

Levitt

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



## Letter



Destroying Israel is central to Islam's belief that Jews are the antiChrist's army. —Jeff

# Anti-Semitism and the Islamic End Time

By Timothy R. Furnish Ph.D. (Islamic History), [www.hnn.us](http://www.hnn.us)



Conventional wisdom among many American citizens—as well as numerous journalists, politicians, and media anchors—has it that anti-Semitism in the Islamic world constitutes a not unreasonable reaction to the late 19th century Zionist movement that led to the creation of the State of Israel right after World War II. In this view, were Israel to totally withdraw from the West Bank (and other disputed “Arab territories”), as well as enact the “right of return” or compensate “displaced Palestinians,” anti-Semitism in the Islamic world would dissipate like a mirage.

Unfortunately, hatred of Jews runs much deeper than a century or so into the past. In fact, it originates not only in the actions of the founder of Islam himself, but also in the eschatological belief-system of the world's second-largest religion. Powerful end-time motifs in Islam contribute immensely to the acrimony that too many Muslims feel towards the Jews: that of *al-Dajjal*.

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## Scholarly Jews Rethinking the Resurrection

By Professor Israel Knohl, *Ha'aretz*

Ancient [non-Christian] Jewish groups believed the Messiah would die, be resurrected in three days, and ascend to Heaven.

The recently published text of the first century BC *Hazon Gabriel*, or the Gabriel Revelation, notes this specifically and conveys a telling apocalyptic vision of the Archangel Gabriel. But one of the most important words in it has not been properly deciphered.

Line 80 begins with the phrase *Leshloshet yamin* (In three days), followed by another word that the editors could not read. Then comes the phrase *Ani Gavriel* (I, Gabriel). I believe that this “illegible” word is actually legible—it is the word *hayeh* (live)—and that Gabriel the Archangel is giving orders to someone: *Leshloshet yamin hayeh*

*continued on page 3*

The Dajjal, or the “Deceiver,” is one of five major end-times actors according to Islamic teachings, and the chief embodiment of evil. In the anti-God camp with him will be the rapacious hordes of *Yajuj* and *Majuj*, as well as *al-Dabbah*, the “Beast.” Opposing these will be the returned *‘Isa*, or Jesus, and *al-Mahdi*, the “rightly-guided one.” Jesus, *Yajuj* and *Majuj*, and the Dabbah have both Koranic and hadith sourcing (hadiths are extra-Koranic sayings attributed to Mohammed); however, the Dajjal and the Mahdi appear nowhere in the Koran, but only in hadiths—curious, considering that in many ways they are the two most important eschatological figures in Islam.

What has this to do with anti-Semitism in Islam? The main role of the returned (Muslim) prophet Jesus and the Mahdi will be to defeat the evil forces of unbelief and usher in a global Islamic caliphate. And the forces that the Dajjal will lead forth to battle the Muslims will be... Jewish!! The Dajjal himself is usually described, drawing upon relevant hadiths, as corpulent and/or tall, frizzy—(perhaps red-) haired, one-eyed, able to perform sham miracles, having the Arabic linguistic root for “unbelief”—K-F-R—tattooed on his forehead. And while he is actually not described as Jewish himself, the hadith accounts of his Jewish supporters have provided much ammunition for Muslim exegetes to assume that he, too, will be Jewish and—of course—linked to Israel. For example, the K-F-R on the Dajjal’s brow is said to be the same symbol used on the tailfins of Israeli fighter jets.

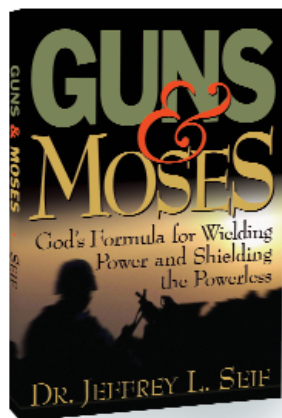
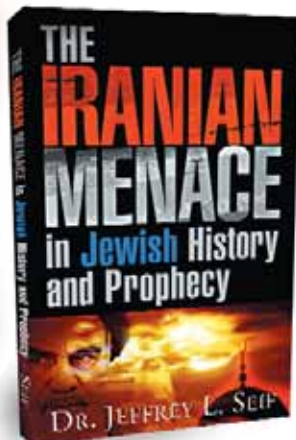
While the hadiths suggesting that the Dajjal will be Jewish go back to the 9th century A.D., the recent upsurge in eschatological anti-Semitism probably dates to about 20 years ago, when the Egyptian writer Sayyid Ayyub began publishing works in Arabic claiming that the Dajjal was already active on Earth and that he was Jewish. And this view is not active only in the Arab Muslim world, in the “front-line” states

bordering Israel. A recent Indian Muslim writer is convinced that “the Jews are waiting impatiently for the coming of *Dajjal*, their beloved king,” for...

**Zionists in their bloodthirsty lust for power are not satisfied with Palestine. In their arrogance, they openly admit that they want all Syria...Lebanon... Jordan... Iraq... Iskenderun...the Sinai...the Delta area of Egypt and the Upper Hejaz and Najia.... They even want the holy Madinah [sic].... Their main aim is to exterminate Islam.**

This writer goes on to repeat the hadith that the Jews will get their comeuppance before the end, when in the final battles “they will not be able to hide behind any stone, wall, or animal or tree without it saying ‘O Muslim, servant of Allah, here is a Jew, come and kill him.’” The Dajjal will actually be killed by Jesus, and the Dajjal’s dispirited army of Jews, unbelievers and “Magians” will then be defeated by the Mahdi and his army of Muslims. Afterwards peace will reign under the global rule of the Mahdi and/or Jesus for some time (the hadiths are not harmonious on just who will be superior and who will live longer), before both great Muslim leaders die and unbelief again proliferates. Thereafter, at some point, will come the true end of time and the Judgment.

Islamic eschatology has seen a resurgence in recent years. A powerful yearning for the Mahdi to come and deliver the *ummah* (Muslim world) has grown among both Sunni and Shia Muslims, and the eschatological play cannot be acted out until the Dajjal comes, as well. For many in the Muslim world this figure of evil is “the Jew,” particularly in his armed-and-dangerous incarnation as “the Zionist entity”—Israel. If even a small percentage of the world’s 1.3 billion Muslims are influenced by such a belief, as well as by the undeniably anti-Semitic example of their own founder—and all indications are that this is indeed the case—then it’s naïve at best and dangerous at worst to expect that any sort of political or territorial concessions on the part of the Israelis will enervate such rancor. ★



## Cutting-edge commentary on today's prophetic developments.

(In three days, you shall live). In other words, in three days, you shall return to life. The word *haye* (live) is written here with an *alef*. Similar orthography appears in the Dead Sea Scrolls, for example in the Isaiah scroll, where the word *yakeh* (30:31) is written with an *alef* after the *yod*.

This is followed by traces of two more words. The letters are not easy to make out, but the first word seems to begin with a *gimmel* and *vav*. The next word is not clear either. The letter *lamed* is quite legible, and the letter before it seems to be an *ayin*. I believe the sentence can be reconstructed as follows: *Leshloshet yamin hayeh, ani Gavriel, gozer alekha* (In three days, live, I, Gabriel, command you). To whom is he speaking?

The answer appears in the following line, Line 81: *Sar hasarin* (Prince of Princes). The sentence reads: *Leshloshet yamin hayeh, ani Gavriel, gozer alekha, sar hasarin* (In three days, live, I, Gabriel, command you, prince of princes.) Who is the "prince of princes"? The primary biblical source for the Gabriel Revelation is the narrative in the Book of Daniel (8:15-26), in which the Archangel Gabriel reveals himself to Daniel for the first time. Gabriel describes a "king of fierce countenance." This king "shall destroy them that are mighty and the people of the saints... he shall also stand up against the prince of princes" (Daniel 8:24-25).

The author of the Gabriel Revelation seems to be interpreting the biblical narrative as follows: An evil king arises and virtually destroys the Jewish people (the "people of the saints"). He even manages to overcome and slay their leader (the "prince of princes"). This is the leader who will be resurrected in three days.

The Gabriel Revelation has been dated, on the basis of linguistics and orthography, to the end of the first century BC. If this is true, then during this period, which was close in time to the birth of Jesus, there were people who believed that the death of the Messiah was an integral part of the salvation process. It became an article of faith that the slain Messianic leader would be resurrected within three days and rise to Heaven in a chariot.

The Gabriel Revelation thus confirms my thesis that the belief in a slain and resurrected Messiah existed prior to the Messianic activity of Jesus. The publication of this text is extraordinarily important. It is a discovery that calls for a complete reassessment of all previous scholarship on the subject of Messianism, Jewish and Christian alike. ★

*Israel Knohl is Yehezkel Kaufmann Professor of Biblical Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a senior research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute.*





# Ask The Professor

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

**Q. “How can Jesus have spent three days and nights in the tomb if he was buried late Friday and rose Sunday morning?”**



A. This is a popular question. At first, it doesn't make sense, so let's consult a source that I recommend to my seminary students: Gleason Archer's *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Gleason is an evangelical scholar who earned a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. In addition, he took a law degree from Suffolk University. A good lawyer and an able apologist for the faith, Dr. Archer offers responsible responses to questions that folk put to both the Sacred Literature and to the historic biblical faith.

In his book, Archer takes up the question about three days and nights on the basis of the obvious conclusion you note—that it seems impossible to reckon three distinct twenty-four hour days and nights with a Friday execution and a Sunday morning resurrection. (pp. 327-329)

From Luke's account (Lk 23:44, 54) we learn that Jesus died at about 3:00 p.m. and was interred about 6:00 p.m.

Archer—and other traditional scholars—suggests that Jesus' dying at 3:00 p.m. before sunset on Friday would account for one day—for a reason that I'll offer later on; Friday 6:00 p.m. through Saturday 6:00 p.m. would count as the second day; Saturday 6 p.m. through Sunday would constitute the third day—thus a resurrection on the third day, as traditionally construed.

At first, Archer's response doesn't seem to satisfy Matthew's account of “three days and three nights” (Mt 12:40). Dr. Archer supports his position by pointing out that “in ancient parlance when you wished to refer to three separate twenty-four hour days you said ‘three days and nights’—even though only a portion of the first and third days might be involved.”

With his argument in mind, I assume that the Gospel's wording is a colloquial expression. Here's my analogy: one might say “I worked a full day on Wednesday,” but not be referring to having worked for the full twenty-four hour period of time on Wednesday, but rather an understood part of it. In much the same way, I suspect that the Gospel writers spoke the language of the day. You can read Gleason on it more fully.

