

Levitt

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



Letter

Resurrection & Shavuot

Netanyahu Wins Again! p. 28

➤
To
Index

By Rich Robinson / JewsForJesus.org

What does “**resurrection**” have to do with **Shavuot**? Peter quoted King David’s words in Psalm 16 when he spoke of a coming Messiah who would die and be raised to life (Acts 2:22–36). David had rejoiced that he would not be relegated to Hades, nor would the Messiah see corruption (Psalm 16:10). This was fulfilled, Peter explained, in the resurrection of Yeshua, who was a descendant of David.

Resurrection at the end of time was not a new concept to Peter’s audience. The Bible spoke of it: “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2). Jewish tradition also spoke to it: In the time of Jesus, it was axiomatic among the Pharisaic Jews that there was to be a coming resurrection.

(continued p.2)

How Was Jesus’ Tomb Sealed?

By Megan Sauter
BiblicalArchaeology.org

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.”—Jn. 20:1



While some Jerusalem tombs (of aristocrats and royalty) from the late Second Temple Period boasted round (disk-shaped) rolling stones, it was more common to seal tombs with cork-shaped stones, such as the one pictured here. Archaeological evidence suggests that the tomb of Jesus—the unused tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27:57–60)—would have been sealed with a cork-shaped stone. ★

Photo: Tom Powers

Resurrection & Shavuot *continued from cover*

Rich Robinson: Jews for Jesus



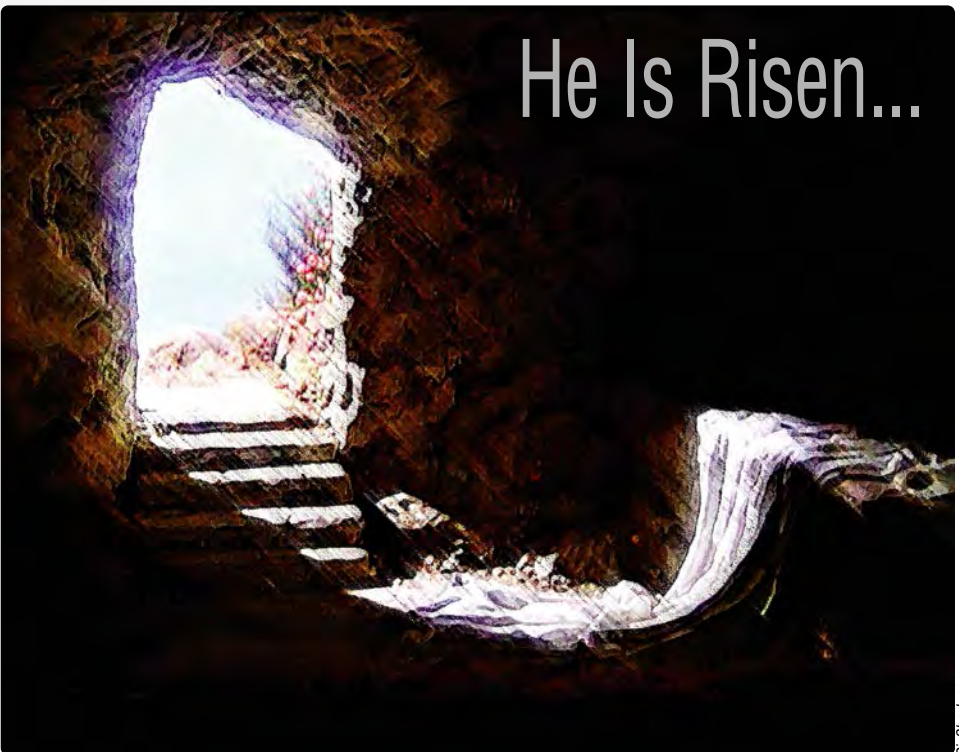
So, on the Shavuot following Jesus' resurrection, not only was the rabbinic scenario of a word from God going forth in several different languages re-enacted, but that word spoke of the resurrection of Jesus.

Shavuot has been relegated to the status of a lesser-celebrated holiday on the current Jewish calendar. Yet **it is a festival meant to remind Jews that God meets both physical and spiritual needs.**

As a harvest festival, Shavuot taught Jews to regard God's gifts with gratitude, returning to Him, in the form of firstfruits, that which they had received. For Jews of later generations, it instilled the knowledge that the Scriptures can nourish spiritually.

For Messianic Jews, Shavuot is all that and more. Like the Diaspora Jews gathered in Jerusalem on that first-century Shavuot, we have heard the message of Yeshua in our own language, in a way that we can comprehend. Several times Jesus had used the metaphor of a harvest to point to the end of time, when the final resurrection would occur. In keeping with this metaphor, one of His followers, Paul, referred to a resurrected Yeshua as the "firstfruits" (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23). Just as agricultural firstfruits are the token of the fuller harvest to come, Paul saw Yeshua as the first example of those who would be resurrected later. Shavuot: a lesser holiday? We think not. ✨

Shavuot 2015: Sunday, May 24 (begins Saturday at sunset)



Levitt CONTENTS Letter

- Myles To Go** [4](#)
- Katharine Weiss** [6](#)
- Eitan Shishkoff**
Our Man in Haifa [7](#)
- Feast of Shavuot** [8](#)
- Classic Zola** [10](#)
Anti-Israel Vicar Silenced [11](#)
- Ask the Chaplain** [12](#)
TJF Report [13](#)
- A Note from Mark** [14](#)
ZLM Bulletin Board [15](#)



Parsons: Hebrew Lesson [16](#)



Hamas War Crime [21](#)

Letters to ZLM [22](#)



Islamic Chaplain [24](#)
Holocaust Soap? [25](#)

Science [26](#)



Medicine [27](#)



5 Takeaways from the Israeli Election [28](#)

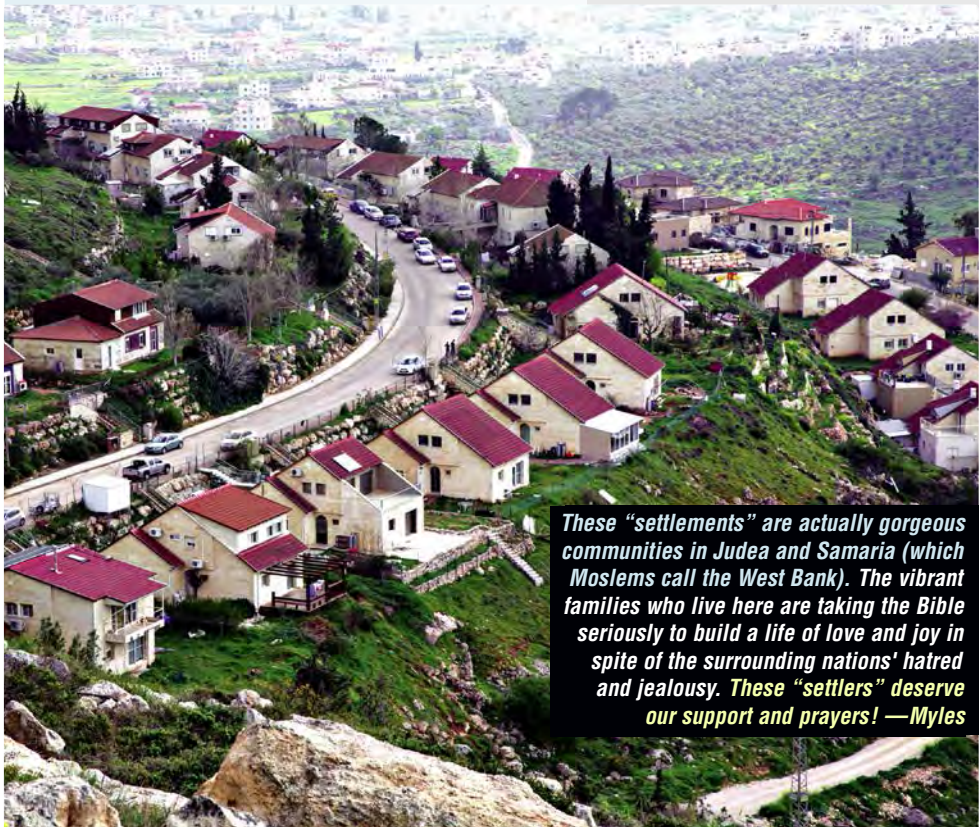
Select Briefs [30](#)

Archaeology [32](#)



News Briefs [34](#)

Jewish Humor [35](#)



These "settlements" are actually gorgeous communities in Judea and Samaria (which Moslems call the West Bank). The vibrant families who live here are taking the Bible seriously to build a life of love and joy in spite of the surrounding nations' hatred and jealousy. These "settlers" deserve our support and prayers! —Myles

Never give in, never give in, never, never, never! —WINSTON CHURCHILL

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



We live in a season of momentous events. As Purim began, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke for the third time before the U.S. Congress.

Those who already favor him received him as a hero; those who do not, see him as a political strategist. I am not surprised.

With growing fervor, the two “sides of the aisle” in America increasingly divide. The same is true in Israel.

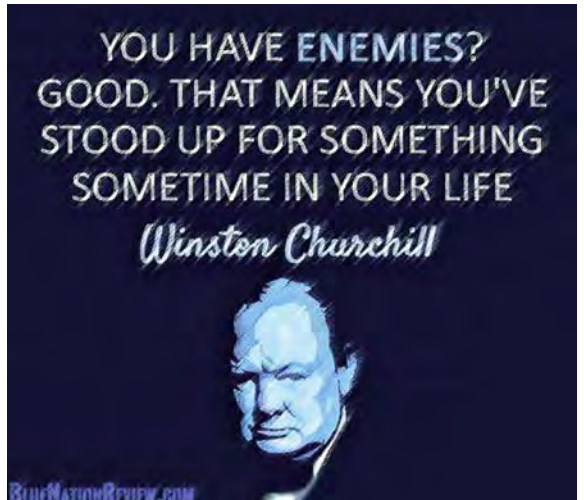
Netanyahu spoke very directly about the threat from a nuclear Iran, which mirrors the threat of ancient Persia when Haman tried to annihilate the Jewish people. Many people described “Bibi” as “channeling” Winston Churchill. I don’t believe in “channeling,” *per se*, but I’m hungry for genuine statesmen to take the world stage.

