

Levitt Letter

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

Jerusalem Day 2017 —
begins: sunset on Tuesday, May 23
ends: sunset on Wednesday, May 24

Our Ministry's New Spokespeople

By Dave and Kirsten Hart



Dave and Kirsten Hart

inside: Jews of the Wild West p.6



Thousands of years ago, God called Abraham, the father of faith, to leave familiar territory and journey into a new land. Exciting things happen when we step out beyond what we know and into fresh and new adventures with Him. "New" is who we are to you. "Exciting" is what we see and feel. "Adventures" are what He has planned.

We are Dave and Kirsten Hart, the new studio hosts for ZLM's weekly television program, *Zola Levitt Presents*. Over the months and years ahead, we hope to join you in your homes via television or Internet. We'd love to meet face to face sometime — perhaps on a tour to Israel or in your church — and get to know you personally. In the meantime, let us tell you a bit of our story and share with you our hearts for Israel and this ministry.

We both grew up in Christian homes —

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

Jerusalem Day

50 years Reunified

On May 12, 1968, Israel's government proclaimed a new holiday — Jerusalem Day — to be celebrated on the 28th of Iyar, the Hebrew date in 5727/1967 on which the divided city of Jerusalem

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



photo by: Ilan Bruner

Yitzhak Rabin (r) entering Old City Jerusalem 1967, with Moshe Dayan (c) and Uzi Narkiss

New Spokespeople *continued from cover*

Kirsten on the East Coast in New York and New Jersey, and Dave on the West Coast. How can God bring together a Jersey girl and a California boy? The same way that He can unite Christians and followers of the Jewish faith. On the outside, we may seem different, but similarities within bind us together.

We have been happily married for almost twenty-seven years. We are blessed with two amazing sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law, and an adorable grandson. We have loved and laughed through many seasons of life together. **Now, as empty nesters, we embrace this open door with Zola Levitt Ministries.** What an exciting time to be part of this phenomenal outreach!



Last August, God called our youngest son, Ryan, to work as a video production specialist with the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ). He recently celebrated his first six months of a two-year contract with the ICEJ. Since Ryan's move to Jerusalem last summer, Yeshua has been powerfully drawing us Harts into a fresh relationship with the country of Israel. Just a couple of weeks after returning from leading a Holy Land tour's music, the freshness of our Israel experience combined with our new positions with this ministry prove that God has remarkable plans for us. We are humbled to be a small part of Yeshua renewing people's hearts for His land and, especially, His people.

We love Israeli food: hummus, pita, falafel, and Israeli salad. We long for the peace of *Shabbat* in the Holy Land — which is a peace unlike any other we've experienced. We have a passion to amplify the Lord's Feasts and spread a depth of knowledge that comes only through embracing our faith's Hebrew foundations.

We've heard it said that "One simply does not *go* to Israel, but rather, God calls you there." We feel called ... called to His land ... called to His people ... called to this ministry. ★



Abraham's Journey
from Ur to Canaan by
József Molnár, 1850,
(Hungarian National Museum)



Levitt CONTENTS
Letter

From Passover to Shavuot [4](#)

The Jews of the Wild West [6](#)

Our Man In Haifa Eitan Shishkoff [8](#)

Classic Zola [10](#)

Pilgrimage Festivals [11](#)

Kedusha, or Holiness [12](#)

TJF Report [13](#)

A Note From Mark [14](#)

ZLM Bulletin Board [15](#)



4



6



8



13

Parsons: Hebrew Lesson [16](#)



16

Hamas Tunnels [21](#)

Letters to ZLM [22](#)



Science [23](#)

Super Bowl Tech



Medicine [24](#)

“Yo-Yo” Obesity



Why “Israel”? [26](#)



Select Briefs [28](#)

Stealth Fighter [31](#)



Archaeology [32](#)

Doric Capital



Most Wanted Terrorist [34](#)



Jewish Humor [35](#)



Jerusalem Day *(continued from cover)*

became one. On March 23, 1998, the Knesset passed the Jerusalem Day Law, making the day a national holiday.

One of the themes of Jerusalem Day, based on Psalm 122:3, is “*Ke’ir shechubrah lah yachdav*”—“Built-up Jerusalem is like a city that was joined together.”

In 2004, the Israeli government instituted a national memorial ceremony to honor Ethiopian Jews who died on their journey to Israel. ★



photo by David Rubinger

David Rubinger’s famed photograph of IDF paratroopers at Jerusalem’s Western Wall shortly after its capture (from left to right: Zion Karasenti, Yitzhak Yifat, and Haim Oshri)

50th
Year of Reunification
Jerusalem 1967–2017
From King David’s purchase,
make that 3,050 years!
II Samuel 24:24-25

From Passover to Shavuot

Tony Derrick, M.Div.
Zola Tours Leader
ZLM Interim Spokesman



Leviticus 23 covers God's instructions concerning the Feasts of Passover, First Fruits, and Weeks (*Shavuot*):

- **Passover** — Leviticus 23:4–8
- **First Fruits** — vv. 9–14
- **Shavuot** — vv. 15–22

Shavuot (Pentecost) is the only festival for which God gives no specific date. His instruction is to "count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf (*omer*) of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be completed" (Leviticus 23:15).

Jews in Jesus' time celebrated Pentecost (*Shavuot*) on the fiftieth day after the waving of the first-fruits — a "wave offering" of a sheaf of barley. The First Fruits feast celebrated the first crop of the spring growing season. That spring season would end seven weeks later with a full harvest celebration, *Shavuot* (Leviticus 23:15–22).

As is usually the case, there were two opinions regarding the date of *Shavuot*. The Sadducees interpreted the "Sabbath" literally — the 7th day of the week. So, the sheaf was offered on the first Sunday of Passover, on the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Pharisees interpreted the "Sabbath" figuratively, as the day of rest to be observed on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Historians seem to agree that as long as there was a Temple, the Sadducees' view was the accepted one. Today, rabbis base the date of *Shavuot* on the figurative interpretation of the Pharisees.



Shavuot (Pentecost) by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, 1880; The Jewish Museum, New York City



The celebrations in Israel include floral displays in the synagogues, as well as younger children adorning their heads with wreaths of flowers and carrying baskets of fruit. In the *kibbutzim* (collective settlements), the people often display the fruits of their labors, which can include industrial products that help to subsidize their once completely agricultural lifestyles. It is not uncommon to see a grand display of barley sheaves (*omer*), fruits, and vegetables adorning hotel lobbies. Thanks to the rabbis, it is not only a harvest celebration, but also a celebration of when God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

(continued next page)



In the New Testament

For the New Testament Believer, Pentecost has an altogether different meaning. It is a birthday celebration of the New Testament Church. Before Jesus/Yeshua ascended, He told His disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the power from on high. As they prayed, the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit appeared.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

— Acts 2:2–4

The Old Testament calls the Holy Spirit “*Ruach*.” The New Testament uses the term “*Pneuma*,” from which we get our word “pneumatic.” Most English translations use “breath.” The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our helper, advocate, comforter, restrainer, and exhorter. He (not it) takes center stage at Pentecost, but only to make much of the Son.

He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me; for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. — John 16:14

It is unfortunate that the King James and other old translations refer to the Holy Spirit as the “Holy Ghost.” He is anything but a ghost! The Holy Spirit is active and real. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians reminding them:

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession [that’s us], to the praise of His glory.

— Eph. 1:13–14

Because of this new infilling Presence, the disciples (all from Galilee) were able to communicate the message of Yeshua’s Gospel to Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Cretans, Arabs, etc., (Acts 2:9–11) in languages specific to each group. The Holy Spirit made it possible for over 3,000 people to understand the Gospel and be saved. A thorough reading of the Book of Acts reveals that people continued to be saved on a daily basis and added to the Church.

Pentecost was no longer just a time to celebrate the harvest of grain, but also the beginning of a harvest of souls for the Lord Jesus Christ/Yeshua, and it continues to this day. Every Believer has been filled with and sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. His presence in our lives brings God the Father and Son to a very personal level. When we think of the Father, we think of our Father in Heaven. When we think of the Son — Jesus/Yeshua — we think of Him sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. But the third person of that Trinity — the Holy Spirit — is present in us, instructing us and helping conform us to “the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). We really can live a Spirit-filled life and celebrate the joy of Pentecost! ★



The Jews of the Wild West



BY DAVID LAZARUS (r) *Israel Today*

A survey in 1878 found that of the 230,257 Jews who then lived in the United States, 21,465 settled in 11 western states and territories.

A key source about Jewish life in the Wild West comes from Flora Spiegelberg, a Jewess who kept a diary about life out on the range. Flora and her husband Willie settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico where she founded a school for Jewish children. Willie became the town's first mayor in 1884.

