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#### Dear Reader,

Our new studio co-hosts, David and Kirsten Hart, are talented speakers, singers, and writers who enthusiastically introduce guest teachers on our weekly TV program *Zola Levitt Presents*, and appear in our newsletters as well. This month, Kirsten ponders what parts of Jewish Law apply to gentiles (*p. 6*).

Our cover story describes a Russian mathematician's emigration to Israel that turned into a symbol for freedom. The side cover portrays God as our model for kindness and love, practiced by our To The Jew First ambassadors in Israel (13).

Consulting theologian Tony explores personal pain and the comfort available to Believers through Yeshua's support in tough times (4). John Parsons's Hebrew Lesson echoes His promise of refuge (16).

Our Man in Haifa encounters a family story right out of history books (8). ZLM's business manager and TV syndicator provide data on the ministry's adaptations (12, 14), and dispel misperceptions of our supposedly "going gentile" (22–25).

Check out the prophecies being fulfilled (21) that show we're in the Last Days! Another end-times sign: proving the Bible's accuracy, convincing even skeptical archaeologists (32). Nevertheless, technological Israel still prospers by improving personal transportation (26) and combating nuclear terrorism (28).

Our series on Israel's name ends this month (34) just a couple of pages after we suggest how to pray for those who influence policy regarding Israel (31). The Fall Tour to Israel, Greece, and Petra will have four leaders and live music (36). There's much more; please open this issue and enjoy!



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Shalom, 🤿	Nand
Margot, ZLM ed	litor 🕗

**P.S.** Kirsten points out that this ministry's olive branches are combining to create oil that will produce a light to the nations. So, we thank you for financially supporting Zola's ongoing vision. Now more than ever we need to sustain the heartbeat of teaching "Christianity through Jewish eyes." Amen, Kirsten!

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

Changes for the Ministry – <u>p.12</u>

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Reason to Celebrate!

Freed Soviet Jewish refusenik\* Nathan Sharansky

By David Samuels / TabletMag.com

On July 4, 1974, a 26-year-old mathematician named Anatoly Borisovitch Shcharansky was joined in marriage to Natalia Stieglitz, aged 24, in a friend's apartment in Moscow. The day on which Americans celebrate their freedom with hot dogs and fireworks was probably the last opportunity that the two young Soviet citizens had to get married, as the bride had only a day and a half remaining on her exit visa. The day after the marriage, the bride left Moscow for Israel, as Avital Shcharansky. While her husband hoped to follow her within a few months, it would be nearly twelve years before she would see him again.

Anatoly Shcharansky first applied for an exit visa from the Soviet Union in 1973. As a former child chess prodigy and a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, the young mathematician was

(continued p.2)

### Kindness — A Two-Way Street

By Rich Robinson / JewsForJesus.org

In one Bible translation, we find "steadfast love" and "loyalty." In another, we find "mercy," "kindness," "goodness" and "lovingkindness." Which Hebrew word is rendered in all these different ways? It is "chesed," (pronounced **kheh**-sed), found some 249 times in the Old Testament. Most often, we encounter chesed in the Psalms—26 times in Psalm 136 alone. [See also April 2017 Levitt Letter, p. 6]

Since *chesed* is often used in the context of a covenant, it has been suggested that it also can be translated as "covenant love"—meaning the faithfulness required by the (continued p.3)

hoto by: Nathan Roi - The Jewish Agency for Israe

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Reason to Celebrate! <u>continued from cover</u>

the kind of person that Soviet authorities liked to hold up as an example of the success of their progressive, scientifically ordered society. His application to leave the country was denied on the grounds that he had enjoyed access to information that was vital to Soviet national security. The bureaucrat who declined Shcharansky's visa application may have been right according to the Orwellian criteria that were then prevalent — but he or she did far more damage to the Soviet Union by forcing the young mathematician to stay.

**Soviet bureaucrats and security personnel had no shortage of reasons to distrust Shcharansky.** He was the translator and go-between for physicist Andrei Sakharov, one of the fathers of the Soviet nuclear bomb and the inventor of the Tokamak nuclear fusion reactor, who became the target of a sustained campaign of pressure and threats by his fellow scientists and the KGB in 1972 for his insistent warnings against the dangers of nuclear proliferation. In 1976, Shcharansky himself became one of the founders and a leading spokesman for the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, which devoted itself to the Sisyphean task

of ensuring that Moscow lived up to its commitments to ensure the human rights of its citizens under international treaties. With Sakharov's blessing, Shcharansky also became the most visible spokesman for the growing mass movement of Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

On March 15, 1977, Shcharansky was arrested on charges of high treason and spying for the United States. He would spend the nine years following his trial imprisoned in Siberia while his wife Avital, whom he knew as a quiet and shy woman,

galvanized a mass movement of Jews in America and elsewhere to fight for her husband's freedom. Transforming her imprisoned husband into an international symbol of Soviet oppression and of the resilience of the human spirit, Avital



Ronald Reagan with Natan Sharansky

personally pled Anatoly's case with Ronald Reagan and other world leaders, who were moved by the purity and modesty of her self-presentation, and the fierce, unshakable nature of her convictions, a combination that reminded more than one observer of a female Gandhi.

On February 11, 1986, Anatoly Shcharansky was freed on the direct order of Mikhail Gorbachev, under personal pressure from Ronald Reagan, and rejoined his wife Avital in Israel, as **Natan Sharansky**. Three years later, the Soviet Union collapsed. In the long

view of history, it seems likely that the campaigns that the Sharanskys helped to lead, both inside and outside the Soviet Union, will be seen as having played a significant role in dismantling a tyranny that controlled the lives of over one billion people, and which plausibly aimed, at one point, in bringing the entire planet under its rule, thereby destroying the ideals of freedom which Americans celebrate every year, on July 4, as the Sharanskys celebrate their anniversary.

Natan Sharansky is now the head of the Jewish Agency and a close associate of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Freed Soviet Jewish dissident Anatoly and wife Avital

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# Kindness—A Two-Way Street

covenant. You might say that *chesed* lives on a two-way street—as something that God certainly shows to His people but also desires for us to give back to Him, and to one another.

Thank God for His *chesed*, because:

- Like King David, we can cry out to God for forgiveness of sin based on His *chesed*: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness (*chesed*); according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions" (Psalm 51:1).
- Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can be confident in the midst of great trial, "Through the LORD's mercies (*chesed*) we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not" (Lamentations 3:22).
- Chesed is what He desires from His people: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, (chesed) and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).











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To belong to a God who so instructs His people is a wonderful thing.

Of course, God's people don't always give Him His due. In Jeremiah 2:2, God recalls the earlier devotion of Israel (His covenant people), also likening it to a marriage covenant: "I remember you, the kindness (*chesed*) of your youth, the love of your betrothal..."

But while we human beings often fail in showing *chesed*, God never does. Rather, His response to Israel's failure, and to the failure of the human race, was the greatest act of *chesed* of all time. He sent His son, Jesus, to atone for our sin.

All believers in Jesus are under the New Covenant predicted in Jeremiah 31:31ff. That means that all believers in Jesus have become "covenant people" and recipients of God's *chesed*. God desires that we reciprocate His loyal love as well as showing *chesed* to one another.

**Tony Derrick**, M.Div. *Zola Tours* Leader ZLM consulting theologian



As I grow older, I have become more nostalgic. I yearn for simpler times, like Sunday evenings after church (yep, we had church services on Sunday evening back in the day) when we would stop by the local Dairy Treat for a strawberry sundae, and then head home to watch Bonanza on TV. Ah, those strawberry sundaes and Cartwright boys.

Yeshua: Our Friend, Redeemer, and Confidant

The reality of death seemed simpler, too. When someone in the com-



Jesus' Teaching on Greatness, woodcut for "Die Bibel in Bildern" by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1860)

munity died, their body would be brought to the home of the deceased and people would visit and pay their respects. Never understood that custom, but that's the way it was. As a youngster, I wasn't sheltered from death. I remember an older friend who had been married only a short time but died in a freak oil field accident, leaving a young, devastated widow. I also remember a family down the street who lost their twenty-year-old son in a head-on car accident. Those memories are etched in my mind, along with numerous more-joyful memories.

My nostalgia has been especially strong this year, looking back to 2006, when my father died in February of a massive stroke, and then Zola died in April. I lost first my father and then the mentor who taught me most of what I know about Israel and touring the Holy Land within months of each other. It was a trying time of life.

As you sit on your couch, in your recliner, or outside on the patio reading this newsletter, I have no doubt that you have lost someone close to you: a parent, spouse, child, or cherished friend. I cannot change that, nor can I take away the emptiness that you feel. But each of us has a friend who understands our despair. His name is Yeshua!

#### **He Understands Our Pain**

Please allow me to take you on a quick journey, discovering why Jesus can understand your circumstances. Philippians 2:5–8 is our first stop.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation **taking the form of a bond servant**, **and coming in the likeness of men** [emphasis mine]. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (NKJV)



*Carrying the Cross* by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1860)

Our LORD set aside all His rights as the Son of God for one purpose: so He could be born a man (experiencing all of life as everyone else), but at the same time living a sinless life and paying the price for our sin on the cross. The Law demands payment for sin — a blood sacrifice. Yeshua became the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. In His short thirty-three years, He experienced physical pain, emotional distress, and all the other indignities of this human life. He understands our frailties, inside and out.

