

# Levitt Letter

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

How to Avoid the Messiah [p.6](#)



## Christians Favoring Palestine Over Israel

By Ron Cantor / MessiahsMandate.org

A new narrative is emerging—one that turns the Gospel into a fictional Palestinian story, denying the Jewishness of Jesus. A recent article by Cameron Strang in *Relevant* magazine embraces this new rage to challenge Christian Zionism—evangelical support for modern Israel. Many young people in the evangelical community—including Strang, whose father has been an ardent supporter of Israel—are ditching Israel in favor of Palestine. They see Israel as Goliath and the Palestinians as David.

They are being duped. Theologically and politically, they are swallowing the Palestinian Narrative without doing a proper background check. The fiction goes like this:

- Palestine was a nation that Jews took over.
- The “Palestinian” nationality goes back to New Testament times.
- The Disciples were Palestinian Christians.
- Jesus was a Palestinian freedom fighter.

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## The Shame of Brandeis

By John Podhoretz  
www.Commentary Magazine.com



If you haven't yet heard, Brandeis University has rescinded its offer of an honorary degree to **Ayaan Hirsi Ali**, the Somali-born activist whose work has focused on the barbaric misogyny rampant in Islamic societies like the one in which she was raised. Her efforts to call attention to these oppressive systems as a legislator in the Netherlands led to a political crisis there and her eventual flight to the United States.

It only takes a Google search to find out everything one would need to know about her, including the controversial aspects of her views. Consequently, it is laughable for Brandeis President

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## Christians Favoring Palestine... *continued from cover*

Yasser Arafat was the first to declare that Jesus was a Palestinian. Others then followed suit:

- “We must not forget that Messiah [Jesus] is a Palestinian, the son of Mary the Palestinian.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Nov. 18, 2005]

Even Palestinian pastor Mitri Raheb said in his message at Christ at the Checkpoint:

- “The Palestinian Church was started on Pentecost 2,000 years ago... Jesus was born in *Bethlehem, Palestine*.” **Bethlehem, Palestine?** Really?

The PLO since its creation in 1964 has sought to invent the narrative that the Palestinian people predate Jesus, when in fact, a Palestinian national Arab identity—separate from Jordan—doesn’t even predate 1964! The Palestinian flag was created only in 1964 and adopted in 1988 as the official flag of the *future* state!

The word *Palestine* was created in 135 AD, 105 years after Yeshua, when the Romans (not Arabs) renamed as Palestine the Jewish region of Judea. Until 1964, no Arab thought *Palestinian* was a nationality. In fact, the Jewish-owned *Jerusalem Post* was called the *Palestine Post* from 1932 until 1950. **Palestine was the name of the region, not the people.**

For a Christian magazine to reprint these lies without investigation is truly shocking. Where is the scholarship or journalistic integrity? When several people shared these points with the author, **RelevantMagazine.com** simply turned off the comments feature. Rather than retract the falsehoods, it silenced the critics.

Without historical investigation, evangelicals are buying into a false narrative to justify anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian sentiments. Theologians like Dr. Gary Burge now challenge the idea that the modern State of Israel is a fulfillment of prophecy. This is very dangerous. As Paul warned, if the wild branches (gentiles) who through faith were grafted into God’s olive tree turned against the natural branches (ethnic Israel), they too could be broken off (Rom. 11:17–23). That doesn’t mean Israel shouldn’t be challenged when it’s wrong. But overall, there is an expectation in the Scriptures that the end-times Church will befriend the Jewish people and “provoke them to jealousy” (Rom. 11:11). Paul says that even as the Nations have received, through Israel, their Messiah, they have a debt of gratitude toward Israel (Rom. 15:27).

Concerning these mysteries surrounding Israel, Paul says, “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited” (Romans 11:25). Sadly, that is what is happening. ✨



*The Palestinian flag (left) was created only in 1964 by the PLO (a non-state) and only adopted as the official Palestinian flag of a future state in 1988.*



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## The Shame of Brandeis *(continued from cover sidebar)*



Fred Lawrence to claim he had to withdraw the degree because of information he had only lately discovered. **Ayaan Hirsi Ali** said that she was not surprised she came under attack from demagogic apologists like the Council on American-Islamic Relations; she has come to expect such things.

“What did surprise me was the behavior of Brandeis. Having spent many months planning for me to speak to its students at Commencement, the university yesterday announced that it could not ‘overlook certain of my past statements,’ which it had not previously been aware of. Yet my critics have long specialized in selective quotation—such as lines from interviews taken out of context—designed to misrepresent me and my work. It is scarcely credible that Brandeis did not know this when they initially offered me the degree.”

What Brandeis has done here is nothing less than the act of a coward. My late uncle, Marver Bernstein, served as the university’s president from 1972 to 1983. I know Marver would have been appalled beyond belief at his shameful successor’s monstrous capitulation to the screaming voices of unreason. As should we all be.

*Brandeis, founded and named in honor of the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, Louis Brandeis (1856–1941), was once considered a bastion of forward thinking in an era of quotas and prejudice against Jewish students. Ironically, at the insistence of Muslims, Ali’s invitation was rescinded because she dared to speak out about her violent and oppressive treatment as a Muslim woman, which included genital mutilation and a planned forced marriage to a relative. —Myles (see brief on p. 31)*

# Legacy: Time to Build and Pass it On!

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



Our recent trip to Israel was a triumphant expedition. Katharine and I led a busload of pilgrims into a newfound appreciation for the roots of their faith. We stayed afterward to film *Zion Forever*, an eight-part television series to categorically refute Muslim propaganda about Jewish history in the Land. Displaying brilliant archaeological finds, fact-packed interviews, and testimonies of leaders and local Israelis, the series promotes the truthful history of the Temple Mount and the historicity of King David.

**I urge you to join us this fall in October** for another exciting tour that offers extensions from Israel to Greece and Petra. Please see [page 36](#) for details, reduced pricing, and contact information.

During our spring tour, Katharine and I spent a *Havdalah* (end of Shabbat) with 500 Western Jews who had come to learn from the Orthodox community of Jerusalem. As we heard the prayers and shared in the candle lighting and spice box ceremony, my thoughts turned to the importance of legacy.

In an effort to make my “golden years” meaningful, I intend to pay attention to the legacy I will leave for the next generation. “Legacy,” an English term, descends from the late 14th century when it originally designated a “body of persons sent on a mission.” Its roots extend to the Old French *legacie* (legate’s office) and the Medieval Latin *legatus* (ambassador, envoy). The sense of “property left by will” appeared in Scotland in the mid-15th century. We Believers are all ambassadors ... *l’dor v’dor*: from generation to generation.

Researching this term reminded me of Katharine’s Scottish family history that includes the Hebrides Revival and with a family connection through the clans

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Myles and Katharine plant trees in Israel's Lavi Forest.

Photo courtesy: Barbara Ann Comer





to William Wallace. No doubt the prayers of her Great-auntie Peggy led to Katharine's salvation and also my introduction to the Gospel.

My family, Jews since time immemorial, count it a blessing that my Grandfather Max (Mordechai) Cohen raised his children to respect their heritage. My uncles helped build our local synagogue in NYC. On *Shabbat*, they would be called to the *bima for aliyah*—they would make their way to the "dais" and "go up" to bless the Torah before it was read.

Yeshua restored my fervor for things Jewish and, most importantly, for Himself as the Living Word.

As the world spins in confusion, I celebrate the plumb line of heritage that my sons are appropriating. My younger son—on the Dean's List at Cal Poly, one of our finest colleges in the western U.S.—has a heart for Israel.

My older son, a recent graduate, interns with Messianic rabbi Jason Sobel in Southern California. Their work reaches into the creative community of the entertainment business with a credible witness of Yeshua. He will join Jewish Voice Ministries International in ministering to the Jewish people of Ethiopia and then attend a next-gen Believer's business conference in Jerusalem.

Now more than ever, we must support the next generation through prayer, finances, and wise counsel.



*Spring 2014 Tour: prayers at the Western Wall*



Photo courtesy: Barbara Ann Comer

# How to Avoid the Messiah

By Zola Levitt  
Classic Zola:  
1995–19 years ago



6

## Leviticus 23 gives the instructions for setting each year's Feast of Shavuot

**15** And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: **16** Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.

