



Calm During Chaos: See p.6



ISIS: A Civilizational Threat

By Dr. Richard D. Land / ChristianPost.com

How should we refer to the radical, barbaric group sweeping through Iraq and Syria? Some call them ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). Others label them as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), the Levant referring to a wider geographic area including Jordan, Lebanon, the "Palestinian" territories, and Israel.

Last June, this emerging terrorist force declared a caliphate and began referring to itself as Islamic State, which more accurately signals its global ambitions to establish a worldwide caliphate and impose on the entire world by brute force its extremely harsh understanding of *sharia* (Islamic) law. This ambition makes ISIL a grave threat to the civilized world.

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Israel Limited Civilian Casualties in Gaza

JNS.org
news service



General Martin Dempsey, America's highest-ranking military officer as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently observed that Israel "went to extraordinary lengths to limit collateral damage and civilian casualties" during its 2014 summer war with the Hamas terrorist group in Gaza.

Dempsey's assessment presents a stark contrast to that of Amnesty International, whose report on the 2014 Gaza war accuses Israel of displaying "callous indifference" to civilian deaths.

"In this kind of conflict, where you are held to a standard that

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General Martin Dempsey, U.S. D.O.D.

ISIS: A Civilizational Threat *continued from cover*

Dr. Richard Land



The closest analogy to ISIL in modern history is the U.S.S.R. (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), which was dedicated to imposing communism worldwide, heedless of national boundaries. It was an existential threat to all nations and peoples who wanted to decide for themselves how they would be governed, rather than have a particular ideology forced upon them. And make no mistake, neither Soviet Communism nor ISIL had, or has, a remote interest in democracy or elections.

In communism you had adherents from all over the world willing to subvert their own national governments in support of the worldwide cause. So we should not be surprised when people from across the globe flock to join ISIL as it seeks to impose its vision of Islam over the entire world, including planting its black flag over the White House.

All freedom-loving people have a stake in this struggle as all did in the clash against Soviet Communism. Whether atheistic communists or radical jihadists impose the totalitarian dictatorship, the result is the same—loss of freedom imposed with savage barbarity.

This global agenda is why ISIL is a far graver threat to civilization than either Vladimir Putin's Russia or the totalitarian rulers of China. Putin's Russian imperialist ambitions seek to establish a *regional* Russian hegemony over what he perceives to be "greater Russia" and the "near-abroad." Likewise, China aspires to be the world's number one economic power with a *regional* hegemony over all of Asia. Neither envisions world conquest.

The civilized world must confront ISIL ASAP and defeat this barbaric Islamic cancer before it metastasizes and brings horrific human suffering on a worldwide and breathtaking scale. ☆



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Why is militant Islamic fundamentalism like Ebola?



Both are highly contagious and quite deadly unless immediately contained.

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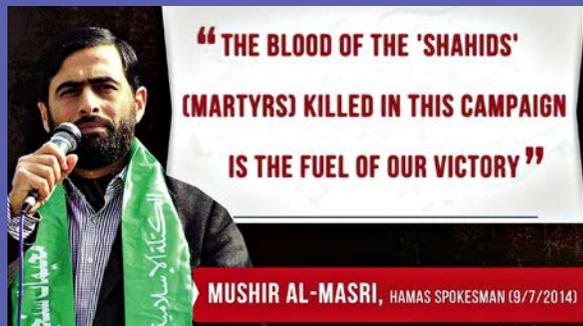


Israel Limited Civilian Casualties... *(continued from cover)*

your enemy is not, you're going to be criticized for civilian casualties," Dempsey explained during an appearance in New York at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

Dempsey stated that Hamas's network of terror tunnels running under the Gaza border into Israel was "very nearly a subterranean society." Israel indicated that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) destroyed more than 30 such tunnels during its operation.

The tunnels "caused the IDF some significant challenges. But they did some extraordinary things to try and limit civilian casualties, [like] making it known that they were going to destroy a particular structure," Dempsey said, referring to the Israeli army's practice of dropping leaflets that warned Gaza residents of impending strikes. ★



State Department Bias

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



He hit me, started to cry, and went straight to the judge to sue me.
—Arab proverb

As we wound down our latest TV production duties in Israel, we chose our daily filming sites to avoid terror attack locations. I use the outdated, analog term “filming” since the digital term is “shooting,” and the media already sensationalize local violence in Israel.

The reporting in the Western press was slow in coming, inaccurate in content, and corroborated that the U.S., for years, has been making the wrong decisions regarding Israel. An egregious example occurred this past autumn, as a third *intifada* (uprising) loomed. In two separate incidents, a “West Bank” youth, while engaged in an act of terrorism, was shot by Israeli security forces, and an assassination attempt on a rabbi and civil-rights activist failed. Both shooting victims were also U.S. citizens. However, each event drew a very different response from the U.S.

Orwa Abd al-Wahhab Hammad was shot dead by Israeli security forces as the teenager was poised to hurl a Molotov cocktail onto Israeli traffic passing below him near Ramallah. Israeli soldiers did their duty and successfully intervened to prevent an attack. Yet our State Department seemed unmoved by the threat to Israeli commuters. Spokeswoman Jen Psaki demanded a “speedy and transparent investigation.” She went on to stress that the United States “expresses its deepest condolences to the family of a U.S. citizen minor who was killed by the Israeli Defense Forces [sic].”

Compare that response with what the State Department had to offer after the shooting in Jerusalem of Rabbi Yehuda Glick. Glick has long campaigned for religious freedom, his main concern being equal worshiping rights for Moslems and Jews on the Temple Mount. For this view, he is a controversial figure in Israel. And for that “outrageous” desire, he was shot four times as he left the Menachem Begin Cultural Center. His brother Yitz Glick wrote, we are “shocked that we haven’t heard a single word from the U.S. State Department, the American ambassador, or any representative of the U.S. government regarding the shooting of our brother, U.S. citizen Yehuda Glick. ... No outrage, no wishes of speedy recovery, not a single word from any U.S. official.”

This apparent anti-Israel bias, thankfully, does not represent the attitude of the American people. Let’s pray for our Lord to awaken the State Department in the New Year! ✨

BC

By Mastroianni & Hart



Where's the Media Coverage?

POSTED ON blog.CAMERA.org



Last fall, [Father Gabriel Naddaf \(below\) of Nazareth](#) spoke before [the ironically-named United Nations Human Rights Council](#) on behalf of the watchdog group UN Watch. He laid out the facts that many in the international community and the global media refuse to acknowledge:

Do you know that at the start of the 20th century, Christians made up 20% of the population of the Middle East? Today they account for only 4%.



Do you know that over the past years some 100,000 Christians have been killed annually? And why? Not for a crime they've committed, but only for believing in Christ. In Iraq alone, more than 77% of the Christians have fled since the year 2000, in addition to thousands killed and expelled. Some 2 million Christians lived in Syria, but today they number less than 250,000.

Christians in these countries are treated as second-class citizens—facing racial, religious, economic, and social discrimination.

Why is this happening? Only due to their religion, a religion that advocates love and peace among mankind.

Christians in the Middle East are marginalized—their rights denied, their property stolen, their honor violated, their men killed, and their children displaced. Where will they go? Who will defend them? And who will guard their property?

If we look at the Middle East, we realize there's only one safe place where Christians are not persecuted. One place where they are protected, enjoying freedom of worship and expression, living in peace, and not subjected to killing and genocide. It is Israel, the country I live in. The Jewish State is the only safe place where the Christians of the Holy Land live in safety.

Christians and Jews live in Israel not only because Jesus was Jewish, born in Jewish Bethlehem, but because they share a common destiny and a true hope to coexist in peace.

Does the world acknowledge Israel for protecting its Christians? Many in the international community have chosen to criticize Israel.

He went on:

I, Father Gabriel Naddaf of Nazareth, stand before you and plead: O world leaders and supporters of peace, stop those who want to destroy the only free Jewish state in the region. It is the only refuge welcoming and protecting all of its citizens. It is the only place that does not attempt to push out Christians, forcing them to leave their land in search of security.

Yet, have you read about Naddaf's speech in the mainstream media? Have you seen it on the evening news? Where's the coverage? ☆

Outrageous! —Myles



Calm During Chaos

By Katharine Weiss
ZLP Co-Host



As a wife and mother, I am instinctively concerned about the welfare of my family. It is a God-given anointing to nurture and “*patchka*” (Yiddish, meaning to fiddle with, to lovingly pester) with Myles and our sons.

On our last visit to Israel, the strong peace of the Lord we felt on our tour and during our TV shoot highlighted that anointing. I was able to rest in the Lord, even while caring for my family, some near and some far. Though we were never at risk, very dramatic anti-Semitic, anti-Israel violence erupted around the country. The potential threat made me acutely aware of our need to find our “rest” in the Lord, especially during times of stress. Of course, when the winds of war blow, the need grows even more profound.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. (Psalm 37:7)

An apocryphal tale notes that when a hen is threatened by fire, she will gather her chicks under her wings to protect them. The mama bird will actually *sacrifice her life* for the sake of her young ones. No wonder Yeshua used that example when speaking to Israel! He HAS laid down His life for us, the younger brethren who follow in His steps. He is the “firstborn” among many.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

No wonder mothers have that feeling of protection. The Lord Himself is the model of care, and He calls us to be found in His image. Our shallow world-at-large would like us to be caught up in anxiety, expectations, and performance issues. It is our job to receive and hear His words and receive the mandate to abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I love the information Myles teaches from Paul’s letter when we are in Ephesus. Myles recounts from the verses of Ephesians 2 that we are seated with Messiah in heavenly places. When you and I understand that our salvation identity is secure in Yeshua, we can rest in the Lord and walk in love no matter what comes our way. Then we can exercise our victory over the enemy in spiritual warfare.

In the days ahead, Believers will need to adhere to these verses to the Ephesians and rest as we stand in the gap (pray) for our family in Israel and our Christian brothers and sisters around the world.