"When we arrived," writes Spiegelberg, "some 200 cowboys who had just returned from a roundup and were naturally armed to the teeth, rose as one man and, doffing their sombreros, bellowed their greetings and cheered me until the very rafters shook. 'Hello, lady, glad to see you,' they shouted, and they really meant it, for I was the first woman they had laid eyes on in months."



The first Jewish mayor of Tucson, Arizona, Charles Strauss, and his son in 1883.



Denver's dean of cattle buyers, Robert Lazar Miller

Jews and Indians

The Jews came into close contact with Indians. Jewish businessman Julius Meyer traded with Indian tribes in what is now Nebraska. However, one day when he was out hunting buffalo, he was taken captive by the Sioux. Meyer lived with the Sioux for years and learned their language, as well as five other Native American dialects. He later became the official Indian interpreter for the U.S. Congress.

Many Jewish traders developed relations with the Indians and learned their tongues. Moses Baruch traded with the Umatilla Indians in Oregon and became an advisor and translator for the tribe. In Los Angeles, Wolf Kalischer became a consultant to Chief Manuel Olegario of the Temecula tribe. Solomon Bibo, whose father was a cantor, went even further. After settling in Santa Fe in 1869, he married an Indian woman from the local Acoma tribe and in 1885

(continued next page)

was appointed chieftain! Chief Bibo enacted many reforms including modern agricultural techniques and founding a school for children.

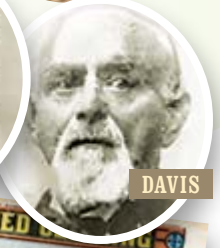
Perhaps the best known Jewish name of the Wild West belongs to Levi Strauss, a German-Jewish immigrant who arrived in San Francisco in 1853 during the gold rush. He opened a general store, Levi Strauss & Co., selling clothes, tents, and tools to the miners. One of Strauss's customers, Jacob Davis [a Jewish Latvian immigrant], shared an idea to make pants stronger using metal rivets. The two men began producing durable cotton trousers strengthened with copper rivets — blue jeans that are still a bestseller today.

An entry in Spiegelberg's diary:

"One day four stagecoach passengers arrived in Santa Fe. The station master spotted a band of Indians approaching the log cabin station and yelled for the passengers to get back into their stagecoach. The Americans complied, but the German passenger was nowhere to be found. Finally, looking behind the log cabin, the station master saw the German passenger praying softly in Hebrew, a black skull cap on his head, a prayer shawl about his neck, and a prayer book in his hand. The station master yelled that danger was approaching. Noticing the impatience and excitement of the passengers, the Jewish traveler calmly said, 'Good friends, put your trust in God and He will bring you safely to your journey's end.' Miraculously... the Indians did not attack, and the stagecoach departed safely." ★



STRAUSS



DAVIS



Seven Feasts of Israel

Study booklet, teaching CD, and DVD (7 programs on 2 DVDs)

An explanation of the commandments of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai regarding the festival days and their deep significance. The elegant and beautiful system of the special days of holy convocation and how each one has been or will be fulfilled in prophecy.

Passover/Unleavened Bread The Messiah, clearly presented.

First Fruits—The Resurrection The true and elegant origin and meaning of Easter.

Pentecost The real festival of the Harvest, fifteen centuries old when the Holy Spirit came. An uplifting look at a great miracle.

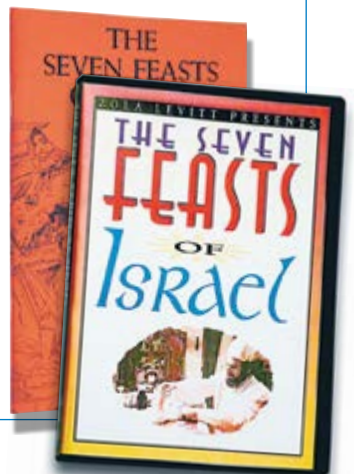
Trumpets The Rapture in its original form.

Atonement An awesome day of confession and repentance.

Tabernacles Thanksgiving, Old Testament style!

Hanukkah/Purim The delightful festivals of joy when Israel rejoices in the blessings of the Lord.

(Please see related articles on pp. 4, 10, & 16.)



My Town—Kiryat Chaim

Our Man in Haifa
Eitan Shishkoff
and wife Connie



Cradled in what some would call the armpit of Haifa Bay, Kiryat Chaim has been my home for the past 20 years. It's not even considered an independent city, never having achieved separate municipality status from mama Haifa. But if you ask me, our town is quite distinct, both in geography and personality, from its urban neighbor.



The features I like about my town include its proximity to the Mediterranean Sea, its small size that makes it easy to know, and its relaxed atmosphere — as reflected by its small shops and numerous cafes. Being close to Haifa, Akko, and the rest of the Galilee, places us in the northern portion of Israel — decidedly more home-spun than our famous big sisters, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Founding and Early Days

Founded in 1933, Kiryat Chaim is a former kibbutz named after Chaim Arlosoroff (1899–1933). Arlosoroff (a Ph.D. in economics) published a vision for Jewish socialism — that included the Biblical years of agricultural rest — as the basis for the future Jewish State. The Ukrainian-born Zionist believed in establishing peaceful co-existence with the Arabs living within Israel's ancient borders. The Mapai Party (forerunner of today's Labor Party) was formed through his influence.



At a meeting with Transjordanian Arab leaders, Jerusalem, 1933.



Aground off Bat Galim, Palestine



While Germany's Jews felt the Nazis' tightening grip, Arlosoroff brokered a deal enabling some 60,000 German Jews to lawfully emigrate to Palestine. Soon after, Arlosoroff was murdered while walking on the beach in Tel Aviv. Perhaps this "cooperation" with Hitler, as well as his work with the British Mandate for the benefit of Jews seeking refuge in pre-state

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



Israel led to his assassination. The crime remains unsolved.

Early Kiryat Chaim saw simple housing constructed on the sand dunes of the Haifa Bay. At first, growing food was the main work. In the decades that followed, the growth of Haifa's harbor and the rise of local industry provided additional jobs. A politically liberal, secular town of some 30,000, we are also the home of numerous Ethiopian Israelis.



Early kibbutz in Kiryat Chaim

Today in Kiryat Chaim

None would deny that Kiryat Chaim is in the direct path of the pollution generated by Israel's major oil refinery. This humongous maze of pipes, cooling towers, tanks, and valves spews out gases that adversely affect our lungs. Added to that, manufacturing waste finds its way into the southern corner of the bay — where the Kiryat Chaim public beach begins. Some make fun of me for swimming in these waters. However, the proximity and enjoyment of natural saltwater waves leaves me grateful, not cynical, about the blessing of such easily accessible oceanic bathing.

Since moving here at the end of 1996, we have seen a fine, modern train line provide national transportation with conveniently located stations right in our neighborhood. At the same time, many homeowners have renovated their apartments alongside fresh construction that makes Kiryat Chaim newly attractive. Here, as throughout Israel, one sees the incredibly rapid progress made in our mere 69 years as a re-born nation. L'Chaim to Kiryat Chaim! ★



Jihadists Returning Home to Europe

Back From The Road

Classic Zola
from 1982
35 years ago



Well, another Passover season has come and gone and it feels like the end of a hard year. I can relax now after umpteen speaking engagements, two Passover television programs, and lots of travel. The Church won't be so desperate to hear from Jewish Christians until next spring, so I can take it easy for awhile.

I certainly do get called to a variety of churches. I'm one of the few speakers who are allowed to cross every line and teach in every kind of place. I talk to Charismatics and non-charismatics, liberals and conservatives, blacks and whites, and to every denomination anybody's ever thought of. I'm the exception to every rule because my people have become rare in the Church that we started.

There must have been a day back in the first century when the Church got together and invited a gentile Christian to give his testimony. They must have been fascinated to hear of his unique customs, his holy days, and his conversion to Christianity. Well, now the shoe is on the other foot and the Jewish Christian is the exception. I really gather a crowd.

I speak in churches where they know the Passover rite so well they almost say it along with me. I speak in one particular church where I see people turn to each other and say, "That's new this year." I also speak in churches where if I quote a verse like, "I go to prepare a place for you," they don't know what I mean or that I'm quoting Scripture. But the truth is, **everybody who tries Passover likes it**. Many churches have no idea what knowing the feasts of Israel, and especially

Passover, would mean in terms of understanding our common faith. As a matter of fact, a good friend, brilliant in the Old Testament, lost his job as a Sunday School teacher after teaching the Seven Feasts in his church! I exclaimed, "There must be some mistake. I'll write a letter for you." But he just said, "They know you, and they think you're mistaken too."

