

Levitt

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

Letter

**The Mighty Hand of God p.6**

Shavuot/Pentecost: True Unity is Coming!

Shavuot 2016 begins in the evening of Saturday, June 11 and ends in the evening of Sunday, June 12.

Why are Christians and Jews celebrating this Feast in separate months?

By [Binyamin Kagedan / JNS.org](#)

Pentecost is the Greek name for *Shavuot*, the Biblical Feast of Weeks. Pentecost means "the 50th," due to the fact that **the Feast is scheduled exactly seven weeks plus one day, thus 50 days, after "Passover"** [the name by which rabbinical tradition ignores the Feast of Unleavened Bread]. This stretch of 50 days encompassed the countrywide harvest season of ancient Israel, beginning with the offering of fresh barley [the wave offering at the Feast of Firstfruits] and ending with the offering of bread baked from newly gathered wheat (Leviticus 23:15–18).

Most Jews today identify Shavuot as the date on which Moses received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The Bible itself draws no connection between the two events. The notion that Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah was actually popularized by the rabbis, based on a calculation of the date of

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

Israeli Firm Helped FBI Crack Terrorist's iPhone

[DailyMail.co.uk](#)

An Israeli company may have helped the FBI unlock the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, CA Muslim terrorist shooters, according to reports.



Israel's Cellebrite, a provider of mobile forensic software, said that it does business with thousands of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, militaries, and governments in more than 90 countries. An official source told NBC News that the company had helped the FBI. Neither the FBI nor Cellebrite has confirmed the reports.

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



Shavuot/Pentecost—True Unity is Coming! *cont. from cover*

the Exodus from Egypt. Since the Bible gave only agricultural and sacrificial associations for the holiday, Jews practicing after the Temple was destroyed adopted the Torah-focused interpretation. (Please see the Feb. 2016 *Personal Letter* for [Myles's explanation of this dichotomy.](#))

The Christian celebration of Pentecost is rooted in the New Testament Book of Acts, 2:1–4. The original 120 or so Galilean followers of Jesus gathered together in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot). All of a sudden, a mighty wind blew, and fire in the shape of tongues appeared, resting over the head of each individual. All in attendance began to speak in world languages they had never heard before, their ideas about Christ suddenly becoming intelligible to the international crowd in the surrounding area.

Today's Christian Pentecost commemorates this descent of the Holy Spirit onto the faithful, and the consequent spreading of the Gospel. Following Biblical tradition, Pentecost falls on the seventh Sunday following Easter, that is, 50 days later. [Unfortunately, the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. separated Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, from the Bible's prescription for setting the Lord's Seven Feasts and tied it instead to the vernal equinox. Thus, in 2016, Resurrection Sunday fell on March 27 rather than on May 1, the day after the Sabbath during the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:11).]

The dates for Pentecost/Shavuot this year illustrate the split between the rabbis and the organized Church, with both ignoring God's explicit instructions for setting His Feast dates. The rabbis ignore the instruction to count 50 days from the Feast of Firstfruits (the day on which Jesus rose) because they ignore that Feast and the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread, rolling them both into Passover. The Church calculates the date of Resurrection Sunday (aka Feast of Firstfruits) not by its relationship to Passover but by the vernal equinox, thereby also counting the 50 days to Pentecost from the wrong date.

Passover 2016 was Saturday, April 23. By God's instructions, then, the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread began the next day, on Sunday, April 24. The Sabbath of that 7-day Feast was Saturday, April 30 (the day from which to count 50 days). The "day after the Sabbath" was May 1, the correct date for Firstfruits/Resurrection Sunday/Easter. Seven weeks plus one day from April 30 would put Pentecost/Shavuot 2016 on Sunday June 19, not on May 15 as the Church celebrated, nor on Sunday, June 12 as the rabbis decreed. **This year (as in most years), the rabbis and Church BOTH got Pentecost/Shavuot wrong,** illustrating their divergence from each other and from God's instructions. (ZLM senior theologian Thomas McCall explains the Bible's 50-day formula [here.](#))

However, take comfort. Although Jewish people traditionally thank God for the harvest and the Bible, the day is coming when the King of the Jews and Savior of the world will return. When the Church synchronizes with the Hebrew celebrations and the Hebrew celebrations again follow the Lord's formula, we will be celebrating together. —Myles ★



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Israeli Firm Helped FBI Crack Terrorist's iPhone

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The FBI hacked into the iPhone used by gunman Syed Farook, who died with his wife in a gun battle with police after they killed 14 people in December in San Bernardino. The iPhone, issued to Farook by his employer, the San Bernardino County Health Department, was found in a vehicle the day after the shooting. ★

sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com



Never Again?

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



After filming at Auschwitz–Birkenau death camp and interviewing Holocaust survivors in Israel, I have an even deeper love and respect for the Jewish homeland. As kids in NYC, my friends and I would speculate about how the “wimpy” Jews would just march off to their deaths at the hands of the Nazis. “How could it be,” we young pseudo–delinquents would ask each other.

Now I have seen “how it could be” firsthand: the systematic lies, the sinister involvement of neighbors, and the wicked brilliance of the Nazis in perpetrating their evil. We stood in the crematoriums and wept at the vestiges of the killing factory.

The amazing survivors we interviewed shared with us their memories of how through cunning—in spite of devastating humiliation and with near superhuman resolve—they determined to live. I know that I am forever changed after hearing their stories, and I am very thankful that we embarked on this project.

This ministry intends to make an eight-part television series, focusing on the recovery, rebirth, and renaissance currently taking place in Israel. To that end, Katharine and I interviewed Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

The Bible is alive, as Isaiah prophesied in Chapter 35: Israel’s desert is blooming, not only with agriculture but also with brilliant Jewish minds. To illustrate this fruitfulness, we visited:

- 1) the high-tech office park in the Negev—“Gav-Yam Negev Advanced Technologies Park” in Be’er-Sheva, Israel—developed adjacent to both Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Israel Defense Forces’ new-to-come technology campus.

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This park reminds me of Pixar, Apple, and Google, all headquartered near my current home in California. Swarms of young people inventing and, in so doing, improving life for everyone.

- 2) the solar panel fields and hybrid energy technologies of Brenmiller Energy. This company is expanding the use of thermo-solar technology with the wisdom to combine it with conventional sources when necessary—so Jewish, so practical, “going green” with innovation. While striving for 100% earth-friendly renewable energy, the bright and gracious CEO met with us and explained the importance of transitioning to green while supplying current needs.

During our visits, the companies’ leaders discussed the losses their families had suffered during the Holocaust. Survivors and their progeny mainly rebuilt the Jewish homeland—a modern miracle, but also a true fulfillment of ancient, Divine promises. The Palestinian Authority recently told Jews to “return to your former nations.” Arabs need a new lie. Again, they dismiss history! The land grant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) is 4,000 years old, and King David *bought* the Temple Mount 3,000 years ago.

Since radical Islam insists on practicing Nazi-style elimination of all Jews (and Christians, too), I am not surprised to read that suburban California Jews are target practicing, albeit with great discomfort, at a local shooting range. Never Again! ★



Somber ZLM TV production team on day 3 of filming the notorious Auschwitz death camp. “Arbeit macht frei” is a German phrase meaning “Work sets you free.”



The Mighty Hand of God!

Katharine Weiss
ZLP co-host



This spring Myles and I documented our upcoming TV series *Beauty for Ashes*. Our visit to Auschwitz—the concentration camp where over a million Jews were murdered—sobered us as we contemplated its horrifying history and felt the cries of the doomed imploring, “Does anyone care what has happened to humanity?”

I was reminded of the Scripture that relates Abel’s blood crying out from the ground. Scripture is clear: We *are* our “brother’s keeper” (Gen. 4:9–10).

For *Beauty for Ashes*, we interviewed and filmed many Holocaust survivors. Each one’s story proved that they are extraordinary overcomers. One, **Noah, had an incredibly positive outlook on life—an unexpected attribute in someone who went through such a horrible time in history.** He remarked, “I have always been lucky . . . except for when I was caught by the Nazis.” He had been helping young Jews escape the horrors of Hitler. He and his colleagues were the last to leave Germany, heading for the border of Switzerland when someone informed on them. The Nazis immediately sent him to Auschwitz, in Poland.

His statement “I have always been lucky” took me by surprise. He was not bitter; nor was he hopeless. He had given up his turn to help someone else go ahead of him. He did not sit down in a pit and never try to get up again. Instead, he resolved to do all he could to live!

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Myles, Noah (Noah) Kliger, Katharine

Katharine *continues*



These survivors all fought off Death, meeting it head-on: "I will stay alive to tell people of this horror." In his interview segment of the series, Noah mentioned several of his survival strategies.

Noah eventually arrived in the Holy Land in time to assist the rebirth of the nation of Israel. As he explained to me, "I am a Jew, and I believe in the future for the Jewish people. It can only be to have a Jewish state, an independent nation, so we can be a safe haven for Jews in danger. We need an army to protect and defend this Jewish state. ... I was lucky; I survived the camps."

