

# When Islam Revered The Jewish Temple Mount



Jaffa Gate

By Aviva and Shmuel Bar-Am / TimesOfIsrael.com

One of the Old City of Jerusalem's liveliest streets is actually a small plaza called Omar ibn Al-Khatib Square, named for the second caliph of the Islamic world. It runs from just inside Jaffa Gate to the beginning of the Armenian Quarter at Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate Road, and bursts with both ancient and relatively modern historical sites.

Reputed to be brilliant, sensitive, tolerant, and an administrative whiz, Omar visited Jerusalem soon after Muslim Arabs conquered the Holy City in 638 A.D. Omar revered many of the Old Testament's most significant personalities, and greatly honored Judaism's holy sites—including the peak on which Solomon erected the magnificent First Temple.

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## New British Prime Minister Theresa May

May (daughter of a vicar) holds a sign in French stating "JE SUIS JUIF" ("I am Jewish") at a rally in the immediate aftermath of the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine and HyperCacher supermarket attacks in Paris in January 2015.



## When Islam Revered The Jewish Temple Mount *cont. from cover*

Thus, when he ascended the Temple Mount and found it overflowing with trash, Omar was enraged. He immediately ordered the rubbish removed and, say some, helped clear it out with his own hands. At one point, Jerusalem Bishop Sophronius invited the caliph to join him for prayers inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Omar is said to have refused, explaining that were he to accept, Muslims might immediately ravish this most important of Christian sites and replace it with a mosque dedicated to Islam. He then proceeded to pray outside the church—exactly where Muslims built a mosque, still standing, that is named for the caliph.

Jaffa Gate is one of seven open gates in the Old City walls that were restored by Turkish Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1538. Originally made of wood but later covered with metal to prevent fires, the doors were closed in the evening and reopened only after sunrise the next day. A little opening in the right hand door is a “pishpash,” local jargon for a postern used for emergency exits and entrances. A large *mezuzah* is fastened to the right hand side of the gate.

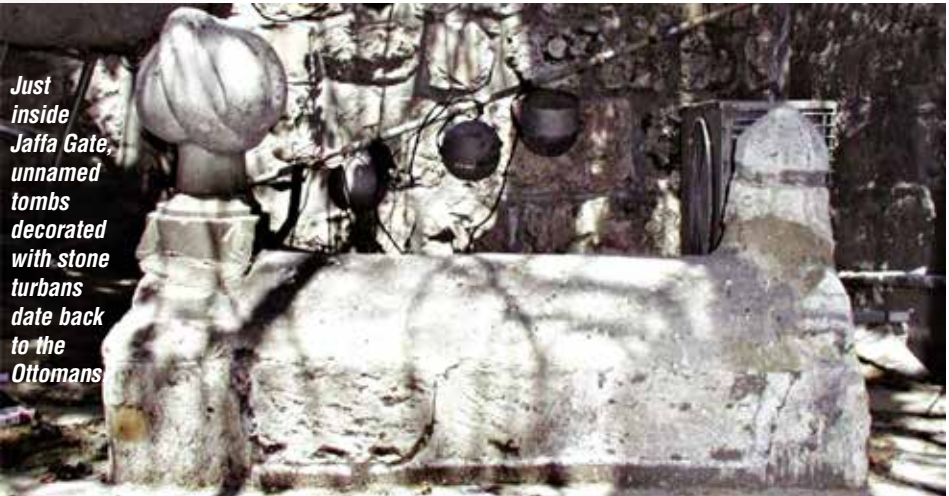


Photo: Shmuel Bar-Am

*Just inside Jaffa Gate, unnamed tombs decorated with stone turbans date back to the Ottomans*

Just inside the gate, behind an iron fence, are two tombs intriguingly decorated with stone turbans. Although there are no names on the tombs, they are said to contain the earthly remains of the two architects who planned the city walls.

Local tradition maintains that an enraged Suleiman had the two executed when he learned that, despite his orders, they had left David's Tomb and Mount Zion outside the enclosed city.

(According to another legend, Suleiman ordered them beheaded so that the glorious walls of Jerusalem would never be reproduced. And some say that the two were assassinated because they knew the city's secrets. Once dead, of course, they wouldn't be able to report its weaknesses to any dastardly enemies.)

*Today's anti-Jewish thuggery on the Temple Mount*





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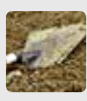
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## TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND OF ISRAEL

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.  
The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference.  
The opposite of sacred is not profane, it's indifference.  
The opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

—Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel, 1928-2016

The survivor who would not be indifferent.



# Hitler & Hussein—Reaching Out from Hell?

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



The learning curve for Westerners in relation to Islam currently follows an upward climb—as the bodies of victims pile up.

I have given one of my favorite resources—*Israel 101*, a well-presented booklet produced by StandWithUs—to countless pastors, Christian leaders, and Moslem acquaintances.

True to history like our *Levitt Letter*, *Israel 101* contains fascinating facts about the ancient land, especially the most recent two centuries of Middle Eastern history. One photograph I found within its pages changed both my life and my end-times beliefs years ago: the sepia-toned picture of Adolf Hitler meeting with Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (1921–1937).



*Haj Amin al-Husseini meeting with Adolf Hitler (November 1941).  
(Also see p. 34.)*

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In one picture, their apparent fellowship revealed what 1,000 words could not: that there exists a dark and demonic anti-Semitic alignment between the “true believers” of Islam and the genocidal murderers of the German Nazi party. Between them, they agreed to wipe out the Jews, first in Europe and then in the Middle East. Sadly, today’s Islamists share that same satanic goal.

## BUT GOD!

This brings up a dangerous question: What motivates German leader Angela Merkel to open the borders of Europe to millions of Moslems?

- Compassion for refugees?
- A need for cheap labor?
- A politically correct public face?

Or is a more nefarious, prophetic reality at work?

- One of the tenets of Islam is “*hejira*,” the migratory overwhelming of another culture. Islam is overrunning Europe, and America is next.

(Note: [See “... 6 Million Moslems” on p. 15.](#))

*(continued next page)*



- Another Islamic approach to conquering a people is “da’wa”—cultural infiltration by which a country’s laws are used against it to promote the ascendancy of Islamic life and law.
- Finally, when the Moslem population is strong enough and large enough, *jihad* is the order of the day: direct subjugation of infidels through taxes, persecution, exile, conversion, or death.

People of all political persuasions are offended by the idea of a deep affinity between Nazism and Islamism. They bristle at the idea that the most organized, high-tech genocidal machine of all time could be sympathetically connected to the “religion of peace.”

That politically correct, head-in-the-sand denial does not change the historical facts.

In his book *Inside the Third Reich*, Albert Speer recounted how Hitler himself fantasized about the benefits his mad vision would facilitate had Germany been Islamic. Speer wrote of an encounter between Hitler and Islamic leaders in which they educated him regarding the 8th-century Battle of Tours. Europe turned back Moslem marauders, allowing Europe to retain its cultural Christian character. Hitler speculated that if the Arabs had won, Germany, along with the rest of Europe, would have been Islamized. Hitler’s narcissism, coupled with his belief in the racial superiority of Germans, produced this conclusion: **Germans eventually would have become the leaders of the global Islamic empire.**

Familiarity with this historical background of the German-Islam connection helps explain today’s unfolding prophetic events. In the coming months, I intend to address the fall of Europe, the rise of Russia, the America-Israel dilemma, and the Messianic future for all who believe in Yeshua. Stay tuned. And please prayerfully and financially support our continued efforts to help you cut through today’s media malarkey. ★





# Smooth Stones in His Hand

Katharine Weiss  
ZLP co-host



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The difficulties that surround us—often apparent in news headlines—seem to imbue our lives as well, especially in tumultuous times such as these.

Those of us who try to please the Lord (however imperfect our success) may struggle to meet life's challenges. Some days, the waves of complexity threaten to crash over us, drowning us with stacked-up demands and no relief in sight.

*In those situations, Believers draw strength and wisdom from our loving Heavenly Father.*

His Word reminds Believers that scriptural heroes—men and women of God—went through tough times. I think of Paul and his recounting in 2 Corinthians 11 the punishings that he endured for the Gospel:

*<sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I suffered shipwreck. A night and a day I spent in the open sea. <sup>26</sup>In my many journeys I have been in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the desert, dangers in the sea, dangers among false brothers, <sup>27</sup>in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposures.*

I need to know the Lord in the power of His resurrection, but sometimes we who believe also need to know Him in fellowship of suffering, or trials.

When King David was a young boy, his father overlooked him and his brothers teased him. He drew strength from God in the shepherd's field. Alone under those stars or first thing in the morning, he sang to the Lord. When wild animals

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

*Pebble Beach, California*



Google Images





like lions or bears sought to destroy the sheep in his care, he rescued them—even out of the lion’s mouth! David grew to trust God and to lean on Him for his whole identity.