Next, we can know that He felt loss, because He wept over the death of His friend Lazarus. John 11:35, "Jesus wept." The Bible also tells us (John 11:38) that He "groaned within Himself" as He approached the tomb. Even though He knew that He would raise Lazarus, He had compassion for Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. Yeshua has compassion for us, even though He knows a day is coming when the dead in Christ will rise! 1 Thessalonians 4:16,

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

#### He Has Compassion on Us

We also find Jesus having compassion for the multitudes in Matthew 9:36. "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." This may be the sweetest verse of all for us, knowing that when we are off course in our spiritual walk, the Good Shepherd is there to guide us back on track without judging us or scolding us for taking a wrong turn. He is a true friend, and because He came as a man, He understands the many temptations we face in this life! One of the old hymns of the faith poses the question, and then supplies the answer. Are you weary? Are you heavy hearted? Tell it to Jesus! Tell it to Jesus... He is a friend who's well known! Are you weary and heavy hearted? You can tell it to Jesus!

Hebrews 4:14-16 gives us our final look into our greatest help.

"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

I'm finding in my latter years that I need that "grace to help in time of need" more often, or perhaps I am more sensitive to my need for Him. Have you ever sensed His presence in a time of need? When our daughter was 4 or 5 years old and the night was stormy, she would come to our bedroom and stand at the head of the bed on my side. She didn't touch me or say anything, but I would awaken knowing someone was present. I've never seen our LORD physically, but I have experienced His presence many times in my hours of need.

#### He Hears Us

One of my favorite verses in the Bible, recorded in Jeremiah 33:3, offers encouraging words: "*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you* great and mighty things which you do not know." Call Him. He will answer and be a present help in your time of need. (See also Psalm 34:17.)



### "Read Galatians, Friends!"

Kirsten Hart co-studio host of Zola Levitt Presents



I was simply scrolling through my Facebook page — enjoying photos of friends' children, smiling at funny posts — when I read an interesting "status" (update) written by someone with whom I'd apparently attended college, although I didn't remember him. His status read: "Why do so many Christians want to be Jews? Read Galatians, friends!"

Well, that intrigued me. In his letter to the Galatians. Paul wrote: "the law was our guardian until Christ came. in order that we might be justified by faith" (Gal 3:24). As I started reading through all of the Facebook responses. I felt that I had to answer my fellow alum's question, so I did. "Jesus was 100% Jewish. Maybe to be more like Christ?" Then the backlash began. The first response to my comment was, "GALA-TIANS!" (In screaming caps). I responded, "One book? How about all the rest?"



#### The attacks came fast and

furious: "What book on this side of the cross tells

Christians to act like Jews?!!!" "Are you being serious or playing the devil's advocate, Kirsten?!! OMiGosh!!!" "Read Galatians and feel the passion of the Jewish believer against gentiles being bewitched into acting like Jews and get back to me."

#### **Gentile Believers and the Law**

At this point, I probably should have turned off my social media, but I didn't. The various responses raised several questions:

- Can gentile believers in the Jewish Messiah participate in 'rituals' that aren't meant for non-Jews?
- Where is the line between gentiles following our Jewish Messiah and offending ethnic Jews?
- How do gentile Believers\* learn what we can and can't do? If a gentile Believer wears a prayer shawl, is that encouraged or scorned?
- Can we observe only certain feasts?

Yes, I am writing this as a gentile Believer raised in Christian churches but with a newfound love for Israel and God's chosen people.

What part of the Law handed to Moses do we/should we follow and obey? Can gentile Believers pick and choose which aspects of the Law we follow? Did Yeshua "free" us from all of it (Gal. 3:13)? Christians like the Ten Commandments, though we don't feel the need to keep the one about Shabbat. St. Paul statue in front of St. Peter's Basilica by Adamo Tadolini (1838)

It's like "this one we want, that one doesn't apply to us." Eeny, meeny, miney, moe. For believers in Yeshua, is it about *all* the written Law or only the "new Law written on our hearts" (Romans 2:14–15)?

#### **The Foundation of Faith**

Now back to that Facebook post: "Why do so many Christians want to be Jews? Read Galatians, friends!" Speaking for David and me, we don't need to be of Jewish heritage to embrace the foundational heritage of faith. Our Lord and Savior was the only perfect Jew who ever lived. He followed the Mosaic Law without error and "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). In other words, He observed and followed the very laws He had given to Moses. Yeshua, the *Word* of God, spoke the Law into existence. He made it. He followed it. He fulfilled it.

Perhaps gentile and Jewish Believers are not bound by the same Old Testament laws as are unredeemed Jews. But does that mean we cut off any and everything "Old Testament"? Zola's mentor Tom McCall called a New Testament without the Old Testament an "Amputated Bible." Yeshua Himself observed all of the Feasts — the *moedim*, the God-appointed times. He never said, "You are not to meet the Father at His appointed times (the Feasts) anymore." In fact, communion is part of the Passover Seder (meal)! Yeshua told the Disciples, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:25).

Christians "wanting to be Jews"? Perhaps these gentile Believers see the beauty, significance, and actual relevance of the Feasts and Laws given to God's people. Jews who accept Yeshua recognize Him in their ancient rituals; gentile Believers familiar with the *moedim* can see the Messiah too. We long for the depth of relationship that Yahweh has maintained with His people since His promises to Abraham. We realize that Yeshua came for *His people*—the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24, Jeremiah 50:6). Let's face it, gentiles weren't yet grafted in, weren't yet *His* people.

Many of you readers either grew up Jewish or studied Judaism for years. Others of you are just now learning about the Jewish roots of your faith. Even the name "Christian": I was always taught that to be Christian meant being Christ-like. It seems to me that to be truly Christ-like, we would become Jewish-like, yes?

#### **Our Common Goal**

My conclusion after this train of thought? We are on our own journeys to be more like Christ. Isn't that the goal *we all have in common*? I'm thankful that Matthew recorded in 22:37–40 what Yeshua said He desired of His followers: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Sometimes obedience is way simpler than we expect. I'd love to know how you feel! Are you a Jewish believer in Yeshua? A gentile Believer? Can we crisscross what we all do in remembrance, celebration of, and worship of our Savior? Let me know!



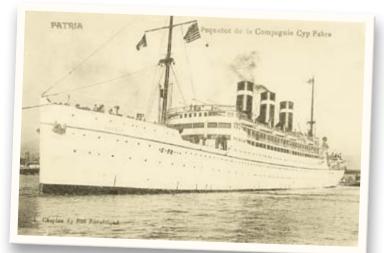


# Yitzik and the Patria

Standing at the tailgate of a pickup truck hardly seemed the place for a memorable lesson in Israeli history. But I've learned that touching encounters can happen during the most seemingly mundane social situations. My "teacher" was Yitzik, owner of the Haifa print shop with which my ministry has done business for years.

*Our Man in Haifa* **Eitan Shishkoff and wife Connie** 





SS Patria in harbor

I expected him to deliver my printing and leave. He's a busy guy, and Friday before *Shabbat* begins is a hectic time in Israel. Instead, we struck up a conversation that soon turned pleasingly personal. Yitzik told me that his father had gone to America in the early years of Israel's statehood to learn the printing profession. Born in 1958, Yitzik eventually followed in his dad's footsteps and took over their printing plant — an impressive operation located in a sizable warehouse in Haifa's old business district.

Always curious about the cultural and historical background of Israeli families (who've returned from the four corners of the Earth—see Ezekiel 37:21), I asked, "So, where did your folks come from?" "Bulgaria," answered Yitzik. "What!" I stammered. "My dad's family—the Shishkoffs—came from Bulgaria." At that moment, I felt a kinship. Here was a business acquaintance rapidly becoming a friend.

Yitzik proceeded with a most amazing and heartbreaking story. His grandparents, father, and uncle barely escaped Bulgaria as the Nazis were rounding up Jews to exterminate them. They were able to book passage on a ship from



Turkey to then-Palestine. Finally arriving in the Haifa harbor in late 1940, their ship was impounded by the British and they were transferred to the *Patria*, set to be rerouted to Mauritius. Unbelievably, when European Jews most needed safety, British policy barred these traumatized refugees from resettling in their Jewish homeland.

(continued next page)





SS Patria with wartime refugees

boat's engine, aiming to disable it without any damage to the over 1,800 passengers. By causing the ship to remain in the harbor, they hoped to avoid the exhausted, desperate passengers being deported. In a miscalculation, the *Haganah* overestimated the force necessary to cripple the already feeble ship, and in just 16 minutes, the boat sank by tragic mistake. Both of my grandparents drowned — among the 267 who died, never to enter the Promised Land. But my father and uncle survived and were granted entry!"

I was speechless. Here I am, shooting the breeze with my printer, and suddenly my heart and mind are gripped with excruciating gratitude for the price paid by those who preceded us in founding this nation out of the ashes (Isaiah 61:3). To top it off, the original family name of Yitzik, a secular Jew, was Haimoff — which happens to be one of the original Messianic Jewish families in all of modern Israel. When I next see him, I have to find out if Yitzik's people are related to these pioneer Believers in the Land. Wouldn't that be a profound touch of drama from the Author!