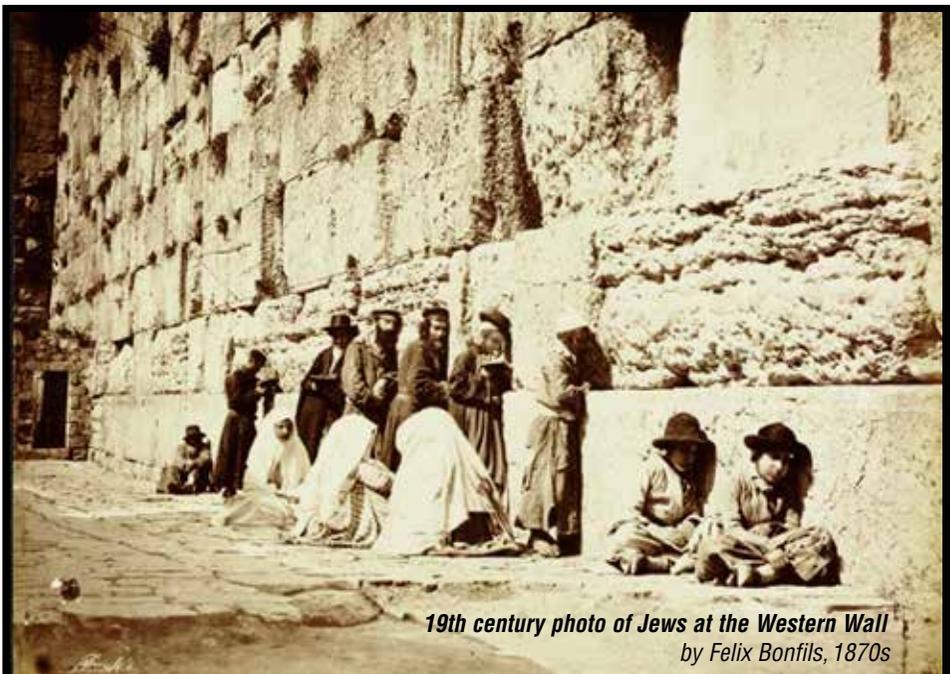
Though considered one of the builders of Israel, he takes no credit for his part in this miracle. "It was simply the desire that was placed in me for The Land of Israel," he explains. "By the way, always say it in Hebrew: *Eretz Yisrael!*"

"Not 'Palestine' that the Romans named Israel," he continues. "They named it that to mock the Jews, after their oldest enemy, the Philistines. In the Diaspora 2,000 years—and every prayer that is prayed ends with 'Next year in Jerusalem!'"

His thoughts collect, and he adds: "You know, the Koran never mentions Jerusalem. Not once. Just because they built a mosque on the Temple Mount, they claim it for themselves. David and Solomon built the Temple 3,000 years ago!"

Now he's excited. "We came to a land where there was nothing. We started from minus zero! We developed this country into one of the most sophisticated, beautiful places in the world. And we lead in most fields in the world: Number two in high-tech, and number one in start-up companies per capita."

That, Dear Reader, is the Hand of God and His blessing over His people. Come with us and see it for yourself! ★



*19th century photo of Jews at the Western Wall
by Felix Bonfils, 1870s*

A Determined Man with an Impossible Dream

Our Man in Haifa
Eitan Shishkoff
and wife Connie



On May 14, 1948, a bulldog of a man stood in Tel Aviv and proclaimed the birth of modern Israel. David Ben-Gurion devoted his life to re-establishing a nation that had not existed on its own soil for nearly 19 centuries. What kind of man was he?

Born in Plonsk, Poland, in 1886, Ben-Gurion burned early with a passion for our people to return to Israel and live in our ancient land. By age 14, he led a Zionist youth group. He became active in the local Zionist workers' organization at 17. By age 20, he had moved to *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel) and immediately became involved in pre-state politics. The year was 1906. The Jewish population was 55,000.

Ben-Gurion built his unwavering commitment to the rebirth of the Jewish nation on three principles: (1) Return of the Jews to their ancient homeland—then called Palestine. (2) The new society would be collective—an economy based on cooperation rather than competition. (3) The Hebrew language would join all of Israel's citizens together.

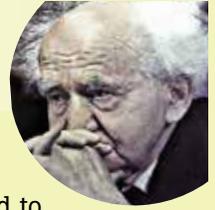
Whatever field of knowledge he saw as necessary, the future "father of modern Israel" poured his considerable intellectual and physical strength into it. In law, he studied the Turkish language in order to master the legal system of the Ottoman Empire. In military strategy, he joined the Jewish Legion of the British Army during World War I and later smuggled arms. In labor, he helped organize Israel's first, and still dominant, labor union—the Histadrut. Ben-Gurion's drive

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David Ben-Gurion, standing (1948), reads Israel's Declaration of Independence under the portrait of Theodor Herzl

Dream...continued



led him to the Jewish communities and secular governments of the world—inspiring, convincing, and recruiting all those needed to make the Zionist vision a reality.

The document that Ben-Gurion read that spring day in Tel Aviv declared that the Land of Israel was the historic birthplace of the Jewish people, and that their descendants had never forgotten this home. Setting forth a framework of social and political equality—with freedom of religion, conscience, education, and culture to all—the signatories made a final plea to the Arab nations who were poised to attack the infant state. They said: “We extend our hand in peace ... to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the good of all.”

I am a beneficiary of the decades of constant effort on the part of Ben-Gurion and other Zionist pioneers. Today, I have the privilege (along with my family and millions of other Israelis) of living out David Ben-Gurion’s dream. Of course, it was not only his dream but also the fulfillment of God’s unbreakable promises. How fascinating, then, that He chose an intense, non-religious Polish Jew as the key instrument to raise this nation from the rubbish bin of history.



Google Images



What a miracle! ★

Harry Truman and David Ben-Gurion at the White House, (1951)



From Here To Eternity Pt.4

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



Since the 1974 publication of my book *The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel*, the Middle East has changed considerably. The book exactly followed the prophecy given in Ezekiel 37–39, and 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 the events surrounding each nation in the invasion that Ezekiel foresaw.

We began this series in January's *Levitt Letter* and have looked at Put (Libya) and Persia (Iran); Magog (Russia) and Ethiopia; Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. In this final part, we detail Gomer and Togarmah, Sheba and Dedan, and the "Young Lions."

GOMER, TOGARMAH

The tribal names Gomer and Togarmah appear to include the nations from Turkey north through the Warsaw Pact countries of Eastern Europe, as our book details. **These territories take their orders from the Kremlin now and will certainly do so in the time of the invasion.** The original names appear in Genesis 10:2–3, and the appearance of nations hostile to Israel in these very geographical areas effectively corroborates the prophecy. Gomer and Togarmah are given as allies of Russia in the invasion in Ezekiel 38:6.

SHEBA, DEDAN

When the Russian invasion occurs, these nations of the Arabian Peninsula will raise objections. They probably include the oil-rich Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose airline building was targeted by Kaddafi in an April 1986 terrorist attack. They are observers of the invasion and not participants.

Their objections are detailed in Ezekiel 38:13, where they supply a reason for Russia's aggression— "... to take away livestock and goods, to take a great plunder."

"THE YOUNG LIONS"

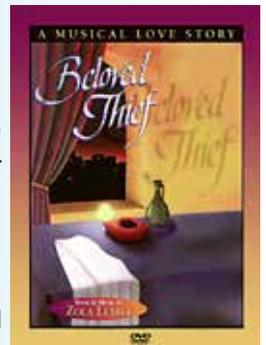
Also raising objections to the invasion are those identified as "the young lions." Some have speculated that these might represent Great Britain (with its lion symbol) and its political offspring, the United States. If so, it is perhaps the only passage in Scripture that references these modern Church Age nations. In any case, there is no clear participation of Western nations in the invasion itself, primarily because **their help seems not to be needed. The God of Israel will settle the fray before they can join in.** At any rate, the United States has already helped arm Israel to fend off just such an invasion.

The objections of the young lions to the invasion are detailed in Ezekiel 38:13. ★



[Beloved Thief](#) [Musical DVD and CD](#)

The ancient Israeli wedding customs, as they parallel the great moment of the coming of the heavenly Bridegroom, are portrayed in exciting Israeli music and drama. This fully-staged musical with fine actors and singers in period costumes of first-century Israel is an enchanting, inspiring hour, worthy of many repeated viewings. (Romantic secret: the leading actor and actress met on the set and married in real life!)



BDS is Anti-Semitism



BY RONALD S. LAUDER (r) JPost.com

I wish there wasn't a worldwide effort to isolate Israel, to destroy Israel. But there is, and it is called the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS).

At a recent meeting of the World Jewish Congress (the organization I have the privilege of leading), 457 Jewish people representing 67 countries as diverse as South Africa and Russia gathered in one room. When the topic turned to BDS, all of us agreed: We must unite to stop BDS.

It was a remarkable demonstration of unity and strength because we all care deeply about the Jewish State of Israel. And we're all committed to defeating BDS. BDS was started a decade ago by an anti-Israel activist named Omar Barghouti. His goal was to destroy the Jewish homeland. Unable to destroy Israel militarily and economically, Israel's enemies are trying to destroy Israel politically.

BDS tries to present itself as a democratic movement concerned with human rights. But that's a lie. BDS is an international campaign to incite hostility toward Israel and the Jewish people. BDS is not motivated by any disagreement with Israeli policies, and BDS has no interest in peace or in improving the daily lives of Palestinians. Its real aim is the destruction of Israel.

