

Levitt

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

Letter

Demonization
of Jews: p.28

Purim: What is the Name About?

By Binyamin Kagedan / JNS.org

The names of religious holidays are usually fairly straightforward, pointing us to the central symbol or theme of the festival. Pesach refers to the ancient lamb offering, the *korban pesach*; Shavuot, meaning “weeks,” points to the careful counting of seven weeks that precede it; Sukkot are the booths that Jews inhabit during the celebration of that name. But just what is the name “Purim” all about?

Purim is a plural—but not a Hebrew—noun. *Pur* is an Assyrian word meaning “lot,” an object involved in a game of chance. The Megillah (Scroll, Book) of Esther, whose reading is the highlight of the Purim liturgy, uses the word *pur* to describe the method Haman employed to choose the day on which to massacre the Jews of Susa. The megillah offers an on-the-spot translation: “he cast pur, that is, lots.” We can infer from this annotation that even ancient readers of Esther were unfamiliar with the word *pur*.

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Israeli Neurosurgeons Help Violinist

JNS.org

Israeli neurosurgeons at Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Center helped former world-renowned violinist Naomi Elishuv overcome hand tremors to regain the ability to perform, in a remarkable surgery that had Elishuv playing Mozart while they operated on her brain.

“This is the first time ever that I have performed brain surgery on a person who played the violin during the operation,” said Professor Itzhak Fried, Sourasky's director of functional neurosurgery.

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



Naomi Elishuv / YouTube

Rembrandt: King Ahasuerus and Haman at the Feast of Esther. Credit: Pushkin Museum



Purim: What is the Name About? *continued from cover*



What do we know about Haman's *pur*? In a 1983 article for *The Biblical Archaeologist* titled "The First Purim," William Hallo explains that the *pur* was nothing less than the oldest game in human history: dice. As the curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, Hallo had under his care a clay cube dating back to the 9th century BC, which belonged to a minister of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (859 BC – 824 BC). A portion of the cuneiform text inscribed on the cube reads,

"Iahali the grand vizier... in his year assigned to him by lot (*pur*) may the harvest of the land of Assyria prosper and thrive, in front of the gods Ashur and Adad may his lot (*pur*) fall."

So how did it work? Hallo suggests that the ancient dice were dropped or thrown (that is, made to fall) from a specialized bowl toward statues of the gods, in this case Ashur and Adad. Each minister cast his own die, hoping that his cube would end up in some desirable position, perhaps closest to the idol. The prize was extremely valuable—the winner of the game had an entire year of the king's reign named after him (e.g. the "year of Iahali"), resulting in wide-scale publicity and immortalization in the official chronicles.

9th-century *pur*



Haman's use of the *pur* may have been similar to Iahali's. Scholars assume that the Scroll of Esther was written in the late Second Temple Period, centuries later than Shalmaneser III's reign, and the practice of *pur* may have evolved and changed over time. There is still much for archaeologists and biblical historians to uncover.

In the meantime, novel insights like this continue to de-mystify and animate our ancient texts. The image of Haman rolling his die enhances the color and drama of this most distinguished Jewish narration about the twists of fate and the hand of God. ★

Purim 2015 begins the evening of Wednesday, March 4.

Dry Bones



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Israeli Neurosurgeons Help Violinist *(continued from cover)*

According to Fried, last fall the surgeons implanted a brain pacemaker with electrodes in the area of Elishuv's brain that was the source of the hand tremors which prevented her from playing, and the electrodes emitted impulses to suppress the tremors.

A [YouTube video of the surgery](#) shows Elishuv, a former Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra violinist, playing the violin pre-surgery with the hand tremors. The video then skips forward to show her playing the violin during the surgery while the neurosurgeons located the spot in her brain to implant the electrode.

"When we turned on the electric current, we saw the tremor melt away," Fried said.

"It's a shame that I didn't know about this operation before," said Elishuv, who was forced to give up playing the violin nearly two decades ago. "Now I'm going to live again." ★



Naomi Elishuv

It Depends On What Your Definition of IS(LAM) Is...

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



Doesn't it? Our esteemed political and media mavens continue to watch for Islamophobia and backlash against Moslems while ignoring the frontal assault on liberty in the name of the counterfeit god Allah. Those of us who've followed this story for decades stand amazed at the continued complicity of Western leaders in the war so obviously being waged by Islam against us.

The West appears determined to label Islamic terrorism as "workplace violence." In 2009, al-Qaeda protégé and U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan shouted "*Allahu Akbar!*" (god is greater) as he killed 13 and wounded 32 of his colleagues at Fort Hood. The military called the attack "workplace violence."

No matter how hard people try, **sanitizing the language does not minimize the reality of Islamic brutality.** Politicians and media hacks pretend that by softening the label they can soften the effect and make the harsh reality go away. Like children who cover their eyes and pronounce, "You can't see me!"

In January 2015, the world awoke to the news of 12 cartoonists, editors, and police slain in Paris, France. The unity after the *Charlie Hebdo* slaughter resembled the months after 9/11 except that January's event brought Moslems out to protest rather than to dance. But just as in the aftermath of 9/11, the consensus differentiated between the "religion of peace" and murders in the name of Islam by "extremists." Skeptics expressed dismay that the French satirical magazine, fire-bombed only three years ago for similar lampoons, would continue to mock Islam.

So, while we theoretically believe in freedom of press, freedom of speech, and freedom in general, in reality we are capitulating to Moslem agendas.

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



ELDERTOONS





For years, ZLM has been warning about this day. The statistics are in: the practice of *dawa* (cultural infiltration and influence) is the beachhead offensive in Islam's plan to take over the world. When Moslem population numbers reach between five and ten percent, Islamists begin demanding the local imposition of *sharia* (Islamic law), but putting the *world* under sharia is their goal. When the demographics tip toward a Moslem majority, we see jihad with the grotesque torture, slaughter, slavery, and rape that are present in Islamic conflicts around the globe.

Koran-believing Moslems sanction war between *dar al-Islam* (the house of Islam) and *dar al-harb* (the house of chaos), which is the rest of us "infidels." Zola used to say, "A good Moslem disciple will uphold violent jihad."

Islam considers *takiyya* (lying to the infidel) a legitimate Islamic tactic. The Moslem claim that "Islam is a religion of peace" was even parroted by our government and the Western world in the aftermath of 9/11.

One of the most pernicious forms of this *takiyya* lying is the relentless chorus insisting that the origin of Moslem violence lies in the unbalanced psyches of a "fringe" group of "fanatics" or "radicals."

It is past time to recognize this disinformation as a come-on for the infidel world to let down its guard ... and it is currently working. ☆



“Delight Yourself in the Lord”

Katharine Weiss
ZLP cohost



Spring 2015 begins March 20. There are seasons in God, just as there are seasons in the natural world. Although we love spring’s fresh new life that the cleansing winter rains bless us with, we can’t always live in the springtime!

Ah, spring. The birds sing, the sun shines, and the earth buds forth with its masterwork of flower-filled colors.

What about the hot summer’s sun-kissed days, spent searching for cooling waters and ice cream treats?

And autumn? Its crisp air and the orange and gold, red and yellow falling leaves highlight cool nights and warm sweaters.

Winter returns and life goes “underground” for a time. Dormant... or so it seems.



Winter, spring, summer, fall—each season has its own beauty and significance, each its trials and challenges. Of all the seasons, **for me, winter represents a time of seeming dormancy regarding spiritual advancement.** We can feel stripped, barren, as if our labor and sacrifice has gone for naught.

I remember being in such a season not long ago. Our boys’ private schooling had constricted our finances. To help out, after many years as a homemaker and counselor/pastor’s wife, I took a part-time job providing care for an elderly woman. “Mrs. P.’s” father had owned several key patents in the printing industry, leaving her quite wealthy. Her parents, wise and committed Believers, were also the American west coast caretakers for Corrie ten Boom, whose book *The Hiding Place* records her Dutch family’s account of saving Jews from the Nazis and the price they paid for their heroism.

Imagine my astonishment—and sheer joy—at being paid to spend time with this creative, older woman who’d spent her childhood around one of my heroines of the faith! Corrie stayed with Mrs. P’s family periodically, who supported her in every way, like helping her restructure her ministry to reach more people with the love of Jesus and the importance of supporting the Jewish people. Mrs. P’s parents had functioned as elders, similar to Aquila and Priscilla’s relationship to Paul. They recognized Corrie’s calling, and determined to assist in its manifestation.

One day as I was assisting precious “Mrs. P,” she got very still. Thoughtfully, she looked up at me. “I really feel you are not supposed to do this type of work.” She knew about Myles and me leading tours to Israel, our marriage seminars, counseling, and pastoring, but she had no idea of the turbulence we were experiencing at the time. She continued, “What do you think God wants you to do?”

I gave my answer after careful thought. “I believe I am to travel more with my husband, teach the Word with him, and raise the Church’s awareness about the importance of Israel... sort of like Corrie ten Boom.” We shared a smile. Shortly after that, God opened the door at Zola Levitt Ministries.