I hope this satisfies your question. Personally, I am not heavily invested in the debate. For me, of primary importance is that He *rose*; and, for me, the timing question becomes insignificant against that fact. ★



# Having It Both Ways

What bothered me over the years was that I never found a non-religious scientist who opted for the Young Earth and other biblical theories of creation. They seemed always to require a scientist wearing a white coat but with a test tube in one hand and a Bible in the other. I secretly wondered if the creation scientists weren't more preachers than scientists. And I was nervous about them "bending the science" to fit their ideas of what Scripture meant.

With Gerald Schroeder, I could "have it both ways." He agreed with the most conventional theories of Genesis and also with the most conventional theories of non-religious scientists.

Among the creation science literature is *Starlight and Time* by D. Russell Humphreys, Ph.D. This fascinating little book is available through Christian bookstores and Amazon.com.

Dr. Humphreys, like Dr. Schroeder, started out to work on the great distances of the universe through which light has always traveled. After all, we can see objects as far as 12 billion light years away, and if the Earth is only 6,000 to 10,000 years old, how is it that the light has reached it? In other words, in order to see the birth of that star, I would have had to stand on Earth gazing at its location through a telescope for 12 billion years!

Well, Dr. Humphreys, a creation scientist with a deeply-felt belief in Jesus Christ, reaches many of the same conclusions as Dr. Schroeder. (Schroeder's work detailed on p. 17.)

Without trying to review his whole theory, I can see this much: The two scientists agree on God and that He created the world in six days, and those are 24-hour normal-length Earth days. They further agree on the flood, and they both agree that no

"evolution" ever took place on this Earth. And finally, they agree that time changes throughout this universe, so that a clock in one place keeps time entirely differently from a clock far away. Time dilates with distance, both men acknowledge. And both men agree that the first six days of creation were profoundly different from the rest of history.

And both are modest, prayerful men. It is a subjective judgment on my part, but I found both of them humble before their God and very impressed by His creation. Both are unassuming men who do not claim that their theories are precisely true, but only stepping stones to greater truth. In the words of Dr. Humphreys: "We need more and better creationist cosmologies. I say 'more' because mine may prove to have fatal flaws of its own, but if we have a variety of good theories to choose from, we are much more likely to find the truth."

I was personally very moved and very relieved to see Christian Believers holding to a similar theory with Dr. Schroeder, whose scientific credentials and experience are beyond question.

 Israel  
"Bless Israel" Tour

 Join Sandra on a tour of Israel that focuses on serving God's chosen. You will volunteer in soup kitchens, food and clothing banks, and at other charitable projects in Israel. Since this differs from our customary study tour, we recommend the *Bless Israel Tour for Believers* who already have toured Israel. The dates are November 15 - 25, and the cost is \$3,650, departing from Dallas.

For more information, please contact Abel at (214) 696-9760 or [travel@levitt.com](mailto:travel@levitt.com). Also see page 36 for an announcement about our traditional Holy Land tours.

**For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**

GALATIANS 5:13

# Shalom From Sandra



Several months ago, Jeff Seif and I talked about our views on life and witnessing. Jews have long obeyed the instruction by Moses to help the poor (Lev 25:35), and all of us in Messiah should be similarly engaged in helping a hurting world. Jeff's and my discussion centered on how? "Sandra," Jeff finally said, "find your own voice." His words really struck me. Can I, do I, slow down and look at other possibilities in my life? Israel will always be my first love, so finding a local avenue for volunteer work, for performing a *mitzvah* (blessing), puzzled me. What did the Lord want me to do? And so, I prayed.

For the last few months now, I have been volunteering at a "soup kitchen," and I am amazed at how much I enjoy it. No one there knows that I am on TV, that I speak in churches, or lead tours to Israel; nor would they be impressed if they *did* know. They just want a good meal and some kind words.

When I volunteered, I didn't know what to expect from the homeless or from myself. Would I be repulsed or feel some empathy? I was surprised by the kindness and the gratitude of those I was feeding. Yes, there were a couple of strange characters, but aren't there always a few characters in our daily lives? We are all unique children of God. I enjoy both serving them and expecting nothing in return. Yet, I do receive a joy in my heart from knowing that I have helped my fellow man, that I have made a difference, no matter how small. By serving others, I am reminded of how much I have been given by God, and how at times I forget how much God has done for me. I have my health, a great job in the Lord, close friends, and a healthy family.

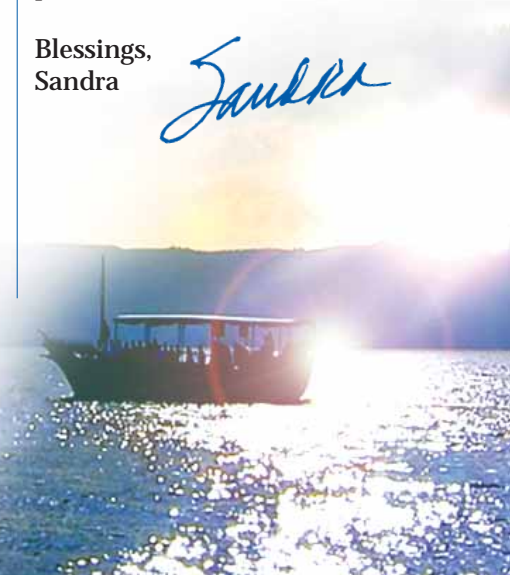
For me, life does not get any better.

Lunch this week featured a Mexican theme with tortillas, refried beans, chicken, and all the trimmings. The project feeds between 300 and 400 people daily, so I dished the refried beans from a *giant* container with what looked like an oar. When a man said Shalom, I was taken aback, but only for a second. I responded, Shalom to you. And I knew I was where God wanted me to be. Shalom, peace. This down and out man was wishing me peace. My blessing was literally blessing me back! I hope you find a way to do a *mitzvah* and serve God today.

Join Jeff and me as we serve a mighty God in Israel. Learn more about the Land and the People of God. You can serve them by knowing more about Israel. Our fall tour is upon us, and we already are reserving spots for our March 2009 tours. See page 36 for fall tour details.

And as you go, please, pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Blessings,  
Sandra





# Palestinian Contributions To The World



By Hal Lindsey, [www.WorldNetDaily.com](http://www.WorldNetDaily.com)

I listened to Israeli Ambassador Dan Gillerman describe the terrorist attack in Jerusalem in which a Palestinian construction worker suddenly turned the bulldozer he was driving into traffic, crushing everything (and everyone) in its path. The attack took place on one of Jerusalem's busiest streets.

Ambassador Gillerman noted sarcastically that the driver "courteously" stopped to let a car pull in front of him, which he then ran over, crushing and killing the driver and her baby. In another car, a woman threw her baby out the car window before the bulldozer crushed her to death. (The baby survived, the ambassador said, but was "gravely wounded.")

According to Gillerman, the construction worker was an Israeli Arab who worked for an Israeli Arab. "He took the bulldozer, with which he fed his own wife and family, and used it to crush other families to death, simply for being Israeli Jews."

Gillerman described the attack as typical of the Palestinian contribution to the world. Of course, the ambassador was angry (who wouldn't be?). But he went on to argue his point, reminding the audience that it was the Palestinians who invented airline hijackings. The long lines at airports are another Palestinian contribution to the world, said Gillerman.

In today's political climate, one might be accused of "racism" for observing such contributions, like hostage taking, suicide bombings, and the use of innocents as human shields. After all, it is not for nothing that Yasser Arafat earned the sobriquet, "The father of modern Islamic terrorism." Let's consider what he and his friends have given us.

Recently, I typed the keywords "Palestinian contributions" (but without the quotes) into the Google News Search and got 519 hits containing those two words. Browsing through some of the hits, I noticed that wherever the word "contributions" appeared, it was in reference to contributions made TO the Palestinians. I couldn't find any listing Palestinian "contributions" in the sense of the Palestinians being the contributors.

So, I thought I'd narrow the search: I typed "Palestinian contributions" using quotes, which forces Google to return only those documents that contain those exact words. This was what I got: "Your search—'Palestinian contributions'—did not match any documents." I then tried expanding the search to the Web. Using "Palestinian contributions" enclosed by quotations, it appears there are but 295 documents out of the billions indexed by Google daily on the World Wide Web in which those two words are used together. I didn't read them all, but the ones I did consisted of questions about Palestinian contributions followed by negative answers.

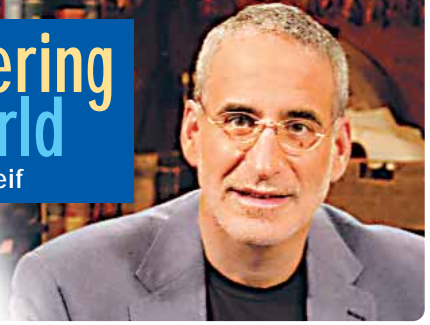
So, if anybody actually *can* list a few positive Palestinian contributions to the world—ever—in *the history of the Palestinian people*, drop me a line.



The time is ripe for some biblical deciphering. America is wrestling with presidential candidates who are not strongly evangelical. Israel, racked

# DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



by political intrigue and anxious to see calm among its people, seems eager to trade away more of its Promised Land for the promise of peace with belligerent neighbors. Speaking of belligerent neighbors, Iran is calling for a world without Zion. Pursuing its nuclear nightmare, it appears to be the backdrop as Israel ramps up its military machinery to take a preemptive strike at Iran's nuclear facilities. With all that's happening over there in the Middle East and over here in America, the need for biblical perspective seems particularly acute now.

I wrote *The Iranian Menace* a couple of years ago, believing that tensions with that Islamic nation-state would inevitably boil. Similarly anticipating that Israel would see a preemptive strike as its only rational option, I followed with a book called *Guns & Moses*. In it I considered how it is sometimes necessary, though unpleasant, for nations to bear arms in defense of home and hearth. I explained in biblical terms that this defense does not offend biblical religion. Our two most recent television series, *Daniel and the Last Days' Battle for Planet Earth* and *Ezekiel and the MidEast 'Piece' Process*, look at those prophets' predictions of war in the Middle East and support my understanding that the saber-rattling in the region is predicted in the Word of God.

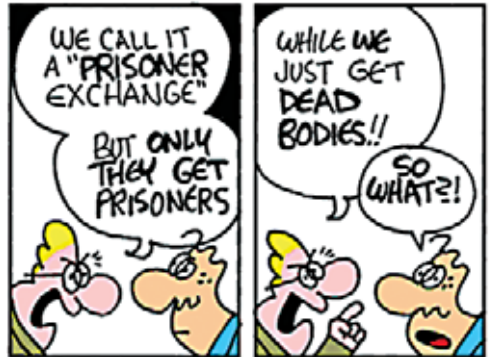
My position is rather simple: history is not spiraling out of control despite the fact that history-makers are.

