

Levitt

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

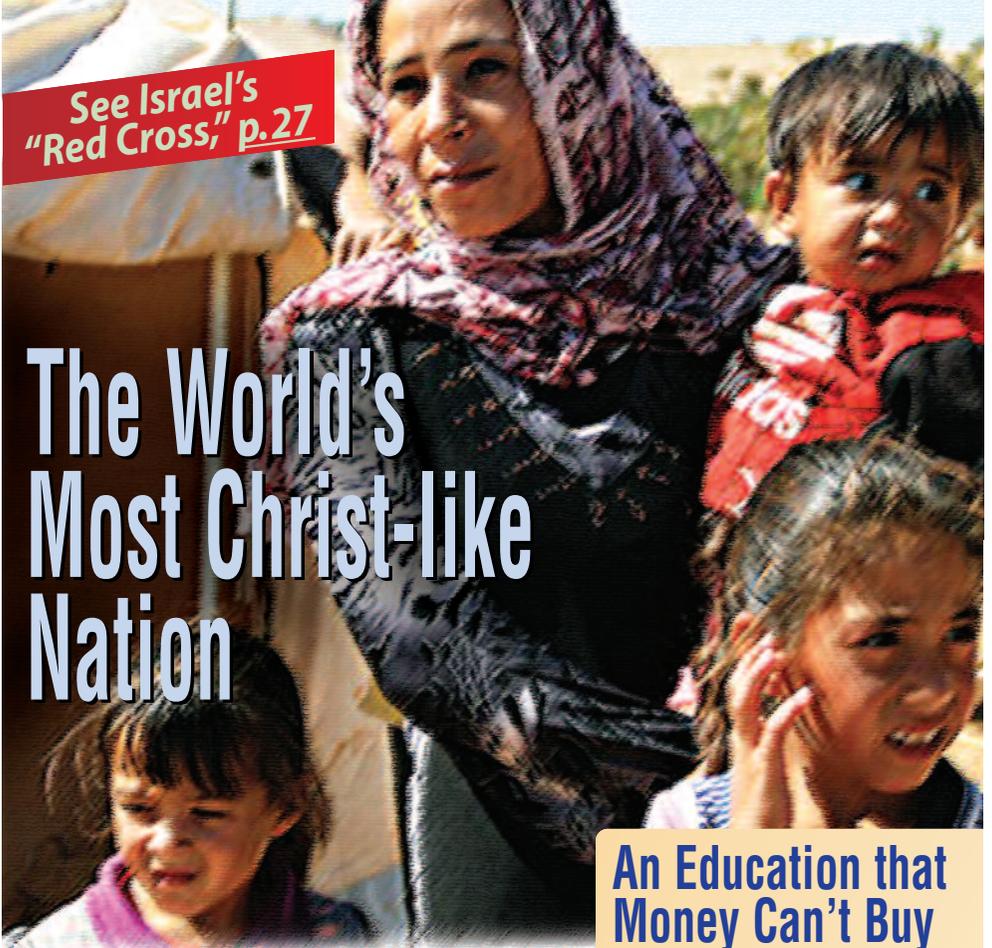


Letter

Israelis help Syrian refugees in Jordan

See Israel's "Red Cross," p.27

The World's Most Christ-like Nation



To Index

By **Ryan Jones**
Israel Today

The most well-known and perhaps even the most important of the teachings of Yeshua (Jesus) is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

There are plenty of countries whose governments and citizens adhere to the Judeo-Christian ethos of helping and demonstrating compassion toward others. But, as Yeshua taught, "If you love [only] those who love you, what reward do you get?" (Matthew 5:46). The real test is loving those who hate you, not only in word, but also in deed.

[\(continued p.2\)](#)

An Education that Money Can't Buy

By **David Lazarus**
Israel Today

Israel ranks consistently as one of the most educated countries in the world.



According to the 2013 annual survey by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), only Canada boasts a higher percentage of its population with a college or university degree. Tied for second place are Japan and Israel, with the United States ranked third.

[\(continued p.3\)](#)

Most Christ-like Nation *continued from cover*

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44–45). Based on that criterion, Israel, ironically, may be the most Christian nation on Earth. Beyond the official medical care provided to Syrians crossing the Golan border, Israelis have been quietly helping to feed the more than half a million refugees who have taken up camp in neighboring Jordan.

“Our main agenda is to put Israelis on the ground around the world and show the world that Israel cares about them,” said IsraAID founding director Shachar Zahavi, as his workers passed out unmarked food parcels to starving Syrian men, women, and children. This helping hand to the enemy goes far beyond Syria.

The Hamas government in the Gaza Strip seeks the destruction of the Jewish state, but despite indiscriminate rocket attacks, Israel goes out of its way to care for the needs of average Palestinians. Every month, Israel sends over 1,000 truckloads of food, 1,500 truckloads of construction material, and 300 truckloads of medicine and medical equipment into Gaza. Over 1,000 Gazans each month receive medical treatment in Israel.

Israel even allows the Hamas regime to exchange its (often ill-gotten) dollars for shekels. Every month, a steady flow of Brink’s trucks transfers the Israeli currency to the coastal enclave. If every nation, especially the Arabs, were to love their enemies as Israel does, peace would have arrived in the region long ago.



IsraAID in Haiti (right) and Shachar Zahavi with fellow workers in the Philippines (below)



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Education Money Can't Buy *(continued from cover sidebar)*

How does one account for modern Israel's excellent educational results in spite of the severe lack of resources, decades of war, terror, boycotts, crowded classrooms, low teacher salaries, and regular strikes?

Perhaps it is a strong sense of national identity that helps keep kids in school. Could it be the longstanding involvement of families in public schools, where parents regularly paint classrooms, take up collections to purchase new air conditioners and computers, or volunteer to go on school trips? Some credit must also go to all those Jewish mothers and their high expectations for "a doctor or a lawyer."



Most of all, the situation surely has to do with being God's Chosen People and the ancient tradition of devotion to study and preserving God's Word for the Nations. That is an education that money cannot buy. ★

Building Upon The Rock

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Co-host



Luke 6:48 ...and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

I have been pondering this assurance from Yeshua as Katharine and I recover from a burst attic pipe that flooded our home. A minor disaster like this carries many lessons with it.

Foremost, we realized how blessed we are that our lives are built upon the rock, Yeshua HaMashiach. Following Him has led us to India, Africa, Russia, Argentina, and, of course, Israel. After serving in the Nations for many years, we appreciate God's grace in allowing us to be part of His restoration of His Land and the preparation of His people for His soon return.

Consequently, water damage that requires extensive repairs and displaces us to hotels for months is livable. Dealing with rentals, contractors, and insurance is an inconvenience. However, because of their faith, Christians around the world face incredible opposition, persecution, and even death. They need our prayers, our financial support, and our voice.

Commenting on the persecution of Christians in the Muslim Middle East, Britain's Prince Charles recently stated, "Christianity was literally born in the Middle East, and we must not forget our Middle Eastern brothers and sisters in Christ. ... Yet today the Middle East and North Africa have the lowest concentration of Christians in the world—just 4 percent of the population—and it is clear that the Christian population has dropped dramatically over the last century and is falling still farther." Those of us standing with the Body of Messiah (including Jews and Arabs) have long known this trend.

(continued next page)

Middle Eastern Christians are being "deliberately attacked" by Islamists, says Prince Charles.



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Your gifts to this ministry and our To The Jew First Fund send the Gospel to all the residents of Israel. Your donations to our general fund and our Archaeology Fund help to verify and disseminate the Bible's account of the historical Jewish presence in the Land. As our independently audited financial statements attest, this ministry stretches every dollar for maximum effectiveness.

Our ministerial activities paint a vibrant picture of the real Israel and counter widespread anti-Zionist propaganda. In fact, Israel is the most Christ-like nation in the region and in the world (see our cover article). It is perfectly safe for you and me to visit, worship, and fellowship there. After 30 years of tours, our pilgrims attest to that with certainty!

Please pray about coming with us to Israel. When Believers tour, we demonstrate tangibly the shared values of Judeo-Christian nations. Enroll immediately for this March 16–25, or stay until the 28th to visit Petra. Our fall tours offer Israel (Oct. 19–28) and other options: Greece/Israel (Oct. 13–28), Israel/Petra (Oct. 19–31), and Greece/Israel/Petra (Oct. 13–31).

Call 800-WONDERS (800-966-3377), 214-696-9760, or visit www.levitt.com/tours for details.

Thanks for standing with us in support of Israel. Now is the time, and together, we are the people! ★



“Shalom” means
“hello”, “peace”
and “goodbye”

“Allahu akbar” means:
Hello, boom and goodbye



Sell Israeli Gas to Jordan?

By Joshua Mitnick,
Summer Said &
Sarah Kent /
Online.WSJ.com



A drilling consortium developing Israeli offshore natural-gas fields is closing in on a politically sensitive deal to supply gas to Jordan, moving the Jewish state a step closer to exporting energy for the first time in its history.

Israel's Delek Group Ltd. and Texas-based Noble Energy Inc., which are developing fields off Israel's shore, are discussing a gas supply deal with Arab Potash Co., a fertilizer company with a plant in Jordan. The deal would involve extending a gas pipeline from an Israeli chemical plant to APC, located across the Dead Sea in Jordan.

An Israeli official said a deal could be just weeks away. Oded Eran, Israel's former ambassador to Jordan, said an agreement in principle has already been reached, but both sides are still haggling over pricing and other technicalities.



While relatively small in terms of commercial value, the deal could open a major economic link between the neighboring countries and provide a springboard for a much bigger supply arrangement between Israel and Jordan.

For Israel, it would carry outsize symbolic significance. Since its founding six decades ago, Israel has struggled with a lack of energy reserves in a region full of energy-rich and hostile neighbors.