In avoiding biblical evidence of the Messiahship of Jesus, some Jewish scholars have created biblical confusion. Today's Jewish schedule of the Feasts obscures their obvious fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

Over the Ages, scholars and sages have molded Judaism to exclude the idea of Jesus as Messiah, even to the extent of altering their own festivals. The Jewish people have been led to depend on sources outside of Scripture (in this case, the Talmudic sages) to determine God's instructions for their lives.

Let's briefly review the meaningful first four Feasts given in Leviticus 23. The Feast of Passover occurs on the fourteenth day of the first month and the Feast of Unleavened Bread during the next seven days. The Sunday of that week is First Fruits, and fifty days after First Fruits is Pentecost.

Christians are familiar with this schedule and thrill that our Lord fulfilled each Feast in the appropriate manner: He was crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, raised on First Fruits, and sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. (We expect the Lord to go on fulfilling the Feasts with the Rapture on the Feast of Trumpets, the Second Coming on the Day of Atonement, and the setting up of the Kingdom on the Feast of Tabernacles. This elegant and important Bible lesson is available in our study booklet [The Seven Feasts of Israel](#) and on the [DVDs](#) and [teaching CD](#) of the same title.)

Early in the first century, the Jewish people must have seen these amazing coincidences, and evidently great numbers were won to the Lord. Each year, on the Sunday of First Fruits, the unsaved Jews and the Messianic Jews must have actually passed each other in the street as they went to their respective festival worship services. Surely a Messianic Jew would point out how the Feast of First

[\(continued next page\)](#)



Courtesy: [rodignusdei.wordpress.com](#)



# Avoiding the Messiah... *continued*



Fruits perfectly represented the Sunday resurrection of Jesus. *(But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. 1 Corinthians 15:20)*

The rabbis must have been in consternation trying to answer the very persuasive arguments of believers in Yeshua. Scripture is Scripture, after all.

To avoid those embarrassing questions, the rabbis needed an escape from First Fruits and Pentecost. That's not easy; scriptural directions for First Fruits are very precise. The Bible and other Jewish texts say that when the Israelites are in the Land, they need to bring the first fruits of their harvest to the priest at the Temple, who "shall wave the sheaf before the Lord ... on the day after the Sabbath" (Lev. 23:11). Though the meaning of Sabbath is Saturday, it can also connote "day of rest." Since Jewish festivals are also known as "days of rest," by saying that the Sabbath referred to is really Passover and not the Saturday of the week in question ... Eureka! Sunday has disappeared. Since Passover can happen any day of the week, now the "day after" can be Tuesday or Thursday.

**But then we run into problems with Pentecost.** Scripture says it is exactly fifty days later. If we happen to start counting on Wednesday, we end on a Wednesday. But Scripture specifies fifty days as "seven Sabbaths" to the day after the seventh Sabbath, which is a Sunday ( $7 \times 7 = 49 + 1 = 50$ ). If the fiftieth day is specified as a Sunday, then counting backward fifty days lands Day One on a Sunday. (The only "days of rest" between the Feasts are the weekly Sabbaths/Saturdays.)

The final touch in rabbis manipulating the two festivals amounts to this: First Fruits is omitted completely, and *Shavuot* (which Leviticus lays out as the celebration of a great harvest) is now said to be the day God gave Moses the Law at Mount Sinai, which in turn is known as the birth of the Jewish people. (Interestingly, at the *Shavuot* harvest celebration after our Lord's resurrection, He sent the Holy Spirit, and Pentecost became the birth of the Church.) But God is a very good bookkeeper. The day the Law was given to Moses, 3,000 who worshipped the golden calf were killed. (Exodus 32:28) When Peter spoke at Pentecost, 3,000 were saved when the Spirit came. Ironically then, if Pentecost was, as the rabbis claim, the day the Law was given, then God returned those 3,000 souls. (Acts 2:41) The letter kills, the Spirit gives life.

The Jewish people must return to an understanding of Scripture. If they knew Scripture, they would know their Messiah, the true First Fruits that we celebrate. Christians, also, should take care to base their lives on the Word of God alone, lest error creep in and rob them of God's light and leading. ★



## Zola's Bible Exchange

If you have an extra Bible in new or nearly new condition to pass on to someone who needs one, such as an inmate or a retiree on fixed income, please send it to us to forward. (Bibles for inmates must be softcover.) On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address. There will be no charge. (ZLM consulting theologian Dr. Tom McCall refers to a New Testament without the Old Testament as *The Amputated Bible*.)



# God's Personal Plan for You

By Katharine Weiss  
ZLP Co-Host



Have you ever felt that you were meant for more than mundane, day-to-day life? Sometimes in conjunction with a sense of high calling, we mortals feel unqualified for that altruistic purpose deep inside of us. We all struggle with this incongruence: "It's too late, I'm too old, too young, not smart enough, not spiritual enough, etc., etc., etc."

However, beneath such oppositional thinking lies a deep yearning for a meaningful endeavor, an undertaking with cosmic implications and eternal consequences. I believe that you were meant for greatness. Each of us has a God-given desire to make a difference in the world, to have an impact and leave a legacy for future generations.

When I was a young girl, I remember a still, small voice inside me, drawing me to pursue a mission with and for God. I just did not know how to proceed, how to accomplish anything grand enough. In my late teens, after a powerful encounter with Jesus, the Bible began to make an impression on me, and Jeremiah 29:11 came alive:

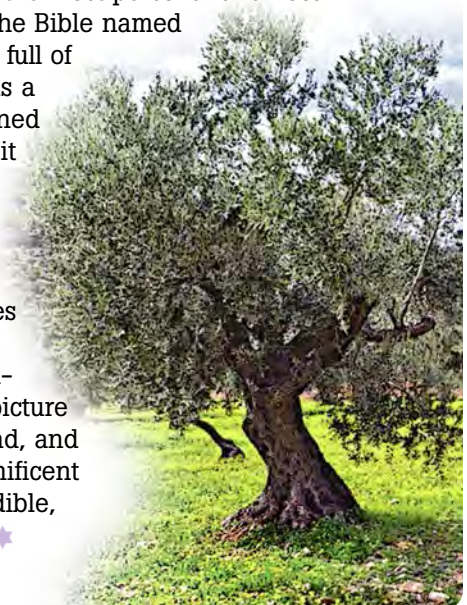
***"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."***

It continually amazes me that God knows each of us individually. Just as He has given us fingerprints that match no other person's, He has wonderful plans for each of us. His intentions, purposes, and destinations are singular and designed for each of us. This cornucopia of blessings includes a future that is positive and full of His *shalom* (peace).

Of course, the key is a prayerful, personal relationship with Him, *Mashiach Ben David*—Jesus the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world. All of the meaning and goodness begins in relationship with Him. The mystery of how all this sanctification takes place is FAITH! **We need to believe in Him. In turn, He will individualize our path.**

For me, the Book of Ruth has been one of the most personal and vocal Scriptures. It is one of only two books in the Bible named for a woman (Esther is the other), and it is full of hope and truth for us. The Book of Ruth is a wonderful gift for those of us who are joined to the Jewish people through faith. From it we learn about the process of loss, love, and legacy.

Although only four chapters long, Ruth speaks to us today of the days of the judges and their application to life in every era since. The journey of Ruth, her mother-in-law Naomi, and the family is an eternal picture of our journey into God, His house of bread, and His provision. The story of Ruth is a magnificent picture of God's love for us and His incredible, eternal personal plan for each of us. ★





# Pilot (and PM) Selfies

By Lauren Izso / JPost.com



The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have a habit of over-achieving. In wars, military drills, and even training, they have been labeled as one of the most impressive armies in the world.

But snapping selfies?

Leaving no stone unturned, the Israeli military wanted to get in on the latest trend of impressive self-taken photos, and as usual, has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) posted a picture on its official Facebook page, taken by a pilot as he flew upside down over Tel Aviv. Visible opposite the pilot's right arm patch is Rabin Square [the open space in central Tel Aviv that is the site of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995].

The IDF quickly responded: "Shalom, we would like to clarify that in the aircraft's cockpit there are two pilots, and the pilot who appears in the picture is not the pilot who flew the plane. The picture was taken with a GoPro camera fastened to the cockpit. There was no danger posed to either of the pilots during the flight."