"IF I POST THIS ON KING GEORGE'S WALL, YOU'RE ALL GOING TO LIKE IT RIGHT?"

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Earnestly recounting the courage of his family, Yitzik had me hanging on every word. "The Jewish resistance forces (*Haganah*) decided to bomb the





### Does it Matter Where We Come From?

"Does it really matter to human beings what they think about their origin?" I asked Dr. John N. Moore, professor of natural science at Michigan State University. "It makes a big difference," he answered. "But first, some definitions so we understand what we're talking about."

The way we behave toward our fellow man depends on who we think he is, and who we think we are. If we believe man is a purposeful creation of a loving God, we take a different view of ourselves and of others than if we believe that we are descended from animals. In the latter case, we tend to behave like animals, in accordance with such lineage.

Animals are "good husbanders" and their behavior is well ordered and perfectly appropriate to their place in nature. They live by simple rules: might makes right, the fittest survives (usually), the superior killer dictates. Animals are regimented into classes based on their relative strength and cunning. Animal societies are extremely materialistic, success being based on the ability to gather food and occupy the more hospitable surroundings peculiar to the particular class. All that makes for efficient, orderly organizations of living creatures that prosper under their systems.

When human beings think of themselves as superior animals, they tend to live according to animal principles. Animal behavior is not appropriate to human society, Moore said. Human beings do not tolerate well the reign of the "superior killer." The antelope understands that the lion dictates the rules of their relationship, but the antelope does not expect to be tyrannized by another antelope. People are basically like that too, for most human beings have a gut-level distaste for dictatorship and control. **Classic Zola** from 1982 35 years ago



Human totalitarian societies exaggerate animal behavior. Animals do not overkill or gather more abundance than they need. They do not seek to dominate territories beyond their own needs, and they do not try to establish control over one another. The more powerful animals do not seek to organize the less powerful into oppressed minorities. Generally, the less powerful animals are not forced to work for the more powerful. "Live and let live" would more accurately express the animal societies, whereas the dictatorial regimes of men are not above utterly killing off the less powerful.

The oppression of peoples — Jews and Blacks, for example — by other peoples is actually beneath the level of animal behavior. But oppression seems justified by evolutionary thinking, or some derivative of it: persecuted ones are supposedly not the fittest and so they will not ultimately survive. Killing them off becomes "natural."

Dr. Moore believes that the communist ideology originally took hold from evolutionary concepts in the era when men learned how to select superior strains of vegetables and animals. That system assumes that "superior" humans can be engineered in the same way as high-quality hybrid corn and leaner swine.

Evolutionists believe that natural selection — the perpetuation of desirable genetic qualities and the elimination of undesirable ones — determines the survival of good corn and also human beings. But, men tend to select qualities in domestic organisms according to their own tastes, which is artificial selection.

I agreed that totalitarian systems were bad, but I pointed out that most of the free world does not subscribe to such excesses. Side view of head of Chimpanzee "Mafuka"

"Well, evolution is being taught in our schools," Dr. Moore answered.

I hadn't thought much about that aspect. I was taught the Theory of Evolution when I went to school, but it wasn't taught as a theory, and no alternative was presented. Charts in our schoolbooks showed the classification of plants and animals into various species and their presumed relationship to one another. I had always assumed that I was studying established scientific fact.

Dr. Moore conceded that the plant and animal genetics I had studied probably were valid, but unfortunately, he added, school children are taught evolution as if it were fact. Attached to scientific fact is a respect for it, or at least behavior to conform to it. Each child who apprehends the idea of "survival of the fittest," naturally wishes to become the fittest. It's not that they become bestial, but they begin to compete with one another in the cold and unforgiving manner of animal competition. Restraining rules of instinct and proportion influence animal competition, but the creative human

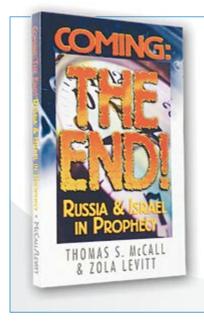
being can be a more cunning competitor. By the time children become teenagers, they have had

prolonged exposure to the implications of evolution. They begin to see themselves and others as evolved animals rather than as creations of a caring Creator.

Finally, the finished adult emerges as a fierce competitor, covetous and materialistic.

Of course, the sinful nature of man — his natural propensity to acquire and self-center — operates, but evolutionary thinking hardly relaxes the tendency. In the manner that evolutionary philosophy gave Hitler and Stalin excuses for their systems, the idea that men are "improved animals" gives materialistic people an excuse for excess.

It's hardly fair to the animals. As Will Rogers once said, "I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons."



#### **Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy** Book & teaching CD by Zola Levitt and Dr. Thomas S. McCall

This study of a primary end-times prophecy is vital for all who believe the Scriptures. One chapter, *A Strategy for Unbelievers*, even tells unbelievers how to cope with the Tribulation Period! This basic book of prophecy analyzes the world situation in surprising terms. Hal Lindsey called it "a must-read for everyone who wants to know where we are on God's timetable."

# **Changes for the Ministry**

**Clayton Herring** *Zola Levitt Presents* syndicator



Recently, CEO Mark Levitt and I discussed the trend of people watching their televisions less often, with some dropping their cable or satellite service completely. The dwindling number of *Zola Levitt Presents (ZLP)* viewers who watch conventional broadcasts (i.e. using "rabbit ears"), means that our distribution outlets are weakening. How are we to remain viable? In my opinion, we need to focus more on the future and less on the past. Here are five areas we can work on.

#### 1) Updating ZLP

Television producer Ken Berg felt led to choose two gentiles to host the program, which alienated some supporters. Nevertheless, we hope that this change will reverse the annual revenue loss of 4–6%, a consistent trend ever since Zola left us. The new *ZLP* series *Called Together* (debuting in August) will feature the long-awaited "magazine style" format hosted by the Harts, with teaching by Eitan Shishkoff. Note: Please see Eitan's "Our Man in Haifa" column on <u>p.8</u>.

#### 2) Expanding new media

We just added ITVN, the Israel Television Network, which streams pro-Israel content online without adding distribution expenses. Even though cable and satellite outlets are in decline, we now have over 104,000 Facebook followers! Only the Lord knows the future, but soon ZLM may have more viewers watching us online than on television. Our outreach should prepare for that likelihood.

#### 3) Reducing old media

Few new offers to purchase broadcast time are attractive. Most of our distribution monies go to Daystar, which continues to expand and add more households. However, according to the data available to me (see #4 below), the faith-based network is still a costly investment. If future donations resemble ongoing trends, then we may need to drop one of our three Daystar airtimes.

#### 4) Upgrading software

ZLM needs to find newer donor-tracking software. The existing program is decades old, which is a testament to its stability, but it is outdated.

#### 5) User friendly

We need to make it simpler for people to watch *ZLP* at <u>levitt.tv</u> (via desktops and mobile devices). Ken and our webmaster, Greg, are exploring ways to reduce the number of clicks necessary to play our most current program.

Older organizations tend to resist change. Some cut R&D spending to increase short-term profits, but at the expense of long-term viability. We all would like to see ZLM prosper, so I encourage ZLMers to pray for discernment as He leads us. We will rely on the Lord to provide a growing and giving donor base so we can continue ministering until He returns!









To Index

### ShaliachReport It's About Relationship

BY ROBIN HOPPER, TJF Outreach Team Ambassador

My wife and fellow **To The Jew First** ambassador, Sue, and I are about relationship. We do our best to maintain ongoing relationships with those to whom we bear witness in Israel. Keeping in touch is sometimes difficult, as people move on in their careers before we return to the Land. However, the relationships we have managed to continue are special. Each time we see these former strangers, we can witness at a deeper level and answer questions.

#### Netanya

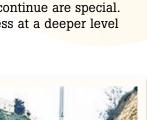
On our latest outreach to Israel, we stopped at the mall in Netanya where I visited my friend Aviv. We have known each other for almost three years now. This was his last day in Netanya as his new shop — in the newest and largest mall in Tel Aviv — was due to open the following day. This shop will be the largest Gentleman gift shop in Israel. We rekindled our friendship. as we had not seen or talked to each other in six months. As always, he was glad to see me and greeted me with a smile. "I knew you were in town: this place has been crazy busy today," he said.

#### Nazareth

Sue and I arrived hungry in Nazareth and so went to Cafe Greg in the Big Fashion Center mall. Our young Arab waiter, **Shaque**, smiled as he greeted us. He and his assistant, **Tanya**, were very attentive. After our meal, I called Shaque over and asked if he read Hebrew. When he answered "yes," I told him that I had a gift for him, and offered him a complete (with both Testaments) Bible in Hebrew. He responded, "I know you. When you are in Israel you eat here and sit at this same table. You always give this book to the people who wait on you... and now I get mine." We both smiled.

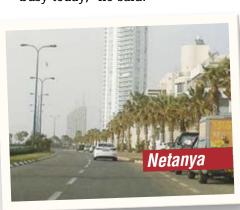
As we were leaving the restaurant, Robert (another TJF ambassador dining with us) did not want to leave Tanya out, so he offered her a Bible. She, too, grinned her pleasure.

