

# Levitt Letter



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

Jerusalem's Eastern Gate  
Photo: Ken Berg

# Why Israel Matters

Arguments Over Jerusalem pt.2 p.8



By Greg Laurie / WND.com

Why are Jews the “chosen people”? Deuteronomy 7:8 says, “... because the Lord loves you.” Some say that God has set aside the Jewish people, but this is not biblical. The original promises to Abraham and his descendants are not completely fulfilled.

Scripture promises that not only will the Jews be regathered in their land, but that they will have Jerusalem under their control as well (Zechariah 8:7,8). This did not happen until recently. After the modern State of Israel was declared in 1948, Jerusalem was still divided and Jordan retained control over the Old City. During 1967’s Six-Day War, Israeli forces captured the Old City, reunifying Jerusalem. The city was under Jewish control for the first time in over 2,000 years, fulfilling Bible prophecy.

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## Prominent Egyptian: Normalize Relations With Israel, Ditch Palestinians

JNS.org



Prominent Egyptian historian **Maged Farag** has called for his country to normalize relations with Israel and to ditch support for the Palestinian cause, which he said has caused “nothing but harm” for Egypt.

According to a report by MEMRI (the Middle East Media Research Institute), which translated Farag’s May 28 appearance on Egypt’s *Mehwar TV*, Farag called on his fellow countrymen to leave “the old ideology and cultural heritage

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## Why Israel Matters *continued from cover*



But, Jerusalem remains at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with many Arab leaders worldwide insisting that Jerusalem and the entire West Bank are Palestinian territory and must be given back as a condition of peace. Nevertheless, God gave this land to the Jewish people. They have returned and shed a lot of Jewish blood. They will not give up Jerusalem. Nor should they.

Even though its name means "City of Peace," more wars have been fought at Jerusalem's gates than in any other city. Why this hostility? Because Jerusalem plays a key role in God's plan.

**Past.** Jerusalem was the capital of Israel under King David. David's son Solomon built the first Temple, and the *Shekinah* (Divine) glory resided there. Jesus was crucified there as well.

**Present.** The Jews forming a nation on May 14, 1948 was a modern-day miracle and, more specifically, a fulfilled prophecy. Never before had a nation maintained its national identity after being scattered for hundreds of years.

**Future.** History as we know it will end in Jerusalem. The Lord will enter in through the Eastern Gate and establish His kingdom. We are commanded to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). God says of the Jewish people and, in effect, the nation Israel, "whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8). That's why we stand with the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. We bless them and thank God for them.

One of my favorite books is *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom. It's the amazing story of the ten Boom family, watchmakers in Holland and committed Christians, who hid hundreds of Jews to protect them from arrest by the Nazis.

In the book, Corrie recounts Nazis rounding up Jews and loading them into a truck: "Those poor people!" I cried. ... "Those poor people," father echoed. But to my surprise, I saw that he was looking at the soldiers. "I pity the poor Germans, Corrie, because they have touched the apple of God's eye."

Like the ten Booms, we Christians need to stand by our Jewish friends and the nation of Israel. God still has plans for them, and revival will break out in their nation again. ☆



Google Image



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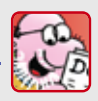
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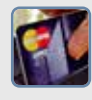
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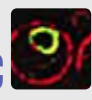
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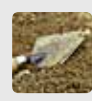


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## Prominent Egyptian ... *continued from cover*

on which we were raised"—referencing the rampant anti-Semitism among the Egyptian population—and to embrace Israel out of national interests.

"There are no such things as eternal enmity or eternal love," Farag said. "There are only eternal interests. We should identify our country's interest. [Winston] Churchill once said that he was ready to cooperate with the devil in the interest of his country. As a man who knows a little bit about history and international relations, I believe that it is in our interest to maintain normal relations with Israel."



Farag cited Israeli technological advances, such as drip irrigation that can help Egypt deal with water shortages.

"They used this technology to cultivate the desert, so why can't we use it here? Why can't I benefit from someone who used to be my enemy? I'm not looking to force him to become my friend. I want him as a partner in developing agriculture and industry in Egypt," he said.

Farag also said the Palestinians have shown no interest in resolving "their own problems."

"For over 70 years, the Palestinian cause has brought upon Egypt and the Egyptians nothing but harm, destruction, and expense," said Farag. "We have been preoccupied all our lives with the Palestinian cause."

He added, in reference to Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, "The Palestinian cause is Palestinian. Egypt's problem has been resolved."

Despite signing the treaty, Egypt and Israel have maintained a cold peace. Under new Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, both countries have had a mutual interest in defeating Islamic extremist groups in the Sinai Peninsula and thwarting Hamas in Gaza. But anti-Semitism remains deeply embedded within Egyptian culture, and there is little cultural exchange between the countries. ★

*Ha Derech, Ha Emet v' Ha Chaim!*

## The Way, the Truth, and the Life!

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



Oh, how this rattles our pseudo-democratic sensibilities: the very nerve of God, to think He is sovereign and has the right to choose as He will and govern according to His majesty! A “downside” of our Western egalitarian paradigm is that we are loath to accept the choice of the King—the Creator of the universe, who has the final word about humanity and our destiny.

What is the final Word? His name is Yeshua—not Moses, Elijah, Mohammed, or Caitlyn. And that rankles our alleged liberality.

I had a “teachable moment” the other day with someone I care about very much. We have prayed with her in the past to receive Yeshua, but in the “whack-a-mole” style of American faith life, when her crisis passed she returned to her syncretic New Age lifestyle of “whatever” spirituality (nothing new under the sun!), which is so prevalent today.

“Whack-a-mole?” Yes, that carnival game in which one tries to hit the small ersatz rodents and accrue points for their submission. That is how I characterize some of our evangelistic efforts: some folks receive the Lord, and then we Believers spend great efforts trying to encourage them to stay with the plan of salvation—to remain “whacked” by the love of God and repent from retreating to a safer, more familiar environment, which resembles ... a tomb.



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We beg them to come to a living fellowship to meet some disciples, study the Word, and change their “playmates, playthings, and playgrounds.” Certain that they know better, they ignore counsel and attempt to add Jesus to their current life. Disaster follows. Isn’t it an issue of sovereignty? We need to let God be God and let Yeshua be Who He is in our lives—the once and future King, Bridegroom of Heaven, first and last, Alef and Tav, Alpha and Omega, Prince of Peace, Bread of Life, Wonderful, Counselor...

I am very grateful for the ZLM community that appreciates ... no, demands ... that we at the ministry preach and teach “ha Derech, ha Emet v’ ha Chaim” (the Way, the Truth, and the Life)—Yeshua! Katharine and I recently spent an hour via a television broadcast into Iran helping new Believers, recently delivered from Islam, to understand their destiny as followers of the one true God and His Messiah, Isah Masih (Farsi for Jesus Christ, *Yeshua Ha Mashiach*).

I believe Zola Levitt Ministries is entering a new day. God is using our Internet offerings, television broadcasts, and ministerial publications to induce invitations for us to take the gospel of Yeshua to Iran, the underground Church in China, and, soon, to India. Please stand with us as we continue to impact the world with “Christianity through Jewish Eyes.” ☆

# Calling the “Bride Behind the Veil” to Shine in Iran

Katharine Weiss  
ZLP co-host



Over the years in our ministry, amazing opportunities have greeted Myles and me in the San Francisco Bay Area and around the world. An example: meeting Hormoz Shariat in 2009 at his San Jose congregation. Hormoz is an Iranian minister who is passionate about seeing Iran become a Christian nation. Joel C. Rosenberg, one of this ministry’s favorite authors, has dubbed him the “Billy Graham of Iran.” Every evening, Hormoz’s [Iran Alive](#) ministry broadcasts the Gospel of Jesus into Tehran.

You may remember the 2009 election protests in Iran that resulted in the brutal shooting of Neda Agha-Soltan, a young Iranian student who was a bystander. We were disheartened by our government’s unwillingness to support the brave young students in Iran’s streets. The events of the protest inspired Myles to write a song called *Bride Behind the Veil* to encourage the people of Iran. Hormoz and his wife, Donnell, distributed several CDs of the [song’s video](#) to underground church leaders.

A few weeks ago, we met with Hormoz again when we interviewed him for this ministry’s weekly television show, *Zola Levitt Presents*. He explained that not all Iranians are like the ayatollahs, calling for “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.” Rather, he said, **many Iranians**



**are experiencing salvation. God has been appearing and revealing Himself to the people of Iran.** Many hunger for the salvation that only Yeshua offers.

The Shariats’ own story is darkly humorous and instructive. They were swept up in the fervor of 1979’s Iranian Revolution when Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile in Paris to replace the deposed shah. As young marrieds, Hormoz and Donnell were in the street yelling “Death to America” when Donnell nudged Hormoz and wisely suggested, “Before death comes to America, let’s go get our doctorates in California.” Through a series of divine interventions, they were marvelously born again in the Spirit of God on American campuses. In our interview, Hormoz speaks eloquently of the debt of gratitude he immediately felt to evangelize his Persian countrymen.

Hormoz returned the favor and invited Myles and me as guests on his TV program. Myles encouraged the people of Iran to stand and shine like Esther. He looked directly at the camera and called the “bride behind the veil” to take her royal place “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). We continually rejoice in God’s not-so-subtle-humor since Myles’s given name is Mordecai, the name he shares with Esther’s uncle. Myles also brought an uncompromising call for Iranians to recognize Israel as God’s first-born. It is not that God does not have MANY other children whom He loves, but it is important for us, as believers in Yeshua, to understand the sovereignty of God.

