

Levitt Letter

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



Support the Refugees, But Beware

Radicalized?
p. 8

By Ludwig Schneider / *Israel Today*

I am a child of refugees: The Nazis persecuted us because we were Jews. I can still hear the shots fired by the police who were pursuing us. I was nine. We escaped and were placed in a refugee camp with 12 people in a room. Someone gave me a Bible, which eventually led me to faith in Yeshua. I know firsthand how miserable it is to be a refugee!

The flood of Moslem refugees and whether countries should allow them in are hot topics in Europe and America. Yet I hold to this principle: When in doubt, support the refugees. Loving our neighbor demands this response.

At the same time, I have some serious concerns because the Christian West, with its diluted version of faith, is being overwhelmed by Moslems who could attempt to convert Christians to Islam. Western churches, by contrast, seem not to perceive a duty to convert Moslems to Christ, because their blanket ecumenism welcomes a pluralistic world. These "Christians" should no longer call themselves followers of Jesus.

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Heisman Winner: Keep God First, Pray

By Samuel Smith
ChristianPost.com



After winning college football's most prestigious award, University of Alabama running back **Derrick Henry** praised God and advised young athletes to keep God first while pursuing their dreams.

The 21-year-old Henry fulfilled what he called a "lifelong dream" when he was named the 2015 winner of the Heisman Trophy.

"First off, I just want to thank God for bringing me here and winning the prestigious award," Henry said during his acceptance speech. "He has been good to me in my life and I have been honored and blessed with this opportunity. Since I was

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Support the Refugees, But Beware *cont. from cover*

I see the refugee dilemma as a development foretold in Daniel 2:42: God says that in the End Times, iron and clay will fuse together. Yet technically, these two elements cannot merge, just as the Bible cannot meld with the Koran. Alliances with Moslems never last. They collapse because Islamic law permits Moslems to break treaties with non-Moslems if this will help Islam achieve its goals.

Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israel withdrew from Arab cities in the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria. These became bases for gunmen and suicide bombers in what the UN now calls "Palestine."

In 2005, Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip for the sake of peace, but it became a Hamas terrorist enclave that has fired thousands of rockets across the Israeli border.

This should be a lesson to Europe and America. As soon as refugees' expectations in the West fail to be fulfilled, Moslems could turn to radical jihadist ideologies. Moslems are already infiltrating a Christianity that has become lukewarm. As Goethe put it in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*: "The spirits which I have summoned, I now cannot banish."

A dilemma: On the one hand, I believe in helping people—including Moslems; on the other hand, I am afraid the lack of identity among many nominal Christians will result in Europe becoming a mission field for Islam.

Paul says that we should "do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of the faith [i.e. Christians]" (Galatians 6:10). And if we help people who follow other religions, we should do so in a way that causes them to glorify our Father in Heaven (the God of Israel), as Jesus says in Matthew 5:16.

Yet how can they praise our Father in Heaven if we do not tell them that this help has come from believers in Jesus? It is only then that our practical help will have a spiritual effect and be of value in eternity. ★

Please also see [*How Islam Takes Over Countries, p.11*](#)



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Heisman Winner: Keep God First, Pray *(cont. from cover)*

a kid, it has been my lifelong goal and a dream of mine. I am just very thankful.” After thanking his mother and father, Henry then thanked his grandmother, who he says helped make him into a man and taught him the importance of keeping God at the center of his life. “My grandmother, the woman who made me into the man I am today, I want to thank you so much,” Henry exclaimed. “Even though you couldn’t be here, I feel you in spirit ... You always told me to keep God first and pray that I always make it far.”

The Florida native then thanked his teammates, brothers, other family members, and his college and high school coaches for helping him to get to this point. After going through his list of acknowledgments, Henry then turned his attention to the children listening to him.



“I just want to talk to the kids who are watching this TV and listening to me today... I am hoping that I am somebody you can idolize yourself behind and look up to, because God is everything and always keep God first,” Henry urged. “Always pray; don’t be afraid to pray. He always hears you cry. God will be there every step of the way. I am a living testament, man. Growing up and having this dream, I never thought I would end up here. But God is good, and I get on my hands and knees every night and pray and thank him for everything,” Henry shared. “So, keep God first, always pray and always chase your dream.” ★

Who's Got Your Back?

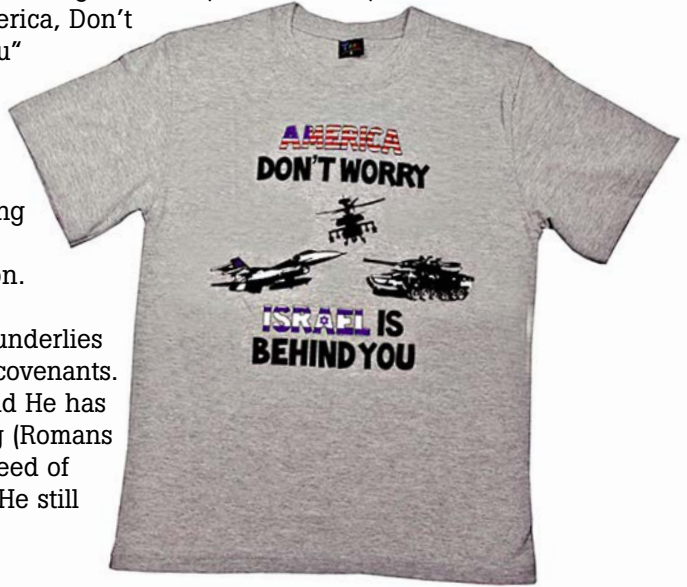
Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



Of the clever T-shirts for sale in the Old City of Jerusalem, one of my favorites depicts a jet fighter with the Magen David (Star of David) emblazoned on its side and the caption: "America, Don't Worry; Israel is Behind You"

The irony: The tiny nation, smaller than New Jersey and with a population of under 10 million, is watching over the rich, gargantuan country of over 300 million.

A deep spiritual meaning underlies the humor: God keeps His covenants. He is supremely faithful and He has never rescinded His calling (Romans 11:29) or His love for the seed of Abraham (Jeremiah 31:3). He still watches over Israel.

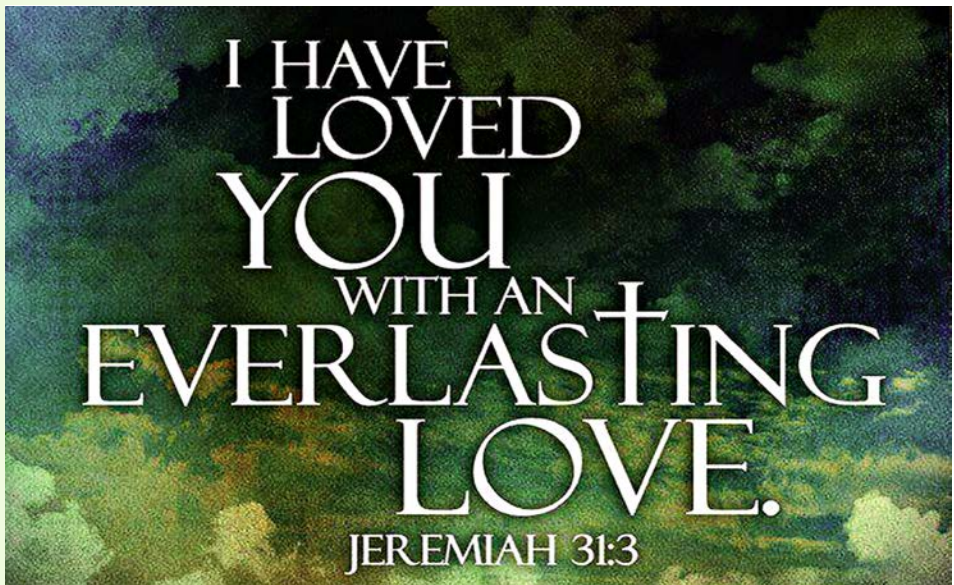


Psalm 121

- ¹ I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help?
- ² My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Jewish and gentile disciples together think of ourselves as "New Covenant" people. It is notable that the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Scriptures) only once mentions the **new** covenant. In his chapter 31, the prophet Jeremiah outlined the covenant that God was to reveal to the nation of Israel:

(continued next page)





31 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah:

33 I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;

34 They all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

36 If those ordinances [the stars in the sky, the moon, and the sun!]
depart from before Me, says the Lord,
Then the seed of Israel shall also cease from
being a nation before Me forever.