A little later, Robert and I passed a toy store in the mall, and a feeling came over me—I recognized it as the Holy Spirit—that we should go in. Robert and I window-shopped and found a couple of souvenirs for some kids back home. As we checked out, I engaged **Nicol** in conversation and, on a whim, offered her a complete Hebrew Bible, unsure if she would accept it. To my surprise, she thumbed through it and said, "Todah (Thanks)" and happily received it. Following the Lord leads to success.



ad to Haifa





# Sojourners' Alert

Judges 7 tells the tale of Gideon defeating the Midianites. Dismissing 22,000 soldiers who admitted fear left Gideon with 10,000, which God declared still too many. Gideon wound up with only 300 men who passed the test of lapping their water like dogs. They were the select few who ran off the Midianites by blowing trumpets, yelling battle cries, and shattering jars.

Many black-and-white thinkers regard those 300 finalists as capable soldiers. However, rather than fighting, they ran, blew horns, shouted, and broke pottery. Some Bible readers believe Gideon's 300 were winners while the other 31,700 were losers — primarily because we never read about their callings. Nevertheless, the heyday of Gideon's 300 came and went; their season inevitably ended. God used few enough recruits to prove that He was indisputably in command.

Months ago, God whittled this ministry's options to two gentile musicians. Soon you ZLP viewers and *Levitt Letter* readers will witness Who's in charge when seeing David and Kirsten break pottery, so to speak.

The admonition to "Judge not lest ye be judged" (Matt. 7:1–2) applies to us who draw quick conclusions, perhaps more than to our brethren, whom we too readily assess. This ministry's days, like the hairs on our heads, are numbered. And like Gideon's 300, the odds are against us... except for that all-important detail: We're on a mission from God.

Please take a look at the sobering assessment on page 12 from our syndicator, Clayton Herring, who for the last decade has purchased television airtime for this ministry. Our organization is adapting out of necessity. Since avid television watchers are dwindling, we are compelled to reach a blossoming generation of Internet viewers on their own turf. A Note From Mark by **Mark Levitt** ZLM Director



It is arguable that the shortened attention span of audiences doomed the 146-year-old Ringling Brothers Circus as much as high overhead expenses and competing pastimes. Fortunately, ZLM has low overhead and can harness the power of the Internet even as it sounds the death knell for many classic television programs.



Soon, our online viewers will outnumber those who watch via cable TV, satellite, and local broadcasts. Online viewers, with computer mice in hand, tend to jump away even more than television-channel surfers with remote controls.

With both armies relying on the LORD's heavy lifting, Gideon's chosen few had trumpets and masonry; ZLM's cadre of workers and supporters heads for battle with gentiles who have charisma and a bevy of Jewish theologians who bring rock-solid teaching—all in palatable doses designed to edify quickly and concisely.

Now more than ever, ZLM must focus not only on giving you supporters value for your donation dollar but also on delivering to intrepid viewers indisputable value for the time they spend with us.

If you know an educated Messianic Jewish Bible teacher with pizzazz, please send him (or her) our way. We're recruiting warriors for our unprecedented battle.



# ZLM Bulletin Board

### Too Big to Fail ...

... curse Israel. JPMorgan Chase should know better than to set travel alerts for the "State of Palestine, Occupied" with no mention of Israel. The behemoth bank's honchos need to revisit Gen. 12:3: "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee." True or False: JPMorgan Chase allows debit-card users to select "Palestine" as a destination they will be visiting, so their cards will



continue to work without a glitch, but does not allow the same for Israel. Levitt.com has the <u>full</u> <u>story</u>. Just click on "<u>LLX News</u>," which is the third item under the *Levitt Letter* dropdown menu.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

> To Index

### **Planting Trees in Israel**

In 1901, the World Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Israel for Jewish settlement. Since then, the JNF has become most popular for planting millions of trees throughout the Holy Land. Now a portion of your contributions to this ministry can be designated for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom. The trees cost only \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate if you request one.

### 37(!) Genders on Tinder

What a long way mankind has come since the Garden of Eden's simplicities. Today's gender identification has turned modern sexuality into a world of Babel. The founder of dating site Tinder explains that gender is a "complex conversation." BuzzFeed news editor Sarah Karlan opposes the M/F "two-box binary" and believes, "it's not so black and white." Matt. 5:37 advises: "Let your 'yea' be 'yea' and your 'nay' be 'nay'— all else is of the devil." Would Tinder assert there are 37 ways to say yes and no?

### FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

Planning for the Future, outlines nine different planning opportunities and offers tools that may enhance your future financial well-being through estate and financial plans. It also reviews tax benefits and touches on federal estate tax. Learn about wills, revocable living trusts, and gifts that provide income to you and/or loved ones. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, please email us at staff@levitt.com, or write to our P.O. Box.





#### by **John J. Parsons** ZLM Scholar



To Index

#### **Theology of Flowers**



**"Why are you so anxious?** Take a lesson from the wildflowers. They neither toil nor spin, yet even Solomon in all his royal glory was not arrayed like one of these. And if your Heavenly Father gives such attention to the appearance of flowers, many of which grow in unseen places, surely he will attend to you, too" (Matt. 6:28–30). So take a deep breath. Don't let worry blind you to God's ongoing care; don't live as those without faith. You have a place in your Father's heart; you have a share in His house above. See the Lord as your Dwelling Place "in all generations;" behold His unchanging glory despite the fleeting shadows of this world.

We must first look to the Eternal to rightly see the finite; we must look upward before we look downward. As we contemplate God's eternality and power, we realize the wonder and sanctity of our short time here. The Eternal is our refuge, our "dwelling place in all generations," and that means in the present generation as well as on the other side of fleeting appearances of this world. When we pray to God as *Avinu She-bashamayim* (Our Father in Heaven), we are calling to "the One who (w) is in the midst of the waters (mathematical content of the side of 22:1, 3).

The psalmist says: "I shall not die but live" (Psalm 118:17). In order to live, you must give yourself to death; but when you have done so, you discover that you are not to die, but to live. Here, "giving yourself to death" means surrendering to God's will, accepting the yoke of Heaven, and trusting in His governing "flow" over all of creation. This is the deeper meaning of "baptism," as we are immersed into God's care for our lives. Yeshua gives us abundant life.

The bloom of every flower is by eternal purpose, and not one common sparrow is forgotten by your Heavenly Father (Luke 12:6). God's irresistible providence comprehends and orders all things, from the realm of the subatomic to the cosmic motions of the heavenly bodies. The Lord is the Center of reality: "All things were created by Him, and for Him, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:16–17). In light of this, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century theologian Blaise Pascal asked, "What is left for us but to unite our will to that of God himself, to will in Him, with Him, and for Him the thing that He has eternally willed in us and for us." In other words, what else

can we do but learn to trust, accept, and to say "yes" to life — even if at times we may feel like strangers in exile? All our days are ordained; recorded in God's scroll. Therefore may God "teach us to number our days to get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). So don't lose heart, friend; **He who** cares for you is a good shepherd, and you shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



### ZLM Store

### Close Encounters with Yeshua DVD Set 10 programs on 2 DVDs

*Close Encounters with Yeshua* focuses on how Yeshua/Jesus came to Earth supernaturally, ministered, and today calls people to Him. David and Kirsten Hart introduce this ten-program series from the studio, while Myles and Katharine Weiss teach from Israel.

**God is Coming** Abraham's travels in the desert led him into dependence and relationship with his God. *Interviews:* Dean Bye of Return Ministries; and Chaim Malespin of the Aliyah Return Center.

**Humble Beginnings** In a simple animal stall, Yeshua entered the world as a baby, lived to fulfill the Law, and promised to return as the Lion of Judah. *Interview:* Pastor Daniel Sayag of Carmel Congregation.

**Jewish Context** As a boy, Yeshua came to the Temple to offer sacrifices. Later, He became the sacrifice, the Lamb of God. *Interview:* Karen Davis of Carmel Congregation.

> **Miraculous Ministry** Near the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua performed miracles that amazed many but disturbed others. *Interview:* Eric and Terri Morey of The Galilee Experience.

**Prophecy Fulfilled** At a synagogue in Magdala, likely visited by Yeshua Himself, Myles and Katharine remind us of Scripture's reliability. *Interview:* Pastor Juan Maria Solana of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and the Magdala Center.

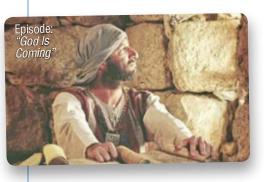
**Living Water** At the recently discovered Pool of Siloam, location of cleansing rituals, Yeshua performed a miracle that proved Him prophet, priest, and the King we await. *Interview:* Arab pastor Vincent Shammas.

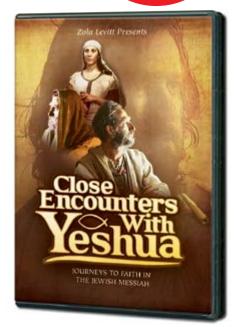
**Mountaintop Experience** From the Mount of Transfiguration, where the Father honored His Son, Yeshua sent out His Disciples.

**Life Laid Down** Yeshua descended the Mount of Olives like a king, but surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Interview:* Carolyn Hyde, Heart of G-d Ministries.

