

Levitt Letter

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



Gaza: Another battle in biblical civilization's ongoing war with religious radicals. —Jeff

Militant Islam Threatens Us All

By Benjamin Netanyahu
The Wall Street Journal
www.online.wsj.com



Since 2005, more than 6,000 rockets have rained down on Israeli cities from Gaza.



Commenting on the latest Israeli action in Gaza, Mr. Netanyahu writes: There is no moral equivalence between Israel, a democracy which seeks peace and targets the terrorists, and Hamas, an Iranian-backed terror organization that seeks Israel's destruction and targets the innocent.

In launching precision strikes against Hamas rocket launchers, headquarters, weapons depots, smuggling tunnels, and training camps, Israel is trying to minimize civilian casualties. But Hamas deliberately attacks Israeli civilians and deliberately hides behind Palestinian civilians—a double war crime. Responsible governments do their utmost to minimize civilian casualties, but they do not grant immunity to terrorists who use civilians as human shields

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Polish Girl Treats Rocket Casualties

www.YNetNews.com

She is only 21 years old and landed in Israel just recently, but Jewish Pole

Dominika Borowska, who has been **thrown into the war zone as a volunteer** for the Magen David Adom (Red Cross) emergency services in Ashkelon, couldn't be happier.



Dominika Borowska

"I have really fallen in love with this country and the warmth of the people around me," Borowska said. She is in Israel as part of a joint program of MDA and the Jewish Agency, which brings Jewish youth to volunteer in the country.

Upon her arrival, Borowska was stationed at the MDA unit in Ashkelon, but when the fighting

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The international community may occasionally condemn Hamas for putting Palestinian civilians in harm's way, but if it ultimately holds Israel responsible for the casualties that ensue, then Hamas and other terror organizations will employ this abominable tactic again and again.

The charge that Israel is using disproportionate force is equally baseless. Does proportionality demand that Israel fire 6,000 rockets indiscriminately back at Gaza? Does it demand an equal number of casualties on both sides? Using that logic, one would conclude that the United States employed disproportionate force against the Germans because 20 times as many Germans as Americans died in World War II.

In that same war, Britain responded to the firing of thousands of rockets on its population with the wholesale bombing of German cities. Israel's measured response to rocket fire on its cities has come in the form of surgical strikes. Carpet-bombing of Palestinian cities is not an option that any Israeli leader will entertain.

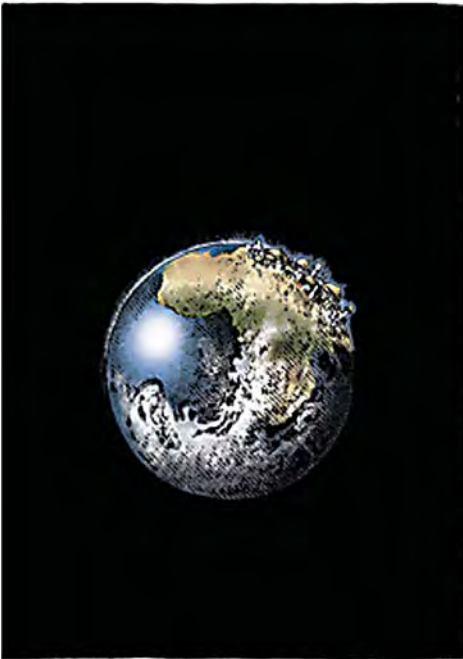
We stand united against Hamas because we know that only by defeating Hamas can we provide security for our people and hope for a future peace. We fight to defend ourselves, but in so doing we are also fighting a fanatical ideology that seeks to reverse the course of history and throw the civilized world back into a new Dark Age. The struggle between militant Islam and modernity—whether fought in Afghanistan, Iraq, India, or Gaza—will decide our common future. It is a battle we cannot afford to lose. ★

Polish Girl Treats Rocket Casualties *continued*

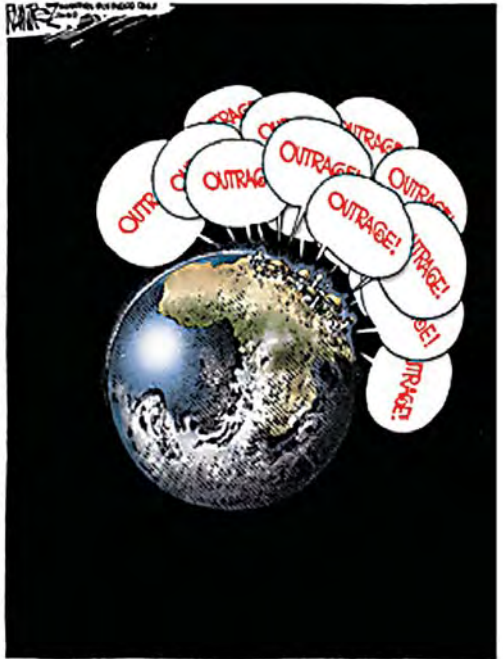
in the south broke out she was given the possibility of moving to another unit far from the rockets, but chose to stay.

"Yesterday we were alerted to the landing site of one of the rockets where a young man had been killed," she said. "Our team treated a man who was injured by shrapnel.

"It felt amazing to be part of an MDA mission and save someone's life," she added. ★



THE WORLD REACTS TO HAMAS FIRING ROCKETS INTO ISRAEL.



THE WORLD REACTS TO THE ISRAELI GAZA OPERATION.

The Hudna Ends

By Patrick Cox
Contributing Editor



Patrick Cox

There are two explanations for the Hamas decision to repudiate the truce with Israel and escalate rocket attacks. One is that Palestinian grievances against Israel are so serious that nothing but additional concessions by Israel will end the cycle of violence. This is a view held largely in Western nations.

The other explanation, understood clearly in the Middle East, is best voiced by Nizar Rayyan. He was the highest-ranking Hamas leader in Gaza until he was killed by an Israeli bomb. For Rayyan, the truce was a *hudna*, a temporary ceasefire agreed to for strategic reasons alone. "The only reason to have a *hudna*," he told an American journalist two years ago, "is to prepare yourself for the final battle." The Jewish nation, he said, "is an offense against Allah." The reason, he said, is that Jews have "closed their ears to the messenger of Allah," Mohammed.

So, English-speaking apologists for Hamas tell us that the reason rockets are fired at Israelis is that Palestinians are not allowed to move freely in and out of Israel. **They do not mention the Hamas declaration of war on Israel.*** Nor do they mention that Gaza shares a border with Muslim Egypt, which also refuses to open its borders to the Palestinians.

In truth, there is just one concession that would satisfy the leaders of Hamas—submission to Islam. For evidence that Hamas's conflict with Israel is religious rather than political, see the Hamas *fatwa* ordering Muslims to kill Jews wherever they are in the world.

Nothing better illustrates the difference between the Israeli and Palestinian mentalities than Rayyan's death. For years, he ordered attacks on Israeli civilians. Over 6,000 rockets were shot into Israel since the end of the Gazan occupation in 2005.

Israeli forces phoned the terrorist leader, though, warning him that his house would be destroyed. They did so because family members were with him. Nevertheless, he chose to stay in the house with two of his four wives and their children.

This is the difference between the two sides: Israelis try to protect civilians. Palestinians target Israeli civilians and willingly sacrifice their own—even families. In 2001, Rayyan sent his own son on a suicide mission. For his murderous acts, he is celebrated by the enemies of Israel and Jewry. Rayyan's "martyrdom" has become the flashpoint for fanatical and oftentimes violent protests all over the world, including America.



Rayyan celebrated

Israel does everything possible to see that civilians do not suffer from the murderous efforts of Hamas. There was, in fact, no reason for the IDF to go into Gaza on the ground when massive bombing would have accomplished more without risking Israeli lives. I'm sorry to say it, but efforts to eliminate terrorism without hurting the people of Gaza cannot succeed.

A change of government in Gaza will not end Palestinian terrorism. Even if rival party Fatah manages to take permanent control, its history and ideology differ little from that of Hamas. Only a victory so complete that it sours the population on war with Israel will end Palestinian terrorism; and victory can only be accomplished if Israel punishes Gaza as much as Allied forces did Japan and Germany during WWII. Israelis, however, do not seem willing to inflict those kinds of losses, so the conflict will continue.

***Editor's note: Neither do they mention that Israel waited for the expiration date of the most recent ceasefire agreement before beginning its incursion.** ★

Supernatural Hatred of Israel

By Hal Lindsey
www.WorldNetDaily.com



Lindsey

In 2005, when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza and turned its administration over to the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli agricultural, commercial, and residential assets—which were considerable—were left for the Palestinians, who promptly trashed and destroyed these valuable assets that would have greatly helped them feed their own people. They were given the freedom to develop what easily could have been a “Hong Kong” of the Mediterranean. Many nations poured billions of dollars into the coffers of the Palestinian leadership to help them realize that dream.

Instead, the Palestinians used the money to build a terrorist army, and began to launch daily attacks on Israel’s cities. They didn’t even pretend to build an economic infrastructure that would enable their citizens to support themselves. That’s why the partial Israeli closure of the crossing points made life so difficult for the average Gazan. Most of them can find work only in Israel. There is none in Gaza. Why? Because all of the economic development money was poured into terrorism. Despite this glaring fraud, the world insists on rewarding the Palestinians for their open deception.

“Enlightened and responsible nations” have determined when and in what manner Israel is allowed to defend itself. First, the provocation must be many times more serious than would be necessary for other nations. Simple acts of war, such as hostage-taking or continuous rocket attacks against civilian population centers, are not sufficient provocation to permit defensive measures.

Since 2005, more than 6,000 rockets have rained down on Israeli cities from

Gaza. In a display of remarkable restraint, and only after three years, did Israel finally feel sufficiently justified to launch a defensive response.

Now anti-Israel propaganda begins almost immediately with the usual suspects—led by the Arabs, the Russians, the Muslims—all demanding an immediate Israeli withdrawal from its “invasion” of Gaza. Right on cue, members of the United Nations begin their usual chorus—charging that Israel’s response is “not proportionate.”

