

# Levitt Letter



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

## Why Christians Should Celebrate Hanukkah

By Susan Michael  
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

Few Christians relate to Hanukkah since it is not one of the biblical feasts of Israel. But the fact that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah should make Christians curious enough to investigate the festival's importance to their faith.

Hanukkah prepared the way for the birth and ministry of Jesus. So, Christians may want to not only wish the Jewish community a Happy Hanukkah, but also celebrate it themselves!

The Hanukkah story occurred in the inter-Testamental period between the Old and New Testaments, when Antiochus IV Epiphanes ruled the Greek Empire. While the [Hellenization](#) of the area already threatened the survival of the Jewish religion, Antiochus seemed obsessed with ensuring the extinction of the Jewish people.

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

Christian Zionist Super Bowl [p.12](#)

## Searching for the Maccabee Tombs

Archaeology:  
Agence France-  
Presse

Israeli archaeologists had hoped to finally uncover the mystery of the ancient tomb of the Maccabees, but they have been thwarted once again.

Archaeological authorities said recently that they had carried out another excavation at a site near Modi'in, northwest of Jerusalem, to determine "once and for all" whether the tomb was indeed there.

The tomb of the family that led the Jewish revolt against the Greek

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## Why Christians Should Celebrate Hanukkah *cont. from cover*

He murdered the High Priest, slaughtered 40,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem, and dedicated the Jewish Temple to Zeus, destroying the Holy Scriptures and forcing Jews to take part in heathen rites.

In a final assault, Antiochus slaughtered a pig on the Temple's sacrificial altar, thereby desecrating it. The Maccabean family, from the priestly line of Aaron, led a revolt against this evil ruler and miraculously experienced victories over the mighty Greek forces, until at last the Temple could be purified and its services restored.



Susan Michael

**Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple to the God of Israel and was originally called the Festival of Dedication** (John 10:22). Hanukkah derives from the Hebrew word "to dedicate."

The defeat of the Greek forces by this small band of Jewish zealots was a miracle, with God demonstrating His steadfast love and faithfulness to His people by saving them from the threat of extinction. This in itself is cause for celebration.

But the story continues. When the Jews re-entered the city of Jerusalem and the Temple, they found only enough sacred oil to keep the Temple menorah burning for one day. However, the oil burned for eight days while more was prepared.

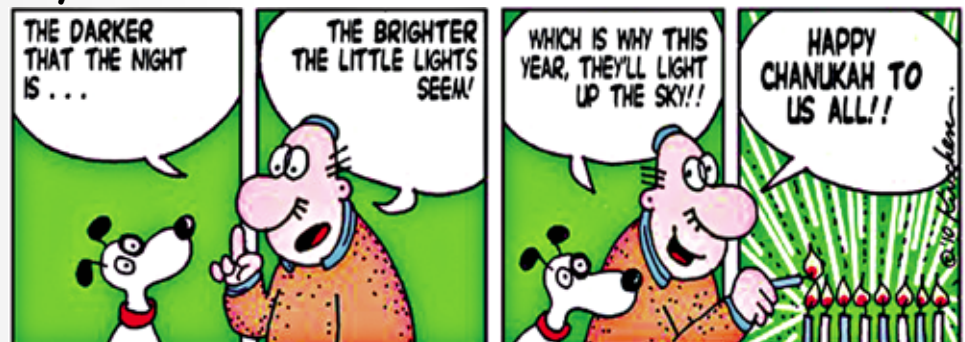
Though the story of the miracle oil is nowhere found in interTestamental writings, the very first Hanukkah was celebrated for eight days, was called the Festival of Lights as early as the first century, and Jesus celebrated it.

In John's Gospel, Jesus entered the Temple during the Feast of Dedication. He surely would have known the story behind the Feast and that the Temple He stood in would not have been in operation without it.

Christians today should remember the faithfulness of God to the Jews on that first Hanukkah. Had Antiochus succeeded in annihilating the nation of Israel, there would have been no Jewish woman named Mary to become the mother of Jesus Christ.

There also would have been no Temple for the beginning of the Christmas story. Luke starts the Nativity Story in the Temple with an angel announcing to the priest Zechariah that his wife would give birth to John the Baptist. It is no coincidence that God chose to begin the Christmas story in the Temple, the heart of Jewish faith and life at the time. ☆

### Dry Bones



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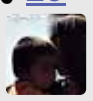
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## AA Stopping Israeli Route [i24News.tv](#)

American Airlines, the world's largest carrier, announced recently that it is discontinuing its service to Israel, citing loss of revenue on the route to and from Philadelphia.

But sources in the aviation industry told financial daily *TheMarker* that the real reason is the company's ties with Arab airlines through its oneworld® alliance.

"Profitability wasn't a problem," said an industry source, who asked not to be identified. "The past year hasn't been easy for the airline industry in general, but that's far from saying that the route wasn't profitable. No one would have operated a money-losing route for so many years."

American made the decision due to its alliance with oneworld, whose members include Arab carriers like Qatar Airways and Royal Jordanian and also Malaysia Airlines, the carrier of Moslem-majority Asian country Malaysia.

Oneworld is the third largest global alliance in terms of passengers flown by its member carriers, behind Star Alliance and SkyTeam. American was one of the founding airlines of oneworld, which helps smooth connections between member airlines and coordinates frequent-flier benefits. ★

I will no longer fly on AA. —Myles

Read how my son and I were treated as terror suspects on AA ([December 2010 Levitt Letter](#)). —Mark





# "Have Yourself a Terror Little Christmas"

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



We recently enjoyed a wonderful and completely safe tour leading two buses of amazing pilgrims. Sadly, others in Israel were not as safe. While we were touring Jesus' homeland, Moslems murdered several local Jews, whom they see as "occupiers." In a manifestation of Isaiah 5:20 ("Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil..."), the world media and too many Western governments morally equated Israeli self-defense with Islamic aggression.

David French in *National Review* reported:

Palestinians are furious, with "moderate" Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas declaring, "The Al-Aqsa [Mosque] is ours, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is ours, and they [Jews] have no right to **defile it with their filthy feet.**" He went on to encourage martyrdom from followers of Islam.

In other words, when there is a shared holy site, Palestinians demand exclusively Muslim faith practice. And if they don't get it, they'll kill innocent men, women, and children until you relent. Let's be clear—this is crazed, anti-Semitic religious intolerance, and Israelis are expected to "respect" this intolerance at the risk of being stabbed to death on a bus.

I expect nothing less than this level of lying from Yasser Arafat's acolyte and partner in propaganda. Arafat was the inventor of modern terrorism and Abbas learned well. Abbas funded the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre of Israeli athletes and wrote a prime example of Holocaust denial for his Ph.D. dissertation. He is doing his job as a kleptocratic thug in a silver sharkskin suit. Keeping his people in poverty, training children to hate and kill Jews, and pretending to be a "peace partner" constitute his stock-in-trade.

Abbas and his deluded Western supporters blame the Jews for everything dysfunctional in the Middle East. This temerity is outlandish. The Jews account for 0.2% of the world's population, yet hold 22% of the Nobel Prizes for phe-

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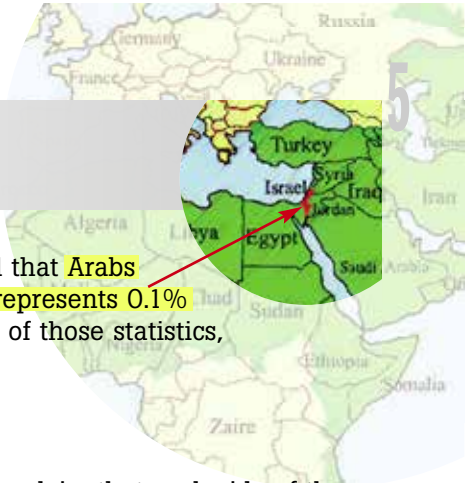


*Abbas & Arafat, faithful to the PA cause*



*Violence erupts in the streets of Israel. PA approves*

# Myles continues



nominal contributions to mankind. Keep in mind that Arabs control 99.9% of Middle East lands while Israel represents 0.1% (one-tenth of 1 percent) of the landmass. In light of those statistics, the hubris of the PA leader boggles the mind!

Still, it follows expectations.