You can see more of what God is doing through ZLM at [levitt.com](#) and more of what God is doing in the SF Bay Area at [GoldenGateToGoldenGate.com](#) ★

# Abbas: 'Jordan and Palestine are One People in Two States'



By Ari Soffer (r) IsraelNationalNews.com

During a June meeting in Amman with the head of the Jordan Football Association, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas “stressed that the relationship between Jordan and Palestine is the relationship of ‘one people living in two states,’ adding that this relationship will not be affected by anything,” according to the Arabic-language *Al-Quds* news outlet. Abbas may regret his offhand comments.

Many Israeli opponents of a “two-state solution,” which would see the State of Israel cede Judea and Samaria to the PA, challenge that Jordan already is a de facto “Palestinian state.” The Hashemite royal family of King Abdullah II is a tiny minority in the country, whereas the majority of residents identify as Palestinian (various studies put the number at 60% to 80%).

The Kingdom of Jordan (originally Transjordan) was established in 1946—two years before the establishment of the State of Israel—on three quarters of the territory previously allocated for a Jewish state. The allocations resulted from a partition of the British Mandate of Palestine as a compromise between Jews and Arabs, a compromise that began at the 1922 San Remo Conference. The Arab population of the British-controlled region known as Palestine eventually received the lion’s share (77%) of the country, to the east of the River Jordan, and the Jews received the remaining portion to its west.

That partition was made legally binding by the UN’s predecessor—the League of Nations—which in its Mandate for Palestine granted the Jews a state from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, and reserved the eastern side of the River for one of 21 independent Arab states. But instead of handing over control to the local Arab population, the British government—which previously occupied both sides of the Jordan River—installed the Hashemite tribe of Jordan’s King Abdullah I (grandfather of King Abdullah II), who were sympathetic to British imperial interests. That ushered in an era of autocratic, minority rule that has lasted until today, and left the local Jews and Arabs to fight over the remaining 23%.

Despite being the majority, Palestinians in Jordan are subjected to widespread discrimination and repression by the Jordanian government. Recently, sensing the growing threat from disgruntled Palestinians, Jordan’s government began stripping large numbers of their Jordanian citizenship, dealing another blow to their collective civil rights and illustrating how the Hashemite kingdom relies on Palestinian disenfranchisement to survive.

While the foregoing history has been largely forgotten or ignored by advocates of a “two-state solution,” Israeli nationalists have long pointed to it as proof of the illegitimacy of establishing a 22rd Arab/”Palestinian” state in Judea and Samaria.

Many Palestinians—including **Abbas** (r) and **Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal**—hold Jordanian citizenship. ★

**Abbas finally admits (however inadvertently) that Jordan is the Arab-“Palestinian” state. What a relief. Apparently, Hashemites and “Palestinians” can live in peace together in Jordan. —Myles**



# Is Haifa's Air Polluted?

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



Is Haifa's air polluted? A report earlier this year by Israel's Ministry of Health says it is. According to the ministry's research, surveys of respiratory-related diseases, especially in children, indicate a higher incidence among Haifa area residents.

In the April report, Professor Itamar Grotto, head of Public Health Services, observed that the risk of lung cancer was 29% higher in Haifa than in the rest of the country, and the risk of bladder cancer 26%. The report was widely published in national news media, and induced loud responses from Haifa Bay area citizens, Haifa's city officials (including Mayor Yona Yahav), and medical experts whose opinions in some cases differed from the report.

Following these alarms, hundreds of citizens in Kiryat Haim protested the pollution in our area. One protestor's sign read "We're Choking." Our family lives in Kiryat Haim, which hosts a major installation of oil storage tanks. Our beach has been cited for blackened sand as the result of oil leakage. One protest took the form of blocking the entrance to the nearby oil refinery, an action led by Mayor Yahav and involving the use of city vehicles.

Yahav is an activist mayor who (in my opinion, as a 22-year resident) has quietly gone about the business of improving our city rather than gathering headlines. He said, "They released this report without talking to us or even visiting our city. We have long acknowledged Haifa's air pollution problem and have been fighting alone on this front."

Several leading oncologists and other doctors disputed the findings, however, saying they found insufficient scientific evidence to warrant the conclusions. On a personal note, my family and I have lived in the Haifa Bay area since arriving in 1992. Several family members suffer from asthmatic conditions. These are noticeably exacerbated when we are at home, compared to occasions when we visit areas like Jerusalem (mountainous) or Be'er Sheva (desert).



Haifa refinery

Is air pollution simply a fact of life in Israel, as in many parts of the world, the cost for modern gas-powered transportation and other high-energy technology? In many fields, Israel has developed more rapidly than any comparable nation between 1948 and 2015. The economic and technical growth is staggering. Do we have pollution problems? Yes. And they need to be addressed. But the very fact of all this uproar is a positive sign. It says that Israelis increasingly care about the quality of our environment and are taking steps to better the land of which God has said, "All who pass by will say 'This land...has become like the garden of Eden.' Then the nations...around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate" (Ezekiel 36:35, 36). ★



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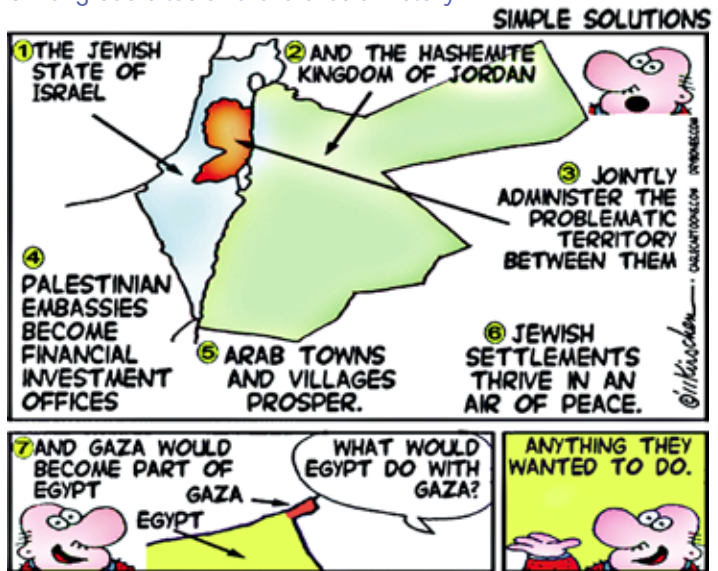
# The Arguments Over Jerusalem: part 2



By Paul Gherkin / FirstOneThrough.wordpress.com

Jerusalem has long been considered the thorniest issue in the Israeli-Palestinian Question. In a two-state resolution, the Israelis propose splitting the Holy Basin (Greater Jerusalem and Greater Bethlehem) whereby they control all of Greater Jerusalem and the Palestinians Greater Bethlehem; the Palestinians seek to have all of Greater Bethlehem *and* the eastern half of Jerusalem as their capital, giving Israel the western half of Jerusalem. Which side has the better claim? [Last month](#), we looked at the care of religious sites and the area's history.

In considering the future of the residents of the Holy Basin, it is important to weigh **how the people have been treated**. When Israel declared statehood in 1948, it granted citizenship to 160,000 non-Jews. When it took control of the entire Holy Basin in 1967, it offered citizenship to those who requested it.



Jordanian and Palestinian Arabs evicted the Jews in 1949. Today, Palestinian leadership insists on a new Palestinian state *devoid of Jews*, which is why the Palestinian Authority objects so strongly to Jews buying homes in Jerusalem.

### Advantage Israel

Jews have been the dominant religious group in Jerusalem since the 1860s. Even at the start of World War I, when Jews accounted for only 8% of Palestine, they accounted for 64% of the **population** of Jerusalem.

### Advantage Israel

Any final agreement between the Israelis and Palestinian Arabs must be fair and *sustainable*.

No capital city sits on the border of another country, which risks the viability of the state. In Israel, the situation is more critical than elsewhere: The countries adjacent to Israel have repeatedly attacked Israel and challenged its basic right to even exist. Jerusalem sits on hills, making it more vulnerable if divided, but significantly safer if all the hills and access roads remain within Israel.

### Advantage Israel

As various plans to divide the land were proposed between 1937 and 1947, the Israeli Jews said yes while the Arabs consistently said no. The Arab position was to control all of the land including Jerusalem with no land for Jewish control.

The Arabs launched a war to destroy all of Israel in 1948, and then again in 1967.

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## Arguments... continued



The Arabs lost both wars, and Israel acquired incremental land in each of those defensive actions.

