

Levitt

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



Letter

Is Hamas Killing Gazans? p. 34

Rosh Hashanah

ChosenPeople.com

Rosh Hashanah—the Jewish New Year—begins at sundown on the first day of the seventh Jewish month, *Tishrei*. On the Jewish lunar calendar, *Tishrei* always begins in either September or October, depending on the year. In 2014, Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on the evening of Wednesday, September 24. In modern observance, the festival—also called the Day of Remembrance or the Day of Blowing the *Shofar* (ram's horn)—lasts for two days (until nightfall Friday, Sept. 26). Each Jewish day begins at sundown and continues until sundown of the next day. This tradition developed out of the Creation account, where Gen. 1:5 says, “the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Rosh Hashanah is a time of family gatherings, special meals, and sweet foods such as *challah* bread and apples dipped in honey.

[\(continued p.2\)](#)

Nazis' “Perfect Aryan Baby” Was Actually Jewish

By Lee Moran
NY Daily News

She was the poster girl for the Nazi party.



Dubbed the “perfect Aryan baby,” tiny **Hessa Taft** was seen as the perfect propaganda tool for the Third Reich. Her adorable six-month-old face graced countless magazines and postcards across anti-Semitic Germany. But, in an incredible twist, the now 80-year-old New Yorker has revealed that she is actually Jewish.

“I can laugh about it now,” she told Germany’s *Bild* newspaper. “But if the Nazis had known who I really was, I wouldn’t be alive,” she added.

[\(continued p.3\)](#)

Rosh Hashanah *continued from cover*

Although it is a joyous holiday celebrating the dawn of a new year, unlike the January 1 New Year in the Gregorian calendar, Rosh Hashanah is a time of judgment and remembrance on which God reviews and judges a person's deeds in the past year. During this time of prayer and penitence, all debts from the past year are to be settled before the new year begins.

Some Jews perform *tashlikh* ("casting off"), the custom of reciting prayers near naturally flowing water, such as a stream or river, and symbolically throwing their sins away in the form of small pieces of bread or other food.

No work is permitted on Rosh Hashanah; observant Jews take the day off to spend it in synagogue where the regular daily liturgy is expanded. Reading the story of Abraham and blowing the shofar serve as reminders that God allowed Abraham to sacrifice a ram instead of his son Isaac.

Rosh Hashanah begins a ten-day period of repentance and self-examination, known as the *Yamim Nora'im* (Days of Awe). According to Jewish tradition, God keeps the Book of Life open during the Days of Awe and finalizes His judgment on the final day, *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement).

Believers in Messiah Jesus have freedom to celebrate traditional Jewish holidays or not. Celebrating uniquely draws attention to Messiah, as each of the festivals in Leviticus 23 points to Jesus, remembering His First Coming and anticipating His Second Coming.

Blowing the shofar looks forward to the moment when we hear the great sound of the shofar during the Last Days.

"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Messiah will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:15-17).



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Nazis' "Perfect Aryan Baby" Was Actually Jewish *(continued from cover sidebar)*

Taft told Britain's *Telegraph* that she was taken to well-known Berlin photographer Hans Ballin to have her picture taken in 1935. Ballin, without the family's knowledge, then submitted the photo into a Nazi competition to find the "perfect Aryan baby."

Months later, Taft's mom Pauline Levinsons—who along with other Jews was being persecuted for her faith—was stunned to see her daughter on the front cover of a Nazi family magazine. When she confronted the photographer, Taft claims he said: "I wanted to make the Nazis look ridiculous."

Taft, who is now a chemistry professor at Catholic St. John's University in New York City, recently handed the magazine featuring the picture to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel.

Taft's family fled Germany in 1938 after her door-to-door salesman father Jacob, who gave up a promising singing career due to anti-Semitic attacks, was arrested on a trumped up tax charge. On his release, the family moved back to its home country of Latvia before settling in Paris until the French capital fell to the Nazis in 1940. The family then went to Cuba before moving to the U.S. in 1949. ★



Hesy Levinsons Taft

Beyond A Double Standard

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



That's okay... they're only Jews.

That's the conclusion of the world at large when families are torn apart by the kidnap and murder of three teens in the ancient Jewish homeland, Israel.

It's okay. They're just Jews.

We did not hear outrage or even a sincere indictment from the U.S., most of Europe, and certainly not from within the hallowed halls of the UN. Our president did not mention the boys (one was an American citizen) until the bodies were discovered three weeks later.

It's OK. Just Jews.

The shallow grave where the bodies lay for three weeks was in a suburb of Hebron, promised to the Tribe of Judah in Joshua 15:54. Coincidence or conspiracy?

It's OK. Just Jews.

The murderers (still at large at the time of this writing) were undoubtedly hidden by a sympathetic, terror-minded populace. In fact, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's advisor called the Muslim people to murder more Israelis!

Sultan Abu Al-Einein: "All of us are required today to teach these settlers a harsh lesson... Let us deprive their lives of security, so that the Palestinian land becomes a minefield... the occupation must pay the price... and itself accept condolences [for those Israelis killed]."
(7 July 2014)

(continued next page)



The campaign unified Israel but failed to generate worldwide support.

Double Standard... *continued*



This same advisor “blessed the breast that nursed” a terrorist who stabbed an Israeli father of five to death in 2013.

It’s OK. They’re just Jews.

As the tears of local Jewish residents fell, others sought vengeance and murdered a Muslim teen. *Within days, Israeli authorities arrested the Jewish murder suspects.*

The world condemns Israel and calls for military restraint, blaming the Jewish residents of the “West Bank” (Judea and Samaria, the heartland of biblical Israel). As rockets fly from Gaza, Israel is admonished to exercise caution and prevent further destabilization of the area.

OK. Just Jews.

As the Jewish suspects were jailed, riots and calls for more Jewish kidnappings and murders engulfed Israel. Convicted terrorists received heroes’ welcomes in the arms of Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian neighborhoods—Abbas, who says one thing in English and quite the opposite in Arabic. The president of the intended nation of Palestine, who walked away from the “peace” table, then formed a coalition with terror group Hamas.

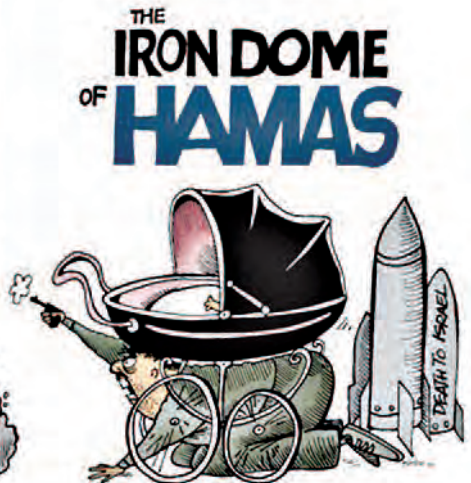
OK.

Abbas teaches his people that Israel exists, but has *no right to exist*, then sheds a media tear and joins the celebration of another dead Jew.

Jews.

You know, Jews: number fewer than 0.2% of the world’s population but have gifted the world with over 22% of Nobel Prize-worthy breakthroughs in medicine, mathematics, physics, economics, chemistry, literature, agriculture, technology, and other blessings for humanity. Like the Fiddler on the Roof, they provide a sweet tune for the world while always in danger of breaking their neck... or getting it broken.

Jews. Despised.
Demonized.
Delegitimized.
... Chosen. That’s what drives the world crazy. The *chosen* people’s existence speaks of One Who Chooses—which means Man is not the measure of all things.



Can Two Walk Together? Amos 3:3

By Katharine Weiss
ZLP Co-Host



Myles and I recently celebrated our 28th wedding anniversary! I'm very grateful to God for helping us through thick and thin. Truly, there is an attack on marriage today like none before. Man tries to change the meaning of God's institution of marriage, continually tampering with the roles of men and women in their relationship to Him.

Rest assured, God continues to view marriage as He originally designed it: one man and one woman committed and covenanted under His love, a bride and a groom under the *chuppah* (Jewish wedding canopy), two being joined with God covering them.

Myles and I have had a good marriage. That is not to say that there have not been times of frustration and conflict. But we have learned that instead of "throwing in the towel," we need to use the towel to wash each other's feet (see John 13:1–17). We are not each other's enemy, but we do have a cunning adversary (*ha-Satan* in Hebrew).



