

Levitt Letter



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

Post-Holocaust
Reunion: p.6

God's Love Never Fails

By Myles & Katharine Weiss

1 Cor. 13:13 *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

This month, sales of flowers, chocolate, jewelry, and greeting cards will boost many Western economies. Valentine's Day is a traditional time to celebrate romantic love.

Imagine if traditional Judeo-Christian love and marriage were illegal! Sounds crazy, no? But Valentine's Day has its origins in just such craziness.

According to several histories, Roman Emperor Claudius II in the third century prohibited marriage for young people. He based his ban on the erroneous idea that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers, who became homesick for their wives and families.

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

Gazan Videogame: Violence, Not Negotiations

IDFblog.com

Promoting violence and anti-Israel propaganda within the Gaza Strip has no limits; school books, public speeches, and TV programs all serve as conduits. The latest is an online videogame, "Liberation of Palestine."



Videogame screen capture

The game's players have to "get rid of the Israeli settlements, buy weapons, and implement prisoner exchanges," as explained in Hamas's *Falesteen* newspaper. The game teaches players that negotiations "can never bring any positive result" and that "the language of weapons is the most effective with Israelis," according to one of the game's developers.

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



God's Love Never Fails *continued from cover*



Myles & Katharine Weiss

In the midst of this very secular, permissive culture, the Church taught the sanctity of marriage, a lifetime bond between one man and one woman. A Roman priest named **Valentine** encouraged young lovers to marry within the Church and married them in secret because of the Emperor's edict.

Performing marriage ceremonies landed Valentine in prison. One of his accusers, or perhaps his jailer, Asterius, had a blind daughter, Julia. Tradition says that Valentine led her to Messiah and her eyes were healed in the process.

For his loyalty to God, Valentine was sentenced to death in 269 A.D. He was executed on February 14. Legend says that his last act was a note to Julia urging her fealty to God. He signed it "Your Valentine," thereby inspiring today's romantic cards. In later centuries, Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized the saint's day in their work, and its popularity spread throughout Britain and the rest of Europe.

"God is love" (1 John 4:8).

We have found personally that when we yield to the Holy Spirit of God and put His scriptures into practice, we can walk in love with each other. Of course, some days are better than others. But we know what to do, and it is incumbent upon each of us to do it better, and sooner.

We married immediately after Bible college, where we learned in counseling class about the "conference table." This table was to be a place set aside for resolving conflict. One immediate conflict we faced was that our postage-stamp-size flat *had no room for a conference table!* So, we set up two dime-store director's chairs as our conference area. We learned to "go to the chairs" quickly to find the Lord and His solutions for us. This technique has served us well.

God has used our time in the chairs to show us His heart for each other, for other Believers, the lost, our Arab cousins, Moslems trapped in darkness, and our "enemies." Do we resolve conflicts perfectly? Of course not; after all, [s]he's a [wo]man, so naturally we are worlds (planets: Venus and Mars) apart! Yet, as we approach 30 years of marriage, we can honestly say we are each other's "Valentine."

God is love. Let Him love others through you. ☆



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Gazan Videogame... (continued from cover)

The game is meant to inculcate the idea that Israel should not exist. Karam Hussein, one of the game’s developers, stated in an interview for Arabic Sky News that “the idea is to develop the spirit of resistance among Palestinian boys and girls.”

In the game, players can purchase a number of weapons including grenade launchers, AK-47 assault rifles, and rockets. An explosive belt can also be purchased in order to perpetrate suicide attacks. The game is linked to social media platforms in which users receive upgrades and encouragement. Common sentiment posted on the game’s Facebook page: “Twenty-five zionist [sic] settlements were destroyed by (player’s name). God bless you and the path you have chosen.”

While medical researchers from Israel bless the world (see p.27), others celebrate murder and mayhem. —Myles



Many European Jews Hide Their Religion

BY SAM SOKOL / JPost.com



About forty percent of European Jews hide their identity, the Rabbinical Center of Europe and the European Jewish Association claim. The organizations (both run by Menachem Margolin, a Chabad rabbi from Brussels) gathered data from over 800 rabbis and RCE members across the continent but did not provide details of how they arrived at the 40% figure or of the study's methodology.

"Half-a-million Jews will participate in prayers, but **1.5 million Jews hide their Jewishness,**" a press release by the RCE and EJA stated, adding that "there is 80% intermarriage among Europe's Jewish communities, when compared with the total number of Jews.

"The number of visitors in the synagogues increased by 17% compared to the same period last year." While "twice as many Jews are reported to attend synagogue prayers on Yom Kippur as on Saturdays throughout the year, 70% of Europe's Jews choose not to go to the synagogue during the High Holy Days," Margolin said. The rise in European anti-Semitism that occurred during Israel's military incursion into the Gaza Strip last summer caused hundreds of Jewish parents to transfer their children to Jewish schools.

A 2013 study released by the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights reported that a third of Jews polled in a number of EU countries refrained from wearing religious garb or Jewish symbols out of fear, and 23% avoided attending Jewish events or going to Jewish venues. While 66% reported anti-Semitism as having a negative effect on their lives, 77% did not bother reporting abuse or harassment. Almost a third were mulling emigration as a response to heightened anti-Jewish sentiment.

"For every Jew who makes aliya as a result of anti-Semitism, there are many others who cut ties with Judaism and the Jewish way of life," said Israel's Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett.

Anti-Semitic incidents increased 500% in one month in England during the Israel-Gaza conflict, and increased representation by neo-Nazi and ultra-nationalist factions in the European legislature has many continental Jews worried. ✨



A synagogue in Donetsk, Ukraine



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Israel Pivots to Asia

BY ELLIOT ABRAMS / blogs.cfr.org



The Diplomat, a Tokyo-based online international newsmagazine covering the Asia-Pacific region, recently reported:

A convergence of commercial interests have led the People's Republic of China and the State of Israel to develop an increasingly integrated bilateral economic partnership that is poised to flourish over the next decade. Bilateral trade has experienced a 200-fold increase since diplomatic ties were formally established in 1992, surging from \$50 million to \$10 billion in 2013, with plans to double that figure in the next few years.

Increasingly, China has turned to Israel to acquire the technology necessary to maximize agricultural output and efficiency, as well as to develop a proficient water purification and reclamation apparatus that can sustain the Middle Kingdom's urbanization and economic expansion throughout the 21st century. As a nation that boasts 22 percent of the global population, but just seven percent of the world's arable land, developing a sustainable agriculture sector to efficiently maximize output remains a pressing concern for China.

To address this growing concern, China and Israel signed a deal worth \$300 million in 2012 to export Israeli water technology that will improve agricultural efficiency in China.

In May 2014, Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Tsinghua University in Beijing agreed to jointly invest \$300 million to establish the XIN Center for scientific exchange and collaboration. According to officials at TAU, the center will "serve as an international hub for scientific and technical innovation" while focusing on research and development projects in a variety of sectors including sustainable agriculture, solar power, water reclamation, and biotechnology.

Notice the numbers and the fact that this isn't a weapons-sales relationship; it is more broadly based, with a special focus on agriculture.

Israel is also building economic ties to India. With trade over \$4 billion (mostly weaponry), India is the largest purchaser of Israeli arms. But that may change: Reuters reports that "Israel Ports Co. is partnering India's Cargo Motors to build a deepwater port in Gujarat, and Israel's TowerJazz is teaming up with India's Jaiprakash Associates and IBM with plans to build a \$5.6 billion chip plant near Delhi."

Some people say that Israel is increasingly isolated in the world, and point to European anti-Semitism and boycotts of Israeli goods and academics. The EU is Israel's largest trading partner, and it would be a serious problem for Israel if the larger economies like Germany, France, and the UK cut commercial ties. But that is not happening yet. In any event, a country whose trade with India and China is growing by leaps and bounds is hard to call "isolated."



Post-Holocaust Reunion

By Barry Paddock (r)
& Rich Schapiro
NYDailyNews.com



At the height of World War II, they were two young girls living in starkly different circumstances. **Mira Wexler**, (r) a Polish Jew, was evading the Nazis after they invaded her homeland. **Helena Weglowski**, (l) a Polish Catholic, was living freely on her family farm as she and her parents secretly sheltered and delivered food to Wexler and her mother.

Nearly 70 years after they last saw each other, Wexler, 76, and Weglowski, 85, met face-to-face recently in an emotional reunion at Kennedy Airport. Wexler, who flew in from Brazil for the long-awaited reunion, said she had long given up hope of ever seeing her Polish savior again. The reunion—arranged by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous—was witnessed by Wexler’s three daughters and one of her grandchildren, along with one of Weglowski’s daughters.



Before the Nazis invaded Poland, the Wexlers operated a mill on the Weglowski’s farm in the village of Stara Huta. But in the summer of 1941, the Wexlers were forced into a ghetto. Wexler’s father, Jacob, was killed the following year as the Germans liquidated the ghetto. Wexler and her mother, Chana, managed to escape. They made their way to the Weglowski farm where they were welcomed by their longtime friends—even though sheltering Jews was a capital offense.

