

Levitt

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



Letter



What Unites Jews and Christians

Pope's Visit —
No Spat! p. 28

By Olivier Jack Melnick / blogs.TimesOfIsrael.com

Jews and Christians have become very good at itemizing what divides them and dwelling on the differences. But I wish that we could focus, rather, on what unites us. Evangelical author Joel C. Rosenberg did that recently with a clear and generous testimony for Jesus in a Modern Orthodox synagogue.

Rosenberg discussed researching World War II Europeans who helped the Jews and how it led him to discover the incredible actions by the French village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon whose residents resolved to save Jewish people from the Nazi furnaces. They risked their own lives, and many lost them when they were taken to the camps with the Jews. But to the villagers, saving the Jews was “the most natural thing to do!”

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Exposing Christian Palestinianism— The Anti-Israel Crusade Within the Church

LighthouseTrails.com

Controversy about the existence of the Nation of Israel has been intensifying not only amongst the Muslim world but within Christianity also. A political-religious campaign is gaining worldwide acceptance as church leaders, denominations, charities, missions, and humanitarian groups are uniting with Muslims and other world religions against Israel.

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What Unites Jews & Christians... *continued from cover*

Rosenberg expressed fear that a second Holocaust would take place, especially if Iran goes nuclear. It is a real fear because Iran wants the eradication of Israel more than anything. Even though Iranian president Hassan Rouhani sugarcoats his anti-Semitism to the West, his goal is the total annihilation of Israel. Will there be Christians to stand for Israel?

If a Christian is defined by a commitment to follow Yeshua's teaching based on the Bible, then the boundaries are clear. Christians are forgiven, not perfected (at least not yet). Christians can and will make mistakes, wrong judgments, and even biased decisions. Yet, in Leviticus 19:18 we read: *"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself...."* Yeshua repeats this in Matthew 5:43-44, taking it one step further: *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

On one hand, Rosenberg claimed that while some Christians have made mistakes about the Jews, even mistakes that led to the death of some, this cannot disqualify them as born-again Evangelicals. On the other hand, he stated that genuine Bible-believing followers of the Jewish Messiah are not characterized by chronic hatred leading to a constant desire to destroy the Jews or any other human being.

One of the most important aspects of true Christianity is the ability to love unconditionally. Christians who love Jews ought to love them regardless of their willingness to embrace Yeshua. Anything short of that kind of love falls short of what Christian love is. Period!

Fellow speaker Rabbi Shlomo Riskin didn't share Rosenberg's belief in Yeshua as Messiah but recognized the common obligation of followers of the One True God: They must be driven not only by their convictions but also by a constant desire for human decency and justice.

Christians and Jews *are united* by the Jewish Scriptures and their love for Israel! Christians and Jews *can be united* by Yeshua the Jewish Messiah! ★



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Exposing Christian Palestinianism— The Anti-Israel Crusade Within the Church

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2,500 years ago, Zechariah the Hebrew prophet foretold, "Jerusalem will be a burdensome stone for all people: and, all the people of the earth shall be gathered together against it." (Zech. 12:3)

In an aggressive, worldwide, anti-Israel/anti-Jewish movement, an infectious anti-Semitism is growing within contemporary Christianity, termed Christian Palestinianism. Lighthouse Trails Publishing is on the front lines with Zola Levitt Ministries countering this anti-Israel movement within the Church and has produced a new video exposing the rising tide of beguiling apostasy gripping today's churches regarding modern Israel. See the video trailer at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1XP>. ★



Exposing Christian Palestinianism Documentary - Trailer

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY (aka SUPERCESSIONISM)

The belief that Christendom has taken the Jewish people's place as the recipients of promises God made in the Old Testament

A Hidden Hero—Haym Salomon

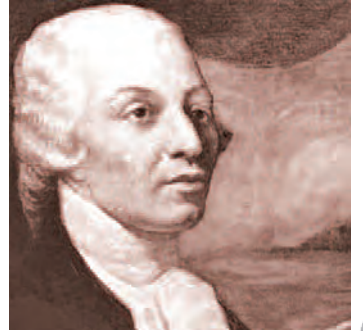
Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



The Bible holds stories of people who affected world events while functioning behind the scenes. Mordecai convinced Esther (Esther 4:14), his orphan niece, to stand before the king on behalf of Israel. Rahab (Joshua 2) hid the spies of Joshua and helped the Israelites take Jericho. Nicodemus (John 19:39) came to Jesus by night and became a disciple who influenced his generation. Lydia (Acts 16:14), Onesimus (Philemon 1:10), and Epaphras (Colossians 1:7) all helped Apostle Paul accomplish his mission.

In the history of America, one can see God's intervention and His desire for us to be a light to the Nations. The very roots of this nation connect to biblical thought, and Scripture informed the foundation of our country.

One hidden hero, **Haym Salomon** (1740-1785), led a brief and difficult life, but his impact on America was significant. Polish-born Salomon knew Polish, French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Italian. When the British captured him and learned of his language skills, they "lent" him to their Hessian mercenaries to assist in German translations. Instead, Salomon covertly encouraged the Hessians to desert the British army.



Salomon marshaled his personal fortune on behalf of Washington's suffering army, giving all he had in a crucial moment when money made the difference. Escaping another British capture, Salomon fled to Philadelphia where he advanced from penniless fugitive to successful businessman, effectively brokering bills of exchange to meet federal government expenses.

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Myles... continued



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While in Pennsylvania, Salomon helped lead the successful fight to repeal the test oath that barred Jews and other non-Protestants from holding public office in Pennsylvania. He died in 1785, leaving a wife and four young children with debts larger than his estate. It would be fitting if future writers of American history acknowledged as the real financier of the American Revolution "*the little Jew*" (so named by the fledgling nation's Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris).

This remarkable behind-the-scenes activity prompted dear friends Jim and Rosemary Schindler Garlow to trumpet Salomon's benevolence at the "Washington—A Man of Prayer" event in Washington, D.C. Rosemary, grandniece of Oskar Schindler, eloquently recounted Salomon's loyalty to America. She explained his sacrificial contributions to the Continental Army and the significant loans that he made to the newly formed government that were never repaid.

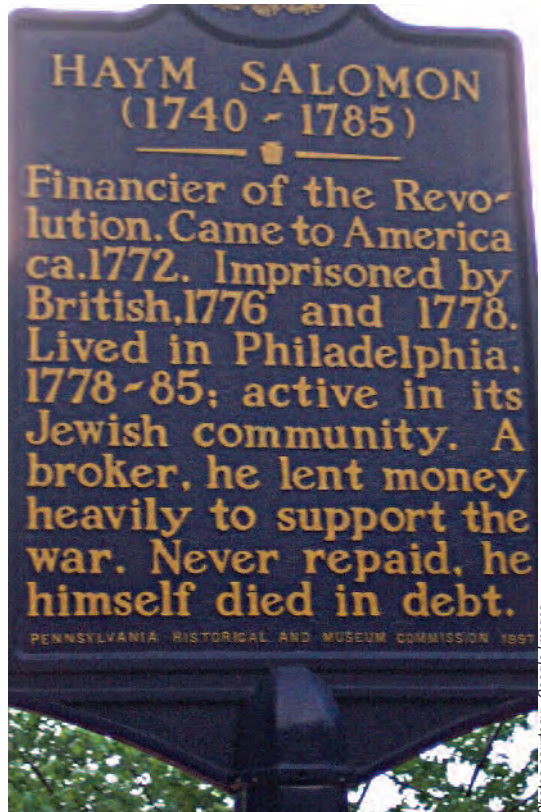


As Genesis 12:3 has never been rescinded by the Almighty, only good can result when Believers recognize the generous deeds of American Jews and provide acknowledgement to them and their descendants. Could such a heart toward the children of Abraham be a key to Church revival and cultural awakening?



Who knows; perhaps, as Mordecai taught Esther, we have been...

...*"brought into the kingdom for such a time as this."* Esther 4:14



Photos courtesy: Google Images



For more than three years, Myles and I have been privileged to serve with ZLM at biblical sites in Greece, Turkey, and of course, Israel. What a wonderful way to expand on the anointed teaching we have done together for fifteen years.

Studying God's Word with an emphasis on the Hebrew roots of Christianity connects *Zola Levitt Presents* viewers, *Levitt Letter* readers, Zola Tours pilgrims, and levitt.com web-surfers with the scenic locations where the Scriptures unfolded and enhances their spiritual journeys. As you probably have noticed, we are careful not to commercialize or trivialize God's Message.

In God's "coincidence," we began our partnership with this international television ministry just when the series ***Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People*** came up on the production schedule. This TV series' teaching topic was a kiss from God! For a husband-and-wife team, Jewish and gentile, and with Myles a licensed marriage therapist, it was, well, a *Moed* (Hebrew for Kairos moment)—a Holy appointed time. Ruth's story is OUR story. We've used the Book of Ruth for years in our marriage seminars and to help couples from different traditions find the Lord together.

When we and the film crew landed in Israel at *Shavuot* (Pentecost), the whole nation was celebrating the harvest and reading the Book of Ruth. As the Holy Spirit's arrival at Pentecost began the Church Age, it was a perfect time to produce the series about Jesus' apostles, ***Acts: Then and Now... the Story Continues***. To hear present-day testimonies of leaders in Israel's Messianic community is to remember that the Jewishness of the Gospel is not new; it is 2,000 years old but most certainly alive and well today. Myles loves to recount his first "Jews for Jesus" NYC summer campaign. We were courting, and he called me to share the building's inscription: "Jews for Jesus—Established 32 A.D., Give or Take A Year"!