Painting of wedding chuppah
by Connie Kind Shishkoff.
See her husband's column
on page 10.

When we draw near to God and humbly ask Him for help to resist the enemy, the enemy has to flee (James 4:7). Hope for us lies in our humility before God and each other. God designed marriage, and He has the grace and desire to keep our marriages alive.

Often, a qualified faith-filled counselor can help couples in crisis learn to reach together for The Counselor, the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit). Don't worry about what your spouse is or is **not** doing, but do start praying for (not against!) her or him. One of the most powerful things we can do is pray out loud together, because then we hear each other's hearts. Couples can join with God to agree to strive for both more of Him and less of self. God's intervention fosters a humility that allows us to seek forgiveness in a timely manner.

Here are some steps of reconciliation any couple can use to work out conflicts:

- "This is what I did wrong or what I did to hurt you."
- "This is the pain that I believe I put you through."
- "This is how I feel about putting you through that pain."
- Express your sincere desire and intention to change this behavior and not bring this pain into the relationship in the future.
- "Can you forgive me for this pain I have brought to you or this wrong I have done to you?"

We have seen this process help couples (and us) move from intellectually understanding forgiveness to experiencing it. This honest humility draws in the Lord's presence. As Myles would say, "Try this at home!" ★

Bible Illiteracy

BY KENNETH BERDING / Magazine.BIOLA.edu



7

Wheaton College professor Timothy Larsen comments, “Biblical literacy has continued to decline. ... Gallup polls have tracked this descent to a current ‘record low.’”

These days many of us don’t even know basic facts about the Bible. I remember a student asking whether the Saul whose conversion is described in Acts 9 was the same Saul who was king over Israel. No. King Saul’s story is found in the Old Testament; the Saul of Acts —also known as Paul—is found in the New Testament.

I can’t imagine such confusion occurring to German Lutherans in the 16th century, or to English Puritans in the 17th century, or to Wesleyans in the 18th century, or to modern Chinese Christians who only have access to a few Bibles in their house churches.

When God commissioned Joshua, He charged him: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it” (Josh. 1:8). How often should you meditate on it? Day and night. Why? So that you do what is in it.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. Ps. 1:1–2

How could he meditate all day? The psalmist didn’t have the Bible on his smart phone. Didn’t carry around a big scroll under his arm. No, he memorized the passages he was meditating on and thought about them.

New Testament authors included in their writings more than 300 direct quotations from the Old Testament. There is no evidence that any of these authors looked up the references as they wrote. They simply knew their Bible—that is, the parts that had already been written. How did they come to know it so well? They worked on it “day and night.” They saturated themselves in it.

The easiest way to memorize the Bible is to divide it into chunks and read one 10- or 15-minute portion aloud over and over until you know the entire passage. This method of memorizing is painless, edifying, and only requires a bit of consistent time. I know precious few who memorize any Bible verses at all, much less large chunks, and yet it’s not as hard as most people imagine. And it can change your life. ★



The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / Damascus 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 and Damascus. Other names reflected purpose, like Fountain and Dung.

Old Covenant issues often have spiritual meanings in the New Covenant. In Nehemiah chapter 3, we find examples of this correlation regarding the gates of Jerusalem, which are given very clear spiritual meaning. Nehemiah, a Babylonian Jew who came to Jerusalem in the 5th century B.C. to rebuild the desolate city, described 12 gates. Today, seven gates open into the Old City. The eighth, the Golden Gate at the entrance to the Temple Mount, has been sealed for centuries. Revelation describes 12 in the New Jerusalem.

We will examine these ancient passages' histories and spiritual meanings.



Damascus Gate:
*Sha'ar Shechem – Column Gate – Shechem
 (Nablus) Gate – Fish Gate – (Nehemiah 3:3)*

↑
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Photo: Ken Berg

Damascus Gate is the most elaborate and ornate entrance to the Old City. Unlike other gates that are topped by continuous crenellations—teeth-like projections—only Damascus Gate boasts decorative statuettes. Holes above the gate allowed defenders to drop large rocks or boiling oil on attacking forces.

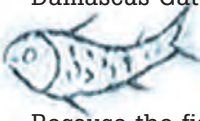
Built in approximately 1537, Damascus Gate stands over two earlier gates. A small entrance to the right of the gate, below today's street level and flanked by two massive, broken columns, was part of a monumental triple victory arch built in 135 after Emperor Hadrian crushed the Bar Kochba Revolt and built the Roman city Aelia Capitolina on the site of Jerusalem, which was in ruins since the siege of 70 AD. A giant column topped with a full statue of Hadrian stood in front of the gate, after which it was called Column Gate, though no sign remains of that column or pillar.

(continued next page)

Gates... continued

Also known as *Sha'ar Shechem* in Hebrew, the gate faces north. In the past, a road led directly to Nablus (Shechem) and from there to Damascus.

This area is the eastern hub of Jerusalem commerce. The colorful and bustling Damascus Gate market offers everything from tennis shoes to electric teapots.



Even in ancient times, men gathered to sell fish at the Fish Gate—Nehemiah's name for the modern-day Damascus Gate.

Because the fishermen of Galilee would bring their catch through this gate to be sold in Jerusalem, the Fish Gate speaks of evangelism—Jesus called us to be “fishers of men.” As a natural progression in our Christian life after realizing that Jesus died for our sins, we can't wait to tell others about Him. The simple testimony of what Jesus has done in their lives qualifies new Believers to be great fishers of men. Indeed, surveys show that people who have been saved fewer than two years win the most people to the Lord. ★



Damascus Gate, David Roberts; Date: 1855

Bomb Shelters and *Chuppahs*

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF / Our Man in Haifa



As I write, our national summer youth camp (*Katzir*—Harvest) is drawing to a close. We met on the north coast, not far from the Lebanese border. Israel's response to the wanton rocket attacks from Hamas commenced on July 8, the very day our camp opened. Despite being in the "safest" part of the country, far from the Gaza launching pads, our entire camp of nearly 80 teens and 25 staff was forced to run for cover in bomb shelters three times during our evening activities. No one was hurt, except one young man who tripped on the way to the shelter. After the all-clear signal following the final threat, the young people actually returned to our outdoor meeting place and resumed their songs of praise to God. They sang with renewed exuberance and deeper confidence in the security of the God of Israel who "neither slumbers nor sleeps."

Quite another scenario unfolded 4 days later at the wedding of our youngest daughter, born three months after our 1992 *aliyah* (immigration) to Israel. Her fiancé and his family emigrated from Kazakhstan in the Former Soviet Union. The Lord led me into ministry to Russian-speaking Jews back in 1989, and 90% of our first Israeli congregation, Tents of Mercy, were Soviet immigrants. Therefore, it seems appropriate that our *tsabarit* (native Israeli) daughter would marry a young man whose family was

freed from the tyranny of Soviet Communism and its anti-Semitic repression.

The coincidence of these two events reveals an important aspect of Israel in 2014. This still-new-yet-ancient nation constantly re-invents itself. The role of youth and young adults—as reflected in both a teen camp and a wedding—cannot be exaggerated. Here are the influencers of the next generation. Soon, they will be in positions to change the spiritual content of Israel. They are young Messianic Jews who know their country, their language, their culture, and their peers. They have been educated in Israel, served the IDF in Israel, and will establish their families in Israel. They are the future of Yeshua's revival in this Land.

The Book of Joel describes the conditions leading up to the "Day of the Lord." "Your sons and your daughters will prophesy" (Joel 2:28) sums up the key spiritual role to be played by young Israelis in the Last Days. The kids in our Messianic Israeli camps and the young Messianic couples who marry here in the Promised Land under the *chuppah* (the traditional Jewish wedding canopy that represents God's loving protection) will be the focus of God's plan in the End Times. Please join us in praying that they will fulfill the entire destiny to which the Almighty is calling them. ★



Katzir summer campers 2014



Filming in Israel

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1985: 29 years ago



When we make *Zola Levitt Presents* television programs, we shoot on location in Israel and use Israeli actors to portray scenes from the Bible. We pick folks with likely faces to play the roles of the prophets and other familiar characters, mostly from the Old Testament. One actor walked off the set when we needed him to play Judas throwing the silver into the Temple. It had nothing to do with the Lord, we ascertained; but he didn't want to play the part of a traitor.