For the next two years, Wexler and her mother alternated between hiding out in the woods and inside the Weglowski farm. “We slept in the same woods but never in the same place,” Wexler said. “We survived because God wanted us to. It was very cold, snow covering us. There was no protection.”

The Weglowski home was their haven. “When we could, we went to Helena’s house to have warmth and food,” Wexler said. “Helena and her family always received us when we escaped from the woods—and they risked their lives.” Any chance they could, the Weglowski’s smuggled food to the Wexlers.

Weglowski’s parents—Maria and Florian—never wavered in helping their Jewish friends.

The families parted ways after the war. Wexler and her mother moved to Brazil. Weglowski and her parents remained in Poland, but they were eventually forced to leave their farm.



Both women were overcome with emotion as they embraced for the first time in nearly seven decades. “I felt like my heart would explode from the happiness that I could see Mira again after so many years,” Weglowski said. ★

Cana: Miracle Village Needs a Miracle

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



It's easy to imagine Yeshua as a boy, walking the trails that must have crisscrossed the hills near His Nazareth home. Only a short distance downhill and to the north, the village now called Kafr Kanna would have been familiar to Him. So, it's not unusual that years later, the Messiah was invited to a wedding there.

Cana of Galilee is the name familiar to readers of the New Testament. We immediately visualize Yeshua, early in His ministry, turning water into wine. John, in his Gospel, adds that this was the first of Yeshua's miracles, manifesting His glory and inspiring His disciples to believe in Him (John 2:11). One imagines a pastoral village with olive trees, grapevines, and sheep grazing nearby. Historians agree.

Mentioned on ancient Egyptian tablets and by Josephus, the Roman-Jewish chronicler, Cana has been continuously inhabited since the first century. During the Ottoman era (16th century), it became a thriving market town along the Egypt-to-Syria highway.

Today, Kafr Kanna (literally, village of Kanna in Arabic, Khirbet Cana in Hebrew) is a thriving Arab Israeli town of some 18,000 residents. Still an ideal area for olive groves, well-watered, gentle slopes also support many home gardens and grapevines. On a recent drive through Kafr Kanna, I surprisingly found myself in a traffic jam as the main street busied with the commerce of afternoon marketing.



Local tranquility was disrupted in November, however, when police sought to arrest a local resident on suspicion of illegal weapons possession, including a stun grenade. Their patrol car was attacked by the suspect's friend, a knife-wielding youth. Video footage shows the enraged youth trying repeatedly to smash the car window. When the back door opened, the young man retreated but was shot at close range by one of the four patrolmen in the vehicle and subsequently died of his wounds.

This event aroused the outrage of Kafr Kanna citizens, convinced that deadly force was not needed to subdue the attacker. Thousands demonstrated in protest in the normally quiet town. While tensions have since subsided, the incident drew national attention and left a bitter taste. How can this picturesque and pleasant place rebound from socio-political crisis, perceived discrimination, and alienation from the Israeli authorities?

One answer is to embrace these Moslem Arab citizens as fully equal with our Jewish citizens. A deeper answer can be found in an unassuming, dedicated evangelical pastor named Hani. I met Hani through the Galilee fellowship of Arab and Jewish pastors. He is dedicated to reaching the people of Kafr Kanna with the love of Jesus the Messiah. We need to pray for this man of God and his flock, that the Spirit will use them to change hearts in Kafr Kanna and guide residents to the miracle-working Rabbi who visited their town long ago. ★



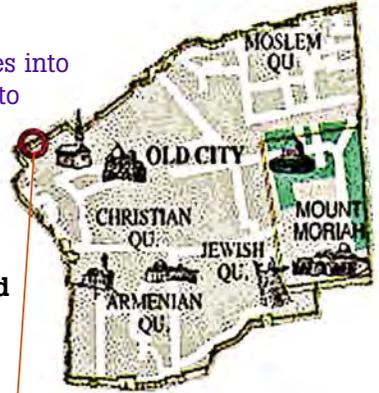
The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / New 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 into the city numbered 12. Seven of eight gates open into the Old City today. Revelation describes 12 in the New Jerusalem. In this series, we examined these ancient passages' historical attributes and spiritual meanings.



New Gate – *HaSha'ar HaHadash* – Gate of Hamid

New Gate is just that—relatively new. Unlike the other gates in the walls around the ancient city, New Gate was opened in 1889 by the Ottomans, giving direct access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. Built at the request of the French Consul to provide access to the Old City from the Notre Dame Hospice that was completed in 1886,



New Gate today

it also provided Russian Christian pilgrims living outside the Old City walls direct access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter.

The New Gate is located on the northwestern side

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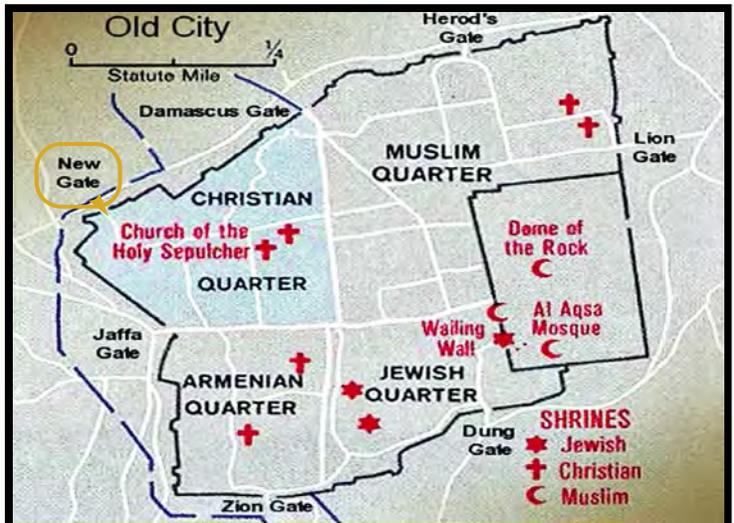


Photo: Ken Berg

Gates... continued



of the Old City between the Jaffa Gate and the Damascus Gate.

New Gate is a modest structure, not nearly as grand as the other Jerusalem gates in stature or in history. It was built by the **Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II** (above), and the Arab workforce called it the Gate of Hamid.

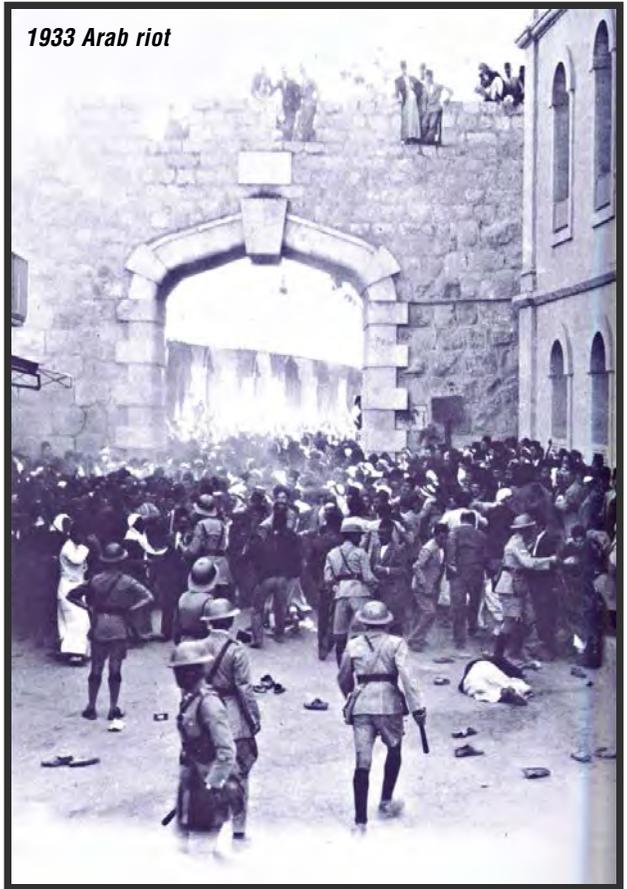
In October 1933, Arabs protesting British rule and Jewish immigration rioted in Jerusalem, clashing with British police at New Gate and the Jaffa Gate of the Old City. According to the British Mandate Annual Report for 1933: *“Arab discontent on account of Jewish immigration and the sale of lands to Jews, which has been a permanent feature of political opinion in Palestine for the past ten years, began to show signs of renewed activity from the beginning of 1933, developing in intensity until it reached a climax in the riots of October and November.”*

The Report explained that the immigration resulted from *“favourable economic conditions of the country, due to a large extent to influx of Jewish capital and to consequent creation of new openings for employment.”*

During the Arab Revolt (1936–1939), British authorities were quick to close New Gate to prevent free movement of rioters and marauding gangs.