BDS uses two tactics. The first: boycotts of Israeli goods, scholars, doctors, and the many ideas and accomplishments this innovative country exports. The second: anti-Israel campaigns at colleges and universities.

In the case of boycotts: Many countries have already made boycotts illegal, and new legislation in the U.S. would also ban boycotts. So, on the legal front, we are winning. We also need to counter the calls for boycotts with a coordinated campaign to encourage people to buy Israeli goods.

At colleges and universities: From the moment they arrive at school, students face a barrage of anti-Semitic lies. A new student organization staffed by skilled young professionals and funded by the World Jewish Congress will train Jewish students to be proud of their heritage and to be proud of Israel.

For far too many years, too many people have been silent in the face of anti-Israeli lies. We will stand up for what is right and expose BDS for the fraud that it is: a dangerous new strain of an age-old disease—anti-Semitism.

I have faith that even in the darkest corners of the globe, where anti-Semitism flourishes, there are millions of people ready to stand with Israel. Israel will continue to be a light unto the nations. We will take on the anti-Semites. And we will win. ★



**HATING JEWS SINCE...
OH, SEEMS LIKE FOREVER!!**



Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



GETTING THE TIMING STRAIGHT

Q. Since Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies exactly, how could He eat the Passover meal (Matt. 26:17ff, Mark 14:12ff, Luke 22:7ff) the day the lambs were killed before He was killed as the Passover Lamb (John 1:29, 36)?

A. The difference between the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and John's Gospel concerning Passover and the death of Jesus is due to the fact that there were two different systems used at that time for reckoning Passover day: Galilean and Judean.

The Galileans and Pharisees measured the day from sunrise to sunrise, whereas the Judeans and Sadducees used the sunset-to-sunset reckoning in John's Gospel. Thus, using the Galilean reckoning in the three Synoptic Gospels, the Passover meal began Thursday evening, with Passover day starting at sunrise Friday morning. By the Judean reasoning in John's Gospel, Jesus did die on the eve of Passover when it began on Friday evening. **There is no contradiction;** the Gospels simply reflect the two different chronological systems for determining the Passover.

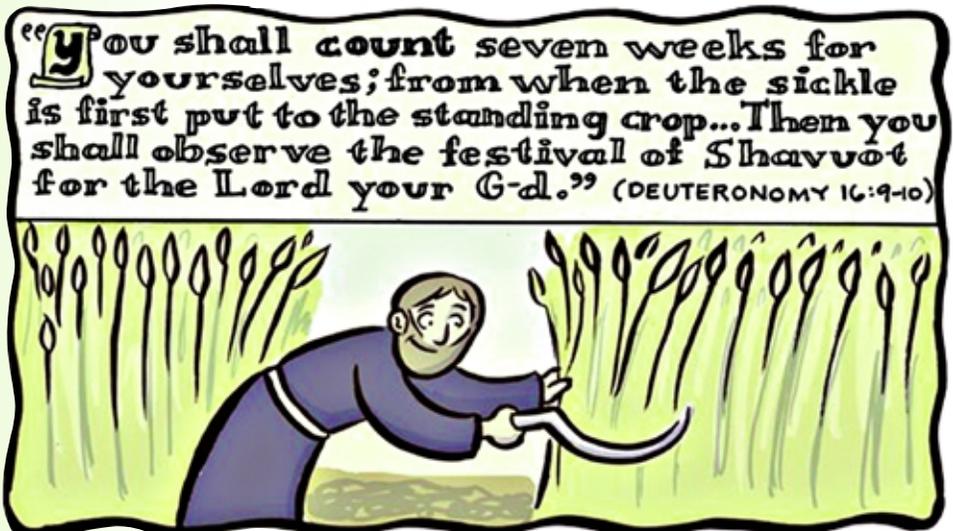
JONAH FORESHADOWS JESUS

Q. What is the view of rabbinical sages on the following?
 1 Did Jonah slip into suspended animation in the belly of the whale?
 2 Is the Star of David kosher? I've heard it is demonic.
 Forgive my ignorance on the above.

A. Some rabbis believe that Jonah died in the belly of the whale and that his soul went to *Sheol* (Hell). Other rabbis believe that he was alive for the entire three days. It would appear from the context of Jonah that he was conscious and alive throughout his three days (Jonah 2:1), which is a picture of Jesus' time in the tomb.

The Star of David has been an ancient symbol of Jewish nationalism, which is a positive history. However, that has not stopped occultists and Kabbalists from trying to use the symbol for mystical and occult purposes—but this perversion was not the original use.

(continued page 25)



“L” Unveils the Sovereignty of God

By **Todd Baker**
TJF Outreach
Team Member



The 37th Gospel outreach in Israel this March was tougher than usual. In Tiberias, **To The Jew First** team members Robert Williams, Eric Oler, and Robin and Sue Hopper found that most Israelis resisted our testimony about Yeshua. Unlike on recent visits, our offers of free Bibles in Hebrew, complete with both Old and Newer Testaments, were rejected.

At one point, Eric, Sue, and I witnessed to an Israeli woman—Liet—who initially accepted a Hebrew Study Bible, but then hesitated and called over a friend to ask her about accepting the Bible. Liet’s friend told her not to accept it because it contained the New Testament. Never mind that God promised to give the House of Israel the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31. I had just started writing her name in the Bible, and got as far as her first initial: “L” for Liet.

Disappointed, we left, but not without telling her that she was rejecting eternal joy in God’s presence. I dolefully commented that the Bible had the beginning of a marked name in it. So I tried to tear out the blank page where I’d written the letter. But I could not do it, even after several strong attempts.

Sue suggested hopefully, “Perhaps we will meet someone who will accept a copy of the Scriptures, whose name begins with an ‘L.’” I answered skeptically, “What are the chances of that?” But, quite remarkably, that is *exactly* what happened next.



Todd with IDF soldiers

Eric, Robert, and Robin prayed for an open door of ministry for us as Sue and I went into a women’s clothing store where we met a receptive Israeli. She heard our Gospel witness and listened as we went through some of the Messianic prophecies in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) that Yeshua fulfilled in the New Testament. She agreed to accept a Bible from us, and when I asked her name, I was amazed when she answered, “Liem.”



Robert & Eric

I had already written “L” and now I knew why. I completed Liem’s name using the “L” I had written earlier. No wonder I couldn’t tear out the blank page! The Lord knew this sequence of events in advance and ordained circumstances to make it transpire. The odds of meeting two Israelis in a row whose first names began with an “L” (let alone the same first three letters!) was no coincidence in a universe where the Lord “predestines all things after the counsel of His own will” (Ephesians 1:11). Truly, our steps were ordered by the Lord on this day of sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people in Tiberias (Psalm 37:23). ★



A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Spontaneous Combustion?



I went on dancing for Big Ed Wheeler till the Capone mob bought him out. I say, "bought him out," boys, but the truth of it was Scarface Al offered him a tidy sum, but Wheeler said no. Later that day, he was having lunch at the Rib and Chop House when his head burst into flames. No one knew why.

Zola occasionally quoted that tidbit from what is now Woody Allen's comedic book trilogy *The Insanity Defense*. Not only did no one specify exactly what ignited Wheeler's head, but everyone (at least those who feared the mob) declined to inquire.

Has Woody Allen begun writing for *The Dallas Morning News* (DMN)? Here's their headline regarding an April 18 report from the *Associated Press*: "Bus Explodes in Jerusalem, Wounding 21." 1972 Ford Pintos were revealed to explode on impact, but aren't today's buses much less combustible than early '70s incendiary subcompacts?



The AP report continues: "... in what police said was a 'terror attack.'" In what police said was a terror attack? Really? Well goodness, maybe the Israeli police are just guessing. Or fibbing. Perhaps one of Big Ed Wheeler's grandsons was riding on that bus with his family's famous congenital tendency to randomly explode. Either that, or Israel's detectives prefer to

blame terrorists (or *militants*, if you're namby-pamby, politically correct, or both) rather than risk butting heads with organized crime.

Please revisit the January 2016 *Levitt Letter* cover article, "[Pointers for a Bias-Free Media](#)." Here's an important guideline:

Article verbs should indicate who did what. According to CNN, Joseph's Tomb spontaneously "catches fire." CNN changes the laws of physics rather than blame Muslims for burning a Jewish holy site. The list of non-Muslim sites that have been desecrated by Muslims is long. The AP article notes: "The blast came ... amid a seven-month wave of Palestinian attacks." Well, *there's a clue!*

The Wall Street Journal's headline is more forthcoming than DMN's: "Bomb Explodes on Jerusalem Bus, Injuring 21." So (surprise, surprise), it was a bomb.

Now here's the *WSJ* quote from police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld that the AP piece omitted: "We confirm that a bomb went off." The AP quotes Rosenfeld as merely saying that 21 people were wounded. Mum's the word regarding his official confirmation of a bomb.

Back to our Pointers for a Bias-Free Media:

"Don't be afraid to present Gazans as they present themselves—brandishing butcher knives and calling for Jewish blood."