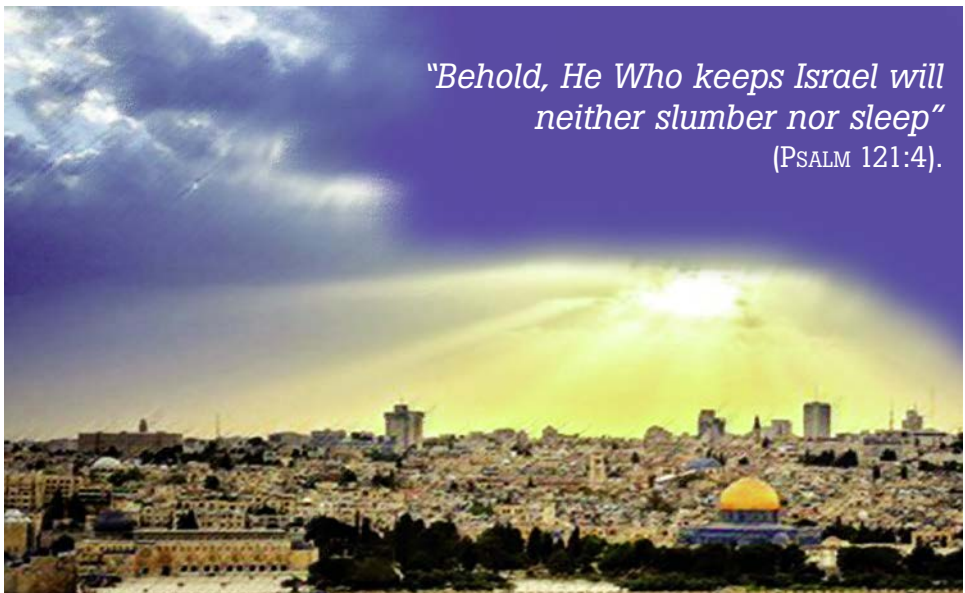
These verses profoundly affect the relationship between God and Israel. God announces His intention, then states that a spiritual change is being offered to Israel: the possibility of an inner victory over sin. Not only so, the Lord of all says, "All Israel will be saved!"—from the youngest and least prestigious to the elders and leaders. God is so committed to this people that His love will last as long as the universe exists.

Herein lies a mystery. Different interpretations of the "Servant Songs of Isaiah" lead to debated views of the New Covenant.

The prophet speaks of a special Servant in Isaiah 42:1–4; Isaiah 49:1–13; Isaiah 50:4–11; and Isaiah 52:13–53:12.

Is he speaking of Israel or Yeshua?

Israel has certainly suffered through the Ages for being a natural representative of the Holy One, but the One who paid the price for sin is Yeshua HaMashiach. The greatest force behind America is the Holy One of Israel. Let's pray our beloved country remembers that fact. ★



*"Behold, He Who keeps Israel will
neither slumber nor sleep"*
(PSALM 121:4).

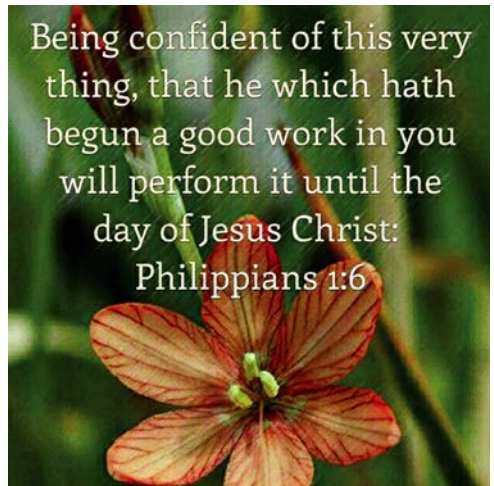


Scripture says that in the Last Days, lawlessness will increase and that everyone will do what seems right in their own minds rather than let the Lord's Word guide their lives.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; (2 Timothy 3:1–5)

This climate in which we find ourselves should not shock us, because the Word of God told us life would be this way. The divide is growing between those who believe in Yeshua and those who don't. When I say "believe," I mean this: seriously undertake the life of a disciple, wanting to honor God despite our frailties and tendency toward sin.

God has instructions for how we are to conduct ourselves in this time when darkness is growing. I love the communities of faith where Myles and I connect: our congregational co-leaders and some close Messianic friends, our long-term Christian friendships. The ZLM viewers, readers, and those who make pilgrimage with us also bless us. We often remark on the quality of our traveling companions: mature and accomplished people of faith who remain hungry to learn and be more like Yeshua.



In these times, God calls us to continue in what we have learned of Messiah. I believe He wants us to have the same kind of excitement about our faith as when we first received Him. We grow as we allow His Scripture to make us wise. God's Word helps us each become the disciple God wants us to be (Philippians 1:6), and we are equipped by *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit), as Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 5:22–23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

In this era when men call good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20), it is very important for the Body of Christ to shine by reflecting the Spirit. I remember this past Hanukkah when Myles taught our congregation that we could pray each night of the holiday for God to release His character through us. We began with the center candle, the *shamash* (servant), and every night went through the list in Galatians 5. We would light each candle of the Hanukkah menorah with the servant candle and add a prayer for "joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness," etc. until the eight days were done. I think we may have a new tradition in our celebration of the Light of the World. Perhaps we should light a menorah every day of the year! ✨

Hate Islam but Love the Moslems

BY “MATTHEW”— a Palestinian Christian known to *Israel Today* editors



Because Islamic culture and the Arabic language are so foreign to the Western world, reliable information about Islam and the Moslem world is very limited. This unfamiliarity speaks to two erroneous positions many Christians take regarding Islam. They either love both Islam and the Moslems or hate both of them.

It is a mistake to love both Islam and the Moslems. The reason is that Islam is an “anti-Christ” religion. **Its teachings go against the basic principles of Christianity,** including complete dismissal of the Cross. Moslems likewise reject that Jesus is divine, and instead describe Him merely as a human prophet. This is the theological side of the debate.

On the practical side, Islam is full of teachings commanding the faithful to kill infidels including Christians and Jews. Islam also boasts many verses and Hadiths (sayings of Mohammed recorded outside the Koran) dismissing women’s rights and permitting adherents to take non-Moslem women as sex slaves. When we talk about Islam, we are talking about a sinful religion. Without question, these points stand in opposition to our Christian faith.



The Bible clearly teaches that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). In other words, **our war is not with Moslems, but with the evil spirit of Islam.** We cannot love Islam, because Islam is sin; but we can love the sinner as Jesus demonstrates.

Many Christians take an open approach to Islam because they have been misinformed that Islam is a religion of peace. But this notion comes from people who are trying to fix the tarnished image of Islam. Just as true Christianity is rooted in Jesus, so true Islam is rooted in Mohammed. If you want to know the true Islam, read the Koran, the Hadiths, and the history of its “prophet.”

The second mistake, which is just as serious, is hating both Islam and the Moslems. Again, it is not wrong to hate the evil spirit of Islam, which is clearly an anti-Christ force in our world. But there is a fine line between hating Islam and hating Moslems.

It can be difficult to separate between a faith and the people who adhere to it, but by the grace of God, we can love the Moslems and share the Gospel with them—without making room for Islamic teachings and ideology and, thusly, compromising our own faith.

Hate the sin, but love the sinner and want to see him saved. “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9). ★

Radicalized...?



BY HOWARD GALGANOV (r) Galganov.com

I'm Jewish. I was born Jewish to Jewish parents, who themselves had Jewish parents. I was raised and educated Jewish. I attended a rabbinical college, but I also went to a Protestant public school, where I recited the Lord's Prayer every morning and sang Christian songs in class.

I celebrate Jewish holidays. I married a Jewish girl; but had I decided to make my life with a Christian girl, I would still be Jewish.

I am not a religious person, but I am an unabashed supporter of the State of Israel, and I stand for Judeo-Christian values. **Understand this:** No matter how much anyone—rabbi, friend, or wife—tried to convince me to become a Jewish terrorist—to murder, torture, rape, pillage, and cause mayhem in the name of being Jewish—it would never happen. Nor would it ever happen with any Christians I know. It wouldn't happen **because that's not who we are.**

So, how does it happen only with Moslems, when it doesn't happen with any other religion on the planet? And the entire world has seen this movie time and again, because for about a millennium and a half, Islam has been running rampant throughout the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, and Europe, causing death and destruction wherever it has gone.

The idea that Moslem murderers are somehow radicalized is trash. The only way Moslems are able to commit such *evil* as if it were normal is because that's who they are raised to be when this pious evil is ingrained in them from their first Koranic recollection.



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Make no mistake: They are nurtured, not radicalized.

To say that these monsters are radicalized implies that this is not what Islam teaches; that the murderers are not responsible for their actions. Pretending that they are like addicts who were led down a horrible path, who can't help themselves, and who should feel our pity and understanding rather than our revulsion and condemnation, is self-deceiving and unproductive. ★



When Were the Seeds of Hate Sown?

BY RICHARD A. SERRANO AND BRIAN BENNETT / LATimes.com



San Bernardino killers **Syed Rizwan Farook** and **Tashfeen Malik** began scheming to carry out a terrorist attack long before they were engaged or he moved her to the United States on a fiancée visa in July 2014, according to the FBI.

FBI Director James Comey testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee that Farook and Malik “were radicalized before they started courting or dating each other on-line, and as early as the end of 2013 were talking to each other about jihad and martyrdom.”

Farook and possibly others may have planned a terrorist act as early as 2011 or 2012 but dropped it after four men were arrested—three of them in Chino, California, one in Afghanistan—and ultimately convicted in a plot to kill Americans in Afghanistan, according to a government official.



The FBI director’s comments suggest that Farook, a U.S. citizen born in Illinois, may have specifically sought a co-conspirator to help him plan and conduct his deadly terrorist attack long before 2014. Malik, 29, who was born in Pakistan but lived for some time in Saudi Arabia, was “radicalized” before she met Farook, Comey said, although it’s still unclear who was the driving force behind the plot.

