

Levitt Letter

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



Though the West ignores most repression in the Islamic world, many Muslims are saying "enough already" to their abusive Muslim brothers and overlords. —Jeff

A Warning To Arab Dictators

By Khaled Abu Toameh (r)
www.JPost.com



Arab dictators have good reason to be afraid in light of the ouster of Tunisian President Zein al-Abideen Bin Ali, reported political analysts and newspaper columnists in the Arab world.

Some even went as far as voicing hope that the intifada that erupted in Tunisia January 15 would spread to the rest of the Arab countries, signaling the beginning of a new and more promising era for the Arab world.

"The revolution of the Tunisian people has left many Arab leaders panicking," said political analyst Sami al-Buhairi. "What happened to Bin Ali was an unprecedented humiliation for an Arab leader." (continued p.2)



Intifada in Tunisia: Protest Sign calls president Bin Ali "criminal"

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Israel on UN's 2011 Hit List—Why?

By Pamela Geller
HumanEvents.com



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

announced recently that a United Nations top goal in 2011 will be bettering living conditions in the Gaza Strip and forcing Israel to end all "settlement" construction in Judea and Samaria and East Jerusalem.

You couldn't make that up. Pressuring Israel is one of the UN's top goals for 2011. Not the North Korean nuclear threat. Not the Iranian nuclear threat. Not the huge wave of refugees and illegal immigrants into Europe, Israel, and the United States. Ban was likewise silent about the banking crisis in the Western world and the financial collapse of some European Union countries.

(continued p. 3)

Ahmed Abu Matar, another political analyst, noted that similar protests in Algeria could also result in regime change. Analyst Ahmed Lashin said he did not rule out the possibility that the entire Arab world would be engulfed in chaos after the Tunisian “revolution.” He noted that anti-government demonstrations have already taken place in Algeria and Jordan. “The Arabs have been repressed for too long,” he said. “They are eager for change and are on the verge of explosion.”

Under the title *Thank You To the Tunisian People*, Abdel Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, wrote: “The living conditions in Tunisia are still better than in most of the Arab countries. Moreover, the Tunisian dictatorship was less repressive than its sister dictatorships in the Arab world.”

Atwan suggested that the U.S. administration prepare an island in the Pacific Ocean to receive its Arab friends and dictators “the same way it opened Guantanamo Prison for al-Qaeda men.”

He said that the Tunisian people deserved to be thanked twice—“for proving that the Arab street is not dead as many had expected and is capable of waging an intifada and making sacrifices for change, and for exposing the Arab regimes that claimed to care about human rights and the values of justice and democracy.”

Writing in the same paper, commentator Hussein Majdoubi said that in light of the collapse of the Tunisian

regime, the future of the Arab dictatorships was now in question. He added that the rulers of Morocco, Libya, Algeria, and Egypt could be next in line. He also expressed disappointment that the West was continuing to support Arab dictators, while ignoring the plight of the Arab masses.

Majdoubi said that the popular uprising in Tunisia showed the Western fear of radical Islam was unjustified and baseless.

In the Palestinian territories, many Palestinians also welcomed the removal of Bin Ali’s regime from power. The Palestinian Authority, which had strong ties with the Tunisian regime, did not comment on the dramatic developments. Tunisia played host to the PLO after the organization was expelled from Lebanon in the early 1980s. Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas had their offices and homes in Tunis for nearly a decade before they moved to the Palestinian territories after the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993.

Hamas, for its part, warned that the PA leadership in the West Bank was likely to meet the same fate of Bin Ali. “Mahmoud Abbas and his sons are among the wealthiest Palestinians,” Hamas said. “Fatah leaders in the West Bank are very corrupt. All indications are that the residents of the West Bank, who live under a tyrannical regime, are close to toppling the regime there. The people of the West Bank can no longer accept humiliation.”



Intifada in Tunisia

No, none of that matters. The United Nations has to spend its time improving living conditions in Gaza.

What a joke. There is no real "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza. Always the Jewish people are clubbed like baby seals with Islamic lies about how Israel is starving the Muslims in Gaza. (There is no such thing as a "Palestinian." There never has been an independent Palestinian state or recognized Palestinian nationality in the history of the world; Arafat and Co. invented it in the 1960s for propaganda purposes.)

They claim the Jewish blockade starves the poor Muslims; yet photo after photo has come out of Gaza showing stores overwhelmingly overflowing with food, toys, candy, anything you could want. They recently opened a big luxury mall there. [See *Levitt Letter* September 2010, pp. 8–9 at www.levitt.com/newsletters/2010-09.pdf]

There are no starving Muslims in Gaza, but there are plenty in Darfur, as a result of the relentless jihad. Still, Ban Ki-Moon and the UN are going after Israel, not Sudan.

And the settlements? They are Jews building houses on Jewish land. Anyone who understands the religious motive behind the genocidal jihad against the Jews and the true history of the Middle East will urge Israel to build more homes in Judea and Samaria to create defensible borders.

And now Ban Ki-Moon encourages and emboldens the genocidal jihadists in 2011, and helps them reach their goal of destroying Israel. Fires are raging all over the globe, and instead of trying to put them out he is bullying the Middle East's only democracy and America's staunchest ally. ★



World's Worst Places For Christians

By Jeff Kunerth, blogs.OrlandoSentinel.com

North Korea again tops the list of the 10 worst countries to practice Christianity, according to the ninth annual Open Doors World Watch List (WWL).

Eight of the top 10 are Islamic nations, including seven that have stepped up their persecution in the past year. In descending order, they include **Iran**, which clamps down on a growing house-church movement; **Afghanistan**, where thousands of Believers cluster deep underground; **Saudi Arabia**, which refuses to allow any Saudi person to convert to Christianity; **Somalia**, where terrorists threaten to kill Christian aid workers who feed the starving; **Maldives**, claims to be 100 percent Islamic; **Yemen** with its determination to expel all Christian workers; and **Iraq**, which saw extremists massacre 58 Christians in a Baghdad cathedral on Oct. 31.

Uzbekistan and Laos come in at numbers 9 and 10. Iraq is new to the top 10 list while Mauritania dropped from 8 to 13.

The country that saw the greatest deterioration of Christian religious freedom in the reporting period (Nov. 2009 through Oct. 2010) was Iraq, jumping from No. 17 to No. 8. The country has seen a Christian exodus in recent years, with an estimated 334,000 Christians remaining in this ancient cradle of Christianity, a drop of more than 50 percent since the 2003 toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime. The main reason why Christians are fleeing is organized violence by an extremist militia, especially in the northern city of Mosul and in the capital Baghdad, in an attempt to cleanse these areas of their Christian presence.



Baghdad bombing victims



Can Middle Eastern Christians Survive The 21st Century?

By Paul Salem (r)
LATimesBlogs.LATimes.com



As the 21st century enters its second decade, two millennia of Christian presence in the Middle East might be eclipsed by the end of the century.

The new decade began in the Middle East with a car bomb that went off minutes after midnight outside an Egyptian church and left more than 20 people dead. This bombing came just a few weeks after radical Islamic gunmen killed dozens of people in a church in Iraq. The rise of al-Qaeda and the spread of radical Islamic movements have made the difficult situation of the Middle East's Christian minorities far worse.

Riot police stand guard near Orthodox church where bomb attacks took place recently in Alexandria, Egypt.
Asmaa Waguih / Reuters



Though Christians made up 20% of the region's population at the beginning of the 20th century, the remaining 10–12 million make up only 5% of the population today. Though Christians played prominent roles in the cultural, nationalist, and anti-colonial movements of earlier decades, they are excluded from the Islamist politics of recent years. Since 2001, they have also borne some of the brunt of the confrontation between radical Islam and the (Christian) West.

In Iraq, almost half a million Christians have fled the country since the Ameri-

can-led invasion of 2003. With no safe haven or protective militia, the historic Christian communities of Iraq have been caught in Arab-Kurdish and Sunni-Shiite confrontations, as well as direct attacks from al-Qaeda, and now number less than 3% of the population. In Egypt, the Christian Coptic community, which makes up about 10% of the population, suffers from state discrimination and open hostility from radical Muslim movements.

In Sudan, the northern government has been at war with its largely Christian south for decades—a war that prompted a vote on secession in January. Christians in the Palestinian territories have dropped from 15% of the Arab population in 1950 to about 1% today, pushed out by the conditions of occupation and the rise of Hamas and militant Islam. In Syria, the country's 10% Christian population has been protected under the Assad regime, although its numbers are also gradually dwindling.



Pilfered religious statues sit for sale on a Beirut highway.

Joseph Eid, Getty Images

Lebanon used to be the only Arab country with a Christian majority, and as such had a Christian-dominated government from 1920 until 1990. The demographic majority became a minority in the 1950s, and a long civil war from 1975 to 1990 led many Christians to move abroad and ended with the Christian president being stripped of most of his powers.

Muslims and Christians have a lot at stake in preserving moderation and tolerant societies in the Middle East. But it will take concerted regional action and international attention to make sure that the 21st century is not the last century of Christian-Muslim coexistence in the birthplace of both religions. ★

“Madness” refers to the state of insanity, overcome by senseless folly, frenzy, rage, and intensity. In too many ways, “madness” describes our present world.

Nations united and formed the United Nations to assist and protect the world. The Islamic-controlled United Nations seems to do more to promote global madness than to actually dispel it. How disappointing.

God has a plan for transforming people despite human lunacy. Let me tell you how *Zola Levitt Presents* is gearing up to present an uplifting, spiritual counterbalance to this world's bad news.

Because Believers and non-believers find solace in the Book of Psalms, I'm inspired to produce a Messianic Jewish series on the Psalms. The Psalms help people transcend abysmal circumstances and find hope for troubled hearts. They're biblical medicine for life's assorted hurts. As you read this, I'll be in Israel with our film crews preparing an uplifting, spiritual TV series. Taught on location at inspirational sites in Israel, it will include dramatic performances by talented Israeli actors, and the music of one of the Messianic Jewish world's most famous psalmists: Marty Goetz.