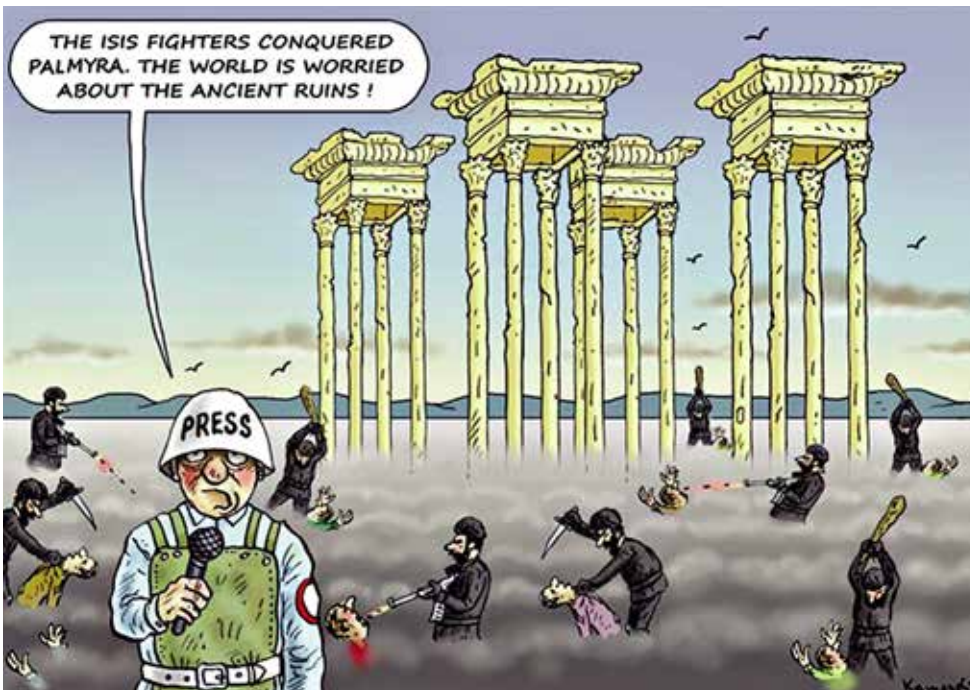
Israel's land was acquired initially from the world's recognition of the historical rights of Jews to the Holy Land, together with defensive wars. Conversely, all of the Palestinian Arab land was acquired through fighting the UN mandate and launching wars.

Because both Israel and the Jordanian and Palestinian Arabs took sections of Jerusalem that the UN had proposed to keep under international control, the UN did not recognize either country's seizure. When Israel took the eastern half of Jerusalem along with Bethlehem in 1967, the UN continued to withhold recognition.

Countries around the world did not recognize Israel's claim to western Jerusalem in 1949 or the capture of eastern Jerusalem in 1967, so they never moved their embassies to the city.

**By almost every measure, Israel should maintain control of all of Jerusalem as well as additional territory to the east to control the hills and access roads to the capital.** The Palestinians could have control of half of the Holy Basin—Bethlehem—which was handed to Palestinian Authority control in 1996 by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

One last reason underscores the logic of Israel maintaining sovereignty over all of Jerusalem: Jerusalem is the heart of the home of the Jewish people. While there are 56 Islamic countries and 21 Arab countries, there is only one Jewish State, and it has always had one capital: Jerusalem. ☆



# A Vote for Terrorism

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1980: 35 years ago



*We have the same concerns 35 years later.* —Editor

The new United States administration has not even taken office, but it already bears careful watching. On a recent trip to Russia, Senator Charles Percy told Brezhnev and company that he favors a Palestinian state in Israel with Yasser Arafat as its head. The implication was that he was speaking for President-elect Reagan, though this was later denied.

I, for one, am dumbfounded. **Nothing can be further from established American policy than support for the PLO and the partitioning of Israel.**

Americans are well aware of the difference between the PLO—the small group of hit men whose specialty is sneak attacks on unarmed civilians—and the “Palestinian” people in general. The PLO represents the Palestinian people about as well as the Mafia represents Italians. Senator Percy, a Republican (and remember, the Republicans are the “Christians” now), has certainly overstepped his authority. Since when does a U.S. senator, placed into office by the voters of just one state, speak for the foreign policy of this entire nation? Since when is Senator Percy in a position to express policy on the fortunes of the people of Israel and the Palestinian people, to say nothing of the Russians and their plans? Since when does a president-elect have to disavow the irresponsible statements of a minor and obviously uninformed provincial politician? [Sen. Percy did not become Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations until the following year (1981-1985).]

It is dangerous in the extreme to even tempt the Russians where Israel is concerned. We know from biblical prophecy (Ezekiel 38–39) that the Communists have targeted Israel and are only waiting for their opportunity.

Our ministry has been documenting this situation as it develops. Where Israel’s security and well-being are concerned, Senator Percy’s statement can provide as much devastation as the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

If Arafat and his fellow gunmen were able to actually control a state within the borders of Israel, the bloodshed would begin at once. Russia would love that to happen since it thrives on such conflicts. Fighting within Israel’s borders would open the door to the Russians, just as the fighting in Eastern Europe did and the fighting in Iran and Iraq will do. And in any case, to go right to the bottom line, any person who would favor the placing of an international terrorist at the head of the government of a new nation needs a psychiatrist.

Let’s watch our government and watch it every day. Throughout the Old Testament, prophet after prophet warned The Nations that God was watching their relationships with His Chosen People and His Chosen Land. In many scriptures, He said He would judge them according to how they treated Israel. Yasser Arafat will answer to the God of Israel for his murders, and Senator Percy will answer for his ignorance. Let the rest of us be aware that God is still on His throne and has not changed His policies toward the Middle East. ☆



# A Swedish Student in Israel

By **Veronika Nocky** (r) IsraelNationalNews.com



I, a non-Jewish Swedish woman, attend university at Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya in Israel. IDC International School offers a number of complete undergraduate (BA) programs taught completely in English, including business, government, psychology, and communications. They also offer graduate (MA) programs.

Israel may not be an obvious choice for students looking to study abroad because many don't realize that Israel offers high quality graduate and undergraduate programs in English for international students.

People in Sweden know very little about Israel, and what we do know, we pick up from the distortions of the media showing Israel as a country associated mostly with conflict and war. In reality, Israel is much more than that.

To guarantee that everyone will always feel 100% safe in Israel would be a lie, because nobody can make such a promise. I would also not promise anyone absolute safety in Sweden, either.

In the almost six years that I've lived in Israel, there has been only one month—last summer during the war [Protective Edge] with Gaza—when I actually felt relatively unsafe in my home in Tel Aviv. Usually, I feel safer here than I feel in Sweden for a number of reasons.

I am never afraid to walk home alone in the night in Tel Aviv. There are always people outside, day and night. Many feel uncomfortable about the security connected to public places and transportation in Israel. However, due to these precautions I actually feel safer. Security here is a top priority, so if and when something happens, everyone is prepared and knows what to do.

Israel provides an interesting and unique combination of ancient history, religion, and culture. When it comes to nature, Israel has a lot to offer despite its small size: Eilat in the South with coral reefs and dolphins in the Red Sea, the desert, and Dead Sea; the hills of Jerusalem, the Mediterranean coastline and Tel Aviv's beaches, the green North with the Sea of Galilee and Mount Hermon, which offers winter skiing.

You see, there is far more to Israel than conflicts and camels (although, there are also camels, and they are really cute!). Coming here to study, or even just to travel, is something I would recommend to anyone any day without thinking twice. If you happen to be Swedish (or any other nationality) and are considering studying abroad with a different experience, consider IDC Herzliya as a wonderful option. ✨



*IDC students on campus*



# Ask the Chaplain

**Dr. Todd D. Baker**  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



## ORIGIN OF CITY'S NAME

**Q.** An article I recently read declared, "Joppa was the oldest of the old city," known as the "Gateway to Palestine," and was named after Japheth, the son of Noah. I cannot confirm this information. Can you verify the historical facts of Joppa please?

**A.** First, please understand that there is no Palestine; since the second century A.D., the name referred to a region of first one empire, then another. The land is called Israel; so right off the bat, the article is in error. A good historical review of Joppa is given on the website [BibleAtlas.org](http://BibleAtlas.org), edited for space here:

"Jop'-a (yapho, yapho'; Ioppe): In Joshua 19:46, the King James Version called "Japho" a city in the territory allotted to Dan; but there is nothing to show that in pre-exilic times (prior to the exile of the Jews in Babylonia 597-538 B.C.) it ever passed into Israelite hands.

"The Gate of Joppa" is mentioned in the Tell el-Amarna Letters as guarded

by an Egyptian officer for Amenhotep IV (d.1336 B.C.). Old Egyptian records speak of the excellence of its gardens and fruit trees.

The city was likely held by the Phoenicians, the great seamen of biblical days. It was doubtless a Phoenician ship that Jonah found here when he fled from the Lord (Jonah 1:3). In Ezra's time, cedars were brought here for building in Jerusalem (Ezra 3:7). Peter here raised the dead Dorcas to life (Acts 9:36), and on the roof of Simon's house by the sea learned that the Gospel was designed for Jew and gentile alike (Acts 11:4-18).

In the history of the Maccabees, after the men of Joppa treacherously drowned 200 Jews, Judas Maccabeus fell upon the town "and put to the sword those that had fled thither" (2 Maccabees 12:3). Some years later it was captured again by Simon, who garrisoned the place, completed the harbor and raised the fortifications. It is recorded as part of Simon's glory (Simon d. 135 B.C.) that he took it "for a haven, and made it an entrance for the isles of the sea," the Jews thus possessing for the first time a seaport

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Joppa Harbor



Statue of Jonah's whale



through which commerce might be fully developed. Pompey joined it to the province of Syria. Caesar restored it to the Jews under Hyrcanus (d. 30 B.C.). Antony gave it to Cleopatra (35–32 B.C.). Caesar added it to the kingdom of Herod I, and at Herod's death (4 B.C.), it passed to his son Archelaus. At his deposition it was attached to the Roman province.

Its inhabitants now zealous Jews, it suffered heavily in the Roman wars. After a massacre by Cestius Gallus, it was left desolate and became a resort of the enemies of Rome, who turned pirate and preyed upon shipping in the neighboring waters. Destroyed by Vespasian (67 A.D.), at a later time it was the seat of a bishopric. During the Crusades it passed back and forth between Christians and Moslems. It was captured by the French under Kleber in 1799. It was fortified by the English, and extended by the Turks.

