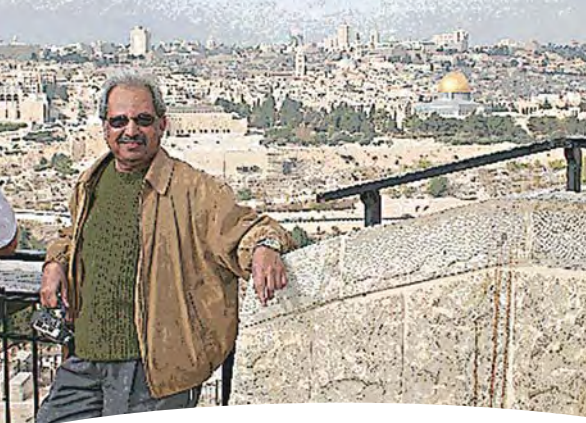


# Levitt Letter

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



Tashbih Sayyed



Here is an honest assessment by a Muslim of controversial matters. —Jeff

## A Muslim Observes A Jewish Land

By Tashbih Sayyed, Ph. D., [www.FreeRepublic.com](http://www.FreeRepublic.com)

As I boarded EL AL flight LY 0008 for Tel Aviv with my wife, Kiran, my mind was busy arranging and re-arranging the list of things I intended to accomplish. I wanted to use my first visit to Israel to feel the strength of the Jewish spirit that refuses to give in to evil forces despite thousands of years of anti-Semitism. It was not Israel's suicidal sacrifices that I wanted to investigate but the foundations of Israeli determination to live in peace.

*continued p. 2*

See special "Making Aliyah" photos throughout this article—pp. 1-7.



### INSIDE ITEMS ▼

- *A Muslim Observes Israel*.....1-6
- *Making Aliyah Photo Essay*...1-7
- *DeSeifering Our World*.....8
- *News Briefs*.....9
- *Ask The Professor*.....10
- *Classic Zola*.....11
- *Our Man In Jerusalem*.....12
- *Mayflower Voyage*.....13
- *Terrorist Testimony*.....14
- *Religion Of Peace*.....15
- *Hebrew Lesson*.....16
- *Bulletin Board*.....20
- *Note From Mark*.....21
- *Letters To ZLM*.....22-24
- *Did Jews Invent Violin?*.....25
- *Holocaust Map*.....26-27
- *Israel's Neighbors*.....28-29
- *Select Briefs*.....30-31
- *Christians In The IDF*.....32
- *Jewish Humor & More*.....33
- *Ecumenical Blast*.....34
- *Palestinian Problem*.....35

### ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCIENCE

## First Jew Wins Arab Nobel Prize

By Natasha Mozgovaya  
Haaretz News Service

An American professor has become the first Jew to win the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine, popularly known as the Arab Nobel Prize.



Stanford University Professor **Ronald Levy**, head of the university's oncology department, said that as an American Jew married to an Israeli, it never crossed his mind that he might win the Saudi-financed competition.

After he was informed of his victory, Levy rushed to check the contest website, where he found his picture and biography already on the homepage. The prize committee had posted Levy's

*continued p. 9*

There are many things that I wanted to talk about with Israelis, the foremost among them being their reluctance to do something about the bad press that continues to paint them as villains. Although I understand why the media, which reasonably covers most events accurately, chooses to ignore all rules of ethical journalism when it comes to Israel, I could not fathom Israel's reluctance to challenge the negative press effectively. Media bias against Israel reminded me of the Nazi era German press that was recruited by Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, **Joseph Goebbels**, who picked up every hate-laden word against the Jews. Just like the German press who refused to print the truth about the gruesome atrocities in Europe's death camps—or claimed that it was all an exaggeration—the media today also ignore the Arab terrorism. I wanted to see if there was any truth in the media allegations that Israel was an apartheid state, undemocratic and discriminatory.



I knew that a true Jewish State could not be undemocratic since democratic concepts were always a part of Jewish thinking and derived directly from the Torah. For instance when in America's Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness, he was basically referring to Torah that said that all men are created in the image of God. I was confident that Israel cannot be racist or discriminatory since it is based on the idea of the covenant between God and the Israelites, in which both parties accepted upon themselves duties and obligations underlining the fact that power is established through the consent of both sides rather than

through tyranny by the more powerful party.

My understanding of the Jewish State was confirmed when the entry form that I needed to fill in before landing in Tel Aviv did not ask for my religion, as is the law in Pakistan. Also, unlike Saudi Arabia, no one in Israeli immigration demanded from me any certificate of religion.

As the El Al flight approached the Promised Land, I continued to shuffle **the list of charges made routinely against Israel by its enemies:** Israelis live in a perpetual state of fear. Israel is undemocratic. Muslim Arab citizens of Israel do not have equal rights.

**Israelis Live in a Perpetual State of Fear: False.** From Tel Aviv to Tiberias, Jerusalem to Jezreel, and from the Golan Heights to the Gaza border, I could not find any evidence of fear. In fact the people felt so secure that none of the stores, gas stations, market places, or residences we went to—and where it was known that we were Muslims—deemed it necessary to either search or interrogate us. Especially when Kiran and I went to Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem on a Friday evening, we found it bursting at its seams with people of all ages. The ground was shaking with music and young boys and girls were so busy having fun that they did not bother to even look around.



"Making Aliyah"

Tourists were busy making deals and the whole crowd seemed to throb with the beat of the music.

I could not help but compare Israel's sense of security with the environment of insecurity that exists in Muslim countries. From Indonesia to Iran and from Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia, people are not sure of anything. In Pakistan's capital Islamabad, and the port city of Karachi, I was constantly advised not to make big purchases publicly for it encourages robbers to come after you. I did not hear news of any rape, honor killing, or holdup in Israel.

**Israel Is Undemocratic: False.** As a Muslim, I am much more sensitive to the absence of democratic freedoms in any society. And I do not believe that anyone but a committed anti-Semite will deny that Israel is a democracy. Democracy in Israel is proportional and representative, but democratic coalitions, necessary in order to effect any decision making, also have their problems. The object of a free and democratic Israeli society is to reach satisfactory compromise, but often the conclusions are less than satisfactory—especially for the majority. It involves coalitions and unity which are also checks and balances on any potential abuse of minority rights. It is a better system than the American republican system—which is really a representation of power and special interests. In the U.S. you get a democracy for the few. In Israel you have a democracy for everyone.

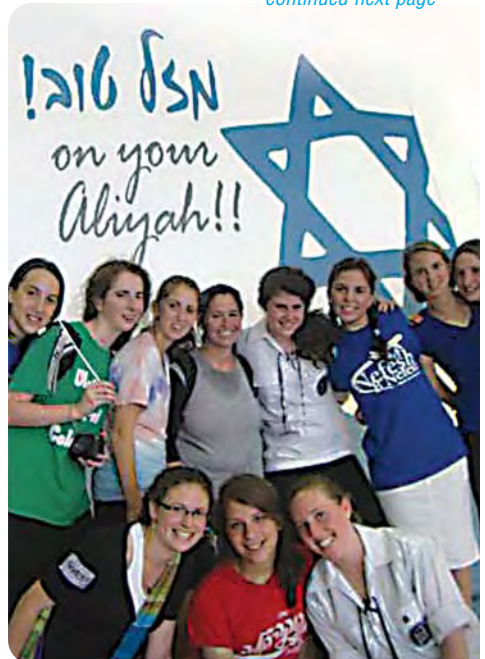
I tried very hard to find any Muslim state that has true democracy and where religious minorities are accorded equal democratic rights, but failed. The map of the Muslim world is too crowded with kings, despots, dictators, sham democrats, and theocratic autocrats; and the persecution of minorities is an essential part of Islamist social behavior. But here, protected by Israel's democratic prin-

ciples, the Muslim Arab citizens of Israel are afforded all the rights and privileges of Israeli citizenship. When the first elections to the Knesset were held in January 1949, Israeli Arabs were given the right to vote and to be elected along with Israeli Jews. Today, Israel's Arab citizens are accorded full civil and political rights, entitled to complete participation in Israeli society. They are active in Israeli social, political, and civic life and enjoy representation in Israel's Parliament, Foreign Service, and judicial system.

**The Israeli faith in democracy also explains their refusal to respond to Islamist terrorism in violent ways.**

Despite my being aware of the human weaknesses which allow anger to subjugate the best of intentions, I could not find Israelis acting in vengeance against their Arab compatriots. My experience as a Muslim was also instrumental in expecting the worst in human behavior; Muslims under the influence of radical Islam have been unleashing their terror against non-Muslims even when the charges of anti-Muslim offenses were determined to be false.

*continued next page*



**Sign: Mazel Tov on your Aliyah!!  
(Congratulations on moving to Israel.)**

I thought that it requires a superhuman effort to ignore the atrocities meted out to you and remain free of vengeful emotions. In my experience of Muslim societies, minorities have never been allowed the benefit of the doubt. Hatred of non-Muslims and outbursts of violence against minority faiths among radical Islamists have remained a norm rather than an exception. As a non-Wahhabi Muslim, I have personally faced their barbarism and have watched Christians, Hindus, and other minorities being persecuted on false pretenses. I thought that if Wahhabis in Saudi Arabia can sentence a teacher to 40 months in jail and 750 lashes just for praising Jews, it will not be unreasonable on the part of Israelis to punish Palestinians for throwing stones at worshippers at the Western Wall and burning down the tomb of Joseph.

**But even in this, Israelis have proved the world wrong. Despite daily provocations, they have managed successfully *not* to descend to the same level of depravity as their Arab enemies.** The world is used to daily violence that is unleashed against religious minorities in the Muslim world. Just recently, the Muslim faithful in Pakistan had broken through the walls of a church, torching and tearing open its doors. They were reacting to a rumor that a Christian had desecrated their holy book, the Koran. They smashed the marble altar of the Holy Spirit Church and shattered its stained glass windows. They torched a Christian residence and the neighboring St. Anthony's Girls School. Within moments, flames were licking the walls and black smoke filled the sky. For days, the Wahhabi clerics kept on calling their Muslim followers to come out from their houses and defend their faith by unleashing a reign of terror against Christians.