Myles & Katharine with their son Jon, in Israel

For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30:15) ★



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Coming of Age in Israel

OUR MAN IN HAIFA By Eitan Shishkoff (r) with wife Connie



Surrounded by the love and excitement of family and friends, my granddaughter celebrated her “bat mitzvah” in our Messianic congregation near Haifa, Israel. This Jewish “coming of age” ceremony is unique in its focus on the Word of God—reading from the Torah.

As in synagogues around the world, the scroll of the Books of Moses (Genesis–Deuteronomy) is removed from its cabinet and handed to the young person who then chants Hebrew blessings, thanking God for His eternal Word. The atmosphere in the room is electric with expectation and pride in the adolescent boy (age 13) or girl (age 12) because this is, in a sense, their “coming out” moment.

In Jewish tradition, it is at this age that young people are deemed responsible for their own actions. They are now held accountable for their personal decisions and their response to the way of the Lord.

When this grandchild of mine stood before the congregation into which she was born—and where she has grown into a gracious, deep, and sensitive young woman—I could scarcely contain my pride and joy. This level of fulfillment comes only with the passage of time and a lifetime of investment in one’s children and community of families whose desire is to glorify God.

In the Jewish state, it is especially significant for a young Israeli who believes in Yeshua to proclaim her identification with *Am Yisrael*—the people of Israel. For more than 18 centuries, the connection between living a Jewish life and following Jesus has been lost. Neither the Synagogue nor the Church understood what was easily discernible among Yeshua’s Jewish disciples in the first century. Those Galileans never would have thought to live according to any framework outside Israel’s God-given “constitution,” the Torah. In the first century, the question was [“Can a gentile \(non-Jew\) follow Jesus?”](#) [Yet 20 centuries later, the question is ironically the opposite: “Can a Jew follow Jesus?”](#)

How are our Jewish people to know that the Jesus of the gentiles is also the Yeshua of the Jews? The connection becomes visible when we celebrate traditional lifecycle events like bat mitzvahs in active communities of Jewish Believers who love the Messiah and who participate fully in the life of the nation. Following Jewish tradition says that we Believers are Israelis in every respect.

My darling granddaughter not only chanted in poignant melody the account of Abraham sitting in the doorway of his tent, she also proclaimed her personal faith in Israel’s Messiah, Yeshua. The Believers and the not-yet-believers who heard her could not help but marvel at the sincerity and relevance of this young woman’s faith. She is an organic part of Israel’s discovery of the One who is King of the Jews.



Eitan and his granddaughter at her bat mitzvah



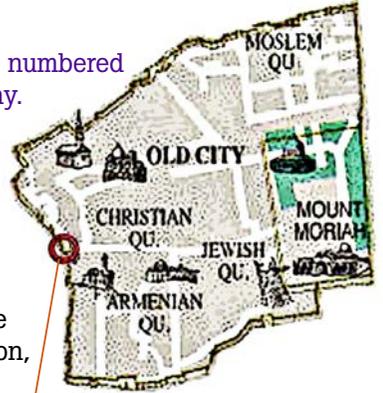
The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / Jaffa Gate



More than passageways, the gates of Jerusalem 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.

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



Jaffa Gate – *Sha’ar Yaffo* – Hebron Gate – (Gate of the Friend)

The Jaffa Gate is unquestionably the busiest gate in the ancient walls. Damascus Gate, bordering the Moslem Quarter, serves a large pedestrian population, and the Dung Gate provides access to the Western Wall. But

Jaffa Gate, which faces west toward Jaffa and its major seaport, is the main entrance for pedestrians and motor vehicles — buses, trucks, taxis, and cars.

It wasn’t always so. Until the late 1800s, the narrow, angled gate limited wheeled traffic. A moat presented an additional barrier.

All of that changed when the Ottomans rebuilt the gate to allow the

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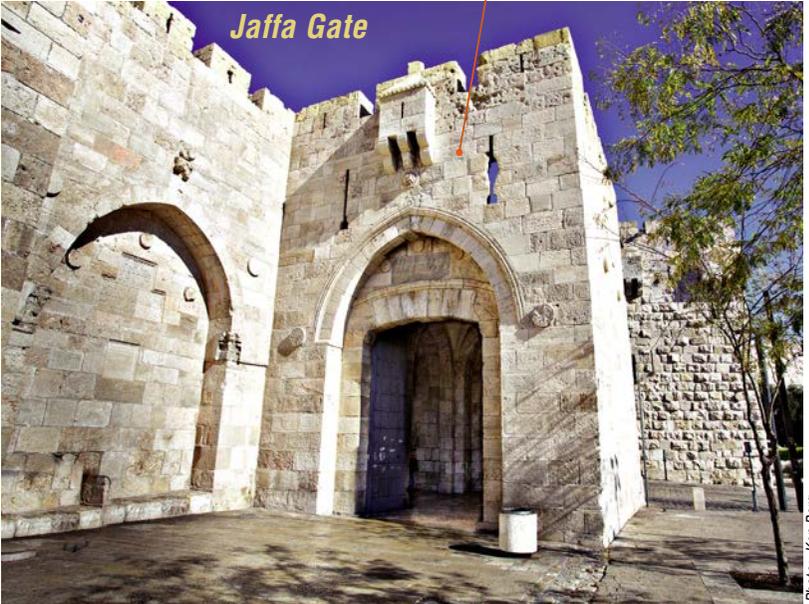
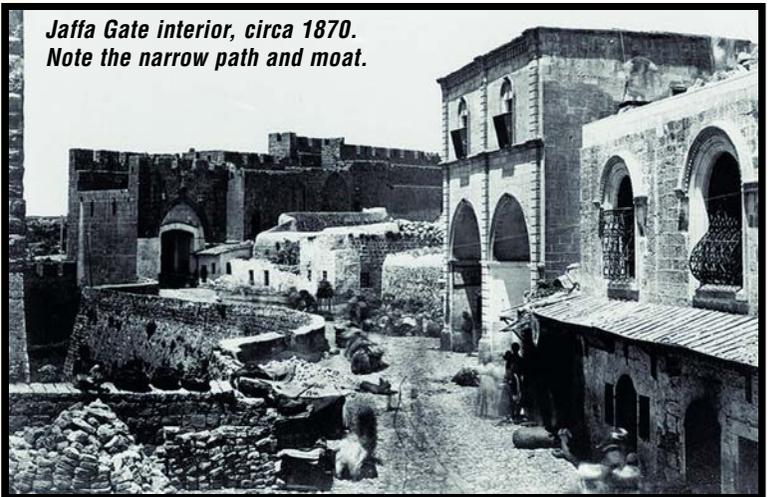


Photo: Ken Berg



Jaffa Gate interior, circa 1870. Note the narrow path and moat.

Gates... continued

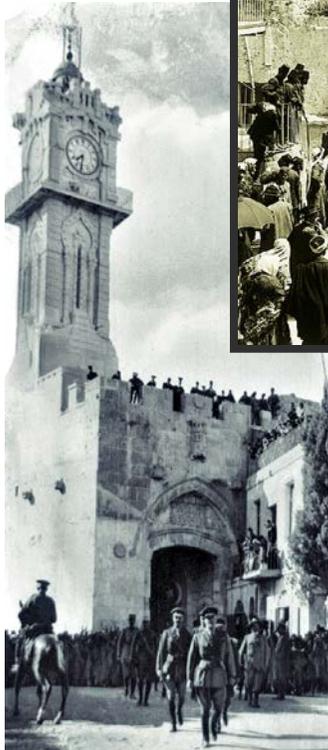
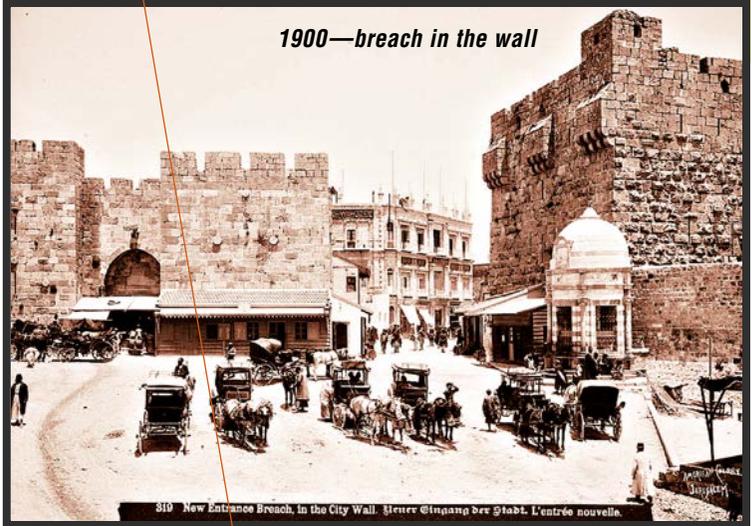


German Kaiser's carriages to enter the city in 1898.

The wagons, carriages, and Turkish army cavalry in the 1898 picture (*below*) suggest that the scene was part of the reception for the German Emperor. A close look reveals an American flag flying over the American Colony Store (the building on the left) and Jewish residents and Christian clerics mixed in the crowd.

The ornate clock tower, (*below*) a landmark helpful in dating photos, was built in 1908 in honor of the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II but was torn down after the British captured the city in 1917.

In deference to the holiness of the city and the



Lord's entrance on a donkey, and in contrast to the German Emperor's carriage-borne ride into the Old City almost 20 years earlier, British General Sir Edmund Allenby walked into the Old City.

General Allenby entering through Jaffa Gate on foot (left), 1917. Note the clock tower.

Jaffa Port served as the major gateway to the West. From here, Jonah fled from doing God's bidding, and Paul carried the Gospel of Jesus to the gentiles. ☆



My Jewish Perspective?

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1985: 30 years ago



After years of being called Rabbi and being asked questions in Hebrew (and all the rest of the “Jewish lore” kind of discussions), I want to emphasize that I am a Christian. Sometimes when I get up to speak in church, the pastor asks, “How shall I introduce you, Brother Levitt ... Jewish-Christian? Hebrew-Christian? Messianic Jew? Completed Jew?”