According to [The Old Testament Student](#) (published by The University of Chicago Press in 1884):

"Joppa, built fortress-like along a hill in a district abundantly supplied with water, has the blue ridges of the mountains of Judah as its background on the eastern side, while in the west it is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea, and almost everywhere enclosed by beautiful gardens and plantations.

"It offers a fine view over the rich and undulating plain of Sharon dotted with olive and pomegranate groves; its situation is in fact so elevated that some supposed, though erroneously, that Jerusalem, lying about ten hours to the southeast, was thence visible.

"The town is extremely ancient—Roman writers contend that it was founded before the deluge and governed by Cepheus, whose

memory as well as that of his brother Phineus, was there long preserved by famous altars bearing their names, and whose wife *Jope*, daughter of Aeolus, is fabled to have given the city its name—but in the historical ages it appears first as a Phoenician colony in the territory of the Philistines, under the suzerainty of the king of Ascalon, and bordering on the province of the Danites, in which it was not included.

"It possesses a harbor most important from its position at a peculiar point of the Mediterranean coast, but small, unfit for larger vessels, inconvenient and even dangerous on account of the steepness of the shore and the rocks rising above the sea for a considerable distance from the land, abounding in coral formations, therefore rough and agitated even in calm weather, and having an entrance either imperiled by sands or so shallow and narrow as to be almost useless: But in spite of its defects—Strabo calls it pointedly 'a haunt of robbers'—the harbor was of the utmost usefulness to the Hebrews on account of its proximity to the capital." ★



## WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

# Rushing Away from Gold



Dear Mark,  
Should I roll my modest 401K plan over to a gold or precious metals IRA? Is this practical considering the weakening dollar and vulnerability of the stock market?

Dear Reader,  
*Wall Street Journal* columnist Joe Queenan recently wrote “My Gold Rush—Away From the Metal,” excerpted below. His pearls of wisdom offer modern-day practical insights to biblical imperatives:

Zeph. 1:18. “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath” Matt. 6:19. “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break in and steal.”



All good news is bad for gold. Gold is a lustrous, highly malleable version of the Grinch. Gold is the world’s stupidest and most annoying metal. It has been disappointing people or getting them killed since the dawn of history. Gold is always experiencing stratospheric rises and then collapsing overnight, because it is a metal whose value is entirely based on human emotion.

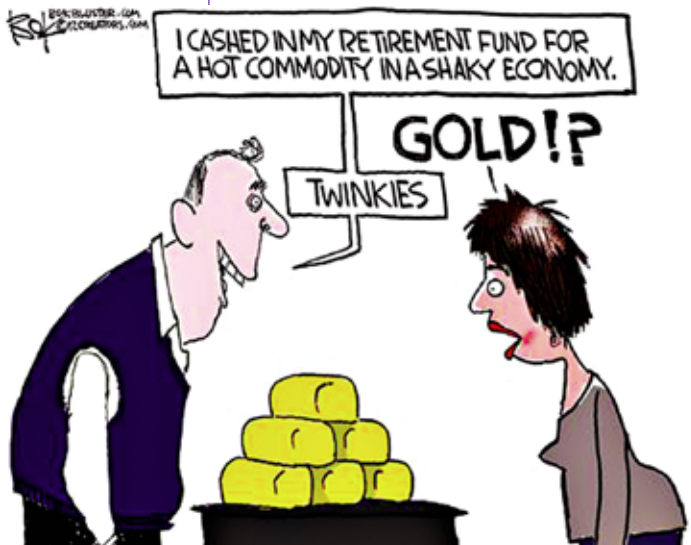
The value of gold is never linked to sales or revenue or the market. It is always linked to bad news. Just as nature abhors a vacuum, gold abhors good times. When gold is rising in value, trouble is a-brewing. Obsession with gold has led to murder and oppression. Gold has been at the heart of many historical misfortunes.

Whenever people start looking for gold, other people end up dead. Gold has long fascinated mankind because it is considered a safe metal, something to fall back on in times of economic uncertainty. But it is not a safe metal at all; its value gyrates spasmodically. Moreover, gold cannot experience the kind of stupendous growth that shares of Amazon or Apple or Google can because gold doesn’t split shares or reinvest profits; it’s one-dimensional. As I said, gold is stupid.

Those gold bugs on TV are harbingers of doom who are always warning you to have lots of gold salted away. Helium is a more intelligent investment than gold. So is jade. Or onyx. Way more intelligent. If I had a nickel for every time I invested wisely in gold, I’d have less than a nickel.

Investment columnist Scott Burns advises, “If you really get into the ‘financial collapse’ thing, buy lead, not gold.” Lead bullets inserted into a good handgun, he explains, can be turned into gold very quickly. Substantiating his assertion that “Gold probably will be useless in Armageddon,” Burns observes, “The reality is that in a true crisis, the only stuff that will have value are things we like to buy with money.” ★

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# ZLM Bulletin Board

## \$500 Million = Six Homes?

After the earthquake that leveled Haiti in 2010, the American Red Cross raised almost half a billion dollars to help Haiti rebuild. However, [according to reporter Laura Sullivan](#), NPR and ProPublica found only “a string of poorly managed projects, questionable spending, and dubious claims of success.” They found: six permanent homes, not the promised hundreds; no water and sanitation system, and no health clinic. Many Haitians still live in shacks made of tarps and tin, and tents. By contrast, contributions to our Bible-teaching ministry are put to use quickly and efficiently in ways that you can see immediately on TV and in your mailbox.



## The Gift that Kept on Giving...



... to Nazis? From February 1962 through December 2014, “133 suspected Nazi war criminals, SS guards, and others who may have participated in the Third Reich’s atrocities ... received \$20.2 million in Social Security benefits,” according to the inspector general of the Social Security Administration. As many as 10,000 Nazis immigrated to the U.S., many lying about their past and even becoming American citizens. In December 2014, Congress unanimously passed legislation to halt this practice.

Free Item

## Pamphlet of the Month

**Questions & Answers about Estate Planning** discusses embracing the future by taking time to prepare for it. After explaining what estate planning is and what occurs without an estate plan, the pamphlet suggests how to begin creating one. It also touches on ways to complement a will, such as trusts, joint ownership arrangements, powers of attorney, and beneficiary designations. Finally, it suggests ways to make charitable gifts within estate plans and enjoy immediate tax savings plus other benefits. To receive this free pamphlet, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

## Ten Minutes re: Living Near Gaza



Listen to 27-year-old [Anna's perspective](#) as a kibbutznik who lives near Israel's border with Gaza. She non-politically refutes media portrayal of Israel as a heartless monster and explains that the Israel Defense Forces act humanely enough that they allow terrorists to get away so as not to harm nearby innocents.

Anna mentions the frequency of rockets falling and hearing 30-40 alarms some days. She sheds real tears in empathy for Gazans who aren't part of Hamas but are used by them, and expresses her fear of terrorists popping up from nearby tunnels. Nonetheless, Anna is “happy to live in a place that is like heaven. ... It's surreal how beautiful it is!” She speaks for normal Israeli citizens and asks you to think about them before judging Israel.

## “Come Home!”

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



# Hebrew Lesson



**Turn us back, O LORD...**

Reprint by John J. Parsons

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ וְנִשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם

*Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old. (Lam. 5:21)*

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֵלֵינוּ וְנִשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵנוּ כְּקֶדֶם

ke-ke-dem ya-me-nu cha-desh ve'na-shu-yah e-le-kha Adonai ha-shi-ve-nu  
as before our days renew and we will turn to You O LORD Turn us back

**The Book of Lamentations** is traditionally recited during the saddest day of the Jewish calendar—*Tishah B'Av* (the ninth day of the month of Av)—the date that remembers the destruction of the Holy Temple and other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. When the reader reaches the second to last verse of the book, “Hashivenu,” he or she pauses and the congregation recites the verse in unison: *Hashivenu Adonai, elecha vena-shuvah; chadesh yamenu kekedem*: “Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old” (Lam. 5:21). Often this verse is repeated and sung to a haunting melody as the scroll is returned to the Ark.

Lamentations is an acrostic poem that begins with the Hebrew letter Aleph (א) in the word “*eichah*.” In fact, the Hebrew name for the book is simply *Eichah*. “How (*eichah*) lonely sits the city that once was full of people!” (Lam. 1:1). The sages note that this word “how (*eichah*)” could also be read as “where are you?” (*ayeka*), God’s first question to Adam after he broke covenant in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:9). The midrash draws a connection between the lamentation of the LORD over Adam’s banishment from Eden and Israel’s banishment from Zion (Hos. 6:7). In both cases the problem centers on the failure to ask where God is.

**How many people today live in a state of self-imposed exile from the LORD?** God uses our loneliness (“how lonely...”) to search our hearts, asking each of us, *ayeka*—“Where are you?” “Why have you turned away from Me and chosen a state of exile?” Our inner pain is meant to provoke us to seek His face. He awaits our only possible response, “Hashivenu,” which is an *imperative* (demand) for the grace to repent: “Please return us (i.e., you cause us to return) so that we may be reunited with You and healed!” We do not appeal to our own strength to undergo this “teshuvah,” this repentance, but instead trust that God’s grace is sufficient to restore us to His presence. As Yeshua said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up” (John 6:44).