The UN’s definition of “proportionality” means that Israeli losses must at least equal Palestinian losses. If Israel follows this formula, it guarantees that Israel will eventually lose by attrition. Imagine the outcome of World War II if the same soldier for soldier formula had been forced on the allied armies fighting against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

In Gaza, Hamas terrorists hide in classrooms and hospital basements. They store weapons in mosques and place women and children on the rooftops of buildings they know will be targets of the Israeli Air Force. Then, when these human shields are killed or wounded by Israeli fire, their bodies are paraded by the ever-accommodating media as “innocent victims of Israeli aggression.” And the orchestrated calls for “proportionality” grow louder.

This double standard makes absolutely no sense in the natural.

Only the Bible can explain the mystery behind the supernatural hatred of the Jews. Bible prophecy predicted that Israel would be miraculously reborn in “the last days” and that a supernatural hatred against Jews would grow worldwide. This will be soon followed by Armageddon and the return of Jesus the Messiah.

All of this is being fulfilled to the letter before our eyes. So don’t be surprised or afraid. Christ’s return to deliver those who have believed in Him is coming very soon. ★



An Unholy Alliance

By Zola Levitt

In his book *Planet Earth: 2000 A.D.*—a look 25 years later at his *The Late Great Planet Earth*—Hal Lindsey saw that the End Times were developing just as he had predicted. He followed Scripture and it is all coming about. That would explain the postures that everyone is taking—Christian, Jew, and Arab. When I first began examining prophecy, I had no idea that the Arabs would play such a prominent role, that a common Arab terrorist such as Arafat would one day be perceived as a figure of world importance.

It is all part of the coming of the End Times, and the world church of the Tribulation could well develop from a pact between the sacramental religions of the world, especially Muslims and Catholics. Author Dave Hunt believes that the Roman Catholic Church will play a prominent role in the Tribulation, and he is not alone in that belief.

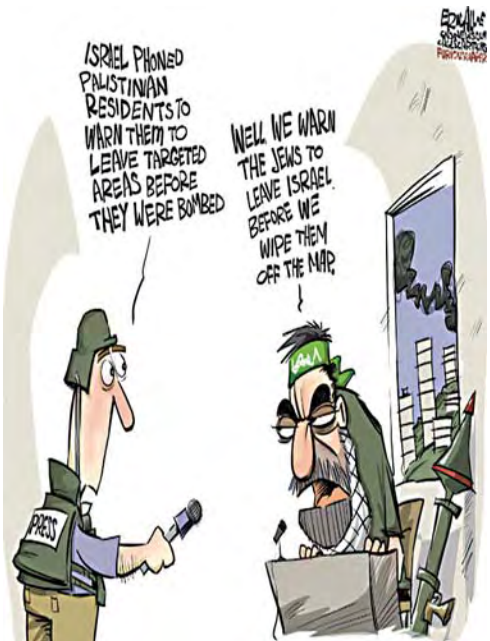
An uncomfortable alliance is forming of Catholics and fundamentalist Muslims, which could be equal to upwards of 2 billion people (almost half the world). It began over reproduction ethics at the 1994 Cairo Conference. They found themselves holding the line together about contraception, abortion, etc., and now are in some sort of agreement. Although the Pope grudgingly acknowledges that Jews need a place to live, he still does not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and he wants Jerusalem to be divided, calling it the capital of three great religions. You can contrast this view with that of [former] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who points out that the capital of Muslims is in Mecca, that of Christians is in Rome, and therefore Jerusalem is solely the Jewish capital.

Actually, it is the seat of the Catholic Church that is in Rome. The true Christian capital will be the New Jerusalem, which we, the Jews and gentiles of the Church, will occupy. I

haven't written the above as an exercise in bashing Catholics. There are devout Christians within this church, but throughout history the Roman Catholic Church has shown a distressing tendency to adapt itself to whichever cultural and religious adherents it has tried to proselytize. In this way, error has entered into its doctrines and practices. This trait of assimilation could be disastrous if it tries to draw the other world religions within its folds and make peace by diluting the Gospel to the point where Christ is indistinguishable from Mohammed, Buddha, or any other great "prophet."

Satan is the father of lies, and in the End Times there will be great deception. Israel will play a key role in the unfolding of final biblical prophecy, and so Satan is bound to do all he can to pull the wool over people's eyes concerning the truth of its place in God's plan. The world will continue to pressure Israel with one "peace" plan or another, but lasting peace is available only through our risen Savior; and He is the One to whom one day "every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!" ★

[See related story on page 21.](#)



Roots of the Gaza Conflict

By Nonie Darwish (an American of Arab/Muslim origin) www.FrontPageMag.com

With the explosive current events in Gaza, the world needs to understand the roots of this eternal conflict; otherwise, we are all kidding ourselves with hopes of peace.

For decades, Arabs had demanded that Israel end the “occupation” of Gaza, and in 2005, Israel did so, disengaging unilaterally from Gaza. With their demands met, Arabs had no “cycle of violence” to respond to, no further justification for anything other than peace and prosperity. With Gaza’s central location and beautiful beaches on the East Mediterranean, a peaceful and prosperous Gaza could have become another Hong Kong—a shining trade and commerce center. But instead of choosing peace, the Palestinians chose Islamic jihad. They rolled their rocket launchers to the border and started bombing Israeli civilians.

Understanding the reasons why the Palestinians chose violence over peace requires connecting the dots from the behavior of Muslim states back to the laws of Islam—sharia. Mainstream sharia books define jihad as “to war against non-Muslims to establish the religion.” (Shafi’i Sharia o9.0). Jihad is not just the duty of the individual Muslim, but it is also the main duty of the Muslim head of state.

“The Hour [Resurrection] will not take place until the Muslims fight the Jews, and kill them. And the Jews will hide behind the rock and tree, and the rock and tree will say: oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, this is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!” (Sahih Muslim 41:6985, also Sahih Bukhari 4:52:177)

This Hadith, issued by Mohammed, makes a whole group of people illegal to exist. It was issued in the 7th century, not after the 1948 creation of the State

of Israel. It is not a response to modern-day grievances; it is a permanent commandment.

Many Muslims claim that Arabs and Jews lived well together for many years before 1948. But that claim ignores the fact that Jews had to live as *dhimmi* under Islamic law and were never allowed to rule themselves separate from the Islamic sharia. When Muslims were weak they often treated their *dhimmi* subjects well and ignored the commandments to kill, subjugate, and humiliate them. But Jew hatred is intrinsic to Islamic scriptures that do not permit reformation—under the penalty of death.



What Islam really teaches ...and it's not spelling

This is the real basis of the Arab/Israeli conflict: not a conflict over land or occupation, but a divine obligation to destroy neighboring (non-Muslim) Israel, where Jews are no longer *dhimmi* but are free to rule themselves. We cannot ignore the root of the problem in Muslim scriptures. That is the true force behind the hate and propaganda jihadist machine against Jews in the Muslim world.

The Muslim world must look within to its sacred laws, scriptures, sermons, teaching, and preaching, and reform the obstacles for peace that have condemned them to a permanent state of jihad. The non-Muslim world must have no illusions.

Remember that Christians, Buddhists, agnostics, etc. are also non-Muslims. To read this article in full and see the specific Koran scriptures the author cites to support her points, visit www.levitt.com/news.

I Told You So

By David Dolan
www.DDolan.com



David Dolan

Introduction: Will King served as this ministry's "Man in Jerusalem" until he recently accepted a writing position with the military at the Leavenworth military base in Kansas. For nearly twenty years, David Dolan has been an occasional guest on *Zola Levitt Presents*. You can read about his background in his first "Our Man in Jerusalem" column on page 7 of the February *Levitt Letter*. —Mark

The post-Christmas Israeli military operation to halt Palestinian rocket-fire from the Gaza Strip did not catch me by surprise. I was among several Jerusalem-based commentators who warned that the Sharon government's 2005 military and civilian pullout from the crowded coastal zone would backfire in the end, forcing IDF troops back into the Gaza Strip.

The proposition that the radical Hamas movement would fold up its tent and keep quiet in the area after the Israeli pullout was preposterous to me. After all, the radical group's 1987 founding charter makes abundantly clear that the group will not settle for anything less than Israel's complete annihilation, replaced by an Islamic fundamentalist state.

In my first book, *Holy War for the Promised Land*, I devoted seven pages

to the Hamas movement, which was then only a couple of years old. I was strongly criticized by some media colleagues for wasting space on a group that would "never amount to much."

Having been mentored in the 1980s by several godly men as to the true nature of militant Islam, I was convinced that Hamas would eventually rival, if not replace, the PLO as the main Palestinian voice. The reason was simple: Most Palestinians (95%) are Muslims, and like it or not, Hamas accurately quoted the many Koranic verses and sayings of Mohammed that call for violent jihad against Jews and Christians until Islam achieves its prophesied destiny to rule the world.

Therefore, PLO attempts to follow Egypt in making peace with Israel were bound to be fiercely opposed by Hamas, which proved to be exactly the case after the Oslo accords were signed in the 1990s.

Even after getting pummeled by the Israeli military during the latest chapter of the long and bitter Arab-Israeli conflict, a top Hamas leader vowed to carry on the fight against Israel, saying that his terrorist group would never make peace with "the Zionist enemy." Stay tuned for more hateful Hamas action ahead. ★



There is so much happening in this world, I hardly know where to begin.

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



Because Israel's providential and successful rise among men has invoked ire and protest since its inception, it is no surprise that Israel's success continues to inspire hatred.

Israel's miraculous resurrection plays out against the backdrop of the Arab world's destruction—no great surprise there either, though it is unpleasant to behold. Islamic culture has been on the decline for centuries because it lacks the virtues, vision, and entrepreneurial spirit necessary to succeed in this competitive world. That it does little more than rage against those more successful testifies to its weakness, not its strength.