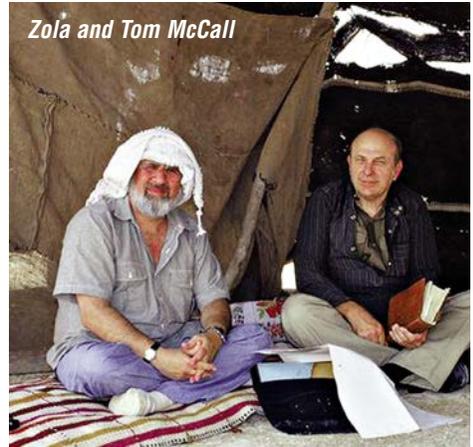
Well, when my people were saved in the first century we were called Christians.

I do not have two Bibles; I have only one. The beginning of it has the Law and the Prophets, and the “newer” part has the Messiah and the Kingdom. I realize that God referred to them as the Old and New Covenants, and so we have come to call them the Old and New Testaments. But I don’t think God ever thought of them as being two books. I rather like Dr. Tom McCall’s statement when I showed him a New Testament bound by itself. He referred to it as “a roof with no house beneath” or, more simply, “the amputated Bible.”

So in order not to become identified with one part of the Bible or the other, I undertook to teach a series on the New Testament to a small group I meet with weekly. We taped those lessons and enclosed them in a binder as a set of six tapes [[now CDs](#)]. They’re entitled, **He Is Coming!**: *Prophecies of Messiah*, **The King**: *Images of Messiah*, **Every Nation Under Heaven**: *The Acts*, **The Epistles To The Jews**: *Worship Him*, **The Epistles To The Greeks**: *All Have Sinned*, and **Thy Kingdom Come**: *Revelation*. We cannot sell the tapes individually, and you wouldn’t want them that way any more than you’d want the New Testament without the Old. The teaching leads from one to another and you should experience all of it as a piece.

I don’t think you’ll find my thoughts about the New Testament particularly

revolutionary or different. They may differ from yours in that I think from a Jewish perspective, but then so did the writers of the New Testament. To my knowledge, they were all Jews,¹ and I suppose a Jew would understand the New Testament’s writers and my line of thinking very readily. But in any case, judge for yourself. The six-lesson set is called **Zola Teaches the New Testament**. [Zola’s Old and New Testament survey books and CDs are described [on page 20](#).]



Zola and Tom McCall

Thanks again for using the materials produced by this ministry. Your purchases do double duty—they greatly help us continue our work of teaching the Jewish roots of our faith, and they help you understand and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to your family and friends. ☆

Request: Please pass on to others any of our Bible-teaching resources that you no longer use—unless you need them for reference. Buy, absorb, share ... all to God’s glory.

Zola’s no-nonsense style remains refreshing. At the recent Messianic Leadership Roundtable in Phoenix, Arizona, I saw vitality arising amidst the Jewish Believers as they relate more fully to the Christian Body. Very encouraging. The best days are ahead of us! —Myles

¹See Tom McCall’s essay at levitt.com/essays/luke

Sabbatical Year—With a Wink

BY DANIEL ESTRIN (r) Associated Press



Every seven years, according to the Bible, Israeli farmers must give their lands a rest for a year. So how do modern-day growers reconcile the ancient spiritual practice with a need to feed the country's 8 million mouths?

This year, most will market their produce thanks to a clever workaround: they temporarily sold their farms, valued together at \$33 billion, to a 25-year-old non-Jewish telemarketer named George.

"I own all those lands, and I don't even own an apartment," joked George Shtraykhman, an immigrant from Russia.

The seventh-year sabbatical, *shmita* in Hebrew, began in September on the Jewish New Year and extends through the fall of 2015.

Though only a minority of the Israeli population abides by strict Jewish religious law, nearly all Israeli Jewish farmers choose to follow the biblical directive, in part so they don't lose their Orthodox customers' business.

Rabbi Yaakov Ariel, who helped write the government's detailed how-to pamphlets for farmers and gardeners, said the practice serves as a spiritual reminder.

"We are not owners of the land. There is a Master of the universe," Ariel said.

Out of some 6,700 Jewish farmers in Israel, only about 50 ignored the religious rules, while only about 450 abandoned their farms altogether this year. Most of the rest opted for George Shtraykhman.

They sold their farms to the government, and in September, over cookies and orange juice, the government sold the lands to Shtraykhman, turning the non-Jewish telemarketer into one of Israel's biggest private landowners. Technically, the yearlong sale is legally binding. In practice, it is symbolic. He didn't even take home a copy of the contract.

Some farmers employ another clever solution to avoid tilling the soil: they use hydroponics, growing produce not in soil but in nutrient-enhanced water.

Gilad Fine, 40, a skullcap-wearing farmer, grows organic romaine lettuce and kale in thin white troughs connected to an automated grid that circulates the enhanced water to feed the plants the nutrients they need. His greenhouse follows specific guidelines that certify the produce kosher for the sabbatical year.



The most devout Jews do not accept these loopholes, preferring to import produce from abroad or from Palestinian farmers. ☆

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



BODY OF CHRIST/BRIDE OF CHRIST

Q I believe Jesus is the Son of God and the only Person Who can give us eternal life. My question concerns the Church and the Bride of Christ.

I have been taught that the Church is the Bride of Christ. I also read in the Bible that the Church is the Body of Christ. How can the Church be both the Bride and the Body?

A. The spiritual metaphors of the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ are analogies that denote two different New Testament concepts. The Body of Christ emphasizes the one-on-one union between the Believer and Christ working together. The Bride of Christ underscores the corporate unity of all Believers with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The phrase “the Body of Christ” is a common New Testament metaphor for the Church, all those who are saved (Romans 12:5). When Christ entered our world, He took on a physical body

through which He demonstrated the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. After His bodily ascension, Christ continues His work through those He redeemed: the Church now demonstrates the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. In this way, the Church functions as “the Body of Christ.”

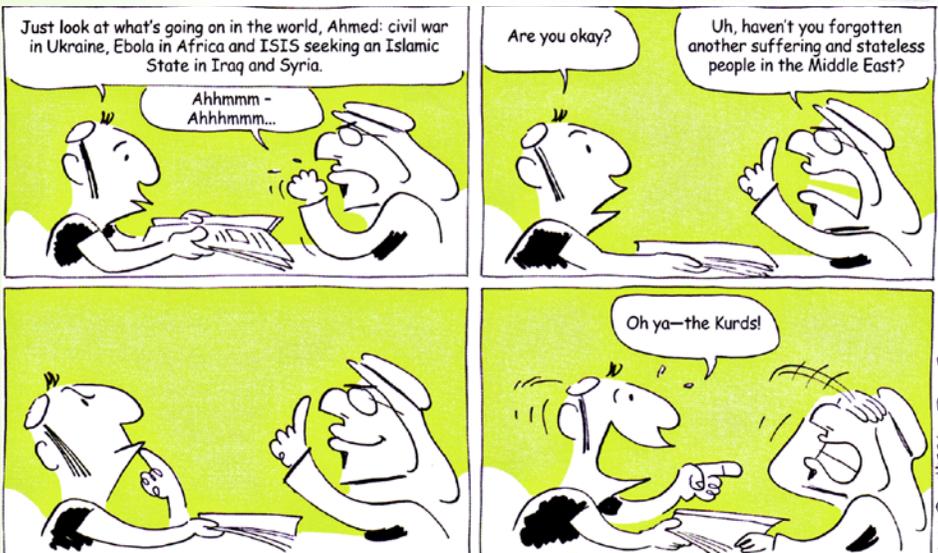
The imagery and symbolism of marriage is applied to Christ and the Church—the body of believers who through trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior receive eternal life. In the New Testament, Christ—the Bridegroom—sacrificially and lovingly chooses the Church to be His bride (Ephesians 5:25–27).

Just like the betrothal period in biblical times separated the bride and groom, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the Church Age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him (2 Cor. 11:2). At the Second Coming of Christ, the Church will be united with the Bridegroom, the official “wedding ceremony” will take place—the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized (Revelation 19:7–9). ★



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When Yossi and Ahmed Meet



Encountering *Haredi* on Ben Yehuda Street

BY ROBIN HOPPER (AVIEL BEN'MEIR)



Walking on Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda Street just after sundown at the close of Shabbat, my wife Sue and I encountered a *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) man. He approached and asked if I could bless a Jewish family in need. I handed him all of the coin in my pocket, about 20–25 shekels (\$6). He offered to tie a red cord ("cord of life") around my wrist, but I politely declined. We spoke briefly and then parted ways.

As Sue and I continued our walk, she asked why I hadn't offered him a Bible. Good question. I explained that the last time I had tried to minister to a *Haredi*, I was severely rebuffed and pretty sure that this *Haredi* would not be interested either. I quickly learned, "Do not judge a book by its cover."

Sue and I headed back down Ben Yehuda when the same *Haredi* approached Sue this time with the same request to bless a needy Jewish family. She also handed him 20 shekels and some pomegranate tea that she had just purchased. Then Sue told him—his name was Israel—that she wanted to give him a gift. She pulled out a complete Hebrew Bible (Old and New Testaments) and offered it to him. Israel looked very carefully at the Bible and remarked what an expensive book it was and was she sure she wanted to give it to him? Sue answered yes, it was a gift to him because the Jewish people first gave its contents to the world and we were returning it to its home.

Israel got really excited and called to his rabbi, Eli (Eleazar). At this point, the Lord took over.

Eli joined us and engaged me in conversation. I explained to him how I, a Jewish man, had come to faith in Yeshua. I said that if anyone had told me I had to stop being Jewish in order to have faith in this Rabbi Yeshua, I would have told them to shove off. Eli said that he understood what I was saying. He did not insult me or the Name of Yeshua, and not once did he use the derogatory play on Yeshua's name, *yeshu* ("may the name be cursed").