Malik’s role came under additional scrutiny as investigators found a false address on part of her K-1 visa application, the so-called fiancée visa, that allowed her to enter the United States to marry Farook and become a U.S. resident. Two government sources said that Malik used a place other than her family’s home address in Pakistan. Investigators speculate that she sought to deflect any investigation of her family’s reputed ties to Islamic militants. Security officials in Pakistan say they found no evidence that Malik had contact with militant organizations.

For now, the FBI is focusing on how they missed the secret radicalization of Farook and his wife, and Farook’s apparent comments as early as 2011 that he was considering a terrorist attack. The FBI believes Farook abandoned that plan after the 2012 arrests in Chino of a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Afghanistan and a legal, permanent U.S. resident and citizen of the Philippines, who were convicted in 2014 on charges related to providing material support to terrorists and plotting to kill Americans in Afghanistan. The other two defendants previously had pleaded guilty.

In announcing the convictions in 2014, U.S. Attorney Stephanie Yonekura said the case showed the danger of local residents being influenced by foreign terror groups—precisely what appears to have happened in December’s San Bernardino massacre. “Extremist ideologies can reach from Afghanistan to America,” Yonekura said, “demonstrating the clear need for continued vigilance in rooting out home-grown violent extremists.” ★

After you read the article on p. 8, you probably will agree that mosques are extremely effective in spreading “extremist ideologies,” i.e. Islam. —Editor

From Here To Eternity

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



Since the publication of my book [The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel](#) in 1974, it seems that the Middle East has changed considerably. I sincerely feel that there would be no time for a new book, and even this newsletter is a slow way to communicate in view of the cataclysmic events surrounding us today.

With the benefit of hindsight, those who have read [The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel](#) can see that there is nothing to retract. Since the book followed the prophecy of Ezekiel 37–39 exactly, world events have only corroborated the prophecy and helped bring the fulfillment into focus. Nothing needs to be corrected in the original volume, but much can be added at this point. Here is a brief overview of Ezekiel's picture of the invasion put in the form of the events transpiring with each participating nation. Dr. McCall and I will be adding this addendum to future copies.

LIBYA (PUT)

Here is a sparsely populated desert dictatorship that has come from a pre-feudal society to become one of the most menacing enemies of Israel in a short 15 years. It is foremost in the news today (1986) in view of Colonel Kaddafi's rabidly anti-Israeli, anti-American, and pro-terroristic stance. Nothing would please this regime more than to cooperate in a massive international invasion of Israel.

To this end, Kaddafi has been moving closer to Russia, and it has even been said that he seeks a power-sharing arrangement with the communists. He has boasted on international television about "aligning with Russia" and, Hitler-like, he has referred to Americans as "sub-human." He wants to vent a terrible anger and can't really take on the United States. Israel is

smaller and closer and, he thinks, weaker. A fomenter of terrorism, he has targeted Israel in the past.

Libya is given as an ally of Russia in the invasion in Ezekiel 38:5.



IRAN (PERSIA)

An ally of the United States and of Israel at the time of the book's copyrighting, Iran has descended into a backward society of fanatical Moslem reactionaries. Under Khomeini, Iran is viciously anti-Israeli and anti-American and suffers from an exhausting 5-year war with its Moslem neighbor, Iraq. Presently, Iran is cultivating relations with the Soviet Union, and it is very clear that its ultimate purposes would be best served by overrunning Israel and capturing Jerusalem and the Dome of the Rock. The Russians would welcome the participation of this Eastern-flank power in an invasion of Israel.

Persia is given as an ally of Russia in the invasion in Ezekiel 38:5.

In coming issues, we will detail Magog (Russia), Ethiopia, Gomer and Togamah, Sheba and Dedan, "The Young Lions," and Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. ★



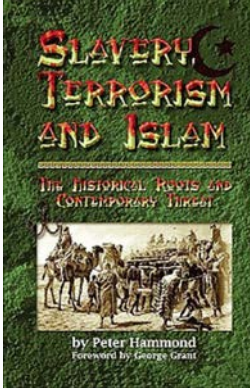
How Islam Progressively Takes Over Countries

BY MARK ELLIS /blog.GodReports.com



Dr. Peter Hammond

In [*Slavery, Terrorism and Islam*](#), Dr. Peter Hammond (*r*) documents the way Moslems slowly develop a presence in various countries and how, as their population numbers build, they become more aggressive and assertive about exercising severe Sharia (Islamic) law.



"Islam is not a religion or a cult. It is a complete system of life," Dr. Hammond notes in his book. "Islam has religious, legal, political, economic, social, and military components. The religious component is a beard for all of the other components."

Their takeover of a country begins when the population of Moslems reaches a critical mass, and they begin to agitate for various privileges. Open democratic societies are particularly vulnerable. "When tolerant societies agree to Moslem demands for their religious privileges, some of the other components tend to creep in as well," he notes.

This is how it works:

When the Moslem population remains under 2% in a country, they will be seen primarily as a peace-loving minority and not as a threat to other citizens.

At 2%–5%: They begin to recruit from ethnic minorities and disaffected groups (prisons and street gangs).

5%: They pressure supermarket chains to feature *halal* (clean by Islamic standards) food on their shelves—with threats for failure to comply.

10%–60%: Any non-Moslem action offends Islam and results in hair-trigger rioting, e.g. Mohammed cartoons or films about Islam.

60%–80%: Burnings of churches and synagogues, ethnic cleansing (genocide) to drive out "infidels," and move toward 100%.

100%: theoretically ushers in peace because everybody is Moslem, the *madrassas* are the only schools, and the Koran is the only word.

"Unfortunately, peace is never achieved, as the most-radical Moslems intimidate and kill less-radical Moslems, for a variety of reasons."

Dr. Hammond is concerned by demographic trends: "Today's 1.5 billion Moslems make up 22% of the world's population. But their birth rates dwarf the birth rates of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and Jews. Moslems will exceed 50% of the world's population by the end of this century." ★



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Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. Regarding the Rapture:

1. Who is included in the pre-Tribulation Rapture (e.g., Church Age saints, Old Testament saints)?
2. Who will attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and in what bodily form? Will the Marriage Supper be after the Bema Seat, and where will it be?

A. The pre-Tribulation Rapture will involve only people saved during the present Church Age, which dates from the day of the Pentecost to the Rapture itself. The Old Testament and Tribulation saints will be raised at the conclusion of the seven-year Tribulation (Daniel 12:1–3; Revelation 20:4).

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place when Christ weds the Church. Those saved during the Church Age will attend as His heavenly bride, in our perfect resurrected bodies clothed in “fine linen” (Rev. 19:8).

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb does follow in logical sequence after the Bema Seat. It will involve New Testament saints only (the Bride of Christ/the Church). I believe the supper will take place in the Father’s House in Heaven. After the supper event, Christ returns to Earth with the Church/His new bride, as is sequentially laid out in Revelation 19. Later, the Old Testament saints will be raised at the commencement of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:4–5).

Q. Prophecy
Is there a resource that lists all the prophecy about the land of Israel?

A. Two good books on this topic, both written by the late Dr. John Walvoord, are [*The Prophecy Knowledge Handbook: All the Prophecies of Scripture Explained in One Volume*](#) and [*Israel in Prophecy*](#).



Q. Eternity Details

I heard a teacher of the Bible say that in eternity, the Jews will live on the Earth and the Body of Christ will live in Heaven. I have read about One New Man of Ephesians 2, Jew and gentile together. We are separated now. Will you explain who lives where in the new world to come? And what about God’s covenants with the nation of Israel forever? In the new world, will the covenants still be valid and include gentiles?

A. There will be no kind of discrimination between Jew and gentile in the coming Messianic Kingdom. The Church will be on Earth with Israel, ruling as co-regents and magistrates for the Messiah in all the nations of the world (Isaiah 32:1; 1 Corinthians 6:2). And after the Millennial Kingdom, the heavenly city called the New Jerusalem will come down from Heaven where all the nations shall walk in the light of it (Revelation 21). So, saved Christians and Jews will live in the New Jerusalem together. ★

Serving Yeshua = Joy!

By Kathryn Sue Hopper
Zola Levitt Ministries
TJF Outreach



During the To The Jew First team's 35th outreach last fall, while Todd Baker and my husband, Robin, left the hotel to get a larger minivan that would hold the four of us, our baggage, and three boxes of Bibles, I ministered to a hotel security guard. (As a retired police officer, I enjoy approaching security guards and police officers.) In the course of our conversation, I gave him a complete Hebrew Bible. The Bibles we hand to interested Israelis contain both the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament) in Hebrew.

Joy of the type that flooded over me when the guard began studying his new Bible within a few minutes leaves an indescribable satisfaction. I know that I've just handed him the key to his eternal salvation. I'm not responsible, of course. I'm simply an instrument of our Lord. But just as He guides me to approach certain people, He guides their path to Him. Praying for these precious souls and encouraging them on subsequent visits to Israel enriches my own walk with the Lord, and I love that the seeds I plant can effectively change sure death into sure life.

One of the hotel workers, a young man named **Shomri**, told me that his name means "my happiness." His parents had made *aliyah* (immigrated) to Israel from Morocco, and he was a *sabra*—a native-born Israeli—and his mother's happiness. I understand that concept, as my sons are also "my happiness!" Shomri accepted an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book from me, hoping to learn about Yeshua/Jesus, the Messiah. (There's that flood of joy again!)