In Israel’s War of Independence in 1948, Transjordan (renamed Jordan that December) captured Judea and Samaria (“the West Bank”) and eastern Jerusalem. The international cease-fire line separating

Israelis and Arabs crossed near New Gate, so Jordan sealed it off completely. It was kept sealed until 1967 when, after the Six-Day War, the Israelis ended up in possession of eastern Jerusalem and all the city gates. They reopened New Gate, allowing full access to the Holy City for all denominations—a tangible example of God’s heart for unity.



“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35 —



The Canaanite In The Land: PLO 1948-1980

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1980: 35 years ago



In this article from January 1980, Zola touches on the prime crisis of the Holy Land — the claim to the Land by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), now superseded by Fatah, the Palestinian Authority (PA), and Hamas.

In recent articles, we discussed the mythology of the Moslem claim: "Palestine was always an exclusively Arab country." We pointed out that there was never an Arab state or Palestinian nation in the land. Scattered squatters simply took over properties abandoned by the Jewish people during the long dispersion. Now that God has seen fit to bring back the House of Israel in accordance with Bible prophecy, the conflict has become intense and bloody.

Similar to the time of Joshua, "the Canaanites were in the land" when God led the Jews to occupy it, this time in 1948. And as before, the Canaanites greatly feared the Children led by their powerful God. Joshua 5:1 says "their heart melted" and left them dispirited.

By 1948, years of terrorism against the Jews remaining in the region called Palestine had caused 6,000 Jews to die. In January of 1948, the Arab Liberation Army entered Palestine from Syria and Transjordan. Their intent to nip in the bud any attempt at independence by the Jews brought about the War of

Independence in May and June of 1948 and their own failure. The relative handful of Jewish immigrants — armed primarily with pistols, hunting rifles, and the like — managed to defeat the combined Arab armies and establish the sovereign State of Israel. The United Nations had partitioned the region so that both Arabs and Jews would have their own part and co-reside, albeit with an uneasy truce.

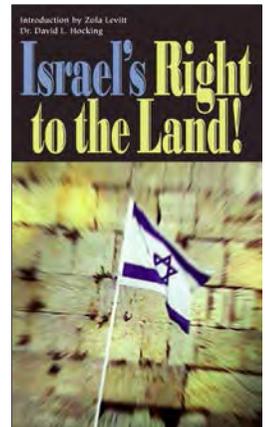
For their part, the Jewish people lived within their boundaries and began to plant trees and irrigate their fields. Not content with only a major part of the land, the surrounding Arab nations began telling their fellow Arabs to get out of Israel because Arab armies were coming to "push the Jews into the sea." They continued to cross the partition borders and assure fellow Arabs that the land would be recaptured for them. Fully 600,000 Arabs abandoned their property and thereby became the "refugees," now called the "Palestinians." (The name derives from the Israelites' ancient, pagan nemesis, the Philistines.)

It should be stressed that the Jewish people seized no land. In fact, they bought it at horribly high prices, paying over \$1,000 per acre for arid and ruined land at a time when rich soil was selling in Iowa for \$110 per acre! ★

Israel's Right to the Land! book by David L. Hocking — Re-released!

Just as its title implies, this book answers head-on the question "What right does Israel have to its land?" Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel's Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all. Let's spread the Word on who owns the Land ("from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates" — Genesis 15:18) by divine right!

(See our study booklet [Whose Land Is It?](#) on p. 20.)



Portrait of a Jewish Girl

BY RENEE GHERT-ZAND (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Visitors to the National Portrait Gallery in London (until late February 2015) will encounter a striking photograph of an 11-year-old, redheaded Hasidic Jewish girl in synagogue. The photograph is almost painterly in its composition, color, and lighting, giving an impression of timelessness.

The award-winning portrait, **“Chayla in Shul”** by photographer Laura Pannack, is part of an in-depth project Pannack pursued among the Hasidic community in London’s Stamford Hill neighborhood for the past three years. Pannack, 29, focuses on social documentary and portraiture; her photographs are exhibited and published extensively in the UK and abroad.

The Times of Israel interviewed Pannack:

You spend considerable time with your subjects. Have you gotten to know the Hasidic community?

I spend time with people to understand who they are and ensure that they are comfortable. These people are very sensitive to having their picture taken. I visit their homes, eat with them, play with their children, take pictures for them rather than for me, and celebrate festivals with them. It is important to me that they get to know me.



(photo credit: Laura Pannack)



Are you photographing only women in the community?

Yes, and their children and families. But the women are my main focus.

What have you learned about the Hasidic community?

How strong the women have to be to look after so many children—they seem to cope well.

Are you Jewish?

I am. My mother is Jewish, but not practicing. I was raised to acknowledge my Jewish roots and appreciate it as a part of my identity. I went to *cheder* [Hebrew school] and had a bat mitzvah. I am not practicing, but I am proud of my roots.

How did the photo of Chayla come about? Why photograph her in the synagogue, and not at school or at home?

I love the look of the shul and I asked to shoot there. Her father is the rabbi.

What challenges faced you in photographing this portrait?

Chayla is intelligent, mature, and extremely quiet. Photographing her was an honor. I often use silence in my work to create tension, but with Chayla it was forced upon me as she didn’t really open up. Even after knowing her for years, she is incredibly shy around me.

Is the photo of Chayla the first from this project that you have exhibited?

Chayla is the first. Despite working on this project for many years, I have shot very little. My time has been spent getting to know different families and thinking about what I would like to capture. ★

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



TWO STRAIGHTFORWARD QUESTIONS ANSWERED FROM SCRIPTURE

Q. Is there any New Testament Scripture against Replacement Theology?

A. The whole pericope of the chapters Romans 9–11 counters the error known as Replacement Theology. Romans 11:1 clearly states that God will never cast away Israel—especially in the present Age when the Jewish people are still in unbelief toward Jesus the Messiah.

God has not replaced or removed Israel. We know this because He stated His intention to use the Jewish people of Israel to evangelize the world during the seven-year Tribulation, the future period when He chooses and seals 144,000: 12,000 from each of the 12 Tribes of Israel. (Revelation 7) *Please see p.36 for more information on Replacement Theology.*

Q. Could you explain to me the meaning of the phrase “Blessed is He who comes in the name of The Lord” (Matt. 23:39)?

Thinking of this wording as an English-speaking Christian and that Jesus is God, I don’t understand why the text says that He comes in the name of the Lord and not “He is Lord” or “comes as Lord.”

A. First, you must remember that God is Three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—what we call The Trinity. When Jesus came before, He did come in His Father’s Name (John 5:43). So when He returns, Jesus will be coming back in the Lord’s name—His Name and the Father’s Name. Both are divine Lord. ★

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When Yossi and Ahmed Meet



2014 © Moshé Golst

Taking The Message Home

BY SUE HOPPER



ZLM's 31st **To the Jew First** (TJF) Gospel outreach began just after our plane touched down at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. The four of us—Dr. Todd Baker, Harvey Zion, and my husband Robin and I—deplaned, eager to share the message of Jesus Christ with His very own Chosen People. Two clerks at the rental-car desk received Todd Baker's witness and Scripture tracts. One of them looked over the tract and quipped, "I hope this is true!" I assured her that it was and then prayed for both young women as we drove up Israel's coast to Netanya. A great number of Israelis hunger for Yeshua's truth everywhere we go.

Bible than she received at her IDF graduation. I asked Yakir if he would like a similar study Bible in Hebrew to take home, and he replied Yes. Please pray for Yakir's salvation, that he will come to accept his Messiah Yeshua.

Our TJF team members are blessed to witness to the people of Israel—a people on the cutting edge of seemingly everything: science, agriculture, health, technology. They increasingly open their hearts to God's Word in both Testaments, learning about their Messiah Yeshua. It is a privilege to share Yeshua's message with His kin-

Days later, after a productive outreach in Jerusalem, we stopped at Masada, the fortification built by Herod the Great.

Yakir, a young security guard at both Masada and the Dead Sea, served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for three years, but was not called up for Operation Protective Edge, last summer's conflict with Gaza.



Sue Hopper & Yakir

I told Yakir that I am a retired police officer from Texas, in Israel to share God's Word. We both agreed that there is only one God, and then I shared with Yakir my belief that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah prophesied in the *Tanakh* and *B'rit Hadashah* (the Old and New Testaments).

Yakir had heard of a complete Bible with both Testaments together but did not own one. I told him that I had once given a **Complete Hebrew Study Bible** to a young woman in Tel Aviv who remarked that it was a nicer

folk and countrymen who first shared His Good News with us.



Thanks to your prayers and support, the 31st outreach gave out seventy Complete Hebrew Bibles and touched many lives in Israel. Watch for more of their stories in this space. ☆

WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

Richer by Renting?



The September 2014 *Serpent* installment [Owning or Renting?](#) weighs six factors regarding the possible merits of home ownership: Age, Marital Status, Children, Job/Income Stability, Nestiness, and Tax Benefits.