*You have enemies? Good.
That means you’ve stood up for
something, sometime in your
life. —Winston Churchill.*

The Israeli elections have come and gone; the direction for Israel is set, with the surrounding nations still salivating over its potential destruction.

*If you’re going through hell, keep
going. —Winston Churchill*

The existential threats to Israel remain, and the West still lags behind in acknowledging the reality of global jihad. Somehow, we have a fantasy regarding our ability to fight barbaric terror with academic words and highbrow philosophy.



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



Never give in... *continued*



Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. —Winston Churchill

Israel is a small nation. But it is an island of sanity in the midst of bizarre, dictatorial, oppressive countries that are full of military proxies for Iran: Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north, with a “West Bank” of dubious intentions.

We shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. —Winston Churchill

So how then shall we live? As believers in the Jewish Messiah, we should be ready and able to stand with God’s people and land, “especially those of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). We can do this in a very practical way by making a pilgrimage, through which we boost the Israeli economy and meet the “living stones”—Messianics who are rebuilding the Church where it began.

What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone? —Winston Churchill

As I see weakness and prejudice in the media, I am convinced that ZLM needs to expand the ministry’s influence and raise our voice. I think Winston Churchill was correct when he observed:

All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope. ☆



Need proof that Israel is truly an amazing democracy? The district where PM Netanyahu won by the largest margin wasn’t Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, or Haifa. It was Al Naim, a Bedouin Arab community in Israel’s south, where 77% voted Likud. Bedouin also serve in the IDF.

Count It All Joy!

Katharine Weiss
ZLP co-host



In this day of trials and challenges to our faith, I think of Revelation 12 where God said that we are all called to overcome through the blood of the Lamb (v.11) because of what Jesus has already done for us. God helps us, through the trials that we face, to recognize that our destiny and home are really with Him.

Somehow, James was able to assimilate that fact. In James 1:2, he writes, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” Out of trials you can get, if you let God help you, a heavenly perspective. It is said that if you don’t have hope in the circumstances you are facing, you are not seeing your circumstances from a heavenly perspective.

James (Hebrew name, Jacob!) knew something about trials and testing. James, half-brother of Jesus and a leader in the early Church, helped settle the controversy over which of the laws the gentiles coming into the Church should observe.

The principle that James is talking about in 1:2—being blessed through suffering—is the same principle that Jesus invokes in the Sermon on the Mount when He says, “Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the poor in spirit for they shall see God.” Jesus says it again when He tells His disciples not to fear though there will be tribulation because He has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33). It is the exact opposite of the worldly belief that a trial-free life is a sign of being blessed. When we trust in the Lord to bring us through trials, we gain something in eternity: God works blessings into our lives.

The trying of your faith brings patience, James tells us, and we are able to hang on and stay the course because we know that God is faithful. “Let patience have its perfect work in you that you might be complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:4). With patience, we wait for nothing because we are giving God first place and He provides everything we need.

Revelation 12:12 tells us that in the End Times, the devil will come with great wrath because “he knows his time is short.” This spiritual war is what we are seeing today.

The Lord, on the other hand, is loosing us from this Earth because our destiny is not here; our destiny is in Heaven. When the trumpet sounds, we will be raised with Christ, and we will “meet Him in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

God always has an answer. His kingdom come, His will be done on Earth. God is taking us on a journey. It is an adventure in Him, and He will take us to reign with Him.



Myles & Katharine beside early Christian grave at Emmaus Basilica



Friendship Formed Under Fire

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



Sitting in roadside, beachfront, or sidewalk cafés, they discuss politics, business, and the army experiences that bonded them. Their conversations bounce from good-natured teasing to serious attempts at assessing Israel’s future. Now in their sixties and older, these men come together on a weekly basis to celebrate friendships that go back some forty years, to when they served together in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Those years were a time many describe, despite the hardship, as the best years of their lives. They met fresh out of high school, trained together, fought together, and came to know each other’s families. No wonder they still enjoy hanging out together!

We as a nation depend on military defense for our very existence. In the mere twenty-two years that I’ve lived here, there have been two *intifadas* (uprisings), two extensive defensive operations, and two all-out wars. Less than a year ago, two-thirds of our population came under almost constant attack for 10 weeks. Sixty-six soldiers gave their lives to defend Israel in Operation Protective Edge against the vicious efforts of Hamas to destroy us. Israel simply will not survive without this willingness of Israelis to die for the promises of God—even though few of our fighters know what these promises are, and some aren’t even citizens.

Today’s youth are often criticized, justifiably, as more self-centered and media/entertainment-focused than concerned about their fellow man. In contrast, several young men and women leave the comfort of homes in America and other Western nations specifically to enlist in the IDF. This is the spirit of sacrifice and dedication that built Israel following the Holocaust.



These young people will become *chayalim bodedim*—lone soldiers. A *chayal boded* (lone soldier) has no immediate family in Israel. Last summer, a lone soldier gave his life in Operation Protective Edge. At his funeral, 30,000 Israelis came out to honor **Max Steinberg** (r) 24, from California, whom they never knew. Such is the identification of the typical Israeli citizen with those in uniform who protect us.



There is scarcely a family in all of Israel that is untouched by the daily necessity and value of the IDF. We have universal conscription: Every young man and young woman is required to serve their country, for 3 and 2 years respectively, with the exception of extreme Hasidic groups—an issue of no small controversy. All Israelis consider military service an essential contribution for national welfare. That said, I want to enlist your prayers for Lt. General Gadi Eisenkot—our new Chief of Staff—and all of the forces under his command. May Adonai Tzva’ot (the Lord of the Armies) lead, guide, protect, and hold our military servants to the highest moral standards, reflecting the God of Israel in His reborn nation. ★

The [Bulletin Board \(p. 15\)](#) offers information on a video about the IDF soldiers who battled in last summer’s Operation Protective Edge. Our [October 2014 Levitt Letter](#) carried two articles about Lone Soldiers and Operation Protective Edge casualties, on [pp. 10](#) and [14](#).



7 Weeks from Passover to Shavuot



BY RICH ROBINSON (r) JewsForJesus.org Please see *The Seven Feasts of Israel* p.10

Leviticus 23 links *Shavuot* to Passover, as it occurs near the end of the Passover season. The very name of the holiday, **Shavuot**, means “weeks,” coming as it does seven weeks after Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:15), as the fiftieth day after the Sabbath that fell during the week of Unleavened Bread. The Passover–Shavuot season followed this order:

- Passover was a one-day holiday.
- Unleavened Bread lasted seven days. (By Second Temple times, Passover and Unleavened Bread had been combined into one holiday, so that today, the whole eight days is designated as Passover.)
- The sheaf of firstfruits of the first barley harvest was presented on Sunday (the day after the Saturday Sabbath) that fell during the week of Unleavened Bread (now called the week of Passover).
- Counting off fifty days ($7 \times 7 = 49 + 1 = 50$) from the Saturday Sabbath that fell during Unleavened Bread set the date (a Sunday) for *Shavuot*, or Pentecost (meaning “fifty”).
- The firstfruits of the wheat harvest, in the form of two cakes of leavened bread, were brought to the Temple on Shavuot.

Three Facts About Shavuot

#1 Shavuot is one of three “firstfruits” holy days mentioned in the Bible. The other two are Unleavened Bread and Sukkot. Of all the yearly festivals, these three required all men of Israel to come to the sanctuary (Deut. 16:16). From the time of David, that sanctuary was in Jerusalem. They would offer the “firstfruits” of the season’s harvests. The week of Unleavened Bread fell early in the spring and marked the barley harvest. In the later spring, wheat ripened and was harvested at Shavuot. Sukkot took place in the fall when the final harvest of the year, including olives and grapes, was brought in.



Google Images

#2 Shavuot was a major holiday up to the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. Any holiday that requires the entire male population to make a pilgrimage is “major.” We have few details of the way this pilgrimage took place before the captivity, but we do have detailed descriptions in the *Mishnah* (oral traditions) of how the Jews celebrated it in the days of the Second Temple. Shavuot was an elaborate festival whose beautiful customs came to an abrupt end when the Temple was destroyed.

#3 Many Scriptures in the Passover Haggadah were originally recited at the dedication of firstfruits on the Sunday that fell during Unleavened Bread. Though Jews recall the events of the Exodus at Passover today, Shavuot *also* recalled the four hundred years of bitter servitude in Egypt. In the Book of Deuteronomy, the instructions for celebrating Shavuot conclude with the exhortation, “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees” (Deut. 16:12).

Deuteronomy 26 describes another ceremony to commemorate redemption from bondage. In fact, a whole part of the Passover Seder includes verses recited at the dedication of firstfruits (Deut. 26:1–10). The text does not specify that this ceremony is to be performed on Shavuot, but the ceremony was to be performed on various first-fruit occasions, which would surely include Shavuot. ✨

Shavuot, the Forgotten Holiday

BY YAEL MILLER / Haaretz.com



When I ask my students in April or May, “What holiday is coming up?” I watch as blank stares come over their faces. One postulates, “Yom Kippur?” Another looks at me as if I am crazy and says, “Uh, Passover was last month.” One finally exclaims after much thought: “Oh yeah! It’s the Torah’s birthday. It’s important, right?”

Shavuot has always puzzled me. It’s an important holiday, but honestly, for the vast majority of Jews, it isn’t celebrated, and if it is, it’s by eating cheesecake.

You’d think that for a holiday that considers macaroni and cheese as appropriate festive food, Americans would be obsessed with Shavuot (myself included). **It’s a happy holiday**, celebrating the gift of the Torah to the Jewish people, unlike the somber holidays like Yom Kippur. So why don’t we celebrate it more?