I believe that America desperately needs a revival! The Church is weak and declining rapidly in too many cases. Many pastors bring a Bible into the pulpit but barely read it or comment on its principles. Many extol the virtues of their own perspectives

but pay too little attention to God's perspectives. Many of those who do read and preach the Bible wind up misreading it, often because they are infected by a Replacement Theology that downplays Israel, ignores prophecy outright, and thus gives them and their listeners a diminished view of what God is up to in the world.

I refuse to be guilty of that. With your help I have labored to produce Bible-ready television, write timely Bible-related books, write articles that speak to contemporary situations, and present the thought-provoking writings of others through our *Levitt Letter*. In addition, We have never had to cancel a tour when taking pilgrims to Israel—and we never will.

## Dry Bones BAD DEALS



www.DryBonesBlog.com



We noted a pleasant increase in participants for both the spring and summer trips. The October-November trip is filling nicely, as well. I am encouraged by the growth and enjoy getting to know those who travel with us.

I anticipate filming a new series on King David this fall, finances permitting. We desperately need David-like leaders for these Goliath-like times, so I am particularly anxious to get this story out. This would be a good time for you who contribute to specific projects to sow a faith seed into our Word soil.

With all that's happening in our world, Judaism's high holy days may be particularly meaningful. This news-magazine comes to you at a time when Israel begins to focus on the coming celebrations of the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah, Sept 29/30), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur, Oct 8/9), and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot, Oct 13/14). I pray that the Lord touches people at this time and manifests Himself in ways that folk might see Him more clearly.

It was long on Zola's heart—and on Sandra's and mine—to show clearly how the Old Testament's feasts are fulfilled in the New Testament's Messiah. We do this on TV, through newsprint, books, the Internet, and more. Before signing off here, let me say how thankful I am to meet many of you when I travel about, visiting in churches. I love it when churches invite me in as a guest speaker. I always have a great time. Because invitations usually result when well-placed people use their influence to put a bug in their busy pastor's ear, let me offer a special thanks to those who help us by getting the ball rolling.

Hope you enjoy this *Levitt Letter*. Do keep us in your prayers and let us know you're out there.

Yours,

## Bush Gave Israel Amber Light To Attack

[www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)



U.S. President George W. Bush has given Israel the “amber light” to carry out an attack on Iran if diplomatic efforts are unsuccessful in causing the Islamic Republic to back down and relinquish its nuclear program, according to a senior Pentagon official quoted by the British *Sunday Times*.



According to the official, Bush has given Israel free rein to attack Iran's nuclear sites if sanctions fail in spite of opposition from US generals and regardless of the possible economic and political repercussions of such a strike.

“Amber means get on with your preparations, stand by for immediate attack and tell us when you're ready,” the official said, adding however, that Israel had been told that it could not count on the US to lend it military support.

Recently, sources in the Iraqi Defense Ministry told a local news network that IAF warplanes were practicing in Iraqi airspace and landing on U.S. airbases in the country as a preparation for a potential strike on Iran.

“It's really all down to the Israelis,” the official added. “This administration will not attack Iran. This has already been decided. But the president is really preoccupied with the nuclear threat against Israel, and I know he doesn't believe that anything but force will deter Iran.”



# Running on Empty

By Will King,

[www.imagesofisrael.com](http://www.imagesofisrael.com)



Will King

Forget Iran and nuclear weapons, Hamas and Hezbollah. Both oil and water are precious resources in the Middle East, and wars have been fought in the past over their control. It's not far-fetched to think that one or both of these resources could be a contributing factor to the next Middle East war as well.

Let's examine first the water situation in Israel. The Sea of Galilee is the primary fresh water source in Israel for drinking, irrigating crops, and for other needs. A full third of Israel's water supply comes from the Sea of Galilee. However, persistent, less-than-average winter rain and snowfall means that the lake doesn't receive enough water. After years of low rainfall, the Sea of Galilee is now facing a crisis point.

In early July of this year, the water level fell below the lower red line of 699 feet below sea level, nearly 14.7 feet below its optimum level. Beneath the lower red line, the ratio of pollutants to water makes it dangerous to extract. However, the government recently set a lower black line at minus 703 feet at which all pumping must stop, period. The lake is expected to reach that black line sometime in December, just as the rainy season begins.

Israel is 12,360 million cubic feet of water short of supplying the expected demand over the coming year, according to the Water Authority. At a recent press conference in Tel Aviv, Israel Water Authority Chief Uri Shani said that Israel was facing "the worst water crisis in 80 years, since they started keeping records." And not just Israel; the entire region is facing a similar drought, meaning that water is becoming an ever more sought-after resource among not so friendly nations.

On top of the water worries, Israel is one of the few, if not the only, country in the Middle East with practically no natural oil reserves.\* In Israel—as in other industrialized, oil-importing nations around the world—the rise in gas prices has hit consumers hard. They were already paying about five shekels per liter (approx. \$6/gal.), but now gas prices have risen to more than seven shekels per liter, or around \$8.50 per gallon.

\$8.50 per gallon of gas! Maybe that's why Israel is pushing to become the first country with a nationwide infrastructure for all-electric cars.

And as the water levels drop, the prices go up. The price of water for domestic use has nearly doubled this year.

As you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, pray also that this winter will be filled with rain. Pray that Israeli scientists and inventors find new ways to conserve and manage the water, and that somebody discovers an alternative source of energy or strikes oil in Israel. ★

\* In October 2006, both *Business Week* and the *Levitt Letter* (p. 30) addressed the slippery business of oil exploration in Israel.

[www.levitt.com/levletter.html](http://www.levitt.com/levletter.html)



*Tamar Zliskind, 22, (right) of Haifa was crowned 2008 Miss Israel. She is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, whose wife and four children were killed by the Nazis. Her dream is to become a doctor.*

# Can Islam Reform?

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor

**Okay, this is a quiz. What international political force was America's standing military established to fight?**



If you've been reading this publication for very long, you know the answer.

I'm talking, of course, about the war America fought from 1801 to 1815 against Islam. I use the word "Islam" in this context purposely, as do Muslims. The Ottoman Caliphate, after all, embodied both government and religious power. When the U.S. government paid Ottoman Empire officials the tribute money they demanded, it received temporary lulls in the attacks on U.S. ships and citizens. Moreover, America won that war only when we stopped chasing the terrorists, but attacked the Islamic governments and cities that protected them.

Even in those early days of the Republic, however, Americans were already letting the Muslim world get away with a deception that continues to this day. I'm talking about the myth that Islamic terrorists did not act on behalf of Islamic authorities. As a result, our history books talk about a war with the "Barbary Pirates" as if the enemy were a bunch of unaffiliated outlaws and brigands. They were not. The forces that attacked American ships at will and enslaved their crews and passengers were part of an organized and lethal military force. They were an industry accepted by Muslim governments as agents of the Caliph.

The fallacy of the "pirate" myth is demonstrated simply by looking at the scope and scale of their activities. Though based in the port cities of North Africa, they operated throughout the Mediterranean and as far north as Iceland. Raids were made on seaside communities in Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, England, the Netherlands, and Ireland. That sort of organization does not exist without the approval and support of its home countries and governments.

Historian Robert C. Davis puts the number

of Europeans enslaved for sale into Muslim lands, from the 16th to the 19th century, at more than a million. This was a well-organized military effort and market. Thousands of English, Spanish, and French ships were taken by these forces. Large sections of Spanish and Italian coastline were uninhabitable until the 19th century for fear of these marauders.

Nevertheless, most of our schools fail to teach that Islam, which is both a system of government and a religion, waged a centuries-long war against the West. Only the military defeat of the Ottoman Empire brought us a temporary respite.

Unfortunately, most Americans have never understood this. Instead, we have projected a Judeo-Christian separation of church and state onto a culture that rejects violently the very concept.

When Hamas sends rockets and terrorists into Israel, it is in exactly the same tradition as the Caliphate's use of the so-called Barbary Pirates. When Iran uses its Hezbollah troops to attack Israel, and denies it is waging war, it is the continuation of a centuries-old ploy.

I want Islam to reform. I hope Islam reforms, but it hasn't happened yet. Look at the Muslim world. Despite bright spots, it is mostly lacking in freedom and human rights. Slavery continues to this day in too many Muslim countries. Those who open their arms to Muslim culture, telling Muslims that we welcome their traditions as equal to our own, are now seeing the fruits of this foolishness. Arranged marriage—itself a form of slavery—and honor killings are spreading into America. So is a vicious anti-Semitism straight out of the Koran.

**In the end, I don't know if Islam can reform. But I do know what reformed Islam would look like.** It would celebrate the nation of Israel's survival, stop pretending that Muslim claims on Jerusalem are anything but political deception, and welcome Christian missionaries and churches into Muslim countries. How many of you honestly believe this will ever happen?





# Fighting Sharia Law One Minaret At A Time

By Diana West,  
www.JewishWorldReview.com



Now engaged in probably its greatest battle yet, the Swiss People's Party has amassed the requisite signatures to petition a national referendum on whether Switzerland should ban minarets, the towers that often soar high enough over mosques to transform the skyline of any cathedral town in Europe.

Discussing the “long progression” of Islam—now 4.3 percent of Switzerland’s mainly Christian population of 7.5 million—into Swiss life, party leader Oskar Freysinger explains that what concerns him is “not the (Islamic) religion, but the law,” meaning Islamic, or *sharia*, law. And while there is religious freedom in Switzerland for new mosques, this same freedom does not extend to minarets, which he sees as political more than religious symbols. “Minarets are not necessary for the practice” of Islam, he explains.

Indeed, historically, the minaret has often served as a sign of Islamic polit-

ical power. “In that case,” Freysinger continues, “we said: ‘OK. We attack this symbol of conquering Islam and we say: You are welcome in our country, but there is one law and one constitution for every person in this country. And there is no special law for an Islamic girl, or an Islamic man. There is no sharia. Nothing.’”

Given the inequities of sharia, one enlightened law and constitution for all should be a simple, desirable state of Western affairs. But as the West tilts to accommodate aspects of *sharia* ranging from diet to sexual segregation to polygamous marriage to sharia banking to censorship regarding Islam itself, Freysinger’s point of view becomes an increasingly controversial and dangerous one, reliably eliciting catcalls and worse from world media and political establishments.

I ask Freysinger where Israel fits into his worldview. “Our party has always defended Israel because we are well aware that if Israel disappears, we lose a vanguard,” he replied. “They are fighting now our fight, in fact; and as long as the Muslims are concentrated on Israel, it is not so hard for us. But as soon as Israel will have disappeared, well, they will come to get the other part.” I think by “the other part” he means the rest of the West. ★



## Forced Saudi Bride's Divorce Denied

www.ArabNews.com

When Rasha registered for high school a few years ago, she discovered that her estranged father had married her off without her knowledge to a man in his 80s in exchange for an \$8,000 dowry payment. Now a court has denied her appeal to divorce the man.