Muslim people, like all people, want a better life. But their preoccupation in blaming the Jews for their own deficiencies deflects energies that might otherwise be used for constructive endeavors—like building schools, hospitals, roads, businesses, and the like. Their misdirected energy is an exercise in self-deceit and is demon-inspired, as I note in my “Ask the Professor” column on the next page.

American people, like all people, similarly want a better life. But, in our case, apparently too many of us charged the “good life” on credit. We bought merchandise we really didn't need, with money we really didn't have, to impress people we really didn't care about. It was only a question of time until we felt the effects. I wonder if the political rhetoric of the Islamic world will translate to our side of the Atlantic and people will start blaming the Jews for our economic quandary.

Such rhetoric worked in pre-WWII Germany—where Jews were blamed for that economy. In our own culture as well, Jews too often are defamed as rich, snobbish elites who are indifferent to non-Jews—unless they are customers in Jewish shops or fleeced by Jewish doctors and lawyers. I know Jews to be givers. Sadly we're portrayed too often as takers—as leeches.

Those who don't blame and defame Jews may simply become indifferent toward us. At a time when too many Believers are pulling back from God, from Scripture, from church, from friends, from spouses, from Jews, and from Israel, let me encourage you to press on. Don't just turn inward and surrender to fear! Stay virtuous. Stay resolute in your prayerful and thoughtful support for Jews and for Israel, and please keep assisting ministries like ours that carry a godly Gospel to an otherwise Godless world.

This edition of the *Levitt Letter* comes to you at about the time of year when our founder, Zola Levitt, learned he had cancer three years ago. He went to his reward shortly thereafter and handed me the baton as this ministry's messenger.

Please continue to remember us and our work. We soldier on, but could use some help. When you watch the new series, *The Warrior King: David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times*, you are going to notice the improved production quality. We timed its release to coincide with the changeover in the American and Israeli governments. Your donations helped us do all that. The television series that will follow it deals with the rise of the antiChrist: *When The Devil Has His Day*. If you agree that the coming series is timely, please give us a “thumbs up” by pressing a pen down on a check and sending it our way.

No matter your response, this ministry will keep coming your way—with timely articles, informative books, edifying TV, and church speakers. We're heading Israel's way too, on March 15 and June 7. I would love you to make the trip with us. Please call Abel at (214)696-9760 in the office. I'll see you there or on the air.

Ask the Professor

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif



Q. Is there a spiritual and religious basis for the continual wars with Israel, or is it strictly an earthly, material dispute over land between militant people with differing land claims and interests?

A. The simmering conflict is spiritual and not just material. Those who miss that point will be unable to come to terms with it in the end. This seems to be the case in today's anti-biblical world.

My wife's chicken soup has been simmering and is starting to boil as I write. If you noticed the aroma and heard the bubbling and asked, "Hey, what's going on in there?" everyone would agree that what you're experiencing is the result of the stove's heat.

Regarding "What is going on in the Middle East," Israel's existence in the kettle of human experience is heating up on the ancient stove of anti-Semitism. The Jewish State's providential emergence—after nearly two thousand years of dispersal—has stimulated spiritual powers that are hellbent on the Jewish people's demise.

The last-days account in the book of Revelation notes how the same spiritual forces that were bent on the Messiah's destruction would unleash fury on those who brought Him into the world—the Jewish people.

In Revelation 12:1-6, a "fiery red dragon" stands waiting to "devour the [Christ] Child as soon as it was born." Happily, despite the dragon's best attempts, the Child is spirited away safely, and the beast turns its attention to the woman who brought the Child into the world. In haste, she flees to a "place prepared by God" for her safety. Much as psychiatrists used to blame everything on the mother, the Evil One goes after the mother when he can't destroy her Son (Jesus Christ).

After the mother's escape, "the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world." Readers learn that the same spiritual personality that waged war in Eden, at the dawn of time, and went after the Son near the middle of biblical time, stealthily re-emerges at Day's End, at the dusk of human experience. The final words in verse 12 seem written specifically for our day: "for the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that his time is short."

The kettle is cooking... The clock is ticking... We are working still...



With biblical knowledge, we that have Messianic-Jewish values pity the militant anti-Semites and their hatred. They are driven by raging spiritual forces that they do not understand and cannot control. Unfortunately, our grave need to defend against demon-inspired forces allows little time to consider the plight of the unfortunates we must battle. Let's pray, "Forgive them for they know not what they do" on the basis that the tensions are more spiritual than material. ★

Israelis and Palestinians: Who's David? Who's Goliath?

By Larry Elder www.JewishWorldReview.com

Much of the world buys it when the Palestinians, the Arab Muslim world, and many Western countries paint Israel as the bad “Goliath” that “stole” the land from the “Palestinians.”

Let's turn our attention to the “stolen” allegation.

Israel lies in the ancient Fertile Crescent's southwest corner, with some of the oldest archaeological evidence of primitive towns and agriculture. Historians and archaeologists believe the Hebrews probably arrived in the area in the second millennium B.C. The nation itself was formed as the Israelites left Egypt during the Exodus, believed to be in the late 13th century BC.

The 12 tribes of Israel united in about 1050 BC, forming the Kingdom of Israel. David, the second king of Israel, established Jerusalem as Israel's national capital 3,000 years ago. Jewish kingdoms and states existed intermittently in the region for a millennium.

After conquests by Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks, an independent Jewish kingdom was briefly revived, but Rome took control in the next century, renaming the land of Judea “Palestine” after the Philistines, historical enemies of the Israelites.

Invading Arabs conquered the land from the Byzantines. Within a few centuries, the Arab language and Islam prevailed, but a Jewish minority remained. After a brief period of prosperity, waves of invasions and changes of control followed before the area became part of the Ottoman Empire from 1517 AD-1918 AD. By the middle of the 19th century, Jews constituted a significant presence—often a majority—in many towns.

Still, in the 19th century, the Holy Land looked mostly like a vast wasteland. When Jews began to return to their “promised land” early in the 20th century, the desert literally began to bloom under their industry. Arabs followed, coming in large numbers for the jobs and prosperity.

Britain took the land in 1917 and pledged in the Balfour Declaration to support a Jewish national homeland there. A declaration passed by the League of Nations in 1922 divided the mandated territory into two parts. The eastern portion, called Transjordan, would become the Arab Kingdom of Jordan in 1946. The other portion—the territory west of the Jordan River—was administered as Palestine under provisions that called for the establishment of a Jewish homeland.

The United Nations in 1947 partitioned the area into separate Jewish and Arab states along meandering and indefensible boundaries. The Arab world, insisting that any Jewish claim to Palestine was invalid, staunchly refused to compromise or even discuss the subject. With Israel's independence in 1948, Arab forces from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq combined to crush the 1-day-old country. They lost. Still, Egypt occupied most of the Gaza Strip, and Jordan held most of the West Bank and half of Jerusalem. Neither Arab country gave the “Palestinians” a state.

The word “Palestinian,” as employed today, is a relatively recent term. Until the end of the British mandate over Palestine (in 1948) all inhabitants of the area west of the Jordan River were known as “Palestinians.” A Jewish person living in what is now Israel was a “Palestinian Jew.” An Arab living in the area was a “Palestinian Arab.” A Christian was a “Palestinian Christian.”

Israel won more land after a series of wars, land since returned or offered for return in exchange for peace. The Jews “stole” nothing.



*This Palestinian sympathizer in **San Francisco** wants to take the Gaza/Israel conflict worldwide.*

Pro-Hamas Demonstration Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

In Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Tom Trento shot a nine-minute video on December 30. Tom observed 200-300 Palestinians demonstrating against Israel and also against the U.S. for supporting Israel. The demonstration occurred on Broward Blvd., a main strip, across from a First Baptist Church, where 50 supporters of Israel also demonstrated. To see this video, which includes some footage shot while circulating among the pro-Palestinian side, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3Xl68kP4wo.

Note: The chants, signs, and comments include:

- “Nuke Israel!”
- “There is no Israel!”
- “Go steal other land!”
- “Go back to the oven!”
- “We need to...educate people about what Islam really is so that they can appreciate the beauty of it!” ★



Story Behind this Dry Bones Cartoon

By cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen

Many years ago I was a young gag cartoonist trying to break into the business. One day I found myself cooling my heels in the small reception room of a magazine publisher in New York. I sat in the room with my portfolio of work, doodling with a pencil on the pad I always carried with me... waiting to meet with the editor. The minutes dragged on and my boredom increased.

The room was dominated by a large fish tank in which swam only one fish! It was bluish in color with an amusingly pugnacious look on his face. I walked over to the aquarium to take a closer look. The top of the fish tank was not covered, and so I could look down into the water from above. Absent-mindedly I tapped the water surface with the eraser end of my pencil...and the fish jumped, snapped, and SANK HIS TEETH INTO THE WOOD OF THE PENCIL!! He then let go and dropped back into the water. I staggered back, in shock. I looked at the deep teeth holes in my pencil and was thankful that I had

decided against tapping the water surface with my finger.

When I was ushered in to meet with the editor I was still shaking. “What kind of fish is that in the reception area?” I asked. “Oh that’s a Piranha” was the answer.

Dry Bones BREAKING THE RULES



These are the images they show you:



Translation (by MEMRI) of a speech by Hamas “Member of Parliament” Fathi Hammad, (below) bragging about the Hamas use of human shields.

“[The enemies of Allah] do not know that the Palestinian people has developed its [methods] of death and death-seeking. For the Palestinian people, death has become an industry, at which women excel, and so do all the people living on this land. The elderly excel at this, and so do the mujahidin and the children. This is why they have formed human shields of

the women, the children, the elderly, and the mujahidin, in order to challenge the Zionist bombing machine. It is as if they were saying to the Zionist enemy: “We desire death like you desire life.”

Web address to view video of Hammad’s speech: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0wJXf2nt4Y>



These are the images they **DON'T** show:



Hamas is violating the rights of the children of Gaza...