The IDF named the pilot as Major Ofer and said he was flying the "Efroni" trainer aircraft (Beechcraft T-6 Texan II) above Tel Aviv in a "traditional Air Force aerial demonstration."

While the IAF usually blurs faces in photos to protect the identities of pilots, this one was just too impressive to blur. Although Ofer is wearing protective face-gear, his eyes are visible.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also tapped in on the selfie trend. The premier snapped a self-taken picture with IDF Navy soldiers earlier this year. *(right)* ★



## Israel's Unique Bay (continued from May 2014)

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF / Our Man in Haifa



Haifa Bay has seen wave after wave of Jewish immigrants making *aliyah* to Israel. They arrived, refugees from the Nazi Holocaust and from ancient Middle Eastern communities. They made this coastal city a refuge for new Israelis, as it continues today. A natural gathering point, Israel's only bay is also a spiritual magnet.

To explore its spiritual significance, we begin by looking at Haifa. The city—90% Jewish and 10% Arab—includes small but active Ultra-Orthodox enclaves in Haifa and the surrounding areas of Acre (Akko), Tirat Carmel, and the Kriyot (local slang meaning the area encompassing five towns whose names begin with “Kiryat”). In addition, many families feel affectionate toward tradition, but don't fully practice. Haifa, though largely a secular yet family-oriented city, also houses Arab Christians (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant), Muslims, Messianic Jews (about 18 congregations along the northern coast), and Baha'is.

The attraction of Mount Carmel as a spiritual focal point continued long after Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). Baal (*master, owner*) was a Canaanite fertility god whose followers celebrated his death and resurrection(!). These “celebrations” were marked by child sacrifice and temple

prostitution. No wonder Elijah challenged their dominion. Sadly, Israelites swallowed this idolatrous poison. Similarly, Eastern Mysticism, Baha'i, and even Satanic cults masquerade as today's “wholesome faith alternatives.” The Baha'i world headquarters drapes across the northern slope of Mount Carmel, its gardens and monuments outwardly attractive. Yet the “all paths lead to God” philosophy should draw the indignation of modern-day Elijahs.

Armageddon or *Har Megiddo*, an archaeological “tel” (raised mound marking the site of an ancient city), overlooks the long flat Jezreel Valley just east of Haifa. The Book of Revelation (16:14–16) mentions it as the site of a massive end-times battle involving “the kings of the earth.” Just thinking about it (since I live only a few miles away) makes me take a deep breath. Yet this, too, points to a profound spiritual significance in the Haifa Bay region.

In all of this, we need to remain faithful “prayer warriors.” Our role is not passive. Those familiar with God's Word notice that this area is prophetically destined to bear abundant fruit physically and spiritually. (Ezekiel 34:13–14/36:24–27; Joel 3:18/2:23–32). It's time to participate in Israel's pending end-times harvest. Every prayer counts! ☆

*Haifa Bay: progressive port of commerce*



## Mechina Academies: Israel's Gap-Year Phenomenon

BY ELLIOT JAGER / *Israel My Glory* magazine



Thirty-five or so students, young men and women in workout clothes, have packed into a room overlooking the lower Galilee. All are recent high-school graduates who've put off their compulsory service—2 years for the women, 3 years for men—in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to take part in a *mechina*. It is one of a score of pre-military academies offering one-year programs that are becoming increasingly popular among Israel's most committed, idealistic, and gifted youth.

The *mechina* phenomenon began in 1988 in Eli, a Jewish settlement in Samaria. The idea was to prepare, and not just physically, Orthodox religious male youths for the rigors of army life. At the Eli *mechina*, active-duty army officers run the young men through their paces in the hilly terrain.

Socially, think of the army as Israel's great "melting pot" where young people from across the country's astoundingly diverse society rub shoulders in basic training. That is why the Orthodox need to be fortified for the culture shock of secular society where they'll encounter comrades with little knowledge of, or commitment to, the religious values that they uphold. For religious reasons, most Orthodox high schools are not co-ed. Yet in the army, strict separation of the sexes for reasons

of modesty is difficult to uphold. Your instructor for the state-of-the-art TAVOR rifle could well be a 19-year-old woman from Tel Aviv.

Indeed, Israel's small Messianic Jewish community faces a similar challenge in upholding its religious and social values. *The Jerusalem Post* recently reported that the community has run a short summer prep program, known as the Nestor *mechina*, to ease the transition into army life for its young people, many leaving home for the first time.

By 1997, the Eli *mechina* had been joined by other pre-military academies. Nowadays, there are academies—each offering its own twist on the *mechina* experience—catering to the secular, to young Orthodox women, and to those who want a combined, co-ed, secular-religious environment. Orthodox woman Noa Binnes wants to go into IDF intelligence and opted to study at a *mechina* "because I think it will help me come to the army a more mature person."

*Mechina* student Nadav Cohen concurs: "The *mechina* experience takes you off the treadmill of life and puts you on 'pause' so that you can purposefully think about your direction." ★



Students and instructors at *mechina* academies



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# Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q. Do we follow Paul or Jesus?**  
My teacher says only Paul's letters—Romans through Philemon—contain salvation for the world and that we are to follow Paul as he follows Jesus because Jesus was sent only to the Jews to fulfill the promises made to their fathers. According to my teacher, gentiles were lost and without hope until God revealed to Paul alone the mysteries that had been hidden since time began. Nowhere else in the Bible but in Paul's letters, he says, do we find the gospel death, burial, and resurrection: Without Paul's books, there is no salvation, even for the Jew on this side of the cross. He says that Jews are earthly and gentiles heavenly. I don't even know what that means. Can you please explain?

**A. Your teacher is severing the Word of God from other parts of Holy Scripture** and teaching against the organic whole of the Bible. Scripture cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35).

What Bible is this teacher reading? The Gospels themselves, and the words of Jesus also, teach the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The four Gospels are not just for the Jews. Otherwise, Jesus would not have given the Great Commission to take His teachings—culled from those very four

Gospels—to all the world, baptizing and making disciples of all nations (see Matt. 28:18–20). Do yourself a favor and move on from this false teacher. He does not preach sound doctrine.

**Q. Is prosperity theology biblical?**  
What does your ministry think about the practice of applying Bible verses to get financial blessings? I've heard teachings from Malachi and also, for example, Genesis 26:12 which tells how Isaac sowed in the land and received a hundredfold blessing. Several ministers, books, and TV programs teach that we can apply these verses to receive a blessing financially.

**A. This twisted teaching is also referred to as seed faith theology.** Prosperity teachers use it to fleece the sheep and enrich themselves on the backs of the gullible and undiscerning. It is not biblical.

The New Testament does not explicitly say that the Christian is under the law of the tithe. The believer in Christ is supposed to give as God leads him to give, whether 5%, 10%, or 20%. Second Corinthians 8–9 lays out the principles of giving under the New Covenant, the model for the Church today. Tithing to earn our salvation became obsolete in Jesus (Romans 10:4). ★

THE ARGYLE SWEATER

BY SCOTT HILBURN



## Maggidim (Preachers) of Messiah

BY ROBIN HOPPER



**“And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”** —Romans 10:15

Even though my wife Sue and I hadn't yet saved for a 15-day trip, when the call came to join the **To The Jew First** Gospel outreach to Israel, we felt God tell us, “Go.” As my missionary sister-in-law says, “His will... His bill,” and sure enough, He provided.

On our first day in Netanya, the team headed into downtown and passed a large mall. The four of us went in to see what the Lord had in store for us.



Aviv & Robin  
at the  
Gentleman's  
Gift Shop

I was not drawn to anyone in particular, so I just walked and asked the Lord to open a door that could not be closed. I stepped into a men's toy store, “Gentleman's Gift Shop,” and met the young proprietor, **Aviv Tal**. He had purchased the store two weeks earlier and was hard at work getting it up and running. Aviv spoke beautiful English and I asked him where he learned it. High school, he responded. After his tour of duty in the IDF and an extended holiday to Asia and South America, he had returned to Israel to attend university and then start a design company.

Steering the conversation to spiritual matters, I asked Aviv if he had ever read the *B'rit Hadashah*—the New Testament. He said that he'd planned to once he'd gotten his new business off the ground.

I reached into my backpack and told Aviv that I had a gift for him. I pulled out a complete Hebrew Bible (both Testaments) and study materials that reference 17 prophecies in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and their fulfillment in the New. Aviv accepted the gift with a “wow” and the observation that every-

thing is in one place. As he thumbed through the Bible and pamphlets, he promised to read them and murmured, “I can't believe you would just give this beautiful book to me.”

