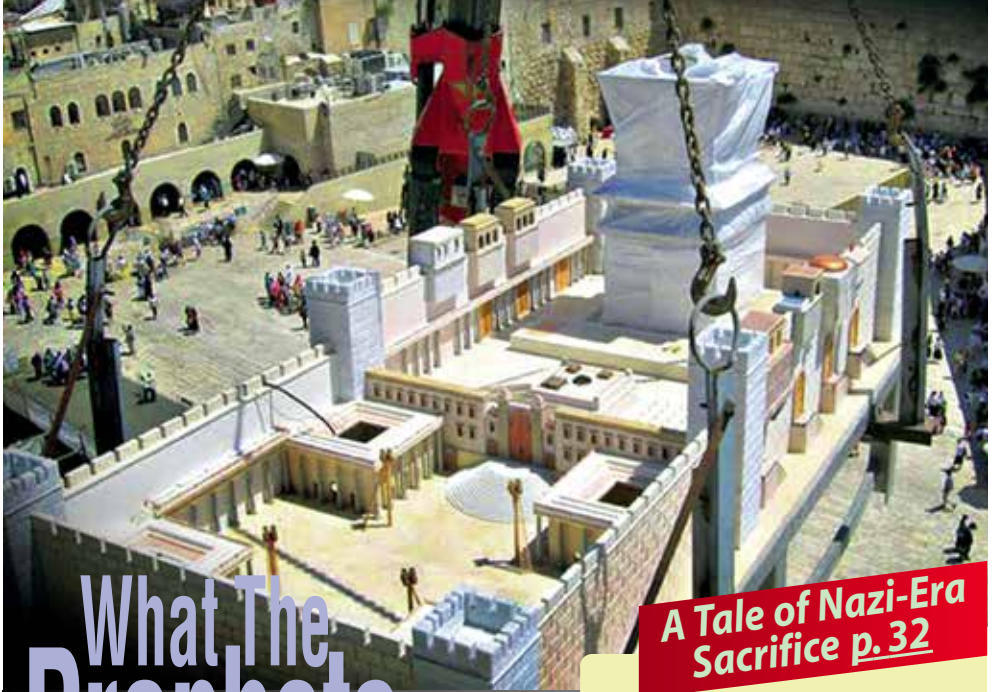


Photo: What building the Third Temple might look like

Levitt Letter



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



What The Prophets Say About The Temple

Israel Uncovered
IsraelVideoNetwork.com

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: ... if you thoroughly amend your ways ...; if you thoroughly execute justice between a man and his neighbor; if you oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood ...; neither follow other gods ...; then will I cause you to dwell in ... the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever” (Jeremiah 7).

The Temple. The House of God. Jeremiah tells the people that it is not insurance against all calamity but a presence and a constant message of justice and righteousness. Yet, just as taking the Holy Ark into battle did not always ensure victory, **the Temple edifice in Jerusalem**

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

A Tale of Nazi-Era Sacrifice p. 32

Israelis Interested in Studying the Bible!

Israel Today

A new survey shows that a majority of Israeli Jews, while identifying as “secular” or “traditional,” are nevertheless interested in gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Bible.



Conducted by the Motagim Institute on behalf of the religious website Maimonides Daily, the poll revealed that 54% of Israeli Jews feel they only have a “basic grasp” of their national faith, and that 57% would commit at least five minutes a day to reading the Bible.

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

What The Prophets Say About The Temple *cont. from cover*

is not enough to ensure that no calamity befalls the Nation of Israel. Jeremiah prophesied at the end of the period of the First Temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. when the Jews were exiled. In 538 B.C., they returned to resettle the land and rebuild the Holy Temple.

“Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying: ‘... Consider your ways. Go up to the hill-country, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will ... be glorified, says the Lord. ... When ye brought produce home, I did blow upon it. Why?... Because of My house that lies wasted, while ye run every man for his own house’” (Haggai 1). The prophet Haggai prophesied when the Jews returned to Zion in the mid-6th century B.C. The building of the Temple had been delayed, leading to failed crops and despair. Haggai tells the people that moving forward and building the Temple will change the reality. Quite a different message from Jeremiah’s. Or is it?

At the beginning of this Period, the Nation of Israel had returned to their homeland with the purpose of settling in the Land and rebuilding the Temple. Yet they waited. They didn’t feel the time was right. Opponents were afraid to incite the local tribes. They failed to realize that, on the contrary, rebuilding the Temple was exactly what was needed to ensure the Nation of Israel’s destiny in the land of Israel. The Temple was ultimately rebuilt and stood for almost 600 years.

Today, there is a renewed ingathering of the Nation of Israel to the Promised Land. **Many people feel strongly that it is time to build the Third Temple on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount.** Yet, although the Temple Mount is officially part of the State of Israel, it is under Moslem control and obstacles seem insurmountable. Still, many organizations have emerged to promote the idea of the Third Temple and heighten public awareness.

The Temple Institute has created vessels to be used in a Third Temple. Women have organized a grassroots movement to spin flax and wool into thread, dye it with natural dyes, and weave tapestries and priestly clothing using looms as in ancient times, all preparing for a Temple. Many groups of Jews—religious and non-religious—visit the Mount regularly, work to educate young and old about the importance of the Temple for the Jewish people, and create parliamentary pressure to allow religious worship other than Islam on the Temple Mount. The progress is slow but sure, as the people of Israel gradually begin to understand the significance of the Temple and the prophecy of Isaiah:



“And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established. ... And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares; ... no nation shall lift up sword against another nation, and they shall learn war no more” (Isaiah 2). ★

For an insider’s view of the Temple Mount controversy, see my interview with Rabbi Yehuda Glick in our upcoming series Times of the Signs. Rabbi Glick’s grace is remarkable in light of his miraculous recovery from a terrorist’s assassination attempt. Please watch for this series to debut soon. —Myles

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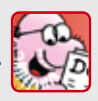
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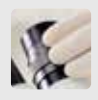
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Israelis Interested in Studying the Bible!

On Hanukkah 2014, the Israel government launched a three-year nationwide Bible study under the banner Project 929, named after the number of chapters in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament).

The [Project 929](#) website lets visitors know the current chapter-of-the-day, which they can read or listen to in Hebrew.



The obvious aim is to get all Israelis to read the Bible. But the array of associated commentaries by celebrities and other lay contributors has been a source of controversy among religious authorities.



Please pray with us for Israelis to “get in the Book!” As a native Messianic leader told a group of pilgrims with me, “You can’t miss Yeshua. His face is on every page in there.” We believe that Israelis will have personal spiritual encounters with the Author of the Scriptures. —Myles

God Sets the Stage

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



The world stage is set for the return of Messiah Yeshua, known in the Western world as Jesus Christ. As you will see in our upcoming television series *Times of the Signs*, never before in history have so many prophetic markers existed simultaneously as appear at this time.



Theodor Herzl, the visionary behind modern Zionism, called for the first modern *aliyah* in the late 19th century. “*Aliyah*” means “going up,” emigration, return and repatriation to Jerusalem. Recognizing the growth of anti-Semitism in Europe, Herzl resolved to fight for a Jewish homeland. God brought Herzl together with a Christian pastor who was already writing on the subject of a renewed Israel.

William Henry Hechler was born in India to German Anglican missionaries, who believed that the second coming of Jesus would occur *after the Jews were restored to the area of the Ottoman Empire called Palestine*. Hechler’s faith did not mandate that the Jews had to “convert” before this restoration.



Ezekiel’s vision of the dry bones in chapters 36 and 37 bore out Hechler’s viewpoint. **First** the graves open (following WWII), then the bones come together, and God’s breath (the Jewish definition of life) would be added to the restored house. **Today, the Messianic Movement releases the breath of the Holy Spirit into the commonwealth of Israel.**



Rev. William Hechler self-published his broadsheet *The Restoration of the Jews to Palestine according to the Prophecy* in 1893.

Herzl’s own work, *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State) was radical and controversial, but a Christian published it. It turned out to be Herzl’s magnum opus and stirred the world in 1896. Did the Herzl-Hechler connection foreshadow the “one new man” that Ephesians 2 prophesied will worship Yeshua—Jew and gentile alike?