...who are constantly incited to hate and kill, and used as human shields.



Iran's Hamas Strategy

By Reuel Marc Gerecht
The Wall Street Journal
www.online.wsj.com

Anyone who knows anything about the Middle East knows that Sunni and Shiite radicals don't work together—er, except when they do. Proof that the conventional wisdom is badly wrong is now unfolding in Gaza. Shia Iran has been aiding Sunni Hamas for years with the aim of radicalizing politics across the entire Arab Middle East. Now Israel's response to thousands of Hamas rocket provocations appears to be doing just that.

Born in the 1980s from the ruins of the Palestine Liberation Organization's corrupt and decaying secular nationalism, Hamas is a grass-roots, Sunni Islamist movement that has made Shiite Iran a front-line player in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Before Hamas, the mullahs had financed the Palestine Islamic Jihad, whose holy warriors became renowned suicide bombers. But Islamic Jihad has always been a fringe group within Palestinian society. As national elections revealed in 2006, Hamas is mainstream.

Since the death in 1989 of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the charismatic, quintessentially Shiite leader of the Islamic revolution, Iran's ruling mullahs have tried assiduously to downplay the sectarian content in their militant message.

Khomeini's successor, Ali Khamenei, has consistently married his virulent anti-American rhetoric with a global appeal to faithful Muslims to join the battle against the U.S. and its allies. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the revolution's founding clerics and its president (1989-1997), and Khamenei



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attends an anti-Israeli demonstration in Tehran, Dec. 12, 2008. A poster at rear shows the late spiritual leader and founder of the Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

have always been the ultimate pragmatists, even reaching out to Arab Sunni radicals with a strong anti-Shiite bent.

If Hamas can withstand the recent Israeli attack on its leadership and infrastructure, then the movement's aura will likely be impossible to match. Iran's influence among religious Palestinians could

skyrocket. Through Hamas, Iran can possibly reach the ultimate prize, the Egyptian faithful. For reasons both ancient and modern, Egypt has perhaps the most Shiite-sympathetic religious identity in the Sunni Arab world. As long as Hamas remains the center of the Palestinian imagination, Egypt's politics remain fluid and potentially volatile. With Gaza and Egypt conceivably within Iran's grasp, the clerical regime will be patient and try to keep Gaza boiling.

It is entirely possible that Iran could overplay its hand among the Palestinians as it did among Iraqi Shiites, turning sympathetic Muslims into deeply suspicious, nationalistic patriots. The Israeli army could deconstruct Hamas's leadership sufficiently that Gaza will remain a fundamentalist mess that inspires more pity than the white-hot heat that comes when jihadists beat infidels in battle. But with a nuclear-armed Iran just around the corner, the mullahs will do their best to inspire.

Ultimately, it's doubtful that Iran will find President Barack Obama's offer of more diplomacy, or the threat of more European sanctions, to be compelling. The price of oil may be low, but the mullahs have seen worse economic times. In 30 years, they have not seen a better constellation of forces. And as the Shiite prayer goes, perhaps this time around, the Sunnis too, *inshallah* (Allah willing), will see the light. ★

Mr. Gerecht is a former Central Intelligence Agency officer.

Jews Victimized Worldwide

Thomas Lifson www.AmericanThinker.com

The world once again careers toward the madness of naked, shameless Jew-hatred. In Rome, the president of a trade union called for a plan to “identify and boycott” Jewish-owned shops. From the London *Times*:

“Jewish leaders said the proposal, put forward by Giancarlo Desiderati, leader of the Flaica-Uniti-Cub union, which represents 8,000 shop assistants in Rome, was reminiscent of the anti-Semitic racial laws adopted seventy years ago by the Fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini in imitation of Nazi Germany, under which only ‘Aryan’ shops were allowed to open.

“Asked if he was aware of the comparison, Mr Desiderati said, ‘We cannot pass over in silence what is happening in Gaza.’ He said his union had already urged its members to boycott Israeli products, and boycotting Jewish-owned or Jewish-run stores was a logical next step.”

Thankfully, political authorities reacted appropriately. Reuters reports:

“Italian politicians from right and left joined Jewish groups in condemning a trade union’s call to boycott Jewish-owned shops in Rome in protest at the Israeli bombing offensive in the Gaza Strip.

“While the union denied accusations of anti-Semitism, Rome’s right-wing mayor Gianni Alemanno visited the city’s ancient Jewish quarter known as the Ghetto and said the ‘criminal’ proposal echoed the race laws under fascism in the 1930s.”

Meanwhile in Melbourne, Australia, attacks on Jews have escalated. *The Age* reports:

“Anti-Semitic attacks on Melbourne’s Jews have escalated since the latest outbreak of violence in the Middle East.

“Jewish organizations, schools, and synagogues have been the target of abusive phone calls and letters and Jewish people have been abused on the street since hostilities escalated in Gaza over the past fortnight.

“The president of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, John Searle, said he was concerned the attacks could worsen.

“Temple Beth in St Kilda had been daubed with anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist slogans within a few days of the latest outbreak of violence in the Middle East, he said.

“At a post-funeral service, again in St Kilda, as the crowd was coming out, a passerby stopped and hurled the most vile anti-Semitic abuse that he related to what was going on at the moment in Gaza.

“‘Basically, this passerby’s view was that ‘all f_____ Jews should be killed.’ That’s the sort of hostility people here in Melbourne have to deal with.’

“Many Jews assumed that a second Holocaust was unthinkable. But with soon-to-be-nuclear Iran promising to annihilate the Jews of Israel, and worldwide attacks on Jews rising, no longer can this fear be idly dismissed.” ★



Gaza protest in San Francisco; anti-Semitism is alive and well in the U.S. See photo blog at http://zombietime.com/gaza_war_protest/

ZLM Bulletin Board

Free Streaming Video

You can watch *Zola Levitt Presents* anytime, on demand, at www.levitt.com by clicking on "Watch on Internet TV." Now, however, you can watch two of our live weekly Internet broadcasts at www.streamingfaith.com. Just enter, "Zola Levitt" into the search engine there, and you will see that Daystar carries our program there on Fridays at 5:00 pm Central Time, and the TCT Network shows our program on Saturdays at 9:30 pm Central Time.



Zola's Bible Exchange

YELLOW ALERT

We are running short on used Bibles in good condition to ship for free to inmates, soldiers, retired senior citizens, the disabled, etc. Rather than purchasing a Bible or two to send us, perhaps you could ask if your church has an extra case or two. On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address.

"Bless Israel...in Israel"

Now you have **TWO opportunities to bless Israel while on tour in the Holy Land.**

1. Sandra's Bless Israel tour in the fall involves volunteering in soup kitchens, food and clothing banks, and at other charitable projects in Israel. (She reports on her recent tour's success in next month's *Levitt Letter*.)



2. Our ministry's summer tour, this June 7-17, has an optional four-day *Am Israel Chai* (The People of Israel Live) Extension that offers similar opportunities to bless Israel. For information, please contact Abel at (214) 696-9760 or travel@levitt.com. Also, see our spring, summer, and fall Holy Land tours listed on page 36.

Pamphlet of the Month

Is Your Will Obsolete?

Contemplate your answer to this important question with our featured stewardship pamphlet. It begins with four examples of how wills can become just as obsolete as yesteryear's technology: with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. The pamphlet also discusses four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, and residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

"Come Home!"

Zola's
Tours to
Israel:



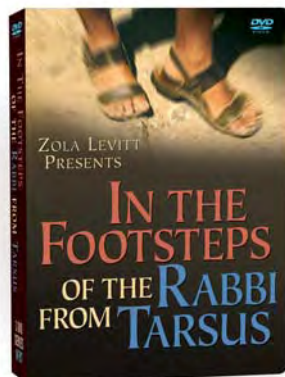
See page
36 for details



In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus

Twelve 30-minute TV programs on 3 DVDs

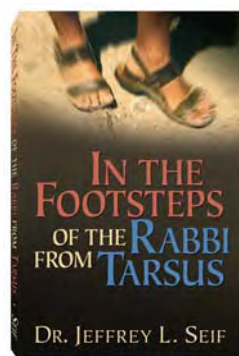
In this twelve-part TV series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif sheds light on the Apostle Paul, his movements, and his message. After examining Paul's travels throughout the Roman Empire, Jeff analyzes Paul's divinely inspired letters to early Church congregations, preserved in the New Testament. *See page 18 to order.*



- 1. First Steps Toward Christ.** Paul's conversion and subsequent ministry in Damascus/Arabia.
 - 2. First "Official" Ministry Journey.** Paul's movements in Jerusalem, Tarsus, and Cilicia and his "Famine Relief" visit to Jerusalem.
 - 3. Apostolic Ordination and Subsequent Missionary Journey.** Paul's apostolic launch, noting his first missionary journey and follow-up trip to Jerusalem to sort out the angst that developed in the wake of his message to non-Jews.
 - 4. Second and Third Missionary Journeys.** Continues with Paul's missionary trips and ends with his apparently ill-fated trek to Jerusalem.
 - 5. Arrest and Appeal to Rome for Trial.** Paul's arrest, his transport to a Caesarean prison, and his appeal to Rome where he is eventually sent for trial.
 - 6. Roman Imprisonment, Release, Travels, and Death.** Shows Paul imprisoned in Rome, his release and further ministry, and his eventual execution in Rome.
- The next six programs consider Paul's divinely inspired Parchments in the order they were written—not from longest to shortest, which is how they appear in the New Testament.
- 7. Paul's Earliest Writings: to the Galatians and Thesalonians**
 - 8. Letter to the Corinthians, and follow-up to the Thesalonians**
 - 9. Reconciliation with the Corinthians, and Roman Correspondence**
 - 10. Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians**
 - 11. Letters to the Philippians and Timothy**
 - 12. Final Steps and Farewell Letters to Titus and Timothy**

In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus book

Thirteen of the New Testament's 27 books bear Paul's seal and signature. Consequently, he is the New Testament's principal interpreter of what it means to be "Christian." Jeff looks closely at Paul and the fact that the major "Christian" interpreter lived, acted, and thought as a "Jewish" rabbi. St. Paul, a rabbi?