After the *Ruth* and *Acts* series, we began laying the Abrahamic foundation. Although Zola and Jeff Seif had created remarkable programs on seemingly all the Bible stories, producer Ken Berg felt led to broadcast more-detailed teaching on Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We heartily signed on for ***Abraham: Father of Faith*** followed by ***Sons of Promise: Isaac and Jacob***. Taken together, these programs confirm the Abrahamic Covenant and explain the difference between God's blessing Ishmael and His covenant with Isaac. These lessons assume increased importance with the "new" Replacement Theology pressing to displace Jewish history, covenant, Land connection, and legitimacy.

It is imperative for this ministry to speak God's truth in love and to invite "whosoever" (Revelation 22:17) on this ***Journey of Restoration***. We cannot do this without your gifts of funds. No gift is too small—or too large. We know that you value God's Word. Please help us illuminate it. Just a meager amount from each viewer keeps the message going out to awaken the culture and herald the next coming of the Jewish Messiah! Please do your part, and thanks for what you've already done. ★



5 Ways to Stand with Israel in Crisis

By Marcus Yoars (r) CharismaNews.com



As anti-Semitism grows and Israel's neighboring countries set their military sights on the Holy Land, it's increasingly imperative that we stand with the Jewish people. Here are five ways to do so:

1) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem Prayer can move mountains, bring down governments, and do what seems impossible in the natural realm. Only through prayer can peace be sustained in Israel's capital. Yet when Believers quote Psalm 122:6 and mention praying for the most important city on Earth, too often it translates into an occasional one-sentence prayer. That won't cut it considering the forces of darkness warring against humanity's centerpiece.

How should you pray, then? Start by asking God to reveal His heart for Jerusalem to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a burden for Jewish people. Then step back and watch your prayers change for this critical area and people.

2) Recognize the importance of Israel One of Satan's cleverest end-times deceptions—that's working even among Christians—is that Israel is just another country. This diminished view has yielded everything from Replacement Theology to complete apathy for Israel's current dilemma with its jihadist neighbors. Amid the enemy's lies, Believers must wake up and realize the vital role Israel has played and will continue to play in human history until Jesus returns.



3) Honor our Hebraic roots As gentile Believers, we have been grafted into the tree of God, the "root" of which is Israel (Rom. 11). Paul warned gentiles to not boast but to "remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you" (v. 18). Even Jesus pointed out that "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). It's astounding how Western Christianity downplays this truth, usually under the pretext that Believers now live under God's grace and mercy. But let's not forget to honor the avenue through which that grace and mercy—and every blessing from God—first came.

4) Understand the complexity of Israel Many Christians avoid "the Israel conversation" because it mingles politics with faith. Our call to stand with Israel is not political but inevitably involves politics. And because politics involves people groups, we must resist the temptation to make this a black-and-white, Palestinian-vs.-Jew feud. God's love extends to every person in Israel. No matter how many politicians try, this conflict can't be resolved except through Jesus. Because of that, we must...

...5) Join with Messianic Believers in furthering the Gospel Our call to stand with Israel is not conditional upon Jews being saved. Yet, why not support those ministries of Messianics whose vision is to see their Jewish brothers and sisters come to meet *Yeshua HaMashiach*? ★



The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / The Golden Gate



The gates of Jerusalem were more than passageways. They served as places for personal business and civic affairs. Some gates took their names from the distant cities they faced, like Jaffa, Damascus, and Shechem. Other names reflected purpose, like Fountain and Dung. We will examine these ancient passages for their historical attributes and spiritual meanings.



During Nehemiah's time (5th century B.C.), the gates into the city numbered 12. Seven of eight gates open into the Old City today. And Revelation describes 12 in the New Jerusalem.

The Golden Gate:
Sha'ar HaRachamim Mercy
 Gate—Eastern Gate (closed)
 Neh. 3:29



Photo: Ken Berg

The Golden Gate, the oldest of all Jerusalem's gates, was built by Byzantine Emperor Heraclius around 627 A.D. atop the ruins of previous gates. The stones in the wall just above the ground date to the 6th century B.C.

Located on the eastern side of Jerusalem's Old City wall (thus also known as Eastern Gate), it faces the Mount of Olives. The New Testament mentions it as Beautiful Gate.

The double-arched Golden Gate consists of the only two gates that lead directly to the Temple Mount. The southern arch is Gate of Mercy (*Sha'ar HaRachamim*). In ancient times, Jews would pray in front of the gate asking Almighty for mercy. The northern arch is Gate of Repentance (*Sha'ar Teshuva*)—the closest entrance to the Temple of Solomon.

Spiritual significance: Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey through the Golden Gate on Palm Sunday, thereby fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy of 9:9. Jews and

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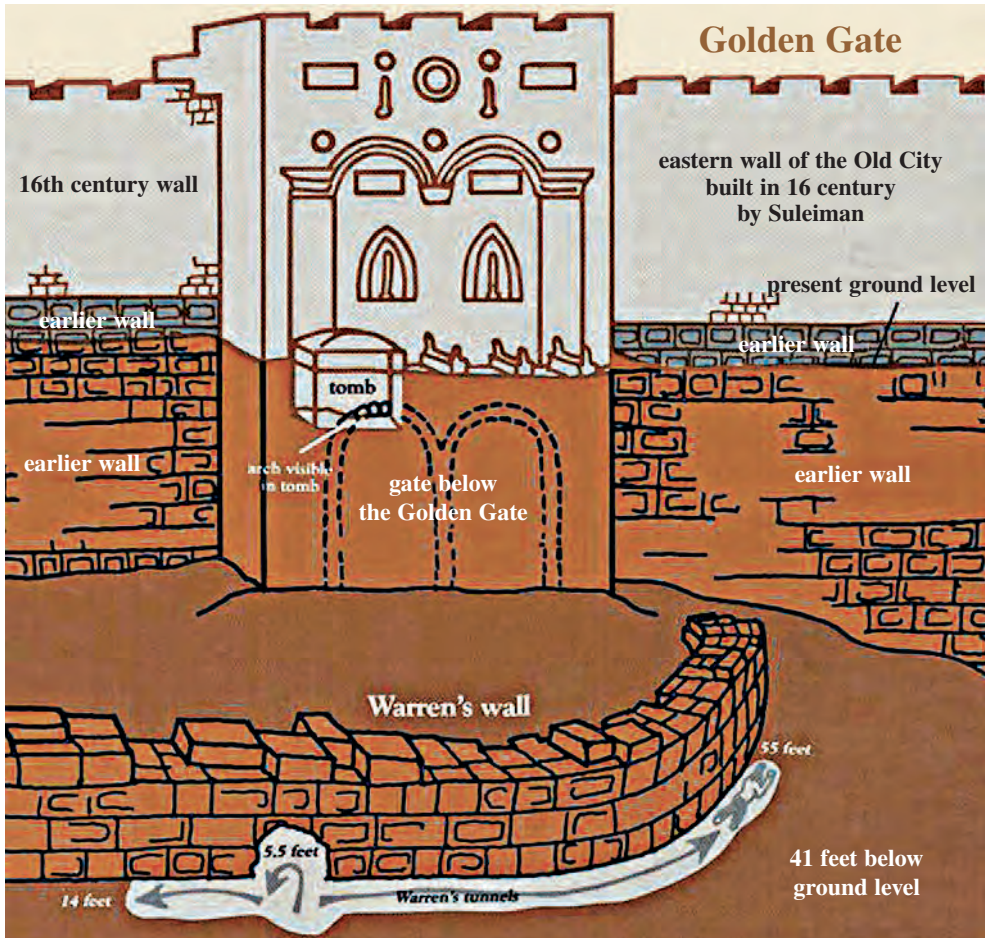


Christians expect Messiah to enter Jerusalem through the Golden Gate. The gate also features in end-times prophecies. Zechariah claims that when the Messiah passes through the gate, He'll blow a ram's horn and all the dead in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives will rise from their graves (14:4). Ezekiel in 44:1-2 describes his vision: "Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it..."

Jewish rabbis describe the Messiah as a great military leader who will enter the Eastern Gate and liberate the city from foreign control. To prevent this, around the time when Caliph Abdel-Malik built the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount (692 A.D.), Muslims also sealed the gate with a 15-foot-thick stone structure. Then they put a Muslim cemetery in front of it believing that Jesus as High Priest would not defile Himself by walking through a cemetery. Little did they know, they were fulfilling Ezekiel's prophecy.

Watch for: Damascus Gate, Lions' Gate, Zion Gate, and others. ★

The area around the Golden Gate, above and below ground. (From Accordance Bible Software—Biblical Archaeology Review Archive: January/February 1993 • Volume 9 Number 1)



Why Are Native Israelis Called “Sabras”?

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF / Our Man in Haifa



My son lives in the Mount Tabor region of the Lower Galilee, where the sabra cactus is prolific. In Hebrew, the plant is called *tzabar*, meaning “to accumulate, amass, store, collect.” This makes sense, observing the sabra’s pattern of growth. It expands rapidly, creating a clump of large paddle-like “leaves.” Sabra make an intimidating fence, the long sharp spines discouraging any would-be intruder. You couldn’t pay me enough to walk through one of those mean looking natural barriers!

Why are native Israelis called *sabras*? To understand, we need to explore another feature of the plant—the fruit that it produces. Known elsewhere as “prickly pear cactus,” the sabra produces a tasty “pear-like” fruit. These buds appear on the edge of the cactus’s pads and take on a striking bright red to burgundy color. Once the thick, inedible skin is removed, the sweet jelly-like interior of the sabra fruit can be enjoyed. In Central America, the sabra’s native habitat, prickly pear fruit is a popular market item.