Now please watch a [one-minute video](#) that illustrates how Islamist sympathizers would mischaracterize the perpetrators and victims of 9/11, the Boston Marathon bombing, France's *Charlie Hebdo* shooting, and other terrorists' attacks.



ZLM Bulletin Board

Proper Wife Beating?

Believers and atheists alike agree that the phrase “Proper Wife Beating” is self-contradictory, an oxymoron. Moreover, beating one’s wife is moronic at best, whether or not deemed proper. Unless, that is, you’re Hassan Al-Laham, Mufti of Gaza. In Palestinian Media Watch’s astounding [2½-minute video](#), the mufti offers his solution for husbands enduring marital strife: “After the warning and separation, comes the hitting—hitting that does not make her ugly.”



Donate Through a Smile

At no extra cost, you can support ZLM with 0.5% of what you spend for Amazon purchases. To enable this free giving, go to [Smile.Amazon.com](#) instead of Amazon’s regular website. After logging in (using the same email address and password that you use for Amazon purchases), you’ll see all the same merchandise at the same prices you’d pay if not thinking of us. Please be sure to enroll by designating your beneficiary as Zola Levitt Ministries.



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

The State Has Made Your Will pamphlet begins, “There’s no law that says you have to make a will or other estate plans.” It explains some assumptions the court may be forced to make and possible ways it would divide assets. The various topics are especially relevant to parents of minor children and anyone who wishes to minimize estate taxes. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



Beyond Cable & Satellite

Roku lets “cord cutters” who say goodbye to cable and satellite TV watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on their televisions. A Roku box gives access via the Internet to 1,500+ channels and 200,000+ movies and TV episodes. Once you add the Zola Levitt Ministries channel (on your free Roku account), you can watch episodes of *ZLP* on your big-screen TV. Roku even supports closed captions. It is easy enough to use and the most economical way to watch our program, other than the scheduled broadcast or [levitt.tv](#).

Please see

levitt.com/roku



“Come Home!”

**Zola
Tours to
Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson

He is Alive

John J. Parsons



חַי־יְהוָה וּבָרַךְ צוּרִי וַיְרוֹם אֱלֹהֵי יֵשׁוּעַי

“The LORD is alive, and blessed is my Rock, and the God of my Salvation is exalted.”
– Psalm 18:46

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| יֵשׁוּעַי | אֱלֹהֵי | וַיְרוֹם | וּבָרַךְ | צוּרִי | וּבָרַךְ | חַי־יְהוָה |
| (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (2) (1) | (3) (2) (1) | (2) | (1) |
| yish-ee | e-lo-hey | ve-ya-room | tzu-ree | u-va-rookh | chai—Adonai | |
| the God of my Salvation | and exalted is | and blessed is my Rock | the LORD is alive | | | |

The most important fact of all history—and that which radically transforms everything else—is the **resurrection of Yeshua from the dead** (תחייתו של משיח). Spiritual life means being awake to the risen reality and saving Presence of Yeshua, the One who overcame and vanquished the power of death. Without Him we are hopeless; with Him we are more than conquerors (1 Cor. 15:14; Rom. 8:37). The resurrection means Yeshua is forever alive, and that today He hears your heart’s cry. He is surely able to help you, and nothing can overthrow His invincible will. Our Lord suffered and died for your inner peace and healing, but now death has no hold over Him, and He “ever lives to make intercession for you” (Rom. 6:9; Heb. 7:25). He is your compassionate Advocate (parakletos, lit. “one called alongside”) who gives you heavenly comfort (1 John 2:1). Even more: The very power that raised Yeshua from the dead now dwells in you (Rom. 8:11). The miracle of new life is “Messiah in you—the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5); He “sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24); He sustains your way, and He will perfect the work of salvation on your behalf (Jude 1:24). In short, there simply is no “gospel” message apart from the resurrection! The resurrection is the victory of God’s plan of salvation—His everlasting vindication over the powers of darkness—for your life.

The Talmud says: “All the world was created for the Messiah” (Sanhedrin 98b). The New Testament had earlier said the same thing: “All things were created by Him [i.e., Yeshua] and for Him,” and in Him all things consist (lit. “stick together”) (Col. 1:16–17). Indeed, all of creation is being constantly upheld by the word of the Messiah’s power (Heb. 1:3). “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him is glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36). Yeshua is the LORD of all possible worlds—from the highest celestial glory to the dust of death upon a cross. So while we can agree with the Talmud’s general statement that the world was created “for the Messiah,” we know His name as Yeshua, and there is no other (Acts 4:12).

The heart of faith sees *Elohei Yishi*, the “God of my salvation,” namely, the One who was and is and is to come, as the LORD our God Yeshua (Rev. 1:4;8; Isa. 41:4). The early theologian Augustine of Hippo (354–430 AD) translated *Elohei Yishi* as “God my Jesus,” since “Jesus” (i.e., Yeshua) rightly means “YHVH saves.” **Yeshua is the One who breathed life into the first Adam just as He is the One who breathes eternal life into those who are descended from Him, the great “second Adam.”** ★



[The Temple](#) 2 DVDs

Learn the 5,000-year story of God's dwelling place among His people. Six informative half-hour segments deal with the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the Temples of Solomon and Herod, and the future Temples of God, featuring lovely location footage from the Holy Land.

The Tabernacle, Part I God's instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai: "And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

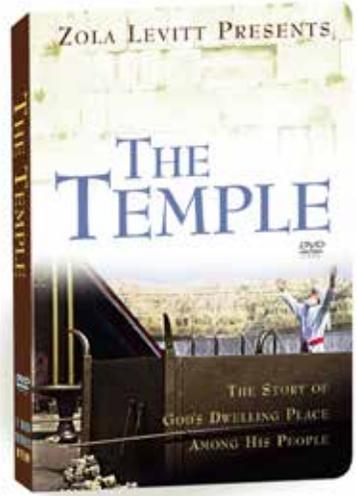
The Tabernacle, Part II During their journey through the wilderness, the Israelites carried the Tabernacle toward the Promised Land and finally placed it at Shiloh.

Solomon's Temple Follow the construction process of the largest temple ever built by human hands, a wonder of the ancient world that impressed the Queen of Sheba!

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

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

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



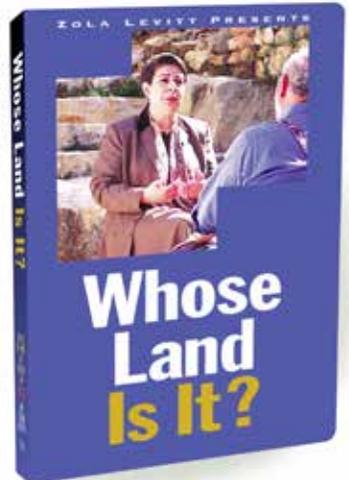
[Whose Land Is It?](#) DVD & transcript study booklet

Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

Whose Land Is It? Does Israel belong to the Jews, and if so, Who says so? In the first 30-minute television program, Zola offers irrefutable reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land's rightful owners. He also defeats key arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant, etc. Merely watching and reviewing this lesson will arm Believer and unbeliever alike to defend Israel's right to its land.

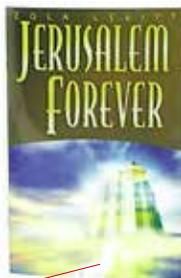
The View from "Palestine" What a blessing such controversial programs weren't censored by our more sensitive TV stations! Zola visited Ramallah and interviewed Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

In part 1, Ashrawi eloquently articulates the Palestinians' best arguments for being the true owners of Israel. **In part 2**, subsequent review sessions with two scholarly Christians—Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Muslim)—unveil the fallacies in her assertions. These two 30-minute TV programs could be the ultimate crash course on credibly and diplomatically asserting Israel's right to its land.



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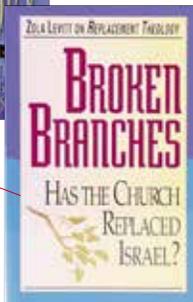
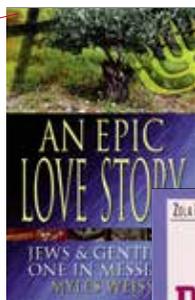
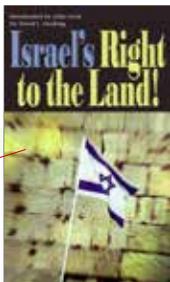
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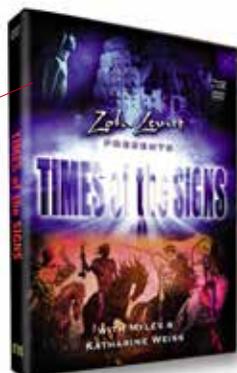
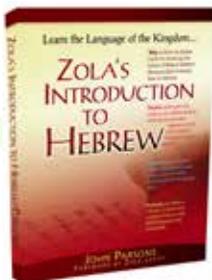
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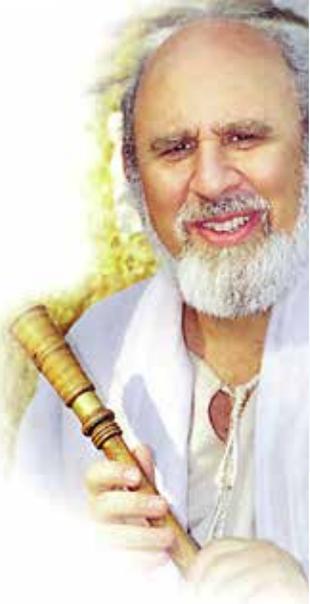


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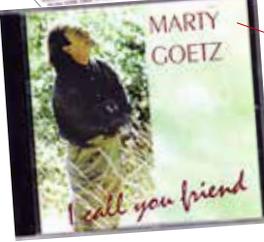
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First Steps Toward Christ Paul's conversion and subsequent ministry in Damascus/Arabia.