I need to praise the Lord every day, and one of my favorite sounds is Myles playing his guitar with Yeshua in his view.

Another source of my strength during times of difficulty is God’s creation. I love the stillness that nature brings and its reminder of His artistry. Looking at the ocean’s boundless beauty makes me aware that God is still in charge.

I have been reading L. B. Cowman’s *Streams in the Desert*. A recent devotional brought to mind a local beach along the Northern California coast: Pebble Beach. Its name and fame stem from the eye-catching pebbles found there. These smooth stones started out neither smooth nor on that stretch of shoreline. They ended up in that condition and location after thunderous waves crashed against boulders, breaking off small, jagged rocks. The currents then tossed the pieces around, rolling and rubbing against each other, the ground, and the sharp edges of the cliffs until all the rough edges wore off, leaving beautiful, smooth stones.

God knows where we fit best, and He uses the tumult of life to “smooth” our rough and jagged edges. My grandmother liked to advise: “Whatever comes our way, let it serve His purpose.” Heeding her words provides a win-win: We benefit, and it pleases the Lord.

One surefire way to please the Lord is to visit His Holy Land. Time and again we hear the testimony repeated: “My pilgrimage to Israel has deepened my Christian life and changed me forever.” I want to encourage you to join us on a tour to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. [Please see p. 36 for details.](#) ★





# An Uncommon Destination

Our Man in Haifa  
Eitan Shishkoff  
and wife Connie



Most tour itineraries don't include the northern coast of Israel. Yet its rugged beauty thrills the soul, and its role in our Israel's history cannot be ignored.

Today's flourishing fields, thriving orchards, and intrepid fishermen belie the pagan idolatry that dominated Israel's northern coast in ancient times. Achziv, known from the Book of Judges (1:31) as a city left unconquered by the Israelites, pulsated as a center of child sacrifice and temple prostitution. We sometimes feel demonic opposition in Achziv's area from the unseen realm. And it's no wonder! With such evil sown into the landscape, there is great need for worship, intercession, and proclamation of God's truth to cleanse the land and open His heavens.

This wild coastline has also, to our sorrow, functioned as a landing point for terrorists seeking to obliterate the inerasable decree of God that Israel be the eternal homeland of the Jewish people. In 1978, a group of Palestinian commandos sailed south from the Lebanese coast and landed south of Haifa. In their

killing spree, they hijacked a bus filled with families on a holiday and left 38 civilians dead (13 were children) and 71 Israelis wounded. Speedy, well-equipped naval vessels now patrol this same coastline. Over the years, I've watched their vigilance over the waters, feeling secure due to their presence.

A moving experience awaits the explorer who makes the short drive from Haifa to Israel's northern border with Lebanon. There, the land rises to meet the mountainous ridge between the two countries. And at the northernmost point of all Israel lies a natural phenomenon called Rosh HaNikra. Standing in the parking lot, one can look down along the coast toward Nahariya and breathe in the sea breeze while marveling at the never-ending drama of waves on rock and sand. A cable car descends to an extensive grotto, which can be entered through well-constructed paths that wind inside the massive rock. The water crashing against the walls of the grotto displays the raw power of God's creation.

The tribe of Asher received the deed to this area in Judges 1:31, and it remains a beautiful, important part of reborn Israel. Appropriately, a congregation of Israeli believers in Yeshua from nearby Akko took the name Harvest of Asher. Please keep this pioneer work in your prayers as they restore the testimony of Yeshua in an area that not only hosted savage idolatry in the Canaanite era, but also hosted the Apostle Paul, who gathered there with the first-century disciples in Acts 21:7. (Note: Ancient Ptolemais is today's Akko!) ☆



"North Coast" – oil painting by Connie Shishkoff





# Ramon's Piano

BY TAL MILLER AND YOAV SIVAN / TabletMag.com

Astronaut  
Ilan Ramon



In 1974, 20-year-old Ilan Ramon, a recent graduate of the IDF flight school who would go on to become Israel's first astronaut, bought a Steinway piano that had been in Germany during World War II. Ramon, the son of a piano teacher who survived Auschwitz, spent his entire first paycheck on it. This piano symbolized the survival of the Jewish people—a people that could make new melodies in the homeland.

The piano is now in the Tel Aviv apartment of Ilan's second son, Tal, who just released his first album, *Character* (*Dmut* in Hebrew). "The piano gave birth to this album," he said in a recent interview, "which I dedicate to my father and to Assaf."

The dedication is bound to Tal's family story. Israel rejoiced when Tal's father, Ilan, became the nation's first astronaut in 1995. Joy gave way to grief in 2003 when Ilan was killed in his first space mission along with the six other crew members of the *Columbia* space shuttle.

Six years later, Assaf, Tal's elder brother, graduated first in his class at Israel's most prestigious military flight school. As the nation watched, President Shimon Peres awarded Assaf his pilot's wings and hugged him more in fatherly pride than authoritative acknowledgement.

The following September, in a training exercise, Assaf apparently blacked out, and his F16-A crashed in a fatal accident that led to training reforms. Television and newspapers covered the funeral in quasi-national mourning. President Peres eulogized the son who was buried next to his father.

Ramon's second son, **Tal**, now expresses his personal grief through music. "Until now," he said, "everybody tried to guess what I was going through. The songs [came] from an inner place that called out, *now I want to tell my story*—a story in which loss prevails but that is also inspired by other feelings. People think that when you return to Israel all you need is to reacquire the language, but you need to reconstruct your Israeli character, to recalibrate your identity. I called the album *Dmut* (*Character*) because it's an inquiry into, and a creation of, my own character. The discovery began in my private room, as a coping mechanism and an attempt to rebuild myself."



The musician, who has yet to emerge onto the national stage, began his music study at his father's encouragement when they lived in Houston. "I alternated between electronic keyboard and guitar," he said, "since we didn't bring the piano with us. It was important to my dad to listen to me. Shortly before dad flew to space, he left me a letter: 'Keep on playing music, and know that I will always listen to you.'"

# Do You Know What You're Saying? Part 2

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



In our [August issue](#), Zola's Classic column introduced a hypothetical monologue that seemed commonplace, but in reality incorporated 20 phrases pulled directly from the Scriptures. Zola intended to show how deeply the Puritans ingrained in our language and our culture the Bible teachings they incorporated into their daily language. What a wonderful heritage!

Here is the monologue section with phrases 6–15. In November we'll explore the final 5.

**“...it was a case of the blind leading the blind. But when the last stumbling block disappeared, I figured we had it made.**

**“Well, so it wasn't exactly like manna from heaven, but we did okay for a while. However, George, since you have had the responsibility for running the show lately, those new investors are really out to nail you to the cross. To tell them that you need some additional working capital will be like a voice crying in the wilderness. What they want is action—they really have had the patience of Job until now, so unless you work something out, they're going to be a real thorn in the flesh for you from now on.**

**“Frankly, George, I've got to wash my hands of the matter. Sure, I'd like to play the Good Samaritan and help you—maybe even turn the other cheek...”**

***Refs. from King James. Next month, #16–20***

**6. Blind leading the Blind** Jesus, in confronting the Scribes and Pharisees, called for the abandonment of traditionalists as teachers of spiritual truth, for they were blind spiritually. “And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” —Matthew 15:14

**7. Stumbling Block** The Lord, in speaking to Moses and elaborating further on the Ten Commandments, included the prohibition against placing stumbling blocks in the paths of the blind. —Leviticus 19:14

**8. Manna from Heaven** The food miraculously supplied to the Israelites during their 40 years in the wilderness (Exodus 16:15). Also used effectively by the Lord to demonstrate that “man does not live by bread alone.” —Deuteronomy 8:3

**9. Nail you to the Cross** A slang expression intended to indicate extreme pain and suffering followed by an agonizing death, which was Jesus' fate. —Mark 15

**10. Voice crying in the Wilderness** John the Baptist fulfilled a prophecy when he preached repentance and announced that the Kingdom of God was at hand. His mission to pave the way for the coming of Messiah Yeshua was prophesied by Isaiah. —Matthew 3:2–3 and Isaiah 40:3

**11. Patience of Job** God allowed Job, an upright and God-fearing man, to be challenged by Satan. Job was visited with various calamities: all his children killed, possessions destroyed, and himself inflicted with grotesque and painful physical infirmities. He stood firm—and patient—in his faith, saying, “I know that my Redeemer liveth.” —Job 19:25

**“I looked, and the Ten Commandments don't say anything about running with scissors!”**



**12. Thorn in the Flesh** We do not know what the Apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh was, but we do know that Paul regarded it as having come from Satan. He further recognized that God had permitted it to come into his life and intended to use it for His own glory. When this affliction caused weakness, God's power manifested itself most conspicuously. —2 Corinthians 12:7