Though we had only just met, Aviv commented that he felt he had known

me a long time. We exchanged contact information for any questions he might have and for a possible meeting in the future.

All in all, Netanya was a good start for ministering. Our team of four distributed five Bibles before hitting the road for Nazareth. ★

*Thanks for sending  
our maggidim to the  
lost sheep of Israel.*

## Top Israeli Inventions (38–43)

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) / Israel21c.org



The enormous number of inventions and innovations that have taken root on Israel's soil over 66 years despite challenges of geography, size, and diplomacy has brought us drip irrigation, the cherry tomato, the Disk-on-Key, and much more.

Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem curator Varda Gur Ben-Sheetrit said that hundreds of ingenious inventions were considered for the museum's Inventions, Inc. We conclude our series of the top inventions highlighted at the exhibition, in no particular order.

**38. The superconducting fault current limiter (FCL)**, designed for limiting short currents, comes out of a \$2 million project developed over two years by RICOR Cryogenics and Vacuum Systems with the Institute of Superconductivity at Bar-Ilan University.

**39. Heliofocus** led an industry trend to provide **solar-energy boosting for existing coal or gas power plants**, reducing carbon emissions and overall costs. *(shown right)*

**40. Transbiodiesel** makes enzyme-based catalysts (**biocatalysts**) used in the production of biodiesel.

**41. SolarEdge** makes a **module that optimizes every link in the solar PV chain**, maximizing energy production while monitoring to detect faults and prevent theft.

**42. The 3D tethered particle motion system** developed by three professors at Bar-Ilan allows for three-dimensional tracking of critical protein-DNA and protein-RNA cell interactions in the body.

**43. Panoramic Power** provides a current monitor solution that enables enterprises and organizations to reduce their operational and energy expenses using a breakthrough **power flow visibility platform**. ★



# ZLM Bulletin Board



Pray for  
the peace of  
Jerusalem

## "Tall, blond, elegant"

How do beauty contest judges look past the luxuriant ornaments and even the expensive beauty treatments like lip fillers and fake eyelashes designed to give contestants an edge? As the BBC reports, winning attributes include big heads, firm ears, broad cheeks, and (pant pant) long whiskers. With 48 categories like milking and racing, a 100-point scoring system, and \$10 million prize money, the annual al-Dhafra Festival, attended exclusively by men, is about prestige and status. See how Arab men consider camels "better than women." (*May 2014 Levitt Letter*, p. 15)

GIVING  
REAL  
ESTATE

Free Item

## Pamphlet of the Month

If you own a home or other property that you no longer wish to live in or manage, a charitable gift of such property can efficiently meet multiple goals. The 20-page pamphlet *Giving Real Estate* addresses topics including 1) property that has grown or decreased in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution. Its Technical Advisory Section touches upon 1) real estate held long-term, 2) depreciated real estate, 3) limits on the income-tax charitable deduction, and 4) special gift opportunities with personal residences and farms. To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

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## Jewish Calendar Sale!

Before reading further, please see *Classic Zola* on p. 6. Now, imagine the usefulness and significance of our delightful, inexpensive *Jewish Heritage Calendar*.

**Buy one, Get one:** when you buy a 2014–2015 calendar, we will include (while supplies last) a free copy of the 2013–2014 edition. Both span 13 months, from September through September of the following year. Where else can you receive 26 months' worth of biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration?

## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See page 36  
for details



# Hebrew Lesson



## Shavuot—The Feast of Weeks

By John J. Parsons

נָתַתִּי אֶת־תּוֹרַתִּי בְּקִרְבָּם וְעַל־לִבָּם אֶכְתָּבֶנָּה

“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts” (Jer. 31:33)

נָ	תַּ	תִּ	אֶ	כְּ	תָ	בְּ	נָ	וְ	עַל־	לִ	בָּ	בְּ	קִ	רְ	בָּ	תִ	אֶת־	תּוֹ	רַ	תִּ	נָ	תַּ	תִּ	
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)		(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)		(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)		(3)	(2)	(1)		(3)	(2)	(1)
ekh-ta-	ven-	nah			ve-al-	li-	bam			be-	kir-	bam			et-	to-	ra-	ti			na-	tat-	ti	
I will write			and upon their			heart			in their inward			part			my Torah			I will put						

**In Jewish tradition**, forty-nine days—seven weeks of days—are carefully counted between the holiday of First Fruits, which occurs just after Passover, and the holiday of *Shavuot* (Pentecost or “Weeks”). This period of time is called *Sefirat Ha’Omer* (“counting the sheaves”). Every day during this season, a special blessing is recited naming exactly how many more days are left before the “seven weeks of days” are complete. God did not want the Jewish people to miss something here! It’s almost as if there was a dotted line pointing directly from Passover to Pentecost—a Jubilee of days!



“Sheaves of Wheat” by Vincent van Gogh

Originally an agricultural festival, Shavuot is understood by traditional Judaism primarily as *Mattan Torah*, a time that commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Historically, as one of the three pilgrimage festivals, Shavuot drew Jews from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate and reaffirm their commitment to the covenant of Moses.

And such was the practice when God delivered the *Substance* of which the festival of Pentecost was merely a “type and a shadow.” For the New Testament reveals that Pentecost is the climax of God’s plan for our deliverance through Yeshua, the true Lamb of God (*Seh HaElohim*). The countdown to Pentecost represents the giving of the anticipated New Covenant to mankind, since it was on this very day that the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of the Messiah.

With a touch of divine irony, on the very day that people from around the world gathered in Jerusalem to reaffirm their commitment to the covenant of Moses, the Holy Spirit descended upon Israel to offer the promise of the New Covenant to all who would believe in Yeshua (*see Acts 2*).

**This new covenant makes Torah a matter of the heart, written by the hand of God’s Spirit, and yielding a life fruitful in the praise of God** (Gal. 5:22–23; Heb. 13:15).

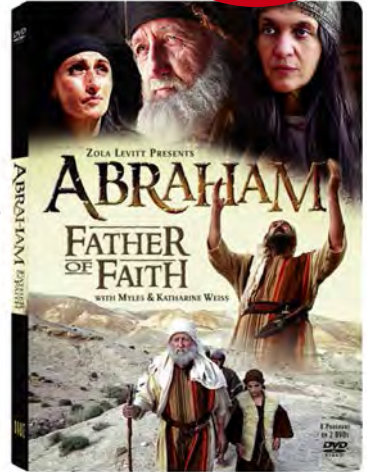




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This eight-part series tells the story of the Patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities illustrate the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.



**The Calling** God chooses Abram from the idol-worshipping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the Ages.

**A Man of Altars** Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

**God-initiated Covenant** God makes a covenant with Abram. Myles interviews Itamar Marcus, whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the message in Arabic-language media and schoolbooks.

**A Domestic Conflict for the Ages** Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

**The Promised Son** Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot. Katharine interviews Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born Jewish interpreter of media in Arabic.

**Deliverance and Increase** Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. Myles interviews Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

**Circumcision as a Forever Sign** God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. Former mayor of Shiloh David Rubin explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.

**The Sacrifice** Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come. We interview a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.

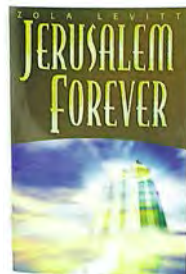


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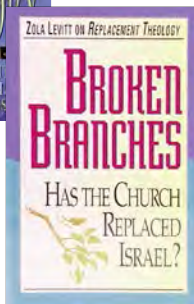
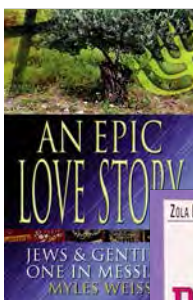
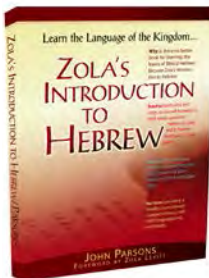
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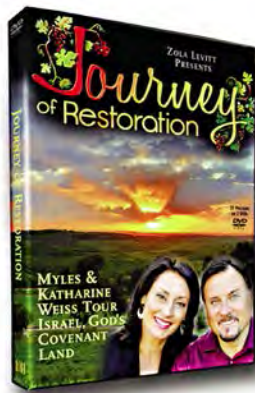
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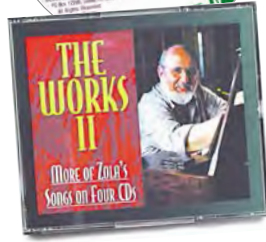
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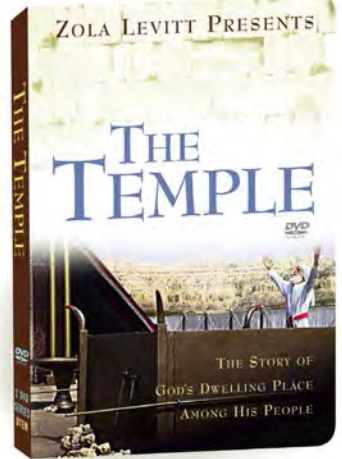
**The Tabernacle, Part II** During their journey through the wilderness, the Israelites carried the Tabernacle toward the Promised Land and finally placed it at Shiloh.