Energy companies in recent years have announced two major discoveries off the Israeli Mediterranean coast, estimated to hold at least 650 billion cubic meters of gas. That is enough, in theory, to satisfy Israeli energy demands for decades, while leaving a surplus to export. Development of the resources will take years and could ultimately prove less bountiful than forecast. Still, gas from one of the finds, the Tamar Field, started flowing to Israeli plants earlier last year.

Jordan, also with few energy sources of its own, has long relied on neighbors for imports, and is currently seeking cheap supplies to help make up for lost gas imports from Egypt. Egyptian supplies have become erratic because of attacks on a key pipeline amid the chaotic aftermath of the fall of the Hosni Mubarak government.

The government of Jordan's King Abdullah has long faced criticism at home and among Arab neighbors over Jordan's relations with Israel. Any agreement that could appear to make Jordan reliant on Israel would likely face domestic and Arab-world scrutiny.

While Jordan and Israel recently signed a significant water-sharing deal, energy is a much more sensitive topic in the region. The commercial talks received a boost after Israel's Supreme Court in October rejected a petition against the government's decision earlier in the year to seek to export 40% of Israel's offshore gas output. Because Jordan shares a border with Israel, it is in a position to start buying Israeli gas several years before larger potential customers in Europe. ★

Living in Holy Expectation

BY ANN HILSDEN (r) / King of Kings Community Jerusalem KKCJ.org



Then the Lord will appear... (Zechariah 9:14)

When we arrived in Israel in 1983, a very pretty two-story apartment with a small garden awaited us. It was owned by an Orthodox rabbi from Canada who saw us “gentiles” as a prophetic sign that the Nations would be coming up to Jerusalem to worship the God of Israel.

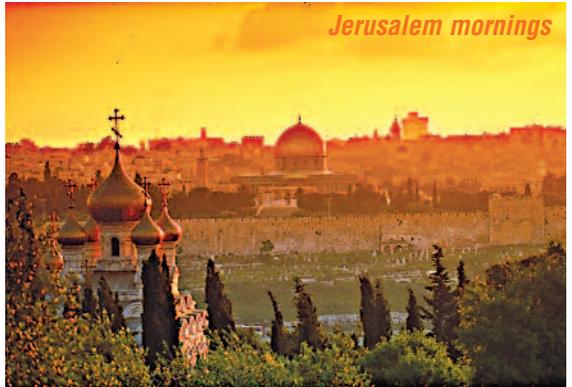
So convinced was he that he actually had his lawyer include an interesting clause in our rental contract. It says, “When the Messiah comes, the Hilsdens must vacate the apartment by the end of the month.” He wasn’t joking.

When he and his wife dropped by to see us, though, we did kid around a little. We said, “No problem, we may be gone by then, and you’ll get all our stuff.” He countered, “And when He comes, we’ll be sure to ask Him if He’s been here before.”

Jerusalem, it has been said, is a prophetic “epicenter,” and even though my husband (who is a theologian) and I have not really parked on a fixed or detailed eschatological view, we agree with the rabbi: We are living in the Last Days, and we, with him, are living in expectation.

There is a blessing on those who read the Book of Revelation (22:7). The writer, Apostle John, didn’t provide us with a commentary. Its meaning is still shrouded, even though men have repeatedly attempted to apply it to contemporary places, events, and people. There is a stern warning not to add to or subtract from the Book (22:18,19). Yet every time something significant happens, we pore over the prophecies to see if we can connect the newspapers to the Bible.

Sometimes, we do find eerie correlations. Today’s Jerusalem does seem like the “heavy stone” described in Zechariah 12. The “mark of the beast” does not seem as farfetched as it did a hundred years ago. The frequent earthquakes and natural disasters *do* bring to mind Yeshua’s words in Matthew 24 about “birth pains.” Don’t forget that those who were living in expectation recognized from prophecy the first coming of Yeshua, two thousand years ago.



The main thing is that we must live like servants who are expecting their master to walk in the door any second. We must be “pulling people out of the fire” (Jude 1:23) as if we expect the ceiling to fall any second. We weren’t told to live in a panic, but be “on the job” and about the business that Yeshua assigned us to do. He told us that we can’t know when, but He gave us signs to watch for and warned us to be at our post and be faithful, wise, and watchful (Luke 12:35–48).

The Hilsdens are “watchmen on the wall” in the center of Jerusalem. They provide full-orbed ministry, and King of Kings is an oasis for those living in Israel and those passing through the Land. —Myles ★



Is 'Land for Peace' Biblical?

By Ludwig
Schneider
Israel Today



Israel and the Palestinians are sitting around the negotiating table trying to find a peaceful outcome to the Mideast conflict. The United States, European Union, and United Nations all believe that the only solution is “land for peace.” But what does the Bible say?

There are three main promises linked to Israel's calling by God:

- I. God gave the Land to the Jewish nation by an oath (Deuteronomy 7:7–8), the borders of which He described in detail (Ezekiel 47:13–20).
- II. The descendants of Jacob/Israel would become a great nation (Genesis 48:4).
- III. The nation of Israel would become a blessing for the whole Earth, which occurred through the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua/Jesus, for “salvation comes from the Jews” (John 4:22).

In 586 BC and 70 AD, God drove the Jewish people out of the Land. Yet over and over, for the sake of the oath that He swore to their fathers, He has brought them back to Zion—most recently, the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and the liberation of Jerusalem and the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria in 1967.

The Jews who have returned home to Zion from throughout the world have brought with them a variety of languages, traditions, and opinions of how best to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In 1968, then-military Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren decreed that, since according to the Torah the entire land promised by God to the Jews must be settled, territorial concessions and the dismantling of settlements is a violation of God's Word. Other rabbis see things differently. They and secular Israelis are prepared to hand over the Promised Land for the sake of a so-called peace.

Israelis who are not necessarily religious, but are zealous Zionists, like to quote the “Jerusalem Vow” of the father of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, from Psalm 137:5—**“If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand wither.”** When Herzl was about to accept a British offer to establish a Jewish state in Uganda, religious Zionists refused, saying, “The Land of Israel or nothing!” This gave Herzl a second wind and he was moved to proclaim Psalm 137:5.

Former Army Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren blows the shofar after Israel's capture of Jerusalem's Old City in 1967.



This reminds us that everything connected to Israel and the Jewish people is not merely secular politics but is also closely bound up with the Word of God. In the current negotiations, the Palestinians are demanding all of East Jerusalem, including the Western Wall and Temple Mount in the Old City. Anyone calling the shots will have to contend with the Holy One of Israel: “Thus says the Lord, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem’... At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of the Lord’... This is the place of My throne... where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever” (Zechariah 8:3; Jeremiah 3:17; Ezekiel 43:7).

The formula of “land for peace” is not the definitive solution, whether viewed from a biblical or political perspective. God will have the final word! ★

Israel's bond to the Word seems simple, doesn't it? Yet grasping it seems beyond the limitations of secular progressives who would have Israel “progress” into the Mediterranean Sea, step by step. —Myles (See “Whose Land Is It?” on p.20)

Record Numbers of Christians Enlist in IDF

BY JOSH HASTEN / JNS.org



By the end of 2013, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had enlisted its lowest number of new draftees over the past two decades. Yet at least one minority sector of Israeli citizens boasts dramatically rising enlistment figures and is attracting increased attention from the government.

There were 150 Christian IDF recruits last year, more than four times greater than the 35 who enlisted in 2012. Looking beyond what those numbers mean for the IDF, Israeli leaders see a broader opportunity to better integrate Christians into the fabric of the country's society.

Father Gabriel Nadaf—a Greek Orthodox priest and spiritual leader from Nazareth—has been an influential advocate encouraging Christians living in Israel to give back to society, either through army service or through what is known as *Sherut Le'umi* (national service), by serving as volunteers in hospitals, schools, and a variety of other non-profit entities. The priest's efforts received significant backing last August when, during a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he was tasked to head a joint government-community forum to promote the enlistment of Christian youths into the IDF and other forms of national service.



Deputy Defense Minister MK Danny Danon oversees a department within his ministry earmarked for encouraging and assisting minority citizens throughout the enlistment process. Legally, Christians in Israel are not required to enlist in the IDF, but Danon adamantly encourages them to serve. Both Nadaf and Danon admit that one of the biggest challenges for Christians not only serving in the army, but also integrating into Israeli society, is certain Arab and Muslim elements opposed to their normalization within the country, especially Arab members of the Knesset. On a local level, Danon cites recorded cases of violent threats directed at Christian families who allow their children to serve in the army. Soldiers who live in mixed [Christian/Muslim] villages do not feel safe coming home wearing their army uniforms, so they change first. Danon says, "We have to strengthen those loyal to the State of Israel, and recognize Israel as a true democracy and fight against those who incite."

In a recently created government program that Danon calls "a very important symbolic gesture," Israeli Christians who serve in the army or carry out national service will be rewarded by being allowed to enroll in government bids to acquire land for the purpose of building homes for their families. Land acquisition in Israel is considered a significant achievement for non-Jewish residents.

Nadaf's passion for encouraging young Christians to enlist in the army is motivated by both his nationalism and loyalty to the State and his Christian ideology. He says, "Christians who live here need to contribute, not just in talk, but with action. We live here, and this country protects us; therefore we need to protect it." He adds, "In other Arab countries, Christians flee as a result of religious persecution. That is not happening here." ★



Swords into Plowshares?

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF Our Man In Haifa



Nestled at the foot of Mount Gilboa lies a fertile valley, the eastern arm of the Jezreel Valley. When viewed from the north slope of the mountain, fish farms and orchards flourish as far as the eye can see. Gilboa rises steeply above the surrounding plain, which was the site of biblical battles fought by Gideon (Judges 7) and King Saul (1 Samuel 31). Because the valley spreads east through Beit She'an to the Jordan River beyond, it became a staging ground for troops moving against ancient Israel.