For many, owning a home is not all it's cracked up to be, according to *Washington Post* columnist Michael Fletcher. He recently drew from a study that concluded that half of households would be richer by renting and investing.

I'm not suggesting that homeowners liquidate their home equity to invest in the stock market, life insurance schemes, or other ventures. For some households, home ownership remains their very best investment. Instead, please consider the concept that certain renters are wise not to stretch themselves to realize the so-called American Dream. For them, renting a modest dwelling may prove wiser over the long run.

[Fletcher's Washington Post article](#) offers insights on the merits of owning a home.

Some excerpts:

U.S. home prices crashed 43 percent between 2005 and 2012. Is home ownership the best way for average people to build wealth? For more than 40 million households—or half of the nation's current homeowners—the answer is no, according to a new study by HelloWallet, a financial planning firm.

People in those households would have built more wealth by renting and investing their money in 401(k)s, IRAs, or other types of tax-advantaged investments, the report concluded. Home ownership is not necessarily a good investment for some people, according to Matt Fellowes, HelloWallet's chief executive.

The benefits of homeownership are often overstated, the study found, even by several popular online calculators, which tend to overstate the tax benefits. A family earning \$50,000 a year or less sees only a negligible tax benefit. The higher that rents are relative to purchase price, the more financial sense it makes to buy a home. Many Americans would have been better off renting than buying from 1985–1991 and 2001–2009, according to the HelloWallet report.

Higher-income households reap more tax benefits than lower-income buyers. That makes owning a better deal than renting in more cases than not. The mortgage interest deduction flows disproportionately to higher-income people in expensive regions of the country. But those benefits are either non-existent or diminish over time for many other households.

Whether to own or rent the roof over our heads is a temporal decision, particularly in light of our Lord's promise: **"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"** (John 14:2). Our heavenly homes, PTL, will surpass even the best we can imagine in this mortal life. ★

Stu's Views

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ZLM Bulletin Board

Almost Too Jewish?

Only if you imagine it might be painful to learn a touch of Hebrew and a little Yiddish.

What we're talking about here is an [online collection](#) of lovely Jewish jokes that are clean, funny, and even mildly educational. Prepare to chuckle a little at some and laugh loudly at others. Varied in terms of topic and age, some must date back centuries (and may contain non-politically-correct sensitivities of yesteryear). Compiled by our own John Parsons, author of the *Levitt Letter's* popular Hebrew Lesson.

Note: to see some of John's classic Hebrew Lessons, please visit levitt.com/hebrew.



Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

37 THINGS PEOPLE 'KNOW' ABOUT WILLS THAT AREN'T REALLY SO

Raising Mujahidin

According to AnsweringMuslims.com, the Islamic State (ISIL/ISIS) uses dolls to train children how to behead infidels, such as People of the Book (Jews and Christians).



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

Send for our free pamphlet

37 Things People 'Know' About Wills That Aren't Really So. It begins by explaining why too few people make adequate estate plans. It also briefly refutes dozens of the most common misconceptions about wills. Its Technical Advisory Section suggests "Begin with the Basics" and touches on "Choosing the Form of the Bequest" and "Tax Considerations."

To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P. O. Box.

To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P. O. Box.

Planting Trees in Israel

Early in the 20th century, the World Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Israel for Jewish settlement. Since then the JNF has become most popular for planting millions of trees throughout the Holy Land. Now you can designate a portion of your contributions to this ministry for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom.

The trees cost only \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate at your request.



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See [page 36](#) for details



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Hebrew Lesson

The Promise of Love

By John J. Parsons



וְאַהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לְבָבְךָ

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

וְ	אַ	הַבְתָּ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	בְּכָל	לְבָבְךָ
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)
(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(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			

By Faith, regard this commandment as a *prophecy* about your inner life: “You shall love (*ve’ahavta*) the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deut. 6:5). Only the Savior 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).

Yeshua said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...” (John 14:15). The logical contrapositive statement is, “If you do not keep My commandments, you do not love Me.” Our struggle to obey is really a struggle of the heart to love. We can read Yeshua’s words with true hope, however: “When you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” In other words, as you love Yeshua and know His heart, you will fulfill His Torah, since the love of God is the gateway of all meaningful obedience.

Your Heavenly Father sees in secret. “The deepest thing in our nature is this region of heart in which we dwell alone with our willingesses and our unwillingesses, our faiths and our fears” (William James). It is there, in the secret place of the heart, where the sound of the “knock” is either heard or disregarded (Rev. 3:20). May the Lord give us the willingness to do His will and the courage to believe in His love; may He deliver us from doubt and from every other fear. And may we all be strong in faith, not staggering over the promises, but giving glory to God for the miracle of Yeshua our LORD.

“The LORD your God will return as you return, and will have mercy upon you, turning to gather you back...” (Deut 30:3). This too has both a present and prophetic application. First, in the present hour, if you turn to God, He will show you compassion, and He will “gather back” all those distant and fragmented parts of yourself into shalom and wholeness. He will restore your lost days; He will bring you out of exile and give you comfort in Yeshua. He makes all things new! “Draw near, therefore to God, and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). Second, the LORD will return to Earth to restore Zion during the time of the final redemption. The LORD will turn captivity into mercy; He will turn in His compassion to His people. As it is written: **“I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back.”** (Jer. 29:14). *Maranatha!*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

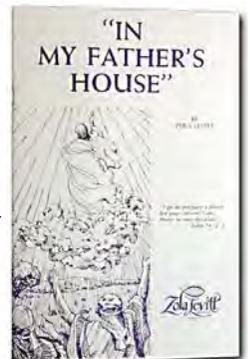
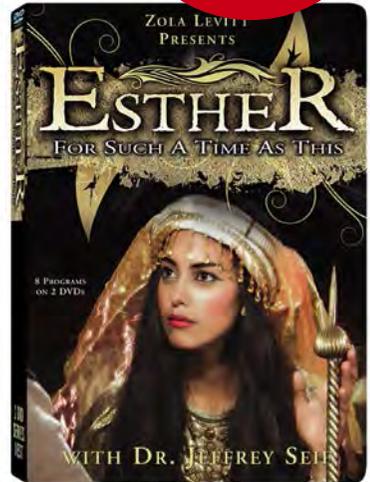
Fight We Must! Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Such spirited self-defense is simply biblical.

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

(Purim will begin the evening of March 4.)

In My Father's House study booklet by Zola

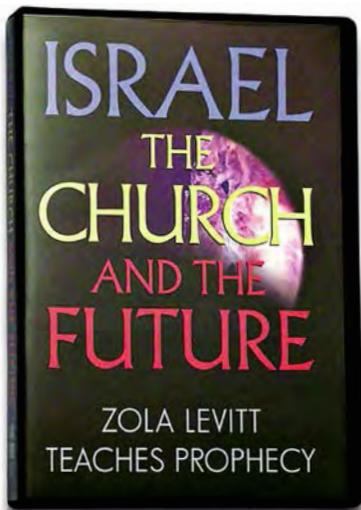
A very different and very important study. Most people plan more carefully for a two-week vacation than for the seven years we will spend as guests in our Messiah's Father's house. What will we raptured Believers do during the time we spend among the "many mansions" and how do we prepare for it?



Prophecy & the End Times

Israel, the Church, and the Future (4 DVDs) \$69

Zola teaches prophecy in a church setting. This 6½ hour series contains nothing but “meat.” Designed for serious home study rather than broadcast, it contains no product spots or announcements. Includes an interesting Q and A segment. An excellent price for an extensive amount of Zola’s prophecy teaching on video.



The Rapture The coming of the Lord for His Church, and why we can’t predict the date. Clear biblical teaching of the most important prophecy!

The Judgment Seat of Christ Our first encounter in Heaven is face-to-face with the King! A vital subject, seldom taught and often misunderstood.

The Marriage Supper The grand reception commemorating our spiritual union with the Son of God. A literal “heavenly reception.”

The Kingdom, Part I The sheep and goats judgment, and the great day when “the meek shall inherit the earth.” The Lord’s Second Coming explained.

The Kingdom, Part II The grand and glorious 1,000 years, when God’s will shall be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Our ultimate reward on Earth.

Eternity That mysterious time of the New Heaven, the New Earth and the New Jerusalem. The last chapters of the Bible—Revelation 21 and 22—clearly explained.

Questions and Answers Bible students query Zola in a typical church setting. Join the group as a fine teacher chats informally.

The Dark Prince: When The Devil Has His Day (3 DVDs) \$59

In this made-for-TV miniseries, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes readers through Bible texts that speak about the devil. Introductory in nature, *The Dark Prince* gives individuals a behind-the-scenes look at Evil’s workings at the ragged edge of human history, and its ultimate uprooting when Christ returns.

