



Levitt LETTER

*Brethren, my heart's
desire and prayer to
God for Israel is that
they might be saved.*

— ROMANS 10:1

inside: **The
Rapture p.4**

Blowing the Shofar on Yom Kippur

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller / aish.com

Under Turkish and then British rule, Jewish activity at the Western Wall (the *Kotel*) — the last remaining remnant of the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and the holiest site of the Jewish people — was severely constrained. British law codified the restrictions on Jews who wanted to pray at the Wall so they wouldn't offend the Arab population: Jews were not allowed to recite prayers loudly, they could not bring a Torah to the Wall, and they were forbidden from sounding the Shofar.

On Yom Kippur 1930, at the conclusion of the *Neila* (Yom Kippur's closing prayer), a sound rang out that had not been heard at the Kotel in generations: the ringing blast of a Shofar. A young rabbi, Moshe Segal, 26, had smuggled a Shofar to the Kotel, and blew it at its

(continued p.2)

REMEMBER:

*Rosh Hashanah is Sept. 20–22 (sunset to sunset)
Yom Kippur is Sept. 29–30 (sunset to sunset)*

Delusion of the “Two-State Solution”

By Joel Fishman
en.mida.org.il

The Palestine Liberation Organization terror group (PLO) first introduced the “Two-State Solution” as a stratagem, intending it to be understood differently by the Israelis and well-meaning outsiders who would want a fair solution to this conflict.

During the war in Vietnam, the North Vietnamese originally launched the “Two-State” formula in order to hide their strategy of phases: Devoting attention to the intermediate stages of their struggle would enable them to reach their goal by gradual steps. Their real intention was North Vietnam conquering South Vietnam, but they spoke of the “Two-State Solution” as a tactic to disguise their aims and manipulate world opinion. In

(continued p.3)



Blowing the Shofar *continued from cover*

traditional place at the end of the Yom Kippur service.

Rabbi Segal was soon arrested, but in the intervening years, other Jewish boys — all in their teens — took his place. **Each year from 1930 to 1947, Jewish teenagers smuggled Shofars to the Kotel**, concealing them under their clothing, and blew them at the end of Yom Kippur. The boys worked in teams of three, aiming to blow the Shofar at each end of the Wall and in the middle. Abraham Caspi, who was 16 when he blew the Shofar at the Western Wall in 1947, remembers being told, “You’ll be the first, and if you don’t succeed or are caught, someone else will do it.”

Some of the shofar players escaped. British soldiers arrested the ones they could catch and tried each one, sentencing them to jail for up to six months. Still, the volunteers were undeterred. “We swore to give our lives for the resurrection of the Jewish people,” explains Jacob Sika Aharoni, who blew the Shofar at the Kotel at age 16 in 1936.

When Jordan captured the Old City of Jerusalem, they forbade any Jew from setting foot near the Western Wall for nineteen years. **In 1967 Israel liberated the Wall**, allowing all people — Jews, Muslims, Christians, and others — access, and the Shofar once again rang out. Abraham Elkayam, who was 13 when he blew the Shofar at the Kotel in 1947, was fighting in the area, and quickly made his way to the Wall. An Israeli soldier was standing by the Wall, blowing a Shofar, and Abraham asked him if he might have a turn as well. Abraham blew the Shofar, and a nearby soldier asked him why it was so important for him to sound this Shofar.

Abraham Elkayam explained he was one of the last people to sound the Shofar at the Kotel, in 1947. The soldier then introduced himself, telling him that he was the first one to blow the Shofar. It was Rabbi Segal who started the yearly tradition back in 1930. ([See the video of their recent reunion.](#)) ★



top: Moshe Segal in 1930 at the age of 26

second from top: recruits to blow the shofar

third from top: defiant shofar blower

bottom: reunion of the recruits





Teaching

4 The Rapture—Blessed Hope

Studio Co-hosts

6 Ya Snooze, Ya Lose

Our Man In Haifa

8 Slow Train Coming

Classic Zola

10 Bad News from a Far Country

Ask the Chaplain

12 The Seven Feasts of Israel

TJF Report

13 Foretold & Fulfilled

Wise As A Serpent

14 Wall Street: Still a Dark Alley

15 ZLM Bulletin Board

Parsons: Hebrew Lesson

16 Search Me, O God ...



21 Interview with Chaim Malespin

22 Letters to ZLM

Science

24 Mummy DNA

Medicine

26 Cutting Rx Errors

27 Standing By Israel

28 Why Israel Should Matter to Christians

30 Select Briefs

Archaeology

32 Eating Habits

33 Did the Jews Steal Palestine?

35 Jewish Humor



Delusion of the “Two-State” Solution *(continued from cover)*

the end, Communist North Vietnam subdued and conquered South Vietnam. In 1975, the last Americans fled by helicopter from the rooftop of their embassy in Saigon. This was a major defeat both for the South Vietnamese and for the United States.