Because of who they were and where we were, they could not publicly invoke



the name of Yeshua as we parted company. But as Sue and I walked away, Eli shouted to us, "*Shalom Salvation!*"

The Hebrew word for salvation is YESHUA. In my mind, Eli was speaking in code, letting us know that he totally understood our conversation. Do I believe that Eli or Israel could be on the road to faith in Yeshua? I really do not know the answer to that question. But I do believe that neither one is rejecting the possibility. ★



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A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Dealing with Darth



My son David seemed to think of me as the Prince of Outer Darkness. His dismay rivaled Luke Skywalker's when, after a vicious light saber duel with Darth Vader, Vader revealed: "I am your father!"

In May 2013, David (then 23) had earned his master's degree in accounting and, like many Millennials, bounced back home to live with Mom and me. "Darth" (yours truly) bought him a low-mileage used car. Tough love, however, compelled me to attach strings.

David commented, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that our agreement resembles a deal with the devil. (At least I didn't cut off his right hand, as Vader did Luke's.)

A major problem with buying a car for most young people is that they get a loan for their next one. David, however, is obligated to bank \$400 per month for 60 months—not that he must spend that much on his next vehicle. Hopefully, he will perennially save for each car rather than go into debt.

Living at home was free for David, but only for the first few months. The next three months, his rent was \$250. Then it rose to \$500 for three months, \$750 for three, and maxed out at \$1,000.

Dad's Boarding House threw in utilities, food, Mom's cooking, free laundry service, and more.

Fortunately, David had a full-time job.

There was a silver lining to David's restriction from squandering entire paychecks on the high life: all but \$250 of what he paid for room and board went to his savings account toward a house. [Kids living under my roof](#) must either go to school full time or save toward independence. A year later, David moved into an apartment ... in possession of nominal savings that wouldn't exist if I hadn't been, as the song goes, "cruel to be kind, in the right measure."



FIGHT SCENE FROM STAR WARS EPISODE V: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

God allows us Believers to similarly "pay it forward," to respond to His graciousness toward us by sharing our abundance with others. (Psa. 23:5) While our tithes and offerings

sponsor the Lord's work, we are stowing riches in the Kingdom, where they're impervious to moths and rust. (Matthew 6:20) Not that He needs our help any more than I depended on David's small contributions (though they helped).

God's grace is free. Believers don't become "more saved" by their works. [Our good works, however, reap us heavenly rewards both now and in the future.](#) You probably already realize that this ministry stretches your contributions to glorify God. Plus, you get to personally witness how your spiritual investments spread Yeshua's Gospel: on television, over the Internet, and through the mail. Thanks for staying with us. ★



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ZLM Bulletin Board

A Word from Israel...

... to The World. We're the only country where Jews are free to speak their language with no hesitation—the country that contributes its human capital, its technological capabilities, and its innovational spirit to mankind. One small request: hear us out. We don't need your help. Our soldiers and technology are the best—a necessity when your neighbors threaten your existence. Please, don't get in our way. No other country would show this much restraint. Just let us be; don't preach to us about compassion or how to negotiate with terrorists—remember, you call them that too. But please allow us to defend ourselves.



YouTube video capture



HOW TO
MAKE A
WILL THAT
WORKS

ECFA Approved (still)

For nearly three years now, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability has monitored various aspects of this ministry's financials, newsletters, website, government documents, television broadcasts, etc. The ECFA knows more about our ministerial effort than some of our employees! This is just a word to the wise that the [ECFA continues to accept ZLM as an official member.](#)

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

How to Make a Will that Works offers general information about distributing property to family, friends, and charitable interests in light of recent tax-law changes. After touching upon the Four Ps of estate planning—people, property, plans, and planners—the pamphlet answers 38 commonly asked questions. It concludes with pointers on keeping other contracts, like insurance policies and retirement plans, up-to-date. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Donating Stock

Your accountant may advise that it's smarter to donate shares of stock rather than the proceeds from liquidating them. Our ministry's E*Trade info and account number are listed below. E*Trade asks that securities be mailed to:

E*Trade Clearing
PO Box 1542
Merrifield VA 22116



For certified or overnight delivery, please use:
671 N. Glebe Rd, 10th FL, Arlington VA 22203

Please provide E*Trade or your broker with the following information:

Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc.
Tax ID Number 75-1680391
E*Trade Account # 6525-9638
DTC # 0385

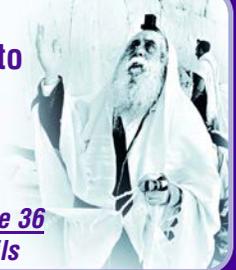
E*Trade's Routing # 056073573
E*Trade's telephone number is 1-800-387-2331.

"Come Home!"

**Zola
Tours to
Israel**



**See page 36
for details**



Hebrew Lesson



The Righteousness of God

By John J. Parsons

יְהוָה תִּשְׁפֹּט שְׁלוֹם לָנוּ כִּי גַם כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂינוּ פָּעַלְתָּ לָנוּ

“O LORD, you will ordain peace for us,
for you have indeed done for us all our works.” –Isa. 26:12

יְהוָה	תִּשְׁפֹּט	שְׁלוֹם	לָנוּ	כִּי	גַם	כָּל	מַעֲשֵׂינוּ	פָּעַלְתָּ	לָנוּ
(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Adonai	tish-poht	sha-lom	la-nu	ki	gam	kol	ma-a-sey-nu	pa-al-ta	la-nu
O LORD	you will	peace	for us	indeed	for	all of our	works	you have	done
	ordain								

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father Who is in Heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Yet what is the will of the Father but to trust in Messiah for life (John 6:40)? “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Yeshua answers: “This is the work of God, that you believe in the One whom He has sent” (John 6:28–29). The Torah of God centers on the Messiah. “On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not ... do many mighty works in Your name?’ And then will I say to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness’” (Matt. 7:22–23). From this we see that good works—even those done in the name of Messiah—are insufficient for life, and that something more is needed. What more is needed? “As long as Christ remains outside of us, we are separated from Him.” Paradoxically, those who appealed to their good deeds were those who practiced “lawlessness,” since they did not keep the Torah of faith in God’s love.

It is God who does the work “for us” and we are His witnesses; anything of eternal value comes from God alone, Who is the beginning and end of grace: “Not by (human) might, nor by (human) power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts” (Zech. 4:6). If we lose sight of this, we are again made subject to the “law of sin and death,” that is, the futile principle of self-justification that constitutes the “wheel of suffering.” We can escape this cycle only when we accept the truth about our condition and trust God for deliverance. It is the “law of the Spirit of Life,” that is, the inner reign of the Holy Spirit, that sets us free from the reign of sin that leads to death.

It is written in our Scriptures: “And the work of the Righteous One will be peace, and the service of Righteous One will be quietness and assurance forever” (Isa. 32:17). Note that it is the “work” (singular) of righteousness that is in view here—not the “works” (plural) of righteousness that we might perform (Titus 3:5). In other words, it is the finished work of the LORD our Savior that gives us peace (Psalm 37:39; John 19:30). “For our sake God made Him (Yeshua) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).

God has made the way for us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven by trusting in the finished work of Yeshua as our Mediator of the New Covenant. **Trusting in Yeshua gives us healing with God and eternal life: The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!**



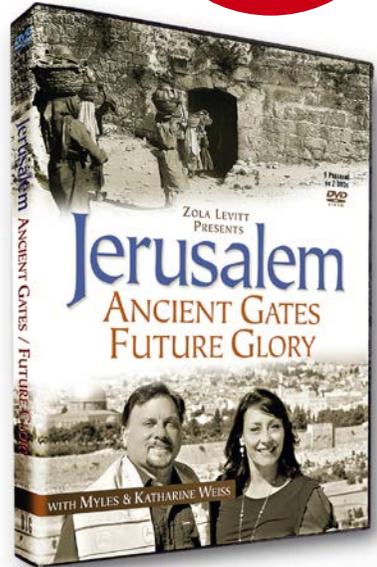
Jerusalem: Ancient Gates / Future Glory

Eight 30-minute TV programs (2 DVDs)

Myles and Katharine delve into the historical and spiritual significance of each Gate in the Old City wall of Jerusalem. Enjoy the music of **Marty Goetz** during this eight-part series.



The Dung Gate. Besides serving as a passage for carrying refuse out of the city, the Dung Gate leads to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. Guests include archaeologist Shimon Gibson and Rabbi Marty Waldman.



The Zion Gate, leading to the Jewish and Armenian Quarter of the Old City, has seen its share of military action and was a focal point in the history of the modern Zionist movement. Guests include Shimon Gibson and Gate expert Tamar Hayardeni. David Parsons, from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), explains the eschatological (End Times) connection between Jews and Christians.

The Jaffa Gate. Repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt, the Jaffa Gate opens to the West and symbolizes the Gospel going out to the gentiles. Guests include Tom Hess, director of Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations; and faith-filled Holocaust survivor Phillip Meyers, founder of Immanuel Tours.

The New Gate, as its name implies, is the most recent gate and gives access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. It provides a picture of God's heart for unity. Guests include David Parsons, with the ICEJ; and fiery supporter of Israel Jan Willem van der Hoeven, director of the International Christian Zionist Center (ICZC).

The Damascus Gate. Pointing toward Syria's capital, the busy Damascus Gate is a window to the North and to the Moslem world. Guests include archaeologist Shimon Gibson and Jan Willem van der Hoeven, director of the ICZC.

Herod's Gate dates back to the time of Herod the Great. The historical site of many attacks, it represents today's ongoing spiritual battles. Guests include Tamar Hayardeni and our friend Rosemary Schindler, a lover of Israel and the Jewish people.

Lions Gate, also known as "Saint Stephen's Gate," is where the Israeli army entered to re-take possession of the Old City in 1967. Let us pray for the Lion of Judah, Yeshua *HaMashiach*, to return as the King of Glory. Guests include Tamar Hayardeni, and David Dolan with Colonel Shimon Cahaner.