*Adonai ozi u'magini, bo betach libi vene' ezarti*—“The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped” (Psalm 28:7). Faith is a matter of *heart*, and therefore we *choose* to see and hear what we want to see and hear (Isa. 6:10; John 12:40). **May God give us the gift of true repentance that leads to life and blessing. Amen.** ✨





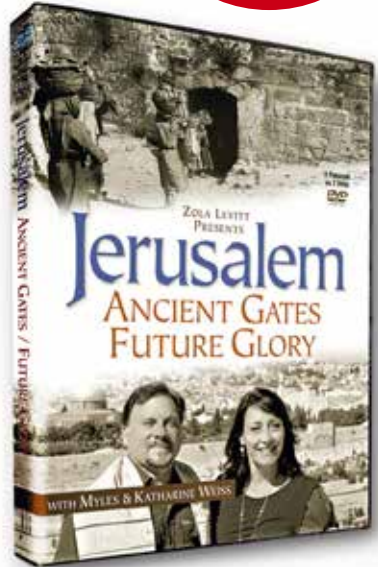
## Jerusalem: Ancient Gates / Future Glory

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 ([see album](#)).



**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.

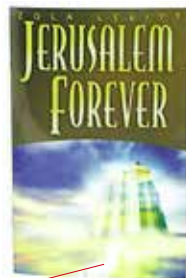
**Lions Gate,** also known as "Saint Stephen's Gate," is where the Israeli army entered to re-take possession of the Old City in 1967. Let us pray for the Lion of Judah, Yeshua *HaMashiach*, to return as the King of Glory. Guests include Tamar Hayardeni, and David Dolan with Colonel Shimon Cahaner.

**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.



**Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library**

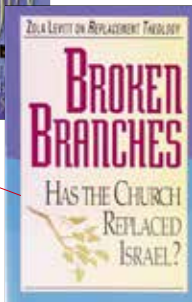
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**Books**

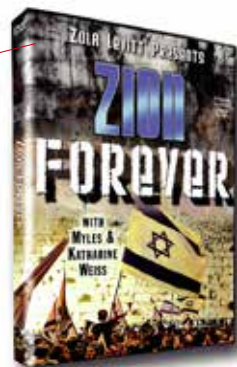
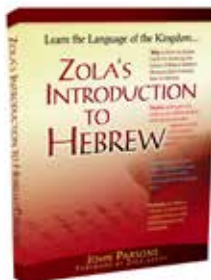
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## The Stones Cry Out

Twelve 30-minute TV programs (3 DVDs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

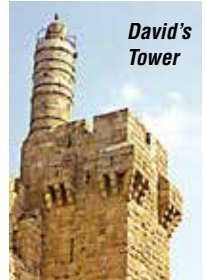
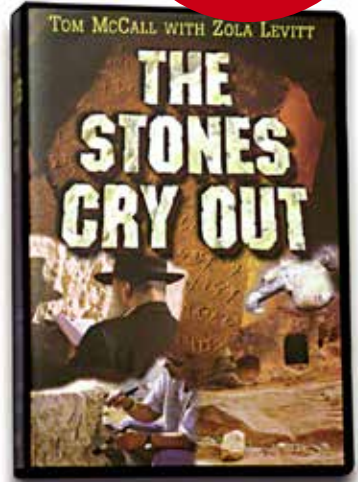
**Shadows from the Past** A chamber of tombs, near the Garden Tomb but dated to the time of the First Temple, helps us understand burial customs of that day. We visit the Qumran cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

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

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

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

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



David's  
Tower



# Japanese Christians—Israel's Most Unwavering Supporters

By Aviva & Shmuel Bar-am / TimesOfIsrael.com



Often called New Zionism, the Makuya movement was founded by a Japanese businessman, the late Professor **Abraham Ikuro Teshima**. Professor Teshima was a deeply religious Christian who became disenchanted with the organized Church.

While in the Aso Mountains just after World War II, Teshima had a personal encounter with God and heard a phrase from the book of Amos: “I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” He understood that the Japanese famine following the war was spiritual and that his people had to return to God. He closed his business and began teaching the Bible. Soon, he founded the Makuya.

Teshima maintained that to grasp the spirit of the Bible, it was essential to reach a deeper understanding of the Jewish faith, its people, language, and history. His desire to visit Israel was delayed until Japan and Israel established diplomatic relations in 1961. However, in 1954 Teshima met his first Israeli, on a Japanese train. He heard people near him speaking Hebrew and learned that they were from Israel. He and Professor Israel Slomnitzki, on a mission from the Israeli Agriculture Ministry, struck up a friendship, corresponded for years, and in 1961 Slomnitzki invited Teshima to visit his homeland.

Teshima admired the Israeli effort to create a viable state, and was so taken with the Jewish state that he returned many times, bringing disciples. Soon, Makuya members began studying Hebrew at a kibbutz, and many went on to schools of higher learning in Israel. Each Makuya member has a Hebrew name, taken or given upon arrival in Israel. They chat easily about their faith, which is based in the Old Testament and contains no proselytism. None of the Makuya will discuss politics, yet each one proudly supports the State of Israel.

In 1973, when Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria, a threatened oil boycott caused Japan to abandon its normally neutral position and adopt a pro-Arab stand. “Israel must not be forsaken in her time of need,” declared Teshima. Although gravely ill, he organized a pro-Israel demonstration in downtown Tokyo. Covering 1.25 miles, more than 3,000 men, women, and children sang joyful Hebrew songs and danced in the streets. Teshima insisted on participating despite the bitter December cold and died three weeks later, at age 63.

The Makuya follow Teshima’s path, planting forests in his honor and returning in large numbers every few years to celebrate Israel’s Independence Day. Makuya means “tent of meeting,” the place where man encounters God. Teshima taught that God is everywhere; it is not necessary to pray in a church. So, Makuya worship in houses where they also read the Bible and study its lessons.

A Makuya teacher often has a regular job and leads his congregation only on the weekends. Makuya object to institutionalized religion; there is no central Makuya religious authority, although district representatives meet every few months to discuss the movement. Baptism is



Makuya march in Jerusalem

spiritual, a coming-of-age ceremony when boys and girls reach the age of 13 and accept adult responsibilities. It takes place on Mount Aso, where Teshima had his encounter with the Lord. Makuya claim that the Israelis they meet take them into their hearts. Said one: “We feel like Israelis, like we are at home.” ★



# Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the [web store](#) and [video archives](#).

## Comments from levitt.com

**From B.H.:** I have been a subscriber for several years and do make donations, although not as often as I would like. I do believe the newsletter is one of the most informative concerning current events in Israel and around the world.

**From N.W.K.H.:** Thanks for all you do to let people know God's Word and His Truth. Always enjoy reading the *Levitt Letters* and checking out [levitt.com](#). You, your family, and the ministry in which God has called you to do for His Honor and Glory will *always* be in my *daily* prayers. Take care, stay safe, and be blessed of the Lord. In Jesus' Name.

Dear B.H. and N.W.K.H.—

Thank you both for your supporting comments. Thank you and the many other readers and viewers who value ZLM's mission to keep the Lord's light shining as the darkness increases around us. We take this work very seriously while trying to maintain a sense of humor about ourselves.

The longer I work in this field, the more my confidence grows in God's covenant with Israel and the Jewish people. He truly watches over Israel and "neither slumbers nor sleeps" in that commitment (Psalm 121:4). Thank you again for your kind words, financial support, and fervent prayers. Blessings and Shalom to you —Myles and Katharine

## Clarification

Dear Myles,

Please clarify: did ZLM donate all of the funds for the ambulance described in your [April Personal Letter](#)? It was unclear. —I. and M.G. (MD)

Hello I. and M.G.—

I'm happy to clarify my point and call attention again to ZLM's beneficial partnership with Bridges for Peace. I did not mean to imply that we had paid for that specific ambulance *in toto*, rather that over the years we have donated more than enough to fund an entire ambulance. Our benevolence fund for BFP's worthy ministry is an ongoing work. We also support other worthy causes in Israel such as To the Jew First, Tents of Mercy, the Jewish National Fund, Temple Mount archaeological endeavors, and the Lone Soldier Fund. It is our privilege to cultivate these partnerships, just as your partnership with us helps us reach the world with the truth of Yeshua's Gospel. Blessings —Myles



## Cartoons Poke Fun ... at Whom?

Dear *Levitt Letter* editors,

Matthew 5:44—*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,...*

Is ISIS your enemy? Although your cartoon satires tickle the intellectual mind, many (like the one in the [May Levitt Letter](#) shown below) do not serve the spirit of Yeshua's words in Matt. 5:44. If we aren't going to live the counsel here, we may as well throw out all of His counsel.

We are called to take the Gospel to our enemy in word and in action. Jesus died for the tank barrel inspector, the licensed bomb catcher, and even for the horticultural specialist. I cannot see Him condoning satire about people He died for. —K.G. (Pleasant Valley State Prison, CA)

Joyful greetings ... with an infusion of a sense of humor, K.G.—

I am sorry that you found our cartoon offensive. Rather than poking fun at the unfortunate followers of Mohammed, this cartoon jabs at the inane statements by Marie Harf, a State Department spokeswoman, regarding the solution for Islamic terror: **better job opportunities!** Senior leaders of al-Qaeda, ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terror groups are often highly educated and extremely well-heeled (read: wealthy) purveyors of torture and death who prey on the mostly uneducated young men who make up the rank and file and live under the oppression of failed regimes with little opportunity for change. An American-funded jobs program will not fix this exploitation, and Harf's comment met with criticism from both the right and left.



**The ideology of the Koran as interpreted by jihadists is the problem.** As our friend Walid Shoebat (an ex-PLO terrorist) repeatedly says, "The only occupation in the Middle East is the occupation of young Arab minds." The teaching of hate combined with a twisted messianic fervor is the root cause of terror.

