



August 2020



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## FROM SARAH, OUR *SABRA* ON THE GROUND IN ISRAEL

Dear Friend,

Sharing with you what it's like to live in Israel and the lessons that God is teaching me through my life here brings me great joy. I believe that relating our real lives and real truth can be transformational. I hope that as you read these words, God will work in your heart in accordance with His perfect purposes in *your* life.

### DISCOVERING THE PIONEERS

Now, confidentially, I don't like to exercise. If you are one of those people who do, bless you; I'm just not one of you. Recently however, I came to realize that to keep my strength and, dare I say youth, I needed to find such an activity. Consequently, a few weeks ago I started regularly running in the fields near our home.

We live in Binyamina (population ~ 16,000). It's a little northern town built by some of the earliest *Chalutzim* (pioneers) in Israel. Immigrants mostly from Europe and Russia at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century — long before Israel became a state — formed this movement as they followed the call of **Theodor Herzl** (1860–1904), father of Zionism. After Herzl envisioned the rebirth of the Jewish state in 1896, pioneers began to build small agricultural villages.

When the first *Chalutzim* came, all they found were sand dunes and desert. They believed that even though they would not see the greater vision materialize fully in their lifetime, establishing what would later become the foundation of modern Israel in 1948 was worth their efforts.

As I was running one morning, I came across a sign that quoted an early pioneer from this area: "As pioneers, we gladly pay the high price on behalf of future generations." This statement really struck me. I am here today, living in the fruit of this pilgrim's labor and sacrifice.

I began to consider what these pioneers' lives must have been like and the difficult times they endured. Hard work, harsh conditions, loneliness, disease, disappointments, and uncertainty were their mainstay. Still, they never gave up. Fueled by the ideals that caused them to set out in the first place, these *pioneers*, by definition, prepared the way for others — often with tremendous difficulty,

*(over please)*



Theodor Herzl (1860–1904) in an 1897 photo by Carl Pietzner. Herzl was the founder of the modern Zionist movement. In his 1896 pamphlet *The Jewish State*, he envisioned the founding of a future independent Jewish state during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

profound faith, determination, and the optimistic view that the outcome would justify the struggle.

Building the nation of Israel was a monumental task. What you see here today has come about miraculously but also through tons of work and incredible sacrifice. David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, wrote in his book *Chazon v'derech (Vision and the Way)* that pioneering means "showing up with no intention of backing down when difficulty or danger arise. It is answering the call with a moral necessity of living your daily life dictated only by the demands of what needs to be accomplished to meet the goal."

Many students of history think of pioneers only as historical figures; we read or watch movies about them. But Believers\* need to ask ourselves whether pioneering relates to our lives in the Lord today. The Bible shows us that pioneering is a very Biblical concept. As early as the Book of Numbers, chapter thirty-two, we read about the pioneers crossing the Jordan River and conquering the land that would become Israel as the Israelite nation came up out of Egypt after 430 years of slavery.

## PIONEERS OF THE BIBLE

An even earlier pioneer in the Bible was **Abraham**. Abraham accomplished exactly what the pioneers who came to Israel in the early 1900s did: He left his comfortable life, his known surroundings, and extended family. He set off to an unknown place, in pursuit of an unknown outcome. Abraham faced danger, being a stranger and a foreigner without the support of an extended family, friends, or community. He did this because he answered God's call to set off in a new, uncertain direction.

Abraham's decision to pioneer not only completely altered the course of his own life, but also impacted everything for "all nations" throughout history. God told Abraham in Genesis 22:18, *"through your offspring all nations on the earth will be blessed."* One simple, seemingly inconsequential act of *obedience* began a legacy that would bless the world!

The Kingdom of God is a pioneering kingdom. It advances and influences even though it began from very humble beginnings. In Matthew 13, *Yeshua/Jesus* compares the Kingdom of



*Abraham's Journey from Ur to Canaan (1850), painting by József Molnár (Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest)*

\* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

God to a mustard seed. The smallest, insignificant seed grows in the parable to be a tall tree that brings help and comfort to many.

Smallness does not mean weakness. In the Kingdom of God, you and I must not be rooted in outcome, because results take time and patience when we are starting from scratch. If you despise the day-to-day small things in favor of a “big things” mindset, you will miss the point entirely. God works through humble beginnings — through what might seem foolish to the world and yet has tremendous value to our Lord.

We Believers are all called to be pioneers. From the beginning, God’s mandate at the creation was to pioneer. God blessed Adam and Eve and told them, “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish (fill) the earth, and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28). The mandate that God gave to Noah continued the mandate that He had given to Adam. Successful pioneering always aligns with God’s Word and *timing*.