Dream freely with God and ask Him to open the door from your dormant winter season into new life. *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.* —Psalm 37:4



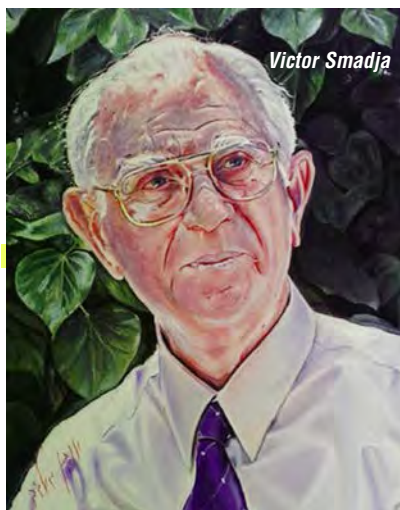
Standing on Victor's Shoulders

OUR MAN IN HAIFA By Eitan Shishkoff (r) with wife Connie



Victor and Suzy Smadja came to our home in suburban Maryland nearly 25 years ago, when we were preparing to make *aliyah* (moving permanently to Israel). After enjoying an evening with them, I was impressed with their deep strength—as of pioneers blazing a trail. Their eyes shone with passion for the restoration of Jewish faith in Yeshua, their hearts eager to support us soon-to-be Israeli immigrants.

Victor passed from this life into eternity on December 25, 2014. He was 83. **I can think of no other Jewish Believer in his generation who so influenced the resurrection of the national Messianic Israeli community.** I would like to dedicate this month's column to reviewing the life and achievements of this selfless servant of God.



Born and raised in Tunisia, Victor discovered the Messiahship of Yeshua after reading the Bible for two years. At that time he was the only Jewish believer in Jesus in that largely Moslem nation. As recounted by his son Shmuel, "Victor decided to immigrate to Israel with the goal of learning Hebrew... to see if Yeshua was really the Jewish Messiah from the Hebrew perspective."

The Smadjas made *aliyah* in 1956, motivated by the vision of helping Jewish people find Yeshua as Israel's Messiah. Though often persecuted for his unheard of (at the time) faith, Victor did not budge but undertook numerous historical, practical initiatives. In laying a foundation for the modern Messianic Movement in Israel, Victor was instrumental in the following groundbreaking initiatives: camps to train children and young adults in New Covenant faith, a Messianic congregation in Jerusalem, a printing press to distribute Bible teaching and testimony in Hebrew, and the vital concept of economic self-sufficiency for Israeli Believers.

Victor Smadja arrived in Israel just eight years after Independence. For more than 50 years, he served the purposes of God. During the infancy of our movement, he began pouring his life into future Messianic Israeli leaders. Without Victor and Suzy's uncompromising faith and ceaseless labor to educate and equip the struggling young movement, there's no way we would be where we are today. We stand on his shoulders.

The last time I saw Victor, we pulled up in our van to receive thousands of books from his publishing headquarters in Jerusalem—at no cost. He stood erect, smiling in his printer's apron. With unmistakable pleasure he pointed to one stack of books after another—"Here, take these. And don't forget those; they'll be helpful to you." We, and almost every Messianic ministry in Israel, are still distributing books that Victor printed, introducing Israelis to Yeshua and discipling Believers to be fruitful. May we continue his legacy with the energy and devotion that became his hallmark. ★

The Koran and Eternal War

BY RAYMOND IBRAHIM / ChristianPost.com



News recently emerged of Russia banning key Islamic scriptures—including Sahih Bukhari—on the charge that they promote “exclusivity [supremacism] of one of the world’s religions,” namely Islam; or, in the words of a senior assistant to the prosecutor of Tatarstan Ruslan Galliev, “a militant Islam” which “arouses ethnic, religious enmity.”

Sunni Moslems consider Sahih Bukhari, nine volumes of hadith compiled in the 9th century, second in importance only to the Koran itself. If Sahih Bukhari contains pro-terrorism statements attributed to the prophet of Islam and calls to kill Moslems who leave Islam, the Koran, Islam’s number one holy book, is also full of intolerance and calls for violence against nonbelievers. That Islam’s core texts incite violence and intolerance has many ramifications for those willing to go down this path of logic.

As Moslems around the world continue to push for “religious defamation” laws in the international arena, one great irony is lost, especially on Moslems: **if such laws would ban movies and cartoons that defame Islam, they would also ban Islam**—the only religion whose core texts actively defame other religions.

The word “defamation” means “to blacken another’s reputation” and “false or unjustified injury of the good reputation of another, as by slander or libel.” Islam’s core religious texts—Sahih Bukhari and the Koran itself—slander and blacken the reputation of other religions.

Consider Christianity alone: Koran 5:73 declares that “Infidels are they who say Allah is one of three,” a reference to the Christian Trinity; Koran 9:30 complains that “the Christians say the Christ is the son of God ... may Allah’s curse be upon them!” Surely such verses defame the Christian religion and its central tenets—not to mention create hostility toward its practitioners.

In short, Russia’s argument that some Islamic books should be banned on grounds that they incite segregation and violence is applicable to the Koran itself, which unequivocally defames and creates hostility for unbelievers, that is, non-Moslems.

However, whenever Moslems are pressed about the violent verses in the Koran, Moslem apologists almost always point to the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). **The difference between the violent passages in the Koran and those in the Old**

(continued next page)





Testament is this: the Old Testament is clearly describing historic episodes; whereas the Koran, while also developed within a historical context, uses generic, open-ended language that transcends time and incites believers to attack and slay nonbelievers today no less than yesterday.

Thus, the Old Testament God commands the Hebrews to fight and kill “Hittites,” “Amorites,” “Canaanites,” “Perizzites,” “Hivites,” and “Jebusites”—all specific peoples rooted to a specific time and place—and who have not existed for millennia. At no time did the God of Israel give an open-ended command for the Hebrews, and by extension their Jewish descendants, to fight and kill all “unbelievers.”

On the other hand, Moslems were (and are) commanded to fight the “People of the Book,” which Islamic exegesis interprets as people with scriptures, namely, Christians and Jews—“until they pay the jizya with willing submissiveness and feel themselves utterly subdued” (9:29) and to “slay the idolaters wherever you find them” (9:5).

The two Arabic conjunctions “until” (*hata*) and “wherever” (*haythu*) demonstrate the perpetual and ubiquitous nature of these commandments: There are still “People of the Book” who have yet to “feel themselves utterly subdued” (especially all throughout the Americas, Europe, and Israel) and “idolaters” to be slain “wherever” one looks (especially Asia and sub-Saharan Africa).

In fact, the salient feature of almost all of the violent commandments in Islamic scriptures is their open-ended and generic nature: “Fight them until there is no more chaos and [all] religion belongs to Allah” (Koran 8:39). This fact will ensure that as long as the Koran proliferates and is read as Allah’s literal word, its readers will continue to exist in a dichotomized world, themselves versus the rest.

A tiny sampling of proclamations from Allah follows:

“I will cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, so strike [them] upon the necks [behead them] and strike from them every fingertip” (Koran 8:12).

“Fight those among the People of the Book [Christians and Jews] who do not believe in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden, and who do not embrace the religion of truth [Islam], until they pay the jizya with willing submissiveness and feel themselves utterly subdued” (Koran 9:29).

“Then, when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever you find them—seize them, besiege them, and make ready to ambush them!” (Koran 9:5).

“Fighting has been enjoined upon you [Moslems] while it is hateful to you” (2:216). ★



“Behold, all things are become new...”

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1980: 35 years ago



It may come as a shock to many of you, but we are actually proceeding to make new shows! In fact, some of you may be seeing the first ones already since we thought we would run them now, and again later in the season.

We’ve been a long time in reruns, but as I gather from your responses, most of you enjoyed seeing the repeats, especially the teaching shows. Some of our topics are new to a lot of people and they enjoy the chance to review them. But now, thanks to your prayers and support, we are able to take the risk of new productions, and believe me we have been awaiting this time as eagerly as you have!

For openers, we went to a local college campus to ask the young people about the future and whether they thought they had one. We talked with them about the Lord’s words in Matthew 24 in answer to His disciples’ questions: “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

We found the students of this Christian college eager to learn and to share their views on prophecy. We found many of them quite convinced that they will not die natural deaths—because the Lord is coming that soon.

Then we went back to the studio to interview Bible expert Dr. Charles Ryrie on the question of inerrancy of the Scriptures. My own position in this popular discussion is that each verse of the Bible is accurate and that’s all there is to that. Our guest, the author of the Ryrie Study Bible, feels the same way. It is one thing, however, for the host of a show to give his views and quite another for a scholar who is fluent in Hebrew and Greek to lend his authority to the argument. To me, if the Bible were inaccurate, we might as well close our churches. All of you are aware of churches that have stopped using the Bible, and it’s easy to see that they might as well close, so far as salvation and true faith are concerned.

We filmed a second show with Dr. Ryrie answering the varied and interesting questions about the Bible that come to us in the mail every day. While we can’t deal with each letter—our staff is too small—we took this method of answering your questions. Some questions come up repeatedly and we drew Dr. Ryrie’s attention to those.