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills,” said the ancient psalmist. He underscored that his “help came from the Lord who made Heaven and Earth” (Psalm 121). God is still in the business of sending help to those who seek Him; so, we're anxious to cure the world's madness by directing viewers to the One Who made the world and Who offers solutions.

If you'd like to help us make God known in the world, please consider making a donation. We record your tax-deductible donations; more importantly, registers are kept in Heaven by the One Who notes how we “lay up for ourselves treasures” (Matt 6: 19–21). Not only does He keep track up there, but also He “watches over His Word to

DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



perform it” (Jer 1:12) on our behalf down here. Our series on the Psalms will direct people's focus to this active Lord. If you'd like me or another ministry speaker to visit your group, please call Tracie at 214-696-8844.

If you'd like to take involvement one step farther, come to Israel with me.

Someone once asked what my favorite site in Israel is. Quite frankly, I love most seeing you pilgrims there—as do Jewish and Arab Israelis.

Some of your friends and family may think you're crazy for wanting to go to “dangerous” Israel. Once there, though, you'll realize *they're* crazy for worrying so much. It's really quite safe for tourists. The trip of a lifetime begins with a first step. Take it. Call 1-800-WONDERS or 214-696-9760. Tracie will help you begin a process that will result in your walking in the footsteps of Jesus with me. Thanks in advance for supporting our ministry at this juncture.

Your Messenger,



Arab Israelis— Opportunity Amidst Inequality

By Eitan Shishkoff



There are 1.5 million Israeli citizens who are neither Jewish nor married to Jews. Known as Arab Israelis, they are Israeli citizens with full voting rights. These men, women, and children live primarily in the Galilee, Israel's scenic northern highlands.

While much attention is given to their Palestinian “cousins,” the Israeli Arabs are almost unmentioned in the international press. But inside the country, our Arab neighbors contribute much to Israeli society and are due greater recognition and upgraded civil rights. Equalizing the social standing of our Arab citizens befits Israel—both as a democracy and as the people of Torah.

“You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 22:21). *Ger*, the Hebrew word for “stranger” here, does not mean a “strange person” but rather a non-Israelite “dweller” in the Land.

While the Jewish people have been granted “title deed” to the Land of Israel through divine covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, there remains a vital question. How do we dwell together with those residents who are not Jewish? The undeniable fact is that for generations, Arab families have been settled in the Galilee, where I make my home. Yet 56.9% of Israel's Arab families live below the poverty line, compared with the national average of 20.5%. In a survey conducted by University of Haifa sociologist Sami Smoocha, only half of the Arab Israelis surveyed believe that Israel is a democracy for Arab citizens as well as Jews.

As for equal opportunity, a recent incident in the town of Safed illustrates the inequality. In October, the chief rabbi of Safed issued a *halachic* [Jewish religious law] ruling prohibiting Jews from renting homes to any of the 500 Arab students enrolled in the local Safed Academic College. This is *not* in accordance with our Torah.

What shall we say then? This is *not* merely a political question, but a spiritual one. As followers of Yeshua, we are commanded to walk with utmost respect for our Arab neighbors, especially those who share our faith in Messiah. As disciples of the same Master, we are fully reconciled. What could be a more attractive, compelling testimony in the midst of an ancient and deadly enmity? **“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity...it is like the dew of Hermon...for there the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore”** (Psalm 133). In a nation and a region longing for peace, the followers of Yeshua carry the key. Our Father has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). It is a foretaste of His Kingdom on Earth.



Eitan (c) with Arab Israeli pastors Nizar & Edourd (r)

As you read the articles on pages 7 and 35, be aware of the difference between Palestinian Arabs—who live under Hamas and Fatah and are not Israeli citizens—and those who are full Israeli citizens—whether nominal Christians, born-again Christians, nominal Muslims, or practicing Muslims. Eitan astutely applies Scripture to raise political and spiritual concerns on behalf of ALL Arab citizens of Israel. —Editor

The Father Of Lies

Update: read *PLO*, think *PA (Palestinian Authority)*; read *Arafat*, think *Abbas*.

—Editor

In John 8:44, Jesus declares that Satan is the father of lies. If he cannot twist truth to fit his purpose, he will do all he can to cloud it so that it can't be seen. And since Israel has been at the heart of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, Satan has woven some of his biggest lies around that little nation, trying to undermine the Israelis' divine right to their Land.

Evidence of this surrounds us. The PLO Covenant is a document most Christians are unfamiliar with, and it is a bone of contention in the ongoing "peace process." The PLO has until March to change the covenant's article 9 that states, "Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. Thus, it is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase." Article 21 declares, "The Arab Palestinian people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine." Such statements are incompatible with the new dove of peace Arafat supposedly carries around in his pocket. It is telling, however, that more than a year after the peace agreement started, those articles still remain.

Israel is in danger. It has always been in danger, surrounded from its birth by nations committed to its destruction, but the current policy of giving up its land only weakens it. By having areas of Palestinian self-rule within a stone's throw of Israeli settlements, those Israelis have lost a great deal of their security.

[The late] Derek Prince, a noted Bible teacher, related that before the 1948 war, when Israel was not yet a nation, he observed with his own eyes a skirmish between Jews and Arabs on a major street in downtown Jerusalem.

Prince had an apartment that overlooked the street, and his 5-year-old daughter told him to come and look. Arabs had trapped and killed 35 Israelis. When he saw the street, it looked as if supermarket meat had been dumped there because the Arabs had shot the Israelis and then cut them into small pieces. Prince was making the point that many Arabs in Israel still have this horrific mentality.



There are so many reasons why the Land ought not to be given to the PLO:

1. It is anti-biblical.
2. It rewards terrorism and the Intifada.
3. It elevates an ordinary killer (like Arafat) to national leadership.
4. It will not lead to peace; the PLO has no intention of making peace.
5. It becomes physically impossible to defend the remaining parts of Israel militarily.
6. Jewish & Christian religious sites are being handed over to Muslims (such as the Church of the Nativity, Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron).

It should be remembered that the struggle in Israel is spiritual as well as physical. It is a contest of religions as well as a conflict between peoples. A key feature of the End Times will be the reign of the antiChrist during the Tribulation. And his reign will be religious as well as political. ★

Dry Bones



UK YWCA Drops The C By Katherine T. Phan, www.ChristianPost.com

The British branch of the Young Women's Christian Association has dropped "Christian" from its historic title, citing its need to "evolve" to reflect the changes in society and the needs of women.

After 155 years, one of the UK's oldest charities changed its name to "Platform 51," saying that the original name "no longer stood for" the organization's identity and purpose."

The YWCA England & Wales held a January launch event in the Houses of Parliament to celebrate the name change and launch a report on mental health in girls and women.

"Our new name more accurately represents who we are and what we do: 51 percent of people are female, and girls and women use us as a platform to have their say and as a place from where they can move into the next stage of their lives. Make no mistake, what remains the same is our passion to help girls and women as they take control of their lives."

YWCA Communications Director Sylvie Jacquat said that YWCA will remain the "official and legal title" for all of the group's 125 branches worldwide.

"We are encouraged to note that the association will retain its legal identity and name of YWCA England & Wales and will continue with its core mission of advancing the empowerment and wellbeing of all women and girls," she said in a joint statement by World YWCA and YWCA of Great Britain.



Jacquat acknowledged that YWCA was founded on a Christian basis but serves those of all faiths. Furthermore, many of the volunteers of the global association come from many faiths, backgrounds, and cultures. However, she admitted that changing the operating name to Platform 51 "has raised strong public debate."

A spokesperson for a British evangelical organization that promotes conservative Christian values in the public square was concerned that the YWCA's decision to re-brand itself lends further proof to the increasing marginalization of Christianity in the public sphere.

"Many believe there is an anti-Christian bias among those who decide which charities get state funding," said Mike Judge, head of Communications at The Christian Institute. **"It was the Christian character of the YWCA that made it great. It is a shame that it's turning its back on those values."**

The YWCA was founded in the United Kingdom in 1855 by Lady Mary Jane Kinnaird and Emma Robarts to provide young women in London with the same spiritual and social support afforded to young men in the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association).

Last summer, YMCA of the USA re-branded its title and logo to read "The Y."



Curses for Disobedience:

Deuteronomy 28:43–44

43 *The foreign resident among you will rise higher and higher above you, while you sink lower and lower. 44 He will lend to you, but you won't lend to him. He will be the head, and you will be the tail.*



Ask The Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



ZLM Cartoons and the Lord's Sarcasm

Dear ZLM,

In recent *Levitt Letters*, some writers called your satire of Muslims, Arabs, and Jews distasteful and counterproductive. I agree. One reader in January said he loves the *Levitt Letter* but can't share it with a Muslim because of the way non-believers are "being clowned" in it. I was horrified by Seif's response.

Yeshua would never poke fun at, insult, or ridicule non-believers for the sake of entertainment. Our rebukes must lead to correction and instruction in righteousness so that we become complete in Messiah. (Eph. 5:4)

It really is a shame that ZLM will not trust in the Scriptures concerning its policy on satire, because ZLM is an otherwise wonderful ministry. —J.D.M. (AZ)

Dear J.D.M.—

Thank you for taking the time to write; but you are wrong. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus *did* use mockery and satire, particularly on those who opposed Him and sought to turn people away from His offer of salvation. He did not spare people's delicate feelings for fear of offending when truth was on the line! He called the Pharisees a "generation of vipers" and "white washed tombs full of dead men's bones and all corruption" (Matt. 23:33, 27). Jesus also likened his fault-finding generation to spoiled brats sitting in the marketplace, who could never be pleased no matter what Messiah did for them (Matt. 11:16–17).

Paul ridiculed the Galatians as "foolish" to suppose that circumcision was necessary for

salvation instead of faith in Christ alone. The Apostle told them to go ahead and castrate themselves if they believe this to be the case (Gal. 5:12). Thus, the use of rebuke with satire served Jesus and Paul well.