(continued next page)



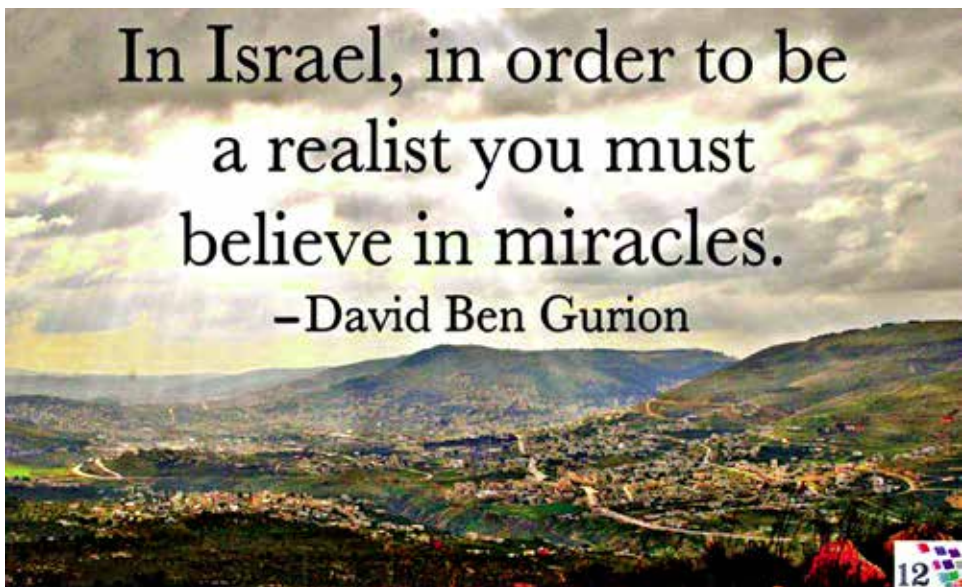
As we approach the return of the Lord, the signs of the times are discernible, which is why I say we are living in the **“times of the signs.”**

- After 1948, Jews returned from Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, and almost all European nations.
- In the 1980s, Ethiopian Jews were airlifted in *aliyah* to Israel.
- After the fall of the USSR, over 1 million Russians arrived in the Land, fulfilling Jeremiah’s word that they would come from “the land of the north” (Jeremiah 16:14–15).
- In 1967, the Jerusalem in Jewish hearts returned to Jewish hands, as prophesied by Yeshua (Luke 21:24).
- The Gospel is going around the world due to technological advances (many of them Israeli!) (Matthew 24:14).
- The nations are aligning against Jerusalem as Zechariah predicted (chapters 12–14).
- The Psalm 83 regional war is rumbling into position led by terrorists Hamas, Hezbollah, al-Qaeda, and ISIS. The jihadists are on the move to set up a worldwide caliphate ... if they can agree on which faction constitutes true Islam.
- Backroom anti-Israel, anti-Messiah deals are forging the Gog-Magog alignment of Russia with Iran (Ezekiel 38, 39).
- The apostasy of the Church grows daily (2 Timothy 3:1–5).
- The Temple undergoes preparation for rebuilding; it will be the site of the “abomination of desolation” according to Daniel 9:27.



Truly, we live in the “times of the signs.”

Here’s the Good News: We are looking toward the coming of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Lion of Judah, the Root and Offspring of David, the First and Last...our Redemption draws near! ★





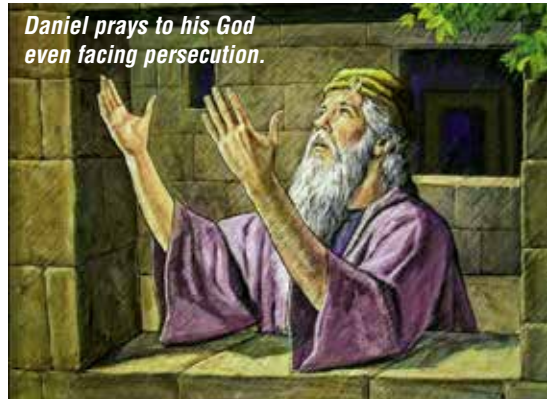
God never said that our journey would be easy, but He did promise that the destination is worthwhile. With all the tumult around us, we can take comfort in Yeshua's words:

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. —John 16:33

During this life, we have dual citizenship. I am an American (and perhaps someday an Israeli), but I am also a citizen of Heaven. I love my country; I pray for America. Some days I mourn over the decisions we are making as a nation. Our leaders, listening to small but very vocal interest groups, feel free to ignore or override the will of the majority.

It seems that America is entering the Refiner's fire, like in the early days of the Church and of our country. Our nation needs to maintain our heaven-bound identity in the midst of pagan paradigms and pressure.

Daniel did maintain his in Babylon. Taken from his home, he remained faithful to his God and the call on his life. In the midst of a pagan environment, he exalted the God of Abraham and became an asset to the ungodly king. Babylon sought to strip him of all that he knew, including his Torah training, and give him a Babylonian identity, even a new name. He was so caught up in God's love and perspective that he was able to pray for mercy for the king's magicians. The contemporary version of Daniel's task is the call for us to pray for those whom we consider enemies—whether spiritual, political, or cultural. Daniel never saw Israel again but remained true to God in a foreign land—a high calling, indeed, and a model for us to follow.



A difficult challenge for me is the apparent distance growing between America and Israel. This affects me on two levels:

First, I love Israel, the Jewish people (starting with my husband!), and the restored Covenant Land. We are not just "selling" when we invite you to join us on tour; we know that God will deepen your love for what He loves as you walk the Land.

Second, I am acutely aware of the consequences of *not* blessing the Sons of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and of dividing the Land (Joel 3:2), and I fear for our nation.

To stand strong as Daniel did, we Believers must see our calling to serve through the lens of the Bible. Daniel was so faithful that God entrusted him with prophetic views of the End Times! What an inspiration for us. Regardless of the ungodly pressures around us, we can stand strong for our Messiah. ★

Rosh Hashanah / Feast of Trumpets

By David Brickner (r) JewsForJesus.org

Sept. 14, 2015



The month of Tishri (September this year) brings the important Jewish holy day, Yom Teruah / Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24).

However, you won't find any "Happy Yom Teruah" greeting cards because few contemporary Jewish people call this feast by its biblical name. The Feast of Trumpets is more commonly referred to as Rosh Hashanah. This literally means "head of the year," or more commonly, "Jewish New Year."

Nowhere does the Bible link this festival to the new year; in fact, it falls on the first day of Tishri, which is the seventh month and not the first. How does it come to be called the New Year? Western culture has more than one new year, with January 1 the most obvious. Yet many fiscal years begin on July 1, while a new school year usually begins in August or September.

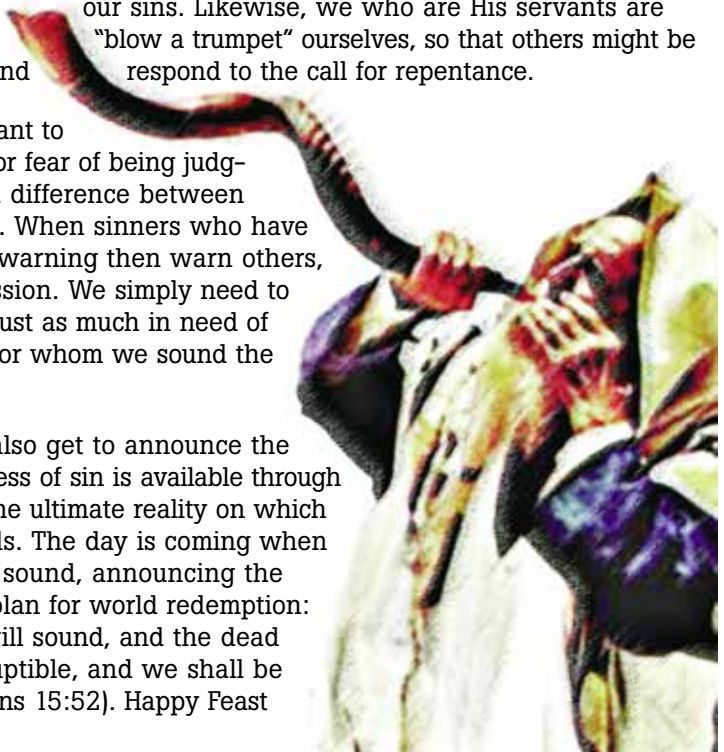
So too, Exodus 12:2 records God's command that the month when He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt (Nisan, usually March on the Gregorian calendar) was to be "... the first month of the year to you." Accordingly, that is the month from which Israel counted the reign of kings. Yet, the counting of years begins on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri, usually September).

Most Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah by sending greeting cards, holding family gatherings, and enjoying special pastries and apples with honey to symbolize sweet wishes for the new year. Despite the name change, the blowing of trumpets remains the central religious element of the festival even to this day.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, follows closely on the heels of the Feast of Trumpets. The ten days between these two holy days—the Days of Awe—are spent in sober self-examination, preparing for that most holy of days when we are to repent of all of our sins. Likewise, we who are His servants are invited by the Lord to "blow a trumpet" ourselves, so that others might be warned of their sin and respond to the call for repentance.

Some might be reluctant to sound that warning for fear of being judgmental. But there is a difference between warning and judging. When sinners who have heard and heeded a warning then warn others, it is an act of compassion. We simply need to be clear that we are just as much in need of repentance as those for whom we sound the trumpet call.

Of course, Believers also get to announce the Good News: Forgiveness of sin is available through Jesus Christ. This is the ultimate reality on which all of creation depends. The day is coming when the last trumpet will sound, announcing the completion of God's plan for world redemption: "... For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52). Happy Feast of Trumpets! ★



ISIS Set to Invade Via Refugee Ships



BY YAAKOV LEVI / IsraelNationalNews.com

ISIS members could infiltrate Europe along with masses of refugees from Libya, Syria, and Iraq who are fleeing ISIS terror in their homelands, said Michele Coninx, head of the European Union’s judicial cooperation agency Eurojust.

