

Levitt Letter

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



Amazing! Note how TIME magazine extols the virtues of looking at Jesus from a Jewish perspective. —Jeffrey Seif

Re-Judaizing Jesus: The New Revolution

By David Van Biema, TIME Magazine

For centuries, the discipline of Christian "Hebraics" consisted primarily of Christians cherry-picking Jewish texts to support the traditionally assumed contradiction between the Jews—whose alleged dry legalism contributed to their fumbling their ancient tribal covenant with God—and Jesus, who personally embodied God's new covenant of love. But today seminaries across the Christian spectrum teach, as Vanderbilt University New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine says, that "if you get the [Jewish] context wrong, you will certainly get Jesus wrong."



The shift came in stages: first a brute acceptance that Jesus was born a Jew and did Jewish things; then admission that He and His interpreter Paul saw themselves as Jews even while founding what became another faith; and today, recognition of what the Rev. Bruce Chilton, author of *Rabbi Jesus*, calls Jesus' passionate dedication "to Jewish ideas of his day" on everything from ritual purity to the ideal of the Kingdom of God—ideas he rewove but did not abandon.

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Happy 60th Birthday Israel!

By Sandra Levitt



Sandra Levitt

On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a legal and binding resolution calling for the division of what was then Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab Nation. On May 14, 1948 at 4:32pm, David Ben Gurion proclaimed that Israel was a nation and encouraged everyone in the region to live in peace.

Birthdays are special and no birthday is more special today than Israel's. I was in Israel this spring and noticed the flags and banners announcing the coming celebrations of its 60th birthday. Hotels were packed and we were told they are fully booked this year. While it is fun to celebrate birthdays, let's remember that this is God's Land and the Jews are His Chosen People.

Here are some biblical reasons why we, as Believers, celebrate Israel's birthday:

Continued page 2

What does this mean, practically? At times the resulting adjustment seems simple. For example, some now think that the mysterious words of Jesus written in the dust while defending the adulteress (“He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone,” etc.) represented a showdown that occurred at the same time when religious Jews yearly read the prophet Jeremiah’s warning that “those who turn from [God] will be written in the dust because they have forsaken [Him].” Thus Jesus wrote the crowd’s names to warn that their lack of compassion alienated their (and His) God. [Studies of the Jewish background thus inform the Text.]

A trickier revision for readers involves Paul’s Letter to the Romans, forever a key Christian Text on sin and Christ’s salvific grace. Yet this reading necessitates skipping over what seems like extraneous material in Chapters 9 through 11, which are about the Jews.

Increasingly, says Jason Byassee, an editor at *The Christian Century*, scholars now read Romans through those chapters, as a musing by a lifelong Jew on how God can fulfill His biblical covenant with Israel even if it does not accept His son. Byassee the theologian agrees. But as a Methodist pastor, he frets that Romans “is no longer really about gentile Christians. How do you preach it?”

That’s not a frivolous query. Ideally, the reassessment should increase both Jewish-Christian amity and Gospel clarity, things that won’t happen if regular Christians feel that in rediscovering Jesus the Jew, they have lost Christ. Yet some find this particular genie so logically powerful that they have no wish to rebottle it. According to megachurch pastor Rob Bell, once “you’re in deep. You’re hooked. ’Cause you can’t ever read it the same way again.”

I thought I died and went to Heaven when Ken Berg, our producer, called me and said: “Jeff, pick up the new

edition of *TIME* magazine.” I was thrilled to read it and have here reproduced their piece on the importance of re-discovering the Jewish Jesus. You and I have said this for years, have we not? As for this article in *TIME*, all I can say is: “It’s about time.” —Jeffrey Seif ★



Happy 60th Birthday Israel! continued

- God promised that He would bring Israel back to the land in Ezekiel 36:24 — *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries and bring you into your own land.*
- Amos 9:15 — *I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them.*
- God keeps His promises: Jeremiah 31:35, 36 — *Only if the sun and moon cease to exist will Israel cease to be a nation.*
- Genesis 17:7,8 — *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you; for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.*
- Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah, is coming to the Land of Israel. According to Bridges for Peace, “in the last one hundred years, more Bible prophecy has been (and is being) fulfilled than in any other time in history, except during the life and ministry of Yeshua.” *Continued next page*

Birthdays are also a time to reflect on how good life has been and to think about the future. The accomplishments of the Jews since 1948 are astonishing. They have truly taken a barren land and made it flow with milk and honey.

Jews have always been present in the Land. When the Jews started coming back to Israel en masse in the 1800s, they did not come back to a first-world country. The land and people had been decimated by occupiers who had no interest in Israel—and it showed. In 1948 the population was about 80,000. It is now 7.2 million.

Israel is 9,000 sq. miles while its neighbors boast over 600 times more land.

Israel's GDP is \$133 billion.

In 1958, Israel exported less than \$100,000 of flowers; by 2004 that figure had jumped to \$238 million. Israel is the world's third largest exporter of flowers.

During the 1950s, Israel absorbed about three million Jewish refugees who were expelled and forced to flee—most with just the clothes on their backs—from Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and other Muslim countries.

Israel is ranked second in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the U. S.

Israel has the world's highest ratio of university degrees to the population; 24% of Israel's workforce hold university degrees (ranking it 3rd in the industrialized world) with 12% holding advanced degrees.



Israel's \$133 billion economy is larger than all of its immediate neighbors' combined.

Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.

Israel has the world's second highest per capita of new books published.

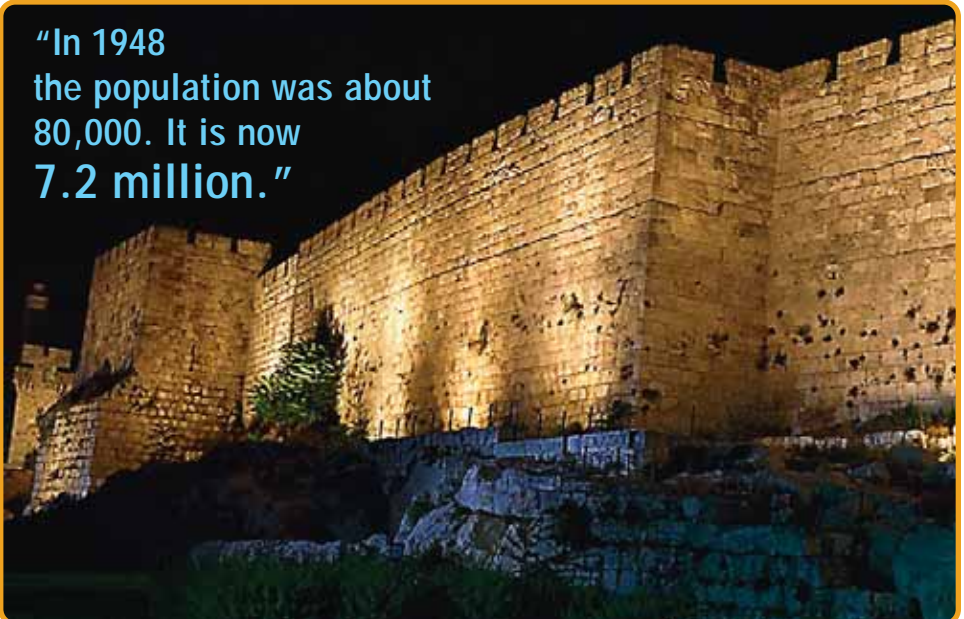
Israel has the world's highest number of home computers per capita.

These are just a few of Israel's accomplishments since 1948. So, Happy 60th Birthday, Israel! *Mazel tov!*

(Statistics from *Miracle on the Mediterranean* by Robert Merlin)



**"In 1948
the population was about
80,000. It is now
7.2 million."**



Psalm 122:1-3 ***“I was glad when they said to me, The house of Adonai! Let’s go! Our feet were already standing at your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem, built as a city fostering friendship and unity.”***

Shalom From Sandra



Shalom from Jerusalem,

The 80 pilgrims from the Spring Tour are home, the filming on the *Ezekiel* series in Israel is done, and I am enjoying a couple of days in Jerusalem before I head back to the States. I am still thinking about the Spring Tour and the outstanding people who were on it.

With the world so concerned with “profiling,” I thought I would share some profiles of our pilgrims. They all have unique stories about why and how they came to Israel. I wish I could write every one.

Sixteen of the 80 were returning—the most returning pilgrims we’ve ever had on a Zola tour. Judy, Cheri, and Jan had taken the Fall Tour and were back in Israel five months later. Cheri brought her sister this time. Judy was visiting again before starting nursing school in May, and Jan just felt drawn to return. Several pilgrims had been to Israel on other tours and were joining us for the first time. Betty had been to Israel ten times and brought her grandson on this trip. His life was changed forever. Pastor Doug and Glenna have traveled with us many times to Israel and are still as excited as their first time. Penny had read my blog at www.levitt.com/israelblog and knew all about my escapades in Israel.

The stories of families touring Israel together touched me the most. Knowing that your children know God is the best part of being a parent. Just a few examples: Jeanne helping her father, Tom, to hear and see Israel one more time. Sheralyn brought her adult children, Grace and Jonah, and changed their lives forever. Peter, a returning pilgrim all the way from New Zealand, brought his bride for

their honeymoon. I watched David help his mother, Marjorie, navigate the cobblestone streets. I beamed as Shoshana’s love of Israel came to life, and I rejoiced as her mother, Lori, saw that love. I saw people give up seats, food, and batteries to help others, not only to those with us on the tour, but to strangers along the way. Scripture tells us “they will know us by our fruits.” I was impressed by the love and care of everyone toward each other. I witnessed people praying for and with each other. Most started out as strangers. For me, that is what the tours are all about. Becoming *mishpachah* (family) and living as God would want us to live.

On each of our tours, our Ambassadors reach out to anyone in Israel to speak the truth about Yeshua and the love of Israel that people from America have for Israel. I was especially grateful this time for Todd, Paul, Ralph, and Debbie.

For me, in a world where everything seems so negative about Believers, the tour to Israel is a reminder that our Savior is risen and we serve an awesome God. John 3:16, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall have everlasting life*” comes alive as we see that the Garden Tomb is empty.