However, I still cannot get used to Westerners who claim that each side of the conflict has equal responsibility in the current violence or blame Israel outright. During our recent tour of Israel, I was appalled to read the following:

"In response to a violent orgy of Muslim terror stabbings of Jews in Jerusalem and elsewhere around Israel, the [U.S.] State Department condemned terrorism on both sides." (FrontPageMag.com)

and

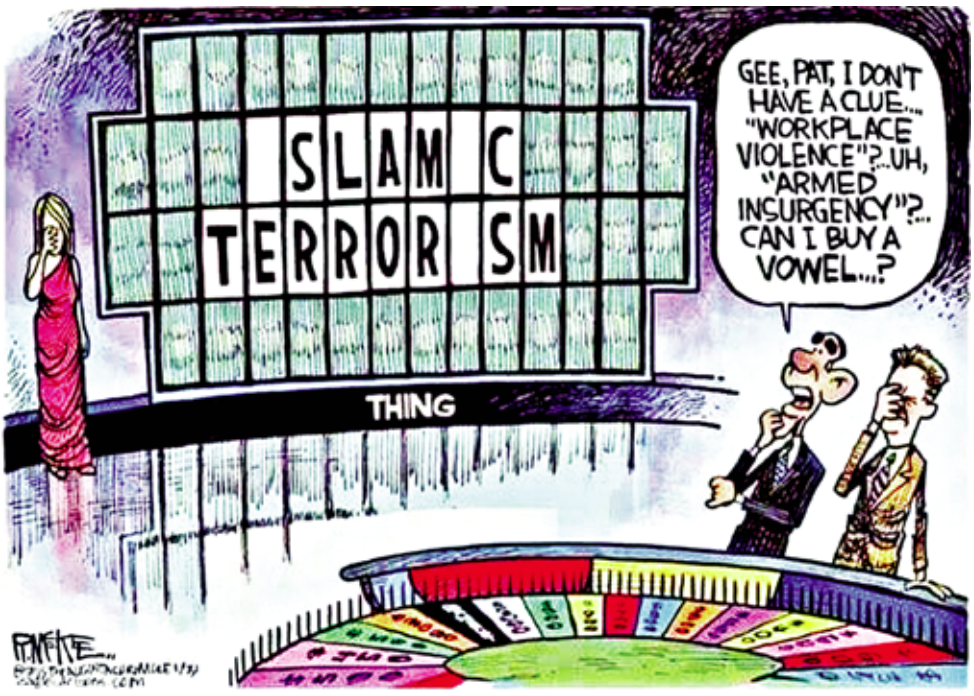
During the spate of killings, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor released a new report, "Israel's Arbitrary Killings and its System of Structural Violence," at a press conference in Geneva.

Nothing new under the sun, I have heard.

Yeshua advised Believers to keep looking up!  
(Luke 21:28) ☆



Abbas with Pope Francis



# The Real Gift that Keeps on Giving

Katharine Weiss  
ZLP co-host



Many commercials over the years have employed the well-known phrase “the gift that keeps on giving,” using it to sell gifts for Mother’s and Father’s Days and for subscriptions to *Sports Illustrated* and assorted gift-of-the-month clubs. The first trademarked use for its commercial purposes goes to ... drumroll... the first “talking machines”—phonographs—in 1925.

I find this humorous, and I wonder if the commercially oriented use of the phrase began with a Believer. I picture an adult remembering his Sunday School teacher’s emphasis on the gift of eternal life through the cross of Jesus and applying that principle to his advertising work.

I have a sentimental and spiritual attachment to the Christmas season. My childhood memories include positive and warm experiences with reliable people. When Myles came into my life, those experiences were exponentially improved by the addition of Hanukkah celebrations with the love of my life.

However, as much as Myles adds to my life, it is the presence of Yeshua and His Word that make Christmas a consistently deep and meaningful season. His birth, sinless life, sacrifice, and resurrection changed me forever. Whereas my childhood memories include the thrill of abundant presents and attention to material details, the “Reason for the season” grows each year. In Matthew’s gospel, Yeshua said:

<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —MATT. 6

This passage reminds me to point others to the importance of Messiah’s advent *and* the signs of His soon return! Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate His birth (even though it may have been in spring or autumn) while people are feeling openhearted, to tell them about God’s eternal plan of salvation.



I hope you will remember to speak openly, telling others of your journey and adventure through a life of faith in Messiah. Let’s all be bold and let the truth of His cross show through us. We should fervently work to see friends and family receive eternal life in “*olam ha’ba*” (the world to come) as well as abundant life here in “*olam ha’zeh*” (this present world).

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness,  
but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish  
but for all to come to repentance. —2 PETER 3:9

*Yeshua HaMashiach*, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world and the Lion of Judah soon returning to rule and reign, is the real Gift that keeps on giving! ★



# Determined to Flourish

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



I wanted to begin this article differently. I had intended to describe the celebration we recently enjoyed: *Simchat Torah* (rejoicing in the Torah). Grandparents, grandchildren, and everyone in between literally danced around our sanctuary, carrying Torah scrolls (Genesis–Deuteronomy). I wanted to tell you how we sat in our *sukkah* (temporary shelter) during *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles) and then recount the relaxed, delicious meals we ate—savoring the food and each other’s company. I wanted to impress on you the sound of the *shofar* (ram’s horn trumpet) that blew on the Day of Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah*).

But I cannot shake off the sobering, heartbreaking reality that **Israelis are dying at the hands of knife-wielding, cold-blooded terrorists**. The following incidents took place during the same holiday season I just described. A rock thrown at the car window of a man simply returning home from his holiday dinner killed him when the vehicle went out of control. A mother and father were gunned down at point-blank range while their young children watched helplessly from the back seat. A rabbi and a young father were viciously stabbed to death in Jerusalem’s Old City. In each case, the victims were chosen because they represented our nation. In each case, the message was clear: We followers of Islam hate you and reject the presence of Jews in this land.

Their message comes from Hell.

I usually do not express myself this way. I seek to focus on what builds and blesses, what inspires and strengthens. Today, my conscience cannot pass these tragic events without comment. The question remains: How can we—you and I as Believers—possibly respond? The security forces continue doing their difficult but important job. The public officials endeavor to find ways of tightening security without creating a police state. What about us?



First, we must continue to live here in Israel, without fear or hesitation. It comes as no secret that the return of Jews to live in Israel after 1,800 years of exile is a miracle. That miracle is worth maintaining and celebrating, regardless (and because) of the demonic opposition to it. Innocent blood calls for renewed determination to make a vibrant, thriving life here in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Second, the Scriptures grant us the privilege of coming before Almighty God in prayer. We must come to the Lord and access His mercy. The families who’ve lost treasured loved ones need abundant mercy. And we, the disciples of Yeshua in the Land, need His anointing, His love, and His boldness to reveal Him to His own nation! In all of these ways, we can pray—aided by the Spirit of Yeshua within us—to see what Israel’s ancient prophets promised: a time of great revival harvest before His return. ✨

# Media Bias Against Israel



**CAMERA.ORG** (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America), a sampling from only two days.

## **LA Times Corrects Headline, Article on Palestinian Terrorism**

– October 14, 2015

Following a complaint from CAMERA, the *Los Angeles Times* amended a headline which grossly whitewashed Palestinian terrorism, depicting the perpetrators as victims. The paper also corrected that two, not one, Israeli civilians were stabbed Saturday.

## **CAMERA Prompts NY Times Correction: Occupation is not “illegal”**

– October 14, 2015

After correspondence between CAMERA staff and *New York Times* journalists, the newspaper corrected an inaccurate passage that claimed Israel’s presence in the Golan Heights and West Bank is an “illegal” occupation.

## **CNN Dances Around Palestinian Violence, Refuses to Identify Culprits**

– October 14, 2015

Double standards abound in a CNN article that dismally failed to identify the perpetrators and victims of the Palestinian terror attacks against Israeli Jews. Palestinian perpetrators are “men,” Israeli victims are “passengers.”

## **Media Silent on Palestinian Leaders’ Incitement to Violence**

– October 13, 2015

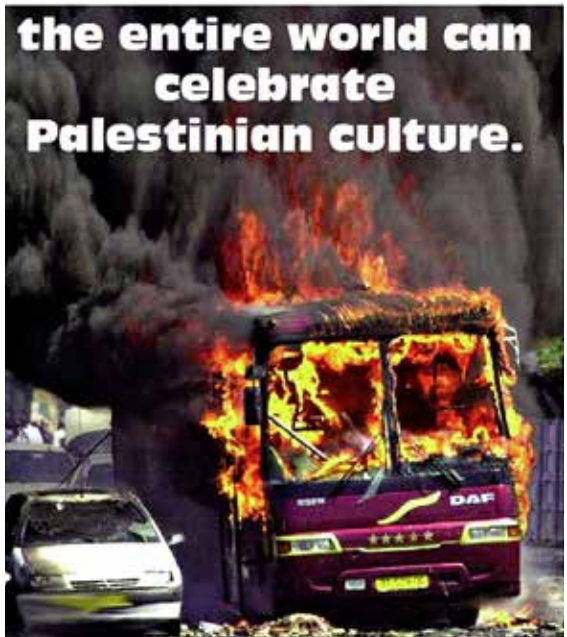
As Palestinian leaders who wield falsehoods, and in some cases brandish knives, exhort their people to stab, stone, run down, burn, axe, and butcher Jews in Israel and around the world, mainstream news media overwhelmingly neglect to report the content, pervasiveness, and impact of this incitement, making them little better than accomplices in the resulting violence.