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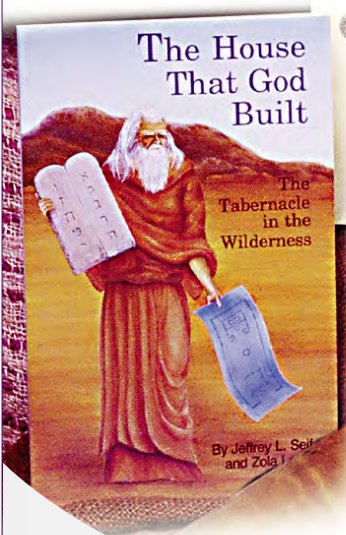
**Herod's Temple, Part I** Study the House of God in Jerusalem at the time of Messiah, its construction and its grandeur. The Roman world and 1st-century pilgrimage are explained in this Gospel-centered program.

**Herod's Temple, Part II** Examine the great days of the second Temple and its disastrous destruction, as prophesied by the Messiah.

**The Tribulation Temple** Anticipate the Temple of the future, the blasphemy of the antiChrist, and the return of the King to reign on Mount Moriah.



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## *The House That God Built* Book

A complete story of God's House on Earth, past and future.

By Zola and Dr. Jeffrey Seif

This readable and entertaining discussion begins with the Tabernacle of the Wilderness and covers all of the Temples: Solomon's, Herod's, the Tribulation Temple, and the Millennial Temple. The past, present, and future of the House of God on Earth are clearly explained. A vital and important part of God's plan that should be understood by every Bible student.

# The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / Starts next month



**The Golden Gate: (closed)**  
*Sha'ar Harahamim* Also called  
*Eastern Gate, Gate of Mercy,*  
*Gate of Eternal Life & earlier—*  
*Beautiful Gate*

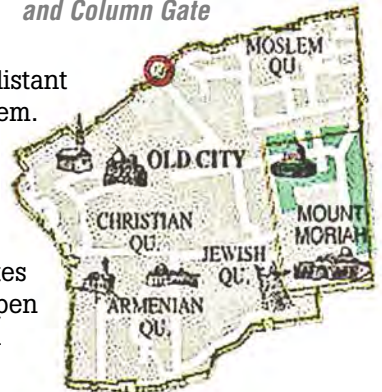


**The walls and gates of Jerusalem** have expanded and contracted over the centuries. Yet, we still enter the Old City of Jerusalem through its gates—just as people did for thousands of years.

Gates were more than passageways. They served as places for personal business and civic affairs (see Ruth 4:1). Some gates took their names from distant cities they faced, like Jaffa, Damascus, and Shechem. Other names reflected purpose, like Fountain and Dung. We will examine these ancient passages, their historical attributes, and spiritual meanings.

During Nehemiah's time (5th century B.C.), the gates into the city numbered 12. Seven of eight gates open into the Old City today. Revelation describes 12 in New Jerusalem. ☆

**The Damascus Gate:**  
*Sha'ar Shechem* Also called  
*Shechem Gate, Nablus Gate*  
*and Column Gate*



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# Letters to ZLM

Ministry products and TV programs are available on our web store: [store.levitt.com](http://store.levitt.com).

## Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From C.F.—a gentile Christian with a tender heart for the Jewish people. (FL):** I'm overdue offering my gratitude for the *Levitt Letters* you send each month even though I'm incarcerated and without family or funds to help with your ministry.

Thank everyone at ZLM and especially your generous donors who may not realize how much they bless people in my position with their contributions. I can offer only my prayers and the assurance that the news, Bible study, and insight in each *Levitt Letter* is well read, not only by me but also others with whom I share each issue. May God richly bless everyone at ZLM, your donors, and of course Israel—Yeshua be praised!

**From M.J.T. (USVI):** I always look forward to reading the monthly *Levitt Letter* and passing it on at our restaurant at the boatyard here on St. Thomas. Boaters and cruisers from all over the world pass through these Caribbean Islands. As my family owns the place, I feel free to welcome, hug, and show the love of Jesus to all! God bless you all.

**From T.L and D.L.S. (WY):** When we set out for Israel with you last year, I didn't even know why God told me to go, but I'm still digesting what we experienced. I never imagined the teachings would be so rich. I thought we would see certain sights, be told what they were, and then move on. I could never have imagined what God had in mind for me. I don't know if you knew that I'm a pastor. Well, first of all, I'm a sheep! Unless God sends me as a pastor, I enjoy walking humbly with Him. Mind you, I'm in His service 24/7 if He needs me. But sometimes it's wonderful just to graze in His green pastures. People often act differently when they know my vocation, so I enjoy traveling incognito. I devour the *Levitt Letter* and am spiritually enriched by your teachings.  
—Loved your note! Blessings and shalom back at you. —Myles and Katharine

**From B.V. (Africa):** I praise God for the mighty work you're doing for His Kingdom. In our rural area, I can't read online anymore as my Internet is very slow. Blessings.  
—Sorry to hear about your slow-Internet woes. You're welcome, of course, to receive free hardcopies of the monthly *Levitt Letter* (even in Africa). If you prefer to read online, please consider monthly visits to a library with high-speed Internet access. Then you can catch up on our TV broadcasts at [levitt.tv](http://levitt.tv) as well as our newsletter archives at [levitt.com/levletter](http://levitt.com/levletter). —Mark

## Dry Bones



## The Color of Blood

Dear Myles,

Thanks for your Blood Moons article (*Personal Letter, March 2014*). However, I think you have not understood this prophecy properly. First, your translation is false: it is “Red,” not “Blood.”

When prophet Joel mentioned this prophecy (Joel 3:3–4), he could not mean the Day of the Lord events after the four red moons but before.” So your perspective about the events of 1492, 1948, and 1967 could not be true.

Please do not mislead your readers; trust their common sense.

Shalom Brother—

Actually, the “before” does relate to the ultimate “Day of the Lord”—the second half of the seven-year Tribulation. So, “blood red moons” can be a sign without needing to be *exactly* at the coming Day of The Lord.

**(Editor’s Note:** Joel’s prophecy occurs in 2:30–31 in the Christian Old Testament. The Tanakh numbers this passage as Joel 3:3–4).

The point of my article—which you seem to have missed—was to remind readers that these various events in the skies afford fantastic opportunities to point people to the Word and their personal need for Yeshua. Instead of Mayan calendars and Rapture date-setting dominating the conversation, we have an open door to bring the Prophets, the Acts of the Apostles, and Yeshua’s messages to people. What a tremendous gift for those of us who want to focus on the real centerpiece—the King of Kings.

Shalom —Myles

Dear Readers—

I hope that you embrace the wisdom that Myles offers above. Blood (Red) Moons—which are not always red and not even always visible—are not even a rare occurrence. Blood Moons are simply total eclipses of the moon, and the 20th century alone saw five sets of tetrads (four total lunar eclipses in a row).



Yet only two of these sets are considered “significant signs” for Israel?

The hype surrounding the tetrad to appear in 2014–15 neglects to mention that they won’t be visible in the Middle East! Shouldn’t signs intended for Israel be visible in Israel?

Joel’s “wonders in the heavens and in the earth” will undoubtedly be spectacular *supernatural* events visible to the whole world; not common eclipses, but more along the lines of the supernatural solar eclipse that occurred when Jesus died at Passover. (Luke 23:44–45) A solar eclipse at Passover is physically impossible—only The Creator could pull it off!