God also used divine sarcasm and ridicule throughout the Old Testament for emphasis. The prophet Elijah openly mocked the prophets of Baal. Elijah mockingly asked where Baal was; was he perhaps on vacation, or was he (literally in the Hebrew text) going to the bathroom and couldn't come to their aid? (1 Kings 18:27) God made regular use of ridicule, mockery, and sarcasm when rebuking idolatry. The Lord says those who worship dead, dumb, deaf, and blind lifeless idols who cannot speak will become just like them in the end. (Psalm 115:1–8; Isaiah 44:9–20)

The idea behind the cartoons is not so much to entertain as it is to make readers think. We hope they'll realize that Islam is actually intolerant and working toward world domination. Relying on our policy of fairness, Muslims shut down dissent and criticism, working their agenda through the back door in the name of "tolerance" and "democracy." These cartoons should wake people up to the importance of opposing Islam with Bible teaching. We hope to expose their agenda, using the humor of cartoons to drive home this admonitory truth; something Jesus, the prophets, and the pages of Scripture certainly do also. ★



ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCIENCE

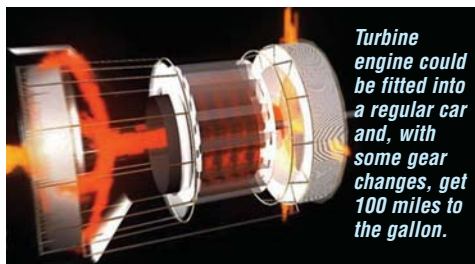
100 Miles To The Gallon



By Karin Kloosterman
www.israel21c.org

Turbulent financial times threaten both the automotive industry and the ability to put gas in the tanks of our favored mode of transportation. Electric cars offer promise, but switching over still has limits: infrastructure is lacking, new cars need to be built, and the electric car just doesn't have the same "muscle" as the petrol-fueled machines that Americans love.

An entirely new solution may come by way of an Israeli company—Agam Energy Systems—which has developed a pistonless turbine engine, featuring a new kind of compressor that the company expects will revolutionize the automotive industry.



And while Agam's engine has passed feasibility studies, it's still in R&D. "We have a prototype ready of the crucial part of the engine," says Moshe Maroko, the company's CEO. "The breakthrough is the compressor, which is now working according to expectations."

Agam's turbine engine could be fitted

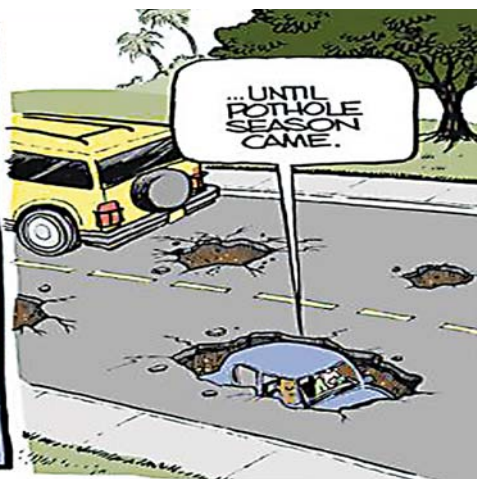
into a regular car with some gear modifications, such as a Toyota Camry, and offer 100 miles to the gallon, the company boasts. Road efficiency in cars is about 10 percent, says Maroko, while Agam's engines promise 55% efficiency.

And, of course, Agam's engine is good news for the environment too: It consumes about one-fifth of the petrol of a piston-based engine, and emits one-tenth of the CO₂ fumes.

While the motor industry today revolves around piston engines, Agam's engine is based on a two-phase (liquid gas) turbine-like engine. Previous attempts to create a turbine-based engine have failed, the company believes, because of the energy needed by the turbines to run the compressors.

Agam says it has solved the problem by creating a revolutionary liquid ring compressor that achieves a much higher mechanical efficiency.

Current engines work with pistons and haven't really changed in the last 100 years. Agam, based in Hod Hasharon, Israel, says the new engine is designed not just for vehicles but also industrial machinery and power plants. ★



EU Calendars List Muslim, Chinese, Hindu Holidays... But Not Christian

By Allan Hall, www.DailyMail.co.uk

The European Union has sent millions of diaries [calendars] to schools which list the dates of Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, and Chinese festivals—but omit any mention of Christian celebrations.

In an extraordinary move, three million 2011 notebooks were printed at a cost of \$7 million to the taxpayer. Around 350,000 of the diaries have already been shipped to schools in the UK alone.

There is no record for Christmas, Easter, or Lent—though bureaucrats carefully listed the EU's self-styled "Europe Day" on May 9.

The EU was forced to apologize in the wake of the blunder as religious groups expressed their disbelief. While the apology was general, there was a specific, groveling apology sent to

the French government and to the French Catholic Bishop Conferences which had complained directly to Brussels.

European Catholic Commission spokeswoman Johanna Touzel described the mistakes as "just incredible. Christmas and Easter are important feasts for hundreds of millions of Christians and Europeans. If the Commission does not mark Christmas as a feast in its diaries, then it should be working as normal on December 25."

EU officials have described the diaries as "a rather gross error" but were at a loss to explain how it might have occurred. German conservative MEP delegate Martin Kastler blamed "aggressive atheism in the apparatus of the European Union-Commission. I expect a personal apology from the Commission president because I believe this was intentionally published in this way." ★

A "New" astrological calendar just released displays former Zodiac signs to be off by as much as 30 days due to "Earth Wobble." StarTribune.com



ILLUSTRATION BY [Signature]

Isaiah 47:13-14

Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. These are not coals for warmth; this is not a fire to sit by.



Israel's GDP Grows 4.5%

By Adrian Filut, www.Globes.co.il

Israel's GDP rose 4.5% in 2010, in fixed prices, according to preliminary estimates by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Israel's GDP growth was almost double the expected OECD average of 2.7% for the year.

Israel's GDP rose by 0.8% in 2009, and rose by 4.2% in 2008. The 2010 growth figure is unexpectedly strong; economic organizations had predicted 4% growth. Israel's average unemployment rate of 6.7% in 2010 is well below the OECD average of 8.3%.

Israel's GDP per capita rose by 2.7% in 2010, after falling 1.1% in 2009, during the severe global economic crisis and the sharp slowdown in Israel's economic growth. Israel's performance in this variable was also above the OECD average of 2.3%.

Business product rose 5.3% in 2010 after rising by just 0.1% in 2009.

Investment in fixed assets, including in residential housing, stands out in particular, rising 10% in 2010, compared with the OECD average of 2.2%.

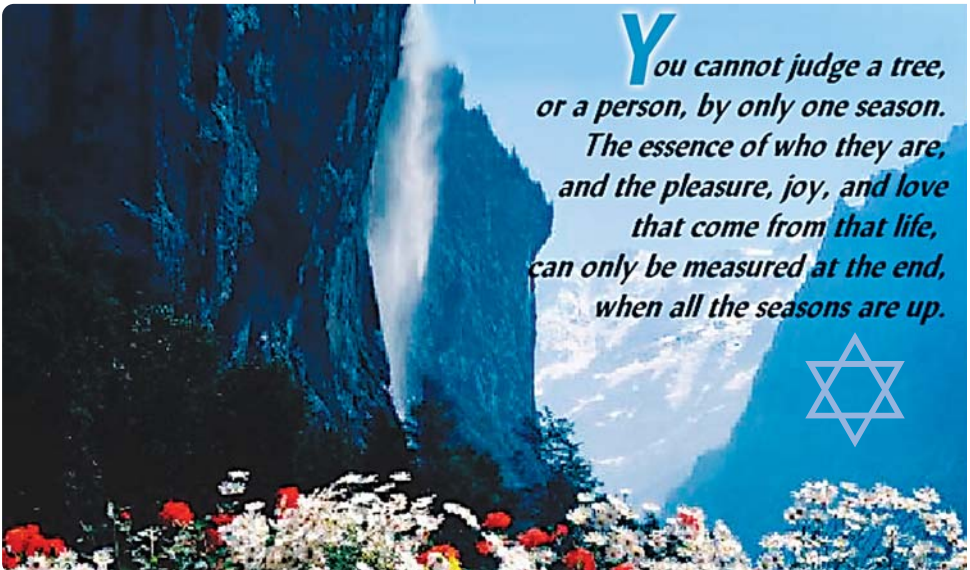
Intel Israel Creates 1,000 New Jobs

By Tzahi Hoffman, www.Globes.co.il

Intel Israel Ltd. is to recruit 1,000 new employees in 2011 to develop and produce 22 nanometer technology.

Intel Israel currently has 7,057 employees and general manager Maxine Fassberg said that the company indirectly employs an additional 20,000 people.

In 2010, Intel implemented \$264 million in reciprocal procurements in Israel, and also purchased production machinery worth \$52 million. Fassberg said, "We are going to invest \$2.7 billion in the next two years in 22 nanometer technology." ★



You cannot judge a tree,
or a person, by only one season.
The essence of who they are,
and the pleasure, joy, and love
that come from that life,
can only be measured at the end,
when all the seasons are up.

<http://www.openmyeyesford.net/theseasonsoflife.htm>

Terror Group Gets 'A' Rating From Better Business Bureau?



Mark Levitt

Last year, consumers made 65 million inquiries with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) to determine which companies are reliable. *AARP* magazine reports that "Over the past two years, the BBB has been dealing with a new kind of complaint: that its own practices are slipshod, biased, and deceptive." *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* is Latin for "Who will guard the guards themselves?"

"The Better Business Bureau doesn't have the staff to properly evaluate businesses," says George Gombossy, editor and publisher of CTWatchdog.com, a consumer website in Connecticut.



Below are excerpts from a transcript of a November 12, 2010 *20/20* news report that you can read and watch online by Googling "better business bureau 20/20."