Moody Press, which has published a number of my books, was kind enough to donate a supply of Ryrie Study Bibles for us to offer on the show. We deeply appreciated their helpfulness. ★



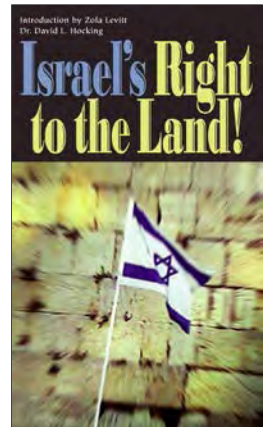
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Israel’s Right to the Land!

book by David L. Hocking —

Re-released!

Just as its title implies, this book answers head-on the question “What right does Israel have to its land?” Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel’s Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all. Let’s spread the Word on who owns the Land (“from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates” – Genesis 15:18) by divine right!



Remote Patrol

BY MITCH GINSBURG (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Surrounded by Islamist terror groups, Israel has erected hundreds of miles of solid metal fences and concrete barriers along its borders, successfully stanching the flow of refugees and migrant workers and reducing the scale and severity of cross-border terror attacks.

In 2009, Israel introduced a unique unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) to patrol the border. This preprogrammed or remote-controlled car arrives at scheduled times, examines suspicious spots from up-close, and relays live video—all without risking Israeli lives.

The first-generation Mark I is operated from a small room in the southern brigade's surveillance headquarters. The operators, female soldiers, sit in front of a steering wheel, their feet near an accelerator and brake pedal, and send the car off to patrol a preprogrammed route like a plane on autopilot. If they see something suspicious or want to get closer to a certain spot, they can override the autopilot and drive the car.



Pvt. May Krispin in Mark I unmanned ground vehicle

During the car's first week in action, it triggered a mine, sending a section of the border fence flying and damaging the vehicle, but resulting in no loss of life. With its ultimate goal of saving human lives, it fulfilled its mission completely.



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The IDF unit that operates the vehicles is expanding its role beyond surveillance and its domain beyond the southern brigade of the Gaza Strip.

With the border swamped with combat troops during Operation Protective Edge in Gaza last summer, the remote-controlled technology was drafted into a new line of service—logistical support. Because American and British forces in Afghanistan and Iraq suffered hundreds of casualties while driving supplies into and out of the field, the IDF outfitted armored personnel carriers with the technology and sent them into Gaza to deliver supplies.

In the coming months, the army is set to deploy the Mark III, which will be able to respond to threats with an advanced mounted-weapons system and act as a logistical vehicle. Remotely controlling the weapons puts the female soldiers behind the wheel in a role akin to that of a combat sniper.

That added level of responsibility was noted by Pvt. May Krispin, a young vehicle operator who said that in the past, male soldiers used to drive the cars but had showed they "weren't serious," treating the vehicles "like a PlayStation" and rolling up to gas stations on occasion.

"That's why I came here," declared Krispin. "They were looking for serious female soldiers to serve in a hot region." ★

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian

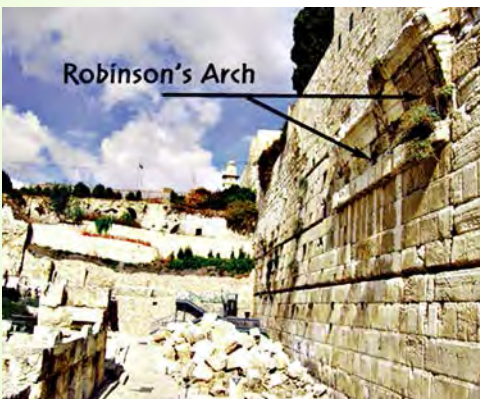


The Temples' Location and The Western Wall

Q I have just read a book that offers extensive research and convincing arguments that the Temple Mount is actually the site of the **Fortress Antonia**, and that the Jewish Temple was reduced, as Jesus prophesied, with not one stone left on another. There were witnesses of that day who said this. The author proposes that the Temple was built over or near the Gihon Spring.

If that is correct, then there is nothing to stop the Third Temple from being rebuilt. I would love to know your opinion on this theory.

A. The First and Second Temples both stood where the Dome of the Rock currently stands. On the current Temple Mount—and in the location where tradition places the Temples—archaeologists unearthed the place of trumpeting where the Levites stood on the Temple parapet to signal the beginning and end of the Sabbath, the morning and evening sacrifices, the beginning and ending of Feast days, etc.



The excavated Robinson's Arch is located on the south end of the Western Wall. It supported a staircase that led to a gate into the Temple Mount. The

arch is named after Edward Robinson, the American scholar who first identified it in 1838. What remains of this arch is about 39 feet north of the southwest corner of the Temple Mount wall, and it measures about 50 feet long. In 1867, Charles Warren located the large pier built on the bedrock 41 feet directly west of the arch, which is also 50 feet long. So these and much more evidence from archaeology make the city theory you cite unworkable.

For further information, please see the following websites:

TempleMount.org,
TempleInstitute.org

Q Can you please tell me why Jews pray at the Western Wall and what they pray for?

As a Christian, I am told to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). My Bible study group is studying the Book of Zechariah, and I am impressed with God's remarkable interest in Jerusalem.

A. Jews pray at the Western Wall because it is the only surviving structure of the Second Temple, and it is the closest they can currently get to *HaMakom* (THE place), where the ancient Holy of Holies resided.

Although not a part of the Temple proper, the Wall was the retaining wall built around the Temple complex. Jews pray a variety of prayers there. They recite from the Siddur (Jewish prayer book, containing a set order of daily prayers), read from the rabbis in the Talmud (the Oral Law and legal commentary on the Torah), and also recite Scripture from the Tanakh (Old Testament). ★



A Promise Made, A Promise Kept

BY TODD BAKER



Two impressive, divine encounters spring to mind from last fall's **To the Jew First** Gospel outreach in Israel. First there was courageous **Michal**. We met the young Israeli woman at an outdoor café in Jerusalem. Michal told us that during last summer's war in Gaza, she was a foot soldier and part of the military operation to ferret out Hamas terrorists and destroy their under-the-border tunnels. During one firefight, shrapnel severely damaged her leg. She has made a full recovery.



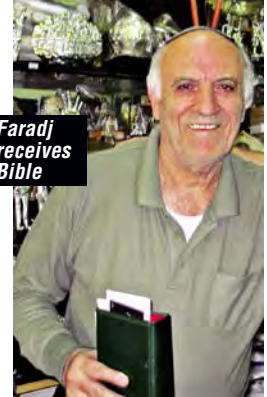
Todd & Michal

This unsung hero impressed me, and my telling her so provided an opening to share with her that God had kept her alive so she can know about the Messiah that God sent to the Jewish people. The Messiah who was prophesied in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and came in the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament) is Yeshua. I asked Michal if she would like a Complete Bible (with both Testaments) in Hebrew in order to meet and personally know this wonderful Messiah. As she gladly accepted the Book, I enjoyed the thought of her receiving through this ministry the same Scriptures that her people originally gave to the world.

The Lord arranged the next meeting. Five years ago, I met Faradj, a Tel Aviv shop owner, who told us he was born and raised a Persian Jew. After Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, Faradj made his way out of Iran and immigrated to Israel.

Faradj opened to our witness for Yeshua. He wanted the Complete Bible we offered, but he wanted it in Farsi, his first language, the language of Iran. I promised to try, but after repeated attempts, I could not get ahold of one. Still, each time I passed Faradj's shop in the following years, the Lord reminded me of my promise.

Two months before the fall outreach, Jane (ZLM's office manager) called to let me know that she had Bibles in several languages ... and one of them was Farsi! ([Please see Zola's Bible Exchange on p.15.](#))



Faradj receives Bible

When I walked into Faradj's Judaica shop, he amazed me by remembering not only me but also my promise to find him a Complete Bible in Farsi. I thanked God for allowing me to keep my promise to this man hungry to read about Yeshua in his own language. Faradj told me he had read portions of the New Testament and liked it very much. He was delighted to have his Farsi Bible. I know he'll find blessings when he reads the amazing life of Yeshua the Messiah in the New Testament in his native language. ✨

Todd's act fulfills ancient prophecy as the Gospel reaches Iranians. While Iran's government pushes for Jewish annihilation, the Persian people in record numbers are coming to faith in Yeshua. Please pray for our upcoming TV interview with Hormoz Shariat (the "Billy Graham of Iran") and his reciprocal offer to have me on his television program that broadcasts into Tehran. God's sense of humor: my Hebrew name is Mordecai (the same as Queen Esther's uncle), and He has prepared me with a message to Persia!
—Myles

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Europe's Empty Churches

Hundreds of churches close every year. A recent [Wall Street Journal](#) article, excerpted below, offers tangible evidence that Europe's Christian worship is fading. Meanwhile, Islam blossoms there. —Mark

Now-empty buildings increasingly mark the countryside across a continent that is becoming secular. Orthodox Judaism, a dominant non-Christian religion in Europe, has held relatively steady. Islam, meanwhile, is projected to grow from about 4.1% of the European population in 1990 to about 8%, or 58 million people, by 2030.

