



September 2023

FROM SARAH, OUR SABRA ON THE GROUND IN ISRAEL



Dear Friend,

Greetings from the Holy Land. The Bible lays out significant details about what must happen before the Lord's Second Coming. Several prophesied events have not yet happened. These include the war of Gog and Magog, a Third Temple being built on Mount Zion, the seven-year agreement between Israel and the antiChrist, and the abomination of desolation. While some events are yet to come, the Bible clearly instructs us Believers* to be sober and know the times of the Lord because we do not live in nor belong to the darkness (1 Thess. 5:4–10).

Growing Division

The events that have unfolded in Israel for the past few years can be viewed with the End Times timeline in mind. Israel has just experienced over four years of political turmoil. This began with the indictment of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for corruption. The unrest included five elections in less than four years. As these elections wore on, divisions in our nation grew larger. In November 2022, the right-wing parties finally achieved a stable majority of 64 parliament seats (out of 120) led by Prime Minister Netanyahu.



Crowds protesting in Israel

In early January 2023, the minister of justice, Yariv Levin, rolled out an elaborate plan that included over 20 far-reaching new laws that, if passed, would reform Israel's judicial system. These included a law to abolish the "reasonableness clause," which would significantly reduce the Supreme Court's power to overturn laws made by parliament. Because Israel does not have a constitution, the only defense of human rights is up to the judges and the courts.

Planned Changes and Public Response

By passing the new laws, the government could roll out changes that they had publicly promised, including:

- Appointing convicted criminals to be ministers
- Canceling Netanyahu's corruption trials (and ensuring that he and others could never be indicted for crimes committed while in office)
- Changing the system of electing Supreme Court judges so that government legislators control it

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

(over please)

- Passing any law without regard to human rights
- Ensuring that Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) Jewish men never have to serve in the army or study basic subjects like English, math, or science
- Abolishing some of the freedom of the press
- Abolishing the lawyers' lobby
- Actively reducing women's rights
- Increasing Orthodox religious studies even in secular schools
- Giving more power to the rabbinical courts over the daily lives of all Israelis (not just the religious)



Judge Esther Hayut

These new laws would effectively give majority party leaders the power to curtail the rights of minorities. The potential for abusing authority has triggered more and more people (primarily those of a secular and/or liberal mindset) to call for a "separation of the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah." They think there should be a Judean kingdom of religious Jews in Jerusalem. This would be separate from a kingdom of Israel in secular Tel Aviv with its own laws and freedoms (like gay rights, for example). As someone who believes the Bible, I was very surprised to hear secular Israelis mention Biblical references of this type regarding the situation in modern Israel.

Several days after Levin's remarks, Chief Justice Esther Hayut responded with a statement. She stated that passing these laws would effectively weaken the court's authority, which would imperil democracy in Israel. Hayut's remarks triggered major reactions from centrist and left-wing voters, who began protesting against the planned reform.

Protests and Violence

Protests in the streets began in January and haven't stopped. This is the longest public protest in our modern history. While the government anticipated the protests, they did not expect that high-ranking military personnel, especially fighter pilots, would threaten to quit if the reforms passed. This raised the stakes as more demonstrators took to the streets. If pilots won't fly, Israel would be in a precarious

situation. This would weaken our military's ability to defend our borders against Iran's and Hezbollah's actions in Syria and Lebanon. It would also hinder our ability to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat.

On March 9, the head of police in the Tel Aviv District was fired for not being tough enough on demonstrators. On March 26, after repeatedly warning Netanyahu about the developing dangers, Yoav Gallant, Israel's minister of defense, went public with his concerns and was told he would be fired. That night, a massive protest erupted. Similar demonstrations have occurred for weeks and months — every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday night.

The coalition led by Netanyahu finally succumbed to pressures of the demonstrators. Legislators agreed to postpone passing the judicial reform, including a law that would give parliament the



Crowds protesting in Israel

power to dismiss any Supreme Court decision. The ruling coalition also began negotiations with the opposition parties.

But after these talks broke down, the coalition pledged to pass the first law of the reform: abolishing the reasonableness clause, thereby dictating that the Supreme Court can no longer overturn a law passed by parliament by claiming that it is not reasonable.

On July 22, two days before the scheduled passing of the law, some 250,000 people marched throughout Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. As the protests increased, the very fabric of unity in Israeli society broke down. Coalition members called for imprisoning pilots who refused to fly, and more army reservists (over 10,000 in one day) announced they would stop serving if the law passed. But it was to no avail. On July 24, the law passed. That night, violence broke out between police and protestors.