O.K. So, the fruit is prickly and daunting on the outside, but sweet and tender on the inside. This combination of qualities is the classic answer for why native Israelis are called *sabras*. In general, the Israeli who is born in Israel and raised in this feisty environment develops a tough exterior while maintaining a softness within. Often, this tenderness is accessible only after a few encounters, once the *sabra* knows you are “for real,” i.e. not taking advantage of him.

Millennia of rejection, expulsion, mass extermination, and

terrorist massacres created an element of suspicion in the Jewish psyche. This protective “spiny skin” plays out within Israeli society, and not only in relationships with outsiders. Every day, I experience the defensiveness and quickness to feel “put upon” of my fellow Israelis toward each other. Simultaneously, I see my neighbors’ readiness to help someone in need and to open their homes to those they’ve only recently met.

Living in this land nearly 22 years, I can affirm the *sabra* reputation. While Israelis refuse to judge people by stereotypes, understanding legitimate national and cultural characteristics helps us relate to and appreciate one another. How can this be applied to Israeli friends, acquaintances, and the shopkeeper you might meet during a visit to this amazing land? First, be patient. The initial reaction you get rarely indicates the *sabra*’s heart. If you extend genuine respect and interest, and stand your ground, the *sabra* eventually reveals that tender, sweet soul. It is this Israeli soul that Yeshua, Israel’s Shepherd King, is wooing. ★



If only the world at large could understand this truth so elegantly stated by Eitan! —Myles

Painting by Connie Shishkoff

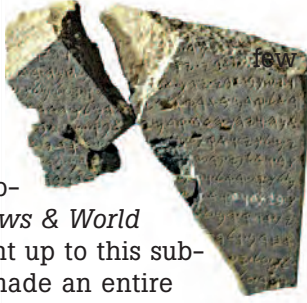


Of Kings and Other Champions

CLASSIC ZOLA: / 1999—15 years ago



The news media should be faulted for their reportage on the **King David Stone**. Would you believe that an October issue of *U.S. News & World Report* finally caught up to this subject on which we made an entire series in 1994? This vitally important archaeological discovery—a stone carved with writing from the 8th century B.C. that establishes King David as a real person and his dynasty as a historical succession of kings—should have been front-page news from day one. Other than the Dead Sea Scrolls, it was probably the biblical archaeological find of the century. Please see our series [*The Stones Cry Out*](#) at store.levitt.com. [Also see pp. 20, 32.]



they are not a threat. In any case, few Palestinians have ever been unsafe in Israel, and as I have pointed out, it is Israelis who are unsafe because of Palestinian terrorism.

The sad death of **Payne Stewart**, the PGA golf champion whose plane crashed in October, provided a wonderful testimony for correct Christian doctrine. Paul said, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Cor. 15:55), and Christians really should not grieve at a Christian funeral. We are rightly sad because we will miss the company of the one who has gone to the Lord ahead of us, but we rejoice in the fact that his salvation is secure and we will all be together again.



And the media can be further faulted for emphasizing safe passage for Palestinians. As I have remarked in the past newsletters, Palestinians have always been safe in Israel. Sure, they have to show identity cards at road checkpoints, but that is because some of them are terrorists and mean to harm Israeli citizens. Canadians don't have to show identity cards when they cross U.S. borders because

Payne Stewart was a committed Believer, and it was noted at his eulogy that he was now traveling “from the world of the dying to the world of the living” rather than the other way around. I was thrilled with that characterization of a fine Christian and a fine golfer. ★



Brothers & Sisters:

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

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

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. Do you have any teaching materials on speaking in tongues? I believe that miracle occurred for a time, according to Paul, but then discontinued. Also that it constituted different languages at Pentecost, and occurred so that the diverse people there heard the Gospel, spoken by Peter and the apostles, in their own languages. Does this agree with your understanding?

A few of my friends believe that they have this special gift, yet what they speak doesn't sound like a language to me but rather babbling. I suspect their "gifts" to be more likely Satan up to his old tricks of counterfeiting.

A. Acts 2 and other parts of the New Testament appear to define the gift of tongues as languages that are otherwise foreign to the speaker being supernaturally spoken without previous learning.

The controversy surrounding this gift is so entrenched that the opposing camps have names: Continuationists believe the gift is still present today, while Cessationists believe the gift ceased after the Apostolic Age (~100 A.D.)

I think that the gift is still in limited use where needed, for example in the mission field, until The End when we see Jesus face to face and that which is "perfect" has come (1 Cor. 13:9-10).

Tongues are existing languages (not incoherent babblings as seen in the Charismatic movement) that are spoken spontaneously by someone unfamiliar with the language so that the listeners will understand the Gospel message. ★

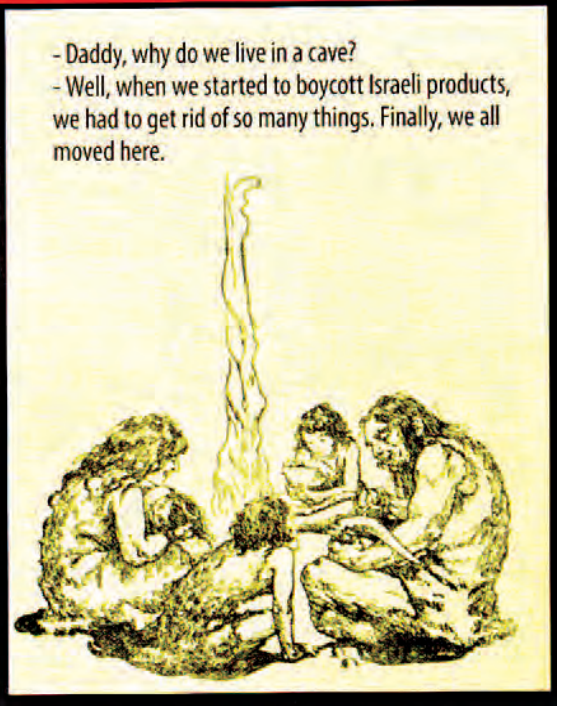
Civilizations, nations and empires that have tried to destroy the Jewish People:

| NATION | STATUS |
|-------------------|------------|
| Ancient Egypt | X-GONE |
| Philistines | X-GONE |
| Assyrian Empire | X-GONE |
| Babylonian Empire | X-GONE |
| Parthian Empire | X-GONE |
| Greek Empire | X-GONE |
| Roman Empire | X-GONE |
| Byzantine Empire | X-GONE |
| Crusaders | X-GONE |
| Spanish Empire | X-GONE |
| Nazi Germany | X-GONE |
| Soviet Union | X-GONE |
| Hamas | In-Process |

God Bless The IDF!

The Jewish People
The smallest of nations but with a Friend in the highest of places!
So ... BE NICE!

A PICTURE
tells a thousand words



God's People Receive God's Word

BY SUE HOPPER



Todd Baker, Eric Oler, and my husband, Robin, and I formed last spring's **To The Jew First** outreach team. Every outreach energizes us as we take God's Word back to His people who first shared it with us.



See p. 19 for more details

Nofar and Natali (*above*) at a shoe shop in Netanya, a modern city along the beautiful Mediterranean coast. A comment about boots opened a divine appointment. Nofar accepted a complete Hebrew Bible and Natali accepted an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book that kick-starts a personal pilgrimage into a soul-satisfying relationship with God.

Yonathan tended a juice kiosk where I ordered a small pomegranate, celery, ginger, and carrot drink. A young man, he had immigrated to Israel (made *aliyah*) at a very early age with his parents. His interest piqued when I told him about Yeshua as the Messiah, and he eagerly accepted some informational tracts and a complete Hebrew Bible, which includes both the *Tanakh* (OT) and *B'rit Hadashah* (NT).



Sholi and me at a cosmetic counter where she graciously accepted a copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained*.

Witnessing to Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers on Mount Hermon is always a major highlight for me. Mount Hermon, whose summit straddles the border between Syria

and Lebanon and whose southern slopes extend into the Golan Heights, is considered by some to be the site of the Transfiguration where Yeshua met with Moses and Elijah. Next month, Todd will report on one of the six IDF soldiers who received complete Bibles in Hebrew. As Eric drove us "up to Jerusalem," we read Psalms 120–134, the Songs of Ascent.

Robin gave 200 shekels to Alexander, an Israeli man who was down on his luck. Then when Robin handed him a complete Bible and *Isaiah 53 Explained*, both in Hebrew, Alexander said with amazement that God had just answered his prayer.



Robin with Daniel and Yetel in a children's clothing store. Yetel made *aliyah* 16 years ago from France. I know they will enjoy their copies of *Isaiah 53 Explained*. That evening, we met **Hebrew Scouts selling cakes** for disadvantaged children. Daniella, pictured below holding her new Bible in Hebrew with another Scout, didn't have to work very hard to sell me a cake.