**Empty Tomb** The Crucifixion and the Cross led to the empty tomb, and thus removed the curse on mankind. *Interview:* Samuel Smadja of Messianic Assembly and Sar-El Tours.

**Interview with Gary Bayer** Writer and television presenter Gary Bayer explains how Yeshua, comforting him during his battle with cancer, became more real.



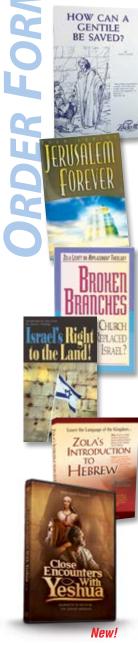


FEATURED ITEM



#### ZLM product ORDER FORM

We Accept PayPal!



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

#### Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty. Title	Price	Total
A Christian Love Story	\$3	
Glory! The Future of the Be	lievers \$3	
How Can a Gentile Be Sav	r <mark>ed?</mark> \$3	
In My Father's House	\$3	
Israel, My Promised	\$3	
Jerusalem Forever	\$4	
The Miracle of Passover	\$3	
The Promised Land	\$3	
The Second Coming	\$3	
Seven Churches	\$3	
The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	
Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	
Mix or Match:50 Classi	c 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 (p. 11)	\$10	
	Genesis One—A Physicist Looks at Creation	\$5	
	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus	\$14	
	The Iranian Menace in Jewish Hist. and Proph	\$8	
	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 Passover Haggadah (Messianic)	\$6	
	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	
	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 (9 programs, 2-DVDs	\$59	
Best of Zola's Music Videos (over 3 hours, 2-DVDs	) \$49	
Close Enc. w/ Yeshua New! (p. 17) (10 prog, 2-DVDs	\$59	
The Dark Prince(10 programs, 3-DVDs	\$59	
Esther	\$49	
Ezekiel & MidEast 'Piece' (8 programs, 2-DVDs	\$49	
Jerusalem: Ancient Gates (p. 20) (8 prog, 2-DVDs	\$49	
Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer (9 programs, 2-DVDs	) \$59	
Secrets of the Scrolls	\$49	
The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs	\$49	
Sons of Promise	\$49	
The Stones Cry Out (12 programs, 3-DVDs	\$69	
Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs	\$49	
Zion Forever	) \$59	

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#### **ORDER FORM continued**

#### **UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!**

Studies, Specialty, Etc.		
Qty. Item	Price	Total
2-flag Collar Pin	\$2	
Abraham to Jesus Genealogy Chart (p. 36)	\$10	
"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	
"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	
Half-shekel Key Chain	\$10	
Jewish Heritage Calendar (2017-18)	\$6	
Drink Koozies (set of 2) New!	\$5	
Messianic Roots Lapel Pin		
Messianic Prophecy Scroll		
Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	
Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	
Flag of Israel (3' x 5') (p. 23)		
AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$37.50	)
AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$22	
AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	
Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no c	harge
The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark 2 for		
Teaching CDs by Zola		

Coming: The End! Russia/Israel (p. 11)CD	\$7	
<b>Discovering Our Jewish Roots</b> (9 CDs)		
The Seven Feasts of Israel CD	\$7	

#### Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

I Call You Friend by Marty Goetz (music CD)	\$14
Next Year in Jerusalem (Zola's songs w/ 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_

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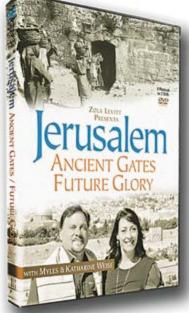
# ZLM Store

### *Jerusalem: Ancient Gates / Future Glory* DVD Set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Myles and Katharine Weiss delve into the historical and spiritual significance of each Gate in the Old City wall of Jerusalem. Guests include archaeologist Shimon Gibson and Gate expert Tamar Hayardeni. Enjoy the music of Marty Goetz during this eight-part series (order his music CD <u>HERE</u>).

**The Dung Gate** served as a passage for carrying refuse out of the city *and* leads to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. *Interview:* Rabbi Marty Waldman.



FEATURED

**The Zion Gate**, that leads to the Jewish and Armenian Quarters of the Old City, was a focal point in the history of the modern Zionist movement. David Parsons of the Internatio

of the modern Zionist movement. David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) explains the end-times connection between Jews and Christians.

**The Jaffa Gate** opens to the West and symbolizes the Gospel going out to the gentiles. *Interviews:* Tom Hess (Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations) and faith-filled Holocaust survivor Phillip Meyers, founder of Immanuel Tours.

**The New Gate**, as its name implies, is the most recent gate and gives access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. It provides a picture of God's heart for unity. *Interviews:* David Parsons (ICEJ) and Jan Willem van der Hoeven of the International Christian Zionist Center (ICZC).

**The Damascus Gate** points toward Syria's capital as a window to the North and to the Moslem world.

**Herod's Gate** dates back to the time of Herod the Great. The historical site of many attacks, it represents today's ongoing spiritual battles. *Interview:* Rosemary Schindler.

**Lions Gate**, also known as "Saint Stephen's Gate," is where the Israeli army entered to re-take possession of the Old City in 1967. *Interview:* David Dolan with Colonel Shimon Cahaner.

**The Eastern Gate** has been closed since Byzantine times in a Moslem attempt to thwart the Jewish Messiah's Second Coming. The Eastern (or Golden) Gate will open again when the King of Kings returns. *Interview:* Tommy Waller of HaYovel.

# Is This the Last Generation or Just One Big Coincidence?

BY TERRY MALONE / CalvaryProphecy.com

Why do I believe that this is the last generation? Too many Bible prophecies have come true in this generation for it to be a coincidence.

Two and a half millennia ago, the Bible predicted prophecies that we are seeing fulfilled today. These fulfillments began when Israel once again became a nation. In fact, the Bible is pretty clear: once Israel became a nation, a generation would not pass away before we would see the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:4–34).

The Bible predicted, 2,500 years in advance, the starting and ending points of the "last generation" — the starting point being the rebirth of Israel and the ending point being the Second Coming of Christ. Many prophecies slated to be part of the "last generation" have come to pass. It amazes me that out of the last millennia, these prophecies are taking shape during this short 70–80 year timespan since 1948. Below are some of the prophecies seeing fulfillment within our generation:

- The re-gathering of the Jews into their homeland (Ezekiel 37:11–13). Amazingly, after thousands of years among the nations, the Jewish culture remains intact.
- The rebirth of Israel as a nation in 1948 in one day (Isaiah 66:8).
- The Arab world will claim they are rightful owners of the land in Israel (Ezekiel 36:2, 5). Not until the Jews began migrating back to Palestine in hopes of declaring Israeli statehood did the Arab world lay claim to the land. Before that, it was of no value to them.
- The desert will bloom (Luke 21:29–31; Isaiah 41:18–20). Since Jews reclaimed their homeland, it has become a fertile oasis.
- The city of Jerusalem recaptured by Israel in 1967 (Zechariah 8:7–8).
- The ruins of Israel will be rebuilt (Amos 9:11). Construction has been in high gear since 1948.
- An eastern nation capable of fielding a 200 million-man army (Revelation 9:16) will arise during the Tribulation Period. No nation has ever been able to field an army of this magnitude until now: China & India.
- An event will be viewable worldwide simultaneously (Revelation 11:9–10). Now possible with the advent of satellite technology.
- According to Ezekiel 38, 39, specific nations will ally and attack Israel. Virtually all the nations listed are in alliance.
- In the last days, knowledge will increase dramatically (Daniel 12:4). Particularly during the last 69 years, medical and technological discoveries have exploded.
- The Temple will be rebuilt (Revelation 11:1; Daniel 9:27). The process has begun.
- The antiChrist will rise up and lead a one-world government through false deception and blaspheme the one true God (Daniel 11:36). Can this fulfillment be far behind?

Can this all be a coincidence?







#### **Comments:**

**From P.P.:** Just received the <u>May Levitt Letter</u>. My wife and I are delighted with the new tone — much more "keeping the main thing relevant." Less promotion and more doctrine regarding the Spiritual battle's effect on Earth. We've read the Bible's last chapter and know Who wins.

**From G. and R.R.:** More focus on prophecy, please. — You'll be especially pleased to read about the signs of the "last generation" that are appearing in this generation (p. 21). — editor

**From J.G. (CA):** I'm sorry to hear of the Weisses departure. They have really blessed my wife and me. We will continue to support ZLM with our prayers and offerings. We welcome David and Kirsten as they continue the work.

**From M.S.S. (CO):** Re "Israel Bars BDS Supporters" in <u>May's *Levitt Letter*</u>. What hypocrisy for individuals who support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions



against Israel to expect to freely enter and travel within Israel's borders!

**From G.DuB. (MI):** We love the flag of Israel that hangs on our Sunday School wall. I got it from you years ago. You do a superb job of keeping us informed on what is going on in Israel. Keep it up until Jesus comes back. — (The flag of Israel is described on p.23.)

#### **Doubling Down on Success**

Dear Mark,

Your article in <u>May's *Levitt Letter* (p. 14</u>), "You Have No Idea" is perfect prose to introduce this note. First: **Double our donation!** 

Second: Thank you for publishing all feedback from readers, even negative ones like K.N.'s.