Climbing Gilboa before the winter rains tested my stamina. (Our national teen camp had to wait for me at the top!) But the view was well worth it. Surveying the placid, pastoral scene, I could hardly imagine this checkerboard of green fields filled with fierce Midian or Philistine warriors. Yet when Gideon faced the Midianites with his 300 fighters (all that was left of his original 32,000 after the Lord pruned the army), the enemy was "as numerous as locusts" (Judges 7:12).

A short drive from Mount Gilboa brought me to Afula, a city of 41,300 in central Israel and the Jezreel Valley's center of population and commerce. Afula is positioned like a watchman over the valley, able to see the semi-triangular Jezreel in every direction.

Its proximity to the Palestinian town of Jenin has resulted in numerous terror attacks, often occurring at the central bus terminal. Nevertheless, Afula is expanding and boasts fresh housing developments, newly minted shopping areas, a huge park (that I would love to see in our more congested areas), and an expanded regional hospital. Highways in and out of Afula make it easily accessible.

I'm enthusiastic about this Galilee district of Israel. Afula, the Jezreel Valley, Mount Gilboa, and Beit She'an are considered part of the Lower Galilee. Archaeological finds include 5,000-year-old pottery, and evidence of Egyptian conquest 3,500 years ago and of King David's driving the Philistines back to their coastal cities. Today's tourists photograph extensive Roman ruins, monuments to the area's strategic value.

What can we learn from Israel's Jezreel Valley (thought to be the Revelation 16:16 site of Armageddon)? Perhaps the transformation from battlefield to lush farms is a foretaste of God's coming reign over Israel and all the Earth. Will the Lord "beat swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4) in the very valley where the final battle takes place? It certainly would be like Him to show us a preview from atop His beautiful mountain, providing inspiration for the days ahead. ★



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*The
Jezreel
Valley
below
Mount
Gilboa*

History of the Middle East from a Moderate Israeli Jew

CLASSIC ZOLA: 1982—32 years ago



I want to try to give a balanced perspective of how we got to the present state in the Middle East. Some people aren't aware of the background of the combatants. Many confuse the PLO with the Palestinian people in general, and suppose the Israelis are a part of some legendary Jewish movement to overthrow the world. Last month, I explained this difficult situation from the perspective of a Palestinian Arab; below, from an Israeli Jew.

As an Israeli Jew, I have returned to the Land of my fathers and it hasn't been easy. During the time I've been away, various pretenders to the land have conquered and laid it to waste. I'm the one who loves it; I'm the one who plants the trees, builds the modern cities, and conducts the 20th century civilization in this Land. It was given to my forefathers by God—and to me. That is indisputable.

If my enemies don't believe the Scriptures, they can refer to the archaeologists. The land is filled with Jewish artifacts going back 3,000 years and more. My forefather Abraham was buried at Hebron 2,500 years before Mohammed's birth. King Solomon built the Western Wall of The Temple millennia before anyone on Earth ever used the term "Muslim."

When the United Nations gave me back a part of my original homeland in 1948, I realized the people who had squatted on that land would not welcome me. As a matter of fact, the day after I declared my independence, no less than five nations attacked me on all borders. I defended my Land with pistols and hunting rifles, and I held onto what was rightfully given me by vote of the nations of the world. When they attacked again and again, I occupied more of the land for purposes of defense. I did not want the extra land, and in the case of the Sinai, I gave it back in exchange for peace. My position is to give almost anything for

peace, just so I can live on my land.

The people who call themselves "Palestinians" simply because they moved into my land while I was away, formed a terrorist group called the PLO. This mob of young and uneducated "tough guys" shot down my athletes at the Olympic games in Munich. They raided defenseless villages and machine-gunned women and children. They attacked beachfront hotels with explosives from small boats. I don't regard them as representing any "Palestinian" people but rather as a disorganized band of gangsters armed by the Russians and willing to kill anybody anywhere for any cause. I would prefer that they disband and move to Arab nations and give up their aims to destroy my country.

This view of an average Israeli Jew could compare to the radical who might insist, "Annihilate them" and the conservative who might request, "Bring the soldiers home and let it be." I hope these perspectives give background to the present conflict so that readers can more intelligently appreciate today's explosive situation.



Dry Bones

BIBI'S ALARM



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Ask The Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. A friend recently told me that the office of “apostle” ended in the Book of Acts when the 11 “originals” chose Matthias to replace the disgraced Judas. How then could Paul, who came to faith after the Acts 1 scenario, be called an apostle? I know that Paul had a supernatural encounter with the resurrected Jesus and while there is no scripture where Jesus calls Paul an apostle verbally, He does give him the same task as the other apostles except with a later focus to go to the gentiles. However, Paul was so sure he was an apostle that he declared it in the salutation of epistles he wrote to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians.

Adding to this question, Ephesians 4:11–13 says that Jesus has appointed “apostles” to equip the saints and build them up UNTIL the Body of Christ attains a unity of faith and the knowledge of God to the point of maturity in reflecting the fullness of Christ.

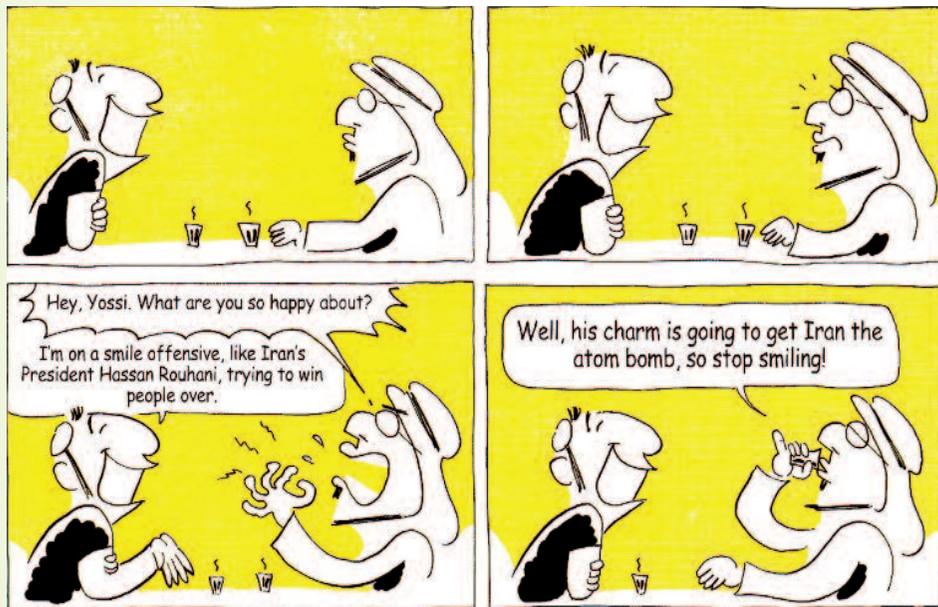
As I look around me, I see that the Church’s transformation is still in

progress without reaching its goal to be mature with the fullness of Christ. Therefore, I assume that there must be “apostles” functioning today. If so, how are they appointed? How are they to function? If this is not true, then why not?

A. The office of Apostle in the unique, historical sense did end with Apostle Paul, who, as you point out, saw the Lord (Acts 9:1–7). Paul said he came to this conclusion when Jesus personally appeared to him and chose him to be His Apostle to the gentiles (1 Corinthians 15:8–9 and Ephesians 3:1–12).

No matter; one can still have an apostolic ministry today—usually reserved for missionaries and evangelists who go from place to place winning souls to Christ and building communities of Believers (churches). However, no apostles today have the same level of authority as the original thirteen who were picked by Jesus and personally knew Him. ★

When Yossi and Ahmed Meet.....



“For Jews Require A Sign”... 1 Cor. 1:22

BY DR. TODD D. BAKER

Last fall saw one of our most fruitful To The Jew First trips.

God’s Spirit is truly using this ministry to move among His Chosen People. For instance, at a fruit-juice stand in Tel Aviv, I made the offhand comment that America does not have juice stands like Israel’s. A young Israeli woman standing next to me expressed surprise at this and we got to talking. **Leli** made *aliyah* (immigrated) to Israel from Romania with her parents when she was five and now teaches Pilates.



Leli

I told her a little about our mission, how we come to Israel to distribute God’s Word to the people through whom He wrote the Scriptures. We *shelichim* use those Scriptures to declare to all Israel that Yeshua is the Messiah. I offered Leli the complete Jewish Bible—Old and New Testaments in Hebrew—for her own study. With pleasant surprise she declared, “Of course I will take it.” She smiled and added, “I have had several religious signs from God lately drawing me to Him, and now I meet you and you offer me a Bible. This is the ultimate sign that God is there!” Her reaction proved the truth of the Apostle Paul’s words that “Jews require a sign” to believe the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah (1 Corinthians 1:22).

I marvel at how the Lord arranges meetings like this so He can complete His communication to His elect by leading them to the Messiah of the Hebrew Scriptures. No doubt the Spirit of God was drawing Leli to learn, know,

and find salvation in her Messiah from the Scriptures we gave her!

shaliach \shah-LEE-ack\ /n, /pl **shelichim** \shell-LEE-kim\ : one who is sent, an emissary.

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Rm.10:15. Please visit:

www.levitt.com/announcements#messiah for “The Promised Messiah” printable tract.

Rm. 1:16



Later in the trip, the TJF team met Christina, a Russian Jew who, like Leli, had immigrated to Israel as a child. She was familiar with Jeremiah’s prophecy (in chapters 16 and 23) that the Lord would bring Jewish people in great numbers from the “far north”—Russia—back to Israel. We explained that God is doing this so that Russian Jews—like her—can know that Yeshua is the Messiah. They make this discovery by studying the prophecies in the Old Testament and reading about their fulfillment in the Jewish New Testaments that this ministry offers to returning members of the Diaspora.



Todd and Christina

Christina wanted to know more about Messiah. She was quite surprised and very grateful when we offered her a Complete Jewish Bible of her own—*Tanakh* (OT) and *B’rit Hadashah* (NT) in Hebrew. She nodded with new understanding when we explained that this ministry is simply giving the Word of God and the Gospel back to the Jewish people who gave It to the nations of the world in the first place.

