

Levitt

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



Letter



The fall feasts are upon us—they remind us of God's ways. This issue highlights that we come to God His way (John 14:6) and the peace sought in the Middle East comes through Sar Shalom—the Prince of Peace. —Myles

God's Love Is Stronger Than Death



By Katharine Weiss

At this 10th anniversary of 9/11, we must not let our hearts be troubled (John 14:1). Despite the reality of threats, we trust in our God who always causes us to triumph (2 Cor. 2:14). This same God stopped Saul in his tracks on the way to persecute the Church and revealed Himself (Acts 9). We pray that He will do the same for those seeking to destroy the Church and Israel.

(continued p. 2)



"Come in to the Temple"

INSIDE ITEMS ▼

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Feast of Trumpets/ Rosh Hashanah

28 September 2011 (at sunset)

By Zola Levitt

God seems to have enjoyed the trumpet. Ever since Isaac was spared by virtue of the ram being caught in the thicket by its horn, God has seemed to enjoy hearing trumpets—or rams' horns—blown. He used them when Joshua conquered Jericho, in His instructions for the Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:8-10), and in establishing the Feast of Trumpets when He told Moses on Mount Sinai: "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, in the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy



(continued p. 3)

Recently, I was reminded that love never fails, to paraphrase 1 Cor. 13. Several years ago, we held a conference in California where David and Karen Davis from Haifa, Israel told how Jews and Arabs recover together from drug addiction through their ministry *Beit Nitzachon*, the “House of Victory.” At the same conference, Walid Shoebat, an ex-Palestinian terrorist, confessed that he had been like Saul of Tarsus, seeking to hurt God’s people. Then, trying to prove to his Catholic wife the superiority of Islam over Christianity, Walid bought a ten-dollar Bible and began to read. He says that he was confronted with God’s overwhelming love toward the Jewish people and the Jewish people’s imperfect but sincere love for God, and struck by the joy and love that he found in the pages of the Bible, *especially* the Old Testament. Raised in Bethlehem, he had been taught that Jews only hated, but that is not what he discovered. God’s love began to melt away his blindness and hard heart so that he could see the grace of God. His life is a testimony of God’s ability to transform the spirit of a man.

Because Walid’s unique voice challenges jihadist ideology, conference

security was a concern. A young Middle Eastern-looking woman who attended was unknown to conference organizers. Her unusual clothing led to speculation that she might be there to create a disturbance. To our amazement and awe, God had brought this woman to heal her heart. Raised a Muslim in Israel, she was on the spiritual journey that leads to the deeper Christian life. At the altar, God touched her heart deeply and in a moment healed her of the traumas of an abused childhood and of being personally caught in the Middle East conflict. Her testimony now is, “I used to hate ‘the Jewish’ and now I love the Jewish people.” In fact, she has become a friend and is very vocal about Jews having the right to the Land of Israel. Our God is amazing!

I find it important to draw on testimonies like these—of people who do not have just a momentary breakthrough of love, but *continue* to love and stand with the Jewish people (John 15:9). As Myles and I travel back and forth to Israel, not only do we pray for the Jewish people, we continue to pray for our Arab “cousins” to find their Savior (John 3:16). ★

See also [A Muslim Turns To Jesus](#) on page 8.

Myles & Katharine with their neighbors



Jew and Arab United Under Jesus the Messiah!

By Todd Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian

Pastor Ralph Conn and I recently completed To The Jew First's 21st Gospel outreach to Israel (June 13–June 29, 2011). Here is an example of how the Lord worked on this trip.



On our second day of ministry, at the Haifa Mall we talked to Moses, an ice cream vendor. He agrees that giving away more land to Palestinians who want to destroy Israel is sheer madness. His name gave us an opening to declare to him that the biblical Moses had several prophetic things to say about the Messiah in the Torah (Genesis 3:15; Deuteronomy 18:15–19). We explained to this modern-day Moses that all the evidence points to one person being Israel's Messiah—Jesus of Nazareth. Moses accepted a complete Jewish Bible (OT and NT) from us and Messianic Gospel tracts outlining the plan of salvation.



Then, Ralph talked to a married couple who said that they had seen our Cross and the Star of David necklaces (see picture) earlier in the day and decided to ask Ralph what they mean. The husband became teary-eyed as we told them that the design symbolizes Messiah coming out of Israel from the Jewish people; He was crucified for our sins, rose from death, is coming again to reign in Israel, and is the main reason we

love Israel—for giving the gift of Messiah to the world. “I am deeply touched in my heart at this,” he said. Both he and his wife expressed effusive appreciation and thankfulness towards us. They accepted the Scriptures from us and our presentation of the Gospel.

Soon after this, I was approached by a man and woman, separately, in a bookstore and had quality ministry time with each of them. At the same time, Ralph felt led to sit at a nearby cafe in the mall. Unbelievably, an Arab man approached him. He was pastor of a Baptist church in Haifa. When I joined them, the pastor said he had seen us sharing the Gospel with the Jewish couple earlier and was following us to encourage us. He said some years ago, after he was saved, he repented of his bias against the Jews and realized that this Land belongs to them because God gave it to them. He said “land for peace” is unbiblical and will never work. He also agreed that the Gospel is meant to go to the Jew first and commended us for doing so. He told us that the Holy Spirit is drawing Arabs to Jesus and bringing Jews and Arabs together in the Messiah—the only answer for peace in the Middle East! ★

This is the hope for the Middle East: Arabs and other Muslims turn to Yeshua and become part of the “one new man” of Ephesians 2:15. For another personal testimony of this transformation, read Katharine’s article on page 1. —Myles



Pastor Ralph Conn

Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah continued from page 1

convocation” (Lev. 23:24). During the Temple periods in Jerusalem, the trumpet was the signal for the field workers to come in to the Temple.

The Rapture is clearly associated with the trumpet: “For the Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, *and with the trump of God*: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16–17). When that great trumpet sounds, the living Believers will rise from the Earth, graves will give up their dead, and all Believers will be mysteriously changed and outfitted for immortality.

Sandra reviews the first of the fall feasts on page 9.

Ask The Chaplain

By Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



Q. How do you figure out when the first month of the Jewish year begins? We were told that ancient Jews based it on when the barley came into ear (*avived*) in Israel. —K. and B.

A. The Jewish people had both a civil and a religious calendar. Their festival cycle was based on the appearance of the new Moon (1 Chronicles 23:31; Ezra 3:5).

The Jewish calendar is based on three astronomical phenomena: the rotation of the Earth about its axis (a day) and the revolutions of the Moon about the Earth (a month) and the Earth about the Sun (a year). The civil calendar used by most of the modern world has abandoned any correlation between the Moon cycles and the month, arbitrarily setting the length of months to 28, 30, or 31 days.

The Jewish calendar, however, coordinates all three of these astronomical phenomena. Months are either 29 or 30 days, corresponding to the 29.5-day lunar cycle. Years are either 12 or 13 months, corresponding to the 12.4-month solar cycle.

The lunar month on the Jewish calendar begins when the first sliver of Moon becomes visible after the dark of the Moon (new Moon). In ancient times, when people observed the new Moon, they would notify the Sanhedrin who, hearing testimony from two reliable eyewitnesses that the new Moon occurred, would declare the *rosh chodesh* (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year,

so a 12-month lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than a solar year and a 13-month lunar is about 19 longer than a solar year. The months drift around the seasons on such a calendar: on a 12-month lunar calendar, the month of Nissan, which is supposed to occur in the spring, would occur 11 days earlier in the season each year, eventually occurring in the winter, the fall, the summer, and then the spring again. On a 13-month lunar calendar, the same thing would happen in the other direction, and faster.

To compensate for this drift, the Jewish calendar uses a 12-month lunar calendar with an extra month occasionally added. The month of Nissan occurs 11 days earlier each year for two or three years, and then jumps forward 30 days, balancing out the drift. In ancient times, the Sanhedrin observed the crops and livestock; if these were not sufficiently advanced to be considered “spring,” the Sanhedrin inserted an additional month to make sure that *Pesach* (Passover) occurred in the spring.

A year with 13 months is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me’uberet*, literally: a pregnant year. In English, we commonly call it a leap year. The additional month is known as Adar I.

In the fourth century, Hillel II established a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19-year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years. Adar I is added in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th years of the cycle. (from jewfaq.org) ★



In Earth As It Is In Heaven

By Myles Weiss



As worlds collide and barbarism clashes with civilization, the Lord continues to verify His prophetic Word. I tell congregations, “The headlines are catching up to the Bible.” Only the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Scriptures) and the *Brit Hadashah* (New Covenant) provide an accurate understanding of what we are seeing on planet Earth.

The trickle of Jewish Believers has become a flood. The issue of Yeshua’s Messiahship is no longer the *shondah* (shame) that it was for us Jews growing up in 1950s’ New York City. The unthinkable is now debatable. In fact, it is hotly debated by Jews in Israel and worldwide. Controversy has always followed Jesus, at least on mankind’s part. Is He Lord? Liar? Lunatic? Was He a good man... just a “prophet”... a nice rabbi? Many of my NYC neighbors believed he was a nice Jewish boy who became a Catholic!

These controversies surround Him—during His earthly ministry and even following the universe-altering events at the cross.

Certainly the archaeological discoveries that continually arise—literally out of the graves of antiquity—offer the most fascinating and reliable settlement to any controversy. Genuine artifacts inscribed with Hebrew notations, carbon-dated and scholastically cross-verified shout out the truth of the Bible and the Chosen People.

Yet Islamic ideologues attempt to rewrite history in the popular press and spread their fables orally among their (sadly) all-too-illiterate minions. Their pathetic yet shockingly effective lies ally Muslims to—God have mercy—self-identified and well-meaning Christians who unwittingly undermine the Author of the greatest autobiography ever written.