Our television crew had many good laughs during the insane schedule of getting up in darkness and beating the sun to the locations every morning, then working until well after dark each evening. At the traditional tomb of the prophet Samuel, I stood under a gigantic tree full of silent birds. They listened intently while we filmed our program concerning Jonah's three days and three nights in the fish and the resurrection of the Messiah. As soon as I was finished talking, they

began chirping and tweeting so boisterously that we could hardly talk to each other on the set. The Israeli location producer observed that the birds were Jews and they now had much to argue about.

I was a bit affected by all this; it's easy to get that way over a period of time in the modern Promised Land. The place is simply not like any other on Earth and God has indeed chosen to Himself "a peculiar people"—in both senses of the word (1 Peter 2:9).

Israel is kaleidoscopic with its numerous religions, languages, and cultures. There's something there that really gets you—I don't care who you are. The Talmud says that if a man breathes the air of Jerusalem he grows wiser, and why not? God has lived there.

I've been a lot of places and seen a lot of things, but I've never seen anything quite like Israel! ★

Exuberant Messianic Believers cry out to God for the peace of Jerusalem.



Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q I suspect that the letter in the [June 2014 Levitt Letter \(p. 12\)](#) referred to, but misstated, the teachings of “Les,” a teacher whose theology seems sound.

Les makes it clear that Jesus’ earthly ministry focused *only* on the Jews because the time was not right for the Gospel to be preached to the gentiles until after His sacrifice on Calvary and the commission of Apostle Paul. Acts indicates that the Gospel preached by Jesus (and John the Baptist) is not the same Gospel that Paul preached to Jews and gentiles. Les teaches that Paul was commissioned as the Apostle to the gentiles by Jesus Himself and was given the doctrines that Paul records in his epistles.

Regarding earthly people and heavenly people: Les considers Israel to be earthly people because when Jesus returns and establishes His Messianic Kingdom, Israel will be dominant (unlike today with the Nations against Israel). Jesus’ first advent fulfilled the Abrahamic promises to Israel, to include the promise to restore Israel at His second coming. Those who are alive at the end of the Tribulation Period will enter the Messianic Kingdom. Les does *not* teach that gentiles are heavenly but that *all* who believe Jesus is Savior—Jew and gentile—make up the Body of Christ and are the heavenly people.

A I say again, as clearly as possible, Les or any other teacher who separates the Scriptures is dead wrong.

John the Baptist preached the Gospel when he said, referring to Jesus in John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.” John knew that Jesus would die as the final Passover Lamb to atone for our sins—and this is a fundamental

part of the Gospel message. To say that John did not preach the Gospel, or that it was not made known until Jesus left the scene and Paul took over, is neither biblically correct nor historically accurate. In fact, the Gospel of the dying/stoning of Messiah goes back to the Akeda (the binding of Isaac). Abraham offered his son Isaac, foreshadowing God giving His Son Jesus to die on the same mountain 2,000 years later. Then, Isaiah 53 foretold the vicarious sufferings and propitiatory death that the Messiah would endure, and he wrote those details more than seven centuries before Yeshua did endure them. So, the Gospel was revealed way before Apostle Paul’s time—even as Paul admits to King Agrippa in Acts 26:22-23:

²² Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— ²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the gentiles.

The Gospel is part of—not separate from—the Kingdom of God and makes possible the entire Kingdom yet to come when Christ returns. ★





A Chance Meeting?

BY ERIC OLER (*below right*) To The Jew First team member

Last year, Todd and I visited the iDigital (Apple) store at the four-story mall in Tel Aviv and witnessed to two people. One accepted the Good News of the Gospel, which comprises personal testimony, the Complete Bible with *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament) in Hebrew, and tracts like *The Promised Messiah* that show how Jesus uniquely fulfills Old Testament prophecies.

Now fast forward to Tel Aviv again this year where we headed out to the mall and stopped at a computer store along the way. Who did we run into but — **Nadav!** (*shown below*) The second fellow from last year's visit to the iDigital store who declined our testimony. However, the Holy Spirit since that time had been at work in Nadav cultivating the seed we threw his way.

The nature of planting fertile seeds never ceases to amaze Todd and me. In the rocky ground, part of the seed begins to take hold and the Holy Spirit continues to till the heart from all of our prayers. Now this incidental seed is rooting into his heart the God of Israel and Jesus the prophesied Messiah!

Funnily enough, it was not Todd or I who first remembered the previous

meeting, but Nadav himself. To refresh our memories, he recounted our testimonies to us! Sometimes those "lost" words are not lost at all. For the remainder of our visit, we encouraged him and equipped him with the Word of God, finally gifting him with the Complete Bible and study tracts. Our "chance meeting" with Nadav was one of many vital encounters by our To The Jew First team on this trip to Israel.

We fully acknowledge that none of what happens results from our strength or efforts, but because the Holy Spirit enables ("blesses") us to do His will. We hope you realize that your support, as He blesses you, makes the outreach possible.

On a side note, on a simple database I kept track those witnessed to by mission team members. We visited nine cities and handed out 71 Bibles in Hebrew. Ninety-five people heard our Witness and received some form of Gospel literature, 16 we had met before, 9 at our hotels. Only four people we approached declined to listen to our message. That's an almost 96% acceptance rate. Perhaps we'll "chance" upon those four on a future visit to Israel.



Nadav (l) accepts Messianic literature from Eric.

Palestinian Mothers

BY BRET STEPHENS (r) Online.WSJ.com



In 2004, a Palestinian teenager named Hussam Abdo was spotted by Israeli soldiers behaving suspiciously as he approached a West Bank checkpoint. Ordered at gunpoint to raise his sweater, the startled boy exposed a suicide vest constructed to maximize carnage. Abdo was given scissors to cut himself free of the vest. He's been in an Israeli prison ever since.



Proud Palestinian mother of a martyred son

Abdo provides a portrait of a suicide bomber as a young man. With an intellectual disability, he was bullied by classmates who called him “the ugly dwarf.” He came from a comparatively well-off family and had been lured into the bombing only the night before with the promise of sex in the afterlife. His family was outraged at his recruiters.

“He’s a small child who can’t even look after himself,” his mother told *The Jerusalem Post*, of which I was then the editor.

Yet asked her feeling had her son been a bit older, she added: “If he was over 18, that would have been possible, and I might have even encouraged him to do it.” In the West, most mothers would be relieved if their children merely re-

frained from getting a bad tattoo before turning 18.

I’ve often thought about Mrs. Abdo. I thought about her the day that the bodies of three Jewish teenagers were found. The families of Eyal Yifrach (19), Gilad Shaar (16), and Naftali Fraenkel (16) will be forever wounded, crippled, by heartbreak. What about their killers? The two prime suspects, Amer Abu Aysha (33), and Marwan Qawasmeh (29), both Hamas activists, are entitled to a presumption of innocence. Less innocent is the view offered by Abu Aysha’s mother.

“If he did the kidnapping, I’ll be proud of him,” she told Israel’s Channel 10 news.

I heard the same sentiment expressed in a refugee camp near Gaza City by a woman whose son a week earlier had been killed in an attack on the Erez border crossing to Israel. Her dress said mourning, but her mood was joyful as she celebrated her son’s “martyrdom operation.” He was just 21.

What kind of society produces such mothers? Whence come women who cheerlead their boys to blow themselves up or murder the children of neighbors?

To kill innocent people deliberately is odious, to kill them accidentally or “collaterally” is tragic. I just have yet to meet the Israeli mother who raises her boys to become kidnappers and murderers — and who declares as much to journalists.

Palestinians and their sympathizers in the West should note that a culture that openly celebrates martyrdom and murder is not fit for statehood. Postwar Germany put itself through a process of moral rehabilitation that began with recognition of what it had done. Palestinians should do the same, starting with the mothers. ★



ZLM Bulletin Board

No Need to Deny the Holocaust...



... when 35% of adults worldwide have never even *heard* of it. [According to the Anti-Defamation League](#), of those who *have* heard of the Holocaust, 21% think it is a myth or exaggeration. East of L.A., the Rialto Unified School District recently assigned 2,000 eighth-graders to write “critical thinking” essays on whether the Holocaust actually occurred or was merely a political scheme. (School officials later apologized.) Equally offensive, Temple University (PA) Adjunct Professor Alessio Lerro argues that Jews are “gaming” the Holocaust numbers for political advantage.