For Christians, closing a church—often the centerpiece of the town square—is an emotional event. And there is a limit to the number of libraries or concert halls a town can sustain. Consequently, commercial projects often take the space.



The trend appears to be most advanced in the Netherlands where 700 Dutch Protestant churches are expected to close within four years. The large number indicates that whole societies will have to cope with big, empty buildings in their neighborhoods. According to religious researchers, the declining number of American churchgoers suggests **the U.S. could face the same problem in coming years.**

In the Netherlands, one former church is now a supermarket, another a florist, a third a bookstore, and a fourth a gym. In Arnhem, a fashionable store called Humanoid (*top right*) occupies a church building dating to 1889, with racks of

stylish women's clothing displayed under the stained-glass windows.



Some scholars think that America's future will approach Europe's, since the number of churchgoers fell 3% from 2000–2010 as America's churchgoing population grays. Unless these trends change within the next 30 years, America's churches could meet the same fate as Europe's.



EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND: A church has become a Frankenstein-themed bar, featuring bubbling test tubes, lasers, and a life-size Frankenstein's monster descending from the ceiling at midnight.

Reading the above article may have brought to mind our [January 2015 Personal Letter](#), which points to today's era being "a time of the signs" with its many "signs of the times."

You may wish to watch our television series [Bad Moon Rising](#), which describes the surge of Islamists in Europe along with their anti-Semitic agenda.

For more on Europe's crisis of faith, please [click here](#).



ZLM Bulletin Board

Farewell, TCT Network

Zola Levitt Presents has stopped our weekly broadcasts on the TCT network. If you live in the following cities you can receive these alternate broadcasts:

Boise, ID	Daystar: Wed 9pm and Fri 4pm
Buffalo, NY	Daystar: Wed 11pm and Fri 6pm
Canton, OH	WGGN: Sun 5:30pm and Sat 11:30pm
Columbus, OH	Bounce: Sun 7:30am
Detroit, MI	Daystar: Wed 11pm and Fri 6pm
Raleigh, NC	Daystar: Wed 11pm and Fri 6pm

Cable viewers anywhere can watch us on the national ABC Family Channel network on Sundays at 5:30am Eastern/4:30am Central time. **Satellite viewers** can still see ZLP on multiple channels. Please go to www.levitt.com/airsch or consult your local listings.



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 a fixed income, please send it to us to forward. (Bibles for inmates must be soft-cover.) 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*.)

Donate Through a Smile

At no extra cost, you can support ZLM with 0.5% of what you spend for Amazon purchases. To enable this free giving, go to **Smile.Amazon.com** instead of Amazon's regular website.



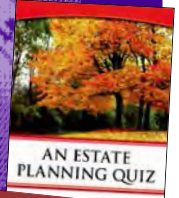
After logging in (use the same email address and password that you use for Amazon purchases), you'll see all the same merchandise at the same prices you'd pay if not thinking of us. Please be sure to enroll by designating your beneficiary as **Zola Levitt Ministries**.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

"An Estate Planning Quiz"

Your answers to this informal 25-question quiz may clue you to areas of your estate and financial plans that merit consideration. The true-false questions serve as a checklist of sorts. Then a grading scale at the end suggests where you stand between "unusually prudent" and "your loved ones will probably experience significant difficulties." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



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Hebrew Lesson

The Lamb of God

By John J. Parsons



אֱלֹהִים יִרְאֶה-לוֹ הֶשֶׁה לְעֹלָה בְּנִי

“God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” (Gen. 22:8)

אֱ (2)	לֹ (1)	הִים (3)	לְ (2)	עֹ (1)	לָה (3)	הֶ (2)	שֶׁה (1)	לוֹ (3)	יִרְ (2)	אֶה- (1)	בְּ (2)	נִי (1)
be-ni	le-o-lah	has-seh	yir-eh lo	E-lo-him								
my son	for burnt offering	the lamb	will provide for Himself	God								

The word “love” first appears in the Scriptures regarding Abraham’s passion for his son: “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you” (Gen. 22:2). After journeying to the chosen place, Abraham bound Isaac, laid him upon an altar, and raised his knife to slay him. At the very last moment, the Angel of the Lord called out: “Abraham! Abraham! Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (Gen. 22:11–12). Abraham then “lifted up his eyes” and saw a ram “caught in a thicket” which he offered instead of his son. Abraham named the altar *Adonai-Yireh*, “the LORD who provides” (Gen. 22:14). The sacrifice of the lamb for Isaac portrayed the sacrifice of Jesus, the great “Lamb of God” who would die in exchange for the sinner (John 1:29). Indeed, the story of how God provided the lamb—both at Moriah and later during the Passover in Egypt—may be understood as the “Gospel according to Moses” (Luke 24:27; John 5:46).

Isaac not only pictures the sinner who trusts in God’s sacrificial substitute, but also the One who offered Himself in obedience to His heavenly Father. The promised seed illustrates how Jesus “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8), and in that sense he is a type of Christ. For instance, both Isaac and Jesus were born miraculously; both were called “only begotten son;” both were to be sacrificed by their fathers at Moriah; both experienced a “passion;” each willingly took up the means of his own execution; both were to be resurrected on the third day (Gen. 22:4, Heb. 11:17–19); and both accounts demonstrate that one life can be sacrificed for another—the ram for Isaac, and Jesus for all of mankind.

The first time the word “Torah” occurs in the Bible refers to the faith of Abraham (Gen. 26:5), and the second time refers to Passover: “There shall be one teaching (Torah) for the native and for the stranger” (Exod. 12:49). There is a link here. Abraham lived before the time of the Exodus, of course, and therefore he observed Passover by offering the lamb in place of his son (Gen. 22:13). Abraham revealed that the inner meaning of Torah is that the “righteous shall live by faith” (Hab. 2:4, Rom. 1:17) and that God justifies the sinner who trusts in Him (Heb. 11:17–19; Rom. 4:5). During the Exodus from Egypt, Moses declared that the blood of the Passover lamb would be “a sign” of imputed righteousness secured by faith—with no “leaven,” or human works, added. This is the “life-for-life” principle that underlies the sacrificial system of the Tabernacle revealed at Sinai as well. **Ultimately, all true Torah points to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died upon the cross for our offenses and was raised for our justification** (Rom. 4:25).



Scene from “Abraham” series



***Journey of Restoration* DVDs**

A ten-part pilgrim's perspective during a study tour in Israel. (10 programs on 2 DVDs) Join pilgrims touring Israel, pastored by **Myles and Katharine Weiss**. Our Messianic guide reads from the Bible in Hebrew and English. Meet "living stones" of the Body of Messiah in Israel.

The Journey Begins In Caesarea, guide Yuval Shemesh talks about Apostle Paul's time in prison here. Myles speaks of the One New Man. In Carmel, we hear the testimony of a Jewish Believer.

Yeshua's Galilee Ministry We visit the "Jesus Boat," then embark on the Sea of Galilee where Myles teaches about the Lord's authority. On the Mount of Beatitudes, we hear Matthew 5 in Hebrew and English. After a visit to Capernaum, many pilgrims are baptized in the Jordan River.

Reforestation and Revelation Planting trees fulfills prophecy. At Tel Dan, we see the "House of David" stone. At Caesarea Philippi, Matthew 16 reveals the Lord's authority over the forces of darkness.

Up to Jerusalem From Beit She'an, we go to Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls cave. In Jerusalem, Myles welcomes us with a Hebrew blessing.

Resistance and Rest At Masada, we hear the fortress's extraordinary history. We learn about *Shabbat* during a *Shabbat* dinner in Jerusalem.

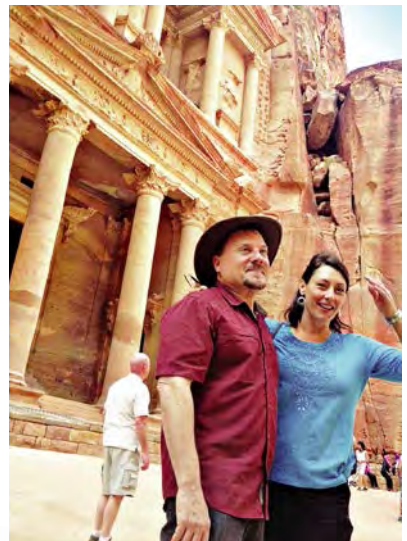
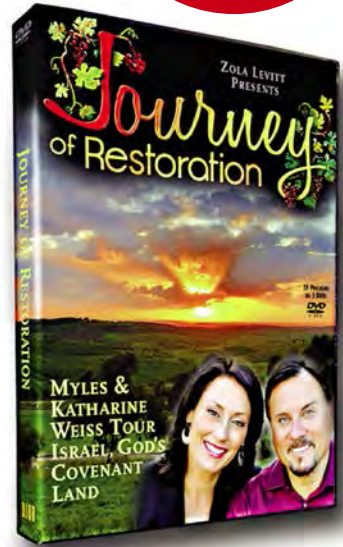
Holy Places, Holy Moments We walk from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane to meditate. In the Upper Room, we worship the Lord.

