

Levitt Letter

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



Passover 2016 begins at sundown on Friday, April 22, and ends at sundown on Saturday, April 30.



Ten Plagues, Islam, & God 24

Eight Reasons to Visit Israel



By **Susan Michael**, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem USA Director

Christians traveling to Israel find their faith and biblical knowledge enhanced in transformative ways. Below is a sampling of what awaits you in the Land.

1. You Will Never Be the Same. I returned from my first trip to Israel eager to study Hebrew even though I had a dismal record in other foreign language classes. Another reversal: I returned with an appetite for history that is still not satisfied. Current events had never interested me, but I returned an avid student of Middle East affairs.

2. Your Bible Will Come Alive. As a Bible major in college, I read my Bible every day, devotionally and doctrinally. In Israel, I discovered the Bible as a history book—extremely accurate and backed by archaeology. I traced

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Words In Action

Blessing Those Who Protect Israel

How can Israelis express gratitude to our soldiers?

After all, they put their lives at risk for our safety. Readers of *Israel Today* are familiar with the special gift packages we offer to thank the troops, such as pizzas to fill their stomachs and winter clothing to warm their hearts. In Israel, there is the opportunity to act more spontaneously to show our love and appreciation for the young men and women in the army, and it is available to locals and tourists alike.



Here is one touching example: Anonymous benefactors surprised

Here is one touching example: Anonymous benefactors surprised

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Eight Reasons to Visit Israel *cont. from cover*

the biblical narrative on maps and visited the sites. The Bible became so real to me that it took on a third dimension as a historical account from which to learn spiritual lessons.

3. Encounter God in a New Way. God is not limited by location; we can pray anywhere and experience His presence. But, a pilgrimage to Israel is the perfect way to seek the Lord. Walking where Jesus walked, hearing His words anew, and understanding His teachings at new levels lead to special encounters—even healings—that remain after you return home.

4. Meet the True Jesus. We tend to understand the Bible within our own cultural context. (Think: European art depicting Jesus with Western features.) Studying Jesus in Israel puts Him in the correct cultural and religious context—the *Jewish Messiah* sent to the lost sheep of Israel. His parables, teachings, and lifestyle are better understood in the Hebraic context of His ministry.

5. Experience Prophecy Fulfilled. The faithfulness of God surrounds us in Israel. We see the Jewish people regathered—assisted by gentiles—from every nation to which they were dispersed, just as the Bible foretold. God’s fulfilling His promises to the Jewish people means that Christians can also trust Him. His Word is forever.

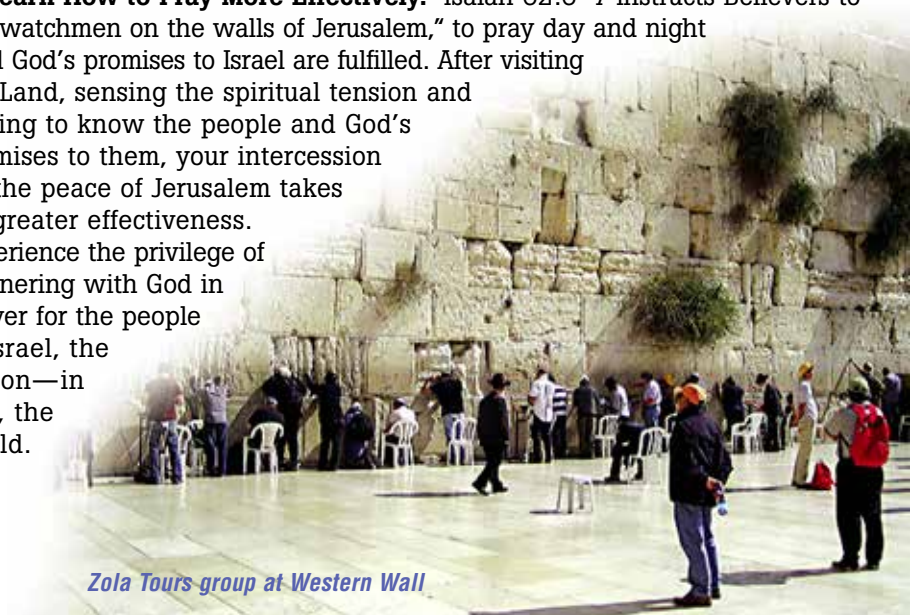
6. See a Modern Miracle. Israel’s existence is a modern miracle. Out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the dust of the desert, Israelis have created a thriving country that leads the world in innovation—technology, medicine, water conservation and production, and agriculture—making the world a better place.

7. Touch the Apple of His Eye. Christians may understand the Jews as God’s Chosen People, but many have little appreciation for what that means. The Jewish people carry a calling like no other people group on Earth: to be the vehicle of God’s redemptive plan. This calling puts them directly in Satan’s line of fire, and they have suffered since the beginning as a result. Meeting Israelis face to face and speaking blessing and encouragement to them often highlights the Christian’s trip to Israel.

8. Learn How to Pray More Effectively. Isaiah 62:6–7 instructs Believers to be “watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem,” to pray day and night until God’s promises to Israel are fulfilled. After visiting the Land, sensing the spiritual tension and getting to know the people and God’s promises to them, your intercession for the peace of Jerusalem takes on greater effectiveness. Experience the privilege of partnering with God in prayer for the people of Israel, the region—in fact, the world.



Zola Tours group at Western Wall



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Words In Action *continued from pg. 1*

a group of Israeli soldiers in uniform eating at a nearby table by paying for their meals and including a note "We Love Our Soldiers!" with the payment.

"Dear brothers," they wrote. "Thank you for your courage, for your service, for your sacrifice. May the Lord bless and protect you, and may all your enemies stumble and miss their mark. Jews all over the world admire you and are grateful to you. Be safe."

The warm note was signed, "Your brothers and sisters from America." The bill came to 1,269 shekels (\$330). Now that's putting your money where your mouth is! ★



The Blood of the Lamb... not the blood of man!

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



As Passover approaches, visions of matzo and traditional celebration foods dance through our heads. We turn from typical leaven-based foods to those that symbolize the sinless sacrifice that substitutes for us. An innocent life was taken and the blood spilled became our covering ... sparing us from death.

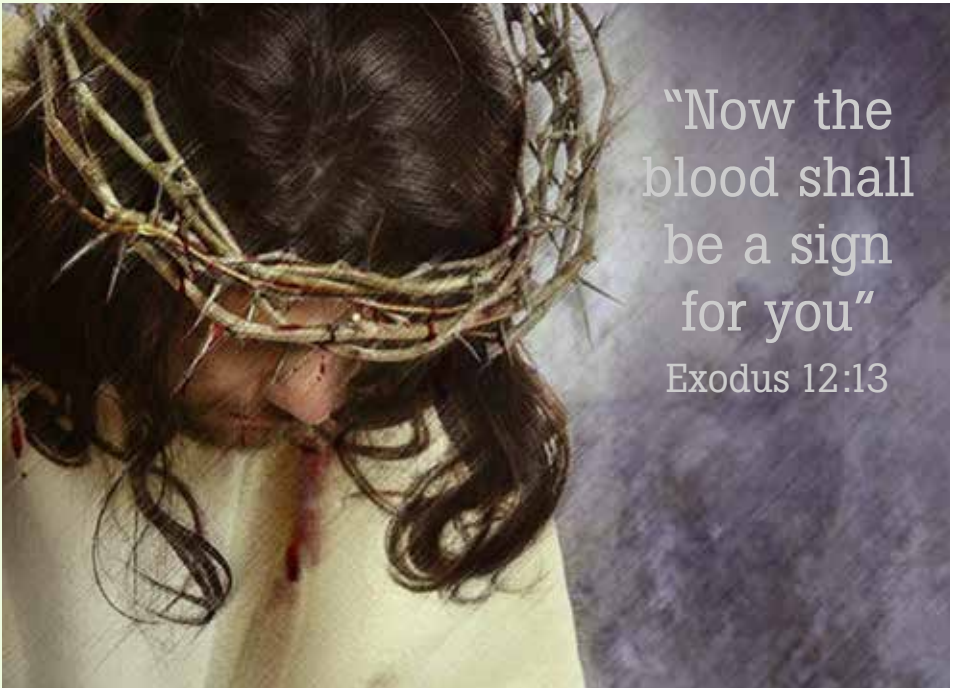
This year Katharine's and my local congregation will host a Seder for hundreds of people. The celebration will manifest as a tapestry of many moods—the sobriety of slavery, the mystery of release from bondage, and the overwhelming joy of knowing a God who cares for us! The Seder tradition goes back three thousand years and follows the mandate given to Moses in Exodus 12:

¹ Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
² "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ... ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ So this day shall be to you a memorial; and **you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations.** You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.'"