**13. Wash my Hands of the Matter** Pontius Pilate, as governor of Judea and representative of the Roman Empire, was directly responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus, whose innocence he admitted. Pilate tried to express his exemption from personal responsibility by literally washing his hands of the whole affair. —Matthew 27:24

**14. Good Samaritan** When Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” a lawyer asked, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan and urged him, “Go and do likewise.” —Luke 10:25–37

**15. Turn the other Cheek** One of the best known of Jesus' teachings. The eye-for-eye judicial principle simply made the punishment fit the crime and was administered by judges. Here, however, Jesus is not discussing government's obligation to maintain order, but rather He is teaching examples of how individuals should deal with other individuals. —Matthew 5:39 ★



# Israel & Egypt: from Cool to Warmer

By David Wainer, Jonathan Ferziger, & Ahmed Feteiha / Bloomberg.com

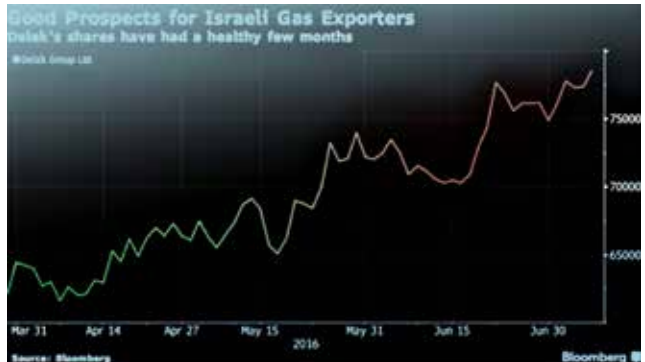


Nearly four decades after their peace accord changed the face of the Middle East, Israel and Egypt are slowly turning a cool relationship into an alliance. They have tightened security cooperation to unprecedented levels and have been laying the legal groundwork for a multi-billion dollar energy contract, as gas discoveries in the Mediterranean and the persistent threat from Islamist militants shift the political dynamics across the region. "In this time of turmoil and instability all around the Middle East, it's very important for reasonable countries to keep some kind of cooperation," Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said.

In the latest sign of the warming relations—and the first public visit by an Egyptian foreign minister in nine years—Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited Israel in July to discuss efforts to renew stalled Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. Former British prime minister Tony Blair met with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu the following day to help lay the groundwork for a summit with Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, according to an Israeli official who requested anonymity.

Netanyahu is expected to travel to Egypt by the end of the year for a meeting with El-Sisi, Israel's Channel 2 television said, without saying where it got the information. The aim would be to promote the Saudi-initiated regional approach to brokering an Arab-Israeli peace and preempt the French proposal for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which Netanyahu opposes.

Returning as a key power broker in the region would help burnish Egypt's international image as it struggles to revive its economy. Potential rewards would mitigate any increased risk of attack by militants because of closer ties to Israel. The affinity between El-Sisi, 61, and Netanyahu, 66, is also remarkable given that antipathy toward Israel still runs deep in Egypt.



Dozens of militant attacks by an Islamic State affiliate on Egyptian security personnel have allowed El-Sisi to pull closer to the Jewish state. Israel, also targeted by militants operating in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, has let El-Sisi boost military operations along their shared border beyond what the 1979 treaty permits.

El-Sisi has acted, with a fervor his predecessors lacked, against armed groups and weapons moving between Sinai and Gaza, destroying and flooding hundreds of cross-border tunnels. Israel has responded to El-Sisi with financial gestures and, according to the Israeli military's deputy chief of staff, increased intelligence-sharing. "The level of cooperation," said Major-General Yair Golan, "is not about love, it's not about common values. I wouldn't describe it as the relationship we have with the United States, but I think it's a good starting point."

After Israel and Turkey ended a six-year rift in June and said they would start talks on energy supplies, Netanyahu publicly sent a message of reassurance to El-Sisi: Israel's Leviathan field "can supply Egypt, and that is something we are working to advance, as well as Turkey." For Egypt, there's more at stake than energy supplies: assuming a leading role in peace talks is an opportunity after criticism that longtime Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak had allowed Egypt's influence to wane. ★





**Q. What happened after King Solomon's Temple was destroyed? If the Western (Wailing) Wall is a wall, what does it surround?**

**A. When Solomon's Temple (the first) was destroyed, the Jews were taken into captivity to Babylon.** With the fall of Babylon, the Persian emperor Cyrus the Great allowed the Jews to return to the Land of Israel, beginning in 538 B.C. A rebuilt Temple (the second) was dedicated in 516 B.C. Herod—the half-Jewish, half-Edomite, Roman-appointed king of Judea—expanded and significantly upgraded the Second Temple, around 20 B.C. In 70 A.D., Roman general (later emperor) Titus looted the Temple and leveled the Temple that had stood for over 400 hundred years. Jesus predicted this destruction in Luke 19:41–44.

The Western Wall (*HaKotel* in Hebrew) is believed to be the remains of the western wall of Herod's Temple complex.

**Q. The Bible says that to be absent from the flesh is to be present with the Lord.** So, at the Rapture, if the dead are already in Heaven, why do their bodies rise and how/when are they re-joined to them? When the people who are still alive get raptured, do their bodies transform into spirit bodies? Then Christ and these two groups of people descend to Earth to begin the Millennium?

**A. The Christian's soul leaves the body at death and goes immediately to Heaven to be with the Lord (Luke 16:19–31; 2 Corinthians 5:5–8).** At the Rapture, the souls of the dead in Christ will come from Heaven and be joined to their bodies, resurrected from their graves. At that time, Christians who are alive will be “transformed” and given immortal bodies. They will join the dead in Christ to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:14–17). At the end of the Tribulation, the Church will come back to reign with Jesus on Earth for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1–6). ★



For we must all  
appear before  
The Judgment Seat  
of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10

# Witnessing at *HaKotel* (Western Wall)

By **Todd Baker**  
TJF Outreach  
Team Leader



On the spring outreach to Israel, the **To The Jew First** team reached out to Jewish people at the holiest place in today's Judaism—the Western Wall of the Temple Mount—with spectacular results. *HaKotel* (The Wall, in Hebrew) is the closest that modern Jews can get to the ancient Temple's Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant resided and where Jews now come to seek the face of the God of Israel.

While praying there, team member Eric and I noticed a poor man also praying. He carried one of his tattered shoes because its sole was completely missing. After the indigent man rebuffed our offer to buy him a new pair, another man, also praying nearby, informed us that the shoeless man keeps to himself when he visits the Wall each day.

Recognizing this exchange as a Lord-provided opening, we invited our informant into conversation. Josh told us that he had made *aliyah* (moved to Israel) from New York in 2014 and currently served in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). Josh is short for Joshua, which, as you may know, is the Hebrew version of Yeshua/Jesus. Eric and I pointed out this coincidence to Josh and added that the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament), written down by Jews, both declare Yeshua to be the Messiah (see Luke 24:27, 44). Josh seemed to understand this vital connection and also that God promised (in Jeremiah 31:31–34) to give the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Covenant) to the Jewish people.



**Todd and Joshua**

When we mentioned that God's promise to bless the world through the physical descendants of Abraham and Sarah (i.e. the Jewish people) has been fulfilled through Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah, Josh replied that *we were blessing him* by passing him this information! (See Genesis 12:1–3; Galatians 3:16.) Josh gladly accepted a Hebrew copy of the Old and New Testament Scriptures from us. We thank God for giving us great freedom at the Wall to explain the Gospel in the Messianic context to Josh.

Another opportunity to witness Yeshua as Messiah came when Shlomo approached and asked if we wanted a tour of the Temple Mount's underground structure. We politely declined, but not before we gave our testimony to him.

All licensed tour guides in Israel are required to learn the basic history of the New Testament. Using this fact, we commented to Shlomo that the two Jewish Testaments are not incompatible but are inseparably connected: They each reveal and identify who the Messiah is—Yeshua of Nazareth. We suggested that, because he guides tours for both Jews and Christians, Shlomo would be wise to fully understand this central Biblical truth, and we offered him a complete (with both Testaments) Hebrew study Bible. Shlomo, an Orthodox Jew, eagerly jumped at the opportunity to study the Scriptures and Messianic Gospel tracts in Hebrew. Of course, the underlying reason we gave Shlomo the Scriptures containing a Hebrew New Testament is to plant the seed for the Biblical case and let the Holy Spirit show Shlomo the evidence proving that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel. We pray that Shlomo will accept and believe for his eternal salvation. ★

WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

# Back to Reverse Mortgages



Reverse mortgages (RMs) are loans that enable homeowners who are at least age 62 to convert home equity into cash. The homeowners don't have to repay the loan as long as they stay in their home. The interest and fees are typically paid when the home is sold or the homeowner dies.

Financial columnists traditionally advised homeowners to avoid RMs. Reasoning: RMs were too expensive for the benefits they offered, also full of pitfalls, and often inferior to other options.