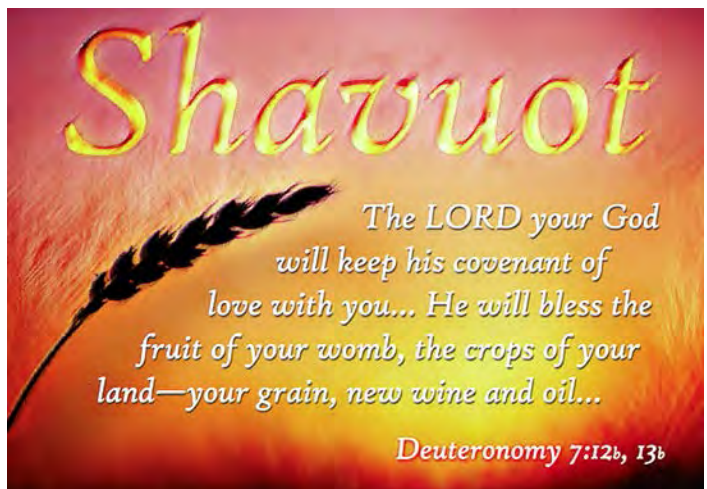
Part of me thinks that Shavuot is a victim of its timing. It follows Passover, a holiday that literally takes over the kitchens of most Jewish people for a weeklong cleanout, and I think most folks just feel, well, tired.

A classic Jewish joke serves as the common denominator for almost every Jewish holiday: “They tried to kill us. We survived. Let’s eat.” Take Purim for example: It’s a holiday that is generally good-spirited, but it has an undertone of genocide against the Jewish people. Shavuot isn’t solemn—it just celebrates the Jews receiving the Torah. Could it be that Jews can’t appreciate this holiday because it is happy through and through? Even a quick Google search for “Jewish quotes” results in a huge number of passages on suffering. And yes, we, as a people, have earned the right to discuss suffering in such a way. Perhaps, however, it’s time for us to start recognizing some of the happy times in our history.

I’m as guilty of this as anyone else. While my classmates in high school chose happy, funny, or spiritual sentiments for their senior yearbook quote, my quote was Elie Wiesel’s famous (and true), “The opposite of love is not hate; it’s indifference.”

I’m not saying that we need to stop remembering our oftentimes-terrible past. Nor am I saying that we always need to be optimistic. The world and history have been unfair to us. However, maybe it’s time for us to pay as much attention to the happy parts of our history as we do to the sad.

This Shavuot, I decided to eat dairy, throw a dinner party, and research this happy holiday in an effort to develop a more nuanced view of Jewish history. Then maybe I’ll be able to say more about this happy holiday than “It’s the Torah’s birthday.” ★



The Takeover Began in the 7th Century... and Continues

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1995: 20 years ago



On our last trip to Israel, former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who has appeared on our program, mentioned Mohammed's ride to Heaven from Jerusalem as believed by the Moslems. The former mayor jokingly advised us that there is no direct flight from Mecca to Heaven; you have to go through Jerusalem! As I have pointed out previously, the Koran does not specify Jerusalem, and I am sorry the Moslems of the past chose it for Mohammed's fantasy ride. They might have picked Cairo, Damascus, or even New York, but they accurately envisioned that Israel would be the hardest country to lay claim to. Now that they have invented the yarn about their prophet's pilgrimage, the bogus claim seems to be working out.

On a previous program, Dr. Walid Phares, a Phoenician from Lebanon, displayed a seventh-century map that showed Moslems occupying only a small province in what is now Saudi Arabia. They have since taken over virtually every country of the Middle East and we are watching them try to take Israel today. I find objectionable what happens to those societies after the takeovers.

There are presently three kinds of Moslem countries in this world: family businesses (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait); forced-ballot dictatorships (Syria, Egypt, etc.); and lunatic worship (Iran, Iraq, Libya, etc.).

The latest and most brazen attempt at the forced conversion of a Middle Easterner to Islam is Jesus of Nazareth. I thought He was Jewish, and I read His genealogy in the Gospels. But Arafat says He was a Palestinian freedom fighter, and PLO spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi claims:

"He was a Palestinian prophet born in Bethlehem in my people's country." We may see in time when Moslems entirely expropriate Jesus Christ to be one of their own, as they have with Abraham and the other Jewish patriarchs.

Doesn't the majority of this world believe that Jesus is a gentile? That was an extremely successful conversion also.

Many things in the Holy Land haven't changed in 2,000 years, and I will be delighted to show them to you. With all that is going on, there is no better time than the present to visit Israel. On a recent evaluation, we asked our Spring 1995 Tour pilgrims if they would recommend our tour to a friend. One woman responded, "Absolutely. I waited for 40 years to go to Israel. I've been teaching about prophecy and Israel for 28 years. I had to borrow from my pension to go now, but it was worth every penny. I wanted to see God's land and the land that He has given to the Jews before the Lord comes back."

Our next tour is this October, including our Greek island cruise. Come see for yourself the work the Lord is doing in the Holy Land.

[Please see [page 36](#) for details.]

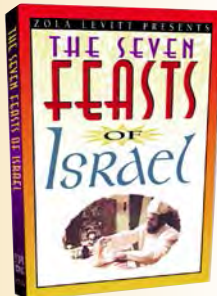
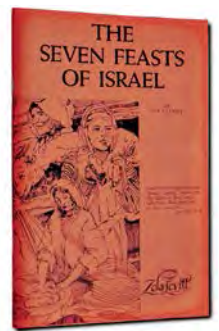


To
Index

The Seven Feasts of Israel

Zola's study booklet, DVD, CD

The *Seven Feasts of Israel* booklet is a must-read and an appropriate gift for anyone you know. It heightens every reader's awareness of how God shows us the Messiah in these feasts. Yeshua was crucified on **Passover**, buried on **Unleavened Bread**, raised at **First Fruits**, and sent the Holy Spirit on **Shavuot** (Pentecost). We are waiting for the return of our Lord on **Rosh Hashanah** (Trumpets). We will not have to go through **Yom Kippur** (Atonement) because Yeshua paid for our sins, and we will dwell with the Lord for a thousand years in our own **Sukkah**.



Order [DVDs](#) (7 programs),
[Teaching CD](#) and our
[Study Booklet](#)

(You may enjoy [7 Weeks from Passover to Shavuot](#) on p. 8.)

Church of England Clips Wings of Anti-Israel Vicar

IsraelToday.co.il



2007 Photo: Eileen Fleming

The Diocese of Guildford of the Church of England ruled recently that controversial vicar **Dr. Stephen Sizer's** (above) "undisciplined commitment to an anti-Zionist agenda" caused him to cross the line into anti-Semitism by promoting conspiracy theories against the Jews.

Just around the time of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Sizer posted to Facebook a link to an article titled "9/11 Israel did it." In text accompanying the link, Sizer wondered, "Is this anti-Semitic?" Whether or not it is didn't seem to matter to Sizer, in whose mind the link in question "raises so many questions."

Sizer has a long history of antagonism toward Israel, from targeting Christian support for the Jewish state to coying up to the mullahs of Iran.

Joining himself to the ranks of what the Americans call "truthers"—those who insist that the truth of who was behind the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks has been concealed, and suggesting that the Jews did it—was one job too many.

In his official statement, the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Andrew Watson, said: "I have concluded that, at the very least, he [Sizer] has demonstrated appallingly poor judgment in the material he has chosen to disseminate... some of which is clearly anti-Semitic."

Bishop Watson and other officials in the diocese ultimately determined that **Sizer's "increasingly undisciplined commitment to an anti-Zionist agenda has become a liability to his own ministry and that of the wider church,"** and that "Stephen's work in this area is no longer compatible with his ministry as a parish priest."

The Church of England let Sizer remain pastor of Christ Church, Virginia Water in Surrey on condition that he never again publicly address any issue related to the Middle East in general, and Israel in particular.

In other words, Stephen Sizer should never again be heard from regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or Christian support for the Jewish state, otherwise known as Christian Zionism.

I wonder how the Church of England would discipline U.S. church denominations who adore Palestinians and embrace BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) against Israel. —Mark



To Index

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. I have always wondered about the location of the Ark of the Covenant. Could it be the fabled treasure in the tomb of King David? That could explain the fire that historian Josephus says “burst out upon those who went in” when Herod tried to loot the tomb, especially if God is protecting the Ark.

A. There is no credible evidence to date that indicates where the Ark of the Covenant is located. Jewish tradition says that Jeremiah buried it in Jerusalem before the Babylonian invasion. Others believe Jeremiah took the Ark to Egypt, or exiles took it to Babylon. Either way, it was not present when the Second Temple stood in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus.

Q. I’m looking for the Hebrew writing for “Jesus Lives.” I’m not looking for *Yeshua Chai*, but for the phrase in the Hebrew alphabet. I hope my wording makes sense.

A. The phrase “Jesus lives” written in Hebrew looks like this: ישו חי Please remember that Hebrew is read from right to left.

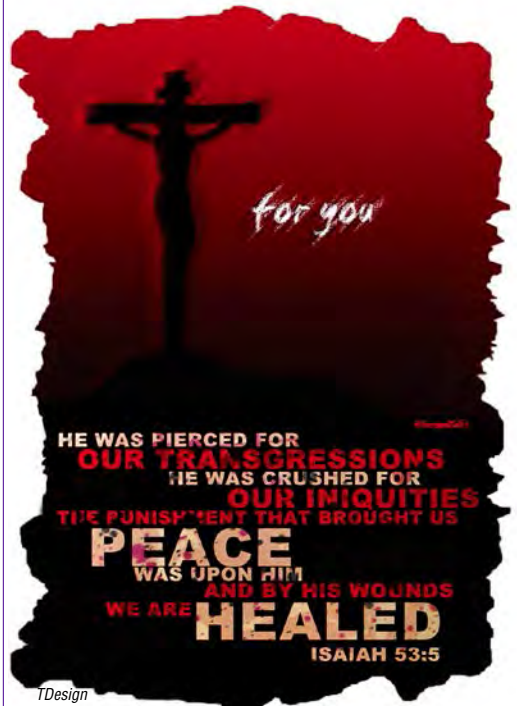
Q. Can you offer me help in witnessing to a Jewish friend? She was raised as an Orthodox Jew and attended Yeshiva University in New York City, but she is struggling with medical issues and her faith.