Third: Bless you and your decisions in running ZLM. It ain't easy—only a promise of glory in the end. — R. and D.W.

#### Dear R. and D.W. —

Thank you very much for your much-needed words of encouragement and for your trust in increasing your support. I hope you've now seen some of our plans for enhancing ZLM's Messianic Jewish Bible teaching. We've got more Jewish teachers Stateside and in Israel; our stable is growing.

If you — or any readers — want to catch up or reread an article after passing along your hardcopy, all of our newsletters (and TV programs) are archived at levitt.com. Just click on the tab "Levitt Letter." — Mark

(continued next page)

#### But Before You Go ...

#### Dear ZLM,

What a terrible loss to the ministry of Zola to not have Myles and Katharine as hosts. Jew and gentile as one. What else need be said? I will no longer support the ministry. My heart is not in it. — M.D.C.A.

#### Dear M.D.C.A. -

Every serious Bible student I know has a favorite Bible teacher. Personally, I miss Zola's wit, engaging personality, and his Biblical insights. Zola Levitt Ministries has not strayed from Zola's mission of following Romans 10:1— "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved."

What the ministry has refined is our method of accomplishing our mission. I'm sorry you no longer wish to partner with ZLM in fulfilling the Great Commission. — Tony

Before you go, M.D.C.A, please keep reading and watching a bit longer, because this ministry is on the brink of unleashing remarkable upgrades in terms of numerous Jewish teachers and solid Biblical content. — Mark

#### Who's The Boss?

#### Dear ZLM,

I look forward to the new innovative approach to the ministry. It concerns me when people stop their support because a personality leaves. Isn't Jesus still part of the ministry? Yes, He is! Being prison bound, I received blessings from Todd Baker's Q & A. Will his *Ask the Chaplain* column return? —D.E., Ph.Ed (CA)

#### Dear D.E. —

Todd is now knee-deep earning his second theological Ph.D. Nonetheless, he will continue leading our ministry's To the Jew First mission trips in Israel. Tony will handle the bulk of the *Levitt Letter* questions & answers. Please see our **Q & A at levitt.com**, the second item beneath our home page's "Information" drop-down menu. — Mark





(continued next page)

### Proclaim Your Love for the Holy Land!

This beautiful <u>flag of Israel</u> measures 3' x 5' and proudly displays two blue stripes and the Star of David. Makes an excellent gift for friends of Israel!

#### **Keep Christianity Through Jewish Eyes Focus**

Dear ZLM,

I really miss Zola, Sandra, and Dr. Jeff Seif. As an Italian-American Jew who accepted Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah at a young age, I experienced anti-Semitism growing up in Minnesota because I was Jewish, and was shunned in Israel because of my belief in Yeshua. I want to remind your new hosts to please keep presenting a Jewish perspective to Christianity. *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim*, W.P.

#### Dear W.P. —

For a Jewish perspective to Christianity, you have come to the right place. Please stay tuned and keep reading.

Speaking of Sandra, she kindly sent this brief email of affirmation: "A good morning to you. Mr. Tony's <u>Personal Letter [May]</u> was just wonderful... One of the best ones ever! Please let him know."

As I write this to you, W.P., Sandra is visiting Dallas to attend my daughter Sarah's wedding. She's been enjoying her well-deserved retirement for six years thus far, and continues to pray for ZLM. — Mark

#### **21st-Century Outreach**

Dear ZLM,

We have supported Zola Levitt Ministries for a couple of years. We live in an area of Texas where there are few Jewish believers in Messiah, but we have faith there will be more.

What type of programs does your ministry have in Israel to reach the Jews? It seems that most of your mission is your TV program, which we enjoy. Is it shown in Israel?

If we continue to support you more in the future, we would like some information on how your staff on the ground is reaching out. Thank you for your input. -L.J.

#### Dear L.J. —

The short answer to your question is "yes," our television programs air in Israel. Three airings on Daystar's international feed are available to Israelis with cable, and old-style satellite dishes pick up our programs from our satellites that cover Europe.

Looking to the newest trend in program viewing, *ZLP* just added ITVN (Israel Television Network) that streams pro-Israel content online and has the potential of reaching a vast audience of Jewish people in Israel who are "yet to believe." A growing number of viewers watch *ZLP* on YouTube, and we have over 104,000 followers on Facebook. Please see *Zola Levitt Presents* syndicator's update on <u>p. 12</u>.

Through the gracious gifts of our donors, we send our To The Jew First (TJF) witnessing teams to Israel a dozen times each year. These *shelichim* (ambassadors) send monthly reports (please see <u>p. 13</u>) to update our readers and donors. We promote like-minded organizations such as the Jewish National Fund (planting trees in Israel), Tents of Mercy (led by Our Man in Haifa, Eitan Shishkoff), the ICEJ Holocaust Survivors' home, Bridges for Peace, and an Israeli archaeological fund.

Thank you, L.J., for being a vital part of what God is doing through Zola Levitt Ministries in reaching a world of "Jews first and also gentiles" (Romans 1:16). — Tony

(continued next page)

#### Mark Levitt Responds to Your Concerns

"How can one have a Jewish ministry with no Jews?"

"I want to watch a Hebrew who speaks the language and can tell me about Jewish perspectives. By not acknowledging the Weisses' contribution or giving airtime to their departure, you've embarrassed yourselves."

"It feels like you don't trust us, like there has been a 'death' in the family and no reason given, no care about the sorrow of your followers."

"With this new direction away from Jewish hosts, I'm worried about ZLM's ability to interest Jewish viewers."

Dear Seekers of Answers — We appreciate the outpouring of heartfelt emotions that you have expressed. First let me state clearly that

we are still a Jewish ministry. I'm still here. My last name is Levitt and I'm a Levite, as in the Book of Leviticus. I had my bar mitzvah in a Messianic Jewish synagogue at age 13. I have managed this ministry since 1988, and this is not the first time I've fought to turn it around from a downward plunge.

Second, rather than embarrassing ourselves, we're rescuing this outreach from an almost certain demise. Today's viewers predictably grow weary of most personalities and search for what's new. Embracing a TV news magazine approach akin to CBS's 60 Minutes, which has aired for 49 years and counting, will enable Zola Levitt *Presents* to perpetually recruit new teachers who will bring an ongoing caravan of their specialized Biblical topics. With this new approach, our ministry will resemble the olive tree: bearing perennial harvests with its well-established trunk (our founding mission), while grafting in new shoots (Jewish Bible experts).

Third, an interesting fact: <u>Zola's</u> <u>Introduction to Hebrew</u> was written by none other than John Parsons, who authors each Levitt Letter's Hebrew Lesson (see <u>p. 16</u>). Though John is a gentile, he knows more Hebrew than many esteemed Jewish Bible teachers, including, back in the day, Zola.

So far, the Weisses have opted not to record a farewell video, and we share your disappointment. Zola's, Jeff Seif's, and Myles's teachings are all archived at **levitt.com**, available for free viewing and reading. Each week we add more as we introduce new and astute Messianic Jewish teachers. Who knows? A teacher may emerge that tomorrow's viewers will adore just as much as yesterday's did Zola!

And, fifth, interestingly, many Jewish viewers resent those whom they consider proselytes — Jews who supposedly have abandoned their Judaism to embrace Jesus. Some Jews are actually more receptive to gentiles reaching out to them not only as ambassadors for the Gospel but also for Israel as the most relevant nation in the New Testament.

You may remember Ed Sullivan, whose eponymous television variety show broadcast from 1948 to 1971. He was much better at introducing fine talent than performing. He routinely promised (and delivered) his audience "a re-e-ally BIG SHEW!"

Please understand that everyone associated with our ministry — from the production crew to the newsletter team to the office staffers — keeps the interests of ZLM readers and viewers near and dear.

Remember, too, that many of us have been at our posts for more than a quarter century, seeing changes at the surface but never to the message. Our new television magazine approach will enhance the variety of our Bible teaching as it gleans the best from experts in their fields. David and Kirsten will host a small army of Bible experts who will provide more and better teaching than we could expect from a single source. —Mark Levitt

To Index

### Israeli Startups Drive Car Technology Revolution



SCIENCE: BY ANDREW TOBIN (r) TimesOflsrael.com



Simulation of cars using Autotalks's vehicle-to-vehicle communication system. (YouTube via JTA)

Israel has become an unlikely center for automotive innovation: it has no car manufacturing to speak of, and the country is notorious for its bad drivers.

Electric car company Better Place (though bankrupt in May 2013) put Israel's automotive tech scene on the map. Then, Google bought mapping company Waze (Raanana). And in March 2017, Intel agreed to acquire self-driving car technology powerhouse Mobileye (Jerusalem). BMW, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Uber, Volkswagen, and Volvo have also invested in Israeli technology since 2016.

At least 550 startups now work in Israel's auto-tech industry. Here are some of the revolutionary things they are trying to make cars do.

#### Run on electricity with little or no charging

A couple of million plug-in cars now whirr along roads across the globe, consuming a third as much energy as their gasoline-powered counterparts. Pulling over to recharge them, however, is a buzzkill. So Israeli startups are working on ways to make the pit stops faster and less frequent — or even unnecessary.