Some Believers think that a knowledge of Judaism somehow hurts their Christianity; that knowing the Old Testament harms one's faith. As if knowing the Constitution makes one a bad American. Parishioners have actually walked out of churches when I began to speak Hebrew during the presentation. It seemed that the language of our Lord hurt their ears. I don't mean to belabor the point, but we must face that a majority of Christians think that the Old Testament is outmoded, or even contradicts the New Testament; that Passover — the feast that Jesus Christ observed on the night before His death — belongs strictly in the Jewish community.

Of course, those really aren't the churches that invite me to speak most of the time. Those are the exceptions; and when they do invite me, I don't get invited back, so I don't have to deal with them very often. On the contrary, **most of the churches I visit are filled with victorious Believers and I'm deeply impressed with their level of Bible study**. There are many churches in smaller towns where, in actuality, I'm the one who gets blessed. I really see God's glory among well-studied Believers. ★



Three Pilgrimage Festivals

FROM ASK THE RABBI / Aish.com

ASK
the Rabbi

Q. The Bible mandates that the entire Jewish nation go to Jerusalem for the three pilgrimage festivals. **Is this still practical today?**

A. From a technical standpoint, only when the Temple was standing were people required to appear three times annually and bring an offering — on Passover, Sukkot, and Shavuot.

Nevertheless, today tens of thousands of people visit the Temple site and the Western Wall during festival days. A unique aspect of pilgrimage arises with the Lord's instruction.

Imagine we're a committee writing the Bible. If we made up a law that all the men in Israel are required to go to Jerusalem and visit the Temple three times each year on special pilgrimage days, do you think it would be a good idea?

Positive argument: It unites the people. They get inspired to gather as a nation and see the priestly service in the Temple.

Negative argument: If all the men are in Jerusalem, who's going to guard the land? What happens when enemies find out that no one is protecting the borders? It wouldn't take long to figure out that three times a year, the Jews leave themselves wide open to attack.

Of course, we could send the men in shifts, rather than all at once. But Exodus 34:23 is very clear: "Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the Lord God of Israel."

Who of our committee would write this? And if one thinks that a nationwide pilgrimage is the making of a national tragedy, the very next verse promises: "No one will be envious of your land when you go to be seen in God's presence" (Exodus 34:24). In other words, don't worry. God will make sure that no one even thinks of attacking you!

The Author of the Bible knows that He can control the thoughts of Israel's enemies, even their bullets! Which brings us to an astounding conclusion: Not only does this pilgrimage idea demonstrate that God has supernatural control, but simple psychology forces us to ask who else but God could write such a thing and expect it to happen? This is just more evidence substantiating God as the Author of the Bible. ★

Dry Bones Mr. History Asks a Question.



©17 Kirsch

Kedusha, or Holiness



BY RABBI DAVID FOHRMAN (r) AlephBeta.org

Wishing you a joyous *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day on Tuesday, May 2. There is perhaps no term more closely associated with spirituality or religion than *kedusha* or “holiness” — and at the same time, no term quite so mysterious.

As it presents itself in the Torah, *Kedusha* seems to suggest to me a melding of two almost impossibly different worlds: This world and a world beyond. God belongs to another world. His Presence is not a thing we can touch or feel; our senses cannot apprehend Him. He is transcendent in the sense that He is quite literally “beyond our world.” We relate to Him, even as we live in our world — a concrete world of space and time, of things, animals, and people; a world our senses are geared to apprehend.

Kedusha, then, in a nutshell is “transcendence made imminent.” It is the Venn diagram that charts the intersection of God, the ultimate transcendent Being, and our own concrete world. When God shows Himself in our world, we call that phenomenon “holiness.”

Thus: Moses takes off his shoes at the Burning Bush because the ground is holy. Israel can't touch the mountain at Sinai because it is holy. What made these places “holy” was God intersecting with the world in those places. The bush burned but was not consumed because the fire wasn't earthly; it came from Heaven. The bush was just the vehicle upon which the fire rested; it was not the fire's source, and therefore, it did not burn. The same with the mountain burning but not being consumed: The fire didn't come from the mountain; it came from Heaven.

It doesn't take a Burning Bush to have holiness in our lives. The Bible bids us all to be “holy” — which suggests that we can be that middle section of the Venn diagram that charts the intersection of Godliness in our world. **We can be vehicles for Godliness** in how we lead our lives, both personally and communally. **Intentionally:** We are vehicles for Godliness in the world because we intend to bring God into the world. **Despite ourselves:** We become vehicles for God's design unknowingly, whether we like it or not. And sometimes, the reality is **somewhere in between:** We think we are living our lives all by ourselves, only to discover that God has been beside us, all along.

I think that Jews, as a nation, experienced a moment of holiness — of transcendence made imminent — 69 years ago in the birth of the State of Israel. When I look at newsreels of the time, the dancing in the streets in which old and young, Orthodox and Reform, joined hands to celebrate raucously together, I get the feeling that this was a moment when everyone seemed to see God in the world. The ineffable, the Master of the Universe Himself, intersected the circle of our existence in a moment of dazzling glory. Yes, the soldiers were concrete people. You could touch and feel the arms they bore. The United Nations that voted for partition was an earthly, concrete institution. But those concrete things and people, somehow, were all just the vehicles. The day was about transcendence; transcendence made imminent. ★



Venn diagram by Michelangelo

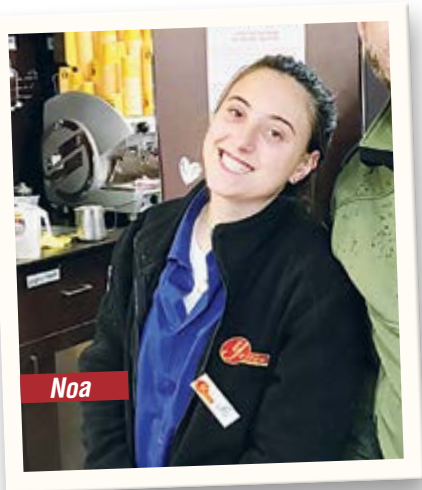


The Greater Son of David

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
TJF Team Leader



During **To The Jew First's** 40th Gospel outreach to Israel, August Rosado and I stopped at a sunglasses shop on Ben Yehuda Street in downtown Jerusalem. We spoke with Nathaniel, whose name means "gift of God," and using this meaning to open the conversation, we shared with him how Yeshua is the Messiah, God's great gift to Israel and the world, bringing salvation to all who believe in Him. We left Nathaniel a complete Bible (with both Old and New Testaments) in Hebrew, explaining that with this gift of God's Word he can encounter and learn about Yeshua the Jewish Messiah.



From there, the Lord led us to visit the Valley of Elah, where David slew Goliath (1 Samuel 17). It had rained all day, muddying the historic valley. On the northern hill that overlooks the valley where King Saul, his Israelite armies, and David the shepherd boy stood 3,000 years ago, today stands a Paz gas station, where we met Noa, the cashier. She had never before heard that David — shepherd boy and King of Israel — received an eternal, unconditional covenant from God. In the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:8–17), God promised David that one of his descendants would reign on his earthly throne forever over Israel and the world.



We informed Noa that this royal descendant of David is the Messiah — Yeshua of Nazareth (Matthew 1:1). The angel Gabriel reiterated God's promise when he announced to Miriam/Mary that she would bear God's son: **"the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end"** (Luke 1:26–33). **August and I told Noa that this same Davidic King and Messiah died to give her eternal life.** Everything we told Noa can be found in the Word of God, and we left a copy for Noa to read in the place where it all began for David. ★



You Have No Idea (nor did I)

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



“Oh ye of little faith...” (Matt. 8:26). Oh *me* of little faith, because I was in the same place as many of you readers when contemplating this ministry’s inevitable transition to new spokespeople. Here’s an example of the recent concerns we have heard:

Dear ZLM,

I was shocked and saddened to read that Myles and Katharine had stepped down. The announcement was buried in the *Levitt Letter* ([March 2017, p. 14](#)). This was disrespectful to them and to those who have supported ZLM for years. What are we to think?

Zola Levitt Presents isn’t just a TV show. It’s a ministry. Myles and Katharine are our brother and sister in Christ as well as spiritual leaders. We have some interest in them beyond curiosity. I love them and am concerned. They, and we your audience, deserve more than such a sendoff. I will continue to support Israel-centered ministries, but until the Lord tells me to and I have peace about ZLM’s leadership, I won’t be sending any more money.

Disappointed, K.N.

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” (Ecc. 3:1)

This ministry will always emphasize its Biblical message rather than celebrate its messengers. We thank all our leaders for their voices: Zola, Jeff & Sandra, Myles & Katharine. You and I must remind ourselves that God remains in control and the best is yet to come. It’s that simple. Period, as Zola used to say.