To make his case, Jeff takes us into the pagan world where Paul ministered and chronicles Paul's movements, assessing what his historian Luke said about them. Then, Jeff examines Paul's divinely inspired letters to early Church congregations to hear Paul out in his own words. In considering what Luke said about Paul's travels and what Paul said in Paul's writings, Jeff brings various Jewish insights to bear, enabling readers to envision the Apostle Paul as the Jewish rabbi that he really was. This book will revolutionize your understanding of the major Christian Apostle! You'll see him more clearly and develop a crisper glimpse of what it actually means to be a follower of Israel's Messiah—the One we call Jesus. *See page 18 to order.*

Books

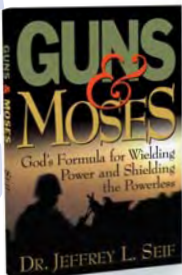
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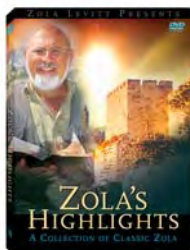
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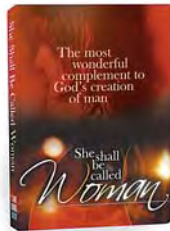
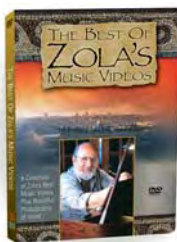
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Drawing Near To God

By John J. Parsons



דַּע לְפָנַי מִי אַתָּה עוֹמֵד

Know before whom you stand

דַּע	לְפָנַי	מִי	אַתָּה	עוֹ	מֵד
(1)	(2) (1)	(1)	(2) (1)	(1)	(2)
da	lifnci	mi	attah	omcd	
Know	before whom		you	stand	

KNOW BEFORE WHOM YOU STAND

Blaise Pascal once said there are two kinds of people: saints who know they're sinners, and sinners who think they're saints. Pride is the deadliest sin because it fundamentally distorts reality. When we awaken to the truth of God's presence, we necessarily draw back in humility. The two go hand in hand. Despite the clamor of our egos, we are not the center of the universe, after all...

In many synagogues there's a powerful statement displayed on the doors of *Aron Ha-Kodesh* (the holy ark in which are kept the Torah scrolls) that says, *da lifnei mi attah omed*—"Know before whom you stand." Though not a direct quotation from the Scriptures, the idea comes from Moses' "burning bush" experience of the LORD in the wilderness of Midian (Exod. 3:5). In a synagogue setting, *da lifnei mi attah omed* reminds us to have a reverent and focused attitude while attending services. We should be filled with respectful awe over the presence of God, especially when we approach the Torah, the Word of God.

Note, however, that such a distinction between the sacred and the profane is somewhat artificial, since we are **always** in the presence of God (Acts 17:28) and the whole Earth is filled with God's glory (Isa. 6:3). We should **always** be aware that everything we say, think, and do is before the Divine Audience of the Living God Himself (Acts 24:16). If we do not sense the Divine Presence in our lives, we must test ourselves: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Since the LORD is infinite, the distinctions we make (as finite creatures) in terms of time and space do not apply to Him. God infinitely transcends all of creation and He alone is holy (2 Chron. 2:6; 1 Kings 8:27; Isa. 55:8-9; Psalm 97:9). But God's infinite presence also means He "fills the heavens and the earth" (Isa. 6:3; Jer. 23:24). The whole Earth is lit up with God's glory, and every bush is aflame before us—if we have eyes to see.

Though God is infinitely above us, He is not "remote" from us, nor are the very angels in Heaven any "closer" to Him than you are **right now**. As Jesus said, your Heavenly Father knows the number of hairs upon your head (Matt. 10:30). We can "draw near" to God by humbling ourselves and opening our eyes to the truth about reality. **May God help us all awaken to His presence today.** ★



Vatican Official Compares Gaza to Concentration Camp

blog.camera.org



For some reason, whenever the words “justice” and “peace” are introduced into Christian discourse about the Arab-Israeli conflict, harsh, unreasonable and fantastic anti-Israel polemic is not far behind.

This was demonstrated most recently by the statements from Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Vatican's Council for Justice and Peace who recently stated in an interview in an Italian newspaper that the Gaza Strip resembled “a big concentration camp.” Cardinal Martino's statement provoked an angry response from Jewish groups and from the Israeli diplomatic corps. According to Reuters, Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center said, “These remarks are untrue, distort the memory of the Holocaust, and are only used against Israel by terrorist organizations and Holocaust deniers.”

This is not the first time Catholic officials have compared Palestinian suffering to that of the Jews in Europe during the Holocaust. In 2007, a German bishop compared conditions in Ramallah to the Warsaw Ghetto.

Comments from the website:

- Nowhere is there any mention of a desire on the part of the victims at Dachau to perpetrate a genocide against anyone. They just wanted to survive.
- No WONDER the pope during WW II didn't loudly speak out against the Holocaust! It's so clear now. He apparently thought the Jews were firing rockets into German population centers, and that the Nazis were fighting back.
- Did the inmates of concentration camps have small arms, rockets, missiles, and mortars? Get real! The Palestinians had a chance to show the world what they would do with sovereignty and self-determination and to prove to Israel that a land-for-peace deal would, in fact, result in peace. They blew it.
- Comparing Gaza to a concentration camp is outrageous: A) they are not put there as imprisonment; B) they are not forced to provide labor; and C) do not await execution (they are one of the fastest growing populations in the world).

Still, everyone knows what the cardinal is alluding to: Jews are Nazis.

(See related article on page 5.)



Hamas Map Found in Military Operation

www.road90.com/watch.php?id=umd3NVHlv1

This map, confiscated a week-and-a-half into the fighting by IDF paratroopers operating in the north of Gaza, shows how Hamas uses an entire neighborhood, rigging it with explosive devices and putting the entire civilian population at great risk. The map shows the al-Tatraa neighborhood in Gaza City divided into three areas of operation (red, blue, and green). The dots on the map indicate where Hamas operatives had planted a variety of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), with the colors indicating the type of IED. Additional marks show sniper positions next to mosques. Next to the entrance of the el-Tawid mosque near to Shauuda Plaza at the top left of the map there is a sniper posting with marking indicating the direction of fire marked on the map. At the bottom center of the map there is a gas station where Hamas planted an IED which, if activated, could cause a very large explosion throughout the neighborhood. An overall study of the map demonstrates how Hamas deliberately uses civilians.





Letters to ZIM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From K.B.—

Your monthly newsletter is the best of all the ministries I receive. Thank you for keeping the standard of integrity and excellence way up there! It is such an example for all to continually strive for the best... He deserves nothing less!

Unbridled Greed

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,

I find it ironic that you write several articles against socialism. Capitalism to me is nothing more than tame Nazism. It promotes survival of the fittest, survival of the strong, and death to the weak. I am a mature person and never in my life have I seen such unbridled greed. Our money says "In God We Trust," but the free market is our God. Who cares who gets run over in the process?

Yours, W.B.

Dear W.B.—

God cares. Long before there were formal social theories like capitalism or socialism, this "ism" or that "ism," at the very dawn of human experience, people were pillaging, plundering, and oppressing those who were weaker. A revelation was given at Mt. Sinai that placed a premium on justice, personal industry, and mercy. Imperfect as people and "isms" are, our Judeo-Christian system is closest to the ideal, and your criticism seems to be overstated. The principal impediment to human betterment is living outside the Bible's teachings. By the way, the official name of Nazism is "National Socialism."

—Jeff

Jesus Is Not A Jews-Only Savior

Dear Friend,

I would like to know how a person can convert to Judaism. N.G.

Dear N.G.—

You'd need to contact a rabbi in your area, as different streams of Judaism have different requirements. If you're asking the question for yourself, though I appreciate your Jewish affinities, permit me to say that I think you're going in the wrong direction.

—Jeff



* Downgraded, 2008

A King Mightier Than Presidents

Dear Jeff,

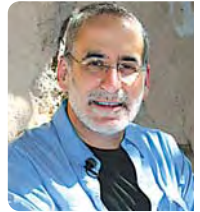
We have had a long line of presidents with no concern for this country's welfare. I keep hearing James Monroe saying to take care of America and shun foreign governments, knowing full well the disregard many had for the ordinary citizen.

I am inclined to agree and am concerned.
In Jesus' Love, M.B.

Dear M.B.—

"No concern" and "disregard" are exaggerations, and isolationism (shunning foreign governments) is unrealistic. I am more tolerant with our imperfect presidents and imperfect governments. That—and imperfect man's disregard—aside, aren't we fortunate to have a God who says that if we seek first His Kingdom and righteousness, He'll take care of us?