YOUR
GUIDE TO
EFFECTIVE
GIVING IN
2014

Duplicates? Moving?

Are you receiving two or more copies of our newsletters? Please let us know so that we can unclutter your mailbox and cut costs. (And please pass that extra copy on to a friend.) Also, if you can give us your new address a month or more in advance, you won't miss an issue.



Do You Pass the Israel Test?

George Gilder, economist and Prager University spokesman, asks whether you envy or admire those who surpass you in invention, creativity, and wealth. His brief assessment of what Jews have accomplished in Israel—that benefits Hebrews and Arabs and other gentiles there—leads to his observation regarding misdirected anger. The **Israel Test**, he asserts, is the central divide in the world today. It tests one's will to triumph over enemies who hate Jews, and who also hate Israel, for what is best within oneself.



Sadly, thanks to Satan choosing the Jews when God did, anti-Semitism would persist even if Israelis were less successful.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

Your Guide to Effective Giving in 2014 begins with a reminder that “charitable gifts remain deductible for those who itemize deductions for federal tax purposes.” Learn about giving the right gift at the right time in the right way. After touching on cash, securities, and other property, it delves into retirement funds, life insurance, and ways to donate while retaining income. The pamphlet concludes with a helpful summary of federal tax considerations for charitable giving. To receive *Your Guide to Effective Giving* 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



HebrewLesson



The Shema Prophecies

By John J. Parsons

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...” (Deut. 6:5)

וְ	בְּ	כָל-	לְ	בְּ	וְ	אֱ	לְ	הֵי	וְ	יְהוָה	אֶת	וְ	אֶ	הַבְּ	תָּ
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	
be-khol – le- vav -kha				e-lo- he -kha				Adonai		et	ve-a- hav -ta				
with all your heart				your God				the LORD		()	you shall love				

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God; the LORD is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...” Instead of thinking of the Shema as a commandment to be externally obeyed, you can also trust it as a *prophecy* about the transformation of your inner life: “You *shall* love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deut. 6:5). Only God can quicken a dead heart, after all, and fill the soul with holy affections. Only the LORD can impart to us strength needed to take hold of promises as He writes His Torah upon our heart. As it is written, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever” (Rom. 11:36).

By faith, accept as truth that God *will* take away your stony heart and give you a new heart along with a new spirit to be willing to know His love, as it says, “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezek. 36:26). Your new heart will be like Yeshua’s own: open, accessible, flexible, trusting, sharing, emotionally alive, able to feel, pulsating with God’s holy energy and power.

The promise is this: “you *shall* love,” since love is what is most true about who you are. You shall love *the LORD*, since He is the Source and End of all real love. You will love the LORD more and more as you grow ever closer to Him and one day will behold Him *panim-el-panim*, “face to face.” You shall love the LORD *with all your heart*, which implies God has indeed given you a new heart to love Him with; and *with all your soul*, which implies that you are enabled to truly feel and that your heart is made tender and sensitized; and *with all your might*—that is, with all your “muchness,” your “substance,” or that reality that makes you who you really are in the LORD.

The LORD our God is forever faithful and true; trust Him to fulfill this prophecy in you, dear friend.

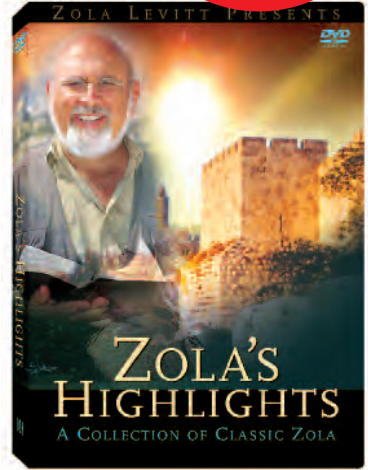


Zola's Highlights

A Video Collection of Classic Zola Teaching: Over 30 years covered in four half-hour TV programs on 1 DVD

These programs celebrate the timeless teachings of the late Zola Levitt, one of the most beloved Bible teachers in America. Highlights from thirty years of television broadcasting are condensed into four half-hour programs that examine Zola's early, mid-career, and later teaching.

Stunning, on-location footage from Israel gives viewers insights into the biblical world and Word.



1. ISRAEL, MY PROMISED Zola taught the Scriptures from a decidedly Jewish perspective. In one of his first series, *Messiah*, Zola taught about Jesus' Jewish beginnings; in *Armageddon*, he talked about The End. This program contains these topics and others.

2. ISRAEL BY DIVINE RIGHT Drawing on Zola's mid-career teachings, we see him investigate and extol the Gospel's expansion beyond Jews ... to non-Jews. Though many knew Jesus as the Savior, Zola wanted the world to know Him as the *Jewish* Savior. This program offers samplings of this emphasis, and also delves into the Dead Sea Scrolls, introduces Islam, and considers prophecy.

3. JERUSALEM FOREVER Zola's contagious love for Israel — which mimics the Scripture's — is apparent in his music, books, and TV productions. This program visits Zola in mid-career when he teaches about the Bible's Jewish roots, emphasizing his trademark topic: prophecy.

4. FRIENDS OF THE RABBI Viewer interest in how the Old Testament feast days connect to New Testament events made *The Holy Days of Our Lord* one of Zola's more popular series. Zola examined that connection by focusing on those who claimed to follow Jesus: early Believers, Crusaders, and others. The program concludes in an interview with author Tim LaHaye.

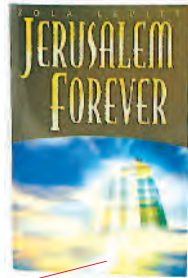
Pray For Peace bumper sticker

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"
Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background. Pass some on to your friends!



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

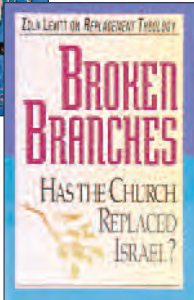
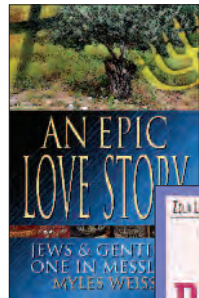
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Believers' Future	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever	\$4	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___



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Books

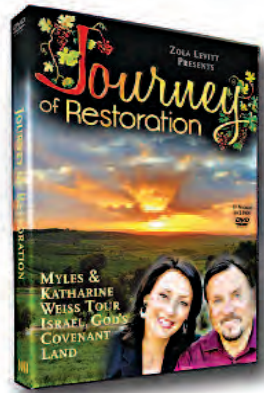
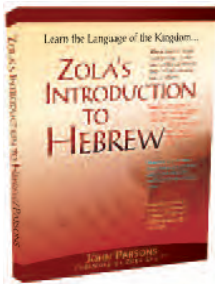
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
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___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel	\$10	___
___	Dateline Jerusalem	\$12	___
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___	Signs of The End: Millennium	\$7	___
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___	Woman By Divine Design	\$10	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	___



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Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Evidence of God (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Israel, My Love (6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	The Miracle of Passover (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Stones Cry Out (12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Promise (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Zola's Highlights (4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___



NEW



Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-flag Collar Pin	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abraham to Jesus Genealogy Chart	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$8	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2015)	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Messianic Prophecy Scroll	\$35	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilgrim's Map of The Holy Land	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zola's Notebook (The Bible: The Whole Story)	\$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Discovering Our Jewish Roots	(9 CDs)	\$39	_____
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Music CDs: Hear samples at www.levitt.com

<input type="checkbox"/>	I Call You Friend Marty Goetz (Music CD)	\$14	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Works (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Works II (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beloved Thief (Music CD)	\$12	_____

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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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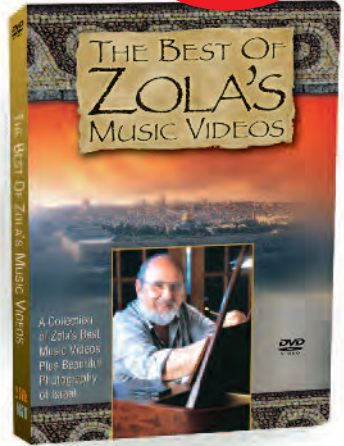
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The Best Of Zola's Music Videos 2 DVDs

This collection combines all of the music television that our ministry used to offer on three separately packaged video tapes. These are not the music programs that we included at the end of various television series. Instead, our production team made a special effort to pair on-location video footage with Zola's favorite selections of his original compositions for viewing pleasure, presented here uninterrupted by our TV programs' customary announcements and travel spots.