It was a step of courage for this ministry’s decision makers to face what had become an undeniable crescendo

of signs that our television program must enter a new era. In more ways than one, our organization is not alone in abiding the wisdom of H.G. Wells: “Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature’s inexorable imperative.”

In recent years, ZLM has experienced a notable decline in readership and financial support. It so happens we’re in good company. Baseball is changing its rules to speed up the game for distractible fans. Golf has its troubles, most probably attributable to faster, more captivating pastimes. **How can *Zola Levitt Presents* attract a new generation of viewers while continuing our tradition of teaching the meat of the Word as you have come to expect?**

Soon you will experience our answer to this spiritual challenge, which television producer Ken Berg, other capable ministerial workers, and I have been praying about for quite awhile. Consider yourself beseeched: keep watching, praying, and supporting this imperative work of the Lord. Keep the faith; we are about to surpass your expectations with an innovative approach to availing the vast majority of American households (plus many millions abroad) to the broadest and deepest of Biblical expertise.

In the meantime, please [see Dave and Kirsten’s article on p. 1.](#) ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



Israel Bonds

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon observed: "Purchasing an Israel bond shows your solidarity and helps finance the future of the Jewish State. More than just a good investment, it allows us to invest in critical infrastructure projects." By purchasing a bond, you become a partner in building what is truly God's country. Warren Buffett noted that he would have purchased "a perpetual bond if you had offered one. I believe Israel is going to be around forever." For info on rates, please contact: Israel Bonds, 641 Lexington Avenue 9th Floor, New York, NY 10022, (800) 229-9650 www.israelbonds.com.



Free Levitt Letter Overages

Would you like 12, 24, or 36 recent *Levitt Letters* to give away at your church, health club, or doctor's office? We've been printing a few extra for people who want to serve as Newsletter Ambassadors. Imagine delivering this ministry's teaching to those who don't know it even exists—FREE. Please help us reach more people by periodically letting us know how many newsletters you can put to good use.



Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

When Should a Woman Have a Will? Our featured pamphlet enumerates 11 answers that include: when she is single or married, when she has children (minors or adults), and when she owns property. It suggests reviewing estate plans when her marital status changes, when she wants to name her own personal representative, or when she has charitable wishes. Reason #8 explains: "A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs—even for modest estates." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



How to Watch ZLP

Hunting for our television program *Zola Levitt Presents* may be easier than ever. Here are some ways to tune in and watch your favorite episodes:

- **Scheduled Broadcast:** local TV, cable, satellite (request our free airing schedule on p. 19) or see it at levitt.com/schedule
- **Online:** levitt.tv and YouTube.com/ZolaLevittPresents
- **TV boxes:** see levitt.com/roku
- **Video podcasts** via iTunes for iPhones, iPads, etc. See levitt.com/podcasts
- **DVDs:** available on page 18 and at store.levitt.com

www.levitt.com/airsch includes our national network broadcasts (Daystar, Freeform/ABC-Family), Dish, DirecTV, and dozens of independent stations. Public libraries and friends welcome you to watch ZLP as well.

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See page 36
for details



HebrewLesson

Shavuot – The Feast of Weeks

John J. Parsons

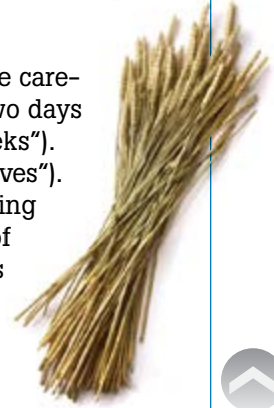


נָתַתִּי אֶת־תּוֹרַתִּי בְּקִרְבָּם וְעַל־לִבָּם אֶכְתָּבֶנָּה

“I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts” (Jer. 31:33)

נָ	תַּ	תִּ	אֶ	כְּ	בְּ	נָ	וְ	עַל־	לִ	בָּ	בְּ	בְּ	קִ	רְ	בָּ	אֶת־	תּוֹ	רַ	תִּ	נָ	תַּ	תִּ		
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ekh-ta-	ven-nah	ve-al-li-	bam	be-kir-	bam	et-to-ra-ti	na-tat-ti	I will write	and upon their heart	in their inward part	my Torah	I will put												

In Jewish tradition, forty-nine days—seven weeks of days—are carefully counted between the holiday of Firstfruits, which occurs two days after Passover, and the holiday of *Shavuot* (“Pentecost” or “Weeks”). This period of time is called *Sefirat Ha’Omer* (“counting the sheaves”). Every day during this season, a special blessing is recited naming exactly how many more days are left before the “seven weeks of days” are complete. God did not want the Jewish people to miss something here! It’s almost as if there was a dotted line pointing directly from Passover to Pentecost—a Jubilee of days!



Originally an agricultural festival, traditional Judaism views *Shavuot* primarily as *mattan Torah*, a time that commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Historically, as one of the three pilgrimage festivals, Jews from all over the world would come to Jerusalem to celebrate and reaffirm their commitment to the covenant of Moses.

And such was the practice when God delivered the *Substance* of which the festival of Pentecost was merely a “type and a shadow.” For the New Testament reveals that Pentecost is the climax of God’s plan for our deliverance through Yeshua, the true Lamb of God (*seh ha’Elohim*). The countdown to Pentecost represents the giving of the anticipated New Covenant to mankind, since it was on this very day that the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of the Messiah (Acts 2).

With a touch of divine irony, on the very day that people from around the world gathered in Jerusalem to reaffirm their commitment to the covenant of Moses, the Holy Spirit descended upon Israel to offer the promise of the New Covenant to all who would believe (see Acts 2:1–42). This new and better covenant makes Torah a matter of the **heart**, written by the hand of God’s Spirit, and yielding a life fruitful in the praise of God (Jer. 31:31–33; Gal. 5:22–23; Heb. 13:15). ★



To
Index

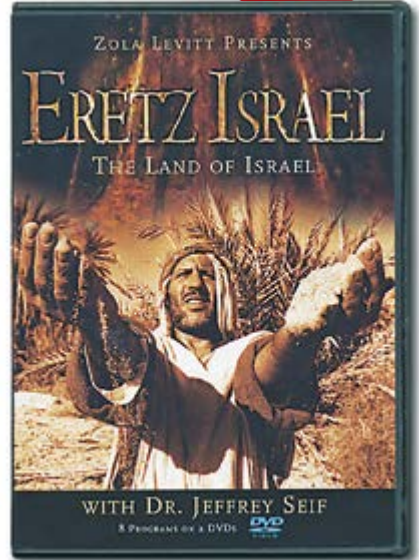


Back to
p.7

Eretz Israel *(The Land of Israel)*

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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



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

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

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



Episode: "The Land Promised"

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

Fighting for the Promised Land The ageless mandate — to lay claim to the patriarchs'

promises — was passed on to Joshua. We examine the battle at Hazor that secured the northern territories for Abraham's offspring.

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

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

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



To
Index

**We Accept
PayPal!**

ZLM product ORDER FORM

ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

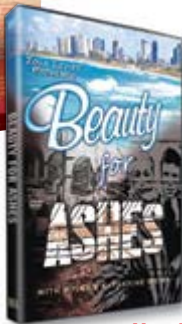
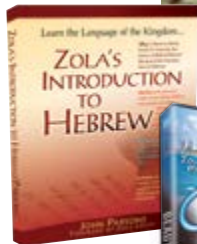
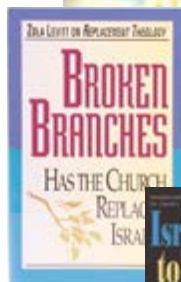
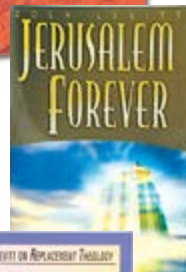
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever	\$4	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$10	___
___	Genesis One	\$5	___
___	The Iranian Menace	\$8	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus	\$14	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land	\$2	___
___	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	\$7	___
___	Once Through New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	___
___	The Messianic Passover Haggadah	\$6	___
___	Raptured	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Beauty for Ashes <i>New!</i> (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Daniel & Last Days' Battle... (8 prog, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Eretz Israel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Esther (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Feast of Lights (3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Secrets of the Scrolls (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Warrior King (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Zion Forever (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



Order online at
<https://store.levitt.com>
By phone call 24/7:
800-966-3377, or
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844, or
print out this entire
2-pg. form, fill out
box at right, mail to
ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas TX 75225

New!



ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.