Jacob, whom I met in a Tiberias gift shop, told me about his wife and five-year-old granddaughter when we exchanged family history stories. Jacob expressed a curiosity in Yeshua and was happy to accept a Hebrew copy of *They Thought For Themselves*, Sid Roth's compilation of testimonies by Jewish believers in Yeshua.



I strongly suspect that Jacob will recognize the value of a complete Hebrew Bible the next time I visit. I will have one ready for him.



At a *shuk* (outdoor market) in the northern city of Kiryat Shmona, I met **Eli** selling candies, snacks, and my favorite chocolate wafer cookie, which I bought by the dozen. While Todd chatted with Eli's business partner, I explained to Eli that we travel from Texas each year to show our love and support for Israel and to share with Israel the Jewish Messiah that Israel first shared with us. Both men accepted complete Bibles from us, and Todd and I pray that they will also accept Yeshua as their personal Messiah.

Jew 1st

Sidestepping Taxes



Donating appreciated assets, such as stock and real estate, is a legitimate way to avoid income and capital gains taxes. Put another way, it can be a mistake to liquidate shares of stock and other investments in order to give the proceeds to tax-exempt charities like Zola Levitt Ministries. It is usually more cost effective to donate the assets themselves.

In estate planning, an IRA or 401(k) account is possibly your smartest asset to bequeath to a nonprofit organization, because it, unlike family members and friends, would not be subject to deferred taxes. Of course, it is biblical to “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s” (Matt. 22:21), but why overdo it?

Our ministry offers nearly two dozen free pamphlets that foster solid Christian stewardship. Those who seek to give well, as well as generously, will find the six pamphlets described below helpful.

- Five Ways to Make the Most of Your Gifts
- Your Guide to Effective Giving
- Giving Securities
- Giving Through Retirement Plans
- Giving Real Estate
- Better Estate Planning

The “Giving Securities” pamphlet offers this fine example of how a contributor of \$10,000 can save anywhere from \$2,600 to \$4,400 in taxes, assuming a 35% income tax bracket and 15% capital gains tax rate.

Donors who are at least 70½ years old will face *substantial* penalties if they

neglect to take their Required Minimum Withdrawals from their IRAs and 401(k)s each year. You can avoid paying taxes on those withdrawals by designating them as charitable contributions. (This deduction was recently made permanent. *Please see next page.*)

It is now super easy to donate gifts “in kind” to our ministry. **Cars, electronics, gift cards, jewelry, coins, stamps, real estate, and just about any items of value can turn into tax-deductible contributions while underwriting our Bible teaching.** Clicking on the “Donations” tab at levitt.com allows you to donate from anywhere, even by text message. (When you give via text message, you provide your personal information *once*. From then on, you send a text with only the amount. Text messaging is one of the easiest and safest methods for donating.)

Our website’s new donation page is totally secure from start to finish, fast, and user friendly. It works well with smart phones and other devices with Internet access. Those who have donated via our website before will be pleased by the remarkably streamlined process now in place, as well as additional options for giving.

You may already know that we make our independently audited financial statements free for the asking, and that we spend a minimum of TV time and

newsletter space appealing for support. However, the ongoing need is there every month, as are our six-figure invoices for television airtime. *Thanks for remembering to help our outreach on a regular basis.*

Assuming 35% Income Tax Bracket	Option A Give \$10,000 in Cash	Option B Sell Securities & Give Cash	Option C Give Securities Outright
Gift value	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Ordinary income tax savings	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Capital gains tax saved or paid, assuming 15% tax rate	N/A	\$900 paid	\$900 saved
Net tax savings	\$3,500	\$2,600	\$4,400



ZLM Bulletin Board

Special tax-free IRA gifts

For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.

On December 18, the President signed into law legislation that retroactively extends the charitable IRA rollover for 2015 and makes this provision permanent for future years. A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs to one or more qualified charities, such as **Zola Levitt Ministries**, free from federal income tax each year. **There may also be state income tax savings.** Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift.

To make such gifts, it is important to not withdraw funds prior to a gift, but have the gift amount distributed directly from an IRA to one or more qualified charities. For those with check-writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make gifts directly from an IRA.



How to Avoid Israeli Brutality



To see a quick guide (of 47 seconds), click [here](#). This clearly illustrated video includes relevant examples of how to avoid being shot, such as: "When driving a car, do not purposely drive into a crowd of people on the sidewalk," "When an Israeli policeman asks for I.D., do not attack him with a knife," and "If you happen to be holding a Molotov cocktail or a rock, do not throw it at passing cars." Such guidelines, though potentially frustrating, could protect you from Israeli brutality.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

Life insurance is an especially flexible planning tool that can be used to meet a variety of personal financial needs. The pamphlet ***Giving Through Life Insurance*** includes six questions to determine whether a gift of life insurance would make sense for you. It also offers seven ways to give charitably using life insurance. A table summarizes tax benefits, and the Technical Advisory Section addresses basic tax rules, qualified appraisal rules, and more. To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

GIVING
THROUGH
LIFE
INSURANCE

To
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TV Change to Note

ABC Family has changed its name to **Freeform** to reflect its goal of attracting viewers who are becoming adults. Our ministry welcomes this opportunity to broadcast our message to this younger audience!

Freeform plans new content as well as ABC Family favorites, such as *Zola Levitt Presents*. Though our time slot won't change, if you record *ZLP*, you will want to check your guide to be sure your recordings continue uninterrupted now that ABC Family's name has changed.



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson

Telling God Your Name

John J. Parsons



וַיִּשְׂר אֶל-מַלְאָךְ וַיִּכַּל בָּכָה וַיִּתְחַנֵּן-לוֹ

“He wrestled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his grace.” – Hosea 12:5

וַיִּשְׂר	אֶל-	מַלְאָךְ	וַיִּכַּל	בָּכָה	וַיִּתְחַנֵּן-	לוֹ
(3) (2) (1)	(1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(2) (1) (3)	(4) (3)
vai- ya -sar	el—mal-akh	vai-yu-khal	ba-khah	vai-yit-chan-nen—lo	and he sought His grace	and he wrestled

Some people think it’s the business of theology to know God’s Name, but God begins by asking for *our* name instead. Recall that Jacob had disguised who he really was in the hope of obtaining the blessing (see Gen. 27), though his duplicity forced him into exile that lasted until he was finally willing to be honest with himself. And like Jacob, each of us must answer God’s question: “What is your name?” (Gen. 32:27). When we “wrestle through” this question to face who we really are, we will encounter God and find our blessing, that is, our true identity. Each of us has to go through the process of being renamed from “manipulator” (i.e., Ya’akov) to “one in whom God rules” (i.e., Israel). But note the order: It is only when we “tell God our name,” that is, when we confess who we really are, that God meets with us “face to face” (Gen. 32:30). You will not be able to say, “I will not let you go unless you bless me,” until you are willing to tell God your name (Gen. 32:26–27).

Let me add that while “telling God your name” can be painful and even frightening, it is *not* the last word about who you really are. On the one hand, we need to *confess* the truth of our sinfulness, brokenness, and so on, while on the other we must *endure* ourselves and find faith that God’s blessing nevertheless belongs to us, despite the mess we’ve made of our lives. We have to be *willing to accept* God’s new name for us and to believe that He will miraculously transform our inner nature for good. We are renamed from “Ya’akov” to “Israel,” though we still know ourselves as *both*. Jacob was renamed “Israel” but afterward he walked with a limp, seeing both the new and the old natures within him. Jacob still struggled, though his struggle was now focused on walking as God’s beloved child in this world: the limp was given to help him to lean on the Lord for support.

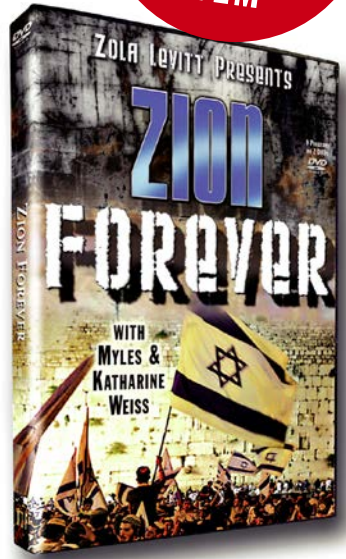
Some people may need help learning to “endure themselves,” too. Many are able, it seems, to receive the hope that they are forgiven for their past sins, but they are later *scandalized* by their own inner struggles, and may eventually despair over their ongoing weakness. We must remember, however, that there is a real struggle between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit (Gal. 5:17). We must never move away from simple trust in the message of God’s unconditional love demonstrated at the cross; we must never seek to legitimize our place in God’s heart. When we walk by the Spirit, we are no longer under the law (Gal. 5:18), which is to say, we no longer need to justify ourselves but instead trust in God’s power to transform us. **Just as we’re saved by the love of God, so are we changed, and so do we grow.**



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Zion Forever DVD Set

This long-awaited, nine-part series looks back at Israel's history and forward into prophecy while remembering the present status of the Temple Mount, the most contested real estate on Earth. Throughout the series, we hear from "Our Man in Haifa" Eitan Shishkoff, archaeologists Eli Shukron, Dan Bahat, and Shimon Gibson, tour guide Hannah Ben Haim, and Israel expert Shahar Shilo. Zola Levitt's music complements the narrative and scenes of Israel.



