



IDF Teaches Ethics for Engaging with Palestinians

By Ruthie Blum / Algemeiner.com

A new document aims to prepare IDF soldiers to handle ethical dilemmas they are likely to encounter while serving in the West Bank, the Hebrew news site *NRG* reported recently.

According to the report, the IDF believes that enhancing ethics is a necessary supplement to soldiers' training, particularly among those whose units have not yet been stationed in areas where daily friction with the Palestinians is the norm.

"We have to give soldiers the tools to deal with tricky situations," a senior officer told *NRG*. "The 'spirit of the IDF' document provides not only the rules of engagement, but also guidelines for treating other human beings with respect and exhibiting professionalism."

One impetus for the new initiative was a lesson learned during interrogations of Palestinian terrorists since the beginning of

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

MY NAME IS ISRAEL

An Israel21c.org online exhibition explores Israel's humanitarian aid worldwide



When Audrin Antigua, a Filipina in Bogo City, gave birth to a baby boy in a field hospital set up by the Israel Defense Forces, she named her son Israel as a thank you to the Israeli people.

It was November 2013, and the Philippines had just been devastated by the deadly category 5 storm Typhoon Haiyan, leaving 6,300 dead and four million homeless. The IDF rushed to help, arriving almost first on the scene. Several other Israeli aid organizations also flew over to help.

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IDF Teaches Ethics for Engaging with Palestinians *(cont. from cover)*

the “lone-wolf intifada” in September 2015. A number of perpetrators claimed motivation for stabbings and other attacks out of revenge against IDF soldiers, who they said had treated them or their friends harshly at checkpoints.

The IDF Central Command said it hopes that the new document will cause soldiers in the field—who, their superiors say, already feel burned out from the difficult job they do every day—to behave in a more humane manner toward the Palestinians they encounter.

Among other things, *NRG* said, the document—written by Efraim Brigade Cmdr. Col. Roi Sheetrit, under orders from Judea/Samaria Div. Commander Brigadier General Lior Carmeli—will teach soldiers how to conduct arrests and treat detainees, and will detail the best way to enter and search the homes of Palestinian suspects and their families.



“These are actions that soldiers don’t learn during combat training,” the officer said.

“These are actions that soldiers don’t learn during combat training,” the officer said. “During events that are ethically problematic, even outstanding soldiers sometimes fail to assess a situation properly. It’s not about bullying.” The officer alluded to an [IDF tutorial clip](#) instructing soldiers to avoid shooting female terrorists whenever possible, and to use [Krav Maga](#) (a self-defense system developed by the IDF) instead. “An officer can show his soldiers endless videos,” he said. “But when the battalion arrives in the field, I want its members to be able to connect with the residents of the territories and know how to behave with them.”

The number of “problematic” events is relatively small, *NRG* said. Nor is the frequency of ethically questionable occurrences on the rise. Nevertheless, the Central Command thinks prevention is the key, as the potential for them under such volatile circumstances is great.

A recent case in point occurred when two IDF soldiers set a wood shed in Nablus on fire for no apparent reason. Both outstanding soldiers in the Nahal Brigade, they confessed to their crime and took full responsibility for it. They were convicted of exceeding their authority to the point of endangering someone’s life, were sentenced to two months in military prison, and demoted in rank. During their interrogation, they said they had acted out of boredom, recklessness, and stupidity.

One of them added, “I harmed the name and honor of the Brigade, the IDF, and even the State of Israel. It was a grave mistake, and if I had thought more, I wouldn’t have done it. I am disappointed in myself.” ★

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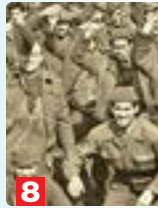
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MY NAME IS ISRAEL *(continued from cover)*

Since its founding just 68 years ago, Israel has sent aid to 140 countries, helping people on virtually every continent with medical, psychological, educational, and environmental relief.

To celebrate the devotion and accomplishments of Israeli aid workers, and as the second in their series of DIY exhibitions for readers and users, **ISRAEL21c** has created a remarkable and inspiring online exhibition exploring the many facets of this aid. **My Name is Israel** can be downloaded by anyone and used anytime by your organization, school, or publication—anywhere you want people to know more about Israel.

In 15 full-color slides, **ISRAEL21c** brings you heartwarming stories of how Israelis have helped in the wake of some of the world's worst disasters, sharing knowledge and expertise in anything from search and rescue to water management, agriculture, and security. Brought together for the first time, the stories in this exhibition offer an exciting and moving account of how Israelis of every religion take the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* (repair the world) and apply it literally to help people everywhere.

Instructions, ideas, and online viewing at israel21c.org. ★



Nationalism Slows the One-World Movement Agenda

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



Brexit (Britain's exit from the European Union) and the "Make America Great Again" movement in the U.S. both symbolize nationalism and are harbingers for Katharine and me. Whatever your politics—whether you are rejoicing or grieving over the recent American election—it is notable that the rise of nationalism has temporarily hindered the globalist agenda of a one-world government.

This turn of events is a replay of an earlier time in human history. As the people of the Earth sought to be like God, the Creator changed the outcome of their efforts.

Gen. 11 Now the entire earth had the same language with the same vocabulary. ² When they traveled eastward, they found a valley-plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to one another, "Come! Let's make bricks and bake them until they're hard." So they used bricks for stone, and tar for mortar.

⁴ Then they said, "Come! Let's build ourselves a city, with a tower whose top reaches into heaven. So let's make a name for ourselves, or else we will be scattered over the face of the whole land."...

(continued next page)





⁸ So Adonai [the Lord] scattered them from there over the face of the entire land, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ This is why it is named Babel, because Adonai confused the languages of the entire world there, and from there Adonai scattered them over the face of the entire world.

ZLM has been tracking such prophetically significant political events for decades, and your financial support allows us to keep proclaiming the Lord's agenda for planet Earth. We thank you:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any **should perish**, but that all **should** come to repentance.

Separate nations are God's idea. National boundaries are His idea and sovereignty allows nations to rise and fall with how well they honor God and whether they esteem what God esteems...like His people Israel. Nations choose their fates by their responses to Heaven:

Job 12:23 He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away.

Even into the end of this Age (the Church Age), God will be looking at how the nations deal with the Messiah and His people Israel; and one day, He will fully gather and unify Israel:

Ezekiel 37: ²² I will unify them into one nation on the mountains of Israel. One king will rule them all; no longer will they be divided into two nations or into two kingdoms. ²³ They will never again pollute themselves with their idols and vile images and rebellion, for I will save them from their sinful apostasy. I will cleanse them. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.

Why not be part of the story yourself? Please come with us to Israel and walk the history at the same time that you walk the future. ★



**Walk
God's Land
with Zola Tours
See p.36**

The Power of His Love

Katharine Weiss
co-host of *Zola*
Levitt Presents



Detail from *The Prophets Hosea and Jonah* by Raphael (1483 – 1520) c. 1510, *The Armand Hammer Collection*

Happy Valentine season!