Happily, the “hits” keep on coming. Daily, shovels hit shards of truth-telling verification. God says what He means and means what He says. His story, exactly as He

authored it, is told in Scripture and unearthed in His Land, layer by layer. The *tels* (archaeological digs) tell the tale (See the article *Ossuary Yields New Detail of Gospel Story* on p.11).

Recently, more truth of *David Melech Y’israel* (David, King of Israel) was unveiled. Articles abound in scientific and popular journals about the king who is the ancestor of the King (<http://yourjewishnews.com/8679.aspx>). One scorching debate takes place in the venerable *National Geographic* (Volume 218, Number 6, page 67), where Jewish archaeologists take sides in the debate about the Book and its veracity.

King David is a favorite target for defamation because his life establishes many vital truths: He lived 3000 years ago, quite a few centuries before the birth and death of Mohammed. His purchase of the threshing floor of Arunah places the Temple Mount’s prime real estate clearly in Jewish ownership. His ancestry (including Ruth, the gentile) places the Messianic prophecies in Bethlehem, where Yeshua would be born. His tribal background confirms the identity of the *Mashiach Ben David*—Jesus—Who will appear soon as the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**.

David is the writer of many of the psalms that Christians and Jews read as among the most genuine dialogues between man and God. David embodies our humanity on Earth, reaching for the skies. Our current TV show *Psalms of Ascent* creatively displays that relationship.

God formed man from earth; now He is unearthing irrefutable evidence of His-story.



Meshumed! Book

Remarkable stories of Orthodox Jews who accepted their Messiah even in the concentration camps of World War II Europe! Some of the most dramatic testimonies in print. Originally commissioned as an official biography of one of America’s oldest and finest missions to the Jews. Offered on page 18



Today a Teen, Tomorrow a Soldier

By Eitan and Connie Shishkoff

Tomorrow, our daughter will join the Israel Defense Forces. This afternoon she is a teenager, sitting on her bed with a childhood friend from our neighborhood. In celebration of this rite of passage, the friend brought her chocolates, a towel, and a pocket Book of Psalms. Serving in the IDF is an equalizer without peer in Israel. From an early age, schoolchildren (and their parents) anticipate the day they will ride the bus to the central induction center. There, native Israelis will encounter kids from immigrant families of Moscow and Tashkent, the Bronx and Buenos Aires, Addis Ababa and Johannesburg.

It's not that we're militaristic. It's just that the geopolitical district we live in (the Middle East) is kind of touchy about the Jewish presence, so we don't have much choice but to be ready to defend our existence. So we round up thousands of eighteen-year-olds within a year of their high school graduation and put uniforms on their backs and guns in their hands. This is not as crazy as it sounds, because of the extensive training they receive and because the dominant desire of our nation is for peace, not for war.

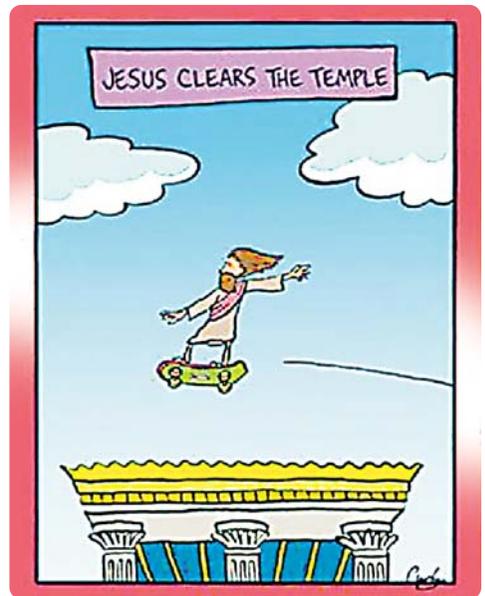
What is it like to be a teenager in Israel? I asked our son this question and he sniggered. Meaning? Meaning it is like it is for young people in Western, developed countries, but the issue of identity is magnified: Who is a Jew? And for us, who is a Messianic Jew? On top of that, Israel is a very small country. You can't really run away, which creates a strong nationwide community that is amplified in the army. Israeli teens are generally closer to their family. At the same time, the parents tend to be more lenient, knowing that immediately



after high school their kids will dive into three solid years of duty (for the men, and two years for the women). With college in the hazy future, there is far less pressure during high school to "get into a good one."

Young people play a central role in bringing radical change. Years ago I began to notice the teenage Israeli Believers. Unsure of their Jewish identity, they feel out of place within mainstream Israeli youth. They need to know who they are as Jewish disciples of Jesus. Their dynamic energy and honest questions create a formula for change. Making Yeshua known as Messiah here, in Israel, is as radical as it gets. These realizations led to the creation of a national Messianic youth ministry called *Katzir* (Harvest) dedicated to equipping Israeli Messianic teens (14–18) to become the workers and leaders in Israel's final harvest. Our daughter came up through *Katzir*, eventually becoming a counselor after years of camps. When she enters the IDF tomorrow, we will be proud of her as an Israeli, and even more as a fervent follower of Yeshua.

(Contact Eitan to learn more about *Katzir* at Ohalei@netvision.net.il) ★



Israel Is God's Timetable Part 3

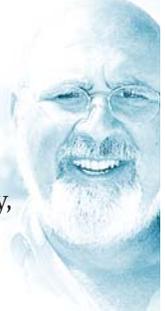
By Zola Levitt

Continuing our history of the Land of Israel

'60s: The Six-Day War of 1967—in which the Jews recovered all of Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and virtually the entire Sinai Desert over to the Nile River—is germane to the '60s and to what is happening today. In truth, the young nation totally routed its enemies, humiliating the much larger powers of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in a war so quickly over that the networks hardly had time to raise prices on their commercial advertisements.

'70s: After three consecutive defeats—1948, 1956, 1967—it might be thought that the Arabs would be wary of attacking Israel, which was becoming stronger militarily with each experience. And yet, the decade of the '70s was characterized by a new assault—on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), a cowardly blow on the holiest day of the Jewish year, when soldiers were not at their posts and all were at prayer. In this manner, Muslims got

in a first punch but were defeated in two to three weeks in any case. The Israelis consolidated their gains, and the Arabs turned to using diplomacy, propaganda, and other weapons of the tongue.



Later in the '70s, we began the process of false peace. The Camp David Accords were first, returning the Sinai to Egypt in what has proved to be a cold peace but at least a non-shooting arrangement with Egypt. The embargo of oil ('73-'74) was very effective in persuading the West that the Israelis were somehow the bad guys. The message was that the Arabs would withhold oil because Israelis did things that frustrated them, and therefore Americans would wait in line for gas. This began the blaming-of-the-victims stage in Israel's affairs. Though they were the assaulted party in every case, they began to seem like the bullies of the Middle East. Helped by general anti-Semitism and the ignorance of the popular media, the image stuck, and today, the five [now six] million Israeli Jews are regarded as enormously stronger than the 200 [now 300+] million Arabs! One small nation is somehow oppressing 22 big ones!

We enter the 1980s in the next issue. ★



Mark Galt ©2011

A Muslim Turns To Jesus

By Michael Carl www.WND.com

Former terrorist Kamal Saleem says he learned early to hate Christians and Jews. The response he got from Christians, however, changed his life.

Saleem completed his first terrorist assignment when he was 7 years old. Eventually, he was dispatched to the U.S. on *jihād*. But a 1985 traffic accident created a detour.

An 18-wheeler broadsided him, ejecting him from the car onto his head. “I cried out for Allah, but Allah didn’t come to save me,” he says.

His rescuer was a doctor. “His first words were, ‘Son, everything’s going to be all right.’ He assured me, ‘We’re going to be with you.’” Who is this “we?” Saleem wondered.

“In the hospital, the surgeons read my chart—foreigner, no family, no friends—and said, ‘Son, we’re going to take care of you’... It was the same language.”

“And they all smiled. The word of God says ‘You will know them by their fruit.’ These people demonstrated not self, but the character of the Most High.” Saleem noted that these men were “Fishers of Men” and their nets were their talents.

Saleem says this is how he got a fresh start.

“The second day, the head of physical therapy came smiling and reassuring. On the fifth day, the men came one after the other to visit me. When I realized they were Christians, I got really scared because I thought it was a conspiracy from the dark side.”

He suddenly realized *he* was the one who was blind (2 Corinth. 4:4). “I was so blind that the good things looked dark and the bad things looked light. But it was the opposite.” The doctors

Kamal Saleem (right) & Walid Shoebat share speaking platform.



and hospital staff showed him the unconditional love of God, something that is foreign to Islam. “There is not one place in the Koran where Allah says, ‘I love my people.’”

<http://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Themes/love.htm>

In his surgeon’s house, Saleem was amazed by the love everyone showed to him. He noticed something special about Christian marriage and the treatment of women.

“Women in Islamic culture are equal to the rug.” Saleem says his experience in the doctor’s house was completely alien. “The husband and wife were partners. It was powerful; two are better than one.”

At first, he was “allergic” to Jesus and resisted, even while being the focus of a men’s prayer circle. “These men never told me that as a Muslim I didn’t deserve to live. They loved me unconditionally and they filled a basket with money until they forgave my debt in full. They purchased a new car for me. I was seeing something new. In Islam, Mohammed commanded that non-Muslims’ property can be taken simply because they’re not Muslims. The process is to continue until everyone acknowledges that Allah is god and that Mohammed is his prophet.”

“So I came to know the ugly truth about Islam,” Saleem said. “I saw two gods in front of me. One God came to my rescue. The god I had served ran away from me.”



This is a firsthand analysis of the illness of Islamic ideology and the cure that Jesus provides. This issue is peppered with true tales of this journey from darkness to light. —Myles

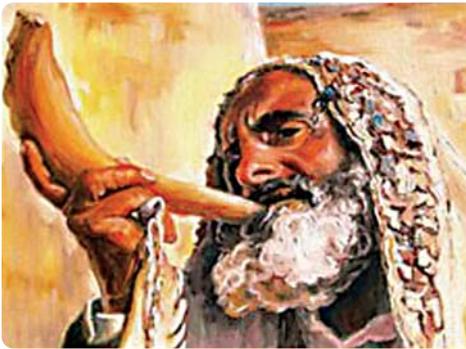
Shalom From Sandra

Leviticus 23:1–2 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.”