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Arrest and Appeal to Rome for Trial Paul's arrest, his transport to a Caesarean prison, and his appeal to Rome where he is eventually sent for trial.

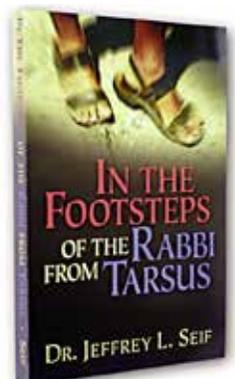
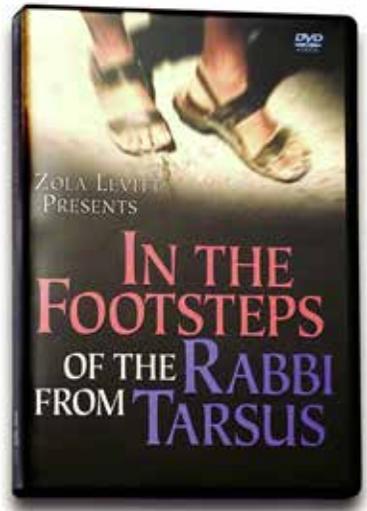
Roman Imprisonment, Release, Travels, and Death Shows Paul imprisoned in Rome, his release and further ministry, and his eventual execution in Rome.

The next six programs consider Paul's divinely inspired Parchments in the order they were written — not from longest to shortest, which is how they appear in the New Testament.

- **Paul's Earliest Writings: Galatians and 1 Thessalonians**
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- **Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians**
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Companion book to the TV series

Thirteen of the New Testament's 27 books bear Paul's seal and signature. Consequently, he is the New Testament's principal interpreter of what it means to be "Christian." Jeff looks closely at Paul and the fact that the major "Christian" interpreter lived, acted, and thought as a "Jewish rabbi." St. Paul, a rabbi?



12th-Century Rabbi Predicted Israel's Future



Source: WND.com

Judah Ben Samuel was a prolific German rabbi of the 12th century who made some astonishing and specific predictions about the future of Jerusalem and Israel that came true. Also known as Judah-ha'Hasid (Judah the Pious), Judah Ben Samuel lived and worked from the end of the 12th century until the beginning of the 13th century in Regensburg, authoring a number of books in German.

Following the Crusades, between 1096 and 1270 a regular correspondence developed between Jews in the Holy Land and in the Christian West. Thus, for example, the rabbis in Germany knew that Saladin's Ayyubids had been ruling in the Holy Land since 1187.

At this time, Judah Ben Samuel published the results of his Biblical calculations (Gematria) and astrological observations and summarized as follows: "When the Ottomans (Turks) conquer Jerusalem, they will rule over Jerusalem for eight Jubilees. Afterward, Jerusalem will become no-man's land for one Jubilee, and then it will once again come back into the possession of the Jewish nation—which will signify the beginning of the Messianic End Time."



Medieval rabbi

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Pg. 3

One Jubilee is 50 years (Leviticus 25). It is the 50th year after seven times seven years, the year in which each person should regain ownership of his or her land. Ben Samuel's calculations were purely theoretical; there was absolutely no sign in his time of their being fulfilled, and he was not able to experience their fulfillment, as the first of his predictions came true 300 years after his death.

The Mamluks, who had reigned in Jerusalem since 1250, were conquered in 1517 by the Ottoman Turks, who remained for eight Jubilees ($8 \times 50 = 400$ years). Exactly 400 years later, in 1917, the Ottoman Turks were conquered by the British. The League of Nations subsequently conferred the Mandate for Palestine on the British; thus, from 1917, Jerusalem was no-man's land, belonging to no nation, according to international law.

Then, when Israel captured Jerusalem in the Six-Day War of 1967, exactly one Jubilee (50 years) after 1917, Jerusalem reverted to Jewish-Israeli ownership once again. Thereby, according to the prophecies of Judah Ben Samuel, the Messianic End Times began.

[\(continued page 34\)](#)



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From E.S.: Every time I see a Christian ministry use lower case for the word Biblical, I am deeply saddened. Many of these same ministries that put “Biblical” in lower case use a capital “K” for Koranic. Please consider correcting this in your communications. We must continue to respect the Bible and Biblical principles. While we usually use lower case for adjectives, I like your reasoning. —Editor

Blessed is He...

Dear Myles,

Christ told the Jews that they would not see Him again until they said, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.” Much of the world is watching for His return. Are the Jews saying this? —R.S. (MI)

Shalom R.S.—

You refer to Matthew 23:39—a seminal statement by Yeshua that compels Messianic Believers to boldness in our faith. This verse leads the “spine” of end-times structure, Matthew 24 and to verse 14, which states: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Something for everyone here, eh?

The Jews need to see Yeshua, and the whole world needs a credible witness. Therein lies part of the rub *and* great hope. We Messianic Jews faithfully proclaim our redemption stories, often to an audience whose view of the Church is colored by 2,000 years of persecution—the Inquisition, Crusades, pogroms, Holocaust—perpetrated by “Christians” (non-Jews). Most Jews are only beginning to consider that born-again, Bible followers (not a particular denomination) are genuine friends of Israel.

At the same time, the Gospel needs to reach all people. It’s fascinating that a major tool for completing that task came from Israel! In an “only God” collaboration, Believers in Israel, Canada, and Australia developed “MegaVoice,” a solar-powered audio Bible available in every language. The work continues.

However, the growing Messianic movement and the softening hearts of Israelis toward *true* lovers of Jesus and the Jewish people point to Jews calling on Messiah soon and precipitating His return.

Blessings—
Myles and Katharine



God Has the Final Say

Dear Myles and ZLM,

I am concerned when I see readers of the *Levitt Letter* cut ties with your ministry's outreach because they disagree on some issue or another. Minor disagreements make for lively discussions but are no cause to abandon a ministry that preaches Christ's message of salvation.

Let me give an example: My pastor thinks the Church goes through the Tribulation. I disagree. After a discussion that changed neither of our positions, he helped me put things in proper perspective. He said, "You could be right, and so could I. But God will be the final arbiter. He is not going to conform His will to my position or yours. Unless our disagreements touch on salvation issues or impact Bible truth on who God and Jesus Christ are, they are simply disagreements and not valid reasons to separate Believers."

The issues on which we *must* agree are the bedrock of our faith:

- **God is one and there is no other**
- **Yeshua is the Messiah and is God**
- **Salvation is by God's grace alone**
 - **Through faith alone**
- **In Yeshua HaMashiach alone**

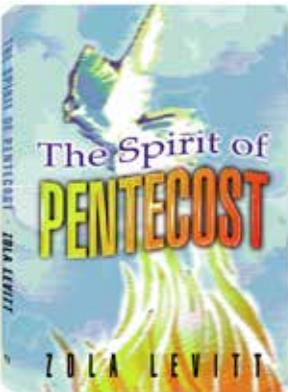
Let's hold fast to these issues and not cut our bonds needlessly.
Sincerely, L.A. (WA)

A very hearty shalom, L.A.—

What a wise pastor and mature congregant he leads! We also are grieved when people "cut ties"—stop praying, financially supporting, and connecting with us—over some pet doctrine or minutiae. We are stunned that they miss the importance of our overall mission and condemn our ministerial efforts, often with self-righteous condescension. Every congregation and ministry I have been in or led contains these "inside baseball" disagreements. Can we *please* agree to agree on the essentials of the Gospel?

You and I share the same understanding of the Tribulation, but we may be wrong and your pastor may be right. Nevertheless, we should stay in relationship and pray for one another **and for the lost**.

Yeshua stated (and it applies to us also): "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day, for the night comes when no one can work" (John 9:4). Would you kindly extend our blessings and gratitude to your pastor as well?
—Myles and Katharine



[The Spirit of Pentecost](#) study booklet by Zola Levitt

Also available as a [teaching CD](#) (*shown*)

An insightful look at Peter's stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel.

Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The "birthday of the Church" is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

Jewish DNA

Dear ZLM,

I enjoyed [Myles's article in February's Levitt Letter](#) about Israel having America's back. I have always been pro-Israel and pro-Zionist also.

To think that a tiny, little country that is looking down the barrel of Muslim nations and has the Great I Am looking after it, in turn has the back of a country that God has also blessed mightily. If only Americans would open their eyes and realize this. I keep Yeshua's Word in my heart that these days will come.

I have been doing family research and recently found out that I am of Jewish ancestry. I was very surprised. I don't know if I'll ever get to Israel to get one of those T-shirts, but that article just warmed my heart. *Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim, K.D.F.*

Shalom K.D.F.—

Thanks for the kudos on my article. Katharine, the film crew, and I just returned from the Land, and love to report that the Israelis are looking toward renewed warmth and support from the U.S., especially on the world stage and in the UN.