God loves you and me at all times, not just at special times of the year. His love is abundant even when we mortals are at our lowest point. Lately, I have been reading the “minor” prophets. Myles likes to joke that Bible readers will be embarrassed when we meet these giants of Scripture in the next world and try to explain how we cavalierly relegated them to a “minor” status. He suggests that what they wrote is important for everyone to learn and understand. God used a major of the “minors,” Hosea, and his marriage to illustrate Divine faithfulness in the face of human infidelity.

I was captivated by Hosea’s words regarding the everlasting love that the Lord/Adonai has for His people. His whole book is a message to Israel in his 8th century B.C. and also to our 21st century A.D. God spoke to Hosea:

1:2 “Go, get yourself a prostitute as a wife and children of a prostitute! For the land is as an unfaithful prostitute by departing from Adonai.”

In the story of Hosea, God reminds us that He considers Israel His wife. This should serve as a wake-up call to Believers in Yeshua—a reminder, as Paul beseeched:

Romans 11: ²⁵ For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial blindness has come upon Israel until the fullness of the gentiles has come in;

²⁶ and in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The Deliverer will come out of Zion. He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” ²⁸ Concerning the Good News, they are hostile for your sake; but concerning chosenness, they are loved on account of the fathers— ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

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The Romans passage above should be reason enough for Believers to stand with the Jewish people. Your prayers and financial contributions help us proclaim this all-important message: Salvation in Jesus, standing with Israel. Thank you for your support; let's make 2017 a banner year!

Perhaps it also inspires you to join Myles and me on a pilgrimage in the Land. Come and see what the world is contesting—the Land and people that God loves, this living root that He invites all the nations to stand with and be grafted into through Yeshua.

God demonstrates His love and forgiveness for us through the life of Hosea. When people treat us badly, behaving in an ungodly manner—even when they claim to be Believers—we must respond with forgiveness. The level of forgiveness required is sometimes beyond our capacity—and we must lean on the Lord. When we Believers let God's love flood our being, we find freedom in Him. During this Valentine season, let's concentrate on expressing the love and forgiveness of God to each other. The same love that saves your soul also keeps you—and will continue to work its grace throughout the new year and into your life.

The grip of Hell is broken by the touch of Heaven. ★

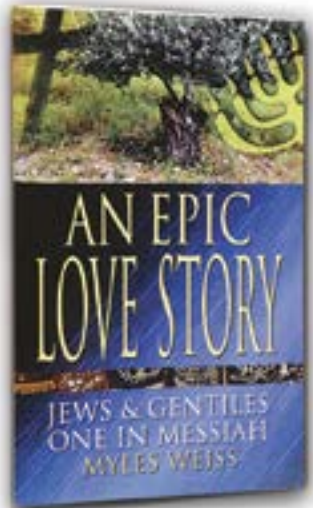


An Epic Love Story *study booklet by Myles Weiss*

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

This readable booklet tackles topics including:

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



(Part of the 50-booklets deal on [p.18](#))

One Christian Sergeant Saved Jewish GIs



BY ADAM ELIYAHU BERKOWITZ (rt) BreakingIsraelNews.com

In a remarkable World War II story that almost went untold, a devoutly Christian U.S. Army sergeant refused to turn over his Jewish soldiers to the Nazis, even after a gun was placed to his head. Now, 30 years after his death, the Jewish people are showing their appreciation for his bravery.

Roddie Edmonds didn't speak about his experiences in the war, even when his sons, Kim and Chris, inquired. When he passed away 31 years ago, his widow gave his war-time diaries to Chris, now a Baptist pastor in Maryville, Tennessee.



Sergeant Roddie Edmonds in uniform

A few years ago, one of Chris's daughters read through the diaries for a college project and was amazed at what she found. Despite being taken prisoner of war shortly after arriving in Europe, her grandfather was a hero: He had saved hundreds of Jewish soldiers.

On December 16, 1944, just a few months after arriving in Europe, Edmonds, a Master Sergeant with the 422nd Infantry Regiment, found himself fighting in the disastrous Battle of the Bulge. The last major German offensive campaign of World War II, it caught the Allied Forces by surprise, resulting in 89,000 casualties. On December 19, Roddie and an estimated 23,000 other American soldiers were taken prisoner by the Germans.

"We surrendered to avoid slaughter. We were marched without food and water, except for the few sugar beets we found along the road and puddles," Roddie wrote in his diary. Taken to Stalag IXA POW camp near Ziegenhain, Germany, Edmonds was the highest-ranking officer and responsible for the American prisoners of war (POWs) in the camp. One evening in January, Major Siegmann, the camp's commandant, told Edmonds that he wanted the Jewish POWs to line up outside the barracks the following morning. The commandant said that any Jewish soldier who didn't report would be shot on sight.

"They weren't killing the Jewish soldiers outright, but they were taking them to Berga labor camp, where they worked them to death," explained Pastor Edmonds. "Nazi commandants had orders in all the POW camps to eliminate all Jewish soldiers, up until the very end of the war." Upon capture, many Jewish prisoners were segregated and sent to Berga. The fatality rate in Berga was nearly 20%, the highest of any POW camp where Americans were held. When he was given the order, Sergeant Edmonds told all of the soldiers, Christian and Jew alike, to report outside the next morning.

"What my dad did was amazing; but really amazing was that all 1,292 soldiers went," said Chris. "None of them refused."

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One Christian Sergeant... continued



The commandant was furious and held Edmonds at gunpoint, ordering him to identify the Jews. Edmonds wouldn't. "Once the major pulled the gun and pressed it to my dad's head, any one of those men could have stopped him and told him who the Jews were," said Chris. "But not one of them did."

Two Jewish soldiers, Lester Tanner and Paul Stern, stood next to Edmonds, their lives on the line. They told Chris his father's response. "All I am required to give is name, rank, and serial number. That is all you'll get," Roddie told the commandant. "You'll have to shoot all of us, and after the war, you will be tried for war crimes."

The major shouted back, "They cannot all be Jews."

"We are all Jews," Roddie calmly replied.

His father's faith inspired his heroic action, Chris explained. "He was a strong Christian; his faith required him to be his brother's keeper, and to honor humanity."

Chris Edmonds has spoken with some of the soldiers. "They all said it was a miracle they survived that camp. They credited it to my dad's leadership and what he did."

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

– Psalm 23:4



Roddie Edmonds's act went unrecognized when he was alive, but the Jewish people have acknowledged his courage. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, an organization that pays tribute to non-Jewish rescuers of Holocaust survivors, awarded Roddie Edmonds the Yehi Ohr [Let There be Light] Award in November. In 2015, Roddie was the first U.S. soldier to be declared Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

"My father's story teaches that life is about all of us, not one of us," Chris said. "We need to esteem others much more than ourselves." ★



World War II American POWs upon being liberated (AIPAC)

On Speaking Tours

Classic Zola
from 1982:
35 years ago



In one adventure, I nearly saw the face of God. I went to a very small town that did not enjoy commercial air service, and they sent a single-engine airplane to “get me to the church on time.” I had remarked when they wanted to set up this flight: “One of those airplanes with one pilot has my number on it,” so they sent two pilots! Everything went along without a hitch until we reached about 6,700 feet. At that point, we started burning! There was an unmistakable odor of insulation on fire, and the engine began to sputter. I shot a quick word to the Father, Whom I assumed I would see momentarily, as the chief pilot veered the aircraft around and headed for a landing strip we’d seen a few minutes before.