I hope you are as encouraged as we are, hearing these stories about the open hearts and minds of Israelis to His Word. The Holy Spirit prepares our way and then works long after we've said good-bye. All your prayers and support make it happen when you contribute to this ministry and send our *shelichim* (emissaries) with the resources to help the Israeli Jews discover their Messiah! ★



Israel: Separated for Security

BY SHIRLEE FINN / JewsDownUnder.com



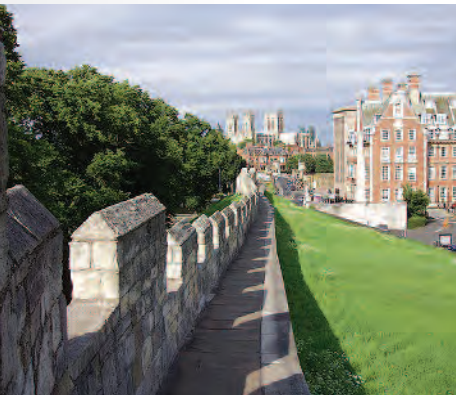
Walls, barriers, fences, call them what you will: Some are thousands of miles long and designed to keep criminals, illegal entrants, terrorists, and would-be conquerors out—a good idea.

So why is Israel's wall singled out as "apartheid" when its purpose is simply to protect Israel's citizens? You have to see the singling out as **nothing but anti-Semitism.**

While security fences/barriers are common throughout the world, Israel's decision in 2003 to construct one generated international protests and a hearing at the International Court of Justice. *No other security barrier has ever met with such resistance.*

The city of **Jericho** built one of the earliest and most famed protective walls. **Uruk** in ancient Sumer (Mesopotamia), **Babylon**, and **Cartagena** were also well-known walled cities.

Medieval Britain built walled villages. The entire population of the village—including animals—lived within walls with heavy doors that closed at night for protection. The picturesque city of **York** (below) boasted such a wall.



Rio de Janeiro In 2009, Rio de Janeiro started building walls around some of its "favelas," shanty towns that crowd the hills around the city. Said to prevent communities from spilling over into the forest of the Tijuca Park, some critics

think Rio's walls are an attempt to separate the poor from the rich. Others say they are intended to limit drug trafficking, as part of a planned regional government clampdown. (below)



China – North Korea Fears of a catastrophic famine in North Korea have China topping 10'–13' fences with barbed wire along an eight-mile stretch of the Yalu River.

The Great Wall of China deterred invaders.



U.S. – Mexico The U.S. government has built a metal wall along a third of its 1,988-mile-long southern border to prevent the arrival of illegal immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

Greece – Turkey A 124-mile wall at Greece's land border with Turkey, the Evros River, is a reaction to the illegal immigration to Greece and the EU from Muslim Asian and African states through the Greco-Turkish borders.

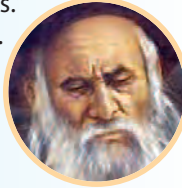
Other modern-day walls separate:
Pakistan/Iran, Pakistan/Afghanistan, India/Bangladesh, India/Burma, India/Kashmir, Egypt/Gaza, Botswana/Zimbabwe, UAE/Oman, Oman/Yemen, Saudi Arabia/Yemen, Saudi Arabia/Iraq, Iraq/Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia/UAE. ★

ZLM Bulletin Board

Israelis Living Longer, Economy Flourishing

Israeli average life expectancy is 82, among the world's highest. Israel's economy is expected to grow 3.2% in 2014 and 3.5% in 2015. According to a recent report by OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), Israel's economy "will be buoyed by a gradually improving external environment, the benefit of which should be amplified by expanding gas production and persistently low interest rates."

By comparison, OECD figures show that the U.S. economy is expected to grow by 2.6% in 2014 and by 3.5% in 2015. Israel's unemployment rate is also expected to remain impressively low: 5.9% in 2014 and 5.8% in 2015.



GIVING
THROUGH
LIFE
INSURANCE

Zola's Bible Exchange!

If you have an extra Bible in new or nearly new condition to pass on to someone who needs one, such as an inmate or a retiree on fixed income, please send it to us to forward. (Bibles for inmates must be softcover.) On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address. There will be no charge.

(ZLM consulting theologian Dr. Tom McCall refers to a New Testament without the Old Testament as *The Amputated Bible*.)



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

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

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

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Read the Levitt Letter Extra at levitt.com (click on "Levitt Letter", then "LLX News") to supplement the content of our regular news magazines. This ministry used to charge for Levitt Letter Extra subscriptions, but not anymore. Why not join the nearly 1,000 readers each week who stay current with our frequent posts between regular newsletters? In fact, you can be notified whenever new posts appear by filling in the "subscribe" box with the email address you'd like us to use. It's FREE.

Levitt Letter
XTRA

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson

Trusting God's Heart

By John J. Parsons



יום אִירָא אֲנִי אֶלֶיךָ אֶבְטָח

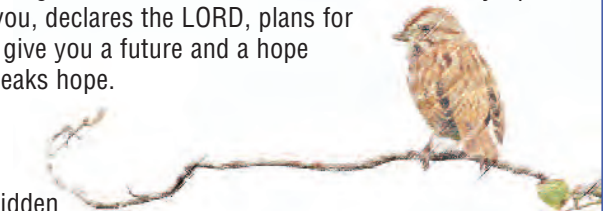
“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3)

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| יֹוֹם | אִירָא | אֲנִי | אֶלֶיךָ | אֶבְטָח |
| (1) | (2) (1) | (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (2) (1) |
| yom | i-ra | a-ni | e-ley-kha | ev-tach |
| the day | I am afraid | I | in you | will trust |

“There is no fear in love,” and therefore over and over the Spirit of God says, “don’t be afraid...” When we are afraid, we are believing the lie there is something beyond God’s control or reach, and therefore God is “not enough.” In times of testing—in “the day you are afraid” remind yourself of *what is real*. God formed you in your mother’s womb, breathed into you *nishmat chayim* (the breath of life), and numbers all your days. Every breath you take, every heartbeat in your chest is ordained from Heaven, and indeed, there is not a moment of your life apart from God’s sovereign and sustaining grace. So what, then, are you afraid of? Dying? Judgment in the world to come? Being left unloved, bereft of home, abandoned, consigned to outer darkness? King David said, “If I make my bed in Hell, behold, You are there” (Psalm 139:8). Look, the LORD God is not only present in your “happy moments,” when you feel “put together” and respectable, but He is present in your desperate moments, in your hunger, your thirst, and in your secrets. If you can’t detect God’s hand in your circumstances, then trust His heart. May you never lose sight of God’s love, especially in times of distress and trouble, since He is always working all things together for your ultimate good (Rom. 8:28).

The Name of the LORD (יהוה) means “Presence” and “Love” (Exodus 3:14; 34:5–7). Yeshua said, “I go to prepare a place for you,” which means that His presence and love are waiting for you in *whatever* lies ahead (Rom. 8:35–39). To worry is “practicing the absence” of God instead of practicing His Presence. Trust the word of the Holy Spirit: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for healing peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jer. 29:11). The Word always speaks hope.

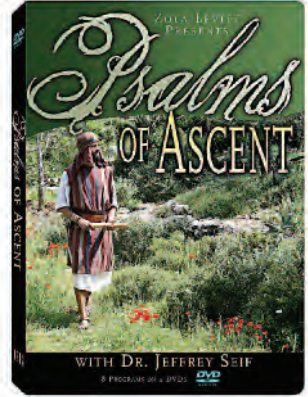
Take comfort that your Heavenly Father knows when the sparrow falls; He arrays the flower in its hidden valley; and He calls each star by name. More importantly, the Lord sees you and knows your struggle with fear. Come to Him with your needy heart and trust Him to deliver you from the burdens of your soul (Matt. 11:28). Heed these words of encouragement spoken from our Savior: **Come to Me; I love you, I accept you; I receive you; please, be welcome with Me; I will take your hand, I will be with you.**



Psalms of Ascent

Eight 30-minute TV programs (2 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 (ZLM’s Man in Haifa) and the music of Marty Goetz are also featured.



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 This ministry implores “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122). Jerusalem 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 us that our 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 everyone. Israel as a nation has seen much affliction, but the Lord’s support is unwavering.

Psalms 130 & 131 At the Western Wall, Jeff tells 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 loving 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, the city the Lord chose. 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.

Psalms 134 Sandra and Jeff conclude this series having seen many “coming up” to

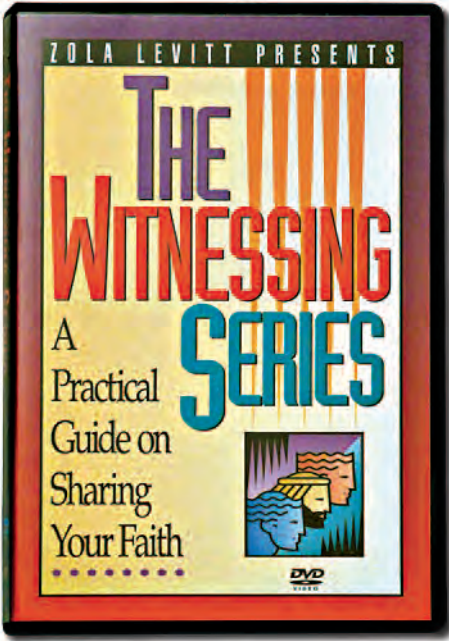


Jerusalem, seeking and praising God. On the Mount of Olives, Jeff invites all Believers to journey together to our ultimate destination.

Marty Goetz
sings a wonderful
rendition of
“Benediction.”



SHARE MESSIAH WITH YOUR WORLD!



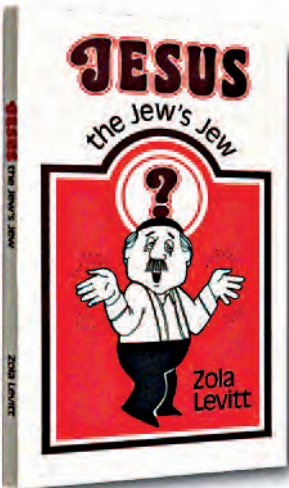
The key to witnessing is sharing the Bible. But how you go about presenting it depends on your listener. These four half-hour TV programs on DVD are our response to viewers who've asked, "How do I witness to...?"