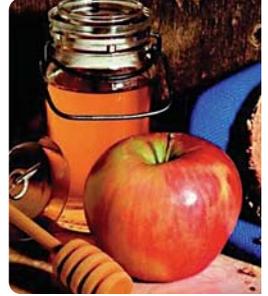
It's the holiday season again. No, I am not talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas, but rather the three fall feasts of the seven found in Leviticus 23. I love this time of year when summer starts fading and winter is just around the corner. In agrarian societies, it also signals that the old harvest year is over and the rainy season is coming for the new crops in the spring. It is a reminder of renewal, reflections, and cycles of life of the past year.

Every year on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot, I try to do something that reminds me of my thankfulness to God, my Jewish roots, and how Yeshua (Jesus) fulfills each one of these feasts.



Rosh Hashanah, or Trumpets, Hebrew for “head of the year” (Leviticus 23: 23–25) begins this year at sundown on September 28th. How can we celebrate and why is the New Year in September/October and not January? Jewish tradition holds that the creation of the world began in the fall. The holiday starts at sundown and begins with supper. On the table, the round bread

symbolizes that this holiday begins a new year and renewed cycles of life. This year, I will serve my family dinner and a cut-up apple, ready to be dipped in honey. This is one time when dessert comes first! By tradition, we want the first thing that touches our lips in the new year to be full of hopes for a sweet and good



year. Each year I read Leviticus 23. This New Year, I am going to start a journal of how I want to be for God, my family, and my community. Next year at Rosh Hashanah, I will read my journal and see how I did. I will also wish my friends *lshana tovah*: May you have a good year. It is another way to witness. In past years, I have thrown breadcrumbs (representing sin) into the river. At the synagogue, the *shofar* (ram's horn) will blast a total of 100 times. Remember, God saved Isaac from sacrifice, substituting a ram in his place; and Yeshua will come back with a trumpet call of God. *1 Thess.4:16, 17* “For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.” Blow a horn!

NEXT MONTH: Yom Kippur and Sukkot

Zola's booklet *The Seven Feasts of Israel* (offered on page 18) is a must-read and makes a good gift, heightening every reader's awareness of how God shows us the Messiah in these feasts. Yeshua crucified on **Passover**, buried on **Unleavened Bread**, raised at **First Fruits**, sent the Holy Spirit on **Shavuot (Pentecost)**. We are waiting for the return of our Lord on **Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)**. We will not have to go through **Atonement (Yom Kippur)** because our sins have been paid for by Yeshua, and we will dwell with the Lord for 1,000 years in our own **Sukkah**.

Sandra

Amazon's Kindle™: A Made-In-Israel Story

Windows; ICQ (known today as AOL Chat); anti-virus software; cell phone technology — you name it and Israel has had a hand in the development, if not the outright invention, of many of the most important tech components of modern life. And Israel's high-tech brain trust is still brimful of ideas. One of today's newest, hottest gadgets, Amazon's Kindle, was largely developed in the heart of Israel's high-tech center in the Herzliya Industrial Zone on the central coast.

“Four years ago, Amazon contacted Sun (which was acquired by Oracle last year) in California and said they wanted a small device that could be used to read e-books,” says Lilach Zipory, the leader of the team that helped to develop the Kindle application. “They had already acquired the software to run it, but were looking for the right technical design, and especially a platform to run the software on. My team in Herzliya is in charge of developing Java for small non-cell phone devices, so they gave us the project.” And the rest, of course, is history.

It's a history that wasn't well known until recently, since Oracle chose not to reveal too much about its role in the development of the Kindle. Now, however, the company has come clean—and in the process, Zipory's team is receiving some much-deserved credit.

Not that the team was aware of the far-reaching implications of the project

By David Shamah
www.Israel21c.org



when they took it on. “We see a lot of small devices here, and they're all very nice. But I would never have expected an e-book reader to take off like the Kindle did,” she confides.

Perhaps that's because the Kindle was not the first e-book reader, and as a technical expert, Zipory may not have realized the extent of Amazon's willingness to invest in marketing the device. Still, the Kindle would not have succeeded as it did if it wasn't such a high-performer. And the credit for that performance success is based on the customized Java platform written in Israel by the Herzliya team.

“I was recently on a flight when a woman told me how her Kindle kept her entertained while she flew,” says Eran Vanounou, director of the Oracle development office in Herzliya. “I didn't let on how much we in Oracle Herzliya were a part of her experience. But when she said ‘I love my Kindle,’” says Vanounou, “I could have sworn I felt a tear in my eye.”

I just bought a Kindle and I am not surprised that it is based on Israeli innovation. The tiny country and the Jewish people, almost universally hated, continue to supply scientific, medical, and technological blessings to the world. —Myles ★

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

Mark 10:25



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Ossuary Yields New Detail of Gospel Story

Associated Press

Israeli scholars have confirmed the authenticity of a 2,000-year-old burial box that appears to bear the name of a relative of the high priest Caiaphas mentioned in the New Testament, the Israel Antiquities Authority said.

The find offers secular support for the existence of the biblical Caiaphas, who appears in the New Testament as a temple priest and an adversary of Jesus who played a key role in His crucifixion.



The ossuary—a stone chest used to store bones—is decorated with the stylized shapes of flowers, and bears an inscription with the name “Miriam daughter of Yeshua son of Caiaphas, priest of Maaziah from Beth Imri.” [Yeshua was a common name at the time.]

The ossuary was seized from tomb robbers three years ago. Because it “was not found in a controlled archaeological excavation and because of its special scientific importance,” the Antiquities Authority said, it has been undergoing lab tests since then.

The tests, which used powerful microscopes to inspect layers of buildup on the box and inscription, were carried out by two scholars, one from Tel Aviv University and the other from Bar Ilan University. The research indicated that the inscription is “genuine and ancient.”

Careful tests were necessary because forgery is common in the world of biblical artifacts, where a brisk black market exists and where antiquities linked in some way to the Bible can fetch millions of dollars.

A similar ossuary—bearing the inscription “James son of Joseph brother of Jesus”—is currently at the center of a fraud trial under way in Israel.



The James ossuary was exhibited to widespread acclaim as the only known archaeological link to Jesus, but lab tests run by the Israel Antiquities Authority indicated that the inscription was fake. An Israeli collector has been charged with forging the ossuary and other biblical antiquities, and a verdict is pending.

The scholars believe that the Miriam ossuary was plundered from a tomb in the Valley of Elah, southwest of Jerusalem. The word “Maaziah” on the inscription refers to a subset of the priestly caste. Scholars believe “Beth Imri” refers either to a priestly family or to the family’s village of origin.

As the controversy over “whose land is it?” grows, God continues to provide evidence through archaeology as to the Chosen People and their story. My article on page 5 reinforces this truth, pointing out that King David was real, wrote many of the Psalms, and lived 3,000 years ago—well before any Muslim claims to *Ha-Eretz* (The Land).

—Myles

Revisiting The Jordan Option



By Asaf Romirowsky, www.YNetNews.com

Amid the unrest now sweeping the Middle East, Israeli government and security officials are quietly discussing an unusual strategy that would pass the Palestinians' political future off to Jordan. With the odds of a negotiated two-state solution at an all-time low, former Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Knesset Member Arieh Eldad, and Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin resurrected the "Jordan is Palestine" model for regional peace.

Israeli officials fear that a Palestinian Intifada could break out on both sides of the Jordan River, and they seek to make it as much a Jordanian problem as an Israeli one. In a Middle East crying out for representation, it is possible that Jordan's 72% Palestinian population could effectively take control, and Jordan, in effect, could become "Palestine."

The notion of a Palestinian-controlled polity in Jordan is not new. From the war of Israeli independence in 1948 through the Six-Day War in 1967, Israeli politicians on the Left and Right advanced a policy of "Jordan is Palestine." While defending Israel from Arab aggression, they proposed that Jordan become the Palestinian homeland. Israeli officials proposed various scenarios for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation that fused the East Bank and West Bank of the Jordan River under one administration.

However, it is not as simple as that. Such an arrangement would be dependent on Israeli-Jordanian relations and how they view potential threats from the Palestinian populations in their midst.

To a certain extent, the Jordanians renounced all claims to the West Bank in 1988, backed the creation of the Palestinian Authority in the early 1990s, and made peace with Israel in 1994 in an attempt to prevent further flooding of Palestinians into their country. To a certain extent, Jerusalem has long looked to the Hashemite monarchy to maintain stability and security on both sides of

the river. Both Amman and Jerusalem recognize that their security needs are inseparable. Jordan has benefited from the periods of relative quiet and prosperity in Israel. Accordingly, Jordanian security forces have been increasingly involved in the West Bank, where they conduct joint training sessions with Palestinian forces. It has been a win-win-win situation for Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians.

The problem now is that Jordan's traditional power centers are unhappy with the rise of Palestinian influence in the country. With hopes fading for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and as uncomfortable as it might be for Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians to admit, the Jordanian option might be the best one they have.

Asaf Romirowsky is former liaison officer from the Israel Defense Forces to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. ★

Our friend Walid Shoebat, former PLO terrorist and current friend of Yeshua and Israel, famously commented, "I went to bed on June 4, 1967 a Jordanian, and woke up June 5th a 'Palestinian!'" He personally experienced the Arafat-driven political invention of the Palestinians, who suddenly came into being without ever having had unique borders, language, government, currency, or history! Jordan is the right option for a Palestinian state—its viability goes back to the British mandate of 1922. —Myles



Islam: The Ultimate Obsessive-Compulsive Religion

By Farrah Khalil, WND.com

I nodded my head emphatically when Tamar's mother would explain why she covered her hair. For her it was twofold. First, she didn't want to hang from her locks in hell. Second, her beauty, in its full capacity, was reserved for one man only—her husband. The last thing she wanted to do was cause another man to lust after her! That was a sin that would immediately be added to her heavenly scales, and nobody wanted “off-balance scales.”