It was a situation, I can tell you! **When the pilot would increase the throttle, the burning smell would get worse.** When he decreased acceleration, the smell would stop, but it was obvious that we were doing more falling than flying. It became a question not of whether we were going to land, but of whether we were going to be able to choose where.

Both pilots were exceedingly calm and talked in terms of altitude (we were running out of it fast) and speed (we were down to 70 m.p.h. and still flying). I must say, however, that the beautiful pastures of Oklahoma stretched out below were a welcome sight. I wouldn’t have wanted to be flying over Dallas or Los Angeles or New York at that point. It appeared, at least, that we could pick out a nice soft field at the end of our glide and perhaps help a farmer do some of his plowing.

Verily I say unto you, I would rather have been elsewhere. My worthy crew seemed suspiciously optimistic,

but I was just a tad uneasy. And then, as faith would have it, the airstrip came into view when we had 700 feet of altitude left. “We’ve got it made,” said our captain, with just a hint of relief in his voice, and we glided right to the end of the runway.

There was no other air traffic and no one at this country field. We had not used the radio because either the crew was too busy or they knew that no one was going to answer. In any case, we made a perfect landing and glided to a stop on the empty tarmac. We didn’t lose any time getting out of the airplane. And there we stood, all alone, in a nice little place I’ll always remember: **Pryor, Oklahoma.**



I felt a bit disappointed that no one had come out to see Zola Levitt *live* [the name of Zola’s Dallas radio show], or at least Zola Levitt *alive*, but soon a flying instructor and a couple of his pupils joined us. We phoned the church and they agreed to send another airplane (which had me wondering if I’d do better to stay in Pryor and just teach the Passover on the airstrip to the crowd I now had.) We examined our trusty aircraft and discovered the trouble was minor but we were not airworthy.

We then sat down for some good old pilot chatter about successful forced landings each individual had made. There was no one there to report any *unsuccessful* forced landings.

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

Zola continued



The flying instructor, to my surprise, discussed Passover and the seven feasts of Israel very intelligently with us and graciously accepted my booklet on the subject. It made me think of the Kingdom when any stranger on the street will be willing and able to talk Bible with us (Jer. 31:34).

Presently, our rescuer arrived and I now had three experienced pilots and one good airplane. We took off again and had an uneventful flight to the church, landing this time on

a grass runway! Reflecting that I had been better off when I had left the landing to the Lord (at least the runway in Pryor was paved), I got out, after our bumpy taxiing, and was whisked to the church two hours late. Most of the crowd had waited, and, frankly, it was one of the nicest talks of the whole season. They had received all sorts of "forced down in a burning plane" stories, so, as you can imagine, I was greeted with a round of applause. ★



Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. **From time to time I visit your levitt.com for the videos and [Levitt Letters](#) that you post.** Thanks for doing this without charging us viewers and readers.

Recently, the *Levitt Letter* mentioned the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. As I understand the matter, four legions under the command of General Titus laid siege to and destroyed Jerusalem: the 5th, 10th, 12th, and 15th.

From what I have read, V Macedonica was the only legion to bring its standard up onto the Temple Mount during the horrific events. I found interesting that the 5th was based in Macedonia until about 9 A.D. and, during the season it was involved at Jerusalem, relocated its home base to an area that was apparently in the region where modern Bulgaria is today.

Daniel's prophecy in 9:26 indicates that the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the sanctuary. Most likely, the 5th Legion wasn't the only force on the Mount, but bringing their standard would have rallied the troops from the 5th to defend their standard and fight harder.

Because of the 5th Legion's association with both Macedonia and the area where Bulgaria is, the "little horn" apparently comes from one of the 4 regions of Alexander the Great's Empire (Daniel 8:8-9). I am not saying he must come from the European segment of Alexander's Empire, but it seems possible.

A. **Yes, the 5th, 10th, 12th, and 15th were the four Roman legions involved in Jerusalem's 70 A.D. destruction.** And they came from different parts of the Empire. Daniel says it will be the people of "the prince who is to come" that will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. But Daniel's prophecy gives no single geographic location. The armies of this coming military leader would be from all parts of the Roman Empire, as were the armies of Titus. Thus, it is likely that "the prince that is to come" will be from Rome (since the commander of the Roman armies was the Roman general Titus).

Q. **What is the "name" that His people are called that is also Yahovah's?**

A. **The context of 2 Chronicles 7 tells us that it is in the name of Yahweh by which the Chosen People are called.**

In 7:12 we read that it was the Lord (Yahweh in the Hebrew text) who appeared

to Solomon and then gave him the promise (7:14). "Name" for God in Scripture also denotes through metonymy* the Person, character, and acts of God—hence His complete authority. (*metonymy: an attribute or adjunct in place of the thing meant. For example: "suit" for business executive, or "the track" for horse racing.) ★



"And remember, if you need anything I'm available 24/6."

God's Amazing Gospel Work in Israel

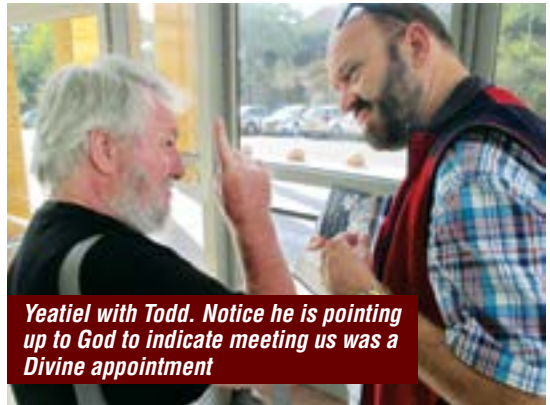
BY DR. TODD D. BAKER, TJF team leader



On the 39th Gospel outreach in Israel, **To The Jew First** team members August Rosado, Baron Rodrigues, Robin Hopper, Kenny Gee, and I accomplished an excellent ministry in Netanya and Nazareth. Two young Jewish women working at Netanya's bath and body care shop both listened attentively as Kenny and I made the case for Yeshua of Nazareth's Messiahship. We showed them that only He, in all of Jewish history, has fulfilled all the First Coming Messianic prophecies found in the Jewish Bible.

In Nazareth, we met Yeatiel at the security checkpoint to the mall. He stopped our group and thanked us for America's support for Israel. We responded by pouring out to this engaging 72-year-old our affection and gratitude for the Jewish people.

Yeatiel joyfully listened to *Ha-Besorah* (the Gospel) of Jesus the Messiah. As we pointed out some of the 100 Old Testament Messianic prophecies that Yeshua fulfilled in the New Testament, Yeatiel pointed to the sky and exclaimed that God had brought us to share the Word of God with him. The complete Bible (with both Old and New Testaments) in Hebrew that we left with him was one of seven that we passed out that day. By the work of the Holy Spirit, Alla—a Muslim—was also open to hearing the Gospel and accepting a copy of the Scriptures.