My August 2009 *Serpent* article "Avoid Reverse Mortgages" cited the *USA Today* article "RMs Can Be Costly as Seniors Cash in On Equity."

## Two recent newspaper articles offer updates and downsides:

**New Math on RMs**—Advisors now promote them, thanks to recent safeguards. *The Wall Street Journal*, March 21, 2016: "The RM Stabilization Act of 2013 prevents homeowners in most cases from taking all their equity at once. ... Other recently enacted regulations require homeowners to demonstrate they are able and willing to pay their property taxes and home insurance." They also must cover maintenance and repairs.

**Revival of the RM**—Under the right circumstances, older borrowers may benefit. *The New York Times*, June 11, 2016: "Financial con artists have persuaded borrowers to put the proceeds in inappropriate investments, and some spouses who weren't on the mortgage have lost their homes. ... RMs are complicated and [potentially] messy for borrowers with surviving spouses or heirs who hoped to inherit the home."

The webpage [aarp.org/revmort](http://aarp.org/revmort) offers topics including:

- **RMs Now Harder to Get**

- **Are RMs Helpful or Hazardous?**
- **Are RMs Risky?**

Clicking on "Scott Burns" at [assetbuilder.com](http://assetbuilder.com) and searching "reverse mortgages" yields numerous results, including:

- **Why RMs Are Important.** April 8, 2016
- **RMs Are Expensive and Must be Done Carefully.** April 13, 2016
- **RMs Have Their Plusses and Minuses.** *The Dallas Morning News*, June 9, 2016
- **The Dark Side of RMs.** *The Dallas Morning News*, July 15, 2016

Nearly 40% of senior citizens carry a mortgage today, according to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies. More than 60% of RM borrowers take a lump sum to pay off an existing mortgage. Then again, a line of credit is typically smarter than borrowing a lump sum to hold as a reserve.



In Scott Burns's April 2016 article, "Reverse Mortgage May Ease Retirement," he offers a scenario for those who have a bunch of equity in a costly beast. They use half of their equity to move to a lower-cost home and get a purchase money reverse mortgage, putting down 50%. Then they have no mortgage payment and access to the other half of their equity for non-shelter expenses.

Though RMs have become more viable, the consensus remains that they are a tool of last resort. ★



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Where's the REAL News?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. averaged 3,536 unintentional drownings per year from 2005 to 2014. That is nearly as high as the approximately 4,000 Americans who perish annually in accidents involving large trucks. **But where are the headlines?** Our nation loses 145 citizens each week from just these two causes! Yet most of us, including future victims, consider ourselves safe in the States. The "Jews are news" phenomenon exaggerates the perils of walking where Jesus walked. Please shelve any fears, see page 36, and **pray about joining us for a Holy Land study tour.**



## Germany Has 6 Million Moslems

Germany initially welcomed the invasion of Moslems from the hellholes of Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Europe's insidious anti-Semitism of decades ago has returned to haunt them after they replaced a thousand synagogues with ten thousand mosques. The continent that wiped Six Million Jews off their map epitomizes Gen. 12:3. Our 8-program TV series *Bad Moon Rising* documents the resurgence of European anti-Semitism. See it in our [archives](#) (levitt.tv under "prophecy") or [web store](#) (store.levitt.com/DBMR).

**Free Item**

## Pamphlet of the Month

Send for our free pamphlet  
***37 Things People 'Know'  
About Wills That Aren't  
Really So.***

It begins by explaining why too few people make adequate estate plans. It also briefly refutes dozens of the most common misconceptions about wills.

Its Technical Advisory Section suggests "Begin with the Basics" and touches on "Choosing the Form of the Bequest" and "Tax Considerations." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P. O. Box.

## Seeking Experienced Art Director/Graphic Designer

Know a seasoned Art Director qualified to produce our monthly *Levitt Letter* news-mag, Personal Letter, and Israel study/tour materials? Our print designer for 25 years would like to retire. This is a part-time, freelance opportunity (about 40+ hours per month). We need a skilled individual who has his/her own office and equipment. Interested candidates please send resume, cover letter, work samples, and hourly rate to Mark Levitt's attention at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com). The ideal recruit will be a pro-Israel, Messianic Believer, professional and dedicated to the whole Bible, Israel, and enlightening Jew and gentile alike. We prefer an individual over an agency, please.



37 THINGS  
PEOPLE  
'KNOW'  
ABOUT WILLS  
THAT AREN'T  
REALLY SO

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## "Come Home!"

**Zola  
Tours to  
Israel**



**See page 36  
for details**



# Hebrew Lesson

## Always The First Step

John J. Parsons



וּבַחֲרַתְּ בַּחַיִּים לְמַעַן תַּחְיֶה אַתָּה וְזַרְעֶךָ

“Choose life, so that you and your offspring may live.” – Deut. 30:19

ו	בַּ	חֲרַ	תְּ	בַּ	חַיִּ	יִם	לְ	מַ	עַן	תַּחְ	יֶה	אַ	תָּה	וְ	זַרְ	עֶ	ךָ
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ve-zar-e-kha	a-tah	tich-yeh	le-ma-an	ba-cha-yeem	u-va-char-ta												
and your offspring	you will live	so that	life	you choose													

There is a core element of your spiritual life that is all-determinative, that affects everything else: That is the question of whether you will choose to “show up,” whether you will engage its hope; and whether you will open your eyes and yield yourself to the light. This is an *ongoing* decision. Unlike the holy angels, we must “walk out” the faith of our days, and therefore we are always moving either forward or backward.

God’s sun shines on the just and unjust alike (Matt. 5:45). Every human being lives by faith of some kind, and it is therefore impossible to opt out of the decision to “choose this day whom we shall serve” (Josh. 24:15). Indifference or apathy is as much a spiritual decision as is outright rebellion, and if we do nothing today to draw us near to the Lord, we will eventually regress and slip backward. This is all very sobering. “No one knows the day or hour,” and that’s why it is so vital to turn to God and be healed while there is still time. So turn today and *bacharta ba’chayim*—“choose life!” “For this commandment (of turning to God) is not hidden from you, and it is not far away. No, the matter is very near you—in your mouth and your heart—to do it” (Deut. 30:11-14; Rom. 10:8-13).

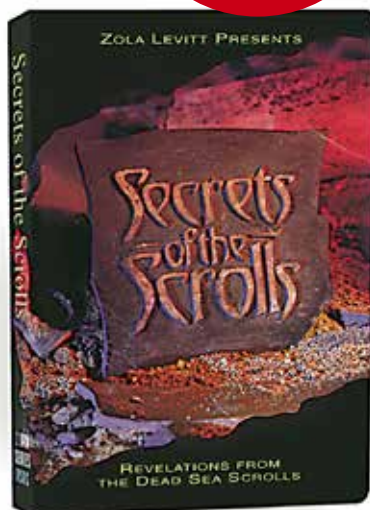
In another place we read: “See, I give before you today a blessing and a curse” (Deut. 11:26). Note that the word translated “see” (i.e., *re’eh*) is singular (“you see!”), whereas the following pronoun is plural (“before you today”). Each person is to personally see that the blessing and the curse will affect others in our lives. This has traditionally been understood to mean that God gives each of us the path of goodness (that leads to blessing) and the path of wickedness (that leads to curse). The singular form is used to stress the fact that although Torah is given to all “who have ears to hear,” it is our personal responsibility to “choose life!” and walk its message out in our daily lives (Deut. 30:19). This is an Either/Or of the heart, and there is no place for compromise in this decision. Moreover, since your life is part of a greater whole, you must understand that every deed you do brings to the world around you either a blessing or a curse. **To “correct” the world you live in, you must first correct yourself** (Matt. 7:5).



## **Secrets of the Scrolls** DVDs

7 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives an historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the actual fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as "son of God," "branch of David," "stripes or piercings," "being put to death," and "raising the dead" all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



**The Scrolls — A New Revelation** We quickly produced this program after the initial Associated Press news release. Zola quotes from it extensively and emphasizes its significance.

**The Scrolls: Part 2** Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20th century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

**The Scrolls: Part 3** During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert Eisenman and James Robinson.

**The Scrolls Special** This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

**The Wilderness Group** Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

**In Search of Answers** Dr. Eisenman discusses his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

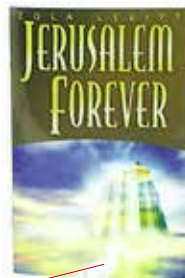
**Prof. Michael Wise** An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Yeshua. Prof. Wise, from the University of Chicago, helped translate the fragments when they were first released. The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be, is discussed enthusiastically.





## Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

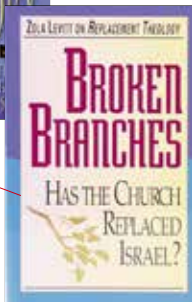
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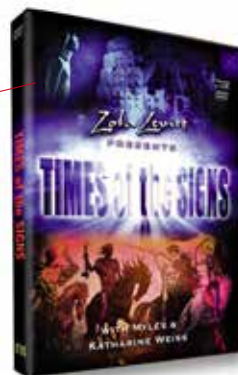
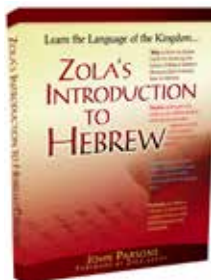
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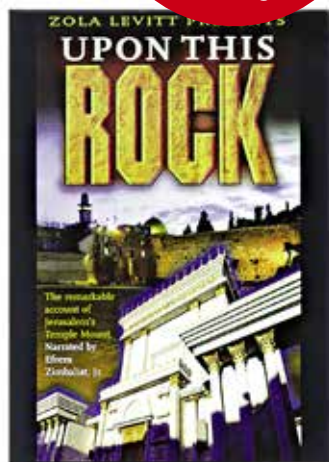
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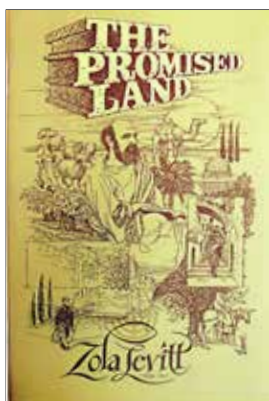
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## [The Promised Land](#)



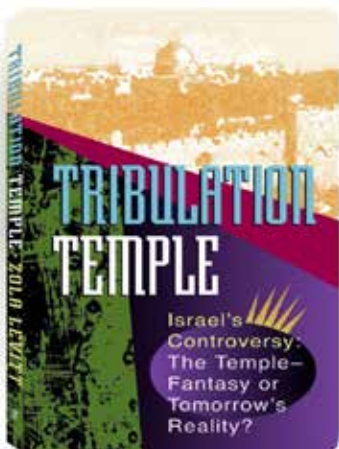
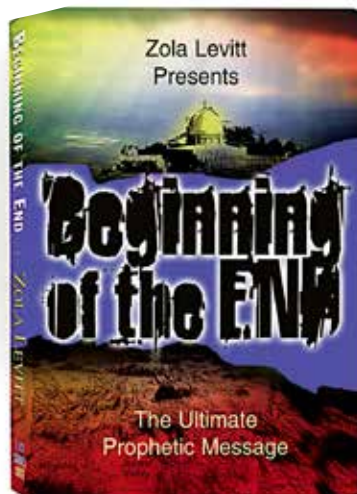
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# Why I Love Israel



BY FOREST RAIN (r) [forestrainwordpress.com](http://forestrainwordpress.com)

Asked why they care about Israel, many people detail Israel's excellent qualities, like tolerance or being the only democracy in the Middle East. Others explain that caring does not grow from characteristics but as a result of connection and belonging. Just as love for our parents does not result from their "cool features" but because they are family.

To me, these answers fall short.  
Here's why I love Israel.



**Home:** As a Jew in Israel, I am my ancestors stretching out behind me, and future generations stretching out before me. I am the bones in Jerusalem's ground, the ashes in the concentration camps, the soldiers, and the children of Israel. I am the blood soaked into the dirt; I am all the tears ever shed by my people. I am the centuries-old longing to be free in our own land.

**Idea:** I love Israel because she is more than just a place; she is also the most beautiful idea. She is the origin of the morals and values on which the free world is founded; her existence proves that anything is possible. In Israel, epic stories of adventure, heroes, glory, and honor are not a fantasy. The battle between good and evil where love always wins despite tragedy is our reality.

**God's Land:** In Israel, I don't need to imagine; I just need to live. God is in the earth I walk on and the air I breathe. God is the flowers, the birds, and the stars. I don't need a synagogue to commune with God. I meet with God every time I go out to the market or walk my dog.

**Family:** As in any family, the people of Israel fight and bicker. Yet love holds us together. No external enemy can ever bring us down. Woe to the nation that rises up against Israel. Many an enemy has risen and fallen while Israel still remains.

**Big hearted:** This nation believes in the sanctity of life and strives to protect all life: our own, our friends,' and even our enemies'. Israel reaches across the world to help people in need, no matter who they are or what they believe in.

**Passionate:** Our reality can be harsh, but it is also invigorating. Israel's contrasts are sharp: the topography is high or low, hills with rivers or desert. Drive through a city, turn the corner, and see no one for miles. Israelis come from everywhere in the world, with different languages and cultures. Tradition and modern life intertwine. Everyone is passionate about something. People care, life has meaning.

**Stubborn:** No matter how big the challenge, Israel always tries and often succeeds beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Israel's standards are high, and our stubbornness keeps them steady. We aim for the stars and beat ourselves up for "only" reaching the moon.

**Inspiration:** Israel is spirit made tangible. She is home for the Jewish people but welcoming to all friends. She exists not just for her people but for all people. Israel is my home and my family. She makes me better than I would be without her, and for that I am grateful. ★



# Letters to ZLM

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

## Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From D.C.:** A Tennessee congressional candidate put up a billboard exhorting voters to “Make America White Again” as part of his political campaign. —Does the aspiring politician you mention bear any resemblance to Adolf Hitler? Incidentally, Germany now has 6,000,000 Moslems and no shortage of mosques (see the Bulletin Board on p.15). —Mark

## Vote Your Conscience

Dear ZLM,

I want to comment on Zola’s [“One Man, One Vote”](#) classic in the July 2016 *Levitt Letter*. Zola states that it is his decision for whom to vote, and his alone, as it is with all Americans.

My family and friends often vote differently from me, but I always use the underlying principle that as I vote, I want to be able to justify my decision to Jesus Christ on Judgment Day. Though I usually vote for “the lesser of two evils,” if that approach helps reduce evil in our government, then I believe the Lord sees my reasoning.

However, I vote in every election, for not voting gives evil the advantage. And I anticipate that trying to justify not voting before Jesus Christ on my Day of Judgment (Hebrews 9:27) would not work out well for me since I consider “not voting” a sin of omission. —J.C. (CA)

Dear J.C.—

Thank you for raising this important issue as America approaches the November elections. I think Zola did a fine job of explaining Believers’ responsibility. I recommend his article to others, especially his analysis “I find things rather simpler than the candidates make them and rather more complex than some Christian leaders make them.”

Recently, several Christian friends told me that they would likely sit out the November presidential election because they couldn’t completely agree with

*(continued next page)*



either candidate. Katharine and I were both shocked at this decision. George Barna, the noted church analyst, has written repeatedly about the absence of Christians at the polls and the subsequent effect on elections, both local and national.

Like Zola's parents, my grandparents emigrated from nations where they had no input to the government's direction. They thanked God for America, and saw voting as a solemn duty whenever given the chance.

Katharine and I pray that Believers will vote in November. Voting provides an opportunity to become salt and light.

*<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." —Matthew 5:13–15*

While this Bible passage applies primarily to preaching the Gospel, perhaps by casting our votes in November we can affect the direction of our nation. Shalom —Myles



### Bible Silent on This Point

Dear ZLM,

How did Moses and Joshua meet? —S.O.

Dear S.O.—

The great leader and general of Israel, Joshua, is first mentioned in Exodus 17:9–13 in reference to the battle with the Amalekites. We next see Joshua in Exodus 24:13, where he is called "the servant of Moses." He was on Mount Sinai with Moses when God gave the Law to Israel (Exodus 32:17). He was also one of the 12 spies that Moses sent to reconnoiter the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:8, 16). For all of Joshua's importance, no passage describes the first meeting of Moses and Joshua. —Todd ★



### MEET THE NEIGHBORS

THE RULERS OF EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, AND JORDAN ARE SMART ENOUGH TO FORGE A SECRET MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL IN ORDER TO FACE THE IRANIAN THREAT,



BUT THEY ARE NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO STAMP OUT THE WILD ANTISEMITISM THAT INFECTS THEIR OWN POPULATIONS.



# Are We Ready to Laugh at the Holocaust?



BY ANDREW SILOW-CARROLL / JTA.org (Jewish Telegraphic Agency)

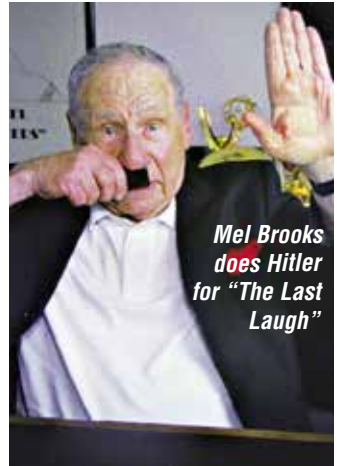
In *The Last Laugh*, a new documentary about humor and the Holocaust (you read that right), comedian Judy Gold tells this joke: If the Nazis forced her to stand naked on a line with other women, would she hold her stomach in? How you feel about a joke like that is the point of the documentary, which includes interviews with a slew of mostly Jewish comedians and a *cinéma vérité* (film truth) portrait of an elderly Los Angeles-area survivor, Renee Firestone, who seems to have lived through the Holocaust with her sense of humor largely intact.