— Jeff



Firsthand Experience With Sharia Law

Dear Jeff,

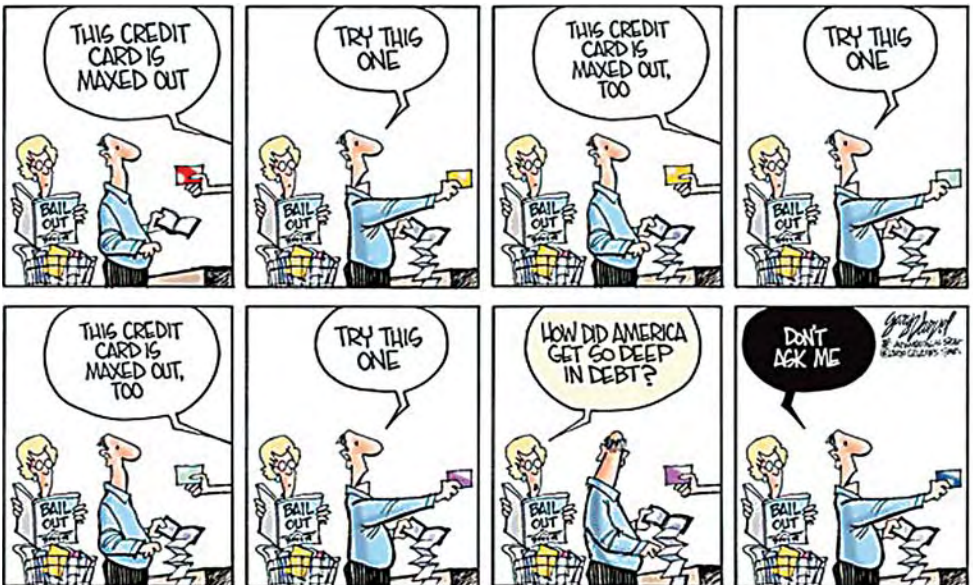
Having been attacked by maniac Muslims back in 1965, I must disagree with your calling some Muslims "moderates." It seems to me that if they claim to be Muslim and follow the Koran, they are by definition wackos. Nevertheless, keep up the good work. Don't you dare remove me from your mailing list!
Cordially, M.D.

Dear M.D.—

I won't remove you for disagreeing with me. Frankly, I don't always agree with myself a year later. However, I think you are wrong—dangerously incorrect, in fact. Nevertheless, I agree that a literal read of Islam's literature inclines its followers toward brazen acts. By the way, please write me and tell me about your attacks.

— Jeff

(This correspondence continues on next page.)



*During the End Times, economic trading will be denied to Christians.
(Revelation 13:16, 17)*

garyvarvel.com

Dear Jeff,

I should have put a :-)) when mentioning not taking me off of your mailing list. It's just that the attacks on me were so surprising and so absurd. I'll try to make it short.

It was in Tetuan, Morocco, in the winter of 1965. I, a Canadian guy, and two Canadian girls had visited Tangiers. While on the journey, the girls decided to get a hotel room. We dumped our stuff in the hotel room and, at a sidewalk cafe on the plaza, we had hot tea and rested and visited.

After awhile, an Arab man—thank God for him—in a European suit came up and invited us to his store down the same street the hotel was on. We said no thanks. Then he said he had bars he could pull down over his storefront to protect him and us from the riot.

We asked what riot, and he said there would be one soon. We asked him what the riot was about. He said, "About you." The man said the rioters were getting their steam up and would soon go berserk. They were mad because they saw men and women sitting together in public, laughing. Wow! And of course, the clincher was that the women's faces weren't covered. Soon, the narrow street had filled with scream heads.

Jeff, I have seen those nuts doing their thing. I pray for them, but I don't trust 'em. At this point, I just figure better safe than sorry.

Thanks for your show. You all have taught me a lot.

Yours, M.D.

Dear M.D.—

Thanks for sharing your story. It's a tough one. Thank God for the guy in the suit, huh? —Jeff



Sandra, Thanks So Much!

Dear Sandra,

I just read in the February *Levitt Letter* that you are retiring. I am sure your retirement is more than well deserved, but I will miss you on the air! You and Jeff made a wonderful team and having you there was very special after Zola went home. Thank you so much for your wisdom, strength, and insights.

Yours for His sake,
B.B.T.



WWW.CREDITCARD.COM/CARTOONS

You Learn Something New Every Day

Dear Dr. Seif,

I wrote you a couple of months ago concerning modern day Nazarites. Not you, but one of your staff wrote me back and said there are none. I beg to differ. The Lord laid it on my heart to become one: I shaved my head and made a vow to the Lord concerning His decrees. I know you are busy, but could you let me know what you think? T. F.

Okay, T.F.—

I now know what my answer will be if someone else asks if there are any Nazarites around: “I know of one.” — Jeff

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LEPERS...I HEAL LEPERS

It's The Heart That Counts

Dear Jeff and ZLM Staff,

I have been receiving your newsletter for two years now and always look forward to completely reading it through. I have just been released from prison. Previously while in prison, I was not able to give any financial support, but now I can send in small donations. Keep up the good work. R. H.

Dear R. H.—

Thank you for your donation and generous thoughts. Though we ask for support for the ministry, please understand that we don't do this for the money. And, please don't call your donation “small.” For someone who makes \$150 per week, a \$30 donation is both a fortune and a great sacrifice. Conversely, to someone making \$10,000, \$100 could seem a pittance. Thanks for caring, R. H. It's the heart that God cares about most and not the amount. — Jeff

Another Promotion

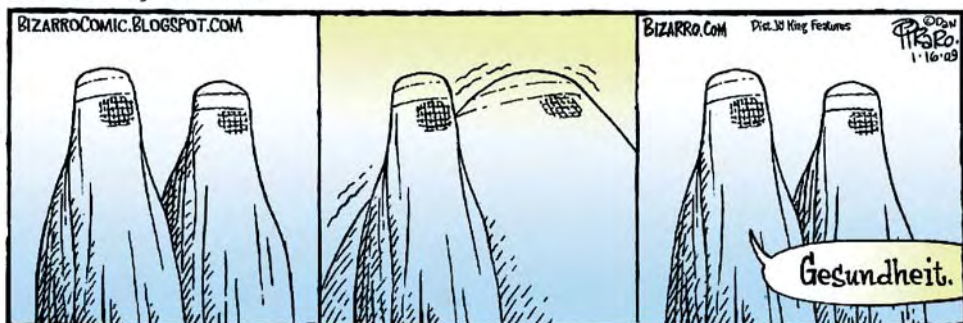
Dear Brother Levitt.

This is to let you know that my mother went to be with her Lord. I wanted to share with you how much your ministry touched my mom's life. She had been enduring cancer for several months but she was always excited to read your ministry news. Sincerely, L.D.

Dear L. D.—

First, my condolences for your mother's passing. Take heart, though, that because Zola went to be with the Lord three years ago himself (also because of cancer), instead of relying on newsletters and TV programs with commemorative samplings of his work, your mom can now talk with him face to face. Blessings to you, — Jeff ★

BIZARRO By Dan Piraro



The Coming Islamic Takeover of Russia

By Kathy Shaidle www.FrontPageMag.com

In the wake of the horrific Mumbai massacre, a recent warning about the spread of Islamic extremism in Russia is particularly chilling.

Last December, the Interfax news service quoted Major General Yury Tomchak, interior minister of the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic, as saying that “the wide-scale expansion of radical Islam into practically all regions of the Russian Federation” is a “source for concern.” He added that, **“cells of international extremist organizations have developed intensive activities lately** in individual constituent territories [of Russia], activities that include takeovers of “lucrative sectors of business.”

This growth of Islamic extremism within Russia’s borders, especially in Chechnya and Dagestan, comes even after the Russian government banned seventeen radical Muslim organizations. For whatever reason, deadly atrocities of the recent past, such as the Moscow Theatre siege or the Beslan school massacre, are frequently attributed to regional, secular separatists rather than Muslim terrorists. This occurs despite statements made by the terrorists themselves, which reference “Allah” and the establishment of a caliphate “from the Red Sea to the Caspian.”

Of course, the situation is extremely complex, and religion plays only one part, as Russia expert David Satter of the Hudson Institute explained. In terms of Major General Tomchak’s Kabardino-Balkaria, which was rocked by attacks on police and security facilities in 2005, the spread of Islamic radicalism “is often fueled less by religious fervor than by the corruption of the local pro-Russian authorities and the brutality of the police,” said Satter.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment among ordinary Russians is on the rise. Semin Bagdasarov, of the Duma’s international relations committee, recently told a reporter that “Moscow must adopt new laws to limit

the influx of radical Islamist terrorists from Central Asia and the Caucasus who threaten to bring ‘the global jihad’ into the Russian Federation and result in terrorist acts against the Russian people and the Russian state.” He added that Moscow must direct the Muslim clergy in Russia to conduct an ideological campaign against terrorist supporters in their midst. As Ilshat Alsayef, one of the founders of Muslims Against Sharia explained in October:

“Centuries-old local mosques are being replaced by modern, Wahhabi-built mosques. Old imams who survived the communists are being replaced by Wahhabi clerics. This is not only true for predominantly Muslim countries like Tajikistan, but also for autonomous regions inside Russia like Bashkiria and Tatarstan, where most people consider themselves more Russian than Muslim. You can see similar developments in former Yugoslavia, where **moderate imams with little financial backing are being replaced by radicals with virtually unlimited financing.**”

Due to high birth rates and immigration levels, **Islam is poised to become the primary religion in the Russian Federation by 2050**, in part because the native Russian population is in decline. This has led some observers to the worrying conclusion that Russia’s all-conscript armed forces will also be majority Muslim by 2050.

Satter insists that many of Russia’s Muslims are “quite secular,” but the possible consequences of “sending a predominantly Muslim force to suppress Islamic radicals on behalf of a corrupt regime dominated by Russians are not hard to imagine.” ★



Venezuela's Jews Close Their Schools

By Matthew Wagner www.JPost.com



Chavez

The Jewish community in Caracas is “tense” and “preoccupied” in the wake of President Hugo Chavez’s decision to expel the Israeli ambassador, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Venezuela Pynchas Brener said. “This government has been very friendly with Iran,” Brener said. “And many Venezuelans make no distinction between Jews and Israelis—maybe they are right.” Brener, 77, said that Jewish schools in Caracas closed for a few days out of concern that they would attract anti-Israel demonstrations.