Yeatiel with Todd. Notice he is pointing up to God to indicate meeting us was a Divine appointment



Our last Gospel witness that day occurred when we made a comment to Dalia, behind the counter in a Nazareth candy shop. August and I raised her curiosity when we remarked how the glorious future of the Jewish people is bound up with the identification of the Messiah. Eager to read for herself how God's Word identifies this Messiah to be Jesus of Nazareth, Dalia accepted a Hebrew Bible from us.

Several days later, on our way to Jerusalem, we talked with Jeremy and Rachel at a mini-mart. Jeremy claimed to be a former Believer now turned atheist. After we challenged the rationale of his position, Jeremy admitted that meeting us was perhaps a divine appointment, and he took a Bible from us, promising to reconsider his reasoning. **Please pray for this confused man**, that God will draw him back with tender cords of love (Hosea 11:1-4).



Diana

Later that day, Diana, one of the workers in our hotel in Eilat, offered another open heart and accepting hands. When I asked if she would accept my gift of God's Word about Yeshua the Messiah, Diana responded, "Wow, I'd love to. Today is my birthday." God's providence never ceases to amaze me on each and every Gospel outreach to Israel. ★

Curiosity Kills the Cat

A Note from Mark
by **Mark Levitt**
ZLM Director



“Peace I leave with you,” Jesus assured His disciples shortly after His resurrection (John 14:27). Now, here are some pointers for guarding your peace and quiet against today’s plague of unrelenting spam and robocalls.

Whether you’re eating, sleeping, studying the Bible, or whatever, the following systematic approach can dramatically reduce these incessant interruptions. Putting your smart phone on “Do not disturb” (*Settings* on iPhone, *Settings* > *Sound & notification* on an Android) will keep track of whatever calls you miss. Check landline handset instructions, or turn down the volume on your answering machine. And, when your phone does ring, **why be so curious to answer unless your caller I.D. ensures that you know the caller?** (Friends and family who call from unidentified numbers should leave voicemails so you can respond.) Here are some helpful findings:

The government’s do-not-call lists are now worthless for guarding against scofflaw solicitations.

NoMoRobo.com (land or cell) only screens reported numbers. Using it involves activating dual ringing so NoMoRobo receives all the calls you do. Then, when their computer recognizes problematic numbers, you’ll hear a single ring before they hang up on your behalf. After a free month, NoMoRobo charges \$2/month or \$20/year.

JollyRogerTelCo.com lets you use their artificial intelligence bots to waste telemarketers’ time. After registering your telephone number with them, you initiate conference calls that include the telemarketer and Jolly Roger. Then you mute your phone and listen in. Jolly Roger gives you a couple of free calls before requiring fees of \$2/month or \$6/year.

Hiya.com has been my favorite free call-blocking app on cellphones, but some bogus calls still get through.

Spoofing numbers, still legal, allows scammers infinite opportunities to call you using fake numbers, pretending they’re calling from anywhere.

Here is one protocol for unrecognized callers who get past the NoMoRobo on my landline or the Hiya app on my cellphone:

1. **Immediately silence the ringer by adjusting the volume.**
2. **Allow the call to go to voicemail.**
3. **If the caller leaves no voicemail (or an unwanted one), block the number:**
 - a. In your call log, select the number to block.
 - b. On iPhone, press the “i” to the right of the number. On an Android, hit the menu button.
 - c. Scroll to select “Block this Caller” (iPhone) or “Add to reject list” (Android).
4. **Copy the number** before you leave this screen by pressing the number until the option to “Copy” pops up.
5. **Paste and Google the number** and/or open Hiya, which automatically offers the option to search their database for prior reports.

Steps 4 and 5 typically ensure that the number remains blocked.

Asking telemarketers to stop nuisance calls is often pointless, as is retaliating against them. Most of them are call-center operators who receive a call forwarded from you once you confirm that you’re a live prospect. You may as well accept this years-long, illegal-call saga as an opportunity to turn the other cheek per Matt. 5:39. ★

ZLM Bulletin Board

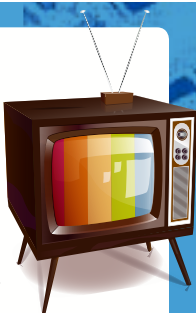
Please: Don't Throw Me Away

This *Levitt Letter* wants you to read it, save it, and read it again. You could park it on your coffee table, in your guest bathroom, or in your car for an occasion when eating alone or waiting in a doctor's office. Later you might share it by strategically locating it with reading materials at your church, health club, or hair salon. Whether you snip or black out your mailing address—or write your telephone number for subsequent readers to call you—is up to you.



Airing Update

Clicking on the "[Zola TV](#)" tab at [levitt.com](#) provides a dropdown menu that offers our Broadcast Schedule, Video Archives (on demand, 24/7), Podcasts, Zola's Music, and, for an alternative to paying for cable, details re: Roku. **You can see our national TV network schedule on p. 35 of this news magazine.** **NEW STATION:** *Zola Levitt Presents* is now airing on Good Life 45 (WTGL) in Orlando, Florida on Sundays at 5:00 am and Mondays at 12:30 pm. **Those with video recorders should schedule "series recording" to never miss a program.**



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

American taxpayers have long been allowed to make charitable gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities that are worth more than they cost, and take an income tax deduction based on the gift's full current value, bypassing capital gains tax that otherwise would be due upon sale.

The free pamphlet *Giving Securities* explains the basics of harnessing long-standing tax benefits. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our PO Box.

Sometimes the Unbeliever ...

... gets so close to expressing Biblical perspectives. The lyrics: "Can't you see, life's easy, if you consider things, from another point of view? In another way, from another point of view. ... So beautiful; won't you come with me?" When you visit coub.com/view/h6bwo and experience a multidimensional work of art, try these lyrics instead: "Can't you see, life's **FULFILLING** if you consider things from a **GODLY** point of view? In a **BIBLICAL** way, from a **GODLY** point of view? ... So beautiful; won't you **WALK** with **YESHUA**?"

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See page 36
for details



Hebrew Lesson

God-Wrestling and Faith

John J. Parsons



וַיִּשְׂר אֱלֹהֵי מַלְאָךְ וַיִּכַּל בְּכַה וַיִּתְחַנְּנוּ לוֹ

“He struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor.”
– Hosea 12:4

וַיִּתְחַנְּנוּ לוֹ	בְּכַה	וַיִּכַּל	אֱלֹהֵי מַלְאָךְ	וַיִּשְׂר
(5) (4) (3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)
vai-yit-cha-nen - lo	ba-khah	vai-yu-khal	el - ma-lakh	vai-ya-sar
and sought his favor	he wept	and prevailed	with the Angel	he struggled

Before he could return from his exile in Mesopotamia, Jacob had to face his fears and wrestle with God. The outcome of the struggle was a blessing, as signified by a new name, “Israel” (יִשְׂרָאֵל), meaning one who struggles (שָׁרָה) with God (אֵל). Jacob finally prevailed when the great need for hope overcame the tragic pain of his past. Jacob’s story teaches that before we can return from our place of exile, we have to face our fears and wrestle over who we really are. Each of us must be renamed from “Jacob” to “Israel,” from being a manipulator to one who surrenders to God’s power and blessing. And just as Jacob finally prevailed with God when the power of his faith overcame the pain of his past, so we can escape from our own exile—the prison of our past—by proclaiming from the heart: “I have seen God ‘face to face’ and yet my life has been delivered” (Gen. 32:30).