The Eastern Gate has been closed since Byzantine times in a Moslem attempt to thwart the Jewish Messiah's Second Coming. The Eastern or Golden Gate will open again when the King of Kings returns. Guests include Shimon Gibson and Tommy Waller of HaYovel.

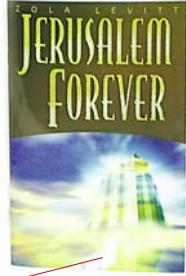


ZLM product ORDER FORM

ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

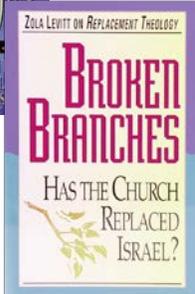
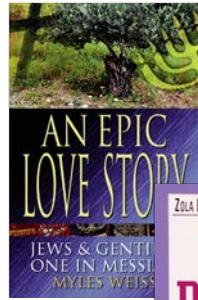
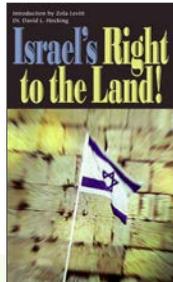
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Christian Love Story	\$3	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Second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



We Accept PayPal!

Books

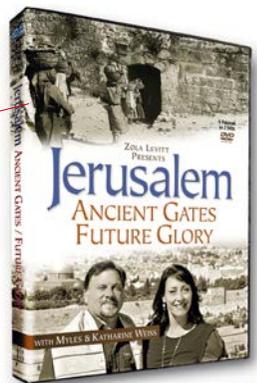
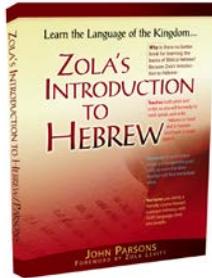
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<input type="checkbox"/>	An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Beginning of The End	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dateline Jerusalem	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Genesis One	\$5	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The House That God Built	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi...	\$14	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Israel's Right to the Land!	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	\$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meshumed!	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once Through New Testament	\$9	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passover Haggadah (Messianic)	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raptured	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Warrior King	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs of The End: Millennium	\$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	_____



Order online at
<http://store.levitt.com>
By phone call 24/7:
800-966-3377, or
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844, or
print this entire 2-pg. form, fill out box at right, mail to ZLM, Box 12268 Dallas, TX 75225

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Child Is Born (Special-DVD)	\$19	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi... (12, 3-DVDs)	\$69	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mine Eyes Have Seen (Musical-DVD)	\$19	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Miracle of Passover (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerusalem Gates <i>New!</i> (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sons of Promise (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whose Land Is It? (3 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$19	_____





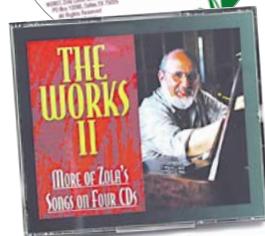
Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
▶	2-flag Collar Pin	\$2	_____
_____	Abraham to Jesus Genealogy Chart	\$10	_____
_____	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
_____	"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
_____	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$8	_____
▶	Jerusalem Journeystone	\$8	_____
_____	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2015)	\$6	_____
_____	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)	\$8	_____
▶	Messianic Prophecy Scroll	\$35	_____
_____	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
_____	Pilgrim's Map of The Holy Land	\$6	_____
_____	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
_____	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
_____	Zola's Notebook (The Bible: The Whole Story)	\$25	_____
_____	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
_____	Guide To Your Christian Will	\$2	_____

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!



SEE PAGE 21



Teaching CDs by Zola

▶	Discovering Our Jewish Roots	(9 CDs)	\$39	_____
▶	A Survey of the New Testament	CD	\$7	_____
_____	A Christian Love Story	CD	\$7	_____
_____	The Seven Feasts of Israel	CD	\$7	_____
▶	Zola Teaches the New Testament	(6 CDs)	\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at www.levitt.com

▶	Mine Eyes Have Seen (Music CD)	\$12	_____
_____	The Works (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Works II (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
▶	I Call You Friend by Marty Goetz (Music CD)	\$14	_____

Please send this entire 2-page Order Form—Thanks.

Please Fill Out Area Below and Send the Entire Page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

up to \$15.99, add \$5
 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7
 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9
 \$61 to \$99.99, add \$10
 \$100 to \$200, add \$12
 over \$200 FREE shipping

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

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

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

Name _____
 (please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional): _____

On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____
 (See number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. / _____ Card ID# required _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Subtotal _____

Shipping (See left chart) _____

UPS shipping (\$4 extra) _____

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

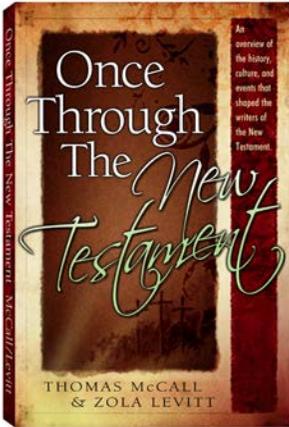
8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____



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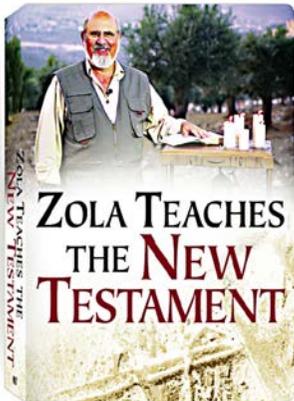
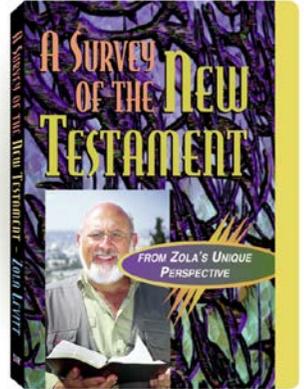


Once Through The New Testament Book

A most readable and clear survey of the New Testament. The theology is understandable and treated with thoroughness in this concise, but complete, study.

A Survey of the New Testament Audio CD

A concise overview of Scripture from the Gospels to Revelation. Zola's point of view is unique. One CD covers Matthew to Revelation with surprising clarity.

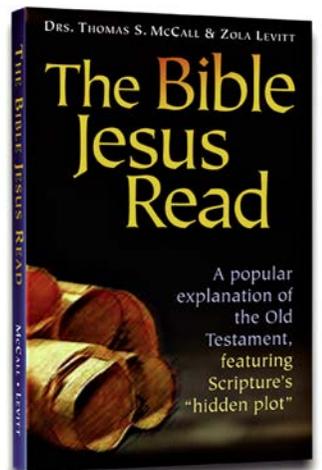


Zola Teaches The New Testament 6 CD Set

Noted for his Old Testament expertise, Zola was often called upon to teach the New Testament as well. In this series of six CDs, he gives a fresh, interesting survey of the entire New Testament before a live audience. A real collector's item, beautifully packaged.

The Bible Jesus Read Book New Design!

A popular explanation of the Old Testament, featuring Scripture's "hidden plot." Relevant to all who want to understand the beginning of God's plan and the roots of the Church on Earth.



Back
to p.10



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Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies

By Dr. Zola Levitt & Dr. Jeffrey Seif



We've prepared a 12-course study that is a unique blend of Jewish and Christian perspectives. Now there is a way you can master important subjects without having to pack up and go off to seminary. Each course comes in a three-ring binder with CDs, easy-to-follow outline, and a mail-in test. We'll evaluate your tests and encourage your progress as you enrich your walk with the Lord. Complete the 12 courses and receive a handsome diploma with your name in calligraphy.

Zola Levitt, a Jewish Believer, was best known as the host of the weekly national television program *Zola Levitt Presents*. He was also a widely published author, with some fifty books in several languages, and conducted regular tours to the Holy Land.

Dr. Jeffrey Seif, Messianic Believer and co-host of *Zola Levitt Presents* for five years, is an ordained minister and an expert on subjects related to Israel, the Jewish people, and prophecy. **The 12 courses include:**

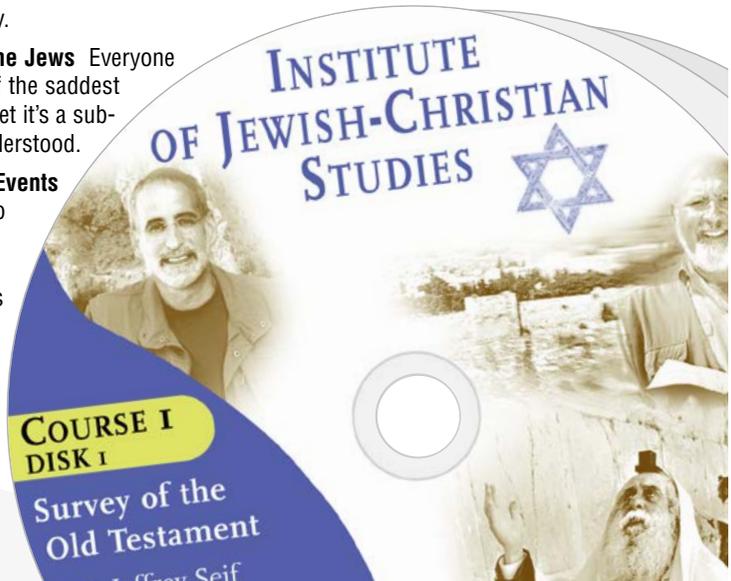
- 1. Old Testament Survey** After mastering this study, you will have an understanding of the background and chronology of the entire Old Testament.
- 2. New Testament Survey** Your understanding of the New Testament will blossom through the teaching of Dr. Levitt and Dr. Seif.
- 3. Jewish History** Those who love history and the Jewish people will no doubt consider this one of the series' most fascinating courses.
- 4. History of Modern Israel** This course teaches about one of the great miracles of modern times—how Israel became a nation in the worst of global conditions.
- 5. Comparing and Contrasting Jewish and Christian Theology** In this course, Dr. Seif and Dr. Levitt examine key Scriptures and doctrines showing both the Jewish and Christian perspectives.
- 6. Messiah in the Law of Moses** Where and how did Moses speak concerning Jesus? That is the question, and this course will give the answers!
- 7. Messianic Prophecy** After this course, the student will be able to use Old Testament prophecy to evaluate Jesus' claim to be the Promised One.
- 8. Between the Testaments/Origins & Demise of the Pharisees** This course examines what happened during the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments.
- 9. Judaism Today** This interesting and thought-provoking study will help you to better understand your Jewish friends, neighbors, etc.
- 10. The First-Century Church** The New Testament is very much a Jewish story, and the first church was Jewish. This course examines the demise of early Hebrew Christianity.
- 11. Church History & the Jews** Everyone will consider this one of the saddest courses ever studied—yet it's a subject that needs to be understood.
- 12. Israel & End-Time Events** In a fitting conclusion to the series, Dr. Levitt and Dr. Seif put the focus on the chronology of events related to the Rapture and beyond.