StoreDot (Tel Aviv): developing a battery that can be recharged in five minutes (compared to the hours typically required today).

Electroad (Caesarea) wants to do away with plugs altogether. With "inductive charging" — under-the-pavement wireless technology that recharges vehicles while they drive — vehicles can carry lighter, less-expensive batteries and never stop to recharge.

(continued next page)



Israel's government is working with Electroad to build a half-mile public bus route in Tel Aviv. If the planned 2018 launch goes well, an 11-mile shuttle between the city of Eilat and the Ramon International Airport in the south is planned.

#### Navigate by 'sight'

Mobileye (Jerusalem) provides most of the world's driver-assistance technology. That includes the sensors and computing power that cars need to "see" the road.

Some Israeli startups think they can improve car vision. Innoviz Technologies (Kfar Saba) and Vayavision (Or Yehuda): developing their own lidar laser systems, which use light and radar to determine distance.

Oryx Vision (Petach Tikvah) promises "nano antenna" sensors that perform 50 times better and cost much less than the technologies used by Mobileye by 2020. By then, some analysts predict, there will be 10 million self-driving cars in operation.

#### Talk to each other and the world

The cars of the future will communicate to avoid crashes and ease traffic jams. Experts predict some cars will have this ability within a year or two, and the technology will be commonplace in self-driving cars within a decade.

Autotalks semiconductor company (Kfar Netter): makes chip sets that link vehicles not just to each other but also to infrastructure and people, and collaborated with Audi on "smart antennae."

"otonomo" (Herzliya): driver and passenger services — from apps to roadside help — via its cloud-based marketplace.



Simulation of cars using Autotalks's vehicle-to-vehicle communication system. (YouTube via JTA)

While Autotalks and otonomo provide their own security, Argus Cybersecurity (Tel Aviv) designs systems to protect the electronics that control a vehicle's basic functions from hackers. Argus CEO Ofer Ben-Noon came up with the idea while serving in Israel's elite 8200 intelligence unit.

IVO Driver Robot (Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba): a robot that drives for you. So far, the robot has mostly driven a golf cart-style buggy around the university parking lot.

According to the Anti-Defamation League annual audit, anti-Semitic episodes increased by more than one-third last year and jumped 86 percent in the first quarter of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.

- THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017





# A Radiant Idea



MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH / JPost.com



A Pluristem bio-reactor in action

Acute radiation syndrome (ARS) — resulting from terrorist activity using "dirty" bombs or accidents at nuclear reactors and other facilities — can be successfully treated, thanks to an innovative stem-cell therapy developed by Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. in Haifa, Israel.

Because of the U.S. government's keen interest in an effective solution to radiation poisoning, Pluristem's PLX-R18 treatment for ARS is in advanced stages of development and clinical testing in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health.

The Israeli company plans to apply for approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) via its Animal Rule regulatory pathway that allows for approval of treatments for diseases such as ARS in which human trials are not ethical or feasible. With this pathway, the FDA uses animal efficacy studies



and human safety data as the basis for product approval.

Pluristem Therapeutics Inc. was launched 13 years ago. The now-public company has become a \$130 million enterprise with 180 engineers, physicians, biologists, and other professionals. It has collected donated placentas from women undergoing planned caesarean

sections in two of Haifa's hospitals, and uses bioreactors to grow stem cells and process them to produce an innovative drug-delivery platform.

ARS is caused by the irradiation of all or most of the body by a significant dose of penetrating radiation over a very short period, with as little exposure as a few minutes. Acute, intense exposure to radiation damages the bone marrow, which then prevents the body from producing the blood cells it needs to fight infection and bleeding.

PLX-R18 has been shown to trigger the production of red and white blood cells and platelets if treatment occurs within 48 hours of the first exposure to ionized radiation, making it a perfect antidote to high-level radiation exposure. Animal studies have shown a nearly 100% recovery rate. Control groups given a placebo showed only a 30% recovery rate.

"A great advantage of our product is that one doesn't have to do prescreening to know what level of radiation the victim was exposed to. If a person hasn't been exposed to any radiation, the body does not show stress signals, and (continued next page)



even if he gets the PLX-R18 injections, nothing will happen, unlike with other available products," according to Pluristem president and co-CEO Yaky Yanay. "In addition, our product — which has already proven itself effective on animals — has a three-year shelf life and can be stored at low temperatures. We are working to extend this to five years. When needed, the stem cells need only be defrosted and injected into the muscle."

Since the product can be stored on the sites of possible radiation accidents or terror threats, it need only be restored to room temperature and administered immediately instead of the days needed to send over shipments.

### **Not Free to Forfeit Freedom**

By Shmuel Rabinowitz, Rabbi of the Western Wall / JPost.com

Usually, the Torah does not get involved in issues relating to the free market. Someone interested in selling something can name his price and sell it to whoever is interested. The decision to sell and the price paid concerns the seller and buyer only; the Torah does not get involved.

But in the passage Leviticus 25:1-26:2, the Torah speaks regarding two things a person cannot sell: his family land in *Eretz Yisrael* and himself.

In the ancient world and in certain cultures even today, family land is far more significant than its market value. Selling this land means losing family heritage, losing a basic financial resource, and disconnecting from a precious emotional asset.

To a greater extent, a person selling himself into slavery — common at some point and, sadly, has not yet disappeared — obviously means a loss of freedom, without which one might feel his life is not a life. Loss of freedom means loss of respect. A fundamental aspect of self-respect is the knowledge that one can make one's own decisions, or work in a chosen field — free to be oneself with all that entails.

In these situations, the Torah says: Stop! You cannot do this! Actually, the Torah does not completely forbid these acts. There are times when a person's situation could be so terrible that the sale of his family land or of himself into slavery can temporarily help him. But a permanent sale is never an option. Every 50 years, everything goes back to the way it was: family land is returned to its original owners and all Jewish slaves are set free. Man does not have the right to permanently forfeit his honor or his freedom.

Torah's reasoning for these laws? For the return of family land: "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land belongs to Me, for you are strangers and [temporary] residents with Me" (Leviticus 25:23).

And the reason for the release of slaves: "For the children of Israel are servants to Me; they are My servants, whom I took out of the land of Egypt. I am the Lord, your God" (Leviticus 25:55).

These declarations are clear: the real Owner of the land and of the person himself is God. These are rare declarations in the Torah. There is no other place in the Torah where God demands that man obey His laws because of God's ownership of him.

Usually, the Torah is more delicate and tries to tempt man to take the path that will benefit him. Here the language is clear-cut: the world has an Owner, the land has an Owner, and man is not completely free. The restriction of man's freedom is expressed in the step he cannot take: He cannot forfeit his own freedom.



#### **Bernie Sanders Speaks Out Against BDS**

By Ron Kampeas / JTA.org

In an appearance on Al Jazeera, Sen. Bernie Sanders, who ran last year for president, defended Israel's right to exist, rejected BDS as a tactic, and assailed the UN for singling out Israel for condemnation.

The Vermont senator's May interview on the Qatar-based network, known for its often hypercritical coverage of Israel, was consistent with his style: Sanders does not modify his message for his audience.

Sanders joined 99 Senate colleagues in signing a bipartisan letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres



way Jones - Hoover Digest

Bernie Sanders speaking to supporters in Seattle, Wash., March 20, 2016

calling for an end to anti-Israel bias at the UN. The interviewer suggested they were "trying to shield Israel

from criticism."

"No, no, no, no, no, I don't accept that," Sanders replied, insisting that the point of the letter was to question why "it's only Israel when you have other countries where women are treated as third-class citizens, where in Egypt, I don't know how many thousands of people now linger in jail."

Later Sanders was asked if he respected the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions [BDS] campaign as a nonviolent protest movement. Sanders answered, "No, I don't."

When asked whether he supported a one-state solution. Sanders said that he didn't because "I think ... that would be the end of the State of Israel and I support Israel's right to exist."

Dear Reader: Sharing the pro-Israel viewpoint of Senator Sanders — or any politician — does not imply that ZLM embraces any of their other political ideologies. - Editor

#### **Decline of Christians** Amona **Palestinians**

From Middle East Media Research (MEMRI.org)



hoto by: Al-Hadath

Nihad Abu Ghosh

In an article published April 17, 2017 in the Palestinian paper Al-Hadath, Nihad Abu Ghosh, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)

and the director of the PLO's diaspora affairs department, described the dire situation of the Christians living in the Palestinian Authority (PA) territories and the drastic decline in their numbers over the years.

He wrote that this situation results, in large part, from an ISIS-like culture that has infiltrated Palestinian society. As an example, he noted that preachers at Al-Agsa [mosque] call to impose a poll tax on the Christians and forbid Muslims to greet them on their holidays. He warned that this treatment of the Christians, which drives them to emigrate, could tarnish the pluralistic image of Palestinian society, and called to place this issue on the public agenda and act to find ways to protect the Christians.

#### **How to Pray for Our President**

By Sandra Teplinsky / LightOfZion.org



During his short visit to Israel Sandra Teplinsky recently, our

president did not implement new policies or start new peace talks.

His conversations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin were brief. How can Believers best pray for these visits? Ask God to change our (or any) president's heart for Israel to beat in resonance with His.