Witnessing to Arabs Dr. Louis Hamada, an Arab born in Syria, conveys the importance of sharing the news of our Lord and Savior with the Muslims.

Witnessing to Jews, Part I Zola interviews David Gold, a Jewish radio host, who gives his testimony of accepting Jesus as Messiah.

Witnessing to Jews, Part II Messianic Jews from several walks of life share how they came to faith in Yeshua.

Witnessing to Gentiles Zola uses Peter's confrontation with Cornelius in Acts 10 as a reminder that "God is no respecter of persons."



JESUS, THE JEW'S JEW book

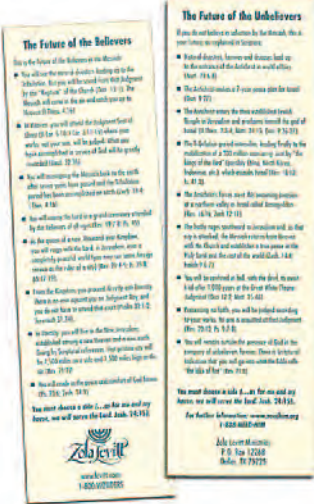
Zola's own testimony about his heritage and coming to Jesus—especially helpful witnessing to Jewish friends.

SOME POINTERS ON WITNESSING TO JEWS

(Free with any purchase or send SASE.)

"THINGS TO COME" Witnessing Bookmark

This simplistic bookmark uses dozens of scriptural references to reduce man's fate to two options: "The Future of the Unbelievers" and, on the other side, "The Future of the Believers." A very handy witnessing tool! Upon request, receive one bookmark free with any purchase or donation (or you can send us a self-addressed stamped envelope, SASE).



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



A special book containing the major prophecies of the Messiah, along with color photos and Holy Land maps from our television series of the same name. It is extremely important that we are able to prove the coming of Messiah from Old Testament Scripture, thus showing objective evidence that our Lord is indeed "The Promesied Messiah."

One of our all-time most popular books.

THE PROMISED MESSIAH Printable Pamphlet (right)

Print our four-panel tract showing Messianic prophecies from the Bible in Hebrew and English. Download this document and print it double-sided, then fold to create a handout. This works on both 8½" x 11" or legal-size 8½" x 14" sheets, but reads better at full size on a legal-size sheet.



**See p. 36 for
this unique
witnessing
collar pin.**



THE PROMISED MESSIAH Bookmark

Another excellent witnessing tool, this handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" heavy bookmark gives Old Testament Scriptures declaring details of Who the Messiah of Israel was, and what He would experience and accomplish. Upon request, receive one bookmark free with any purchase or donation (or you can send us a self-addressed stamped envelope).

The Stones Cry Out

Twelve 30-minute TV programs (3 DVDs)

Recent archaeological discoveries validate the biblical record. To film “dig” sites and interview the experts, Zola journeyed to Israel and Jordan. Just as our Lord said about this remarkable Land, *The Stones Cry Out*.

The Tunnel Zola walks the tunnel under the western edge of the Temple Mount. We get a journalist’s perspective of the Palestinian uproar that erupted when the tunnel was opened to the public in 1996.

A Tale of Two Temples An unearthed marketplace shows the Roman destruction of the Temple. Mount Gerizim to the north hosts the excavation of a Samaritan temple patterned after the Jerusalem Temple.

Rulers in Stone Caesarea, on Israel’s Mediterranean coast, has yielded first-century finds such as the first extra-biblical reference to Pontius Pilate, and a full-size Temple replica. At Tel Dan, the “House of David” has been confirmed archaeologically.

The Jerusalem That Was Bible Lands Museum houses a model of Jerusalem ca. 586 B.C. In the City of David, we examine a four-room house, typical architecture for ancient Israelites.

Past and Future Destruction Ongoing excavations at Hazor have unearthed Canaanite idols and confirmation of the city burning as recorded in Joshua 11. The Valley of Armageddon holds prophetic archaeological significance.

Archaeology and the Scriptures In Jerusalem, Zola explains the history of the Citadel, also called “David’s Tower.” We talk with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Cities of the Past Zippori was a thriving cultural center in Galilee that probably influenced Jesus as a boy in Nazareth. Ekron was one of five prominent Old Testament cities of the Philistines.

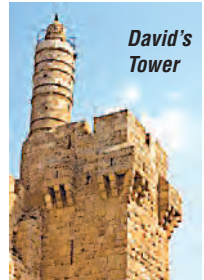
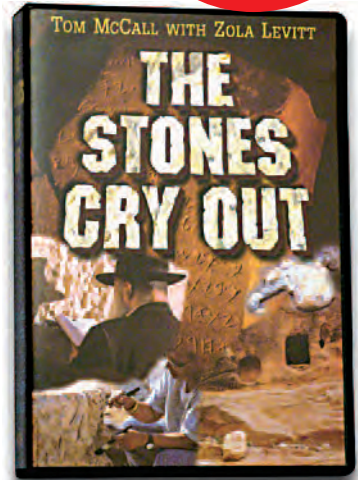
Shadows from the Past A chamber of tombs, near the Garden Tomb but dated to the time of the First Temple, helps us understand burial customs of that day. We visit the Qumran cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

A Tale of Three Cities In biblical times, a business relationship existed between three Jordan Valley cities: Beit Shean, Rehovot (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). We visit excavations in each city.

The Rose Red City The ancient Nabataeans were famous for their skill in rock carving. Petra, their capital southeast of the Dead Sea, is the “rose red” city known for its magnificent buildings carved into the native rock.

A Man Crucified On display at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, a man’s heel bone that was pierced by a nail is the first archaeological proof of Roman crucifixions in Israel.

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



David's
Tower



Your Best Bet...

... is not to gamble, ever. Any temptation to try your luck with wagering on games of chance probably stems from overestimating not only the odds of winning but also the likelihood of knowing when to stop in order to keep your winnings.

The Wall Street Journal recently answered the question, "How Often Do Gamblers Really Win?" An unprecedented trove of public data details the behavior of thousands of anonymous Internet gamblers over a 2-year period. Over the full period, just 11% of players ended up in the black, and most of those pocketed less than \$150. Losers of more than \$5,000 outnumbered big winners by a whopping 31:1.

The analysis concerned 4,222 Internet gamblers who played casino-style games such as blackjack, roulette, and slots. European online-gambling giant "Bwin.Party Digital Entertainment PLC" made the raw data available to gambling-addiction researchers affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

A different database of gambling in the northwestern U.S. produced similar patterns and similarly skewed ratios of big losers to big winners. Jim Kilby, a former professor and now author of three books on casino management, said the scant number of winners surprised even him. Although gamblers know the house has an edge, he said, **"the average person doesn't understand the math" of the multiplier effect: "Casino games are nibbling machines, and the more nibbles you have, the bigger your losses."**

Joachim Haeusler, Bwin's oxymoronic "responsible gaming" manager, said the company provides entertainment and people shouldn't gamble "based on the idea to get rich, because they won't." Unfortunately, "gambling for entertainment" ushers unsuspecting patrons to addiction.



An Indiana University report on addictive behaviors related the "thrill" gamblers talk about. As in other addictive behaviors where beta-endorphins in the brain cause individuals to repeat a behavior to obtain the pleasant feeling, the treatment for compulsive gambling involves withdrawal symptoms similar to those suffered by addicts of depressant drugs: headaches, abdominal pain, diarrhea, cold sweats, tremor, and nightmares.

Proverbs 13:11 explains, "Wealth gained by vanity will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase." Statistical data and neuroscience prove that regret is the most likely "prize" in games of chance.



Seniors are particularly vulnerable to problem gambling for several reasons, including loneliness, time on their hands, access to money and casinos, and greater disposable income. While not every senior who visits a casino is a problem gambler, gambling can be a bad bet against their retirement.

As a matter of stewardship, investing in the Kingdom of God consistently yields eternal winnings. (Matthew 6:20–21) With Zola Levitt Ministries, what you see is what you get. Tune in our TV program, read our *Levitt Letters*, and visit levitt.com to verify that you are always a winner when you "bet" on and share in our devotion and efficiency in spreading God's wisdom. ★



Letters to ZIM

Ministry products and TV programs are available on our web store: store.levitt.com.

Comments from www.levitt.com

From H.E. and J.L.M (OH): The past year of programming has been wonderful! Kudos to the filming crew. The scenes of Israel are first rate—watching is just like being there, especially in high definition.

My wife and I wish we could send more money. We are in our upper 80s but in reasonably good health. God is good. The Lord is coming soon. “Watch Israel” is the key. —It is encouraging to hear from seniors who have stood with this ministry for so many years. —Myles

From D.R. (MN): Thanks for being that bright beacon of truth in a world of misleading concepts and oft-repeated lies and eyes-almost-closed hatred of others. We greatly need your consistent clarity.