The Better Business Bureau, one of the country's best known consumer watchdog groups, is being accused by business owners of running a "pay for play" scheme in which A-plus ratings are awarded to those who pay membership fees, and F ratings used to punish those who don't.

To prove the point, a group of Los Angeles business owners paid \$425 to the Better Business Bureau and were able to obtain an A-minus grade for a nonexistent

wise
as a serpent

company called Hamas, named after the Middle Eastern terror group.

"Right now, this rating system is really unworthy of consumer trust or confidence," said then-Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal in an interview for ABC News's *20/20*.

As reported by an anonymous blogger, the BBB also awarded an A-minus rating to a nonexistent sushi restaurant in Santa Ana, California and an A-plus to a skinhead, neo-Nazi website called Stormfront.

Each listing cost \$425. "They ran the credit card, and within 12 hours they were an approved, accredited member," said the anonymous blogger, who runs a site called bbbroundup.com.

As part of the ABC News investigation, a producer with a camera was present while two small business owners in Los Angeles were told by Better Business Bureau telemarketers that their grades of C could be raised to A-plus if they paid \$395 membership fees.

"I think the Better Business Bureau changed course and lost its way by adopting a system of pay to play that maybe enhanced its revenues but also greatly diminished its credibility and honesty," said Attorney General Blumenthal, now a United States Senator from Connecticut.

My own experiences force me to conclude that such negative reports have been a long time coming. Such corruption is a sign of times when it has never been better to be as wise as a serpent. (Matt. 10:16) ★

"Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor. A false witness shall not be unpunished, and [he that] speaketh lies shall not escape."

(Prov. 19:4-5)

Tower of Babel Ruins Await Archaeologists

By Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu
www.IsraelNationalNews.com

Archaeologists are hoping to save the ruins of the biblical-era Tower of Babel, located in Iraq, and learn how it was built before it crumbles under the weight of confusion.

Following years of devastation under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and the ensuing American invasion of Iraq, World Monuments Fund conservationist Jeff Allen said that archaeologists are beginning to work on ancient Babylonian sites and possibly restore some of them.

No one has broached the idea of reproducing the Tower of Babel, which the Creator destroyed because of the generation's attempt to compete with Him, "make a name for ourselves," and build a tower to the skies while everyone in the world still spoke one language.

The Bible relates that their effort turned to confusion, with no one understanding anyone else, and that the tower became a self-destructive effort, both physically and morally. "All this is unexcavated. There is great potential at this site. You could excavate the street plan of the entire city," said Allen.

As a first step, experts are working on a plan to prevent further deterioration of the mud-brick ruins, which were damaged by Hussein's personal building projects.

A mound of mud-brick buildings is all that remains of the ancient city in Babylon where the Tower was being built, whose foundations appear to be a square of earthen embankments, measuring 300 feet on each side.

King Nebuchadnezzar II, who reigned nearly 2,600 years ago, tried to rebuild the Tower of Babel to a height of almost 300 feet.

It is not clear whether the original building was actually a "tower," an English translation of the Hebrew term, or was a "ziggurat," a stepped pyramid that was common at the time. Building materials consisted of mud and brick because stone was not readily available. Nebuchadnezzar described how "gold, silver, and precious stones from the mountain and from the sea were liberally set into the foundations" and that to rebuild it, he called on "various peoples of the empire, from north and south, from mountains and the coasts."

The rebuilt tower also began to crumble, but a Greek historian visiting the site 2,570 years ago wrote, "It has a solid central tower, one furlong square, with a second erected on top of it and then a third, and so on up to eight. All eight towers can be climbed by a spiral way running around the outside, and about halfway up there are seats for those who make the journey to rest on." ★



According to one early Greek historian's account, this artist's illustration may resemble the rebuilt Tower of Babel.

The Slow-Motion Exodus of European Jews

By David J. Ruskin, Islamist-Watch.org

Do Jews have a future in an increasingly Muslim Europe? Often explored by Daniel Pipes, this question recently drew a disconcerting answer from prominent Dutch politician Frits Bolkestein, who opined on the grim choices facing visible (e.g., Orthodox) Jews in his nation. The former EU commissioner says there is no future for this group in the Netherlands because of “the anti-Semitism among Dutchmen of Moroccan descent, whose numbers keep growing.”

He feels that this group of Jews should encourage their children to emigrate to either the United States or Israel, because he has little confidence in the effectiveness of the government’s proposals for fighting anti-Semitism.

Bolkestein’s remarks echo those of Benjamin Jacobs, the country’s chief rabbi, who told Arutz Sheva in 2010, “the future for Dutch Jewry is moving to Israel.” Indeed, some Jews are acting. The same news service reported in late 2010 that the son of Raphael Evers, another leading Dutch rabbi, has announced plans to move to Israel due to anti-Semitism: “It’s not that you can’t leave the house, but you need to constantly hide, to be careful,” he explained. He related his own cautionary measures, which include avoiding certain neighborhoods, and hiding his *kippah* (yarmulke) when walking through areas with a high number of Muslim immigrants.

Next, consider Sweden. The Simon Wiesenthal Center recently urged traveling Jews to exercise “extreme caution” due to “harassment of Jewish citizens in the southern city of Malmö.” An estimated 60,000 Muslims account for a fifth of Malmö’s population, and hate crimes regularly impact the lives of its 700 remaining Jews. “The city’s

synagogue has guards and rocket-proof glass in the windows,” the *Telegraph* notes, “while the Jewish kindergarten can only be reached through thick steel security doors.” With the government’s response a mix of denial and blaming the victim, many Jews are leaving Malmö—and even Sweden altogether.

Recent years also have seen increasing numbers of Jews moving to Israel from France and the UK. Will this soon be the case for Jews of other European countries as well? Given the raft of worrying tales from 2010 alone—Muslims assaulting Jews in Norway and Denmark, stone-tossing Arabs driving Jewish dancers from a stage in Germany, and a poll finding that 38% of Muslim youth in Austria agree that “Hitler had done a lot of good for the people”—the future does not look happy.

It has become fashionable to equate the plight of today’s Muslim population in Europe with that of the continent’s oppressed Jews during the 1930s. However, one can tell which group faces the real threat in modern Europe by watching migratory trends. While European governments are planning fences to keep Muslims from entering illegally, Jews are exiting in droves. People vote with their feet. The results—Muslims in, Jews out—offer critical lessons and warnings. ★

Silence of the Shepherds





Etz Chayim—Tree of Life

By John J. Parsons

עֵץ-חַיִּים הָיָא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתִמְכִּיהָ מֵאֲשָׁר

“It is a tree of life to those who take hold of it,
whoever grasps it close will be made happy.” (Proverbs 3:18)

עֵץ-חַיִּים הָיָא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ וְתִמְכִּיהָ מֵאֲשָׁר

me'u-shar ve-tom-khey-ha bah la-ma-cha-zi-kim hi etz-chai-yim
will be happy and all who grasp it it to them who lay hold (of) (is) it a tree of life

The Bible begins and ends with the Tree of Life, or *Etz Chayim*. In the Torah it first appears in the center of the paradise of Eden (Gen. 2:9; 3:22, 4), but it is soon lost to humanity on account of Adam's transgression. In the book of Revelation, it reappears in the center of the Paradise of God (Rev. 2:7, 22:2), resurrected on account of the faithful obedience of Yeshua as mankind's "last Adam" (1 Cor. 15:45). Those who have washed their robes by means of His righteousness are given access to this Tree in the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 22:14). The paradise lost by Adam has been regained by the greater *ben-adam*, Son of man, Yeshua the Messiah.



In the book of Proverbs, the Tree of Life is a metaphor for the life of *wisdom* (*chokhmah*), which is the implied subject of our verse above (see Prov. 3:13). Traditional Judaism identifies *talmud Torah* (the study of Torah) as the Tree of Life, promising wisdom to those who "lay hold of it" (a Torah scroll has wooden rods called *atzei chayim*—the "trees of life"—used to roll the parchment). According to the sages, the eternal life that was lost in Eden was restored to humanity with the giving of the Torah at Sinai.

As Christians, we understand that the Tree of Life is Yeshua Himself, who is the center of the true Paradise of God (Rev. 22:2). He is the Seed, Root, Trunk, Branches, and Fruit that comes from heaven. The first Adam lost access to God by means of his transgression (eating from the tree of the "knowledge of good and evil"), but the "greater Adam" reclaimed our access by means of His obedience, resisting the power of evil even to the point of death upon the "tree" of the cross (Phil. 2:8). His resurrection life is the firstfruits of all who put their trust in Him (1 Cor. 15:20; Jas. 1:18).

The great command is to "Choose life!" in everything we do (Deut. 30:19). If we live by faith, resurrection life will triumph in us through the Messiah. The fruit of the "Tree of Life" will be manifest in our lives and all that we do shall prosper (Psalm 1:3). ★



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Crimes of the Heart Matthew 5:17–20 leads us to consider how Jesus fulfills the Torah. Murder begins in the heart (5:21–26), and adultery begins with desire (5:27–30).

The Law Brought to Life Jesus speaks about divorce and the marriage bond in 5:31–32, and other human bonds in 5:33–37. Verses 38–42 deal with how to be gracious even toward the ungracious.

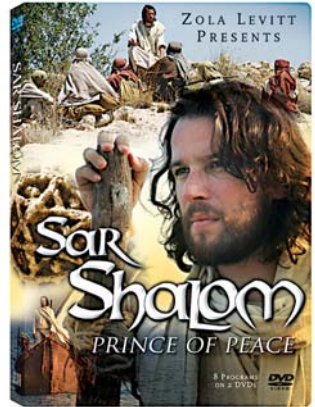
Models of Behavior Jesus teaches how to deal with enemies (5:43–48). In 6:1–4, He emphasizes doing good to please God and not men. His teachings on prayer follow in 6:5–15.