The lamb's blood applied to the doors and lintel of each home guaranteed safety.

Biblical Judaism virtually ceased with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. The rabbinical system that replaced it is the foundation of Jewish religious observance today. The conspiring of *political and religious* leaders may take on

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"Now the
blood shall
be a sign
for you"
Exodus 12:13



different forms in each era, but the net effect is the same:

The departure from Biblical Judaism keeps Jewish people from knowing our Messiah and keeps the nations from acknowledging the King of the Jews and Savior of mankind. There are similar coalitions at work in the world, and they have ancient roots: Pharaoh and his magicians challenged Moses, Pilate and Herod withstood Yeshua, Roman leaders and his former religious colleagues imprisoned Paul.

We who grew up in New York City would spend the first night of Passover week at one family home and the second at another. Always, my Uncle Sam (the doctor!) would officiate, as the eldest of the Cohen clan (Mom's maiden name). The message was fascinating but contained some spooky elements that alternately pointed to a supernatural God and to the Hollywood version of the story.

In my mind, Egypt's Pharaoh will always look like actor Yul Brynner. Moses must be Charlton Heston! The humor contrasts with the awesome truth of Yeshua as the Lamb of God.

As we retell the story each spring, a very poignant reality dawns. Only the blood of the Lamb still saves, as it is spiritually applied to the heart.

The headlines daily recount atrocities committed in the name of Allah, spilling blood that is of no effect, as it advances nothing for humankind. May the power of the blood of Yeshua be revealed to Moslem hearts this Passover! ★



*Yul Brynner and
Charlton Heston in
Cecil B. DeMille's
classic film:
The Ten
Commandments*

Passover: Why Is This Night Different Since Yeshua Observed It?



By Rich Robinson (top) JewsForJesus.org

In the course of the Passover Seder we have four sons, four cups of wine, four expressions of redemption (Ex. 6:6, 7), and the Four Questions.

Over the centuries, the Four Questions underwent changes as situations arose. For example: After the destruction of the Temple, the question about why we ate roasted meat was replaced with one about reclining. Today, the Four Questions are asked by the youngest child in the family:

- Why is this night different from all other nights? On all other nights, we may eat either *chametz* (leavened bread) or *matzo*; on this night, only *matzo*.
- On all other nights, we eat all kinds of vegetables; on this night, we must eat *maror* (bitter herbs).
- On all other nights, we do not dip even once; on this night we dip twice.
- On all other nights, we may eat either sitting or reclining; on this night, we all recline.

The father then explains the Passover story.

The rabbis could have chosen other questions. Here are some questions to ponder.

Why do we place three matzos together in one napkin? A number of traditions address this.

1) They represent the people in ancient Israel: the Priests, the Levites, and the Israelites. 2) They symbolize the three patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 3) The three matzos stand for the three “measures of the fine meal” that Sarah prepared for Abraham’s angelic guests (Gen. 18). Which is right, or is there yet another?

Why is the middle matzo, the *afikoman*, broken in the course of the Seder? Are we breaking the Levites, or Isaac, or symbolizing the parting of the Red Sea (another explanation)? If any of these is correct, why is the matzo hidden away, buried under a cushion, and then taken out and eaten by all, as the Sephardic ritual puts it, “in memory of the Passover lamb?”

Where is our Pesach/Passover sacrifice, today? The Torah prescribes that a lamb be sacrificed and eaten every Passover as a memorial of the first Passover lambs that were killed (Deut. 16:1–8). This sacrifice, like others, involved the forgiveness of sins (Exodus Rabbah 15:12—“I will have pity on you, through the blood of the Passover..., and I will forgive you”). The rabbis regarded the *pesach* as effecting atonement, and Leviticus 17:11 confirms that “it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” Today, we have only a shankbone (*zeroa*) as a reminder of the Passover sacrifice. But nowhere did God say that we could dispense with sacrifice. So, where is our *pesach* today?

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



Passover *continued*



To answer these questions, we examine how and why the Seder observance changed dramatically in the first century.

The Seder celebrated by Jesus and His Disciples, the “Last Supper,” was a Passover meal and seems to have followed much the same order as we find in the Mishnah (oral tradition).

In the New Testament accounts, we find reference to the First Cup (Cup of Blessing) (Luke 22:17); breaking the matzo (Luke 22:19); the Third Cup (Cup of Redemption) (Luke 22:20); reclining (Luke 22:14); *maror* (Matthew 26:23), and Hallel (Psalms 113–118, Matthew 26:30).

In particular, the matzo and Third Cup are given special significance by Jesus: And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:19–20).

The Passover Lamb. Early Jewish Believers considered Jesus the fulfillment of the yearly Passover lamb sacrifice. Thus Paul, a Jewish Christian, wrote: “Messiah, our pesach, has been sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus died at the time that Passover lambs were slaughtered (see John 19:14) and like the Passover lambs, none of His bones was broken (John 19:33). Just as the Israelites were redeemed from Egyptian slavery by an unblemished lamb, now men were freed from slavery to sin by the Messiah, the unblemished Lamb of God.

Cessation of the Temple sacrifices. The first Believers/Christians were considered a part of the Jewish community (until the end of the first century when they were expelled from the synagogue) and worshipped regularly with those Jews who didn’t believe in the Messiah. Congregations that worshipped Yeshua observed the Jewish festivals.



Since the early Jewish Believers saw Jesus as the Passover lamb, they saw the matzo as symbolic of Jesus. With the destruction of the Temple and the cessation of sacrifices, the larger Jewish community might have adopted the idea that the matzo commemorated the lamb, even if they discounted the Messianic symbolism.

The Afikoman Ceremony. The significance of the middle matzo (afikoman) and its ceremony is shrouded in mystery. The derivation of the word “afikoman” sheds some light. The word is usually traced to the Greek *epikomion* (“dessert” or “revelry”). But Dr. David Daube, an Oxford University professor, derives it from *aphikomenos*, “the one who has arrived.” The striking parallels between what happens to the middle matzo and what happened to Jesus clears the mystery. The afikoman is broken, wrapped in linen cloth, hidden, and later brought back. After His death, Jesus was wrapped in linen, buried, and rose three days later.

The current Ashkenazic practice of having children steal the afikoman may be the rabbis refuting the Resurrection, implying that grave-snatchers emptied the tomb. Jewish Christians contend that the three matzos represent the triune nature of God, and that the afikoman—which is broken, buried and brought back dramatically—represents Jesus as the middle Person of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ★



Tel Aviv: A Truly Israeli City

Our Man in Haifa
Eitan Shishkoff
and wife **Connie**



The Tel Aviv of 1916 and the Tel Aviv of 2016 bear little resemblance. In 1916 the newly-minted town of Tel Aviv had barely begun. Jewish immigrants, starting from the sand dunes on the Mediterranean shore, built shelter for their families—never dreaming that their pioneer efforts would result in a thriving metropolis of international influence.

While Jerusalem holds the undisputed honor as Israel’s Biblical, spiritual, eternal capital, in many ways Tel Aviv was the birth-place of the modern State of Israel. Here, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel’s independence on May 14, 1948. Such Israeli



Modern Tel Aviv at midday

cultural-political icons as Ofra Hazah, Itzhak Perlman, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Yair Lapid were all born in Tel Aviv. Today, the skyscrapers that compete for the mushrooming skyline reflect a muscular economy rarely found in a nation of only 68 years and one of the world’s smallest countries in geographical proportions.

With 42% of Israel’s total population located in the greater Tel Aviv area (3,713,200) and people streaming in and out every day to labor in the country’s most plentiful job market, the city easily claims title as the *Mercaz* (center) of Israel’s population, media, and economy.

(continued next page)



Tel Aviv...continued



Quaint neighborhoods lined with product-specific shops—the lighting district, furniture district, fabric district, etc.—create a surprising sense of down-home community in counterpoint to the highrise glass and steel visage on the other side of town. My wife Connie and I walked into a lamp store, barely able to navigate between the piles of antique lamps, encountering a salty proprietor in a craftsman’s apron who expertly reconditioned our old lamp on the spot.