Qty.	Item	Price	Total
▶	2-flag Collar Pin	\$2	_____
_____	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$37.50	_____
_____	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$22	_____
_____	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	_____
▶	Drink Koozies (set of 2) <i>New!</i>	\$5	_____
_____	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
_____	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
_____	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$10	_____
_____	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2017)	\$6	_____
_____	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)	\$8	_____
_____	Messianic Prophecy Scroll	\$39	_____
_____	Messianic Roots Lapel Pin	\$10	_____
_____	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
_____	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	_____
_____	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
_____	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark 2 for	\$1	_____
_____	Airing schedule FREE		no charge
_____	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only) FREE		no charge



Teaching CDs by Zola

▶	Discovering Our Jewish Roots	(9 CDs)	\$39	_____
_____	The Miracle of Passover	CD	\$7	_____
▶	The Seven Feasts of Israel	CD	\$7	_____
_____	The Spirit of Pentecost	CD	\$7	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

▶	A Pilgrim's Journey	(includes lyrics sheet)	\$12	_____
_____	The Works	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Works II	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____

Please send this entire 2-page Order Form—Thanks. ▼



Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

up to \$15.99, add \$5
 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7
 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9
 \$61 to \$97.99, add \$10
 \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING

For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

(Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.)

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

Name _____

(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional) _____

On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____ Card ID# required _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Zion Forever DVD Set

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

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

Western Wall The Western Wall is the closest that Jewish people can get to the site of the Holy of Holies. We see a Bar Mitzvah celebration at the Wall and hear how King David purchased the threshing floor atop Mount Zion.

Southern Steps Myles and Katharine Weiss walk along the southern edge of the Temple Mount where Messiah and other worshipers would have entered.

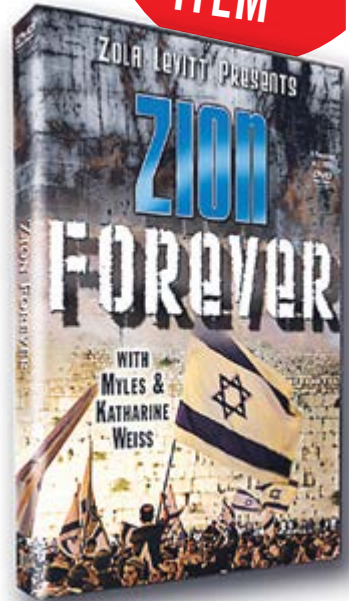
Kidron Valley From the Kidron Valley, which lies between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives, we hear the history of Jerusalem. Messiah will enter through the Golden Gate when He comes again.

Valley of Elah Young shepherd boy David slew the giant Goliath here. We discuss the walls of ancient Jerusalem, the Gihon Spring where David's forces invaded the city, and the tunnels at the southern end — possibly the final resting place for Judean kings.

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

Temple Mount The Temple Mount is the earthly center of spiritual warfare. We see thousands of artifacts from Bible times that have been discovered in the debris discarded over a decade ago from unauthorized Moslem excavations. Guest archaeologist Zachy Dvira was first to note the debris's importance. (*Please see archaeology article on pp. 32, 33.*)

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



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

Hamas Tunnels Still Threaten Israel



BY ANNA AHRONHEIM (r) JPost.com

Israel still lacks a solution to the Hamas tunnel threat, even though it has invested more than NIS 600 million (\$165 million) in detection technology and trained every ground soldier to handle an attack from underground.

According to a former security cabinet minister, despite Israel's evaluating more than 400 solutions to the tunnel threat, "none is what we need. We still don't have the optimal solution."



Photo: REUTERS

An IDF soldier in a tunnel used by Hamas gunmen for cross-border attacks

The State Comptroller Report published earlier this year found that the army was unprepared to deal with the threat posed by Hamas tunnels before the 2014 war known as Operation Protective Edge, despite prior knowledge by Israel's political leadership. This is one of the major criticisms leveled at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-defense minister Moshe Ya'alon by the state comptroller, who found that despite receiving intelligence about the threat, they did not pass on its severity. Yoav Gallant, a member of the security cabinet and former IDF general, reported recently that Hamas had built 30 tunnels by 2014.

This was a major intelligence failure that struck fear into the Israeli population and resulted in the deaths of 11 IDF soldiers. During the war, the IDF discovered 32 cross-border attack tunnels used by Hamas to ferry

weapons and operatives into Israeli territory, and destroyed most of them.

Since then, Israel's Elbit Systems and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems — the same companies that produced the Iron Dome missile defense system — have been working to develop an "underground Iron Dome" system that would be capable of detecting, mapping, and neutralizing cross-border tunnels.

Since 2014, Yahalom — the elite unit of the IDF's Combat Engineering Corps responsible for blowing up the tunnels during the war — has increased threefold in strength and received upgraded technology to deal with the threat. And the army's overall training of soldiers has improved.

But Hamas is known to have invested large amounts into rebuilding tunnels, and Israeli government sources have confirmed that at least 15 attack tunnels cross under the border into Israel.

Israelis living near the border with Gaza have reported hearing underground drilling, raising fears of new attacks. A senior IDF officer said that the army is well aware of Hamas's continued tunnel building, and takes every report of drilling seriously. Hamas builds its tunnels toward civilian communities in a strategic maneuver to inflict the largest amount of casualties, he said.

The IDF has warned that Hamas has restored its military capabilities to their pre-2014 strength, and in January of last year its politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh boasted that, "There are those who think that the calm is a time of rest, but this is a continuation of the struggle. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades are working and preparing for Palestine. Fighters are digging." ★





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From M.B.: I certainly hope the Weisses' change is productive for them; I know they'll be missed and hope all is well. I felt a tinge of surprised disappointment when it dawned on me that they were gone. Are they back in California full time? Flying so much gets old, I'm sure. Tony's answers were very good in the [Levitt Letter](#). I'm glad a strong voice is so readily available, "waiting in the wings."

From B.C.: Wow! Big changes at ZLM, huh! We were delighted to "meet" you, Jane, and your husband, Tony, in the [monthly newsletter](#). I had no idea you had been there for 28 years! Please increase our monthly donation. Same credit card. And we thank you both for stepping up to the plate to fill the present need. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

From J.W.: Came across a Gem of Wisdom from Warren Buffett: **On Israel:** "You can tell prospective investors that I would have taken a perpetual bond if you had offered one. I believe Israel is going to be around forever. If you are looking for brains, energy and dynamism in the Middle East, Israel is the only place you need to go." [\(Please see Israel Bonds on p. 15.\)](#)

From T.Y. on [The Miracle of Passover](#) video: Wow, amazing lessons! Now I understand the connection between Passover and the Last Supper. Thank you for this teaching.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



TWO ANTS? YOU HAVE ONLY TWO ANTS!?! MY WIFE AND I EAT LIKE 100,000 PER DAY EACH!

Welcome Back, Tony!

Dear Tony,

Re: your [Personal Letter \(March 2017\)](#). So sorry to see Myles and Katharine move on, but happy to see you, Tony, taking up the mantle for now. I remember meeting you on a Zola Tour, and Jane also. I have been privileged to go to Israel six times, five of them with Zola groups. I would love to go back to Israel, but my health doesn't permit it (nor do my finances for now). Welcome back, Tony Derrick! — D.A.

Dear D.A. —

Thank you for the welcome back note! Jane and I remember you and your cooperative spirit on the tours. Tour passengers like you make the pilgrimage "fun" like Zola wanted it to be. While I am an interim spokesperson, I thank you for continuing to pray for ZLM during this time of transition. Kind regards — Tony ★



Israeli Technology & the Super Bowl

SCIENCE: BY SHARON UDASIN (r) JPost.com



As New England Patriots and Atlanta Falcons fans gritted their teeth during the first Super Bowl to end in overtime, they could connect closer than ever to their favorite teams through an innovative Israeli technology.

While watching the game on their TV screens, fans were able to “Be the Player” — experiencing first-downs and fumbles from the players’ point of view through Intel’s 360 Replay, developed in Israel. At the game in Houston, 38 cameras were installed throughout the stadium, generating “immersive experiences” for viewers without requiring players to wear devices on their facemasks or jerseys.

“This technology is absolutely changing the game,” said Intel’s sports group general manager James Carwana, in a video press release prior to the Super Bowl. **“Fans are going to be able to watch the game not just from the sidelines, but from the center of the field.”** It’s an incredible medium that creates amazing new sports experiences.”

Be the Player is based on the free-D feature developed by the Israeli company Replay Technologies, which was acquired by Intel last year.

The 38 individual 5K cameras — devices with a resolution of 5,000 pixels — were installed all around the stadium, streaming live to an Intel server on site, explained Jeff Hopper, Intel’s general manager for immersive experiences, also in the video. The data are then processed in real-time to produce the Be the Player clips.