—Editor

*Go God!!*



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**Learning Hebrew**

Dear Myles and Katharine,

We want to thank you all for all you do for Jews and gentiles. We look forward to watching your TV program every week. Someday we would like to go with you to Israel, but we have to save the money to go and wait two years until our son is 7.

In the meantime, we and our son are learning Hebrew. It has been a real blessing just learning the language. We are currently using Rosetta Stone Hebrew, but we were thinking of ways to help us learn better and maybe bless someone in Israel at the same time. We thought if we had a pen pal in Israel we could write to, that might help us learn and help him know that friends in America support Israel. Do you know of someone or even a couple of people who would be willing to write back and forth with us? —J. and P.P.

Dear J. and P.P.—

The "Discussion" tab at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com) has a drop-down menu that includes "ZolaBoard" and "ZolaChat." You are welcome to use these to network with Israelis who would like to fellowship with Zionists in America. —Mark

**Offensive Mother-in-law Joke**

*No slam intended,  
just chuckles*

To Margot, ZLM Editor:

We received the [April Levitt Letter](#) and, as usual, consumed the whole issue. We are very thankful to receive this valuable magazine each month that helps to keep us informed and blessed.

However, we were taken aback by the [Jewish Humor](#) page. Not only is it a slam against mothers-in-law, but it also puts down Jewish men. Maybe if I were a Jew, I would see it differently rather than, "Well, this is how Jews are." I understand that the *Levitt Letter* is primarily for us non-Jews (gentiles) and hopefully gives us a more accurate image of the Jews. Please continue to send us *Levitt Letters*. In His Name, —J. and E.S.

Dear J. and E.S.—

You're referring to Abe who, "not taking chances" (p. 35), spent \$3,000 to ship his mother-in-law's body from Israel to the U.S. for burial. She passed away during their family's vacation there, and Abe expressed concern that, like Jesus, she might rise from the dead. Please imagine that Abe was joking, especially since he loved his mother-in-law enough to travel with her.

Remember, too, that the joke's characters could easily have been a man and his business rival, any ethnicity, or either sex. One needn't be Jewish or even a male to hope an associate or family member stays put. —Mark



Cast not your pearls before swine. Matt. 7:6





## A Wise and Observant Reader

Zola Levitt Ministries!

Thank you for April's *Levitt Letter*. Fancy cover this month? Don't get too fancy. Slick paper costs more, right? Appreciate all your work being on top of the news of Israel. —J.D. (OR)

Dear J.D.—

Not to worry. The printer of the *Levitt Letter* gave us a free upgrade on the front and back covers of the April edition to compensate for a nearly undiscernible drop in paper quality the prior month. Though our graphic artist loves the way colors "pop" on slick paper, our pocketbook and readers affirm that our usual paper stock is optimal in terms of stewardship. —Mark

## A Convict Seeks the Lord

Dear ZLM,

First of all, may the Lord Almighty bring peace to you, your family, and the Holy Land of Israel. I'm writing to you from a state corrections institution in Pennsylvania.

For the longest time, I've been disillusioned with the state of the Church. I am Catholic, but I've always had doubts about Catholic politics and their hierarchy. Nevertheless, I decided to follow Christ and Him alone regardless of Church affiliation. I am very glad I came upon your *Levitt Letter*. It's a breath of fresh air in a spiritual environment where there is much hate and doubt, not necessarily from other convicts but in myself.

I hope you can tell me how to receive your newsletters in the future (the one I have is from a fellow convict). I am really thirsty for knowledge of the roots of my Christian faith and find your newsletter a most valuable resource in my quest to quench it. —A.P. (PA)

Greetings, A.P.—

Your letter is very encouraging. Every month we hear from prisoners whose lives are being transformed by Bible-based input from our magazine. It is the Word that is "sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12) and it is our pleasure to deliver our teaching to you.

We need donors to be faithful and generous, helping us serve those who may not be able to contribute for the foreseeable future. Imagine what could happen to our society if ALL our inmates could receive a touch from Jesus Himself as you are experiencing now.

Regarding your Catholic connection: Oy vey! I believe God can direct your path and bring you into fellowship with Believers who study the Word and know salvation is by "grace through faith" in the blood of Yeshua alone. (Eph. 2:8)

I have been attacked for acknowledging a Catholic priest who preaches the true Gospel. ([May 2014 Levitt Letter, p. 24](#))

I do understand that God may be leading you into a different spiritual home base. Many Believers find the Lord while connected to the Catholic Church, and then God leads them into new seasons in a more-compatible church. He loves you and will help you find the right fit for you.

Shalom — Myles ★



# The Great Physicist's Physics



SCIENCE: BY SARAH KNAPTON (r) Telegraph.co.uk

Scientists at the University of Leicester have discovered that Noah's Ark could have carried 70,000 animals without sinking if built from the dimensions listed in the Bible. Even with at least two of every animal in the world packed inside, the Ark would have floated.

A group of master's students from the Department of Physics and Astronomy studied the exact dimensions of the Ark, set out in Genesis 6:13–22, where God instructed Noah to build a boat that was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high—specifying gopherwood.

The students averaged out the Egyptian and Hebrew cubit measurement to come up with 19 inches, making the Ark around 475 feet long. Using the dimensions, the Archimedes principle of buoyancy, and approximate animal weights, they were astonished to find that the Ark would have floated!

One student said: "Using the dimensions of the Ark and the density of the water, we were able to calculate its buoyancy force, which, according to Archimedes' principle, is equal to the weight of the volume of fluid the object displaces.

"This meant we were then able to estimate the total mass the Ark could support before the gravitational weight would overcome the buoyancy force, causing the Ark to sink."

Previous research has suggested that approximately 35,000 species of animals were saved by Noah, enabling the students to conclude that the dimensions given in the Bible would have allowed Noah to build an ark that would float with all of the animals on board.

The students had to swap gopherwood for cypress, as Bible experts continue to speculate what gopherwood might be. Some think it may just mean planed timber.



Another student commented: "You don't think of the Bible necessarily as a scientifically accurate source of information, so we were surprised when we discovered it would work." ★



# Mechanics of Obesity

MEDICINE: BY DAVID SHAMAH / TimesOfIsrael.com



Bad enough we have to worry about gaining weight when we eat high-fat foods. A Tel Aviv University study shows that just being fat is enough to make a person even fatter, diet or not.

Prof. Amit Gefen, Dr. Natan Shaked, and Ms. Naama Shoham of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, together with Prof. Dafna Benayahu of TAU's Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, unveiled a phenomenon the researchers call "cellular expansion," which they say plays a primary role in fat production. Based on the research, "fat" cells—real fat cells in the body with a higher-than-average fat content—actually get bigger when they are exposed to pressure, such as the pressure of sitting down.

"Contrary to muscle and bone tissue, which get mechanically weaker with disuse, fat depots in fat cells expanded when they experienced sustained loading by as much as 50%. This was a substantial discovery," Gefen added.

Because obesity is expensive, insurance companies, health officials, and diet plan companies all have a great interest in figuring out why so many suffer from it. While overeating and a lack of exercise obviously are—perhaps major—factors, everyone knows someone who can eat whatever they want without gaining an ounce. Diet, it would seem, is not the only variable.

According to Prof. Gefen, a main question for the researchers—working through a grant from the Israel Science Foundation—was to find out why a sedentary lifestyle often results in obesity. "We found that fat cells exposed to sustained, chronic pressure—such as the buttocks when you're sitting down—experienced accelerated growth of lipid droplets, which are molecules that carry fats."

Apparently, once a cell gets "fat" by accumulating droplets of lipids, the structure of a cell and its mechanics change dramatically. Using an advanced atomic force microscope, researchers could see how cells got stiffer as they expanded.

"When they gain mass and change their composition, expanding cells deform neighboring cells, forcing them to differentiate and expand," said Gefen. "This proves that you're not just what you eat. You're also what you feel—and what you're feeling is the pressure of increased weight and the sustained loading in the tissues of the buttocks of the couch potato.

"If we understand the etiology of getting fatter, of how cells in fat tissues synthesize nutritional components under a given mechanical loading environment, then we can think about different practical solutions to obesity," he added.