Our daughter lives and works in Tel Aviv. Taking her out for lunch at a trendy Italian restaurant on Rothschild Boulevard felt fun, hip, relaxed, and a bit classy. No wonder so many young Israelis are making “the city that never sleeps” their home. *Tel Avivim* (city denizens) are often found strolling, biking, or walking the dog on the long “boardwalk” along the beach, invited by the mild climate and gentle breezes of Israel’s coast.

Tel Aviv is also Israel’s most overtly secular city. Proud of its moral liberality, it claims the title “Most Gay-Friendly City in the World.” This turning away from the Biblical roots of Israel’s existence begs our attention as Messianic Jewish Israelis and, with us, all those outside Israel who love Yeshua the Messiah. Please lift up in prayer the dedicated, indigenous Messianic congregations in the Tel Aviv area. Local Believers are seeking with all their hearts to be salt and light for their fellow Israelis (see Matthew 5:13–16).



For an additional insider’s view of the Messianic work in Tel Aviv, please see my television interviews with Ron Cantor (levitt.tv/media/watch/1303 and [1304](http://levitt.tv/media/watch/1304)) and watch for his contribution to Zola Levitt Presents’ updated “Fall Feasts” program. —Myles

“Pioneers of Tel Aviv gather on the beach pre-1909”



From Here To Eternity Pt. 3

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



Since the 1974 publication of my book [The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel](#), the Middle East has changed considerably. The book followed the prophecy of Ezekiel 37–39 exactly, and world events have only corroborated the prophecy and helped bring the fulfillment into focus. **Nothing needs to be corrected in the original volume**, but much can be added at this point. Here is a brief overview of the events surrounding each nation in the invasion that Ezekiel foresaw. Dr. McCall and I will be adding this addendum to future copies. (Book described [p. 36](#).)

We began this series in [January's Levitt Letter](#) and have looked at [Put \(Libya\) and Persia \(Iran\)](#), [Magoq \(Russia\) and Ethiopia](#). In coming months, we will detail Gomer and Togarmah, Sheba and Dedan, and "The Young Lions."

EGYPT, LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN

In modern politics, we are used to thinking of these close neighbors of Israel as being her most dangerous enemies. But none of these bordering powers is mentioned in Ezekiel's description. They have all been active in the various wars against Israel since 1948, but in the example of Egypt, we see a remarkable peace process. For the first time in 4,000 years, "Pharaoh" came to Jerusalem in peace.

The Camp David treaty of 1978 has taken hold and is being observed scrupulously, at least insofar as concerns bearing arms. Similar peace treaties are signed in Beirut year in and year out with no such effect. Why are they not mentioned? Will the Almighty pacify these enemies of Israel before the invasion takes place? Or perhaps Russia will overestimate its position so drastically that it omits asking for their help.

Considering all of the above, no Bible reader should be surprised if the Russian invasion of Israel happens very soon. And, of course, the Rapture of the Church would most probably come ahead of it.

The Rapture is not attached to any prophetic event but is a free-floating and imminent issue. It can happen at any time, but it is clear that if the world is to go into a divinely interrupted catastrophe—like an attempted full-scale invasion of Israel—then the Church Age is at an end. People at that point would not "believe in things not seen," but rather they would believe by sight!

This is more characteristic of the Tribulation Period than of the Age of Grace, and therefore the Rapture can be expected to precede the invasion. The antiChrist's covenant would logically follow the invasion immediately since Israel, having been surprised and then delivered, would be very much in a posture to accept terms of peace. ★

Dry Bones



Beholding Him

BY KATHARINE WEISS (r) ZLP co-host



As Passover approaches, I am reminded that Jesus took our sins and carried away our reproach so that we could be carriers of His glory. As a young Believer, while I studied the Word, I felt a distinct impression that God was making me a vessel for His glory. I don't mean this in a prideful sense; it was simply an upward call in spite of my frailties. I take comfort in the Scripture's assurance that "we carry this treasure in earthen vessels, [that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us]" (2 Cor. 4:7). Myles says that we are "cracked pots"—perhaps derived from his counseling background!

God gives us the desire to grow. We are changed from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18). Moses had the same desire. He asked, "Show me your glory" and God answered, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Exodus 33:18–19).

The word for "glory" in Hebrew is *Kavod*. The word also means "honor" and is connected with the idea of being (כָּבֵד — Kaved) "heavy." Throughout Scripture there are examples of men and women of God experiencing the weight, the *gravitas*, of God. We often read of them falling as if they were dead in the presence of the Lord, like John the Beloved in Revelation 1:17.

Romans 8:30 tells us that God has glorified those He has justified. He wants us to walk in His glory.

I love the picture of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and how it shows us a way to grow so that we can carry the glory of God. The construction of this sacred space was birthed in a heavenly vision that Moses received directly from God. In Exodus 25–31 Moses saw:



- **The Altar where we present our bodies as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1)**
- **The Brazen Laver where we wash ourselves with the water of the Word. (Eph. 5:26)**
- **The Lampstand where we encounter the anointing of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The Table of Showbread that tells us Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6:35)**
- **The Altar of Incense where our prayers are offered up to God.**
- **The veil that leads to the Holy of Holies. This pictures His flesh—it is through Jesus' death and resurrection that we receive salvation.**
- **The Ark of the Covenant that contained Aaron's rod, the jar of manna, and the tablets with the 10 Commandments.**

The Tabernacle pictures our growing closer to God with its attendant weight of glory. As we walk with Him, we fulfill the cry of His heart in John 17:22—"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one." ★

Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. One only has to observe what is going on in the Middle East and the world to be convinced that the Bible is true. I am considering not calling the Old Testament “old” any longer but rather the “First Testament,” and the New Testament the “Second Testament.” I am convinced that the entire Bible is the Living Word of God (it is actually speaking to us now).

Maybe this is one of the “times of the signs” that Myles and Katharine have been teaching about for the last few weeks on *Zola Levitt Presents*.

A. Referring to the Old Testament as the First Testament is fine. But remember, the phrase Old Testament is a term found in the New Testament. Paul called the First Testament the *Old Testament* in 2 Corinthians 3:14. The inspired writer in the Book of Hebrews used the terms *First Covenant* and *First Testament* for the Old Testament in Hebrews 9:1, 15. So “Old Testament” and “First Testament” or “First Covenant” are biblical terms that we can use today. P.S. Myles often uses the term *Older Testament*.

Q. I know that the terms “Israel” and “Jew” were used interchangeably in both the Old and New Testaments. However, when did/does the reunification of Israel/Judah take place? Some people say that it will not take place until the Millennial Kingdom is established. I believe that it took place during the Babylonian dispersion, but that it had been going on before then.

A. All twelve tribes indeed began re-gathering in 538 B.C. when they were released from the Babylonian exile. We know that Jews from the northern Tribe of Asher lived in Israel during the time of Jesus because Anna the prophetess was from the Tribe of Asher (Luke 2:36). Moreover, all twelve tribes are now gathering in the Land. We know this because at the beginning of the Tribulation Period, God will seal the 144,000 (12,000 from each of the 12 tribes) and a portion of them will come from the northern tribes of Israel (Revelation 7). Thus, Israel and Judah will be reunified not only prior to the seven-year Tribulation but well before the Millennial Kingdom commences. ★



THE CURIOUS FACT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM IS THAT:

THE ANTISEMITES SEEM TO WIN EVERY BATTLE

WHILE THE JEWS SEEM TO WIN EVERY WAR.



Kischer

Awed by the Pierced Messiah

By Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Our **To The Jew First** ambassadors just completed the 37th Gospel outreach to the people of Israel—the first of four, God willing, in 2016. Great things are happening with this ministry to the Chosen People in the land of divine destiny. I gratefully extend my deepest thanks to our supporters whose gifts allowed us to carry out four very effective outreaches to Israel in 2015.

Fellow emissary August Rosado and I were again blown away watching how God opens the minds of His people to understand that the prophecies of the Messiah given in the Old Testament are shown in the New Testament as fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth.

In Israel's coastal town of Netanya, August and I met a young Israeli woman named **Tamir** to whom we witnessed about the Messiahship of Yeshua. Our message to her centered on Yeshua's ministry to the Jewish people, fulfilling what the Hebrew Prophets had written centuries before to help Israel recognize the Messiah's First Coming.



Because Tamir was already familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures (OT), August and I used those Scriptures to show her that Jesus fulfilled all the First Coming prophecies about Messiah.

We focused on one Messianic prophecy in particular: Zechariah 12:10—

*And they will look at Me whom they have pierced;
and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son.*

Zechariah's prophecy, made 500 years before the Crucifixion, foresees that the Jewish people will look upon the "pierced" Messiah when He returns to them. I pointed to my wrists, gesturing for Tamir the nails piercing Yeshua's wrists in the practice of Roman crucifixion, which literally fulfilled the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah 12:10.