“The officials at the Girls Education Department discovered that my file had no birth certificate,” Rasha told *Al-Riyadh* newspaper. “After searching through my papers, they gave me the shock of my life when they told me that my father had married me to an 85-year-old man when I was just 10 years old, and that I am his fourth wife.”

Now the 18-year-old (who lives near Mecca) is appealing to the government and the National Society for Human Rights to intervene after a local judge declined to grant the divorce, even after a donor agreed to reimburse the dowry money that the old man was demanding to terminate the marriage.

The Civil Affairs Directorate, in charge of the civil status of Saudi citizens, told Rasha to file a suit against her

father and the old man in court. The court ordered her to take out newspaper advertisements to find the old man. A tip from someone who read the announcement led to the discovery that the old man is demanding a refund of the dowry.

“I looked for a year for someone who would pay this amount until Princess Jawhara bint Abdul Aziz took the initiative and donated the entire amount. When I took the money to the judge to complete my divorce procedures, he said the case had been closed,” Rasha said.

Shut out of the legal system, Rasha is now appealing to the government and human rights activists to help her out of this predicament. ★



## Polygamy, Child Brides Coming To U.S.?

www.WorldNetDaily.com

Polygamy and child brides may make a comeback in the U.S. as a result of recent court rulings and the simultaneous rise of Islam. “In light of the recent California court ruling and the FLDS (Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints) legal fiasco in Texas, is the time coming when we in the U.S will be forced to tolerate child brides and multiple wives?” asks Joel Richardson, editor of the provocative new book *Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims Speak Out*.

One Islamic tradition that caused several of the book’s contributors to leave the religion is that girls are often expected to marry adult men. For example, in the Islamic country of Yemen, 50 percent of all married women are under 14 years of age—including girls who have been married for several years. Girls as young as 6 and 7 are married to men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s.

## ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS In High Definition

By Jerry Hodges: GM of Berg Productions, producer and syndicator of our TV programs

February 2009 will usher in a change that will affect Zola Levitt Ministries viewers: the new digital mandate. All of the television stations that broadcast over the public airwaves will go off the air that month and will be replaced with multiple digital stations. Unless you have a cable box or satellite, after February 2009 you will need a digital converter box to view broadcast television on your old analog TV sets. I alerted you to this in the September '07 *Levitt Letter* (p. 11), archived at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

Not only will the “digital mandate” affect how you watch TV, it has already affected how we produce *Zola Levitt Presents*. Berg Productions took steps ahead of the mandate to begin converting the Closed Captioning option from the old analog method to the new digital format. We jumped the gun in order to begin broadcasting in High Definition (HD) with two of our broadcasting partners that have begun airing in HD. *Zola Levitt Presents* has been broadcast in HD since February on the TCT Network (which is available in HD on DirecTV) and since March on the ABC Family

channel. Because all HD is compatible with the new digital mandate, the new closed captioning technique has already been encoded into the pictures.

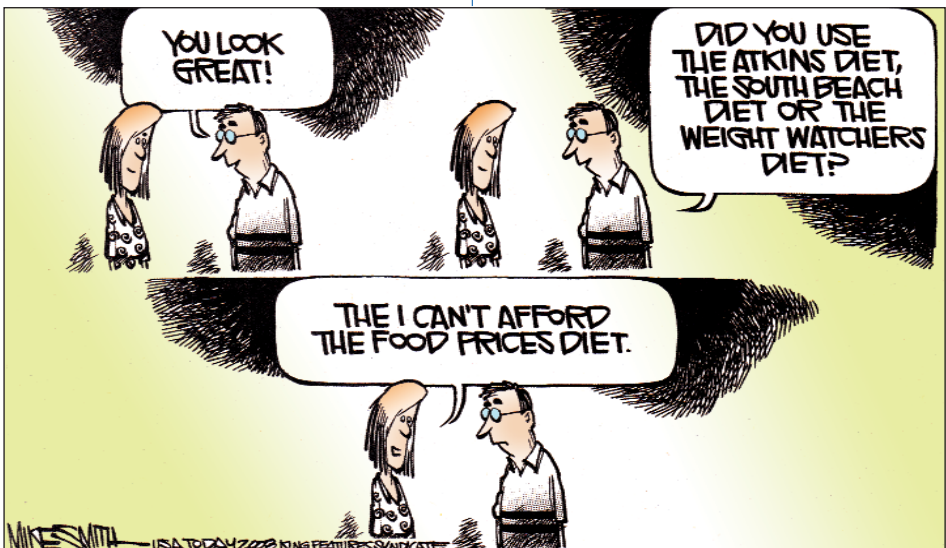
If you have an HD television set and are capable of receiving either ABC Family or the TCT Network in High Definition, we'd like to know. Please write us and tell us where you are viewing it. Zola Levitt Ministries is literally the first ministry in America to broadcast a regularly scheduled program in High Definition, and we've done it at practically no additional cost to the ministry. We hope you will be able to enjoy this enhanced way of viewing our program.

## Investing In Israel

[www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

Israeli technology companies raised \$465 million in capital from venture funds and other private investors in the second quarter, 7 percent more than a year earlier, the Israel Venture Capital Research Center said.

Investment in Israeli technology companies for the first half was the highest in seven years, reaching more than \$1 billion, the center said. Mergers and acquisitions involving Israeli technology companies reached \$3.2b. last year, encouraging venture investors to put more money into start-ups. ★





# Silence of *The Times*

By Andrea Levin, [www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

The power of *The New York Times* is undeniable—even in an era of declining mainstream media influence. What its editors choose to report still influences policymaking, as coverage of, or silence about, two recent Gaza-related events underscores.

Which of these stories rated front-page coverage in *The Times*, with photos, follow-up stories, and an editorial triggering swift repercussions? Was it the bureaucratic blunder that temporarily deprived seven Palestinian students in Gaza of their Fulbright scholarships? or the landmark French court decision challenging a France2 television report from September 2000 claiming that Israel murdered 12-year-old Gazan Muhammad al-Dura, a sensational allegation that has fueled hatred of and violence against Jews for nearly eight years? [See July 2 story *Pallywood and Israel* at [www.levitt.com/news/](http://www.levitt.com/news/).]

Anyone familiar with *The Times's* chronic failure going back to the 1930s to cover the dimensions and significance of anti-Jewish propaganda knows the answer.

The Palestinian students' dilemma stirred the paper to full-throated coverage, triggering a diplomatic scramble in Washington and Jerusalem to enable the Fulbright winners to pursue their programs. A *Times* editorial—with a passing nod to its security needs—lectured Israel about measures that “sow more anger and hate.”

And what of the stunning “victory” and vindication in Paris of Philippe Karsenty against charges of having defamed Charles Enderlin, France2's Middle East Bureau Chief who reported the al-Dura story? Karsenty had denounced the episode as “a faked death,” a “hoax” and a “fraud.”

Not a word in *The Times*. Nor was the paper moved to editorialize about the global “anger and hate” sown by Enderlin and his cameraman, Talal Abu Rahma, in spawning the false, incendiary al-Dura allegations against Israel.

As *The Wall Street Journal* editorialized, it is “hard to exaggerate the significance” of the court decision that “called the [al-Dura] story into doubt.”

It is also significant that *The New York Times* is mute about this triumph for free speech in what has rightly been termed a blood libel against the State of Israel. Ironically, former *Times* executive director Abe Rosenthal was eulogized in the same paper for his fierceness in confronting entrenched institutions and for saying: “When something important is going on, silence is a lie.”

Efforts to call the defamers of Israel to account have long been news *The Times* has deemed not fit to print. Its silence on recent developments concerning the al-Dura affair is just the latest iteration of a decades-long *Times* lie.

Read this article in full and see what led the judge to vindicate Karsenty at [www.levitt.com/news/](http://www.levitt.com/news/).



## Dry Bones OUTSOURCING



[www.DryBonesBlog.com](http://www.DryBonesBlog.com)

# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Jewish Heritage Calendar

Caution: buying this year's will make you want next year's as well! This is the BEST time to order our new Jewish Heritage Calendar for the year 5769, which begins in September. You'll have the dates of biblical feasts and Sabbaths, and the names of the months, the Holy Days, etc. You will also become acquainted with many fascinating artifacts through colorful pictures and descriptions you may wish to save for years to come. *Please order from page 19.*



## Jeff Is Jewish

Many viewers and readers are surprised to learn that Jeff is every bit as Jewish as Zola. Jeff attended Hebrew school at Yeshiva Academy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and had his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El, also in Harrisburg.

His wife, Patty, is Jewish and (not coincidentally) so are his two sons, Jacob and Zachary. Jeff became a completed Jew in 1973, primarily through the witness of an individual handing out tracts on the street.

## Join the King David Club

Help us bring in the Kingdom!!

If you can donate \$10,000, you will receive the following with our grateful thanks:

One each of all our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth), not just for your library, but also to give away.

One \$500 discount on each of up to four (4) of our tours to Israel.

A one-on-one telephone conference with Jeff to discuss this ministry's goals, plans, and visions.

## Free Levitt Letter Overages

Would you like 12, 24, or 36 recent *Levitt Letters* to give away at your church? We have been printing a few extras for people who want to serve as **Newsletter Ambassadors**.



Imagine delivering this ministry's various teachings to those that don't know it even exists — free. Please help us to reach more people by periodically letting us know how many newsletters you can put to good use.

## "Come Home!"

Zola's Tours to Israel:

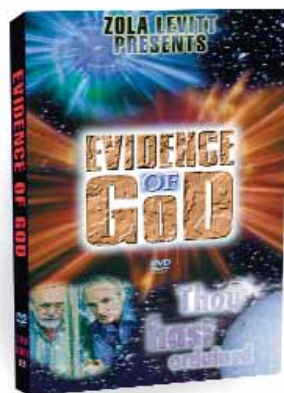


See page 36 for details



## *The Evidence of God TV Series—* 8 half-hour TV programs on DVD or VHS

Countering claims that the Bible's Creation "fantasy" is incompatible with dinosaur bones, fossils, and carbon dating, nuclear physicist Dr. Gerald Schroeder explains time dilation—how time has shrunk since the Big Bang—and bridges the perceived differences between science and Scripture. Science confirms the biblical sequence of events that occurred during our planet's first week.



**The Universe had a Beginning** — Physicist Gerald Schroeder explains how science can look backwards in time and count fifteen billion years since the Big Bang; yet, from God's perspective this vast time period happened within six 24-hour days.