DISC I

ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO I — 53 minutes

The beautiful music of *Zola Levitt Presents* with magnificent video footage from the Holy Land. Features excerpts from the albums *Next Year in Jerusalem*; *Messiah*; *Israel, My Love*; and *The Beginning of the End*.

ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO II — 60 minutes

Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompanied by Zola's original music from the albums *Zola's Songs by Lamb*, *Beloved Thief*, *Return to Galilee*, and *Beyond Words*. A fine marriage of music and video footage.

DISC II

ZOLA'S MUSIC VIDEO III — 78 minutes

Beautiful scenes of Israel and Greece accompanied by music from Zola's albums *Living Waters*, *The Holy Land Today*, *Unto the Gentiles*, and *Israel: By Divine Right* as presented on our television program.



I Call You Friend Music CD (Marty Goetz)



This 10-song album is a magnificent compilation of Psalms set to music. Peaceful and soothing, it will enhance your worship. Many of this CD's songs by Marty Goetz are used in our *Psalms of Ascent* TV series.

Song titles include:

Risen Again

Pleasures Forevermore

I Call You Friend

I Am

He Is My Defense

The Lord Is So Good

O Holy One

Adonai Adonaynu

Oh Lord, Our Lord

One Thing I Have Asked

Owning or Renting? 6 Factors/Amazing Arithmetic



My February [2007 Serpent article](#) observed, “Many consumers buy homes when they shouldn’t.” Its logic and tips could be worth a second look in light of two recent newspaper columns by financial expert Scott Burns:

“The [Amazing Arithmetic of Home Ownership](#)” “Should [You Own a Home?](#)”

The first article asserts, “Owning a home is the most reliable way to put inflation on our side, instead of against us.” Considering that inflation too often outpaces our earnings, “having inflation on our side in shelter is a massive advantage.”

Many disillusioned U.S. homeowners, however, have concluded that the supposed American Dream doesn’t make sense for everyone. To answer the question “Should You Own a Home?” the second article elucidates six factors:

Age. If you are under age 30 or over 65, renting is likely smarter than owning. (Score this a plus 10 for ages 31–64, or minus 10 for ages under 30 or over 65.)

Marital Status. Married couples are more likely to benefit from home ownership than singles due to houses’ spaciousness. (+10 for marrieds, –10 for singles.)

Children. Kids may appreciate more space than is available in most apartments. Better schools are more likely in single-family-dwelling neighborhoods. (+10 for children at home, –10 for empty nesters.)

Job/Income Stability. A secure income makes a 30-year mortgage less risky. (+10 if you have a steady job, –10 if you are likely to change jobs.)

Nestiness. Some people are more nest-loving than those who prioritize travel. (+10 if you are a homebody, –10 if you’re ready to roll.)

Tax Benefits (the greatest myth of home ownership). Since the standard deduction on a joint tax return is a whopping \$12,400, you won’t derive any tax benefit unless your deductions for mortgage interest and real estate taxes exceed that amount. (Plus 10 if you are single and/or live in a high-cost home with a state income tax. Minus 10 if you are married and live in a non-premium price area.)

Your total score will range between 60 and –60. Here are some examples:

- A young couple with two children scores neutral 0.
- A divorced, late-career worker with job insecurity scores –20 if she doesn’t have kids at home and isn’t a nester, but 0 if she has kids at home and is a nester.
- A retired couple scores 0 if they are nest-oriented, –20 if they are vagabonds.
- A retired single with moderate income scores –20 if a nester, otherwise –40.



In sum, Scott Burns advises: “If you have any doubts, don’t own. If you don’t have any doubts, do.”

Isaiah didn’t specify single-family dwellings when he prophesied: “And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Is. 32:18). ★



Letters to ZIM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From D.F. (WA): I have appreciated your TV programs and *Levitt Letter* for years. I recently called to check on my subscription and was told it had been removed but would be reinstated. I have given donations when I can, usually at least once a year. I'm disappointed that my subscription was removed without asking me, especially since I have given donations. I hope you will change your policies to ask first before removing names from your lists. —I'm sorry you dropped off our list; you seem to have done all the right things, and we're happy to have you back with us. Purchasing teaching materials and/or making a contribution at least annually should ensure that you never miss our *Letters*. Just emailing us or dropping us a note also would suffice. We do make an effort to let subscribers know before we stop mailing. As a safety measure, we enclose a note with the last *Personal Letter* asking, "No More Zola Letters?" **Good stewardship dictates** that we minimize the news magazines that go straight from mailboxes to trash bins. Fortunately, you can catch up on whatever issues you missed at levitt.com/levletter. —Mark P.S. Joining our **Monthly Gift Club** (with even a smaller amount than suggested on p. 35) would save you from keeping track of anything.

From D.H.: Thank you for equipping us by sharing the knowledge in the *Israel In Prophecy* TV episode "Aliens Among Us."

From M.K.D. (GA): In a world filled with misinformation your ministry is a necessity!

From P.O. (CA): I am more blessed since I started to bless your ministry. God bless you even more.

From Ahava4Yisrael: The *Israel In Prophecy* TV episode "Robert Mawire" was very interesting! May the Lord continue to use Dr. Mawire mightily. I loved what Prime Minister Netanyahu told him about why Christians visit Israel. He certainly made an excellent point! —Dr. Mawire was such a hit that we are bringing him to teach our home congregation while Katharine and I lead the next Zola Tour. The Body of Messiah is awesome... as "every joint supplies" (Ephesians 4:16). —Myles

From J.B. (CA): The little booklet *The Seven Feasts of Israel* is profound. I so appreciate the insights and want to share them with others.

BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro



Aliens Among Us... Say What?

Dear ZLM,

I just watched the TV program *Aliens Among Us* on *Zola Levitt Presents*. It was full of false and bizarre teachings about demons having sex with humans and creating a race of giants, UFO sightings, and kidnappings of humans, demonic chip implantations into humans that have tentacles that take over the host's nervous systems, and literal interpretations of Revelation that are clearly symbolic (e.g. real seven-headed beasts). All of this was made to look like it was scriptural.

If I didn't know better, I would think you have all gone insane. Whoever is in control of this show now has gone off the deep end and is giving too much credence to the occult. These teachers should be very careful not to add to what is revealed in Scripture. I was shocked, as your program is usually full of good teaching. —P. and J.P. (ID)

Dear ZLM,

You have always blessed us with your *Levitt Letter* and *Zola Levitt Presents* TV program, but we were very disappointed in the current program about "aliens." The people in the interviews made statements that were in no way supported by Scripture, really quite ridiculous statements. We hoped that Myles and Katharine would rebut some of them, but that didn't happen.

You have never strayed from Scripture before, and I hope that this program was a mistake. —R.T.

Shalom P. and J.P., R.T., and to the many other letter writers concerned for our spiritual well-being, our intellectual capacity, and our potential loss of sanity—

Peace be with you all! Did you watch the same program that I did? The divergent group of prophecy teachers ALL held to the Bible's narrative. To a person, they confirmed the veracity of Scripture, the Kingship of Yeshua, and the danger of today's culture acclimating people through Darwinism and science fiction to accept non-biblical ideas and false "salvations"—including deliverance through intergalactic intervention.

Sometimes I wonder if the Church, which has often been at the forefront of art, literature, and creative expressions of God's heart, has lost its capacity for poetry and metaphor. NONE of our guests endorsed bizarre ideas or false Christs. They were WARNING our viewers of the pitfalls ahead, using the Bible as the only plumb line.

The takeaway message was this: We were forearmed 2,000 years ago on how to exercise Christ's authority in combating anything or one who tries to distract us from watching for Jesus (Ephesians 6:10–18). The Church should be actively equipping its members.