I've learned from my cardiologist (heart doctor) husband that when someone's heartbeat is not in proper rhythm, sometimes it must be medically stopped altogether and restarted a few seconds later. Once restarted, it should instinctively beat according to its divine design. Please pray with me: "God of love, would You graciously arrest our president's heart when he is in Your Holy City — and restart it according to Your heartbeat. May Your heart for Israel resonate, then, across America. Would You revive the Godly alliance of blessing between these two covenant-based nations — Israel and the U.S. — for the sake of Your Kingdom? To You be all praise forever!"

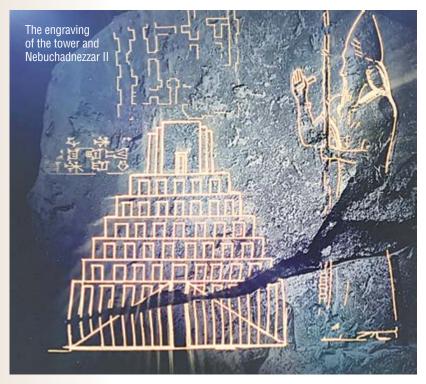
"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord: He turns it however He will" (Proverbs 21:1).





# First-Ever Image of Tower of Babel

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ADAM ELIYAHU BERKOWITZ (r) BreakingIsraelNews.com



And they said, "Come, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." — Genesis 11:4

An ancient tablet believed to depict the Biblical Tower of Babel has been deciphered 100 years after its discovery and may represent the first-ever image of the real Tower when it stood in Babylon during Biblical times.

The sixth-century B.C. tablet (found a century ago but, as part of a private collection, never studied or exhibited until now) depicts a Babylonian tower known as a ziggurat. After deciphering the tablet, Dr. Andrew George, an

expert on ancient Babylon, became convinced that it shows the true source of the famed Biblical story.

The amazing tale of the tablet is told in a TV series produced by the Smithsonian Institution. For scholars, the tablet offers proof that the Tower of Babel wasn't just a work of fiction, the series argues, but "an actual building from antiquity."

In the first installment of the series, Dr. George, a professor of Babylonian language and culture at the University of London, examines the tablet that shows an image of the ziggurat—a massive stepped



Dr. Andrew George, professor, University of London

structure — and a figure holding a staff. The professor translates the inscription, which identifies the structure as the "Tower of Temple of Babylon."



The inscription confirms that the building was a Mesopotamianstyle tower and illustrates the seven tiers of the ancient megastructure. Significantly, it also identifies the man behind it, depicted next to the tower: Mesopotamia's most famous ruler, King Nebuchadnezzar II. Dr. George's translation of the tablet reveals a detailed account of the tower's construction by the Babylonian king: "From the Upper Sea (i.e. the Mediterranean) to the Lower Sea (i.e. the Persian Gulf), the far-flung lands and the teeming people of the habitations, I mobilized in order to construct this building."

The inscription was one of the keys to identifying the ziggurat described in the tablet as the Biblical tower. Dr. George believes that its builders, hailing from all over the region, could represent the Biblical "multitudes" of languages that led to the tower's destruction.

"As an Assyriologist, I don't deal in the Bible, and <mark>I am not a religious person.</mark> But in this case, I can say there is an actual building which does seem to be the inspiration for the Biblical narrative," Dr. George acknowledged.

More and more, archaeologists are finding proof that Biblical stories relate to historical events. Dr. George sees no contradiction between science and the



The relief carving of the tower on the tablet

Bible. The professor described how this schism between science and religion is gradually being reconciled in his field.

Dr. George added, "In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a discovery that the Assyrian kings described in the Bible were real and corroborated by archaeological evidence, making us ask now, how much more in the Bible is true?"

Archaeologists generally agree that the site of the tower is in the ancient city of Babylonia, an area known today as Al Qasr, approximately 80 miles south of Baghdad. The original city, believed to have been built in 2300 B.C., was sacked in 1595 B.C. by the Hittites. In 612 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar II rebuilt the city, turning it into his capital. He constructed a large ziggurat around the original ancient tower.

Nebuchadnezzar's ziggurat, referred to by archaeologists as the Etemenanki, is believed to have been almost 300 feet tall, with a square base measuring 300 feet on each side. It encased the earlier structure, made of sunbaked bricks, inside a 49-foot-thick wall of oven-baked brick.

Until the U.S. incursion into Iraq in 2003, the site was neglected, due to local people stealing the ancient bricks for construction. Saddam Hussein reconstructed part of ancient Babylon in 1985, destroying sections of the ancient ruins. Hearkening back to the ancient practice, he added his own inscription — stamping into its bricks, "This was built by Saddam Hussein, son of Nebuchadnezzar, to glorify Iraq" — and installed a huge portrait of himself alongside the Biblical king.

Anyone read Daniel 4 lately? God had an answer for Nebuchadnezzar that he would not soon forget! For those who do not believe in God's sovereignty, Daniel 4 should convince the greatest skeptics. — Tony



# Why is israel Called Israel?



#### PART 3: BY ELON GILAD (r) Haaretz.com

In May, the State of Israel celebrated its 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. But how did Israel get its name? This is actually three separate questions.

- In May, we learned that the theophoric name "Israel" means "God shall fight."
- In June, we found that after the Kingdom of Israel fell in 722 B.C., Israelites took refuge in the southern Kingdom of Judah, becoming synonymously known as Israel, land of the Jews (Judahites).
- Let's look at the third question: Why was this name chosen for the modern state?

#### How the modern state almost came to be named "Tzabar"

The modern State of Israel's beginnings lie in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Jewish nationalist movement "Zionism" took shape. Members of the movement usually referred to the hoped-for nation to be formed in Palestine as "the Jewish State," as it was called by Theodor Herzl (in German) — "Der Judenstaat."

During the British Mandate, Palestine's official name in Hebrew was "Eretz Yisrael." That was the name that appeared in Hebrew (alongside "Palestine" in English and Arabic) on the local currency, stamps, and official documents, lending the name "Israel" official status.

A day before the British rule over the region called Palestine ended on May 14, 1948, the Jewish leadership met in Tel Aviv. David Ben-Gurion, who would become Israel's first prime minister, presided over the small group, which decided that a Jewish state would be declared independent on the day the British left. Then they turned to discussing what to name the state.

According to an article by *Palestine Post* writer Moshe Brilliant (the only source extant for the proceedings and published a year later), at first, the group wanted Judah, the name of the ancient Jewish Kingdom. But this name was rejected since most of historic Judah fell outside the borders of the nascent state according to the UN's Partition Plan for Palestine that was on the table at the time.

The group turned to other possible names — among them "Zion" and "Tzabar" (Sabra — "native born") — but then someone suggested "Israel," which won by a vote of 7 to 3.

As for who suggested the name, Brilliant claims it was Ben-Gurion himself. It is possible, however, that Brilliant got this detail wrong. Moshe Sharett, Israel's second prime minister, had been calling the future Jewish state "The State of Israel" in speeches since 1946, while Ben-Gurion was using "Medinat HaYehudim" ("The State of the Jews"), so it seems plausible that it was Sharett, not Ben-Gurion. (In a 1965 interview, Ben-Gurion was asked who suggested the name and replied that he didn't remember).

Anyway, neither Ben-Gurion nor Sharett was the first to call the nation the "State of Israel" (Medinat Yisrael). That honor belongs to a rather obscure Jewish Galician writer named Isaac Pernhoff, who, in response to Herzl's utopian outline of the Jewish state in Altneuland, published his own alternative view under the title Shney Dimyonot ("Two Imaginings"). In his short 1896 article, Pernhoff predicted that the Jewish state in Palestine would be called "Medinat Yisrael"—the "State of Israel." And so it was.

And so it is today — the State of Israel. Stand with Israel and the Jewish people! Only they have a God-given right to the land (Joshua 21:43). — Tony





# JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

#### Kosher v. Non-kosher

A rabbi walking home from the synagogue sees a pious and learned man go into a non-kosher Chinese restaurant. Horrified, he stands at the door and observes his friend talking to a waiter and gesturing at a menu.

A short time later, the waiter reappears carrying a platter full of spare ribs, shrimp in lobster sauce, crab Rangoon, and other treif (unclean food). As his friend picks up the chopsticks and begins to eat, the rabbi bursts into the restaurant and reproaches his friend: "Morris, what is this you are doing? I saw you come into this restaurant, order this filth, and now you are eating it in violation of all the dietary laws and with an apparent enjoyment that does not befit your pious reputation!"

Morris replies, "Rabbi, did you see me enter this restaurant?" The rabbi nods "yes."

"Did you see me order this meal?" Again, he nods "yes."

"Did you see the waiter bring me this food?" A nod "yes."

"And did you see me eat it?" Nods "yes."

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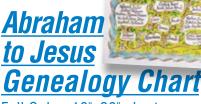
"Then, Rabbi, I don't see the problem here. The entire meal was done under rabbinical supervision!"



A cheerful heart is good medicine -Proverbs 17:22



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A personal work of art and a visually fresh Messianic poster that will be at home in the living room, office, or classroom. A nice gift idea. The tree roots connect the lineage of Isaac and Jacob through Abraham. The leaves include Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and spaces for you to write in your family members, grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel.

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Athens, & Garden Tomb

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