As the realization of Yeshua's painful sacrifice hit her, Tamir's eyes teared up, and she exclaimed, "This is amazing!"

August and I gave Tamir a complete Bible (with both Testaments) in Hebrew and [*The Promised Messiah*](#) study pamphlet of the major prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in His life on Earth. During His First Coming, Yeshua fulfilled some 365 Messianic prophecies given in the *Tanakh* (OT), one for every day of the year.

We brought a similar testimony to Sivan at a shopping mall in Tel Aviv, explaining that Yeshua's fulfilling all the First Coming prophecies guarantees that He will return to fulfill all the Second Coming prophecies. Like many Israelis living on the doorstep of Messiah's soon return, Sivan exhibited a curiosity to learn more. She accepted a complete Bible in Hebrew in order to search its illuminating pages and find Jesus the Messiah and His gift of salvation and eternal life. (John 5:39) ★

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Bemoaning A Charity Behemoth



The New York Times recently ran a front-page exposé (excerpts below) by national correspondent Dave Philipps, who lays out the extravagances of a large, secular charity that aids U.S. military veterans. The revelations may raise the hairs on the back of your neck. Its key allegations of poor financial stewardship strike me as a checklist of what Zola Levitt Ministries avoids in order to achieve solid financial accountability. —Mark

In 2014, after 10 years of rapid growth, the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) flew its approximately 500 employees to Colorado Springs for a conference at a five-star hotel. On the opening night, a spotlight focused on a 10-story bell tower down which their chief executive, Steven Nardizzi, rappelled toward the cheering crowd.

The charity has evolved into a fundraising giant, taking in more than \$372 million in 2015. According to more than four dozen current and former employees, it spends millions per year on travel, dinners, hotels, and conferences that often seem more lavish than appropriate. Former workers recounted buying business-class seats and staying in \$500-per-night hotel rooms.

About 40% of the organization's donations in 2014 were spent on its overhead, or about \$124 million. Since that percentage is far more than for many charities, philanthropic watchdog groups criticize WWP for spending too heavily on itself.

Under the direction of Mr. Nardizzi, a lawyer who never served in the military, WWP has modeled itself on for-profit corporations. In 2014, it spent more than \$34 million on fundraising.

"People could spend money on the most ridiculous thing and no one batted an eye," stated Connie Chapman, who oversaw the charity's Seattle office for two years. Employees indicated

that all staff members flying to the charity's office at a military hospital in Germany traveled in business class. One current employee recalled her last-minute ticket costing \$7,000. By 2014, the group was spending \$7.5 million per year on travel.

Erick Millette, an Iraq veteran, quit after growing disillusioned about his work with a program called Warrior Speak. He explained: "They wanted me to say WWP saved my life. ... Well, they didn't. They just took me to a Red Sox game and on a weekend retreat."

This ministry's workers do not stay in five-star hotels or fly business class. We allocate only 17% to overhead, not 40%. Of that, for fundraising, we spend approximately \$24,000 per year (0.7%), not \$34 million. Our 2014 travel/business meeting budget was less than \$18,000 (0.5%), not \$7.5 million. We model ourselves on feeding God's sheep (Jn. 21:17), including thousands of prisoners and people in poverty, with free Bible teaching. The bottom line is that our organization is lean and efficient because we sincerely care about our biblical mission, all to the glory of God. —Mark ★



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(See Numbers 11)

08-09-2002

WHEN I WAS A KID WE DIDN'T HAVE NO SISSY MANNA ... WE ATE SAND AND WE LIKED IT.

ZLM Bulletin Board

ZLM: Mobile Device-Friendly Enough?

Levitt.com works on your tablet or smart phone as well as on your computer, and can play Zola's music and the TV-shows in our extensive archive. You can also purchase godly teaching and donate on the website. Plus, with Apple TV, Roku, or a similar device, you can stream our video from your phone or tablet to your big-screen TV. Question: Do you believe levitt.com is mobile device-friendly enough? Please let us know. Thanks.



Duplicates? Moving?

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



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

I'd Like to Give, But ...

describes common concerns about making charitable gifts. It also presents alternative ways to give other than writing a check. Among the ideas, you may find the solution to meeting your own obligations while also making the contribution you'd like to give. This free pamphlet touches on considerations such as cash on hand, retirement planning, and providing for heirs. To receive it at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Zola's Bible Exchange

If you have an extra Bible in new or nearly new condition to pass on to someone who needs one, such as an inmate or a retiree on fixed income, please send it to us to forward. (Bibles for inmates must be soft-cover.) On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address. There will be no charge. (Incidentally, ZLM consulting theologian Dr. Tom McCall refers to a New Testament without the Old Testament as *The Amputated Bible*.)



"Come Home!"

**Zola
Tours to
Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson



Our Duty To The Truth

John J. Parsons

בְּיָדְךָ אֶפְקֵד רוּחִי פָּדִיתָ אוֹתִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֱמֶת

“Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have ransomed me,
O LORD, the God of truth.”—Psalm 31:5

אֱמֶת	אֱלֹ	יְהוָה	אוֹתִי	פָּדִיתָ	רוּחִי	אֶפְקֵד	בְּיָדְךָ
(2) (1)	(1)	(1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)
e-met	El	Adonai	ot-tee	pa-dee-tah	ru-khi	af-keed	be-ya-de-kha
God of truth	O LORD	me	you ransomed	my spirit	I commit	into your hand	

Every one of us is a teacher of sorts, proclaiming through our personal choices what we believe to be true. False teachers are those whose choices “teach” by their actions that there is no God, no eternal life, no meaning to life, and ultimately, no real hope. It cannot be any other way, for we all teach by our choices; we communicate by our assumptions of what we regard to be of “ultimate concern.” Postmodern philosophy never answered any of the haunting existential questions of life, such as: What is reality? Why is there something rather than nothing? What is the purpose of life? What happens when we die? Who am I? Do moral choices matter? and so on, but instead merely reinterpreted the hunger for meaning and truth to be about power and control.

Nonsense! People may evade the great questions of life by pretending they are unknowable, but Scripture attests that all people are created in God’s image and intuitively understand God’s reality and authority: “For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made; so they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

We have a sacred duty to honor God’s truth, and that implies we bear a sacred animosity toward lies and false teaching. “Do not be deceived: associating with false teaching corrupts good character” (1 Cor. 15:33). We hate sin because it wounds and kills the soul. Think straight; awaken to the holiness of life; turn away from vain thoughts and lies; embrace the truth of God’s salvation.

Every day we make decisions regarding good and evil, and therefore every day we are deciding, and therefore proclaiming, “teaching,” and attesting to what we love and what we hate. We cannot opt out of our responsibility, because choosing not to choose is itself a choice. The issue is not whether we will love or *whether* we will hate, but *what* we will love and what we will hate. As it is written, “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate” (Prov. 8:13). Therefore “go into all the world and preach the gospel, and, if necessary, use words.” **And may the LORD our God help each of us to attest to His love and Reality through the decisions we make. Amen.** ★



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Zola's Highlights DVD

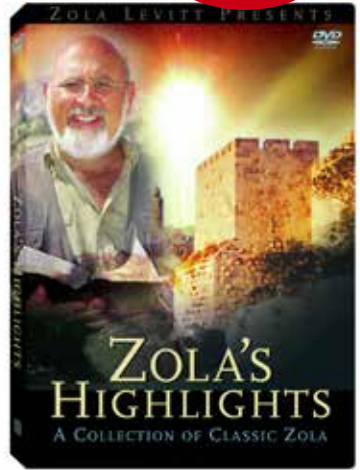
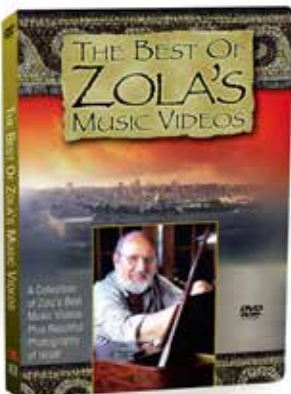
A video collection of classic Zola teaching covers over 30 years in four half-hour TV programs on 1 DVD. These programs celebrate the timeless teachings of the late Zola Levitt, one of the most beloved Bible teachers in America. Highlights from thirty years of TV broadcasting are condensed into 4 half-hour programs that examine Zola's early, mid-career, and later teaching. Stunning, on-location footage from Israel gives viewers insights into the biblical world and Word.