Chavez’s decision to expel Ambassador Shlomo Cohen came in protest against what he called Israel’s “barbaric” military operation in Gaza. Twice in recent years Venezuelan military forces have raided the 1,400-pupil Jewish school, ostensibly looking for arms, and recently expropriated ownership of a large mall that was built by a Jewish businessman in Caracas. Chavez has been president since 1998. ★

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ION (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs
DirecTV—Channel 305		Dish—Channel 181		

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon
DirecTV—Channel 311		Dish—Channel 180		

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm
DirecTV—Channel 372		Dish—Channel 260		

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:00 pm Fri	4:00 pm Fri	5:00 pm Fri	6:00 pm Fri
DirecTV—Channel 369		Dish—Channel 263		

TCT on DirecTV Channel 377 — Sundays
7:30pm ET www.tct.tv

CTN on DirecTV Channel 376 — Tuesdays
8pm ET www.ctnonline.com

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



1st Century Perfume Vials Unearthed In Israel

By Deepa Babington
www.uk.reuters.com

A team of Franciscan archaeologists digging in the biblical town of Magdala in what is now Israel say they have unearthed vials of perfume similar to those that may have been used by the woman said to have washed Jesus' feet.

The perfumed ointments were found intact at the bottom of a mud-filled swimming pool, alongside hair and make-up objects, the director of the dig conducted by the group Studium Biblicum Franciscanum told the Terrasanta.net religious website.

"If chemical analyses confirm it, these could be perfumes and creams similar to those that Mary Magdalene or the sinner cited in the Gospel used to anoint Christ's feet," Father Stefano de Luca, the lead archaeologist, told the website.

Mary Magdalene is cited in the New Testament as a steadfast disciple of Christ from whom seven demons were cast out. She is often considered the sinner who anointed Jesus' feet.

"The discovery of the ointments in Magdala at any rate is of great importance. Even if Mary Magdalene was not the woman who washed Christ's feet, we have in our hands 'cosmetic products' from Christ's time," De Luca said.

Magdala was the name of an ancient town near the shores of the Sea of Galilee in what is now northern Israel. An Israeli town called Migdal now occupies the area.

"It's very likely that the woman who anointed Christ's feet used these ointments, or products that were similar in composition and quality," De Luca said. Studium Biblicum Franciscanum supports research in biblical studies but focuses on archaeological excavation of sites linked to the New Testament and early Christianity in the Middle East.



Tourist Uncovers Hidden Treasure in Holy Land

www.FoxNews.com

Britain's **Nadine Ross** shows off some of the Byzantine coins she found cached in a wall outside the Old City of Jerusalem.



An Israeli archaeologist displays a 7th century Byzantine-period coin discovered at an excavation site outside the Old City of Jerusalem. Israeli archaeologists say they unearthed more than 250 gold coins from the seventh century in excavations on the edge of Jerusalem's walled Old City. Israel's Antiquities Authority says the Byzantine-period hoard was discovered among the ruins of a building where a 2,000-year-old gold earring from the Roman era was dug up previously. The discovery was made by a British tourist volunteering at the dig.



We can't promise that you'll make as grand a discovery, but see page 36 for details on Zola's Summer Discovery Tour that lets you dig at an archaeological site for a day. ★

Respect for Life Begins at Home

By Lauri B. Regan

www.AmericanThinker.com

“We will have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us.”

— Golda Meir, 1957

While on a recent vacation, my thirteen-year-old son stepped onto the railing of a bridge and prepared to bungee jump into a 200-foot abyss. (Actually it was just a canyon—to me it looked very much like an abyss.) I watched with abject terror. But my husband had made the leap just before my son, so I could not object that the leap was unsafe and that I would not allow my son to enjoy the same experience.

Much to my elation and relief, my son decided not to jump. He walked over to me with outstretched arms and whispered, “It’s just not worth it; life is too short.”

And while I believe that fear played a role in his decision not to take the plunge, what enabled him to choose to step away from the precipice was his confidence that his parents would be waiting with open arms and would not judge his decision. I was overwhelmed with pride that my son understood the value of his life and that he turned to God for strength in dealing with his fear and for assistance in making his decision.

Upon arriving back to our hotel, I proceeded to check the Internet for the latest news and world events. The first story that caught my eye was the threat by Hamas of renewed suicide attacks in Israel. The dichotomy of my experience with my son earlier in the day could not have been more profound. Children raised in a civilized society are taught to love life and fear death while terrorists and suicide bombers are taught from a young age to live just long enough to create as

much death and destruction as possible, including their own.

I began to wonder what it is that makes the parents of these suicide bombers send off their children with bombs strapped to their chests. Do they watch in horror—as I did earlier in the day at a mere bungee jump? Do they love their children, and if so, upon what is that love conditioned? Now that Saddam Hussein is no longer around to wire \$25,000 in cash to the parents of every Palestinian suicide bomber, what is their motivation for teaching their children such hate?

I wondered what happens when these young “martyrs” panic and decide to save themselves from leaping into the murderous abyss to which their lives have been destined. Are their parents waiting for them with open arms of love and support? Are their parents relieved and elated, or are they embarrassed and angry?

Andrew G. Botsom wrote about Hamas’s genocidal Jew-hatred and made it clear that martyrdom is not a foreign concept in the Arab world. Martyrdom is something with which Israelis have become all too familiar. But, as a mother, I have a difficult time understanding how one rears her children only to send them off to kill themselves in the name of God. ★





Israelis Create Second Skin To Seal Wounds

By Karin Kloosterman
www.Israel21c.org

Plastics, sheep gut, silk and metal wire: the materials that doctors have used to stitch wounds together on the battlefield and in the clinic have changed over time, but none of the solutions are perfect. They take time to apply, and leave scars and a body vulnerable to infection as the wound heals.

Researchers from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa have “spun” together something brand new. They’ve created **a kind of fiber that can be applied like a dressing**, to help the body stitch together wounds.

Based on a protein found in cow’s blood, it can be used like a second skin to heal the type of external wounds created after a C-section, and also internally on abdominal wounds and those created during heart operations, says its inventor Prof. Eyal Zussmann, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Technion.

Using the protein “bovine serum albumin,” Zussmann has created the fibers from tools in nanotechnology, through a technique called electrospinning. The material he has developed into thread form can be formed into a patch that could be used extensively in medical applications.

Zussmann’s solution is closely related to the human protein “human serum albumin,” an abundant protein in the body. The new material is such a close

match that the human body cannot tell the difference between its own and the cow protein, he explains. This means that wounds will heal better, with less inflammation.

With the bovine serum already being produced on a commercial scale, it might not take long before bovine serum fibers are used as a standard in hospitals around the world. Potential applications for this biodegradable solution are limitless in the medical field. “It’s like a skin graft,” says Zussmann, “It can be tailored, based on the application.”

The Dogs That Aren’t Barking

By Jack Kelly
www.RealClearPolitics.com

European foreign ministers were startled recently when Egyptian President **Hosni Mubarak** told them Hamas must not be permitted to win the conflict in Gaza. That’s not what they expected to hear from an Arab leader.

Israel’s invasion of Gaza has prompted denunciations from the usual suspects. But as fictional detective Sherlock Holmes noted in solving the disappearance of the racehorse Silver Blaze, what’s most interesting are the dogs that *aren’t* barking.



Protests occur in Europe and America, but protests against Israel in Sunni Muslim countries have been muted. In the West Bank, there’s barely been a peep of protest. This is because Sunni leaders view the terror group Hamas as a proxy for Iran. And though Sunni rulers don’t like Jews any more today than they did before, they don’t fear Israel. But they do fear Shia Iran.

Iran's chief proxy is the terror group Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Five rockets were fired from Lebanon into Israel two weeks into the conflict. But this appeared to be an effort by Palestinians to trigger an Israeli attack on Hezbollah. A Hezbollah spokesman denied any knowledge of the attack, noted that the Katyusha rockets used were an obsolescent type, and said that if Hezbollah were going to attack Israel, it would fire off dozens of rockets, not just five.

When 70,000 Iranians volunteered to become suicide bombers against Israel, Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "No," that the appropriate response is a "mental jihad." He didn't explain what a "mental jihad" is, but it's unlikely to be as dangerous to Israelis as suicide bombers or Hezbollah rockets.

Al-Qaeda's Plague Backfires

By Alex West www.TheSun.co.uk

The al-Qaeda cell wiped out by Black Death may have infected ITSELF while developing biological weapons, it emerged recently. The terrorists planned to wreak havoc on Western targets but fell victims to their own weapon, a leading expert on chemical warfare believes.

The Sun revealed recently that Black Death, also called the Plague, killed at least 40 fanatics at a terror training camp in Algeria early in January. It was thought they caught the disease through poor living conditions in their forest hideouts. But Dr. Igor Khrupinov, of Georgia University, said: "Al-Qaeda is known to experiment with biological weapons. And this group has direct communication with other cells around the world. Contagious diseases, like Ebola and anthrax, occur in northern Africa. It makes sense that people are trying to use them against Western governments."

Dr. Khrupinov, once arms adviser to Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev, added: "Instead of using bombs, people with infectious diseases could be walking through cities."

Black Death HAS been researched as a biological weapon before. And al-Qaeda boss Osama bin Laden's fanatics were experimenting with anthrax in Afghanistan in 2001. Last year it was revealed that 100 suspected terrorists tried to become students in Britain, giving them access to labs.

In 2006, a plot to poison London's water was unmasked. Ian Kearns, of the Institute for Public Policy Research, said: "The biological weapons threat is not going away. We're not ready for it."



www.500editorials.com/cartoons

Appointed and Anointed

By Mark Levitt

I've been a Believer since March 1971 and a man since my Bar Mitzvah in April 1973. My Bar Mitzvah speech appears on pages 14 and 15 of the March 2007 *Levitt Letter*, archived at www.levitt.com.



Now, as you'll see below, I've been anointed by both Moishe Rosen, the founder of Jews for Jesus, and David Brickner, their Executive Director. This ceremony occurred in Moishe's home last October in San Francisco.

Page 16 of the November 2008 *Levitt Letter* includes a prayer request concerning Moishe's prostate cancer. He may not last until the Rapture, and last October I felt called to visit him and some of my contemporaries at the Jews for Jesus headquarters.

The anointing ceremony came as a pleasant surprise. It was quite an honor, in part because it probably will be the only one that Moishe ever conducts. I will treasure this memory as highly as the one of being baptized by my father, Zola, in 1981 in the Jordan River.