Temple Destruction

The timing of these recent events could not have been more significant—they happened during the week of *Tisha B'av* (the 9th of Av). On this day of mourning and fasting, Jewish people remember the destruction of both the First and Second Temples. According to tradition, both tragedies happened around this date. Demonstrators noted that this day is the beginning of the “third house collapsing,” referring to Israeli society as the Third Temple that was now being destroyed.



Detail of *Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem*, painting (1867) by Francesco Hayez, Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice, Italy

The Israeli public is more divided than ever before. Netanyahu's supporters say that the reforms are necessary. They claim that the courts have too much power, noting that laws like death sentences for terrorists, crackdowns on Arab “illegal” building, curbing the ability to bring accusations of corruption against acting ministers, and such can't be passed because the courts are blocking them against the wishes of “the majority.” They say that allowing the reform laws they want to pass is true democracy, since this is defined by majority rule.

Protestors argue that a governing majority's right to pass laws does not give them the right to change the system, which would destroy the delicate checks and balances between lawmakers and courts. These protestors add that if these reforms are made, there will no longer be any group to protect or defend the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

Signs of the End?

As I watch these heartbreaking events unfold, I have grave concern and pain in my heart for what is happening to my country. These laws and the reform of the judicial system are some of the markers lining up the End-Times events noted in the Books of Revelation and Daniel. For the first time, we can

chart the practical steps that will see a Third Temple built in Jerusalem and the restoration of daily sacrifices. It is fully plausible that if Israel no longer has a free judicial system, it will lose the support of the Western world that has helped to sustain it as a modern nation in a hostile neighborhood.

The situation in Israel is very difficult, yet God is in control. I encourage you to read Ezekiel chapter 36. The New International Version of the Bible appropriately titles this chapter, "Hope for the Mountains of Israel." This chapter is a critical guideline for understanding God's plan for Israel in the End Times. It is therefore a significant tool for you to use in your prayers for Israel. The chapter ends with this hopeful promise: *"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Once again I will yield to Israel's plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep.... So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD'"* (Ezekiel 36:37–38).

Thank you for praying for us. *Im Tirdefu*—Press on to know Him!



Im tirdefu lada-at oto —

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

Sarah Liberman | *שרה ליברמן*
ENGLISH | HEBREW

Sarah Liberman

P.S. Please generously support ZLM as our teaching becomes even more vital with the ongoing fulfilment of Bible prophecy. ☆



Zola Tours: Two New Additions

We've got a wonderful bonus for you when you tour with us. Starting in 2024, Joshua and Caleb Colson will join our study tours! Joshua and Caleb now teach on *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*. However, they've taught on our social media channels (as the Bearded Bible Brothers) for the past five years and have been involved with *Zola Levitt Presents* and *OJR* for 17 years.

Joshua and Caleb are Messianic Believers. Their Biblical and Jewish insights will greatly enhance your journey of a lifetime. These brothers have the same zeal and love for Israel as our beloved founder Zola!

Our tour manager, Sandra, will walk you through the steps of enrollment. You can contact her at **214-696-9760**, travel@levitt.com, or levitt.com/tours. She can help you prepare for your journey of a lifetime!

Fall Tour 2023 options

Deluxe — Israel	October 16–26	\$5,788
Grand Petra — Israel & Petra	October 16–29	\$7,288

Spring Tour 2024 options

Deluxe — Israel	Mar. 25–Apr. 4	\$5,788
Grand Petra — Israel & Petra	Mar. 25–Apr. 7	\$7,388

Prices include tips, airline taxes, and surcharges (subject to change).

HELP WANTED

Art Director/Graphic Designer
We're seeking a pro-Israel, mature Believer for freelance work that is remote and part-time (40+ hrs./month). Ideal candidate will have proven design experience, proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite, strong organizational & communication skills. More info at levitt.com/#help-wanted

A Note from David and Kirsten Hart

GOOD NEWS

People thrive on positivity. Throughout the Bible, we see instructions about speaking life-enriching words. Proverbs 18:21 (TLV) notes the power that we have in what we speak: *"Death and life are in the control of the tongue. Those who indulge in it will eat its fruit."*

Recent changes with *OJR* are *positive* developments, as affirmed by our social media family. Look at this encouraging post from the *OJR* Facebook page:

"So glad to see Joshua and Caleb stepping up into a larger role! I have loved the Bearded Bible Brothers shows! I watched Zola for years, and I think he would be proud! I can't wait to see what God does through these young men, and I hope they continue to bring the Word to the Jewish people and every gentile. God used Zola to make me more interested in learning about the Bible, and I pray the guys will do this for the next generation!"