The Place The Holy of Holies stood on a foundation stone called in Hebrew *HaMakom* (The Place). In exploring the ancient City of David we hear from knowledgeable archaeologists and tour guides.

Western Wall The Western Wall, once called "Wailing Wall," now called *HaKotel* (The Wall), is the closest Jewish people can get to the site of the Holy of Holies. After Myles shows us a Bar Mitzvah celebration at the Wall, we hear how King David purchased the threshing floor atop Mount Zion.

Southern Steps Myles and Katharine walk along the southern edge of the Temple Mount where Messiah and other worshipers would have entered. Eitan Shishkoff looks to a future time when knowledge of the Lord covers the Earth.

Kidron Valley From the Kidron Valley, which lies between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives, Myles and Katharine give us the history of Jerusalem. Messiah will enter through the Golden Gate when He comes again.

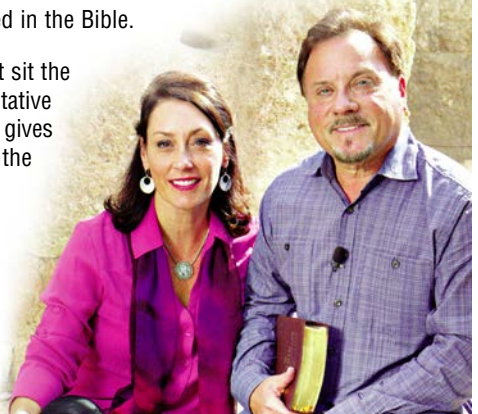
Valley of Elah Young shepherd boy David slew the giant Philistine Goliath in the Valley of Elah. Here, Myles and Katharine recap the event. We discuss the walls of ancient Jebus (Jerusalem), the Gihon Spring where David's forces invaded the city, and the tunnels at the southern end that may have provided the final resting place for Judean kings.

Ein Gedi Myles and Katharine recount how David hid from King Saul in a cave near the spring at Ein Gedi oasis. We hear about the discovery of the Pool of Siloam and that the current King of Israel is Yeshua Himself.

Temple Mount The Temple Mount is the earthly center of spiritual warfare. We see thousands of artifacts from Bible times that have been discovered in the debris discarded over a decade ago from unauthorized excavations. Guest archaeologist Zachy Dvira was first to note the debris's importance.

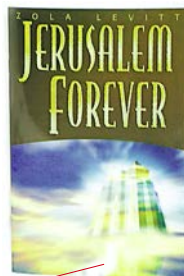
Mount of Olives From the Mount of Olives, Myles and Katharine look to the future of the Temple Mount. Archaeological finds continue to surface on Mount Zion, confirming Jewish heritage as recorded in the Bible.

In the Meantime Currently atop the Temple Mount sit the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. A representative of Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which governs the area, gives the Moslem perspective. Guests: David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch, and a Jewish woman who is raising her family in the City of David.



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

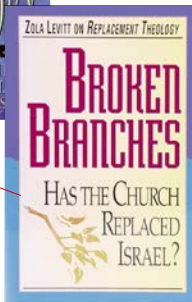
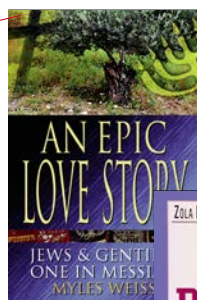
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Books

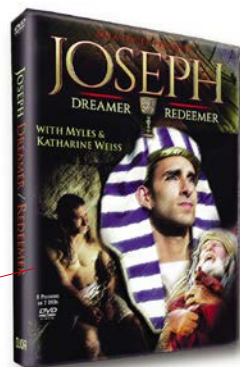
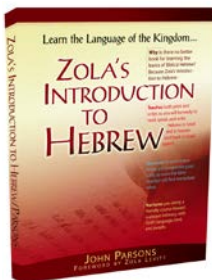
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___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	___

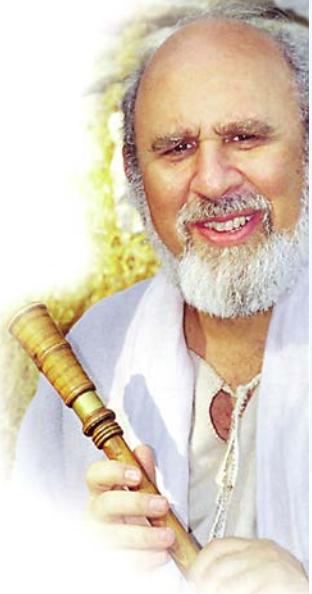


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Studies, Specialty, Etc.

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___	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
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UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!



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Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

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___	Mine Eyes Have Seen (Zola's Music CD)	\$12	_____
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Journey of Restoration DVDs

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

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

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

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

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

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

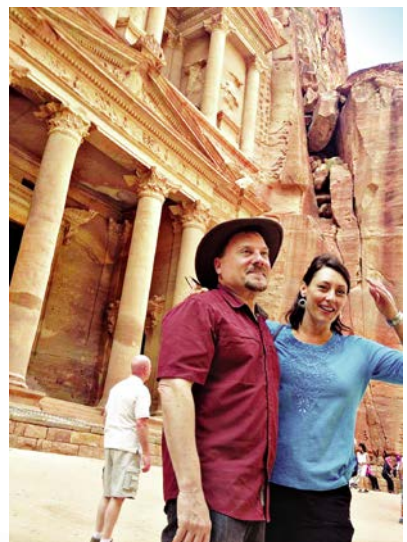
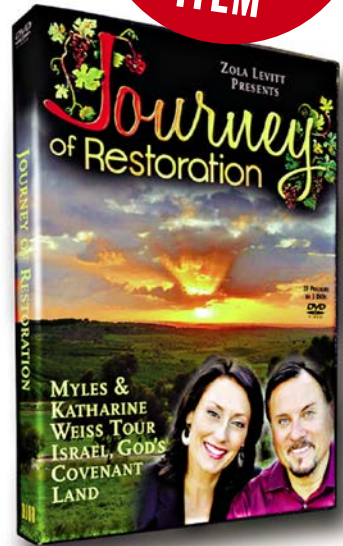
Holy Places, Holy Moments We walk from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane to meditate. In the Upper Room, we worship the Lord.

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

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

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

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



Jews Were The Key To Western Civilization

BY MENACHEM BUTLER / TabletMag.com



Prince Takahito Mikasa (*r*) the oldest living member of the Imperial House of Japan and uncle of the current emperor of Japan, turned 100 on Dec. 2. At the age of 20, Prince Mikasa received authorization from his older brother, Emperor Hirohito, to form a new branch of the Imperial Family, essentially emancipating him from the formal duties of the court. (The Imperial House of Japan is the oldest continuous hereditary monarchy in the world.) Since then, His Imperial Highness (the honorific commonly used to refer to Prince Mikasa) has immersed himself in scholarly works related to Near Eastern civilization, in the course of which he became a frequent visitor to Jewish communal events in Tokyo and reportedly learned to speak perfect Hebrew.

While serving as a junior cavalry officer in the Japanese army during World War II, Prince Mikasa was posted to China, where he encountered (and was impressed by) the zeal and devotion of the Christian missionaries from the West and the military discipline of China's army. Afterward, Prince Mikasa became extremely interested in the source of such devoted passions.

In 1953, prominent American Reform Rabbi Arnold J. Wolf related how Prince Mikasa delivered remarks at a Hanukkah reception at the Allied Forces' Tokyo Chapel Center, attacking those who believe the superstition held by many Japanese that their people descended from the Lost Tribes of Israel.

In his remarks, said Wolf, Prince Mikasa "spoke of himself, also unexpected and frank for one upon whose words millions hang. He said that after the Western powers defeated Japan (he spoke of this more openly than I had ever heard any Japanese do), he had had the *on*, the obligation, to Westernize himself. He had gone on to learn Western culture. And, he said, in the six years of his study, he discovered one supreme fact: the Jews were the key to Western civilization. The truth incarnated in Judaism, a truth of being rather than of theory, is the central meaning of history. ... History had brought him—Prince Mikasa—to the Jew, he said, and Judaism had brought him back to himself. For the Jew is not only the father of the West, he is the scion of the Orient. He is the holy bridge (a traditional and poignant Japanese symbol) between East and West. Through understanding Judaism, the Prince regained a sense of his dignity as a member of his people. He was again proud to be Japanese." ★



One of Japan's many Holy Bridges at Nikko



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From C.H. (FL): I don't know if it is appropriate to compare your ministry to an automobile, but your program is the Mercedes Benz of Christian broadcasting. Thoroughly uplifting. Wish you were on for an hour.

From B.H. (AZ): Thank you for your ministry. I have learned much these past months since I started receiving the *Levitt Letter*. I didn't know how much I didn't know! There is a real anti-Israel bias in the media and certain segments of the organized Church. I hope to support you financially one day, but I'm currently an inmate. I will continue to pray for you and the nation of Israel. God bless you.

Buy Israeli

Dear ZLM,

Do you know that the Heritage Health Food company has chosen to use Israeli produced "hot dogs" in their new Veggie Corn Dogs? I understand that Heritage's principles of quality require products to be GMO-, meat-, and dairy-free. Israel provides quality when nothing as pure is offered in the U.S. —K.M.