I had intended to honor Moishe and his ministry by traveling to California just to visit and pray with him. Despite being mortally ill, *he* outgave me once again, just as he has repeatedly over several decades. Below is a transcript of what Moishe and David said. I responded, "Yes" to the four questions.

Do you recognize that you have been called by God to take charge of the testimony of Zola Levitt Ministries?

Do you recognize that God's anointing on you requires godly conduct and a willingness to put Him and His service above all other interests?

Do you promise to endeavor to serve Him in a godly manner, knowing that you bear the responsibility to honor the reputation of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Will you accept this anointing as a holy event in your life, indicating a recognition of the leadership to which God has called you?



Moishe Rosen, Mark Levitt and David Brickner

I, Moishe Rosen, being called of God, and appointed by Him as a leader, do confer upon you the recognition of God's call and anointing in your life. (Anoint the forehead with oil, with a lateral line above each eye.)

I, David Brickner, called to be a leader, and appointed by God to leadership, do confer upon you the recognition of God's call and anointing in your life. (Anoint the forehead with oil, with a lateral line above each eye.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may He make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you; may He lift up His countenance on you and give you peace.

A charge to Mark: We have invited you —to recognize you, honor you, and set you forth as a proper elder and leader. With this act, we pledge you our friendship, our fraternal brotherhood, and promise that we will do whatever God enables to uphold you and Zola Levitt Ministries.

Congratulations Mark! —All at ZLM



An archaeologist was digging in Israel's Negev Desert and came upon a casket containing a mummy. After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural history museum.

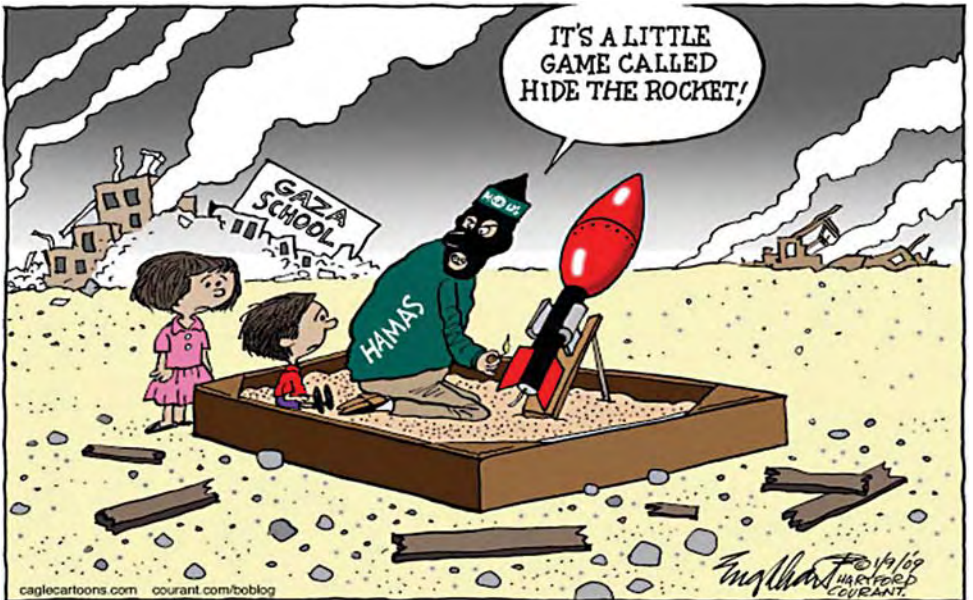
"I've just discovered the 3,000-year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed.

To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We'll check it out."

A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were right about the mummy's age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?"



"Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, '10,000 Shekels on Goliath.'" ★



Messianic Speakers Available!

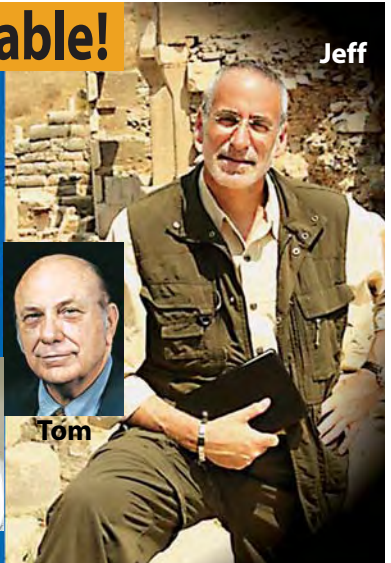
Want a Messianic Jewish message delivered in your church? Arrange it! **Drs. Jeffrey Seif, Tom McCall, and Todd Baker** can do pulpit supply and address a wide range of subjects such as: The Gospel from a Jewish perspective, Why the Jews matter to Jesus and Christians, How the Old and New Testaments connect, Jews and today's news in prophecy, and more. You already know Jeff. Tom McCall grounded Zola's theology and co-authored eight books with him. Todd Baker founded ZLM's Missions to Israel. Please contact our office at speakers@levitt.com to invite Zola Levitt Ministries to your Church.



Todd



Tom



Jeff

Palestinian and Israeli Scientists Unite to Help the Region

By Karin Kloosterman www.Israel21c.org

Israelis and Americans have been longtime friends and partners in scientific research. It's pretty much a given that a newly awarded young doctorate will head to America to cut his or her teeth in a research fellowship, before launching a career in medicine, biology, or biotech.

Hoping to broaden the scientific horizons for Palestinian scientists too, **despite the recent war with Gaza, a new science workshop connects Israelis to their Palestinian neighbors**, with a bigger purpose. It's a humanitarian effort, proposed by the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF), the organization that last year awarded \$15 million in research grants to joint projects in science between Israelis and Americans.

"These are not supposed to be conventional workshops where people talk about advances in science in their specialty," says Yair Rotstein, the executive director of the BSF. "We designed them around a topic of regional importance."

And what could be more important than water in a region where water is a limited resource? The first BSF-funded workshop took place recently in Haifa, where about 20 researchers—Palestinians, Israeli Arabs, Israeli Jews, and Americans—tackled the problem

of water scarcity and discussed new science that could address the growing lack of water in Israel, and the Middle East in general.

For four days in Haifa, the scientists met and discussed ways they could apply chemistry and their know-how to create a new solution for a joint research grant. Travel permits for the Palestinians were arranged by the BSF.

Since meeting, the scientists have drafted a proposal for funding from an international aid agency. Since Palestinian scientists are not eligible for grant money through the BSF, he says, the organization is giving them the know-



how and Israeli partners instead, so that together they can co-apply for research grants to other agencies, such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Next up is a workshop in April, to deal with genetic diseases in the Palestinian communities, a problem given the high rate of intermarriage among Arabs in the region.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their scientific excellence, as well as on their broader significance. These workshops will focus on areas such as the environment, ecology, water, alternative sustainable energy, genetic diseases, and infectious diseases. ★

Bedouin Women Team Up to Transform Their Village

By Ilana Teitelbaum www.Israel21c.org

Kiram Baloum, director of the Women's Empowerment Unit at the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CJAED) has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to empower Israeli Arab women, who historically are among the most disadvantaged of Israel's populations.

Baloum's vision of advanced education and career opportunities is dramatically at odds with the reality because many Bedouins lack even a high school education. Therefore CJAED has organized an advanced education and training program where the women of Qasr as-Sirr will earn their *Bagrut* (Israeli high school) diploma and simultaneously train in the business skills of their choice.

The new village of Qasr as-Sirr represents an effort to consolidate the Bedouin population that was formerly scattered throughout the Negev into one cohesive village. Over the course of the program, the number of women has increased from 12 to 18, and most are married with children.

Course subjects include computer skills, industrial management, and business administration. The goal is that these women will open the first businesses in Qasr as-Sirr, laying the foundations the village needs to thrive as an economically viable community.

Since the village is barely established, even the most basic businesses are in demand right now. The women plan to set up a bookstore for children's

schoolbooks, a fitness center, a computer store, and a small eatery next to the children's school.

But at this point in the village's development, says Baloum, even a simple grocery store is a viable business venture.

The training program is having an

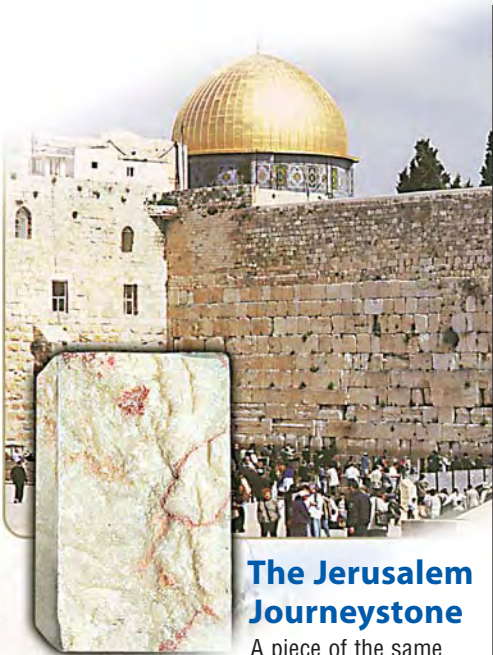


impact on the cultural sphere of Bedouin life as well as the economic one. Until now, it was not customary for Bedouin women to have careers, and it's been necessary for the women in training to work closely with the cooperation of their husbands, in order to ensure harmony in their marriages every step of the way.

This process hit a potential snag when a lecturer in business development was a man. The program leaders told the women to speak to their husbands about allowing them to attend the lecture—pointing out that when the women enter the business world, they will be interacting with men on a regular basis. The husbands agreed, signifying that a gradual change in the husbands' attitudes is underway.

Baloum concludes: "What's interesting in this story is that these women are committed, have a hard economic situation, and set an example for other women in the same situation. They want more and more courses; they're thirsty for knowledge. They have all the characteristics of leadership."





The Jerusalem Journeystone

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