Please watch the program again (at levitt.tv) with the above information in mind. —Myles



Aliens Among Us—a different take

Dear ZLM,

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Just watched *Aliens Among Us* online. SO pleased that you talked about this subject with L.A. and Doc and Doug and Gary. I attend a church that “plays church” (keeps to the worship formula with no concern or member preparation for the onslaught against the Church) as L.A. described. Pretty much no one I know believes Gen. 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you...” —J.H. (somewhere in a cornfield in IL)

Jumping to Conclusions

Dear ZLM,

I am a new subscriber. I have enjoyed the newsmagazines you send out very much. However, in the [July 2014 Levitt Letter \(p. 23\)](#), I noticed that another subscriber noticed that you had stated your belief in the evolution lie, which clearly goes against The God of Abraham, Jacob, & Isaac, and what the Holy Bible teaches.

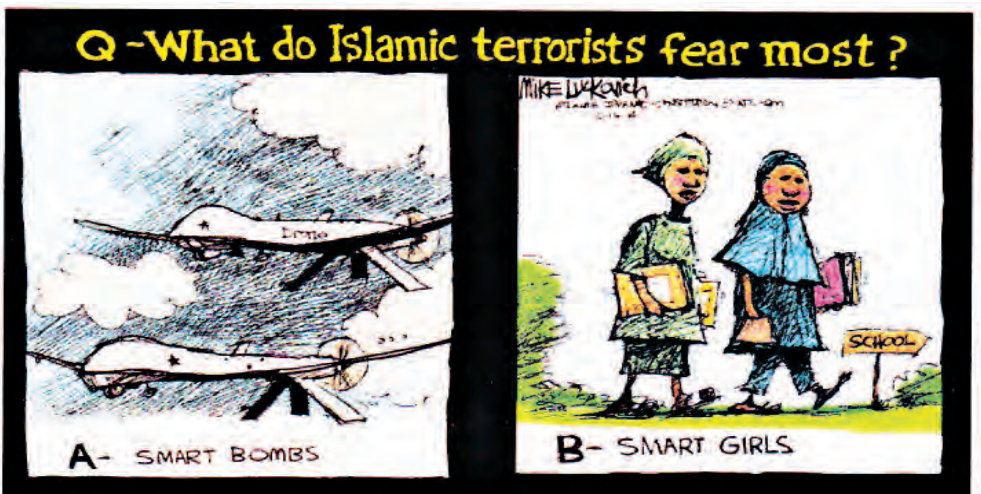
Evolution is just another silly notion man has come up with. I’m interested as to how you think you’re going to float your silly evolution notion past The Great Creator come that Great Judgment Day. If God’s Word says He created all things in six days, anything else is a lie, end of discussion.

Being given over to the lie, they went about deceiving and being deceived. So immediately cancel my subscription of Zola Levitt & all your correspondence to me. —D.S. (CA)

Dear D.S.—

Please study the thread of the entire discussion before you jump to conclusions. The writer you noticed noticing a previous writer attributed error to Zola and this ministry without asking what we believe. We did not promote “evolution;” we just referred to a decades-old *discussion* that Zola had with a scientist on the program.

Before you cancel your connection with us, please try looking at what we DO believe, promote, and emphasize: Yeshua the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world, His return, and the role of Israel in biblical prophecy ... including the need for the Church to eschew replacement theologies and stand with the Jewish people. You can find more at [levitt.com/about](#). —Myles



A Fan Letter

Thank you so much for your great love and for updating your ministry's television studio set. We appreciate you and your ministry. Thank you for the loving messages that you send us.

Keep in touch and pray for us daily as we are sharing the Lord's message among Hindu tribes. Many of them are turning to Jesus Christ and getting saved by His Grace.

Rev. A.A.
Mission of Christ Ministries
Pakistan

Shalom Rev. A. —

Thank you for your kind words about ZLM. Before Katharine and I were called to Messianic ministry, we spent a lot of time in your part of the world. I believe that India and Pakistan are becoming a powerhouse of future Gospel expansion. The truth of Yeshua represents the greatest hope for your nation. I have former Hindu and Muslim friends who are wonderfully bold witnesses for the Lord. May God bless your ministry too! — Myles ★



Plane's Swastika Banner Spurs Criticism

AP

New York beachgoers were appalled and officials fielded complaints after a plane flew over them toting a banner with swastikas, a peace sign, a Star of David, and a "pro-swastika" message.

The flight was arranged by the International Raelian Movement, a group that annually tries to remind people that before Adolf Hitler, the swastika was an ancient symbol of well-being to Hindus and Buddhists. The Raelians, who believe human beings were created by extraterrestrials, have faced controversy over similar swastika banners in summers past.

Some say there's just no way to rehabilitate a symbol that provokes such strong feelings. ★



Chemical Scanner Could Change Shopping



SCIENCE: BY JON GERBERG (r) BigStory.AP.org

An Israeli inventor has created a scanner that he says could change the way we shop and take care of ourselves—by reading the chemical makeup of foods, drugs, and other items we use.

The tiny gadget is still limited to a few key applications. But creator Dror Sharon envisions a machine that will compile a massive collection of data and allow users to analyze the physical matter that exists around them.

Sharon's gadget, called the SCiO—from the Latin verb “to know”—is an infrared spectrometer the size of a thumb drive. It is being marketed for three applications—food, pharmaceuticals, and horticulture (the health of plants). Simply by pointing and clicking a miniature digital wand, users can see how many calories are in a piece of cheese or determine when a tomato will reach peak ripeness.

These features may seem more fun than life-changing. But ultimately, advocates say, the SCiO could have life-saving uses, such as identifying contaminated foods or determining whether a drug is counterfeit.

“Immediately, the major impact will be increasing the awareness of people to the material world around them, which is already an enormous effect,” said Sanford Ruhman, a professor of chemistry and expert on spectroscopy at Israel's Hebrew University. Ruhman, who is not involved with SCiO, said the SCiO represents a significant new step and is believed to be the first device of its kind.

Sharon, an engineer with an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, describes the gadget as the next generation of “Googling.” He finds the current process of searching for information to be cumbersome. The user must think of a concept or question, identify a relevant set of words, type them into a search engine, and hope for some useful results.



Pocket-sized SCiO scanner
(AP Photo/Jon Gerberg)

With the spectrometer, he said, you can just point the gadget at an item—without even knowing what it is. The device reads the item's molecular structure, matches the information to an ever-expanding database, and can send additional data to your smartphone.

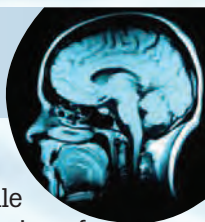
Sharon said the device could have potential uses for monitoring car tires, fuel tanks, soil analysis, and the human body. For now, the gadget's capabilities are limited by the relatively small size of its database. But he expects thousands to have a SCiO in their hands by the end of the year to help build what he calls “the world's largest database of matter,” which will be stored online and shared between users. ★



To
Index

Alzheimer's Disease Linked to Brain Hyperactivity

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



Patients with Alzheimer's disease run a high risk of seizures. While the amyloid-beta protein involved in the development and progression of Alzheimer's seems the most likely cause for this neuronal hyperactivity, how and why this elevated activity takes place hasn't yet been explained—until now.

A new study by Tel Aviv University researchers, published in *Cell Reports*, pinpoints the precise molecular mechanism that may trigger an enhancement of neuronal activity in Alzheimer's patients, which subsequently damages memory and learning functions. The research team, led by **Dr. Inna Slutsky** of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine and Sagol School of Neuroscience, discovered that the amyloid precursor protein (APP), in addition to its well-known role in producing amyloid-beta, also constitutes the receptor for amyloid-beta. According to the study, the binding of amyloid-beta to pairs of APP molecules triggers a signaling cascade, which causes elevated neuronal activity.



Elevated activity in the hippocampus—the area of the brain that controls learning and memory—has been observed in patients with mild cognitive impairment and early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Hyperactive hippocampal neurons, which precede amyloid plaque formation, have also been observed in mouse models with early onset Alzheimer's disease. "These are truly exciting results," said Dr. Slutsky. "Our work suggests that APP molecules, like many other known cell surface receptors, may modulate the transfer of information between neurons."

With the understanding of this mechanism, the potential for restoring memory and protecting the brain is greatly increased.

The research project was launched five years ago, following the researchers' discovery of the physiological role played by amyloid-beta, previously known as an exclusively toxic molecule. The team found that amyloid-beta is essential for the normal day-to-day transfer of information through the nerve cell networks. If the level of amyloid-beta is even slightly increased, it causes neuronal hyperactivity and greatly impairs the effective transfer of information between neurons.