When I asked her what I could do to help, she wrote back: “I think just being able to be open about this struggle is a first step. I am still trying to figure out what the struggle is. Sometimes I fear that my health will keep worsening until I figure this out. On the other hand, I do not believe that God is particularly aware of me or my

struggles, and even if he/she were, isn’t vindictive.”

A. Good for you! I would start by sharing with her the Gospel and the historical evidence for Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. His resurrection, witnessed by over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:1-7), proved He is God and the Messiah. No other Jewish rabbi has fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, and the religion of works (Law) that Judaism has become cannot remove our sins and deliver us from death. Explain the Gospel to her in this way and be bold with her. There is no other evidentiary explanation that adequately explains the empty tomb.

Josh McDowell wrote *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*—an excellent book of apologetics that she may enjoy reading. Another book for you is Barry Rubin’s *You Bring the Bagels, I’ll Bring the Gospel*—a helpful book on Jewish Evangelism. Begin there and challenge her on this. Please keep me informed on how it goes. Also helpful, [*The Witnessing Series*](#) on p.20.



From India to Israel To Hear About Jesus the Messiah

By Todd Baker



After praying at the Western Wall, Robert Williams and I headed to the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. There, we had effective ministry with **Pazit**, an Indian Jew who made *aliyah* to Israel from Calcutta, India. She found our presentation for Messiah in the Old and New Testaments compelling. Fascinated at hearing the Jewish Gospel for the first time, she wanted to know more and accepted our offer of a Hebrew study Bible that included a New Testament, and a *Promised Messiah* Gospel tract,* also in Hebrew.



A little later, we met **Shanni**. Her news that she is getting married soon opened an opportunity to share God's Word about the Messiah when Robert and I gave Shanni a wedding gift of a Complete Bible (both Testaments) in Hebrew. We prefaced this offer by telling Shanni that the God of Israel had provided the Jewish people with the certainty to recognize when the true Messiah arrived by giving specific prophecies in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament).

Whoever fulfilled them in the proper time sequence would be the true Messiah. We then showed Shanni how

Yeshua of Nazareth was the only Person in history to have done this. Filled with excitement and bubbling gratitude, Shanni accepted her copy of the Hebrew Scriptures from ZLM. Please pray for both of these Israeli women that the Spirit of God will lead them to study His written Word so that they might know and accept Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel.



Later, our **To The Jew First** team met **Meir**, a shop owner at the Dizengoff Mall in Tel Aviv. His store sells *Tehillim* (the Book of Psalms), which provided an opening for me to share with Meir what the Psalms say about the prophesied Messiah. Various psalms describe key events in the life and death of the promised Messiah—events that point to Yeshua. The Messiah's death and betrayal by a close friend are the most prominent of the prophecies that Yeshua fulfilled at His First Coming (Psalm 22, specifically vv. 16-18; and Psalm 41:9).

I asked Meir if he would like to read about these and many other Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament whose fulfillment by Jesus of Nazareth were recorded in the New Testament. Meir was completely open to the idea and accepted our Messianic Gospel tracts* and a Hebrew-language Bible that includes a New Testament.

To God be the glory for these encounters with Israeli Jews. ✨

**The Promised Messiah* — Download and print as many copies of this free pamphlet as you would like. You'll find it at levitt.com.

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Democracy—The Bible = Moral Chaos



Numerous founding fathers of America emphasized the importance of religion to the republic form of government. Some atheists, however, shun the notion that our nation's democracy will work only for a moral, virtuous citizenry. Others argue that unbelievers can be moral, law-abiding citizens.

As part of an end-of-year message, Alabama university chancellor Jack Hawkins sent his students and staff a brief video concerning religious freedom. In the [video](#), Harvard Business School professor Clay Christensen conversed with a Fulbright Fellow and Marxist economist from China who explained that democracy succeeds because its citizens believe that "they aren't just accountable to society; they're accountable to God." Christensen subsequently asked what will happen to our democracy as religion continues to lose its influence.

What institutions do we have that will teach future Americans that they should choose to obey the laws? **"Because if you take away religion, you can't hire enough police,"** Christensen concluded. Mao, Stalin, and Castro are among the political leaders who did their best to hire enough police.

In a recent [New York Times](#) article, columnist David Brooks reflected on the cost of relativism. Many parts of America have no minimal standards for what it means to be a father. He explained, "There are no basic codes and rules woven into daily life, which people can absorb unconsciously and follow automatically." He blamed declining moral norms on nonjudgmentalism, which refuses to assert that one way of behaving is better than another.

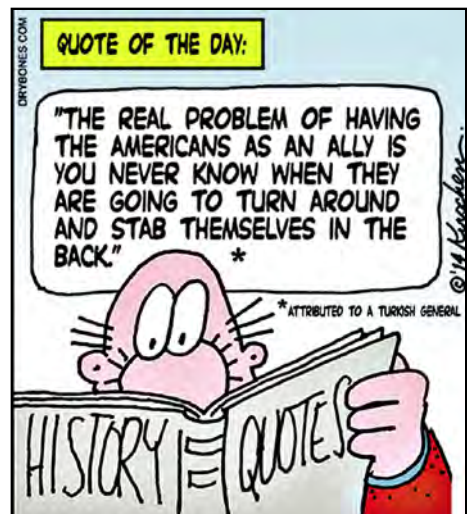
Mr. Brooks goes on to forecast that America "won't have social repair unless we have clearer definitions of how we should be behaving." He mentions examples of moral revival that reversed social chaos, such as

England in the 1830s and the U.S. a century later. His conclusion that "we need ideals and standards" points in the same direction as Clay Christensen's video mentioned above: belief in the Bible and accountability to God.

You, Faithful Reader, probably agree that America desperately needs a spiritual revival, not merely the moral one that Mr. Brooks would like to see. American citizens must be called back to spiritual, personal relationships with God.

PTL, that's exactly what our ministry is doing with our television broadcasts of *Zola Levitt Presents*, Bible teaching at www.levitt.com, and free *Levitt Letters* in the mail. One special aspect of our anointed approach to calling people back to the Bible is how we open their eyes to the awesomeness, simplicity, and depth of what faith in Messiah means today. TV footage from the Holy Land shows its beauty. Explanations of the Jewish Roots of Christianity reveal the seamlessness of God's eternal plan. Our analyses and commentary on modern-day prophecy fulfillment help the spiritually hungry wake up to the Bible's continuing relevance as time marches on.

Thanks for staying with this ministry and upholding our divine work as we keep up "the good fight" (1 Tim. 6:12). ★



ZLM Bulletin Board

Heroes of Protective Edge

On page 7, "Our Man in Haifa" Eitan Shishkoff mentions Operation Protective Edge. Israel's youth make up a key facet of Israeli military defense that provides national security, often in tandem with Iron Dome missiles. For an inspirational, 6-minute video upholding the dedication behind Israel's cutting-edge defense, see wp.me/pieUD-2eT.

You'll hear from young Israeli soldiers, men and women alike, who offer examples of dealing with fear and the observation that "Courage comes from the inside."



Beyond Cable & Satellite

Roku lets "cord cutters" who say goodbye to cable and satellite TV watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on their television. A Roku box gives access via the Internet to 2,000+ channels and 200,000+ movies and TV episodes. Once you add the Zola Levitt Ministries channel (on your free Roku account), you can watch episodes of *ZLP* on your big-screen TV. Roku even supports closed captions. It is easy enough to use and the most economical way to watch our program, other than the scheduled broadcast. Please see levitt.com/roku.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

Most donors consider giving gifts of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, and other property. Did you know that by simply naming a ministry like ours as the beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, you can make a larger gift than otherwise possible? This month's pamphlet

Questions & Answers about Life Insurance

addresses questions such as 1) Who should think about giving life insurance? 2) How do I go about making a life insurance gift? 3) What are the benefits to me and the charitable recipient? To receive a free copy, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Lazarus Has Risen

You may recall reading about our ministry's elderly, dearly departed printer, a reliable relic that over the decades had earned the moniker Methuselah. Now we delight in a minor miracle in our shipping department at the healing hands of Debbie, our shipping manager. Rather than anoint our ailing mailing machine, now called Lazarus, with sacramental oil, she simply strapped the willing workhorse back together with a bungee cord!



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



To
Index



Back
To
P. 7

HebrewLesson



Miracle of a New Heart

By John J. Parsons

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְשָׁמַרְתָּ מִשְׁמֶרֶתוֹ

“And you shall love the LORD your God and keep his charge” – Deut. 11:1

וְ	אָ	הַ	בְּ	תָ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱ	לֹ	הֵי	כָּ	ךָ	וְ	שָׁ	מַ	רְ	תָ	וְ	מִ	שְׁ	מֶ	רֶ	תּוֹ	
(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
mish-mar-to			ve-sha-mar-ta			e-lo-hey-kha			Adonai			et			ve-a-hav-ta								
his charge			and you shall keep			your God			the LORD			()			you shall love								

The central commandment of Scripture is to love God and others, yet this is precisely the commandment we find *impossible* to obey. Tragically, when we look within we soon discover we are loveless at heart: “For out of the heart comes evil...” (Mark 7:21; Jer. 17:9). The essence of Torah is to love, to “do good and no evil,” but we are inherently selfish, judgmental of others, calloused, and proud. So how can we do the impossible?