Eternal Investments Matthew 6:16–18 notes that fasting pays dividends; laying up treasures on Earth, alone, does not (6:19–21). Generosity, not greed, brings moral health (6:22–23).

God's Material Provisions Jesus challenges followers to serve either God or possessions (6:24). Blessings abound to those who serve Him (6:25–34). Considering how blessed we forgiven ones are, we must not rush to judge others (Matthew 7:1–6).

God's Spiritual Provisions Matthew 7:7–12 addresses tenacity and God's benevolence in the Christian's life. The "narrow path" we must walk (7:13–14) is not the path chosen by the majority. Our "fruits" testify on our behalf; likewise, we can beware of those whose lifestyles and teachings stand as an indictment against them (7:15–20).

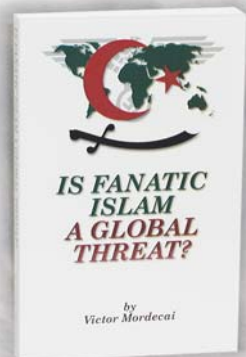
Yeshua—Foundation Sufficient for Salvation Deception of self and others gives way to truth at Day's End (7:21–23). Jesus advises us to build our hope for salvation on the right foundation—Him (7:24–29). Jeff reviews the entire "Sermon on the Mount," and offers closing reflections.



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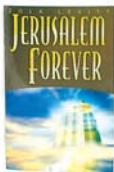
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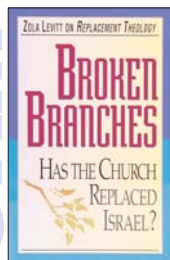
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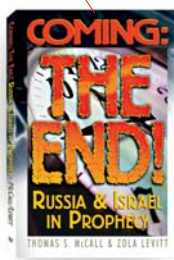
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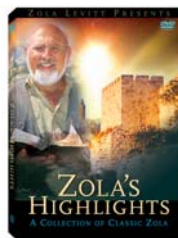
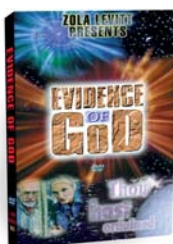


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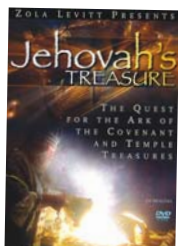


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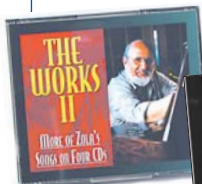
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Too Little Fundraising

You can tell from this ministry's minimalist approach to fundraising that we like it much less than Bible teaching. The reality, however, is that sizable invoices arrive each and every month for broadcasting on national television networks the programs we lovingly travel to Israel to produce. Some ministries are little more than low-cost email operations that forward a percentage of their funds. Not this one. We deliver high-powered hard copies to thousands upon thousands of households and prisoners who will never respond with a dime.

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Pamphlet of the Month

The booklet entitled ***Your Guide to Effective Giving in 2011***

may enhance the impact of your charitable contributions. Whether you donate cash, securities, or other assets such as retirement funds or life insurance, you'll appreciate the specific pointers and a general summary of tax considerations. To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



I Am Israel Music Video

If you can spare six minutes for a lovely tribute to the Holy Land, visit YouTube.com and search "Israel — Yerushalayim." A stunning rendition of "Yerushalayim shel Zahav" accompanies an incredible array of keepsake photos. Among the subtitles' sentiments:

I was born millennia before I was renamed Palestine by conquering Romans, and before the U.N. turned my eastern lands into Jordan

I've been attacked four times by five Arab armies in 60 years

Time and time again, my name is smeared, and each lie is eventually disproven

I refuse to give up hope for peace.

Tear jerker alert; you've been warned.



"Come Home!"

**Zola's
Tours to
Israel:**



**See page
36 for details**



U.S. Blocks UN Condemnation of Jewish Settlements

By Ryan Jones, www.IsraelToday.co.il

The U.S. recently prevented the UN Security Council from voting on and adopting a resolution that condemned all Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria, and on the eastern side of Jerusalem as “illegal.”

The resolution was submitted by Lebanon, but was clearly drafted by the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians have been threatening for months now to seek UN condemnation of Israeli “settlement activity,” a step they hoped would open the way to UN recognition of a unilateral declaration of independence in Judea and Samaria.

The resolution referred to Judea and Samaria (including eastern Jerusalem) as “Palestinian territory,” and insisted that the presence of Jews there is “illegal and constitutes a major obstacle to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.”

It demanded that Israel forbid all Jewish construction in these areas in preparation for their surrender to the Palestinian Authority, which would be followed by an ethnic cleansing of all Jews currently living there.

The U.S. representative at the meeting expressed strong opposition to the resolution, and said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be solved via direct negotiations between the two sides. Because of the U.S. opposition, the parties behind the resolution knew it was pointless to call for a vote on the matter.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev followed up the U.S. objections by reminding the Associated Press that the Palestinians “have made a series of commitments that all the issues of dispute between us and them should be resolved in direct negotiations.”

By taking this unilateral route, the Palestinians are once again breaking their commitments, said Regev.

It should also be noted that the resolution was an attempt to further solidify the Arab position that Judea and Samaria are “Palestinian territories” that must eventually be returned. The truth is that no sovereign Palestinian entity has ever existed there, but sovereign Jewish entities have.

The Arabs and the UN are constantly trying to rewrite the narrative of the peace process to make it appear that Israel is defiantly holding the lands of a foreign entity. ★

Dry Bones





Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

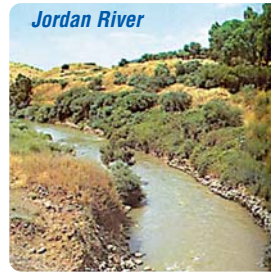
From A.A. (AZ): I'm out on disability and not sleeping well. While surfing, I found your program on about 3 am. WOW!! How very wonderful. Thank you. Bless you all!

From C.R. (CA): Being a gentile Christian, I never understood the significance of the Old Testament or of Jewish history. But your show is helping me to see the full revelation of the NT through the OT and I am thirsty for more!

From D.E. (TX): I praise God for your ministry. God bless all of your staff as you work to educate the gentiles about our Jewish roots and keep us informed of all that is happening with Israel.

From J.P. (OR): Please accept this donation. It's hard when I'm on unemployment, but you do feed me. Thank you.

From B.S. (MI): Although I have never visited Israel, I know that someday I will live there with Christ. In the meantime, you have brought my "home" to me through your TV broadcast. Thank you for being an instrument of God's grace and love.



From L.M. (CA): Thank you for your inspiring ministry. I love all the filming you do in Israel and Jeff's teaching is wonderful.

From R.J. (NZ): SKY TV has only recently brought your show to New Zealand, and I'm grateful to my Father in Heaven that He pointed it (and Hal Lindsey) out to me when I was looking hopelessly at the long list of previously-unheard-of show names. I love hearing the Truth in this day and age of Christian rubbish everywhere. I look forward to your program *Eretz Israel* and I praise God for the work you do.

From B.C. (AR): God gave me a trip to Israel and during that trip I realized that Christianity is Jewish. The Church is not what it should be because it abandoned its roots. How can a branch be healthy without its roots?

From SSG D.S. (US Army): I'm currently stationed in Tikrit, Iraq. I have been reading the *Levitt Letter* since back when Zola was printing it. Now I read it online. It is very informative about the goings on here in the Middle East. You print stuff that doesn't usually get covered in the mainstream media. I also have access to news sources through military channels, and I have to say you are spot on!! Keep up the good work, and never stop printing the truth.

From V.H.: Although I don't get to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on TV very often, I always read and thoroughly enjoy the *Levitt Letter*. [You can watch our shows for free at your own convenience and at your own pace on Internet TV at \[www.levitt.tv\]\(http://www.levitt.tv\)](#). Or download free episodes to watch on your iPad or iPhone.
—ZLM Webmaster

A New Perspective

Dear Jeff,

I've always felt a connection to the Jewish faith, but until I started listening to Zola and you, I didn't have the knowledge of the roots of my faith. Oh, I knew I had been grafted-in, but now I understand it from the Jewish perspective.

—G.C. (TX)

“the roots of my faith”

Love Your Style

Jeff,

You are doing more good than you know. I am glad you didn't try to fill Zola's shoes but are comfortable just wearing your own. I loved Zola's style, but I love yours too. —R. C.

Thanks, R.C.—

I don't think there's much future in being a cheap imitation of others. Well, I take that back. I try to be an *imitation* of Jesus. —Jeff

Thank You, Dr. Seif

Since you said on your program that you want to hear from your viewers, I am writing to thank you so very much for your teachings. Christianity, in general, has misconceptions about the Jewish people and their faith. Your program is one of only two “religious” programs that I watch faithfully. Several years ago, I worked for a company with many Ukrainians and Russians, avid so-called Christians, many of whom were anti-Jewish. One of them (a particularly unethical young man whom even the others could not tolerate) made some very anti-Jewish comments to me (I am not Jewish) and I calmly looked at him and asked whether he felt that way about Jesus as well since Jesus was a Jew. His mouth gaped open and his eyes enlarged like dinner plates! I believe he had never considered that before. Anyway, thank you for all that you do and for presenting such a wonderful program. Just so you know, I do pray for peace in Jerusalem—as do many of my friends. God bless you always. —A.S.

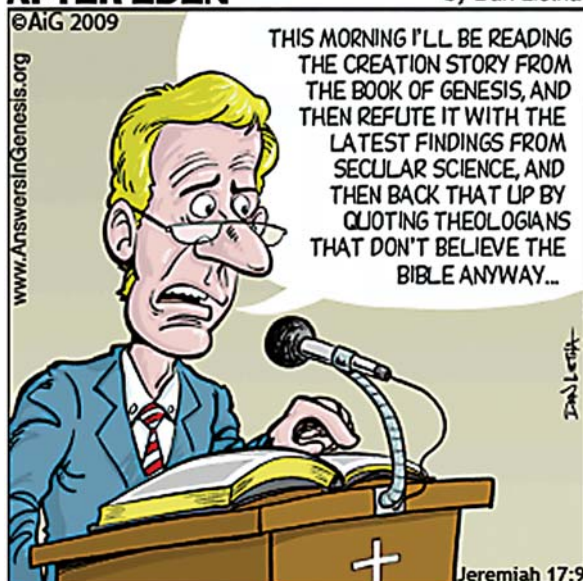
Thanks, A.S.—

I appreciate your bold stand. It reminds me that a question is often more powerful than a critical answer because it makes us think.