All To The Jew First workers complete this course. It will strengthen your own witnessing. [See p.13.](#)



Sign Me Up!

Sign up online, or see p.19





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From Dr. B.J.P. (FL): I use your study booklets for required reading in my classes. Everyone is blessed by them.

From N.K. (Australia): Thank you so much for this wonderful, informative television series on the Gates of Jerusalem. I don't have words to express how much I enjoy watching your program. Blessings to all at Zola Levitt Ministries.

From P.R. (CA): Please use my donation to help pay for shipping free *Levitt Letters*. Keep up the excellent work!

From D.H. (CA) (with a full shopping cart): Time to replace my VHS videotapes and cassette tapes from your ministry with your DVDs and CDs.

From P.R. (CA): We love giving [Jewish Heritage calendars](#) to fellow Believers. The price is reasonable and the artwork is gorgeous. Thank you for making them available to us. [Dear Reader: Please see our [webstore](#) to order yours.]

From YouTube: Zola was such a precious spirit, I remember him with great fondness. But thanks to Sandra, Dr. Seif, and you, Myles & Katharine, his vision for the Jews (and gentiles) is alive and well.

From YouTube: I love watching your teachings about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. It's edifying to see the planning and consistency of our Lord.

From YouTube: All of the TV series you bring to us are very exciting. Israel just keeps blessing our planet, but hearing that the Messianic congregations are growing and thriving is miraculous news!



Our new
ZLP TV
studio
continues to
improve.
Thanks for
staying
tuned.

What [Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies](#) students are saying: Please see the description of our 12-part correspondence course on p. 21. Many seminary graduates credit it for deepening their spiritual walk while contemplating what they devoted years to learn.

Todd Baker spoke recently about the Lord's Feasts from Trumpets to Tabernacles here on the Gold Coast. I already planned to go to observe the next Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) in Israel as I have never been to the Holy Land. When Todd spoke about Jewish evangelism, my spirit was firing! After I spent two years doing missionary work in China in the 80s, the Lord told me that I would "go again." I always thought that meant to China. However, after hearing Todd, I realized the Holy Spirit meant "go again" as a "sent" one—to the Jewish people. I'm very excited about that! I want to enroll in your Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies to be prepared. To Yeshua be the glory! —S.H. (Australia)

I want a more intimate and personal relationship with the God who is three-in-one. I want a deeper understanding of *His* revelation to *His* creation. I don't want to know facts *about* Him; I want to know *Him*. I listen to the Institute's CD lessons while driving in my car—to understand the God who says "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). —C.T. (TX)

I can't afford an expensive education, and this correspondence course is the best opportunity to acquire learning and growing at an affordable price. M.E.M. (FL) —[You've discovered what many others have: all 12 of these courses together, including grading the mail-in tests, cost less than some individual seminary courses.](#) —Mark

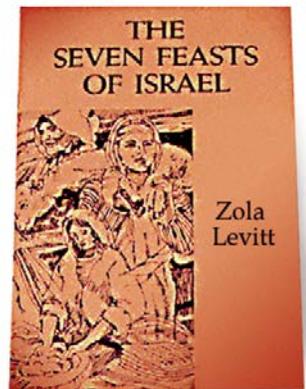
We have always wanted to know more about the Hebrew thought in the Bible. We had talked to someone about this correspondence course when we toured Israel with Zola Tours last spring. We immensely enjoyed the teaching from Myles and Katharine as well as our tour guide. —D.B. (ND)

To the Jew First

Dear ZLM community,

Please pray for me as I share Zola's [Seven Feasts of Israel](#) booklet with a beloved Jewish friend. She is slowly opening up to learning about her own heritage, accepting me as a Christ follower, and seeking to know Jesus as Messiah. I am profoundly excited to be a link in God's chain of reaching her. What an honor and privilege to be used by God in another's life!

A Messianic Jewish neighbor suggested your [Seven Feasts of Israel](#) study booklet. God bless your continuing ministry. R.W. (FL) —[The feelings you describe are addictive—in the best way! Our prayers are with you as you follow His leading. You and others may like to know that this best-selling title is available also as a \[teaching CD\]\(#\) and, should you want more in-depth study, \[a series of seven 30-minute television programs.\]\(#\)](#) —Mark



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Index

Hebrew Lessons a Blessing

Dear ZLM,

A special thank you to John Parsons. His *Hebrew Lesson* "Endurance for Difficult Days" ([Levitt Letter, October 2014](#)) offers remarkable comfort. We lost our 37-year-old son in a road accident. Though it's been a year, his two young daughters and we still hurt. I clipped the *HL* to keep in my Bible. Things happen that we don't understand, but God knows, and we stand on His Word.

May God bless your ministry and all who have a part in it. —V.D. (AR)

Dear V.D.—

First, may I say how sorry we all are for the loss of your son. That is a grief that only other parents in your position and our Abba in Heaven can fathom. He gave His only Son, and I pray the Holy Spirit is with you as Comforter. Thank you for blessing this ministry with your appreciation of John Parsons. We wholeheartedly agree with your assessment of his teaching. I constantly refer pastors to his website [hebrew4christians.com](#) to which [our home congregation](#) commits monthly support. His is a unique contribution to the Body of Messiah and a powerful resource for us all. May the God of all Comfort be with you. —Myles and Katharine



Bold Witness

Dear Myles,

In the [November Levitt Letter](#), you answered the letter "True Islam." The Lord is leading me to commend you as our brother in Christ for the powerful response you gave. Your bold witness is a breath of fresh air and will be rewarded someday. Be encouraged, brother, for we know the time is short. V. McK. (VA)

Shalom V. McK.—

Thank you for your kind words about my letter to the Moslem prisoner. I spent significant time in research and prayer on that important issue, especially as Islam recruits zealously in American prisons. Sometimes I wonder if such debate will help the situation. These are the times the prophets foretold, and this ministry stands for the truth of God's Word vis-à-vis the popular claim that the Koran is a road to peace. The Islamic hardliners foment the destructive movements of ISIS/ISIL and their related franchises. You and I know the end of the story; however, it seems that the road to Glory is fraught with peril. Blessings —Myles



Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

The following letter is abbreviated to condense the venom. Nonetheless, we think you will sense the writer's vitriol. —Editor

ZLM and Myles,

I just read Zola's article *If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem* in your newsletter archives ([June 1995, Vol. 17, No. 6](#)).

Jerusalem the "burdensome stone"? *Christ* is the Burdensome Stone. How dare you with your arrogance. Not surprising, though.

Messianic Jew? You should read your Bible.

There is neither Greek nor Jew. Gentiles are other nations outside of Christ, which would include the racist, murderous State of Israel at the top of the list. Jews were not the root of Christianity. The Talmud is wicked, non-Christian. Judeo-Christian is a fallacy and blasphemy. The arrogance runs so deep with Jews that there is no humility most of the time, and no acceptance unless they can keep their worldly and self-deceived importance as the "chosen ones." Jew arrogance makes me want to vomit.

You are promoting Israhell, not Christianity. It is despicable and transparent. —T.N.

Shalom, shalom, T.N.—

At first I thought your letter was a joke, although the opening accusation did make me question my scripture knowledge ... for a moment. I spend a lot of time with Zechariah, but I can always be corrected.

Zechariah 12:2 "I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem."

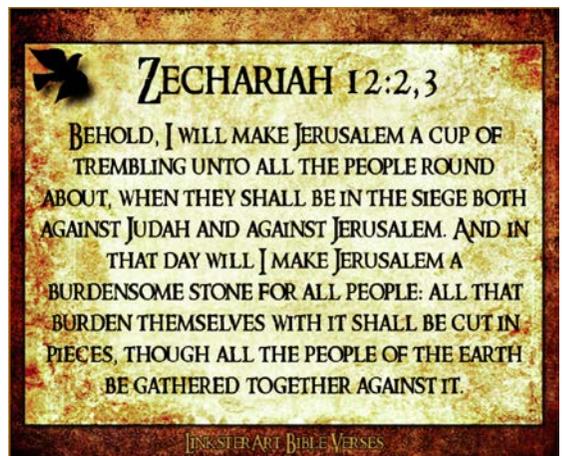
"Perhaps," I thought, "I have confused the cup of trembling with the burdensome stone." But no, the prophet goes on:

3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Later in your letter, your vitriolic hatred became clear. Yes, we are all one in Messiah, but the Bible is clear about what theologians call "ontological unity with economic subordination."

As a neo-Nazi, you may have let this concept slip past your anti-Semitic filters, but it means that while we are of equal *spiritual* value to the Lord, He has placed protocols on mankind: that includes the Gospel to the Jew first (Rom. 1:16) and the irrevocable calling to Israel (Romans 11:29) based on Genesis 12:1-3.

I have seen many miracles of transformation by the Word of God, so I beg you to receive Paul's exhortation of Romans 12:1-2. Please let the Word renew your mind! May God have mercy. Your brother? —Myles (aka Mordecai ben Pinchas—still Jewish *and* a disciple of Jesus!) ★



The Next Generation



SCIENCE: BY GADI GOLAN (r) IsraelHayom.com

Eight Israeli high school students from the Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev earned the top prizes in the international competition **First Step to Nobel Prize in Physics**.