I encourage each of you to see for yourself all that God has for you in Israel. Join Jeff and me for the trip of a lifetime. See tour details on page 36. And please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Blessings,



Zola on Replacement Theology

Dear Friends,

This exchange concerning Replacement Theology appeared in our December 1998 issue, but the topic remains timely as new Believers sort out the difference between what their churches say and what the Bible and history say.

Hi Zola,

What's the point of your opposition to those, who feel by the same Scriptures that you read, that the Jews have been rejected during the times when God has been a light to the gentiles? I mean, Israel has been cut off, right? And the gentiles, an unnatural branch, have been grafted in, right? And one day, God will graft Israel back in again, right? So in a very real scriptural sense, the Israelites are our enemies for the Gospel's sake, yet because of God's determination to set them right again at the latter days, they are beloved for father Abraham's sake. But make no mistake, the Jews who deny Jesus is the Christ, are our enemies for the Gospel's sake. And during the time of this Diaspora, the believing gentiles are the people of God, and unbelieving Israel is not!

I didn't know any Believer out there would put this sort of anti-Semitism down in writing. Let's review some

principles. First of all, the Church is Jewish and gentile together, and it seems to me that just as many Jews are saved per capita as gentiles. If God has "cut off" Israel, then why are Jews being saved? Second, God's promise to Abraham about his seed was "everlasting." God goes to quite a bit of trouble to reassure the Jewish people that His promises to them are immutable. Third, your image of the branches and the tree is faulty. Read Romans 11 again, especially the part about boasting against the original branches (or see my book *Broken Branches* about Replacement Theology). Fourth, the Israelites are certainly not the enemies of the Church.

Jesus Christ is an Israelite, for example, and so were all His disciples, all His apostles, and all of the writers of the New Testament. The Jews are the devil's enemies. Last, if God has really cut off unbelieving Israel, then why did He restore them to their Land in 1948 and continue to prosper them to this day?

Keep in mind, my brother, if you have a problem with the Jews, the first thing you are going to do after the Rapture of the Church is have a face-to-face interview with the King of the Jews! — Zola

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

Your messenger,
Zola



Broken Branches book available on page 36



Is Islam Compatible with Democracy?

By Daniel Pipes,
www.FrontPageMagazine.com



There's an impression that Muslims suffer disproportionately from the rule of dictators, tyrants, and other strongmen—and it's accurate. The fact that majority-Muslim countries are less democratic makes it tempting to conclude that the religion of Islam, their common factor, is itself incompatible with democracy.

I disagree with that conclusion. Today's Muslim predicament, rather, reflects historical circumstances more than innate features of Islam. Islam, like all pre-modern religions, is undemocratic in spirit. Like the others, however, it has the potential to evolve in a democratic direction.

Such evolution is not easy for any religion. In the Christian case, the battle to limit the Catholic Church's political role lasted painfully long. If the transition began when Marsiglio of Padua published *Defensor Pacis* in the year 1324, it took another six centuries for the Church fully to reconcile itself to democracy. Why should Islam's transition be smoother or easier?



Marsiglio of Padua

To render Islam consistent with democratic ways will require profound changes in its interpretation. For example, the anti-democratic law of Islam, *sharia*, lies at the core of the problem. Developed over a millennium ago, it presumes autocratic rulers and submissive subjects, and encourages violent jihad to expand Islam's borders. Further, it anti-democratically privileges Muslims over non-Muslims, males over females, and free persons over slaves.

For Muslims to build fully functioning democracies, they must reject *sharia's* public aspects. Atatürk did just that in Turkey, but Mahmud Muhammad Taha, a Sudanese thinker, did it more subtly by reinterpreting the Koran.

Atatürk's efforts and Taha's ideas imply that Islam is ever evolving, and that to see it as unchanging is a grave mistake.



Mahmud Muhammad Taha

Islam's problem is less its being anti-modern than that its process of modernization has hardly begun. Muslims can modernize their religion, but that requires major changes: Out go waging jihad to impose Muslim rule, second-class citizenship for non-Muslims, and death sentences for criticism or apostasy. In come individual freedoms, popular sovereignty, equality before the law, and representative elections.

Two obstacles stand in the way of these changes, however. In the Middle East especially, tribal affiliations remain of paramount importance. These ties create a complex pattern of tribal autonomy and tyrannical centralism that obstructs the rule of law, gender equality, and other prerequisites of a democratic state. Not until this archaic social system is dispatched can democracy make real headway in the Middle East.

Globally, the powerful Islamist movement obstructs democracy. It seeks the opposite of modernization—namely, the reassertion of the *sharia* in its entirety. A jihadist like Osama bin Laden may spell out this goal more explicitly than an establishment politician like Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but both seek to create a thoroughly anti-democratic order. Islamists consider democracy a betrayal of Islamic values and argue that elections are heretical.

Despite this scorn, they are eager to use elections to attain power—even a terrorist organization (Hamas) has won an election. This does not render the Islamists democratic but indicates their flexibility in their determination to gain power. As Erdogan explained, "Democracy is like a streetcar. When you come to your stop, you get off."

Hard work can one day make Islam democratic. Meanwhile, Islamism represents the world's leading anti-democratic force. ★

A Book Review

By Mark Levitt



Dear Mrs. Levitt & Dr. Seif, Is Mark Levitt or whoever writes the financial column going to come out with a financial advice booklet—preferably soon? —C.J.

Dear C.J.—

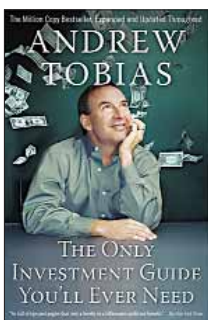
No, but let me suggest a book that Zola gave me a decade ago—one that has been revised and updated time and again: *The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need*, by Andrew Tobias, inexpensive at www.amazon.com. It's a frank, lighthearted paperback with clear, straightforward advice.

Here are some of its highlights:

"There is no dignity quite so impressive, and no independence quite so important, as living within your means." —*Calvin Coolidge*

It is a fact that 90% or more [and 98% may be a more accurate figure] of the people who play the commodities game get burned. Similarly: antique cars, wines, autographs, stamps, coins, diamonds, art, and commemorative medallions.

Gold itself pays no interest and costs money to insure. It is a hedge against inflation, but you might do better with stocks or real estate. In the long run, they will rise with inflation. And in the short run, they pay dividends and rent.



Broadway shows are fun to invest in, but even if the show you back gets rave reviews, you are likely to lose.

Chain letters never work. Schemes that look like cosmetics companies but are really chain letters in disguise, where the big money to be made is not in selling cosmetics but in selling franchises to sell franchises (to sell cosmetics), don't work either.

Things that involve a personal salesman who is full of enthusiasm at the prospect of making you rich don't work either. The richer he hopes to make you, the faster you should run.

The problem with trying to beat the stock market is that professional investors are so talented, so numerous, and so dedicated to their work that as a group they make it very difficult for any one of their number to do significantly better than the others, particularly in the long run... [It is] so easy, while trying to do better, to do worse.

No stockbrokers can beat the market consistently and by enough of a margin to more than make up for their brokerage fees. Or, if there are a few, they are not going to work for peanuts—and any account under \$100,000 is peanuts. By and large, you should manage your own money (via no-load mutual funds). No one is going to care about it as much as you do. And no one but you is going to manage it for free.

It's just as easy to live well when you're poor as when you're rich—but when you're poor, it's much cheaper. ★

P.S. Visit www.andrewtobias.com/theonly.html



“The times are uncertain,” they say. We’re all feeling the pinch at the pumps and the recent press from the IRS. What’s happening?

Is our economy sliding downward, or are forward-looking politicians over-emphasizing problems in the interest of peddling their solutions—in the hope of securing our votes?

Irrespective, the precarious nature of the season prompts me to pause and reflect on the following question:

How should a Christian perform during uncertain times?

The Bible advocates that we should walk by faith and not by fear.

Faith stimulates confidence that God will guide us through an uncertain present and toward a preferred future. Those who endeavor to put God first maintain a testimony to the purchasing power of faith—a faith that pays marvelous dividends, even in semi-uncertain times. We keep our shield of faith up and testify to our nervous friends and loved ones that God is our source. We stake our hope for success on the hope that God is able to maintain us and sustain us, as Scripture notes time and time again.

Frankly, I am not certain that today’s economic times are as “uncertain” as some make them out to be. The cynic in me supposes that some are leveraging political capital out of our present concerns and future fears.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



The God-Believer in me says: God first in all things, and at all times, and everything else will be fine!

With this motto, I want to beckon you to watch our new TV series, *Ezekiel and the Middle East “Piece” Process*. The millions who see this timely program will appreciate how God pulls the proverbial “rabbit out of the hat” and miraculously brings about peace on planet Earth. Those perplexed and pressed by exigent circumstances in our precarious world will “put the pieces together,” helped along by insights on ancient biblical predictions, presaged by inspired writers millennia ago—Ezekiel, particularly.

Millions of *Zola Levitt Presents* viewers travel by our camera to the places where biblical revelation actually played out. In this series, however, we greatly enhance our graphics. The upshot will be breathtaking, never-before-seen pictures. You’ll see Ezekiel’s bones reconstitute as you watch that and other stories actually come alive before your very eyes. It’s marvelous. Our producers outdid themselves.



You and I have heard the secular soothsayers' fearful predictions of bad times ahead. Mindful of the fear that the bad reports sow in our supporters' hearts and minds, this ministry could have become excessively conservative. Instead, we opted to go ahead and produce this new, timely, cutting-edge TV series. The times demand it. We thought that you, our supporters, would want us to go ahead. We did—and we incurred much expense in the process. If you could help us cover the production cost, that would be great.

We believe that a tremendous harvest is coming! The bills for the barns, silos, tractors, plows, and seed are coming as well. Now would be an optimal time for some of you to play a little catch up and help us by sowing some of your own seed in this evangelistic, teaching series.