—Jeff

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



You'll probably never hear a preacher say this is what he's going to do, but...

Disrespectful Cartoons

The *Levitt Letter* is informative and thought provoking. The articles are excellent. However some of the “cartoons” in the January issue could be considered prejudiced and not in true Christian spirit.

As Christ’s representatives on Earth, it is our responsibility to behave in a manner that is a reflection of Him. I speak in particular of the cartoon with the camel in the parking lot and the clip entitled “Where’s Muhammad?”—not in the essence of “love your enemies.”

Not all Arabs are terrorists or vice versa. The cartoon shows disrespect for the teachings of our Lord and our witness to an ever-watching world—to whom we are trying to “model” something more significant; to live not as the unsaved do. (Ephesians 4 and 5).

I am sure that no disrespect was intended. Have a peaceful New Year. Blessings, —M.B.

“disrespect intended”

Thanks for writing, M.B., and for giving us the benefit of the doubt that surely “no disrespect was intended.” Sorry, disrespect was indeed intended, as with other thought-provoking cartoons that challenge various ideas. A problem in sharia-based Islamic cultures is that no criticism of the prophet or religion is allowed. That is the focus of the cartoon, which points out that publishers shrink from expressing anything about the so-called “religion of peace” for fear it might invoke dire consequences; thus, they don’t publish. Thanks for your comment. —Jeff



Dear M.B.—

The idea that all terrorists are not Muslims reminds of an adaptation of Ecc. 9:11: The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but that’s the way to bet! I invite you to take the Multiple Choice History Test on page 14 of the December 2010 *Levitt Letter*. The answer to all twelve of the questions related to terrorism is D—Muslim male extremists mostly between the ages of 17 and 40. (Please also see Ask The Chaplain on p. 9.) —Mark



Wonderful Fall Holy Land Tour!

Dear Jeff, Tracie, and all,

What a wonderful, blessed experience we had on the fall pilgrimage with you to Greece and Israel! We look at our photos and relive the trip quite often. We have also compared notes with others and your tours win hands down!

Keep spreading the Message! —M.S. (KY)

“blessed experience”

Is Cremation OK?

Dear Jeff,

Do you have any information on burial versus cremation? I have looked through your merchandise order form but found nothing. Did I overlook something? —K.M.

Dear K.M.—

Simply put, Jews have traditionally avoided cremation, preferring to let a body decompose at its own rate rather than hastening the process with fire. Cremation, however, is accepted by some modern Jews. Because the resurrection is itself a miracle, I'm sure God can perform it no matter the mode used on the departed. —Jeff

How Do Christians Fit Into The Culture?

Dear ZLM,

The few excerpts I've read from *Fossilized Customs* by Lew White troubled my spirit. The book came to my attention during a recent visit to my eldest son's home. He and his wife decided to step back and not participate in Christmas celebrations this year. They have seven young children, and I am concerned with how this break in tradition might affect them. My concern wasn't so much that they did or didn't celebrate but “why.”

My grandchildren become uncomfortable at the mention of Jesus. My daughter-in-law homeschools the children, while my son's time with them is limited by his work.

Are you familiar with the teachings in *Fossilized Customs*? I'm desperate for feedback and any information you have on the subject. I find the subject matter and depictions so vile that I don't want to circulate the information to anyone, even the ministry team at my church.

Sincerely, —J.B.

Dear J.B.—

What holiday is or isn't celebrated to remember the Savior's birth is less important than people calling upon His Name, and society still remembering His birth.

I'm not familiar with the book you mention. However, I suspect that some well-intended people concentrate on minor issues in the scope of advancing the Kingdom. —Jeff ★



Jews Expelled From Three U.S. States

By Michael Omer-Man, www.JPost.com

“The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade... are hereby expelled from the department within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.”

This was not an order given in 1930s Germany, but rather in the midst of the U.S. Civil War. On December 17, 1862, just over two weeks before Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves, Maj.-Gen. (and future president) Ulysses S. Grant signed General Order No. 11, expelling all Jews from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Although only remaining in effect for several weeks, it was the first and possibly most overt official act of anti-Semitism in the United States ever.

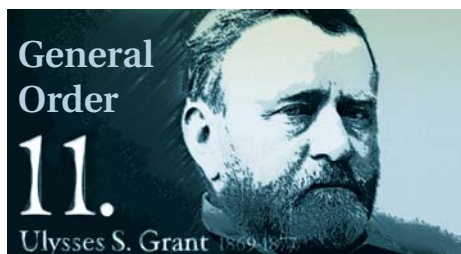
The order was issued on the backdrop of cotton trading between the U.S. North and secessionist South during the war. The North was reliant on cotton from the South, and handed regulatory control over the trade to the army. As a general, Grant was given the authority to regulate that trade and hand out licenses to cotton merchants inside his military theater of operations. It was his anti-Semitic belief that Jews controlled trade, specifically the black-market trade of cotton, which led to General Order No. 11.

In November of that year, Grant banned Jews from traveling on the railroad and forbid granting them cotton-trading permits. However, as Jews were not actually responsible for most unlicensed trading, the black market continued to thrive. General Order No. 11 had devastating consequences for the Jewish population in a way that was uncharacteristic of the United States: families who were not at all involved in the cotton trade were forced to abandon their belongings

and walk 40 miles out of Mississippi. Adding insult to injury, some were Union army veterans.

Jewish communities all over the country were shocked and enraged. Congregations in Cincinnati, Louisville, and St. Louis staged protests against the order. Community leaders in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago sent urgent telegrams to President Lincoln.

A Jewish delegation arrived in Washington D.C. two days after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Armed with documentation disproving a connection between Jews and the black market for cotton, the delegation easily convinced Lincoln to rescind the order.



Acting on orders from the president, Union army commanding General Henry Halleck sent a message to Grant instructing him to rescind the anti-Semitic order. Several days later, Grant cancelled the order. Lincoln said he had been surprised by the order and would not permit religious discrimination.

Although the episode followed Grant in his run for president, it did not have serious political consequences. Ultimately, Grant was supported by a majority of American Jews and, as president, he appointed Jews to high-ranking government positions.

General Order No. 11 is a dark blemish in Jewish American history. It represents one of the few instances wherein an official government policy targeted American Jewry. However, its quick revocation and the president's repudiation of the anti-Semitism it codified are more reflective of the overall American Jewish experience than the order itself. ★

Anti-Israel Propaganda Becomes Mainstream Entertainment in U.S.

By Ryan Jones, www.IsraelToday.co.il

For years pro-Palestinian apologists and propagandists in America have been whittling away at traditional strong backing for the Jewish state.

Self-described experts have been working hard to undermine U.S. diplomatic and financial support for Israel by claiming the dreaded “Israel lobby” controls U.S. foreign policy. Even within the Evangelical Church, that bastion of pro-Israel sentiment, there is a growing movement to disassociate from Israel.

But poll numbers continue to show that most Americans support Israel and recognize who are the true antagonists in the Middle East conflict. Because of that, pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel propaganda never caught on as mainstream entertainment the way anti-communist productions did.

Until now.

Scheduled for a March 2011 release, the new feature film *Miral* follows the turbulent life of a young Palestinian Arab girl who becomes involved in terrorism against Israel. It unabashedly demands sympathy for this girl and other Palestinian terrorists in their battle with a Jewish state that is portrayed as arbitrarily cruel and barbaric.

There is little surprise there, since the film is an adaptation of a book written by director Julian Schnabel’s new Palestinian Arab girlfriend, Rula Jabreal. In a series of interviews following screenings of *Miral* at the Toronto and Venice film festivals, Schnabel, who is Jewish, acknowledged that it was not the film’s intent to give a comprehensive background to the conflict or present a “balanced” view.

Further evidence that the film is, as Schnabel himself hinted, aimed at promoting the Palestinian narrative of the conflict is the

fact that Vanessa Redgrave is given a cameo. Redgrave is famous for denouncing the “Zionist hoodlums” during a 1978 Academy Awards acceptance speech. Despite Redgrave’s minor role, her presence in the film is being used as part of the marketing campaign.

In addition to its skewed portrayal of the situation in the Middle East, critics have widely dismissed the film as uncreative, and certainly not up to par with Schnabel’s previous offerings. At least one critic said Schnabel had “forfeited his talent to please his collaborator”—his Palestinian girlfriend.

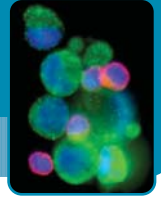
With those kinds of reviews, and the “foreign film” feel of it all, such a movie would ordinarily be relegated to the status of a minor release, not pushed as a potential blockbuster. But the latter is precisely what the entertainment industry in the U.S. appears to be doing.

Israel Today has learned from a number of people in the U.S. that trailers of *Miral* are being shown before currently playing major feature films at American movie theaters. The lead-up to major feature films is usually reserved for the trailers of movies that the studios believe will become blockbusters, or want to push to become blockbusters.

We have all known for decades that the mainstream American press is no friend of Israel. But is anti-Israel propaganda finally breaking through into mainstream entertainment as well? ★



Blood Test To Diagnose Cancer



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
www.JPost.com

An innovative, simple blood test that can diagnose a variety of diseases, including cancer, has been developed by researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and was recently reported in a central article in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* [U.S.].

The Technion has registered a patent on the development.