Our verse says that Jacob “wept and sought” the Angel’s favor, a fact left unmentioned by Moses’ account in the Torah (Gen. 32:22–30), though perhaps hinted at in Jacob’s prayer before the climactic conflict: “I am not worthy of the least of Thy tender mercies...” (Gen. 32:10). This shows that the struggle was *spiritual*, not physical, and that Jacob finally “won” the fight by submitting himself to God. The injured thigh was a token of Jacob’s *surrender* to the Angel (Gen. 32:25, 31), and it was only after his flesh was wounded that Jacob’s life was empowered by God to take hold of the realm of promise, as signified by his return to Bethel. The story is ultimately about death and resurrection: After his gut-wrenching struggle, Israel was wounded so that he could know that the LORD “gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might, he increases strength” (see Isaiah 40:29).

Notice that Jacob continued to wrestle until he was injured by the Angel of the LORD, after which he simply “hung on” for dear life until he received the blessing directly from God. In other words, Jacob discovered that struggling and resisting God were useless for the blessing to be secured, so he simply *yielded* in submission. This was the turning point of his life, the moment when his *new name and identity* were bestowed. The LORD surely could have overpowered Jacob, but it took far more for Jacob to freely surrender his will. **In the end, the New Testament attests to change that issued from Jacob’s brokenness: Despite some additional struggles he later faced with the flesh, he was finally able to die with the blessing of God to impart to his children (Heb. 11:21).** ★



Journey of Restoration DVDs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

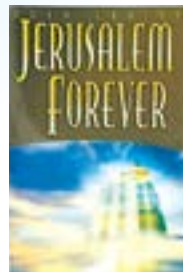
Prophecy and the Patriarchs We visit Petra, then Be'er Sheva, where Yuval shares the importance of water next to an ancient well. A clip from our *Abraham* series leads into a teaching of hope for Esau and Jacob.

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



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

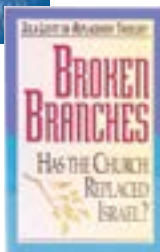
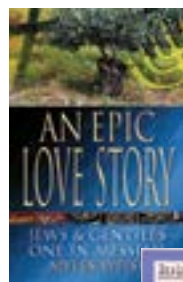
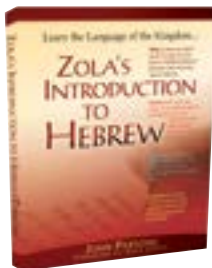
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___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
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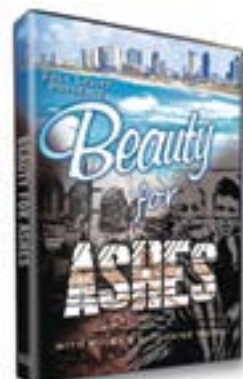
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The Dark Prince: *When The Devil Has His Day* Ten 30-minute TV programs on three DVDs

In this made-for-TV miniseries, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes viewers through Bible texts that speak about the devil. *The Dark Prince* gives a behind-the-scenes look at Evil's workings and its ultimate uprooting when Christ returns.

Satan's Rise and Demise in Genesis Genesis focuses on how Creation strayed and who is responsible. We discuss Satan's emergence and God's plan to crush him when Satan rises to rule the world at the dusk of human history.

Satan in Biblical History Biblical history's bookends—the paradise lost story in Genesis and the paradise restored story in Revelation—illustrate Satan's rise and demise. These lessons should encourage people to position themselves on the right side of the battle line.

The Ruler of This World Isaiah describes the “ruler of this world”—Satan—through an actual ruler of the ancient world; Matthew relates how Satan once offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. The temptations that the Lord avoided are ones that we should avoid as well.

To Steal, Kill, and Destroy Daniel and Revelation describe unimaginable beasts that would wreak havoc upon a decaying world. We examine their application to end-time Bible prophecy.

Deceit, Betrayal, and Coming Miseries The devil's tools—deceit and betrayal—were first displayed in the Garden of Eden. We look at Jesus' agony and betrayal—also in a garden—and the flurry of miseries that will be unleashed on this planet before the garden paradise is restored.

Armageddon and the Final Conflict We look at Job as evidence that Satan attacks individuals. In Revelation, Satan's assaults culminate in the Battle of Armageddon.

The Collapse of an Intoxicated World Revelation vividly relates how the world will lament the evil prince of this world, whose demise is brought about by the Lord's return.

The Second Coming! We look at the return of Jesus and the restoration of paradise.

The Experts Speak, Part 1 Jeff interviews Paul Wilkinson, Wayne House, Tom McCall, and Chuck Missler about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and the European Union.

The Experts Speak, Part 2 Jeff interviews Thomas Ice, Wilfred Hahn, William Koenig, Todd Strandberg, Joel Rosenberg, and Tim LaHaye about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and a global government.



Removing Smartphones from Family Time



BY DANIELLE ZIRI (rt) JPost.com

An Israeli invention that recently launched hopes to put quality back in family time by taking smartphones out of the equation.



The device, called **Pause**, is a sleekly designed box that blocks WiFi, incoming calls, text messages, and emails from cellphones placed inside of it. Using the “out of sight, out of mind” principle, it strives to “remove the temptation of peeking at email or social media when focus is needed elsewhere,” the company said.

Pause co-founder Yuval Lazi explained he got the idea about 18 months previously, sitting at the dinner table with his family. “It was a normal day when I had come home from work and managed to actually arrive before dinner time. We sat, the whole family, around a table, over food,” he recalled. “But instead of doing what a family should be doing, which is talking, I just received one email from work, and I had to answer it immediately, and then you get a WhatsApp, and there’s a call.”

Within seconds, Lazi found himself completely immersed and focused on the screen of his smartphone. When he finally lifted his head up, he realized his three-year-old son Liam had been trying to get his attention repeatedly for over a minute.

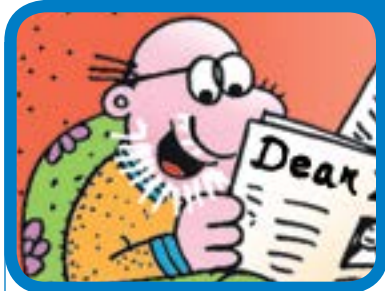
“He just looked at me and said, ‘Dad, please put your phone in your pocket,’” Lazi recalled. “I realized that I was very wrong, and it just turned something inside me.”

According to the 2014 State of the Kid report released by the company Highlights, which makes educational products for children, Lazi’s son is not alone. The report shows 62% of kids feel that their parents are distracted or focused on other things when they’re trying to talk to them, the main culprit being cellphones. Understanding that the problem extended farther than his dinner table, Lazi decided to partner with childhood friends and create Pause.

Lazi says the main purpose of the device is to serve as a constant reminder for people to put their phones aside. “People say that they can simply turn off their phones; they don’t need our product,” he explained. “The thing is: nobody does. But if you make this a ritual, something that everybody does together, then people are more likely to do it,” he continued.