*(continued next page)*



**Now that “Palestine”  
has joined UNESCO,\***

**the entire world can  
celebrate  
Palestinian culture.**



\*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [ElderOfZiyon.com](http://ElderOfZiyon.com)







## **Palestinians Attack Israelis, FOX NEWS Reporter Blames the Victims** – October 13, 2015

Reporting on the recent spate of deadly Palestinian attacks against Israelis, Jerusalem-based FOX NEWS reporter Conor Powell twisted the facts, presenting a purely Palestinian narrative. Here are the most serious omissions and false claims in Powell's Oct. 12th report, followed by the facts:

**Powell:** Most [of the attacks] have been stabbings, though two Israelis were killed in a gun attack by an alleged Hamas cell about a week or so ago.

**Fact:** Powell omits the particularly brutal nature of the gun attack, which shocked even an Israeli public that has seen many terrible murders. The two Israelis killed were a young rabbi and wife. They were shot while driving with their four young children, ages 9 years to 9 months. Reporting this brutal murder in such an incomplete way serves the Palestinian narrative rather than the truth. What is "alleged" about the Hamas cell that committed this crime and that Israel has captured?

**Powell:** More than two dozen Palestinians have also been killed, including several attackers.

**Fact:** Powell's distorted facts favor the Palestinian side. The Palestinian dead included seven attackers who directly tried to kill Israelis, not "several." Many of the other Palestinians killed were part of mobs attacking Israeli security forces.

**Powell:** The spark for all of this recent violence is really a fight over access to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

**Fact:** Palestinian claims about a supposed threat to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound are a pretext. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated repeatedly that there will be no change to the status quo. For example, when Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas charged in his speech at the UN that Israel was threatening the mosque compound, Netanyahu once again forcefully denied that Israel would do any such thing. Netanyahu, in his response to Abbas's speech, added:

"Abu Mazen's [Abbas's] speech was deceitful and encourages incitement and lawlessness in the Middle East.

"We expect... the [Palestinian] Authority and its leader to act responsibly...

and enter into direct negotiations with Israel without preconditions.



"The fact that he — time and again — has refused to do so is the best possible proof of the fact he does not intend to reach a peace agreement." ★

# Good News from the 7-Eleven

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1987: 28 years ago



A few weeks ago, I bought a tabloid newspaper from the local convenience store because its headline tempted me to look inside: "Top Preachers Reveal Joyful New Bible Prophecies." And a kicker to the headline added: "No More Death! No More Taxes! Always Summer!"

As is usual with these designed-to-catch-your-attention grocery counter specials, the "news" inside was not really new. But I was happy to note that all the information was accurate. Top preachers indeed were quoted throughout the article, and what they related was Kingdom prophecy that we have all read in the Bible. Yes, in the Kingdom-to-come, taxes will be abolished, death will be rare and unusual, and as far as summer goes, it's nearly always summer in Israel, where the Millennial Kingdom will headquarter. A prominent preacher was quoted as saying that we could expect big changes before the end of the 1980s, provoking my only quibble

about *us* providing *God* with a date for fulfilling what is entirely His work.

During this past year, 1987, we made a step of our own to spotlight the details of prophecy—and Bible knowledge in general—by founding our correspondence course, the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies. As I reviewed last year's Christmas letter, I saw that we were just announcing it at that time and were working on the materials. I can tell you now that it has been a huge success, with a student body close to 1,500 and a number of students who already have finished their coursework and received their diplomas!

I am personally extremely pleased that people are taking the study of the Jewish roots of Christianity seriously. I know that graduates are equipped to be powerful witnesses as we approach what the Bible calls "The Day of the Lord." ☆

(Please see our [study course on page 20.](#))



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## Salvation in Kiryat Shmona

BY DR. TODD BAKER (below right)

In the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shmona, near the border with Lebanon, TJF team member August Rosado and I were about to leave a shopping mall after limited success with ministry there. A few feet from the escalator, I happened to glance back and saw a young Israeli man standing in the entrance of a sporting goods store. I mentioned to August that I recognized him from a previous mission trip. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, August asked if I wanted to go and chat with him, and I answered, "Yes."

We approached the young man, **Ohad**, and thanked him for the Jewish people giving the world the Holy Scriptures and Yeshua the Messiah. Ohad's reception to our statement of gratitude opened the door for us to witness to him and show him Messianic prophecies from the pages of the Hebrew Bible. We explained that Yeshua had actually fulfilled these signs when He came to Israel 2,000 years ago.

Ohad eagerly drank in all of our information and then told us that when he saw us walk by, he had judged us as special men on a mission and was thrilled when we turned around and walked into his store. Ohad's joy as we shared the Gospel with him and his passionate acceptance of it made August and me realize that, through the Holy Spirit, Ohad was ready to receive salvation from Yeshua as his Messiah. So, we led Ohad in the prayer of faith to receive *Yeshua Adon* (the Lord Jesus). Ohad confessed aloud that Yeshua had died for his sins and risen from the dead for his salvation.

After praying to receive Yeshua into his life for salvation, Ohad remarked that it was "the greatest feeling that ever happened" to him. August and I were able to find a local Messianic congregation for him to attend, and we left Ohad in joy, knowing that this son of Abraham is now a born-again Believer and Heaven-bound son of God!



## Ask the Chaplain

BY DR. TODD BAKER / Zola Levitt Ministries Staff Theologian



**Q** I am interested in the holy oils of the Bible. I have discovered the formula for the Holy Anointing Oil that God commanded to be made and used to anoint the priest in the Temple. I am also aware of God's prohibition of the oil being made by anyone not a priest of the Temple. Does this prohibition still exist? I am an ordained minister, but I can think of no one to ask but you.

**A** In Israel today, vendors sell anointing oil that is similar to the oil used in the Tabernacle and Temples. The Lord's prohibition would not apply to New Testament Believers in this, the Church Age, because the Old Covenant Temple rules and sacrifices have all been fulfilled. Jesus' perfect once-for-all sacrifice did away with those requirements (Hebrews 8-10). ★



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# Christian Zionist Super Bowl

By Maayan Jaffe  
JNS.org



Black lights and sensational music—Dancing—Prayer—Charity—A march of thousands from more than 80 nations in solidarity with Israel. In essence, the Christian Zionist Super Bowl.

Such was the scene of the 36th Feast of Tabernacles conference and celebration, hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) during *Sukkot* in late September. The event brought over 5,000 people (median age, 30–40) to Israel's capital, including delegates and government officials from more than two dozen countries. Several African nations sent a large delegation of cabinet ministers and members of parliament (MPs) to officially represent their countries.

The weeklong festivities mark Israel's largest annual event for tourists and the largest solidarity mission to the Jewish state this year, injecting an estimated \$16 million into the Israeli economy.

In a video speech, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the Christian Zionist attendees for their unfaltering support of Israel over the years. "Israel has no better friends around the world," he said. Similarly, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said, "Not everyone in the world seeks the best for Jerusalem. There are people who challenge our history. Sometimes, we feel alone. ... Your friendship is warming our hearts. I want to thank you for your prayers and your unprecedented support and passion."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said his Jewish ancestors of 2,400 years prior could not have envisioned the ingathering to Jerusalem of Jews from around the world...to build farms and villages and make the desert bloom.

"Thank you for standing with us. Pray for the people of Jerusalem—may it prosper. God bless," said Rivlin.

*(continued next page)*



**2015 ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles celebration**  
**Christians standing with Israel**



# Super Bowl continued



According to ICEJ, evangelicals are the fastest-growing stream of Christianity. **If current trends continue, there will be an estimated 1 billion evangelicals within the next 20 years, holding great potential for Israel** in political, diplomatic, and economic terms, as evangelicals tend to hold favorable views of Israel.

A movement of underground evangelism in China that grew from a few thousand faithful 45 years ago now boasts an estimated 130 million followers. It is estimated that 30% of China will be evangelical within 30 years. Within 20 years, India is likely to be 20% Christian. The projected growth in Africa is expected to exceed 1 billion evangelical Christians by 2050. According to Nanasso Amina, a delegate from Cameroon, "friendship evangelism" makes the difference. "We win their confidence and then present Christ to them," she said.