DISC 1

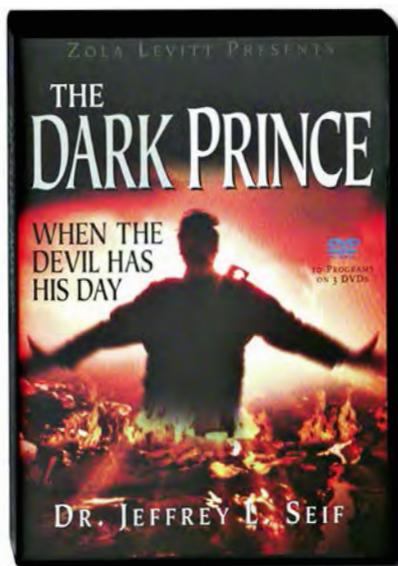
Satan’s Rise and Demise in Genesis
Satan in Biblical History
The Ruler of This World
To Steal, Kill, and Destroy

DISC 2

Deceit, Betrayal, and Coming Miseries
Armageddon and the Final Conflict
The Collapse of an Intoxicated World
The Second Coming!

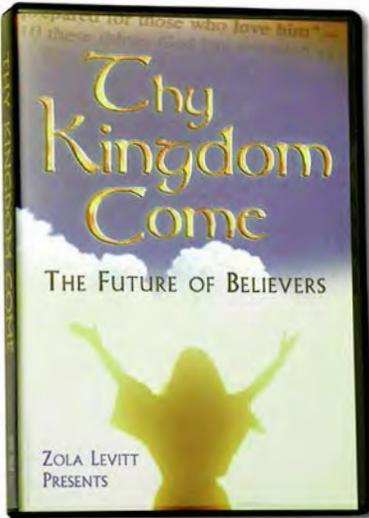
DISC 3

The Experts Speak about the antiChrist,
the European Union, and a global
government



Thy Kingdom Come: The Future of Believers (3 DVDs) \$69

This twelve-program series searches Bible prophecy to reveal the glorious future events awaiting all believers in Messiah.



DISC 1

Overview

From a scenic park near Jerusalem, Zola gives us an overview of this series that will reveal our future according to Bible prophecy.

The Rapture

The Judgment Seat of the Righteous
The Wedding

DISC 2

The Second Coming

The Throne of Judgment
The Kingdom Begins
The Kingdom in Progress



Thy Kingdom Come: The Future of Believers (music CD) \$12

DISC 3

The Gog & Magog Invasion •
The Great White Throne of Judgment • Eternity • The Music

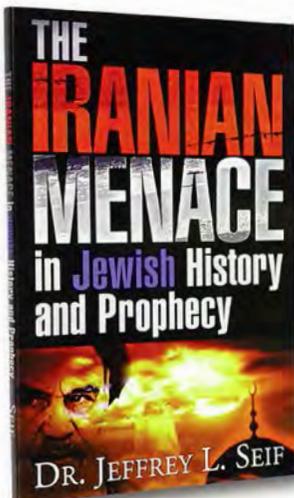
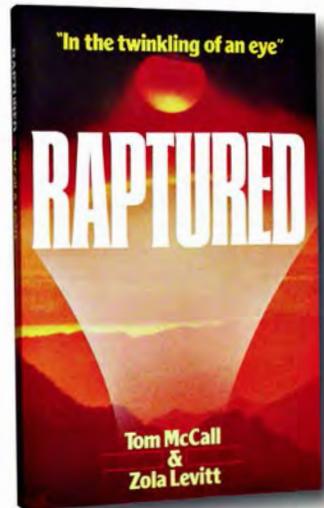
Raptured (book) \$10

By Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

The Rapture of the Church—discussed in full with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are even-handedly debated as to which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth—Believer and unbeliever alike.

eBook versions:

- [Amazon Kindle](#)
- [iBook](#)



The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy (book) \$8 By Jeffrey L. Seif

Iran is central in end-times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After a glimpse of Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff's analysis is based on sound scriptural understanding as well as his conclusions from two decades of academic contemplation. This easy read will provide fodder for its advocates and critics alike.

***Whose Land Is It?* DVD & transcript study booklet**

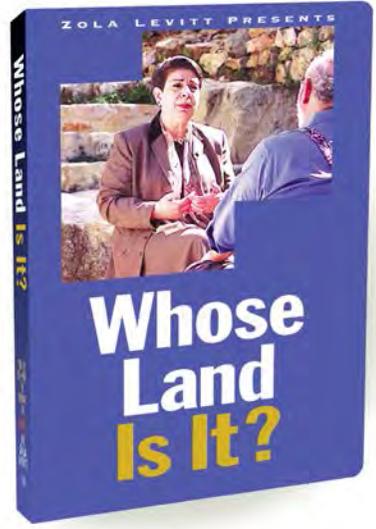
Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

(Also see article and book [on page 10.](#))

Whose Land Is It? Does Israel belong to the Jews, and if so, Who says so? In the first 30-minute television program, Zola offers irrefutable reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land's rightful owners. He also defeats key arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant, etc. Merely watching and reviewing this lesson will arm Believer and unbeliever alike to defend Israel's right to its land.

The View from "Palestine" What a blessing that such controversial programs weren't censored by our more sensitive TV stations! Zola visited Ramallah and interviewed Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

In part 1, Ashrawi eloquently articulates the Palestinians' best arguments for being the true owners of Israel. **In part 2**, subsequent review sessions with two scholarly Christians—Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Moslem)—unveil the fallacies in her assertions. These two 30-minute TV programs could be the ultimate crash course on credibly and diplomatically asserting Israel's right to its land.



***To The Heavens* (music CD)**

Anointed singing by angels resembling, perhaps, what Zola listens to in Heaven. Prepare your ears for Ukrainian immigrants to Israel Sasha & Anya Poberejny singing Messianic praises in Hebrew. Includes music from our TV series *Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People*.

- ***Angels Sing In Heaven***
- ***I Will Praise You***
- ***You Are Worthy***
- ***The Lord is Good***
- ***Those Who Wait on the Lord***
- ***Gates of Heaven***
- ***Holy is the Lord of Hosts***
- ***All My Days are Yours***



Are Declining Oil Prices Iran's Achilles Heel?

blog.CAMERA.org



Things have been going well for Iran recently. Its proxy forces have made gains throughout the Middle East region, from Yemen to Iraq. The Islamic Republic has managed to stave off any negotiated agreement with the P5+1 group (U.S., Russia, China, UK, and France, plus Germany) that would impose constraints on its efforts to build nuclear weapons.

In the meantime, the relaxation in sanctions the P5+1 group offered as an incentive to the Iranian regime to enter into negotiations has allowed its economy to rebound.

But just when everything seemed to be going as planned for the mullahs, world oil demand dropped. This in turn required major oil producers, like Iran, to come to an agreement on whether to decrease production and retain the price of oil, or maintain production and watch the price of oil decline. Daniel Yergin, an extensive writer on the economics of oil, wrote, "The OPEC members in big trouble are the 'have-nots'—those with small financial reserves and high government budgets." These "have-nots" include Venezuela, Russia, and Iran.

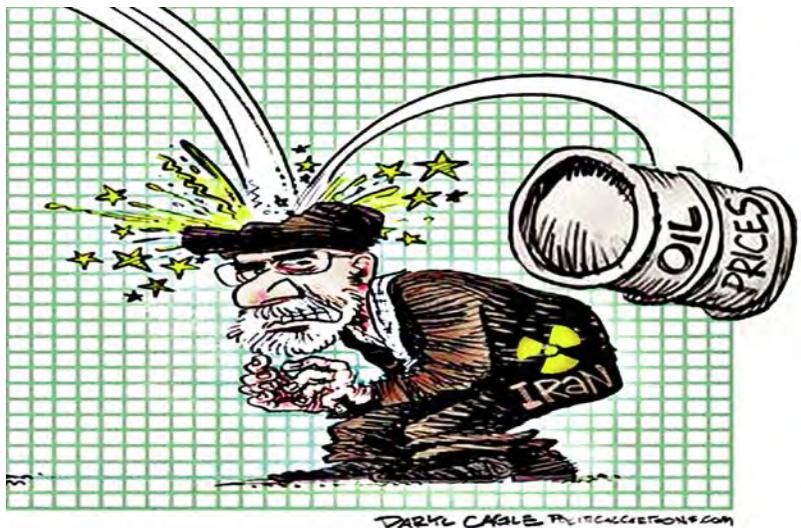


Saudi Petroleum Minister, Ali Ibrahim Naimi

The official reason given for OPEC's decision to maintain oil production and absorb the price decline is that it wants to maintain market share in the face of aggressive non-OPEC producers. But, Saudi Arabia, the dominant member of OPEC, is deeply concerned with the Iranian nuclear program. Saudi influence was clearly felt. Like its smaller, oil-rich Arab Gulf state neighbors, Saudi Arabia can absorb the revenue decline from lower prices.