As I said, a very fruitful trip. God granted us mercies not only in travel, but also in meeting people who were open to receiving the Good News of Yeshua. ★

45 Top Israeli Inventions (12–16)

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) / Israel21c.org



One of Israel's sources of pride is the enormous number of inventions and innovations that have taken root on its soil over 65 years—despite challenges of geography, size, and diplomacy. The ever-churning Israeli mind has brought us drip irrigation, the cherry tomato, the electric car grid, the Disk-on-Key, and much more.

The Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem exhibited and demonstrated 45 indispensable Israeli inventions. Curator Varda Gur Ben-Sheetrit said that hundreds of ingenious inventions were considered for Inventions, Inc. She emphasized that many other Israeli inventions were deserving of being included. “We were, of course, constrained by space limitations, and also not every company we invited to exhibit responded,” she said.

We continue our series of the top 45 inventions highlighted at the exhibition, in no particular order.

12. **BriefCam** video-synopsis technology lets viewers rapidly review and index original full-length video footage by concurrently showing multiple objects and activities that actually occurred at different times. This technology drastically cuts the time and manpower involved in event tracking, forensics, and evidence discovery. [BriefCam helped catch Boston Bombers:

www.levitt.com/newsletters/2013-07#page=26]

13. GridON makes the **Keeper**, a three-phase fault current limiter developed at Bar-Ilan University. The device, which blocks current surges and limits the current for as long as required to clear the fault, won an Innovation Award from General Electric's Ecomagination Challenge and is of interest to major utilities companies around the world.

14. **Rosetta Green**, a 2010 spinoff of the agro-biotechnology division of Rosetta Genomics, develops improved

plant traits for the agriculture and biofuel industries using unique genes called microRNAs.



A guide explains Rosetta Green tech to young museum visitors.

15. **Intel Israel** changed the face of the computing world with the 8088 processor (the “brain” of the first PC), MMX, and Centrino mobile technology. Israeli engineers at Intel in the 1990s had to convince skeptical bosses to take a chance on MMX technology, an innovation designed to improve computer processing. It's now considered a milestone in the company's history.

16. **Disk-on-Key**, the ubiquitous little portable storage device made by SanDisk, was invented by Dov Moran as an upgraded version of disk and diskette technology through the use of flash memory and USB interface for connection to personal computers. ★



The SanDisk display shows how one tiny device can hold as much data as a stack of floppy disks.

Photo courtesy of Bloomfield Science Museum

ZLM Bulletin Board

Wanted: Social Media Soldiers

Praise report! We recently surpassed 9,000 followers on Twitter, and we have nearly 29,000 likes on Facebook. These social media put us and you just a click away from witnessing to people who need our Messiah. You can build an “electronic fishing net” that wraps the globe by:

**Joining us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ZolaLevitt
Following us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ZolaLevitt>**

At least weekly, we offer timely teachings, insights, and encouragement from the Word of God. You can share these uplifting posts on *your* social networks, becoming an “electronic evangelist!” (Mark 16:15)



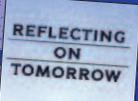
No Denying the Holocaust

In 45 of 50 American states, there is no denying the Holocaust because this historical topic is never discussed in the first place... at least not in public schools. This lack of education in high school results in college students who have no idea what the Third Reich was and can only guess where Hitler held power. In their world, the Holocaust may have happened centuries ago, and it's a coin-toss whether genocide (or even anti-Semitism) was involved. See for yourself: <http://wp.me/pieUD-1RD>.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

“Reflecting on Tomorrow” outlines nine different financial planning opportunities. It offers tools that may enhance your future financial well-being through estate and financial plans. Learn about wills, revocable living trusts, and gifts that provide income to you and/or loved ones. It also reviews tax benefits and touches on federal estate tax. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, please email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



Bye-bye INSP TV—Hello Daystar



This ministry's broadcasting days on the INSP TV network were numbered last year when they replaced much of their Christian programming with reruns of “family friendly” (read: secular) programs such as *Bonanza*, *The Brady Bunch*, and *Happy Days* and eliminated their flagship program with David and Barbara Cerullo. After January, we ask that you to tune in **Zola Levitt Presents** on Daystar, ABC Family, or on any of about a hundred independent stations listed at www.levitt.com/airsch. Also, you can watch both our current and classic programs on “Internet TV” at www.levitt.tv.

P.S. Your DVR's search function should identify all your station and time options for recording or watching us. If you see additional times or stations listed on ZLM's air schedule (on page 35 and at www.levitt.com/airsch), use your DVR's on-screen guide to manually select them.



“Come Home!”

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details



Hebrew Lesson



Surrender to Peace

By John J. Parsons

הִרְפוּ וְדַעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי אֱלֹהִים אֲרוּם בְּגוֹיִם אֲרוּם בְּאֶרֶץ

“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth” – Psalm 46:10

הִרְפוּ	וְדַעוּ	כִּי־אֲנִי	אֱלֹהִים	אֲרוּם	בְּגוֹיִם	אֲרוּם	בְּאֶרֶץ
(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)
har-pu	u-de-u	ki-a-no-khi	E-lo-him	a-rum	ba-go-yim	a-rum	ba-a-retz
be still	and know	that I am	God	I will be exalted	among the nations	I will be exalted	in the earth

“**Be still and know that I am God.**” This is something *you* must do; you must quiet your heart to know the Divine Presence. Therefore set the Lord always before you (Psalm 16:8) and refuse those anxious thoughts that weigh in upon you, creating pressure and “dis-ease.” Quieting your heart enables you to hear the holy whisper: “It is I; do not be afraid” (Matt. 14:27) Once fear dissipates, you can know the truth of God. As the Spirit says, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in *quietness* and in trust shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15).

Worry is a place of exile and pain. Since God’s Name YHWH (יהוה) means “Presence” and “Love,” being anxious is to practice the *absence* of God’s presence instead of practicing His *presence*. A divided house cannot stand. Where it is written, “cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5:7), the word translated “anxiety” comes from a verb that means to divide into pieces. Bring your brokenness to God—including those distractions that make you ambivalent and afraid—to receive God’s healing for your divided heart.

Note that the verb “be still” (i.e., *rapha*) means to “let go,” to stop striving, and to surrender everything to the care of God (Rom. 8:28). “Being still” means letting go of your “need” to control the world. Relax your hold and rely on God’s care for your life instead, without “taking thought” for tomorrow and its concerns (Matt. 6:34). The past is gone, after all, and the future is God’s business: all you have is the present moment to call upon our Lord. Be faithful in the present hour, then, asking God for the grace and strength you need to endure yourself and engage the task at hand. In this way you will experience the peace of God “which surpasses all understanding” (Phil. 4:7).

Walking with God isn’t just a matter of “head education,” but also of “heart education,” and these two must always go together as Spirit and Truth (John 4:23). Head education seeks knowledge primarily as a means of defining what you believe; heart education, on the other hand, centers on fear, or rather, on overcoming your fear by trusting in God’s love and healing grace. When you accept that you are accepted despite yourself, you are delivered from the need to defend yourself.

You can let go, quit denying who you are, and accept God’s unconditional care for your life—regardless of the state of the world. **When your heart learns to “be still,” you can know that the God of Israel reigns over all things!** ★



ZLM Store

FEATURED
ITEMS

***The Evidence of God* TV Series— 8 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs**

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

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

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

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

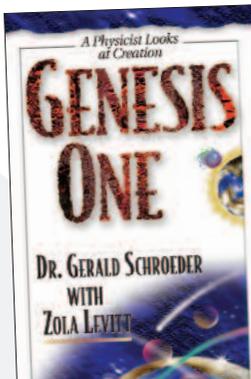
Day One Of Creation — Using the Hebrew Bible, Gerald and Zola analyze the first day of the Creation account. Out of chaos, the Spirit of God created order.

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

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

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

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

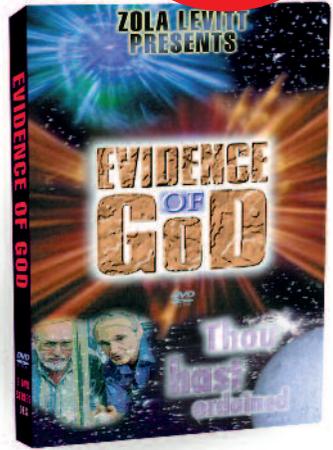


***Genesis One* study booklet**

Our study booklet, ***Genesis One***, is a transcription of the first two programs from this TV series.

Both DVDs and booklet are offered on page 18.

Order study book online at:
<http://store.levitt.com/GO>
(or see page 18)



Order DVD Series online at:
<http://store.levitt.com/DEG>
(or see page 18)

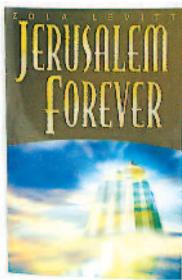


ZLM PRODUCT ORDER FORM

ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

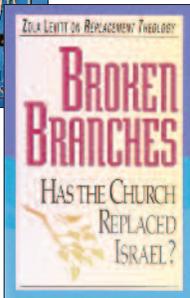
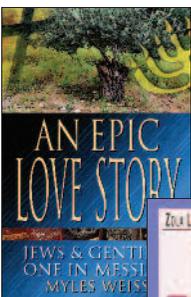
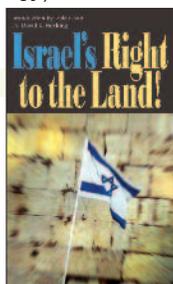
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	_____
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	_____
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	_____
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	_____
___	The Second Coming	\$3	_____
___	Seven Churches	\$3	_____
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	_____
___	Glory! The Believers' Future	\$3	_____
___	The Promised Land	\$3	_____
___	In My Father's House	\$3	_____
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	_____
___	Jerusalem Forever	\$4	_____
___	Mix or Match: 50 Above Classic Study Booklets	\$49	_____



Now Accepting PayPal!