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

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

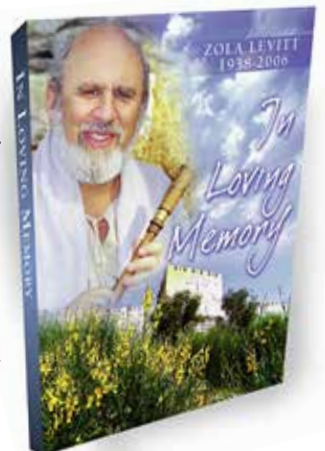
3. JERUSALEM FOREVER Zola's contagious love for Israel — which mimics the Scripture's — is apparent in his music, books, and TV productions. This program visits Zola in mid-career when he teaches about the Bible's Jewish roots, emphasizing his trademark topic: prophecy.

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

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The Best of Zola's Music Videos 2 DVDs

Our production team made a special effort to pair video shot on-location in Israel and Greece with selections of Zola's favorite and original compositions for your viewing pleasure. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompany Zola's original music on 2 DVDs.

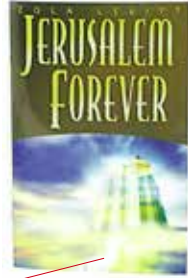


In Loving Memory DVD

Two television productions on 1 DVD—*Remembering Zola* and *In Loving Memory*—are dedicated to the viewers and readers who loved Zola like a family member. Join us as we celebrate his work, music, joy in the Lord, and sense of humor. Remember a man who lived to open others' eyes to the beauty of God and His Word.

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

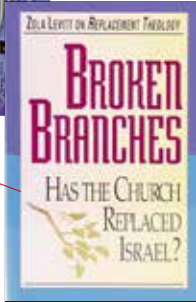
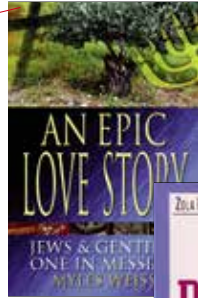
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
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___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
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___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Believers' Future	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
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Books

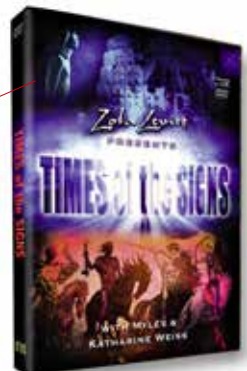
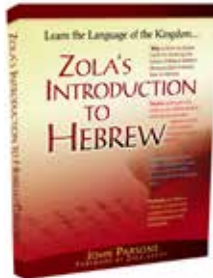
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___	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	___
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___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Signs of The End: Millennium	\$7	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	___



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___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	In Loving Memory (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___





Studies, Specialty, Etc.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilgrim's Map of The Holy Land	\$6	_____
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UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!



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Esther: For Such a Time as This

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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

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

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

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

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

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

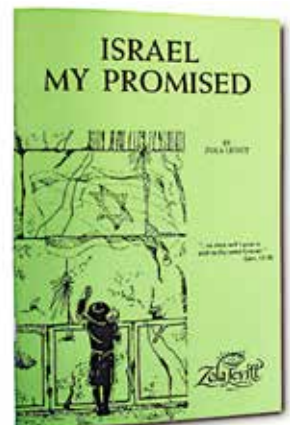
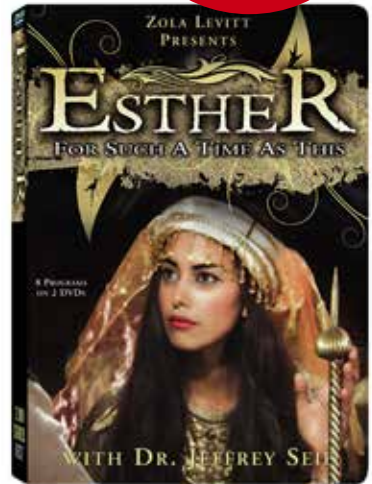
Justice at Last! Our story's villain comes to his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

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

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

Israel, My Promised study booklet

See Israel through the eyes of Zola Levitt, a faithful son who made the land of his Father his life's work. A love letter from a sincere writer to his homeland. An intensely personal and heartfelt look at God's country, one of the most misunderstood lands in all history.



The Real Al-Aqsa is Not in Jerusalem

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY MEMRI.org

A respected Egyptian novelist and Islamic scholar declared that the shrine sitting atop Jerusalem's Temple Mount is not the real Al-Aqsa Mosque, and that **the city therefore has no religious significance to Muslims**. In an interview with Egypt's CBC TV, Youssef Ziedan, director of the Manuscript Center and Museum at the Library of Alexandria, noted that the Koran never mentions Mohammed ascending to heaven, from Jerusalem or any other location. Citing ancient Islamic scholars, Ziedan continued: "The Prophet Mohammad, after being harassed by the Quraysh [tribe in Mecca], went to the city of Ta'if. On the road to Ta'if, there were two mosques: Al-Adna ['the nearest'] Mosque and Al-Aqsa ['the farthest'] Mosque."

Ziedan explained that the "Al-Aqsa Mosque [in Jerusalem] did not exist back then, and the city was not called Al-Quds. It was called Aelia, and it had no mosques." The stunned interviewer wondered if that meant that "there is no justification for the war [over Jerusalem], and we should just leave Al-Aqsa, which has nothing to do with us?" Ziedan maintained, "Neither we nor the [Jews] have anything to do with it. That's what I'm saying. People should think about this."

"Where would that lead us?" asked the host.

Ziedan's response: "To peace."

After admitting that Islam has no vital connection to Mount Moriah, Ziedan reverts to the standard denial of Jewish history in the Land. The Al-Aqsa controversy is just the latest rallying cry against the rights of Jews (and Christians!) to pray on the Temple Mount. Secular history, the Biblical record, and archaeology confirm the reality of God's choosing the Israeli people. Even Arab names for various sites are complicit: It is humorous to hear Arabs refer to certain areas known in Arabic as "where the Jews crossed over" and "the place of the prophet Elijah" while they concurrently deny any Jewish connection to the land! —Myles ★



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Letters to ZLM

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

Islam

Dear ZLM,

I watched a portion of your “show” the other day in which a couple spoke from Jerusalem, and I was glad to see a more realistic picture of Islam than the one usually presented on mainstream TV. Yet, if you allow constructive criticism, I was disappointed by how the **true** nature of that religion was not brought out.

Like most people in the world, you still seem to believe that Islam is, on the whole, just one of the “great religions” (whatever that means), with a few bad apples among them that we have to watch out for and confront.

Not so. Islam is a singularly different entity, calculating and deceptive beyond anyone’s perception (as recommended in the Koran itself regarding the duty of the Muslim in relation to all non-Muslims).

Not only does Islam not mean peace, jihad as holy (physical) war is in the minds of Mohammed’s followers who truly understand what they have to do. (And they, not the inattentive among them, will determine the issue of the long battle to be fought.)

Example: It took Islamists 800 years to conquer Constantinople, but the victory was finally theirs. People in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt claim that Israel will be conquered, even if it takes 400 years. There will never be peace in the Middle East; and there is no possible agreement between Israel and the so-called Palestinians. (Note: see [“The Real Al-Aqsa is Not in Jerusalem”](#) on p. 21.) Islam forbids it—and must indeed forbid it if Islam means to continue its existence.

Not minimizing the violent history of “Christianity” (against the teaching of Jesus), studying the nature and origin of the Arabian religion makes me conclude that we are playing catch-up football—at the start of the fourth quarter, the score is Islam 43, non-Muslims 7).

(continued next page)



Pundits and politicians repeat that the ISIS terrorist group does not represent Islam; that is completely wrong. **ISIS is doing exactly what Mohammed did to subdue his adversaries and what his followers did after his death. No other religion has ever been founded on the absolute hatred of everything not itself.**

What matters, however, is that our eyes are on ISIS while Muslims are here in such numbers that any criticism of Islam results in death threats. Thus, in our political and social life, self-censorship is the norm.

That, and not a small band of terrorists in the Middle East, is what we should be talking about. —J.S.

Shalom J.S.—

I'm glad you caught even a portion of *Zola Levitt Presents*. That was my wife Katharine and me speaking from Jerusalem.



I am surprised that you lump us with the media sources that bend over backward (and forward) kowtowing to Islam. Not us!