Iran will have a more difficult time, especially if it insists on devoting billions to its nuclear project. Its government budget is heavily dependent on the revenue generated from high oil prices. Oil prices have declined by nearly 50 percent over the last six months.

The unexpected decline in worldwide oil demand may have put an end to Iran's winning streak. As poet Robert Burns wrote in 1785, "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men often go awry."



To
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Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From M.A.: I cannot describe the impact the *Levitt Letter* has made on my personal life with the Messiah! I thank the Lord for opening my soul to pray for the peace of Israel. I now realize it isn't a simple choice to remain silent, but to speak boldly and stand up for our brothers and sisters in our home—the New Jerusalem.

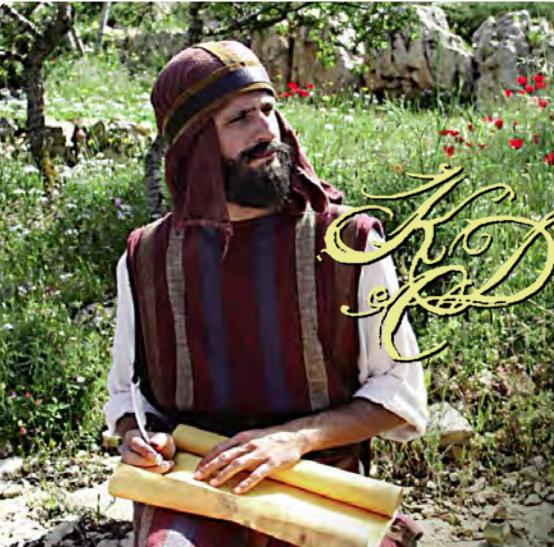
From L.P. (HI): It is difficult to single out just one part of the monthly newsletters to praise because the information is really good. However, I have found that the [Hebrew Lesson](#) is not only informative, but also touches my heart very personally. This is especially true of the October 2014 "[Endurance for Difficult Days.](#)" The Spirit of God has once again blessed me through you.

From H.B.: I am very pleased that the Lord has blessed your ministry. I look forward to my *Levitt Letter* every month and don't put it down until it is all read. I pray that it blesses others as much as it blesses me. —That's our prayer, too. Thank you for your encouragement. *Editor*

Yeshua's Gospel is Inclusive

Dear ZLM staff,

I appreciate the *Levitt Letter* and how the world's happenings are fulfilling prophecy related to Israel. I'm thankful that you take a stand for ALL of God's Word and ALL of His people. Your [October 2014 Personal Letter](#) stating the parallels between Moses and Yeshua was excellent. —L.E. (IA)



Brothers & Sisters:

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

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



We Are One in Christ

Dear Myles and Katharine,

I am an American of African descent; I love, love, love you both. I thank God for breaking down that wall of partition through Yeshua the Messiah. My people are hated because of the color of our skin; but *in Christ*, we are all loved by the Father. Thank you for Yeshua, God.

I have heard people say that we black people are the descendants of Cain—cursed, and that is why our skin is black. But, God loves black people, for He made us, and we who believe are “grafted” into the Body through Yeshua.
—J.P.

Shalom Dear J.P.—

Not only does the Father love us equally in Christ, God has given the African people a mantle for worship that is unparalleled and instructional for the entire Body. We had the honor to live and teach in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a season. That treasured time put the world in both our sons’ hearts. Last year, our older son was able to return to Africa on a medical mission. We love you and bless you in the Name above all names! —Myles and Katharine

Future Pilgrims

Thank you ZLM!

Our journey toward Christ has been blessed by your ministry’s insights and teachings. The transition to Myles and Katharine has been fairly seamless, and we prayerfully encourage you (Ephesians 6:18–19).

We hope to travel to Israel with you one day. Our children are too small yet. —R. and D.S. (MI)

Shalom, R. and D.S.—

Thank you for your encouragement in the “seamless” transition to our hosting *Zola Levitt Presents*. We are standing on the shoulders of giants. Zola was a trailblazer, a unique voice in our era, and Dr. Jeff Seif is a brilliant scholar and beloved leader in the Messianic community.

Thanks especially for citing Ephesians 6:18–19, a signature life verse for Katharine and me as we rely on the support of other Believers. We Jewish members of the Body need to proclaim the Good News to our Jewish people and the whole world. Praise God, ZLM allows us to fulfill that mandate globally, while we also reach to follow Yeshua’s Great Commission in our local spheres of influence.

When your kids get a little older and you join us on tour, please remind us of this letter exchange and how you saw by faith your pilgrimages in Israel! Blessings —Myles and Katharine

Messianic Speakers Available

Myles and Katharine are available to teach in your church. Topics include the Jewish Feasts, the continuing significance of Israel in prophecy, the Jewish roots of Christianity, and more. Invite them for a weekend and they can add a marriage seminar to the Bible teaching of your choice. Please contact our office at speakers@levitt.com or call (214) 696-8844 to invite the Weisses to your church.



Out of Rejection Came Anti-Semitism

Dear Myles,

As a fan of Zola Levitt Ministries for decades, I startled when I read in your [November 2014 Personal Letter](#) your call for a modern-day (Moslem) Martin Luther to reform Islam. At a Jewish roots conference a few years ago with Dr. Jeff Seif and Dr. Michael L. Brown, Dr. Brown mentioned Martin Luther’s anti-Semitism. In reviewing my DVDs of the conference, I confirmed that in 1523, Luther published a book favorable to Jews, but 20 years later (in 1543), he published another book against the Jews, which Nazis quoted.

I am writing to inform you that Martin Luther might be an inappropriate role model. Love y’all! —P.D.B. (MO)

Shalom shalom, P.D.B.—

My gorgeous and very spiritual gentile bride Katharine continually warns me that my NYC wiseacre humor is missed by many of our non-Jewish readers. Apparently, my [“Waiting for Martin”](#) satire falls in that category.

Dr. Brown, Dr. Seif, and I are kindred spirits, and we *all* recognize the failures of Martin Luther and understand his unfortunate “contribution” to Replacement Theology and Nazi ideology. My article was merely calling for someone in the Moslem world to speak up and challenge the status quo just as Luther did with the radical reiteration that the “just shall live by faith” (Hab. 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11). Luther also penned some wonderful songs. I often say, “Luther flew well and landed poorly.” When my Jewish people did not receive his message of salvation by grace, he definitely released a spirit of virulent anti-Semitism. I get it.

But, we still need “moderate Moslems” to stand up and speak to the jihadist spirit their brothers espouse. I do appreciate your sincere and loving letter. Your concern is touching. —Myles (who will try to moderate his humor ... if possible ... for those who misunderstand him).



Luther’s Willing Spirit, Weak Flesh

Dear brothers in our *Mashiach*,

During a lesson on anti-Semitism, I heard a scathing statement penned by **Martin Luther** (in the 16th century) declaring his own hatred for the Jewish people. How could a man so dedicated to our sovereign Lord publicly announce his disdain for God’s chosen people? I meant to ask you about this on the Fall Tour. In Yeshua’s perfect love, V.B. (OR)



Shalom, V.B!—

Hope you are doing well after our life-changing tour. Please see my answer above regarding Martin Luther. Blessings to you and thanks for coming with us. Spread the word; we want as many people as possible to experience Israel firsthand. —Myles and Katharine

Repeat a Lie Often Enough...

Dear Myles,

My newspaper printed a reader's response to violence in Israel over the Temple Mount. The reader sounded very authoritative, but her facts were all wrong and twisted to support her view that Jews won't let Moslems pray at the mosques on the Mount. She insisted that plans to build a Third Temple (she called it a Second Temple, obviously unaware of her history) "on the Palestinian's Noble Sanctuary, the age-old location of al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock" would deny "the Palestinian people equal rights to their holy sites." She goes on with more distorted "facts."

Such anti-Semitism sickens me. —S.D. (OR)

Greetings, S.D.—

Thank you for the clipping. The disinformation being fomented by Moslems and the "useful idiots" in the media (a Soviet term, not mine) would have us believe that the Temple Mount has no Jewish history or legitimate right to Jewish identification and sprang up with the advent of Islam—*2,000 years after the Jews built the First Temple there!* The Moslems built mosques on the Temple Mount *precisely because* it was a Jewish holy site. That historic fact is lost on today's generation, which is why it is imperative that ZLM continue to teach and educate through our various means: *Zola Levitt Presents*, this *Levitt Letter*, levitt.com, and social media. Watch for our upcoming television series, *Zion Forever*, which will set the record straight. Peace —Myles



The Most Jewish Act

Dear ZLM Folks,

I'm grateful to Zola, not because of his conversion, but because he led me to true, Torah knowledge Judaism. I've been a member of an Orthodox shul for many years. I study in *Kollel* (advanced learning) and have a deep love for the knowledge that HaShem gave us on Mt. Sinai. Zola got me started on that path by teaching me a small amount of knowledge, which led me to want much more. He was my first rabbi when I was the child who did not know what to ask.