“Think of it as a big cloud of data of everything that goes on the field, and that you’re able to go into that cloud of data and see from any angle what you want to see,” Hopper said.

By digitizing the entire arena, the Intel technology creates a “three-dimensional voxel” — or cube — instead of a two-dimensional pixel, according to Carwana.

The system produces 15- to 30-second replays aired during live broadcasts that each require about 1 terabyte of data and are available from about a minute to a minute-and-a-half from the moment they occur on the field, according to Intel. The result is a virtual reality service that FOX Sports, which broadcast the game, described as a video game-like experience. ★





Gut Microbes Contribute to “Yo-Yo” Obesity

MEDICINE: FROM WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / Weizmann.ac.il

Following a successful diet, many people find their weight rebounding — an all-too-common phenomenon termed “recurrent” or “yo-yo” obesity. Worse, the vast majority also gain more weight with each dieting cycle. During each round of dieting-and-weight-regain, their proportion of body fat increases, and so does the risk of developing the manifestations of metabolic syndrome, including adult-onset diabetes, fatty liver, and other obesity-related diseases.



Researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science have shown in mice that intestinal microbes — collectively termed the gut microbiome — play an unexpectedly important role in exacerbated post-dieting weight gain, and that this common phenomenon may be prevented or treated by altering the composition or function of the microbiome.

The study was performed by research teams headed by Dr. Eran Elinav of the Immunology Department and Prof. Eran Segal of the Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Department. The researchers found that after a cycle of gaining and losing weight, all the mice’s body systems fully reverted to normal — except the microbiome.

For about six months after losing weight, post-obese mice retained an abnormal “obese” microbiome.

“The microbiome retains a ‘memory’ of previous obesity,” explains Elinav.

In a series of experiments, the scientists demonstrated that **the makeup of the “obese” microbiome was a major driver of accelerated post-dieting weight gain.** For example, when the researchers depleted the intestinal microbes



“Resistance training is just as important as cardio. Train yourself to resist chocolate, pastries, fried foods, beer, pizza....”

© Randy Glasbergen



(continued next page)



in mice by giving them broad-spectrum antibiotics, the exaggerated post-diet weight gain was eliminated. In another experiment, when intestinal microbes from mice with a history of obesity were introduced into mice that carry no microbiome of their own (i.e. germ-free), their weight gain was accelerated, compared to germ-free mice that received an implant of intestinal microbes from mice with no history of weight gain.

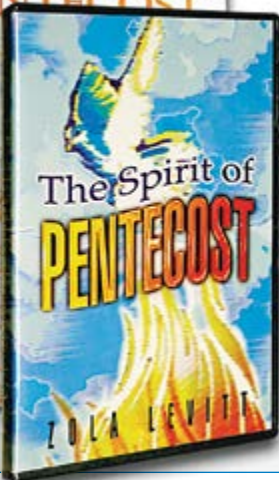
Next, they identified two molecules driving the impact of the microbiome on regaining weight. These molecules — “flavonoids,” obtained from certain vegetables — are rapidly degraded by the “post-dieting” microbiome, becoming significantly lower than in mice with no history of obesity. The researchers found that these two flavonoids promote energy expenditure during fat metabolism. Low levels in weight cycling prevented this fat-derived energy release, causing the post-dieting mice to accumulate extra fat.

New treatments: First, they implanted formerly obese mice with gut microbes from mice that had never been obese. This fecal microbiome transplantation erased the “memory” of obesity, preventing excessive recurrent obesity.

Next, the scientists used an approach that is likely to be less objectionable to humans: They supplemented post-dieting mice with flavonoids added to their drinking water. This brought their flavonoid levels, and thus their energy expenditure, back to normal levels. As a result, even on return to a high-calorie diet, the mice did not experience accelerated weight gain. Segal said: **“We call this approach ‘post-biotic’ intervention.** In contrast to probiotics, which introduce helpful microbes into the intestines, we are not introducing the microbes themselves but substances affected by the microbiome, which might prove to be more safe and effective.” ★



THE SPIRIT
OF
PENTECOST



The Spirit of Pentecost

Study booklet & teaching CD by Zola Levitt

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

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

Why Is Israel Called Israel?



PART 1: BY ELON GILAD (r) Haaretz.com

This month, the State of Israel celebrates its 69th Independence Day, which is an apposite time to ask: How did Israel get its name?

This is actually three separate questions that we'll address over three months.

- What did the name Israel originally mean?
- How did the ancient Jewish people and their homeland come to be known as "Israel"?
- How and why was this particular name chosen for the modern state?



The Merneptah Stele, which states: "Israel is laid waste, its seed is no more." Not quite.

The Israel Stele

"Israel" has been the name of an ethnic group in the Levant going back at least 3,200 years, based on the first known mention of the name in the written record, which was in ancient Egypt.

The Merneptah Stele (aka "Israel Stele," pronounced: steel-e) dates from the late 13th century B.C. and bears a hieroglyphic inscription: "Israel is laid waste, its seed is no more."

For all Pharaoh Merneptah's claim to have crushed the people called Israel, they survived the Egyptian incursion into Canaan and would evolve into a consolidated Kingdom of Israel around their capital city, Samaria, during the first centuries of the first millennium B.C. But, the name Israel goes back more than 3,200 years: how did this tribe get that name?

In the Bible, the ancient peoples of the Levant were generally named for their progenitors. For example, the smaller southern kingdom of Judah is named for Judah, the son of Jacob. But the Biblical explanation for the name of Israel is more complicated. The common ancestor of the Israelites was not a character named Israel, but Jacob, or Ya'akov.

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

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



(Of course, God is infallible — unlike manmade award ceremonies)

Why Is Israel Called Israel? *continued*



Most are familiar with the story of how Jacob wrestled with God one night and prevailed. God gave him a new name: “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:24–30). Thus, Jacob was renamed Israel after he battled with God and endured — but what does the name literally mean?

The verb “*isra*”?

Theophoric names, comprising the name of a deity and a verb, were common in the ancient Near East. (Examples still in use today include Jeremiah, “God exalts;” Daniel and Jehoshaphat, both meaning “God judges;” a number of names based on the Greek and Roman gods, and so on).

“Israel” is evidently a theophoric name, but the verb in theophoric names in the ancient Near East, and in ancient Israel in particular, should describe an attribute of the deity, not of the person. So, based on that rule, the verb *isra* probably described the god El in some way. The problem is that it isn’t clear what that rare verb *isra* means, and various scholars and translators do not agree.



Jacob Wrestling with the Angel, by Rembrandt (ca. 1659)

The Bible’s translators used the description of how the name was conferred and concluded that “*isra*” is a verb that describes Jacob’s relationship with the deity El. The King James translation of the Bible, for example, took the verb to derive from the root s-r-r and thus interpreted it “as a prince hast thou power,” or in other words, “rules like a prince.” Other scholars have suggested that the verb comes from the root y-sh-r, — meaning “straight” or “fair,” thus the name would mean something like “God is just.”

But the best answer is apparently that which the Bible itself gives in Genesis 32:28, that *isra* means “struggles,” or “fights.” But, following the rule, it isn’t Jacob who is doing the struggling, it’s God. By that interpretation, “Israel” means “God shall fight.” ★

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

New Israeli Law Retroactively Legalizes Settlements

By John Reed / Financial
Times (FT.com)

The Israeli Knesset in February passed a law that would legalize so-called settlements, a move critics warned would mark the first step toward annexing parts of the West Bank, while paving the way for possible future prosecution of Israel for war crimes.

In a late-evening vote, MPs ignored warnings from opposition center-left lawmakers and the UN and passed second and third readings of the Regularization Bill, which will legalize retroactively some 55 Jewish settlements scattered around the occupied West Bank, where the Palestinians claim to want to build their future state. International law views all settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegal and, until now, such outposts were illegal under Israeli law as well, as they are built on private land on which Palestinians have claims.

The vote comes at a pivotal time for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the calculus for which has changed since new U.S. president Donald Trump named supporters of the settlements as his Israel advisers.

Benjamin Netanyahu opposed the bill last year, warning that it could breach Israeli and international law, however switched his position, saying that he had notified the Trump administration about the proposed bill.

The law could still be struck down on legal grounds. Avichai Mandelblit,

(continued next page)



*The new Nike
athletic hijab*

Nike Hijab Faces Backlash on Social Media

By Avery Matera / TeenVogue.com

Nike announced in March that the company would release its first-ever athletic hijab. The Nike Pro Hijab, designed and tested by figure skater Zahra Lari and weight lifter Amna Al Haddad, will hit the market in 2018. With the innovation comes criticism, as many have taken to social media to express their distaste with Nike's new product.

Amna confronted the backlash head-on, posting an open letter in support of Nike and its newest endeavor.