In *The Last Laugh*, a feature documentary at April's Tribeca Film Festival, director Ferne Pearlstein wanted to explore not only the limits of humor and free speech today, but also how **Shoah victims and survivors used humor as a salve, defense mechanism, and weapon despite their powerlessness.**

At a Nevada survivors' convention in the incongruous setting of The Venetian resort in Las Vegas, one survivor recalls how his fellow concentration camp inmates would mock the SS guards' latest orders. Contemporary footage shot at Theresienstadt concentration camp shows inmates performing comic skits and a children's opera with apparent gusto. We now know that the Nazis allowed these theatricals for their own propaganda purposes, and that many of the performers were subsequently murdered at Auschwitz. But survivors tell of the relief, however temporary, provided by the performances.

"You have to remember, these were people who were living their lives," Pearlstein said in an interview. "They didn't think, 'I am going to die.' They still might have made a joke because they were living their lives."

In some ways, the uses to which survivors put humor gave permission to the comedians, most of them Jews, who spun Holocaust-related jokes even in its immediate aftermath. Mel Brooks, a frequent talking head in the film, reminisces about his days at the Borscht Belt hotels in New York's Catskill Mountains soon after the war had ended. "I got a lot of laughs with Hitler," he says, calling it his revenge on the Nazis. He'd go on to make the 1968 movie *The Producers*, which stunned audiences with its chorus-line Nazis and prancing Hitler. The shock had largely worn off by the time *The Producers* had become a hit Broadway musical in 2001, perhaps proving Steve Allen's famed formula, "Tragedy plus time equals comedy."



Yet *The Producers* also illustrates a key point in the film: **Making fun of the Nazis is OK, making fun of the Holocaust not so much.** Actor Robert Clary, the French-born Buchenwald survivor who played Corporal LeBeau in the 1960s sitcom *Hogan's Heroes*, is asked how he could have appeared in a comedy set in the kind of camp where 12 of his immediate family members were murdered. He points out that the show was set in a POW camp, not a concentration camp. Even Gold's joke, which she tells almost apologetically, is not a joke about Holocaust victims but her own vanity. ★

See the full article at <http://wp.me/pieUD-2tq>. As we have learned from the abundant mail commenting on the *Levitt Letter's* cartoons, comedy is in the heart of the beholder. Interesting note: I have personally heard Holocaust survivors speak about the important role that humor played in supporting their will to live. Roberto Benigni's Academy Award-winning *Life is Beautiful* (1997) illustrates the value of humor in dire situations. —Myles

# Iran: Holocaust Cartoon Contest Not Denial

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** NOTE: All cartoons are anti-Semitic.



Last spring, Iranians staged an international contest for cartoons depicting the Holocaust but insisted the event was aimed at criticizing “Western double standards regarding free expression” and not at denying the Nazi genocide.

The event was intended to embarrass Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and others who have tried to improve ties with the West following last year’s landmark nuclear deal. The contest was organized by non-governmental bodies with strong support from Iran’s hardliners, who were opposed to the nuclear deal.



Iran has long backed armed groups committed to Israel’s destruction, and its leaders have called for Israel to be wiped off the map. Iran has also criticized depictions of the Prophet Mohammed, arguing that Western countries tolerate expression deemed offensive to Islam but not the questioning or denial of the Holocaust.

“If you find a single design that ridicules victims or denies [the Holocaust], we are ready to close the exhibition,” promised contest organizer Masuod Shojai Tabatabaei.

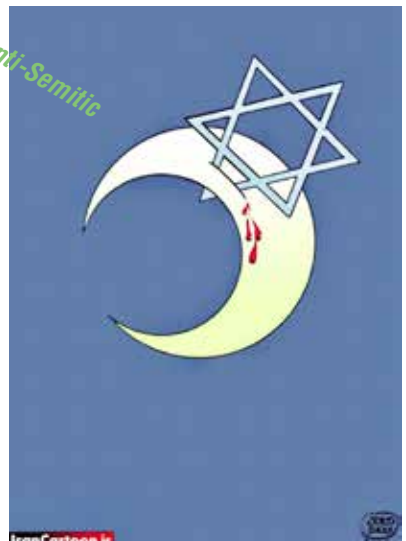
Nazi Germany and its collaborators killed 6 million Jews during the World War II-era genocide. Denial of the Holocaust is widespread in the Middle East, where many claim it is used as a pretext for the creation of Israel and to excuse Israel’s actions toward the Palestinians.

Some 150 works from 50 countries were on display in the contest, which opened on May 14, the anniversary of Israel’s creation in 1948. Many of the works portrayed Israel as using the Holocaust to distract from the suffering of the Palestinians, and many compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler. A previous contest was held in 2006 during the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a hardliner who referred to the Holocaust as a “myth” and repeatedly predicted Israel’s demise.

Tabatabaei also portrayed the contest as a response to depictions of Mohammed in January 2015 by the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and others, complaining that Western countries have a “double standard” when it comes to free speech. Holocaust denial and hate speech are illegal in some European countries.

This contest illustrates how Iran’s mullahs promote a watered-down view of the Jewish Holocaust in order to garner sympathy for the alleged Jewish imperialism against “Palestinians” in Israel. Iranians, and Moslems in general, have not lifted a finger or spent much money to build infrastructure, hospitals, schools, or promote educational sanity in their Moslem community. Instead, they fund terror and endeavor to distance the world from the reality of the Nazis, their ideological fellow travelers. Isaiah nailed this prophetically when he wrote: “Woe to those who call good evil, and evil good”—Isaiah 5:20. Look it up. —Myles

**P.S.** The Holocaust Historiography Project contains a wealth of Holocaust material, including this type of denial. Visit [historiography-project.com](http://historiography-project.com) ★



# Dental Implant Device Speeds and Improves Bone Growth

SCIENCE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (above) Israel21c.org



In ancient Egypt, missing teeth were sometimes replaced with carved seashells or pebbles anchored in the jawbone. Modern implant dentistry is a lot more sophisticated, but the basic idea remains the same: an artificial root anchored in the jawbone to hold a replacement tooth (crown).

The two-part procedure begins with screwing a titanium "root" into the jawbone and waiting **three to six months** until the bone grows firmly around it—called "osseointegration." A healing cap placed on top of the implant helps the gum heal, and then it's replaced with a regular cap in which the crown is connected to the implant.



Implant technology / Shutterstock.com

The Israeli company Magdent says its **revolutionary MED (miniaturized electronic device)** built into the healing cap (abutment) **makes the bone grow three times faster** by transmitting an electromagnetic field into the implant and the surrounding bone graft.

Orthopedists have long used electromagnetic fields to heal complicated bone fractures because they encourage the creation of bone-building cells. Scaling the technology down for dental use, Magdent proved in animal studies that MED also causes the bone to grow more densely than usual. This is significant for the many people who are risky dental implant candidates because of poor bone quality.



Photo by Louiz Green

Now on the European market, MED is mass-produced in Tiberias and will be submitted for U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval next year.

"Many companies have tried to accelerate osseointegration," according to Magdent Chief Operating Officer Elad Yakobson. "Our innovation is the first that lets the doctor actively influence the healing process. The MED creates an electromagnetic stimulation from microelectronics inside the healing abutment. The doctor uses the same treatment protocols; there's no learning curve."

Besides the one-time purchase of an activator device that switches on the microelectronics inside the abutment, each unit costs \$70. ★



# Optical Guide in Orthopedic Procedures

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



A new fiberoptic guide aims to help surgeons perform highly accurate hip and spine surgery with minimal side effects. Every year in the U.S. alone, nearly 260,000 patients require hip fracture repair, while 350,000 people have spinal fusion operations. As the population ages, the number of these surgical procedures will likely grow.

Common orthopedic procedures such as hip and pelvic fracture surgery as well as spinal fusion require the accurate positioning of a thin metallic wire to guide a fixating screw. However, the surgical procedure is often hampered by the guide-wire being deflected, bent, and even broken, which then requires repair, complicating and prolonging the recovery of the patient.

"This is a significant challenge," said Prof. Meir Liebergall, chairman of the orthopedic surgery department at the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem, "as complications in guide-wire positioning could lead to revision surgeries and increase hospitalization time and cost."

To meet the challenge, Liebergall joined a multidisciplinary team of medical doctors and engineering and business students from the Hebrew University's BioDesign: Medical Innovation program. They identified a solution: By creating a system that provides real-time indication of deflection or bending of the wire, the surgeon will be able to make adjustments before damage occurs.