I am sorry that Zola never found Torah Judaism, but I understand how he got where he was. Judaism in the U.S. before 1970 was run by the Reform, Torah-denying "reformists" who did their best to make Jews fit into the secular, Christian world.

Perhaps Zola did *teshuvah* (repentance) before he died. Perhaps not. Only HaShem can judge. May his memory be for a blessing. May his children and followers do *teshuvah* in this world. —R.C. (OH)

Shalom R.C.—

Thank you for taking the time to tell us of your journey, and the profound influence that Zola had on you. While I rejoice at your turning to the wonderful gift of Torah, I am grieved that you think Zola (and all of us Jews who follow Yeshua) converted to another religion. *Au contraire!*

If Yeshua is our Jewish Messiah, as prophesied and fulfilled in Scripture, then the MOST Jewish thing I can do is to know Him and follow Him. I urge you to simply reconsider and ask HaShem if Yeshua is *ha derech, ha emet, v' ha chaim* (the Way, the Truth, and the Life). I am praying that you will hear His answer. It is true. He is *Mashiach*, who came like a Pesach Lamb (Passover Lamb) and is returning as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! In His love —Myles ★

Israel One of World's Most Digitally Advanced Countries

SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r)
TimesOfIsrael.com



Israel is one of five founding countries in a new UK-sponsored project to encourage the adoption of digital tools and systems to improve public services. Along with Britain, South Korea, Estonia, and New Zealand, Israel kicked off the D5 (Digital Five) forum in London last December, with countries sharing their experience and expertise in digital governing. The group plans to eventually expand its membership, but for now, the five were chosen because they are, according to the UK and international experts behind the effort, the “most digitally advanced countries in the world.”

Representatives from government, industry, and technology firms from all five countries discussed what a digital government should achieve and what the future could hold. Discussions also centered on ways to improve digital services, collaborate on common projects, and spread the word of digital government as a better way to serve the public.

The UK's Minister for the Cabinet Office, **Francis Maude** (*below*), on a recent visit to Israel extolled the good cooperation between the two countries on cyber issues. Both Israel and the UK, he said, “face enormous challenges in securing our cyber spaces and supplying the best digital services to our citizens, so cooperation between UK and Israel is of great mutual benefit.”

A spokesperson for the Cabinet Office said that Israel was included in the exclusive list because it is changing the way it provides essential services to its citizens through the Digital Israel initiative.

“This initiative promotes the use of digital services in the public sector, in important areas such as education, healthcare, and welfare, and the use of digital technology in business, particularly by small- and medium-sized businesses.” He added: “Digital Israel is also about using IT [information technology] for better interaction between government and people, growing the economy, and improving social welfare. The Israeli fiber optic communication project will provide

Israel with one of the world's most advanced broadband networks, giving Israeli households and businesses access to superfast Internet.”



Israeli App for Diabetics Goes Global

MEDICINE: BY DAVID SHAMAH / TimesOfIsrael.com



Out of hundreds of glucose meters on the market—needed by diabetics to measure their blood sugar levels and determine how much insulin they need to administer—the Israeli-developed **Dario** system is one of just a few that use smartphones to manage the meter itself.

“Diabetics share information via social media, and we see a lot of very positive reviews about how convenient and easy our system is to use,” said Erez Raphael, CEO of Dario maker Labstyle Innovations.

The smartphone app automatically downloads information from the meter and uploads the data about the user’s activity and condition to the cloud [cyber storage], where it can be accessed by the user’s medical team for analysis. It also sends users reminders to check their blood, and provides graphs and charts about how their blood sugar levels change throughout the day. It even keeps track of calories and carbs, offering food suggestions to users based on their current sugar levels.

The app communicates its recording and analysis to the pocket-sized Dario meter via the phone’s audio jack. The metering process takes about six seconds and uses no batteries; the meter draws its power from the smartphone it’s connected to. The meter includes a lancet for blood sampling and cartridges containing insulin strips that can be easily popped out and changed.



The Dario smart meter and app for diabetics are currently available in the U.K., Netherlands, Italy, and New Zealand as part of their national health insurance plans. Recently, Australia announced that it would reimburse patients using the Dario system, saying that the system will help diabetics make better informed decisions and improve their lifestyle.

The system costs about \$60, comparable to other meters. The app, which significantly enhances the meter’s value, is free.

“In the countries where we operate, the national health insurance pays for the meter, as well as for the insulin cartridges,” said Raphael. “We are working with insurance providers in other countries, including in the U.S.”

Raphael plans to build on Dario’s success and deploy the technology for other chronic conditions, such as people who need to check their cholesterol on a regular basis.

Of course, not all diabetics will use a smartphone app. “My 82-year-old grandmother probably won’t use it, but my 62-year-old mother, who uses Facebook and other social media, would like it,” Raphael said. “Digital apps aren’t just for kids anymore.” ☆



Moslem Terrorist at Canadian Parliament



BY MIKE HAGER (r) VancouverSun.com

Before he was addicted to crack and sleeping in shelters in Vancouver, British Columbia, the Parliament Hill shooter was known as a “confrontational” worker on a construction crew making good money building a tunnel for the region’s water system.

According to former co-worker and civil engineer Kevin Banek, **Michael Zehaf-Bibeau** (*shown below*) was known for “getting into it with people for various things” and would “go off” on the women of the job site. Site safety rules dictated that Banek be accompanied by another worker when inspecting portions of the tunnel that could be an hour’s walk away. A handful of times, Zehaf-Bibeau accompanied Banek on these walks.

Banek remembers Zehaf-Bibeau’s constant refrain that converting to Islam had changed his life. When asked if he would be happy with world peace but no religion, Zehaf-Bibeau told Banek, “No, **there can’t be world peace until there’s only Muslims.**”

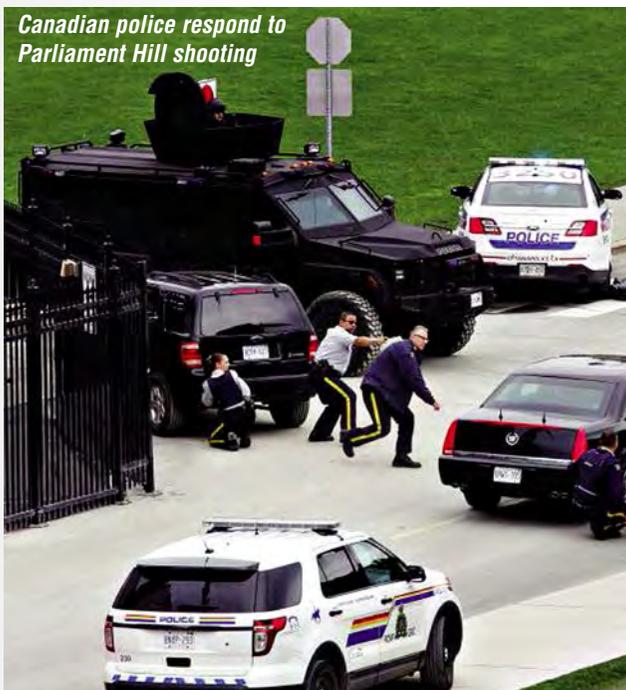
Banek didn’t suspect Zehaf-Bibeau of being a religious extremist because Zehaf-Bibeau “implied that it (Islam) was influencing his life in a good way.”

Zehaf-Bibeau was, however, very open about his belief in a global “Jewish conspiracy,” Banek said. “He believed that Jewish people were conspiring to suppress Moslem culture and take over the world.”

Zehaf-Bibeau shot to death Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, a guard at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, on October 22. He then raced to Parliament Hill and rushed inside the Centre Block, where he was killed by Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers. ★



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Canadian police respond to Parliament Hill shooting



Michael Zehaf-Bibeau

“Fun” Nazi Toys

BY DANIEL KOREN / ShalomLife.com

Just in time for Black Friday, a Swedish toy store cleared from its shelves a line of Nazi toy soldiers (resembling Nazi Gestapo secret police), complete with uniform brandishing a swastika and eagle, and carrying a machine gun.



Amid a backlash from angry parents and customers, Gekås toy store CEO Boris Lennerhov said, “This is not something we want to promote as a form of ideal.”

Toy manufacturer Cobi Toys, a Polish company, came under fire for promoting Nazism for kids, particularly in time for Christmas.

In an unexpected turn of events, Cobi Toys CEO Robert Podles said that despite the offensive nature of these toys, “through good fun we can teach history and we will continue this line in the future.”

Cobi offers other toy lines that feature soldiers, weapons, and other military equipment from both the Allied Forces and the Axis powers, opposing sides during World War II. ☆



Photos: Cobi Toys website screenshots



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



U.S. Marine Captain Derek Herrera walking to receive the Bronze Star.

Heroic U.S. Marine and Israel Intersect

By Carol Brown / AmericanThinker.com

Capt. Derek Herrera is a United States Marine, paralyzed from the chest down by a sniper's bullet in Afghanistan. In November, he was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism.