Coninx recently told reporters that the EU was working together with other countries to prevent the migration of ISIS terrorists. She declined to specify exactly what steps were being taken.

A video released earlier this year by ISIS in Libya and published by Arabic-language newspaper *Asharq al-Awsat* shows the two perpetrators of a deadly attack on Tripoli’s Corinthia Hotel in January threatening that ISIS’s newly-established presence in the country would be used as a springboard to invade Europe.

Although ISIS is mainly based in Syria and Iraq, affiliates have been active for some time in parts of northern Africa, particularly in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula where the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis jihadist group last year pledged its allegiance to ISIS’s leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In May, the Islamist terrorist group’s presence in Libya hit headlines when it broadcast the brutal mass execution of 21 Coptic Christians, triggering reprisal air raids from Egypt and a mass exodus of Egyptian workers from the country.

The presence of an active Libyan cell—where several Islamist militias pledged allegiance to the group back in late 2014—is viewed as particularly worrying due to Libya’s close proximity to Italy.

In March, a top Libyan general warned that ISIS could use Libya as a jumping-off point for a European invasion. General Khalifa Haftar, head of the Libyan army, noted that Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists running rampant in the North African state were set to infiltrate Europe and expand their reign of terror into the West. ISIS will “spread in even the European countries if (the West) does not offer real help to the Libyan people, especially the Libyan army,” he told the media. He warned that ISIS terrorists “will head with the illegal migrants to Europe, where corruption and destruction will spread just like in Libya. But there, it will be hard to confront them.” ★



Definition of “anti-Semitism”

BY DR. RAFAEL MEDOFF (r) JNS.org



In his critically acclaimed 1986 book, *Semites and Anti-Semites*, Bernard Lewis (professor emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University) wrote, “Semitic’ is a linguistic and cultural classification. ... It has nothing whatever to do with race in the anthropological sense that is now common usage.”

So why not just say “anti-Jewish” instead?

Until the late 1800s, hatred of Jews in Europe was rooted in religious bigotry: resentment of Jews for rejecting Christianity, and allegations about various Jewish religious practices. But in the latter part of the 19th century, a number of German nationalists began shifting their attacks on Jews to more secular accusations: that Jews are not loyal to the countries in which they live, that Jews cheat non-Jews, or that Jews are a harmful influence on modern culture. This modern Jew-hatred promoted legal restrictions and other types of governmental action against Jews.

Seeking to distinguish this new criticism of Jews from the medieval religious variety, German anti-Jewish agitator Wilhelm Marr in 1879 coined the term “anti-semitism” (“antisemitismus” in German). His target was still Jews; **he simply believed the new word would make his brand of hatred sound more legitimate and even scientific.** The organization he founded to further these aims was called the *Antisemiten-Liga*, or League of Antisemites.

As the term gained currency in English, it was commonly spelled “anti-Semitism,” with the hyphen and capital “S,” thus implying that it refers to hatred of “Semites,” although most of the public has always understood that it refers to hatred of Jews. In recent years, many scholars have adopted the spellings “antisemite” and “antisemitism”—without the hyphen or capitalization—in order to make it clear that those words refer to beliefs or actions against Jews, not against Semites. ★

In order to be perfectly clear, this ministry will adopt the unequivocal term “anti-Jewish” when the need arises. —Ed.



A neo-Nazi benefits from being assisted by a Black police officer. Many Jew-hating, anti-Zionist nations benefit daily from Israeli inventions.

Masada and Jericho

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1981: 34 years ago



The important lesson of Masada is the Israeli attitude toward freedom and possession of their own land. The Romans rather underestimated the tenacity of the Israelites to hold on to even a barren rock. The Roman Empire as a whole thought it could wipe out Judaism, a scripturally impossible task.

Modern-day Israelis are driven by an almost fanatical dedication to their land brought on by 19 centuries of dispersion, Crusades, the Inquisition, the Holocaust, and other persecutions. Jehovah inspired His people to regain and fortify their promised land and they will do just that. **An assault on Israel by any power is absolutely hopeless.**

Near Masada lies beautiful Jericho, very much a symbol of Heaven itself. Despite the terribly barren terrain around the Dead Sea and Masada, Jericho is a picture of beauty and plenty. Cold water courses down its gutters from faithful springs that the prophet Elisha purified, and oranges and grapefruits hang from the trees. Flower boxes in many windows give a feeling of nothing less than the Garden of Eden. (Some suppose that the Garden was indeed right at Jericho, the world's oldest inhabited city).

Jericho is the end of the Passover story—the grand finale of the Exodus. As such, it is the symbol of Christian translation, our deliverance to Heaven in the Rapture of the Church. First in the Passover saga come the bitter herbs—the bondage of slavery. Then comes the blood of the lamb and salvation; then the water of the Red Sea, our baptism; and finally, our journey through the wilderness—this discouraging earthly sojourn. But ultimately we are all headed for beautiful Jericho. The children of Israel took that city with shouts and trumpets (Joshua 6:5), just as the Church will rise to Heaven with shouts and trumpets (I Thessalonians 4:16–17). Even the name of

the leader is the same; Jesus' name in English is Joshua, the name of God's general at Jericho.

Ireland is called "a little bit of Heaven." I have seen it and turned green with envy at its beautiful hills and fields. But Jericho thrills me even more because I understand its symbolism. There's simply no other place like it on the face of the Earth.



Masada



Jericho

So there they sit, side by side, Masada and Jericho, the hope of the Jew and the hope of the Christian. A road connects the two, one of many two-lane desert trails that lead out of the arid plains to more-settled parts of Israel. The way is narrow indeed, but the Jewish people at Masada were within sight of complete deliverance!

There's a lesson in Masada. Before the world overtakes us—before the Romans trap us at the summit—we must plan our trip to Jericho. We must be sure that when Joshua sounds that trumpet again, we will be ready to enter the heavenly city and occupy our Promised Land. ☆

Iran Nuclear Deal Opens Window for Israel to Join New Mideast Order

JPost.com

The former head of Israel's intelligence agency Mossad said recently that the nuclear deal struck between Iran and Western powers offers Jerusalem an opening to join "a new Middle Eastern order."

Shabtai Shavit, who served as Mossad director from 1989 to 1996, told U.S. radio broadcaster Aaron Klein that Israel now has even more impetus to make common cause with Sunni Arab countries who are nervous over the West's overtures toward their common nemesis, Iran.

"I believe there is a window of opportunity for Israel to try to pursue a new order in the Middle East," Shavit said.

The former spy chief said that Sunni states like Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf sheikdoms share Israel's suspicions of Iran, giving the Jewish state a de facto membership in the moderate camp.

"Iran is considered to be the adversary of all those countries you mentioned, of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and the Emirates," Shavit said. "In other words, the more moderate Sunni Islam. And we are a member in this same camp." ★

The Notes in the Western Wall

Jewish Telegraphic Agency / JTA.org

Visitors to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount traditionally write their prayers and hopes on pieces of paper and insert them into its cracks. In addition to the notes placed by visitors, the Western Wall Institute places tens of thousands of notes that it receives through its website and by fax.

What happens to all those pieces of paper? Workers at the Wall empty the holy site of layers of notes from its cracks and crevices. The notes are removed under the supervision of the rabbi of the Western Wall, currently Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich, using wooden sticks dipped in the *mikvah* (ritual bath). These slips of paper, which are treated the same as pieces of Torah scrolls, are then placed in bags without being read by the people clearing them out, and buried in the Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem.

The notes are removed from the wall twice a year, before Rosh Hashanah and Passover. ★



*Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**, (far left) Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**, (center) and Saudi King **Salman bin Abdulaziz** (left).*

(photo credit: Attila Kisbenedek AFP, Bertrand Guay AFP, HO / SPA AFP)

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q Is Kabbalah an influence in Jewish teaching today? It does not seem to be scriptural. I don't recall any teaching from this ministry that supports these ideas/practices.

A Kabbalah is rooted in Jewish mysticism and seeks to define the nature of the universe and the human being, the nature and purpose of existence. Many of its views are unbiblical so, no, **this ministry does not believe in its authority.**

The Kabbalah is a medieval collection of mystical occult writings that propose hidden meanings behind the Bible. It wrongly views God as a creative force in the universe instead of a transcendent Person. The Kabbalah also holds to the unscriptural theory of reincarnation after death. Today, many publications on Kabbalah belong to the non-Jewish New Age. Through non-Jewish associations with magic, alchemy, and divination, Kabbalah acquired some popular occult connotations forbidden within Judaism, where

Jewish theurgic Practical Kabbalah was a minor, permitted tradition restricted for a few elite.

For a larger treatment of this subject, please see my May 2011 *Levitt Letter* article, [Kabbalah and the Bible](#).