Speaking of teaching and preaching, I will be traveling this summer, particularly on the east coast, and have some openings. If you'd like me to come and speak at your church—on the east coast or wherever—please call 214-696-8844 and let's see if we can make it happen.

Lastly, this edition of the *Levitt Letter* contains real-world stories of what's happening in the Middle East, various types of Bible stories, relevant human-interest stories, and more. Enjoy. Be blessed. And relax—God has your future in His hands.

Your messenger,



Checking Patients With Micro Radio Antennas

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

Instead of asking friends “How do you feel?” or doctors examining patients, one day such queries and examinations may be replaced by tiny radio antennas implanted under the skin to act as remote sensors. Scientists at the Hebrew University's applied physics department have discovered a method for remote sensing of people's physiological and emotional state.

Their initial results were published in the prestigious scientific journal *Physical Review Letters* and have aroused much interest in physicians and scientists. Their invention has been patented and commercialized by Yisum, HU's technology transfer company.

The researchers—two professors, two doctors, and a doctoral student—believe the discovery theoretically could help monitor medical patients from afar, evaluate athletic performance, diagnose disease, and remotely sense stress levels—which could have significant implications for technology in the biomedical engineering, anti-terror, and security technology fields.

The researchers emphasize however, that the research is still in its initial stages, and as they “sail in unsheltered water,” it will take some time before the full significance of the research is understood and its technological potential is fully evaluated. ★



Jyllands Posten Denmark

Jens Julius

If Israel Were A Super Delegate

By Will King,
www.imagesofisrael.com



Will King

If Israel were to have a voice in the next U.S. presidential election, whom would it choose to support? Like the U.S., Israel is a multi-ethnic and very diversified nation, so there is certainly no single consensus on whom Israelis would like to see in the White House. However, I will try to give you an idea of what people are saying about each of the candidates and about some of their concerns in general.

Let's start with the Republicans, since Senator John McCain is the last candidate standing there. For most Israelis, McCain is a virtual unknown. He recently made a trip to Israel that was widely covered in the English press, but not so much in Hebrew. However, McCain's strong statements about Israel's right to self-defense, about the actions of Hamas, etc., certainly cemented his place as a firm Israel supporter. I think this will best help him with the American ex-pats here who can vote absentee, but he still has some work to do before he's a household name from Dan to Be'er Sheva.

On the Democrat side, Senator Barack Obama isn't faring too well amongst the Israelis who are following the election process. Does his middle name, Hussein, indicate he is Muslim, or doesn't it? Is he a radical racist, or isn't he? These are questions that have Israelis especially wary about Obama, as many believe that neither a Muslim nor a racist would be good for the Jewish state. The fact that he's received endorsements from Muslim groups in America and Hamas hasn't exactly boosted his popularity in Israel. Simply put, Obama wouldn't get Israel's Super Delegate vote.

The other Democrat is Senator Hillary Clinton. Many Jews, both in America and in Israel, tend to lean more to the Democratic side of the political

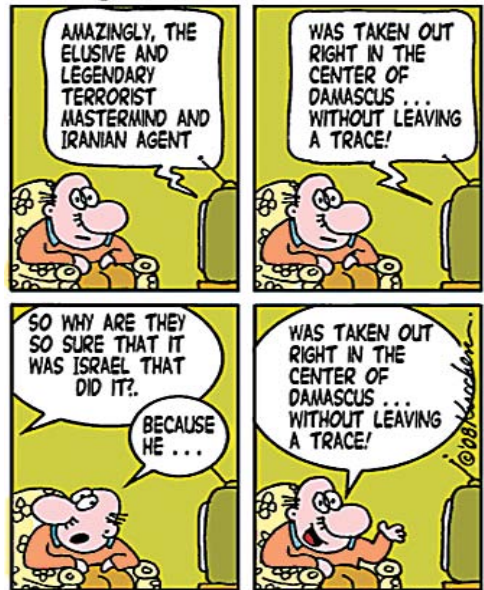


spectrum. The English press here have printed several articles about Clinton and her viability as a candidate and as someone who will support Israel and the Jewish people. She also has name recognition and is therefore viewed more than the other candidates as a known quantity. Israel would most likely cast its Super Delegate vote for Hillary.

McCain's playing directly to the Republican-leaning "Religious Right" in America will likely not resonate with Jewish voters in America and Israel who are wary of an Evangelical presidency. On the same note, nobody here wants to see an America in league with Islam either, so Obama loses there. In my opinion, most Israelis see the Democrats under Clinton as the more moderate choice for Jews who want a strong commitment to Israeli self-defense and who don't want the American president driven by the agenda of proselytizing Christians. And she didn't even have to face any sniper fire here to get Israel's Super Delegate support. ★

Zola Levitt Ministries does not support any candidate or political party. But we do report to you topical comments concerning Israel and its role in our world and times.

Dry Bones WHODUNNIT?



www.drybonesblog.com

The Advancing Iranian Nuclear Program

By Charles Krauthammer,
article.nationalreview.com



Iran recently announced it was installing 6,000 more centrifuges—they produce enriched uranium, the key ingredient of a nuclear weapon—in addition to the 3,000 already operating. The world yawned.

How to create deterrence? The way John Kennedy did during the Cuban missile crisis. President Bush should issue the following declaration: *It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear attack upon Israel by Iran, or originating in Iran, as an attack by Iran on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon Iran.*

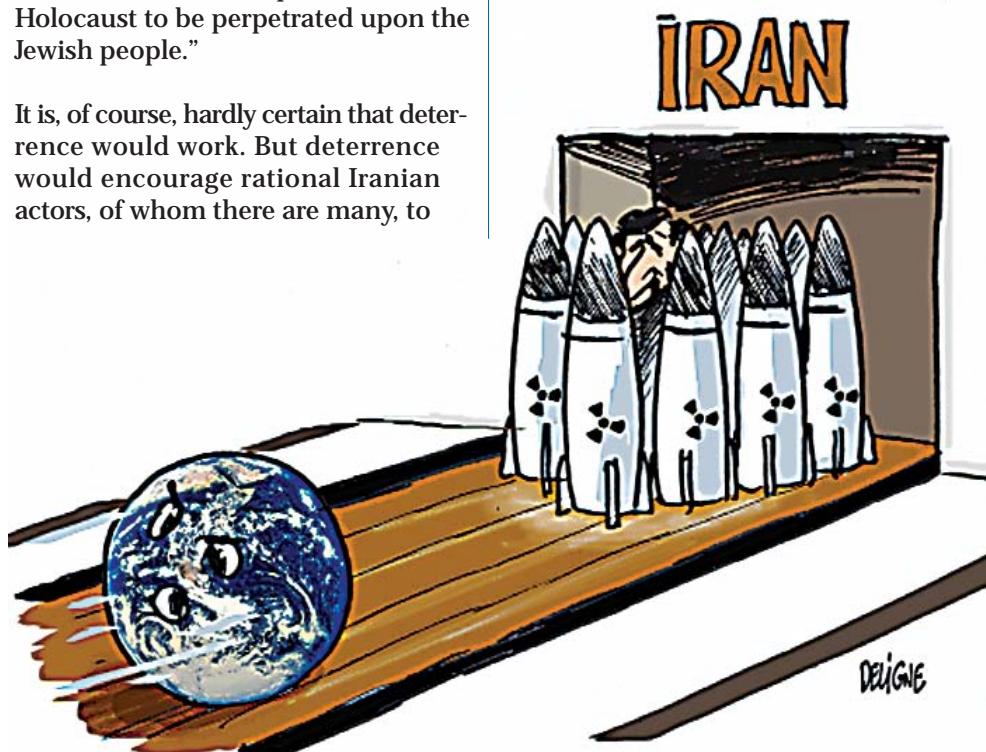
This should be followed with a simple explanation: “As a beacon of tolerance and as leader of the free world, the United States will not permit a second Holocaust to be perpetrated upon the Jewish people.”

It is, of course, hardly certain that deterrence would work. But deterrence would encourage rational Iranian actors, of whom there are many, to

restrain or even depose leaders like Ahmadinejad who might sacrifice Iran’s existence as a nation in order to vindicate their divine obligation to exterminate the “filthy bacteria” of the Jewish state, “this disgraceful stain (on) the Islamic world.”

For the first time since the time of Jesus, Israel is the home of the world’s largest Jewish community. An implacable enemy has openly declared genocidal intentions against it—in clear violation of the U.N. charter—and is pursuing the means to carry out that intent. The world does nothing. Some, like the Russians, are literally providing fuel for the fire.

For those who believe that America stands for something in the world—that the nation that has liberated more peoples than any other has even the most minimal moral vocation—there can be no more pressing cause than preventing the nuclear annihilation of an allied democracy, the last refuge and hope of an ancient people openly threatened with the final Final Solution. ★



Jimmy Carter Crosses A Line In The Sand

By Patrick Cox, contributing editor



In April, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the acquisition of 6,000 advanced centrifuges. Foreign intelligence reports say this, and other technological breakthroughs put nuclear weapons within reach of the Iranian regime within only a few years.

Western leaders condemned Iran's flagrant violations of UN sanctions against nuclear weapons development, but the UN itself took no real steps to stop Iran. Tehran responded primarily with insults and threats directed at Israel and the U.S.

In Iraq, military sources reported that the Shia militias fighting the Iraqi government and U.S. troops were armed and directed by Iran. In Lebanon, Iranian missiles continued to flow into the hands of Hezbollah, Iran's puppet army. In Gaza, the Iranian-backed Hamas continued to extend the range of its rockets, striking daily farther and farther into Israel.

This would be a good time, I think, to recall how these violent Islamic supremacists came to power. The explanation, in two words, is Jimmy Carter.

When Carter came to power, he dedicated a significant portion of his efforts to bringing down the Shah of Iran. Carter had already formed attachments with Muslim leaders in the Palestinian territories and openly loathed Shah Reza Pahlavi.