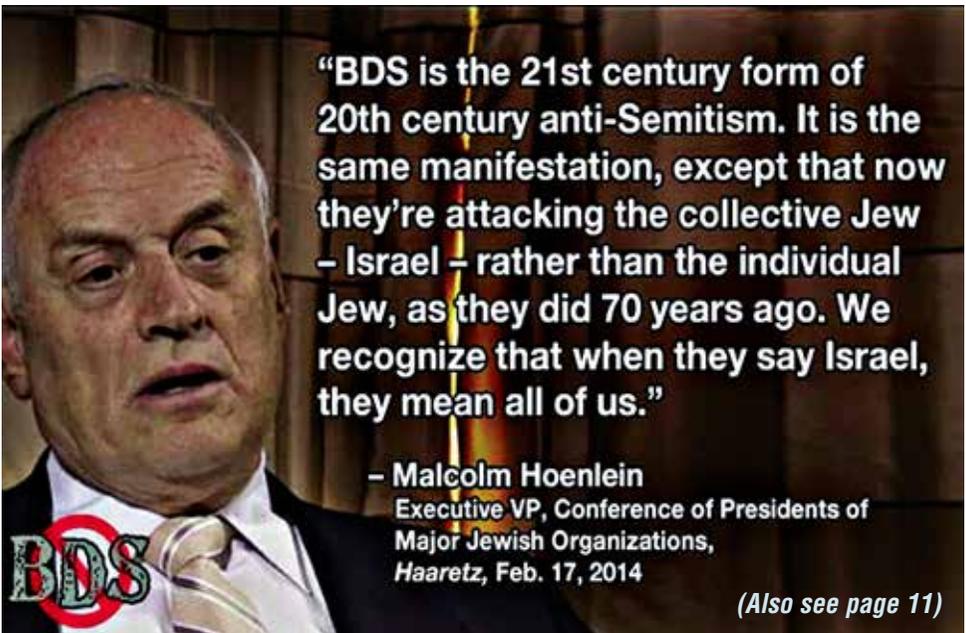
Mazel Tov on your being a "natural branch." I tell my Christian friends who aren't Jewish: "While being Jewish is super-cool (Who wouldn't want to be misunderstood and hated through all time?), the day of "one new humanity" (Ephesians 2:14-22) is approaching, and all who long for the coming of Messiah will be ONE before the King.

The old joke still stands: An IDF General rushes into the office of the prime minister, shouting, "We have seen the Messiah on the Mount of Olives!" The PM retorts, "Do me a favor and ask Him: "Sir, is this your first visit to Israel?"

While my natural brethren, in general, have yet to see Yeshua, I am fervent about supporting their leadership, genius, and rightful place in this world ... and especially in the Land of Israel. Let's encourage all Christians to do the same! Many Blessings —Myles ★



To
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(Also see page 11)

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

Q. I am at a spiritual crossroad. I am a trained minister of the Gospel and a gentile. HaShem blessed my wife and me to tour the Bible Land. When I prayed at the Kotel, I donned the *kippah* and experienced the serene presence of HaShem. Would wearing a *kippah* in a worship service, as a gentile minister of Yeshua’s Gospel, be an affront to Judaism or the Christian community I serve? While I believe it reminds me to earnestly seek the experience of HaShem during worship and in my private life, would it be viewed as unnecessary?

What about lighting the candles at Shabbat? Or repeating the ancient blessings? How about wearing a tallit? I experienced a life change in Israel. Would my incorporating Jewish symbols and practices be a problem to the observant Jewish community?

Please provide counsel and guidance.

A. Many Messianic congregations incorporate Jewish and synagogue elements into Christian worship. As long as the practice does not become a dogma or a requirement imposed on Believers, I see no problem with reflecting the Jewish nature of the Christian faith.

I agree with Todd and would add another caution. I always advise gentile Hebraic enthusiasts to go “low and slow” in order to keep the “unity of the faith in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). —Myles ★



Dry Bones



Unlikely Mideast Collaboration



SCIENCE: JEWISH NEWS SERVICE / JNS.org

Scientists from Israel, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Cyprus, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority (PA) are collaborating to bring SESAME—an accelerator machine that generates intense light beams for advanced scientific research—to the Middle East by 2017. Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and the PA are all unlikely partners for Israel because they are normally adversaries of the Jewish state, though Israel and Turkey have been negotiating a reconciliation deal.

The participating countries unanimously decided that operations for **SESAME—an acronym for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East—will be located in Jordan.**

“Israeli scientists in the field are quite good, but if it had been established here, many scientists originating in countries that don’t have diplomatic relations with Israel would have not participated in the project,” explained **Prof. Eliezer Rabinovici** of Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Racah Institute of Physics.



Rabinovici, who is also the vice president of the SESAME council, noted that the collaboration began 20 years ago. Member countries typically pay \$500,000 in fees to participate in the initiative. Iran is behind on paying its fees because of past international sanctions against the Islamic Republic, which were lifted as part of last year’s nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

The United States, United Kingdom, European Union (EU), Germany, Italy, France, Japan, and Kuwait all hold observer status in SESAME. The EU and Italy have contributed millions of euros to the project. ★



*The SESAME building, 20 miles northwest of Amman, Jordan
(Image: SESAME)*

Cellular Aging Enhances Insulin Secretion

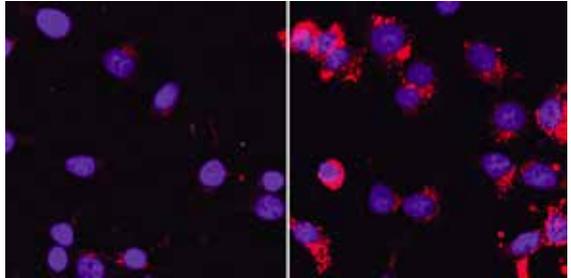
MEDICINE: HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM / HUJI.ac.il



New research shows that a cellular program that causes aging can also bring unexpected benefits in the function of pancreatic beta cells and the production of insulin in mice and humans. The findings were reported in the journal *Nature Medicine*. The study was conducted by post-doctoral fellow Dr. Ronny Helman at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, under the guidance of Dr. Ittai Ben-Porath and Prof. Yuval Dor and in collaboration with scientists from Canada and the USA.

The researchers examined the activity of a gene named p16, which is known to activate a program called senescence (aging) in cells. Senescence prevents cells from dividing, and is therefore important in preventing cancer. The activity of the p16 gene increases in human and mouse pancreatic beta cells during aging and limits their potential to divide. This activity is thus seen as having a negative effect—the lack of ability of these cells to divide can contribute to diabetes, since beta cells are the cells responsible for secreting insulin when blood glucose levels are high, and their loss causes diabetes. However, it was unknown whether senescent beta cells could continue functioning at all.

To their surprise, the researchers discovered that during normal aging, p16 and cellular senescence actually improve the primary function of beta cells: the secretion of insulin upon glucose stimulation. Because insulin secretion increases during the normal aging of mice and is driven by elevated p16 activity, some of these cells actually start to function better.



Human beta cells grown in culture (blue). Cells on right were induced to undergo senescence, causing them to secrete more insulin, stained in red. (Photo: Dr. Ronny Helman)

The researchers further found that activation of p16 and senescence in beta cells of mice that suffer from diabetes enhanced insulin secretion, thereby partly reversing the disease and improving the health of the mice. Similar experiments conducted in human cells strongly suggest that senescence-induced enhancement of insulin secretion is conserved between mice and humans, and point to the p16 gene as its main driver in both organisms.

“Senescence of cells is generally thought to represent a state in which cells lose their functionality and contribute to tissue aging and disease. It was therefore very striking to observe that when beta cells enter this state during normal aging, the program allows them to function better rather than worse,” said **Dr. Ittai Ben-Porath**, who holds the Jacob and Lena Joels Memorial Foundation Senior Lectureship for Excellence in the Life and Medical Sciences, at the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) in the Faculty of Medicine at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The findings are novel in that they indicate that the function of beta cells actually can improve during healthy aging. The study also provides a basic understanding about what happens to beta cells during aging, namely a tradeoff between their ability to divide and regenerate, and their ability to function well.

The discovery that senescence regulates insulin secretion may have broad implications for the understanding and treatment of diabetes. Drugs that can induce senescence are currently given to cancer patients. In light of these findings, it is conceivable that tools that can activate senescence could be implemented for better treatment of diabetes. ★



Where Does All That Aid for Palestinians Go?