I wondered if an Israeli may someday find it justified to copy what Wahhabis have been

doing in Iraq and other places—abducting, murdering and beheading “infidels.” The body of a Hindu driver was found with his throat slashed in southern Afghanistan for no evident reason but his faith. But there was nothing in history that could have substantiated my fears; Jews, despite being subjected to the most barbaric acts of terrorism, have yet to react in vengeance against their perpetrators. And I concluded that my first visit to Israel will help me in untangling the knot of Israel's insistence on continuing to remain a target of Islamist terror.

**Muslim Arab Citizens of Israel Do Not Have Equal Rights: False.** As our air-conditioned bus negotiated the mountainous curves of the road to the heart of Galilee, I could not miss the rising minarets identifying a number of Palestinian Arab towns dotting the hillsides. The imposing domes of mosques underlined the freedoms that are enjoyed by the Muslims in the Jewish State. Large Arab residences, widespread construction activity, and big cars underlined the prosperity and affluence of Palestinians living under the Star of David.

On my way from the City of David to the Royal Prima Hotel in Jerusalem, I asked my Palestinian taxi driver how he feels about moving to the territories under the Palestinian Authority. He said that he could never think of living outside Israel. His answer blasted the myth spread by anti-Semites that Israel's Arab citizens are not happy there.



**Another Israeli Arab informed me that Arabs in Israel have equal voting rights.**

In fact, Israel is one of the few countries in the Middle East where Arab women can vote. In contrast to the non-Israeli Arab world, Arab women in Israel enjoy the same status as men. Muslim women have the right to vote and to be elected to public office. Muslim women, in fact, are more liberated in Israel than in any Muslim country. Israeli law prohibits polygamy, child marriage, and the barbarity of female sexual mutilation.

**The status of Muslim women in Israel is far above that of any country in the region.**

Israeli health standards are by far the highest in the Middle East, and Israeli health institutions are freely open to all Arabs, on the same basis as they are to Jews.

**Arabic, like Hebrew, is an official language in Israel and underlines the tolerant nature of the Jewish State.**

All the street signs call out their names in Arabic alongside Hebrew. It is official policy of the Israeli government to foster the language, culture, and traditions of the Arab minority, in the educational system and in daily life. Israel's Arabic press is the most vibrant and independent of any country in the region. There are more than 20 Arabic periodicals. They publish what they please, subject only to the same military censorship as Jewish publications. There are daily TV and radio programs in Arabic.

**Arabic is taught in Jewish secondary schools. More than 350,000 Arab children attend Israeli schools.**

At the time of Israel's founding, there was one Arab high school in the country. Today, there are hundreds of Arab schools. Israeli universities are renowned centers of learning in the history and literature of the Arab Middle East.

Aware of the constraints that

a non-Wahhabi is faced with while performing religious rituals in Saudi Arabia, Kiran could not hide her surprise at the freedoms and ease with which peoples of all religions and faiths were carrying out their religious obligations at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Garden Tomb, Sea of Galilee, Western Wall Tunnels, Western Wall, tomb of King David, and all the other holy places we visited.

**All religious communities in Israel enjoy the full protection of the State.**

Israeli Arabs—Muslims, as well as many Christian denominations—are free to exercise their faiths, to observe their own weekly day of rest and holidays, and to administer their own internal affairs. Some 80,000 Druze live in 22 villages in northern Israel. Their religion is not accessible to outsiders, and Druze constitute a separate cultural, social, and religious Arabic-speaking community. The Druze concept of *taqiyya* calls for complete loyalty by its adherents to the government of the country in which they reside. As such, among other things, the Druze serve in the Israel Defense Forces. Each religious community in Israel has its own religious councils and courts, and has full jurisdiction over religious affairs, including matters of personal status, such as marriage and divorce. The holy sites of all religions are administered by their own authorities and protected by the government.

*continued next page*



A Hindu journalist who came to visit me talked about the openness that Jewish society represents. He told me that more than 20% of the Israeli population is non-Jewish, of which approximately 1.2 million are Muslim, 140,000 are Christian, and 100,000 are Druze. Another non-Jewish Israeli told me that Christians and Druze are free to join even the defense forces of the Jewish State. Bedouins have served in paratroop units and other Arabs have volunteered for military duty.

**The big houses owned by Arab Israelis and the amount of construction that was going on in the Arab towns exposed the falsity of propaganda that Israel discriminates against Israeli Arabs from buying land.** I found out that in the early part of the century, the Jewish National Fund was established by the World Zionist Congress to purchase land in Palestine for Jewish settlement. Of the total area of Israel, 92 percent belongs to the State and is managed by the Land Management Authority. It is not for sale to anyone, Jew or Arab.

The Arab *Waqf* (national trust) owns land that is for the exclusive use and benefit of Muslim Arabs. Israel's government-owned land can be leased by anyone, regardless of race, religion, or sex. All Arab citizens of Israel are eligible to lease government land.

**I asked three Israeli Arabs if they face discrimination in employment.** They all said the same thing; normally there is no discrimination, but whenever homicide bombers explode and murder Israelis, some Israelis feel uncomfortable dealing with them. But that uncomfortable feeling is also very temporary.

My first visit to Israel has not only consolidated my belief that Israel is vital for the stability of the region, but also has convinced me that the existence of Israel will one day convince the Muslims of the necessity to reform their theology as well as sociology.

A journey through the Israeli desert brought another important aspect of life to light: Prophets are not the only ones who can perform miracles—people who believe in themselves can also perform unbelievable acts. Acres and acres of sand dunes have been transformed into the best possible fertile land; wheat, cotton, sunflowers, chickpeas, groundnuts (peanuts), mangoes, avocados, citrus, papayas, bananas, and any other fruit and vegetable that Israelis want to consume is grown within Israel. In fact, **Israelis have proved beyond any doubt why God promised them this land—only they could keep it green!**

The land is described repeatedly in the Torah as a good land and “a land flowing with milk and honey.” This description may not seem to fit well with the desert images we see on the nightly news, but let’s keep in mind that the land was repeatedly abused by conquerors that were determined to make the land uninhabitable for the Jews. In the six decades since the Jewish People regained control of the land, tremendous improvement in its agriculture has been witnessed. Israeli agriculture today has a very high yield. Agriculture in Israel is very effective, and is able to cover about 75% of domestic needs, despite the limited land available.

Looking at the development and transformation that the land has gone through because of the Jewish innovative spirit, hard labor, and commitment to freedoms for all times to come, I am convinced that it is true that God created this Earth, but it is also a fact that only an Israel can keep this Earth from dying. ★



**Tashbih Sayyed (1942-2007) worked for Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television as General Manager before moving to the United States in 1981. He tried to warn the West about the dangers of militant Islam. For his last ten years, Tashbih Sayyed was founder and editor-in-chief of the weekly newspapers *Pakistan Today* and *Muslim World Today*.**

Another Aliyah flight arrives in Israel bringing 238 North American Jews. This photo essay gives you a glimpse of the great moment... and signs!



**It isn't necessary to have a degree in economics, law, or medicine to discuss economics, foreign affairs, and health insurance. But it does help to know the Bible, because its values have guided public policy in those areas.**

## DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



### Bible Values

The same Scriptures that talk about hard work and its recompense also warn that indolence translates into poverty, and spell out the hazards of excessive credit and debt. The Bible speaks about maintaining relationships with nation-states around Israel and gives examples of statesmen respecting those states. It also speaks about going to war with them when provoked. Healthcare is important in Scripture. Dietary and sanitary laws attest to this in the Old Testament: the priests themselves were vested with authority to act as health inspectors to ensure the health and well-being of Israelite society.

**Our founding literature—Sacred Scripture—offers answers for our economy, our relationships with others, our futures, and our bodies.** Looking earnestly would show that we need to make some changes: we're not to indulge in bad diets or eat excessively, kill our own babies, or sanctify same-sex marriages and accord them the same status as heterosexual unions. We'd also learn that lazy people should bear the burden of their own indolence, and that doling out handouts is simply not biblical.

God cares for people's lives and well-being. He demonstrated that when He gave the Scriptures as a guide and when He made His Word into flesh by sending His Son.

Anxious to make His will known, even in this tough economy, *Zola Levitt Presents* is now airing a television series called *Sar Shalom*—meaning "Prince of Peace."

With the economy struggling throughout the year, Mark Levitt—Zola's son and this ministry's business manager—could have

pulled the plug on the series for now. No one would have blamed him for holding back. Many good ideas don't evolve for lack of resources. But Mark not only didn't kill it—just today, he asked our crew to film in Israel again.



Mark believes that we need to keep pressing against an uncertain future, certain that Jesus is the answer and that God is able in all things. We're going to continue making Jesus known through Jewish eyes and counter the demonic assaults against Israel, Jews, and the world's greatest Israeli Jew: Jesus.

#### **Come With Us To The Bible's Homeland.**

Pilgrims have been visiting Israel for millennia. If the same God who prompted them is prompting you, do what they did. Go! For now, go to the phone and call 1-214-696-9760, and talk to our travel manager Tracie Robbins about making the trip. We're already taking reservations for our March 14, 2010 departure. You have the option to add an excursion to Petra onto our 11-day Deluxe Tour of Israel.

As always, prayers and donations to help bring the Gospel to the world are appreciated—by us and by God.