Off-balance scales?

The OCD part of my brain exploded into action the moment I heard this phrase. What was she talking about? What scales? Did I need to know about these scales? Would something bad happen if my own scales were off balance? I had to learn more. Tamar's mother and father were happy to oblige. They taught me all about the heavenly scales that weigh a Muslim's good and bad deeds from the moment they are born until the day they die. On that day, if one's bad deeds outweigh one's good deeds, even by the smallest percentage, then that person goes straight to hell. But there is hope. Good deeds can erase bad deeds, and praying on a certain night during Ramadan (the month of Islamic fasting) can expunge a plethora of sins! Furthermore, repeating certain phrases after praying the five daily prayers has the ability to annul at least 1,000 bad deeds—like magic!

The biggest sin eraser of them all is going on a *haj* (pilgrimage) to Mecca. This once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage guarantees the instant removal of all sins. Then maybe, just maybe, one can make it into heaven, but one is never sure. It is an intangible gambling of sorts, a virtual coin toss. Could I beat

the odds and make it into heaven? I thought I could. The rituals, the math, the counting, the repetitive washing before prayer—all right up my alley! Islam is the perfect religion for someone with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. I wanted it.



Two years later, I was boarding a plane to the Middle East with Tamar, now my husband, and our newborn son. I was a hardcore Muslim by this time, but the pinnacle of my Islamic fundamentalism was yet to come. The anti-Semitic rhetoric that filled every nook and cranny of the Middle East, coupled with my desire to prove myself as a “real Muslim,” turned me into a hate-filled, angry, and utterly depressed monster. At first, everyone attributed my strange behavior to culture shock, but that wasn't it. I had assumed that living in an Islamic country would finally allow me to feel Allah's love—something that I had yet to experience but was waiting for. When that didn't happen, when I still felt nothing but fear and inadequacy, I began to panic.

Maybe I was praying incorrectly; or maybe I was praying at the wrong times? But that was impossible. I had my watch alarm set to go off at the beginning of each “prayer block,” the *very* beginning, so that I had plenty of time to wash up. And then it hit me: I wasn't washing up correctly! My prayers were not going through! ★

Read how Farrah eventually finds God's (not Allah's) love in this complete testimony at www.levitt.com/news.

Virginity For Sale

By Kris Sims, www.CNews.canoe.ca

Women who cannot afford to get their hymens surgically re-attached in Canada prior to marriages in their cultural country of origin have a less expensive option: they can order one in the mail.

Starting at just \$29.95, women can order a false hymen online, shipped from China.

The imports are officially banned in many Middle Eastern and North African countries, but women in North America and Great Britain are a fertile market.

“We have many urgent requests from women, begging us for urgent delivery before their wedding night,” says Mike Munro, with the Hymenshop.com. The online store opened in March 2010, and sells a couple thousand per month.

“There are some cultural notions out there that the ordinary person cannot just challenge and try and change them without paying a very dear price and in some cases with their own lives.”

In Canada, some young women from predominantly Muslim backgrounds are desperate to appear as virgins, fearing they could be killed by their families if they do not have an intact hymen on their marriage beds after arranged marriages in their cultural home countries.

Some are getting plastic surgery in Canadian private clinics to re-attach their hymens.

The mail-order version is a thin film containing a packet of red fluid. The website advises to insert the film 20 minutes prior to sex in order to mimic the breaking of the hymen and showing the required “blood.”

The parcels come with alternative markings from generic sounding companies, evading interception.

“Women belonging to these sorts of cultures will have to work around these notions if they wish to have safe and ‘normal’ family lives and we provide them with this opportunity,” says Munro.



Muhammed



Churches Against Israel

By Giulio Meotti, www.YNetNews.com

The World Council of Churches, an ecumenical Christian body based in Geneva and boasting 590 million worshippers, recently ended a conference in which not a single word of criticism was uttered against the Islamists who are persecuting Arabs who believe in Jesus.

Catholics, Protestants, Greek Orthodox Christians, and Copts declared the Jewish State “a sin” and “occupying power,” accused Israelis of “dehumanizing the Palestinians,” theologically dismantled the “chosen-ness” of the Jewish people, and called for “resistance” as a Christian duty.

In the last few months we have seen a radical and dangerous increase of attacks on Israel by the Protestant and Catholic churches. In Antwerp, a highly respected and government-funded Catholic school recently hosted a “Palestine Day” full of anti-Semitic references and activities for youngsters. One stall at the event was titled “Throw the soldiers into the sea,” allowing children to throw replicas of Jewish and Israeli soldiers into two large tanks.

Today, most of the divestment campaign against Israel is driven by Christian groups such as the Dutch Interchurch Organization and the Irish Catholic group Troicaré, both funded by the EU. The United Church of Canada recently voted to boycott six companies (Caterpillar, Motorola, Ahava, Veolia, Elbit Systems, and Chapters/Indigo) and South African bishop Desmond Tutu convinced the University of Johannesburg to sever all its links with Israeli fellows. Last year, the Methodist Church of Britain voted to boycott Israeli-produced goods and services from Judea and Samaria.

The Vatican magazine in January declared that the Palestinian refugees are a consequence of “ethnic cleansing”

by Israel and that “the Zionists were cleverly able to exploit the Western sense of guilt for the *Shoah* [Holocaust] to lay the foundations of their own state.” Indeed, Ahmadinejad’s rhetoric is alarmingly similar.



Israel’s relationship with the Vatican is different from Jerusalem’s relationship with Albania or Luxembourg for example, because the Catholic Church has more than one billion adherents and a global moral authority. At the Rome synod, Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustros, a cleric chosen by Pope Benedict to draft the synod’s 44 final propositions, denied the Jewish people’s biblical right to the Promised Land. “We Christians cannot speak about the Promised Land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people,” Bustros said, reviving “replacement theology.”

Elsewhere, the current Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, named by Pope Benedict to represent the Catholic community in Israel and the West Bank, is sponsoring an appeal against the “Judaization of Jerusalem.” Indeed, at this time, new anti-Israel policies by the most powerful Christian groups are breathing new life into medieval doctrine that demonized Jews for hundreds of years. ★

I have been in dialogue with a born-again Catholic priest about this very issue. The dividing lines continue to be drawn; will those who claim to love the God and Messiah of Israel love His brothers and sisters as well? —Myles



Everlasting Consolation

By John J. Parsons

יָבֵשׁ הָצִיר נָבֵל צִיץ וְדָבַר אֱלֹהֵינוּ יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם

*The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever – Isaiah 40:8*

לָם	לְ	עוֹ	יָקוּם	יְ	נָבֵל	צִיץ	וְ	דָבַר	אֱ	לְ	הֵי	נוּ
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)
le-o-lam	ya-kum	E-lo-hey-nu	u-de-var	tzitz	na-vel	cha-tzir	ya-vesh					
forever	rises	but the word of our God	flower	withers	grass	dries up						

This is a great word of hope... Despite experiencing exile and living in oppression, God speaks words of everlasting consolation: *Nachamu, nachamu ammi*: “Comfort, comfort My people...” There is a glorious future for you, even if your present circumstances seem overwhelming and your heart’s cry seems unanswered. These were God’s words of encouragement to the Jewish exiles who were carried away into Babylonian captivity. Despite the appearance of ruin, God promised to establish Zion as the praise of the Earth.

God is the only enduring Reality in a constantly changing world, and He has designed it this way to cause men’s hearts to search for Him. “All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field”—such is the condition of this ephemeral world with its flux and fortunes. The flesh fades because the breath of the LORD blows upon it (Isa. 40:6,7). God Himself has ordained human life to be a vapor....

Nonetheless we are told not to fear, because there is good news for Zion: the LORD is coming with might to reward those who are waiting for Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather His lambs and carry them close to His heart. As the Apostle Peter said, this good news is the eternal life given through the imperishable “seed”—the Word of God that rises forever in Yeshua (1 Pet. 1:23-25).

The nations of this world are reckoned as less than nothing; their glory is “tohu”—confusion and unreality—and their princes are regarded as utter vanity. “Scarcely are they planted and have taken root when He blows upon them and they wither to become dust carried off by the storming winds” (Isa. 40:24). The nations of the Earth are dried grasses; the kings of the Earth are withered flowers.

But God is incomparably great and will fulfill His promises to Israel: “The word of our God will stand forever.” He created the heavens and calls each star by name. He is invincible in power and no one can overrule His will.

This world is not our home; we are “strangers” here. It is an affliction to wait for the LORD, a sort of “homesickness” of heart ... The Apostle Paul says our loneliness and alienation prepare for us an “eternal weight of glory” beyond all comparison, because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen (2 Cor. 4:17-18). Just as the “two-souled” man is unstable in all his ways, so the process of being “educated for eternity” means learning to focus our heart’s passion on the glory of Heaven. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21).

Understand that Yeshua is “preparing a place for you” (Jn.14:2), an eternal place of refuge whose maker is God (Heb.11:10).