"The vast majority of Zionists around the world are not Jewish but Christian believers in the Bible who stand with Israel," said Calev Myers, founder of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice. "We need to equip them. It is more effective for a blue-eyed, blond Swede to defend Israel abroad than for Israelis to defend themselves." ★

*"I will bless those who  
bless Israel."*

GENESIS 12:3



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**2015 ICEJ Tabernacles celebration  
in Jerusalem**

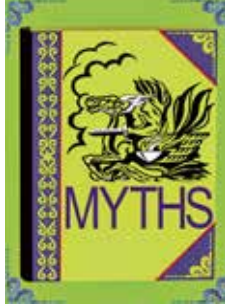


WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

## 7 Dangerous Money Myths



Rob Bennett's approach to money management at his [PassionSaving.com](http://PassionSaving.com) website focuses more on enjoying freedom and opportunity than on planning for retirement. Bennett has college degrees in political science, law, and taxation and is an accomplished writer who retired in his early 40s. Below I've selected and truncated my favorites of his many money myths. —Mark



**Myth #1. Mortgages are always worthwhile.** Some believe it's always good to have a mortgage, even if you're able to pay it off; that you are wiser to invest in stocks. Why would a bank lend you money for less than it can earn from stocks?

**Myth #2. Stocks Are Always Best.** There is no one asset class that is always best for the long run, because an investment's long-term appeal depends on its popularity. Were an asset class to become widely regarded as the best, then it soon would become overpriced. Stocks really are best for the long run only when most investors do not view them as being such.

**Myth #3. Everyone Should Aim to Save 10% of Income.** Some individuals with varying goals and circumstances should save zero or even go into debt for a time (to attend school, for example). There is no one, ideal saving percentage for all of us.

**Myth #4. To Retire, You Need 80% of Your Pre-Retirement Income.** Maybe you would need an income stream of 80% of your pre-retirement *spending* (since you won't have job-related expenses during retirement). The more you save, the lower the percentage of your pre-retirement income you will need to replace in retirement.

**Myth #5. We Need Houses Twice the Size of Those We Grew Up In.** Most of today's families are smaller, and most of today's houses are bigger. A large house gives you a place to store too much stuff. More people would be financially free today if they hadn't bought too big a house.



**Myth #6. It's Not Possible for Those Going Through Hard Times to Save.** "Just about anyone can save something." Most of us need to rethink our justifications not to save. Imagine the feeling of empowerment from saving even a little when it seems impossible.

**Myth #7. Budgets Are Boring.** Rather than a document that says "No" to what you want to do with your life, a budget can guide you to achieve a "Yes."

You probably will agree, Dear Reader, that the concepts above embody Yeshua's Matt. 10:16 advisory: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." So do the *7 Survival Principles* you can read at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com). ★

—Mark



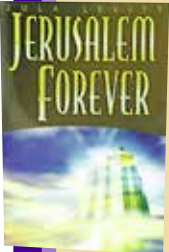
# ZLM Bulletin Board

## The Future of Medicine is in Israel

Israelis may have created the next generation's operating room, miles ahead of anything America has. InSightec reports that its new machine can cure many diseases, such as Parkinson's and various cancers, without invasive surgery. Ultrasound waves destroy tumors deep inside the body, allowing patients to recovery almost immediately. Watch this amazing, [6-minute video](#).



## Many of our books and music CDs...



... are available in [digital format](#). Instead of paying hard-copy prices, save at [store.levitt.com](http://store.levitt.com) by selecting any of 22 book and booklet titles and 22 music albums (or their individual tracks) in your preferred format from iTunes, Google store, and Amazon. Now you can use your iPad, Kindle, Mac, PC, etc. to access some of our best-selling teaching.

Free Item

## Pamphlet of the Month

All women need to take control of their long-range financial and estate plans. The free pamphlet ***Questions & Answers About Estate Planning for Women*** answers eight core questions.

Some tips: Even a married woman needs a separate plan, of which joint ownership can play a part. Spouses should have separate plans that complement each other. When marital status changes, it is wise to review the will, life insurance beneficiaries, and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.



## ABC Family is Changing

its name to **Freeform** in January 2016 to reflect its goal of attracting viewers who are becoming adults. Our ministry welcomes this opportunity to broadcast our message to this younger audience! **Freeform** will deliver new content as well as ABC Family current favorites, such as *Zola Levitt Presents*. Though our time slot won't change, if you record *ZLP*, you will want to check your guide to be sure your recordings continue uninterrupted when ABC Family becomes **Freeform**.



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



# Hebrew Lesson



## First Things First

John J. Parsons

אַחַת שְׁאַלְתִּי מֵאֲתֵיְהוָה אוֹתָהּ אֶבְקֵשׁ

“One thing I asked from the LORD, that I will seek...” (Psalm 27:4)

אֶבְקֵשׁ	אוֹתָהּ	מֵאֲתֵיְהוָה	שְׁאַלְתִּי	אַחַת
(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(1) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
a-va-kesh	o-tah	Adonai	me'at	sha-al-ti
I will seek	that	from the LORD	I asked	one (thing)

**King David says in Psalm 27:4, “One thing I ask of the LORD, that I will seek...”**

Notice immediately that David asked for just *one* thing—not many things. He did not come with a litany of requests. He was not fickle or double-minded. No, David asked for the gift of focus and the desire for truth; he wanted the ongoing hunger and thirst for the Divine Presence.

Notice that the verb translated “I will seek” (*avakesh*) comes from the verb *bakash* meaning “to desire.” The noun form, *bakashah*, means a request (in modern Hebrew the word *bevakasha* means “as you wish” or “you’re welcome”). The verse could therefore be read as, “The one thing I ask from the LORD is for *godly desire*—that is, for the will to “behold the sweetness of the LORD, and to inquire in His Presence.” This is a prayer for the highest we may attain. The “one thing” David asked for was *a heart to seek* and perceive the glory of God.

It is written in our Scriptures: “The flesh *lusts* against the spirit, and spirit *lusts* against the flesh...” (Gal. 5:17). Most of us desire things that do not ultimately satisfy us, however. This is the “default” mode. We settle for trifles. We yield to petty desires that do not quench the spiritual hunger and thirst within us. We cheat ourselves of the eternal for the sake of temporal. Søren Kierkegaard called such carnal boredom the root of all evil. It is the “spirit” of the flesh—the inner restlessness that leads to discontent.

Having spiritual desire is a great gift from Heaven, because through it we first realize what we really want. Marks of spirituality are wonder and contentment. The “beauty of the LORD” is to be filled with glory and peace. If we consciously delight ourselves in the LORD, He has promised to give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4). As Yeshua taught us: “Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:33).

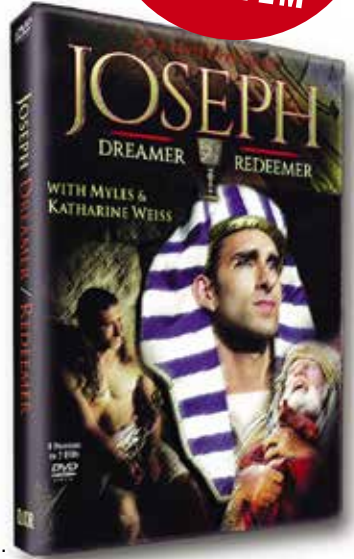
**May the LORD give us the grace to seek for Him this very hour. Amen. ☆**



## *Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer*

(9 half-hour programs on 2 DVDs (New!))

Perhaps more than any of the patriarchs in the Bible, Joseph presents us with a clear preview of the Redeemer, *Yeshua HaMashiach*. From his humble beginnings to his ascendancy as a leader of the known world, Joseph pictures the One to come. Born to humble parents, Yeshua's suffering and ultimate sacrifice as the Lamb of God will lead to His return as the Lion of Judah. In this nine-part series, we lay bare the "Egyptian" (foreign) identity and centuries-long gentile view of Jesus and reveal Him as the Jewish Messiah *and* Savior of the world.



**Jealousy and Rejection.** As we begin this nine-program series, we see Joseph tending sheep and wearing his coat of many colors. Jealousy and rejection from his brothers have already begun, but worsen after he tells them of his dreams. Myles and Katharine compare Joseph's treatment by his family to Yeshua's rejection by many in His day, though He was sent to be the Messiah. Ron Cantor talks about his book *Identity Theft: The loss of Jewish identity*.

**Betrayal and Deception.** Joseph's murderous brothers throw him into a pit and then sell him as a slave. Father Jacob mourns the loss of his favorite son. Our Messiah was betrayed for money to those who wanted to kill Him. While some still struggle coming to faith in Yeshua, Ron Cantor talks about the rise of Messianic Believers in Israel.

**Innocence and Accusation.** Joseph becomes a slave of the captain of Pharaoh's guard. After a time of prosperity, false accusations condemn innocent Joseph. Yeshua lived a life without sin but suffered for the sins of the world. Eitan Shishkoff talks about the prophetic promise seen in the life of Joseph.

**Faithfulness from Prison.** While in prison for two years, Joseph patiently yet faithfully ministers to others, such as Pharaoh's butler and baker. During the Last Supper (Passover *Seder*), Yeshua points His followers beyond short-term difficulties and toward God's glorious plans for them. Eitan Shishkoff reminds us that exile is not our—or Israel's—final destination.

**Prisoner to Prime Minister.** After interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph's status moves from prisoner to the #2 position in Egypt. Yeshua's sacrifice ushered in global salvation and the Holy Spirit. Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel reports on Voice of Israel radio.