Books

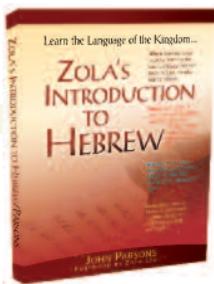
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	_____
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	_____
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	_____
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	_____
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel	\$10	_____
___	Dateline Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Genesis One	\$5	_____
___	Guns & Moses	\$8	_____
___	The Iranian Menace	\$8	_____
___	Israel's Right to the Land!	\$2	_____
___	Jesus, The Jew's Jew	\$7	_____
___	Meshumed!	\$8	_____
___	Once Through New Testament	\$9	_____
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	_____
___	Passover Haggadah	\$6	_____
___	The Prophetied Messiah	\$8	_____
___	Raptured	\$10	_____
___	The Warrior King	\$12	_____
___	Signs of The End: Millennium	\$7	_____
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	_____
___	Woman By Divine Design	\$10	_____
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	_____



Order online at
<http://store.levitt.com>
By phone call 24/7:
800-966-3377, or
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844, or
remove this entire
2-pg. form, fill out
box at right, mail to
ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas, TX 75225

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Covenants of God (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Evidence of God (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Ezekiel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Gospel According to Isaiah (8 prg, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Miracle of Passover (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	_____
___	Revelation (6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	_____
___	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Sons of Promise (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Whose Land Is It? (3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	_____



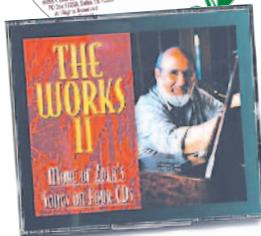
ORDER FORM CONTINUED



**UNIQUE
WITNESSING
ITEMS!**

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abraham to Jesus Genealogy Chart	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerusalem Journeystone	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2014)	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Messianic Prophecy Scroll	\$35	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilgrim's Map of The Holy Land	\$6	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zola's Notebook (The Bible: The Whole Story)	\$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guide To Your Christian Will	\$2	_____



Teaching CDs by Zola

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beginning of The End	(2 CDs) \$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discovering Our Jewish Roots	(9 CDs) \$39	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Christian Love Story	CD \$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Miracle of Passover	CD \$7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Seven Feasts of Israel	CD \$7	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at www.levitt.com

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mine Eyes Have Seen (Music CD)	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Works (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Works 2 (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beloved Thief (Music CD)	\$12	_____

Please send this entire 2-page Order Form—Thanks.

Please Fill Out Area Below and Send the Entire Page.

Shipping & Handling Chart For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.
 up to \$15.99, add \$5
 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7
 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9
 \$61 to \$100, add \$10
 over \$100, add \$12
 (Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.)

Subtotal _____
 Shipping (See left chart) _____
 UPS shipping (\$4 extra) _____
 Rush! (\$5 extra) _____
 8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____
 Donation _____
 Total _____

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

Name _____ (please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional): _____

On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____
 (See number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. _____ / Card ID# required _____



Cardholder
Signature: _____



ZLM Store

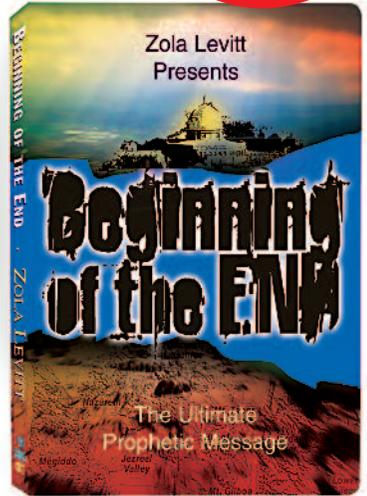
FEATURED
ITEMS

The Beginning of the End book and CDs

A most unusual study with a dramatic urgency. The Rapture, the antiChrist, the Third Temple, Armageddon, and the Second Coming are among the subjects considered, along with current world affairs leading to The End. A "must-read"!

The CD version (shown right) includes the strikingly original music of this dramatic TV series, along with the soundtrack of all the programs. (2 CD set)

Order CDs online at:
http://store.levitt.com/BOE*
(or see page 19)



Order study book online at:
<http://store.levitt.com/BOE>
(or see page 18)

Whose Land Is It? DVD and booklet

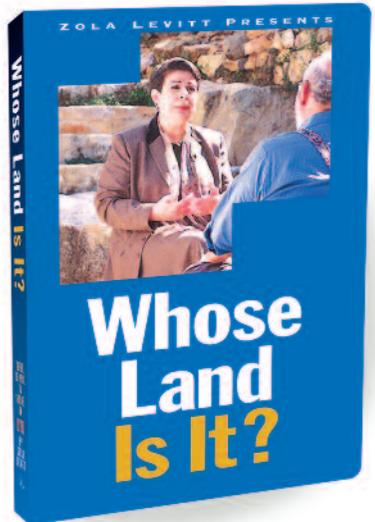
Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

(Also see article on page 8.)

Whose Land Is It? Does Israel belong to the Jews, and if so, Who says so? In the first 30-minute television program, Zola offers irrefutable reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land's rightful owners. He also defeats key arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant, etc. Merely watching and reviewing this lesson will arm Believer and unbeliever alike to defend Israel's right to its land.

The View from "Palestine" What a blessing that such controversial programs weren't censored by our more sensitive TV stations! Zola visited Ramallah and interviewed Hanan Ashrawi, considered by some to be the Darth Vader of Palestinian spokespeople.

In part 1, Ashrawi eloquently articulates the Palestinians' best arguments for being the true owners of Israel. **In part 2**, subsequent review sessions with two scholarly Christians—Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Muslim)—unveil the fallacies in her assertions. These two 30-minute TV programs could be the ultimate crash course on credibly and diplomatically asserting Israel's right to its land.



Order DVD online at:
<http://store.levitt.com/DWL>
Order booklet online at:
<http://store.levitt.com/WLIT>

(or see page 18)





Food for Thought

WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

For six weeks, *The Wall Street Journal* columnist Brett Arends spent about \$4 per day on groceries. He ate healthier than most and even gained a couple of pounds, thanks to an over-fondness for peanut butter. Below are the highlights of his recent article, which is posted in full at <http://wp.me/pieUD-1TE>.

Stephanie Convey, a nutritionist and nurse practitioner in Lynn, Mass., says eating very inexpensively requires knowledge, planning, and transportation.

Brett equates eating reasonably well on \$4 a day to solving a puzzle; it became surprisingly manageable. He didn't eat out and said "no" to packaged or processed foods and energy bars. He avoided cheap carbohydrates, like white bread and noodles, because they're empty calories. For caffeine, he carried tea bags (cheaply purchased in bulk). In sum, Brett returned to the days when food was prepared, not ready-to-eat.

Good-value proteins were the diet's foundation: peanuts and peanut butter (~\$2.50 a pound), eggs (20 cents each), and pulses or legumes, like split peas and lentils (~\$1 a pound). He rarely ate meats or fish (too expensive).

For healthy carbohydrates, he had oatmeal, whole-wheat pasta, brown rice, baked potatoes and sweet potatoes, and whole-wheat bread—which, made at home, cost just over a \$1 for a 1½-pound loaf. He ate plenty of bananas (sometimes 20 cents each), frozen peas, corn, and other mixed vegetables for around \$1.30 a pound. He also had a cup of milk—about 25 cents—each day.

Not owning a car, Brett took the subway to the bigger supermarkets and hunted aggressively for deals. He avoided perishables and foods that required very much preparation. Dry

and frozen foods offered more flexibility.

Brett remained in good health, going to the gym three or four times a week. He was never faint or hungry. His doctor said the diet was perfectly healthful and probably better than the way most people eat. So did Donald Hensrud, M.D., the chair of preventive medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and the editor-in-chief of *The Mayo Clinic Diet*.

Brett no longer eats for \$4 a day, but he remains amazed at how cheaply one can eat well—and mortified at how much he spent needlessly over the years.

Question: What if this ministry's supporters each borrowed some of Brett's tactics to reduce their food intake by \$1 per day, ate healthier in the process, and relayed the savings to our work for the Lord?

Answer: Our budget would double, and this outreach would grow more amazingly than ever. (Plus, donors who didn't overindulge in peanut butter would be slimmer!) ★

Courtesy: *The Wall Street Journal*



To
Index



Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From T.S. (WA): I was disappointed that I was unable to find a book in ZLM's website store that gave a comprehensive review of the Jewish holidays. —For a good primer on the holidays/holy days, get Zola's booklet, *The Seven Feasts of Israel*. To stay abreast of the meaning and timing of the holidays, visit www.hebrew4christians.com. This is John Parsons's site and will be a real blessing to you. John's work and longstanding relationship with ZLM has been a tremendous partnership. Thanks to your feedback, "holidays" is now a searchable keyword. Shalom —Myles

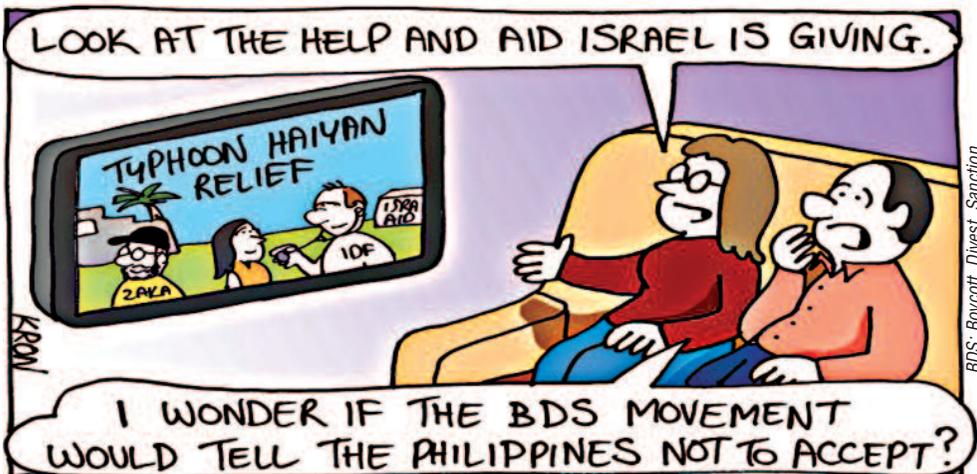
From R.H. (CO): This (web store order) is going to my son who is in prison and must have his ID number on the address after his last name. —Thanks for providing the information necessary to ensure that your son receives our materials. I trust that they will bless him, particularly as selected by a loving mother concerned for her son's spiritual health. May he in turn bless others as Paul did while he was in prison (Philippians 1:12). Shalom —Myles

From J.A.D. (CO): I'm signing up for your **Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies** because I have been interested in the Hebrew version of the Bible for a very long time. My faith as a born-again, Holy Spirit-filled Believer is even more precious to me since I recently discovered Jewish ancestry in my DNA. None of my relatives survive, so this was a surprise and answered some very deep, heartfelt questions. Now I can celebrate Hanukkah as a Messianic Believer. I'm very thrilled!