MULTI-GENERATIONAL

ZLM continues to seek God's wisdom about how our outreach can best impact people with the Gospel. While embracing Zola's insight, wisdom, and relaxed style, Joshua and Caleb have created their own, unique way of impacting current viewers and new generations. That's exciting!

While the Bearded Bible Brothers have a growing online audience, we seek to encourage many who are television viewers only to become givers as well, helping to support this ministry financially. Regrowing our support base will take time. During this transition, would you help us fill in the "giving gap" with generous, ministry-sustaining financial gifts? This is a crucial time in our outreach. To continue our television broadcasts and other ministries through 2024, we need your help.

On behalf of everyone at ZLM, we want you to know how deeply we value you and your devotion to the Lord's work!



Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim! —

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

David & Kirsten

David & Kirsten

P.S. Asking ZLMers like you to give is necessary. Does the Lord provide for us? Yes! Do we show a lack of faith by having to ask for donations? No! He works through you. Though pastors trust that the Lord will provide for their churches, they still receive offerings. Sometimes we Believers need reminding about the importance of our giving and Whose riches we are stewarding. Thank you for your prayers and your financial support. Shalom. ☆

Our Jewish Roots TV programs in September

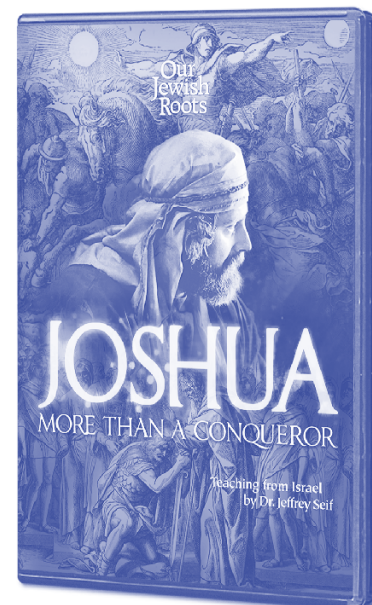
This month we conclude our series, *Joshua: More than a Conqueror*. Then, we begin a new series, *Dateline Jerusalem: The Coming Temple*, with teaching about End-Time prophecies that are being fulfilled before our eyes.

Joshua: More than a Conqueror

The Gibeonites — Because of deception, Joshua either had to break his vow or keep it and experience negative consequences. We, too, face deceivers who seek to trick us. Thus, we must pray daily for discernment from the Lord.

At Shiloh — The conquest of the land of Canaan neared its end. After the Israelites subdued the south, they turned north to suppress the last remnants of resistance. Then, the Wilderness Tabernacle rested in Shiloh, where it would stand for over three centuries.

At the End — Joshua left the legacy of a good soldier and leader who completely trusted God. From his life, we can learn divine strategies to help us be victors rather than victims as we follow the Lord's will for our lives.



Dateline Jerusalem: The Coming Temple

The Lord's plan revolved around a specific people, place, and promise. The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob received a homeland, where they later built a sacred sanctuary in Jerusalem. Despite the Jewish peoples' challenges throughout history, God faithfully fulfilled His promise by restoring the nation of Israel in the 20th century.

This ten-part series spotlights the growing movement among religious Jewish people who are preparing to construct the Third Temple in Jerusalem and reinstate the sacrificial system. With teaching from **Dr. Jeffrey Seif** and **Mark Hitchcock**, this series also features **the Bearded Bible Brothers** and David and Kirsten Hart, and others.

Sin and Restoration — Mankind's sin led to their expulsion from the Garden of Eden — the original Paradise. Even so, God had already formulated a plan for humanity's restoration. Likewise, Israel sinned and experienced exile from the Promised Land despite being blessed and chosen by God. Yet, God's enduring plan to gather them together again has come to fruition, as the Jewish people have returned home. Their ultimate restoration will include a new heart and a spiritual awakening.



Jeff Seif



Mark Hitchcock



Caleb & Joshua Colson
(The Bearded Bible Brothers)

Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars!



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The God of Miracles DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

We can't read many pages in the Bible without encountering miracles. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture reveals our miraculous God at work. In this nine-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif teaches the Bible from Israel to help us discover God's astonishing activity in His world. Jeff also talks with people who have experienced the Lord's supernatural hand in their own lives.

The Holy Spirit God's Spirit hovered over the waters at Creation. Later, His Spirit descended on humans at Pentecost, saving 3,000 people. He also indwells Believers today. Jeff teaches about God's empowering and guiding Spirit from the Western Wall and the Southern Steps in Jerusalem.

The Exodus The Bible presents the Lord as Deliverer. While teaching from the Judean wilderness and Nehemiah's Wall in the City of David, Jeff emphasizes how God is devoted to building and rebuilding lives.