During the early 1970s, Salah Khalaf (known as Abu Iyad) led a PLO delegation to Hanoi to learn from the North Vietnamese. There, the legendary General Vo Nguyen Giap and political advisors coached them on presenting their case and changing their public image of being terrorists. Abu Iyad recounted in 1978 that the North Vietnamese advised the Palestinians to devote attention to the intermediate stages of their war and to accept the need for “provisional sacrifices . . . sometimes important ones such as the division of the country into two separate, independent states.”

In 1997, Yossef Bodansky, an intelligence analyst, independently published more information on this meeting. “The Vietnamese suggested that seemingly accepting ‘the division of the land between two independent

states,’ without stressing that this was only an interim phase, would neutralize the PLO’s opponents in the West.”

We live in a high-technology culture of sound bites, text messages, and one-line messages. Such habits discourage the public from the careful study of past experience. **We must remember the history of this “two-state” slogan, which was designed from the start to be a swindle.** It began as a tool of political warfare, and its potency has remained because people do not know the past or have been lulled by it.

By tracing and documenting the origin of the term, we can know with certainty that those who advance it cannot wish Israel well. No Israeli who wishes his country well should ever advocate the “Two-State Solution.” Its program means the politicide of Israel. The idea may have been fashionable during the Oslo era, but it is necessary to listen carefully to what the enemy is saying both verbally and through actions. ★



The Rapture — The Believer's Blessed Hope

Tony Derrick, M.Div.
Zola Tours Leader
ZLM Consulting Theologian



Choose any news outlet — newspaper, radio, TV, web news, etc. — and it will not inspire you to a positive outlook regarding the future of our world. What they all do is remind their followers about the continued battle with ISIS, riots in cities hosting political, financial, and energy summits, plus a daily reminder of senseless murders in our own country.



Jan Luyken's three-part illustration of the Rapture (Matthew 24:40) from the 1795 Bowyer Bible, "The Rapture: One in the Bed"

You may be asking yourself, "So what on Earth do I have to look forward to?" Good question! The good news is that every believer in Jesus/Yeshua can look forward to being "caught up" (raptured) from this Earth. The New Testament's Greek word "*harpazo*" means "caught up." The Latin translation uses the word "*rapti*," from which the common term "rapture" is taken. When we read the numerous prophetic passages in both the Old and New Testaments, we quickly note that **not one more event needs to happen for the Rapture to occur**. Because it is the next event on the prophetic calendar, we refer to it as "imminent"!

The Church Age

The Church Age — also called the time of the gentiles or the Messianic Age — began at Pentecost and continues to this day. It will end with the Rapture, which makes it of undetermined length. The Church Age is God's plan for the world at this moment. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 tells us:

"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. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the LORD."

My underlined phrase denotes the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming. In the latter event, Jesus will firmly plant His feet on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

Caught Up

You may be wondering how this can happen? How can people be caught up into the atmosphere? Remember Elijah? The following verse makes clear that nothing is too difficult for God!

"Then it happened, as they [Elijah and Elisha] continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." 2 Kings 2:11

The Thessalonians passage above continues in verse 18, "*Therefore comfort one another with these words*" (4:18). My purpose for writing about the Rapture is to encourage you. The Rapture is a "*blessed hope*," as noted in Titus 2:11–13.

(continued next page)



Back to Cover



To Index



Back to p. 25



"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

Each of us should be especially encouraged because as Believers*, we will not be on Earth during the time of God's wrath — the Tribulation — but will be caught up together beforehand with all the resurrected saints to join the LORD in the air, to be with Him forever. Can you imagine the mid-air reunions that will take place?

Comfort and Hope

In knowing that our future is certain, we Believers have comfort and hope. Knowing that Believers will either be Raptured before we die or resurrected from our graves to meet our LORD in the air should give us confidence and assurance in living the Christian life. And just as Paul warned the Thessalonians in his second letter, we are to be vigilant in our day.