Herrera was determined to walk to receive the honor. And walk he did, thanks to the ReWalk exoskeleton system that was developed in Israel by Amit Goffer, a quadriplegic. [\[See Levitt Letter April 2009.\]](#)

CBS News reported:

Herrera was the first person in the United States to purchase the ReWalk system recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The special operations officer was honored with the Bronze Star for his actions on June 14, 2012, when the patrol he was leading came under heavy fire in Afghanistan. Herrera continued coordinating efforts while receiving treatment for his own spinal injury and collapsed left lung.

Wow... Birds of a feather! Heroes helping heroes. This story shows the fruit of Judeo-Christian wisdom and empathy in action. A poignant and touching example, especially when many blame America and Israel for all the world's ills. —Myles

Druze to Jews: There is a Covenant of Blood Between Us

IsraelToday.co.il

Druze police officer Zidan Seif died while defending Jewish worshippers against two rampaging Palestinian terrorists last November.

Terrorists were hacking and shooting their way nearly unchecked through unarmed worshippers at Jerusalem's Bnei Torah synagogue before Seif arrived and opened fire outside the synagogue, causing the terrorists to halt their grizzly killing spree and engage in a gun battle during which Seif sustained his fatal injury.

Local Jews said that without Seif's selfless actions, many more Jewish worshippers would have been slaughtered that morning.

Seif's uncle said: "Our Prophet Jethro [father-in-law of Moses] binds us to the Jewish people."

The Druze in Israel have long spoken of an ancient "blood covenant" with the Jewish nation. It is because of this deep connection that the Druze, by their own request, are the only minority community in Israel required to do mandatory military service alongside their Jewish brethren.



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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and wife Sara send off their son to the army. (photo credit:GPO)

Youngest Netanyahu Joins the IDF JPost.com

Avner Netanyahu, the youngest son of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the family's Bible scholar, began his three-year mandatory army service before the end of 2014, enlisting in the IDF's Combat Intelligence Collection Corps.

Like every soldier on the first day of service, Avner, accompanied by his famous parents, arrived at Jerusalem's Ammunition Hill.

"Like any parents sending their child off to the army," Netanyahu said, "we are excited to see our son" begin his army service. He and his wife Sara were "full of pride" at their son's milestone, and like "every home in Israel, we are no different."

Netanyahu told his son to protect the country and protect himself. In a personal aside to other soldiers drafted that day, he wished them success and reassured other parents that "everything will be OK." ★



Golden Age in Israel, Dark Age in the Rest of the Middle East



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY SEAN SAVAGE (r) JNS.org

This is a perilous time for Middle East archaeology, as sites from North Africa to Iraq have come under assault by ISIL and looters taking advantage of the breakdown of central governments.

“Islamic fundamentalist groups are on an ongoing crusade to destroy antiquities because they consider them against their religion, or they fear that their religion will be undermined by excavations that will show [discoveries] that they are not happy about,” said Ahron Horovitz, senior director of Megalim, the City of David’s Higher Institute for Jerusalem Studies.

The situation for artifacts is particularly dangerous in Syria and Iraq, where ISIL has taken over large swathes of territory. According to a report by *The Guardian* in June, ISIL looted about \$36 million in antiquities from the al-Nabuk region in Syria.

Reports indicate that local Syrians and Turkish nationals perform much of the illegal smuggling, which is taxed by ISIL, taking the artifacts across the border into Turkey and selling them to international antiquities traffickers on the black market.

Since seizing the Iraqi city of Mosul in June, ISIL already has destroyed important religious sites such as the Tomb of Jonah, and has threatened the Mosul Museum, which contains numerous artifacts from the nearby ancient city of Nineveh.

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

**Tomb of Jonah
destroyed by ISIL
in Iraq**



Golden Age... *continued*



"These areas constitute the cradle of civilization. ISIL is destroying the heritage of mankind," Horovitz lamented.

The frightening situation in the Middle East stands in stark contrast with Israel, which has one of the most robust and highly regulated antiquities departments in the world and is eager to preserve the country's diverse past.

Meanwhile, the City of David Foundation, which works with the Israel Antiquities Authority in excavating important areas in Jerusalem, has come under intense scrutiny from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which has called on the City of David to halt historical excavations.

"We should think about proper care of the cultures of the past," advised Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay. "Instead of condemning the continual looting in Arab countries, UNESCO is obsessed with excavations in Jerusalem for political reasons. UNESCO should deal with salvaging the heritage of mankind instead of political matters." ☆



When God Leads...



BY SANDRA LUTTRELL (r) Zola Tours Manager

He assured me He'd be with me every step of the way. I had always wanted to go to the Mediterranean to see all the Bible places and experience His Holy Land and Chosen People, but He expected me to organize my dream pilgrimage for 100 others too?

I joined Zola Levitt Ministries a decade ago in the mailroom. Working for this Israel-centered outreach, I learned a lot about Middle Eastern history, the Jewish roots of Christianity, and God's role for Israel in the prophesied End Times. Of course, I studied my Bible as a good practicing Christian does, but that only increased my longing to see firsthand the places I read about.

Then, last year I started planning tours to the Holy Land as tour manager for Zola Tours. With no experience at all in the travel industry, my push into this position (in no way was it a "nudge") by the Lord humbled me and caused deep reliance on the Holy Spirit. It turned into the most rewarding position I have ever held!

Zola Levitt Ministries and Zola Tours attract the most kindhearted partners and pilgrims. They boldly display their affection for Yeshua, Israel, the Jewish people, and the Jewish roots of Christianity. From this commonality springs harmony:

The moment they come together on the tour, our pilgrims spontaneously unify as the spiritual family of our Kinsman Redeemer.



By what I can only call Yeshua's divine favor, positioning, and provision, I got to experience that awesome Christian bonding and kinship for myself. On the Fall 2014 Ultra Grand Tour, my husband Mike and I joined the pilgrimage through Greece, Turkey, Israel, and into Jordan to see Petra. It was the most amazing trip of our lives! To see and walk where Yeshua and Paul, Peter, John, and the rest of the Apostles taught and walked is simply the most remarkable experience one could ever have this side of Heaven.

The teaching and spiritual revelation we received from Myles and Katharine Weiss and our knowledgeable guides quite exceeded expectations for Mike, me, and the other pilgrims. Zola put it succinctly when he said, "A trip to Israel is worth more than ten years of Sunday School." Indeed, exploring the sites of the Bible brings to life (in 3-D!) every Bible story and character. Connecting events with authentic places solidly confirms their historical roles in Yahweh's strategic plan of redemption through His Son Yeshua for the whole world. ★

Next month: Sandra's breakdown of the itinerary as the tour begins.

Jewish Humor, etc.

Misunderstood Good Deed

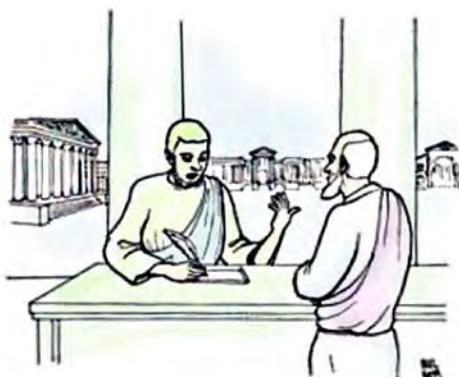
A flight to Tel Aviv had a 90-minute layover in New York. Passengers could get off the plane and re-board in 60 minutes. Everyone got off except a blind woman whose seeing eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her.

She was a regular on this flight and the pilot approached her. "Esther, we are in New York for over an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs."

All the passengers in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they saw the pilot walk off the plane with a guide dog! The pilot even wore sunglasses. Mayhem erupted as people tried to change not only planes but airlines!



A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22



"There I go—still writing 'B.C.' on my checks."

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please check your listings.**



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ABC Family Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
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DirecTV—Channel 311

Dish—Channel 180

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	8 pm Wed 3 pm Fri	9 pm Wed 4 pm Fri	10 pm Wed 5 pm Fri	11 pm Wed 6 pm Fri

DirecTV—Channel 369

Dish—Channel 263

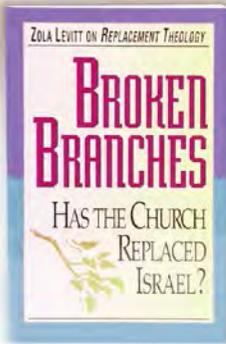
Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of independent channels and is posted at
www.levitt.com/airsch.

(New Series from Israel Airing Soon!)



Broken Branches—Has the Church Replaced Israel? study

booklet by Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology



What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, well-

intentioned denominations seem to have sprouted blinders to their heritage, the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using Grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read booklet for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

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Grand Athens: (Greece/Israel): Oct. 5–20

Ultra Grand: (Greece/Israel/Petra): Oct. 5–23

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