Using this information, the team will begin investigating the mechanics of the cell changes and how the fat cells "conspire" to make people overweight or obese. "If you can learn to control the mechanical environment of cells," said Gefen, "you can then determine how to modulate the fat cells to produce less fat." ★



**"I'm trying to be more active. Which one burns more calories, Twittering, Blogging or Googling?"**



# Israel-California Police Connection

BY DONALD H. HARRISON / SDJewishWorld.com



Fifteen law enforcement officers from California recently met with members of the Israel National Police (INP) and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) during an intensive study tour. On their return, they related how impressed they were with Israel's methods and dedication to protecting its citizens from terror. They also spoke about being emotionally moved by visits to religious sites.



The officers described meeting Jerusalem INP **Sgt. Major Ronit Tubol**, who in 2002 was blown through the roof of a bus after a suicide bomber activated a vest with 20 pounds of explosives and ball bearings. Nineteen other passengers died, but Tubol was propelled to the street where she lay gravely wounded.

"She was a young cop riding on a bus when a Palestinian terrorist blew the bomb up," said La Mesa Police Chief Ed Aceves. "Amazing grit. She had a brain injury. It took her a year and a half—she had to learn again to walk, speak, and write, and she lost hearing in one ear, but she came back as a cop."

Another admired Israeli, Major Gilad of the IDF, commands a unit on the Lebanese border. The Americans called Major Gilad "the essence of leadership." He was giving a motivational presentation as the Californians, many of them chiefs or sheriffs, walked along with him. Oceanside Police Capt. Fred Armijo said, "He told us to stop, and everyone froze in their tracks! I'm telling you, he could have told us, 'Strap on guns, we are going to get Hezbollah!' and every one of us would have been ready. He had us all!"

The officers all had misgivings about how safe they would be in Israel due to American media. However, a couple of days after arriving, they realized that although the terror threat is constant, day-to-day life in Israel is more peaceful than in many American cities.

*(continued next page)*



*Israel National Police patrol car*

## Police Connection... continued



Though not particularly devout Christians, many were surprised by their own feelings when they encountered sites associated with Jesus.

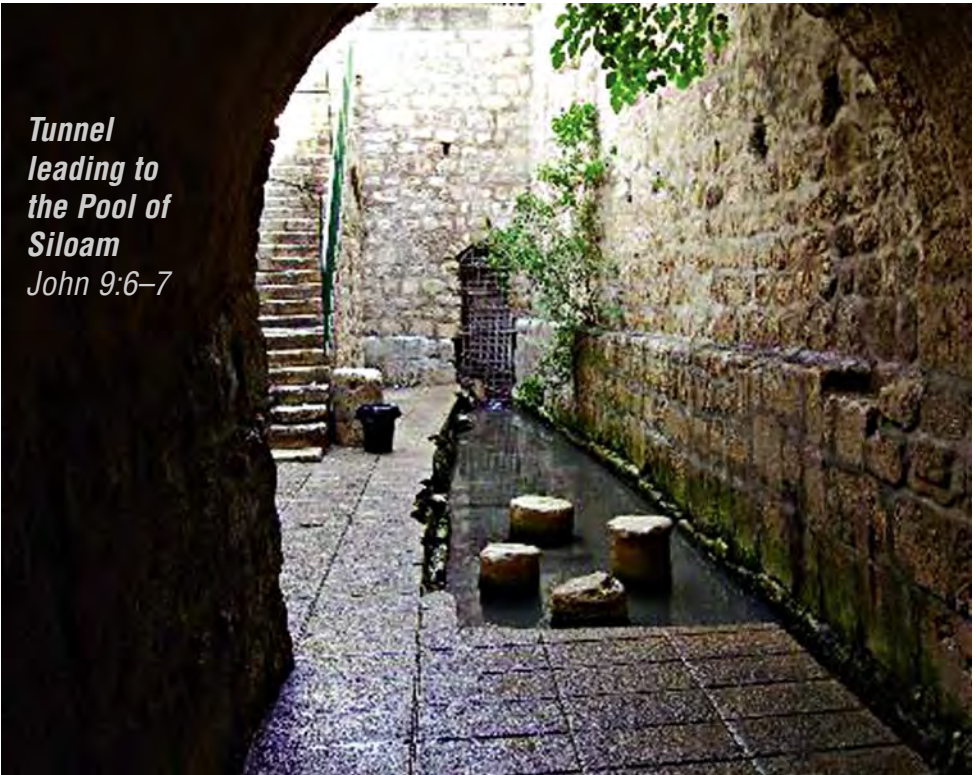
San Diego Sheriff's Captain Mike Barnett recalled a tunnel tour near the Old City of Jerusalem. "The roofs were low, the air was compressed, and it was late at night. The guide opened up the Gospel of John and said, 'Here is where Jesus healed the blind man.' He said that everyone—archaeologists, theologians, everybody!—agrees that it happened right here, right on the dirt we were *standing* on. That was an impressive moment!"

An assistant police chief at the Western Wall, *HaKotel*: "I touched it, and I really can't describe it... but momentarily, I had this total sense of peace and that, in the scheme of things, there is something much more important than us, and that is faith, I think. I touched it three or four times to get that feeling, and it was absolutely amazing because the people around it were all different, but, at least at that time, everyone was together." ★

*'Here is where Jesus  
healed the blind man.'*



*Tunnel  
leading to  
the Pool of  
Siloam  
John 9:6-7*



# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



*Saudi woman driving during protest*

are forced to cover themselves from head to toe and need permission from a male guardian to travel, work, and marry.

## Rally To Help Persecuted Mideast Christians

JNS.org

150 Israeli Christians and supporters protested outside the EU Embassy in Israel in spring 2014. The rally (*see below*) called for the EU to do more to help persecuted Mideast Christians, who face growing persecution from Islamic extremists throughout the region.



**Father Gabriel Nadaf**, a Greek Orthodox priest, told the crowd that he is thankful Israel is a warm home for Christians. The EU is silent and tries to ignore the massacres and even sometimes supports these fanatics.

*Credit: Israeli Christian Lobby*

## Ban on Women Drivers “Protects Society from Evil”

Telegraph.co.uk

Saudi Arabia’s Grand Mufti, Sheik Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, the kingdom’s most senior cleric, called for the ban on women driving “to be considered from the perspective of protecting society from evil.” His comments came as Interior Minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef assured women activists that authorities were reassessing the controversial Saudi ban on women drivers.

The absolute monarchy is the only country in the world where women are barred from driving, a regulation that has drawn condemnation from the international community. In addition to the driving ban, Saudi women





## Fake Magazine Covers That Expose Inequality

By Anita Little (r)  
MsMagazine.com



**What would happen if,** instead of celebrities and supermodels, magazine covers showcased women and girls who are invisible to society?

That was the motivation behind the Cover Stories campaign, launched by **Catapult**, a crowd-funding site that connects nonprofit, women-oriented projects to potential donors and supporters (think of it as a feminist Kickstarter). In observation of International Women's Day, Catapult released a jarring collection of mock magazine covers that highlight human rights issues that affect women and girls the world over.

Women and girls continue to face the horrors of sex trafficking, child marriage, and slavery. The fake magazines play on well-known publications by using provocative titles—*Child Bride*, *Good Slavekeeping*, and *Thirteen*. To further the satire, the covers sport dark headlines such as “Dazzling Bridal Gowns: Now From Ages 7–12” and “Boyfriend or Pimp? The Telltale Signs He’s Selling You For Sex.”

### Catapult then backs up the covers with compelling statistics:

- 14 million young girls will be forced into child marriages this year.
- An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked into slavery each year, the majority being girls.

Despite this, only 2 percent of every development dollar the U.S. spends goes to adolescent girls, and 1 in 5 women’s- and girls’-rights organizations are in danger of closing, according to Catapult. The Cover Stories campaign aims to motivate people to work with or support girl- and women-focused organizations. ★

*Again I ask, where are American and European legislators when it comes to these abuses of women by Islam? It’s grievous to see this treatment of women at the hands of Muslim men. This spoof of a magazine drives home the point.*  
—Myles



# How the IDF Locates Missing Soldiers

IDFblog.com



The EITAN Unit (Unit for Detecting Missing Soldiers) supervises all recovery attempts of missing soldiers in Israel, taking full advantage of the technological advancements of the UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle). A new course, held twice a year, trains UAV operators to function in these delicate situations.