Your messenger,



## Israel Leads The Way Out Of The Crisis

By Yael Gruntman, [www.Globes.co.il](http://www.Globes.co.il)

Israeli President **Shimon Peres** held a working meeting with **Dr. Nouriel Roubini** (bottom) at a recent political-economic conference in Italy. National leaders, ministers, and leading businesspeople attended.



Peres sought information about current economic trends in view of the global crisis and asked Roubini, sometimes called “Dr. Doom” after being among the first economists to predict the recession, what he thought about the Israeli economy. Roubini said that the Israeli economy had demonstrated stability compared with other Western countries, and that Governor of the Bank of Israel, Prof. Stanley Fischer, had properly managed the private market and financial system.

Roubini said, “I monitor Israel’s economic figures, which clearly show that there is no doubt that Israel is one of the first countries to recover from the global economic crisis. Israel is leading the way out of the crisis.”

Roubini agreed with Peres that Israel was on stable economic ground because it invested in high-tech. “Regrettably, heavy investment in real estate and credit in the U.S., UK, and other European countries, caused the economic crisis,” Roubini said.

Prof. Roubini is a professor of economics at New York University’s Stern School of Business and chairman of RGE Monitor (Roubini Global Economics). He was one of the few economists to predict the global credit crisis, saying as far back as 2004 that it was coming.



## First Jew Wins Arab Nobel Prize

(continued from p. 1)

biography exactly as he submitted it, with one glaring exception: the line showing his post-doctoral work at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel had been deleted.



The prize, which included \$200,000, a medal, and a certificate in English and Arabic, also came with a dinner with Saudi King Abdullah (shown above).

Levy told reporters he was certain his wife and daughters would not be able to attend the ceremony, as their passports are full of visas from Israel and his wife and one of his daughters were born in Israel. To his surprise, when he went to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles, the attendants stamped their passports, and no one asked any questions.

In spite of their fears before the trip, Levy said his family was treated to royal hospitality during their entire stay in Saudi Arabia. He said that even when people were aware of his religion and his family’s background, he was treated no differently than anyone else. Also, Levy said Saudis were fascinated with hearing what he and other visitors think of their country, and if their expectations were proved wrong or not.

Levy’s victory is the first time in the award’s 30 years that a Jew has won, which Levy says he took as a sign that Saudi Arabia is becoming more open.

Levy won the prize for his part in the development of a drug used in the treatment of many types of cancer that is being widely viewed as revolutionary.

For over 30 years, Levy has researched methods of using the body’s immune system to fight cancer. His research led to the concept of using a drug made from antibodies to fight cancer.



# Ask The Professor: ON RAPTURE



By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

**I have been told that the word “rapture” does not appear in the Bible and has little to no tradition in the teaching of the Church. If this is true, why should I believe in it?**

The anonymous author of the Epistle to the Hebrews warned: “Be not carried about with diverse and strange doctrines” (Heb. 13:9). The expression he used for “carried about” comes from the Greek word “*periphero*” which means to be “transported away.” The famous first-century biographer Plutarch used “*periphero*” for “being swept away by a river in a flood,”\* an application that’s akin to being “swept off one’s feet,” or “enraptured.” Mindful that some say we’re getting “carried away” with rapture teaching, and that it’s all “washed up,” I am happy to address the issue.

According to Dr. Thomas L. Constable, “in Latin the word for ‘caught up’ is ‘*rapturso*,’ from which comes the term ‘rapture.’ This is the (real) Rapture of the Church, when Christians are caught up (transported) to meet Christ in the clouds (Acts 1:9).”\*\* Harking to this event, Paul spoke of the time, saying that “the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain *shall be caught up together with them in the clouds* to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

**Though New Testament readers find the doctrine of the Rapture here, there are other related uses of trumpet-sounding in ancient Israelite religion and culture.**

In Numbers 10:1-10, God instructed Moses in trumpet calls:

- to convene a general assembly
- to gather together Israel’s leadership
- to convey instructions to the population while en route to the Holy Land
- to call regular convocations
- to accompany the armed forces while engaged in battle
- to remind Israel of God’s presence in times of peace and prosperity
- to notify the people when sacred holidays had arrived

- to inform them of new months
- to accompany the peoples’ offerings and sacrifices.

In a world devoid of telephones, television, and Twitter, the ancient Israelites sent messages through trumpet blasts.

In addition to the trumpet’s general usages, there also has been one day in particular designated by God as the “Feast of Trumpets” (Lev. 23:23-25). The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) falls on the first day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar—September 18th in 2009, September 8th next year. Man was to rest on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-2; Ex. 20:11), and the land on each seventh year (Lev. 25:3-4). The beginning of the seventh month is marked with a thundering announcement by means of the loud reverberations of the blasting trumpets. **It’s the Sabbath month—a time of spiritual reflection and repentance in view of the approaching Judgment.**

Observant Jews wear white clothing on this holiday as a sign of wanting to appear spotless before God. Israel’s sages teach that this is the day when God began to destroy the world with the flood in Noah’s day (Gen. 7). The day of the trumpet smacked of judgment coming, and Israel’s sages took it quite seriously.

Mindful of the above, I’m amazed by the following statement, culled from “Is The End Near?” Hear what its author, Father Edwin G. Daschbach, says about the Rapture: “We do not accept the Rapture. It corresponds to nothing in Scripture or Tradition.” [*Our Sunday Visitor*, 1970, p. 25]

I must respectfully disagree with Father Daschbach. The Church seems to have been carried away and lost sight of its roots. It has suffered because it has lost sight of Christianity’s origin in Judaism. Let’s work together to change this. ★

\*Nicoll, W.R., *The Expositor’s Greek Testament*, Vol. IV., [Eerdmans, 1974], p. 377; \*\*Walvoord and Zuck, *Bible Knowledge Commentary* [Victor Books, 1984], p. 704.

## And This Is Israel...

Let me give you a report from Israel as I saw it on our Fall Tour. Our TV crew was with our pilgrims, and we were taping a new series of programs, *This Is Israel!*, showing the truly fine and beautiful Israel that one never sees on CNN or the networks, but is there all the same.

It struck me as I stood by the country club at Caesarea, or the broad boulevards of Jerusalem, or the gorgeous flowers of Galilee, that Israel is pictured by Americans as some kind of banana republic of dusty streets and violence. Never do the media indicate that 6 million folks go to work and come home every day in contentment, or that Jerusalem has one of the highest real estate values in the world (so badly do people want to live there), or that there is peace in the land other than the familiar ghetto problems that plague every democracy.

**But its internal problems are real headaches.** Here is Arafat preaching that he will fly the Palestinian flag from all mosques and churches in Jerusalem. Right after he signed the recent prisoner exchange agreement with the new Prime Minister Barak, he headed off to visit his friend, the Pope, and plan a mutually profitable celebration in Bethlehem for the year 2000. Bethlehem has become a discouraging site for our tourists to visit at this point. Since taken over by Arafat, it has become a typical Palestinian city, not particularly clean or safe, and unfriendly to Christians. (The Christians who actually live in the town where our Lord was born have mostly been run off, and the others are afraid to speak. I tried to interview a Christian I have known for years there, and he only repeated, "We don't know," in answer to my every question. That was scary.)

The so-called peace process (which David Bar-Illan, Senior Advisor to former Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, now calls only the Oslo Process, not using the word "peace" any more) affects everyone. Burger King probably gets the American prize for appeasing dictators. They closed their hamburger restaurant which they had built at an Israeli settlement because of Palestinian accusations that they had used "occupied territory." This would be like American Indians telling a Japanese auto company not to build a facility anywhere in the United States because the land was occupied. (The problem with the analogy: in Israel the Israelis are the Indians!) I'm afraid in the real world the land goes to its last conqueror, and those are the rules in America and everywhere else except, apparently, in the Promised Land, where not even God's country goes to the victors to whom He gave it.



**Coming to Israel, breathing the air, talking to the people, and looking around is the best way to appreciate this crucial situation.** Our tours go and return with no problems whatever, and a good time is had by all. Please avail yourself of this wonderful experience in this life if you possibly can. ★

For a timeless armchair tour of Israel, please see the TV series Zola mentions, *This Is Israel*, on page 18. Perfect for those who cannot tour in the flesh.

### Dry Bones ISRAEL'S IMAGE





## A Lot Going On In Israel

International media reports about Israel usually focus on topics involving violence and conflict. Few mention the fact that Israeli scientists are among the world's top producers of new medical and technological breakthroughs that bless people everywhere on Earth.

One of the latest innovations is the development of a quick breathalyzer test that can reportedly detect lung cancer tumors before they grow to the point where they show up on x-rays. Doctors have long understood that early detection is a crucial factor in overcoming cancer.

**Another recent Israeli breakthrough is a reported cure for insomnia, which plagues millions around the globe.** A team of Tel Aviv University researchers have developed medication that gradually releases the natural hormone melatonin into the body, inducing a restful sleep. Most other sleeping aids contain addictive manmade chemicals that suppress brain activity, often leaving the user groggy the next morning.

While Israeli scientists patiently labor behind the scenes to find new cures for some of the world's medical ills, hundreds of archaeologists work out of the limelight to uncover the country's rich historic past. And the efforts often pay off in a big way, with thousands of important discoveries made every decade.

However, few discoveries have surpassed the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most of the 900 ancient Jewish documents brought to light since 1947 from the caves of Qumran, northwest of the Dead Sea, were written on papyrus scrolls. But some of them were inscribed on more durable copper.

The Copper Scrolls have inspired many archaeologists to hunt for the magnificent Temple treasures described in them. Among the most

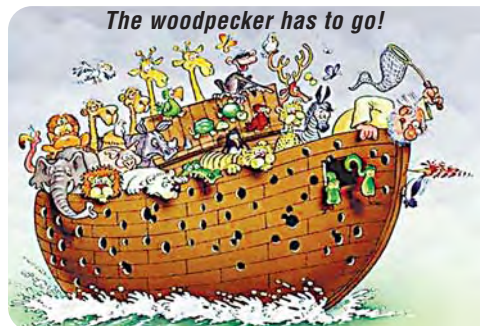
famous is Vendyl Jones, who has conducted eight digs since 1972.