From F.P. (CA): Every month your ministry sends 100 *Levitt Letters* for distribution to Jurupa Valley Calvary Chapel. This donation is to help with postage for these free letters, which are joyfully received by our members. —That's how it works! As those who can help *do* help us with donations, we are able to disseminate these vital teachings to an ever-wider audience. Thanks —Myles



To
Index



From J.B.T. (SC): I am a gentile woman with a heart to learn all I can about my Jewish roots. I have listened to Zola since he started in 1979. My heart's desire is to take a Zola Tour to Israel and Greece and visit the church at Ephesus. My husband and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2013. I'm praying that we can join one of your 2015 tours. I heard of some ministries allowing couples to renew their wedding vows in Israel. Is that possible with Zola Tours? —Absolutely! Katharine and I often lead couples in a renewal of vows at the Garden Tomb. We try to end each pilgrimage there. In the midst of the eternal hope of resurrection, we see the Holy Spirit "connect the dots" between the communion service and its origins at Passover, and the pictures of the Heavenly Wedding to come and our own earthly marriages. These are life-changing times for all who attend.

Moving story: Last fall as we ended the Garden Tomb communion service, a man came forward who had been listening in on our time together. He was a missionary on his way to the Muslims of Jordan. He told us that the communion service was the most powerful and memorable time of his entire time in Israel. As you might imagine, we were blessed beyond measure to be a blessing to those going to preach to the Muslims! Always surprised and inspired by the Lord —Myles

From M.K.D. (GA): I do not have cable, but I do read your monthly *Levitt Letter*; it is very informative and edifying. Thank you! —Praise the Lord, He still speaks through the printed word! And, you can always watch online at www.levitt.tv anytime. Shalom —Myles

Tithing in New Testament Times



Dear Todd,

I know the Bible does not specifically state when Satan was cast out from Heaven, but do you wish to make any speculation as to when you think this happened?

The vast majority of tithing examples mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments appear to be agriculturally based, with at least one exception of Abraham tithing of his spoils of war. Did ancient fishermen sell their fish to pay the tithe? There are no indications this was ever the case. Did craftsmen—carpenters, tentmakers, metal workers, etc.—pay tithes on their sales or make freewill offerings but not a formal tithe? —B.R. (FL)

Dear B.R.—

Satan fell from Heaven before the creation of man as indicated by his presence in the Garden of Eden. Furthermore, as Satan fell while he was still in Heaven, his fall, therefore, must have occurred somewhere after the time the angels were created and before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Whether Satan's fall occurred a few minutes, hours, or days before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden, Scripture does not specifically say.

The New Testament does not explicitly say that Christians are under the law of the tithe. The believer in Christ is to give as God leads him to give whether it's 10%, 20%, or 25%. Chapters 8–9 of 2 Corinthians lay out the principles of giving under the New Covenant, which provide the model for the Church today. Tithing was part of the Old Covenant and has been done away in Christ: *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes* —Romans 10:4.
—Todd

A Simplistic View

Dear Myles,

I was disturbed by your recent article on Palestine. What the Bible does or doesn't use in reference to Palestine is irrelevant in 2013. How can we delegitimize millions of people who live in that land just because they are of Arab descent? All Arabs are not Palestinian and all Palestinians are not terrorists.

When you self-righteously deny land legitimacy to these people, you know nothing of the individual families who just want peace, food, and shelter for their children and maybe just a little extra at the end of the month for that little something. They want the same simple things as you and I.

The struggle in the Levant is going to be solved not by religious zealots but through peaceful political discussions. Israel has the right to exist and protect itself. The Palestinian people deserve that same right.

I can't imagine God approving of your rhetoric if it promotes hatred or delegitimization of any of His creatures and their right to exist and live.

—Dr. G.W.

Dear Dr. G.W.—

Even if one disregards the spiritual or religious aspects of the Middle East conflict, the facts on the ground remain the same. One party has repeatedly agreed to resolutions proposed by the world body, including the nascent League of Nations at San Remo in 1920 and the UN resolutions in the later 20th century. The other party continues to keep in force its charter that disallows the existence of Jews in Israel and calls for their annihilation.

Shortly following the 1947 partition plan, in 1948 five Arab armies attacked the new Jewish State. Though there may have been missteps on both sides, the Jewish people have consistently reached for life. The LEADERS of the Arab/Muslim communities continue to prescribe death in the form of suicide bombings and inculcate young hearts and minds in the most vile forms of hatred.

With 24 Muslim states surrounding Israel on millions of square miles of land, the tiny Jewish State is repeatedly asked to shrink even more. If you read your own letter, you will see that it is full of a narrative based on the propaganda of Yasser Arafat and his radical followers. In hope —Myles



A Law Against Proselytizing?

Dear ZLM,

My cousin (an Orthodox Jew) said that Israeli laws prevent sharing the Gospel with Jews in Israel. Is this true? I like to show my support for Israel on Facebook, which is why I ask. —G.H.B. (OH)

Dear G.H.B.—

No, there is no law in Israel prohibiting the freedom to share one's faith with another. A law does state that one cannot give gifts to minors in Israel to coax or bribe them into going to a particular church or to embrace a particular religion. Mormons were guilty of this tactic. Our To The Jew First teams plant seeds, not bribes. —Todd



Limiting God?

Dear Mr. Baker,

Your response to D.B. (“Jews Did Not Deserve the Holocaust,” *Levitt Letter* October 2013, p. 25) grieved my spirit. You wrote: “Many perished without ever even hearing the Gospel, and therefore never had the chance to believe” and referenced Romans 10:14. Scripture strongly encourages us to witness. However, I can’t believe that someone’s eternal destiny lies solely in the hands of other humans. I do not limit God. Are you not open to the fact that the Lord can reveal Himself to someone who has never heard the Gospel, through dreams, visions, etc.?

Would God let millions perish because His human vessels were not obedient to His Word? Please help me understand the limitations you are putting on God and His mercy. Anxiously awaiting your response —J.V.

Dear J.V.—

I’m sorry that you misunderstood my point. Trust me, no one here is limiting God. In fact, God will judge each person on an individual basis. Chapters 1 and 2 of Romans tell us that those who have not heard the Gospel will be judged in accordance with the light of creation and the light of moral conscience—in other words, their response to creation’s revelation that there is a Creator (Romans 1:20). This will be especially true for those who are not exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 3).

God does reveal Himself through visions and dreams that always point to Yeshua and to no one else. This phenomenon is happening today with Muslims and rabbis in the Middle East...and I am sure He revealed Himself during the Shoah (Holocaust). We cannot count as lost every victim of the Holocaust who did not hear the Gospel, since God will also judge in terms of how they responded to the evidence of creation and moral conscience.

Evil exists because men misuse their free will to commit evil, just as Hitler and the Nazis did. Rather than speculate on where Holocaust victims went after death, we need to make sure that all of Israel hears the glorious Gospel now and has the opportunity to believe. Our To The Jew First *shelichim* (ambassadors) travel three times a year to Israel to bring the Chosen People the Gospel. That endeavor should be our focus since Romans 1:16 says the Gospel is to go to the Jew first. —Todd

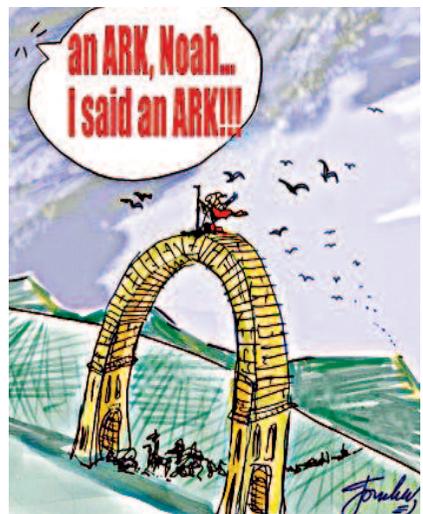
Sabbatical Year

Dear Todd,

I heard that the new “Jewish” Sabbatical year starts in 2014 and goes to 2015. Is that correct? Do the Jewish people start that year in the first month or later in the year on the “Feast of Trumpets”? Thanks, K.T.

Dear K.T.—

Actually, the Sabbatical year began on September 5/6 on the Feast of Trumpets or New Year (*Rosh Hashanah*) and ends on the same feast in 2014, on September 25/26. The Sabbath year—the year of rest, every seventh year—is called *Shmita* or *Shevi’it*. —Todd ★



Green Alternative to Crude Oil



SCIENCE: **IN.BGU.AC.IL** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

A replacement for oil has become a burning need in the 21st century. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) researchers have invented a process to make a green feed alternative for crude oil out of two of the most common substances on Earth—water and carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas detrimental to the environment. As opposed to other alternative fuel sources, this green feed would merely replace oil as the input for refineries.