Shalom K.M.—

Thanks for your email regarding Israeli products that we can support. Economic terrorism constitutes a significant facet of the Islamic anti-Jewish agenda. Even here at home, the same jihadis hope to scare away travelers from blessing the Holy Land.

Just last night, someone asked if Zola Tours has ever canceled a study tour to Israel. Katharine responded, "By God's grace, we have never canceled a pilgrimage" and began to speak about "Christianity through Jewish eyes."

We are calling on the ZLM community to come with us this March (see p. 36) to refute the lies of Islamic terrorists and simultaneously see the Land of God. Spend a few shekels, profoundly bless the Israelis, and experience the Bible go from black and white to Technicolor, Dolby sound, THX, CGI, and IMAX-quality as you meet with the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit) in the land where Yeshua lived and where He will soon return! —Myles and Katharine



Making Choices

Dear Myles and Katharine,

I recently sent in a long letter about a Christian who would be an amazing guest on your program. I guess it was thrown into the trash when your employees opened the mail. I thought I would, at least, get a note... but not a word! I still think she would be a great guest. She loves the Jews as I do.—B.H. (CA)

Dear B.H.—

I am sorry that you were offended by the fact that we did not publish or respond to your kind suggestion for a program guest. However, I am glad to have the opportunity to address your concern and also advise our other viewers and readers. We receive hundreds of letters each month and can't reply to them all. We read every single one, but usually publish the ones we think may benefit the entire community. I hope you understand. We privately try to answer questions that are not published in the *Levitt Letter*. With all of our responsibilities and limited time, newsletter space, and funds, we have to make choices. We do appreciate your communication and hope this response mitigates the hurt. Shalom —Myles

Effective Giving

Dear ZLM,

We see news about the plight of Jews in Israel. Is it true? They are shown sleeping on the streets and destitute, particularly those who are flown in from Russia and other countries. We didn't think the Israeli government would fly them in only to leave them in such dire need. —S. and R. S. (NC)



Dear S. and R. S.—

Sadly, many Israelis live below the poverty line. The hardest hit are Holocaust survivors, ultra-Orthodox, and Arab-Israelis. It is a complex situation, one that is always in the forefront of the political world in the Land. Estimates vary, but reports include up to 22% (over 1 million people) who live in difficult situations. The small community of faith in Yeshua does what it can to alleviate their suffering and relies on goodwill donations from caring Christians.

Be aware that some very large organizations have been receiving Christian donations for MANY years while being decidedly anti-Gospel. The most prominent one features Russian immigrants and has an annual budget of \$150 million, which I understand constitutes a larger budget than *all* the born-again, Bible-teaching Jewish ministries combined! I prefer donating to smaller, life-giving Bible-based communities in Israel who perform effective social work *and* share their faith in Yeshua.

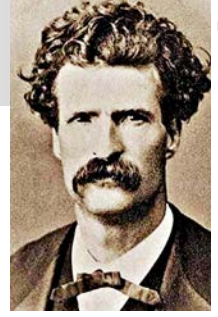
Katharine and I always give personally and through our congregation, and ZLM keeps a "Benevolence Fund" list that includes groups like Bridges for Peace so that our viewers can donate directly to worthy organizations.

When you support ZLM's television, website, and newsletter ministries, you are also lifting up the Name above all names—which is the greatest gift of all! Shalom —Myles and Katharine



Mark Twain: “How They Hate A Christian In Damascus!”

BY BILL FEDERER / WND.com



In 1867, Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) visited the Mediterranean and recorded the trip in *Innocents Abroad*.

The book, which established his reputation as a writer, described Syria under the Ottoman Turkish Empire: “Then we called at the tomb of Mahomet’s children and at ... the mausoleum of the five thousand Christians who were massacred in Damascus in 1861 by the Turks. They say those narrow streets ran blood for several days, and that men, women and children were butchered indiscriminately and left to rot by hundreds all through the Christian quarter; ... that the stench was dreadful. ... the Mohammedans would not defile their hands by burying the ‘infidel dogs.’ The thirst for blood extended to the high lands of Hermon and Anti-Lebanon [mountains], and in a short time twenty-five thousand more Christians were massacred and their possessions laid waste. ...”

Mark Twain added: “How they hate a Christian in Damascus!—and pretty much all over Turkeydom as well. And how they will pay for it when Russia turns her guns upon them again! It is soothing to the heart to abuse England and France for interposing to save the Ottoman Empire from the destruction it has so richly deserved for a thousand years. ...”

Mark Twain continued: “It hurts my vanity to see these pagans refuse to eat of food that has been cooked for us; ... or to drink from a goatskin which we have polluted with our Christian lips ... These degraded Turks and Arabs. ... When Russia is ready to war with them again, I hope England and France will not find it good breeding or good judgment to interfere. ...”

In chapter XLII: “If ever an oppressed race existed, it is this one we see fettered around us under the inhuman tyranny of the Ottoman Empire. I wish Europe would let Russia annihilate Turkey a little—not much, but enough to make it difficult to find the place again without a divining-rod or a diving-bell.”

In chapter LIII, Mark Twain described the condition of Jerusalem under Ottoman Moslem rule: “Rags, wretchedness, poverty and dirt, those signs and symbols that indicate the presence of Moslem rule more surely than the crescent-flag itself, abound. ... Jerusalem is mournful, and dreary, and lifeless. I would not desire to live here.”

In chapter XLVII, Mark Twain described the land of Israel: “We dismounted on those shores which the feet of the Saviour had made holy ground. ... One of the most astonishing things that has yet fallen under our observation is the exceedingly small portion of the earth from which sprang the new flourishing plant of Christianity. The longest journey our Saviour ever performed was from here [Galilee] to Jerusalem—about one hundred to one hundred and twenty miles. ... Leaving out two or three short journeys, He spent His life, preaching His Gospel, and performing His miracles, within a compass no larger than an ordinary county of the United States. ...”

Mark Twain: “In the starlight, Galilee has no boundaries but the broad compass of the heavens, and is a theatre meet for great events; meet for the birth of a religion able to save the world.” *Please see the Mark Twain quote on [p. 29](#).* ★

Israeli Intelligence Prevented Terror Attack in Germany



BY TZVI BEN-GEDALYAHU (r) JewishPress.com

Israeli intelligence once again proves to be the number one weapon for Western Europe, the United States, and Russia to fight Islamic terror.

Israeli intelligence was responsible for preventing a massive terror attack at a soccer stadium in Hanover last November, according to *Stern* magazine, which also reported that a bomb-laden ambulance was discovered.

Israeli sources, and not those from France as originally reported by European media, handed over exact information of how terrorists were planning to attack Germany's Hanover stadium.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was due to attend the game, indicating that Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists targeting a stadium in Paris two weeks earlier because President Francois Hollande was at the game was not a coincidence. An attack inside that stadium was foiled by guards who stopped a suspect, who then blew himself up.

Stern reported:

Israeli intelligence handed over exact information on what was expected in the planned attack in Hanover, leading to the last-minute cancellation of the friendly game between Holland and Germany.

A warning had been relayed a day before the game. The next day, hours before the soccer match, another intelligence report warned that a terror attack was "imminent."

The night of the game — four days after the ISIS massacres in Paris — German authorities received information from Israeli sources that detailed a planned attack inside the stadium. A search outside turned up an ambulance loaded with a



Police outside Hanover stadium after Israeli intelligence information prevented a massive terror attack



bomb. Police arrested a known suspect. Two hours later, a Hanover train station was evacuated after a suspicious object was found. ★

Germany-Netherlands soccer game cancelled after police find bomb-laden ambulance nearby — Washington Times



Newest 3D Printing: Metal



SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

What Israeli 3D pioneer Objet did for plastic with layered inkjet printing, Israeli start-up **Xjet** plans to do for metal.



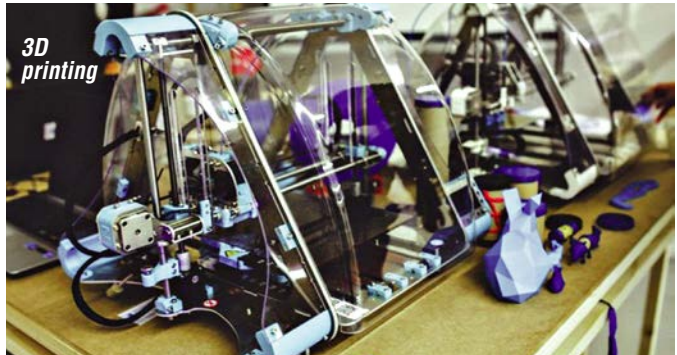
"In the same way that Objet helped create an industry for 3D printing using plastic materials, we intend to create an industry that will allow the same kind of custom printing for metal," said Xjet CBO **Dror Danai**. "At Xjet, we are developing an inkjet printing tech for liquid metal, the first time this is being done anywhere." The technology, he added, could revolutionize manufacturing.

Right now, the only way to manufacture a piece of metal is by using a mold (filled with) liquid metal, which then solidifies," he continued. It's the way everything metallic—from a pipe to a coin to a gold ring—is made. "To make an odd-sized piece, you first have to make up a new mold and measure it to ensure it has the right specifications for the machines that are going to produce it commercially. Manufacturing a single, one-time item is a very drawn out and expensive proposition that makes many metal parts very expensive."