Although the Copper Scrolls do not directly mention the missing Ark of the Covenant, the ashes of the red heifer, or the breastplate worn by the high priest, Jones believes these central Temple items are hidden in one of the 11 caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. His quest to uncover them became the basis for Indiana Jones, the film character created by Hollywood movie producer George Lucas. The real Jones is a former Baptist pastor from Texas.

Now another American adventurer has joined the exciting quest for buried Temple treasures. His name is Jim Barfield and he's a former fire marshal from Oklahoma. He believes Vendyl Jones has been looking in the wrong places. Based on aerial photographs of the Qumran area, Barfield thinks he has identified 60 sites that match descriptions contained in the Copper Scrolls.

Barfield traveled to Israel with his contention and convinced the Antiquities Authority (which oversees all archaeological digs) that it was worth another try. But the digs that began last April have now been halted after three test sites produced nothing.

Still convinced that the treasures are there, Barfield intends to find a way to continue. ★



## Voyage of the *Mayflower*

By John Hunt, [www.AmericanThinker.com](http://www.AmericanThinker.com)

The Pilgrims took tremendous risks during their solo voyage, resulting in great rewards Americans enjoy to this day. They set sail for the New World in September 1620, what we now know is during hurricane season.

The *Mayflower* was a modest ship, not designed to carry passengers: probably about 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. The 102 passengers were quite cramped. The waist area of the top deck was open, covered with just a canvas tent. The crew had cabins at the bow and stern. The Pilgrims slept on top of their belongings in the cargo hold. She was called a “sweet” ship, as she was a former wine ship and had the aroma of spilled wine. Most ships of that day smelled of garbage and the livestock they carried.

The top-heavy ship pitched in the cold Atlantic storms. Streams of cold saltwater poured through the leaky superstructures at unexpected times. Hot food was rare. For 66 days the meals were mostly cold hard biscuits, salted beef, and beer.

**It was dangerous to go topside to stretch your legs. A young man named John Howland was blown overboard when the *Mayflower* rolled. The others pulled him aboard with a boat hook. He lived and became a respected member of the new settlement.**

During another storm, a mid-ships main beam bowed and cracked. The crew of about twenty had enough and wanted to turn back to England. Another fifty people—farmers and craftsmen hired by the partnership that sponsored the endeavor—grumbled, but they were poor, working-class people with little reason to return to England. The fifty Pilgrims, as you might expect, prayed to find a way to go on.

Why were the Pilgrims so determined? Today’s churchgoer who seeks entertainment and comfort has no concept of the persecutions the Pilgrims endured in England. Yet those persecutions became a blessing in disguise. Years of persecution in England, and scratching out a living in Holland, had welded the Pilgrims into a very determined band of people.

Captain Christopher Jones used his twelve years of experience, and the Pilgrims used a large iron screw (such as found in an old-style winepress) to push the main beam back into place.



William Bradford wrote that they then, “Committed themselves to the will of God and resolved to proceed.” He also wrote, “. . . the storms were so fierce and the seas so high, as they could not bear a knot of sail, but were forced to hull for diverse days . . .” In other words, they were blown across the Atlantic Ocean not under their own course. They were in the hands of the very One in whose providence they believed.

They endured seasickness and scurvy, hunger, cold, wet, deaths at sea, and births. While avoiding another storm in November, the ship crept into what is now Provincetown Harbor. Before landing, the Pilgrims demanded that a covenant be written and agreed to in order to ensure the survival of the colony. Thus, the *Mayflower Compact* was established. After everyone agreed to those guidelines, they finally set foot on land. Their perilous solo voyage complete, the Pilgrims went to work to survive their first harsh New England winter. ★

# Palestinian Terrorist Embraces Jesus

By Erick Stakelbeck  
www.CBNNews.com



**Tass Saada**, a native Palestinian, ran away from home and joined the movement when he was 17. “I joined the Fatah movement, basically, because Yasser Arafat was my hero,” Saada says. Israel’s resounding victory over the Arab nations in the Six Day War of 1967 devastated young Tass. He was soon drawn to the militant views of Fatah founder and Saada family friend, Yasser Arafat. “I used to sit right across from him and just stare at him, mesmerized,” says Saada. “He was such a charismatic character.” Saada believed the Jews had stolen Palestinian land. He was determined to help Arafat and Fatah push Israel into the sea.

Saada became a Fatah sniper, picking off and killing Israeli soldiers. His nickname was “Butcher.” “My job was to knock off whoever was the commander of the unit,” he says. But his most prestigious job was as a personal driver for Arafat.

Saada eventually made his way to the United States to attend school. By that point, he had given up waging violent jihad, but he still hated Jews. He became a successful restaurant manager, married an American woman, and had two children. But he was miserable—living a fast lifestyle of mistresses and booze...until a longtime friend told him about Jesus Christ.

“He put the Bible in the middle, between the two of us. And I just got scared and I jumped away from the Bible,” Saada recounts. “I said, ‘I cannot touch that! It’s got the name of God, the word of God in it!’ He said, ‘So you believe this is the word of God?’ I said, ‘Yes.’ Why did I say ‘yes,’ when Muslims don’t really believe that the Bible is valid as the word of God?”

He says he momentarily lost consciousness at that point. “The next thing I know, I’m on my knees with my hands lifted up, inviting Jesus. And the rest is history.” When Tass told his Muslim family back in the Middle East of his conversion, his brother vowed to kill him.

In the meantime, his Christian friend threw him for yet another loop. “He said, ‘Tass, to have the peace that I have, you must love the Jew,’” remembers Saada. “I literally froze.” But Saada soon got past that lifelong hatred. He developed close friendships with Jews and began to look at Israel in a brand new light. His book, *Once an Arafat Man*, recounts his transformation.

Today, Saada spends much of his time in the West Bank and Gaza, helping provide modern necessities to Palestinians through his charitable organization, Seeds of Hope. He says Muslims in the Middle East are turning to Christ in record numbers. “Millions of Muslims around the Earth—especially the Arabs in Saudi Arabia, in Qatar,” Saada marvels. “In all these 12 nations of Ishmael, all of these nations, there is so much conversion in that land.” That’s why Saada is confident that peace will one day come to the region—the kind of peace that politicians can never bring. ★



# Allah Rewards Raping of Prisoners

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

Assyrian International News Agency

An influential Shiite religious leader told followers that coercion by means of rape, torture, and drugs is acceptable against all opponents of the Islamic regime.

In the wake of publications worldwide regarding the rape and torture of dissident prisoners in Iran's jails, supporters of Ahmadinejad gathered with him recently and heard from Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi and Ahmadinejad himself regarding the issue.

According to an independent Israeli intelligence analysis organization, Mesbah-Yazdi is considered Ahmadinejad's personal spiritual guide. A radical totalitarian even in Iranian terms, he holds messianic views, supports increasing Islamization, and calls for violent suppression of domestic political opponents. The following text is from a transcript said by Iranian dissidents to be questions and answers exchanged between the ayatollah and his supporters. **Warning: The question-and-answer session, partially reproduced here, contains disturbing descriptions of the sanctioned brutality.**

Asked if a confession obtained "by applying psychological, emotional, and physical pressure" was "valid and considered credible according to Islam," Mesbah-Yazdi replied: "Getting a confession from any person who is against the *Velayat-e Faqih* (the regime of Iran's mullahs) is permissible under any condition." The ayatollah gave the identical answer when asked about confessions obtained through drugging the prisoner with opiates or addictive substances.

**"Can an interrogator rape the prisoner in order to obtain a confession?"** Mesbah-Yazdi answered: "The necessary precaution is for the interrogator to perform a ritual washing first and say prayers while raping the prisoner. If the prisoner is female, it is permissible to rape through the vagina or anus. It is better not to have a witness present.

If it is a male prisoner, then it's acceptable for someone else to watch while the rape is committed."

This reply, and reports of the rape of teen male prisoners in Iranian jails, may have prompted the following question: "Is the rape of men and young boys considered sodomy?" Ayatollah Mesbah-Yazdi: "No, because it is not consensual. Of course, if the prisoner is aroused and enjoys the rape, then caution must be taken not to repeat the rape."



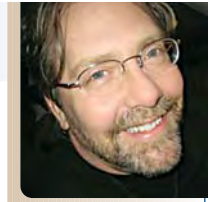
Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi (L) and clergyman

A related issue, in the eyes of the questioners, was the rape of virgin female prisoners. In this instance, Mesbah-Yazdi went beyond the permissibility issue and described the Allah-sanctioned rewards accorded the rapist-in-the-name-of-Islam:

"If the judgment for the [female] prisoner is execution, then rape before execution brings the interrogator a spiritual reward equivalent to making the mandated *Haj* pilgrimage [to Mecca], but if there is no execution decreed, then the reward would be equivalent to making a pilgrimage to [the holy city] Karbala."

One aspect of these permitted rapes troubled certain questioners: "What if the female prisoner gets pregnant? Is the child considered illegitimate?"