Q On your show's interview with Ron Cantor, he and Myles talk about Paul's name being a local version of Saul. When I told a friend that Saul never changed his name, that he just took on "Paul" as a local name, she said, "I thought Jesus changed Saul's name to Paul." My husband said the same thing. When my husband looked it up, he found only Acts 13:9 ("Then Saul, who also is called Paul...") and nothing about Jesus changing his name. Help! I am confused.

A Jesus did not change Saul's name to Paul. Paul is the Roman version of Saul and since Paul was a legal citizen of Rome (Acts 22:28), he took that name himself. Saul was his Jewish name. ★



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A Bittersweet Journey

BY ROBIN HOPPER



Though I had an uneasy feeling that I could not put my finger on, I was excited to embark on my fifth trip to my ancestral home, Israel, to take *HaBesorah* (the Good News) to the people whom God chose to hold close.

At the airport, the Lord told me to place a complete Hebrew Bible (a single volume with both Testaments—the *Tanakh* and the *B'rit Hadashah*—in Hebrew) in the airport synagogue. I placed the Bible among the prayer books, as instructed.

Israel: Aviv, the owner of the Gentleman gift store in Netanya's Ir Yamim Mall, always smiles when I walk in. [I met Aviv a year and a half ago](#). Since then, I have given him the Scriptures and study materials. We had another good visit, but answers to his questions about life can only be found through Yeshua. Please continue to pray for this gentle man's salvation.

The next morning, we headed for Jerusalem via Mount Hermon. TJF *shelichim* (ambassadors) always have wonderful encounters on *Har Hermon* (Mount Hermon); the young IDF (Israel Defense Forces) men and women stationed there, near the intersection of Lebanon's, Syria's, and Israel's borders, feel isolated and enjoy speaking with someone who is not another soldier. The feeling that something wasn't right stuck with me. Though I was headed toward the city I love the most—Jerusalem—and ministering to young soldiers on Mount Hermon, I felt a discomfort I could not explain.

At Mount Hermon, it started to look as if no divine encounter had been scheduled. Then we saw a soldier in a restricted area and asked if we could talk to him. **Aviod** came over and listened with gratitude as we expressed our admiration for the IDF and encouraged him and his fellow troops. We talked with him about the recent election, Netanyahu's victory, and why we come to Israel. Aviod's keen interest led us to offer him the Scriptures (complete in Hebrew) and study material that included [The Promised Messiah](#) pamphlet that lists 17 prophecies made (OT) and 17 prophecies fulfilled (NT). This effective witnessing tool

is printed in full color in both Hebrew and English, and laid out as a three-fold pamphlet. You may download it for free, print it out, and use it as part of your own witness.

We arrived in Jerusalem late Friday and learned the reason for my uneasiness: my elderly mother in Texas had fallen, was unresponsive and not expected to live much longer. I knew I needed to get back to the States, but El Al Israel Airlines was closed until after Shabbat.



Robin & his mother

We spent Shabbat in productive ministries in Independence Park and at the King David Hotel over lunch. In the June [Levitt Letter](#), [my wife Sue reported](#) that our travel agent arranged for Sue and me to leave on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Israel time and arrive in Dallas about 10:30 p.m. Dallas time. My mother passed into our Lord's arms at 7:30 a.m. Dallas time, while we were halfway to her.

The Lord takes care of our needs: 1) I was afraid Mom would be alone when she died; she wasn't. No fewer than two people from *Eitz Chaim* Messianic Synagogue sat with her from the time she entered the hospital until she went Home. 2) I dreaded having to take her off life support. The Lord removed that decision from me, and Mom passed peacefully with loving people surrounding her and praying for her.

This was a bitter/sweet journey. Sweet: our ministry in the Land and my mother's passage to be with the Lord. Bitter: though we left Israel as soon as we could, it was not soon enough.

Blessings to you in Yeshua. ★



A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Fatherly Porn Advice



Writer, thinker, and father of five Paul Malan offered thought-provoking advice to a son coming of age. In his recent article “A Dad’s Advice on Porn,” Malan lays out a framework for coping with temptation. This Note relates to “Chastity Works Better than Abstinence” in the July 2015 Levitt Letter. Please share both. —Mark

Let’s talk about those pictures you saw, Son. But first, let’s talk about food. Hunger isn’t a choice; it is *physiology*. Choosing whether to skip a meal, grill a sandwich, or shoplift a Snickers bar is *morality*. Every culture shares values that reinforce its identity. Let’s call this *religion*.

Your appetite reacts to the smell of cooking, and you and I are wired to react to sexual stories and pictures. That’s pretty much the only reason porn is even a thing. But don’t confuse morality and physiology. Hunger and sexual arousal are not problems—they are *physiology*. Choosing what to do about them is *morality*. Whether our choices align with our cultural values is *religion*. **Distinguishing these three concepts makes pornography (and sexuality) less complicated.**

There are reasons to avoid porn: Porn distorts reality and wastes time.* The porn industry exploits its performers, particularly women. Pornography reduces sexual relationships to a series of camera-friendly stunts and defrauds our hard-wired response to sexuality. But labeling as “porn” everything that excites us surrenders our ability to talk about it in a meaningful way. At your age, you lack context to judge whether what you’re watching is a healthy sexual relationship.

In our culture, we’re often ashamed of what we do know and confused by what we don’t. Don’t confuse shame and guilt. Guilt is healthy: it says, “*Something I did is not okay.*” Shame is destructive: it says, “*I am not okay.*” When things don’t feel okay inside,

we try to replace the bad feeling with something else. Psychologists call this “self-soothing,” and it is an important part of mental health. We watch a movie, run a mile, eat ice cream. Or look at porn. But if I’m feeling bad about myself for looking at porn, will I bury the feeling by looking at more porn?

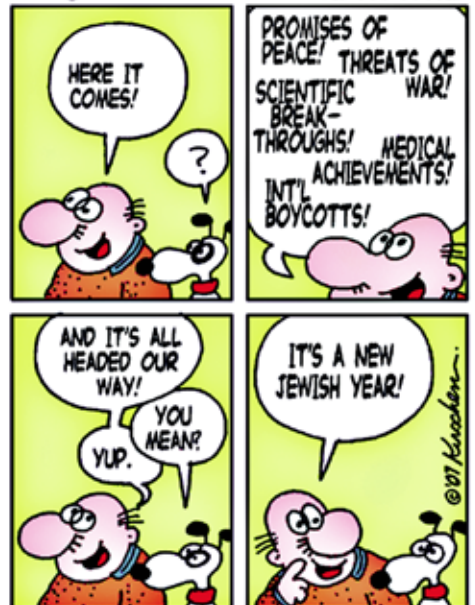
This unhealthy cycle acts like addiction. So ask yourself, “Why?” Why are you staring at your phone instead of interacting with the real world? Why do you go incognito in your Web browser? If you follow your answers to their root, you can choose to respond to life on purpose instead of reacting to life out of habit.

You get to decide how to blend your physiology, morality, and religion. When you act in ways that don’t line up with who you are, learn from the guilt, but don’t buy in to the shame.

*Porn’s “opportunity cost” wastes precious time that could have been spent getting closer to God. **Opportunity cost:** the loss of potential gain from other alternatives when one alternative is chosen. Hence, this Note could have been a *Wise As A Serpent* contribution. After all, steering clear of porn is good stewardship. Eph. 4:17–19, Eph. 5:3, 1 Cor. 6:18–20, Rom. 12:1–2. ★

Dry Bones

MR. SHULDIG AND HIS DOG DOOBIE



www.drybonesblog.com



ZLM Bulletin Board

Polygamist Applies for Second Wife

Shortly after homosexual marriage became legal across America, a married Montana man made this request of the Yellowstone County court: "Marry us. If the Supreme Court okayed 'gay' unions, then we should be allowed to join together in 'holy polygamy.'" Nathan Collier, a former Mormon who was excommunicated for polygamy, is legally married to Victoria. Filing for a license to marry Christine (his girlfriend), he cordially explains, "It's about marriage equality... You can't have this without polygamy." The three of them have seven children. His efforts could set legal precedents.



Free Item



Recovering Jewish Population

According to an Israeli think tank, Jews around the world number nearly as many as before the Holocaust. The current total of 14.2 million Jews approaches 16.5 million—the Jewish population on the eve of WWII—when factoring in those with one Jewish parent and others who identify as partially Jewish. The tally includes at least a million secular Jews and some 350,000 Israelis who emigrated from the former Soviet Union and are not considered Jewish in Israel. The Pew Research Center projects that Jews will reach 16 million by 2050... if the Lord tarries.