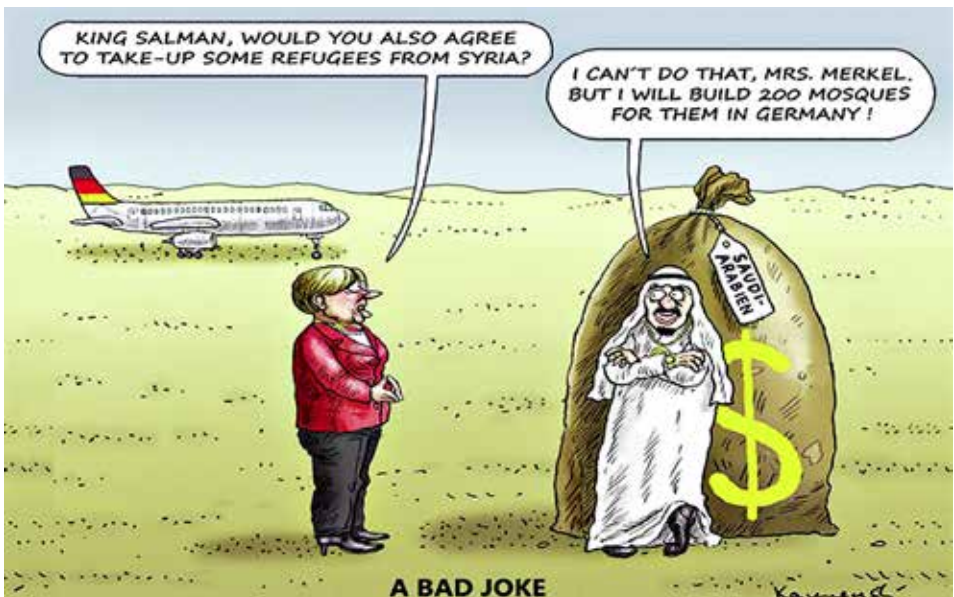
Going back over 30 years with Zola, then with Dr. Jeff Seif and Sandra Levitt, and into Katharine's and my tenure, this program has stood for an accurate (and sometimes dangerous) free-speech model of journalism. If you view a reasonably sized sample of our TV presence and our news magazine and books at levitt.com, you will see that we have been warning the West about the true intent of Islam for decades.

Believe me, I share your frustration. My (now grown) amazing sons laugh with (at?) me about my fervent commitment to getting the word out over the years: to congregations, on radio and TV, and through tours to the Middle East. To quote them in high school: "Dad, it's midnight ... no more Arabs and Jews!")

What's the Word?

Yeshua is King of the Jews and Savior of the World (for "whosoever believes"). God keeps His covenants (including with Israel!). Jihad is a fundamental part of mainstream Koranic Islam.

We love our Arab cousins, and we pray for those in Islam to find the light in Yeshua. He is **the** Way, **the** Truth, and **the** Life! Blessings —Myles ★



The Ten Plagues, Islam, and the Judgment of God



BY ASHER INTRATER (top) RevivIsrael.org

One of the most epic and detailed stories in Scriptures—the Ten Plagues—provides a foundation for our understanding of God’s judgment.

Before Moses returned to Egypt, God told him that He would “harden Pharaoh’s heart” (Exodus 4:21). However, God did not execute that hardening until the sixth plague (boils, 9:12) and the eighth plague (locusts, 10:1), following Pharaoh’s repeated hardening of his own heart in previous plagues. Time and again Pharaoh was offered an opportunity for grace and forgiveness; he responded evilly every time. Only after the “fullness” of Pharaoh’s hardening his own heart did God harden his heart as an act of judgment.

Before sending him to Egypt, God told Moses to throw his staff to the ground, where it turned into a serpent (4:3) as a sign of Moses’ spiritual authority over satanic forces. Yet, God knew something that Moses didn’t.

In the 40 years that Moses had been in the desert, cabinet-level ministers had become involved in occult worship and could turn sticks into serpents (7:12), turn water to blood (7:22), and raise frogs out of the Nile (8:7). Witchcraft was so rampant that God prepared Moses ahead of time with the power to repel those satanic spirits.

Eye for an Eye

The death of the firstborn was the last and worst of the 10 plagues. Remember that the Egyptian pharaohs had been murdering innocent children already for 80 years (1:16). God’s judgment is always preceded by grace and is always perfectly righteous.

The murder of the Jewish children in Egypt—the first type of “Holocaust”—was to be followed by Haman, Herod, Hitler, and today, Islamic jihad. Islam claims that Mohammed was the final prophet of God following all the Bible’s prophets, including Moses and Jesus. But ironically, these jihadists have more in common with the evil Pharaohs than with any Jewish prophet or Apostle.

(continued next page)

*God ordered
blood to be put
on the doorposts
so His judgment
would pass over
those inside.*



Judgment... *continued*



Jihadists claim to bring judgment on Western society for pervasive sins of corruption and sexual immorality. There is some truth in those accusations (see Rev. 17:16–17). However, Islamists have raped thousands (also sexual immorality), committed murder, and lied, all of which transgress the Ten Commandments. God's prophets must also obey God's moral laws.

During the Exodus, God destroyed the Egyptian armies who pursued, ready to kill, the unarmed multitudes who had been oppressed under brutal slavery for three generations. God's harsh judgment fit the cruel crimes committed.

Round Two

God is a judge, a righteous judge. The Scriptures remind us over and again that God's judgments are perfectly righteous (Psalm 96:13; 98:9; Rev. 15:4; 19:11). God's judgments include:

- Moral Justice
- Offers of Grace
- Clear Warnings
- Judicial Process
- Moral Requirements for Prophets

Islam claims to bring the judgment of God but includes none of the above.

Pharaoh's Egypt in Moses' time was perhaps the most demonic empire in history. However, prophetic Scriptures indicate that such an evil empire will appear again. And worse, the future empire will be worldwide: murderous, genocidal, demonic, and tyrannical. The Bible records the Exodus from Egypt as history but also as prophecy. The happenings in the End Times will echo what happened in Egypt.



Israeli Instrument Bound for Jupiter



Dr. Yohai Kaspi

SCIENCE: WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / wis-wander.Weizmann.ac.il

Sometime in the year 2030, if all goes according to plan, some dozen groups around the world will begin receiving unique data streams sent from just above the planet Jupiter. Their instruments, which will include a device designed and constructed in Israel, will arrive there aboard the **JUICE** (JUper ICy moons Explorer) spacecraft, a mission planned by the European Space Agency (ESA) to investigate the properties of the Solar System's largest planet and several of its moons. Among other information, the research groups participating in JUICE hope to discover whether the conditions for life exist anywhere in the vicinity of the planet.

"This is the first time that an Israeli-built device will be carried beyond the Earth's orbit," says **Dr. Yohai Kaspi** (top) of the Weizmann Institute's Earth and Planetary Sciences Department, who is the principal investigator on this effort. The project, 3GM (Gravity & Geophysics of Jupiter and Galilean Moons), is a collaboration with an Italian team from the University of Rome.

The Israeli team contributed to the project an atomic clock that will measure tiny vacillations in a radio beam provided by the Italian team. This clock must be so accurate that it would lose less than a second in 100,000 years, so Kaspi has turned to an Israeli firm that manufactures clocks used in high-tech aircraft. That firm's engineers and Kaspi's team, including Dr. Eli Galanti and Dr. Marzia Parisi, have spent the last two years in research and development to design a device that should not only meet the strict demands of the experiment but also survive the eight-year trip and function in the conditions of space. Israel's Ministry of Science and Technology will fund the research and the building and assembly of the device.

For about two and a half years, as JUICE orbits Jupiter, the 3GM team will investigate the planet's atmosphere by intercepting radio waves traveling through the gas, timing them and measuring the angle at which the waves are deflected.



Artist's impression of the JUper ICy moons Explorer (JUICE) on its mission to study Jupiter's Galilean moons (Image: ESA/AOES).

During flybys of three of the planet's moons—Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto—the 3GM instruments will help search for tides. Researchers observing these moons have noted fluctuations in their gravity, suggesting that the large mass of Jupiter is creating tides in liquid oceans beneath their hard, icy exteriors. By measuring the variations in gravity, the researchers hope to learn how large these oceans are, what they are made of, and even whether their conditions might harbor life.