Jan Luyken's "The Rapture: One at the Mill"

*"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word, or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come."
2 Thessalonians 2:1-2*

Paul knew that there would be naysayers and attempts to deceive people for control and monetary gain. A stern warning at this point: If you ever meet someone who claims to know when the Rapture is going to occur, run away ... quickly!

One more note of proof that the Rapture offers hope for all Believers. The Church — the assembly of believing Jews and gentiles — is not mentioned once in Revelation chapters 6–18. Those chapters deal with the Tribulation, an event we will consider in the near future, as well as the Second Coming of Christ.



Jan Luyken's "The Rapture: One in the Field"

I have not dealt with the subject of the Rapture in great detail before because Zola and Tom McCall meticulously discussed this subject in their book *Raptured* (described on [p.25](#).) I strongly suggest that you order your copy today and set your hope on your soon coming "blessed hope"!

"Amen. Come, LORD Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20 interpreted from the Aramaic "Maranatha.") ★

* "Believer" is short for believer in Yeshua/Jesus

Ya Snooze, Ya Lose

Kirsten Hart
Studio Co-host of
Zola Levitt Presents



Peter Preaches to Jews and Gentiles (artist unknown)
from *Bible History* by Rev. Richard Gilmour, D.D., 1904

You're going to love our new series, *Called Together*. Eitan Shishkoff — Our Man in Haifa (see his article on [p.8](#)) — brings in-depth insight and teaching on the relationship and needed friendship between Jews and gentiles. As I listen to Eitan's lessons on the Feasts of Passover and *Shavuot* (Weeks/Pentecost) and how they relate to the life of a gentile Believer, I realize that I have lots to catch up on about the wonderful "roots" we Christian Believers share with Judaism. In fifty-one years of attending church services, I never learned the significance of the *Moedim* (God's appointed times). I never even *heard* the word *Moedim*! David and I have been missing out... as if snoozing through the Old Testament. Ya snooze, ya lose.

Don't get me wrong. I love the churches we've attended. The faith that I have stems from the many Believers and teachers in those fellowships. But by omitting the Feast Days and appointed times (*Moedim*), I never fully understood the complete message that Jesus/Yeshua brought. If we aren't taught about the Seven Feasts, how can we understand that Yeshua was the fulfillment? If we aren't familiar with the symbols in the *Seder* (Passover meal), how can we recognize the parallel with Holy Communion? Sure, we know that the grape juice/wine represents the blood spilled for us, and the bread (usually leavened!) represents His broken body. **But when you witness how He instituted the LORD's Supper using elements of the Passover meal, you connect the symbolism.** Since being involved with Zola Levitt Ministries, I feel as if a veil has been lifted, and I'm no longer "snoozing"!



Eitan Shishkoff teaches about the Jewish roots of Christian faith in the new Zola Levitt Presents series, *Called Together*



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David and I have devoured many of Zola's books over the past few months. Wasn't he a wonderful teacher? His books balance insight and depth with easy-to-understand vernacular. His *A Christian Love Story* booklet opened my eyes. For decades, I've heard and recited John 14:2. "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" (NIV) I thought (for fifty years!) that Jesus simply meant He will prepare a wonderful place for us when we die.

We have strayed so far from our Jewish roots that we've lost sight of our Savior's Jewishness.

Thanks to Zola's easy teaching style, I now know what that verse actually means. You can't fully understand what's being said if you don't know the 1st-century Jewish customs of marriage. (Why isn't this taught in our churches?) The husband-to-be would build a room as an addition to his father's house. Then, he would bring his bride to this room. We — the Church, including gentile and Jewish believers in Yeshua — are the Bride of Christ. If you aren't familiar with the traditions of a Jewish marriage/wedding, you simply can't understand what Yeshua was talking about in John 14:2.

Christian pastors: If you teach your congregation the Jewish roots of their faith, I applaud you. However, I fear that David and I represent the majority of Christians who sit in church every Sunday. We're the "Everyman" of the Evangelical community, if you will; a community that is losing out. **We have strayed so far from our Jewish roots that we can't recognize the Jewishness of our Savior any more.** Paintings of Him depict our Savior as a pale-skinned, blue-eyed Northern European. Most actors portraying Him speak with a British accent. That's so wrong!

If you are reading this *Levitt Letter*, I suspect that you hunger and thirst for the truth about the faith we walk. Yeshua revealed Himself throughout the Old Testament *and* the New Testament. He revealed Himself to His chosen people, the Jewish people. The more Believers learn about Jewish customs and faith practices, the more we learn about the heart of God.