Mesbah-Yazdi answered: "The child borne to any weakling [a denigrating term for women] who is against the Supreme Leader is considered illegitimate, be it a result of rape by her interrogator or through intercourse with her husband, according to the written word in the Koran. However, if the child is raised by the jailer, then the child is considered a legitimate Shiite Muslim." ★



## The Overflow of the Heart

By John J. Parsons

יְהִי לְרָצוֹן אִמְרֵי־פִי וְהַגִּינוֹן לִבִּי לְפָנֶיךָ

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,  
be acceptable in thy sight. (Psalm 19:14)*

יְהִי	לְרָצוֹן	אִמְרֵי־פִי	וְהַגִּינוֹן	לִבִּי	לְפָנֶיךָ
(2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(4)   (3)   (2)   (1)
le-fa-ne-kha	lib-bi	ve-heg-yon	im-rei fi	le-ra-tzon	yi-yu
before You	my heart	and the meditation of	the words of my mouth	for favor	May they be

Our words reveal what's hidden within our hearts, and therefore—because words and thoughts are intimately connected—we must be very careful about how we *think*, and especially about how we esteem others. The Chofetz Chaim wrote that the foundational principle of guarding our speech is to always judge others in the best possible light. This involves *hakarat tovah*, that is, recognizing the good in others, and choosing to see with *ayin tovah*, “a good eye.” It is better to judge favorably—even if we are in error—than it is to judge critically—even if we are telling the truth.

The sages say that our judgments carry great weight in Heaven. The words we say, whether good or bad, call for a response in the realm of spirit. This is hinted at by the Hebrew word for “thing,” i.e., *devar*, which also means “word.” When we defend someone and speak favorably of him or her, our words *mean something* and favorably dispose Heaven itself; on the other hand, if we accuse them or are critical of them, we align our thoughts with Satan, and the opposite effect is produced.

Listen to the words of your heart and understand that they are *devarim*, “things” that are defining the course of your life right now. Proverbs 4:23 says, “more than all else, guard your heart, because from it are the bounds of your life.” Our thoughts and words are ultimately “prayers” we are constantly offering... How you think/pray determines the “bounds” or course of your life. As Yeshua said, “According to your faith be it done unto you” (Matt. 9:29).

Yeshua spoke of “good and evil treasures of the heart” that produce actions that are expressed in our words (Luke 6:45). The focus here is not so much on the externals (for example, the use of profanity), but rather on the underlying condition of the human heart. Our inward motive determines our thinking, which in turn affects the way we act and use words. We must be on guard to keep away from *lashon hara* (evil speech) by focusing on what is worthy, lovely, and of good report (Phil. 4:8).

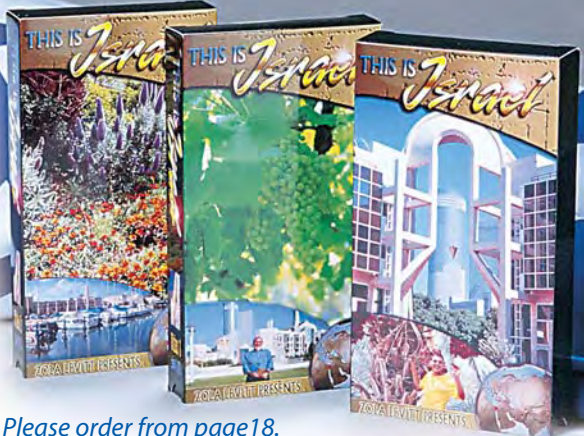
**May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to the Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.**





## *This Is Israel!* Videocassettes

Zola and his crew got tired of waiting 20 years for CNN and the other networks to show Israel as the modern, beautiful country it really is. They decided to do it themselves. Viewers will be as surprised as our pilgrims are to see that this much-criticized nation is at least the equal of our own and in some ways superior! *Please order from page 18.*



**A Place of Birth** Zola teaches from the Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in Jerusalem, which overlooks Bethlehem. He relates the history of Bethlehem from biblical times through today, including the controversial construction at Har Homa.

**A Place of New Life** We go to the baptismal site on the banks of the Jordan River. Zola recalls his own baptism there, and we see Russian immigrants being baptized.

**A Place of Opportunity** Zola tells us the history of Tel Aviv, the business center of Israel. We also visit a site in nearby Jaffa where Arab and Jewish children regularly come together to play in peace.

**A Place among Nations** Dr. Tom McCall, senior theologian and author, relates the historical significance of Akko, a port city known in the Bible as Acre. We hear from Israel's Minister of Tourism and also from David Bar-Illan, former editor of *The Jerusalem Post*.

**A Place of Blessing** Zola recounts the many artistic achievements made by the Jewish people. We hear from a scientist who uses DNA to find those who are direct descendants of Aaron and the High Priests. Zola interviews then-mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert.

**A Place of Healing** From the Dead Sea, Zola tells how these waters are used by many for healing. He interviews the spa manager at a Dead Sea resort hotel.

**A Place of Revelation** Tom McCall gives us the history of Caesarea Philippi, now called Banias, including some of the ideas the Messiah taught here.

**A Voice to the Nations** From Jaffa, the ancient seaport south of Tel Aviv, Zola tells us how David, Jonah, and Peter visited here.

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*Available on page 18.*

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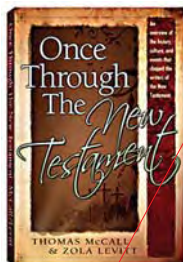
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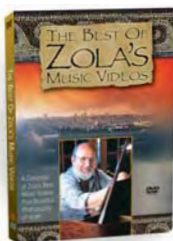


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## Free Music Selection

To hear a different song by Zola each day, just click on the play button in the middle left of the home page at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com). You also can subscribe to email notifications of when we post new *Levitt Letters* online, which lets you preview them significantly before the hard copies arrive by U.S. mail. You might also click on "*Levitt Letter Extra News*" (LLX) in order to read stories that we post between our regular newsletters.

## Pamphlet of the Month:

*"Questions & Answers about Estate Planning,"* discusses embracing the future by taking time to plan for it. After explaining what estate planning is and what occurs without an estate plan, the pamphlet suggests how to begin creating one. It also touches on ways to complement a will, such as trusts, joint ownership arrangements, powers of attorney, and beneficiary designations. Finally, it suggests ways to make charitable gifts within estate plans and enjoy immediate tax savings plus other benefits. To receive this free pamphlet, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

## 2008 Fundraising Expense Minimal

To comply with the tax code, we calculated the small percentage of newsletter space and television time that this ministry devotes to fundraising. Taken together, they account for less than six tenths of one percent (0.56%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%—more than thirty-five times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you the supporter and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for support. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to expand this outreach to new frontiers across the globe... *thanks!*

## "Come Home!"

Zola's  
Tours to  
Israel:



See page  
36 for details



## A Star Is Just A Star



**Why did Charity Navigator reduce our ministry's rating from four stars in 2006 to three stars in 2007? The short answer is that our revenues fell after Zola's passing, but Charity Navigator left intact our four-star rating for efficiency.**

**Q.** I was recently sharing with a friend about your ministry and the trips you offer to Israel. The question turned to trustworthiness, and I assured him that your rating was the highest by Charity Navigator. He checked it out and saw that you now have three stars instead of four. I promised to ask you what had changed. My faith in your ministry remains solid, and I am hoping you can help me understand the lower rating. In Christ, P.L.

**A.** Thanks, P.L., for speaking favorably to friends about our ministry. Rather than trustworthiness, Charity Navigator evaluates *efficiency* and *capacity*. Our *efficiency* rating remains essentially the same as when we had the overall four-star rating (38.9 points now, compared with 39.0 points before). Our *capacity* rating, however, fell from 25.0 points to 19.7. Three stars is an honorable score ("Exceeds or meets industry standards and performs as well or better than most charities in its Cause."), but four stars would remain if our revenues hadn't fallen and our cash reserves were more plentiful—perhaps if we had six months or more worth of revenue stashed away. If our ministry did more fundraising and fewer on-location television programs, its financial statements might look more robust.

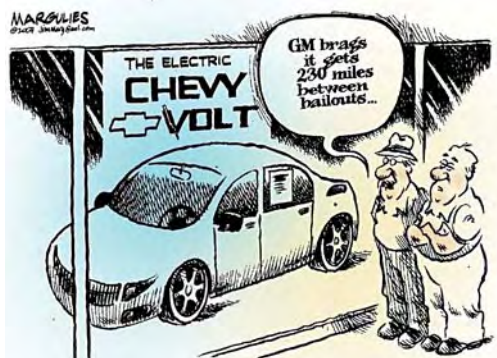
Of course, Charity Navigator does not evaluate the balance sheets that this ministry and its supporters maintain in Heaven. It wouldn't make sense for

us to have massive cash on hand when the Rapture comes. We're stowing our treasures in Heaven—and in our bookstore and on our website for those left behind to find when they wonder what happened.

By comparison, Army Emergency Relief (AER) has Charity Navigator's top rating of four stars. Of their \$46.8 million revenue in 2007, they mobilized only 55% and added the other 45% to their reserves. (Our ministry mobilized 99.3% of its 2007 revenue.) AER's net assets are \$346.6 million, enough to cover more than 13 *years* of expenses. They've been accused of stockpiling money meant to benefit GIs, but extraordinary reserves don't cause Charity Navigator to reduce their rating.

Shortly after Zola's promotion to Heaven in 2006, this ministry received sympathy gifts that did not recur in 2007. An accountant might conclude that 2006 was this ministry's best year ever. Grieving fans might say it was our worst year. The accountant might declare the 2007 downturn as a sign of reduced "capacity" to accomplish our mission. Fans of Zola's work, which continues (praise the Lord for Jeff!), would celebrate that Zola's vision marches on. Our ministry certainly doesn't covet whatever contributions Jeff's untimely demise would spur, but such giving likely would cause our capacity score to surge.

You can help this ministry recover its four-star rating from Charity Navigator by bolstering our revenue and reserves. As far as our rating in Heaven goes, you can be sure that we have more "stars" now than if we were hoarding funds. ★





# Letters to ZLM

## Fan Mail

Dear Jeff,

This is a fan letter. The *Levitt Letter* is one of the few magazines I read from cover to cover each month. Thank you for telling it like it really is. I'm a Messianic Jew and am especially interested in the articles about Israel. I'm also an 80-year-old lady and quite limited financially, but here's a small donation.