In the Footsteps of History At the Temple Mount's Western Wall and Southern Steps, we learn each site's significance. In the Garden Tomb's serene setting, we discuss the connection between Passover and Communion. Pilgrims' testimonies relate blessings gained during the tour.

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness In the desert, a life-size replica of the Tabernacle contains representations of Yeshua throughout.

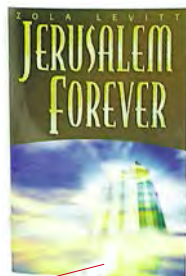
Prophecy and the Patriarchs We visit Petra, then Be'er Sheva, where Yuval tells the importance of water next to an ancient well. A clip from our *Abraham* series leads into a teaching of hope for Esau and Jacob.

The Destiny of the Heartland The tour complete, Myles interviews Pastor Tommy Waller who brings Christians to harvest grapes alongside Orthodox Jews. Jewish Israeli Aaron Lipkin reflects on Tommy's work and the prophetic times in which we live.



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

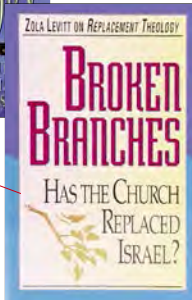
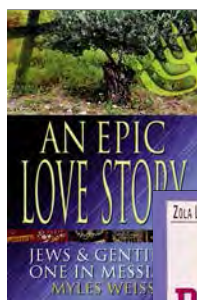
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___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	_____
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___	Glory! The Believers' Future	\$3	_____
___	The Promised Land	\$3	_____
___	In My Father's House	\$3	_____
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	_____
▶	Jerusalem Forever	\$4	_____
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Books

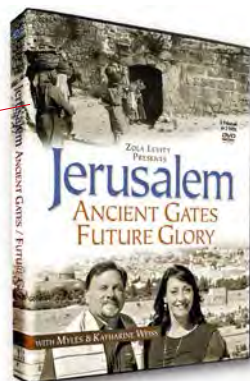
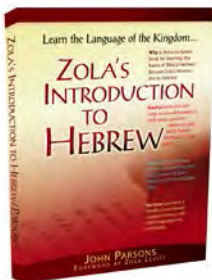
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▶	The Miracle of Passover (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	_____
___	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
▶	Jerusalem Gates New! (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
▶	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	_____
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
___	Sons of Promise (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
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Studies, Specialty, Etc.

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___	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
___	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$8	_____
___	Jerusalem Journeystone	\$8	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2015)	Out of Stock	_____
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___	Messianic Prophecy Scroll	\$35	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of The Holy Land	\$6	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	Zola's Notebook (The Bible: The Whole Story)	\$25	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
___	Guide To Your Christian Will	\$2	_____

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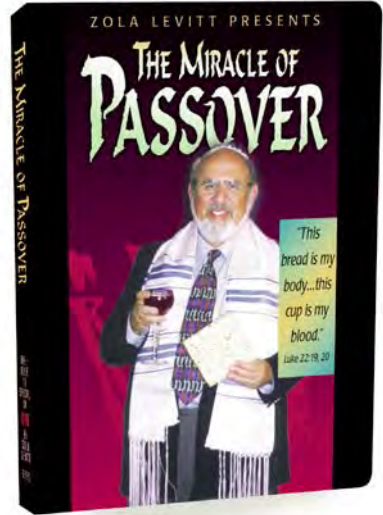
The Miracle of Passover **DVD, study booklet, and CD**

(One of our most popular and bestselling titles!)

Passover, the crown jewel of the biblical feasts, begins this year at sundown on Friday, April 3.

In the booklet, CD, and DVD, Zola explains the origin and significance of Passover and demonstrates the feast in which Christ is revealed through its very elements. This is one of the most basic and important Bible studies, shedding clear light on the mysteries of the Lord's Supper and unearthing the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Zola Levitt demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-five centuries old, typifies Christ—even in Jewish homes who don't realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come.



The Messianic Passover Haggadah **A Messianic Celebration book**

You don't have to be Jewish to relive the Feast of Redemption — just redeemed! This 2-color, 36-page book guides you step by step through the traditional Passover Seder, the dinner Jews celebrate annually to remember the Israelites' rescue from Egyptian bondage.

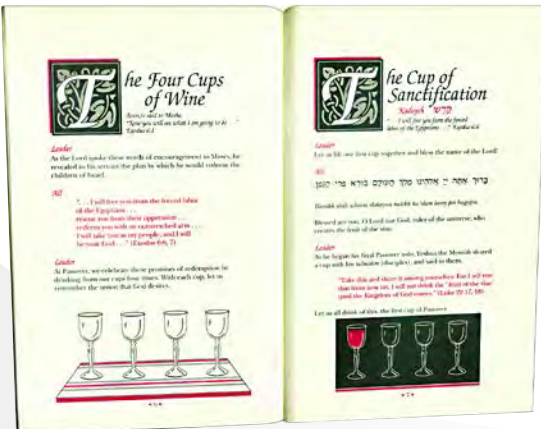
This unique Haggadah focuses on Yeshua's teaching in the Upper Room, which institutes the Lord's Supper. The theme of redemption recurs throughout the evening.



You'll find words and sheet

music for the songs traditionally sung on Passover. Singing them will enrich your experience.

Scripture quotations come from the popular *Complete Jewish Bible*.



Paris Attacks Spark French Jewish Immigration

BY JOEL GREENBERG / McClatchyDC.com



As France contends with the shockwaves of recent deadly attacks by Islamist extremists, Israel is preparing for an increase in immigration from France, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promising that new arrivals will be received “with open arms.”

After an attack on the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, a gunman at a kosher supermarket killed four Jews, who were buried the following week in Jerusalem. A deadly attack two years ago by a Moslem radical on a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse contributed to a sense of insecurity among French Jews concerned about a rise in anti-Semitism, particularly among home-grown Moslem extremists.

According to the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental organization that helps Jews immigrate to Israel, the number of French Jews who made *aliyah* [immigrated to Israel] in 2014 jumped to about 7,000, more than double the previous year’s number. With a total population of about 500,000, France’s Jewish community is the largest in Europe, and **Jewish Agency officials say they expect immigration figures to reach 10,000 this year.**

“Israel is not only the place to which you turn in prayer, Israel is also your home,” Netanyahu said, addressing the French Jewish community.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said that a mass departure of French Jews should be regarded as a failure for France. “If 100,000 Jews leave, France will no longer be France.”

A lingering economic downturn in France has fueled a general trend of emigration from the country. Now working at a French pastry shop in Jerusalem, Natalie Hayat, 38, moved to Israel from Paris 10 years ago.

“This is our land, a home for all Jews,” she said. “We have nowhere else.” As for the dangers of Palestinian attacks in Israel, Hayat said that “there’s no security anywhere in the world; but here we can take up arms and defend ourselves.”

Moshe, another pastry shop employee, left a well-paying job in Paris to come to Israel five years ago, convinced that it was the only place where he could live comfortably as a Jew. “If you want to live a Jewish life, this is where it’s happening,” he said.

Gil Taieb, a French Jewish official, commented on the decision by families of the victims killed in the supermarket attack to bury them in Israel: “This is a strong sign that Jews don’t even want their dead to remain in France,” he said. ★

“French Canada is in many ways a natural destination and an attractive option to many French Jews seeking safety.”

—U.S. Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld

‘The state of Israel is your home.’

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU,
Israeli Prime Minister, encouraging French Jews to relocate after a hostage taker targeted a kosher deli in Paris just days after the deadly terrorist attack that killed 12



Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the [web store](#) and [video archives](#) at [levitt.com](#).

Comments from [www.levitt.com](#)

From P.W.: I just finished reading all that venom written by T.N. in the letters section (page 25) of the [January 2015 Levitt Letter](#). I just want to say that I love your serving the Lord the way you do. You are very patient with people who blaspheme our God. You are a threat to Satan—that means you are doing a wonderful job. May God richly bless you and yours and your ministry.

Farewell, Methuselah

Dear ZLM,

The series on Jerusalem's Gates is absolutely wonderful! Myles and Katharine: What a lovely couple; so very peaceful. I really enjoyed seeing the "Katcha" interview. Please tell Shimon his English is fantastic.

Zola was a tremendous blessing to me. I will be (have been) praying for all of you. An amazing work you do. Also, Mark Levitt: the perfect person at the right time. I will pray and ask The Lord to open up the "Money Gate" so Mark can update the office printer (aka Methuselah). I like that guy; too funny.

In love always, —B.P.

P.S. I drove to the Golden Gate today and asked The Lord to bless you, Myles and Katharine. I am very excited for both of you. Many great things are coming your way!

Dear B.P.—

Your prayer has been answered already. Methuselah has passed into eternity, thus joining its fathers and forefathers, the many generations of obsolete and worn-out printers of yore. Next you are welcome to pray for our aging data-base, that it be born anew—sinless and bug-less. (And please pray for the peace of Jerusalem, where God does His "printing.") Thanks for your kind words and faithfulness —Mark.