What is it that drives Jew and gentile alike to pioneer? Often, it’s a vision that is bigger than the challenge, excitement for the adventure, a mandate, a willingness to stay the course, to pay the price, and to fight the fight. Perhaps you have such a vision but have yet to be moved to action.

Acting upon God’s call — especially when it means leaving “everything” — requires the rising of a holy discontent inside you. Sometimes God acts in ways that lead you to a point where you realize your circumstances must change, where you no longer can continue with your life as it is — a place where you are so uncomfortable with the status quo that you know you have to be the one to change it.

**Nehemiah** was such a man; he was a Jewish exile in Babylon and cupbearer for the king. When visitors from Jerusalem explained how God’s people in the holy city were open to ridicule and vulnerable to attack, Nehemiah determined that they needed a wall. He caught the vision and discerned that it was time to do something about that need. If he didn’t act, no one else would, and the indefensible situation would remain.

Nehemiah led an expedition funded by the king of Persia to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days. He ruled over Judea and re-established proper worship in the Temple, ensuring a safe and prosperous future for the people of God in that region. He endured attacks and plots to kill him as well as ongoing opposition while facing demanding circumstances. His contribution to the people of Israel’s spiritual revival goes without question.



Nehemiah illustration by Adolf Hult (1869–1943) from an Old Testament Bible Sunday school primer (1919)

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## PIONEERS TODAY?

God is looking for people who won't take "no" for an answer; who will make a way for others where there seems to be no way; who will scorn selfishness and willingly lay down their own lives to further His Kingdom on earth. If you would be such a person, you will experience Him in ways that you can only dream about today. What an honor to partner with God, Maker of heaven and earth, to bring about "the impossible"!

**Catherine Booth** (1829–1890) co-founded The Salvation Army with her husband, William. She had nine children and was a much sought-after, powerful preacher. Her beaconing words challenge us and remain as relevant today as they were 150 years ago: *"Will you be content to go in advance? Will you endure the hardness of a pioneer? Can you bear the ridicule and gibes of your fellow men? Dare you go where the Holy Spirit leads and leave Him to look after the consequences? If so, you will have a harvest of precious souls; you will shine as the stars forever."*

### **Pioneering is risky business; of that there is no doubt.**

Why would anyone want to sacrifice, face disappointment and struggles with no guarantee of a satisfactory outcome ... and possibly never see the vision fulfilled in our lifetime?

The spiritual world is unlike the physical world. Our greatest example is Yeshua. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that the ultimate outcome of pioneering in the Kingdom will be "fixing our attention on Yeshua, the *Pioneer* and Perfecter of the faith, who, in view of the joy set before Him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."



Catherine Booth (1829–1890), photo scanned from *Catherine Booth: A Sketch* by Brigadier Mildred Duff, published by The Salvation Army Book Department of London, Melbourne, and New York (1890)



*Im tirdefu lada-at oto*—

"Press on to know HIM!" (Hosea 6:3 NLT),

*Sarah Liberman* | *סרח ליברמן*  
ENGLISH      HEBREW

**P.S.** I'm still looking for a few more life stories or testimonials of being called to pioneer in the Kingdom of God. Do you have one? What life lessons have your experiences taught you? Please write and tell me *your* story! ★



**Zola Levitt Ministries**  
**is ECFA approved!**

*Our Israeli land agents report an escalating COVID-19 situation. Rather than reopening borders for tourism as we have been prayerfully expecting, Israel is tightening travel restrictions. Furthermore, the cruise line for our Greece extension has postponed all cruises until 2021, and El Al has cancelled flights indefinitely. We have sadly been forced to cancel our 2020 Fall Tour. Now we look forward to our 2021 Spring and Fall Tours with even greater enthusiasm, anticipating a return to our beloved Israel and other lands of the Bible.*

With End Times Bible prophecies unfolding before our eyes, no one knows how much longer we'll be able to make such study pilgrimages. Tourism prices may spike due to the unavoidable losses this year, and chances are that our luxurious motor coaches will quickly fill to their restricted capacities once tourist sites do reopen. Therefore, we encourage you to make your reservations now to join us next spring or fall for this trip of a lifetime. Bring family and/or friends; you can be sure that your spiritual walks will never be the same! For more information, please contact Zola Tours manager Sandra at **214-696-9760**, [travel@levitt.com](mailto:travel@levitt.com), or [levitt.com/tours](http://levitt.com/tours). She can help you prepare for your journey of a lifetime!