"We have now identified the molecular players in hyperactivity," said Dr. Slutsky. "TAU postdoctoral fellow **Oshik Segev** is now working to identify the exact spot where the amyloid-beta binds to APP and how it modifies the structure of the APP molecule. If we can change the APP structure and engineer molecules that interfere with the binding of amyloid-beta to APP, then we can break up the process leading to hippocampal hyperactivity. This may help to restore memory and protect the brain."



The study was supported by European Research Council, Israel Science Foundation, and Alzheimer's Association grants. ★



Islam Flooding U.S. Prisons



By **Ryan Mauro** (r) ClarionProject.org

The Virginia-based Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center, an extremist mosque attended by three of the 9/11 hijackers and with extensive links to Hamas (the Muslim Brotherhood), is fundraising for its outreach to prison inmates. The fundraising pitch says the mosque has been working with the Washington, D.C. jail for 10 years. It also quotes an extremist cleric—Islamist theologian Ibn Taymiyya—the choice of whom gives insight into the ideology of the mosque's leadership.

Atta Barkindo, a respected researcher on political Islam, writes, "Probably no other Islamic theologian, medieval or otherwise, ... has had as much influence on radical political ideology of Islam as Ibn Taymiyya." This includes the leaders of al-Qaeda. Taymiyya's preaching that *sharia* must be the form of governance runs contrary to the fundamental principles of democracy. Taymiyya argued that jihad would continue until Muslims overthrew their leaders that did not implement *sharia* governance. His ideology would later inspire Salafism, the virulent form of Islam promoted by Saudi Arabia.

The documented history of Dar al-Hijrah shows that this mosque has been consistently radical in its beliefs. In January 2013, its imam, Shaker El-Sayed, preached in favor of violent *jihad* at a Virginia high school. Using language that Taymiyya would agree with, El-Sayed condemned Muslims who "bow down to Western pressure."

A Customs and Border Protection document of the mosque in 2002 explicitly said it is "operating as a front for Hamas operatives in the U.S." A December 2007 document said it "has been linked to numerous individuals linked to terrorism financing." Dar al-Hijrah's involvement in the Washington, D.C. prison system is part of a broader problem. The Islamic Society of North America, a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood entity and unindicted co-conspirator in a Hamas-financing trial, has a Chaplaincy Services Department that endorses chaplains for the Bureau of Prisons (and the U.S. military).

In 2003, Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) expressed concern about ISNA's involvement in the prison system. Schumer warned that the Islamist involvement in the prison system was part of an overall offensive. A 2010 FBI report found that the sermons of Anwar al-Awlaki, a former Dar al-Hijrah imam who led an al-Qaeda affiliate in Yemen until he was killed by a U.S. drone strike, could be found in prison libraries across the country.

The Sankore Institute of Islamic African Studies International, a very radical Pennsylvania-based group that says *jihad* is obligatory and believes constitutional democracy is antithetical to Islam, says its curriculum is being taught to 400 Muslim inmates in two California facilities alone.

The high number of former prison inmates involved in Islamic terrorism led to Congressional hearings in 2011. At the time, the hearings were derided as "racist and as discriminatory." Islamists are paying attention to the prison system. So should we, before it is too late. ★

[This is but another reason our ministry loves distributing the Levitt Letter to prisoners! Your gift of funds enhances that effort. —Myles](#)





Israeli Nanotech Can ‘Smell’ Bombs

By David Shamah / TimesOfIsrael.com

An Israeli firm has developed the world’s first nanotech-based “electronic nose” to sniff out security threats like bombs, biological warfare agents, and toxic liquids. The developers say their new nose even outperforms dogs and will be available in the next year.

The system, designed by Tel Aviv-based Tracense Systems, can detect even the smallest amounts of material, according to Dr. Ricardo Osiroff, the company’s CEO.

“Our ‘laboratory-on-a-chip’ nano-sensors can detect a wide range of chemical threats such as explosives and chemical and biological warfare agents; in air, solid, and liquid samples; at extremely low concentrations, and unmatched by existing technologies,” said Osiroff. “Our system meets and beats the capabilities of dogs and other animals.”

“Smell” is a manifestation of specific molecules, and each smell gives off its own specific chemical qualities. So, detecting an odor is just a matter of figuring out which molecules are being “smelled” — no biggie for modern science. Several systems already do just that, using analytical, chemistry-based equipment.

The problem is that those systems are generally too large and expensive to be deployed in the field, said Osiroff. Most of the equipment available, besides being expensive and bulky, is limited to specific groups of smells, requires tedious sample collection procedures, and does not have enough sensitivity to detect small amounts of molecules. Turning it into an effective device that can be used practically by police, security officials, airport personnel, military, and others charged with public safety and security is the challenge.

Enter Tracense. “Our proprietary inventions in the field of applied nano-technology allow us to develop arrays of hundreds of tiny sensors on a silicon chip that mimic nature’s smelling sense, along with the software needed to analyze these tests. Nano sensors of unparalleled sensitivity are able to detect the most minute traces of chemicals from air, liquid, and particle samples with great reliability, ease of use, and at low cost.”

With its technology, Tracense is developing handheld devices that can be used in a wide variety of security scenarios — airports, public buildings, major events, malls, or in any setting where the presence of dangerous materials is suspected.

Tracense prototype

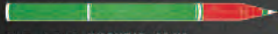


SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

THESE HAMAS ROCKETS THREATEN THE MAJORITY OF ISRAEL'S POPULATION



M-302 WARHEAD: 144 KG RANGE: 160 KM



M-75 WARHEAD: 60 KG RANGE: 75 KM



GRAD WARHEAD: 45 KG RANGE: 48 KM



QASSAM WARHEAD: 9 KG RANGE: 17.7 KM

© ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES



Why Don't "Palestinians" Occupy the Moral High Ground?

By Robert Spencer / PJMedia.com

Here's a countdown of reasons:

- 7. They cheer as Gaza rockets fly toward Israeli population centers.
- 6. Islamic jihadists fired rockets at the Israeli holiday resort Eilat.
- 5. Palestinian rep to UNHRC: "Israel warns civilians before attacks; we don't."
- 4. Hamas to social media activists: "Anyone killed or martyred

is to be called 'a civilian from Gaza or Palestine' before we talk about his status in jihad or his military rank."

3. Islamic jihadists place rockets in the Gaza UNRWA school.

2. Hamas claims that a photo from a horror movie depicts a civilian killed by Israelis.

1. Israel is being attacked from areas it withdrew from for peace in 2005.

Pray for Israel's Iron Dome defense system and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to continue safeguarding residents and visitors.

Though a terrorist may not have uttered these very words, we Believers know the statement to be true.

Rocket Arsenal in Gaza

IDFblog.com

Hamas, the ruling entity of the Gaza Strip, is responsible for most of the attacks on Israeli population centers. Since 2012, the terrorist organization has increased the size and strength of its rocket arsenal. Terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip currently possess around 10,000 rockets including long-range missiles such as the M-302. Hamas controls 6,000 of these rockets.

Hamas uses densely populated civilian infrastructure [schools, mosques, malls] to store and hide these weapons and command centers. In order to target these terror sites and limit civilian casualties, the IDF uses precision attacks and provides warnings of strikes in advance [leaflets, loud but non-lethal bombs].

See the IDF's report: levitt.com/news/2014/07/16/special-report-the-deadly-rocket-arsenal-of-hamas



Chutzpah!—*Saudis condemn Israel's decision to build synagogue in Jerusalem* SaudiGazette.com

In June, the Saudi Council of Ministers condemned Israel's decision to build a synagogue in "occupied" Jerusalem. The council, chaired by Crown Prince Salman, also denounced the move to construct 50 new housing units at the Jewish settlement in Mount Abu Ghneim [eastern Jerusalem].

In a statement to the Saudi press following the session, Minister of Culture and Information Abdulaziz Khoja said the Council called on the international community to stand firmly against Israel's violations of various laws and international conventions and its continued aggression on the "occupied" Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem (which Muslims call Al-Quds) and the Islamic holy sites.

Messianics in the IDF

By Aviel Schneider / *Israel Today*

When *Israel Today* reported about an Israel Defense Forces general who stood up for a Messianic soldier, we received a lot of responses.