Doing Business with Israel

Dear Myles and Katharine,

I enclose a newspaper clipping about Gov. Phil Bryant's recent business development mission to Israel, which resulted in large orders for two large Mississippi companies. Bryant said Israel has burgeoning manufacturing and high-tech sectors but needs to develop trade infrastructure in the U.S. He hopes Mississippi will be a part of that.

I thought you'd enjoy reading the article. S.C.O. (MS)

Shalom S.C.O.—

What an inspirational testimony of the growing business connection between Mississippi and Israel. Katharine and I have been praying for more of this type of cooperation. As you know, we seek to awaken America and the world to the reality of Genesis 12:1–3: that God will bless those who bless the children of Abraham.

While on Holy Land tours, we have encountered groups from all over the world who recognize Israel as the "Start-Up Nation" of our era. We met a pastor hosting a tour group of 50 pre-Christian Chinese businessmen. They were fascinated by the Israeli business world and eager to partner in joint ventures. Along the way, they were hearing the history of the Jewish people AND the Gospel of Yeshua.

Saul Singer co-authored the book *Start-Up Nation*. You can see our interview with him in our [Sons of Promise: Isaac and Jacob](#) in which we track the blessing of Abraham through the Ages, including the fantastic contemporary instances of how God uses the Jewish people to bless the world.

To Gov. Bryant we say *Mazel Tov* (good fortune)! May he bring the blessing of Abraham to his state and in so doing, refute the darkness of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Bravo, Governor! —Myles and Katharine



Worthwhile Cross References

Dear ZLM,

Please remove my name from future mailings. Your *Levitt Letter* has WAY too much advertising for me. I want to read an article without being referred to one of your products that I can purchase. —C.D.

Dear C.D.—

Too much advertising, you say? Please look again; and maybe compare our free news magazine to those that charge for subscriptions. Also, please note that the ads found alongside articles usually relate to the article topic. Biblical teaching (at really low prices) offers additional insight for readers whose interest is piqued.

—Mark



Seders and Haggadahs

Dear ZLM,

I am very grateful for the ministry of Zola Levitt, which I have found is truthful and runs deep with Judeo-Christian roots—very important to me. In fact, I appreciate the Jews because they are the ones who brought forward the Word of God and our Messiah, Yeshua.

I have led two Passover Seder meals and taught Hebrew classes using John Parsons's book [Zola's Introduction to Hebrew](#). I enjoy studying the Hebrew language to gain an understanding of the original text.

Adonai, Hu Nora (God, He is awesome), T.R.

Dear T.R.—

As you continue to lead Passover Seders, you probably would delight in [The Messianic Passover Haggadah](#) that is described on [page 20](#). —Mark

Bible Characters Are Real

Dear ZLM,

I have been watching your series on Ruth and enjoyed the dramatization, the music, the interviews, and your biblical explanations. Many characterize the Book of Ruth as a "story," as you do, but I suggest it be called an "account." Referring to it as a story makes it sound like a tale, as opposed to a factual report.

Please accept my suggestion in the spirit intended. Whatever you decide to do, I will continue watching your featured DVDs and reading your *Levitt Letter*. Shalom dear friends in Yeshua —J.V.K.

Shalom J.V.K.—

Thank you for your suggestion regarding our [Ruth series](#). Truthfully, we never thought that calling any Bible narration "a story" compromised its biblical truthfulness. In fact, Yeshua and others refer to "parables" or "examples;" otherwise, we assume our viewers agree that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. It's a good "heads up," though, to consider my teaching could be heard as a "fictional tale." For the record, we absolutely believe that Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, and other Bible characters are real people that the Creator used in real time to demonstrate eternal truths to listeners through the Ages.

Be blessed and may you continue to grow in fellowship with the Kinsman Redeemer of Heaven, *Yeshua Ha Mashiach!*

—Myles



Taking Encouragement

Dear ZLM,

I recently watched Myles for the first time. Teaching from Acts, he thanked the gentiles who have kept Torah, because restoration has begun. That warmed my heart because I have a Messianic congregation here in the heart of Africa, and our theme is restoring the ancient path of Torah.

Baruch HaShem, and may Abba bless the works of your hands and the fruits of your lips. —L.Y. (Lusaka, Zambia)

Shalom shalom, L.Y.—

We love Africa. We lived in Congo when our boys were ages 10 and 7. They are now young adults. Africa imprints the spirit of Believers in a unique way. In the midst of often-terrible trials, African Believers demonstrate the power of praise and worship like no other followers of Yeshua. Although I was there to teach biblical counseling to pastors-in-training, I learned more from my African family than I ever taught them!

Last year our older son went back with an evangelical medical mission to serve among the Messianic tribes of Ethiopia. The Gospel went forth, and many Moslems came to the Lord through a former Moslem who attends our congregation in California. In a historical moment, the mission leader helped the local evangelicals repent of their poor treatment of the Jewish believers in Jesus. We live in awesome times, with darkness arising and the light of God growing stronger every day. Keep up the good work and keep looking up. —Your brother and sister, “Doctor” Myles and “Mama Katrina” (our Congolese monikers)



To
Index

End-Times Thoughts That Make Sense

Dear ZLM,

I read your [November 2014 Personal Letter](#) with special interest in Walid Shoebat and his understanding of how Islam relates to the End Times. After first seeing Walid years ago when Zola interviewed him on *Zola Levitt Presents*, my wife and I had the privilege to meet him at the Night to Honor Israel in 2006. We credit Zola and others for our interest in our Jewish roots and our support of Israel.

Walid’s book [God’s War on Terror](#), co-authored with [Joel Richardson](#), sets out a perspective on the End Times and Islam that makes sense. It troubles us that so many pastors and teachers still promote a revived Roman Empire centered in Rome. We believe our monthly gift to ZLM is a good investment and that you are good stewards. God bless you, and keep up the good work! M. and S.H.

Greetings M. and S.H., in the Name above all names—

I love to hear about Christians’ journey into the “fold” of those who are learning to understand the Bible from a Hebraic perspective. Thank you for crediting Zola and others for your training, and *thank you for your monthly support of ZLM*. No doubt, Katharine and I build up this media ministry standing on Zola’s giant shoulders. Truly, he was a forerunner in our era.

You mentioned a trend we all should be monitoring. With the rise of jihadist Islam, the likelihood rises that the antiMessianah will come from that ideology. But watch the ecumenical convergence of nominal Catholicism with pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel evangelicalism, and Moslem eschatological (End Times) agendas. “The game is afoot,” as Holmes said to Watson, and there may be a nefarious leader who arises from Islam with the acquiescence of “Christian” leaders and the “blessing” of Rome. Stay tuned. Your fellow watchman on the wall —Myles ★

Israel's Deepest Cave



SCIENCE: new.huji.ac.il / The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have discovered the deepest cave in Israel. Located near Israel's border with Lebanon, the cave was recently mapped by researchers from the Cave Research Unit in the Hebrew University's Department of Geography: Vladimir Buslov, Yuri Lisovic, and Boaz Langford.

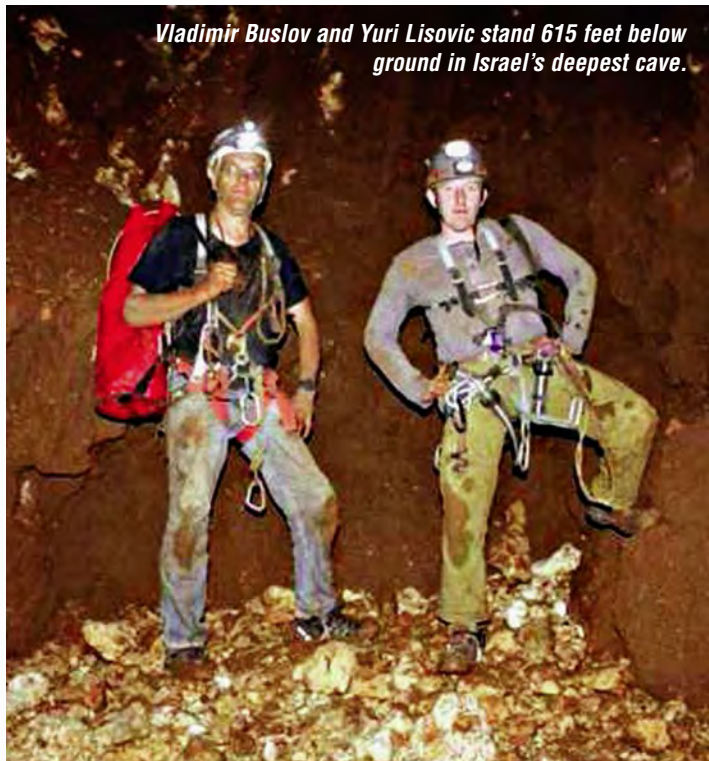
Reaching a depth of 615 feet below ground, the cave is 100 feet deeper than the previous record-holder, which was mapped 30 years ago. The previous cave had been considered Israel's deepest since spelunkers from the Cave Research Center plumbed its depths on Mount Meron in 1984.