I've written in detail here about the means Carter used to sabotage the Shah's government, giving the "Islamic Revolution" the break it needed to take power. I won't do it again now, but I would remind you that the Shah, while flawed by Western standards, was a beacon of enlightenment in the Middle East. He believed that women deserved

equal rights and he opposed theocratic rule. He supported Israel's existence and, during Arab league efforts to strangle Israel using an oil embargo, the Shah's Iran supplied the fledgling nation with the energy it needed to survive.

For years I assumed it was a coincidence that Carter had subverted our and Israel's most important ally in the Muslim world. Despite the disastrous consequences of his subversion of the Shah's government, including the embassy hostage crisis and the Iran/Iraq war that killed a million people, I always assumed his motives were innocent. Carter, after all, is part of a naive political clique that judges America's allies by far higher standards than they judge our enemies.

Lately, though, I've begun to wonder if it wasn't I who was naive.

Carter's latest actions are so outrageous in their blatant animosity toward Israel's safety and survival that I'm forced to re-examine the evidence.

Barely a year ago, the egregious bias and falsehood in Carter's book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, prompted mass resignations at his own Carter Center. His response was to go on the pro-Caliphate network, al Jazeera TV, and blame Jews for the criticism. Most irritatingly, he repeatedly claimed that Jewish money exercises too much influence on American politics—despite the fact that his center's most significant financial contributors are not just Muslims, but avowed enemies of Israel.

When Iran provoked Israeli efforts to rescue the soldiers kidnapped from within Israel by their proxy Hezbollah, Carter blamed Israel. When Israel pressured Hamas to stop sending rockets into Israeli homes by cutting back

financial aid to the terrorist Hamas government, Carter blamed Israel.

Finally, however, I believe that Jimmy Carter has crossed some line in the sand. Subverting American efforts to force Hamas to halt its terror attacks against Israel, Carter traveled to the West Bank where he laid a wreath on the grave of Yasser Arafat, a man who openly pledged to destroy Israel. He then embraced a senior figure of the Hamas government—a government that refuses even to discuss any policy with Israel other than its destruction or submission to Islamic *sharia* law.

Carter's justification for the trip was to forge a reconciliation between Gaza's Hamas and the Fatah party led by Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas, however, admitted just months ago to a Jordanian publication that his party shares exactly the same goals as Hamas and only talks ceasefire as long as it serves the larger goal of destroying Israel.

Don't take my word for it though. Only days before Carter's love fest with Hamas terrorists, the regime's official television station, Al Aqsa TV, featured a speech by prominent Hamas member of Parliament Yunis Al-Astal. Even as Carter blamed Israel for the problems of the Middle East, Al-Astal offered another explanation.

Rather than interpret his words, let me simply reprint a part of his speech.

Yunis Al-Astal to the Palestinian people: "Allah has chosen you for himself and for his religion, so that you will serve as the engine pulling this nation to the phase of succession, security, and consolidation of power, and even to conquests through da'wa and military conquests of the capitals of the entire world. Very soon, Allah willing, Rome will be conquered, just like Constantinople was, as was prophesied by our Prophet Mohammed. Today, Rome is the capital of the Catholics, or the Crusader capital, which has declared its hostility to Islam, and has planted the brothers of apes and pigs [Jews] in Palestine in order to prevent the reawakening of Islam. This capital of theirs [Israel] will be an advanced post for the Islamic conquests, which will spread through Europe in its entirety, and then will turn to the two Americas, and even Eastern Europe."

Prior to his trip, Carter was asked by the State Department not to meet with any member of the officially designated terrorist organization Hamas. I believe that by doing so, he violated the Logan Act and could be imprisoned for up to three years. He will not be; but I guarantee that he will continue to claim that Jews have too much power. ★



Ask The Professor

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

A reader recently commented:

I hope the *Levitt Letter* blasts Jimmy Carter out of the solar system. I think he's a prostitute, bought and owned by Arab petrodollars, and a sordid national disgrace to the United States for how he sells out Israel. The way he recently honored Arafat by laying a wreath on his grave—nauseating!

I surely disapprove of what I construe as Carter's seeming to hop into bed with Arab-Muslims peddling petrodollars, his selling out the Jews, and his embrace of the late Mr. Arafat. However, out of respect for the great office he once held, I prefer to soft-pedal my censure—tempting as it is to simply "let him have it."

To Carter's credit, he is asking an important question: How might we bring peace to the troubled region? Assuming the best of his intentions, it may be reasonable to say: (1) let's level the playing field between estranged parties, (2) let's get the parties to talk to each other in a functional manner, and (3) let's press for concession-making in the interest of serving the needs of the human family.

This basic template for peacemaking in human affairs is worthwhile, so there could be some merit in Mr. Carter's trying to facilitate it—though I have my doubts. That said, I don't trust his motives, nor do I believe that the centuries-old problems in the tangled Middle East are going to be untangled by such a simple strategy.

What then?

President Carter could learn a thing or two by tuning into our coming TV series, *Ezekiel and the Middle East "Piece" Process*.

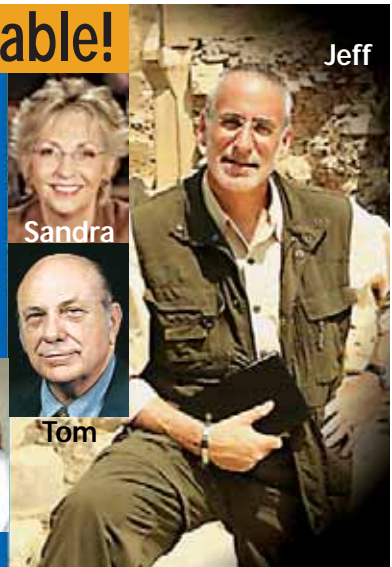
Mr. Carter would learn that Israel's re-establishment in its borders is part of God's non-negotiable plan (Ezek. 36-37). He'd also learn that forces round about the State will invest their energies at the fledgling State's demise, but that they will not prevail (Ezek. 38-39).

He'd learn that those bent on Israel's destruction—like the late Mr. Arafat and his associates—will experience God's "bring[ing] him to judgment with bloodshed" and God's "rain[ing] down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (Ezek. 38:22).

Does this mean God hates Arabs? No. Does this mean that they have no redemptive place in God's plan? No.

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God’s love for the Arabs is attested in Genesis 16:10 where Hagar is promised that her son Ishmael will grow into a “great multitude.” Though Abraham’s son Isaac was granted the “promised land” particularly, in 21:12, “nation[hood]” was promised to Ishmael (v. 13), and was further reiterated in v. 18, where God says: “I will make him a great nation.”

Ishmael’s descendants won’t come into their ultimate greatness through Islam’s Golden Age, nor will their destiny be facilitated through their military prowess, or through well-intended diplomatic wrangling that endeavors to placate the radical fringe in their impoverished culture.

How then?

According to Ezekiel, after Israel’s re-gathering is played out, and after the nations that try to thwart God’s efforts in Israel are judged out, there is a special outpouring that comes to and flows through Judah and descends as blessings to vanquished Arab peoples.

In 47:1-12, Ezekiel notes a miracle in the restored Temple: water will flow

from it, and nurture the parched earth. In v. 8, “water flows... down into the valley and enters the [Dead] Sea. When it reaches the Sea the waters are healed.” In v. 9, the earth comes alive, and in vv. 10-12, prosperity comes to all the people of the region—Arabs particularly. Then come peace and prosperity to all. God’s land grant to the Jews is reaffirmed immediately thereafter in vv. 13-20. After noting this, readers are told that abundance from the rejuvenated earth will bring healing to peoples and lands, and that Arab peoples—and indeed all peoples—will thereafter experience brotherhood with the Jews who live in the land where they hold the title (v. 22).

In sum, Scripture holds out promise that God has a way, and that He has an appointed day. I wish that more and more religious-minded individuals would read the Scriptures. They would discover God’s plan; ex-President Carter and his ilk would be informed by a prudence that would prevent them from making fools out of themselves, by calling terrorists peacemakers and by honoring murderers with ornaments of peace. ★

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, lay a wreath at the grave of the late Palestinian (terrorist) leader Yasser Arafat during their visit to the West Bank town of Ramallah.



ZLM Bulletin Board

Christian Soldiers in Iraq

Our staff sends care packages to soldiers like ARNG Sgt. Jared (son of one of our workers) and his fellow soldiers. Their wish list includes: PRAYER, powdered lemonade, snack chips, gum, canned tuna, wet wipes, nuts, breath mints, beef jerky, Band-Aids, Chapstick, cough drops, dental floss, mouthwash, Q-tips, comics, and Christian books. If you would like to help us “watch their backs,” we’ll do all the work. Just send what you’d like to spend, and a shopping list if you’d like. We’ll make the purchases, pack the box, and enclose any notes or greetings. These care packages bless us all and are prized by the troops. [Designate your gift for: Care Packs](#)



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Hebrew Graduate Course

Students who have completed *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*, offered on page 18, have asked what this ministry recommends as a next step. The website www.hebrew1.com offers a wide variety of instructional materials, including Hebrew-speaking dictionaries, CDs of the Bible narrated in Hebrew, biblical music, an intermediate course, and more.

“Hebrew World” is a multi-media course with modern and biblical Hebrew. The CD is also loaded with art, graphics, and sounds. “First Steps in Hebrew Prayer” includes a book and prayer CD with all the blessings in Hebrew and English. For more information email admin@hebrew1.com, or call (877) 550-7630, or write to: Hebrew Heart Media, 8485 E. McDonald Drive, Suite 350, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. Their starter kits and bundles range from \$69 to \$199.

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In the first quarter of 2008, we averaged 650 downloads per day for the video version and 740 for the audio. That’s over 26 gigabytes of data transferred every day!

“Podcast” video is suitable for an iPod or iPhone but can also be watched on your computer. Audio files can play on almost any computer or portable music player— an iPod is not required. Visit <http://www.levitt.com/podcasts> for instructions.