**Famine and Recognition.** Famine leads Joseph's brothers to Egypt for grain. Unrecognized, Joseph tests their hearts to see if they have truly changed. Israel's current situation will change when they eventually recognize the Messiah, Yeshua.

**Brother for Brother.** Joseph's brothers leave Simeon in Egypt as hostage until Benjamin comes. Joseph's identity remains hidden to his brothers. The Messiah is currently hidden to most of His brothers, the Jewish people. Eitan Shishkoff reminds us that gentiles can be instrumental in end-times revival.

**Longing and Revelation.** At home, Jacob longs for the return of his sons; in Egypt, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Yeshua reveals Himself through the Scriptures, just as He did on the road to Emmaus. Eitan Shishkoff compares Joseph's life to Israel's history.

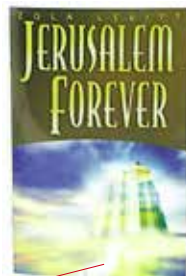
**Substitution and Redemption.** Because of the "stolen" chalice, Judah intercedes and offers himself in Benjamin's place. Joseph reveals his identity and reunites the family. Though understood by few at the time, Yeshua was the Suffering Servant whose substitutionary death accomplished God's plan for redeeming the world. Our Messiah will return, but this time as the reigning King.





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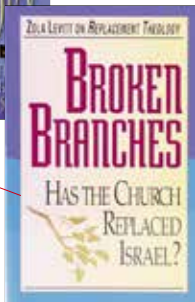
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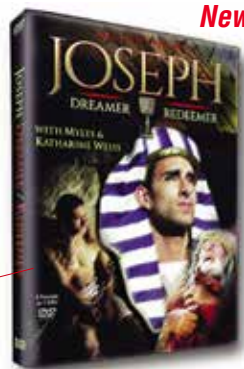
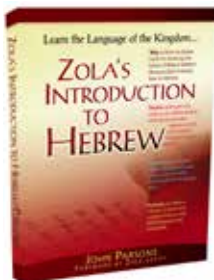
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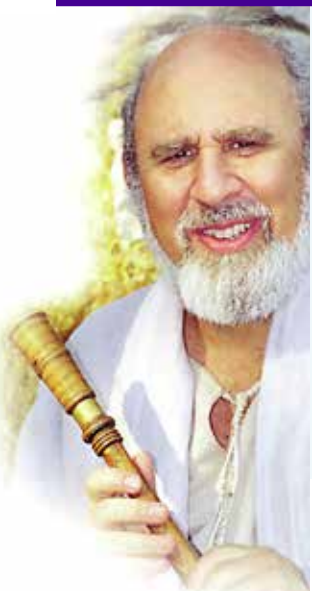
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By Dr. Zola Levitt & Dr. Jeffrey Seif



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

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

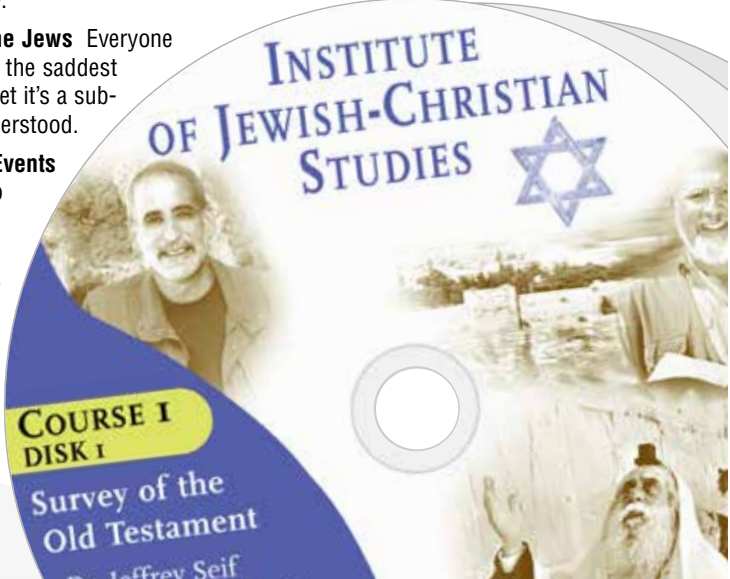
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**Sign Up Online!**

**Or request free info on p.19**

**All To The Jew First workers complete this course. It will strengthen your own witnessing.**  
See pp.10,11





# The 'Other' China Seeks Israeli Business



BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

That Israel and China have excellent business relations is by now [well known](#). But less known is Israel's strong business relationship with the "other" China—the island nation of Taiwan, which has a much smaller economy than the mainland, but a very advanced technology sector.



"Taiwan imports about a billion dollars worth of goods each year, and about a quarter of that is metrology equipment to service our active chip fabrication industry," according to **Ernest Lin**, a top executive of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA).

Lin's job is to enhance business relations between Taiwan and other countries. Recently, he attended Israel's Technology 2015 Exhibition, a show dedicated to the latest advances in manufacturing, robotics, and industrial equipment.

"Israel imports about \$700 million in goods from Taiwan, including chemicals and electronic components, and we have two or three delegations of business people coming to Israel each year," said Lin.

That's a lot fewer than the number of delegations that come from China; often, there are two or three Chinese business groups in Israel each week, but, as Lin says, "Taiwan is a lot smaller than China."

Taiwan maintains an active trade and culture office in Tel Aviv and holds several trade events in Israel each year. The latest, in June, was a life science conference that brought together researchers from Israeli and Taiwanese universities.

Several large Taiwanese companies and venture capital funds have invested in Israel. Lin believes that Israel and Taiwan could—and should—be doing a lot more together. Taiwan's manufacturing base could be a great opportunity for Israeli start-ups to test out their products and services, Lin believes.

"Israel has a lot of start-ups with innovative ideas, and we have a lot of manufacturing in advanced tech products. Taiwan could be a good testing ground for Israeli technology, with advanced tech installed in factories to ensure that they work properly on large scales. There are a lot of ways our economies complement each other's, and the sooner we enhance ties, the better." ★

A group of Taiwanese visitors march in the 'Tabernacles' parade held by Christian groups.





# Letters to ZLM

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

## Excessive Fundraising?

Dear brother and messenger Myles,

Greetings in Yeshua's precious Name. Because He lives, so also do we!

We have a concern regarding the ministry. When Zola was in command, under the Lord Jesus Christ, he never (well, seldom ever) pressed for funds. You do so constantly, and we don't understand why. Does God not bless this ministry as He did when Zola was at the helm?

Our prayers to each of you and the ministry. —B.S.K.

Dear B.S.K.—

Please allow me to answer since my service with this ministry dates back to the '80s. Also, I periodically analyze how our fundraising compares to other organizations' methods. You might want to cast a discerning eye on our competition, so to speak; though, we all answer to the same Home Office.

Sophisticated marketing consultants develop telecasts and newsletters that are far more clever than religious—heavy on psychology and sympathetic appeals and light on Bible teaching—targeting specific demographics with purchased address lists. Their carefully produced, whiff-of-the-Bible infomercials and contrived “news” letters sell the sizzle that you can support their outreach plus impoverished overseas endeavors while receiving a tantalizing prize in the mail—all with the very same dollar. However, the percentage of funds that stay with the marketing gurus would astound you.

In contrast, our 2014 fundraising amounted to only 0.67% (two-thirds of one percent) of our expenses (the September [Levitt Letter's Bulletin Board](#) carried the report). ZLM appeals may stand out because of their sharp contrast to real Bible teaching, sharper than if incessant tugging at your heartstrings concealed them. Rest assured, Myles and Katharine are quite brief in their “asking to receive.” (Matt. 7:7). And, yes, the Lord blesses us with the few who support all the others who cannot

donate for whatever reason.

Remember, we offer for free everything we can and we do not sell our mailing list.

—Mark



## “Train up a child...” Prov. 22:6

Dear Myles and Katharine,

This is the prayer that I say with my teenage grandsons each evening. “We thank You and we praise You for Your nation Israel, Your holy city Jerusalem, and Your people the Jews. We pray that they may live in peace, security, prosperity, and understanding, and that one day soon, they will know Your Son as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.” —J.D.

Wow, J.D.—

Imagine the Body of Christ if every grandfather raised his family as you are doing. I can only dream of a time when Christians “*Sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim*” (pray for the peace of Jerusalem) with childlike sincerity and consistency in accordance with the Word (Psalm 122:6). The battle for the souls of the next generation is already raging in public schools and on college campuses. The Millennials are spiritually vulnerable and politically naïve. You are doing a righteous act through your input of God’s “download” regarding Messiah and Israel. Thank you! —Myles and Katharine



## Americans Visit Israel

Dear Myles,

Did I hear correctly (on one of your [Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer](#) programs) that Americans don’t visit Israel?