Such parts are used in rockets, spaceships, and military jets, for example; but for everyday use, such customized manufacturing is far too expensive and involved.

Xjet, which uses nanotechnology to create special metal liquids, can create unique, one-of-a-kind items on the fly. "All the specifications are made in the software." Since the specifications are transmitted to the printer by the software, the result is an exact rendering of the object as envisioned by its designer—with no need to readjust the manufacturing process, as often happens with molds.

Other companies involved in custom manufacturing use laser technology (using a system called DMLS, Direct Metal Laser Sintering), which is prohibitively expensive for any except the largest companies, said Danai; Xjet's inkjet technology will allow much cheaper production of customized objects.



Xjet's proprietary liquid metals are based on nanoparticles of specific metals, stored in a special liquid solution that, encased in a tube, is inserted into its printers. "We are starting with stainless steel and expect the printers and the liquid metal to be on the market in 2016. After that we will work on other metals. We hope to get to all the major metals used in manufacturing."

"Eventually, we could print out a titanium knee on the spot for a patient, instead of making them wait weeks for a custom design." ★

Artificial Lung Shows How Particles Behave In Lungs

MEDICINE: By Kevin Hattori / ATS.org



A life-sized artificial human lung created at Technion—Israel Institute of Technology is the first diagnostic tool for understanding in real time how tiny particles move and behave in the deepest part of the human lungs (alveolar tissue). The patented platform could provide a better understanding of the health risks associated with airborne pollution, and be used for the evaluation and design of drugs for the respiratory system. The results were published recently in *Scientific Reports*.

Inhaled particles (known as aerosols) are tiny particles that can originate in nature, and from industrial and transportation sources. Although they are just a few microns in size (i.e. one hundredth of the size of a grain of sand), increased and prolonged exposure to these particles may interfere with the activity of the body's organs (including neurons in the brain), and in some cases even lead to the onset of cancers.

"This is the first diagnostic tool that enables quantitative monitoring of the dynamics of aerosols at such small scales," said lead researcher **Professor Josué Sznitman**, of the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering. "It gives us the ability to directly observe airborne particle trajectories and their patterns of deposition in the alveoli in real time."



Monitoring the movement of aerosols in the respiratory system, and especially how they are deposited in alveolar tissue, has long posed a challenge for researchers. This is due in part to their tiny size, and because their movement is affected by airflow, gravity, and other forces. Another factor that makes it hard to map the movement of aerosols is the complex structure of the alveolar tissue, which contains hundreds of millions of tiny air sacs interconnected by a dense texture of narrow ducts. For this reason, it is impossible to study the movement of these particles *in vivo* (in a living body), and researchers have had to rely on animal models or computer simulations.

The walls of the artificial lung system provide a realistic simulation of a real human lung. They expand and contract, similar to the actual respiratory system, making it possible to understand the behavior of both "bad" inhaled particles (pollution) and "good" particles that are administered as medication. The artificial model could reduce the need for animal testing to study the respiratory system.

According to its designer and builder Dr. Rami Fishler, also of the Technion Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, "the model consists of technologies similar to those used to manufacture computer chips, and comprises a branched network of minute air ducts (approximately one-tenth of a millimeter wide) with craters simulating the alveoli." ★

Anti-Semites Unwittingly Aid Israel

BY EVELYN GORDON / CommentaryMagazine.com



Anti-Semites inadvertently help the very Jewish state they dream of destroying. It happens more often than you might think, as was driven home recently by three news reports.

First: Some 8,000 French Jews moved to Israel last year, topping 2014's all-time high of 7,000. Immigration is good for Israel. Not only does each group of immigrants bring its own ideas and strengths that contribute to making Israel a better place, but the country simply needs a critical mass of people to survive as a Jewish state in an Islamic region.

Most immigrants to Israel care about the Jewish state. But most wouldn't have left comfortable lives elsewhere had there not been a push factor as well as a pull factor; that's why most American Zionists don't come. Anti-Semitism has been part of that push factor.

So thank you, anti-Semites, for turning a country of 800,000 people into one more than eight million strong. It wouldn't have happened without your help.

Second news item: a trilateral summit between the leaders of Israel, Greece, and Cyprus. When former friend Turkey, under its virulently anti-Semitic president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, turned against Israel, Israel's previously chilly relationships with Greece and Cyprus thawed, since all three countries now had a common enemy.

This might seem a poor strategic bargain: Greece and Cyprus have weaker militaries than Turkey, smaller economic markets, and provide no diplomatic entrée to the Moslem world. But Cyprus, with close ties with Russia, bought an S-300 aerial defense system in 1997, which it transferred to Greece. Since Israel, Greece, and Cyprus now conduct joint military exercises, Greece let the Israeli Air Force practice against its S-300 to devise ways of defeating it.

(continued next page)

Israel Celebrates
(Abir Sultan / epa / Corbis)



Anti-Semites...continued



So thank you, Erdoğan, for enabling the IAF to get the training it will need if it ever has to deal with Iran's military. It wouldn't have happened without your help.

Finally, the annual UN Human Development Index, based on income, education, and life expectancy: Israel ranked 18th on the 2015 index, above several countries (like France, Belgium, and Austria) that have higher per capita incomes and haven't been at war for the last seven decades.

What do these statistics have to do with anti-Semitism? Two things. First, Israel has benefited tremendously from the generosity of overseas Jewry. In particular, many of its hospitals and universities were built with help from abroad. Helping fellow Jews is a powerful Jewish impulse, but overseas donations spike whenever there's a war. In other words, if not for constant threats, Diaspora generosity that has helped Israel thrive so impressively might not have reached the proportions that it did.

Second, because of those constant threats, Israel couldn't afford mediocrity in certain areas. To fight numerically superior enemies, it needed the very best military technology, which ultimately spurred a civilian high-tech boom. Similarly, unable to import agricultural produce from its neighbors, Israel had to grow food with little water; hence, the innovation of drip irrigation and wastewater recycling.

In short, without the anti-Semitic hostility, Israel probably wouldn't have come as far and as fast as it has. So thank you, anti-Semites, for spurring Israel to become an amazing place to live. We couldn't have done it without your help. ★



Dry Bones

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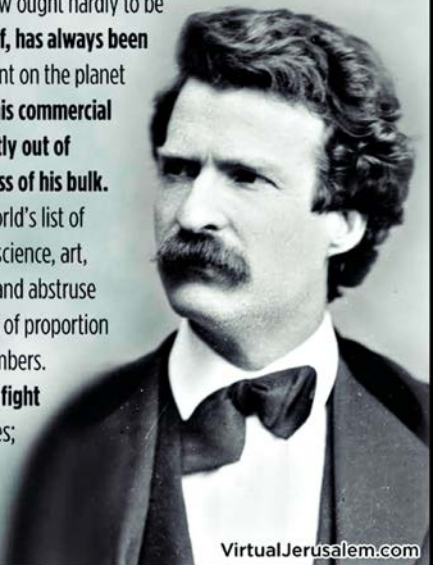


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"...If statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, **but he is heard of, has always been heard of.** He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and **his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.** His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. **He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him.**"

- Mark Twain



VirtualJerusalem.com

Tawfiq Tirawi speaks on
Palestinian Authority TV
PMW



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Israel received 117 votes in favor while 21 countries abstained, including many Arab states: Qatar, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, and Algeria.

Toddler Praised for Wanting to Shoot Israelis

JNS.org

Amid the recent wave of Palestinian terror attacks, Tawfiq Tirawi, an official from Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party, spoke on Palestinian Authority TV and expressed pride in his 2-year-old son for wanting to shoot Israelis.

"Listen, my son is 2 years and 10 months old. Today, his mother told me that he sang, 'Daddy, buy me a machine gun and a rifle, so that I will defeat Israel and the Zionists.' A boy who is not yet three! A Palestinian grows up with a feeling of belonging to the land, the homeland, and the people," said Tirawi.

Tirawi, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, has rejected in the past any notion of coexistence with Israel. He was also involved with overseeing acts of terror during the second intifada.

Strange Bedfellows

Israel Today

Egypt recently voted in Israel's favor at the United Nations for the first time, supporting the Jewish state's bid for membership in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which promotes the exploration of space for peace, security, and development.

Egypt faced fierce criticism at home and in the Arab world for standing with Israel. The Foreign Ministry in Cairo explained that it was necessary for Egypt to vote for Israel so that a number of Arab nations could be admitted to the committee. But there's more to it than that. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has emerged as one of Israel's strongest allies in the Arab world, alongside Jordan.

The reason: **Jerusalem and Cairo share a strong mutual interest in suppressing ISIS in the lawless Sinai Peninsula.**

For instance, el-Sisi has destroyed hundreds of smuggling tunnels under the border with Hamas-ruled Gaza in order to cut off weapons supplies to terrorists in the Sinai. This security cooperation, which has benefited both countries, now extends from deep underground into outer space.

Using Emergency Powers, France Closes 3 Mosques

By William Horobin

The Wall Street Journal

In early December, French authorities used sweeping emergency powers instituted since the Nov. 13 terror attacks to close down three mosques and a group of prayer rooms suspected of nurturing Islamist radicalization, France's interior minister said.