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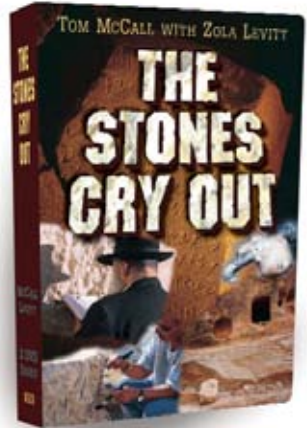


See page
36 for details



The Stones Cry Out DVD and Transcript

In recent decades, many marvelous, new archaeological discoveries have greatly illuminated and validated the biblical record. In order to film the archaeological sites and interview the experts Zola Levitt, Thomas McCall, and the production crew of *Zola Levitt Presents* journeyed to Israel and Jordan. We found, just as our Lord said about this remarkable Land, that indeed *The Stones Cry Out*. Twelve 30-minute TV programs. **Offered on page 18.**



The Tunnel. Zola takes us on a tour through the Hasmonean tunnel that runs along the outside of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. From Jerusalem we get a journalist's perspective on the Palestinian uproar that occurred in September 1996 when the tunnel was opened to the public.

A Tale of Two Temples. A recently unearthed marketplace provides clear visual evidence of the Roman destruction of the Temple and its surrounding walls. We travel north to Mount Gerizim to view the excavation of a Samaritan temple that was patterned after the great Temple in Jerusalem.

Rulers in Stone. Many first-century finds are being unearthed at Caesarea, an ancient city on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The first extra-biblical reference to Pontius Pilate was found there, as well as a full-size Temple replica. At Tel Dan in northern Israel, the "House of David" has been confirmed archaeologically. We also discover there an altar complete with metal incense shovels.

The Jerusalem That Was. At the Bible Lands Museum, we find a model of Jerusalem as it would have looked in 586 B.C. In the historic City of David, we examine the architecture of a four-room house, typical living quarters of the ancient Israelites.

Past and Future Destruction. Ongoing excavations at Hazor have unearthed various artifacts, including idols from the time of the Canaanites, and evidence that confirms the burning of the city recorded in Joshua 11. We examine not only the prophetic significance of the Valley of Armageddon, but also the archaeological discoveries at Megiddo.

Archaeology and the Scriptures. In Jerusalem, Zola explains the history of events at the Citadel, which is also called "David's Tower." We discuss archaeology's role in illuminating Scripture, and hear from a spokesman with the Israeli Antiquities Authority.



Cities of the Past. In New Testament times, Zippori was a thriving cultural center in Galilee that probably influenced Jesus as a boy growing up in Nazareth. Going back to Old Testament times, we travel to the precise location of Ekron, one of five prominent cities of the ancient Philistines.

Shadows from the Past. Just over a hundred yards from the Garden Tomb is another chamber of tombs that authentically date from the time of the first Temple. These tombs help us understand the burial customs of that day. We visit Qumran near the Dead Sea, and the cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

A Tale of Three Cities. In biblical times, a business relationship existed between three cities located in the Jordan Valley: Beit Shean, Rehov (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). Today, these sites are in different stages of excavation. We visit each one to examine the significant finds and establish the cities' interrelationship.

The Rose Red City. The ancient Nabataeans were famous for their skill in rock carving. We travel to Petra, their capital, situated southeast of the Dead Sea in the modern kingdom of Jordan. This "rose red" city is known around the world for its magnificent buildings carved into the native rock.

A Man Crucified. The Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem proudly displays a man's heel bone that has been pierced by a nail. It is the first archaeological proof of Roman crucifixions in Israel.

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

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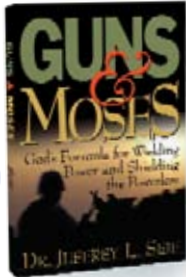
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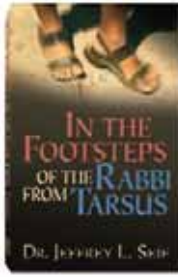
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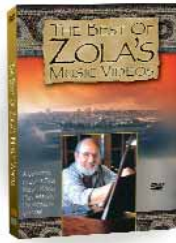


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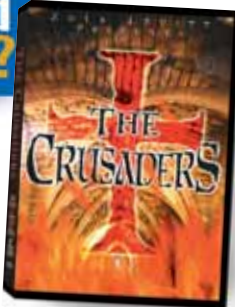
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Update on Amiel Ortiz

Jeff recently shared this report with our readers. For those of you who missed it, we print it again. An update follows.

On the eve of the feast of Purim in Israel, fifteen-year-old Amiel Ortiz eagerly opened a brightly wrapped "Purim basket" which had been left anonymously on the family's doorstep. The transparent cellophane wrapping showed a collection of candies within, the traditional contents of gifts given and received by families throughout Israel at the holiday. Suddenly, with a deafening blast, the pipe bomb hidden beneath the sweets exploded, throwing Amiel backwards into the kitchen and perforating his young body with hundreds of metal shards, nails, and screws which had been imbedded in the bomb for maximum killing power.



Alone in the apartment, Amiel had stayed home from school while his parents, Messianic Pastor David and Leah Ortiz, traveled to Jerusalem for the day. A friend who had just left the home after cleaning the apartment rushed back in to find Amiel hanging between life and death and heard him murmur, "Yeshua, I need your help now." Emergency medical personnel arrived quickly.... At the hospital, a team of surgeons took turns caring for massive open wounds on his limbs and torso, serious burns from the blast, a collapsed lung (with several screws and bolts lodged within), and damage to his right eye. Only after five days of surgeries and intensive care—and the medical staff's repeated exclamations of "it's a miracle!"—were the doctors able to say that Amiel had a good chance of survival.

"It's a miracle!"

Update Each day Amiel shows miraculous improvement. The doctor told his parents, David and Leah, that it may be a year before Amiel is really moving again. One of the most encouraging things for him is the postcards coming from around the world. If you'd like to write, his address is: Amiel Ortiz, PO Box 1903, Ariel 40700, Israel. ★



Be ye Perfect... By John J. Parsons

תָּמִים תְּהִיָּה עִם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ

You must be wholehearted with the LORD your God. (Deut. 18:13)

אֱ	לֹ	הֵי	כָּה	יְהוָה	עִם	יְהִ	תְּ	מִים	תָּ
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)
e-lo-hey-kha				Adonai	im	tih ^e -yeh	ta-mim		
your God				the LORD	with	you must be	complete		

When you are “double-minded,” you simultaneously want two things at once. You might desire peace with God, but you also insist upon your “rights.” Or you might attempt to do the right things for the wrong reasons: for the hope of reward, for pride, for nationalism, or for other motivations. Such double-mindedness can cause a divided focus, an astigmatic condition of spirit that results in half-hearted conviction and the dissolution of the will. Put the other way around, single-mindedness concentrates the will and produces wholeheartedness, conviction, and genuine character.

In the passage above, Moses commands us to be *tamim*, i.e., “finished,” “complete,” or “perfect” before the LORD. Note that this Hebrew word does not denote ideal moral perfectionism as much as it suggests being “thoroughly made” or brought to successful completion. For example, *tamim* is used to describe *completed* years (Gen. 47:18); *healthy* animal sacrifices (Lev. 22:21-22); *nourishing* vines (Ezek. 15:5); *truthful* speech (Amos 5:10); *finished* building projects (1 Kings 6:22); and even the *fulfilled* destruction of a people (Num. 14:33). In our relationship with God, *tamim* means being wholehearted, resolute, and entirely committed to walking “with” Him in this world. This is what Jesus meant when He said, “Be ye perfect...” (Matt. 5:48).

People live in despair because they are often double-minded. Consciously or not, they are attempting to look at two different things at once. They seek their end in a world of finite things—in “good fortune,” in personal honor, in worldly entertainment, or other immediacies of the passing day. Such a cross-eyed approach leads to disorientation and spiritual destruction. A divided house cannot stand.

The mature of heart, however, the “pure in heart,” do not look away from the faithfulness and love of God. Despite the distractions of temporal testing and difficulties, they retain their commitment and their earthly decisions reflect their faith. All this turns on the decision to genuinely trust in God. As Jesus said, “if your eye is single, your whole body shall be full of light” (Matt. 6:22).

“If your eye is single,
your whole body
shall be full of light”





Letters to ZIM

Comments From www.levitt.com

From C.S.

I have been receiving the *Levitt Letter* for about one year. I am amazed that something with such outstanding information is free. I have included a small donation to help cover the expense of mailing me the *Levitt Letter*.

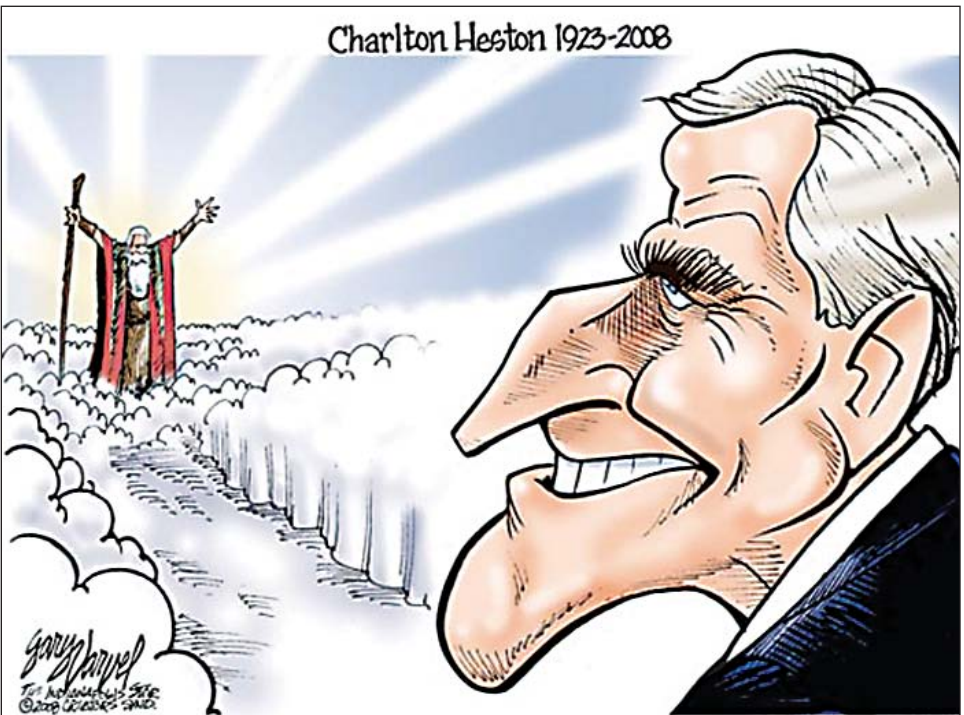
— God Bless.