The JUICE teams are preparing for a launch in 2022. That gives them three years to get the various instruments ready and another three to assemble and test the craft. In the long eight-year wait from launch to arrival, Kaspi intends to work on building theoretical models that can be tested against the data they will receive from their instruments. ★



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Cellphones and Male Infertility

MEDICINE: By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich (r) JPost.com



Men who speak on their cellphones for more than one hour a day or keep their phone close to their groin risk significant damage to the quality of their sperm and their ability to father a child, according to researchers at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Carmel Medical Center.

Dr. Yulia Sheinfeld and colleagues in the division of fertility and in-vitro fertilization of the obstetrics/gynecology department at Carmel published their findings in Reproductive BioMedicine Online.

Between 30% and 40% of all infertility cases involve male fertility problems. Some studies have shown a continuous decline in semen quality in recent decades. One postulated contributing factor is radio frequency electromagnetic radiation (RF-EMR) emitted from cellphones.

For the current study, 106 men referred for semen analysis completed questionnaires assessing demographic data and characteristics of cellphone usage.

The researchers found that talking on cellphones for an hour a day or longer, and talking on the devices while they are charging, are behaviors that are associated with higher rates of abnormal semen concentration. A higher rate of abnormal sperm concentration was found among men who reported holding their phones within 2 feet of the groin. **Semen concentration was abnormal among 47% of those who stored their phone in their pants pockets**, while it was abnormal in only 11% of the general male population.



Other factors in reducing fertility included smoking.



The authors said the study was small and urged that large-scale studies be carried out. However, in the meantime, they urged male users to speak less on cellphones, as well as to avoid sleeping next to them, carrying them near the groin area, or speaking on the devices while they are charging.

Instead, the researchers suggest using earphones or a speakerphone. ☆

A Holocaust Survivor's Letters



BY ARON HELLER (r) Associated Press

Throughout the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam, and while incarcerated in two prison camps, **Mirjam Bolle** wrote letters to her fiancé that she never sent but hoped to share with him after the war. Yet when the two ultimately reunited she decided to leave the past behind and stashed them away. Now, decades later, she has published them as a memoir.

The result is *Letters Never Sent*, 18 months of diary entries and observations that experts say shed new light on one of the Holocaust's most controversial legacies—the *Judenrat* (Jewish Councils)—the dark bureaucracy responsible for implementing Nazi orders.

Judenrat were often despised by fellow Jews as traitors; but Bolle, still lively at 98, defends their actions. She says the Judenrat had little choice, yet managed to lessen the blow to the community. As a secretary for the Jewish Council of Amsterdam, she was privy to their inner workings and says they managed to save lives by staving off Nazi deportation orders.

"The Germans decided that there would be a Judenrat; we had nothing to do with that," Bolle said in her Jerusalem home, where she has lived alone since her husband's death in 1992. "If the war had ended after two years, no one would have had a problem with the Judenrat."

However, Bolle believes they outlived their usefulness. The nearly 1,200 Jewish Councils continued to enjoy preferential treatment, even as they devolved into an administrative body for the Nazis' so-called "Final Solution," the planned extermination of the Jewish people. For some, the burden was too great to bear. Adam Czerniakow, head of the Warsaw Ghetto Judenrat, killed himself after he was forced to deport Jews to their deaths.

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



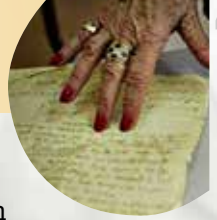
Mirjam Bolle
(AP Photos:
Sebastian Scheiner)



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Letters *continued*



Bolle's role was more limited. She took dictations, dispatched letters, and was sitting in on discussions when the first mention was made of the Nazi concentration camps. "It was a different world. You cannot judge what people did," she said. "People who are living a relatively normal life just cannot imagine."

Six million Jews were killed by German Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust, wiping out a third of world Jewry. Today, fewer than 190,000 elderly survivors remain in Israel. Bolle is among the oldest.

Yom HaShoah, Israel's main Holocaust Memorial Day—sundown on May 4 to sundown May 5 this year—marks the anniversary of the month-long Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, when Jews in the Polish capital launched a brave, but ultimately doomed, attempt to resist the Nazis.

The UN designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorating the date that the Auschwitz death camp was liberated in 1945. Bolle's entries began on this date in 1943. Her fiancé, Leo Bolle, had gone in 1938 to what was then the British-ruled Mandate for Palestine and she had stayed behind a bit longer to work.

Her letters describe German raids and deportations, the struggles of the Judenrat to postpone them, and her own escape from one roundup when a German officer saved her by chaperoning her down the street. She described other soldiers as "wild beasts" and detailed how Jews were shot by German firing squads.

Eventually, she was sent to Westerbork, a transit camp, before moving on to Bergen-Belsen. Bolle managed to smuggle her collected letters by wrapping them in a shirt, tossing them over a barbed-wire fence out of sight of a Nazi guard, and collecting them on the other side. "Very foolish," she said. "If he had seen that, I wouldn't be here today."



In one segment, she writes to her fiancé: "We'll need years to talk about everything we've been through."

Dan Michman, head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, said: "We are approaching the moment when survivors will not be with us anymore. Diaries and letters written during the period are real-time documents and important for teaching and studying the Holocaust."

He said the Jewish Council in Amsterdam succeeded in employing around 35,000 Jews who were thus exempt from immediate deportation. ★

*Israel and Italy
rescue sub crew
of 40 at sea*



Navy Sub Rescue

By Barry Rosenfeld / *Israel Today*

For the first time, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently carried out a joint submarine rescue exercise with the Italian navy, one of only a few able to extract a sunken submarine crew. Few navies have ever even attempted such a mission.

Performed off of the coast of Atlit, south of Haifa, the three-day drill rescued a crew of 40 from a sub at a depth of 200 feet. After a year of planning, the rescue was carried out successfully. Israel does not maintain capability of this nature due to the high cost, so in a case of emergency, the IDF will have to call in the Italians for a joint operation.

The exercise included 100 Israeli sailors and doctors. Two extraction vehicles were employed: a small submarine called "the Bell" and the SRV300 submersible. Each round, lasting two to three hours, brought out 12 servicemen until all 40 emerged safely.

A navy spokesman explained that a sunken vessel can continue its regular routine for several days, allowing for the two to three days needed to bring rescue equipment from Italy. If less time is available, the rescue vehicles can be airlifted.

Oldest Couple to Make Aliyah

Jewish Political News & Updates / JPUupdates.com

Felix and Feiga Bandos, both in their 90s and who married 69 years

ago at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, made *aliyah* to Israel last year, settling into Efrat with their children and grandchildren.

Felix—a Polish survivor of the Lodz Ghetto—met his future wife, Feiga—a survivor from Lithuania—at Bergen-Belsen. They dated and married, all within the limits of the World War II death camp.

*Making aliyah to
Israel from
America*



The couple moved to America in 1953 and Felix found work as a scrap metal dealer. Throughout the years Felix visited their daughter and grandchildren in Israel, and as time progressed the couple envisioned Israel as the best place to spend the rest of their days. They were welcomed with open arms. Feiga says their children have helped them transition smoothly.



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F-16 fighters

A Cleaner, Greener IAF IDFblog.com

Since 2012, the Israel Air Force (IAF) has been undergoing a huge change for the greener, and is using clean technology from around the world to become a net-zero-energy air force by the year 2033. The IAF has been doing everything possible to switch over to systems that will bring significant energy savings over the next few years and into the future.

“A couple of years ago, it was hard to convince commanders that the IAF needed to become more environmentally friendly. Now they don’t need convincing,” says Capt. Bouganim, who has been heading the IAF’s revolutionary project Blue Going Green (blue is the official color of the IAF) for the past several years. With the coordination of engineers in the fields of electrical, water, mechanical, and fuel engineering, Capt. Bouganim takes projects from the initial brainstorming all the way to implementation in air force bases across Israel.

The Blue Going Green initiative consists of a few components. The eco-friendly policy requires that all lights and air conditioners be turned off whenever possible. It also ensures that all new IAF building projects cause the least environmental damage and incorporate as many energy-saving concepts as possible. Blue Going Green also integrates energy-saving technologies into the air force. Capt. Bouganim and his staff investigate existing technologies for suitability. “I’m not looking at things that will save us a hundred shekels. I’m looking at things that will save us a million shekels,” Capt. Bouganim emphasizes.

Water Heating—applies green technology to heat water. Example: a pump that works like a reverse air conditioner, taking in outside air and heating it up, which then heats up the water.

Solar Power—solar power grids installed on roofs provide all the electricity needs for that particular building and for the base in general.

Grey Water Recycling—takes the used water from sinks and showers and redirects it to be used again by toilets or watering plants.