There is a temptation to regard our inability to love as the result of something other than our own inner perversity, or what the Bible calls “spiritual death.” If we are not careful, we will pray that God will show mercy and compassion on that which is to be crucified, buried, and taken away. God does not reform our carnal nature but puts it on the cross to be done away, and then He replaces it with a radically new nature based on the Spirit and resurrection life. This great miracle of God is found in union with the Messiah’s life. “Live in Me, and I will live in you,” Yeshua says. “As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it finds life in the vine, neither can you, unless you find life in Me; ... for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4–5). You cannot do the impossible, but with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27; Phil. 4:13).

Therefore the ability to love comes by the miracle of God (Ezek. 36:26; 1 John 4:19). As we live in Yeshua, we find life, love, light, truth, and salvation from the hell of a loveless heart. Unite yourself with His death, burial, and resurrection; reckon yourself to be immersed into Him, death-for-death, life-for-life (Rom. 6:8–11; Col. 3:1–4). “Unless a seed falls to the ground, it abides alone...” (John 12:24). Yeshua is the source of all life, and we find nourishment, strength, and fullness of joy as we connect with Him.

By faith affirm: “I have been crucified with Messiah, and it is no longer ‘I’ who live, but Messiah who lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). There is a new “I” that comes from above. The miracle of the exchanged life comes as we surrender to the truth of what God has done for us (2 Cor. 5:21). That’s the essence of the Gospel, the power of *God for salvation* to all who believe (Rom. 1:16). Therefore we do not attempt to crucify ourselves, or labor to reform our lower nature, but we instead accept that we *already have been crucified* by the mercy and power of God. We clothe ourselves in the robes of His righteousness as we celebrate God’s redeeming love for our lives. **Only then are we empowered to truly “love the LORD and keep His charge”** (Deuteronomy 11:1). ☆

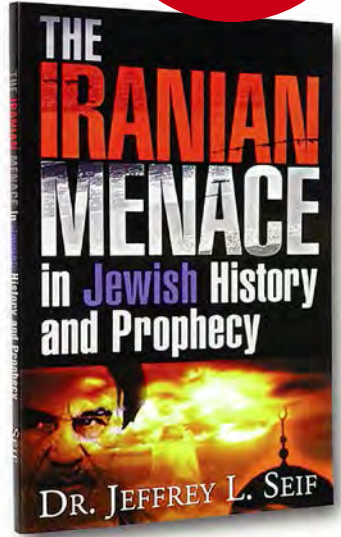




The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy

Book by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Iran is central in end-times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After a glimpse of Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff's analysis is based on sound scriptural understanding as well as his conclusions from two decades of academic contemplation. This easy read will provide fodder for its advocates and critics alike.

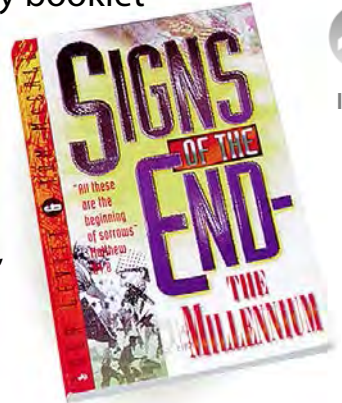


Three Books in One!

Signs of the End—The Millennium study booklet

Three books in one. First, the Messiah's own Words warn about the conditions that will prevail in the world at the end of God's plan. Are we now approaching the Great Tribulation and the return of our King?

Second, Zola and Dr. Thomas S. McCall offer a biblical perspective of world events. Third, their update titled The Millennium makes this a prophecy book of the past, present, and future.



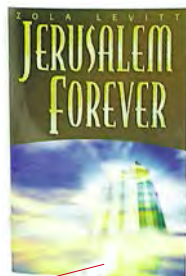
Israel Trains Europe to Fight Terror

UNDER THREAT: European Jews are in the crosshairs

The danger of Islamist terrorist attacks in Europe that politicians and security experts have been warning about for months is suddenly real. As the intelligence agencies of European Union countries become increasingly alarmed, some are starting to take advantage of Israeli expertise and knowhow in counter-terrorism.

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

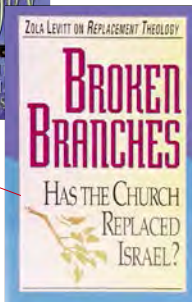
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Books

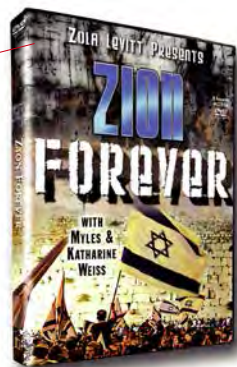
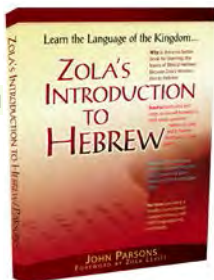
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	_____



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<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
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UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!



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[The Witnessing Series DVD](#)

Share Messiah with Your World!

The key to witnessing is sharing the Bible. But how you go about presenting Yeshua's message depends on your listener. These four half-hour TV programs on DVD are our response to viewers who've asked, "How do I witness to ...?"

Witnessing to Arabs/Moslems Dr. Louis Hamada, an Arab born in Syria, conveys the importance of sharing the news of our Lord and Savior with the Moslems.

Witnessing to Jews, Part I Zola interviews David Gold, a Jewish radio host, who gives his testimony of accepting Jesus as Messiah.

Witnessing to Jews, Part II Messianic Jews from several walks of life share how they came to faith in Yeshua.

Witnessing to Gentiles Zola uses Peter's confrontation with Cornelius in Acts 10 as a reminder that "God is no respecter of persons."

(Also see third Q/A of "Ask the Chaplain" on p.12)

[An Epic Love Story](#) study booklet by Myles Weiss

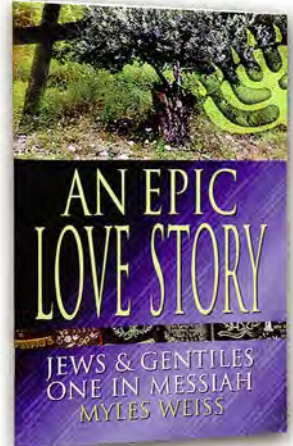
*(Also see Myles's
response to
S.McC. on p.22)*

The God of love is a matchmaker who desires a Bride for His Son, the Bridegroom of Heaven. This Bride, the Church, will consist of both Jews and gentiles. Yeshua's sacrifice enables gentiles to be grafted into the life of Israel and share in the promises of God. Understanding the role of Israel—God's timepiece—is crucial to preparing for the Lord's return.

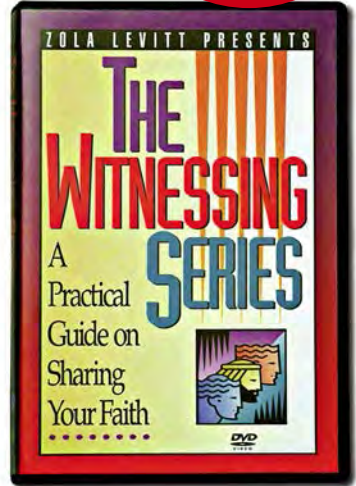
This readable booklet tackles topics including

- 1) Is Jesus Coming Soon?
- 2) Why Did Judaism and Christianity Part Ways?
- 3) God's 9-11,
- 4) Turning Points in the Modern Era, and
- 5) The Olive Tree as a Modern Parable.

(Part of the 50 booklets deal below and p.18)



Mix or Match any 50 study booklets from Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library including *Jerusalem Forever* and Myles's *An Epic Love Story*. See offer and all study booklet titles top of page 18.



Amnesty International: Hamas Rockets a War Crime

JTA.org

Several rocket attacks launched at Israel from inside the Gaza Strip amount to war crimes, Amnesty International said.

In a report released March 25, 2015, the human rights group also found that Palestinian rocket fire during the Hamas-Israel conflict in summer 2014 killed more civilians inside the Gaza Strip than inside Israel due to the use of unguided projectiles that cannot be accurately aimed at specific targets. In many cases, the rockets landed inside Gaza rather than the intended targets in Israel.

Using unguided weapons is prohibited under international law and their use constitutes a war crime.

“Palestinian armed groups, including the armed wing of Hamas, repeatedly launched unlawful attacks during the conflict killing and injuring civilians,” said Philip Luther, director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Amnesty International, in a statement. “In launching these attacks, they displayed a flagrant disregard for international humanitarian law and for the consequences of their violations on civilians in both Israel and the Gaza Strip.”

“The devastating impact of Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians during the conflict is undeniable, but violations by one side in a conflict can never justify violations by their opponents,” Luther said. **[Hamas never warned civilians of pending attacks as the Israelis warned Gazans. —Ed.]** He called on both sides to cooperate with investigations by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

Two previous Amnesty reports on Israel’s Operation Protective Edge were critical of Israel’s military. ★

ROCKETS BY THE NUMBERS

Compiled by Jacob Ryan ▶ Graphics by Hadas Avisar



CARTOONS by Henry

Copyright Henry Christensen, 2009



Letters to ZLM

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

If It Ain't Broke...

Hello Zola Levitt Ministries,

Thank you so much for sending your *Levitt Letter* to me. I could not put it down until I read it all. Its format is reader-friendly and the news is very interesting, so please don't change the format or the type of news you publish. I've seen too many publishers spoil their magazines by supposing that the readership would like a change and to keep the publication from becoming stale, and then lost readers.

I will certainly send contributions to you even though I support other ministries. Please send me another edition of the magazine when you publish again. May the Lord bless you all, and thank you again.

With blessings, C.A. (UK)



Todah Rabah/Thank you very much, C.A.—

We appreciate your financial support and will certainly keep the LL coming to you. I agree with your analysis, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," as we say in the States. I hear often from readers that they appreciate our editorial staff, in that we sift the news for the most relevant, uplifting, and sometimes challenging reports.