#### **Spring Tour 2021 options**

Deluxe (Israel only)	Mar. 8–18	\$5,288
Grand Petra (Israel & Petra)	Mar. 8–21	\$6,488

*Prices include tips, taxes, & fuel surcharge (subject to change).*

## **A Note from David and Kirsten Hart**

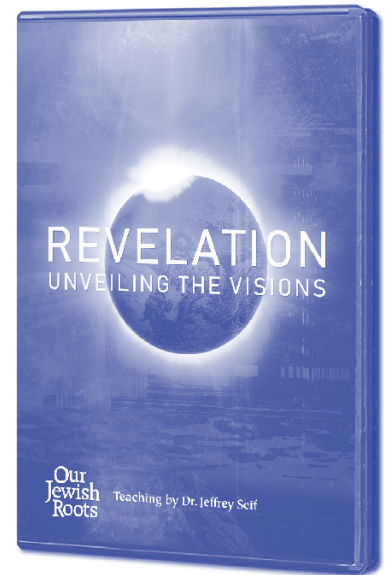
We certainly enjoyed Sarah's inspirational insights this month. And we appreciate how much the pioneers of modern Israel and our founder Zola Levitt had in common: They foresaw what the future could hold! Every ounce of work, frustration, dead ends, sweat, and tears resulted in the Bible teaching we are able to accomplish today. Zola's early years of live radio and national TV broadcasts paved the path for other ministries that focus on blessing Israel. Zola, as well as the Israeli pioneers, truly cast their bread upon the waters for the sake of future generations. Aren't we blessed to reap the benefits of their perseverance?

Do you realize that you are currently a pioneer for future generations? By financially sowing into this ministry, you enable our outreaches to continue supporting Israel and proclaim the Gospel's Good News through Jewish eyes. Zola prepared the way for us, Jeffrey Seif, and other Messianic teachers to be on television every week. Thank you for upholding what God continues to accomplish through *Our Jewish Roots*, the *Levitt Letter*, [levitt.com](http://levitt.com), etc. For that, we sincerely thank you. Your vision sustains a weekly, on-location television program that teaches the Jewish roots of Christianity. Your gifts make a legitimate difference today and tomorrow.

*(continued p. 6)*

## Our Jewish Roots TV programs this month

**Revelation: Unveiling the Visions** — The last book of the Bible is filled with veiled images that look toward the final edge of human history. Dr. Jeffrey Seif walks viewers through each of Revelation's 22 chapters, including their glorious visions and angelic visitations, darkness, and judgment. Amid the upheaval of today's trying times, this series encourages you to release your fear of the future and focus on God's plan of salvation and ultimate restoration. These eight programs also include insights from David and Kirsten Hart and music by Zola Levitt. Watch us live (check [levitt.com/schedule](http://levitt.com/schedule) for local times) or get the DVDs of the whole series to watch and share at your leisure.



**Two Witnesses** — In chapters 11–13, the sound of the seventh trumpet reveals the arrival of two witnesses. They bring the Gospel message during times of demonic-inspired misery as Satan and the antiChrist exert their evil rule.

**144,000 Jewish Believers** — Chapters 14–16 begin with a song sung by the thousands who stand up and proclaim their love for the Lamb. John is able to get a glimpse of the heavenly Temple before the final seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out upon the Earth.

**The Greater They Fall** — Apostate Babylon sees its religious and commercial power destroyed in chapters 17–19. Messiah leads the armies of Heaven to victory in the Battle of Armageddon.

**Ultimate Triumph** — The last three chapters of Revelation prophesy the Messiah reigning for 1,000 years before the Great White Throne Judgment. A new Heaven, new Earth, and New Jerusalem appear, wiping away every tear forever.

We hope you enjoy the conclusion of this TV series that we produced despite the COVID-19 shutdown. Our production crew took precautions to stay safe; we're still healthy; and *Our Jewish Roots* continues to proclaim the Word of God on television!



*Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim!*—

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:6),

*David & Kirsten*

David & Kirsten

**P.S.** Through *Our Jewish Roots*, this ministry strives to bring you Biblical insights that you may not receive elsewhere. Our unique combination of Jewish knowledge (Jeff Seif) mixed with lifelong church ministry (Kirsten and David Hart) represents the One New Man of Ephesians 2:15. As supporters of Israel and the Jewish people, our television trio opens the Scriptures to make every program apply to your daily walk. We hope you watch *OJR* each week! ★

## Abraham: Father of Faith DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series tells the story of the Patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities illustrate the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.

**The Calling** God chooses Abram from the idol-worshipping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the Ages.

**A Man of Altars** Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

**God-initiated Covenant** God makes a covenant with Abram.  
*Interview:* Itamar Marcus, whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the message in Arabic-language media and schoolbooks.