The Cave Research Center studies the caves and karst [limestone terrane] of Israel and serves as the country's national speleological (cave-exploring) organization. For more than 40 years the Cave Research Unit has been finding and investigating caves all over Israel.

Center director Prof. Frumkin said: "This particular cave is an interesting surprise, and our most significant find in recent decades. Discoveries like this give us an idea of the depth of the natural underground system that provides our groundwater, and allows us to better understand what's happening even farther down. We have made serious progress in the study of caves and we look forward to other interesting discoveries soon."

The new cave was first reported by a resident of the Upper Galilee near the Lebanese border who informed the Center. The initial examination included rappelling to a depth of 330 feet below ground.

The new record brings Israel a little closer to its neighbor Lebanon, which has caves that reach as deep as 1,970 feet below ground. It is likely that caves of this depth and deeper are contained within the borders of Israel—but have not been discovered yet. Thousands of underground voids have been identified, while many more remain to be discovered.



Vladimir Buslov and Yuri Lisovic stand 615 feet below ground in Israel's deepest cave.

Whey Protein Could Help Diabetics

MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH / JPost.com



Whey protein—a popular protein among athletes who want to build muscle—consumed before a regular breakfast reduces the blood sugar “spikes” common after meals rich in carbohydrates.



Researchers in an Israeli-Swedish study to improve the body’s insulin response agree with that assessment. The research was conducted by faculty members of Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Lund University. Protein consumption is known to stimulate the production of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), a gut hormone that in turn stimulates insulin production. Thus, the researchers hypothesized that stimulating GLP-1 production by consuming whey protein before a meal would improve the body’s blood sugar control following a meal.

The study included 15 people with well-controlled type 2 diabetes who took only sulfonylureas or metformin (oral diabetes drugs). These participants consumed, on two separate days, 50 grams of whey powder mixed in 250 ml of water or a placebo and 250 ml water, followed by a high-glycemic breakfast designed to produce the maximum post-meal glucose spike: three slices of white bread and sugar-containing jelly. Blood samples were taken 30 minutes before the meal (just before drinking the whey protein or placebo), when the meal was served, and at 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150, and 180 minutes.

The crossover design of the trial meant that all participants ate both the whey protein and the placebo, with two weeks between visits. This design also means that the study was statistically powerful despite the small number of participants.

The results showed that over the whole 180 minute post-meal period, glucose levels were reduced by 28 percent after a whey protein preload compared with no whey protein. Notably, the early insulin response (within the first 30 minutes) was 96% higher after whey protein than with placebo. This is especially important since the loss of early insulin response is the most important deficiency in diabetic individuals and a major contributor to the post-meal rise in blood glucose. Resulting increases with whey protein preload: Insulin by 105%, C-peptide by 43%, total GLP-1 (tGLP-1) by 141%, and intact GLP-1 (iGLP-1) by 298%.

Conclusion: “Consumption of whey protein shortly before a high-glycemic-index breakfast increased the early and late post-meal insulin secretion, improved GLP-1 responses, and reduced post-meal blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetics.”

Patients can use any brand of whey protein concentrate without added sugar or other nutrients. ★



Demonization of Jews/Israelis



PalWatch.org

Since it was established, the **Palestinian Authority has systematically indoctrinated young and old to hate Israelis and Jews.**

Using media, education, and cultural structures that it controls, the PA has actively promoted religious hatred, demonization, conspiracy libels, etc. These are packaged to present Israelis and Jews as endangering Palestinians, Arabs, and all humanity. This ongoing campaign has so successfully instilled hatred that the majority of Palestinians sees fighting, murder, and even suicide terror against Israelis and Jews as justified self-defense and as Allah's will. The PA presents Jews as inherently evil, the unchangeable nature of Jews. Forgeries and fiction masquerading as history are used to document and support the libel that the essence of Judaism is racist and evil. Jews are said to be planning and executing heinous crimes, including burning Palestinians in ovens, murder, and using prisoners for Nazi-like experiments. If unchecked, the PA claims, these crimes constitute a mortal danger, not only to all Moslems and Arabs but to all of humanity.

The PA assigns responsibility to the Jews for all the problems in the world: Wars, conflicts, and civil wars are all said to be triggered by Jews. Indeed, they present the oppression suffered by Jews throughout history as the legitimate response of nations seeking revenge for the injury caused them by the Jews living among them. The creation of the State of Israel is said to have been a European plot, in order to be rid of their Jews and save Europe from the evil of Jewish presence in their countries.

A few recent examples:

Jews crucified Jesus and today Jews are crucifying Jesus' "people," (Palestinians)—
Source: Omar Hilmi Al-Ghoul, columnist, official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 25, 2014

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



Demonization... continued

Former PA minister Ziad Abu Ein



Minister Abu Ein was “eliminated... by the enemies of peace and humanity” —Source: Fatah official speaking in Abbas’s name, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 12, 2014

PA calls **minister’s death a “war crime,” “a cold-blooded killing” and claims he was “Targeted”** —Source: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 11, 2014

—Background: Ziad Abu Ein—Fatah Revolutionary Council member—died on Dec. 10, 2014 at a demonstration in the West Bank that turned violent. Immediately following his death, PA and Fatah leaders claimed that Abu Ein was murdered. The autopsy, which was overseen by Israeli and Palestinian pathologists, revealed cause of death: heart attack.

Netanyahu uses “the blood of the Palestinian people” and “cold-blooded murder” to get votes —Source: Fatah official, Wattan News Agency, Dec. 4, 2014

—Background: On Dec. 3, 2014, a 16-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank stabbed two shoppers at a Ramy Levy supermarket east of Jerusalem. The victims sustained moderate injuries. The terrorist was shot in the leg and arrested, along with two Palestinian men who had accompanied him.

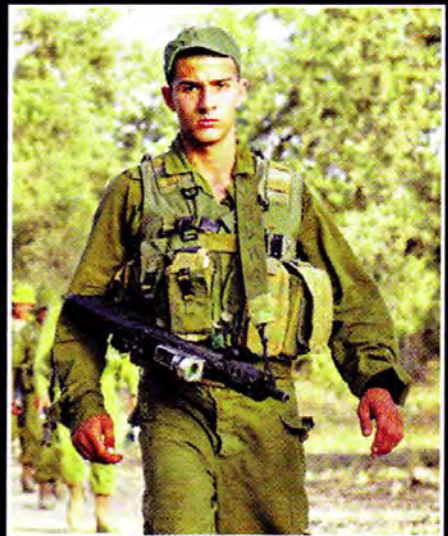
Israel is “reason for all the crises and troubles” in Middle East and the world

—Source: Abbas advisor, Wafa official PA news agency, Nov. 20, 2014

These few examples of disinformation and demonization aptly illustrate the power of repetition on the airwaves. Clearly, modern society needs voices like the *Levitt Letter* to proclaim the truth in our era. —Myles



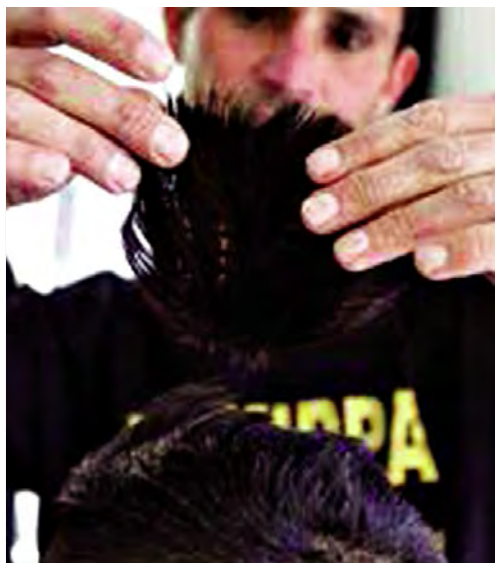
Unarmed Jewish Boy



Armed Jewish Boy

NEVER AGAIN MEANS NEVER AGAIN

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



‘Magic’ Yarmulke Protects Jews from Attacks

By Audrey Horowitz / AP

An Israeli barber has fashioned what he calls “magic” yarmulkes out of hair, designed to allow religious Jews to cover their heads without attracting unwanted attention from anti-Semites.

Shalom Koresh said his skullcap, known as a *yarmulke* in Yiddish and a *kippa* in Hebrew, was inspired by rising anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere. He said he has seen particular interest from buyers in France and Belgium.

“This skullcap is washable, you can brush it, you can dye it,” Koresh said in his salon in Rehovot, Israel. Koresh’s hairy skullcap, which he has dubbed the “Magic Kippa,” comes in an array of shades and colors. He sells them online, starting at 49 euros (\$55) for synthetic hair and 79 euros (\$90) for natural hair. The skullcap can be fastened onto the wearer’s real hair with hidden clips.