Prof. Aryeh Admon of the biology faculty claims that the test will provide doctors with a rich variety of information that until now has not been available and is suited to the trend of “personalized medicine,” in which treatment is suited to the genetic and other characteristics of the patient. The development was part of the doctoral work of Dr. Miochal Bassani-Sternberg and will help suit medication to the patient.

As opposed to current blood tests for cancer which merely note whether cancerous cells are still in the bloodstream, the new test will be able to differentiate between different kinds of cancers and tumors as well as other diseases. Scientists are now working on the technique.

Admon said it was known that when the proteins in a cell deteriorate or end their roles, they are broken down into their building blocks of amino acids to create new proteins. Some of the products of this process, however, are not completely broken down and remain as pieces of short proteins called peptides.

Meanwhile, some of these peptides are displayed on the surface of the cells with help from the human leukocyte antigen

(HLA) protein. When the peptides from the proteins of the disease “report” their state of health to the immune system, the immune cells kill the sick cells and prevent the spread of the disease.

The body cells not only present the HLA protein on their surfaces but also release part of these protein molecules into the bloodstream with the characteristic peptides. Cancer cells release larger amounts of the HLA protein with the peptides into the blood in an effort to “confuse” the immune system, explained Admon. Thus, the two Technion researchers reached the conclusion that by characterizing the variety of peptides linked to the HLA proteins that were released into the blood, they could diagnose cancer and other disorders.

The researchers separated the HLA proteins from the other blood proteins and then released the linked peptides. Using a mass spectrometer device, they succeeded in identifying the sequence of amino acids of the separated peptides and the original proteins that were in the cells in which the peptides were produced.

In one blood sample, thousands of different peptides can be identified, providing vital information about the disease or the tumor. There are peptides that are not present in healthy people, and when they are found, the patient can be sent for additional tests, the researchers said. ★



Who Hijacked Islam?

By Jonah Goldberg

www.JewishWorldReview.com

For years we've been hearing about how the peaceful religion of Islam has been hijacked by extremists. What if it's the other way around? And what if the peaceful hijackers are losing their bid to take over the religion? That certainly seems to be the case in Pakistan.

Salman Taseer, a popular Pakistani governor, was assassinated in January because he was critical of Pakistan's blasphemy law. Specifically, Taseer was supportive of a Christian woman, Asia Bibi, who has been sentenced to death for "insulting Mohammed." Bibi had offered some fellow farm laborers some water. They refused to drink it because Christian hands apparently make water unclean. An argument followed. She defended her faith, which they took as attacking theirs. Later, she says, a mob of them raped her.

A Pakistani judge sentenced her to hang for blasphemy; and Governor Taseer, who bravely visited her and sympathized with her, had 40 bullets pumped into him by one of his own bodyguards. "This is the punishment for a blasphemer," Malik Mumtaz Hussain Kadri said to the television cameras as he was being arrested.

A reasonable person might look at this as proof of extremists trying to hijack the religion. Except, it was Taseer who wanted to change the status quo and Kadri who wanted to protect it. Pakistan's blasphemy laws have been on the books for decades, and the police and security forces have been enforcing them unilaterally for years.

And reaction to the assassination? Many columnists and commentators denounced the murder, but the public's reaction was often celebratory. A Facebook fan page for Kadri had to be taken down as it was drawing thousands of followers.

A group of more than 500 Muslim scholars, representing what the Associated Press describes as a "moderate school of Islam" and the British *Guardian* calls the "mainstream religious organizations" in Pakistan, not only celebrated the murder, but warned that no Muslim should mourn Taseer's murder or pray for him.

They even warned government officials and journalists that the "supporter is as equally guilty as one who committed blasphemy," so they should all take "a lesson from the exemplary death" of Salman Taseer. If that's what counts for religious moderation in Pakistan, it's a little late to talk about extremists hijacking the religion. The religion has long been hijacked.

Pakistan is a special case, but not unique. In Egypt, Coptic Christians were recently slaughtered in an Islamist terrorist attack. The Egyptian government has a long record of brutalizing its own Christian minority, but was sufficiently embarrassed that it is offering protection. How long that will last is anyone's guess. But Pakistan is special because it has nuclear weapons and is bound up in the war in neighboring Afghanistan. U.S. relations with the Pakistani military remain strong, but as we've seen with Turkey, good relations with a military don't make up for losing support from an allied government as it goes Islamist. And it seems unlikely that a government can stay secular when the people want it to become Islamist.

How do we deal with a movement that refuses to abide by the cliché "Islam means peace"? ★



STEALTH WARFARE: The \$100-million jet can evade enemy radar.

SELECT BRIEFS



100,000 Brits Have Converted To Islam

By Maayana Miskin

www.IsraelNationalNews.com

A study conducted by Swansea University for the British group Faith Matters has found that UK citizens are increasingly interested in Islam, with the number of converts to Islam nearly doubling in 10 years. An estimated total of 100,000 have converted to Islam, 5,200 of them in 2010.

In 2001, it was estimated that 60,000 British citizens had converted to Islam.

Of the most recent converts, two-thirds are women. Most are white and native to Britain. The average age of new converts is 27. One in four believes there is a “natural conflict” between being devoutly Muslim and being a British citizen. More than half said they had met with a negative response from family regarding their conversion.

When asked what they believe to be the negative aspects of British society, the converts cited alcohol consumption, “sexual permissiveness,” and “unrestrained consumerism.” Similar studies in France and Germany found that approximately 4,000 people convert to Islam each year in both countries.

Britain has faced challenges integrating its Muslim population. A 2008 report showed that one-third of Muslim students justified killing in the name of religion, and a recent BBC report found that thousands of Muslim children in Britain are being taught to hate

Jews, Israelis, and homosexuals. In some cases British Muslims have actively fought Israel, by sending aid to Hamas in Gaza or by joining Hamas in Gaza.

Possible Prophetic Implications Of Israel's Natural Gas Find

www.RaptureForums.com

A natural gas field found recently off the shore of Israel is the largest natural gas find in the history of Israel and could make Israel an exporter of natural gas. It could also play a role in the future prophetic scenario of Ezekiel 38–39. *The Jerusalem Post* reports:

“The natural gas reserves in the Leviathan structure total 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, based on preliminary results of the production tests received in the past few days. This was the same amount estimated from a recent 3D seismic survey. The quantity found is double the gas reserves at Tamar.”



Recent discoveries of natural gas as well as oil could have prophetic implications in the future for Israel. According to the ancient prophet Ezekiel, there will be an end-times invasion of Israel led by Russia and a coalition of Islamic countries that are coming after a “spoil” (Ezek 38:12–13). Bible prophecy teachers and students have long wondered what the “spoil” might be as Israel does not have an extensive amount of wealth outside of the Dead Sea mineral deposits. Russia is a leading natural gas supplier and has been using energy resources as political leverage against the European Union.

This Israeli natural gas find could provide the “spoil” for the Ezekiel 38–39 scenario. The prophet Ezekiel warns in these chapters that Gog and Russia will be aiming for “spoil.”

The Russian-led invasion will center on a wealthy and prosperous Israeli state. Since the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, Israel has steadily improved itself economically despite its small size. The country has survived numerous Islamic attempts to wipe it off the map, yet still remains just as God foretold. With the discovery of oil and natural gas offshore, Israel has a chance to break the ceiling and become a mighty financial state. This coupled with the breakdown of peace talks may finally convince the Russians and surrounding Islamic countries to make a move on Israel militarily, as Ezekiel foretold a few thousand years ago.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif interviews Danny Ayalon for ZLP.

Human Rights Groups A PA Terror Weapon

By Gil Ronen, IsraelNationalNews.com

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister **Danny Ayalon** recently said: “Human rights organizations have become a tool of the Palestinian Authority for diplomatic warfare against Israel” and “paddles of terror, which tries, through these groups, to undermine Israel's right as a democratic country, to defend itself.”

Ayalon added, “Governments which fund these organizations are responsible for strengthening terror and reinforcing the Palestinians' false hope of establishing a state without negotiations.”

Ayalon called on human rights groups and the international community not to forget whose rights are trampled by Hamas (and Islamic expansionism to the West, conducted by organizations like al-Qaeda), and to advance the release of abducted soldier Gilad Shalit.

Ayalon stated that in view of the Palestinian Authority's consistent refusal to come to the negotiation table, he expects that during 2011 the PA will continue attempts to assault Israel's legitimacy. To this end, it will use tactics like lawfare* and “other obstructive unilateral steps,” and the global human rights agenda “will once again be hijacked and abused for a narrow political agenda.”

NOTE: *Lawfare has been described as a strategy of using or misusing law as a substitute for traditional means to achieve military or political objectives. ★

IDF Trains Officers To Avoid Civilian Casualties

By Ryan Jones, www.IsraelToday.co.il

In a move further proving that the Israeli army may be the most humane on Earth, officers in the newly formed “Population Coordination” unit have wrapped up a week of initial training aimed at minimizing civilian casualties in conflicts with Muslim terrorist forces.

Officers belonging to the new unit will be integrated with all ground force battalions to help field commanders better plan assaults on terrorist forces hiding among civilian populations.

The decision to form the unit came in the aftermath of the 2008–2009 Gaza War, which led to the UN-sanctioned Goldstone Commission after the Palestinians accused Israel of committing war crimes in its assault on the Hamas terrorist infrastructure.

Israel launched the offensive in response to incessant Hamas rocket fire on southern Israel. Despite careful and often costly measures on Israel’s part to minimize civilian casualties, many Palestinians died during the

conflict due to the fact that Hamas forces used the local population as a human shield.

That is a recurring theme in Israel’s recent wars. During the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Hezbollah also hid its forces among the civilian population of southern Lebanon, leading to many civilian deaths.

While international law permits targeting hostile enemy forces even if they are hiding among civilian populations, the international community often ignores those terms when it comes to Israel, and insists the Jewish state not target its enemies when they use human shields, which they always do.