Pause can also be used in a workplace setting. According to the 2015 Lireo Workplace Culture and Communication Report, 47% of workers say that their biggest issue during meetings is that other participants aren’t paying attention. ★





Letters to ZLM

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

Acts and Symbols

Dear ZLM,

Once again, Myles jabs at the “institutionalized church.” This theme crops up *a lot* in Myles’s letters—I know a lot of “church hatred” is taught by the Messianic Roots community, who are against the name “Jesus,” the “Cross,” and the very word “Christian.” But scripture says that the CROSS split the veil and the middle partition between the two—Jew and gentile—to not judge each other in **our differences!**

Christians and “institutionalized churches” give hundreds of millions of dollars to Israel, Jews, and Jew-first ministries. Shouldn’t ZLM be prospering PEACE between Jew and gentile rather than angst and anger? ZLM used to before Myles! R.B. (TX)

Shalom and blessings to you, R.B.—

I was both amused and saddened by your letter.

At the risk of being chastised further for leaning on my training as a psychotherapist, “thou dost protest too much, methinks” (Thanks, William Shakespeare), and perhaps you are “projecting” unresolved anger of your own onto my writing. I am aware of Christian persecution of the Jewish people over the centuries, yet I *always* express gratitude that true Believers in every generation kept the Gospel alive. I give a second thanks because my Jewish people are now receiving our Messiah by the thousands, a sure sign of the times.

I go to great pains to distinguish between the real born-from-above-Christians and the organizations that historically committed atrocities in Christ’s name. Those real Believers include some precious Roman Catholics, like Father Juan in our upcoming *Close Encounters with Yeshua* television series. I have met and ministered alongside born-again Catholics, yet my love for them draws ire from readers and viewers.

It is a further irony that you lump me with “Messianic Roots” teachers (many of them gentiles, by the way) who speak against the name “Jesus” or use of the word “cross.” I openly challenge you to find in my writing—or heart!—any dismissive attitude to these terms. I simply want to help Christians understand the stumbling blocks, the language pitfalls, and the alternative words that *mean the same thing as the words you hold sacred*.

You wrote: “Scripture says that the cross split the veil and the middle partition between the two.” While that tearing veil is being described at the time of the crucifixion, there is no verbiage like you quote in your letter (Matt 27:50–53; Mark 15:37–38; Luke 23:45–46). Paul does tell the Ephesians (2:14) that Christ has “broken down the middle wall of partition . . . creating in Himself one new man” from Jew and gentile. I’m all about the One New Man of Ephesians 2. Have you read my booklet *An Epic Love Story?**

The Greek word “*stauros*”—interpreted “cross”—actually means “upright stake,” “execution stake,” “upright pale,” “poles,” and only later, “cross,”



including the horizontal beam. Historical reports and archaeological evidence show that **the *stauros* was a vertical pole that was permanently installed at the crucifixion site, and the people being crucified were forced to carry the cross beam up the hill to the site as a form of punishment.** Once they reached the site, they were nailed to the crossbeam, and then hoisted up onto the vertical pole (*stauros*), to which their feet were then nailed. Please remember: It is not the *symbol* but the ACT that saves us. I value the cross and take great pains to honor it while teaching sensitivity to Christians about the Jewish people.

I absolutely agree with you that ZLM should be promoting unity (through truth). Katharine and I have devoted our lives to delivering this message. I urge you to review my writings ... and your letter. Blessings and love —Myles
**For more information, please see p.7.*



Rick Warren

From S.N.: I was dismayed to see an article with Rick Warren on [page 11 of the December 2016 Levitt Letter](#). So many people would see that as an endorsement of him and his ministry. Back in [January 2013](#) you had a better handle on what “wolf in sheep’s clothing” means. Please consider what I am saying about people trusting your ministry’s judgment as an endorsement.

From J. and A.G.: This man is one of the great Anti-Christis in this world.

From T.M.: I couldn’t believe this article was in your newsletter. Rick Warren is a leading pastor in the Chrislam movement.

From C.J. (CA): Rick Warren is Not a Friend of the Jews!

From S.W. (AZ): Very lovingly I say, Please read one of the books that expose Rick Warren as a wolf in sheep’s clothing. His (New Age) message is insidious.

From H.H. (WY): Rick Warren’s “Purpose Driven” nonsense—along with drivel from Bill Hybels and Andy Stanley—may sound Christian, but those three constitute the trinity of the modern Laodicean Social Church. I’m not certain that you are cognizant of the fire with which you are playing when you embrace the New Age Social Gospel. Extreme caution should be your rule of thumb.

(continued next page)



Pastor Rick Warren

From L.L.C. (WA): You should research your information on Rick Warren and what he preaches and your [science] article by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich. We cannot support your ministries. Please take us off your mailing list.

Shalom to the vehemently anti-Rick Warren letter writers who protested our brief article quoting him: I get it. When Pastor Warren first returned from Syria several years ago, I too read with alarm that he was calling Syria a “moderate country.” This did not jibe with the reality of the Assad dictatorship, and I categorized him as a “useful idiot” who had succumbed to fame and flattery. Some also called for his head, based on reports that he was touting “Chrislam.” The truth is, many such reports were overblown.

When Joseph Farah, editor of WorldNetDaily.com, wrote scathingly about Warren’s trip to Syria, Warren responded: “I said nothing of the sort,” claiming that he didn’t say anything that Syria’s official press quoted him as saying. According to Lawrence E. Ford, Sr. at ICR.org: In a letter to the 30,000 members of Saddleback Church explaining his alleged statements in the press, Warren described his reasons for visiting Syria:

The simple truth is that I was invited by my neighbor! We were talking over his backyard fence a couple months ago when my Muslim neighbor, Yassar, said, “Rick, you visit so many countries, I want to show you mine.”



I was touched by this invitation from my friend and promised, “The next time I’m traveling that direction, I’ll visit your home with you.” It was a favor for a friend, not a political statement.

As far as his discussions with President Assad, Warren said he took advice from Franklin Graham of Samaritan’s Purse, who advised him, “Thank the Syrian president for protecting the freedom of Christians and Jews to worship there.”

Many take exception to the pastor’s description of religious freedom in Syria because of the country’s overt support for terror groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, the PLO, and many others. Interestingly, Warren stated in his letter: “Every Christian I met with expressed gratitude to the government for protecting their right to worship. Honestly, that shocked me.”

I think the bottom line is this: Rick Warren is human and most likely has some conflicted views about this subject. We should have mercy on him, pray for wisdom, and stay true to our mandate. —Myles

Dear Letter Writers—

Despite the good intentions behind your rebukes, let’s please credit *Levitt Letter* readers with better discernment than your letters indicate. By your logic, the July 2016 *Levitt Letter* cover article that referred to Bill Clinton’s blaming the Palestinians for the lack of a peace deal with Israel would be tantamount to endorsing Hillary for president and/or espousing shenanigans in the Oval Office (please, spare me).

The article in question relayed Rick Warren’s suggestion that Christians protect their minds in avoiding “stuff that is profane, blasphemous, evil, vile, and abusive” by staying close to the Word of God. As the article reveals, that’s the advice of Phil. 4:8, Eph. 6:17, and Prov. 16:27.