Hugs, S. (FL)

Dear Dr. Seif,

Thanks for becoming a fulltime member of ZLM. I have been with ZLM well over 20 years and consider this ministry one of the most honest and dedicated. Thank you so much for your servant's heart, for your strong gift of leadership, your honesty and your wisdom rightly dividing the Word of God. The louder the voice of opposition grows, the more urgent and life rendering it is to hear your voice and that of ZLM.

Much Love and Respect, M. (OH)

## Exception To The Rule?

Dear *Levitt Letter* Editor,

I believe Mark Levitt's headline (Aug. '09, p. 21) "Avoid Reverse Mortgages" was a poor choice of words. Obviously he is not retired, so he has no comprehension of what many senior retirees face financially.

I've been retired fifteen years, and we've had a reverse mortgage for the last four years. In just that short period, we've spent \$18,714 on house repairs/replacements and \$12,004 for property taxes. We are extremely happy that we have a reverse mortgage.

Sincerely, D.J. (PA)

Dear D.J.—

Your situation may be an exception to the principles offered by the *USA Today* columnist and the expert quoted from AARP. Then again, are you aware of how much your reverse mortgage has cost you? If you ran all of the numbers beforehand and you had no better options, then more power to you.

Incidentally, you can see *TIME* magazine's recent article, "The Pros and Cons of Reverse Mortgages" at [www.levitt.com/news](http://www.levitt.com/news).

— Mark

### ARGYLE SWEATER By Scott Hilburn



©2009 Scott Hilburn/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

9/22

### TV Critic

Hi,

My donation is to help with the cost of publishing the *Levitt Letter*. As for the TV program, you have lost your way. I pray you find it again.  
K.H. (WI)

Dear K.H.—

Imperfect as we are, we all “lose our way” every now and again. Hopefully we don’t lose our compass. However, in this case, I think I may have lost YOUR way and not necessarily *the way*. Thanks for the prayers—and for the help with the *Levitt Letter*. —Jeff



### Self-loathing Jew

Dear ZLM,

As a person of Jewish descent, I hesitate to get involved in debates on the question of whether the [so-called] State called Israel, which is not a state with an established and published constitution, [is legitimate]. The goal of Zionists is not a biblical idea. If your ministry is going to find itself supporting one side of a worldly argument and not remain neutral, then you ought to remove me from your mailing list; I have no need of such one-sided propaganda.

Sincerely, L.G. (CO)

Dear L.G.—

I do plan to continue standing on ancient Scripture and with modern Israel. At your request, I will have your name removed from the mailing list. Please read and pray about how dramatically the ramifications of Genesis 12:3 will impact your spiritual future. —Jeff

### Find the U.S. Politician



## Singing Different Tunes

Dear Jeff,

I truly regret that I must tell you I can no longer support Zola Levitt Ministries. My breaking point came with your reply to the letter from T.F. [*Levitt Letter*, Sept 2009]. I must admit, I don't know if what T.F. said was concerning the music of Paul Wilbur and contemporary Christian music. I am sure Zola would never allow any such music, since he was a conservative, classically trained musician, so I think that sums up the matter about contemporary music, which is very worldly and does not permit the Holy Spirit to enter in.

Maybe T. F. is an old guy like me (I'm 87) and, believe me, we are not about to change. Please keep in mind I hold no animosity toward you or the Ministry, but I just had to defend my belief. God Bless you. W.K.D.

Fair enough, W.K.D.—

I do not think less of you for disagreeing with me. My musical guest, Paul Wilbur, is himself a classically trained musician. He trained at Indiana University, the same music school as Zola. He is lauded in the United States as one of Messianic Judaism's most inspired music ministers—apparently many believe that the Holy Spirit is in his music. There's not a lot of Holy Spirit in fighting over musical styles. Thanks for writing and for your past support. —Jeff

## Don't Miss The Big Picture

Dr. Seif,

I believe that born-again Christians need to be challenged to do what Jesus did in terms of holidays and which day of the week to honor above all others. Jesus, Paul, John, Peter, etc. never told us to create a calendar based on the events of Jesus' life. They never commanded us to celebrate Yeshua's birthday or to switch the holy *Shabbat* to the first day of the week. Consider these ideas and get back to me. —E.S.G. (PA)

Dear E.S.G.—

I agree that the New Testament never mandates switching calendars, and doesn't insist that a calendar revolve around the events of Jesus' life, which we're to follow. It is fortunate that individuals are recovering Jesus' Jewish roots, and in addition, are rediscovering what it is to celebrate His life in a Jewish context. The New Testament doesn't mandate switching calendars, but I do hear it saying that we're not to insist on this or that day, deeming one better than the other, and making worship on that day some sort of a litmus test. Followers of Jesus worshipped on Sunday as a remembrance of the day He arose. Frankly, in this world, we Believers should rejoice when anyone wants to worship Jesus on *any* day; I await the "Big Day" when the Lord Himself will help us sort out these matters. —Jeff ★

### NON SEQUITUR By Wiley





## Did Jews Invent The Violin?

By Elana Estrin, JPost.com



The origin of the violin has always been murky. Scholars have suspected that the violin's precursor, the viol, was invented in Spain in the second half of the 15th century—before the Jews were expelled (in 1492). Then, shortly after the Spanish expulsion, the viol showed up in Italy, where it quickly developed into the violin we know today. But who brought the viol to Italy and who is responsible for its development into the violin have largely remained a mystery.

In the last few decades, some scholars have concluded that Jewish musicians were the ones responsible. The violin seems to have originated in Italy in the first half of the 16th century, around the same time that the expelled Spanish Jews would have settled there. And the viol seems to have traveled the same path and at the same time that the Jews fled Spain.

While few scholars have published research backing this theory, the idea is beginning to strike a chord in the music world. At a biannual violin symposium at the Juilliard School in May, which draws the world's top violinists, artistic director Monica Huggett presented a keynote lecture outlining the history of the violin. She excitedly announced to the roughly 100 violinists in the audience that she's waiting for more research to be conducted that would definitively add the violin to the list of Jewish achievements.

The first to propose this theory was Roger Prior, 73, a retired lecturer from the University of Belfast. He's written two articles and a book about Jewish musicians around the time of the violin's origin.

"Did you know that there's no reference to the violin in Spain in the 16th century? When the Jews were pushed out of Spain, one of the obvious places they went to was Italy. That's where the violin seems to have been developed. That's the reason for linking the Jews and the violin. I think that's been quite well-documented," Prior says.

Prior serendipitously came to unravel the mystery of the Jewish musicians while researching a different discipline and a different part of Europe—the court of King Henry VIII. Around 1983, as a lecturer in the University of Belfast's Department of English, Prior was researching the identity of the "Dark Lady," the mysterious woman mentioned in several of Shakespeare's sonnets. Noted British historian A.L. Rowse suggested that the Dark Lady was a woman by the name of Emilia Bassano, and Prior began investigating her biography.

He noticed parallel language describing her and Shylock, the Jewish moneylender in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. It led him to suspect that Bassano was Jewish. He began to gather evidence confirming his hypothesis, but didn't expect to find that several members of the Bassano family were the original members of the wind consort at King Henry VIII's court. That discovery led him to the king's Jewish string consort. ★

Visit [www.levitt.com/news](http://www.levitt.com/news) and follow the fascinating saga of travel, prison wills, and religious politics that led to these theories.





## Anti-Semitic Christians Assail New York Jews *Israel Today*

A group of “Christians” from the Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas recently showed up in New York City to let local Jews know just how hated they are.

The anti-Semites picketed outside several New York Jewish institutions, carrying signs that read “God Hates Jews.” Jewish leaders urged local Jews to simply avoid personal contact with the demonstrators and to go about business as usual.



This is one of the most unique maps we have ever come across. It portrays the big picture of how widespread the Holocaust was, detailing what actually took place in history and where.

"Never again!"



### **Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy** book and CD

This study of a primary end-times prophecy is vital reading for all who believe the Scriptures. One chapter, "A Strategy for Unbelievers," even tells unbelievers how to cope with the Tribulation Period! The basic lesson of prophecy analyzes the world situation in surprising terms. Hal Lindsey calls it "a must for everyone who wants to know where we are on God's timetable."

*Offered on pages 18 and 19.*



# Can Third Temple Be Built Without Destroying Dome of the Rock?



By Matthew Wagner  
www.JPost.com

**A recently launched Jewish interfaith initiative argues that building the Third Jewish Temple in Jerusalem would not necessitate the destruction of the Dome of the Rock. "God's Holy Mountain Vision" project hopes to defuse religious strife by showing that Jews' end-of-days vision could harmoniously accommodate Islam's present architectural hegemony on the Temple Mount.**

According to Islamic tradition, the Dome of the Rock, built in 691, marks the spot where Mohammed ascended to Heaven. But according to Jewish tradition, Mount Moriah, now under the Dome of the Rock, is where the Temple's Holy of Holies was situated.

Until now, Jewish tradition has assumed that destruction of the Dome of the Rock was a precondition for the building of the third and last Temple. In a 2007 article in an influential journal of Jewish law, Yoav Frankel, a young scholar, presented a different option. His main argument is that Jewish doctrine regarding the rebuilding of the Temple emphasizes the role of a prophet.

This prophet would have extraordinary authority, including the discretion to specify the Temple's precise location, regardless of any diverging Jewish traditions. Frankel considers the scenario of a holy revelation given to an authentic prophet that the Temple be rebuilt on the current or an extended Temple Mount in peaceful proximity to the dome and other houses of prayer such as the al-Aksa Mosque and nearby Christian shrines.

However, both Muslims and Jews have expressed opposition to the initiative.

Sheik Abdulla Nimar Darwish, founder of the Islamic Movement in Israel, warned against any attempt to rebuild the Temple before the coming of the Mahdi, the Muslim equivalent of the Messiah.