Recently, I had the privilege of interviewing senior staff members at *Israel Today* in Jerusalem. We agreed that our part of The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20) is to bring a Bible-centered, contemporary message in the face of all the mainstream media hype. Thanks for your partnership. —Myles

Bringing Israel Into Your Homes

Dear ZLM,

RE: Myles's *Epic Love Story* and *Acts: Then and Now... the Story Continues*. God bless ALL of you for your faithfulness in bringing Israel into our homes. The anointing of the Holy Spirit arrives with the television and DVDs, especially the music of Daniel Carmel. —S.McC. (MT)



Shalom S.McC.—

Thank you for the encouragement about *Epic Love Story*. I would love to make some more of my teaching available in booklet form. It is a low-cost means for those who still love "paper" (as I do!), and Zola was the master of brief but poignant teachings. The *Acts* TV series is one of our favorites, as it emphasizes the continuity of the Gospel message through the centuries and highlights some of our dear friends—the contemporary Messianic pioneers in Israel today. We appreciate your interest. —Myles and Katharine

P.S. Come with us to Israel and hear Daniel Carmel "live" on his worship boat (above) on the Galilee. [Learn more about *An Epic Love Story* on p. 20.](#)



How Will God Do It?

Dear Myles and Katharine,

I love getting and passing along the *Levitt Letter*. I am almost 80 years old and on a very limited income. I wish I was younger and able to tour Israel with you.

I have been praying for Prime Minister Netanyahu to come to know Jesus as his Messiah. I know he has met with Christians over the years (including Zola) who would have had the opportunity to tell him that Jesus is the Messiah.

The February [Levitt Letter](#) included an article about his son entering the military and mentioned that he is the family Bible scholar. Have my prayers been answered and they have come to know Yeshua as their Messiah? Or do I need to keep on praying?

I have another question. I pray for Israel and the soon return of the Lord to carry us home. My concern is for my two kitties. Will they be raptured or left to starve locked inside the house? My mind tells me that the Lord would not leave unbelievers to take care of their animals and ours be left to die alone when all they ever knew was love.

Praying for you both and the work for the Lord you are doing, R.K. (SC)

Dear R.K.—

You have touched on a concern that I share. I've often wondered about the logistics that a worldwide Rapture would require. What happens to planes with saved pilots, or other traffic with drivers who are raptured? Or operations unfinished when the doctor vanishes to meet his Savior? And, as you ask, what happens to our pets who rely on our care for their well-being? Perhaps you have neighbors whom you can ask to look after your kitties should anything happen to you. (That's possibly something we should all do in any case.)

I take comfort in the fact that our Lord is very capable of seeing to every detail. I trust that He will provide for the innocent animals left behind and also for the lives of people on planes, trains, and operating tables who have heard the Word but were slow to believe. We know there will be 144,000 Jews in that category: 12,000 from each of the 12 Tribes of Israel who have heard the Gospel of Jesus but who won't believe what they heard until the Rapture convinces them. This Remnant will spearhead the campaign to win Israel and others to their Messiah, Yeshua.

The Netanyahu parents are proud of their scholar of the *Hebrew Bible*, the *Tanakh*, or Old Testament as we Believers call it. As far as we know, the Netanyahus are still practicing Jews. Of course, we can count on the Holy Spirit watering the Gospel seeds that, as you point out, have been planted along the way by Zola and others. Keep praying. Trust the Lord to look after the Netanyahus and your kitties.

—Editor ★



Israelis witnessed 40% of the March 2015 solar eclipse. An eclipse is often seen as meaningful and even threatening. Some say it's a "sign from God" of prophesied events soon to occur.

U.S. Prison Chaplain Is Islamist

ClarionProject.org



An Egyptian born imam who has publicly supported the death penalty for those who choose to leave Islam has been hired by the U.S. Department of Justice to teach Islam in prisons.

Fouad al-Bayly (above), the imam of the Islamic Center of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, said in 2007 that **Ayaan Hirsi Ali** (below)—a Somali women’s rights activist, former member of the Dutch parliament, and fierce critic of Islam—deserves to die for her public attacks on Islam.

In 2007, al-Bayly protested a planned speech by Ali during which he told reporters: “If you come into the faith, you must abide by the laws, and when you decide to defame it deliberately, the sentence is death.”

This is a mainstream view among Islamists. Ali has every reason to take death threats seriously. She has received multiple death threats in the past. Dutch film director Theo van Gogh, whose film *Submission* (scripted by Ali) criticized Islam, was murdered in 2004. A note pinned to his chest with a knife said that Ali was next.



Yet government records show that despite his extremist past, Fouad al-Bayly (as of 2014) was hired to teach Islam to inmates in prison. Records state that he received two contracts: one for \$10,500 for February of 2014 to provide “religious services, leadership and guidance,” and another one for \$2,400 dated to December to provide “Muslim classes for inmates.”

This is not the first time imams and mosques with extremist connections have been allowed access to prisoners despite their records. Dar al-Hijrah, an extremist mosque attended by three of the 9/11 hijackers, has engaged in prison outreach in Washington D.C. for 10 years.

In another example, the head of Islamic Affairs for the New York State Prison’s Department of Ministerial Services was later caught justifying the 9/11 attacks and terrorism to prison inmates. ☆



Holocaust Soap?

THE NEWS REPORT / YNetNews.com



According to historian Arthur Haraf, an antiques vendor offered to sell soap that he found near Westerbork (NL) detention camp, from which Dutch Jews were sent to extermination camps. Dutch newspaper *NRC* reported that police became interested when the vendor claimed that the soap was made from “bodies of Jewish victims killed in Nazi extermination camps” and offered it online for 199 euros (\$215).

THE MYTH

JewishVirtualLibrary.org

“It’s a general conception that the Nazis manufactured soap,” says Michael Berenbaum, who was project manager for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum before it opened in 1993 and headed the museum’s research institute until 1997. “But we don’t have any evidence that the Nazis actually manufactured soap with human bodies.” A document written by the museum’s historian concludes: “Rumors that Germans made soap from human remains originated in French propaganda from the First World War.”



Aaron Breitbart, a senior researcher at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, agreed that the evidence is thin. “The leading scholars of the Holocaust are of the opinion that the Nazis did not make soap,” he says. “It was a cruel rumor at the camps.”

Breitbart explains why scholars have to be so careful: “The view of Holocaust revisionists is, if you can prove something is wrong, then everything is wrong. It gives them an opportunity to cast doubt on the general historical veracity of the Holocaust.”

The scholars’ view is based in part on analysis of the small, blue-green cakes of soap that Holocaust survivors have presented over the years, claiming that they were made from human fat. Breitbart says the bars are stamped “R.I.F.,” for Reich Industry Fat, but in the camps some Jews believed that the ‘I’ was a ‘J’ and that the acronym stood for “*Rein Juden Fet* (Pure Jewish Fat).” When analyzed, however, the bars turned up no evidence of human DNA. ★



Dry Bones

CODES OF INCITEMENT



Israeli Agri-Tech Firm Weeds Out Food Insecurity



SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

The genetic modification of plants and crops is still a red flag for many consumer groups and legislators. Israel's Evogene is one company that is applying GMO (genetically modified organism) technology to improve crop quality and productivity. Through its PointHit platform, the biotech firm is using big data to analyze molecules in weeds and identify key plant macro-molecules responsible for essential biological processes in weeds. By targeting those processes, Evogene will be able to develop herbicides that will be more effective in killing weeds.

Another area in which GMO is actually welcome is biofuels, with genes in corn and soybeans grown specifically for fuel production enhanced to develop the crop's characteristics that will ensure better fuel consumption.

Castor is considered by many scientists to be the perfect crop for fuel production because its oil is soluble in alcohol and does not require heat to be transformed into fuel. And it's easy to grow and thrives on marginal lands where raising food crops is difficult. About half of the content of the castor plant consists of oil, making it one of the most "generous" crops for the production of fuel.

Israeli Smart Balloon Wins U.S. Army Award

By David Shamah / TimesOfIsrael.com

An Israeli-developed surveillance balloon that is helping to make Jerusalem's streets safer passed the U.S. Army's tech "boot camp" program, the AEWE (Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment), and is now on the "approved list" for U.S. military purchases, Israel's RT LTA Systems Ltd. announced recently.



The **SkyStar 180**, the model approved by the Army, is the same model that is flying over Jerusalem, equipped with high-resolution cameras. "The city ordered three of our camera-equipped balloons, and I told the mayor that he should order two more even without the cameras, just for the deterrence factor," RT CEO Rami Shmueli said in an interview. "He laughed, but a few days later he called me up to tell me that the system was indeed very effective."

That's how the U.S. Army feels, too, said Shmueli. "We have the only long-distance aerial surveillance system that can operate from as high as 1,000 feet," he said. "SkyStar 180 uses a very sturdy and strong helium balloon, and is ideal for observing and protecting fixed sites, such as facilities or whole neighborhoods."

SkyStars can operate up to 3 days straight with only a 20-minute re-inflation break after 72 hours, can perform in all weather conditions, have high mobility and a very small logistical footprint, and are simple to operate and highly cost-effective. ★



Jerusalem Sewer Bacteria Treat Infections



MEDICINE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

Israeli researchers are reporting a new, clever tactic in the ongoing war against antibiotic-resistant bacteria: infecting them with tiny viruses called bacteriophages, or “phages” for short.

Phages help maintain the natural balance in their predator-prey relationship with bacteria and have been proven to be highly effective “professional bacteria killers.”

Now, here’s the unsavory part of the story. A particular bacteriophage that may help prevent infections following root-canal procedures has been isolated from sewage effluents retrieved from a Jerusalem sewage treatment facility.

This phage, named EFDG1, is capable of infecting the V583 strain of *E. faecalis*, a life-threatening pathogen which causes diseases ranging from endocarditis (a potentially fatal heart infection) to bacteremia in the bloodstream, as well as urinary-tract infection, meningitis, and post-treatment root-canal infections, according to a research team led by Dr. Ronen Hazan from the Institute of Dental Sciences at the Hebrew University and Dr. Nurit Beyth from the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine.