Regarding your use of Matthew 5:44 to chastise this ministry for our *Levitt Letter* cartoons: My wiseacre Jewish humor often gets me in trouble with my gorgeous gentile wife. This humor comes in my DNA, developed over centuries of persecution, exile, torture, and genocidal attempts to wipe out our Jewish people. Faithfully handed down through a lineage of comic approaches to tragedy, laughter is the defense or survival mechanism Jews use to keep from crying. The irony is that we can laugh and simultaneously pray for the terrorists and all Moslems to meet the Messiah Yeshua and find eternal love and mercy. Katharine and I do both on a daily basis, and we teach our congregations and all who will listen to do the same.

**Thanks to God, He is transforming "Pauls" from the Islamic world, who turn from a life of hating to a life of proclaiming His love to their sphere of influence.** Watch for our inspiring program with Hormoz Shariat, a former Moslem who now preaches the Gospel into Iran by satellite TV every night! And please, laugh a little—the Bible says it is good medicine (Proverbs 17:22). Blessings —Myles



*"A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones."*  
Proverbs 17:22

## Naiveté Here and Abroad

Dear Myles and Katharine,

In your *Election 2015 / Israel's Choice* program of *Zola Levitt Presents*, you interview people on the street in Israel to catch their reactions to Benjamin Netanyahu's re-election. Those who spoke unfavorably of Bibi displayed an innocence akin to what Bibi and his brother witnessed as young men and wrote about in letters to each other. I read an article about their correspondence 20-some years ago in Zola's news magazine. Back then, I couldn't envision Jews (of all people) being naïve in the face of evil. I can see this more clearly now and a parallel in the U.S. —W.H.S. (MA)

Shalom W.H.S.—

I'm glad you enjoyed our special program covering Israel's March election. I admit it was one of our more exciting productions. The tension in Israel, the depressing polls, and bad press made the outcome so dubious that we actually filmed two endings—one with Bibi victorious and one with him defeated—because we had to shoot the intros before the vote took place.

My faith-filled wife balked at filming the "Bibi loses" ending, as she was ABSOLUTELY sure that he would win. We believe he is the man of the hour for Israel and a voice of reason for us all. The interviews certainly illustrated the saying: "two Jews, three opinions." Yes, the striking parallels between the naïve in Israel and the U.S. make me thankful that God is in charge and keeps His promises. Keep looking up! —Myles

## Discerning the Signs of the Times

*Rosh HaShanah/Feast of Trumpets September 14–15, 2015*

Dear ZLM,

I study Bible prophecy and I have a question about the Jewish holiday of Yom Teruah (Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year), celebrated on Tishri 1 (September 14, 2015). Could there be a connection between the holiday and 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first*"? I am attempting to discern the signs of the times in which we live and alert others as well. Thank you for your time. —W.W.

Dear W.W.—

Yes, there is definitely a connection between Yom Teruah and 1 Thessalonians 4:14–18. The Levites (priests) would blow the trumpet several times to announce the feast's arrival. So too, when the trumpet of God blasts, signaling the Rapture, the first blast will resurrect the dead in Christ. The second blast, following immediately after the first, will translate the living for both to meet the Lord in the air.

In His service,  
Dr. Todd Baker





# Abbas's Building Freeze Trick

By Ari Yashar / IsraelNationalNews.com



Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently spoke about the peace process and regional tensions that are creating a new reality in the Middle East. He also spoke about the largely hushed-up building freeze in Judea and Samaria.

"I committed to two states at Bar Ilan," he said, referencing his controversial 2009 speech voicing support for the establishment of a Palestinian state. "The solution as I see it is a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes Israel as a Jewish state."

In the last round of peace talks, the Palestinian Authority (PA) adamantly refused to recognize Israel's existence as the Jewish state.

"The Palestinians expect us to recognize a Palestinian state. However, they won't recognize a Jewish state for the Jewish people. That's what we want. Mutual recognition," noted Netanyahu.

According to the prime minister, the instability in the Middle East offers Israel an opportunity to try to find regional partners.

"The trepidation of the Sunni states from Iran on the one hand and ISIS on the other creates potential for cooperation," he said. "Perhaps it could help resolve the problem we want to resolve with the Palestinians. Because I don't want a one-state solution."

Netanyahu mentioned the freeze on Jewish construction in eastern Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria that his administration has been covertly imposing since late 2013 with almost no reprieve, although the freeze was reportedly not made part of the peace talk conditions after Netanyahu decided to release jailed terrorists as a "gesture" instead.

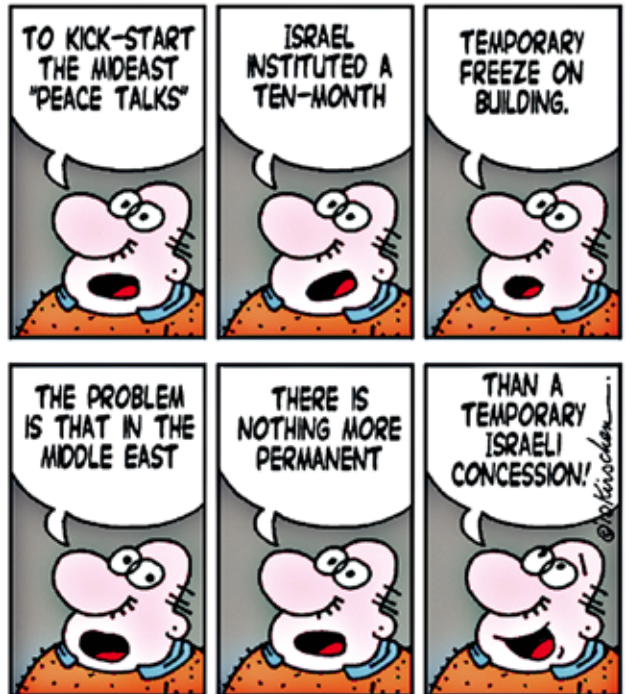
"I froze the settlements, and (last) October he (PA President Mahmoud Abbas) agreed to meet. We met for three hours in Sharm El Sheikh and three hours in Jerusalem, and he had one demand—more freeze," revealed Netanyahu.

He added, "the Palestinians have a trick: they refuse each time to talk and then turn to ask for a boycott against Israel, submit demands to the (UN) Security Council, and say we are refusing to renew the negotiations."



## Dry Bones

## MIDEAST TALKS



# What Happens When You Swipe Your Credit Card?



SCIENCE: By **David Shamah** (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

What happens when customers swipe their credit cards at a cash register, or use them to make an online purchase? To the buyers, it doesn't make much of a difference; all they know is that their bank is going to send them a bill at the end of the month. But the fate of that payment makes a difference to the merchant receiving the funds. The money is sent to an acquirer (a bank or financial institution that processes payments) and then deposited in the account of the store or website—minus fees, of course.

Those fees are a matter of contention between merchants and acquirers. Different institutions have different fees, with significant differences in the amount charged for varying types of transactions. **Merchants generally don't get to choose the best institution for the deal, unless they use the Israeli-developed Zooz platform,** says the company's CEO Oren Levy. The Hebrew word for "move," Zooz is dedicated to moving money around the world in as efficient and inexpensive a manner as possible.

"We don't acquire payments," said Levy. "We're not a bank and don't wish to be one. We check out all the rates for the acquiring banks everywhere in the world and find the best deal for each transaction. The more choice a merchant has in working with an acquirer, the better the deal the merchant can make."

Customers who pay for products and services with their credit cards are not, as many believe, forwarding a payment request to the bank that issued their credit card. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and all credit card companies work with a large network of banks that distribute payments for transactions around the network based on their own (private) criteria. Which banks to work with, how to route a payment, which currency to pay in, etc. can all affect payment acquisition; Zooz gathers information on what banks are charging for their acquisition services.

"Sometimes acquirers run 'specials' to attract business, and sometimes it's cheaper to pay via acquirers in foreign countries because of exchange-rate issues, to name just two factors," said Levy. "There is no way a merchant can instantly navigate the jungle of data to get the best deal, and that's what we're here for."



An example of how Zooz helps retailers: A UK site attracted a lot of Chinese customers. The transactions were being processed by British banks, which were suspicious of the Chinese credit card numbers the merchant was sending them, so many of the requests for payment were denied.

"We worked with the merchant to reroute the acquisition requests to Chinese banks, and the credit card decline problem was solved," said Levy. "If you want to sell internationally today, you have to have a lot of flexibility, and this is what we provide to merchants." ☆



# Alzheimer's Research—Pumping Zinc

MEDICINE: WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / Weizmann-USA.org



Why would a cell go to the trouble of destroying perfectly good, newly-minted proteins? New research at the Weizmann Institute and research centers in Germany, which was recently published in *Molecular Cell*, suggests that this unusual cellular mechanism may, among other things, be faulty in Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Maya Schuldiner and research student Dr. Shai Fuchs of the Weizmann Institute's Molecular Genetics Department, working in collaboration with a team at Heidelberg University, looked into Presenilin, a human protein mutated in a familial form of early-onset Alzheimer's.

To investigate the mechanism of this protein, the researchers looked to Presenilin, a yeast protein they identified as Ypf1 (for yeast presenilin fold1). When they removed Ypf1 from the yeast cells, the result was excess quantities of a protein whose role is to pump zinc—an essential metal—into the cell. However, although there are two proteins for pumping zinc into the cell, only one was affected. The one increased is a “turbo,” or high affinity, pump; while the second, unaffected protein is more of a “workaday,” low affinity pump. Like Presenilin, Ypf1 is a protease—a protein that degrades other proteins—so the researchers concluded that its function is to rid the cell of the “turbo” zinc transporters.