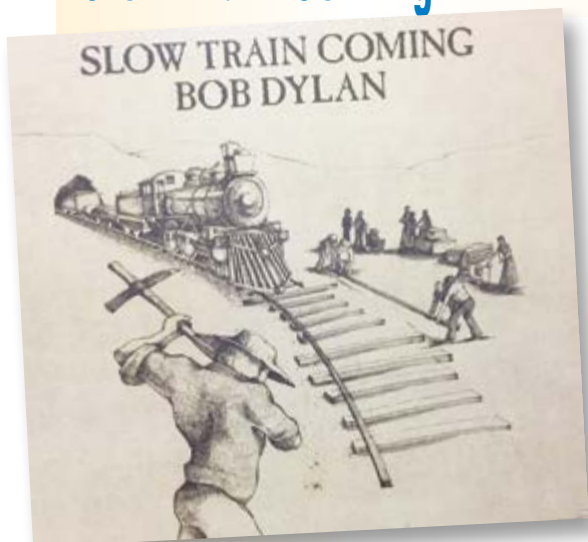
We all are at unique places on our journeys of faith. Your involvement with ZLM indicates a quest to add to your knowledge about the Jewish roots of Christianity. As for me and my household, we are done napping. I don't mean those lovely weekend afternoon snoozes. Spiritually, I'm now wide-awake. I'm done losing out because I missed the beautiful roots planted by *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Jesus, the Messiah) thousands of years ago.

I admire Jewish believers in Yeshua, and I'm a little jealous. They truly are the Chosen. I ask them to please be patient with us *goyim* (non-Jews). We're learning. We're going to host some awesome Jewish scholars and teachers on our weekly television program *Zola Levitt Presents* to share with us how their cultural traditions, laws, and language explain the Bible narratives and lessons we've heard since Sunday School. I'm also hoping that someone will bake us some *challah*... because we really like *challah*. Requesting delicious, braided egg bread seems like a good way to end this article. *Vetoda shehikshavtem* (Thank you for listening). ★



Slow Train Coming

Our Man in Haifa
Eitan Shishkoff
and wife Connie



Album cover—Dylan's first recording as a disciple of Yeshua

In our youth, he stirred us to action with his songs of protest, boldly challenging the status quo. When we became disillusioned with the possibility of defeating “the system,” he expressed our sense of cynicism and irony with his drug-inspired parodies. Then we found ourselves going “back to the land” to reinvent a “simpler” society, and his tunes mirrored the longing for organic simplicity.

But the most satisfying and deepest identification we experienced with Bob Dylan occurred in 1979 when he released *Slow Train Coming*, an album

filled with touching and provocative Scripture-rooted lyrics. In it, he openly declared his devotion to the Lord—reaching into the hearts of his listeners to draw them to God’s love and holiness. **Dylan had come to full-hearted faith in Jesus as the Messiah.** We and many of our friends had been praying for Bob to discover the Lord. We just knew that his deep search could only be satisfied by the Man who walked on water.

“Forever Young” is the colorful exhibit at the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv chronicling Dylan’s life and career. Wandering through the photographs, album covers, and memorabilia moved me again with the passion of his poetry and his ability to touch life’s bedrock issues. His work earned him the Nobel Prize in Literature, placing him alongside Kipling, Churchill, Hemingway, Pasternak, Steinbeck, and Solzhenitsyn.

A True Believer?

But how many recognize the deep faith dimension expressed in the works of this Jewish bard (born Robert Zimmerman)? And, is he still following Yeshua? If so, is that faith integrated with Dylan’s Jewish roots? The answer, my friend, is not just blowing in the wind. Sifting through numerous interviews, music reviews, and articles made it abundantly clear that Bob never left the Messiah. Here are a few examples.



“Forever Young” exhibition, Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv

According to one source, Dylan’s former wife Carolyn Dennis recalls the following: “I noticed a Bible in his luggage one day as he was packing. Amidst all the rumors that he was no longer a Christian, I asked him if he was still a believer. His answer was short and simple: ‘I believe the whole Bible.’ The answer seemed complete to me. Bob has never denied being Jewish, nor has he ever denied being Christian to me.”