E. faecalis resides in the gastrointestinal tract and is resistant to vancomycin, the antibiotic usually used against bacterial infections in this part of the body. The problem is that *E. faecalis* is a highly durable strain, and these bacteria tend to group within a sticky cluster called a biofilm that drugs cannot penetrate. *E. faecalis* is often the culprit in persistent infections associated with root-canal treatments.

The team evaluated EFDG1’s efficacy against *E. faecalis* cells both in a liquid culture and in the currently untreatable biofilm form. In both cases, EFDG1 almost entirely eradicated the bacteria.



Bacteriophage EFDG1 at a magnification of 20,000 to 30,000 times. Some phages are still bound to remains of the dead bacteria. (Photo: Ronen Hazan/Hebrew University)

“The idea of using phages as anti-bacterial drugs is not new,” said Hazan. “Phage therapy was first proposed at the start of the 20th century, but then abandoned for various reasons, including the striking success of chemical antibiotics.”

“Now we stand on the verge of a new era with the limitations of synthetic antibiotics and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Thus, it is the right time to look again into what Mother Nature offers in the battle against bacteria.”

The researchers showed that EFDG1 worked well in clearing up root-canal infections in tissue samples. **Every year, drug-resistant infections kill** more than 50,000 people across Europe and the United States, and **hundreds of thousands** more around the world. ★



5 Takeaways from the Israeli Election



BY URIEL HEILMAN (r) JTA.org

In U.S. elections, the magic number is 270, the number of Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency. In Israel it's 61, the number of seats needed to capture a majority in the 120-seat Knesset—and with it, the premiership.

With Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party at 30 seats, far ahead of Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union (24 seats), the question is who will join Netanyahu in a coalition? Consider these points as the next Israeli government takes shape:

1. Netanyahu is in a stronger position than before.

- He can extend his premiership for another four years, possibly to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister.
- By improving Likud's position in the Knesset from 18 to 30, Netanyahu can claim a fresh mandate.
- He can build a more stable coalition than last time.



Netanyahu celebrates on election day. (Mirian Alster/Flash90)

2. The left wing failed to gain ground. Herzog's left-wing share of Knesset seats remains relatively unchanged—29 compared to 28 previously. If you throw in the Joint Arab List, that brings the left to 42 seats, up from 40 last time around.

3. The kingmakers will be the centrists.

The Knesset's two centrist parties together won 21 seats. Barring the unlikely event of a unity government, one or both of them will be a must-have to reach the magic number of 61. The enduring strength of the centrist parties demonstrates how seriously Israeli voters consider the socioeconomic issues on which centrists campaigned. Israeli elections are no longer just about security, particularly when few Israelis see a viable way to overcome the morass with the Palestinians and the threats posed by upheaval in the Arab/Islamic world.



Sign in Arabic urging Arabs to vote

4. The Arabs are a force to be reckoned with. Combining Israel's Arab parties into the Joint Arab List strengthened their hand. Though lower than Jewish-Israeli turnout, Arab-Israeli turnout was still higher than usual. Now Arabs control two additional Knesset seats with a more unified voice.

5. Netanyahu is a politician. The prime minister's actions in the final hours of the election make it difficult to see how he will repair Israel's image overseas and its frayed relationship with the United States.

His interview stating that there will be no Palestinian statehood while he is prime minister was poorly phrased: "I think anyone who is going to establish a Palestinian state... is giving

(continued next page)



5 Takeaways... continued



radical Islam a staging ground against the State of Israel.” When asked point blank “If you are prime minister, there will be no Palestinian state?” Netanyahu responded, “Indeed.” He later insisted that his statement meant “a Palestinian state is unachievable.”

Netanyahu’s election-day warning for Likud supporters to rush to the polls because Arab-Isrealis were turning out in large numbers also brought international criticism and charges of racism. America’s National Public Radio later aired Netanyahu’s explanation: “I wasn’t trying to block anyone from voting; I was trying to mobilize my own voters.”

Both actions provide fodder for critics of Netanyahu and of Israel: that he (and by extension Israel) is disingenuous about pursuing a peace deal with the Palestinians, and that he (and by extension Israel) is racist.

Anyone who walks back U.S. relations with Israel because of disagreement with the current leadership should consider Sen. Marco Rubio’s recent arguments for America’s duty to uphold Israel: “Israel represents everything we want that region of the world to be.” It is a democracy with a developed and free economy. Rubio also pointed out Israel’s unique and special purpose that is unlike any other nation’s: Israel was founded as a homeland where the Jewish people can go to be safe.



Arab-Isreali woman casts her vote



Does Netanyahu's prediction that no two-state peace agreement will occur during his next term make him disingenuous about pursuing peace? No. Peace cannot be achieved with anyone sworn to your extermination. The land-for-peace concessions that Israeli leaders have offered Palestinians over the last few decades and the Palestinian leaders’ flat rejections of all of them suggest that the Palestinians will hold out for their stated goal of “No Israel.” Netanyahu's foreign policy statement amounts to nothing more than a struggle for Israel’s survival.



As for branding Bibi a racist: If Netanyahu adopted anti-Arab bigotry in Israel’s political life, then why did so many Arabs vote for him? 77% did. See page 5 photo caption. —Mark ★



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

**Chinese Christians gather
outside provincial court.**

◀ Photo: China Aid

clash in which security personnel armed with sticks attacked congregation members who had been keeping a night vigil over the cross atop their sanctuary.

Huang urged the church leaders to put the toppled crosses back up.



1 Year Jail for Questioning Cross Removals in China

By Didi Tang / Associated Press

A Christian pastor in eastern China who questioned the forced removal of crosses from church roofs was sentenced recently to one year in prison, his lawyer Zhang Kai said.

Huang Yizi is the first person to be jailed for opposing Zhejiang province's intense campaign to remove crosses from churches.

Authorities in the province tore down about 400 rooftop crosses last year, saying they violated the building code. Churchgoers and religious-rights advocates say the Christian faith is being targeted because its rapid growth unnerves the ruling Communist Party.

Huang, an outspoken pastor, was taken away by police last summer after he brought some parishioners to a local government building to demand answers about a July 2014



Photo by Zhang Kai

Zhang said the charge stemmed largely from the gathering in front of the government building, and added that Huang did not disrupt social order but instead played a mediating role.

Zhang said the court rejected Huang's defense that his activity was justified because authorities violated the law by trying to remove the cross by force and without legal ground.

Rare 2,300-Year-Old Coins and Jewelry Found in Cave

The International Jerusalem Post

A rare and important cache of 2,300-year-old silver and bronze coins, dated back to Alexander the Great, were discovered recently in northern Israel by the amateur Israeli Caving Club.



Ronen Zvulun / Reuters



To
Index



No Need to Deny the Holocaust ...

... when 35% of adults worldwide have never even heard of it. According to the Anti-Defamation League, of those who have heard of the Holocaust, 21% think it is a myth or exaggeration. East of L.A., the Rialto Unified School District recently assigned 2,000 eighth-graders to write "critical thinking" essays on whether the Holocaust actually occurred or was merely a political scheme. (School officials later apologized.) More offensive, Temple University (PA) Adjunct Professor Alessio Lerro's argument that Jews are "gaming" the Holocaust numbers for political advantage has gained traction among anti-Semites.



Jewish App developer helps make religious life easier with Apple Watch

By Niv Elis / JPost.com

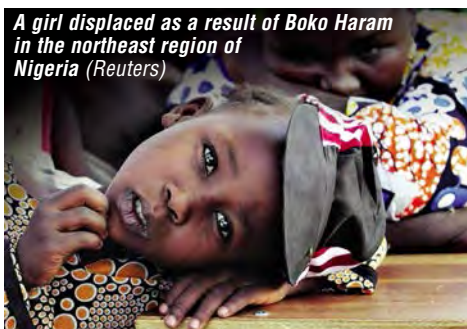
RustyBrick, premier company for Jewish apps, plans an Apple Watch app that tells users worldwide times to pray, finds local kosher restaurants and the proper *bracha* to say, and lets them know when sunset occurs (when Shabbat and holidays start and end).

Israel "crucial in fight against Boko Haram"

By Ariel Ben Solomon / JPost.com

A Nigerian government spokesman: "Israel has been a crucial and loyal ally in our fight against Boko Haram. It is a sad reality that Israel has a great deal of experience confronting terrorism."

Mike Omeri, chief coordinating spokesman of the National Information Center, based in Abuja, continued: "Our Israeli partners have used that experience, and the unique expertise gained over years of fighting terror within its own borders, to assist us." Omeri added that Israelis have been incredibly supportive with the training and the tools required to defeat Boko Haram.



Asked what role the U.S. government has in the fight against the terrorist group, he responded: "The American and Nigerian militaries have a long history of close cooperation, strategic alliance, and shared values." Nigerian warplanes recently bombed Boko Haram training camps and equipment in Sambisa Forest in Nigeria's northeast, adding momentum to an assault that also involves neighbors Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. After a year in which Boko Haram seemed to be gaining ground, seizing territory, killing thousands, and kidnapping hundreds (mostly women and children), the tide may be turning against them as neighboring countries plagued by cross-border attacks have joined in.