Prof. Moti Herskowitz, Prof. Miron Landau, Dr. Roxana Vidruk, and the team at BGU's Blechner Center for Industrial Catalysis and Process Development have developed a green feed that can be converted using well-established technologies into liquid fuel and delivered using existing infrastructure to gas stations. Herskowitz, the incumbent of the Israel Cohen Chair in Chemical Engineering, is also the VP & Dean of R&D at BGU.



The process is patent pending “and we are ready to take off,” demonstrate, and commercialize it, asserts Herskowitz. Bench experiments have been conducted and scale-up should be relatively simple, he says. “It is an extraordinary challenge to convert carbon dioxide and hydrogen to green feed. ... The technology is based on novel specially tailored catalysts and catalytic processes.”

Well-established, commercially available technology can be directly applied to the process developed at BGU. It is envisioned that the short-term implementation of the process will combine synthetic gas produced from various renewable and alternative sources with carbon dioxide and hydrogen. Since there are no foreseen technological barriers, the new process should become a reality within five to ten years,” he says.

Noting that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that one of the national priorities of the State of Israel is to develop alternatives to oil, Herskowitz believes that, “As technological breakthroughs, such as carbon dioxide captured from various sources including air and water splitting, become technologically and economically feasible, this process will become the dominant technology for production of liquid fuels.”

Regarding other alternative fuels, Herskowitz maintains that his invention represents a game-changer. “The liquids that have been used over the past decade are ethanol (alcohol), biodiesel, and/or blends of these fuels with conventional fuels. These alternatives are, however, far from ideal, and there is a pressing need for a game-changing approach to produce alternative drop-in liquid transportation fuels by sustainable, technologically viable, and environmentally acceptable processes from abundant, low-cost, renewable materials,” he says. ★



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Virus-Killer to be Tested in Outer-Space

MEDICINE: BY KARIN KLOOSTERMAN / Israel21c.org



In an upcoming American space mission, the Vecoy platform—which tricks viruses into committing suicide—will be tested to see how it works in zero gravity.

The Israeli company Vecoy Nanomedicine became a media sensation in 2012 after Israel21c covered the company's virus "decoy" designed to outwit the world's worst viral enemies before they do any damage.

The biomed technology platform tricks a virus into committing suicide, a tactic that could eventually neutralize viral threats like Ebola, hepatitis, HIV, and scary chemical and biological warfare. ★



Vecoy founder Erez Livneh at NASA's Ames Research Base.

Photo: Matt Rutherford

Magen David Adom—Israel's Red Cross

BY JONATHAN FELDSTEIN / JPost.com

On the morning of 9/11, Donna Calcaterra didn't feel well and stayed home. Some months later, her bank called and told her that her safety deposit box, or what was left of it, had been recovered. When she inspected the remains, she found that amid the charred mess, only an Israeli government-issued collectable silver coin remained intact. Three words stood out—*Am Yisrael Chai* (Israel Lives On). Donna took this as a sign.

At the time, Israel was well into the second intifada; buses and cafes were being blown up regularly. Donna decided to donate an ambulance to the American Friends of Magen David Adom. And then another, and another, and then a "bloodmobile," another ambulance, and another. A retired commodities trader, Donna actually went back to work to earn more money so she could give it to MDA.

At 15, Amber Biton joined the teenage volunteers for MDA. While in high school, she was diagnosed with cancer, but continued volunteering. At 17, she died of the disease, having devoted her last years to saving others.

Donna Calcaterra, now a member of the AFMDA board, heard about Amber and decided she should be remembered by more than those who knew her. Donna donated an ambulance in Amber's memory. That ambulance is stationed where Amber lived and volunteered. Children born after Amber died will grow up, volunteer, and ride on this very ambulance.



A national tragedy that made one woman dedicate her life to Israel, and the tragic death of a special young woman who chose to do the same, connect these two women who never met, never sought recognition, but devoted themselves to saving lives in Israel. May their generosity of spirit motivate and inspire others to do the same. ★



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The New Face of Hamas

BY SHLOMO MORDECHAI / *Israel Today*



The Islamic terrorist group Hamas that rules the Gaza Strip is taking a page out of the book of its sponsor, Iran: trying to present a “moderate” face to the gullible West. Hamas seeks Israel’s destruction and is best known for rocket attacks on civilians, and before that, bloody suicide bombings on Israeli buses and in restaurants. But Hamas has come to the conclusion that being shunned by the West does not help the Palestinian cause.

So the new face of Hamas is a woman, 23-year-old **Isra Almodallal** (*below*), who lived in Bradford in the UK for five years where she acquired a nice British accent. She will be the Gaza government’s spokeswoman for the international media. The urbane young woman introduced herself in TV interviews that were broadcast in Israel and around the world.

“I am not holding a rocket, I am not killing,” Almodallal said. “I am a very peaceful person, not just me but [also] the Palestinians [and] Palestine, my country, my homeland.”

Wearing a headscarf and dressed modestly, she is the first female spokeswoman for Hamas in a conservative, male-dominated Muslim society. Since Hamas expelled the Palestinian Authority from Gaza in a brief civil war in 2007, it has enforced restrictions on women, such as long robes and headscarves and forbidding them to ride on motorbikes and smoke water pipes. But fearing a backlash, it has avoided passing strict Islamic legislation based on *sharia* (Islamic) law.

One female minister and six female deputy ministers serve in the Hamas government, and about 20 percent of public servants are women. So Almodallal fits right in and adds a cosmopolitan touch that is good for Western consumption. Her office in Gaza City includes a book on American history alongside the Koran.

“We are looking forward to having a different and unique language,” Almodallal said. “We will make the issues more human.”

So instead of the masked Hamas terrorists brandishing Kalashnikovs (AK-47s) and rockets that grace our television screens here in the Middle East, Almodallal was filmed giving milk to her kitty cat.

Kitty cats, indeed! This propaganda represents a newer, more-sinister trend in terrorism. As Bibi said, at least former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was a wolf in wolf’s clothing. We need to beware of sheep who can tear flesh when backs are turned and guards let down. —Myles ★

POLISHING ITS IMAGE: Hamas seeks to exude moderation while preparing for terror and war.



Sharia Law Over Greek Civil Law

BY KATERINA NIKOLAS / DigitalJournal.com

The Greek Supreme Court has annulled the last will and testament of a deceased Greek Muslim man as it was not compliant with *sharia* (Islamic) law. The decision overturns the rights of Greek minority Muslims in Thrace to prepare wills under Greek civil law.

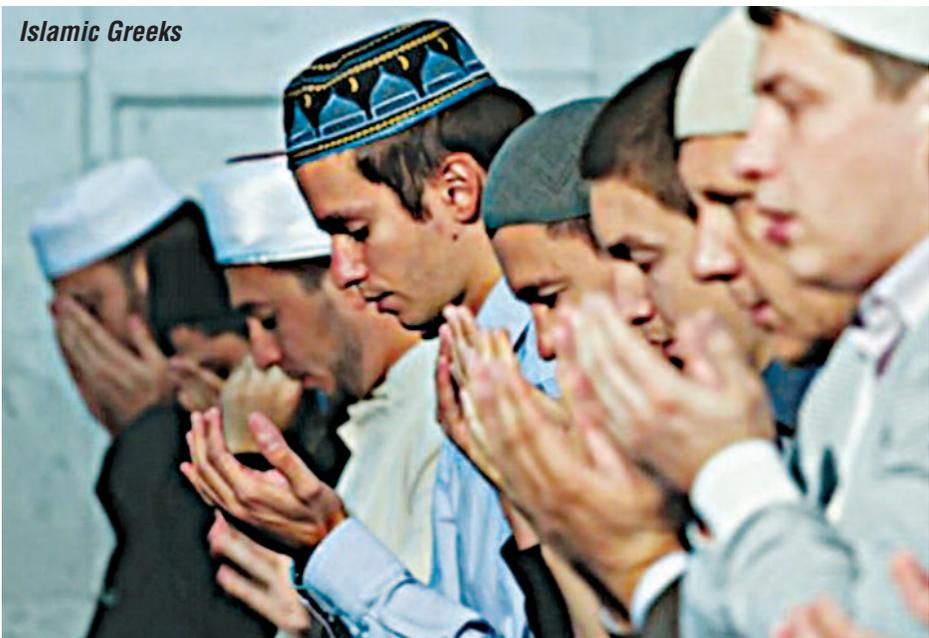
Demeter Simeonidou, a Muslim man who lived in Thrace, had prepared his will in accordance with Greek civil law, leaving all his assets to his wife. The will was challenged by the deceased man's sister who claimed a share of his assets, asserting that the Islamic law of succession does not recognize the right of a Muslim to make a public will.

The Muslim minority of Thrace have had the right to draw up civil wills under Greek law since 1946. Only family law was previously under the jurisdiction of Islamic muftis. Thousands of Muslims in Thrace who have drawn up wills under Greek law may now be affected by the ruling of the Supreme Court that sharia law takes precedence over Greek law.

According to the Berkley Center of Georgetown University, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief have criticized Greece's Islamic courts in Thrace on the grounds of gender discrimination. Officially, Greek Muslims have the right to choose between Greek civil law and Islamic jurisprudence. This case could take the right of choice away in cases where Greek civil law is challenged. ★



Islamic Greeks



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Anemone (above) Israel's National Flower

By Sharon Udasin / JPost.com

The bright red *calaniot* (anemones) that cover Israel's southern fields each spring have now become Israel's national flower, following an online election held by the Society for the Protection of Nature (SPNI) and Ynet.

Achieving 28% of the vote, the *calanit*/anemone won first place, ahead of the *rakefet*/cyclamen (second place with 23%) and the purple iris (third place with 12%).

The project to elect a national flower occurred in honor of SPNI's 60th anniversary and marked 48 years since the organization launched its campaign to preserve Israel's wildflowers.

Konichiwa Shaloum Chan

By Shlomo Cesana / IsraelHayom.com

The Israeli Japanese mascot, or *yuru-chara*, sparks the interest of many visitors and generates positive buzz around the Israeli embassy in Tokyo.