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Journalist Sean Curnyn commented on Dylan’s lyrics “... betraying our Lord and delivering Him up to be crucified.” Curnyn: “But naturally you don’t refer to Jesus as ‘our Lord’ ... unless you believe in Jesus as *your* Lord. Hearing him speak in the language of a believer was, however, unsurprising to me: an awareness of God is throughout his songs, after all. ... **Bob Dylan is a Jew**, and he’s clearly **very serious about his Jewishness**, but he also clearly **sees no conflict with that and his belief in Jesus.**”

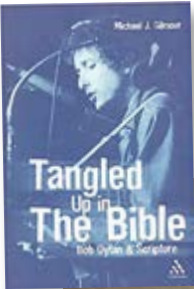
In 2009, after Dylan released his Christmas album, interviewer Bill Flanagan commented on Dylan’s performance of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*: “You sure deliver that song like a true believer.” Dylan responded, “Well, I am a true believer.”



Bob Dylan with Jerusalem in background

Lyrics

Analyses of Dylan’s lyrics (he’s written over 350 songs) fill huge volumes. The Biblical references alone fill a book (*Tangled Up in the Bible: Bob Dylan & Scripture* by Michael J. Gilmour), and the imagery of God’s Word permeates Dylan’s songs. Unable to control the urge, I’ll close with lyrics from *I Believe in You* (1979).



I Believe in You

<i>I believe in you even through the tears and the laughter</i>	<i>Don't let me drift too far</i>
<i>I believe in you even though we be apart</i>	<i>Keep me where you are</i>
<i>I believe in you even on the morning after</i>	<i>Where I will always be renewed</i>
<i>Oh, when the dawn is nearing</i>	<i>And that which you've given me today</i>
<i>Oh, when the night is disappearing</i>	<i>Is worth more than I could pay</i>
<i>Oh, this feeling is still here in my heart</i>	<i>And no matter what they say</i>
	<i>I believe in you</i> ★

Bad News from a Far Country

Classic Zola
from 1987
30 years ago



When there's no bad news about Israel, some has to be manufactured. Lately, several television "documentaries" have purported to show rough times in the "occupied West Bank" of the Holy Land. One went so far as to use the expression "the bloody streets of Jerusalem."

All of that is hogwash.

Bad news comes out of Israel because Israel is a democracy and supports a free press.

The last time the streets of Jerusalem were bloody was in the 1967 Six-Day War, in which the Chosen People at last regained their capital and established the first lasting peace in that city in modern times. But the compulsion to report something awful about Israel on a constant basis remains, and I'm interested in learning just why that is.

On a spiritual level, God has an enemy in this world and he's anti-Semitic. As part of the spiritual battle between the principalities and powers, Israel is expected to fail or, at best, win a grudging and difficult victory. There is no question that the devil would be well served if the last Jew in the world were killed off.

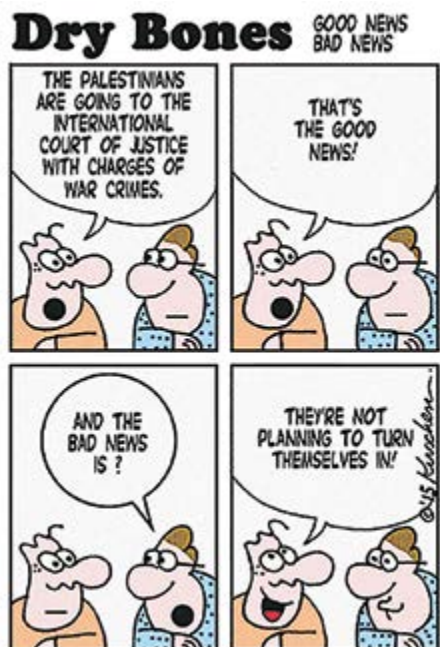
On a governmental level, we wouldn't be surprised to find that the Arabs are behind these bad news documentaries. I can well imagine them complaining about the record tourist season that Israel is having this summer. Our Pentecost Tour had 120 people — 2 to 3 times as many as we expected — and Americans are going to the Holy Land in huge numbers again. This tourism

helps finance Israel by supporting the local economy. Perhaps our Arab-pleasing officials have told the oil suppliers that they would speak to the media, and hence we are made to watch bad tidings.