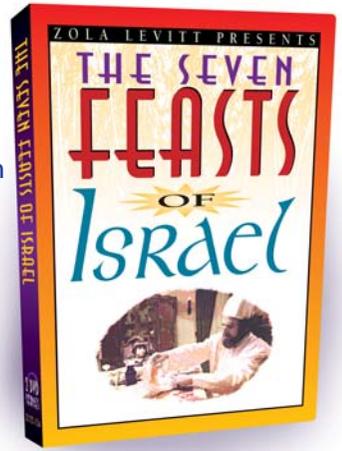
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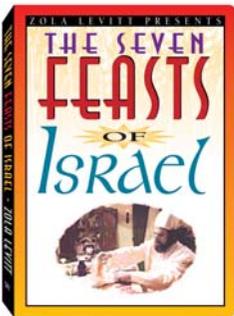
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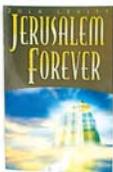
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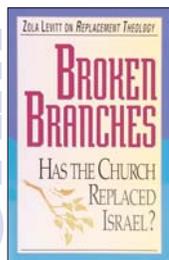
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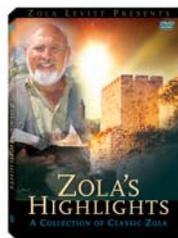
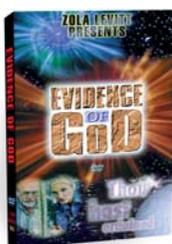


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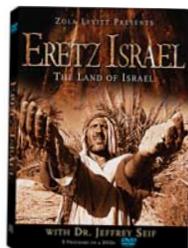
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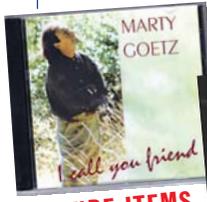
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ZLM Bulletin Board

Zionism = Racism ... What?!

Forty percent of UN Human Rights Council Resolutions have been against Israel, more than against every repressive country on Earth—combined! To better understand UN bias against Israel, visit www.durban3nyc.com. The quick history lesson there explains the double standard. In short, communists and Muslims have formed an unstoppable anti-Israel/anti-U.S. voting bloc that simultaneously discredits both democracies. As a result, UN Resolution 3379 declares that Zionism is a form of racism—a campaign to convince the masses of a secret Jewish cause to worldwide racism.



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Levitt Letter by clicking on "Newsletter" at www.levitt.com.) Even when America's major media publicized the Scud Missiles, Israel was statistically safer than many of America's largest cities. It's been a wonderful 28 years, and our hospitable Israeli friends know that our tour groups are among their truest allies.

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If you can monitor our TV program every week on one of these stations, please write to Brenda at Berg Productions, 6221 Riverside Drive, Suite #109, Irving, TX 75039 or email her at Brenda@bergproductions.com. You will be furnishing an invaluable service to our outreach by helping direct the stewardship of our broadcasting budget.

"Come Home!"

**Zola's
Tours to
Israel:**



See page
36 for details



Israel is Sitting Pretty

By Ted Belman, IsraelNationalNews.com

Israel is sitting pretty. Sure it has problems, but its future is bright. Even its present is not too shabby.

Of immediate concern, is the attempt by the PA to gain recognition and membership in the UN in September. To this end the PA has agreed to unify with Hamas, but unification is proving more difficult to achieve than implied, due to their unwillingness to share power.

Even if the PA gains recognition by the General Assembly, such recognition will change nothing on the ground. The US has made clear that it will veto the PA's admission to membership. Furthermore, Israel has succeeded, diplomatically, in turning the EU around on the matter of recognition. A few months ago, Britain, France, and Germany were threatening Israel to accept the armistice lines as the basis for negotiations, failing which they would vote for recognition. Now they are lined up with the US and Israel in urging the PA not to go to the UN for recognition.

Israel has successfully made the case that such a unilateral move by the PA would be a violation of the Oslo Accords which mandate no unilateral moves and a negotiated settlement. Israel has made clear that such a move would result in unilateral moves by Israel and the end of the Oslo Accords. This means the end of the PA created pursuant to these accords.

The primary unilateral move mooted by Israel is the extension of Israeli law to the settlement blocs which would make the blocs sovereign territory of Israel. Many in Israel

are demanding that Israel not stop there but do the same for all of Area "C" over which it has full control pursuant to the Oslo Accords. These lands contain 300,000 Israelis and 10,000 Arabs. Israeli grassroots are campaigning to increase Israeli support for such a move.

A new poll conducted by Egypt's ruling military regime showed that a 67 percent majority of Egyptians want to maintain their nation's peace treaty with Israel. This contradicted an earlier poll which showed that 54% of Egyptians wanted to scrap the agreement.

Jordan wants Israel to remain in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) because it's in Jordan's best interest. Palestinian nationalism is a threat to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It prefers the status quo, thank you very much.

Syria is on the ropes and is expected to go down for the count. Turkey has been threatening to invade Syria ostensibly to set up a safe zone for refugees but may remain there and perhaps end up controlling Syria and by extension, Lebanon. The US is coordinating all this with Turkey and Israel. Remember, Syria and Lebanon used to be part of the Ottoman Empire. The US and Saudi Arabia have been trying to separate Syria from Iran for years and this may just be the way to do it. ★

Catch up on other Middle East attitudes toward Israel by reading the second half of this article on www.levitt.com/news.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com



Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From S.G. (IA): Your website is very easy to order from. Thank you for the resources offered at such a good price.

From J.S. (AR): Zola's teachings are my favorite; we can rejoice for his presence with the Lord even as we miss him.

From P.B. (GA): I am beginning a monthly contribution to ZLM. My regret is that I wasn't able to do this earlier. This ministry has been a blessing to me for many, many years. It was an especially great treat to hear Jeff in person a few years ago.

From T.F. (VA): As the Lord provides, I hope that I may be able to give more; until then, thank you for providing such merchandise as Zola's CDs.

From P.K. (WI): I love your *Levitt Letter* and podcasts. May the Lord continue to bless you in your work.

From K.M.F. (NY): For several years, I have been studying God's Word in a Bible Institute. This year, I taught Isaiah 53 at my church. During my time of study and preparation, I realized just how little I knew about the Jewish foundations of the Christian faith. I plan to rectify that with Zola and Jeff's *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*.

From F.M.B. (AR): I have a flower garden in front of my home and I fly the Israeli flag high.

From Rev. J.P. (SC): Someone I don't even know gave your book to my sister, saying, "God said to give this to you; that you'd know who to give it to. Here's one for you too." Our Lord is great. Your books have helped my teaching ministry more than I can express in words. Thank you.

From K.R. (OH): Jesus is coming, so ship my order soon.



Donations come in with instructions like these:

From W.N.R. (FL): This addition to my monthly donation is in response to Mark's "Please?" on pg. 29 of August's *Levitt Letter*. Sorry it's not more. Blessings.

From H.C. (TX): For the GOOD NEWS FUND in memory of Zvi Rivai.

The “Other” Tsunami? HOW DARE YOU!

To *Levitt Letter Staff*,

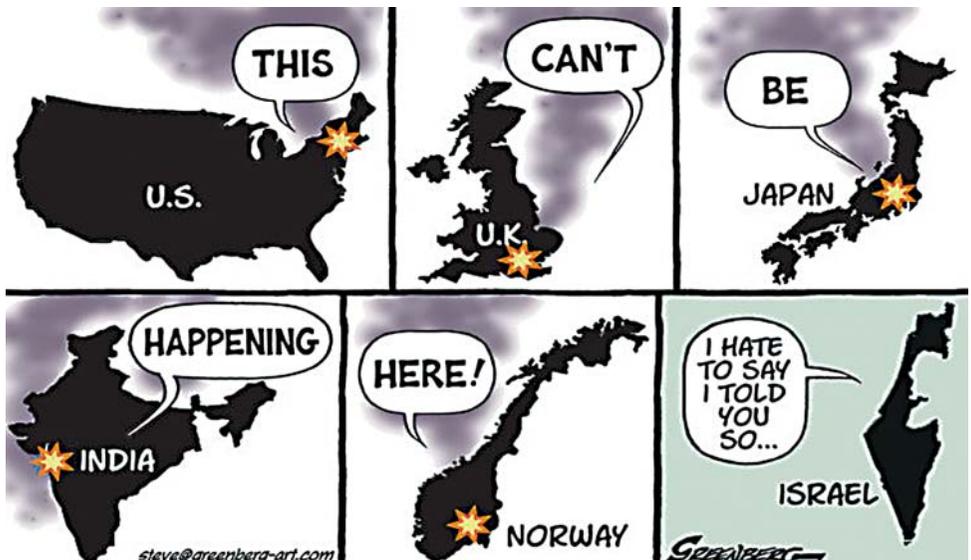
When I first saw your headline on the May cover (posted at <http://www.levitt.com/newsletters/2011-05.pdf>), I was shocked and had to read it again because I wasn't sure anyone could be that heartless. Do you know how many people DIED in that tsunami? Fifteen THOUSAND plus people are DEAD, with 4,000 plus still missing or unaccounted for. Little children are waiting for parents who will never return, people waiting for loved ones, anxiously for weeks waiting for a glimmer of hope and you compare the murder of people to thousands of people dying? And you wonder why people are anti-Semitic. People are killed every day. Get over it. —D.D.

Dear D.D.—

Your shock is shocking to me, because Dennis Prager's article in no way minimizes the tragedy of the Japanese tsunami. He is using a current event to point out another one: the horrific slaying of an innocent Israeli family, just because they were Jewish. If you do your homework, you will find that Israeli and Jewish relief groups are often the first on the scene to bring aid and comfort to the victims of natural disasters. The reputation of Israeli hospitals is one of objective triage, where the most severe wounds receive prioritized treatment. That means that an Arab terrorist with a life-threatening wound will be attended to before a Jewish person with a less mortal issue. This is a matter of record. To hear this from an Arab point of view, read Brigitte Gabriel's autobiography, *Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America*. “People are killed every day. Get over it?” Perhaps you need to examine your own lack of compassion. —Myles

Dear D.D.—

If you had bothered to read the article, you'd have learned that the “other tsunami” referred to the “Palestinian-Arab-Muslim flood of Jew-hatred... that will prove far more dangerous than the tsunami in Japan.” No one is making light of the loss of life and property in Japan's disaster. But anti-Semitism has taken more lives whenever it reared its ugly head, and promises to take even more next time around. I'll compare my six MILLION Holocaust victims to your fifteen THOUSAND tsunami/earthquake victims any day. —Editor



The Power of His Name

Dear Todd,

Can you shed some light on the Jewish perspective of the Third Commandment? I really have a hard time with something as ancient as the Ten Commandments concerning themselves with English slang and cursing. While I do not condone this, I think once again we have failed to see the truth and common sense behind the Words of God to humankind. I do know that there is significance and reverence in connection with the “name” and names of God and the authority and power associated with them.