**Relatively Speaking** — Gerald presents scientific evidence that time is not a constant. Similar to how astronauts weigh less on the moon than on Earth, experiments show that atomic clocks run slower on high-speed aircraft. Because the universe is expanding, time is perceived differently in different locations.

**Tuned for Life** — Science observes that the universe has expanded a million million times. Dividing 15 billion (the number of years in the scientific record) by a million million equals .015 years, or approximately six days.

**Day One of Creation** — Using the Hebrew Bible, Gerald and Zola analyze the first day of the Creation account. Out of chaos, the Spirit of God created order.

**Days Two and Three of Creation** — Gerald demonstrates how both Genesis and science show that a firmament was created and water was formed before life began on Earth.

**Day Four of Creation** — How could the sun, moon, and stars not appear until day four? The words evening and morning correspond to their Hebrew roots, chaos and order, revealing the overall trend of creation.

**Days Five and Six of Creation** — Science proposes an explosion of life that agrees in sequence and time with the Bible's account of day five and Gerald's computations.

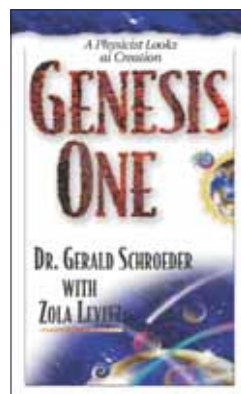
**Creation Reviewed** — Zola reviews how science agrees with the Creation account in Genesis 1. Technologically, we are only now achieving the ability to prove how true and accurate the Bible really is.

*The book below and the series on DVD and VHS are offered on page 18.*

## *Genesis One Study Booklet*

By Dr. Gerald Schroeder with Zola

This booklet is a transcription of the first two interviews with Dr. Gerald Schroeder, a nuclear physicist, on our *Evidence of God* television series. Please see above for a description of all eight programs. Dr. Schroeder gives his theory that "six actual days" could equal 15 billion years.





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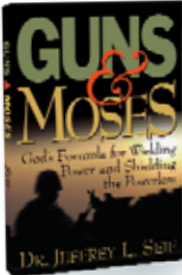
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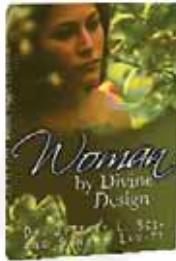
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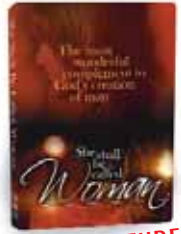
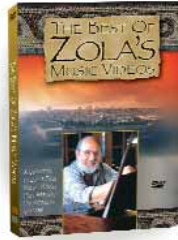


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**FEATURE Item! SEE P. 17**

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*Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,  
but evil comes to him who searches for it. (Proverbs 11:27, ESV)*

נָוּ	אָ	בּוֹ	תְּ	רָעָה	רְ	וְ	דוֹרֵשׁ	רְ	צוֹן	יִ	בְּ	קֹשׁ	טוֹב	שֹׁ	חֵר	
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)
tc'vo-e-nu				ra-ah		vc'do-rersh			ra-tzon		yc'va-kesh		tov	sho-cher		
it will come to him			but the one who searches for evil				desires favor			the one who seeks good						

The one who seeks good is called *shocher tov*, “a seeker of good.” The *shocher tov* has a good eye (*ayin ha-tovah*) that constantly sees the worth and potential in others. The one who searches out evil is *doresh ra'ah*, “a searcher of evil.” The *doresh ra'ah* has an evil eye (*ayin hara*) that is critical and faultfinding. The principle may be stated this way: When you seek the good of others, you find God’s favor (*ratzon*), but when you *search* for evil in others, the very evil you find becomes your own.

Note that the word for “seeking” (*shocher*) comes from the word for “dawn” or “morning” (*shachar*), suggesting an “early” or irrepressible seeking (as the dawn continually follows night). The parallel term “searching” (*doresh*), on the other hand, comes from the verb *darash*, from which the word *midrash* (interpretation) derives. The sages therefore note that it is easier to be *doresh ra'ah* than it is to be *shocher tov*. Assuming the worst in others is relatively effortless, but seeking their good requires compassion and the willingness to bear their burdens.

The “law of Messiah” (Gal. 6:2) is to bear one another’s burdens (the Greek word for burden is βᾶρος (“weight,” from which we derive the word barometer)). This same word is used in 2 Cor. 4:17 to refer to the “weight of glory” that we will experience in the world to come. Bearing one another’s burdens reveals the glory of the One who willingly bore our sin and shame at Calvary (1 Pet. 2:24).

Bearing one another’s burdens means caring enough to pray for them. The sages remark that he who prays for another and is in need of the same thing is answered *first* (Talmud, Bava Kamma). For example, when the prophet Job prayed for his friends, God restored Job’s own fortunes (Job 42:10). There is a shared blessing when we pray for others, as King David said in Psalm 35:13: “may what I prayed for happen to me!” (literally, *tefillati al-cheiki tashuv* — “may it return upon my own breast”).

“May what I prayed for happen to me...” Some of our prayers are conscious words spoken to God, whereas others are unconscious expressions of our inner heart attitudes. When we harbor indifference, ill will, or unforgiveness toward others, we are only hurting ourselves. When we seek the good of others we find God’s favor, healing and life. A midrash states that if someone speaks well of another, the angels above will then speak well of him before the Holy One.

**We should always, therefore, seek the welfare of others, since as Jesus said, “the measure you use will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).**





# Jerusalem: The Final Frontier

By Zalmi Unsorfer, [www.IsraelINN.com](http://www.IsraelINN.com)

The appeasement of the world's demands for the dismemberment of the Jewish state goes on against the backdrop of a growing existential threat from Iran. I venture to suggest that the future of Jerusalem is not just a Jewish or Israeli problem, but an issue that has major ramifications for the free nations of the West.

We are in the midst of a world war commonly referred to as the "War on Terror," one that will later be referred to by its real name: the Islamic War. A conflict between good and evil, between those who cherish life and those who embrace death; between those who seek to build on a century of democracy and technological progress, and those who wish to bomb us all back into the Middle Ages. **The front line of this essentially religious struggle is not in Iraq or Afghanistan, but in Jerusalem.**

Ever heard of the *Kotel HaMaaravi*—the Western Wall of the ancient Jewish Temple? In front of this Wall stands everything that is good. An impossibly tiny nation whose people count for one-tenth of one percent of the world's population, but hold the highest proportion of Nobel prizes in all fields of endeavor that have enriched the world and the welfare of mankind. The only nation in history to have returned to its homeland after 2,000 years and, to top it off, in half a century transformed a desert landscape into a world-beating powerhouse. This side of the Wall swears-in the recruits of the most humane army that has ever existed in the history of conflict; the only army that takes a human rights lawyer into battle against its enemies. Perhaps more important, this side of the Wall is home to citizens whose compassion and humanity are second to none in the world. A people who have not known a day free of terrorism in the 60 years since their state was formed and yet who are daily healing the ailments of their enemies.

On our Jewish side of the Wall stands a people who can claim to be the most charitable on Earth. Arising from government cuts to maintain the essentials of defense and the huge cost of absorbing over a million new immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia, citizens have turned kindness into an art form. There are more charitable and voluntary support organizations

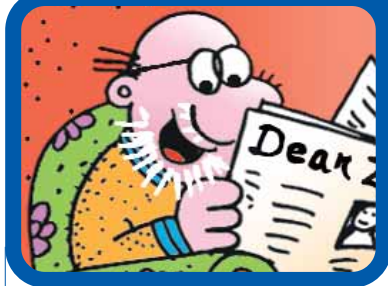
per capita in Israel than practically anywhere else in the world. From simple soup kitchens to terror victim support groups, these organizations have woven a tapestry of humanity and compassion that would be the envy of the world—if only the world's news media were fair in its coverage of Israel.

**Opposite that, an enemy stands on the other side of the Wall.** A culture of hatred and death that starts in kindergarten. A faith that has translated its holiest book into a screed of savagery. A cowardly army that launches rockets from schoolyards and hospitals. Mothers who celebrate the suicide deaths of their bomber sons and who send their daughters on postnatal appointments to bomb the Israeli midwives who delivered their last grandchild. Unrepentant terrorists who vow to return to their murdering ways even as their freedom is negotiated in exchange for a simple set of Israeli dog tags.

This may be the front line, but the demon seed has already pollinated in Europe and America. London and Madrid have had their own taste of 9/11, and there will surely be more to come. As for me, whenever I stand at the *Kotel*, I feel very strongly that this wall represents the thin line between these parallel universes of our time. When I stand at the *Kotel*, I also focus on all those *kvitlach*—the hundreds of scribbled notes pushed into the cracks of the wall. Each one seeks help from the Almighty in some way or another: to cure a sick child, to find a suitable marriage partner, or simply sufficient funds and food to keep the family going. But mostly, just a simple wish for "peace"—whatever that word means in the lexicon of this troubled region.

I don't know if there is a similar wall or "wish depository" in Islam's world. But if there were such a thing on the opposite side of the Wall, I imagine the majority of entreaties from the radicalized masses could be summarized by one central theme: **"Death to the Jews."** ★





# Letters to ZLM

## Why Still "Zola"?

Greetings to ZLM,

Why does the ministry still go by Zola Levitt Ministries? Why not simply Levitt Ministries or something else? God Bless.

K.

Dear K.—

A writer once asked Miss Manners why widows continue to use "Mrs." instead of "Miss" even though they're no longer married. Miss Manners replied that if society required the newly single women to give up their matrimonial titles, perhaps the widows also should be forbidden to wear their wedding rings. It is for more than sentimental reasons, however, that our ministry keeps its original name.

The name "Zola Levitt," as opposed to "Zola" or "Levitt," has become a well recognized brand name that stands for high-caliber Messianic teaching. Unlike Nissan, which used to be Datsun, we don't have the budget necessary to build from scratch brand recognition for a new name. Also, keeping the name "Zola Levitt" conveys the sentiment that we cherish our founder's vision for solid Bible teaching with an emphasis on Christianity's Jewish roots, the importance of Zionism, and the continuing relevance of Israel to God's eternal plan. —Mark

## If It Quacks Like A Nazi...

Jeff and Mark,

When I was a boy growing up in an affluent suburb, I tried gently but regularly to insult the Jews much and often because you are a "stiff-necked" people. I know you like to complain that you lost your parents to Hitler's Evil. Every time someone brings up WW II with a Jew, the "professional victim" in each of you comes through.

You like to point out that "6 million Jews" were killed by Hitler. *Every Jew I have ever known* becomes insulted when *I remind them* that close to fifteen million gentiles were killed, as well. What do you say to that? I can't wait to read your self-serving response.

Yours, D. M.



Workers clean the well preserved mosaic floor at Armageddon, recently excavated and possibly the oldest aboveground church.