**A Domestic Conflict for the Ages** Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

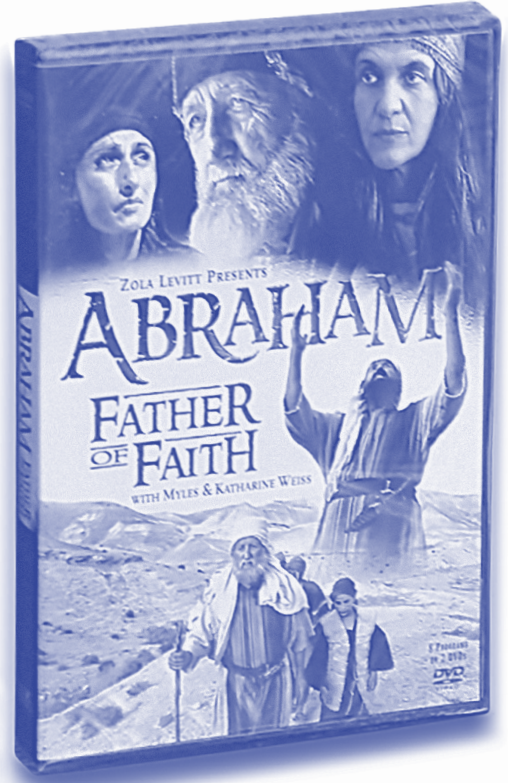
**The Promised Son** Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot.  
*Interview:* Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born Jewish interpreter of Arabic-language media.

**Deliverance and Increase** Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. *Interview:* Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

**Circumcision as a Forever Sign** God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. Former mayor of Shiloh David Rubin explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.\*

**The Sacrifice** Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come.  
*Interview:* a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.

\* For more on this topic, check out Norma Archbold's book *The Mountains of Israel* at <http://store.levitt.com/MI>.



**Abraham: Father of Faith** DVDs  
 \_\_\_ 1 set DVDs – \$58  
 \_\_\_ 2 sets DVDs – \$98

See next page for our Combo Value Package

Prices include shipping. Please allow 2–3 weeks for order processing.

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**Where and when do you watch Our Jewish Roots?**

ZLM needs to ensure that we support the stations and networks that you appreciate. Please check only your primary viewing info below.

**I WATCH YOUR PROGRAM ON:**

- DAYSTAR, Wed. 11:00pm ET, Fri. 6:00pm ET
- TBN, Thursdays 6:30pm ET
- TCT, Sundays 7:00pm ET
- Online, e.g. levitt.tv, YouTube, Roku, etc.
- My local channel's call letters are: \_\_\_\_\_  
I watch on: (day & time) \_\_\_\_\_

**I DON'T WATCH YOUR PROGRAM BECAUSE:**

- I am unable to receive *Our Jewish Roots*.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have given us this information in the past year, please don't provide it again unless your station or viewing time has changed.**





## Jewish Heritage Calendar 5781 (2020–2021)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel\* in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar begins in September and spans 13 months, through September 2021. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*.

Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.

### Jewish Heritage Calendar

- \_\_\_ 1 calendar – \$11
- \_\_\_ 2 calendars – \$17
- \_\_\_ 3 calendars – \$25

\* For more on this topic, check out the study booklet *The Seven Feasts of Israel* at <https://store.levitt.com/SFI>.

## Pro-Israel collar buttons

Try all four! Each one shows your solidarity with Israel.

- A** “Shalom”
- B** Chai symbol standing for “Life!” itself
- C** “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem”
- D** Flag of Israel

We offer sets of four buttons in two bargain packages: one of each design, or four of a single design that you want to share. **Order your set today!**



### Pro-Israel collar buttons

- \_\_\_ 1 of each design (A, B, C, and D) – \$11
- \_\_\_ 2 of each design (A, B, C, and D) – \$17
- \_\_\_ 4 of one single design: A, B, C, or D – \$11  
(Circle letter of choice: A, B, C, or D)
- \_\_\_ 8 of one single design: A, B, C, or D – \$17  
(Circle letter of choice: A, B, C, or D)

### Special Personal Letter Combo Value Package:

One of Each! ..... — \$71

- 1 set of **Abraham** DVDs
- 1 **Jewish Heritage Calendar**
- 1 copy of four Pro-Israel collar pins:
  - 1 of each design
  - 4 of either A, B, C, or D  
(please circle your letter of choice)

**Prices include shipping. Please allow 2–3 weeks for order processing.**

**Please return this entire page with your order or donation. Thanks.**

**2008**

Dear Sarah, (please check appropriate boxes)

- My personal decision to obey when God calls will result in His Kingdom advancing wherever He sends me (Phil. 3:12–14).
- Here is my donation for **August**. Please use it to fortify the ministry’s multi-faceted outreaches as the pandemic continues undermining normalcy.
- I am ordering teaching materials on the enclosed pages totaling:

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