"As long as there is a Muslim alive, no Jewish Temple will be built on [the Temple Mount]. The status quo must be maintained, otherwise there will be bloodshed."

Baruch Ben-Yosef, chairman of the Movement to Restore the Temple, made it clear that the Temple had to be built where the Dome of the Rock presently stands. "A prophet does not have the power to change the law which explicitly states the location of the Temple. All you need is a Sanhedrin," he said.

Mainstream Orthodox rabbis have opposed attempts to rebuild the Temple since the Mount came under Israeli control in 1967. The Chief Rabbinate of Israel even issued a decree prohibiting Jews from entering the area due to ritual purity issues.

However, several grassroots organizations such as the Movement to Restore the Temple, and maverick rabbis, including Rabbi Israel Ariel, head of the capital's Temple Institute and a leading member of the revived Sanhedrin led by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, have called to take steps to renew the sacrifices on the Temple Mount and rebuild the Temple. ★



## Arab Rumor: Israelis Train Snakes to Attack

By Maayana Miskin, [www.IsraelINN.com](http://www.IsraelINN.com)

Palestinian Authority Arabs have made a variety of accusations against Israel over the years, from distributing bubble gum that corrupts Muslim youth to attacking with trained pigs. The latest rumor making the rounds among Arabs in Samaria is that Israelis are training snakes to attack innocent farmers, according to Ma'an news, which is closely associated with the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority.

The rumor apparently began when a snake bit a woman outside a village adjacent to the Jewish city of Ariel. Local Arabs said that after the attack, the snake "escaped" toward Ariel. The snake's movement was taken as a sign that it had been released from Ariel by Israelis intent on harming Arabs.

The Ma'an report also accused Ariel residents of ruining farmland in the area by dumping waste onto Arab land.

PA villagers in the same area were the first to accuse Israelis of using trained

pigs to attack Arab farmers. Several such accusations have been published by PA media. In addition, PA media have accused Israel of unleashing anti-Arab "super rats" in Jerusalem.

There is no scientific evidence indicating that rats or snakes can be trained as attack animals, or that either of the species can differentiate between Jews and Arabs. The United States Roadmap plan demands that the PA halt incitement against Israel. ★



## WON BY ONE!

Will you please help us build our army of Jewish-loving, Christian Zionists? If everyone on our mailing list would speak to one or more like-minded friends, and encourage them to call us at 1-800-WONDERS to request our *Levitt Letter*, we could double our outreach overnight. Please help. Notify a friend today. Have them contact us today and help us build "an army of one."

Thanks. — Jeffrey Seif

## Messianic Speakers Available!

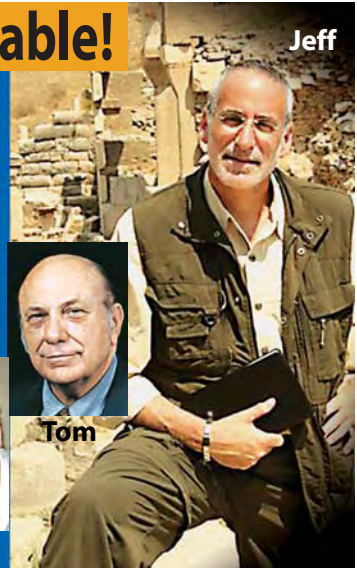
Want a Messianic Jewish message delivered in your church? Arrange it! **Drs. Jeffrey Seif, Tom McCall, and Todd Baker** can do pulpit supply and address a wide range of subjects such as: The Gospel from a Jewish perspective, Why the Jews matter to Jesus and Christians, How the Old and New Testaments 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](mailto:speakers@levitt.com) to invite Zola Levitt Ministries to your Church.



Todd



Tom



Jeff



## ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEDICINE

## Israel's Smallest Camera On Earth

[www.Israel21c.org](http://www.Israel21c.org)

Two Israeli companies—Medigus and Tower Semiconductor—have announced their collaboration on the world's smallest medical video camera.

The disposable mini-camera will measure a mere 700 by 700 microns, or about seven times the width of a human hair.

The sophisticated tiny camera will be used for disposable endoscopes and various medical and surgical purposes.

Medigus, experts in the miniaturization of diagnostic and surgical tools and Tower, a leading specialty semiconductor manufacturer and image sensor provider, expect the innovation will lower the cost of diagnostic procedures, as well as improve curative treatments in growing markets such as gastroenterology, natural orifice transluminal endoscopy surgery, bronchoscopy, orthopedics and ENT.

The first samples have already been distributed, with mass production expected to begin in the middle of next year.

## Iranian Cleric Calls Iran A Dictatorship

Associated Press

Iran's most senior dissident cleric has criticized the ruling system under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Kha-

menei as a dictatorship in the name of Islam.

### Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri's

comments are significant because, although criticism of ruling figures has increased following the disputed June presidential election, public attacks against Khamenei are rare.



Montazeri says in a statement posted on his website that a mass trial of more than 100 political activists and election protesters charged with trying to topple Iran's ruling system has "ridiculed Islamic justice."

Montazeri was once tapped to become Iran's supreme leader, but was passed over because of his criticism of the excesses of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

## Second Temple Pilgrimage Route Uncovered

By Gil Ronen,  
[IsraelINN.com](http://IsraelINN.com)



Archaeologists have uncovered a section of a stone-paved street with stairs which connected the Temple Mount with the Pool of Siloam. The section is about 600 yards south of the Temple Mount, and is believed to be the point at which pilgrims began to ascend by foot to the Temple during Second Temple times (516 BC – 70 AD).

The archaeological dig at the location is being conducted by the Nature and Parks Authority, with the sponsorship of the Elad nonprofit organization.

Prof. Roni Reich of Haifa University and Eli Shukrun of the Antiquities Authority are in charge of the excavation.

The existence of this section of the street has been known for over a hundred years, ever since it was first uncovered in the years 1894-97 by British archaeologists Frederick Bliss and Archibald Dickie. The two covered the street section with dirt when they completed the dig, for its protection. Additional sections of the street were uncovered and then covered again, in digs by Jones in 1937 and Kathleen Kenyon in 1961-67.

The section uncovered in the present dig is a narrow strip, three to six feet wide, along the street's western shoulder. The street is paved in familiar Second Temple style, in alternating narrow and wide steps.

### An Ancient Stone

By Michael Freund,  
[www.IsraelNationalNews.com](http://www.IsraelNationalNews.com)

Sometimes, all it takes is one ancient stone to upend all the vicious anti-Israel propaganda being hurled at us by our foes.

Archaeologists from Israel's Antiquities Authority recently uncovered a stone carving dating back nearly two thousand years which depicts the Menorah (candelabrum) that stood in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The stone was found at Migdal, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in Israel's north.

Jews from across the country regularly made pilgrimage to the Temple, which was the seat of Judaism and its most holy of sites until it was destroyed by Roman invaders in 70 A.D. Obviously, the unknown artist who sculpted the stone was moved by his encounter with the Menorah at the Temple—so



Early menorah on ancient stone

much so that when he got home he took the time and effort to engrave it.

Nowadays, of course, the Palestinians and much of the rest of the world are pressuring the Jewish State to turn over parts of Jerusalem—including the Temple Mount—to Arab control, as if their claim supersedes ours.

But stones do not lie, and the story this one tells is really quite simple: centuries before the advent of Islam, Jews worshipped on the Temple Mount. And thousands of years before the United Nations was established or the PLO was founded, it was the Jewish people who called Jerusalem home.

And we will continue to do so, whether they like it or not. ★

### Dry Bones FINAL PROOF



## Serving In The IDF “For The Sake Of God And Jesus”

By Matthew Wagner, [www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

***“Jesus supports the IDF and He wants His Believers to be the best soldiers they can be.”***

That was the message conveyed by members of the Messianic Jewish community via sacred texts, prayer, and talks to a group of 18-year-olds who took part in a pre-military program called Netsor.

“I am a soldier of God,” said Boris, an intense redhead accepted to an elite combat unit and one of the 28 young men and women who participated in Netsor.

“I will do my best during my service in the IDF to serve God spiritually and physically. Not for the sake of state authorities but for the sake of God and Jesus,” added Boris as we sat overlooking Lake Kinneret.

Not far from here, Jesus walked on water, healed the sick, and preached. Now, two millennia later, young Believers walk in Jesus’ footsteps and hope to become fighter pilots, reconnaissance soldiers, paratroopers, tank commanders, and sailors.

Some 150 highly motivated Believers will join the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) this year. Many of them will serve in combat units. Some of them have been through Netsor’s week of mental and spiritual preparation. *Netsor* is a Hebrew word that means “to guard” or “to stand vigilant.”

With the return of the Jewish people and the establishment of the State of Israel came a small but growing group of Messianic Jews, numbering today between 10,000 and 15,000. Due to their religious beliefs, Messianic Jews have been subjected over the years to physical attacks and discrimination, including in the IDF.

M., a platoon commander in an elite demolition unit who is one of the founders of Netsor, asked us not to identify anyone we interviewed out of concern that they would be singled out by antagonistic elements with connections in the army.

“In the end, we believe that God opens and closes doors,” said M. “And if He does not want someone to advance in the IDF, it won’t happen. But we don’t want to make any mistakes that will hurt someone’s IDF career.”

For Messianic Jews, military service is not only a mandatory civil duty, it is a religious obligation. Believers learn this obligation right out of the New Testament.

Romans warns not to resist political authority, because it is “the ordinance of God” (13:1-7). Colossians teaches that one must excel as a faithful servant of one’s superiors, not for personal aggrandizement but to serve God (3:22, 23).