Dear D. M.—

Hitler couldn't have done it alone. Knowing that he had lots of help, I attribute the millions upon millions of merciless deaths to the myriad of bigots who spoke just like you. Tragically, as you note, there likely were over fifteen million other unfortunates slaughtered in WWII. The issue with Jews was how non-combatant civilians were singled out for extermination on the basis of our being a jaded, stubborn, "stiff-necked," and self-serving race—you know, the way you represent us. As for our being "professional victims," here in Israel—where I am pleased to be right now—Jews place a premium on being professional soldiers. This enables us to better protect ourselves from individuals with warped perspectives, who sound like you. —Jeff



## How Many Arabs Are Really Jews?

Dear Dr. Seif,

I was raised Catholic, but when I became involved in a Bible study group that was discussing the Levites' priestly duties, I had a strange feeling. It was as if I had been there doing the actual work myself. I also felt that someone was telling me I was a Levite. I tried to dismiss it, but the feelings wouldn't go away. It bothered me so much, I contacted the Family Tree DNA testing group and had a 37-point DNA test done. The results were astounding. So far, I have 228 direct matches and most of them have listed themselves as either Ashkenazi Levites, or Ashkenazi. What an honor to be chosen by God, not only as a Christian, but also as a Jew. I wonder how many so-called Palestinians and Arabs would actually turn out to be Jews if they took a DNA test?

P.S.

Dear P.S.—

I have heard the question raised before, and learned that there's indeed an argument that a number of Arabs are themselves Jews. —Jeff

## Can't Be Jewish AND Christian

Zola Levitt Ministries,

Your website is completely and totally disgusting. You can't be Jewish and Christian at the same time. You can't have two sets of values that are totally opposite in many ways.

In Judaism, the focus is on doing good deeds now. Heaven, if it even exists at all, is meaningless. To Christians, what you do now means nothing. The only thing that is important is life in Heaven.

I won't go on and on. But please don't even THINK that you are Jewish. You disgust me.

R. H.

Thanks for writing, R. H.—

Twice you note how disgusting we are, how Heaven is "meaningless," and stereotypically and emphatically say that action means "nothing" to followers of Jesus. Given your premium on "good deeds," I wonder if it is "good" of you to spew such prejudice on others and to cast judgments—like saying Jesus' followers do not care about doing good—upon people you obviously don't understand. I am glad you wrote, though saddened by the misinformation in your response. Why don't you read the New Testament and see what Christians really believe?

—Jeffrey Seif





# Suffering Children of Islam

By Desy Nurhayati,  
[www.TheJakartaPost.com](http://www.TheJakartaPost.com)



The Indonesian government hopes to remove as many as 22,000 children from hard labor and provide assistance to 2,000 poor families by 2011, under the second phase of a program recently launched.

State Minister for Women's Empowerment Meutia Farida Hatta said millions of Indonesian children were forced to drop out of school to enter the workforce before they had completed even their basic education. These children are trapped in this situation because they have to help provide for their poor families, she added. "Government data reveal that currently about 11.7 million children have dropped out of elementary or secondary school," Meutia said.

It is estimated more than 1.5 million children aged between 10 and 17 years are employed in the agricultural sector.

According to International Labor Organization (ILO) data, about 166 million children between ages 5 and 14 years worldwide are currently involved in labor, 74.4 million of whom are doing hazardous work, such as in the chemical industry.

In Indonesia, about 700,000 children younger than 18 were working as domestic laborers in 2003. Most of them were girls from rural areas who were lured with promises of decent work with high wages but were not given details of where they would be taken or their working conditions.

"These children are prone to commercial and even sexual exploitation," Meutia said. ILO data show 21,552 children younger than 18 were involved in prostitution throughout Java in 2003.

To deal with the issue, the government has established a national action plan over 20 years. The program aims to reduce the number of child laborers by providing access to formal and informal education, counseling, and internships. It also provides assistance to the children's families through economic empowerment programs. ★



# Professor Invites Muslims To Leave U.S.

www.snopes.com

The story begins at Michigan State University with a mechanical engineering professor named Indrek Wichman who sent an e-mail to the Muslim Student's Association in response to the students' protest of the Danish cartoons that portrayed the Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist. The group had complained the cartoons were "hate speech."

Enter Professor Wichman. In his e-mail, he said the following:

Dear Moslem Association,

As a professor of Mechanical Engineering here at MSU, I intend to protest your protest.

I am offended not by cartoons, but by more mundane things like beheadings of civilians, cowardly attacks on public buildings, suicide murders, murders of Catholic priests (the latest in Turkey), burnings of Christian churches, the continued persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt, the imposition of sharia law on non-Muslims, the rapes of Scandinavian girls and women (called "whores" in your culture), the murder of film directors in Holland, and the rioting and looting in Paris, France.

This is what offends me—a soft-spoken person and academic—and many, many of my colleagues.

I counsel you dissatisfied, aggressive, brutal, and uncivilized slave-trading Moslems to be very aware of this as you proceed with your infantile "protests." If you do not like the values of the West—see the 1st Amendment—you are free to leave.

I hope for God's sake that most of you choose that option. Please return to your ancestral homelands and build them up yourselves instead of troubling Americans.

Cordially,

I. S. Wichman, Professor of Mechanical Engineering

As you can imagine, the Muslim group at the university didn't like this too well. They're demanding that Wichman be reprimanded and that the university impose mandatory diversity training for faculty and mandate a seminar on hate and discrimination for all freshmen.

Now the local chapter of CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) has jumped into the fray. CAIR apparently doesn't believe that the good professor had the right to express his opinion.

For its part, the university is standing its ground in support of Professor Wichman, saying the email was private and they don't intend to publicly condemn his remarks. ★



## Jewish Pilgrims In Morocco

By Alfred de Montesquiou, Associated Press

It's an uncommon sight for an Arab country: hundreds of joyous Jewish pilgrims gathering without fear around a rabbi's tomb, greeted by local Muslim officials who share a prayer with them at a synagogue.

Yet most of the 400 Jews who converged on the Moroccan coastal town of Safi —some from nearby cities, others from as far as France or Israel— at a weekend pilgrimage said they felt welcome.

While religious tensions flare in Jerusalem and beyond, in Morocco, Jews and Muslims say they nurture a legacy of tolerance and maintain common sanctuaries where adherents of both religions pray. Decades of emigration to Israel by Morocco's Jews and terrorist bombings in Casablanca that targeted Jewish sites haven't diminished the draw of these annual pilgrimages.

During the festival, visitors prayed and feasted around the shrine of Abraham Ben Zmirro, a rabbi reputed to have fled persecution in Spain in the 15th century and then lived in Safi, where he is buried with six siblings.

A half-Jewish, half-Muslim band played local tunes during a banquet, including a song in French, Arabic and Hebrew with the line: "There is only one God, you worship Him sitting down and I while standing up."

Regional governor Larbi Hassan Sebbari said, "We're very proud of it: it gives a lesson to other countries of what we do together without any taboo." ★

*Two Jewish pilgrims pray in the shrine of a 15th century rabbi in Safi, Morocco during a large pilgrimage. Most of the 400 worshippers attending the pilgrimage, or Hilloula, were Jews of Moroccan descent who keep strong ties to the country. (AP Photo/Alfred de Montesquiou)*

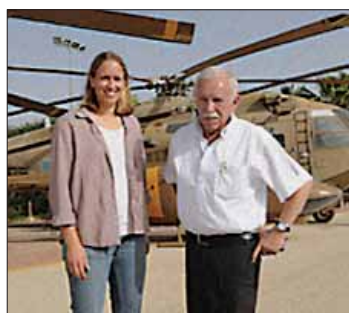


## Israeli Drug First To Slow Parkinson's

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, www.JPost.com

The Israel Parkinson Association welcomed with "excitement and joy" the results of a study showing Parkinson's drug Azilect (rasagiline), developed by Profs. Moussa Youdim and John Finberg of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, to be effective at slowing the progression of the chronic and fatal neurological disease, a first for any drug.

In the randomized, double-blind ADAGIO study, the drug was found to be effective, safe, and well tolerated. Based on these results, the drug could become the first Parkinson's disease treatment in the world to receive a label for "disease modification." Azilect received the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale in the spring of 2006. ★



*Medical School for International Health (MSIH), a collaborative program of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Columbia University Medical Center (NY), is the only medical school in the world designed to train a new type of international/multicultural physician. Medical student and former U.S. Marine chopper pilot Rachel Barney with Yaakov Terner, mayor of Beersheva.*



## My Fellow Arabs (intentionally left uncorrected)

By Sami Alrabaa, [www.AmIslam.com](http://www.AmIslam.com)

Arab regime leaders and their affiliates swim in wealth (luxury private palaces and private jets, i.e. flying palaces), ignore the poor, repress the population, blame local backwardness on the West, and support fundamentalist Muslims.

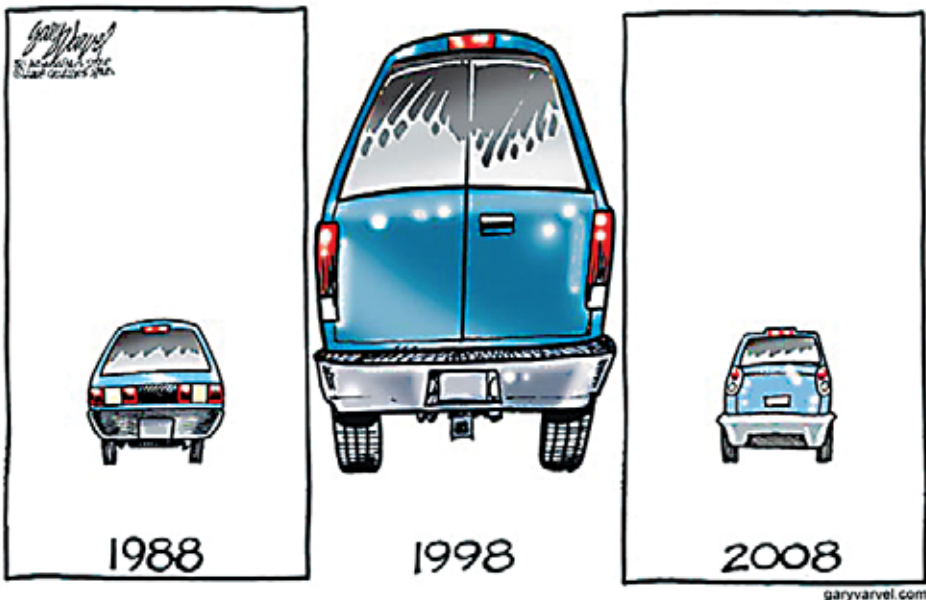
Arab regimes have always been despotic and totalitarian. They have never believed in egalitarianism, economic opportunity, religious tolerance, and self-criticism. They have used medieval forces of governance: tribalism, especially in the Arabian Peninsula, authoritarian traditionalism, and most recently Islamic fundamentalism. Arab schools and universities turn out more graduates in Islamic studies, falsified history, and void nationalism than in science, engineering, and medicine. Critical studies and scientific research have screeched to a halt. The majority of Arab professors translate works and research done in the West and claim they are their own. Empirical work is almost non-existent. Students graduate without having the slightest clue about what is really going on in the Western world. The only things the majority of them know about the West is that it produces good car, but it is decadent; people drink much alcohol and women sleep with everybody.