There's also the ongoing implication, of course, that if only the Israelis were out of the West Bank and a Palestinian state were created there, the world would have unbroken peace. We are supposed to believe that consolidating the territory of those who perpetrate cowardly hijackings, kidnappings, and school-yard murders, and providing them comfort with their own government, will improve the political situation. **In the upside-down world of anti-Israel thinking, terrorists will lay down their guns when they get land and cash, and the Jewish people don't deserve to live anywhere.**

The truth about Israel is that nothing new is going on. The "occupied territories" have certainly never been completely comfortable — no place is. But Palestinian views on life under Israeli administration

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vary. We deal with Palestinian people in Bethlehem all the time: West Bank craftsmen make many of the Israeli artifacts that this ministry distributes. We get good service and fair prices from secure and satisfied business people. That speaks a lot louder than religious philosophies as far as we are concerned.

The fact is, Arabs live better in Israel than anywhere in the Arab lands. It doesn't matter how rich you think you are; if you don't have clean water, adequate medical care, and an education for your children, you are poor.

As usual, our 120 pilgrims saw no terrorism, no bloody streets, no police action of any kind in Israel. I sleep peacefully in the Promised Land, and I look forward to my 24th tour in September. I don't expect to see anything more serious than a kite caught in a tree.

Bad news comes out of Israel because Israel is a democracy and supports a free press. (We don't hear much bad news out of South Africa these days because that government clamps down on critical reporting. But the

Israelis are open to scrutiny). A free press can occasionally be abusive and promote what I think of as the "War Correspondent Effect" — the tendency of reporters to go to the worst part of an area and film the most extreme actions they can find, however long it takes to find them, and then run those scenes back-to-back to create the impression of jungle warfare in the streets. Such sensationalism makes the media look heroic, but it doesn't convey the truth.

Bible readers know that the anti-Christ will require a condition of major strife to take over in Israel (2 Thess. 2:3, 4).

Perhaps we are seeing the beginning of the End.

Solomon said it best when he wrote, *"What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun"* (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Very interesting to read what Zola wrote in 1987 and see history repeating itself today. — David ★



ZLP Monitor Team Growing

By Brenda Carol Duff, Monitor Coordinator

[Our call in August](#) for volunteers from diverse ZIP Codes to monitor *Zola Levitt Presents* broadcasts has generated a quick response. You volunteers are turning on lights for the Good News in your parts of the country.

We need many more monitors in order to cover all ZIP Codes. Please help us monitor these valuable programs for airtime excellence. Our new, convenient online system gives you an opportunity to bless ZLM's media outreach by watching our weekly program and reporting on its broadcast quality and content.

Email Brenda at LevittMonitors@BergProductions.com to join our team of monitors. ★



Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. Re: the Fall Feasts of the Lord. Since Yeshua fulfilled the spring Feasts and Pentecost on the exact day of each Feast, do you believe He will also fulfill the fall Feasts on their exact days? The Feast of Trumpets/*Rosh Hashanah* takes place on September 21–22 this year. Personally, I’m ready for His return anytime the Father says, but forgive me if I keep an eye on “the day of blowing trumpets”!

A. You are correct that the Lord Jesus did fulfill the four Feasts that Israel celebrates in the spring (Passover/*Pesach*, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits) and early summer (Pentecost/*Shavuot*). Consequently, it is logical to assume that the remaining three (fall) Feasts will also be fulfilled in their order (Trumpets/*Rosh Hashanah*, Atonement/*Yom Kippur*, and Tabernacles/*Sukkot*). The final three will be fulfilled at the Rapture of the Church, the Second Coming of Christ/Judgment Day, and His thousand-year kingdom on Earth. Anyone who wants to learn more about these Feasts and their fulfillments can read about them in Zola’s astute booklet [The Seven Feasts of Israel](#). ★

[The 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.

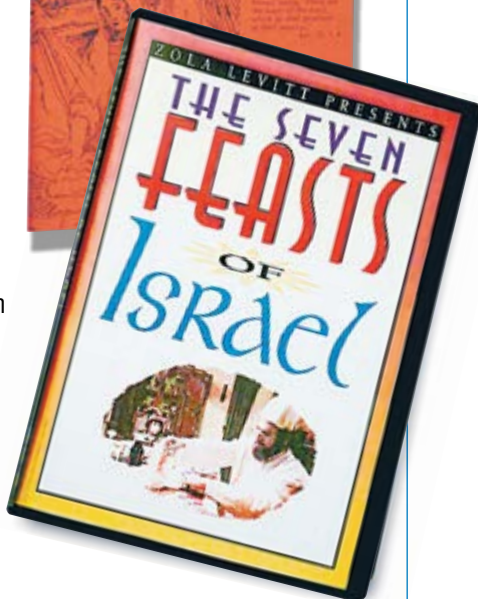
Trumpets The Rapture in its original form.