I don't have cable TV, so I miss your superb programming but thrive on your *Levitt Letter* and DVDs. With my order today, I am enclosing a small gift toward *Levitt Letter* production costs. —Thanks for the uplifting words and donation to help defray the cost of newsletter publication. Your extra gift will be used well. You can also watch the latest *Zola Levitt Presents* programs online at levitt.tv. —Mark

From D.S. (CA): I recently heard about a Jew who pulled together the money to feed, clothe, and pay the patriot soldiers when George Washington's troops were starving and freezing at Valley Forge. Apparently, he continued to finance the American Revolution. Is this true? Could you find out and put it in the *Levitt Letter*? —You'll find [Haym Salomon's story on p. 4](#) of this July/Independence Day issue. Thanks for the timely suggestion. —Myles

From D.M.A. (TX): Bless Y'all! I received my order and could not be more pleased. These books will bless the small church I attend. The flag I ordered found a home on my living room wall, so I'll have to order another to fly out front. Keep casting seeds on the Jews for the Holy Spirit to water.



The Father's Timeline

Dear ZLM, I have two questions for you:

1) Does the Jewish calendar have 12 months with a 13th month thrown in for "leap year"? A friend in my unit insists that Jewish friends told him the Jewish calendar is 11 months with a 12th month added for "leap year." Which is it?

2) According to Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32, Jesus doesn't know when He will return. But the same friend in my unit says that since Jesus is God (Isaiah 9:6), He does know.

Can you settle these disagreements, please? A.O. (NJ)

Greetings A.O.—

Before I answer your questions, I want to thank you for your service. I noticed the Fort Dix address, where my dad did his basic training during WWII.

Now to your questions. Todd Baker gave a splendid explanation of the complicated Jewish calendar in the [September 2011 Levitt Letter \(p. 4\)](#). In a nutshell, you are correct: The biblical calendar follows the moon's cycles and has 12 lunar months until its "leap year" every 2–3 years adds Adar I as the 13th month to keep the Passover feast in springtime. This ministry offers a Jewish Calendar (*shown*) that you would find helpful.

The hour of Messiah's return is shrouded in mystery. He did say that "only the Father" knows, perhaps to discourage us from date setting. Shalom ... and may God protect you as you serve. —Myles



Physics and Biology are Different

Dear Myles, Katharine, and Margot,

In the [April 2014 Levitt Letter \(p. 23\)](#), two of your readers expressed concern about the timeline of Creation. My husband and I consider your apparent acceptance of 15 billion years as a wink and a nod to evolution. I was troubled years ago when Zola had Dr. [Gerald] Schroeder on his program and we are considering dropping our support. If we don't hear from you about this matter, our resources will go to "uncompromised" ministries. Sincerely, D. and D.M. (WI)

Dear D. and D.M.—

Zola boldly explored various points of view during his fruitful ministry decades here at ZLM. We are committed to our mission, which is to herald the Jewish Messiah Jesus, His love for Israel and all the world, and our need to respond to it. We are also focused on awakening the Western Church to its increasing vulnerability to Replacement Theology, which is taking over entire denominations in the U.S. while you and I debate the Creation timeline.

The implications of the weighty issues that absorb our focus are immediate and vital as they portend a destructive "falling away" (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and the danger of another Jewish (and Christian?) Holocaust. Rather than camp on this single issue, please check out Zola's editorial on this subject, "[Having it Both Ways,](#)" in the [October 1998 Levitt Letter](#) archived at [levitt.com](#). The physics of Creation have nothing to do with the biological theory of evolution.

I can tell you that although we would miss your prayers and contributions, as we are dependent on our supporters, we do not alter our theology for the sake of a gift. I so desire you to get on board with what we ARE doing ... but I leave that to you and the Lord. May He bless your house with His shalom. —Myles

See #5 on page 7

Dear Mark and Myles,

I was disappointed that you reprinted Sid Roth's comment regarding John Hagee ([Levitt Letters Nov '13 p.1](#) and [Jan '14 p.24](#)). I view Hagee's celebration as a support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, not as a religious gathering. Our Jewish brothers need all the support they can get! —H.G.

Shalom H.G.—

Sid Roth's ministry, like ours, includes reaching for our natural Jewish brothers and sisters with the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. John Hagee has done a wonderful job, as I always state, in raising Christian awareness of the importance of Israel. I thank God for John Hagee; but I believe that at some point Christian leaders will have to acknowledge their brotherhood with the Jewish part of the Body of Messiah. At this stage, Hagee is committed to the mainstream Jewish community and does not speak of Jesus to them publicly.

I am grateful to be working with prominent church leaders who *do* offer the Gospel. They also demonstrate their commitment by supporting the Body in Israel. Can't we do both—be faithful to our calling *and* appreciate the call of others? I think doing so is a sign of maturity.

As the Lord impressed upon me, "Myles, it is a big *chuppah*. Find your place under My wedding canopy and follow Me." For Katharine and me, honoring our call means standing with national Israel AND "doing good to all men, ESPECIALLY those of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). —Myles

Zola's Inaccurate Wikipedia Page

Dear ZLM,

I recently stumbled upon the Wikipedia page for Zola Levitt. I was disgusted that the article stated and continued on about Zola "converting" to Evangelical Christianity. He did not convert. He became a believer in Yeshua, a Messianic Jew.

I feel that your knowledge, expertise, etc. should amend this travesty regarding our beloved Zola. —G.M. (MI)

Shalom G.M.—

I agree. For anyone familiar with Zola, reading his Wikipedia page brings home the maxim "You can't believe everything you read on the Internet." Whenever we try to amend the information, the powers at Wikipedia scream, "Conflict of interest!" and "incubate" the revision. Your letter is a nudge to challenge the page's content again.

It is interesting that before the term "Messianic Jew" became an important descriptor for Jewish accepters of Yeshua, Zola would say (and this is my paraphrase), "You can call me whatever you like. Why not call me what the early disciples were called at Antioch... 'Christians'?" (Acts 11:26). Zola was confident in his Jewish identity as a Jewish believer in Messiah Yeshua.

—Myles



The Profane Place—Dome of the Rock

Dear ZLM,

Praise our Lord for the new [Zola Levitt Presents stage](#) and future plans for upgraded set and TV production. As a gentile understanding our Jewish roots, I am pleased to support Zola Levitt Ministries and appreciate your work for our Lord as we all obey Titus 2:13.

However, I must say that the view of the Profane Place, Dome of the Rock, when showing the Temple Mount really grates on me. Why must all ministries' pictures of the Temple Mount show this Islamic shrine? PLEASE don't show that Profane Place. Thank you, J. (AK)

Shalom J.—

I appreciate your desire to view Jerusalem as a place holy to Jews and Christians and to de-emphasize the Islamic presence on the Temple Mount. However, the Golden Dome is part of the most recognizable view of Jerusalem ... at this time. Bear in mind that God will use the temporary Muslim occupation for His own purpose. It may help you tolerate the architecture if you remember that the domed central plan was patterned after the Christian Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

By the way, please watch for our upcoming series on the Temple Mount and the City of David. We are producing eight on-location, 30-minute television programs that clarify the Jewish history of Israel and the Jewish state's legal right to be there. Blessings —Myles

Women Serving Yeshua

Dear Myles,

I need to know what you think of women leading in the service of Messiah and the Father. It is a touchy subject, but I'm sure not a new one to you. Your brother in the Messiah, R.L.R. (TX)

Dear R.L.R.—

The ministry has addressed others who broached that issue. Those who, for instance, chastised **Sandra Levitt**—a woman!—for blessing Jerusalem at the end of the weekly TV programs when she co-hosted *Zola Levitt Presents* after Zola graduated. [\[See August 2011 Levitt Letter, p.25.\]](#)



Sandra explained that she held similar opinions until God worked on her. God gave her information. Shouldn't she share such insights with churches wanting to hear about their Jewish Messiah? Or lead tours to Israel for pilgrims who want the truth about Israel? Zola ended each of his programs for twenty-five years with Psalm 122:6—"pray for the peace of Jerusalem." "Should I not honor him by continuing this tradition?" she asked. "This is not about me wanting to take over; it's about God and each of us obeying His call."

In the same response, I marveled at God's heart when Jew and gentile in Christ openly bless Israel together. The command to pray for the peace of Jerusalem is for all to express fervently. I am grateful to Sandra, to my wife Katharine, and to ANY Believer who lends his or her voice to this greatly needed prayer!

And that's what we feel about women's role in the Church. —Myles ★



The Wheel Gets an Israeli Update



SCIENCE: BY JOSEPH FLAHERTY (r) Wired.co.uk

When Israeli farmer Gilad Wolf broke his pelvis in 2008, he resolved not to let his crops wither on the vine and became determined to turn his wheelchair into a workhorse. After suffering the pain that came from traversing the bumpy rows of his field in a stock chair, he began developing new designs better suited to off-road applications. He experimented with solutions based on farm equipment and ultimately took his concepts to the Rad-BioMed Technology Accelerator in Tel Aviv where he got the help required to transform a concept sketch into a patent-pending product called **SoftWheel**.

In traditional wheelchair designs, up to 30 percent of expended energy is lost because they lack suspension, leaving only 70–80 percent of the energy put into the chair for propulsion. This creates uncomfortable rides and fatigued drivers. “Most of the time, the user is driving a rigid wheel with no suspension, and it breaks his back and shakes his fillings loose,” says SoftWheel CEO Daniel Barel.

SoftWheel addresses this problem with its symmetric and selective technology that uses three compression cylinders to absorb shocks within the wheel before the shocks are transferred to the rider. The goal is to make the wheel’s hub essentially float in mid-air while suspending the chair’s mass. Practically, this means riders can traverse stairs and curbs nearly as easily as gliding down a ramp by allowing the wheels to bear the brunt of the forces. “Once you’ve eliminated sagging and bobbing, you can work miracles,” says Barel.