"I do realize there is a lot of mixed reactions as to why Nike decided to create such a product 'now,'" Amna writes. "It is a recent phenomenon where more women have expressed a need for it and more professional athletes have fought for rights to compete with a headscarf, and have an equal playing field. We made it big in the news, we couldn't be ignored."

Amna expresses hope for the future, explaining that this sports hijab "will encourage a new generation of athletes to pursue sports professionally." Now, how can you disagree with that?

**What will Nike think of next?
High-performance stones to compel
women to wear hijabs? — Mark**



Photo: REUTERS, Gali Tibbon

**Netanyahu (L) with Avichai Mandelblit**

Israel's attorney-general, warned Netanyahu before the vote that he deemed the bill to be unconstitutional and was not prepared to defend it if it was challenged before Israel's supreme court.

Israel Bars BDS Supporters

By Laurie Goodstein / NYTimes.com

Israel's parliament (Knesset) struck back at the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement against the country and its settlements in the West Bank by passing a law barring entry to foreigners who have publicly supported the movement.

The measure in March received little notice in Israel, but the following day set off alarms in the United States, where Israel's critics and some of its most loyal Jewish supporters alike warned that it would further isolate the country.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest Jewish movement in North America, said from Jerusalem: "It's going to be a giant sign: 'Don't come unless you agree with everything we're doing here.' I don't know what kind of democracy makes that statement." The Reform Jewish movement opposes the expansion of settlements, but is strongly opposed to BDS, and actively works to dissuade American church groups from passing divestment resolutions.

The bill passed the Knesset, 46 to 28, with proponents calling it a common-sense measure to exclude "haters," and opponents warning that it would backfire and encourage further boycotts. With hopes for a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians vastly diminished, Palestinians and their supporters have been advocating BDS, which they compare to the campaign against apartheid in South Africa — an analogy fiercely disputed by defenders of Israel.

Academic groups, artists, churches, and companies from many countries are boycotting or divesting from Israel, or from the "occupied territories" in the West Bank [otherwise known as Judea and Samaria]. The Israeli government and other critics say the boycott movement is anti-Semitic and aims to undermine Israel's right to exist.



Photo: Michael Appleton, NYTimes

A banner calling for the boycott, divestment and sanctioning of Israel hangs from the Manhattan Bridge in New York.

Bezalel Smotrich, a co-sponsor of the bill, said: "We will now stop turning the other cheek. **Preventing BDS supporters who come here to hurt us from the inside is the very least we should be doing against haters of Israel.**"

Dov Hanin, who voted against the legislation, said that at a time when boycotts against settlements are being promoted around the world, the law "is really a law to boycott the world."

The new law applies to any foreigner

(continued next page)



To Index

“who knowingly issues a public call for boycotting Israel” and is aware that this “has a reasonable possibility of leading to the imposition of a boycott.” Eytan Fuld, a Smotrich spokesman, said there was no “blacklist” of individuals; the law will apply to “known organizations” and their “main activists.”

Some American Jewish leaders were alarmed that the new law makes no distinction between groups that support boycotts of Israel proper and

those that support boycotting products made in West Bank settlements.

Rabbi Jacobs said the law would deter the kinds of people he often brings to Israel, those who have questions about its policies and should see the country for themselves.

[U.S. Code Title 18 §2385](#) specifies penalties for attempting to overthrow America’s government. To survive, nations must defend their sovereignty. —Mark. ★

The Warrior King: David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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

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

David and Saul We explore David’s abuse at the hands of King Saul, and his bond with the king’s son Jonathan. We evaluate Saul’s death and David’s gracious response.

Family We look at David’s marriage and family intrigue.

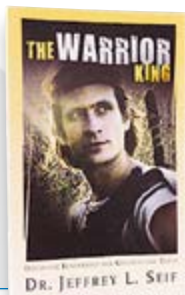
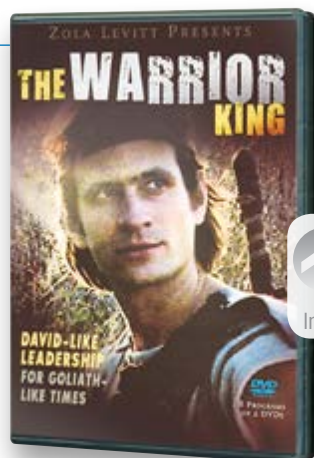
Wars David was a warrior—a spiritual role model for us all! Philistine, Amalekite, and Ammonite wars are discussed, along with modern-day relevance.

Celebrated Warrior King Though anointed by God for kingship, David spent 13 years running from Israel’s first king before ascending to the throne.

A Messianic Prototype The New Testament refers to Jesus as the “Son of David.” We examine how the Old Testament predicted a coming Davidic Son.

Israel’s Sweet Psalmist David’s gift for creating poetry and music shows a softer side.

Messiah We consider the Messianic parallels in David. You’ll walk away saying “Messiah lives!” and, we hope, believing that He lives in you.



The Warrior King book

From the TV series of the same title, this 86-page transcript of highlights includes dozens of photos and an abundance of Hebrew with translation. Can be used with the series or independently. *The Warrior King* is a story about the Old Testament’s David—Israel’s greatest soldier. It’s also about the Bible’s “Son of David”—Jesus, and how God uses abysmal circumstances to improve those who rely on Him.

Stealth Fighter Extends Israel's Reach

FROM *ISRAEL TODAY* magazine



Israel is extending the “long arm” of its Air Force with the best fighter jet in the world: the American-made F-35 stealth fighter manufactured by Lockheed Martin. The first two brand new stealth combat jets recently arrived in Israel with another 48 on order — enough for two mighty squadrons.



The F-35 Adir is considered the best jet fighter in the world

Israel has named the stealth fighters *Adir*, a Hebrew term meaning both “powerful” and “glorious.” **The cost for each jet is a whopping \$122 million**, \$40 million more than the U.S. versions. The price difference is a result of producing an aircraft with the unique specifications required by the Israel Air Force (IAF).

“Israel wants its own special systems that no one else knows about,” Joshua Shani, chief executive of Lockheed Martin Israel, told the Israeli financial newspaper *Globes*. “All the electronic warfare, command and control, and communications systems installed in the plane need to be Israeli-made.” If the American jet is outstanding, the Israeli clone is even better.

“The U.S. doesn’t have the secret systems installed on the Israeli version, such as an internal communications system between the planes and air control,” explained Shani. “The U.S. has its own good systems, but they are different. Israel always wanted its own independent electronic warfare systems. If a new Russian missile is brought to the region, these systems can change the capabilities of planes within a short time and adapt them to a new threat. It takes the U.S. months to make such changes, and we don’t always have this amount of time.”

“If the American jet is outstanding, the Israeli clone is even better.”



Describing the F-35 as a “new generation” of warplane, Shani compared it to a new smartphone versus a first-generation cellphone. The F-35 thinks and behaves very differently from the old F-15s and F-16s. “The plane’s stealth capabilities make it unique, but it also has the capability to collect intelligence and attack targets.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said **the F-35 is a symbol of the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel**: “It’s a sign of [the U.S.]... commitment to Israel’s security on many fronts,” he said. Israel is America’s “best and most reliable ally in the Middle East — in my opinion beyond the Middle East. We will always remain so.”

Netanyahu also paid tribute to the new stealth weapon saying, “The F-35-Adir combat aircraft can operate in any area, be it close or far away... Today the ‘long arm’ of the Israel Defense Forces just got even longer.” ★

Doric Capital

Dr. Gabriel Barkay



ARCHAEOLOGY: The Temple Mount Sifting Project / TempleMount.wordpress.com

As we begin to wrap up some areas of our research, new areas open. An intriguing category of finds from our project comprises “building fragments” and “special stones.” For example, in November, we uncovered a small piece of a Crusader Period (1095–1291 A.D.) column. We have found many small fragments of stone that originated in elaborate buildings and columns. We can identify architraves, bases, capitals, and column drums. Some of these even may have originated from the Temple structure itself.

From the Hellenistic period (323–31 B.C.), corresponding to the early Second Temple Period (530 B.C.–70 A.D.), we have recovered a limestone column capital of the Doric order. The capital was fully preserved, and based on its diameter, we assume that it stood on a column more than 13 feet high.

We plan to put this capital on top of a restored pillar and present it grandly at our sifting site. In the meantime, it lies unnoticed by our many thousands of visitors.

The Doric capital’s concave bands and other attributes date it to the second century B.C. It

is one of many such capitals that adorned the eastern, earliest portico of the Temple Mount, making it pre-Herodian.