Pamphlet of the Month

The 8-1/2"x11" workbook **A Guide To Your Christian Will** begins by addressing key questions including: 1) Who needs a will? 2) What are the advantages of having a will? 3) What happens without one? Then the Guide delves into the appropriate steps, such as identifying your heirs and what you'll leave behind, and keeping your records and documents where they can be found. The work sheets include a Key Information Organizer, Facts to Help Your Attorney, a form for listing Personal Property, and more. To receive this free pamphlet, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

ZLM's 2014 Fundraising Expenses

To comply with the tax code, this ministry calculates the small percentage of newsletter space and television time that we devote to fundraising. Added up, it accounts for two-thirds of one percent (0.67%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%, which is nearly thirty times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you, the supporter, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for contributions. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to spread the Gospel of Yeshua to new frontiers across the globe... Thanks!

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson



Returning to God

John J. Parsons

חַנּוּנֵי אֱלֹהִים כַּחֲסֶדְךָ כְּרַב רַחֲמֶיךָ מַחֵה פִּשְׁעֵי

*Be gracious to me, O God, according to your faithful love;
according to your tender mercies wipe away my transgressions. (Psalm 51:1)*

חַ	נּוּ	נֵי	אֱ	לֹ	הִים	כַּ	חֶ	סְ	דְ	כְ	רַב	רַ	חֶ	מֵי	ךָ	מַ	חֵה	פִּ	שְׁ	עֵי		
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
fe-sha-ai	me-cheh	ra-cha-me-kha	ke-rov	ke-chas-de-kha	E-lo-him	cho-nei-ni																
my rebellions	wipe away	according to your	tender mercies	according to your	faithful love	O God	show me	favor														

The theme of the Jewish High Holidays is *teshuvah*, a word often translated as “repentance,” though it’s more accurately understood as turning back (*shuv*) to God. In Modern Hebrew *teshuvah* means an “answer” to a *shelah*, or a question. God’s love for us is the question, and our *teshuvah*—our turning of the heart toward Him—is the answer. *Teshuvah* is one of the great gifts God gives each of us—the ability to turn back to Him and seek healing for our brokenness.

Psalm 51 is sometimes called “Perek Teshuvah”—the great Chapter of Repentance of the Hebrew Scriptures. After King David was confronted with the truth of his crimes and the prospect of judgment, he returned to God for cleansing and forgiveness. David’s *teshuvah* reveals that we also can return to God on the basis of His abundant compassion—His *rachamim*. Without God’s love we have no hope for the future.

After the Jews had committed the grievous sin with the golden calf, Moses despaired of ever being able to find favor in God’s eyes again. God, however, called Moses to return to the mountain to learn the inner meaning of the Name YHVH (יהוה). While he waited in the cleft of the rock, Moses heard the Divine Voice declaring, “The LORD, the LORD, God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6). This was David’s experience of return, too. Given his great transgressions of the Torah, he was sure that he had lost God’s favor. David needed to rediscover God’s love despite his brokenness and sin.

The greatest demonstration of the compassion of God was given at Mount Moriah, the place of the sacrifice of Yeshua for our sins. Just as Moses and David had to confront their own brokenness to hear the Divine Voice, so we need to turn to the cross to hear the cries of YHVH suffering for our rebellion. At the cross God has turned to us in compassion and now appeals for us to turn to Him for healing of our brokenness and sin.

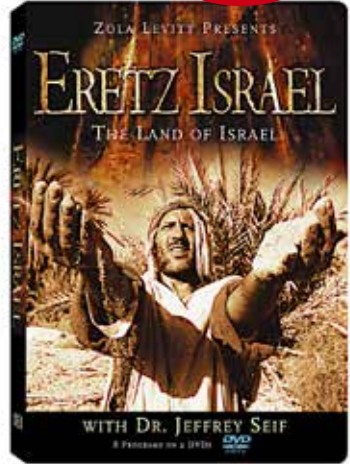
During this season of teshuvah may we once again respond to the Voice of God’s love. ✨



Eretz Israel (The Land of Israel)

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes viewers through the Land of Israel. By exploring the Bible's accounts of the Holy Land's past, present, and prophetic future, we discover an inextricable relationship between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. Former CBS correspondent David Dolan helps explore the modern-day struggles that accompany the re-establishment of the ancestral Jewish homeland. On-location TV footage, dramas, and wonderful music punctuate the series.



The Land Promised We visit Bethel and explore God's promise to Abraham: that his and his children's destinies are eternally bound in the Sacred Soil—what we appropriately call the "Promised Land."

Promised to the Next Generation On location in Beersheba, we discuss how the God who cares for His people in every generation visited Isaac in Beersheba, and confirmed His unwavering intention to give the Land to Isaac and to his seed after him.

To All Generations Discover how Bethel became a "gate[way] to heaven" (Genesis 28:17), and learn of God's affirmation to Jacob that the promises made to Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through him and his descendants.

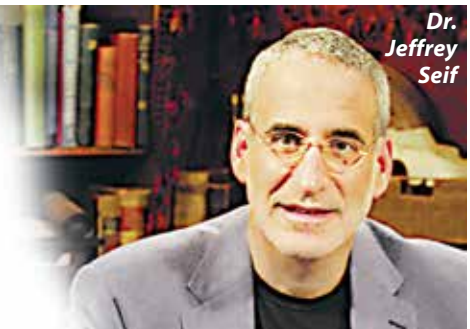
Entering the Promised Land Though the Patriarchs were long dead by his time, Moses picked up and ran with their living Land promises. We visit Jericho and follow the story where the ancient Israelites began to contend for the destiny promised by God—their residency in the Land of Israel.

Fighting for the Promised Land The ageless mandate—to lay claim to the patriarchs' promises—was passed on to Joshua. We examine the battle at Hazor that secured the northern territories for Abraham's offspring.

Promised Forever At the Valley of Megiddo—Armageddon—we review God's Land promises to David and Solomon and glance at clues that speak of victories to come.

Jesus and the Promised Land In the New Testament, we read of Jesus/Yeshua's vision for the Chosen People and the Holy Land. It underscores the basis for this series: The Land is forever significant; so is its possession by the Israelites.

Israel Fulfilling Prophecy Wrapping up the series, Jeff and David review the State of Israel, comment on its changing borders, and consider what's ahead on the not-too-distant biblical timetable.

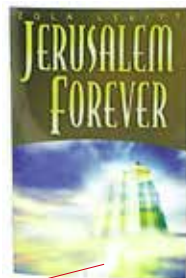
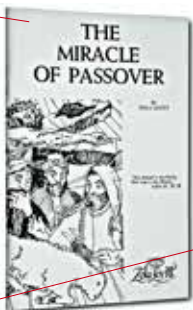


Dr.
Jeffrey
Seif



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

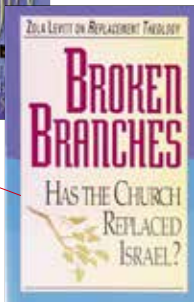
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▶	Glory! The Believers' Future	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
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Books

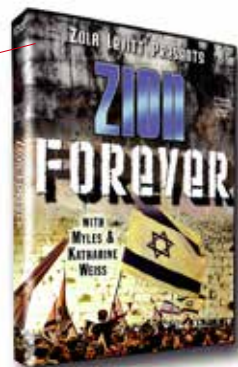
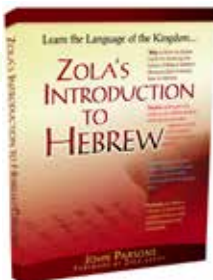
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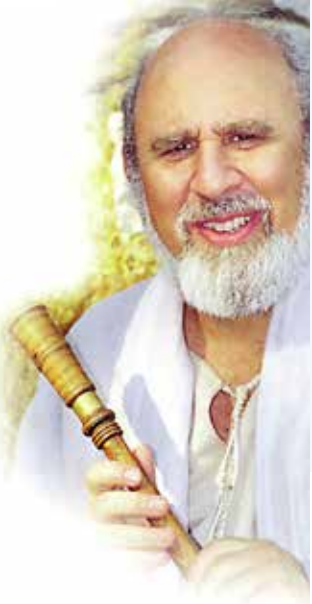


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___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Dark Prince (10 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
▶	The Warrior King (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___





Studies, Specialty, Etc.

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___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2016)	\$6	___
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___	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 (<i>Free in September 2015</i>)		___

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!



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Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

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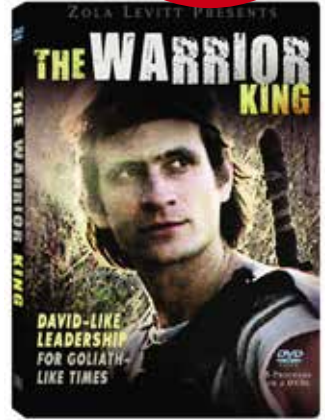
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The Warrior King:

David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times
Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs



The Warrior King tells the story of King David's time; but it is also the story of our own time. With challenges larger than Goliath all around us, we need Bible-based leaders now more than ever. In this eight-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif speaks to that need. Dramatic re-enactments—shot on location in Israel—complement the teachings in this series.

The Call We consider how David captured the heart of Israel, his selection by Samuel, and the amazing battle with Goliath that catapulted him to renown.

David and Saul Unfair trials often checker the road to success. We explore David's abuse at the hands of King Saul, and his bond with the king's son Jonathan. We evaluate Saul's death and David's gracious response.