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 letter above.)



(Many titles also available as eBooks.)

Foretold in the Old, Fulfilled in the New

John the Baptist and the Crucified Messiah

When the **To The Jew First** outreach team visited the most likely location where John the Baptist had baptized *Yeshua HaAdon* (the Lord Jesus) in the Jordan River — at Bethabara in the Judean Desert, per John 1:28 and Matthew 3:13–17 — God opened

the heart of a young Israeli man, **Shlomo**. He and I began a conversation about the Bible's prophecy of a forerunner to the Messiah (Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1). I pointed out that according

to the Jewish New Testament, these *Tanakh* (Old Testament) prophecies were fulfilled in John the Baptist.

Yeshua's cousin John prepared the way for the Messiah by calling on Israel to repent and believe in this King of the Jews so that His Messianic kingdom could be established in Israel. I asked Shlomo if he had ever read the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament), and he responded, "No, but I have always wanted to."

Our team members carry a supply of complete Bibles (Old and New Testaments) in Hebrew. I pulled one out and joyfully offered God's Word to Shlomo. He was visibly surprised that I "just happened" to have a copy of the Scriptures in Hebrew to give him!

Shlomo's openness to considering that the Messianic prophecies point directly to Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel contrasted with another young Israeli I met in Jerusalem. **Isaac** grew up among the ultra-strict Orthodox-Jewish Haredim. The extreme legalism and pervasive hypocrisy of the Haredi sect so disillusioned Isaac

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



that he left Judaism completely to become a secularist. Yet, his education was rich in Bible study. In fact, I tapped into it by going over with him some of the detailed Messianic prophecies in the *Tanakh*.

Isaac found it hard to believe that Yeshua's death by crucifixion had been foretold 1,000 years beforehand, and by King David. So I showed Isaac the Hebrew text of Psalm 22:16 where David wrote of the crucified Messiah, "*They pierced My hands and My feet.*" Then I showed this former Haredi Jew the great prophecy and promise of Jeremiah 31:31–34 wherein God promised the New Covenant to Israel. I further showed Isaac how the death of Yeshua, recorded in Matthew 26:28, fulfilled this very prophecy.

Isaac gave the standard rabbinical response that the covenant in Jeremiah 31 referred to the giving of the Torah (Law) to Israel at Mount Sinai just after God brought Israel out of Egypt. But I quickly pointed out that verse 32 clearly differentiates between this New Covenant and the Old Covenant. The New Covenant, I told Isaac, was Yeshua offering His perfect life as the final sacrifice for the sins of Believers.

Isaac again responded as he had been taught by the rabbis and claimed that I was talking about Joshua the son of Nun who succeeded Moses. God granted me patience, and I told Isaac that I was talking about Yeshua the Son of God, born of a virgin according to Isaiah 7:14. Isaac was finally convinced enough to accept a complete Hebrew Bible and also a list of the Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled by Yeshua. Now he can study and see for himself that what I told him was truly what the Jewish Bible teaches. ★



Shlomo



Isaac



Wall Street: Still a Dark Alley

Wise as a Serpent
by **Mark Levitt**
ZLM Director



With His typical compassion, Yeshua admonishes Bible readers as follows: *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* (Matt. 10:16) Easier said than done, right? Particularly with the wolves of Wall Street.

Seventeen years ago, a stockbroker ran Zola, this ministry, and me through the proverbial ringer. That experience and the subsequent, virtually fruitless arbitration inspired me to undertake a more-disciplined-than-ever approach to mastering financial stewardship.

Along the way, I have shared many pearls of wisdom from seasoned financial columnists and worthy experts. Having a BBS degree in Business Management from The University of Texas at Austin, I have compiled a wonderful collection of articles that are digested and archived at levitt.com/essays. The categories there include Homes, Cars, Wills, Social Security, Stockbrokers, Investing, Retirement, Tips, and Miscellaneous.

Listed above that collection, you'll see Zola's six essay topics, Dr. Tom McCall's collected writings (on Israel, the Bible, Bible Interpretation, and History), and several articles by Dr. Todd Baker.