—Thanks, J.E.

Dear J.E.—

The Third Commandment covers the whole gamut of people using God’s name in profane and trivial ways. The Commandment addresses using God’s name in a common way which is mundane or frivolous, lacking due reverence and honor for the Name of God. This includes using the Lord’s name as a curse word or even in a light manner, like saying, “Oh my God.” The Commandment also prohibits using God’s name to make an oath and then lie or not tell the truth or keep a vow by that oath. Those who take the oath in a court of law and swear that they will tell the whole truth “so help me God” and then violate this by *not* telling the truth, violate the Third Commandment. —Todd



Zola Is Still Teaching

Dear ZLM,

I have a CD on which Zola explains why Jews rock back and forth while praying. He says that a Bible verse says to praise God with every bone in the body. I am unable to find that verse. Will you help me? —M.S.

Dear M.S.—

Check out Psalm 35:10 wherein David declares that he will praise God with every bone in his body. Also, Orthodox Judaism teaches that Jews must pray with the mind, body, and soul. The rabbis say this is based on what is written in Exodus 20:18 where we are told Israel physically trembled when they saw the thunder, lightning, smoke, and heard the loud trumpet blast at Mount Sinai when God gave them the Law. So, Jews today bob their heads and sway to honor the God who gave them His Holy Law. —Todd

September 11 Remembered
 9/11
 Remembered

September 11 Remembered



End-Time Battles

Dear ZLM,

When I read Psalm 83, I get the impression that it is a prayer for help. Some suggest that it is a prophecy of an impending war between Israel and its enemies, reasoning that none of the peoples mentioned in Psalm 83 (including Syria) are in the list of Israel's enemies in Ezekiel 38. Also, they mention the prophecy in Isaiah 17 concerning the sudden destruction of Damascus.

Perhaps there is something expressed in the Hebrew and/or Greek wording that determines if Psalm 83 is a prophecy. —R.M.

Dear R.M.—

Psalm 83 prophesies that a ten-nation Arab confederacy will seek to attack Israel and will be supernaturally overthrown by God. Today, all of these nations are not only Arab and Muslim but also make up half the current Arab League. All of them are dedicated to seeing the Jewish State destroyed. This end-time invasion will likely occur before the Gog/Magog war of Ezekiel 38-39 and sets the stage for it. For an excellent study on the end-time war of Psalm 83, please see the book *Israelestine: The Ancient Blueprints of the Future Middle East* by Bill Salus (at Amazon.com). —Todd

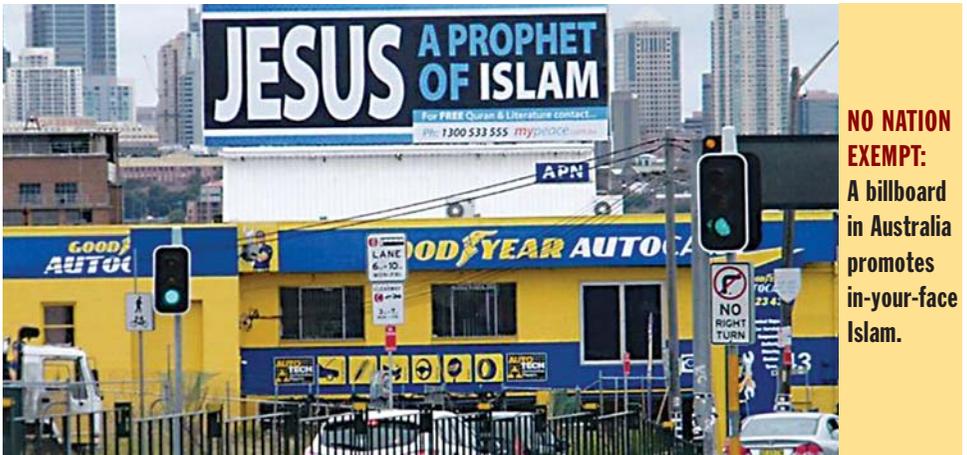
Tribes of Israel

Dear Myles,

Welcome to the “family” of ZLM! As a Jew, do you know to which tribe of Israel you belong? Does *any* Jew know? I feel honored to know or do business with one of God's Chosen People, doubly so if they accept Yeshua. —T.M. (MO)

Shalom T.M.—

Thanks for the kind words welcoming me to the ZLM family. It is my honor to be associated with this ministry. Regarding your question about tribal ancestry, most modern Jews do not know which tribe we are from. However, there is general agreement that those with last names similar to Cohen and Levi (like Zola Levitt) are likely from priestly families. My mom's family name was Cohen and so my uncles were afforded the privilege of *aliyah* in the synagogue. That meant that they would be called up to the *bema* to read from the Torah. It is a double blessing to be part of the Jewish people by blood, but thanks to Yeshua, the blood of the Lamb of God is more important, and you as a Believer are grafted in to the commonwealth of Israel. Blessings. —Myles



A Loving God?

Dear Zola,

I recently saw your program and I cannot comprehend how a supposedly intelligent person can believe in the ultimate fairy tale of God and the Holy Spirit unless it was for their personal gain. Proof of a loving God? Earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, cancer...? He really loves us? Look at the record. —P.F. (FL)



Dear P.F.—

Sadly for those still here, Zola graduated to Heaven five years ago, but I couldn't resist answering your honest and spirited questioning of this ministry's motivation. For those of us who follow Yeshua, it is a genuine and sincere lifestyle born from a real spiritual encounter. I liked your letter because I would have written one exactly like it in 1984, back when I questioned the validity of God, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit. I too assumed that all religious organizations were simply money-making endeavors. While ministries do need financial help to "get the word out," the pursuit of this life is much greater than that. Many of us work at secular jobs while carrying on our ministry work.

The devastation in the world that you refer to is not caused by God, but is a result of the fall of man, as documented in the Bible. I know that you currently do not believe that the Scriptures are a supernatural book... But I have a proposal—similar to the challenge made to me years ago. ASK if Jesus is Messiah... if God is real... and watch what happens. Please write back with the results! —Myles

Ministering As Paul Did While In Prison

Dear ZLM,

Your ministry and monthly *Levitt Letter* provide me with continued spiritual growth—light in darkened confines, inspiration to study His Word, and encouragement to share with others.

Though I cannot contribute financially, I fast one day a week and offer daily prayers for your ministry. On my fasting day, I go to the chow hall and give my meal tray to someone. When he asks why, I give him an inspirational verse and let him know of your ministry. This is my way of knowing my prayers will be answered.

In my 38 years of incarceration, I have lost some of my birth family, but I have been blessed with a spiritual family through your ministry!
—C.C.VonH. (FL)

Shalom C.C.VonH.—

Thanks for the eloquent and thoughtful note. You clearly have made the most of a very difficult situation and found peace in *Mashiach* (Messiah) despite your past. Your fasting in order to be a witness to those around you is a healthy and convicting practice that is instructional for us all. May God bless your evangelistic efforts. —Myles ★

God Bless the Prisoners

Dear ZLM,

God bless the prisoners! We were touched by the prisoner who gave up his food money for the Lord's work. (June '11, p. 13) The Lord will bless you, sir! He takes care of His children and will return your sacrifice to you in abundance. There are other Christians who can and will contribute to the Lord's work so that others—rich or poor—can hear the truth of God today.

Thank you, ZLM, for providing your *Levitt Letters* for free!

—T. and S.K. (TN)

Al-Qaeda: Avoid Detection—Pretend To Be Gay

By Nick Owens, www.Mirror.co.uk

Al-Qaeda fanatics in Britain are being taught to avoid detection—by pretending to be gay.

A new terror-training manual tells Islamic extremists to lie about their sexuality if a woman approaches them in case she is a “honey trap” spy sent by security services.

The handbook, which was uncovered by a *Sunday Mirror* investigation, says: “Many hotels—especially in busy UK cities—have women hanging around the lobby areas in order to attract men.

“A young beautiful woman may come and talk to you. The first thing you do to protect yourself from such a situation is to make *dua* (prayers) to Allah for steadfastness.

“The second thing is to find an excuse to get away from her that is realistic and sensible, such as you having a girlfriend for the past few years and you are loyal to her or you are homosexual.”

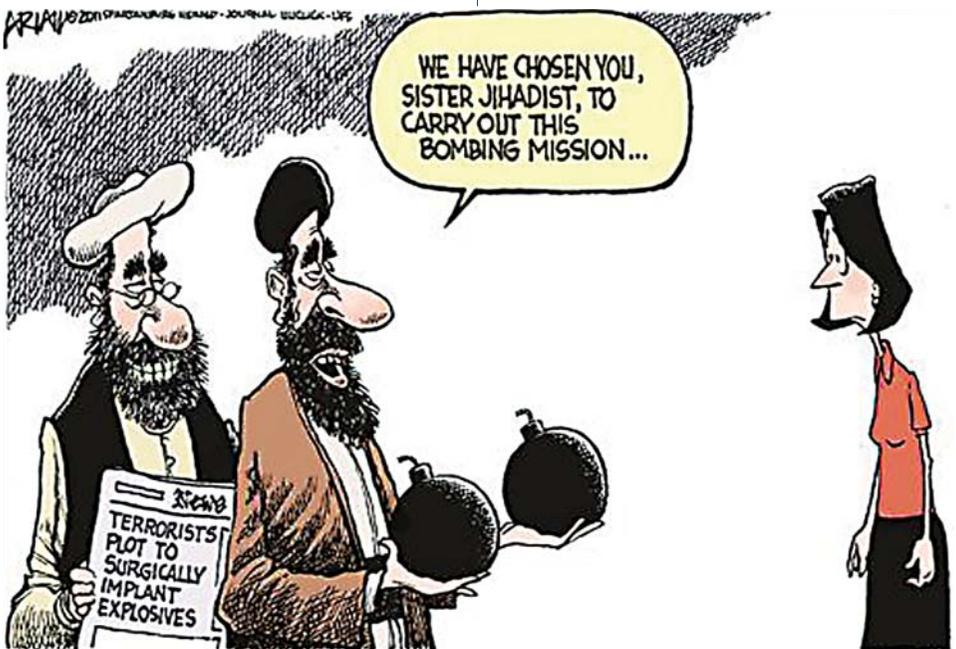
The suggestion is one of many tips in the manual, called *Class Notes From The Security and Intelligence Course*. The 64-page guide, all in English, was written to try to stop the police and MI5 uncovering the identity of terrorists plotting attacks on British soil.

