward the communities hosting them, mistakenly assuming that Christian moderation is the result of Western weakness. The result is Islamophobia.

Many Europeans are fundamentally anti-Semitic. But instead of attacking Jews head-on, they now politically correctly attack Israel. Beneath their political correctness their ancient, inbred anti-Semitism still smolders. For some, hatred of the Jews is so well rooted that they are willing to support the Muslims in almost anything, as long as it harms the Jews in some way.



The result is that we Muslims make the mistake of thinking Europeans really care about us, especially the Palestinians. We are wrong: Europeans simply hate the Jews more than they hate and fear us. When hundreds of thousands of Muslims are slaughtered by other Muslims, as in Syria and Darfur, the European leadership does not lift a finger. At the same time, the EU is obsessed with its need to condemn, sanction, and boycott the Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

We should leave the Jews alone. They are not responsible for our tragedies, and hating them will not cure the nation of Islam or bring it successfully into the 21st century. ★



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JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

Beloved Pet

Benny's dog dies and he goes to see his Orthodox rabbi.

"Rabbi, I wonder whether you could find the time to say a special blessing at my dog's grave?"

The rabbi replies, "I'm afraid it isn't possible, Benny. In fact the rules don't really make any allowance for animals."

"But I'm really upset, Rabbi."

"So maybe you should go to see the Reform rabbi over the road," says the rabbi.

As Benny walks away dejectedly, he turns to the rabbi and says, "What a shame. I was willing to donate \$1,000 for such a service." At which point the rabbi shouts, "Come back, come back."

Benny turns around and says, "I thought you couldn't help me."

"Ah," says the rabbi. "But you didn't tell me your dog was Orthodox."



A cheerful heart is good medicine —

Proverbs 17:22



Million-Dollar Question

A man asks God: "God, what is a million years to you?"

God replies, "My son, a million years to you is like a second to me."

The man asks, "God, what is a million dollars to you?"

God replies, "My son, a million dollars to you is less than a penny to me."

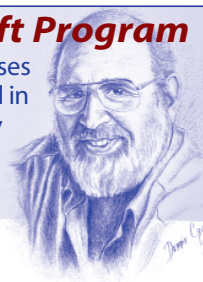
The man asks, "So, God, may I have a million dollars?"

And God replies, "In a second." ★



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