SoftWheel is novel, backward compatible, and has applications in other product categories, like bicycles. “We bought off-the-shelf bicycles, and within 10 minutes we put SoftWheels on them; it was just plug and play,” says Barel. This modular aspect of the design also makes switching out wheels relatively simple, a fact that has attracted interest in a number of industrial and aeronautic applications. Barel ultimately believes his product could be applied to cars, trains, cranes, and even airplane landing gear—basically anything that has a wheel.

There are no fundamental breakthroughs in materials science or physics in the SoftWheel; the pieces are all commonplace, just arranged differently. It’s clever, and fairly cool looking, but not a reinvention of the wheel.

SoftWheel has a full production setup in Israel and plans to start selling wheelchair wheels later this year priced about \$400 over a standard set of wheels. ★





Control Colon Disease

MEDICINE: BY ILAN GATTEGNO (r) IsraelHayom.com

A team of scientists from the Faculty of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University has used genetic engineering to create a strain of mice with reduced sensitivity to colitis, chronic inflammation of the colon.

The results of the team's research have led to new understanding of ways in which human sensitivity to chronic diseases like colitis can be controlled. Some five million people worldwide suffer from infectious and chronic intestinal disease. This type of disease has a severe impact on patients' quality of life, and can also lead to the development of fatal intestinal diseases such as colon cancer.

Prof. Uri Nir (below right) headed the study. Doctoral candidate Shai Bel identified a gene known as TMF that controls the mucous structure in the colons of mammals. Bel found that a defect in this gene that prevents it from operating properly leads to a change in the mucous structure, which in turn causes a significant increase in the amount of probiotic bacteria in the intestine.

These bacteria keep the colon from developing colitis. The trait of resistance to disease can be transferred from the genetically engineered mice to regular mice by exposing the control group to the intestinal bacteria of the genetically engineered ones.

The results of the study were published recently in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. ★



Doctoral student Shai Bel (left) and Professor Uri Nir
Photo: Yehoshua Yosef

The Netanyahu-Pope Spat That Wasn't



BY YAIR ROSENBERG (r) TabletMag.com

At the end of the Pope's Holy Land visit, the press reported a sparring match between Pope Francis and Benjamin Netanyahu that never really transpired. To judge by media reports, the Israeli Prime Minister had a testy exchange with the Supreme Pontiff over whether or not Jesus spoke Hebrew. **Reuters** broke the [story](#) with the headline "Pope, Netanyahu spar over Jesus' native language." Using the language of verbal combat, the piece reported the Israeli leader as saying, "Jesus was here, in this land. He spoke Hebrew." The Pope was said to have "interjected" with a correction: "Aramaic." To this, Bibi "shot back" that Jesus "spoke Aramaic, but he knew Hebrew." The **Chicago Tribune** soon dubbed the incident a "spat," and by the time it made its way to **The Age** in Australia, Netanyahu was said to have "publicly bickered" with the Pope, evincing the "sour undertone" of the Catholic leader's entire visit to Israel. The **Forward** tweeted "#Jesusgate spat over Hebrew ends testy #PopeFrancis visit with Benjamin Netanyahu."

But unfortunately for headline writers hoping to gin up controversy for clicks, there is video of this supposed smackdown, and it shows nothing of the sort. Pope Francis is laughing throughout the entire exchange, which to a normal observer would appear to be an amiable conversation between friends (albeit one mediated by a translator), not a "spat." As *New York Times* Middle East reporter Liam Stack tweeted, "not sure this counts as sparring."

Perhaps the reason the Pope is chuckling when he quibbles with Netanyahu is that he knows they are both right. As the scholar quoted by Reuters in their own piece explains, "Jesus was a native Aramaic speaker, but he would have also known Hebrew," which was spoken by "the kind of people he ministered to." Whatever language Jesus may or may not have spoken, it is clear that despite attempts by some media outlets to imply otherwise, the incident is not indicative of any hostility Francis harbors toward the Israeli Prime Minister.

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



Israel Prime Minister
Benjamin Netanyahu
hosting visit by
Pope Francis

(Israel/PWflickr)



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Pope's visit... continued



This can be seen not only from the [video](#) of their exchange, but from the photo (*at bottom left*) from the Pope's farewell ceremony, where the two parted on warm terms.

But the real shame here is not that the media got something wrong. It is that they missed the powerful and poignant significance of this unscripted moment between Israel's leader and the Pope.

Throughout Jewish history, there have been profoundly consequential public disputations between renowned Jewish thinkers and Catholic interlocutors, most famously in Paris (1240), Barcelona (1263), and Tortosa (1413–14). Typically, these debates were rigged, with the Jew forced to participate and preordained to lose. And if the Jew performed too well in representing Judaism, he sometimes had to flee the country afterward for his safety. Other dire consequences for Jews and their communities were common—after the Disputation of Paris, for instance, in which the Jew was tasked with “defending” the Talmud from charges of blasphemy, thousands of copies of the Jewish text were seized and publicly burned.

The playful chat over Jesus between Francis and Netanyahu, then, is more than just a momentary media story. It underscores just how far Jewish–Catholic relations have come. Today, the Prime Minister of a reconstituted Jewish state can rib good-naturedly about Jesus with the Pope, and the only fallout is a few hyperbolic headlines. No longer subject to the whims of Christian rulers in Europe, compelled to participate in a theological game they cannot win, Jews can now dialogue with Christians as peers, not adversaries. Seen in historical context, the Francis–Bibi exchange is a heartening sign of interfaith progress and reconciliation, and a testament to the transformative success of the Zionist project in elevating Jews as religious and political equals.

Or put another way: by hyping a fight between the Pope and the leader of the Jewish state, the media missed the remarkable real story—that there wasn't one. ★



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*Ancient olive tree
in the Garden of
Gethsemane on the
Mount of Olives—
Zola Tours: Spring 2014*

Photo courtesy: Barbara Ann Corner

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Saudis Flout MERS Warning

BBC.com

Saudi Arabia has told people to wear masks around camels. People are taking photos and videos of themselves kissing camels in defiance of a

warning from Saudi health authorities that the animals have been linked to the deadly MERS virus.

Camels Transmit Deadly MERS Virus To Humans

news.in.MSN.com

Nasal discharge of camels could transmit the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus to humans, alarming research has indicated.

The MERS coronavirus that has already cost about 200 human lives is currently spreading very rapidly in the Arab world. [At least three cases have been reported in the U.S.]

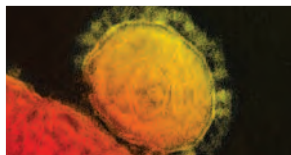
The researchers found that viruses from infected humans and Arabian camels from the same geographical region have nearly identical RNA sequences.

"This indicates transmission between animals and man. The process is referred to as zoonosis," said Norbert Nowotny from the Institute of Virology, University of Veterinary Medicine in Austria.

For the study, the scientists investigated nasal and conjunctival swabs taken from 76 camels in Oman. Virus levels were surprisingly high in the nasal mucosa and conjunctiva of camels. The transmission from animals to humans most likely occurs through these contact sites, especially through nasal discharge, the scientists presume.

"Vaccinations of camels are currently being discussed," Nowotny added.

In [one video](#), a man stands between a pair of camels and asks one to sneeze. "Look at me! Sneeze, sneeze! They say there's Corona in this," the man says, while hugging and kissing his two camels. Then he shakes one of the camels' heads and says, "She says no. Is there Corona in you? She says no."



◀ MERS Virus



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Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind

JSpace.com

Training service dogs is serious business, and at the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind, that seriousness is treated with respect. It turns out, however, that training service dogs can also be fun.

“The mission is to train guide dogs for people who are blind and disabled, and to provide them independence, mobility, and confidence,” said Dennis Allon, director of resource development at the Center.

“We organize a lot of activities for the sighted and blind alike, and we do a lot of outreach in the community.”

The Center prides itself on its intensive training program, which works with about 80 dogs a year and partners at least 35 dogs and clients annually. New puppies live with foster parents, typically college students, in their early months before training with skilled professionals dedicated to their craft.

“The idea is mobility. The dogs are trained to work in the Israeli environment, to get used to the traffic and the buses and the noise in the cities,”

Allon said. “They learn to refuse demands if they sense danger.”



He added, “The dogs are basically opening a blind person up to a whole new world. It’s still the best mobility option for a blind person.”

Once a dog has finished training, it is paired with a human. The Center takes into consideration the person’s lifestyle — do they run marathons, or do they prefer a slower pace?

After the dogs and humans are matched, the Center stays involved with check-up visits and medical care. And once the dogs have fulfilled their duties, they are retired to live their last days in the comfort of a loving foster home.

From start to finish, thought is put into ensuring that the process is warm, accommodating, and in the spirit of *tikkun olam* (healing the world). ★



King David's Citadel

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY DANIEL ESTRIN (r) Associated Press



An Israeli archaeologist claims to have found the legendary citadel captured by King David in his conquest of Jerusalem, rekindling a longstanding debate about using the Bible as a field guide to identifying ancient ruins.

Eli Shukron joins a string of Israeli archaeologists who claim to have unearthed palaces of the legendary king. Religious tradition reveres David for establishing Jerusalem as the central holy city, though clear-cut evidence of David's existence and reign eludes extra-biblical historians. [A written reference to the "House of David" was found in an archaeological site at Tel Dan in northern Israel in 1993.]

Speaking of the discovery at the City of David, Shukron, who recently left the Israel Antiquities Authority to work as a lecturer and tour guide, says, "The whole site compares perfectly to the Bible."