Some 80 nations participate in the annual competition held in Warsaw. Competitors are asked to submit their research to the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Physics, where a panel of internationally renowned judges evaluates it.

The first-prize winners are awarded a month-long research trip to Poland, a chance to make a presentation to leading physicists, and a certificate of merit. But the biggest coup is having their research published in an international physics journal.

Two of the eight Israeli winners from the Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center took the first prize for their research on crystallization and freezing: Idan Fishman and Basel Abu Ganem, both from Beersheba. Fishman's research is titled "Water crystallization kinetics in porous media: treatment of the experimental results," and Abu Ganem's is "Instability of the phase front in freezing porous media."

Five of the Israeli students were awarded second-place prizes, and one garnered a third-place prize.

"This is an impressive achievement that puts Beersheba at the forefront of international physics," said Beersheba Mayor Ruvik Danilovich. "Without a doubt, the decision to invest in advanced academic education and providing opportunities in this field as part of a long-term strategy are proving themselves."

The Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center at Ben-Gurion University is a regional center operated jointly by the Rashi Foundation, the city of Beersheba, and the Education Ministry. It provides students with access to laboratories, some of the most advanced astronomic equipment in Israel, and high-level mentoring. ★



Winner Idan Fishman stands in front of a portrait of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon

Photo credit:
Alberto Denzberg



Hope for Cigarette Addiction

MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) JPost.com



Omega-3—commonly available as clear-yellow capsules of fish oil—has been shown to reduce craving for tobacco in smokers. A double-blind, randomized study at the University of Haifa and Bar-Ilan University offers hope to those suffering from cigarette addiction.

The pilot study by Dr. Sharon Rabinovitz, head of the addiction program in the University of Haifa's criminology department and of the psychopharmacology laboratory at Bar-Ilan, was recently published in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

She noted that cigarette smoke induces oxidative stress, which can cause disruptions in normal mechanisms of cellular signaling in the brain and is also involved in the development of cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, heart attacks, and apparently autism and chronic fatigue syndrome.

Rabinovitz noted that no previous research examined the effects of polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) supplementation on tobacco craving. Low concentrations of omega-3 PUFAs can affect neurotransmission and affect reward and dependence mechanisms; thus, they are believed to increase craving for cigarettes and make it more difficult to kick the habit.

Smokers of at least 10 cigarettes daily (age 18 to 45) were given five capsules of omega-3 daily for a month; a control group got a placebo. The omega-3 group showed a significant decrease in smoking and tobacco craving and reduced their daily smoking rate by an average of two cigarettes even though they weren't asked to cut down on their smoking.

Interestingly, the craving did not return in the month after discontinuing the treatment. Further studies will explore the possible therapeutic implications for heavy smokers.

Two years ago, Greek researchers assessed the effect of **omega-3 capsules** on the arterial wall properties of cigarette smokers. The results showed that a month's treatment with omega-3 reduced arterial stiffness and moderated the reduction in elasticity of coronary arteries that is caused by smoking.



Rabinovitz noted that omega-3 capsules are inexpensive, almost without side effects, and easy to get in pharmacies or health food stores. Tobacco not only harms heart, lung, and immune system function but also reduces the levels of vital fatty acids in the brain, especially that of PUFAs. With inadequate amounts of PUFAs, the person loses the ability to stop smoking, and addiction intensifies. ★



Syria Launches Hebrew-Language News Site

Israel Today magazine



Bashar Assad

The regime of embattled Syrian dictator Bashar Assad has made the surprising move of ordering its official news agency, SANA, to launch a Hebrew-language website.

The Syrian regime is still officially at war with Israel, and has for decades supported and facilitated some of the most violent anti-Israel terrorist organizations in the region.

The vast majority of Israelis would never trust information coming from Assad's official mouthpiece. Nevertheless, officials at SANA declare they are determined to reach the broadest possible audience with their version of "the truth," and that includes Israelis.

SANA's new Hebrew website is riddled with spelling and grammatical errors, and is full of propaganda aimed at swaying Israeli public opinion more in favor of the Assad regime.

Israel has largely joined the international chorus of condemnation against the Assad regime, but has also cautioned that the regime's downfall under current circumstances would create a power vacuum that would almost certainly be filled by one or more radical Islamist movements.

Israel has also attacked Syrian government forces on several occasions in recent years when the latter's actions directly threatened the Jewish state. Those attacks have been a source of assistance to the more moderate Free Syrian Army (FSA), of which Israel is tacitly supportive. FSA officials have made public calls for Israel to become more diplomatically involved in the Syrian civil war and the overthrow of Bashar Assad.

Knowing Israel's influence in Western capitals and the international community's desire to prevent the Syrian civil war from adversely affecting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Assad might see swaying Israeli views as part of a last-ditch effort to preserve his rule. ★



To
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How Moslems Bite the Hand...



BY DR. ARIEH ELAD / FrontPageMag.com

I was instrumental in establishing the Israel National Skin Bank—the largest in the world—that stores skin for everyday needs as well as for wartime or mass casualty situations. This skin bank is hosted at the Hadassah University Hospital-Ein Kerem in Jerusalem where I was the Chairman of Plastic Surgery.

This is how I came to be asked to supply skin for a Moslem woman from Gaza who was hospitalized in Soroka Hospital in Beersheva after suffering a severe burn. (Such atrocities often happen among Moslem families when a woman is suspected of causing dishonor.)

We supplied all the needed homografts for her treatment. She was successfully treated by my friend and colleague Prof. Lior Rosenberg and discharged to return to Gaza. She was invited for regular follow-up visits at the outpatient clinic in Beersheva.

One day she was caught at a border crossing wearing a suicide belt. She meant to explode herself in the outpatient clinic of the hospital where they saved her life.



This is only one example of the war between

Jews and Moslems in the Land of Israel. It is not a territorial conflict. It is a civilization conflict, or rather a war between civilization and barbarism.

Note from Snopes.com: On 20 June 2005, twenty-one-year-old **Wafa Samir Ibrahim al-Biss** was detained at a crossing into Israel when something about her gait struck the guards as somewhat amiss. The Gaza woman was arrested after a search revealed 22 lbs. of explosives strapped to her body. While al-Biss had ostensibly attempted to enter Israel for a follow-up appointment at the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheva, questioning revealed her intent to detonate her payload at that institution. **The would-be bomber had been treated there five months previous for severe burns** received after a gas canister exploded on a fire while she was cooking at her refugee camp home in the Gaza Strip.

I believe the Lord weeps over the “occupied” minds of Moslems. This article correctly denotes the battle between light and darkness, “civilization and barbarism.” Our friend Avi Lipkin warns the Church, “Either you bring them the Lord or they will bring you the sword.” Meanwhile, Israel continues to freely share life-saving medicine. —Myles



Wafa Samir Ibrahim al-Biss



Rashi



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

especially in articles that are connected to the history of the Land of Israel, and/or the history of the State of Israel. Miraculously, any contribution that is somehow incompatible with the “Palestinian” narrative is removed very shortly after being submitted. Many of us—very motivated and talented

writers—avoid writing here at all because of this perceived bias.

History has many faces, and every story can be told in a hundred ways. “Facts” can be interpreted, and “reality” can look completely the opposite, depending on who you are and where you come from.

Therefore, I wonder why you let only one “story” be told here, and why you’re willing to accept one side’s “facts” and not the other’s. How exactly does it make the English Wikipedia a neutral encyclopedia, as it should be?

Proving God Promised Israel to the Jews

By Herb Keinon / JPost.com

In his Torah commentary, Rashi (an acronym for Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki, 1040–1105) quotes Rabbi Yitzhak—Rashi’s father—as asking why the Torah begins with “In the beginning” and the account of Creation, instead of with the verse that gives the Jewish people their first commandment.

Rashi explains the reason: if the nations of the world say to Israel that they “are robbers, because you took by force” Canaan, Israel could reply that the entire world belongs to God; He created it and can give it to whomever He wants.

Ahhh, if it were that simple! —Myles

An Open Note to Wikipedia Administrators

By Tamar Hayardeni / en.wikipedia.org

I’m a professional tour guide. I live in Jerusalem, Israel and contribute mainly to the Hebrew Wikipedia. I want to express a feeling that many of my colleagues in the Hebrew Wikipedia share.

It has become very unpleasant to contribute to the English Wikipedia,



TAMAR HAYARDENI
Israeli Tour Guide

You may recognize **Tamar Hayardeni** if you’ve watched our series [Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory](#). ZLM shares Ms. Hayardeni’s frustration, as related by Myles in the [July 2014 Levitt Letter](#) concerning Zola’s Wikipedia page.

—Editor



To
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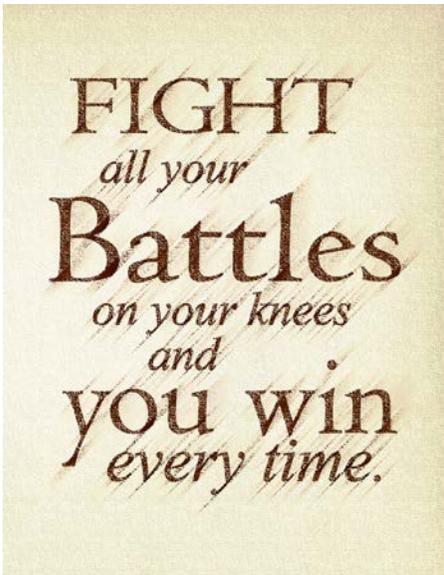


The Early Church and The Martyrdom of Jacob/James

By Ron Cantor / MessiahsMandate.org

We know from Scripture that the Messianic community in Jerusalem thrived in the first decades after Pentecost. When Paul returned to Jerusalem to greet the apostles, they reported to him that tens of thousands of Believers were among the Judeans, and “they are all zealous for the Torah” (Acts 21:20).