Billions of barrels of oil, fertile land along the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates valleys, which in the past helped creating great civilizations, yield an excess of misery rather than riches like in South Korea or Hong Kong, for instance. Billions of dollars are squandered on armament and a lavish lifestyle enjoyed by corrupt despotic rulers of the Arab world and their affiliates. Totalitarian oil rich Arab grandees from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Emirates, and Qatar, who plunder their countries' resources, invest their billions of dollars in the West. Countries like Egypt and Jordan, which receive billions of dollars as aid from the America and Europe, spend the money on strengthening their regimes.

Tragically, prospects of improvement are dismal. Arab government spokesmen and the predominantly state-owned media entertain the illiterate and semi-literate population with anti-Western and anti-Israel propaganda. ★

Read the full article at [www.levitt.com/news](http://www.levitt.com/news).

### Economic Indicators



## How Evangelical is the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews?

By David Brickner,  
Director of Jews for Jesus



Brickner

### Introductory Comments by Mark Levitt

Jews for Jesus is a sister ministry of ours with which we have had a long relationship. People often confuse us, but our callings are slightly different.

Jews for Jesus approaches Jewish people directly with the Gospel, often in street witnessing campaigns. ZLM mainly trains gentile Christians to witness to the Jews. It's not unlike the distinction between the ministry of Peter, called to witness to the Jews in Israel, and Paul, called to witness to the gentiles in the Roman Empire. Naturally, we witness to Jews, and Jews for Jesus witnesses to gentiles on occasion, as did Peter and Paul.

The wisdom of Moishe Rosen, now retired as leader of Jews for Jesus, has always been precious to the Messianic community and churches. On more than one occasion, Moishe has answered readers' questions about "On Wings of Eagles," a ministry purporting to be a "fellowship of Christians and Jews." You can read his comments in "Feeding the Hungry" on page 11 of our July 2006 *Levitt Letter*, which is archived at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

David Brickner has succeeded Moishe as Director of Jews for Jesus. Below he offers a startling revelation about the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which also goes by the name On Wings of Eagles.

If you are looking for a no-nonsense ministry in Israel that assists needy immigrants while witnessing to them, as opposed to American middlemen who rake administrative expenses off the top, Zola always wholeheartedly recommended:

**Bridges for Peace**  
PO Box 410037  
Melbourne, FL 32941-0037  
(800) 566-1998  
[postmaster@bfpusa.org](mailto:postmaster@bfpusa.org)  
[www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com)  
[www.bjpusa.org](http://www.bjpusa.org)

If you want to send them a gift, you can send it to us and we will forward it to them, making sure they receive 100% of it. Or you can write to them directly. You may recall that Zola interviewed their previous CEO, Clarence Wagner, at least twice on our TV program. (Archived at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv))

A recent Jewish Telegraphic Agency article announced that Evangelical Christians had been given "a powerful seat at the table" of the Jewish Agency for Israel. For those unfamiliar, the Jewish Agency is a worldwide coalition of Jewish organizations that oversees the immigration and absorption of Jews into Israeli society. The news that Evangelicals had been given such a role in the Jewish Agency shocked many Jews who feared giving that kind of influence to Christians who might want to "proselytize Jews."

Such fears were unfounded, however. In fact, there never was a seat at the table of the Jewish Agency for Evangelical Christians. Rather, it was Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, who had promised the Jewish Agency \$45,000,000 over three years in order to secure himself a seat on their executive board.

How was there such confusion about Evangelicals, considering that Rabbi Eckstein is an Orthodox Jew and not a Christian by any stretch? It happened because the \$45,000,000 the rabbi offered for his board seat was to come from the donations of Evangelical Christians in America. And when the promised board seat for the rabbi failed to materialize, another headline soon announced, "Evangelical Group Cuts Off Donations to Jewish Agency." The rabbi giveth, and the rabbi taketh away.

These recent events illustrate a curious situation that has developed within Evangelical circles here in America, discussed in numerous Jews for Jesus publications. Simply put, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is a sophisticated fundraising operation that implies that it is Evangelical, but is not. It's not even Christian, for that matter.

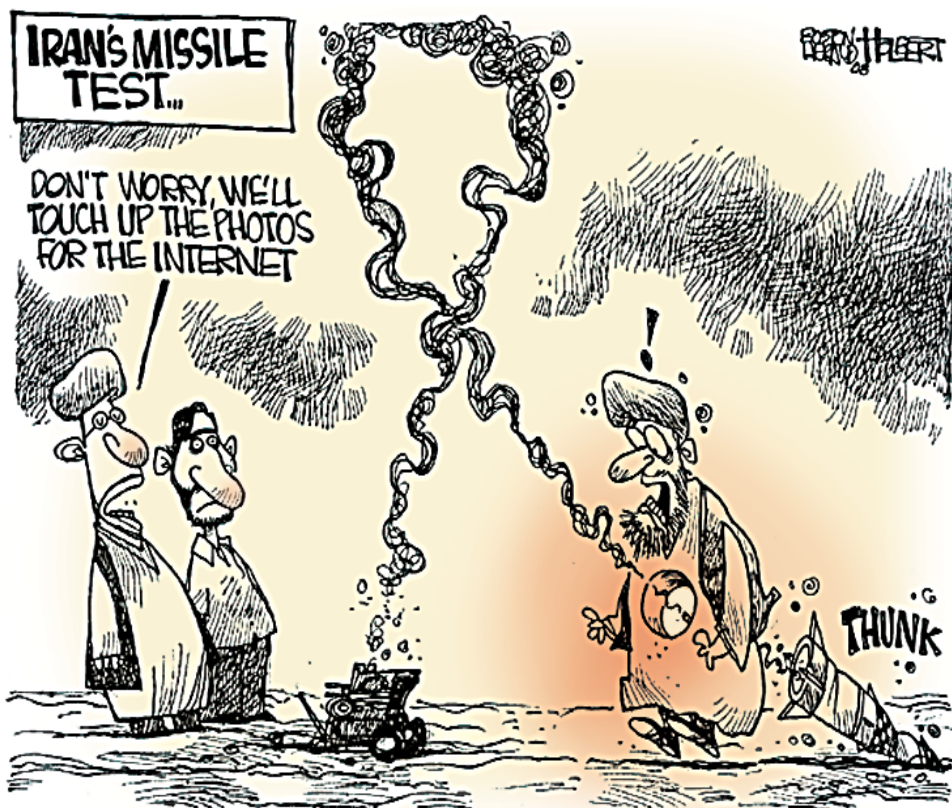
Through the use of contrived commercials and appeal letters, Rabbi Eckstein has duped Evangelicals into contributing over a quarter of a billion dollars to his organization. He then gives that money to various secular and religious Jewish groups, such as the Jewish Agency, the Jewish Federation of Chicago, and Chabad Lubavitch. Eckstein is essentially a middleman, raising vast sums of money from Evangelicals to be used at his own discretion for decidedly non-Evangelical purposes.

How has this come about?

Rabbi Eckstein has studied and

learned all about Evangelical support for Israel and has tapped into that sentiment under the guise of building bridges between Christians and Jews. Everywhere I go I meet people in churches who give generously to Rabbi Eckstein, but who are surprised to learn that he is not a "Messianic rabbi." On the contrary, he doesn't believe in Jesus and works against the Gospel going to Jewish people.

Said Eckstein: "The Jewish community and Evangelicals are to cooperate whenever possible, but if they [Evangelicals] are involved in targeted missions toward Jews, like Jews for Jesus, we won't work with them." Eckstein encourages Christians to give money for his cause, but he does not want them telling Jewish people that they need Jesus—and he expects Christians who work with him to choose one way or the other. I imagine that if most of the Christians who contribute to Rabbi Eckstein's group knew these facts, they wouldn't be as generous. That is perhaps why you will never hear this from Rabbi Eckstein. ★





## FoxNews-**Hair Salon Sued by Scarf-wearing Muslim**

A hair salon owner in London claims her business was driven to the brink of ruin after she was ordered to pay \$7,800 to a Muslim woman who claimed her feelings were hurt after she was not hired because she wouldn't show her hair at work.

Wedge Salon owner Sarah Desrosiers requires employees to showcase different looks for clients, as her shop specializes in alternative cuts and colors. Bushra Noah, 19, who made it clear during her interview that she would not remove her headscarf for religious reasons, accused Desrosiers of discrimination.

"She is simply someone I met for a job interview, who, for a host of reasons, was not right for the job. I cannot see how she deserves £4,000," Desrosiers said. "I have not done anything wrong, and this is a terrible price to pay for a meeting that lasted 10 minutes."

Noah admitted she had attended 25 interviews and not been chosen for any of them before she met Desrosiers. The extremist Muslim group Hizb ut-Tahrir later admitted it had "advised her."

### 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
DirectTV-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
DirectTV-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
DirectTV-Channel 369		Dish-Channel 263		

### TCT on DirecTV

TCT is Channel 377 on DirecTV:  
Visit [www.tct.tv](http://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](http://www.levitt.com).



## Saudi Minister: The Bible Has Been Distorted

*Israel Today*

In an interview on Saudi Arabia's Iqra TV, the country's Information Minister Mohammad Abduh Al-Yamani spoke about the truth of Islam and the distortions of Judaism and Christianity:

**Al-Yamani:** The [Judeo-Christian] religion is monotheistic. They did not create it. This religion was sent down to Jesus and Moses.

**Interviewer:** But Islam got rid of it because it is the supreme religion?

**Al-Yamani:** It was not Islam that got rid of it. It was caused by the contamination that occurred in this religion.

They changed, altered, and distorted their holy books, and Islam came to rectify this. Islam has not changed a thing in the teachings of Moses.

**Interviewer:** So one of the basic principles of dialogue is to accept that they [Jews and Christians] have a religion?

**Al-Yamani:** Yes, and we respect this religion, but we say to them: 'You have changed it, and you must know that the books you have are not the divine gospel and the divine Torah. You have changed them. You yourselves admit that your books were written by priests and others who altered them. We want to bring you back to the original religion.'