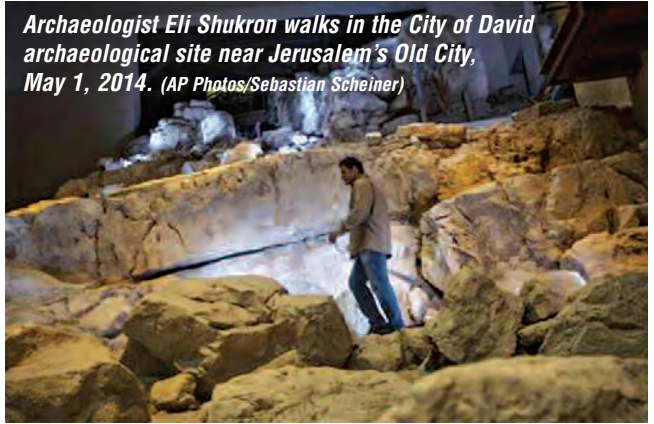
Shukron's dig uncovered a massive fortification of five-ton stones stacked 21 feet wide. Pottery shards helped date the fortification walls to 3,800 years ago. They are the largest walls found in the region from before the time of King Herod 2,100 years ago. The fortification surrounded a water spring and probably protected the ancient city's water source.

The fortification was built 800 years before King David captured it from the Jebusites. Shukron says the biblical story of David's conquest of Jerusalem provides clues that point to this particular fortification as David's entry point into the city.

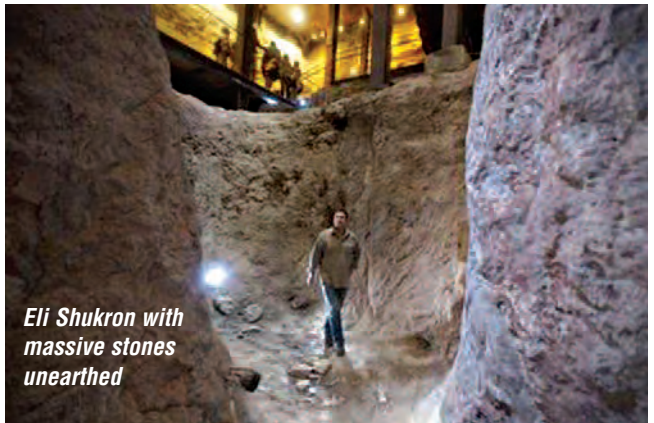
In the Second Book of Samuel, David orders the capture of the walled city by entering it through the water shaft. Shukron's excavation uncovered a narrow shaft where spring water flowed into a carved pool (where city inhabitants would gather to draw water).

Critics say that some archaeologists are too eager to hold a spade in one hand and a Bible in the other in a quest to verify the biblical narrative either due to religious beliefs or to prove the Jewish people's historic ties to the Land. But

(continued next page)



Archaeologist Eli Shukron walks in the City of David archaeological site near Jerusalem's Old City, May 1, 2014. (AP Photos/Sebastian Scheiner)



Eli Shukron with massive stones unearthed



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Citadel... Continued



respected Israeli archaeologists say recent finds match the biblical account more than naysayers claim.

The City of David archaeological park emphasizes the biblical connection, where the “Spring Citadel” (the excavation’s official name) includes a movie projected on a screen in front of the fortification to illustrate how it may have looked 3,800 years ago. The City of David, located in east Jerusalem, is one of the most popular tourist sites in Jerusalem.

“We see how archaeology and the Bible actually come together in this place,” said Doron Spielman, vice president of the nonprofit Elad Foundation, which oversees the archaeological park. He carried a softcover Bible in his hand as he ambled around the excavation.

When the Tel Dan Stele was unearthed, Zola broke the news in the television series ***The Stones Cry Out***.

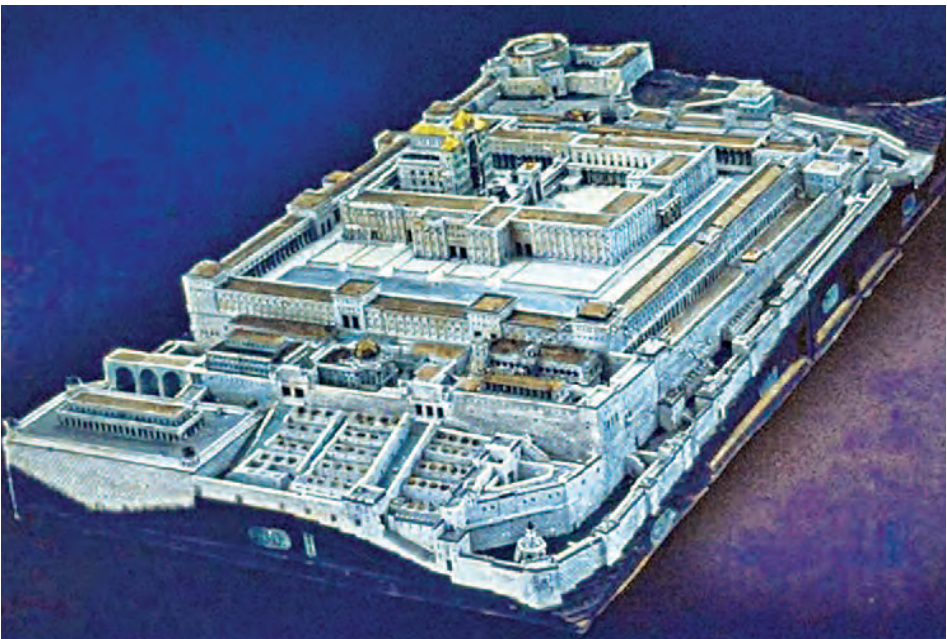
Another groundbreaking series, working-title “Zion Forever” and in production, showcases cutting-edge interviews with leading archaeologists at the biblical sites that continue to verify the Jewish history of Israel. Watch for it! —Myles



King Solomon’s Temple

IsraelDailyPicture.com

“Model of Solomon’s Temple and Environs” constructed by Dr. Conrad Schick (circa 1870). The photo of it was probably taken around 1900, and colorized by photographer Eric Matson some 60 years later. [The model represents more the days of Herod, not Solomon.]



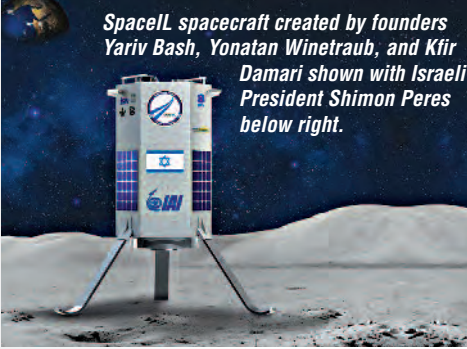
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Israeli Lunar XPrize Team

BY BEN SALES (r) JTA.org



At a Tel Aviv University laboratory, a team of 20 Israelis is building a spacecraft they believe will make Israel only the fourth country—after the United States, Russia, and China—to touch down on the moon.



SpaceIL spacecraft created by founders Yariv Bash, Yonatan Winetraub, and Kiril Damari shown with Israeli President Shimon Peres below right.

The project, known as **SpaceIL**, aims to launch a three-legged hexagonal craft that appears too puny for interstellar travel, measuring just 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. SpaceIL is competing against 17 other teams to be the first private spacecraft to land on the moon.

From its origins to its endgame, SpaceIL is a quintessential story of Israel's upstart high-tech sector. Its three founders came together with little preparation and no money—only one holds an academic degree beyond a bachelor's, and they attracted funding through personal connections to pre-eminent scientists. And they say they will win the \$20 million Google Lunar XPrize not by being the biggest or richest team, but by redefining how to send a spacecraft to the moon. "Only superpowers have managed to land on the moon," co-founder Yariv Bash said. "SpaceIL is doing it as a nonprofit."

Launched by Google in 2007, the Lunar XPrize has straightforward rules: The first team to land an unmanned spacecraft on the moon, move it 500 meters (1,640 ft.)—about the length of 5½ football fields—across the moon's surface, and transmit high-definition photos and video back to Earth wins

\$20 million. The mission must be complete by the end of 2015. Nearly all of the other contenders plan to launch tank-like rovers to roll across the moon's surface. SpaceIL's craft is the size of a dishwasher and weighs just 300 pounds, two-thirds of which is fuel. Rather than drive across the moon, it will take off again after landing and jump 500 meters. Its navigation system will double as a camera and its steering thrusters will guide its landing.

"We're taking cameras for HD video transmission, so the best thing is to reuse those cameras instead of taking a bulky radar system," Bash said. "If I can just write more code for my camera, code doesn't weigh anything."



Yonatan Winetraub, a project co-founder, connected up with Israel Space Agency head Yitzhak Ben Yisrael, who gave the group three minutes on stage at a space technology convention in Tel Aviv. It was enough to convince philanthropists at the convention to give SpaceIL its seed money and lure Ben Yisrael to join the group's board. SpaceIL has since received support from Rona Ramon, the widow of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon.

The Penn State Lunar Lion Team, an XPrize team housed at Pennsylvania State University, also is building a small craft that will jump the 500 meters. Team director Michael Paul said small projects like theirs and SpaceIL could complement large government initiatives and broaden the reach of space exploration. ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

The Twenty and the One

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrive at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they move along the conveyor belt to be burned, they strike up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisces about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaims. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."



A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22



"Wow!" says the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one-dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, the..."



The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

Good advice: If you lend someone twenty bucks, and never hear from them again, it was probably worth it. ★



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(Pins Shown actual size)

Two-Flag Collar Pins

This unique full-color pin with America's and Israel's flags proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace! Clever gift item for Church and elected representatives.



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