The Believing community continued to grow under the leadership of Yeshua’s brother Jacob (the first-century name for “James”). The historian Eusebius recounts Jacob’s martyrdom. At the time, virtually all sects of Judaism held Jacob in high regard. So much so that he was called *Jacob the Righteous*. He prayed so much that he was nicknamed “camel-knees” because of the calluses he developed.



However, the incredible growth of the Nazarene Movement (as they were called) led to deep feelings of jealousy. Josephus tells us that the governor of Judea had died. While the new one

was on his way to Judea, the chief priest, Ananias, devised a plan to get rid of Jacob.

Josephus doesn’t reveal the plan in detail, but if we combine his account with Eusebius’, we get a clearer picture. The Pharisees requested that Jacob come to the pinnacle of the Temple to address the Jews celebrating Passover. Interestingly, this is exactly where Satan took Yeshua to tempt Him (Matt. 4:5ff). Once there, they challenged Jacob to denounce Yeshua. He responded: Why do you ask me about Yeshua, the Son of Man? He sits in Heaven at the right hand of the Great Power, and He will soon come on the clouds of Heaven!

The Pharisees were furious, but the people were not and shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” The Pharisees then ascended to the pinnacle and threw Jacob down. Jacob survived the fall and began to pray for them. “I beg of you, Lord God our Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing.” As with Stephen, the Pharisees began to stone him and a fuller (launderer) took one of the clubs that he used to beat clothes and smashed Jacob on the head, killing him with one blow.

Josephus puts the death of Jacob at 62 A.D. while Eusebius says 69. If it was 62, it makes sense that the Book of Hebrews was written soon after, to encourage persecuted Jewish Believers to not give up. Considering that Josephus was a contemporary of Jacob, I tend to agree with him.

Our friend in Tel Aviv, Ron Cantor, is the pastoral team leader at Tiferet Yeshua (Yeshua’s Glory). On our last trip to Israel, Katharine and I conveyed a generous offering for the group’s work, especially with IDF soldiers after the Gaza war. —Myles ★

Jerusalem of Gold



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY SEAN SAVAGE / JNS.org

At the City of David Foundation's annual conference last fall, the theme "Jerusalem of Gold" highlighted several never-before-seen golden artifacts.

The antiquities on display related to war, beauty, and holiness or sanctity. Among them, the largest cache of gold coins ever discovered in Jerusalem, comprising 264 gold coins that date back to the end of the Byzantine period in the 7th century A.D. The coins were found in the "Givati Parking Lot dig" conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority in the City of David neighborhood.

The coins are unique in that they were minted in Jerusalem, not in Constantinople—the Byzantine imperial capital—and were likely made in preparation for the Byzantine war against the Persians.

The coins were found stacked one on top of another and were never dispensed. There may be a story of intrigue here as to why they never were used.

A golden medallion (on display for the very first time) featuring inscriptions of a menorah, shofar, and Torah scroll, was found in the Ophel excavation south of the Temple Mount. It likely hung on a Torah scroll as a breast plate.



The discovery of the Jewish medallion, dating back to the time of upheaval in Jerusalem during the Persian-Byzantine wars, surprised archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar when she unearthed the artifact. There are normally not many Jewish items found from that period.

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

**Recently unearthed
cache of gold coins**

**Credit:
City of David
Foundation.**



Jerusalem of Gold... *continued*



Mazar estimates that the medallion originates from the Persian conquest of Jerusalem in 614 A.D. That year, many Jews helped the Persians conquer Jerusalem from the Byzantines, only to have the Persians turn against the Jews and ally with the Byzantine Christians later on, leading to the Jews' expulsion once again.

"These finds tell us about the Jewish presence in Jerusalem in the late Byzantine period," explained Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay. "A strong Messianic desire of the Jewish people at that time brought many from abroad in hopes of constructing the Third Temple."

One of the most unique items on display was a golden bell discovered by **Eli Shukron**, archaeologist and former director of City of David excavations. During his excavation of a Western Wall tunnel, he found a golden bell believed to have been part of the official vestments of the high priests of the Jewish Temple. The priestly robe, the "ephod," was a sleeveless purple-blue or violet garment worn by the high priests and fringed with small golden bells alternating with pomegranate-shaped tassels of blue, purple, and scarlet wool. (Exodus 28:31-35) The golden bells needed to ring when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies.

"At first I just thought it was a ball and didn't realize it was the golden bell from the high priests until I shook it and heard the ringing," Shukron said. "No other artifact from the high priests like this has ever been discovered before." ✨



What we find below tells the story of what occurred above.

Zola Tours is privileged to introduce our viewers to the City of David archaeological finds that are continuing to affirm biblical historicity and the ancient presence of the Jewish people. Watch next spring for our amazing TV series, *Zion Forever*. — Myles



Eli Shukron
Archaeologist, the Department of Antiquities

We are talking about a bell,
a tiny golden bell,

Twelve Days—Christmas to Epiphany



ORIGINS OF THE SONG / snopes.com

Some people claim that “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” a mirthful Christmas song about romantic gift-giving, originated as a coded catechism for persecuted Catholics who could not practice their faith in King Henry VIII’s England after his break with the pope.

However, the concepts supposedly symbolized in the song are basic articles of faith common to all denominations of Christianity, negating any reason for a Catholic to hide knowledge of them.

What we know: The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between the celebrated birth of Christ (Christmas, December 25) and the arrival two years later of the Magi (Epiphany, January 6). Although the specific origins of the song are not known, it possibly began as a Twelfth Night “memory-and-forfeits” game in which the leader recites a verse, each of the players repeats the verse, the leader adds another verse, and so on until one of the players makes a mistake; the player who errs must pay a penalty, such as a kiss or a candy. The song’s earliest known printed version, in the 1780 children’s book *Mirth Without Mischief*, presented the song as a memory-and-forfeits game. (The song was apparently already old in 1780.)



The song’s lyrics indicate a French origin: Three French versions of the song are known, and the items mentioned are French. The partridge, for example, was not introduced to England from France until the late 1770s. A similar memory-and-forfeits song that dates to at least 1625 was called “A New Dial” (also known as “In Those Twelve Days”). It assigned biblical concepts to ordinary objects, a common device exemplified by the several modern recordings of “Deck of Cards.”

Some misinterpretations have crept into the English version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” over the years. For example, the fourth day’s gift is four *colly* birds, not four “calling” birds. (The word “colly” literally means “black as coal;” thus, “colly birds” are blackbirds.) Five golden rings refers not to five pieces of jewelry but to five ring-necked birds (such as pheasants). Correcting these errors re-establishes the pattern of the first seven gifts all being types of birds.

Unfortunately, uninformed writers expound upon hidden biblical messages in “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Perhaps they should consider that view’s underlying message: That one group of Jesus’ followers had to hide their beliefs in order to avoid being persecuted by another group of Jesus’ followers. Of all the aspects of Christianity to celebrate at Christmastime, that doesn’t sound like a particularly good one to emphasize.

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” celebrates the Christmas season with secular imagery of gifts and dancing and music. ☆

JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

Keeping Shabbat

Aryeh and Devora, a young religious couple, were expecting their first baby. Devora went into labor on *Shabbat*, so they had no choice but to call for a taxi to take them to the hospital. Because Aryeh wanted to minimize the *Shabbat* violation, he told the dispatcher that he could not have a Jewish driver.

The taxi quickly arrived, but when Aryeh and Devora were getting in, they overheard the dispatcher on the radio ask the driver, "Have you picked up the anti-Semites yet?"



A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22



Natural Childbirth

Throughout her pregnancy, Rivka insisted that she wanted no medication during labor. When the big day came, and knowing Rivka's stance on drugs, the midwife did everything else to ease Rivka's pain.

"You look uncomfortable," the midwife said at one point. "Would you like to change positions?"

"Yes," Rivka replied. "I want to be the midwife!"

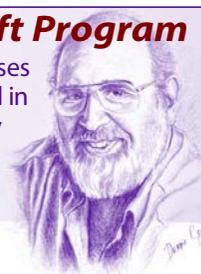


(A Moslem man may have up to 4 wives.)



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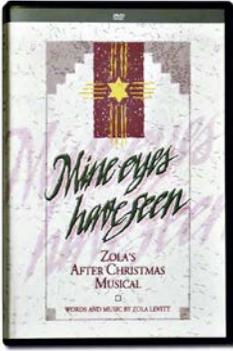
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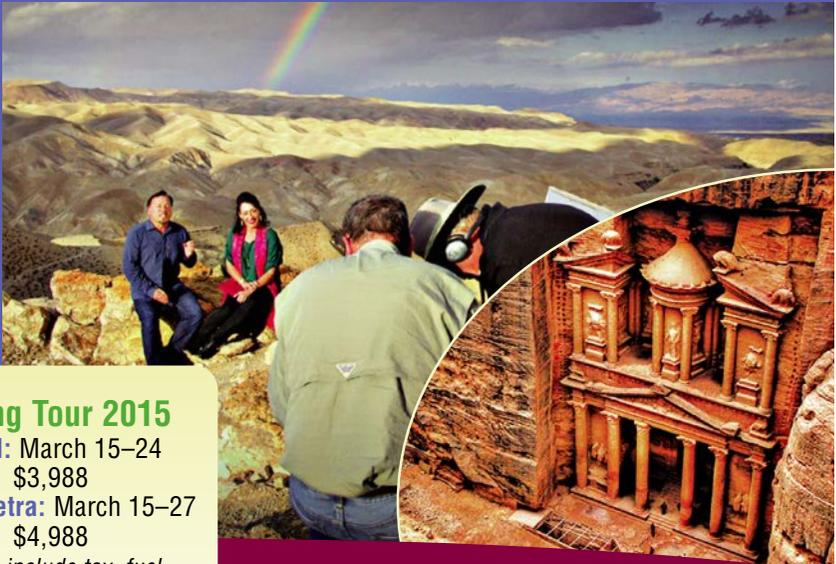
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ZLM film crew in Judean Desert

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