Rev. Sunday Lakong, a Nigerian pastor, said this is not a conventional war since Moslems live among the people. Christians have fled dangerous areas in the north and many now live in churches or are homeless, he said, adding that the government is also helping deal with the refugees. Nigeria is "being neglected by the world. Boko Haram is killing people and nobody seems to care what happens," he said. ★

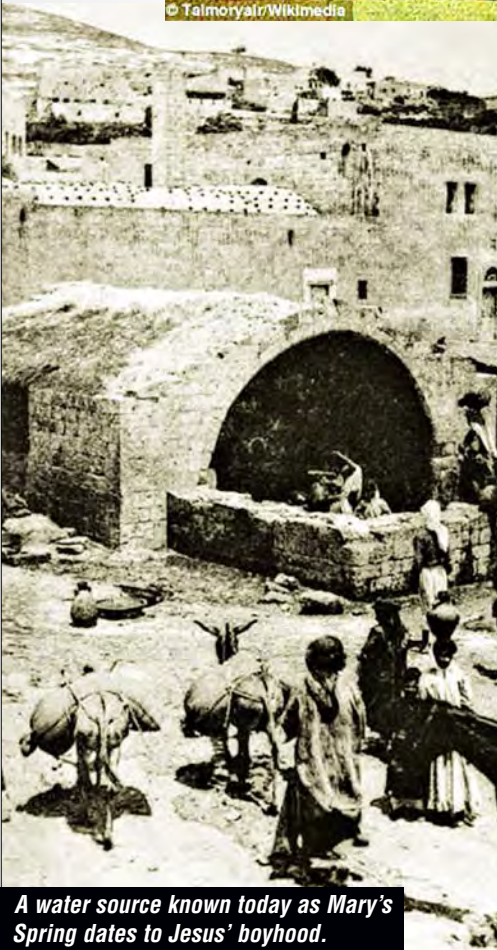
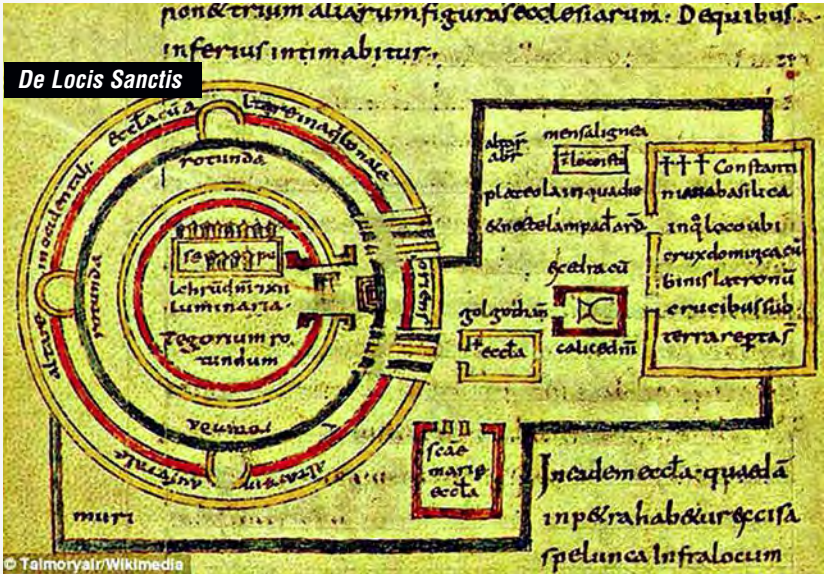
Jesus' Boyhood Home?



ARCHAEOLOGY BY DANIEL BATES / DailyMail.co.uk

Hewn into a hillside is the humble stone and mortar house where a scholar believes Jesus was raised. It has been dated to the early first century by a British archaeologist who says an ancient text points to the building as being the home in Nazareth where Mary and Joseph brought up the Son of God.

Professor Ken Dark says the *De Locis Sanctis* (r), written in 670 by an Irish monk Adomnán, described the house as located between two tombs and below a church.



A water source known today as Mary's Spring dates to Jesus' boyhood.



▲ In the first century, two tombs were built beside what is believed to be Jesus' home. The forecourt of the tomb seen above passes through the abandoned home, cut out of a limestone hillside.

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

Jesus' Boyhood Home?... *continued*

In the Byzantine era, and again in the 12th century at the time of the Crusades, the ruins of the building were incorporated into churches—suggesting it was of great significance and needed to be protected, the Reading University archaeologist argues.

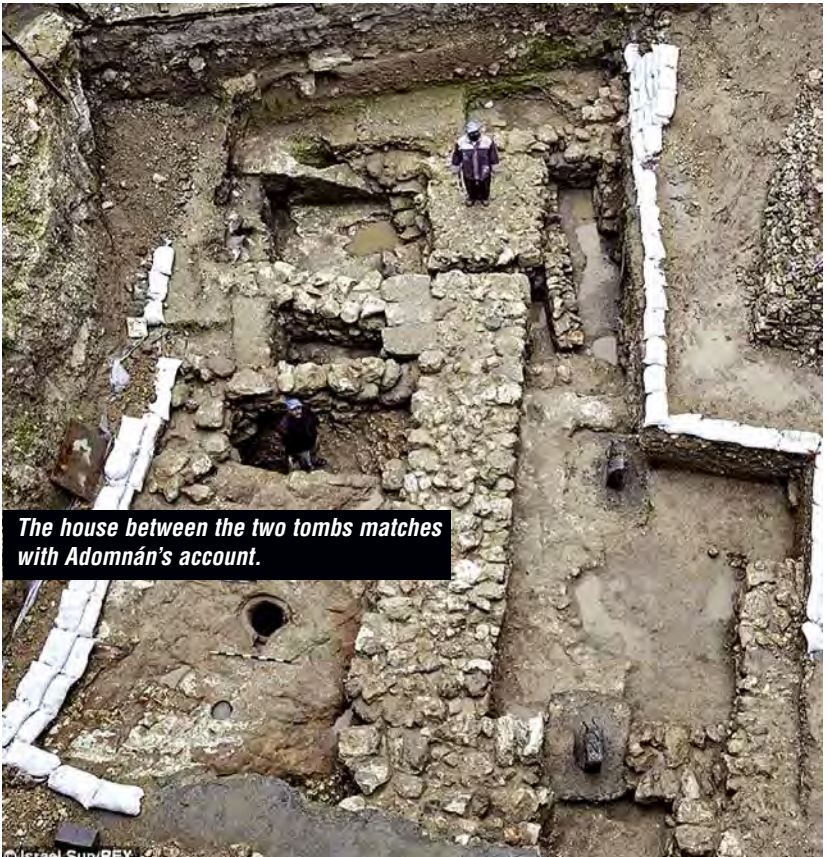
The house was cut into a limestone hillside and has a series of rooms and a stairway. One of the original doorways has survived, as has part of the original chalk floor.

Dr. Dark's team discovered broken cooking pots, a spindle whorl, and limestone artifacts.

Limestone items suggest that a Jewish family lived there as Jews believed that limestone could not be impure.



The humble first-century home in Nazareth might be Jesus' childhood home.



The house between the two tombs matches with Adomnán's account.



To
Index

Finnish Christians Celebrate 25 Years of Helping Russian Aliyah

JTA.org



Christian Zionists in Finland celebrated the 25th anniversary since their community began helping Russian-speaking Jews emigrate to Israel, or make *aliyah*.

The anniversary was marked in March when the second bus of 2015 arrived in Helsinki carrying Russian-speaking Jews who came from St. Petersburg to make aliyah through what is known as the "Finnish Route." The 30 passengers flew to Israel after staying for three days at the homes of Christian volunteer hosts.

A third bus arrived in April, part of an arrangement that, since it was formally established in 1990, has brought approximately 20,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union to the Jewish state.

The Finnish Route began for practical reasons when a wave of roughly one million emigrants overwhelmed transportation routes farther south, said Howard Flower, the St. Petersburg-based director for Aliyah for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, who coordinates the logistics connected to the Finnish route with volunteers of the Finnish Exodus Committee, or *Neliapila* (Four-leaf Clover). ★

Yemen: Worshippers Cursed Jews/America at the Moment of the Mosque Bombing

BY BEN ARIEL

IsraelNationalNews.com



In a March bombing, terrorists who claimed to be affiliated with the Islamic State (ISIS) targeted two mosques affiliated with the Shiite Houthi rebel movement that had taken over the capital of Yemen, Sanaa. The attacks, carried out by Moslem suicide bombers during the rush for Friday prayers, killed 137 people and injured 345 others, according to *Al-Jazeera*.

One of the mosques targeted was the Al-Hashoush Mosque. According to video footage posted to the Internet and translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), the worshippers at the mosque were cursing Jews and wishing death upon Israel just as the suicide bomber detonated his explosive device.

The preacher is shown in the video saying, "Our belief in Allah will increase after today. We will triumph over their deceit and their arrogance. Allah is with us..."

The worshippers respond by repeatedly chanting, "Death to America. Death to Israel. Curse upon the Jews. Victory to Islam. Allah Akbar."

The worshippers respond by repeatedly chanting, "Death to America. Death to Israel. Curse upon the Jews. Victory to Islam. Allah Akbar."

An arrow on the screen points to a man walking through the chanting crowd, a bomb goes off, and worshippers cry out. ★

Jewish Humor, etc.

Text Message

Young Sadie is at the mall with her friends when she notices the time. She quickly texts her mother: "I'm at the mall with the girls and want to try on one more outfit. If I'm not home in 30 minutes, read this message again."



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

Good News/Bad News

Rabbi Epstein is standing before his congregation ready to give his High Holiday sermon. Unfortunately, he can't focus on spiritual matters, as the physical ones are more pressing.

"Friends," Rabbi Epstein begins, "unfortunately, I must report that a massive hole has been found in the roof of the synagogue.

"Now I have good news and bad news for you," the rabbi continues. "The good news is that we have the money to repair it; the bad news is that the money is in your pockets." ★

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Thursdays, 9:00 AM Central Time (New time, PTL!)

Fridays, 5:00 PM Central Time

ZLP

Our other national network broadcast on **ABC Family** remains the same: **Sundays** at 5:30 AM Eastern / 4:30 AM Central Time (you may want to set your recorder). **Cable & Satellite** viewers still can see *ZLP* on various local channels. Please visit levitt.com/schedule to see our dozens and dozens of other full-power independent broadcasters.



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To
Index



Back
To
Pg. 10



Back
To
Pg. 15