The team developed **BendGuide**, an opto-electronic drilling system that monitors and detects minute changes in guide-wire trajectory during surgery. It **allows surgeons to correct drilling trajectories during the procedure itself**. The system eliminates guide-wire bending or breakage, significantly reduces operation time, and increases safety.

"This is an elegant technological solution to a complex problem," said Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, director of HU's Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering and the BioDesign program. "The group model and proof-of-concept experiments showed that they could detect even minuscule changes in guide-wire trajectory."



**A new fiber-optic guide-wire will enable surgeons to perform highly accurate hip and spine surgery with minimal side effects.** (photo credit: INGIMAGE)

BendGuide uses a fiber bundle with a reflecting laser beam that enables detection of small deflections in wire trajectory. In a fully-aligned state, the beam hits the center of the detector array. When deflected, mirror misalignment causes the power to spread differentially across the fiber bundle. ★

# Hezbollah—An International Threat

IDFblog.com



For an organization established in 1985, Hezbollah already has a storied history. In its three decades, it has not only undermined the government and military of its native Lebanon, it has destabilized the entire Middle East—and that's not all. With the help of patron Iran and ally Syria, **Hezbollah has amassed an arsenal larger than that of most nation-states and gained footholds all over the world.** This Shi'ite militia from Southern Lebanon has grown into a sizable international threat.

As Iran's proxy, Hezbollah trains, funds, and fights alongside armies and militias that promote Iran's interests and ideologies. This means exacerbating conflicts throughout the Middle East and exporting chaos far beyond its borders. Along with Iran's Quds Force, Hezbollah has been gaining experience and weapons in Syria's ongoing, bloody civil war.

Kata'ib Hezbollah ("Hezbollah Brigades") is Hezbollah's Iraq-based counterpart. Funded, supplied, and trained by Hezbollah and the Quds Force, Kata'ib Hezbollah began in 2003. It rose to prominence—or infamy—in 2007, with attacks on American forces, causing the U.S. to designate Kata'ib Hezbollah a foreign terrorist organization. In conjunction with the Quds Force, Kata'ib Hezbollah trains and arms the Houthi rebels in Yemen, drawing out the country's proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Houthis, whose motto is "God is great, death to America, death to Israel, curse upon the Jews, victory to Islam," are Zaydi Islamist insurgents bent on unseating Yemen's government.

Hezbollah and Iran also provide training and support to Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), an Islamist terror group. PIJ regularly fires rockets at Israeli civilians and encourages large-scale terror attacks. Iran knows that wherever it needs its violent ideology upheld, Hezbollah will offer knowledge, training, and tactics to enforce it.

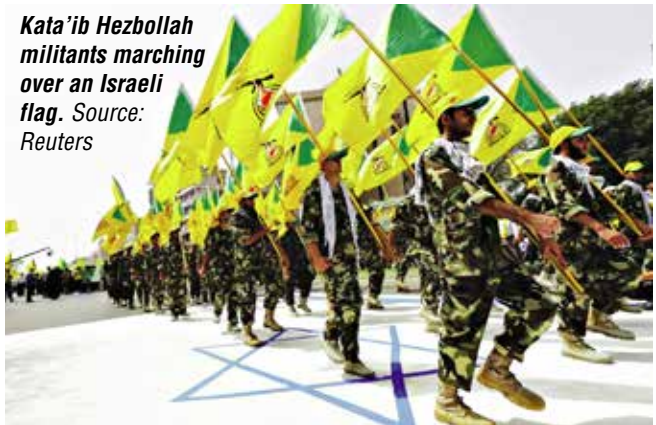
In 1983 (even before its official organization), Hezbollah killed 241 American servicemen in a suicide bombing of their barracks in Beirut. Over the years, Hezbollah has built a world-wide terror network,

allowing it to carry out bloody attacks against civilians in locations as far flung as Argentina, Egypt, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Despite its ideological fixation on Israel and Jews, Hezbollah has cells in over 40 countries. With its extensive international connections, it's taken aim at Sunni Muslims, a former prime minister, political opponents, humanitarian workers, and anyone opposed to Iran's radical ideology.

UN Resolution 1701, which ended the Second Lebanon War 10 years ago, demanded that Hezbollah disarm. Despite this clear instruction from the international community, Hezbollah has only expanded its arsenal. Its 45,000–50,000 operatives have stockpiled over 100,000 rockets. For a non-state actor, Hezbollah has amassed more weapons than any NATO country but the United States of America.

**Kata'ib Hezbollah militants marching over an Israeli flag.** Source: Reuters



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

# Hezbollah... *continued*

Hezbollah's leader,  
Hassan Nasrallah



Weapons and worldwide terror campaigns aren't cheap. Besides its Iranian patron, Hezbollah found another lucrative source: the international drug trade. Hezbollah has been implicated in drug trafficking and money laundering around the world. German police caught Lebanese nationals transferring millions of euros—made through the European cocaine trade—to Hezbollah families in Lebanon. And this isn't Hezbollah's only transcontinental network.

The United States Drug Enforcement Agency's "Project Cassandra" follows the terrorist group around the globe and has shown the reach of Hezbollah's narcoterrorism. Hezbollah's extensive ties with cartels throughout Latin America help them supply illegal drugs to the United States and Europe and possibly Africa, according to the U.S. State Department. The proceeds equal hundreds of millions of dollars.

While the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, and the European Union classify its military wings as terrorist organizations, the United States, the Netherlands, France, Canada, Bahrain, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab League have joined Israel in classifying all of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. As Hezbollah continues torturing, starving, besieging, and murdering civilians throughout the Middle East, countries and groups that once turned a blind eye to Hezbollah's crimes are starting to see it as the international threat that it is. Even so, Hezbollah continues stockpiling weapons and stashing them among Southern Lebanon's civilian population.

Recently, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said: "I am deeply concerned at the readiness and willingness of Hezbollah to use its capabilities in violation of Resolution 1701. ... the consequences are potentially very grave for Lebanon and for the region." The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have always taken the threat of Hezbollah seriously. They sit on our northern border, and have pointed their massive missile arsenal at us. But Hezbollah has proven time and time again that it has its sights set on the whole map. As it is planning across continents and seas, it is not Israel's threat alone. ★

*Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) Jewish community center*



*The  
aftermath  
of the AMIA  
bombing in  
Buenos Aires,  
Argentina,  
in 1994.  
The Hezbollah  
attack killed  
85 people.*



# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



**Satellite  
dishes banned in Iran**

## Iran's Morality-Driven Crackdown

JPost.com

As part of its widespread ban on illegal devices, Iran collected and destroyed 100,000 satellite dishes and receivers this summer, AFP reported.

**Reza Naghdi**, the head of Iran's Basij militia, holds that the devices are morally damaging. AFP quoted Naghdi as saying, "The truth is that most satellite channels... deviate the society's morality and culture... What these televisions really achieve is increased divorce, addiction, and" insecurity in society."



Some Iranian politicians, such as Culture Minister Ali Jannati and President Hassan Rouhani, have openly stated that the ban is useless and counter-productive, as most Iranians are in violation of this law.

We recently featured **Hormoz Shariat** (the Persian "Billy Graham") on our weekly *Zola Levitt Presents* television program. This news story (above) shows Iran's harsh response to the Gospel beaming into the homes of Iranians. If you missed the program, watch it for free in our [archives](#).

## The Orchestra Conductor Who Fought Nazism

By Avishay Artsy  
TheJewniverse.com

Italy's famed conductor **Arturo Toscanini** (below) staunchly

opposed the growth of Nazism and fascism in Europe. In Italy in 1931, Mussolini's "black shirts" attacked him for refusing to play the fascist anthem. Toscanini had been the first non-German to conduct at the Wagner festival in Bayreuth, Germany, but in 1933, he added his signature to a letter protesting the newly appointed German Chancellor Adolf Hitler and opted not to attend the festival that year.

Though not Jewish himself, he wanted to help Jews avoid persecution. In 1936, Polish-Jewish violin

prodigy Bronislaw Huberman had just founded the Palestine Symphony Orchestra for which he raided Europe's music community, thereby rescuing 1,000 Jews from certain death. Huberman asked Toscanini to conduct the orchestra's opening concerts. In December 1936, Toscanini conducted the orchestra's sold-out debut in Tel Aviv, which ended with half an hour of applause; at a banquet that evening the 69-year-old said, "I have passed many countries; here I have found my corner."

This year, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra celebrated Toscanini's legacy as it marked its 80th anniversary.