It was produced by Taliban warlords in Afghanistan and was discovered by *Sunday Mirror* investigators on a password-protected jihadist website used by UK cells. It has emerged just months after MI5 launched a recruitment drive for women to work as spies.

The guide was placed online after Osama Bin Laden was killed, suggesting al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders are determined to launch revenge attacks on the UK.

Its introduction says: “Our aim is to publish an English version of a training course to provide basic principles of security for working brothers in Europe.”

Other advice warns fanatics not to mix with neighbors too much and to wear sunglasses to make themselves harder to identify. There are also tips on driving a getaway car during a terror plot. ★

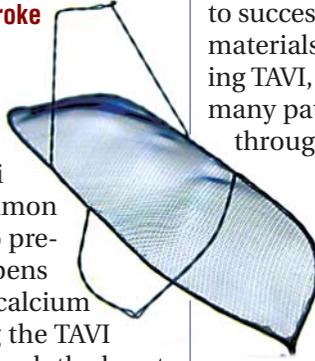


Israelis Prevent Stroke From Heart Surgery

It's a classic Catch-22: A revolutionary, minimally invasive heart repair procedure now being investigated in America, and already being performed by European doctors, could save the lives of older people who might not be able to withstand open-heart surgery to repair their heart valves. However, up to 15 percent of all patients undergoing this procedure—called TAVI, for transcatheter aortic valve implantation—suffer a stroke on the operating table.

Foreseeing the risk years ago as TAVI was being developed, Israeli cardiologist Dr. Dov Shimon invented a novel way to prevent stroke, which happens when hardened bits of calcium come dislodged during the TAVI procedure, passing through the heart and going into the brain.

His innovation is a filter against these embolisms. Fitted onto the aortic arch, the medical device ensures that



By Karin Kloosterman
www.Israel21c.org



particles do not get into the blood flowing to the three main vessels leading from the heart.

Inserted before the operation and removed shortly after, the filter appears to successfully prevent hardened artery materials from coming dislodged during TAVI, which holds great promise for many patients because it is performed through an artery in the leg.

The solution offers a deflection system that sits on top of the arch of the aorta so any material will be deflected and not go to the brain.

Once again, the people through whom God gave the Patriarchs, the Word, and the Messiah continue to bless the world. —Myles ★

Aiding Terrorists Deserves Action

By Chad Groening www.OneNewsNow.com

Texas Governor Rick Perry (R) is urging the Justice Dept. to take action against any American citizens who take part in flotillas aimed at providing aid to terrorists in Gaza.

The recent flotilla was blocked by Greek authorities from leaving that country's ports. Perry wrote Attorney General Eric Holder that he had information about American citizens being aboard two U.S.-flagged ships in the flotilla. He urged Holder to take legal steps against any Americans involved with the operation.

Dr. Alan Bauer, an Israel-based American, filed his own lawsuit against the flotilla. He says the U.S. government can prosecute based on the Neutrality Act of 1794.

“George Washington signed that bill into law to prevent private citizens from organizing their own, if you will, fighting forces,” Bauer reports. “So the law is very clear that anyone who organizes a vessel for the purpose of harming a nation with which the United States is at peace is in violation of this law.”

He hopes the Justice Department will do the right thing. “If these people are law-breakers, I’m sure the U.S. would do what it can to prosecute them,” he notes.



Averting “Rent House Hell”



Mark Levitt

Get-rich-quick hucksters routinely hype an alternative universe of streets paved with gold. “All that stands between you and a procession of pushovers eager to fill your billfold,” they tout, “is our seminar’s secrets.”

As Einstein agreed, “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.” So allow me to shed some light on a pipe dream that too often is oversold and overpriced. You already know that if a business proposition sounds too good to be true, it probably is. By the same token, if the time and talent of the general public is worth more than they realize, a legitimate entrepreneur is going to harness that opportunity for his *own* benefit—*not* mobilize an army of competitors.

Hawking training materials to wannabes in the market of blue-sky sales pitches involves romanticizing positives and sidestepping negatives, not to mention tapping into the wealth of human nature’s fear and greed. That said, here’s the inside skinny from a veteran who has managed rent-houses for 22 years—plus, as a periodic hobby, attended many hypester seminars.

Please refer to earlier *Serpent* installments entitled “Buying a Home” and “Home Ownership vs. Renting” at <http://www.levitt.com/essays>. They offer fundamental considerations that apply doubly to landlords. Why? Because ...

Landlords pay higher interest on mortgages than owner-occupants. Homestead exemptions result in discounted property taxes for owner-occupants but not investors. Many landlords pay more for less insurance coverage than owner-occupants. A state that exempts your homestead from seizure in a legal judgment typically considers your investment property to be fair game.

wise as a serpent

Nugget #1: Many rent-house investors wish they had simply paid down their homestead’s mortgage rather than becoming landlords. **Nugget #2:** The theme of most get-rich-quick real estate schemes is buying properties for substantially less than they’re worth. AND doing so is much trickier and more competitive and fraught with peril than most anyone will tell you.

You don’t want the heartache of trying to talk Mr. and Mrs. Jones out of their hard-earned equity before a herd of hustlers beats you to the punch. Most distressed properties are *not* diamonds in the rough; they’re distressed for a reason. Latent repair issues (and con men contractors) have eaten the lunches of many yesteryear optimists. Even if you own a rent-house free and clear, you can be sure there’s as much vacancy and maintenance at the end of the rainbow as any pot of gold.

If you “buy right,” rental property can offer an alternative to putting all of your eggs in the stock market. However, developing a long-term outlook is only the beginning. You must be willing to endure risk and face the reality that tenants don’t always pay rent or care about others’ property. As you’ve read before, often the best investment is eradicating debt. ★

Dear Renter,

Though you pay your rent on time every month, it is remotely possible that your landlord will become unable to keep up with his mortgage, property taxes, and maintenance. Mortgage companies have been known to evict good tenants. Readers of this *Serpent* article can understand that well-intentioned investors can simply get behind on their obligations. Prospective tenants won’t have much luck requesting that property owners document their financial wherewithal. Nonetheless, it’s wise to look for signs of stable, competent property management before signing a lease.

—Mark



Israel Opens Jesus' Baptism Site In West Bank www.Zonica.com

This past summer, Israel opened the traditional baptism site of Jesus to daily visits, a move that required the cooperation of Israel's military and the removal of nearby mines in the West Bank along the border with Jordan.

The location, where many believe John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the waters of the Jordan River, is one of the most important sites in Christianity.

Until now, it was opened several times a year in coordination with the Israeli military, but because of its sensitive location, it had not been regularly open to the public since Israel captured the site from Jordan, along with the rest of the West Bank, in the 1967 Six-Day War.

That war left the site in a heavily mined no-man's land along a hostile frontier until Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994.

Israeli Dairy Cows Produce Most Milk www.JWeekly.com

Israeli dairy cows produce more milk than do dairy cows in other countries. The Israeli dairy cows produced an average of nearly 2,642 gallons of milk a year in 2009, according to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics recently. Some 344,480,000



gallons of milk were produced by Israeli cows in 2010.

By comparison, dairy cows in the United States produce 2,465 gallons of milk per year and European Union cows 1,622 gallons per year. There is an estimated 25% increase in the purchase of dairy products by Israelis in the days leading up to Shavuot, when Jews traditionally eat dairy holiday meals.

There are 125,000 dairy cows in Israel, and the average Israeli consumes about 45 gallons of dairy products a year.

Sharia In Britain

By Mohammed Al Shafey, asharq-e.com

Hard-line fundamentalists have pledged to ban alcohol and gender mixing in new areas throughout the United Kingdom where sharia will be imposed. According to this plan, a large number of posters bearing the slogans "no gambling," "no music and concerts," "no nudity or vice," and "no drugs and smoking" will be distributed. The posters announce "Beware: You are entering a sharia-controlled zone—Islamic rules enforced."

The fundamentalists claim that thousands of "sharia police" will monitor the compliance in the streets.

Anjem Choudary, spokesman for the Islamist group Islam4UK, has called for implementing this plan as an alternative to the government's attempts to combat violent extremism under the "prevention" strategy.

"As **Islamists [advocates of Islam as both a religion and political system]**, we have a clear stand on gender mixing, taking drugs, gambling, vice, and concerts. [We] also have a clear stand on democracy which we consider 'unbelief.' We are living among non-Muslims but should distinguish ourselves from them."

Preacher Omar Bakri has said, “The true Muslim is required to implement what he can of the sharia in all matters of his life and to call on the society in which he lives to monotheism and apply Islamic Sharia as it is the only divine one that is suitable for every place and age and has the divine cure for all the problems of man and humanity.”



Public School Allows Muslim (But Bans Christian) Prayer

By Ron Csillag, Religion News Service

A majority-Muslim public school in Toronto (Canada) is defending its policy of allowing an imam to lead Friday prayers in the cafeteria, saying students who leave school for prayers at a mosque typically don't return to school.