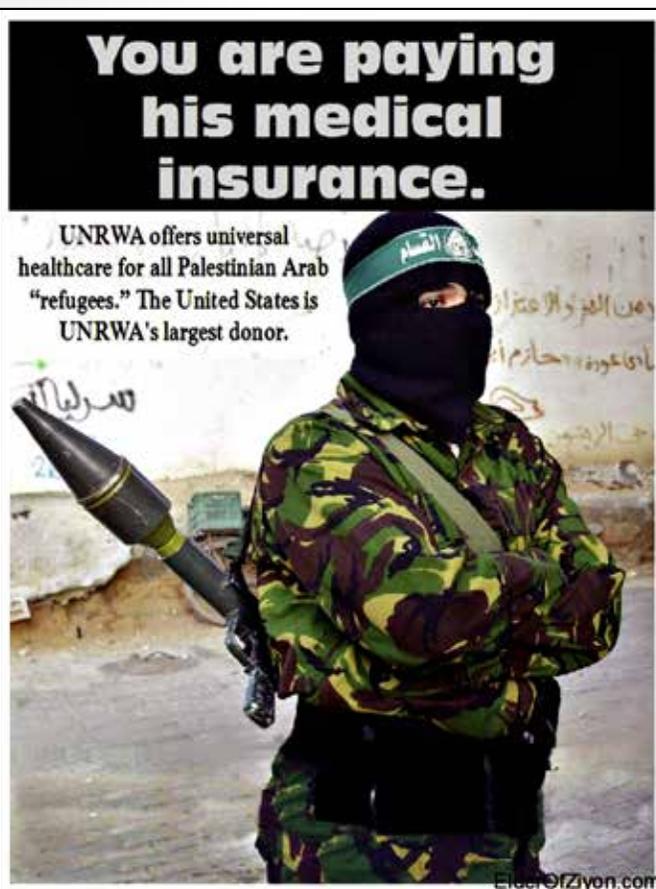
BY TZIPI HOTOVELY (r) Santa Fe Middle East Watch, SFMEW.org

One often-cited key to peace between Israel and the Palestinians is economic development. To that end, there seems to be broad agreement about the importance of extending development aid to help the Palestinians build the physical and social infrastructure that will enable the emergence of a sustainable, prosperous society. But few have seriously questioned how much money is sent and how it is used.

Such assistance will only promote peace if it is spent to foster tolerance and coexistence. However, **large amounts of foreign aid to the Palestinians are spent to support terrorists and deepen hostility.**

For years the most senior figures in the Palestinian Authority have supported, condoned, and glorified terror. And state-run television has repeatedly hailed the murder of Jews. Support for terrorism doesn't end with hate speech. The Palestinian regime in Ramallah pays terrorists and their families monthly stipends of between \$400 and \$3,500 (more than five times the average monthly salary of a Palestinian worker).

In 2014, the PA's annual budget for supporting Palestinian terrorists was roughly \$75 million—some 16% of the foreign donations the PA received annually. More recent figures are inaccessible since the Palestinian Authority is no longer transparent about the stipend transfers.



Embarrassed by public revelations of the misuse of the foreign aid, in August 2014 the Palestinian Authority passed the task of paying stipends to terrorists and their families to a fund managed by the Palestine Liberation Organization, also led by PA president Mahmoud Abbas. Lest there be any doubt as to the purely cosmetic nature of the change, Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah made assurances as recently as September 2015 that the PA will provide the “necessary assistance” to ensure these terror stipends.

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



Aid for Palestinians... *continued*



This procedural ruse apparently calmed the consciences of donor governments that continue to transfer aid. It is difficult to think of another case in which such a forgiving attitude would be taken regarding foreign aid to an entity that sponsors terror.

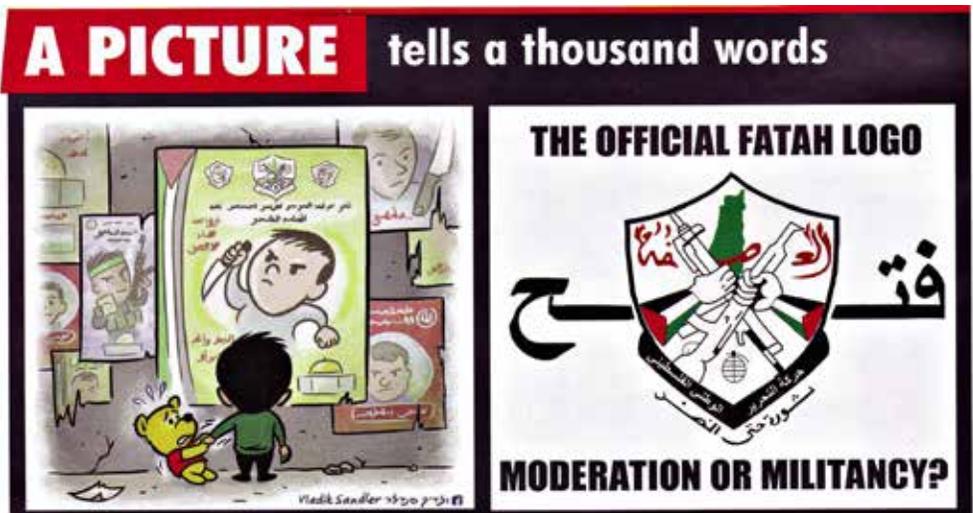
This situation is particularly disturbing given the disproportionate share of development assistance the Palestinians receive, which comes at the expense of needy populations elsewhere. **The Democratic Republic of Congo is a case in point: Its 79 million people have a per capita GDP of \$700, and receive \$5.70 in aid per person. The Palestinians, by comparison, with a population of 4.5 million and a per capita GDP of \$4,900, receive \$176 in international aid for each Palestinian.**

Between 1993 (when the Oslo Process began) and 2013, the Palestinians received \$21.7 billion in development assistance. PA leadership has had ample opportunity to use these funds for economic and social development. **Tragically, as seen in Hamas-run Gaza, it prefers to use the funds on its terrorist infrastructure and weaponry,** such as cross-border attack tunnels and the thousands of missiles that have rained down on Israel in recent years.

In Judea and Samaria, the "West Bank," the situation is equally disturbing. Aside from funding terrorists and investing in hate speech, the PA stubbornly refuses to remove hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from "refugee" rosters, deliberately keeping them in a state of dependence and underdevelopment for no purpose other than to stoke animosity toward Israel.

It is difficult not to see the deep connection between the huge amounts of foreign aid being spent, the bizarre international tolerance for patently unacceptable conduct by the Palestinians, and the lack of progress toward peace on the ground.

Those who donate to the Palestinians and who support peace would do well to rethink the way they extend assistance. Money should go to economic and civic empowerment, not to perpetuate a false sense of victimhood and unconditional entitlement. It should foster values of tolerance and nonviolence, not the glorification and financing of terrorism. ★



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



One of Islam's traditions posits that in Paradise each man will have only one wife, while the righteous will have two wives, and martyrs will have 72 because they enter Paradise without any sins on their souls.

The Lies that Drive Islamic Terrorists

By Shoshana Miskin and Dalit Halevy / IsraelNationalNews.com

Israel's Security Minister Gilad Erdan recently pointed out a phenomenon happening amidst the current wave of terror. He explained that extremists like the Islamic Movement, Arab leaders in Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas are to blame for the recent wave of attacks due to their promises of rewards for martyrdom.

Erdan found it unbelievable that anyone could actually believe the incitement lies, "so I went and read some transcripts of the interrogations of terrorists that were caught. It's just unbelievable." He came across the case of two female terrorists who admitted that they carried out an attack against Jews because many handsome male terrorists were killed as martyrs and they wanted to unite with them in the afterlife.

Ibrahim Barda'aya (*inset*), a 54-year-old terrorist, chose to stay single and consciously did not marry specifically because he wanted to die a terrorist and marry virgins in the afterlife.

In Islam, "martyrs" are those who die while trying to implement the path of Allah; they are given immediate atonement for all their sins with the first drop of their blood, are freed from the tribulations of the grave, honored as royalty, and marry 72 virgins from Paradise known as *Hoor al-Ayn*.

Apparently all of the perks were too much for Barda'aya to resist, and he happily set off to murder Jews, before being shot dead in his tracks.

Muslims Can't Pray for Non-Muslims

By Ari Soffer
IsraelNationalNews.com

Controversy erupted after the terrorist attacks at the Brussels airport and a railway station killed 35 people and wounded more than 300 others. It emerged that some Belgian mosques were refusing to join public prayers for non-Muslim victims.



A report by the United Arab Emirates TV station Al-Ghad Al-Arabi explained that the Council of Belgian Imams rejected the prayer initiative, saying that praying for the souls of non-Muslims runs counter to Islamic law (*sharia*).

During the report, which was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Sheik Abdelhadi Sewif, Chief Imam of the Great Mosque of Brussels, suggested that Muslims might be able to still take part in shows of sympathy for non-Muslim victims, but only if they avoided using the word "prayer" and instead used terms such as "solidarity with the families of the victims."



Denmark's New Medal of Valor Honors Israeli Security Guard

JNS.org

Denmark's parliament recently announced a new medal of civil valor that will honor Israeli security guard Dan Uzan, who was killed last year while protecting the Great Synagogue of Copenhagen during a terrorist attack that took place during a bat mitzvah ceremony.



The medal is for "citizens who demonstrated unusual courage, while risking their lives in an attempt to save the lives of others, and those who lost their lives during this attempt," and "refers to incidents related to terrorism, crime, and attacks on the open and democratic society of Denmark and the right to freedom," the Danish Parliament said in a statement.

Uzan, who was a volunteer security guard at the synagogue, was shot and killed by the Muslim terrorist Omar El-Hussein, but still prevented a massacre during the bat mitzvah. Film director Finn Nørgaard, who used his body to block the same terrorist from entering the Krudttønden Cultural Center hours earlier, will also receive the new Danish medal.