In fact, they realized they were looking at a sort of two-pump system, which had first been described several years ago by the Weizmann Institute's Prof. Naama Barkai. The low-affinity nutrient pumps may not be as efficient at bringing nutrients into the cell, but they are very sensitive to changes in those nutrients; when levels drop, they enable the activation of a back-up plan. High-affinity transporters can go into action to stockpile the nutrient in preparation for coming starvation, but these pumps can't enable the back-up plan. In this scenario, healthy cells should work most of the time on the workaday pumps, only allowing the turbo pumps to reach their outer surfaces in times of need.

The researchers asked how excess turbo pumping on the cell's surface would affect its ability to prepare for scarcity. Indeed, Ypf1-deficient cells were very slow to sense the nutrient's lack, so they performed poorly during zinc starvation and took longer to recover. And more than zinc pumps are affected: The research showed that in the absence of Ypf1, high-affinity transporters for many other nutrients are deregulated.

“Continually producing high-affinity transporters and then degrading them is a sort of double-safe mechanism to ensure that levels of vital nutrients like zinc remain as stable as possible within the cell,” says Fuchs. “Though we still don't know exactly how the mechanism in humans is tied to Alzheimer's, there is some interesting evidence that zinc transport in particular, and metal transport in general, could play a pivotal role in disease onset and progression.” ☆



# Orange is in Israel to Stay... *just not its brand*



By James Regan / Reuters.com — (with added notes from Haaretz.com)

Orange has no plans to quit Israel, its chief executive officer said in June, following a row over its plan to end a licensing deal there.

Israel protested to France after CEO **Stéphane Richard** (above) said the 25%-state-owned telecoms group planned to terminate an arrangement with Israel's Partner Communications, drawing accusations that Orange was bending to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), a pro-Palestinian boycott movement.

"Orange does not support any form of boycott, in Israel or anywhere else in the world," Richard said. "Our decision on the use of the brand is motivated solely by our brand strategy. Let me make it very clear that the Orange Group is in Israel to stay."

Orange is present in Israel via Orange Business Services, Internet television unit Viaccess-Orca, and Orange Labs.

Richard had been quoted by media as willing to withdraw the Orange brand from Israel. An Orange spokesman alleged a "huge misunderstanding" and said that Orange had negotiated a termination date in the contract regarding the use of the Orange brand.

"Our group policy is not to license our brand when we're not the operator. ... There isn't a single country in the world where we do that, so there's no reason to do it in Israel either. ... We want to control our brand."

**[Note from Haaretz.com:** And even if the company wants to pull its brand here, it has considerable entrepreneurial and high-tech activity in Israel. In 2008, it bought Orca, where it develops software for multi-channel television companies. In 2014, Orange established a start-up accelerator in Israel, Orange Fab, and Richard himself appears as one of the program's mentors. Orange executives are in Israel on a regular basis looking for startups and technology that they may want to acquire, and they have permanent representatives here to accomplish the task.]

*(continued next page)*



Orange logo in Jerusalem store window

## Orange... continued



Partner said the only link between it and Orange was the brand, used by the Israeli company since 1998.

**[Note from Haaretz.com:** Said Partner CEO Haim Romano, "If they want to get out of the contract with us, it would be helpful to offer something in return. It will cost them a lot of money."]

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that France publicly renounce what he called "the distressing statement and action" taken by Orange.

French groups have asked their government to encourage Orange to pull out of its relationship with its partner. The BDS movement is motivated by anti-Semitism and a desire to paint Israel as illegitimate.

**[Analysis from Haaretz:** At first glance, one would think that Israeli high tech would be vulnerable to anti-Israeli protests since the sector is dependent on a global market. Hundreds of global technology companies have research and development centers in Israel and could come in for criticism over that. But high tech is not retailing. Most of the technology companies operating in Israel are American, and the chances that they would give in to anti-Israeli pressure are smaller.

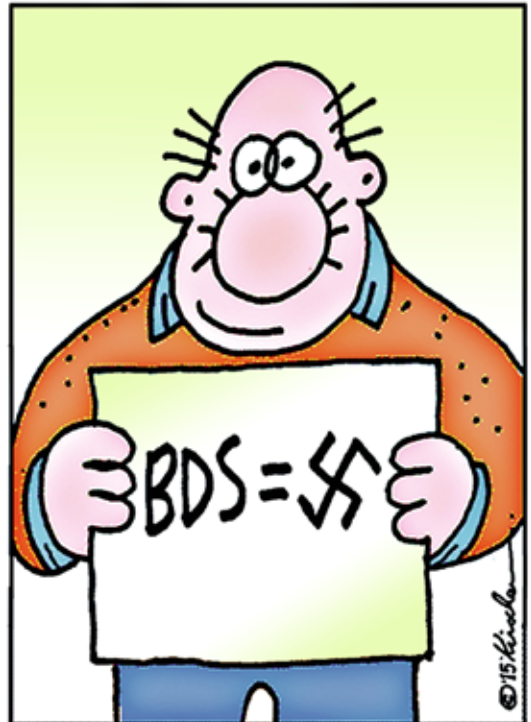
Moreover, tech companies have strategies linking them to Israel. Intel, for example, has an advanced production plant here, and it intends to upgrade it in the coming years at a cost of \$6 billion. Apple discovered Israel three years ago and already employs nearly 1,000 engineers here.

Israel's value, in the opinion of these companies, is not derived from the size of the local market or their volume of sales to Israeli customers, but rather the know-how that Israeli engineers have.

This capability has become part of the comparative advantage of these tech giants. Google, Microsoft, HP, and many others cannot forgo their development activities in Israel, as Ikea theoretically could with its three retail stores here.] ☆

*"The BDS movement is motivated by anti-Semitism and a desire to paint Israel as illegitimate."*

## Dry Bones



This is all your fault! If it weren't so darn fun to shoot rockets at you innocent Israeli civilians, this three year old Gazan girl would never have been hit by one of our stray rockets!



## Hamas Self-Inflicts with Rocket

By Tzvi Ben-Gedalyahu / JewishPress.com

Gaza terrorists on June 11 saved the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) the task of having to retaliate for rocket fire and did so themselves, exploding a rocket on a house in Gaza, not in Israel.

The IDF confirmed the “self-retaliation.” It is not known if there were injuries.

Recent rocket fire from Gaza has been met by immediate IDF retaliation, a “proportional” response that is careful not to injure anyone if the Gazan rockets explode in “open areas” in Israel.

The warning sirens in southern Israel blared for this incoming rocket as they do for all projectiles fired from Gaza, sending Israelis into bomb shelters.

“Palestinians” regularly complain to the United Nations when the IDF retaliates with missiles that target the rocket’s source, calling the precision return-fire “disproportional.”

Though damage to a residence from the June 11 rocket was disproportional, neither Hamas nor the Salafists (ISIS/ Gaza) have yet complained to the UN.

*This is a tongue-in-cheek illustration of a genuine tragedy: The neighborhood’s unwillingness to let Israel live in peace leads to suffering for the “Palestinians.” —Myles*

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

## Learning Israeli Innovation

By David Shamah  
TimesOfIsrael.com

Lahav Executive Education, a Tel Aviv University project, organizes executive training programs in management, business skill, and other related areas for professionals in a wide range of businesses in Israel. Two years ago, Lahav Executive Education got the idea to invite Chinese executives to see the Start-Up Nation in action for themselves.

According to Lahav CEO Udi Aharoni, *Start-Up Nation*, the bestselling book by Saul Singer and Dan Senor, got the ball rolling. “I always say that we Jews have had two major literary successes: the Bible and that book. People all over the world have been inspired by it and express an interest in seeing things for themselves.”

Thus was created the Lahav overseas program. For visitors from China and elsewhere—each national group gets its own program—Lahav runs a program to familiarize participants with Israel’s business ecosystem, Israeli society and culture, and Israeli history. Says Yu Kuan, owner of a Beijing art gallery, “If China is to go beyond being the world’s factory, it is going to have to learn to innovate. You Israelis have obviously figured out how to do that—and we are now your students.”



To  
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## Hamas Used Conflict with Israel to Kill Rivals

JTA.org

Hamas used the cover of last summer's conflict with Israel to torture and kill "Palestinians" from rival factions, according to a new report.

A report released in May by Amnesty International highlights the extrajudicial execution of at least 23 Palestinians and the arrest and torture of dozens of others, including members and supporters of Fatah, the party of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, a Hamas rival.

During the conflict in July and August 2014, Hamas "took the opportunity to ruthlessly settle scores, carrying out a series of unlawful killings and other grave abuses," said Philip Luther, director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Amnesty International.

Many of the unlawful killings, which took place in an operation code-named by Hamas "Strangling Necks," were said by Hamas to be retaliation against Palestinians collaborating with Israel in its Operation Protective Edge; however, at least 16 of those executed by Hamas were in prison, most on collaboration charges, before the start of the conflict, according to Amnesty International.

The human rights organization called on Palestinian leaders, including the Hamas government, to investigate "impartially and independently" and bring suspected perpetrators to justice.



## Jewish Man Led to Yeshua by TJF Team

By Todd Baker and August Rosado (rt)

In Kiryat Shmona, an Israeli town on the border with Lebanon, To The Jew First evangelical ambassadors Todd Baker and August Rosado led **Ohad Gozalker** (above left) to accept Yeshua as his Savior and Messiah. *Baruch HaShem!* (Blessed be the name of the Lord!)



Video picture clip

Ohad exclaimed that he feels a peace and joy that now his sins have been forgiven and he will go to Heaven because of what Yeshua did on the cross and by His resurrection. The TJF team located a local Messianic congregation where Ohad can find discipleship and fellowship with other Jewish and gentile Believers.