Dozens of maps, work plans, and research papers lie scattered on the desk of Major (Res.) Yoav. A small picture of Guy Hever, an IDF soldier missing since 1997, is pinned to the corkboard on the wall. Taking Israeli soldiers, dead or alive, has long been the goal of terrorist organizations. History shows that the State of Israel goes to great lengths to retrieve its soldiers, even if solely for burial purposes.

It all began with two research papers written by Yoav and Maj. (Res.) Chen, a UAV operator and specialist in tracing missing persons. Yoav describes particular findings that resulted from the research: "When you bury someone, a mound is created. That mound becomes a very particular shape, which can be spotted. When a grave is dug, the soil is turned over and seeds are mixed in. The mound holds moisture. The moisture and seeds result in vegetation that differs from the surrounding area. These findings helped us locate Dana Bennett [an Israeli teen murdered in 2003]."



*EITAN UAV A thermal camera provides superior resolution and quality.*

"The UAV has a thermal camera that provides superior resolution and quality," Chen adds. "Thermal techniques allow for deeper analysis of the terrain. We can even mark suspicious areas for further investigation. Our focus here is on getting to the soldier before the terrorists do."

"This rescue type of mission is very different from the usual 'locate the rocket launcher' assignments," Maj. (Res.) Meir said, "and, fortunately, does not happen very often. But the idea to formulate a separate training course emerged after recognizing the significant knowledge gap in this area."

At the end of the two-and-a-half-day course, an aerial workshop uses a selected area in Israel to simulate a battlefield as UAV operators are asked to identify simulated burial sites.

"There are several possible missing-persons scenarios: hikers lost in the desert, a pilot ejected from a plane, a kidnapping by terrorists, or casualties on the battlefield," Maj. (Res.) Oz says. "One of the goals of this course is to establish a protocol that can be followed in any of these scenarios."

The operators report that beyond the knowledge of how to handle missing-persons emergencies, the special course raises their level of professionalism by enhancing their skills in analyzing aerial images. "We teach the operators how to retrieve more information from the images they see," Chen explains. While the training is taken very seriously, the hope remains that what is taught will never need to be applied in real life. ★



# 2,300-Year-Old Village Discovered Near 'Burma Road'

ARCHAEOLOGY: HeritageDaily.com



The remnants of a rural settlement that was occupied for approximately two centuries during the Second Temple Period have been uncovered. The find was made during an Israel Antiquities Authority archaeological salvage excavation before the start of work on a natural gas pipeline to Jerusalem as part of a national project directed by Israel Natural Gas Lines (INGL).

In June 2013, Israel Natural Gas Lines began construction of the 21-mile-long project that runs from the coastal plain to the outskirts of Jerusalem. In light of the finds, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the INGL have agreed that engineering plans for the gas line will be revised, bypassing the site and preserving it as an accessible archaeological site beside the Burma Road. [Israel's "Burma Road" was a makeshift bypass road between the kibbutz Hulda and Jerusalem. Built by Israeli forces during the 1948 Siege of Jerusalem, its name was inspired by the Burma Road into China.]

**The excavations** revealed a small, rural settlement with a few stone houses and a network of narrow alleys. Each building, which probably housed a single nuclear family, consisted of several rooms and an open courtyard. According to excavation director Irina Zilberbod, "The rooms generally served as residential and storage rooms, while domestic tasks were carried out in the courtyards."



The site, whose name has not survived, is nestled at the top of a spur 900 feet above sea level, with commanding views of the surrounding countryside. These large tracts of land were used as they are today, to cultivate orchards and vineyards that were the economic mainstay of the region's early settlers.

The excavations have shown that the site reached the height of its development during the third century B.C. when Judea was ruled by the Seleucid monarchy, and that it was abandoned in the late second century B.C. at the end of the Hasmonean dynasty. It is not known why the site was abandoned, but it is probably related to economic problems and not to a violent incident.

As Jerusalem Regional Archaeologist Dr. Yuval Baruch explains, "The phenomenon of villages and farms being abandoned at the end of the Hasmonean dynasty or the beginning of Herod the Great's succeeding rule is one that we are familiar with from many rural sites in Judea. The abandonment may be related to Herod's massive building projects in Jerusalem, particularly the construction of the Temple Mount, and the mass migration of villagers to the capital to work on these projects."

The excavations yielded numerous and varied finds from all occupation periods, including basalt and limestone grinding and milling tools for domestic use, pottery cooking pots, jars for storing liquids (oil and wine), pottery oil lamps for domestic use, and over sixty coins, including coins from the reigns of the Seleucid King Antiochus III and the Hasmonean King Alexander Jannaeus. ✨

# The Enemy of My Enemy...

BY HELENE COOPER (r) NYTimes.com



Security cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf, unthinkable a few years ago, could be more plausible now because of widespread worry over Iran's nuclear program, coupled with chaos in Syria and Egypt. Even though Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have long viewed Israel as the Arab world's biggest adversary, the rise of shared threats creates a new urgency to find common ground.

American military officials say that possibilities include intelligence-sharing, joint counterterrorism exercises, and perhaps looking for how Israeli and Saudi troops could jointly work to train Syrian opposition fighters. "World jihadists are not fighting only against Israel," said Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, chief of the Israel Defense Forces, adding that it would behoove neighboring states to look for ways to combat common enemies.

No one is talking about peace talks between Israel and Gulf countries just yet. Despite a growing number of common interests, the obstacles that prevent a public embrace of Israel by Arab governments are still

in place. Most notably, Arab insistence on the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute before any wider peace initiative could be taken up.

Still, American officials note that since Arab Spring uprisings began more than three years ago, Israel and the Gulf countries have increasingly voiced similar concerns. For instance, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates were more comfortable with the Egyptian government of Hosni Mubarak, and were dismayed at what they viewed as an abandonment of Mubarak by the United States.

The Saudis encouraged the Egyptian military's ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood

last year and the subsequent crackdown on its supporters, despite American diplomatic efforts to avert both moves. Israel is satisfied to have the Egyptian military back at the country's helm. Though the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is not popular with the Egyptian public, Egypt's military government is committed to it because of common enemies like al-Qaeda and global jihadists.

Also bringing Israel and Gulf states together: their criticism of American foreign policy. When President Obama met in Riyadh with Saudi King Abdullah, for example, he heard the same disquiet over the continuing talks on Iran's nuclear program that Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, heard in Jerusalem. A U.S. Defense Department official noted, "There's

*Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke during a news conference with Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, chief of the Israel Defense Forces, in Jerusalem.*

*Photo: Ronen Zvulun/Reuters*



a convergence of agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and in opposition to what we're doing." Both Israeli and Saudi officials have expressed fears that American rapprochement with Iran could harm their own interests in the region.

That dynamic puts the U.S. in the unusual position of trying to coax cooperation between adversaries by using their opposition to American policy as bait—a tricky diplomatic maneuver, one Obama administration official acknowledged recently:

**"Let's just say I'm not sure this is the best way for us to get these guys to play on the same page, but hey, whatever works."** ★

# Jewish Humor, etc.

## When God Sends Help, Don't Ask Questions

Sophie rushed into the pharmacy to get medicine, got back to her car, and found that she had locked her keys inside. She noticed an old rusty coat hanger on the ground and thought, "Oy vey! I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send HELP. Within minutes, an old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man wearing an old biker skullcap. He got off of his bike and asked if he could help.

Sophie pleaded: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

"Sure," he said. He walked over to the car, and in a few seconds the car was open. Sophie hugged the man and cried, "Thank you SO much! You are a very nice man."

The biker recoiled, "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was in for car theft."

Sophie hugged him again, and looked heavenward. "Oh, thank you, God! You sent me a professional." ☆



*A cheerful heart is good medicine —*  
Proverbs 17:22



## Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

### ABC Family Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
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### Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
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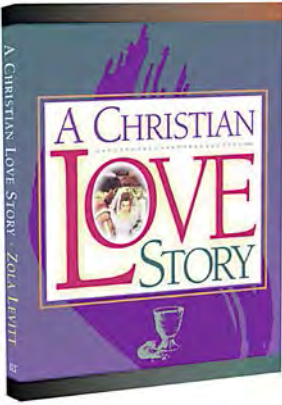
Consult [www.tct.tv](http://www.tct.tv) for a viewing schedule.

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