Family The Bible tells of the good, the bad, and the ugly. In this program we look at David's marriage and family intrigue.

Wars David was a warrior—a spiritual role model for us all! Philistine, Amalekite, and Ammonite wars are discussed, along with modern-day relevance.

Celebrated Warrior King Though anointed by God for kingship, David spent 13 years running from Israel's first king before ascending to the throne himself. As we hear the story of David's rise to power over all Israel, Jeff fleshes out its applications.

A Messianic Prototype The New Testament refers to Jesus as the "Son of David"—with good reason. We examine how the Old Testament predicted a coming Davidic Son.

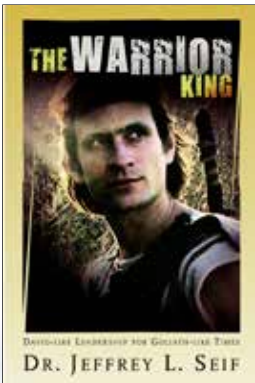
Israel's Sweet Psalmist David's gift for creating poetry and music shows that he was "in touch" with something beyond the state of his armies. Viewers will benefit from this program's window into the softer side of the man.

Messiah Messianic parallels abound in the person of David. In this closing program, we consider their various implications. You'll walk away saying "He lives!" and, we hope, believing that He lives in you.



The Warrior King:

David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times [book](#)



From the eight-part TV series of the same title, this book can be used with the series or independently. It's an 86-page transcript of highlights that includes dozens of photos and an abundance of Hebrew with translation.

The Warrior King is a story about the Old Testament's David—Israel's greatest soldier. It's also about the Bible's "Son of David"—Jesus. The subtitle reveals that the story is both from all time and for all time. It's about trials and triumphs, and how God uses abysmal circumstances to improve those who rely on Him.



Observing Yom Kippur in the Shadow of Death

BY DR. RAFAEL MEDOFF / JNS.org



Shimon Huberband

Holocaust memoirs record how Jews living under Nazi rule repeatedly took extraordinary risks to mark Yom Kippur.

In his diary, **Rabbi Shimon Huberband** described his experiences in the Polish town of Piotrkow after the September 1939 German invasion. The occupation authorities imposed an astronomical fine on the local Jewish community, with Yom Kippur as the deadline. To demonstrate the punishment for nonpayment, on the eve of Yom Kippur the Nazis took a number of local Jews to Gestapo headquarters, where they were “beaten, attacked by dogs, forced to crawl on their stomachs... forced to clean toilets with their bare hands... [and] ordered to collect shattered pieces of glass with their mouths.”

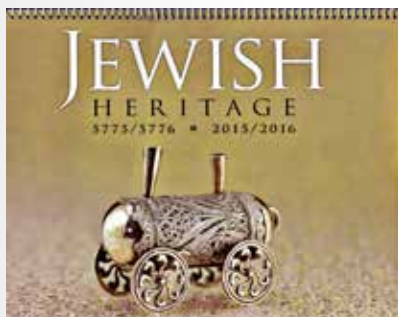
Rabbi Huberband’s diary noted that the local Judenrat, the German-appointed Jewish ruling council, “dispatched notices saying that everyone should contribute his designated amount toward the tribute by tomorrow, the last day.” At the same time, because all public observances of Yom Kippur had been outlawed, a debate broke out as to whether or not Jewish shopkeepers should open their stores, lest they be accused by the Germans of closing them in honor of the holiday.

Rabbi Huberband records the scheme Jewish shopkeepers devised to avoid doing business on the Day of Atonement while evading the Nazis’ ire: “Jews’ shops were open. The ‘salesmen’ were all women. Actually, the women didn’t sell anything; people took merchandise, but without paying for it. The women didn’t take any money, but they did give away money. They took their tribute payments over to the [Judenrat] office, Yom Kippur being the deadline for the tribute.” ★

Dry Bones



To
Index



Jewish Heritage Calendar

New Year! 5776 (2015–2016)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar begins in September and spans 13 months, through September 2016. It provides the dates of all the biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through the English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from levitt.com

From H.B.: All that is happening around us has made me feel very hateful. I have to go to the Lord about it every day. John Parsons's Hebrew Lesson ([May 2015](#)) touched me and reminded me who we are and to Whom we should be responsible, putting all our concerns on Him. Thank you for everything that you do for us.

From S.H. (TX): I am especially enjoying your [Journey of Restoration](#) series. Since my age and health do not permit me to go to Israel in person, I can visit through this program. I record all your programs to view again later. —ZLM has somewhat reduced our TV airtime expenses now that more of our viewers can "tune in" *Zola Levitt Presents 24/7* at www.levitt.tv. The archives contain the latest program and just about everything we've ever aired. Those without Internet access at home can edify themselves with our Bible teaching on a computer at a local library. Of course, we invite everyone to record our programs, like you, to watch and share our programs at their convenience. Blessings —Mark

Longer Programs, Please

Dear ZLM,

I compliment everyone involved in *Zola Levitt Presents* television series, which are entertaining, uplifting, and inspiring. My only complaint is that they should last 60 minutes, not 30. —C.H. (FL)

Shalom C.H.—

From your mouth to God's ears, as Grandma would say! Alas, cost and time commitments limit us to 30 minutes at this time. However, with generous souls like you trusting us with your donation to use "as you see fit," we can go where the Lord leads us. We envision spectacular new teaching series and will deploy your funds to proclaim the Gospel. Blessings —Myles and Katharine

Only in the Middle East



Standing by The Word at Any Cost

Dear ZLM,

I want my donations to **support ministries that stand on the Word of God**, even if it is not popular to do so. I am concerned about the recent ruling by the Supreme Court regarding same-sex marriage. What is the position of Zola Levitt Ministries? S.D. (TX)

Dear S.D.—

If you received the August edition of our ministry's *Personal Letter*, you have now seen my view of "marriage re-definition." In the context of end-times themes, it is another sign of Messiah's imminent return. That said, and although I believe it is an important issue, I always encourage our editorial team to keep on track with the main vision that Zola provided and that his legacy inspires and requires of us:

- The primacy of Yeshua, King of the Jews AND Savior of the world (John 3:16)
- The centrality of Israel and the Jewish people in Biblical prophecy (Romans 1:16, 11:25, 26)
- The rising danger of jihad and its threat to civilization (2 Corinthians 11:2–4) and the need for the international Church to remain strong and "in the light!"

Blessings —Myles

Les is More

Dear Myles and Katharine,

Zola would be proud of the job you're doing carrying on the ministry I loved and discussed with a dear Christian 2nd dad. I enjoy the scenes you share on *Zola Levitt Presents*; they bring back memories of my trips to Israel. After each trip, I would bring so many souvenirs that they would say, "If the plane has any engine problems, start throwing out Les's souvenirs and we can glide in safely."

The world is so chaotic that I fear the Lord's return is the only way to restore the righteousness we have allowed to leave us. Prayer isn't helping much as we have slumbered and let evil get a foothold in our governments and churches.

I am looking up more than ever! You are much appreciated at my house.
—Les P. (Scotland)

Shalom, Les P.—

Your eloquent letter proves that sometimes, indeed, Les is more! We also sometimes get discouraged at the state of the world but continue to pray (and work) for breakthrough/revival in the Church and awakening in society.

We bless you in your home and look forward to sharing a Yeshua-based home in the future. Katharine's family is from Scotland and we were able to spend a few days there after an Israel tour. It is a magnificent land and foreshadows the beauty of life with Messiah. —Myles and Katharine



Hebrew in Heaven, During Creation

Dear ZLM,

On one of your recent television programs, Katharine mentioned her belief that Hebrew will be spoken in Heaven and that God was actually speaking Hebrew when He spoke the world into being. I don't have a problem with that; in fact I believe it could be true. However, I am wondering if there are any Scripture verses to back up that belief? Thanks so much for your programs and teaching. I learn a lot. In His love, D.R.

Shalom D.R.—

I think you are on the right track! Consider that the whole *Tanakh* (the Torah, the prophets, and the writings) were given to us in Hebrew. There is a definite correlation between this language and the Person of God. When Moses and the prophets recounted the history of the Israelites *and* the voice of God, they did so in this specific language. Apostle Paul confirms this when he tells of his life-changing encounter with Yeshua to King Agrippa in Acts 26:12–14. However, God, being above and beyond our limitations, can speak to each of us in our own languages. When the world-changing *Shavuot* (Pentecost) occurred, the testimony of Jewish pilgrims was this: **Acts 2:5** *And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven... 6 every man heard them speak in his own language... 8 how hear we every man in our own tongue?* —Myles

The Missing Blue Thread

Hey, Myles,

I have been watching and learning from ZLM for 20 years now, maybe longer. I have learned more about my Christian faith and what it means than from any other source except for the Bible itself. And that observation goes for learning about actual history too.

Zola had a special way of teaching that kept me glued to the TV. I was pretty bummed when Zola went home, and thought I'd lost my #1 source for news, but your ministry is still on top.