Natural Sewage Treatment—takes black water (the wastewater from toilets) and puts it through a natural filtration system—of rocks, plants, and sand—that filters the water without using chemicals. The filtered water is then repurposed for watering the base’s landscaping.

Natural and Induction Lighting—daylighting devices direct natural sunlight through a series of mirrors and reflective tubes into hangars. Each daylighting device is as bright as 2.5 regular electric lights. In hangars where daylighting devices cannot be installed, the IDF is switching to induction lighting, which is powered by a magnetic field and requires only half the energy of conventional electric lighting. Installing tens of thousands of systems is expected to save millions of dollars.

IAF’s Future—Capt. Bouganim’s vision is a “net zero air force” by 2033, a goal inspired by a similar initiative in the U.S. military. The IAF plans eventually to produce all of its own power, treat and recycle all its own waste, and be independent from outside energy sources. He hopes to see the air force powered “not by diesel, but by the sun, earth, and wind.” Every ray of light and drop of water is getting the IDF closer to that goal. ★



Photovoltaic cells at IAF base



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Ancient Fortress Uncovered

Bronze
arrowheads
found onsite



ARCHAEOLOGY: By Avshalom Kapach (archaeologist) / *Israel Today*

Finally, an indication of Greek rule over Jerusalem has been discovered. Israeli archaeologists have found the legendary Acra Fortress in a parking lot outside Dung Gate at the entrance to the Western Wall. Built by the Hellenistic King Antiochus Epiphanes (215–164 B.C.), it was from here that the Greeks controlled the Temple precinct.



**1,700-Year-Old
Galilee Region
Inscriptions Refer To 'Rabbis'**
(affirming Jewish presence) JNS.org

Archaeologists say
Acra had been an
imposing structure



Three 1,700-year-old funerary inscriptions referring to "rabbis" were discovered in Moshav Zippori in Israel's Galilee region. This finding affirms a Jewish presence in Israel during the Roman period, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced recently.

"The importance of the epitaphs lies in the fact that they reflect the everyday life of the Jews of Zippori and their cultural world," said Dr. Motti Aviam of the Kinneret Institute for Galilean Archaeology, which partnered with the IAA on the discovery.

Two of the Aramaic inscriptions were found buried in a cemetery in Zippori, but their names have not yet been deciphered. One of the inscriptions bears the name "The Tiberian," Aviam said.

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



Archaeology... continued



“This is already the second instance of someone from Tiberias being buried in the cemetery at Zippori,” said Aviam. “It is quite possible that Jews from various parts of Galilee were brought to Zippori to be buried in the wake of the important activity carried out there by [the Mishnah-era sage] Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi [b.135 A.D].”

Hear?

By Dov Chaikin / *Israel Today*

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord [YHWH] our God, the Lord [YHWH] is One” is the generally accepted translation of Deuteronomy 6:4 (*see graphic*). In the actual scroll of the Torah (the Five Books of Moses), as well as in (most) print versions of the original, the last letters of both the first and last words are enlarged—as is clearly visible. These letters are ע (ayin) and ד (dallet), which together spell עד (ed)—meaning *witness*.

I had long wondered at this phenomenon until I stumbled upon chapter 11 of Judges, with particular reference to verse 10. This chapter tells the story of Yefthah (Jephthah) who had been expelled from the tribe, and who was eventually sought by the elders to lead in the fight against the Ammonites. The elders assured him that, if he would do so, he would be accepted as leader of the tribe.

In response to Yefthah’s rhetorical question seeking assurance that this would be the case, the elders invoked God as a witness between them to that effect: “The Lord is witness between us; surely we will do as you have said” (Judges 11:10).

In the original Hebrew (*pictured*), the word rendered *witness* is שמע (shome’a)—the very spelling in Deuteronomy 6:4.

(Shows the enlarged last letters of the first and last words)

To me, this indicated that the emphasis in the verse is on witness: *Testify, O Israel, that YHWH our God, YHWH is One. And the Lord declares too: “You are My witnesses”* (see Isaiah 43:10–12).



Hope in the Treatment of AIDS



Israel Today

Two scientists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem believe they have achieved a breakthrough in destroying cells infected with the HIV virus.

Professors **Abraham Loyter** (*below*) and **Assaf Friedler** (*right*) have developed peptides (short chains of amino acids) that kill the infected cells without causing harm to other parts or organs in the body. They flooded the infected cells with many copies of the virus's DNA, prompting the activation of the cells' self-destruction mechanisms.

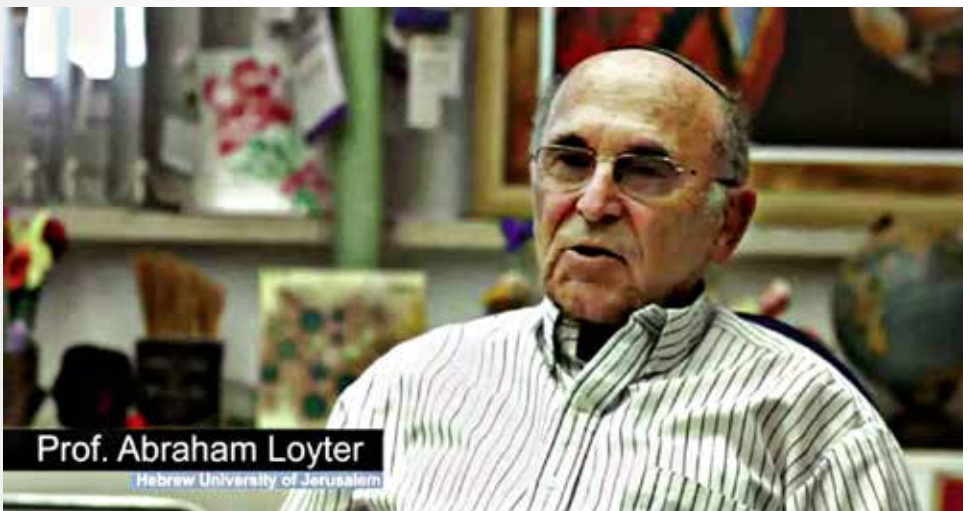


These peptides, combined with the existing medications, were tested on cultures of human cells carrying the AIDS virus and the results were better than expected. The **infected cells disappeared after two weeks of treatment, and two weeks later there was still no sign of them.**

This is seen as a step ahead of current drug treatments, which hinder the activity of infected cells and prevent the disease from spreading. In effect, AIDS has been transformed from a fatal epidemic to a treatable disease. But if successful, the new Israeli treatment could be considered a possible cure.

Clinical trials on human beings are next. The Zyon Pharmaceutical Company was so impressed by the results that it has already signed an exclusive agreement with Hebrew University to develop a medication. The findings were published in the *AIDS Research and Therapy* journal. Many scientists, however, remain skeptical. But Patrick Levy, 50, the first executive director of the Israel AIDS Task Force who has been an HIV carrier for 28 years, is optimistic.

"There are always reports about breakthroughs, so I try not to expect too much so as not to be disappointed," he reported. "This time it looks like a very interesting breakthrough. If it has reached the point of a clinical trial on human beings, it's definitely a dramatic development and real news." ★



Jewish Humor, etc.



Seder Preparation

With *Pesach* (Passover) soon upon them, the Jewish community in Madrid found itself in a desperate situation. There was an acute shortage of *chrain* (horseradish— Besides being a fiery condiment for gefilte fish, horseradish is the key *Seder* ingredient.).

A hue and cry arose, and the entire community was mobilized in an effort to prevent this *shonda* (shame, tragedy). All of the European Union countries gave the same reply: "Sorry, we have none to send."

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22



In desperation, the rabbi phoned one of his friends in Tel Aviv and begged him to airfreight a crate of horseradish to Madrid.

Two days before Pesach, a crate of Grade Aleph, tear-inducing, Israeli horseradish was loaded at Ben Gurion Airport onto EL Al flight 789 to Madrid, and all seemed to be well.

Unfortunately, when the rabbi went to the Madrid airport to claim the horseradish, he was informed that the plane's cargo door had malfunctioned and no shipments could be unloaded for at least four days.

As a result: ... Wait for it ... The *chrain* in Spain stayed mainly on the plane. ★



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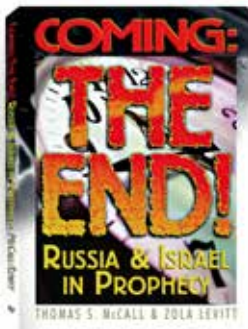
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