For some, serving in the IDF has theological meaning. Yoel, an officer in an IDF combat unit, believes the return of the Jewish people to Israel is part of God’s plans. “The IDF is an instrument in the hands of God because it facilitates His plan,” said Yoel. “But I would not call it a holy army or the army of God.” One of Netsor’s founders, Yoel hopes one day to create an academy for Messianic Jews modeled after existing academies for religious and secular Israelis.

“We pray that sometime in the future we will establish a pre-military academy with a one-year program—with God’s help.”





A retired man who volunteers to entertain patients in nursing homes and hospitals went to Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn and took his portable keyboard along. He told some jokes and sang some funny songs at patients' bedsides.



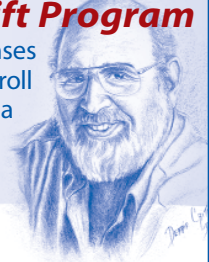
When he finished he said, in farewell, "I hope you get better."

Elderly Mr. Cohen replied, "I hope you get better, too."



**Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program**

Increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses in processing them, plus save your time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, our ministry will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit card.



If you wish to use your **checking account** for donations, please follow directions numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 below:

1. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th
2. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month's gift. The monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks, and you can cancel at any time.
4. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (required for processing)
5. Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to use your **credit/debit card** for donations, please follow directions 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 below. Your charge date will be between the 15th and 20th of each month. You may cancel at any time.

6. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. Credit card:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  AMEX Card ID# required \_\_\_\_\_
8. Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
9. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (required for processing)
10. Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

# Ecumenical Blast Against Israel

By Mark D. Tooley, [www.FrontPageMag.com](http://www.FrontPageMag.com)

The departing chief of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) slammed Israel's "sin against God" in his August good-bye to the world's largest ecumenical group.

**"Occupation along with the concomitant humiliation of a whole people for over six decades constitutes not just economic and political crimes but, like anti-Semitism, it is a sin against God,"** declared Kenyan Methodist minister Samuel Kobia, during his farewell to the WCC's governing central committee.

The WCC was founded after World War II and, in the wake of the Holocaust, robustly denounced anti-Semitism as a "sin against God." On paper, the WCC is important, with 349 denominations as members, representing over 500 million Christians, or about 25 percent of global Christianity. But in truth, the WCC never fully recovered from its 1970s alliances with Marxist liberation movements. Catholics and most evangelicals do not belong to the WCC. Kobia is departing the WCC partly because of his own failure to reverse the WCC's declining organizational and financial fortunes. But the WCC has learned few lessons, and the Swiss-based group is little interested in Christian doctrine or evangelism. Instead, it prefers mainly to echo the bland bromides of European secularists.

In his speech, Kobia condemned "dehumanization" of both the occupied and the occupiers in the West Bank, claiming: "The concern is not only for the victims but also the perpetrators," with Israel naturally qualifying as "perpetrator."

Palestinians regard Israel's founding as a "catastrophe that saw the largest forced migration in modern history."



Samuel Kobia

This claim about "largest forced migration," is false. Shortly before Israel's founding, millions of Germans were forced out of East Prussia back to redrawn boundaries for Germany in 1945. Millions of Pakistanis and Indians similarly relocated during the bloody division of formerly British imperial India in 1947. Two million Chinese escaped Mainland China for Taiwan after the Communist conquest in 1949. One million North Vietnamese fled Communism for the South in 1956, and nearly as many fled the South in 1975 and later after the Communist victory there. And millions of Cubans have fled Cuba since its 1959 Communist "liberation."

None of these "forced migrations" is commonly discussed as still morally consequential today, much less a crisis. These immigrants, and their descendants, whatever injustices they suffered long ago, are largely resettled and acclimated into their new homelands. Only the Palestinians are chronically cited as an ongoing victim group because Israel is the "perpetrator" of their relocation.

**"It is estimated that no less than a million people were expelled from their homes at gunpoint, civilians were massacred, hundreds of Palestinian villages deliberately destroyed, mosques and churches profaned, and convents and schools vandalized,"**

Kobia claimed, although there were not 1 million Palestinians living in pre-1947 Israel. Apparently not even the sanitized, official Arab version of history is sufficiently negative towards Israel for Kobia. Thankfully, neither Kobia nor the WCC speaks for most of global Christianity, which thrives, even where persecuted, no thanks to its purported representatives in Switzerland.



# Palestine Problem Hopeless, But Not Serious

By “Spengler,” [www.ATimes.com](http://www.ATimes.com)

“The situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable,” declared President Obama in his June Cairo address. Really? Compared to what? Things are tough all over. The Palestinians are one of many groups displaced by the population exchanges that followed World War II, but are the only ones whose great-grandchildren still have the legal status of refugees. Why are they still there? The simplest explanation is because they are much better off than people of similar capacities in other Arab countries.

The standard tables of gross domestic product (GDP) per capita show the West Bank and Gaza at \$1,700, just below Egypt’s \$1,900 and significantly below Syria’s \$2,250 and Jordan’s \$3,000. GDP does not include foreign aid, however. More importantly, the per capita equation is off because the population numbers are inflated to increase foreign aid, and the false population numbers lower the per capita amount. Adjusting for the true population count and adding in foreign aid, GDP per capita in the West Bank and Gaza comes to \$3,380—much higher than in Egypt and significantly higher than in Syria or Jordan. Why should any Palestinian refugee resettle in a neighboring Arab country?

GDP per capita does not reflect the spending power of ordinary people. Forty-four percent of Egyptians, for example, live on less than \$2 a day. The enormous state bureaucracy eats up a huge portion of national income. New immigrants to Egypt who do not have access to government jobs are likely to live far more poorly than per capita GDP would suggest.

Other data confirm that Palestinians enjoy a higher living standard than their Arab neighbors. A fail-safe gauge is life expectancy. The West Bank and Gaza rank 3rd out of 14 Muslim Nations. Literacy in the Palestinian Authority domain is 92.4%, equal to that of Singapore. That is far better than the 71.4%

in Egypt, or 80.8% in Syria.

**Perhaps life for the Palestinians is intolerable; but where is life not intolerable in the Arab world?** When the first UN Arab Development Report appeared in 2002, it elicited comments such as this one

LIFE EXPECTANCY BY COUNTRY IN YEARS	
Oman	75.6
Bahrain	75.6
West Bank & Gaza	73.4
Saudi Arabia	72.8
Jordan	72.5
Algeria	72.3
Turkey	71.8
Egypt	71.3
Morocco	71.2
Iran	71.0
Pakistan	65.5
Yemen	62.7
Sudan	58.6
Somalia	48.2

Source: United Nations

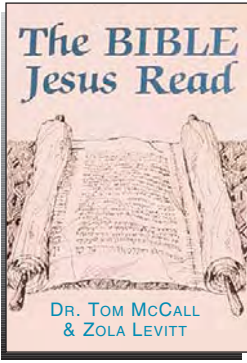
from the London *Economist*: “With barely an exception, its autocratic rulers, whether presidents or kings, give up their authority only when they die; its elections are a sick joke; half its people are treated as lesser legal and economic beings, and more than half its young, burdened by joblessness and stifled by conservative religious tradition, are said to want to get out of the place as soon as they can.” Life sounds intolerable for Arabs generally.

West Bank musical group



**Palestinian Arabs are highly literate, richer, and healthier than most people in other Arab countries, thanks to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the blackmail payments of Western and Arab governments.** As refugees, they live longer and better than their counterparts in adjacent Arab countries. It is not surprising that they do not want to be absorbed into other Arab countries and cease to be refugees. And if the Palestinians ceased to be refugees, it is not clear how they would maintain their relatively advantaged position.

The Palestinians cannot afford to form a normal state. They cannot emigrate to Arab countries without accepting a catastrophic decline in living standards, and very few can emigrate to Western countries. **The optimal solution for the Palestinians is to demand a state and blackmail Western and Arab donors with the threat of violence, but never actually get one.** ★



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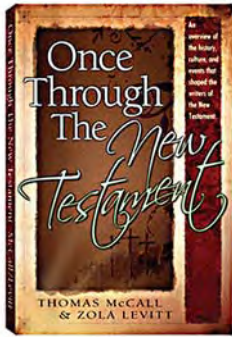
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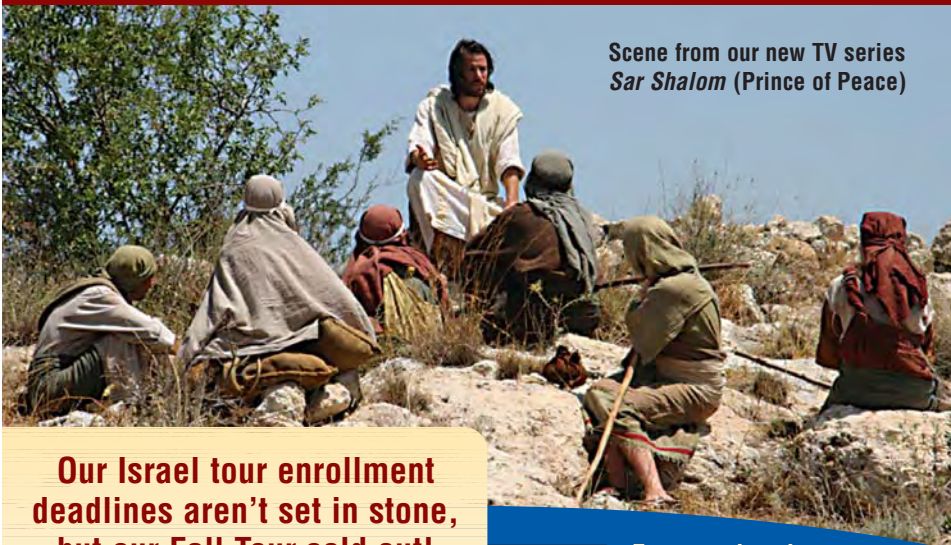


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Photo courtesy Ken Berg

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— Jeff