Devout Jewish men traditionally wear skullcaps as a sign of respect and reverence for God. Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, who teaches at a prominent Jerusalem yeshiva, said that Jewish skullcaps must be visible and not hidden, but added that under certain unforesee-

able circumstances, such as a risk of attacks, the “Magic Kippa” may be valid.

The hairy kippa received mixed reactions among skullcap-wearing men in Jerusalem. Some said they felt ill at ease with the idea of hiding their identity abroad, but others welcomed the protection.

France has seen a spike in anti-Semitic attacks in recent years. The killing of four French Jews in a hostage standoff at a Paris kosher market earlier this year has deepened fears among European Jews. Many Jews in Europe, especially France, say they feel unsafe walking around wearing the symbols of their faith.

Hamas Marching on Jerusalem

Israel Today



The Gaza-based Hamas regime has posted to YouTube a short video demonstrating how Jerusalem will eventually be conquered. Heavily armed Hamas “warriors” bearing the flags of the “Al Quds [Jerusalem] Army” are seen marching to dramatic music, en route to waging a holy war to “liberate” the city from the hands of the Jews. Four minutes in, the masked Hamas militia breaks down Israel’s security barrier, the last major obstacle on the march to Jerusalem.

Similar to the ISIS jihadists in Iraq and Syria, Hamas has increasingly made use of online video and other new media outlets to spread fear among its enemies and rally supporters to its cause. The goal—and the sole purpose for Hamas’s existence—remains the destruction of the Jewish state, and the group is ready to impose any hardship upon its own people to achieve it.



BROKEN PROMISES:
Arab and Muslim
countries pay lip service
to the Palestinian
cause, but they
have not ponied up.

Gaza Reconstruction Pledges Unfulfilled

By Barry Rosenfeld and Shlomo Mordechai / *Israel Today*

Following the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas last summer, international donors promised \$2.7 billion during a conference in Cairo to help rebuild Gaza. But the pledges have been largely unfulfilled, with the biggest culprits being Arab and Muslim countries.

"Not even one penny" has been received from major donors such as Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Turkey, said Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Mohammed Mustafa.

Gaza reconstruction has been slowed by a number of factors, primarily the rift between Hamas in Gaza and the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the "West Bank." International donors want to funnel the money through the PA, but Hamas has been unwilling to give up control of the border crossings that bring in cash and supplies from Israel. A PA-Hamas "unity" government is still not functioning.

According to UN figures, more than 96,000 homes in Gaza were damaged or destroyed in the war, leaving 100,000 Palestinians homeless. Israel fears that if reconstruction is not sped up, it could lead to a new round of violence because Hamas will have nothing to lose. The Hamas military wing warned that "if there is no reconstruction of what Israel destroyed ... there will be an explosion." ★



Ancient Earthquake in Israel



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ROSSELLA LORENZI (r) news.Discovery.com

The city of **Hippos**, seen below from the Sussita mountain saddle ridge with the Sea of Galilee in the background, was struck by a severe earthquake more than 1,600 years ago. It had Greco-Roman temples, a large marketplace, and colonnaded streets.

Hippos, also called Sussita in Hebrew (both names mean "horse"), became known in Roman times as one of the Decapolis, a group of ten cities in Jordan, Israel, and Syria that were regarded as centers of Greek and Roman culture. Hippos was a



powerful city-state, allowed to mint its own coins, which featured the emblem of a horse on one side.

The city was prospering and was almost entirely Christian when an earthquake violently struck its walls in 363 A.D.

Evidence of the massive quake was unearthed as archaeologists found a number of skeletons crushed under a collapsed roof in the northern section of the



(continued next page)

Excavation of Hippos



Ancient Earthquake... *continued*

basilica, the largest structure in the city. Built at the end of the 1st century A.D. during the peak of Roman building in the city and the region, the basilica served as a marketplace and main seat of the judge.

Among the bones of the people killed in the collapse, the archaeologists found the skeleton of a woman with a golden pendant in the shape of a dove.

Under the debris of the 363 earthquake, the archaeologists also found a large fragment of a Roman statue. A finely carved right leg (*below*) of a muscular man leaning on a trunk is what remained. The team hopes to find additional parts in the quake debris that could help identify the statue.

Golden dove pendant



Photo: Michael Eisenberg



The excavation also exposed the Roman baths (*below*). Residents spent 20 years rebuilding the city after the 363 earthquake. However, another powerful quake, on January 18, 749, razed the city, leaving it covered by debris, never to be populated again. ☆



In the Footsteps—Greece & Israel



BY SANDRA LUTTRELL (r) Zola Tours Manager

The first stops on our three-week Ultra Grand tour landed us in the center of Athens, Greece, at the Acropolis and nearby Agora and Mars Hill. When Apostle Paul spoke here about Yeshua and warned his listeners about worshiping mythical gods, his arrest resulted in an even more powerful Gospel sermon. Among the ruins of Corinth, we saw the bema seat where Paul was brought to be judged for his preaching, but used the opportunity to compare the Roman judgment seat to the future Judgment Seat of Christ.

During our three-day cruise on the Mediterranean Sea, we visited the Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos (where John wrote the Book of Revelation), Crete, and Santorini. Each beautiful island was filled with historic structures that corroborate Bible accounts and artifacts that testify of our Creator. We also sailed to Kusadasi on Turkey's Aegean



Myles teaching in Ephesus

coast to see the impressive ruins of Ephesus. A menorah etched into the marble steps at the Celsus Library offered proof of a Jewish presence in the land of the Ephesians. After Greece, we flew to Tel Aviv to meet the rest of our pilgrims. The entire group was awestruck as we toured places familiar from the Bible: among them Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Armageddon, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Masada, and the Dead Sea. Our elation grew as we worshiped Yeshua in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. The highest thrill came as we were baptized in the Jordan River where John the Baptist administered the very same rite to our Savior!

The Ark of the Covenant was housed for 369 years in ancient Shiloh until Yahweh allowed it to be confiscated by the Philistines due to the “wickedness” of the Israelites. Americans, heed 2 Chronicles 7:14,* lest we lose His blessings, too! In Shiloh, I felt an urge to cry out to the Lord—as Hannah did at Shiloh for the birth of Samuel—asking Yeshua to birth in His people His plan for Christians, Jews, and all Israel to exalt Him in His eternal Kingdom.

****If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. —2 Chronicles 7:14***

From Shiloh and its deep emotions we headed to the most important city in the world: **Jerusalem**. Driving into the beloved and highly contested City of David, we felt the wonder of its significance as “The Holy City” sung by tenor John Starnes reverberated through the bus. Over the next few days, we visited the most famous Bible sites: the Mount of Olives, Palm Sunday Road, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, the Upper Room, the Western Wall, the Old City, the Via Dolorosa. By the Garden Tomb, we celebrated the Lord’s Supper with our newfound family in Christ. Truly, nothing compares to Jerusalem, or to ALL of Israel for that matter! **Next month: Petra.** ★



To
Index

Jewish Humor, etc.

How Much Belongs to God?

At a synagogue's annual general meeting, a very wealthy man rose to tell about his Jewish faith.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life.

"I remember that turning point. I had just earned my first dollar, and I went to synagogue that night. The speaker was a famous rabbi who was fundraising for his yeshiva. I knew that I had only one dollar bill, so I had to give all of it to God's work or nothing at all. At that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

He finished and moved toward his seat. As he sat down a little old lady leaned over and said to him: "I dare you to do it again." ☆



A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

Automatic First Aid! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

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



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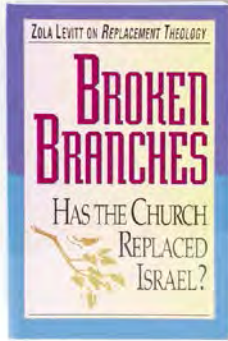
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Broken Branches—Has the Church Replaced Israel? study

booklet by Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology



What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, well-

intentioned denominations seem to have sprouted blinders to their heritage, the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using Grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read booklet for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

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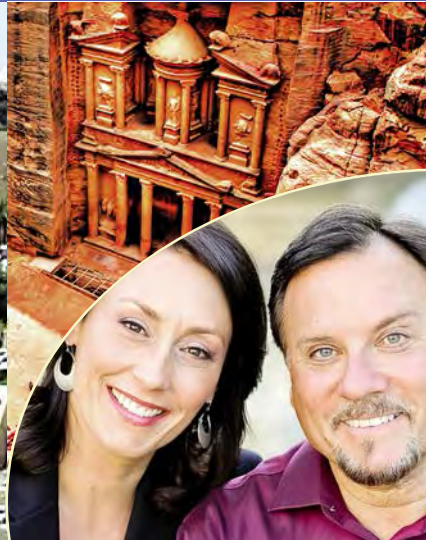
Israel

See Greece, Israel, & Petra!
Join Pastors Myles & Katharine Weiss This Fall

Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



Views of the Temple Mount & Petra



Fall 2015 Tour Dates:

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- Grand Petra:** (Israel/Petra): Oct. 11–23
- Grand Athens:** (Greece/Israel): Oct. 5–20
- Ultra Grand:** (Greece/Israel/Petra): Oct. 5–23

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