Christian and other prayers are disallowed in the public school system.

For the past three years, some 300 Muslim students at Valley Park Middle School have

been allowed to use the school cafeteria for their Friday prayers. Before the policy change, school officials say students would leave classes early and not return.

“I think it's important to note the prayer isn't conducted under the auspices of the board,” Jim Spyropoulos, a superintendent for inclusive schools with the Toronto District School Board, told the *Globe and Mail* newspaper. “This was the best solution that avoided compromising instructional time.”

The issue is “about religious accommodation,” Shari Schwartz-Maltz, a school district spokeswoman, told *The Canadian Press*.

Those explanations have not placated angry parents, who are lighting up radio call-in shows and blogging furiously—particularly since Christian and other prayers are disallowed in the public school system.

In an unlikely alliance, Canadian Hindu Advocacy, the Jewish Defense League, and the Muslim Canadian Congress have voiced strong opposition to the arrangement.



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Iranian Pastor Must Reject Christian Faith or Die

By Mike Tighe, www.NewsMax.com

A U.S. State Department official expressed outrage and pressed Iran to reverse a court decision that gives an Iranian pastor an outrageous—and suicidal—choice: Reject his Christian faith, or die.

The 32-year-old pastor, Yosef Nadarkhani, was arrested in October 2009 for apostasy because he objected to the teaching of Islam to Christian children at Iranian schools. He was sentenced to death by hanging late last year, a verdict that he appealed to Iran's Supreme Court.

The appeal appeared to have been granted, as his lawyer indicated to a news agency recently. But an Iranian human rights agency now says the ruling actually imposes the recant-or-die choice. The U.S. State Department issued a statement expressing dismay at the prospect.

"While Iran's leaders hypocritically claim to promote tolerance, they continue to detain, imprison, harass, and abuse those who simply wish to worship the faith of their choosing," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

"We join the international community in continuing to call on the Iranian government to respect the fundamental rights of all its citizens and uphold its international commitments to protect them."

The indictment against Nadarkhani, a father and evangelical pastor who became a Christian at age 19, accused him of organizing evangelistic meetings, sharing his faith, inviting others to convert, running a house church, and "denying Islamic values."



According to the Human Rights Activists News Agency, an association that Iranian human rights advocates established in 2009, the court will "question the defendant again in order to determine whether he believes in Islam or not. If he is a Muslim, Yosef Nadarkhani must be released. If it is determined that he is a Christian, he may repent from his faith. Otherwise, if he insists on his beliefs, the death penalty must be carried out."

And the advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide said that despite reports that the death sentence had been reversed, "in reality the Supreme Court appears to have added a precondition requiring him to renounce his faith, or face execution."

Although Nadarkhani didn't practice any faith before he became a Christian at 19, he was born to Muslim parents and Islamic law dictates that a child of Muslim parents is considered to be a Muslim.

Apostasy is not an offense in the Iranian penal code, but Iran's constitution includes a clause demanding that, if a basis for a judicial ruling does not exist in the law, judges must turn to "reliable Islamic sources or a valid fatwa."

The most recent execution of a Christian in Iran for his faith took place 21 years ago, when Assemblies of God Pastor Hussein Sodmand was hanged after refusing to recant.



Please pray for our brother Yosef Nadarkhani.

Middle East War Games

The president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was wondering who to invade when his telephone rang.

"This is Mendes Schlepper in Tel Aviv. We're officially declaring war on you!"

"How big is your army?" the Iranian president asked.

"There's me, my cousin Moishe, Avi Goldberg; and our pinochle group, Moe, Larry, Joe, Shemp, and Curly!"

"I have a million in my army," said the president.

"I'll call back!" said Mendes.

The next day, he called. "The war's still on! We have now a bulldozer, and Simcha Goldberg's tractor."

"We have 16,000 tanks, and the Iranian army is now two million men."

"Oy gevvalt!" (OH GOODNESS!), said Mendes. "I'll call back."

He phoned the next day. "We're calling off the war."

"Why?" asked the president.

"Well," said Mendes, "we've had a little chat, and there's no way we can feed two million prisoners."



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

ION (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

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

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
Days	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
Days	3:30 am Wed 7 pm Sun	4:30 am Wed 8 pm Sun	5:30 am Wed 9 pm Sun	6:30 am Wed 10 pm Sun

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 – Sundays
7:30pm ET
www.tct.tv

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



Terrorists in Drag: Bombs Beneath the Burka

By Phyllis Chesler, FrontPageMag.com

There they all stand, Afghan Taliban terrorists disguised in women's burkas (the garbage bag shroud that hides the face)—but exposed when they were captured by the Afghan Border Police. Their photos were taken by an Afghan photographer somewhere near Jalalabad and are now seen worldwide.

For the last six years, Dr. Daniel Pipes has been detailing the number of common criminals and Islamist terrorists who have robbed jewelry stores and peeped into women's bathrooms while wearing burkas, or who have blown themselves and others up from under the protective cover of a mere woman's shroud. This is not just happening in Muslim-majority countries or in war zones.

In August 2010, a man wearing a burka robbed a bank in Silver Spring, Maryland. In January 2011, a man wearing a *nikab* (a face veil with eye slits) attempted to rob a bank in Philadelphia. Three years earlier, also in Philadelphia, three men dressed as Muslim women stuck up a Bank of America branch. One of the men shot and killed a police officer during their getaway.

Why are burkas allowed in public? The burka violates a woman's human rights. A burka wearer is trapped in a sensory deprivation isolation chamber. It is a form of per-

manent torture. Says Qanta Ahmed, a Pakistani-British-American religious Muslim physician who worked in Saudi Arabia for a few years, invisible, demeaned, shrouded, akin to chattel property in the airport where no man or porter helped her (or other women) with their luggage, "I could not imagine mummification is what an enlightened, merciful God would ever have wished for half of all His creation." ★



The Bible Translation that Changed the World

By Rich Lowry, NationalReview.com

Four hundred years ago, King James I of England commissioned several dozen scholars to update and improve on prior translations of the Bible into English. Their handiwork—known as the King James Version—put an indelible stamp on the English language and on the Anglo-American mind.

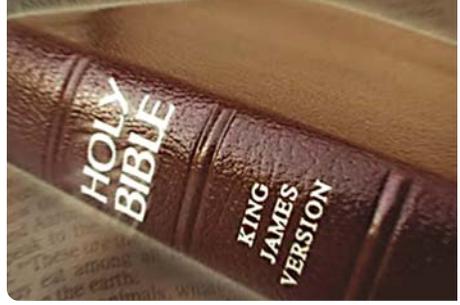
The prodigious task took roughly six years. Just printing it was an undertaking. One edition was called the “Wicked Bible” when the word “not” was accidentally left out of the admonition, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Typographical struggles aside, the translation was inspired. It culled from prior English translations, forging a synthesis that rose at times to the level of poetry. As Benson Bobrick notes in his history of the Bible in English, *Wide As The Waters*, the King James Version stayed true to Hebraic turns of expression and kept language that was already archaic in the 17th century.

All of this gave it a majestic lift that swept away all competition in both England and America. One historian has written that “its victory was so complete that its text acquired a sanctity properly ascribable only to the unmediated voice of God.”

The ascendant King James Version had a profound influence on the language. As Alister McGrath writes, “It did not follow literary trends; it established them.” It made commonplace phrases that we have forgotten are biblical in origin: “to fall flat on his face,” “to pour out one’s heart,” “under the Sun,” “sour grapes,” “pride goes before a fall,” “the salt of the earth,” etc.

Visionaries like John Wycliffe championed an English version of the Bible in the 14th century when even the



clergy didn’t read it much. A proto-Reformation figure, Wycliffe was posthumously declared a heretic, his remains dug up and burned. William Tyndale, whose translation would become the basis of much of the King James Version, had to flee England and was eventually arrested by the authorities, tried for heresy, and burned at the stake.

The availability of the Bible in English, Bobrick notes, fostered commercial printing and a culture of reading. It created space for people—ordinary people, needing no official sanction or filter—to read and think about their faith and life’s profoundest questions. Ultimately, that undermined the authority of, to take another phrase from the King James Version (Romans 13:1), “the powers that be.”

“Free discussions about the authority of Church and state,” Bobrick argues, “fostered concepts of constitutional government in England, which in turn were the indispensable prerequisites for the American colonial revolt. Without the vernacular Bible—and the English Bible in particular, through its impact on the reformation of English politics—there could not have been democracy as we know it.”

The translators of the King James Version stated their “desire that the Scripture may speak like itself, as in the language of Canaan, that it may be understood of the very vulgar.” In a cultural triumph difficult to imagine 400 years later, it not only found a wide audience, but elevated it.



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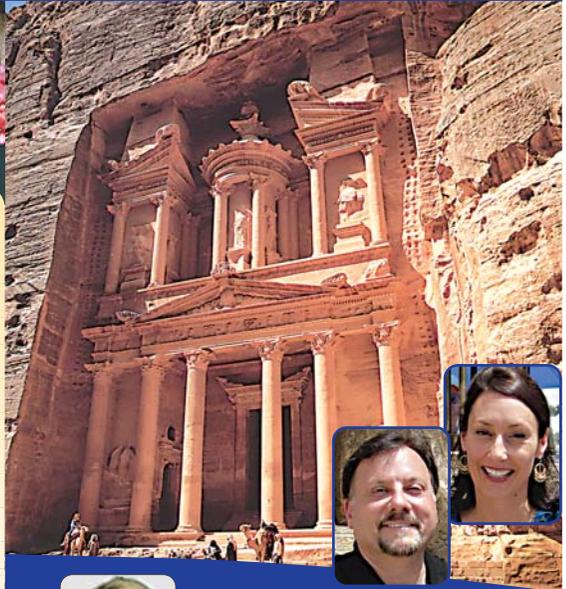
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