Rick Warren—apparently a forgiven sinner, just like you and me—probably says something worthwhile every now and then ... especially when he’s quoting the Bible. If you must judge the splint in our publication’s eye (Matt. 7:5), then please go with the merits of what we actually reprinted.

The *Note from Mark* on page 14 of the January 2017 *Levitt Letter* supposes that Trump could be a pro-Israel Christian. Not to worry: such credibly sourced suppositions do not imply that our ministry endorses every deed of The Donald. —Mark ★

A PICTURE tells a thousand words



PlastiCure—Biodegrading Plastic



SCIENCE: BY ZAFIR RINAT (*rt*) American Associates Ben-Gurion University (AABGU.org)

More than 300 million tons of plastic are produced every year, creating one of the planet's gravest environmental threats. However, a student research team from Ben-Gurion University believes it has found the solution to this problem in the form of plastic-eating bacteria.

The team has been working on developing a solution for the accumulation of plastic waste with the help of a germ called *Pseudomonas putida*. The group recently presented the project at the annual, worldwide synthetic biology competition iGEM, held at MIT. The team was awarded a gold medal for its overall performance and demonstrating a high standard of achievement. The BGU team's genetic engineering technology, called PlastiCure, targets polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the most common thermoplastic polymer resin used in fibers for clothing, bottles, and food containers.



*The iGEM student team,
creators of PlastiCure*

"We thought about various subjects to research for the competition, and I read about the plastic waste problem and thought it was suitable,"

explains Inbal Segal, a life science and social studies student on the team. "We put together a research proposal aimed at streamlining plastic breakdown with bacteria. The process has been done before but hasn't been very effective."

Segal is one of 13 students participating on the BGU team. One of the team's mentors, Prof. Lital Alfonta of the Department of Life Sciences, explained, "The goal is to completely biodegrade the plastic molecule. The energy created in this process can be used to produce electric power." Plastic can be burned in facilities that produce energy from waste, but this is a costly process that also creates air pollution. Degradable alternatives to plastic are still too expensive for widespread use.

In their search for bacteria that can decompose plastic efficiently, the students tried to streamline the activity of a protein that breaks down the primary connections of plastic molecules. They also added genes to the *Pseudomonas putida* to help it biodegrade the plastic completely. The streamlined protein was inserted into another germ—*E. coli*—and excreted to aid the *P. putida*'s action. The biological system they built combines the two bacteria for a better breakdown of the plastic. Although the system still doesn't decompose the plastic completely, the team is in the process of developing germs that may increase the efficiency of the process.

According to their vision, the bacterium will be used in facilities for biodegrading large quantities of plastic waste. The energy released in the process will be used to produce electric power, some of which will be used for the breakdown process itself. In the future, they hope to manufacture kits for home use, which consumers could use to break down their own plastic waste. ★



Hope for Early Detection of Alzheimer's Disease



MEDICINE: AMERICAN FRIENDS TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY / AFTAU.org

A new Tel Aviv University (TAU) study identified a gene coding for a protein that turns off neurotransmission signaling, which contributes to Alzheimer's disease.

The gene, called RGS2 (Regulator of Protein Signaling 2), has never before been implicated in Alzheimer's disease. The researchers report that lower RGS2 expression in Alzheimer's patient cells increases their sensitivity to toxic effects of amyloid- β . The study, published in *Translational Psychiatry*, may lead to new avenues for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease—possibly a blood test—and new therapies to halt the progression of the disease.

"Our new observations must now be corroborated by other research groups," said one of the lead researchers, Dr. David Gurwitz of the Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at TAU's Sackler School of Medicine. "The next step will be to design early blood diagnostics and novel therapeutics to offset the negative effects of reduced expression of the RGS2 protein in the brain." ★



Senior woman consultation with doctor and daughter

UNRWA: Refugee Industry



BY ASAF ROMIROWSKY AND ALEXANDER JOFFE (rt) NationalPost.com

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is the UN's internationally funded welfare agency. Exclusively for Palestinians, UNRWA has financial and political interests in maintaining the current inertia: **as long as the Palestinians are refugees, UNRWA is in business.** Of the 30,000 people employed by UNRWA, the vast majority are Palestinian. Only a few hundred are not. UNRWA is the largest single employer of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. By comparison, the UN High Commission for Refugees employs only 5,000 to 6,000 people globally. UNHCR focuses clearly on resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and building new lives, not maintaining services that prop up a six-decade-long status quo.

Since its inception in 1950, UNRWA has worked against resettlement in the Arab countries where Palestinians

are located. It has done so by shifting its mission from refugee relief to education, devising its own definitions of who is a refugee, and expanding its legal mandates to "protect" and represent refugees. As a result, the Palestinian clients of UNRWA have gradually taken over the organization and undermined an international relief effort, created in naïve good faith, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.

It is worth highlighting just how singular the situation is. On one hand, a United Nations organization created in 1949 for refugee relief is providing an ever-increasing range of services to third- and fourth-generation descen-

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Gazans protest reduced UNRWA aid





dants over 67 years later. This is utterly unprecedented. On the other hand, those descendants still demand to be regarded as refugees and supported by the international community, while still being forbidden to assimilate as citizens in the Arab countries where they have lived for decades. All this is expected to continue until the Palestinians' preferred resolution to their stagnation is realized—namely, the end of Israel and the Palestinians' return to a world that no longer exists.

Of all the problems that dominate the Israeli-Palestinian standoff, only one ensures that the tug-of-war will never end: the growth in the number of Arab-Palestinian refugees. Western governments have enabled this industry. ★



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Illegal weapons found in West Bank raid (credit: IDF)

IDF Find Largest-ever Illegal Weapons Factory

[Jewish News Service / JNS.org](http://JewishNewsService.org)

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently uncovered what they are calling the largest illegal weapons factory ever discovered, underneath a Palestinian home in Hebron.

IDF security forces discovered more than 100 Carl Gustav m/45 barrels, Russian 7.62 sniper rifles, and M16 rifle parts with assembly instructions. Forces also seized 15 metal lathes and other production material used for making illegal homemade weapons.

The raid, which involved hundreds of soldiers from several IDF units and the Israeli Border Police, is part of an ongoing campaign by security forces to uncover and destroy facilities in the West Bank that produce illegal weapons used in terror attacks against Israel.

Security forces seized the weapons from the facility and arrested two of the factory's owners, a father and son, who were given to the Shin Bet security agency for interrogation. During an initial interrogation, the father claimed that the facility underneath his home produced farming equipment.

Numbers 14 "Pillar of Cloud"

By Jessilyn Justice / BreakingChristianNews.com

A cloud of dust and rain, just as described in Numbers 14:14, appeared recently to shield Israel from the Islamic State.

"A weather phenomenon occurred at 8 a.m. Thursday [December 1] on the other side of the Syrian border, in the same place where ISIS attacked Israel," Israel News Online posted to their Facebook page. "This strange storm of what appears to be dust, cloud and rain did not cross the border fence into Israel. It sat like a barrier between ISIS and Israel."

The dust pillar that appeared between Israel and the Islamic State. (Israel News Online)



Many commenters proclaimed, "That's God!"

See the [video](#).