Dear C.S.—

Thanks for your kind words of encouragement. The *Levitt Letter*, however, is not free. Salvation is not free either, of course. Someone (upper case S) paid in blood for your eternal life, and someone (lower case s) like you pays for our newsletter printing, postage, and mailing service. But your donation shows that you already knew this. What many of our faithful readers may not realize, though, is that the *Levitt Letter* is a love letter on which we labor throughout every month. It represents the top 10% of the treasures we accumulate to share with you. (We post some of the overflow at www.levitt.com/news, which you really should see.) Our newsletter team loves the work and enjoys striving to give you our very best to the glory of God. I'm glad you agree that it's terrific. Still, it pales in comparison to our gratitude to the One who enables us to create it—all to the glory of God.



In His service,
Mark



Sandra—A Blessing to My Life

Sandra,

Just finished my Bible study for the day. I watch one or two of your programs on the Internet each day and what a blessing they are. I keep careful records of your programs that I view on the Internet. When I can find a program that relates to the Scripture I'm reading, it makes the Scripture come to life. Just want to say what a blessing you are to my life and I pray that the Lord will bless you in return. —H.G.

Precious H.G.—

Thank you for your kind words. I am blessed that this ministry helps you with Scripture. It is our goal for everyone to know their Messiah and I'm pleased to play a part in helping you. —Sandra



Have Nothing To Do With Israel

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,

As I write this email, I must confess with a heavy heart that what I am about to write might not make any common sense. For you see, I am a member of a local congregation of the United Methodist Church. I am ashamed and saddened that the hierarchy of the UMC has declared the outlandish statements about Israel—to “have nothing to do with Israel.” —K.B.

K.B.—

This seems the norm in way too many churches, as with associations of churches. We'll have to wait and see what position the denomination formally adopts. Love prompts me to “believe all things” and to “hope all things.” Experiences and trends, however, indicate that various church bodies will continue to not take the Bible literally or seriously, and this will be their undoing. —Jeff



Velvet Glove Treatment

Dear Staff at Zola Levitt Ministries,

I have been a subtle Zionist at my Replacement Theology church. It has been difficult, but I have known these people for thirty years, and I just can't give up on them. I was asked to present a Passover Seder during our Easter Pot Luck Dinner. I had lots of material from your ministry, plus I watched all your online Passover shows and I gave it my best shot.

Many people were stunned but not hardened!! They had no idea how Jewish Christianity was. My pastor, who is a diehard amillennialist, asked me to come back next year and teach during Sunday school where I could be heard better and not under such a time constraint. You could have knocked me over with a feather! I thank you for all your help! Being able to access your videos along with the material I had from your ministry really saved the day. Pray for me as I continue to present the iron fist of truth in a velvet glove.

D.L.W.



Keeping Up Via The Internet

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries staff,
Thank you for making the TV programs available on the Internet. I can no longer receive them on the television, so the “net” is the only way I keep up with your productions.
A.L.A.

Waits In Cell For LEVITT LETTER

Shalom,
I am an inmate from a Chassidic Jewish family, and I'm delighted for your organization. I've been reading your *Levitt Letter* for a few months, and I wait by my cell door every day around the time of month it usually arrives. I have made a mission to look into Yeshua, and I believe he is HaMashiach. Thank you for showing me the truth!
In His Name,
W.J.H.



Friends Need Their Own Subscriptions

Dear Sandra and Dr. Seif,
We want you to know how much we appreciate and enjoy the *Levitt Letters*. They keep us informed on what is going on with the proud and courageous Israelis. Sure not what we get from the media. We've been sending our copies to friends, but since we want to keep ours to refer to, we've given them your address to let them get their own. Kind of selfish, but...

Here is a check—not as much as we'd like to give—but we'll try to do better.
God bless you all,
J. & D.L.



Questions & Answers



Dear Jeff,

I want to thank you for *Zola Levitt Presents*. I grew up in a Mennonite church, and I am married to a Catholic. There is much left out of Protestant and Catholic teachings. Your TV program helps me understand more of the Bible and why God demands certain things.

I am confused about a couple of things. Paul states that it is shameful for a man to have long hair, a woman to cut hers or to pray or prophesy without her head covered. (1 Corinthians 11:5, 14, 15) Yet, he says that Christ ended all those Jewish laws and commands. (Ephesians 2:15) Then he goes on to state what is not acceptable by God—sexual sins, etc.

In every depiction that I see of Christ or His apostles, they have long hair. Very few churches require women to cover their heads anymore. I see those as some of the “laws and commands” that Paul spoke of in Ephesians. I would really like to hear what you have to say about this.

Thank you and God Bless You, J. W.

J.W. —

ZLM drew some criticism for showing Paul with long hair in our recent series. The issues raised about hair length, head coverings, and the like are best understood when viewed in conjunction with ancient pre-Christian practices and their impact on the Corinthians' faith and practice. Though Paul was indeed emphatic in the Text, most construe it not as a mandate for all time as much as a directive conditioned to his own. —Jeff

Dear Jeff,

This is my yearly letter of thanks for the *Levitt Letter*. Also thanks goes to my friend in Texas who asked to have me put on the mailing list. I always read it from cover to cover. This month the article by Stan Goodenough on the docudrama *Against All Odds* made me stop and think. I have seen this series on TBN, and I happen to believe in miracles and that Israel WILL survive—against all odds. Something that bothers me though is the sentiment of Israelis today. Rabbi Daniel Lapin (well known in the States) stated recently that roughly 80% of Israelis are secular humanists which frankly makes them atheists! That is so sad and, as a Christian with a Jewish mother, I ask myself why. — E.C.S. (Greece)

Dear E.C.S.—

Good question. But let's be patient with our Israeli friends. Many are descendants of Holocaust survivors who have been wrestling with the question “If there is a God, where was He when so many perished?” Scripture promises they'll come around.
—Jeff



Dear Jeff,

This is my third time to try to send a message. Each time it gets shorter. My question is: what is the Israeli government doing to stop the persecution of the Messianic Jews in Israel? I understand that it is primarily the ultra Orthodox Jews who are behind such actions; is this correct?

With the loyalty and the money that the Evangelical Christians pour into Israel each year, I think it is rather like killing your best and most loyal friend while at the same time trying to protect yourself and your land from enemies that want to kill you and take your entire country.

Yours, — S.S.

Dear S.S.—

The March Personal Letter, archived at www.levitt.com, features an exposé on this very issue. Because Israel draws so much critical fire in the press, I was reluctant to mention this and add to the anti-Israel fodder. Because Messianic Jews in Israel seem to prefer being respectful and supportive of the government, my reluctance probably would not offend them. Because the persecution is from but a very, very small minority of ultra-religious sorts—a small group that is becoming a bit more vocal through the use of political clout—why castigate the whole nation? Now the issue is surfacing in the Israeli press, and the fact that more and more Israelis are becoming aware forces the Messianic version of the Gospel out in the open—a good sign, to be sure. — Jeff ★

Breaking News from the Israeli Supreme Court

The Jerusalem Institute of Justice, www.tgci.org

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court of Israel ratified a settlement between twelve Messianic Jewish Believers and the State of Israel, which states that being a Messianic Jew does not prevent one from receiving citizenship in Israel under the Law of Return or the Law of Citizenship, if one is a descendant of Jews on one's father's side (and thus not Jewish according to halacha). This Supreme Court decision brought an end to a legal battle that has carried on for two and a half years.

All twelve of the applicants were denied citizenship solely based on grounds that they belong to the Messianic Jewish community. Most of them received letters stating that they would not receive citizenship because they "commit missionary activity." One of the applicants was told by a clerk at the Ministry of Interior that because she "committed missionary activity," she is "acting against the interests of the State of Israel and against the Jewish people." These allegations are not only untrue, but they also do not constitute legal grounds to deny one's right to immigrate to Israel.

This important victory paves the way for persons who have Jewish ancestry on their father's side to immigrate to Israel freely, whether or not they belong to the Messianic Jewish community. This is yet another battle won in the war to establish equality in Israel for the Messianic Jewish community just like every other legitimate stream of faith within the Jewish world.



Is Something Rotten In Denmark Coming Our Way?

By Susan MacAllen, www.familysecuritymatters.org

In 1978 one didn't see Muslim immigrants in Denmark. The Danish population embraced visitors and was generous in its immigration policies. By the 1990s the Muslim population — and its unwillingness to integrate into Danish society— was obvious. As the Muslim leadership became more vocal about what they considered the decadence of Denmark's liberal way of life, many Danes began to see Islam as incompatible with their long-standing values: belief in personal liberty and free speech, in equality for women, in tolerance for other ethnic groups, and a deep pride in Danish heritage and history.

The *New York Post* in 2002 ran an article by Daniel Pipes and Lars



Hedegaard in which they forecasted that the immigrant problem in Denmark would explode. They reported:

- "Muslim immigrants... constitute 5 percent of the population but consume upwards of 40 percent of the welfare spending."
- "Muslims are only 4 percent of Denmark's 5.4 million people but make up a majority of the country's convicted rapists, (practically all the victims are non-Muslim)."
- "Over time, Muslim immigrants wish less to mix with the indigenous population."
- "Muslim leaders openly declare their goal of introducing Islamic law once Denmark's Muslim population grows large enough—a not-that-remote prospect."

Muslim immigrants show little respect for Danish values and laws: Muslims who opt to leave the Muslim faith have been murdered in the name of Islam, while others hide in fear for their lives.

Jews are threatened openly by Muslim leaders in Denmark, a country where once Christian citizens smuggled out nearly all of their 7,500 Jews to Sweden — before the Nazis could arrest them.