France sets an example for America to follow. —Mark



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Disposable Charger Dubbed ‘Energy Drink’ for Cell Phones JNS.org

The Israeli start-up **Mobeego** recently launched an inexpensive disposable cell-phone charger in Israel and abroad.



Mobeego’s self-described “energy drink for the mobile phone” can be charged up to four hours and costs about \$2.50. The design of the charger looks like an energy drink can and is an environmentally friendly alternative for Android and Apple smartphones as well as most older cellphones. Users can throw away the charger at a Mobeego-designated point of sale.

Mobeego, founded in 2014 by Israeli entrepreneurs, plans to set up franchises globally, particularly in developed countries. They are currently in negotiations with companies in the United States, Israel, Germany, France, and South Africa.

A newer model in the works will allow customers to receive a rebate when they recycle the battery.

The Riddle of IAA’s Mysterious Gold Object By Lee Gancman / TimesOfIsrael.com

An oddly shaped gold object found in an old Jerusalem cemetery so confounded the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) that it appealed to the public to help identify it.

In a post on its official Facebook page in December, the IAA showed the 19-lb. item in question in the declared hope that crowdsourcing would aid archaeologists in solving the riddle.



What was currently known, aside from the weight of the gold-plated mystery object, the baffled IAA said, was that it was found in a building in an unspecified Jerusalem cemetery. It was not clear whether the object was historical or modern.

“This looks like it was made by a CNC machine,” one Facebook user posted, referring to computer-controlled shop tools. The Antiquities Authority confirmed, “This may certainly be a modern object.”

In fact, an Israeli in Italy identified it as a “gilded Isis Beamer”—a New Age-style “energetic protection” device designed to ensure energy harmony in “your home, [at] your PC workstation, and when travelling.” Sold online by the German firm Weber, it is part of a range of bio-energy systems and technologies.

The Isis Beamer comes in various sizes and can be worn as a pendant for personal use or mounted on a beechwood stand. Made of gold-plated brass, it ranges in price from \$73 for the smaller, personal models, to a whopping \$1,086 for use in “larger buildings exposed to a high dose of radiation.” ★

Magdala Stone: The Clue to Why Jesus was Sentenced to Die?

ARCHAEOLOGY: / By Candida Moss
TheDailyBeast.com



A stone found in Israel with carvings of a chariot may be key in understanding the charge of blasphemy leveled at Jesus Christ.

Just in time for Hanukkah, news emerged regarding the remarkable carved block discovered in Magdala, in northern Israel.

The block was uncovered in 2009 during construction of a Christian pilgrimage resort. When the owners of the land unearthed the remains of a first-century synagogue, they began formal excavations.

The site initially made news for its ties to the New Testament, as it is presumed by most to be the hometown of Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus. Excavations revealed the dwelling places of fishermen and an ancient marketplace, and reports quickly billed the synagogue as a place in which Jesus might have preached. The fact that a coin discovered in a side room was minted in 29 A.D.—when Jesus was touring ancient Galilee—only added to the religious potential of the site.

But the Magdala Stone is the real discovery. Rina Talgam, a professor at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem invited by the Israel Antiquities Authority to consult on the site's artwork, identified it as a three-dimensional representation of the Herodian Temple.

The stone includes a carving of a seven-branch menorah—likely a reference to the candelabrum that stood in the Temple. One side of the stone, Talgam argues, depicts the Holy of Holies—the inner sanctum of the Temple—with a portion of a chariot. Flames beneath the wheels may indicate that this is the chariot-throne

of God (Ezekiel 1). The stone would thus signal that the seat of God was in the Temple.

The discovery turns our understanding of ancient Judaism on its head.

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



Magdala Stone



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Magdala Stone... *continued*



Most scholars believe that, before the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., synagogues were merely assembly halls, and only after that, synagogues became sacred places. According to Talgam, the location of the Magdala Stone at the very center of the first-century synagogue suggests that the synagogue might have been viewed as “a lesser Temple.”

But the stone may also offer additional evidence for scholars trying to decode one of the most perplexing biblical puzzles. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus is sentenced to die for blasphemy, for saying—alluding to Daniel 7—that people will see Him “seated at the right hand of power and coming with clouds of glory.” This statement incenses the High Priest, who tears his clothing and declares that the council does not need to hear any more evidence. (Mark 14:53–65). It’s a puzzling scene because, though the High Priest seems convinced, no modern interpreter knows why Jesus is found guilty of blasphemy. In Jewish tradition, a person is guilty for pronouncing the Divine Name. But Jesus doesn’t do this. He refers to God as “the Power.” So, what’s the problem?

Jesus referring to the chariot-throne of God when He says that they will see Him seated and coming with clouds of glory makes sense of the idea that Jesus is both seated and moving at the same time. Jesus claiming they will see Him in the divine throne, in effect, claims to be God. (This would be significant because Jesus never describes Himself as God in the Gospel of Mark.) If Jesus made such a claim, it’s easy to see why the Jewish authorities would be upset. The problem, though, is that the idea of the chariot-throne being divine comes from much later Jewish mysticism.

But the depiction of the chariot on the side of the Magdala Stone, in the Holy of Holies where God was said to reside, may suggest that as early as the first century some Jews already saw the chariot as a reference to God. If this is the case, then perhaps the Magdala Stone is the key to understanding the blasphemy charge. ★



Magdala excavations

The Dead Sea Is Swarming with Fish

BY TOMMY MUELLER / *Israel Today*



An ancient prophecy from the Book of Ezekiel that has mystified Jewish and Christian Bible scholars for centuries is unfolding in our time. The Dead Sea, Ezekiel foresaw, will come to life when water from the Temple in Jerusalem pours in, and it will swarm with fish (Ezekiel 47:1–12).

Yet, this is seemingly impossible. The water in the Dead Sea has a salt content of around 30%, meaning nothing can live in it.

“Nevertheless, this biblical prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes!” proclaims Danny Walter—a tour guide, naturalist, former paratrooper, pilot, and author familiar with Old and New Testaments—as he directs us to hidden fishponds on the shore of the salt lake. Fishponds ... amid such barren surroundings? How?



Living Water On The Dead Sea: Pools teeming with fish on the salt lake are a fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

The largest freshwater oasis in Israel can be found on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. A little more than 100 years ago, Einot Tzukim nature reserve was still completely covered by saltwater from the Dead Sea. The bordering desert land was barren. Then, at the end of the 19th century, Jews began immigrating to their ancient homeland. As the pioneers diverted water from the Jordan River, the **Dead Sea began to drop, uncovering freshwater sources** that had been hidden for centuries. Suddenly, a wide variety of trees and shrubs began to appear across the parched terrain.

Ezekiel foresaw this sight 2,600 years ago, promising that sacred, restoring water would stream down from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. “Most of the rain in Israel is brought by the westerly winds blowing from the Mediterranean,” Walter explains. “As they approach Jerusalem (at 2,625 feet above sea level), the clouds rise, cool off, and lose their water. Then they sink back down to the Jordan Valley and dry out. This is why the desert receives virtually no precipitation.”

Jerusalem forms a watershed. The rainwater seeps down and flows underground through various layers of rock toward the Dead Sea. That is how water reaches from the elevated Temple Mount to the shores of the salt lake, over 1,300 feet below sea level. Small freshwater springs emerge, forming cracks in the desert ground that develop into streams and feed the ponds.

But where are the prophesied fish? Walter unlocks the door to a fenced area. After a short walk through grass and undergrowth, we come upon the first pond lying between the trees. And there they are, swimming around: countless small fish darting about in the clear, warm water. Just a few yards away, we find the next pond with fish the size of small carp swimming lazily along the bank. “It is exactly as the prophet Isaiah prophesied!” Walter exclaims. “The desert and the thirsty land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). ★

Let’s not forget that Ezekiel’s prophecy also pertains to a supernatural event. As usual, the Israelis are on the cutting edge of science; but when Messiah comes ... ah-h-h, that’s fresh water! —Myles



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Jewish Humor, etc.

Assimilating

Mohammed, a little boy living in France, went to class on the first day of school. When the teacher asked his name, he replied: "Mohammed."

The teacher asked: "What kind of name is that!? We are in France. Your name is now Jean Pierre."

When Mohammed went home that night, his mother asked him: "Mohammed, how was your day?"

He answered: "We are in France now, and my name is no longer Mohammed; it's Jean Pierre."

His mother gave him a furious slap and continued to lecture him about how disgraceful he was to Islam. His father came home, heard the story, and also beat him.

When Mohammed went to school the next day, the teacher asked him how he was doing.

Mohammed answered: "I can't stand these Moslems! I haven't even been a Frenchman for 24 hours and I've already been beat up by them twice!" ★



A cheerful heart is good medicine — Proverbs 17:22



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Formerly ABC Family
See p.15

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DirectTV—Channel 311 **Dish**—Channel 180

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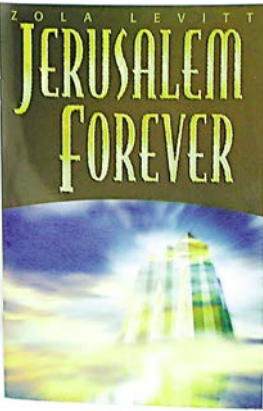
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