EXCEPT (and now to my point), you are too kind. Some letter writers to Zola ministries say the strangest things. I would prefer you to respond with something like "You brood of vipers..." Myles, don't cast your pearls before... well, you know.

Question: I have a tallit, but it doesn't have the blue thread in the corner tassel. It was made in Israel, but the papers it came with say that the blue thread is not an issue because the *chilazon* is extinct. I am concerned about the blue thread. I always try to see if yours has the blue thread, but I can never tell. If only I could just touch the fringe of His garment. Thanks, S.

Greetings, S.—

Loved getting your letter. Your tone is music to my NY-born, wiseacre ears. As to my overly kind responses to some admittedly hostile and sometimes wacky letter writers... drum roll, please... it is a work of God in my life. Believe me, the answers you read are *not* always my first impulse. The Lord Yeshua tempers my hotheaded nature by His grace.

About the tallit: My sense is that you are sincere in your time with Him under the canopy. God looks on the heart, my friend. **Please see next page** for a little information on the blue thread and rabbinical laws. It looks as though you can add one yourself, if you like. —Myles ★



To
Index

The Missing Blue Thread

BY HERBERT BLOCK (Jewish researcher) / JewishBible.org



Mollusk

Speak to the children of Israel and you shall say to them that they shall make for themselves fringes (tzitzit) on the corners of their garments, throughout their generations, and that they shall affix a thread of blue (tekhelet) on the fringe of each corner. —Numbers 15:38.

There is no Torah basis to hold that the source for the dye of the required thread of blue should be restricted to a specific sea-creature. Blue was a very common color. The Torah is replete with references to blue and purple and scarlet, each shade having its own identity.

- Exodus 26:1: *Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn.*
- Numbers 4:6: *... spread a cloth of solid blue over that and put the poles in place.*
- Numbers 4:11: *Over the gold altar they are to spread a blue cloth.*

Because the knowledge for making a blue dye was commonplace, it was not necessary for the Torah to specify how the color blue was to be obtained. During the 40 years in the desert, it may have been extracted from plants or land animals.

Only after the Israelites were settled in their land did they become acquainted with dyes obtained from a sea-creature *chilazon* [mollusk] from which could be obtained a remarkably clear, durable blue dye *tekhelet*.

After centuries of rabbinical affirming that for this specific purpose only the blue dye from a *chilazon* is kosher, the requirement has been accepted as *halakha* (collective body of Jewish religious laws derived from the written and oral Torah). Thus, no rabbi or authority has had the intellectual initiative to declare that a blue dye from another source can be kosher. ★

(Please see the letter to Myles on p. 24.)



Google's Waze Carpooling Pilot Program in Israel

SCIENCE: BY ARI RABINOVITCH / Reuters.com



Google-owned online mapping company Waze is launching a carpooling pilot program in Israel, where commuters pay fellow drivers a small fee for a ride to and from work.

The new application, called **RideWith**, will use Waze's navigation system to learn the routes drivers most frequently take to work and match them up with people looking for a ride in the same direction.



Google bought Israel-based Waze, which uses satellite signals from members' smartphones to offer real-time traffic information, for about \$1 billion in 2013. "We're conducting a small, private beta test in the greater Tel Aviv area for a carpool concept, but we have nothing further to announce at this time," Waze commented about its foray into the increasingly competitive field of ride-sharing.

Drivers will be limited to just two journeys a day and will not be able to earn a salary from RideWith, a source close to the company said, differentiating it from businesses such as Uber, in which drivers can turn a profit.

Should RideWith be rolled out globally, this limitation could help it avoid the backlash that Uber faces in a number of countries wanting to protect professional taxi drivers.

Waze does not expect there to be enough drivers to meet demand at first, but as more sign on, passengers will be able to order a ride either to or from work while chipping in a bit for the cost of gas and wear and tear on the car, the source said. ★





Eyeing Retina Repair

MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) JPost.com

Israeli and British scientists have developed a new, light-sensitive film that could eventually form the basis of a prosthetic retina to help people suffering from retinal damage or degeneration. Hebrew University (HU) and Tel Aviv University (TAU) researchers with colleagues from Newcastle University produced the research, which was recently published in the journal *Nano Letters*.

The retina—the thin layer of tissue that is composed of light-sensitive nerve cells on the inner surface of the eye—converts images to electrical impulses and sends them to the brain. Damage to the retina from macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, or other eye diseases can reduce vision or cause total blindness. (Age-related Macular Degeneration [AMD] affects more than 15 million Americans, and over 200,000 new cases are diagnosed every year.)



Scientists are now designing a variety of medical devices to counter the effects of retinal disorders by sending visual signals to the brain. But silicon chip-based solutions are typically hampered by their size, use of rigid parts, or requirement of external wiring to energy sources.



In the new study, HU researchers headed by Prof. Uri Banin and his graduate student Nir Waiskopf of the Institute of Chemistry and the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology worked with TAU and Newcastle University colleagues to develop a novel approach for retina stimulation. Their device absorbs light and stimulates neurons without using wires or external power sources.

The researchers combined semiconductor nanorods and carbon nanotubes to create a wireless, light-sensitive, flexible implantable film. The film transforms visual cues to electric signals, mimicking the function of the photosensitive cells in the retina. Thus, it could potentially form part of a future prosthetic device to replace the damaged cells in the retina. The researchers tested the new device on light-insensitive retinas from embryonic chicks and observed a neuronal response triggered by light.

The new device is compact, capable of higher resolution than previous designs, and more effective at stimulating neurons. While much work remains until this can provide a practical solution, with additional research the researchers hope their carbon nanotube-semiconductor nanocrystal film will one day effectively replace damaged retinas in humans. ★

The sons of Abraham continue to bless a world that so often despises them! It is poignant that the Israelis advance the means for eyesight even as we pray for spiritual sight “to the Jew first, and also to the nations.” (Romans 1:16) —Myles

Pope Francis: Why Didn't the Allies Bomb Auschwitz?



BY DR. RAFAEL MEDOFF (r) Aish.com

Since the Allies had photographs of the railways that took trains to Auschwitz, “why didn’t they bomb them?” Pope Francis asked recently.

The pontiff’s question is not merely historical curiosity; it raises issues of morality, diplomacy, and foreign policy with implications for our own times.

The Allies had photos of the railways leading to Auschwitz because throughout spring 1944, Allied planes surveilled the area in preparation for bombing German oil factories, some of which were less than five miles from the gas chambers and crematoria.

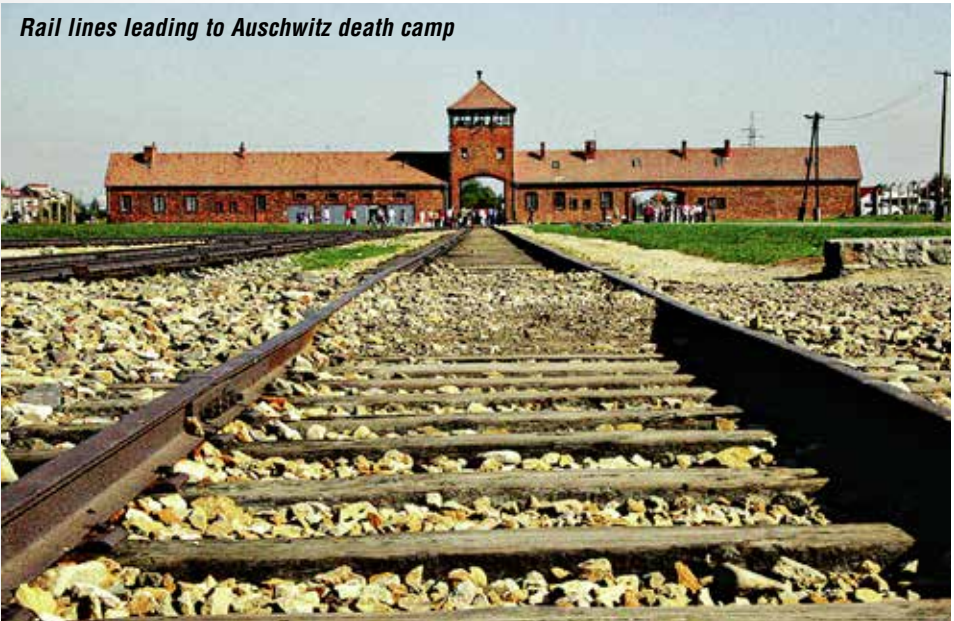
Yet when Jewish organizations asked the Allies to bomb the rail lines or the death camp itself, officials replied that such an operation was not feasible because it would require “diverting” planes from the battlefield. Yet, those oil factories were very much a part of the battlefield.

Actually, the military repeatedly diverted resources or changed plans for non-military objectives ... just not for Jews. For example, Secretary of War Henry Stimson blocked a plan to bomb the Japanese city of Kyoto because he admired the city’s artistic treasures. Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy diverted American bombers from striking Rothenburg in Germany to spare its medieval architecture. Allied ships took thousands of Moslems on a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1943, at the same time that Jews were told that no ships were available to take Jewish refugees out of Europe.