This rare relic enables us to begin to reconstruct this eastern portico, on the outside of which is a vertical seam separating two different types of masonry. To the south of the seam is Herodian masonry, and to the north is earlier masonry, perhaps from the days of the Hasmonean Dynasty and the early Second Temple later expanded by Herod.

This capital is unique. It is one of the few pieces we have of a complete architectural member — not a small find. Because of the bulldozing and the way that Moslems removed the earth from the Temple Mount, most of the artifacts recovered by the Sifting Project are small and broken.

Our Doric capital was most likely overlooked and forgotten by the *Waqf*, which held on to the large, nicely cut pieces of architecture from the debris removed from the Temple Mount.



DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE!

There is photographic evidence from the illicit bulldozing of another Doric capital that has since been lost. We looked in the “garden of columns” on the Temple Mount, but did not see it there. We may never learn where this and the other large pieces are kept — or discarded — making this recent find even more important as it is the only one to which we have access.

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



The Temple Mount

The story of the Temple Mount is the story of Jerusalem itself. A holy site to the largest monotheistic religions, it is one of the most concentrated archaeological sites in the world. Yet, *due to religious and political concerns, it has never been properly excavated.*



Heavy machinery used for digging a new entrance to “Solomon’s Stables” (November 1999). This work was done without archaeological supervision, removing 9,000 tons of earth, rich with ancient artifacts.

In 1999, the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement conducted illegal renovations on the Temple Mount and disposed of over 9,000 tons of dirt mixed with invaluable archaeological artifacts into a makeshift garbage dump in the Kidron Valley. Innumerable artifacts were destroyed or lost, veritable treasures that would have provided a rare glimpse of the region’s rich history.

In 2004, **The Temple Mount Sifting Project** was founded under the direction of archaeologists Dr. Gabriel Barkay and Zachi Dvira in order to sift through this neglected earth and to find, preserve, and research the artifacts dating to every era of the Temple Mount’s rich history. These artifacts represent the first-ever archaeological data that originated below the Temple Mount’s surface.



Over the past 13 years, the Sifting Project has worked intensively to give unprecedented access to the archaeology of the Temple Mount. With the help of over 200,000 volunteers from all over the world, it has grown into a project of international significance and made over 500,000 important discoveries. These artifacts enrich the discussion on Jerusalem’s past. Yet, much work remains to unearth the site’s full story and share it with the world.

Our ministry’s [Jerusalem Archaeology Fund](#) has contributed thousands of dollars to unearthing the stones that cry out (Luke 19:40). —Mark ★



Most Wanted Terrorist

FROM MEMRI.org

On March 14, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that Jordanian national Ahlam Aref Ahmad Al-Tamimi, was being charged with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction against U.S. nationals outside the U.S., resulting in death. The charge is related to her participation in the August 2001 suicide bomb attack at the Sbarro pizza restaurant in Jerusalem that killed 15 people, including two U.S. nationals.

Al-Tamimi had been sent to prison in Israel in 2003 for 16 life sentences, but was released as part of a 2011 Israel-Hamas prisoner exchange. Since then she has lived in Jordan, whose constitution forbids extradition of Jordanian nationals. The FBI also announced that Al-Tamimi has been placed on its list of Most Wanted Terrorists.



Following her release, Al-Tamimi gave a series of interviews on Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV. Excerpts from an interview on July 12, 2012:

Interviewer: "Sixteen Zionists were killed [in the suicide bombing you helped carry out]."

Ahlam Tamimi: "Afterwards, when I took the bus, the Palestinians around Damascus Gate were all smiling. You could sense that everybody was happy. When I got on the bus, nobody knew that it was me who had led [the suicide bomber to the target] ... I was feeling quite strange, because I had left [the bomber] 'Izz Al-Din behind."

"While I was on the bus and everybody was congratulating one another, they said on the radio that there had been a martyrdom attack at the Sbarro restaurant, and that three people were killed. I admit that I was a bit disappointed, because I had hoped for a larger toll. Yet when they said 'three dead,' I said: 'Allah be praised.'"

"Two minutes later, they said on the radio that the number had increased to five. I wanted to hide my smile, but I just couldn't. Allah be praised, it was great. As the number of dead kept increasing, the passengers were applauding. They didn't even know that I was among them."

"On the way back [to Ramallah], we passed a Palestinian police checkpoint, and the policemen were laughing. One of them stuck his head in and said: 'Congratulations to us all.' Everybody was happy."

Excerpts from an interview on October 19, 2011:

Interviewer: "If you could go back in time, would you carry out such a large-scale attack?"

Ahlam Tamimi: "Of course. I do not regret what happened. Absolutely not. This is the path. I dedicated myself to jihad for the sake of Allah, and Allah granted me success. You know how many casualties there were [in the 2001 attack on the Sbarro pizzeria]. This was made possible by Allah. Do you want me to denounce what I did? That's out of the question. **I would do it again today, and in the same manner.**" ★

JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

Two Beggars

Two beggars sit side by side on a street in Mexico City. One has a cross in front of him, the other a Star of David. Many people pass by and look at both beggars, but they put money only into the hat of the beggar sitting behind the cross.

A priest comes by, stops, and watches people giving money to the beggar behind the cross, but none to the beggar behind the Star of David.

Finally, the priest goes over to the beggar behind the Star of David and says, "My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country. People aren't going to give you money if you sit there with a Star of David in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who has a cross. In fact, many would probably give to him just to favor the church."

The beggar behind the Star of David listens to the priest and, turning to the beggar with the cross says, "Moshe ... look who's trying to teach the Levine brothers about marketing!" ★



A cheerful heart is good medicine—

Proverbs 17:22



"Your x-ray showed a broken rib, but we fixed it with Photoshop."



Brothers & Sisters:

Join the King David Club

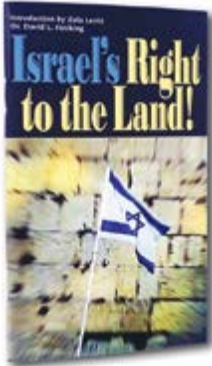
Help us advance the Kingdom!

When you donate \$10,000, you will receive the following with our grateful thanks:

1. One each of all our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth), not just for your library, but also to give away.
2. One \$500 discount on each of up to four (4) of our tours to Israel.
3. One-on-one telephone conference with Mark Levitt to discuss this ministry's goals and visions.

Israel's Right to the Land booklet

by David L. Hocking



Just as its title implies, this booklet answers head-on the question: "What right does Israel have to its land?" Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel's Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that

resolve this topic once and for all. Let's spread the Word on who owns the Land ("from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates" —Genesis 15:18) by divine right!

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit #1851

Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225

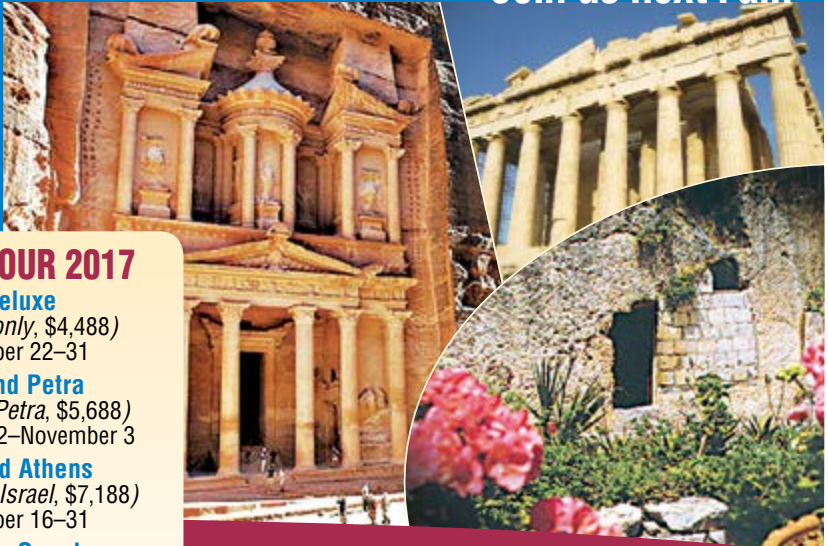


Zola Tours Israel

Visit Israel, Petra, and Greece

Join us next Fall!

Petra,
Athens, &
Garden
Tomb



FALL TOUR 2017

Deluxe

(Israel only, \$4,488)
October 22–31

Grand Petra

(Israel + Petra, \$5,688)
October 22–November 3

Grand Athens

(Greece + Israel, \$7,188)
October 16–31

Ultra Grand

(Greece + Israel + Petra, \$8,388)
October 16–November 3

For more info and registration see:
www.levitt.com/tours

Call Zola Tours at 214-696-9760
or email travel@levitt.com.

A refundable deposit by credit card
will hold your reservation.

Go!

Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



To
Index



Back to
p. 15