According to one of our researchers, the Danes saved all but 50 of the 8,000 Jews who lived among them when Germany occupied Denmark.



American Honored by Denmark

JNS.org

A U.S. Army captain developed a system that uncovered and ultimately prevented a terror plot to bomb a Jewish school in Denmark, the Pentagon said in April.

Capt. Bradley Grimm "helped develop a system to speed the flow of intelligence from here on the ground to various national capitals," said Col. Steve Warren, an army spokesman based in Baghdad.

"Brad's work likely saved the lives of Danish citizens," Warren said, explaining that Grimm obtained "actionable intelligence" from "captured documents" that came from foreign fighters tied to Denmark.



As a result of Grimm's work, a suspect in the school plot was arrested and home-made explosives were confiscated. Grimm was awarded the Danish Defense Medal for Special Meritorious Effort. ★

Bible Texts & Ancient Grocery Lists



ARCHAEOLOGY: By Isabel Kershner (r) NYTimes.com

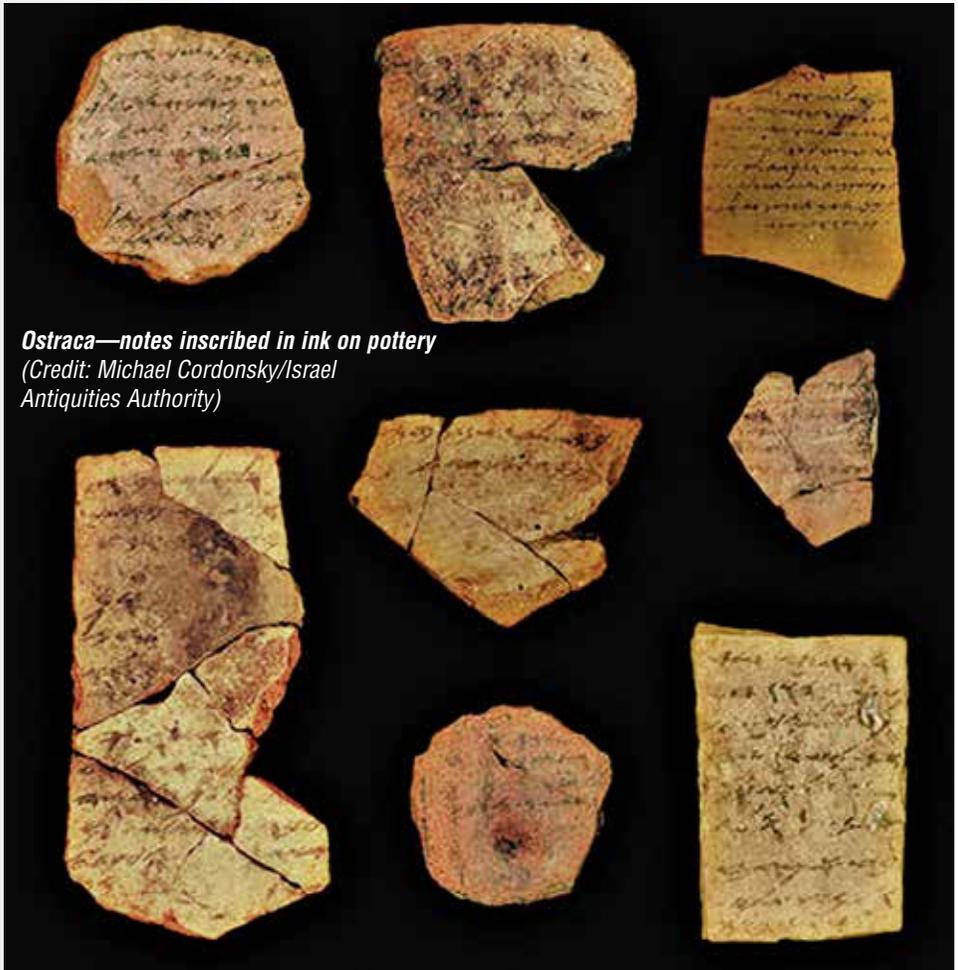
Eliashib, the quartermaster of the remote desert fortress, received his instructions in writing—notes inscribed in ink on pottery asking for provisions to be sent to forces in the ancient Kingdom of Judah.

“To Eliashib: And now, give the Kittiyim 3 baths of wine, and write the name of the day,” read one of the texts, composed in ancient Hebrew using the paleo-Hebrew alphabet, and apparently referring to a Greek mercenary unit in the area.

Another said: “And a full homer of wine, bring tomorrow; don’t be late. And if there is vinegar, give it to them.”

The requests for wine, flour, and oil read like mundane, if ancient, shopping lists. But a new analysis of the handwriting suggests that **literacy may have been far more widespread than previously known in the Holy Land around 600 B.C.**, toward the end of the First Temple Period. The new study combined archaeology, Jewish history, and applied mathematics. It computerized images and developed an algorithm to distinguish between the various authors issuing the commands, and the findings, according to researchers from Tel Aviv University, could help in dating when biblical texts were composed.

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



Ostraca—notes inscribed in ink on pottery
 (Credit: Michael Cordonsky/Israel Antiquities Authority)

Archaeology... continued



The study was based on a trove of about 100 letters inscribed in ink on pieces of pottery, known as ostraca, that were unearthed near the Dead Sea in an excavation of Arad Fort decades ago and dated from about 600 B.C. That was shortly before Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem and the Kingdom of Judah, and the exile of its elite to Babylon. Many scholars believe the major part of the biblical texts, including the five books of Moses, were written down after the destruction and exile of 586 B.C., arguing that before then there was not enough literacy to support such a huge undertaking.

Based on a statistical analysis of the results, conservative calculation revealed at least four different authors, and six when content was taken into account, such as who was writing to whom. Even soldiers of lower ranks in the Judahite army could read and write.

Prof. Israel Finkelstein (*below*) of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations at Tel Aviv University, one of the leaders of the project, said: "There's an understanding of the power of literacy. They wrote well, with hardly any mistakes."

The Arad citadel was small, far-flung and on an active front, close to the border with the rival Kingdom of Edom. The fort itself was only about half an acre in size, and probably would have accommodated about 30 soldiers. The wealth of texts found there, recording troop movements, provisions and other daily activities, were created within a short time, making them a valuable sample for looking at how many different hands wrote them.

Another ostrakon was addressed to a man called Nahum. He was instructed to "Go to the house of Eliashib son of Eshiyahu," collect a jar of oil, send it to Ziph "quickly, and seal it with your seal." ★



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Prof. Israel Finkelstein

Rabbi Predicted Israel's Future continued from p. 21



Many scholars have studied Ben Samuel's writings in an effort to understand how he reached his conclusions. However, the secret of such accurate predictions has less to do with the actual calculations than with the fact that he consecrated his life to God. His pupils' writings testify that Ben Samuel was a model of abstinence and selflessness and awaited with a burning desire the coming of the Messiah.

Ben Samuel was often called "Light of Israel." Even bishops came to him for advice. If anyone asked him where his wisdom came from, he would answer, "The prophet Elijah, who will precede the Messiah, appeared to me and revealed many things to me and emphasized that the precondition for answered prayer is that it is fueled by enthusiasm and joy for the greatness and holiness of God."

Although modern Israel observes the seven-year cycle of shemithah, the Jubilee year is not designated and has not been observed since the dispersion of the Ten Tribes and disappearance of the Sanhedrin, whose participation in the declaration of the Jubilee year was integral. Also, the counting is debated: whether the Jubilee is an "in-between-cycles year" (49+1) or the first year of the next 49-year cycle.

Ben Samuel's predictions certainly would be significant if 1917 and 1967 were Jubilee years. But, even more interesting, Ben Samuel also prophesied that during the 10th Jubilee, Jerusalem would be under the control of the Jews, and the Messianic End Times would begin. If he's right, then the 10th Jubilee began in 1967 and will conclude in 2017.

"The Bible should be our standard for prophecy and interpretation of prophetic events," said Joseph Farah, editor and founder of WND. ★

While gematria (numerology, assigning numerical value to letters and words) is a "flavorful spice" to our view of Scripture, it is extra-Biblical (not found in the Bible) and thus not part of this ministry's study and practice. Astrology is likewise outside our purview, associated more with the occult than with a Biblical world-view. Because of this weakness in the article above, the reader should take the information it offers as a point of interest and not as a Divine message. We included this interesting article in the Levitt Letter because it illuminates the shemithah-Jubilee controversy. The real message to remember comes from Yeshua: When the Nations start aligning as they do today, "Look up, your redemption is coming soon" (Luke 21:28)! —Myles

MALLARD FILLMORE

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it's probably a duck. If he looks like a terrorist, walks like a terrorist, and commits violent acts like a terrorist, then he's probably a radical Muslim.

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Jewish Humor, etc.

Out and About

Q. What does a waiter say to a table of Jewish grandmothers?

A. "Is anything all right?"

The Blessing Of Shabbat

Q. What do you get from eating bad chicken on Friday night?

A. Shabbat-ulism

State of the Art

Levi to Morris: "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really?" asked Morris. "What kind is it?"

"Twelve-thirty."



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



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(New Series from Israel Airing Soon!)



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