By Sara Yoheved Rigler, [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com)

Jews in Israel live in the midst of their *mishpacha*—their family. We are an unruly, bickering, sometimes dysfunctional family, but we are one family nonetheless. That family in action shines in this true story:

Lia Rostenne was shopping in the Machane Yehudah farmers' market. She bought a couple dozen eggs, but when she went to pay the vendor, she realized she had run out of money. "Don't worry," the vendor told Lia, who was a complete stranger. "Next time you come, you'll pay me."

Once Lia brought a check to a moneychanger, but in writing it, she made a mistake that rendered the check invalid. The moneychanger gave her the cash she needed — thousands of shekels — and told her to bring a good check the next day. All he took as "collateral" was her phone number.

Similar incidents have happened to me, when vendors who did not know me said to take the merchandise and pay them later. Every Israeli no doubt has many such stories.





Brockmann (above)

## UN Sinks to New Depths

By Nile Gardiner and Ray Walser,  
[www.HumanEvents.com](http://www.HumanEvents.com)

The unopposed election of Nicaraguan Reverend Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann as the next President of the 192-member United Nations General Assembly will further undermine the standing of the UN in the eyes of the American public. D'Escoto served as foreign minister of Nicaragua during the Sandinista dictatorship of Daniel Ortega in the 1980s and is known for his extreme, stridently anti-American views.

In a June 2004 radio interview with Democracy Now, the Los Angeles-born Roman Catholic priest declared that the United States was “the greatest enemy of the right of self-determination of peoples” and Americans “the most ignorant people around the world.”

D'Escoto was the pick of the 33-nation Latin American and Caribbean group within the UN. Under the system of regional rotation the bloc was able to put forward its own candidate for the presidency of the General Assembly (which controls the UN budget) without challenge from the rest of the world. He will take office at the next Assembly meeting in September, succeeding the low-key former foreign minister of Macedonia, Srgjan Kerim.

There is every chance that D'Escoto will abuse his status by turning the presidency into a platform for his anti-U.S. vitriol. The position will provide a high profile bully pulpit for launching ferocious attacks on U.S. foreign policy, and the traditional neutrality of the presidency is likely to be shattered by the presence of an ideological zealot with a deep hatred for America.

## Arab Media Blind To Darfur

By Salah Khadr, [english.aljazeera.net](http://english.aljazeera.net)

Sudan's population is 40 percent Arab, and Arabs are at the heart of the Darfur conflict; but for many in the Arab world, the humanitarian catastrophe may as well not exist.

The reason being the Arab media have largely ignored it.

Lawrence Pintak, a journalist and Arab media expert, says the problem with Darfur when it comes to the Arab media is that it does not fit the template of Arabs being the victims and other people the aggressors. “Arabs here are good guys *and* bad guys,” he says.

“I think we are in a state of denial,” Jihad Khazen, a former editor of the *al-Hayat* newspaper, says. “A Zogby poll around March or April in 2007 showed there is a real eagerness in Arab public opinion to read more and learn more about what is happening in Darfur. But this is not reflected in the Arab media.”

“There is always going to be some sort of reluctance to demonize their own,” Opheera McDoom, Reuters's correspondent in Darfur, says.



The conflict in Darfur is a news story that has been widely and emotively covered by western media but has attracted relatively little coverage within the Arab media.



## Russia Threatens Military Response To U.S. Missile Defense Deal

By David Charter, [www.TimesOnline.co.uk](http://www.TimesOnline.co.uk)

Russia threatened to retaliate by military means after a deal with the Czech Republic brought the U.S. missile defense system in Europe a step closer.

The threat followed quickly from the announcement that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed a formal agreement with the Czech Republic to host the radar for the controversial project.

Moscow argues that the missile shield would severely undermine the balance of European security and regards the proposed missile shield based in two former Communist countries as a hostile move.

“We will be forced to react not with diplomatic, but with military-technical methods,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry did not detail what its response might entail.

Dr. Rice, the US Secretary of State, hailed the agreement as a step forward for international security. The signing ceremony seemed to bury that idea. Addressing Russian anxiety about the

anti-missile system in what used to be its backyard, Rice added: “We want the system to be transparent to the Russians.”

Mirek Topolanek, the Czech prime minister, said that the deal was an example of “our joint desire to protect the free world” and that his country could not afford to miss out as it had after the Second World War.

## Presbyterian Membership Loss Worst In Decades

*The Courier-Journal*—Louisville, Kentucky

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) released statistics showing the worst membership loss in decades for the Louisville-based denomination, both in numerical and percentage terms.

The denomination lost 57,572 members in 2007 and now has 2,209,546 members, a drop of 2.5 percent from 2006. It's the worst membership loss in terms of numbers since 1981—before the southern and northern branches of the church merged and moved their headquarters to Louisville later in the decade.

And it's the worst percentage loss since 1974.



## Iran: Christian Converts Detained For 'Apostasy'

[www.CompassDirect.org](http://www.CompassDirect.org)

Iranian authorities have detained two converts to Christianity, Mahmoud Matin and Arash Bandari, in the southern city of Shiraz for eight weeks on suspicion of apostasy (leaving Islam). In Iran, apostasy is a crime that can be punishable by death.

During a visit on June 24, Matin's wife was able to speak with him for five minutes as officials listened in, a source told Compass. Seated in a dimly lit room behind a glass window, the prisoner told his wife that there had been a misunderstanding and that he could not teach Christianity any more.

"They are pushing me to tell them that I am connected to a church outside [Iran] and that I am receiving a salary, but I told them that I am doing it on my own," he told his wife, according to a source who requested anonymity for security reasons. Despite Matin's claims that he was being well treated, his wife told the source she believed otherwise. "He was just trying to make me calm; that's what I could see because he's my husband and I know his face," Matin's wife said, according to the source. The source said that Matin was not even aware where he was being held until his wife told him during the visit.

The June 24 meeting was the first and only face-to-face contact Matin's family has had with him since his arrest in May.

Matin and Bandari were detained with 13 other Muslim converts to Christianity while meeting together in a park in Shiraz. Police confiscated the group's cell phones and "temporarily" released everyone except Matin and Bandari over the subsequent days.

According to the source, the 13 have been told they have an ongoing court

case against them. They remain under house arrest and have been called in for questioning about alleged political activity and Christian faith.

Officials have not informed the 13 released Christians of the specific charges against them. But the nature of their questioning has led them to believe that they are suspected of apostasy and political crimes against the government.

Matin telephoned his wife several weeks after his arrest to tell her that he had been charged with apostasy and to request that she acquire a lawyer to take his case. But on June 22, she received a call from an official telling her that Matin did not need legal representation and inviting her to visit her husband in Shiraz.

"The caller did not say who they were, just that they were from the secret police and that the family could visit Matin on June 24 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.," the source said. He said that Matin's wife traveled 17 hours by bus from her home in Tehran to visit her jailed husband.

Matin has had no further contact with his wife and three children (ages 22, 18, and 12) since the June 24 jail visit.

**As Believers, we need to exercise our belief in our Lord. The American Church is weak and flabby because it does not get any exercise. We are afraid to witness, or even declare we believe in God, to hostile listeners. It is time to stand up and be counted. —Sandra**



# Death for 'Apostates' Debated in Iranian Parliament

[www.CompassDirect.org](http://www.CompassDirect.org)

A penal code that would mandate the death penalty for any Muslim who converts to Christianity is up for consideration in Iran. Under sharia (Islamic) law, apostasy is one of several "crimes" that can be punishable by death, although Islamic court judges are not required to hand down such a sentence.

The draft of the penal code under consideration explicitly sets death as a fixed punishment that cannot be changed, reduced or annulled.

Many believe that the government intends to use the proposed penal code to clamp down on the surge in conversions in Iran over the last few years. Commentators have called the surge a "mass exodus" from Islam, which in its Iranian Shiite version imposes harsh limitations on lifestyle and personal freedoms.

On July 2, Iran's Members of Parliament voted to discuss as a priority the draft bill that seeks to "toughen punishment for harming mental security in society," Agence

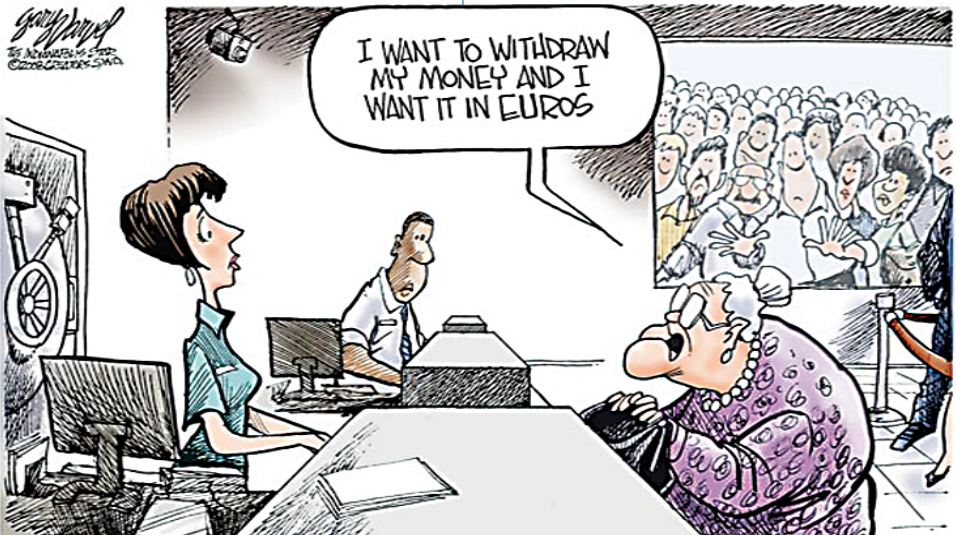
France-Press (AFP) has reported. The news agency noted that the draft bill also includes the death penalty for "establishing weblogs and sites promoting apostasy."

Over the last few years, the Internet and media such as television have been conduits of information on Christianity and are feared as sources of "corruption" of the Iranian people. The Internet is widely used in Iran despite restricted access for thousands of websites with "immoral" content or content—including Christian ones—deemed as insulting religion and promoting political dissent.

In a statement earlier this year, the European Union (EU) criticized the penal code draft and particularly Section Five on the death penalty for apostasy. The EU said this section and other parts of the code violated Tehran's commitments under international human rights conventions.

Christians in particular have suffered persecution in Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979. Christian converts are regularly arrested and imprisoned without due process, tortured and placed under surveillance. Muslims who have embraced Christianity have no right to practice their newfound faith, and the printing of the Bible in Farsi, the national language, has been banned. ★

*Gary Varvel*  
The Adventures of the  
CompassDirect.org



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## Jewish Heritage Calendar – Begins in September!

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