*Elia Kahvedjian: Dancing gypsies, 1927. (Elia Photo)*



## Jerusalem Through the Lens of Yore

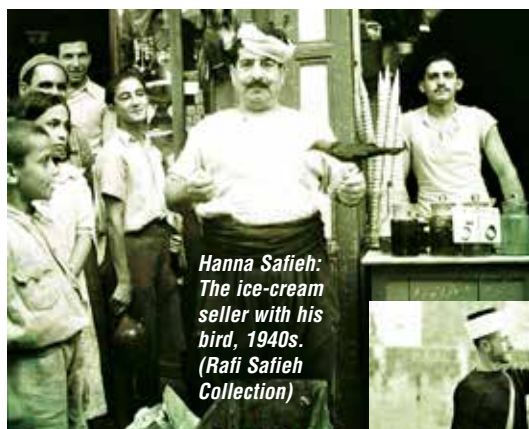
By Barry Davis / JPost.com

From the middle of the 19th century, visitors to Jerusalem began capturing some of the inhabitants of the ancient city through photographic means.

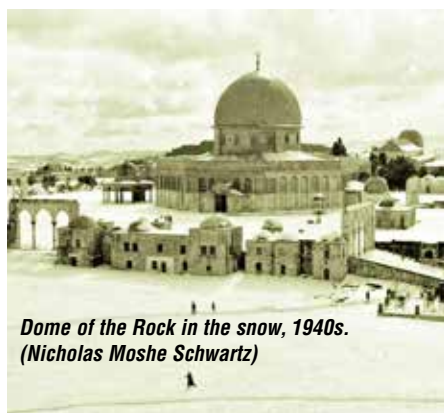
Members of the public can get a handle on some of the efforts of photographers to document life in the first half of the 20th century, both inside and outside the Old City walls. "The Camera Man—Women and Men Photograph Jerusalem 1900–1950" at the Tower of David Museum will run until December 12.

The curators culled an array of images from many sources. The photographs show the unique way that each photographer documented the many faces of Jerusalem. Some photographers recorded residents of different communities; others were hired by institutions and organizations to photograph various historical events that occurred in the city, and some were artists who sought to honor the unique faces of Jerusalem.

The Tower of David Museum invites the public to add to the collection of photographs that document the many faces of Jerusalem. Good quality scanned images, accompanied by biographical information, details about the occasion or the memories it brings back, and information about the photographer (if known) should be submitted to [Archive@tod.org.il](mailto:Archive@tod.org.il). ★



*Hanna Safieh:  
The ice-cream  
seller with his  
bird, 1940s.  
(Rafi Safieh  
Collection)*



*Dome of the Rock in the snow, 1940s.  
(Nicholas Moshe Schwartz)*



*Elia Kahvedjian:  
Watermelons  
(Elia Photo)*



*Khalil Rissas: Arab fighters on the walls  
of the Tower of David  
(The Central Zionist Archives)*

# Who Were the Philistines?

ARCHAEOLOGY: [OneForIsrael.org](http://OneForIsrael.org)



Adam Aja

Archaeological evidence giving information about the Philistines and their civilization has been found in the past, but no one ever found any bodies. Possibly, they buried their dead at sea. However, indications suggested the possibility of Philistine graves in the Israeli port city of Ashkelon (*see map next page*).

After days of digging, archaeologists ended up disappointed and frustrated. As they started to leave, **Adam Aja** (*above*) assistant curator at Harvard's Semitic Museum, who insisted that they keep digging until they hit bedrock, came across a human tooth. They had found what they were looking for.

The discovery included the remains of 211 Philistines from some 3,000 years ago, buried in a manner distinctly different from the Canaanites or the Hebrews of the time, whose custom laid the bodies out in stone tombs until only the bones remained, then gathered the bones and added them to a collective hole that contained the bones of their ancestors (hence the Biblical accounts of the Patriarchs being "gathered" to their people). Later Hebrew tradition put the dry bones in individual caskets the length of the femur.

*Philistine burial*



The Philistines, on the other hand, buried their dead in oval ditches in the ground, some with a few precious items or a flask of perfume near their nose, and left them undisturbed.

The Bible paints the Philistines as the enemies of Israel, who battled them many times. The Philistines even stole the Ark of the Covenant at one point (until the Lord's destruction among them proved too much, and they meekly sent it back to the Israelites). But apart from the role of Israel's enemies, the Philistines' origins are enigmatic. Pottery and artifacts point to a Hellenistic connection—likely, the Aegean—but the origins and movements of people groups around the time of the Bronze Age are not always straightforward.

*(continued next page)*



## Archaeology... continued

The Bible connects the Philistines with the island of Crete (Caphtor in Jeremiah 47:4; Amos 9:7). As discoveries have done many times in the past, **archaeological evidence is again proving the Bible to be correct:** The Philistines indeed came to Canaan's shores from the Greek islands, although it remains unclear whether they were Cretan by origin or had just been living there. Either way, it is clear to archaeologists that the Philistines were not native to Canaan but were from the Aegean area, as attested by ceramics, architecture, burial customs, and pottery remains with non-Semitic writing on them (including a shard of pottery with a Cypro-Minoan script, dating to around 1150–1000 B.C.).

Background: As part of his anti-Jewish policies, the Roman emperor Hadrian (reign: 117–138) wanted to call Judea "Philistine" after Israel's Biblical enemies. But he got the name wrong and instead dubbed it "Palestine." The ancient connection to the land claimed by today's "Palestinian" Arabs never existed, and they are not European. (Please see [levitt.com/essays/palestine](http://levitt.com/essays/palestine).) —Editor



Map showing Ashkelon



In this limited series, Fred Maroun—a left-leaning Arab based in Canada who lived in Lebanon from 1961 to 1984—addresses, through the prism of history, the policies and actions of Moslem-Arabs toward Jews and Israel and reaches these bullet-pointed conclusions:

- We Arabs managed our relationship with Israel atrociously. Our worst mistake was in not accepting the United Nations partition plan of 1947.
- Perhaps one should not launch wars if one is not prepared for the results of possibly losing them.
- The Jews are not keeping the Arabs in camps, we are.
- Jordan integrated some refugees, but not all. We could have proven that we Arabs are a great and noble people, but instead we showed the world, as we continue to do, that our hatred toward each other and toward Jews is far greater than any concept of purported Arab solidarity.

## Arabs' Historic Mistakes in Interactions with Israel



BY FRED MAROUN (r) GatestoneInstitute.org

In the current state of the relationship between the Arab world and Israel, we see a patchwork of hostility, tense peace, limited cooperation, calm, and violence. We Arabs managed our relationship with Israel atrociously, but the worst of all is the ongoing situation of the Palestinians.

### The Original Mistake—Jews Not Equals

Our first mistake lasted centuries and occurred well before Israel's declaration of independence in May 1948. It consisted of not recognizing Jews as equals.

As documented by a leading American scholar of Jewish history in the Muslim world, Mark R. Cohen, during that era, "Jews shared with other non-Muslims the status of dhimmis [non-Muslims who have to pay protection money and follow separate, debasing laws in order to be tolerated in Muslim-controlled areas]... New houses of worship were not to be built and old ones could not be repaired. They were to act humbly in the presence of Muslims. In their liturgical practice they had to honor the preeminence of Islam. They were further required to differentiate themselves from Muslims by their clothing and by eschewing symbols of honor. Other restrictions excluded them from positions of authority in Muslim government."

On March 1, 1944, while the Nazis were massacring six million Jews, and well before Israel declared independence,

**Haj Amin al-Husseini**, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, declared on Radio Berlin: "Arabs, rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion. This saves your honor. God is with you." (*Please see Myles's p. 4 column.*)



Arabs, rise as one man and fight for your sacred rights. Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion. This saves your honor. God is with you.

— Haj Amin al-Husseini —

AZ QUOTES

If we had not made this mistake, we might have benefited in two ways. Firstly, Jews likely would have remained in the Muslim Middle East in greater numbers, and they would have advanced the Middle Eastern civilization rather than the civilizations of the places to which they fled, most notably Europe and, later, the United States.

Secondly, if Jews felt secure and accepted in the Middle East among Arabs, they may not have felt the need to create an independent state, which would have saved us Arabs from our subsequent mistakes. ★

**NEXT MONTH: The Worst Mistake—not accepting the UN partition plan of 1947**

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# Jewish humor, etc.



## When Moishe Rabinowitz made aliyah,...

... he wanted to travel light. So he sold all his assets, converted the proceeds to gold, and had five sets of solid-gold false teeth made.

When he arrived in Tel Aviv, the customs official was perplexed as to why anybody would have five sets of gold teeth. So Moishe explained.

"You know that ve Orthodox Jews have two separate sets of dishes for meat products und dairy products. But I am so kosher that I have also separate sets of teeth."

The customs official shook his head and said, "Well that accounts for two sets of teeth. What about the other three?"

Moishe continued: "Vell, ve very religious Orthodox Jews use separate dishes for Passover, but I am so religious that I have also separate teeth: vun for meat und vun for dairy food."

The customs official nodded: "You must be a very religious man. Separate teeth for food and dairy and likewise for Passover. That accounts for four sets of teeth. What about the fifth set?"

"Vell, to tell you the truth, vunce in a vile I like a ham sandwich." ★



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



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