Many people were surprised, assuming that Messianic Jews in Israel are "persecuted." But as more Jews who believe in Yeshua are serving in the army and making a mark as good citizens, Israeli attitudes toward Believers in the Land are undergoing a positive change.

Urban Travel Prototype

By Stuart Winer / *TimesOfIsrael.com*

The Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) campus near Tel Aviv will soon host

an experimental new method of urban travel, developed by a company that wants to change how people get around large cities.

The **skyTran** system uses high speed, two-person pods tethered to monorail tracks using magnets to reduce friction. IAI's Lahav Division director Yosef Melamed and skyTran CEO Jerry Sanders recently signed an agreement to enter into the joint project. skyTran, based at NASA's Ames Research Center in California, hopes to one day build a full working system in Tel Aviv.



"The support afforded by IAI is a breakthrough for skyTran," Sanders said. "IAI, as a world-class designer of aircraft and avionics, is the perfect partner to take skyTran from concept to construct."

Engineers will use the project to test and fine-tune the system in preparation for installation in the city. The demonstration track, which will be several hundred meters long, is two years away from completion; there is as yet no schedule for beginning construction on the Tel Aviv system.

According to the planners, the skyTran system will provide a cheaper, faster, more environmentally friendly and comfortable alternative to cars and buses, reducing congestion and pollution in Israel's largest metropolitan area. ★

Last Maccabean King?



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ARIEL DAVID (r) Haaretz.com (summarized by WND.com)

Following their excavation in 1970, when workers building a home in a Jerusalem neighborhood discovered a rock-hewn tomb, the bones found in a painstakingly decorated ossuary—a limestone bone box (*shown below*)—were reburied where they had been found because of pressure from Ultra-Orthodox Jews.

But not all the bones were buried.

The quality of the ossuary and the inscription found on the tomb wall sparked excitement in 1970 because it appeared the burial place of Mattathiah Antigonus II—the last king of the Hasmonean Dynasty and the last Jewish king of Israel—had been found.



“I am Abba, son of Eleazar the priest,” read the 2,000-year-old wall inscription. “I am Abba, the oppressed, the persecuted, born in Jerusalem and exiled to Babylon, who brought back Mattathiah son of Judah and buried him in the cave that I purchased.”

The Maccabees (Hasmoneans) restored Jewish rule to ancient Israel following their successful revolt against the Syrian Greeks in the second century B.C. The Jewish feast of Hanukkah commemorates this event. Mattathiah, son of King Judah Aristobulus II, ruled only three years, his reign marked by constant warfare to keep Judea out of the clutches of Rome and its main ally, Herod.

In 37 B.C., Herod seized Jerusalem and the throne. Mattathiah was captured, taken to Antioch, and executed by Mark Antony, who at the time ruled Rome’s eastern provinces with Cleopatra.

(continued next page)

The nails and part of the lower jaw found in the Abba cave ossuary. Photos by Ariel David



King... *continued*



The theory that Abba may have retrieved Mattathiah's remains from Antioch and secretly buried them gained credibility in 1974 when Israel's top physical anthropologist said his analysis of the remains pointed to a 25-year-old man who had been crucified and decapitated. The clear cuts on the man's second vertebra and lower jaw were consistent with the ancient accounts of historians Josephus Flavius and Dio Cassius who wrote that the king was crucified, scourged, and beheaded.

Then history took a detour. An accident put the renowned anthropologist in a coma for the last 13 years of his life, and his study materials in some disarray passed to his successor whose conclusions—including that the jawbone belonged to a woman—threw the Maccabee theory into doubt.

Now, new scholarly work and scientific technology supports the original hypothesis and casts doubt on the skeptics' position.

Electron-microscope analysis of those bones not reburied confirms that the hand bones were indeed broken by the nails, as would occur in crucifixion. Since Romans rarely crucified women, this confirmation undermines the claim of the jaw belonging to a woman.

"Only the pelvis and the skull can give an indication of a skeleton's sex; it's impossible to scientifically determine it from a jawbone," Tel Aviv University anthropologist Israel Hershkovitz said. "The size and shape look like that of a male to me, but it's just a feeling, with no scientific basis. ... Once you remove the idea that the bone belonged to a woman, all the other elements prove that this is Mattathiah." ★



Is Hamas Trying to Get Gazans Killed?

BY JEFFREY GOLDBERG (r) BloombergView.com



Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority, asked his rivals in Hamas a question that other bewildered people also ask: "What are you trying to achieve by sending rockets?"

In reaction to Hamas's indiscriminately fired rockets, Israel this summer bombarded targets across Gaza. Though the number of deaths was small compared to other Middle Eastern fighting, it was large enough to suggest an answer to Abbas's question: Hamas is trying to get Israel to kill as many Palestinians as possible.

Dead Palestinians represent a crucial propaganda victory for the nihilists of Hamas. The men who run Hamas, engineers and doctors and lawyers by training, are smart enough to understand that though they wish to annihilate the Jewish state and replace it with a Muslim Brotherhood state (Hamas is the Palestinian branch of the Brotherhood), they are a militarily weak group firing rockets at the civilians of a powerful state that has the military capability to level the entire Gaza Strip in a day.

There is no doubt that Hamas could protect Gazan lives by ceasing its campaign to end Israeli lives. The decision is Hamas's. Even Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon noted that an Israeli ground offensive was "preventable only if Hamas stopped rocket firing."

The politics of the moment are fascinating and dreadful, but what really interests me is this question: What if, nine years ago, when Israel withdrew its soldiers and settlers from Gaza, the Palestinians had chosen to build the nucleus of a state, rather than a series of subterranean rocket factories?

This thought is prompted by Iraqi Kurdistan, today on the cusp of its own independence. Like the Pales-

tinians, the Kurds want a state. Unlike the Palestinian leadership, the Kurds have played a long game to bring them to freedom.

Barham Salih, the former prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, said years ago: "We don't engage in terror. We don't condone extremist nationalist notions that can only burden our people. Please compare what we have achieved in the Kurdistan national-authority areas to the Palestinian national authority. . . . We have spent the last several years building a secular, democratic society, a civil society." What, he asked, have the Palestinians built?

In 2005, following Israel's Disengagement, the Palestinians of Gaza could have created the necessary infrastructure for eventual freedom. Gaza is centrally located between two large economies, those of Israel and Egypt. Europe is just across the Mediterranean. Gaza could have easily attracted untold billions in economic aid.



Israel imposed the blockade on Gaza only after it became clear that Gazans considered their new territory a launching pad for attacks. In the days after 2005's withdrawal, the Israelis encouraged Gaza's development. A group of American Jewish donors paid \$14 million for 3,000 greenhouses left behind by expelled Jewish settlers and donated them to the Palestinian Authority. They were soon looted and destroyed, serving until today as a perfect metaphor for Gaza's wasted opportunity. ★



Jewish Humor, etc.



The Entrepreneur

One day at kindergarten the teacher said to the class of 5-year-olds, "I'll give \$10 to the child who can tell me who was the most famous man who ever lived."

A little Irish boy put his hand up and said, "It was St. Patrick." The teacher said, "Sorry Sean, that's not correct."

Then a little Scottish boy put his hand up and said, "It was St. Andrew." The teacher replied, "I'm sorry, Hamish, that's not right either."



Finally, a little Jewish boy raised his hand and said, "It was Jesus Christ." The teacher said, "That's absolutely right, Marvin. Come up here and I'll give you the \$10."

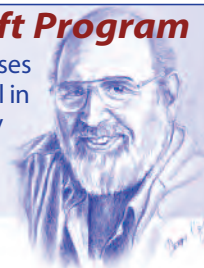
As the teacher was giving Marvin his money, she said, "You know, Marvin, since you're Jewish, I was very surprised you said 'Jesus Christ'."

Marvin replied, "Yeah. In my heart, I knew it was Moses, but business is business".



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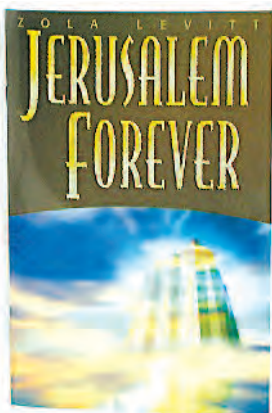


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