Americans are afraid to go to the Middle East because of the upheaval around Israel. I have faith that the Lord will watch over me if I travel to Israel, but a lot of Americans aren’t Believers or don’t have that faith. I just wonder who might have been watching that particular program and whether it prevented them from accepting the Lord as Savior. —K.D.F.

Shalom K.D.F.—

I believe you are mistaken about what Katharine said on the air regarding tourism. We know that Americans DO visit Israel, and we delight in personally taking groups on study tours two times each year. We have noticed a significant upturn in Asian and African visitors—also a delight—as this indicates the powerful way that God is moving in those parts of the world.

We were filming TV programs during the most recent Feast of Tabernacles, and the streets were full of pilgrims from many nations, *Baruch HaShem!* (Blessed be His name!). One goal of terrorism is economic in nature—making people afraid to travel to Israel and thus hurting Israel’s economy. We will continue to go—just as Zola continued to safely take pilgrims during past “upheavals”—to honor our Lord and His Word. Shalom shalom —Myles

## Dry Bones





## Effective Donations

Dear ZLM,

Should a believer in Yeshua support The Temple Institute financially? I saw your recent interview with Rabbi Yehuda Glick. I had been following and praying for his recovery since he was shot by a terrorist. I currently receive a weekly email from The Temple Institute, but I stop short at giving money because I am uncertain if the Holy Spirit is leading me.

I believe that the Temple Institute rabbis and those affiliated with the Institute are not yet saved through Yeshua. Plus, I do believe the prophecies in Daniel about the antiChrist setting himself up in the Tribulation Temple as God. And I believe, as you do, that there will be a Millennial Temple. J.K. (WA)

Dear J.K.—

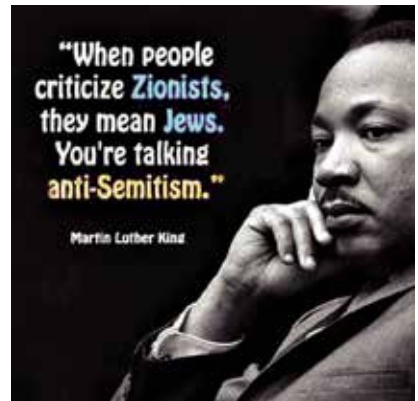
There will be a Millennial Temple, so a Third (or Fourth) Temple will certainly be built. However, I believe that contributing to vetted, Israeli-based Messianic works that preach the Gospel is a much more important use of our funds as Believers. —Myles ★

## Notable Quotable

(*TIME* magazine, Oct. 12, 2015)

### Under the heading **Trending/Diplomacy:**

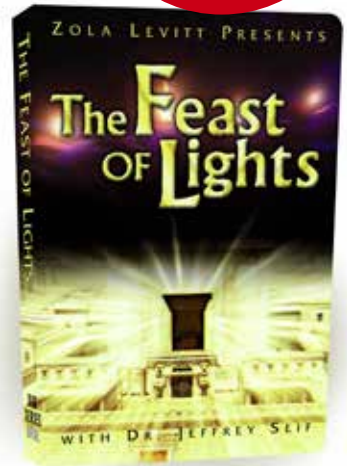
Palestinian president **Mahmoud Abbas** told the UN that the Palestinians would no longer be bound by the 1993 Oslo Accords and other agreements that have sought to foster a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel.



## **The Feast of Lights**

Three 30-minute programs on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have massed and threatened the Jews with extinction. However, in every generation, God provided a leader who would shine the Light of God's faithfulness. Hanukkah—the Jewish Feast of Lights—harks back to a time before Christ when a cruel, anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's deliverer arose (foreshadowing Yeshua, the Ultimate Deliverer), lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. From generation to generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



### **The Story of Hanukkah**

Dr. Jeffrey Seif sets up the story of Hanukkah wherein the abominable Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many throughout history have sought to destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." Also, we learn about harvesting the olive oil and its importance to the golden Menorah, which resided in the Holy Place.

### **The Light of the World**

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world." Speaking from the Messianic synagogue Baruch HaShem, Jeff explains the significance of light to the celebration of Hanukkah as well as its prophetic image of Jesus Christ. Jeff interviews Rabbi Martin J. Waldman about the increase of Messianic Jews in the world today, and we see Zola's timely interview with Messianic Believer Simcha Davidov.

### **The Feast of Dedication**

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled first by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, as well as the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and don't miss a heartfelt interview in which Zola and Jean Rosenberg look at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today.



# Hack-Proof Cyber Defense



SCIENCE: BY GWEN ACKERMAN (r) Bloomberg.com

In 2013, Israel Electric Corp. registered several hundred potential hacks on its grid each hour. Last year, the figure grew ... to 20,000. None succeeded. Israel Electric, which controls more than 80% of the country's power production, has dramatically increased its cyber personnel, developed new defense tools, and enhanced employee training, said Yosi Shneck, senior vice president of information and communications. The new protections reflect a nationwide effort to make Israel one of the most hack-proof countries in the world.

This year alone, the government established a national authority to help protect critical civilian systems, the military reorganized all its anti-hacking units into one command, and the central bank became what may be the first in the world to define mandatory cyber-defense steps for financial institutions.

"If I ranked the existential threats, cyber would come right behind nuclear weapons," said Carmi Gillon, former head of the Shin Bet domestic security service and now in a private company.

Israel and the U.S. face some of the most serious cyber assailants in the world, forcing them to be "light years ahead" in prevention.

While attempted hack attacks on Israel reached 2 million a day during last year's fighting in Gaza, the country has yet to report destructive events like the theft of data from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The threat is growing. "Anonymous," a loosely connected global hacker collective, called in April for a hacking onslaught on the country. The Jewish state was the second-most-hit country in the world after the U.S. that month, according to monitoring website Hackmageddon. The attacks did little more than deface websites.



*Employees in the control center respond to a "cyber attack" during a training exercise.*

In March, a cyber-security company detected malware that it suspected came from Lebanon. The alleged targets were defense contractors as well as telecommunications and media companies in 10 countries, including Israel.

Only two cables link Israel's Internet network to the world, giving its companies an advantage on the digital battlefield, explained a director of cyber and technology consulting. "They can just turn to their Internet service provider and disconnect," he added.

Israel started building up its defenses more than a decade ago. In 2002, the government created the National Information Security Authority to protect critical infrastructure. In 2012 it established the National Cyber Bureau, an agency within the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that coordinates and advises on policy. The authority established this year will be responsible for protecting civilian entities such as banks. ★





# Navigating the Brain's Neuronal Networks

**MEDICINE:** Hebrew University of Jerusalem / HUJI.ac.il



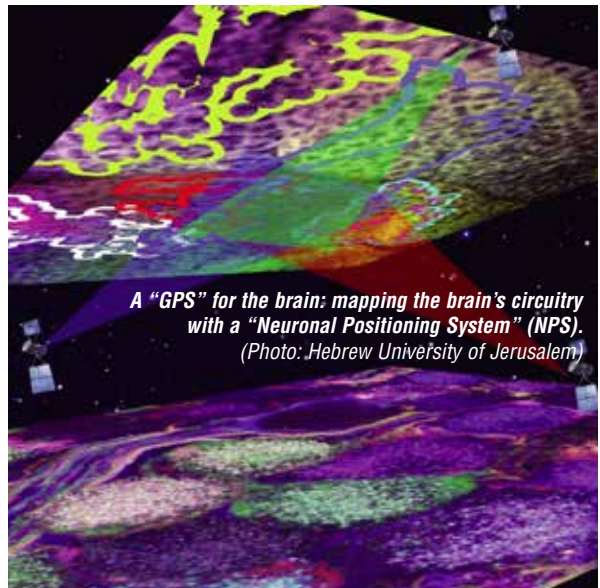
In new research published recently by *Nature Methods*, scientists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Harvard University introduced a “Neuronal Positioning System” (NPS) that maps the circuitry of the brain, similar to how a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver triangulates one’s location on the planet.

For more than a century, neuroscientists have tried to uncover the structure of the brain’s neuronal circuits in order to understand how the brain works. These brain circuits, which process information and trigger reflexes, are made of nervous system cells called neurons that work together to carry out a specialized function. Neurons send messages to other neurons, or to target-tissues such as skin and muscle, that they innervate via specialized, wire-like processes called axons.

In the same way that we need to know the exact wiring of an electrical circuit to understand how it works, mapping the axonal wiring of neuronal circuits allows scientists to understand how brains function. While science has advanced our understanding of neuronal organization, available mapping techniques remain imperfect, limited in area or detail resolution.

Now, scientists from Hebrew University and Harvard have a method to map the location of the axonal branches (“arbors”) of many individual neurons simultaneously, at the resolution of individual axons. Thus, by “seeing” many axons in the same preparation, it becomes possible to understand how specific neurons in one region are wired to other neuronal types and other regions. Instead of trying to trace entire neurons all the way from the axon tips to the cell body, scientists labeled only the cell body, but in a way that indicates the locations of its axonal branches. Then, they used multiple injections with three or more differently colored tracers.