Death and Life Elijah resurrected the widow's son. Jesus resurrected His friend Lazarus. Filmed at Lazarus' Tomb and Bethany Church, Jeff highlights the Lord's power over life and death — both physical and spiritual.

Exile and Return God directs circumstances to accomplish His will. For ancient Jews, God allowed the Babylonian captivity. From a busy street in Jerusalem, Jeff teaches how God brought His people home, just as He promised.

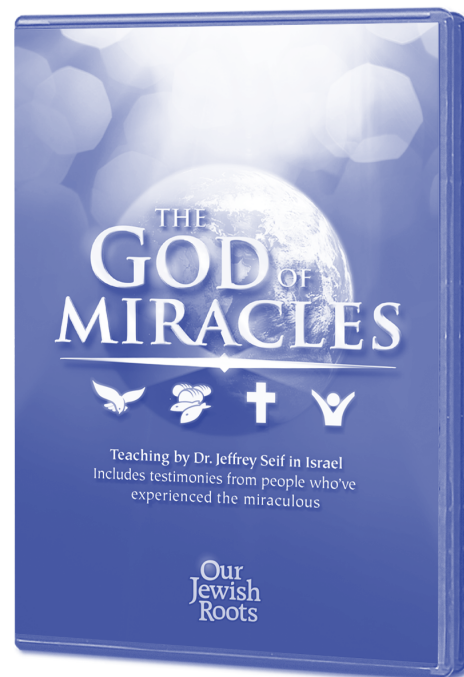
The Incarnation From locations in and around Bethlehem, Jeff teaches about one of the most magnificent miracles — the birth of the Messiah, the prophesied Child, the Prince of Peace.

Our Daily Bread Not all miracles are spectacular. Many are simply practical — from feeding a multitude to finding a coin in the mouth of a fish. The Lord is our benevolent Father who wants to give wonderful gifts to His children.

The Physical Realm Jeff defines a miracle as suspending the laws of nature. Whether changing water to wine or transforming a paralyzed man's limbs, the Lord moves in mysterious ways — both yesterday and today.

Our Greatest Need Life's circumstances can be debilitating. Our ultimate assurance comes from our Father, who loves us and desires to help us. Jeff teaches from the Pool of Siloam and the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

Bonus Interviews You'll appreciate the extended interviews with individuals appearing in this series as well as bonus interviews with Israeli Believers.



The God of Miracles DVDs

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___ 2 sets DVDs – \$98

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- ☐ GEB-TV, Thurs. 6:30pm ET
- ☐ DAYSTAR, Wed. 11:00pm ET, Fri. 6:00pm ET
- ☐ TCT, Sun. 4:30pm ET, Mon. 7:30pm ET
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Jewish Heritage calendar

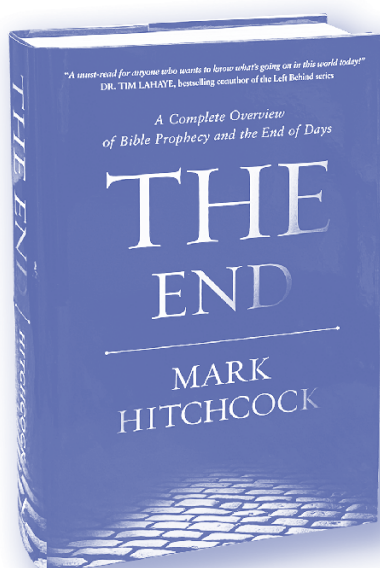
5783/5784 (2023–2024)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage calendar. This full-color calendar begins in September 2023 and spans 13 months, through September 2024. 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 new insights.

Jewish Heritage calendar

- ___ 1 calendar — \$11
- ___ 2 calendars — \$17
- ___ 3 calendars — \$25



The End: A Complete Overview of Bible Prophecy and the End of Days book

The End Times have seen a great amount of interest in the last two decades. However, there hasn't been a comprehensive overview of Biblical prophecy and eschatology for more than five decades. Mark Hitchcock's book is the comprehensive resource for the 21st century. *The End* accomplishes for eschatology what Randy Alcorn's *Heaven* did for readers' understanding of Heaven. *The End* provides a solid Biblical foundation for exploring the essential truths of this timely topic — the end of the world.

The End book

(also available in eBook format)

- ___ 1 book — \$33
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2309

Dear Sarah,

(please check appropriate boxes)

The current turmoil in Israel is a sign that we are now approaching the last phase of the End Times.

☐ Here is my donation for **September** to help people know the Lord and prepare for the End Times (Mark 13:33–37; 2 Peter 3:11–12).

☐ I am ordering teaching materials from the enclosed pages, totaling:

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