Today Denmark has the strictest immigration policies in Europe. If you wish to become Danish, you must attend three years of language classes and pass a test on Denmark's history, culture, and a Danish language test. You must live in Denmark for 7 years before applying for citizenship. You must have a job waiting. Although your children have a choice of some 30 Arabic culture and language schools, they will be strongly encouraged to assimilate to Danish society in ways that past immigrants weren't.

A large thorn in the side of Denmark's imams is Minister of Immigration and Integration, Rikke Hvilshoj. She makes no bones about Muslim immigrants needing to blend in: "In my view, Denmark should be a country with room for different cultures and religions. Some values, however, are more important than others. We refuse to question democracy, equal rights, and freedom of speech."

Hvilshoj has paid a price for her show of backbone. The leading imam in Denmark demanded that the government pay blood money to the family of a Muslim who was murdered in Copenhagen. When Hvilshoj dismissed his demand, he argued that in Muslim culture the payment of retribution money was common, to which Hvilshoj replied that what is done in a Muslim country is not necessarily what is done in Denmark. The Muslim reply came soon after: her house was torched. All managed to escape unharmed, but she and her family were moved to a secret location and she and other ministers assigned bodyguards for the first time.

As we in America see those who enter our shores too easily, dare live on our taxes, yet refuse to embrace our culture, respect our traditions, participate in our legal system, obey our laws, speak our language, appreciate our history— we would do well to look to Denmark and say a prayer for her future and for our own. ★

The Karaite Jews and the Feast of Pentecost

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.



In our various books related to the feasts of Israel, Zola and I (along with many other Biblical commentators) have always maintained that in Biblical times the Feast of Pentecost (*Shavuot* = sha-vu-ot, which means "sevens") always occurred the day after seven weeks after the Feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:15-16), and that both days fell on Sunday. This was the day after the Sabbath.

15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: **16** You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

Both the Feast of First Fruits and the Feast of Pentecost, then, fell on the "morrow after the Sabbath." The Sabbath was, of course, on Saturday, so the next day would be a Sunday. Thus, both First Fruits and Pentecost would always fall on Sundays.

The Talmud (the Oral Law or the traditions of the Rabbis) was written down from between 200-600 AD, many years after the close of the Bible. The Talmudic interpretation of this passage was that the Passover day (Nisan 14) was itself a Sabbath, so First Fruits would always be on Nisan 15, no matter what day of the week that fell on. They would then count 50 days from Nisan 15 and observe the Feast of Pentecost, on whatever day of the week that fell.

One big problem with the Talmudic interpretation is that, while the Passover day might possibly be considered a Sabbath, the day seven weeks afterward would not, unless it happened

to fall on a Saturday. Thus, fifty days out, that day would not normally be "the morrow after the Sabbath." This problem is generally ignored by the Talmudic scholars. The result is that the Talmudic Jews do not consider Pentecost to be in any way associated with the day after the Saturday Sabbath, or Sunday.

The fact that First Fruits and Pentecost were always on a Sunday is significant in the New Testament, because both the resurrection of the Messiah—Messiah Jesus—and the Coming of the Holy Spirit occurred on Sunday, the first day of the week.

John 20:1 *The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. ...19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

Acts 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. . . . 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . .*



This started the pattern of Believers in Messiah worshipping the Lord on Sunday, the first day of the week:

1 Corinthians 16:2 *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

The Talmudic Jews have a difficult time recognizing this remarkable fulfillment because of the way they interpret the Leviticus passage.

However, there is a minority within Judaism that has rejected the Talmud and considers only the Hebrew Scriptures to be authoritative. This minority call themselves the Karaite Jews. They specifically reject the Talmudic interpretation concerning First Fruits and Pentecost. The American Karaite Jews have a website, and on that website they have an explanation of the dating of *Hag Ha-Shabu'ot*, the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost, as follows:

Hag Ha-Shabu'ot

According to the Karaite interpretation of Leviticus 23:15, this feast must fall on Sunday. It is also known by other names, among them are *Yom Hamishim Lisfirat Hanfat ha-'Omer*, that is the fiftieth day from the day of offering the spikes of crops, and *Hag*

ha-Bikkurim, that is the feast of harvesting.

During this feast, a pilgrimage to Jerusalem is required. As usual, the Karaites had a special menu for the holiday. The recipes featured milk and honey, signifying hope for a good year. It was also the custom to eat the new crops—*bikkurim*. There was another custom among the Karaites of Egypt, one whose origin I have been unable to trace. A husband must offer his wife a goose which is to be cooked and eaten to avoid any misunderstanding in the future. It was not surprising then that in Cairo another name was added to this feast: the feast of the goose, *Id al-Wizzah*. As always, special services were held in the synagogue on this day.

We see, then, that the Karaite Jews hold to the literal interpretation of the Leviticus passage about Pentecost that the feast *must* fall on the day after the Saturday Sabbath, the first day of the week, or Sunday. Because of this, our Karaite friends might be more open to the testimony of the Jewish Believers in the New Testament, who faithfully reported that the Messiah rose from the dead as the First Fruits on Resurrection Sunday, and sent the Holy Spirit fifty days later on Pentecost Sunday. ★



Oldest Arched Gate In The World

By Etgar Lefkovits, www.JPost.com

The oldest arched gate in the world, located in Ashkelon, Israel, has been restored, nearly four thousand years after it was built.



The Canaanite gate, which was constructed around 1850 BC as part of the port city's fortifications, is believed to be the most ancient arched gate in the world. The mostly brick and limestone gate is 49 feet long, more than 6 feet wide, and 13 feet high.

Its base was uncovered in 1992 during a Harvard University archaeological dig led by Prof. Lawrence Steiger, said Ra'anán Kislev, director of conservation at the Antiquities Authority.

The authority has now finished reconstructing the gate, after eight years. Three wooden arches were rebuilt to restore the complete figure of an arch and to provide support for the structure, Kislev said. ★

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

IONNetwork (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

DirecTV—Channel 255 **Dish**—Channel 181

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon

DirecTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:00 pm Fri	4:00 pm Fri	5:00 pm Fri	6:00 pm Fri

DirecTV—Channel 369 **Dish**—Channel 263

TCT on DirecTV

TCT is Channel 377 on DirecTV:
Visit www.tct.tv for your area's schedule.

NOTE: If you are unable to view *Zola Levitt Presents*, please contact your local cable company or refer to your satellite directory.

Our entire TV Airing Schedule is posted at
www.levitt.com.



Impromptu Memorial Service on a Bus

By A Bus Passenger, IsraelNationalNews.com

Every morning I take the number 35 bus line to work. It's a quick ride and it passes directly in front of Yeshivat Merkaz HaRav, [where an Arab terrorist recently opened fire on students before being gunned down himself by a student].

A couple of days after the attack, I found myself anxious, unsure of what I would see as we passed by the school. As I looked around I saw death notices pasted all over the street, and flowers that had been brought by visitors lined the entrance to the yeshiva.

When we reached the bus stop, the driver shut off the engine. With tears in his eyes, he told everyone on the bus that one of the boys killed the past Thursday night was his nephew. He asked if anyone would mind if he spoke for a few minutes in memory of his nephew and the other boys who were killed. Seeing assent among the passengers, he began to speak.

He said that his nephew was constantly on the lookout for how to help anyone in need; always searching for a way to make things better. He loved learning and had a passion for working out the intricacies of the Talmud. He was excited to join the army in a few years and wanted to work in education.

As the driver spoke, I noticed that the elderly woman sitting next to me was crying. As I passed a tissue to her she told me that she had also lost someone in the attack. Her neighbor's child was another of the boys killed.

As she held my hand tightly, she stood up and asked if she could say a few words in memory of her neighbor. She spoke of a young man with a zest for life. Every Friday he would visit her with flowers for Shabbat and a short *dvar Torah* (Bible recitation) that he had learned that week in *yeshiva*. This past Shabbat, she had no flowers.

When I got to work, one of my colleagues told me that her son was friends with two of the boys who had been killed. One of those boys was the stepson of a man who comes to my synagogue in New York every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to be a cantor.

We are all affected by what goes on in Israel. Whether you know someone who was killed or know someone who knows someone, or even if you don't know anyone at all, you are affected. The eight boys who were killed will continue to impact us individually and as a nation.

Each of us has the ability to impact our world. The following Wednesday, I was with a group at Ben-Gurion International Airport welcoming new immigrants to Israel. We will not be deterred. We cannot give up. We will continue to live our lives and hope and work for change, understanding, and peace. ★

THIRD-GRADERS PLOT TO KILL TEACHER...





Cleaning Prayer Notes From Western Wall

By The Associated Press, www.haaretz.com

A rabbi and his helpers are carrying out a twice-yearly ritual in Jerusalem — removing thousands of notes with prayers and supplications from between the ancient stones of the Western Wall.

Western Wall Rabbi Shmuele Rabinowitz says cleaning up, especially ahead of major Jewish holidays like Passover, clears the wall's crevices and frees up space for more notes. The old notes are considered to have religious significance and are buried in a nearby cemetery according to Jewish tradition.

The Western Wall is revered by Jews as a remnant of their biblical Temple, destroyed by Roman legions nearly 2,000 years ago.

People of all faiths slip notes between its stones, believing that requests deposited at the site are more likely to be heard by God.

Western Wall Stones Crumbling

By Rabbi Levi Brackman, www.YNetNews.com

A routine inspection of the Western Wall's stones has revealed that some of them are falling apart.

The stones in question, oddly enough, are those atop the upper wall—an addition built in the 19th century. The stones in the bottom of the wall, which date back to the days of the Second Temple, show no more than minor damage.

Some simple maintenance work is all that is needed in order to protect both the integrity of the stones and the safety of those praying at the wall. "Renovations will be done with the cooperation of Israel Antiquities Authority, in accordance to Jewish law," says Western Wall rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz.

Christian Bookstore Owner Released from Prison

The Voice of the Martyrs

Recently, Zhou Heng, a well-known house church leader and manager of Yayi Christian Book Room in China, was released from prison. According to China Aid Association, Heng was released after a court determined there was insufficient evidence to prosecute him. During his imprisonment, Heng was reportedly beaten severely by inmates and prison guards. He is now recuperating at home with his family. Pray that he will be emboldened by the fact that God commends those who suffer for doing good.