Eventually, each area in the target tissue had a different color combination depending on its distance from the injection site. Axons innervating each area took up the dyes and transported them to the cell body, such that each had a color combination reflecting the area it was taken from. A few hours after the injection, each neuronal cell body was filled with a variety of colors reflecting the colors in the areas that these neurons innervate. Thus, based on the combinations and intensities of the colors transported to the cell, the projection sites of the axon can be outlined.



A “GPS” for the brain: mapping the brain’s circuitry with a “Neuronal Positioning System” (NPS).  
(Photo: Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

This approach is analogous to a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, which uses distances from three or more satellites to triangulate its position. For this reason, the new technique was called “Neuronal Positioning System” (NPS).

According to Hebrew University’s Dr. Alex Binshtok: “Using the NPS technique that maps many axons in the same tissue, we can study what defines the routes along which the neurons send their projections. We can also learn how the wiring of the neuronal circuits changes during development and in a variety of pathological conditions.” ✨

# Threats from “Islamic Moderates”



BY DAVID RUBIN (r) IsraelNationalNews.com

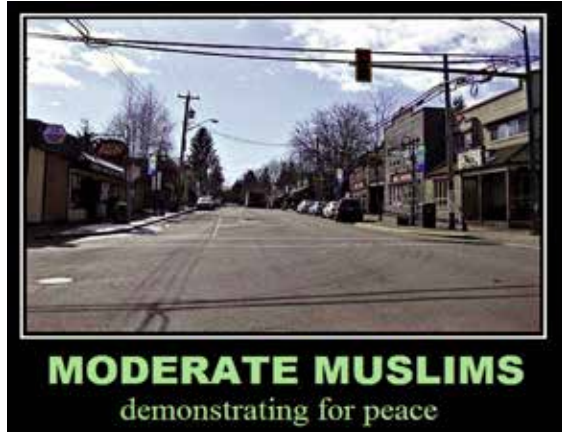
What is an Islamic moderate? Is the term an oxymoron; do the media consist of morons who routinely use it to refer to the leaders of, for instance, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority?

Within a recent forty-eight-hour period, two supposed “moderate leaders” threatened Israel. Jordan’s King Abdullah warned of an “explosion” on the Temple Mount, accusing Israel of “provocations” and threatening to “take action” should Israel continue protecting non-Moslem visitors to the site where the Holy Temples of Israel stood for hundreds of years.

“It is without doubt a dangerous violation of Islamic holy places,” said Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Israel’s subsequent law enforcement, urging Israel to take “immediate and effective steps” to defuse tensions.

What remains unstated by these so-called moderates is that the **Islamic structures on the Temple Mount were intentionally built on the ruins of the Holy Temples, both to hide the ruins from the Jewish site and to show the triumph of Islam over the Jews.** Not a very noble or moral intention, especially given that the Jews were sovereign in Jerusalem many hundreds of years before the rise of Islam some fourteen hundred years ago.

Furthermore, the Arab leaders’ transparently self-serving statements were uttered in the wake of many months of organized violent attacks and brutal harassment by Moslem worshipers on Jewish and other visitors to the holy site. The Israeli police were ultimately ordered not just to protect the Jewish visitors from outright injury, but to actually stop the harassment.



Therefore, the pugnacious comments by Sisi and Abdullah have no basis in reality, except the Islamic knee-jerk bias against Israel. True, Sisi and Abdullah don’t like Hamas, but their natural Islamic hatred of Israel is apparently much stronger than their moderate images might lead one to believe. A true moderate wouldn’t criticize freedom of worship for Jews on their holiest site, nor would he make veiled threats of violence against Israelis for defending those basic rights.

In fact, the verbal warfare had begun just a couple of days prior, when Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas called for violence against Jews at the Temple Mount saying: “The Al-Aqsa (Mosque) is ours...and they (Jews) have no right to defile it with their filthy feet.” These words were spoken by Israel’s oh-so-moderate “partner for peace.”

Moderate, indeed. ★

As usual, our friend David Rubin states what too many fear to say. Our fall Zola Tours pilgrims visited David in Shiloh and heard his testimony (see also the [Jan. 2014 Personal Letter](#)). I wrote about “moderate” Moslems in my satirical article “Waiting for Martin” ([Jan. 2012 Levitt Letter](#)).  
—Myles



# Why Do Moslems Flee to Christian Countries?



BY AVIEL SCHNEIDER (r) *Israel Today* magazine

Why don't Syrian, Iraqi, and other Moslem refugees seek asylum in the rich Gulf States such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait? Why don't those countries offer any help to their suffering Moslem brothers and sisters? Wouldn't it be more natural for those in need to turn to members of their own faith?

But the Gulf states have turned a blind eye, sparking outrage in the Arab media. Political cartoons lambast Gulf leaders, depicting their callous indifference. One Arab newspaper charged that the "Syrian people would get more help on Mars than from countries in the Persian Gulf."

The Middle East is in a state of bloody chaos—and this has nothing to do with Israel, which has always been a convenient scapegoat for regional instability.

"Muslims are leaving Islam," read a headline in Israel's bestselling newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*. In the article, Moslem refugees in Europe talk about converting to Christianity. A priest in a Berlin church asks an Iranian refugee, "Do you separate yourself from Islam?" Mohammed Ali Sonubi answers, "Yes." Mohammed is a Christian now and has changed his name to Martin.

Some might do that out of necessity to improve their chances for asylum. But several Moslems quoted in the article say they feel freer living as Christians, that the endless war and bloodshed caused them to lose faith in Islam. When *Israel Today* asked five Palestinians why Moslems flee to Christian countries, all of them agreed: "Islam does not recognize freedom."

"Jews and Christians know how to be merciful but Moslems do not," Raed from central Syria observed. "Look at what is happening in the countries surrounding Israel. Moslems are killing each other and only saving themselves by fleeing to Israel or to Europe."

On the one hand, the flood of Moslem refugees to Christian countries is a kind of compliment; but on the other, it is a demographic threat. Europe, the cradle of Christian civilization, is being overrun by Moslems.



**"Whether out of innocence or foolishness, Europeans fail to realize that they are fundamentally changing their populations,** which will lead ... to the complete disappearance of tradition, culture, and progress of their countries," warns Israeli commentator Noah Klieger. "In other words, in the not-so-distant future we will witness the end of 'classical Europe' and the establishment of Islamic rule across the entire continent. This may sound apocalyptic. However, it's close to becoming a fact." ★





[AP Photo/Claude Paris]

**Pakistan  
flooding**

## Pakistani Christians Told to Convert to Receive Flood Aid

[ClarionProject.org](http://ClarionProject.org)

Christians left homeless by devastating floods in Pakistan were offered an unacceptable choice by Moslem charities providing for victims: convert to Islam or become bonded servants, a form of modern-day slavery.

The choice came with the Pakistani government's apparent decision to ignore the suffering of the country's Christian communities.

"When it comes to responding to the flooding of Christian communities, the government seems to back off. Whereas in Muslim communities, they respond immediately, as do the Muslim charities," said Wilson Chowdhry, president of the British Pakistani Christian Association. He added that the government has not built the proper infrastructure to prevent this type of damage, even though the region is known for severe flooding.

Floods that hit the Kasur region in Pakistan last summer washed away thousands of homes, including those of more than 60 Christian families. **While the Moslems left homeless were provided with temporary shelter, clean water, and food by the government and Moslem charities, the Christians were not.**

Chowdhry said that the Christians were told to renounce their religion and convert to Islam if they wanted to receive aid, a choice they rejected. They were also offered the option of receiving aid if they became bonded servants to the Moslems. Although Chowdhry's organization is stepping in to help the families, the organization has limited resources, as do the churches in Pakistan.

## PA Paying Imprisoned Palestinian Terrorists

[TheIsraelProject.org](http://TheIsraelProject.org)

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has been paying hundreds of thousands of shekels to Palestinian terrorists being held by Israel, with the majority of the recipients being members of the Hamas terror group, according to documents released in October by Israel Radio and confirmed by officials linked to the P.A. Recipients include terrorists responsible for dozens of murders, among them a Hamas bomb-maker serving 67 life sentences and a former head of Hamas's military operations in the West Bank serving 54 life sentences. They received \$66,000 and \$53,000 respectively from Palestinian coffers.

The revelations come amid a wave of terrorist attacks that have targeted Israeli civilians and renewed criticism of the P.A. for its role in the violence. The spike occurred almost immediately after a United Nations speech by P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas that the Israeli government branded as "incitement." Palestinian officials, including Abbas, have declined to condemn the attacks.