In the summer of 1943, the Allied High Command was anxious to bomb Rome, “a railway and communications center for Germany and Italian war material” according to *The New York Times*. But Roosevelt feared Catholic voters would blame him if religious sites were damaged or civilians harmed.

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

Rail lines leading to Auschwitz death camp



Pope Francis... *continued*



Therefore, leaflets dropped on the city the day before the attack warned of imminent bombing, thus surrendering the advantage of surprise. The bombing, carried out in broad daylight, endangered pilots' lives in order to avoid hitting religious shrines.

Why the double standard when medieval artwork or Catholic shrines were in danger, but no diversion of a few bombs to strike the railways bringing hundreds of thousands of Jews to their deaths?

Internal memoranda between senior officials of the State Department during 1941–1943 —the peak of the Holocaust—provide the tragic answer. One official, Cavendish Cannon, opposed rescuing Jews from Romania because it was likely to “open the question of similar treatment for Jews in Hungary and ... all countries where there has been intense persecution.” R. Borden Reams warned of “the danger that the German government might agree to turn over to the United States and Great Britain a large number of Jewish refugees.”

Pope Francis made his Auschwitz remark while speaking to young people about why they “find it hard to trust the world.” But why cite only the 1940s? When the international community lets the architect of the Darfur genocide walk free, accuses Israel of war crimes for defending itself against war crimes, and yawns as the Syrian regime uses chemical weapons against civilians, it is no easier to “trust the world” today than it was during the Holocaust.

Website comment: As Michael Williams writes in *Steaming to Victory*, railway lines were repaired within hours and as such there was no point in bombing them. Bridges and engine repair yards were another matter. The allied priority was the destruction of oil fields and ball-bearing production. ✨



B-24 Allied bombers fly over Ploesti during World War II.





Israel's Fence on its Jordan Border

By Dan Williams
Reuters.com

Israel's security cabinet recently approved extending the fortified fence along its Egyptian border into a section of the frontier with neighboring Jordan.

Jordan and Israel closely coordinate security for their 150-mile-long border and for the strategic 60-mile-long Jordan Valley within Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), where Palestinians seek statehood.



But the government of **Benjamin Netanyahu**

worries that African immigrants and armed jihadi infiltrators might try to reach Israel via Jordan after the Egyptian-Sinai border was fenced off with a 16-foot-high razor-wire barrier in 2013.

That fence runs from the Palestinian-occupied Gaza Strip to Israel's southern Red Sea resort of Eilat. Briefing Israeli lawmakers, Netanyahu said that his security cabinet recently gave the green light for a new 18-mile stretch of fence that will run northward from Eilat along a now often porous Jordanian border. He said the fence would help protect an Israeli airport due to open next year at Timna, 12 miles from Eilat and billed as a wartime alternative should Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport come under rocket attack.

"This is an important matter. It is part of our national security," Netanyahu explained. The fence, he added, would go up in Israeli territory, "without in any way harming the sovereignty or national interests of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Tunisia to Build Border Barrier with Libya to Keep Militants Out

By Ahmed Feteha and Jihen Laghmari
Bloomberg.com

Tunisia's government said it will build a wall along its border with Libya to prevent the infiltration of Islamist fighters following a June 26 beachfront attack that killed 38 people, mostly British tourists.

The wall, that will cover about a third of the 310-mile border, will be ready by the end of the year said Prime Minister Habib Essid. The government has already started construction, he added, although he warned that protecting the border would be "difficult, very difficult."

While Tunisia has escaped the worst of the unrest that swept through Libya, Syria, and Egypt since 2011, the violence is hurting an economy struggling to recover after the uprising that toppled President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The barrier is one of the measures that Tunisia intends to counter ISIS's threats targeting tourism, which accounts for about 7% of the country's economy.

The Tunisian government has said that the gunman who carried out the attack in the Sousse resort was trained in Libya. Perpetrators of another fatal shooting at the country's main museum in March also came from the war-torn neighbor. The Islamic State branch in Libya claimed responsibility for both attacks.



IDF Introduces the Commando Division

By Yaakov Levi

IsraelNationalNews.com

The IDF has some tough soldiers—and now, some of the toughest will be pushed even further, to the limits of their physical, intellectual, and tactical capabilities. The Israel Defense Forces recently announced the Commando Division, which will institute new training protocols and missions for some of the best soldiers in the army—those in units like Duvdevan, Maglan, Egoz, and Rimon.

The new division will incorporate the special skills of each of the units. For example, elite Duvdevan fighters specialize



in urban combat, while Egoz troops specialize in anti-guerrilla warfare in all settings. The Commando Division will design missions that further enhance the capabilities of the army, especially in emergency situations.

According to IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkott, the new division is part of a reorganization of the army, undertaken by the IDF in order to more effectively respond to new threats.

Reserve General Ofer Winter will command the division. Winter achieved media celebrity when, speaking to soldiers who were on their way to the front in 2014's Operation Protective Edge, he announced, "We are now setting off to fight the terrorist enemy in Gaza, who curses and stamps his feet at the God of Israel. I cast my eyes heavenward and cry out with you the traditional prayer 'Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.'"



Child Star "Shirley Temper"

Israel Today magazine

The girl nicknamed "Shirley Temper" has become a star of Palestinian propaganda. Ahed Tamimi loves to provoke Israeli troops and then play the victim. In this staged scene, her mother was allegedly shot in the leg during an anti-Israel protest. Despite the "trauma" of this relatively minor wound, father and child made sure to pose for the cameras.



Acting the victim in front of the IDF

Child star Ahed Tamimi (below) with her acting award



A Tale of Nazi-Era Sacrifice



BY JESSICA KASMER-JACOBS (r) WSJ.COM

On December 6, 1942, ten German soldiers marched into Rekówka, a Polish village 90 miles south of Warsaw. They'd received a tip from locals that two families, the Skoczylas and Kosioróws, were sheltering Jews. When the Germans apprehended the families in their shared house, all but four of its inhabitants were at home. The soldiers spotted a trapdoor in the kitchen, which opened to a small, but empty, hiding place. They demanded that the families reveal the whereabouts of the Jews, but nobody would talk. The soldiers took them to the barn behind the house, locked them inside, and burned them alive. When two of the boys tried to escape, they were shot in the back.

Almost 72 years later, in August 2014, a cultural investigator named Jonny Daniels lifted that trapdoor for the first time since the surviving family members sealed it off years ago. He



Jonny Daniels crouches in an underground hiding place that once sheltered Jews during World War II.

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Tadeusz Skoczylas opens a hiding place beneath the floorboards of his kitchen in Rekówka, Poland.



Sacrifice... *continued*

lowered himself down a ladder into a dark, damp space with no light source and a floor covered with straw. He didn't know it at the time, but he had uncovered **the only known World War II hiding place for Jews that has remained intact** and undisturbed since the end of the war.



Martin Skoczylas holds a photo of his grandfather, Josep Skoczylas.

Photos by Elan Kawesch

In July, after a year of negotiations and research, the space became an official heritage site in Poland, the only one of its kind. The hope is that by featuring the haven, dark shadows cast over Poland in the wake of the war will be lightened by the humanity of families like the Skoczylas and Kosioróws. ✨

Descendants of the Skoczylas family at the house where their ancestors hid Jews during World War II. The family still lives there today.



UK Fights Islamic Extremist Ideology

BY DANICA KIRKA (r) Associated Press



British Prime Minister **David Cameron** (*pictured*) is launching a five-year plan to defeat Islamic extremism, saying it is time to counter the ideology that has attracted so many young people to the Islamic State group.



In a recent speech in Birmingham, Cameron said that the extremist ideology of the group, also known as ISIL, must be countered to create a more cohesive nation in which young Moslems feel they have a stake.

Many people born in Britain have little attachment to the country and that makes them vulnerable to radicalization, Cameron says.

"Indeed, there is a danger in some of our communities that you can go your whole life and have little to do with people from other faiths and backgrounds," he said. "So when groups like ISIL seek to rally our young people to their poisonous cause, it can offer them a sense of belonging that they can lack here at home."

The prime minister announced a study designed to find ways to increase opportunities for young people from ethnic minorities and increase their integration in society.

Cameron also took on the sensitive question of the role Britain's Muslim community should play in fighting Islamic State, saying extreme views such as believing in a "Jewish conspiracy" and opposition to "fundamental liberal values" are the gateway to violence. ★



Jewish Humor, etc.

Mouths of Babes

Sophie was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek, then her own, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Zayde, did God make you?"
"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Zayde, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, Yelda," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, Sophie observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"



A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22



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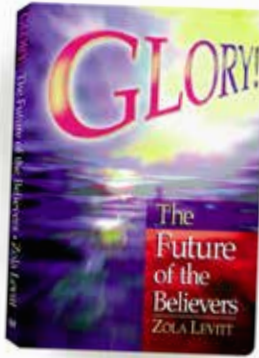
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