Electric Waves

By Sam Ser, www.JPost.com

It doesn't look like much, this thing lying dormant in the grassy driveway of Shmuel Ovadia's exceedingly modest offices in south Tel Aviv. Still, Ovadia insists, this bunch of plywood and rusting engines, bolted together in an old shipping crate, could save the planet.

The box of parts, and the large metal arm lying on top of it, is meant to be stationed a few kilometers away, just off the coast. There, in the surf that endlessly laps at the shore, a set of Ovadia's buoys would exploit one of the world's most reliable—and most potent—sources of energy.

The complete text of this article is posted at www.levitt.com/news.

A Non-Muslim Visits Egypt

By Jesse Petrilla, www.FrontPageMagazine.com

I recently returned to the United States from Egypt where I was on a fact-finding mission to see what life is like for non-Muslims who live under Islam. What I saw was a dire situation of oppression and discrimination that many in America and the West have all but ignored.

I went to Egypt because I wanted to learn what life would be like if our enemies and their allies succeeded in getting their way. What I saw was an example of the harsh life in store for future American generations in

Islamic-dominated regions of the U.S. if we do not work to bring attention to Islamic oppression now at this critical time in history. Read about Jesse's journey at www.levitt.com/news.



Israel Seeks F-22s From U.S. As

Insurance Against Iran

International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

As Iran moves closer to having nuclear weapons, Israel is trying once again to acquire a batch of F-22 stealth jet fighters from the U.S. to defend itself better in the event of a military confrontation with Tehran. An Israeli military delegation is to visit the Pentagon to discuss a wide range of security and defense related issues, including the continued funding of the joint Arrow anti-missile defense system as well as the possibility of Israel receiving the advanced F-22 warplanes.

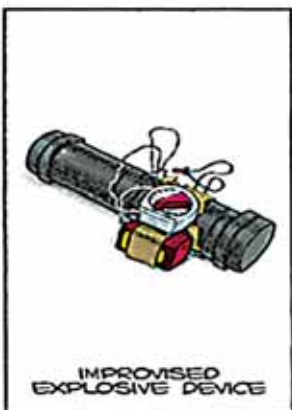
In the past, the IAF has expressed interest in buying the next generation fighter jet, but their request was turned down on the basis of a congressional ban on the sale of the F-22 to foreign nations. But in March, U.S. secretary of Defense Robert Gates said that the ban would be reconsidered, giving Israel new hope in acquiring the radar-evading jets. This would be a major boost for Israel and its image of deterrence. ★

A recent headline in *The Jerusalem Post* read: "Israel fears U.S. will sell F-35 to Saudis. See article at www.levitt.com/news. — Editor

THE BIGGEST TERRORIST TOOLS



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CORRELL



Crooks, Books, and the Jewish Way

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Jews have often and appropriately been called the “People of the Book.” Mindful of a recent Fox News report that 30% of high school students in the U.S. aren’t “hitting the books” and won’t graduate high school as a result, one wonders if our kids might benefit were we to consider crooks, books, and the Jewish way.

That there is only a 70% graduation rate for high school



students, across the board, is but the beginning of the problem—one that gets much worse. In Detroit, for example, Fox News reported that nearly 75% of the young drop out of high school, and reported gross problems in Cleveland, Indianapolis, and elsewhere. What’s in store for America’s “drop-out” generation? While generalizing and stereotyping is problematic, it’s fair to say that many dropouts will drop right into illicit drugs, alcoholism, teen pregnancy, and crime.

Many of our marginalized youth will tragically opt for quick fix “highs” to distract them from their inevitable hard-to-fix “lows.” Distracted by their artificial stimulants, the downward-spiraling, lost generation will descend deeper into the abyss.

Many of the dropouts will prematurely drop their trousers looking for love in all the wrong places. Because the love-partners typically don’t stay partnered through time, in no time the state will be required to partner with the abandoned lover and be responsible for the fruits of these illicit sexual unions for years to come.

Illicit drugs, sex, and social irresponsibility combine to press these unfortunate young souls into relentless poverty. As the devil’s prisoners descend deeper and deeper into their quagmires,

many of those who initially dropped out of school in their youth will continue to drop out of life in their mid-life. Many will blame the “system” for denying them their due, thus sealing their fate as perpetual “victims.” Cascading numbers of these maladjusted, alienated, and ever-angry dropouts will drop into our criminal justice system and become wards of the state well into the future—as will their children.

Against this abysmal backdrop, let it be said that American culture needs to be invigorated through a fresh encounter with Judeo-Christian ethics and with Judeo-Christian literature! If the crooks would “hit the books” they could be transformed. Absent that, I see no real hope.

The virtues espoused in Israel’s Bible would lead disheartened and sickened individuals to appreciate something about Israel’s covenant-keeping God.

Those drowning in moral and social decay and psychological despair would learn about repentance, about forgiveness, about new beginnings, and about a God who wants to “throw them a life-line.” Those who take Him up on it, and opt to walk along the upward-moving biblical path, would come upon the success-in-life promises made to Abraham’s offspring that could help them too. They’d learn that they can be “grafted onto” Abraham’s tree, which entitles them to the benefits that accompany spiritual membership in that commonwealth.

Let’s consider the tree and its branches. Though Jews represent only one fifth of one percent (0.2%) of the world’s population, Jews have won 21% of the world’s Nobel Prizes. That Jews have won 16% of the prizes in Physiology and Medicine and 11% in Physics attests to their special gifts in the helping professions, their quest to understand the nature of life, and their desire to contribute toward human betterment—these being fruits of biblical influence.

Though Jews make up only 1.7% of America’s population, Jews are more-

than-adequately represented in America's top universities. Of Yale's 10,000 students, for example, the Hillel Guide notes that 3,000 are of Jewish extract (thus 30%). Of Harvard's 16,700 students, some 4,500 are Jewish (thus 27%). Of Princeton's 5,700 students, 800 are Jewish (thus 14%). On the whole, 15-20% of the students in our Ivy League schools are Jewish, though Jews represent less than two percent of the population. This representation attests to vision, to vitality, to undiminished resolve to learn, live, know, and grow. It's not the fruits of a sinking population or a stinking one; rather, it's the residual work-product of biblical influence.

All said, it is worth noting that biblical religion has a positive effect on human experience. By contrast, sin clearly tends to diminish it greatly. If people would only turn to God, God could (and would!) turn the situation around for people. This is the "Good News," and good news is what we're all about—and it's demonstrated by and through the People of the Book!



Principled Hasidic Jew Named Principal in Bronx

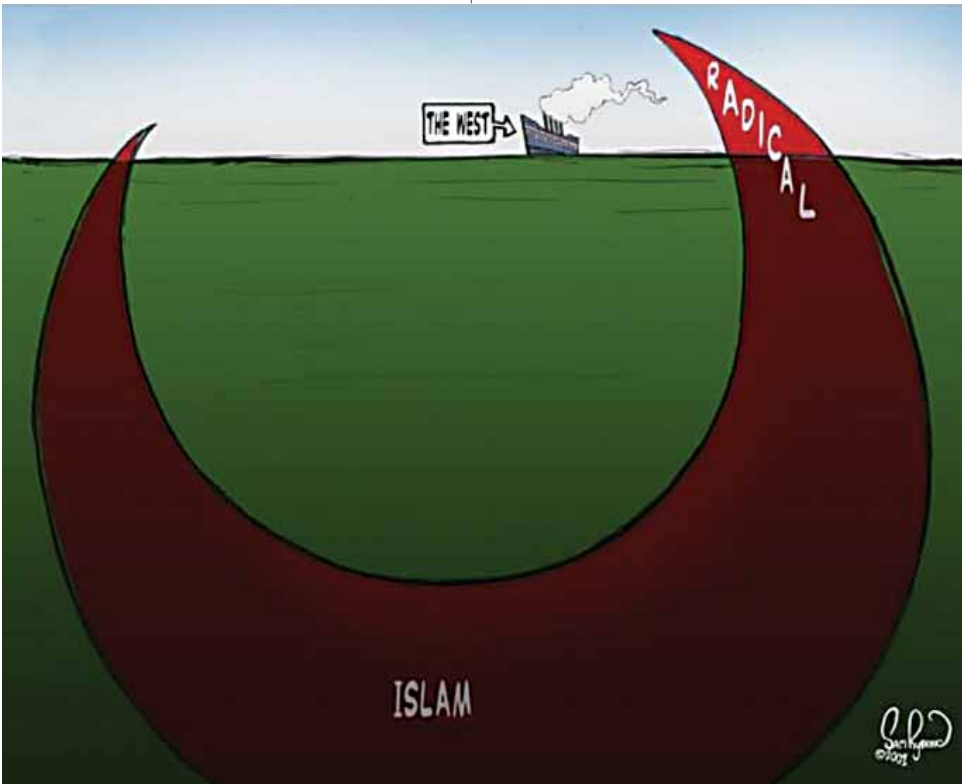
Israel Today



Shimon Waronker, the seventh principal in two years at the tough South Bronx Junior High 22 in New York, is an unlikely candidate for a school primarily composed of Hispanic and black students. Waronker belongs to the Chabad-Lubavitch sect of Hasidic Judaism, has a beard, and wears a black velvet *kippa* (skullcap) and hat.

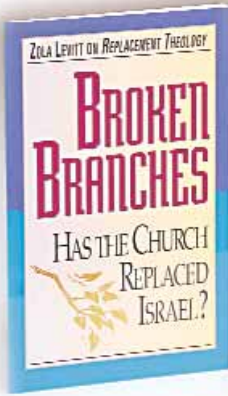
But since he has taken over as principal, attendance has drastically increased. Just five students of a class of 30 used to show up to school; today attendance is 93% and test scores have given Junior High School 22 an A+.

"It's an entirely different place," said Schools Chancellor Joel Klein. "If I could clone Shimon Waronker, I would do that immediately." ★



Broken Branches— Has the Church Replaced Israel? Book

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