"Nothing Justifies Crimes in the Name of Islam"

MEMRI.org

The December 11, 2016 bombing of the Coptic church in Cairo's Abbassia neighborhood killed 25 people and wounded 49. In response,

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businessman Salah Diab, owner of the *Al-Masri Al-Yawm* daily, wrote that religious extremism and terrorist attacks in the name of Islam tarnished the religion's reputation.



A Coptic nun amid the ruins of the church (image: Al-Masri Al-Yawm)

Diab, who writes under the pen name Newton, stressed that nothing could justify attacks like these, including claims about poverty, social injustice, or political exclusion. He added that the increase in terrorism and the fear of terrorism around the world were strengthening right-wing elements in the West. Consequently, he called for serious measures to reform the religious discourse in Egypt in order to combat religious extremism.

Bye-bye, Hitler's Birthplace

By Allan Hall / Express.co.uk

To prevent it from becoming a neo-Nazi shrine, the house in Austria where Adolf Hitler was born is to become a home for the kind of people he despised—the disabled. A call to demolish it was dismissed in favor of the new home for the handicapped. “Instead of demolishing history, we want to create an antithesis to the Nazi regime,” said provincial governor Josef Puehringer. Hitler was born in a rented room on the top floor April 20, 1889. Austrian

taxpayers have been paying over \$6,000 monthly rent for years just to keep it empty and prevent any misuse. Austrian authorities recently decided to purchase the building to keep it from falling into the hands of neo-Nazis who journey regularly to the site to pay homage to their idol.

Trump's Envoy to Israel

By Jeff Jacoby / Townhall.com

David Friedman, Donald Trump's choice to be ambassador to Israel, avidly supports expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank, unequivocally rejects a “two-state solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and strongly believes the U.S. embassy in Israel should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.



David Friedman

Appeasement has not achieved peace. Israel has gone to extraordinary lengths in its desire to end the conflict—from agreeing to the creation of the Palestinian Authority (PA), and offering shared control of Jerusalem, to expelling Jews from the Gaza Strip and handing the entire territory to the Palestinians. The results have been catastrophic. Palestinian society is more rejectionist than ever.

As long as the PA is obsessed with demonizing Jews and extolling terrorists rather than building up the institutions of a healthy state on the land it already controls, Friedman argues, the U.S. government should not restrain Israel from acting in its own best interests. ★



700-Year-Old “Hand Grenade” from Crusades



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY RICHARD GRAY (rt) DailyMail.co.uk

The Crusades saw Christian soldiers wield a terrifying array of medieval weaponry, including powerful crossbows, wickedly spiked maces, and swords large enough to cleave a man in two. But in the bloody battles over the Holy Land, the Crusaders faced, and perhaps also used, weapons that were far ahead of their time—hand grenades.

Now one of these early explosive devices has been pulled from the sea in northern Israel.

The clay device, which would have been filled with a flammable liquid with a burning fuse poked through a hole in the top, is thought to be about 700 years old. **These grenades were flung at enemy ships in an attempt to burn the wooden vessels.**

Diego Barkan, an archaeologist with the Israel Antiquities Authority, noted: “These hand grenades were being used in the Byzantine and early Islamic period right up until the Ottomans. This one, made of heavy clay, would have been used like a Molotov cocktail. They would have put alcohol inside and lit a fuse poked in a hole in the top before throwing it toward enemy ships.”



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The collection of metal vessels and mortars and pestles, manufactured in Syria and brought to Israel—it is thought they fell overboard from a medieval metal merchant’s ship

Archaeology *continued*



A 700-YEAR-OLD HAND GRENADE (pictured) made from clay has been found in the sea off the coast of northern Israel. It is thought to date from around the time of the Crusades and would have been filled with a flammable liquid with a fuse poked in the top.

The grenade, along with a haul of other ancient artifacts, was recovered from the sea over several years by Marcel Mazliah, a worker at the Hadera power plant in northern Israel. His family handed them over to the Israel Antiquities Authority following his death.

The oldest of the objects in the collection include a 3,500-year-old Bronze Age knife head and a toggle pin. Metal mortars and pestles, along with fragments of candlesticks dating to the 11th century A.D.—also called the Fatimid Period—were also among the collection. The hand grenade is similar to those used during the Crusades between the 11th and 13th centuries and until the Mamluk period from the 13th to the 16th century.

Some archaeologists believe these fist-size vessels were used to carry perfume. ★

Not only the rocks, but the sea cries out in Israel!



Anti-Semitism Masquerades as Human Rights Concern



BY TSVI SADAN (rt) IsraelToday.co.il

To justify their hate for Jews, today's anti-Semites appeal to "the highest source of authority world-wide, namely human rights." Thusly, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks explains why Israel is regularly accused of the five cardinal sins against human rights: racism, apartheid, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and attempted genocide.



According to the London-based rabbi, the new anti-Semitism has mutated so that any practitioner of it can deny being an anti-Semite. "After all,' they'll say, 'I'm not a racist. I have no problem with Jews or Judaism. I only have a problem with the State of Israel.' But in a world of 56 Muslim nations and 103 Christian ones, there is only one Jewish state, Israel ... the only one of the 193 member nations of the United Nations that has its right to exist regularly challenged, with one state (Iran) and many, many other groups, committed to its destruction."

Though this modern mutation of anti-Semitism claims to be peace-loving and chiefly concerned with human rights, it has proved to be exactly the opposite, bringing only misery and strife rather than peace and prosperity.

In a recent speech to the European Parliament, Rabbi Sacks made this point: "It wasn't Jews alone who suffered under Hitler. It wasn't Jews alone who suffered under Stalin. It isn't Jews alone who suffer under ISIS or al-Qaeda or Islamic Jihad. We make a great mistake if we think anti-Semitism is a threat only to Jews. It is a threat, first and foremost, to Europe and to the freedoms it took centuries to achieve.

"Anti-Semitism is not about Jews. It is about anti-Semites. It is about people who cannot accept responsibility for their own failures and instead blame someone else. Historically, if you were a Christian at the time of the Crusades, or a German after the First World War, and saw that the world hadn't turned out the way you believed it would, you blamed the Jews. That is what is happening today. And I cannot begin to say how dangerous it is. Not just to Jews but to everyone who values freedom, compassion, and humanity." ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

A No Good, Very Bad Day

Moshe sat at the bar staring at his drink when a large, trouble-making biker stepped up next to him, grabbed his drink, and gulped it down in one swig. Menacingly, the biker sneered, "Thanks, Jew Boy, whatcha gonna do about it?"

Moshe burst into tears.

"Come on, man," the biker softened a little. "I didn't think you'd cry! Men don't cry. What's your problem?"

"This is the worst day of my life," Moshe blurted. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting, and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, my car had been stolen, and I don't have insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. My wife left me and my dog bit me. So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all. I bought a drink; dropped a capsule in, and sat here watching the poison dissolve; then you showed up and drank the whole thing! But enough about me, how's your day going?" ★



A cheerful heart is good medicine—

Proverbs 17:22



"I don't know all Ten Commandments. The only ones I remember are 'settle down', 'act your age' and 'take that out of your mouth'."

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