The team, from Zola Levitt Ministries, asks members of the Church to pray for this newborn Believer, that he will resist satanic attacks and deceitful attempts by the Orthodox to try and dissuade him from following and believing Yeshua. Ohad has requested TJF visits whenever it returns to Kiryat Shmona, and the team has promised to keep in touch with this new brother in Messiah Jesus and see him again, God willing, in September to celebrate his progress in the faith. ★

# Egypt's Fatwa: ISIS Wrong to Destroy Antiquities



ARCHAEOLOGY Middle East Media Research Institute / MEMRI.org

Following ISIS's takeover of Palmyra in Syria, Al-Azhar (mosque and university) issued a statement in which it expressed concern over this development and called upon the international community to take swift measures to prevent ISIS from destroying the ancient ruins and monuments there. The statement said that **Islamic sharia law forbids destroying archaeological remains and mankind's cultural heritage or trading in stolen antiquities.** It said further that, in destroying antiquities, ISIS and other terror organizations implement a colonialist ideology whose sole purpose is to empty the Arab and Islamic countries of heritage, culture, and history.

Dar Al-Ifta, Egypt's official institution responsible for issuing *fatwas* (Islamic decrees), also issued a condemnation of ISIS's destruction of antiquities. As part of its campaign against radical Islam, Dar Al-Ifta has been operating a body (since December 2013) to respond to fatwas by radical elements by issuing fatwas of its own that refute the claims of the radicals and explain the correct ruling according to its lights. Following the Islamic State's destruction of archaeological sites and museums in Iraq and Syria, as well as the ban it issued on teaching archaeology in the University of Mosul, Dar Al-Ifta issued a fatwa explaining why these actions contradict the laws and the spirit of Islam.

The Dar Al-Ifta fatwa explains that the Koran commands followers to protect archaeological sites so that mankind can learn from the past: "Allah commanded us in more than one Koranic verse to tour the land, see the remains left by our predecessors, and take a lesson from them (Koran 30:9). The fatwa explains further that the study of archaeology is one of the ways to learn from ancient remains, as Allah commanded, and that the Prophet also instructed believers to preserve ancient remains when he "forbade the destruction of the castles of Al-Medina."

**ISIS destroying antiquities in Iraq**  
(Image: english.alarabiya.net)



The fatwa proclaims that ISIS's actions and attitude toward antiquities reflect "the utter ignorance of these radicals, who do not examine the Koran and the heritage of the Prophet..." Moreover, the opinions upon which they base their views "do not contain any convincing arguments anchored in religious evidence." The conduct of ISIS, the fatwa adds, also stands in contradiction to the conduct of the Prophet's companions, who are meant to serve as a model for Moslems. "Some of the Prophet's companions came to Egypt at the time of the Muslim conquests and found the pyramids and the Sphinx. [They] did not issue any fatwa or a religious ruling regarding these antiquities, which have immense historical value."

The fatwa also addresses ISIS's claim that antiquities, if not destroyed, may encourage polytheism. It stresses that Islam "does not forbid to appreciate other things besides Allah, but only to worship them, as was done by the people of the pre-Islamic era, who believed that the objects they worshiped were gods." ☆

*The intervention of more-moderate factions may be the only hope for a true reformation of Islam. Meanwhile, the rest of us watch the most radical elements advance, apparently determined to herald the 8th century! —Myles*





# Corridor at Herodian Hilltop Palace

ARCHAEOLOGY The Hebrew University of Jerusalem / new.huji.ac.il

Archaeologists from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology have discovered a monumental entryway to the Herodian Hilltop Palace at the Herodium National Park. The unique complex was uncovered during excavations last year as part of a project to develop the site for tourism.

The main feature of the entryway is an impressive corridor with a complex system of arches spanning its width on three separate levels. These arches buttressed the corridor's massive side walls, allowing the king and his entourage direct passage into the palace courtyard. Thanks to the supporting arches, the corridor, 65' long and 20' wide, has been preserved to a height of 65 feet.

Archaeologists suggest that the corridor was built as part of Herod's plan to turn Herodium into a massive, volcano-shaped hill—a vast and impressive monument designed to commemorate the architect king.

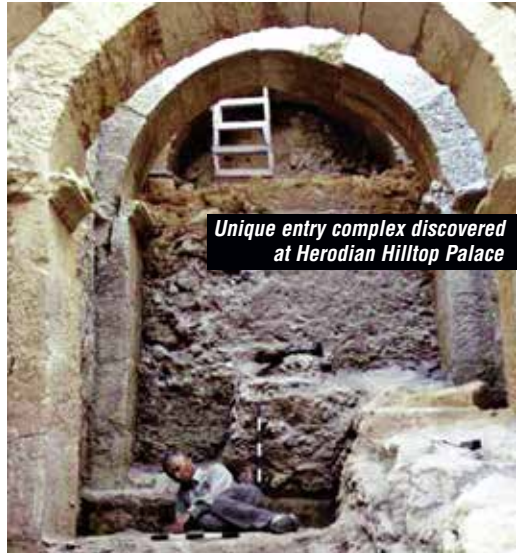
Surprisingly, during the course of the excavations it became evident that the arched corridor was never actually used. It appears that Herod, aware of his impending death, decided to convert the whole hilltop complex into a massive memorial mound, a royal burial monument on an epic scale.

Whatever the reason, the corridor was backfilled during construction of the massive hill at the end of Herod's reign. The upper section of a new monumental stairway stretching from the hill's base to its peak, constructed during the course of this building phase, was built over it.

The excavators point out that not only was the arched corridor covered over, but also all the structures built earlier by Herod on the hill's slopes, including the Royal Theater, which was uncovered by the expedition in 2008. The only edifice *not* covered over was the splendid, mausoleum-style structure identified as Herod's burial place. Together with the monumental cone-shaped hill, this constituted the unique Herodian royal burial-complex.

Also exposed during last year's excavations: the original and impressive palace vestibule, blocked when the corridor was backfilled. This entry room, decorated with splendid painted frescoes, offered evidence of the rebel occupation during the Great Revolt (66–71 A.D.), including Jewish Revolt coinage and crude temporary structures.

Excavations in the arched corridor also unearthed evidence from the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132–136 A.D.), namely, hidden tunnels dug by the rebels as part of the guerrilla warfare they waged against the Romans. Supported in part by wooden beams, these tunnels exited from the hilltop fortress by way of openings hidden in the corridor's walls. One of the tunnels revealed 20 or so cypress-wood branches arranged in a cross-weave pattern to support the tunnel's roof. ☆



Unique entry complex discovered at Herodian Hilltop Palace



# Israel Still Modeling Water Conservation

By Isabel Kershner (r) NYTimes.com



About six years ago, “we were in a situation where we were very, very close to someone opening a tap somewhere in the country and no water would come out,” said Uri Schor, the spokesman and public education director of Israel’s Water Authority. Today, there is plenty of water in Israel.

As western areas of the United States grapple with an extreme drought, a revolution has taken place in Israel. A major, national effort to desalinate Mediterranean seawater and to recycle wastewater has provided the country with enough water for all its needs, even during severe droughts. **More than 50% of the water for Israeli households, agriculture, and industry is now artificially produced.**

The turnaround came with a seven-year drought that began in 2005 and peaked in the winter of 2008/09. The country’s main natural water sources—the Sea of Galilee in the north and the mountain and coastal aquifers—were severely depleted, threatening a potentially irreversible deterioration of the water quality. Measures to increase the supply and reduce the demand were accelerated, overseen by the Water Authority, a powerful inter-ministerial agency established in 2007.



Desalination emerged as one focus of the government’s efforts, with four major plants going into operation over the past decade and a fifth one ready to operate soon. Together, they will produce a total of more than 130 billion gallons of potable water a year, with a goal of 200 billion gallons by 2020.

Israel has, in the meantime, become the world leader in recycling and reusing wastewater for agriculture. It treats 86% of its domestic wastewater and recycles it for agricultural use—about 55% of the total water used for agriculture. Spain is second to Israel, recycling 17% of its effluent, while the United States recycles just 1%, according to Water Authority data.

The Israeli government began by making huge cuts in the annual water quotas for farmers, ending decades of heavily subsidized water for agriculture.

A two-tiered tariff system for household use was introduced in 2009. Regular household water is now subsidized by a slightly higher rate paid by those who consume more than the basic allotment.

Water Authority representatives went house to house offering to fit free devices on shower heads and taps that inject air into the water stream, saving about a third of the water used while still giving the impression of a strong flow.

Officials say that wiser use of water has led to a reduction in household consumption of up to 18% in recent years. ★



# JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

## The Perfect Marriage

Rabbi Chaim Rosenberg was fresh out of rabbinical school and took up a post as Assistant Rabbi at a congregation. He was having trouble getting people to come to his Talmud lectures, so his wife suggested that he give a class to young couples on the “perfect marriage.”

“And, Chaim,” advised his wife Rivkah, “make sure to start your class with a good joke.”

The night of Rabbi Rosenberg’s first lecture came and, to his surprise, a large crowd assembled. As he stared at the young couples, he started to stammer. Sweat began to form on his brow.

Then, remembering his wife’s advice, Rabbi Rosenberg gathered up his courage and said, “You know who had the perfect marriage? Adam and Eve. You know why?”

The couples stared at Rabbi Rosenberg blankly. “Adam didn’t have to hear about all of the men Eve could have married, and Eve didn’t have to hear about how well Adam’s mother cooked.”



*A cheerful heart is good medicine —*  
Proverbs 17:22



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by Zola Levitt

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