Unrest linked to the P.A. broadly, and to Abbas more specifically, has simmered for months. The Palestinian leader reacted to recent riots in Jerusalem by declaring that Jews "have no right to desecrate the Al-Aqsa [Mosque] with their filthy feet."



## ISIS's English-Language Magazine **DABIQ**

MEMRI.org

The cover story of the 11th issue of ISIS's English-language magazine *DABIQ* explains that the Islamic State is having to stave off numerous enemies, including Shiites, tribal groups, and members of the Western coalition and its supporters. It specifies the enemies of the Islamic State in an A–Z list of all Western democracies plus many African, Middle Eastern, and Asian countries.

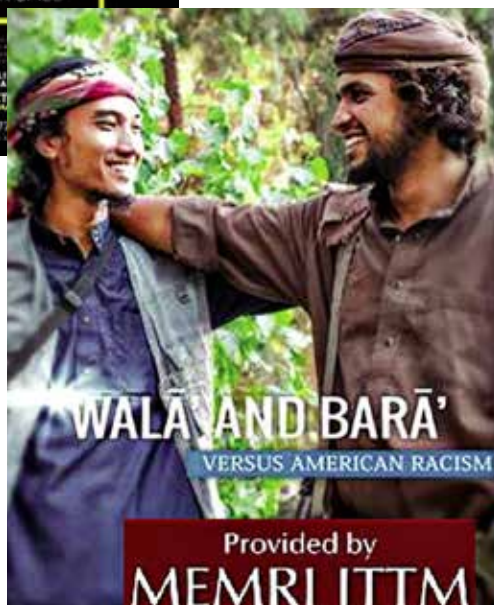
The article also encourages those who are unable to emigrate to the Islamic State to wage jihad in their own lands, and suggests **specific cities and organizations to target**, instructing the jihadist to “not hesitate in striking them wherever he can.”

An article titled “The Danger of Abandoning Darul-Islam” warns refugees of the “dangerous sins” they would be committing if they emigrated to the West, as opposed to emigrating to the Islamic State.



The magazine included ads for a Norwegian and a Chinese prisoner for sale; the ads include contact information via the encrypted Telegram app.

The issue also featured an article titled “Wala and Bara Versus American Racism,” discussing America’s race issue and suggesting that Moslems from all backgrounds need to band together to fight their common enemy.



# Searching for the Maccabee Tombs



**ARCHAEOLOGY:** (continued from cover side story)

dynasty of the Seleucids in the 2nd century B.C. is believed to have been among ancient Judea's most impressive structures.

"We exposed again the base of what survived from this magnificent building—but this is a rare and unique building—but yet we didn't find the hard evidence that would enable us to tell you that this is for sure the tomb of the Maccabees," said Amit Reem, an official with the project. According to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), ancient texts describe the tomb "as a tall, impressive structure surrounded by columns; it was said to overlook the sea and was built of fine stones and covered with pyramid-like roofs."

An imposing building believed to be the tomb was unearthed at the site in the 19th century. However, later work by French archaeologist Charles Clermont-Ganneau in 1871 found that "the purpose of the structure is unknown and it is Christian in nature," with mosaics adorned with a cross in the floors of the burial vaults. Afterward, Reem said, "this place was forgotten," the stones taken away for use in nearby construction.

However, the site is much larger than what had been uncovered previously. Recent excavations with the help of residents were the first to be conducted methodically over a long period of time, said Dan Shachar, another IAA official on the dig.

The team discovered vaults in which sarcophagi could be placed and large pillars that could support another floor. Shachar and Reem say that the Christian building could have been constructed on the site that the Christians themselves identified as the tomb of the Maccabees. Further work could turn up yet what archaeologists have been long hoping to discover. "Maybe the hard evidence is a few yards from here waiting to be revealed," Reem speculated. ☆

*If you celebrate Christmas, bear in mind that without Hanukkah and the Maccabees, there would be none. Katharine and I recently had the honor of meeting and interviewing Israeli archaeologist Amit Reem on site. We hope to produce an entire program regarding this important dig in Modi'in. The "stones cry out" indeed that the Bible is true (Luke 19:40)! —Myles*



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# God With Us

BY RUTH ROSEN (r) [JewsForJesus.org](http://JewsForJesus.org)



Do you ever consider what it cost God to be with us?

Our office used to get crank calls from a man, horrified at the thought of God coming to Earth in the flesh, who left long messages asking if we really believed that God would put Himself in a position of having dirty diapers.

Many Jewish people are likewise offended by the idea of an incarnate God because they mistakenly think it means that a person could become God. But our crank caller understood it better.

Is it zeal for God's holiness that causes people to disbelieve the lengths that God went to in order to rescue us? Perhaps. *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a fictional book full of facts. The "letters" are hypothetical missives between two demons. One sentiment that repeats is the hellish disgust over God's love for humanity. At times the demons seem embarrassed for God, that He would lower Himself to care for creatures as squalid and pathetic as we are. What Hell cannot understand—nor can humanity, except by God's grace—is that God did not lower Himself by coming to us in the flesh; He lifted us. God suffered the dirt and stench not only of physical waste but also of proximity to spiritually rotting humanity. How could He stand the smell of sin breathing down His holy neck?

He came to have blistered and dirty feet, to be tempted, and to put aside His own longing. He came to be rejected by people not worthy to set eyes, let alone pass judgment, on Him. This is the mystery that we will not fully understand until we see Him face to face. How can we comprehend the Perfect One having to endure suffering He never deserved? Yet Jesus, God incarnate, endured everything that was beneath Him in order to lift us to Heaven. To those who do not know Him, the Incarnation may seem a ludicrous indignity. But through it all, God lost nothing. His love—which demons mock and most humans cannot bring themselves to trust—has the power to purify.

When light touches darkness, the darkness becomes light. When God touches us, He does not become dirty; we become clean. When we trust His promises, He adopts us as His own. Why do some become agitated by the love God has lavished on us? Maybe because the only choice is to be either embarrassed or humbled by His glorious acts of grace on our behalf. Embarrassment is a denial of just how wonderful God is. Humility is the only right response to a God who has humbled Himself. God grant us the humility to appreciate, truly and deeply, all that His Advent means. Joyful, joyful we adore Him! ☆



## Was Netanyahu Wrong?

BY ABRAHAM COOPER AND HAROLD BRACKMAN

(assoc. dean and historian for the Simon Wiesenthal Center respectively)  
JewishJournal.com



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went too far in recent comments that Nazi collaborator Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem before and during World War II, played a “central role in fomenting the Final Solution” by trying to convince Hitler to destroy the Jews during a 1941 meeting in Berlin. But **Netanyahu was right on when he emphasized the Mufti’s Holocaust complicity** and activities before, during, and after the war when the Mufti lied about alleged Jewish intentions to expel Islam from Jerusalem’s Temple Mount—the same lie that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas repeats today in support of the current “knife Intifada.”

Netanyahu said: “Hitler didn’t want to exterminate the Jews at the time; he wanted to expel the Jews. Haj Amin al-Husseini went to Hitler and said, ‘If you expel them, they’ll all come here.’ ‘So what should I do with them?’ he asked. He said, ‘Burn them.’”

Netanyahu’s quotation of the Grand Mufti is word-for-word accurate, but the Führer did not need the advice of Islam’s anti-Jewish fanatic to implement the Final Solution. That was Hitler’s dream as far back as 1919, as a letter that he authored and signed now on display at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance documents.

After the war, three countries—Great Britain, the U.S., and Yugoslavia—indicted the mufti as a war criminal, but Yugoslavia dropped its extradition request to France, and legal proceedings were abandoned so as not to upset the Arab world. Escaping back to the Middle East, Al-Husseini continued his genocidal exhortations, and his demands that the Jewish presence be erased from Palestine continued unabated before and during the 1948 war by five Arab states against Israel. Only then did his influence gradually decline.

He died in 1974, not long after Arab armies almost succeeded in destroying Israel in an attack launched on Judaism’s holiest day, Yom Kippur. Far from “a lightweight,” the Grand Mufti will be remembered as one of the twentieth century’s most virulent Jew haters, a key cheerleader for Hitler’s genocidal Final Solution, and a close relative of PLO founder Yasser Arafat. ☆



Grand Mufti of Jerusalem  
Haj Amin al-Husseini  
(left) meeting with  
Adolf Hitler  
in Dec. 1941.

# Jewish Humor, etc.

## Bible story

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. Puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," he replied.

Pointing to each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius — the pilot!"



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

## 2 Sweaters

My mother gave me two sweaters for Hanukkah. The next time I saw her, I made sure to wear one.

When we met, instead of the expected smile, she said, "What's the matter? You didn't like the other one?" ☆



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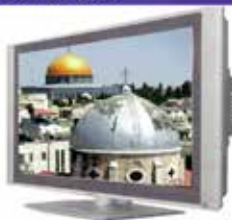
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**Soon to be Freeform**  
See p.15



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