Israel became the first—and only—country to showcase its own representative Japanese mascot at the Yuru-Chara Grand Prix 2013 expo.

Mascots are a popular trend in Japan, and every year at the Yuru-Chara Grand Prix, precincts and organizations throughout Japan design mascots to enter into the competition. Last year

there were 376 mascots on display, all Japanese, except for one. The Israeli embassy in Japan decided to take part in the project and created its own Israeli-Japanese mascot, named Shaloum Chan.



Israeli Ambassador to Japan Nissim Ben Shitrit with Shaloum Chan / Photo credit: Israeli embassy in Tokyo

Medjool—Israeli Date

Israel Today

The Medjool is a special kind of Israeli date that is gaining popularity worldwide as an exotic delicacy. It means “unknown” in Arabic and acquired its label from being the only variety of date that doesn't have a name. The date has thrived on Kibbutz Gilgal in Samaria, about 10 miles north of the biblical oasis city of Jericho. The kibbutz uses recycled wastewater, which makes the date trees flourish in an arid climate. The result is that Israel has claimed 60 percent of the global Medjool market.

Medjool has become the main variety of date exported by Israel. Last year according to Hadekalim, the Israeli Date Growers Cooperative, farmers produced 21,750 tons of dates, serving 27 countries on five continents.

Since most of the dates come from the Jordan Valley, which the media consider part of the “occupied territories,” exports are facing boycotts from the European Union and anti-Israel groups.



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Saudis Ban Male Doctors From Checking Women, Living or Dead

Emirates247.com



Saudi Arabia has told its hospitals to prevent male doctors from checking dead women following a demand by the Gulf Kingdom's top Islamic scholar.

Sheik Abdul Aziz Al Shaikh, Saudi Arabia's grand mufti, sent a letter to the health ministry asking it to ensure male doctors at all hospitals in the country of 29 million people will not be allowed to check dead women either in medical or criminal cases.

"The Mufti made clear that the body of a woman whether alive or dead must be respected and should not be seen by males," *Arar* newspaper said.

It quoted Health Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Humaidi as saying the ministry had sent a circular to all hospitals upon receiving the Mufti's letter.

"We have asked all hospitals and medical centers in the Kingdom to ensure that dead women would be checked only by female doctors," he said.

Low Ratings For Al Jazeera America

By Keach Hagey / online.wsj.com

In buying Current TV in January 2013, Al Jazeera hoped for a bridge to the

U.S. mass market. So far it hasn't quite worked out that way.

For half a decade, the Qatari broadcaster had lobbied unsuccessfully for national cable carriage of its English-language channel. Al Jazeera executives even suggested that the cable industry's resistance was partly political.

Al Jazeera found its wider U.S. coverage last summer when it shut down Current TV's progressive news lineup and launched Al Jazeera America's round-the-clock news programming.

But by year's end, Al Jazeera America averaged just 13,000 viewers at any point throughout the day, compared with the hundreds of thousands that other cable channels like FOX, MSNBC, and CNN average daily, according to Nielsen. It is also less than half the daily audience that Current TV had.



Still, Al Jazeera America's ratings aren't out of line with other startup cable news channels. AJA is also working to expand its distribution, recently joining the lineups of Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks, increasing its distribution to 55 million homes from 44 million—but still well short of the 95 to 99 million enjoyed by MSNBC, FOX, and CNN.

Al Jazeera, which is backed by oil and gas-rich Qatar, says profits aren't a priority. Interim CEO Ehab Al Shihabi told *The Wall Street Journal* last summer: "That difference will allow us to maintain our journalistic identity." ★

10,000-Year-Old House Outside Jerusalem



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY HAVIV TETTIG GUR (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

A remarkable archaeological find in the Judean lowlands southwest of Jerusalem includes a 6,000-year-old cultic temple and a 10,000-year-old house.

"Settlement remains were unearthed at the site, the earliest of which date to the beginning of the eighth millennium B.C. and latest to the end of the fourth millennium B.C.," said Amir Golani, one of the excavators for the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"We see that in the Early Bronze Age, 5,000 years ago, a rural society made the transition to an urban society. We distinctly see a settlement that gradually became planned, including streets and buildings that were extremely impressive from the standpoint of their size and the manner of their construction. We can trace the urban planning and see...the settlement's leadership that chose to regulate the construction in the crowded center regions and allowed less planning along its periphery." The society became increasingly hierarchical, Golani said.

The oldest building dates from the time of the earliest known domestication of plants and animals. "Whoever built the house was totally innovative because until this period, human groups migrated from place to place in search of food. Here we have evidence of man's transition to permanent dwellings, and the beginning of domesticating animals and plants. Instead of searching out wild sheep, ancient man started raising them near the house," researchers said.

The house is the oldest structure ever found in the Judean lowlands and dates to the period known to archaeologists as the Pre-Pottery Neolithic.

"The building, almost all of which was found, underwent a number of construction and repair phases that allude to its importance," they said.

Near the building, excavators found a collection of nine flint and limestone axes placed side by side. "It is apparent that the axes, some of which were used as tools and some as cultic objects, were highly valued by their owners. Just as today we are unable to get along without a cellular telephone and a computer,

(continued next page)

Excavation at Eshtaol along Route 38.

(Photo: Yoli Shwarz, courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)



Old House *continued*



they too attributed great importance to their tools. Based on how it was arranged at the time of its discovery, it seems that the cluster of axes was abandoned by its owner for some unknown reason," the researchers concluded.

But the building wasn't the only find at the site. A handful of buildings from the end of the Chalcolithic period, some 6,000 years ago, was found nearby. At the site, excavators found a six-sided stone column standing 51 inches high and weighing several hundred kilos. "The standing stone was smoothed and worked on all six of its sides," the archaeologists said, concluding that its broad face oriented eastward alludes to the presence of a cultic temple at the site.

"In the past, numerous manifestations have been found of the cultic practice that existed in the Chalcolithic period. However, we know of only a few temples" located at Ein Gedi and Teleilat Ghassul in present-day Jordan. ★

The standing stone (mazzeva) which is worked on all sides serves as evidence of cultic activity in the Chalcolithic period.



10,000-year-old house: the oldest dwelling to be unearthed to date in the Judean lowlands.



The Red-Dead Project

BY SHLOMO MORDECHAI / *Israel Today Magazine*



Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority have signed a landmark agreement to build a pipeline from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. The aim is to save the Dead Sea, site of the biblical Sodom and Gomorrah, from drying up. The salt lake's level has been dropping dramatically because water from the Sea of Galilee, which flows via the Jordan River to the Dead Sea, has been diverted for domestic use.

"This is a historic agreement that realizes a dream of many years," said Israel's Minister for Regional Cooperation Silvan Shalom. "The agreement is of the highest diplomatic, economic, environmental, and strategic importance."

The estimated cost of the Red-Dead Project is \$300–\$400 million, which will be raised from donor countries, philanthropic sources, and the World Bank. The pipeline will run 108 miles along the Israel-Jordan border in the Arava Desert.

In addition to possibly saving the Dead Sea, a historic landmark which at 1,400 feet below sea level is the lowest place on Earth, the flow of water will be used to generate electricity. A desalination plant will also provide about 80 million cubic meters of drinking water per year for the arid southern regions in Israel and Jordan.

Some Israeli environmentalists oppose the project, charging that Red Sea water will harm the ecology of the Dead Sea, and that the 100 million cubic meters of water per annum will not be enough to replenish the lake. But proponents believe it is a practical solution and important symbol of regional cooperation that will benefit Jews and Arabs alike.

It has often been said that the next Middle East war could be fought over water. In this case, cooler heads have prevailed to share a precious and diminishing natural resource. ★



The Dead Sea

(Photo: Oren Nahshon/Flash90)



Jewish Humor, etc.

Israel is a Very Healthy Place

Abe was visiting Israel for the first time. As soon as his plane landed, he caught a taxi to his hotel. The taxi driver was very friendly and told Abe all kinds of useful information.

Abe asked the driver, "Is Israel a healthy place?"

"Oh, yes, it really is," the driver answered. "When I first came here, I couldn't say even one simple word, I had hardly any hair on my head, I didn't have the energy to walk across a small room, and I even had to be helped out of bed every day."

"That's a remarkable story, truly amazing," Abe said. "So how long have you been here in Israel?"

"I was born here." ★



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Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

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DirecTV—Channel 369 Dish—Channel 263

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(See p.15 Bulletin Board)

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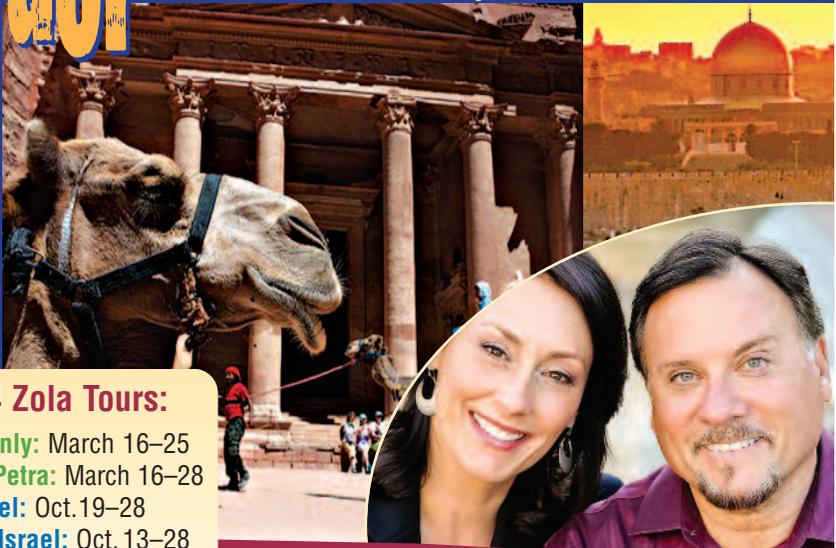


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