The new Populations Coordination unit will likely help ground forces more carefully pinpoint target their objectives, but there is concern that it will also further erode the Israeli army’s ability to surprise or catch enemy forces off guard, thereby increasing the risk to the Israeli soldiers involved. ★



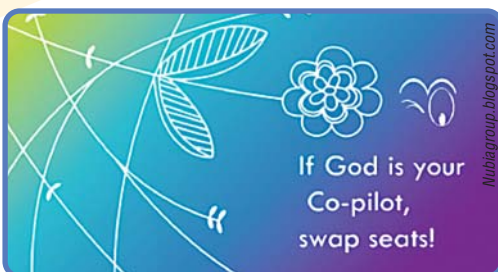
Who's Watching the Kids?

At a Bar Mitzvah, the rabbi stacked a bunch of apples on one end of a table with a sign: "Take only one apple, please—God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies on which a friend of the Bar-Mitzvah boy had placed a sign: "Take all the cookies you want—God is watching the apples." ★



God's Little Notes



nubia group.blogspot.com

Notes

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ION Airing Day & Time by Zone

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

DirectTV East—Channel 305 **DirectTV West**—Channel 347 **Dish East**—Ch. 216 **Dish West**—Ch. 217

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

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

DirectTV—Channel 311

Dish—Channel 180

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 8:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 9:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 10:30 pm

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

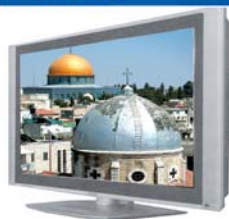
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3 pm Fri	4 pm Fri	5 pm Fri	6 pm Fri

DirectTV—Channel 369

Dish—Channel 263

**TCT pm DirectTV Channel 377 –
Sunday – 7:30am ET
(additional days/times are available at
www.tct.tv)**

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



Is Saudi Arabia Easing Up?

By Daniel Pipes
www.NationalReview.com



On Jan. 1, 1996, **Abdullah bin Abdulaziz** became regent and effective ruler of Saudi Arabia. His 15th anniversary offered an opportunity to review the kingdom's changes under his leadership and whither it now heads.

His is perhaps the most unusual and opaque country on the planet: a place without a public movie theater, where women may not drive, where men sell women's lingerie, where a single-button self-destruct system can perhaps destroy the oil infrastructure, and where rulers spurn even the patina of democracy. In its place, they have developed some highly original and successful mechanisms to keep power.

Three features define the regime: controlling the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, subscribing to the Wahhabi interpretation of Islam, and possessing by far the world's largest petroleum reserve. Islam defines identity, Wahhabism inspires global ambitions, oil wealth funds the enterprise.

More profoundly, wealth beyond avarice permits Saudis to deal with modernity on their own terms. They shun jacket and tie, exclude women from the workspace, and even aspire to replace Greenwich Mean Time with Mecca Mean Time.

Not many years ago, the key debate in the kingdom was between the monarchical and Taliban versions of Wahhabism—an extreme reading of Islam versus a fanatical one. But today, thanks in large part to Abdullah's efforts to “tame Wahhabi zeal,” the most retrograde country has taken some cautious steps to join the modern world. These efforts have many dimensions, from children's education to mechanisms for selecting political leaders, but perhaps the

most crucial is the battle among the *ulema*, the Islamic men of religion, between reformers and hardliners.

The arcane terms of this dispute make it difficult for outsiders to follow. Fortunately, Roel Meijer, a Dutch Middle East specialist, provides an expert guide to arguments in the kingdom in his article, “Reform in Saudi Arabia: The Gender-Segregation Debate.” He demonstrates how gender mixing (*ikhtilat* in Arabic) inspires a debate central to the kingdom's future and how that debate has evolved.

Read the article at:

www.mepc.org/journal/middle-east-policy-archives/reform-saudi-arabia-gender-segregation-debate.

When Abdullah formally ascended to the monarchy in mid-2005, he ushered in an easing of what critics call gender apartheid. But, Meijer argues, “It is obvious from the *ikhtilat* debate that the battle has not been won. Many Saudis are fed up with the inordinate interference of religious authorities in their lives, and one can even speak of an anti-clerical movement.”

In brief, the future course of reform is unpredictable. And much hangs on the quirks of longevity and personality—in particular, how long Abdullah, 86, remains in charge and whether his ailing half-brother Crown Prince **Sultan bin Abdulaziz**, 82, will succeed him.



Saudi Arabia being one of the world's most influential Muslim countries, the stakes involved are high, not just within the kingdom but for Islam and for Muslims generally. This debate deserves our full attention. ★

Jerusalem's Arabs Prefer Israel

By Yitzhak Benhorin, www.YNetNews.com

The future of Jerusalem is considered one of the core issues in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and one of the most significant obstacles to a permanent agreement between the two sides. However, it appears that on the Palestinian side, those who live in Jerusalem have already made their decision on the matter—and the Palestinian Authority leadership in Ramallah may not like it.

A public opinion poll carried out by American Pechter Middle East Polls for the Council on Foreign Relations together with the head of the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion, Dr. Nabil Kukali, showed that if Jerusalem were divided as part of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, east Jerusalem Arabs would prefer to live under Israeli sovereignty.

The poll, comprising the residents of east Jerusalem's 19 Arab neighborhoods, also pointed out that their opposition to Jerusalem's division is so intense that they would move to a new home within Israel's borders

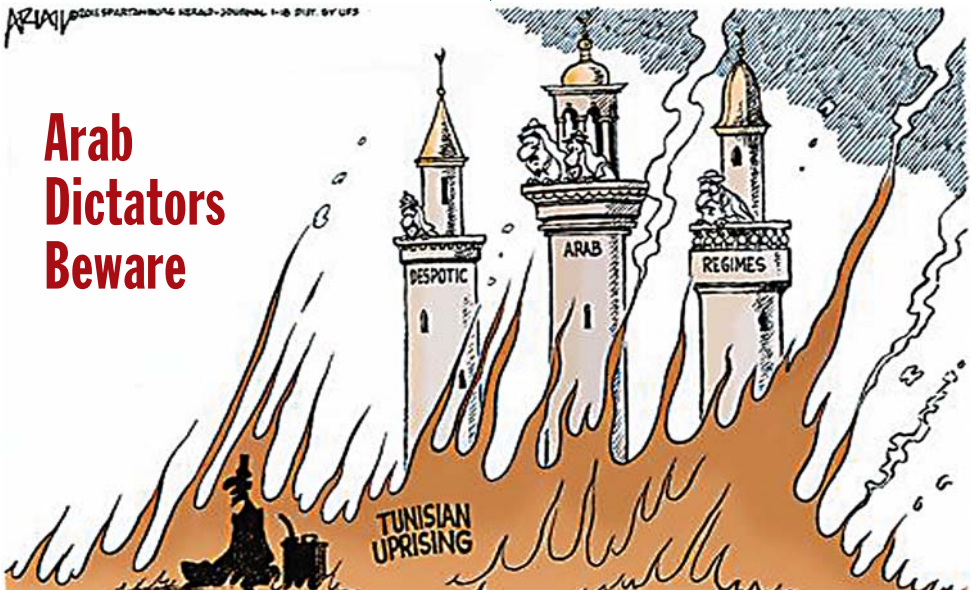
rather than live under the authority of a Palestinian state.

The study also showed that Jerusalem's Palestinian residents were interested in keeping their Israeli identity cards and enjoying the State's health and social benefits. Some **35% of them said that Israeli citizenship is their preferred citizenship** and only **30% chose to be citizens of the future Palestinian state**. An additional 30% preferred not to answer the question.

And what would the neighbors say? When asked "if most people in your neighborhood" would prefer to become citizens of Palestine or of Israel: 31% estimated that most people prefer Palestinian citizenship; 39% estimated that most people prefer Israeli citizenship; and 30% declined to answer or said they didn't know.

In addition to the social benefits, those who chose Israeli citizenship most often mentioned freedom of movement in Israel, higher income, and better job opportunities. Those who chose Palestinian citizenship overwhelmingly cited nationalism and patriotic reasons as their primary motivation. ★

(See p. 6)



The Jerusalem Journeystone

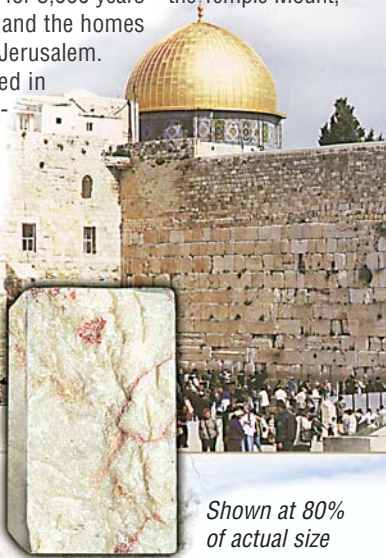
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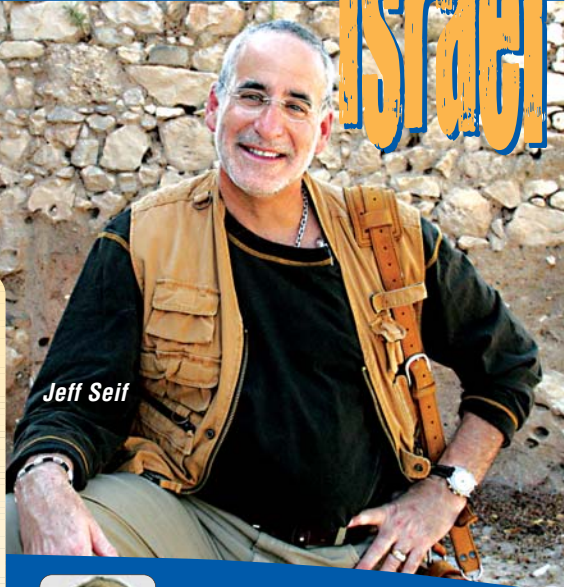
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