Two recent news pieces inspired me to sound a new knell for aspiring serpents:

1. ["\[The New Fiduciary\] Rule Doesn't Mean Advisers Won't Give Bad Advice,"](#) by Michelle Singletary of *The Washington Post*, June 17, 2017.
2. ["Wall Street's Self-Regulator Blocks Public Scrutiny of Firms with Tainted Brokers,"](#) by Benjamin Lesser and Elizabeth Dilts, Reuters, June 12, 2017.

By and large, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) relies on the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), a non-governmental agency, to regulate the securities

industry. If ever self-regulation was an oxymoron, it's when stockbroker cronies are appointed as foxes to guard the securities chicken coop. Talk about conflicts of interest on steroids! Don't just take my word: Instead, please check the archive for the many sources that I have cited over the years to bring you up to speed.



"Your stockbroker is on the line — he says he's allowed to make just one phone call..."

The bottom line takeaway, per my favorite financial columnist, Scott Burns, is to rely on commission free, "couch potato" investment portfolios, described at assetbuilder.com/lazy-portfolios. Scott advocates Vanguard not because they walk on water but rather because they have extremely low expenses and don't pretend to be able to time the market or cherry-pick stocks or market segments.

Do yourself a favor: Peruse the Serpent article topics at levitt.com/essays. Each article is short — only ~450 words long — and is designed to give you super stewardship insights in brief.

And do me a favor: While you are enjoying the quality of ZLM's publications and broadcasts, remember that we offer the best value possible for your offerings, which we husband diligently. ★



ZLM Bulletin Board

Who Occupies Gaza?

Not Israel. Watch an [animated video](#) that clearly refutes the misconception that Israeli soldiers ride roughshod over “Palestinians” in Gaza. In 58 seconds, you will learn that in 2007, Hamas threw out the elected Palestinian government and began terrorizing any Gazans who don’t kowtow to Hamas. Subscribers to our free *Levitt Letter Extra* (LLX) received this video in 2014; it is still timely. To get the LLX, enter your email address in the right column at levitt.com/news and click “Subscribe.”



Gifts-in-Kind Made Easy

Clicking on [Donations](#) at www.levitt.com enables you to contribute to our 501(c)3, tax-exempt ministry from anywhere. You can send a text message to 469-615-2009 with the amount you wish to donate. Our SECURE Donation Form allows you to click on **Money** (credit card, debit card, PayPal), **Vehicle** (auto, boat, RV, ATV, motorcycle), **Assets** (stock and mutual funds, real estate, business interest), **Gift Card**, or **Other** (bulk donation, inventory, commodities, jewelry, precious metals, other). You still can call 1-800-WONDERS (1-800-966-3377) anytime or, during office hours CT, 1-214-696-8844. Or write to us at P.O. Box 12268, Dallas 75225.



ZLM's 2016 Fund-raising Expenses

To comply with the tax code, this ministry calculates the small percentage of news-letter space and television time that we devote to fundraising. Added up, it accounts for two-thirds of one percent (0.65%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%, which is more than thirty times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you, the supporter, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for contributions. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to spread Yeshua's Gospel to new frontiers across the globe... **Thanks!**

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Your Guide to Effective Giving begins with a reminder that “charitable gifts remain deductible for those who itemize deductions for federal tax purposes.” Learn about giving the right gift at the right time in the right way. After touching on cash, securities, and other property, this guide delves into retirement funds, life insurance, and ways to donate while retaining income. The pamphlet concludes with a helpful summary of federal tax considerations for charitable giving. To receive *Your Guide to Effective Giving* at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



“Come Home!”

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Search me, O God...

by John J. Parsons
ZLM Scholar



חִקְרֵנִי אֵל וְדַע לִבִּי בְּחַנֵּי וְדַע שְׂרָעַי

“Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Examine me and know my anxieties” – Psalm 139:23

חִקְרֵנִי	אֵל	וְדַע	לִבִּי	בְּחַנֵּי	וְדַע	שְׂרָעַי
(3) (2) (1)	(1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)
chok-rei-ni	el	ve-da	le-va-vi	be-cha-nei-ni	ve-da	sar-a-pai
Search me	God	and know	my heart	examine me	and know	my anxieties

The sages advise, “Repent one day before you die.” But who knows the day of one’s death in advance? Perhaps your name will be called today, ending your lease on life in this world. Are you ready? Are you prepared to appear before God your Creator to give account for your life (Rev. 22:12)? The apostle Paul urges us to undergo self-examination: “Put yourselves to the test to see if you are in the faith; prove yourselves to see whether Yeshua the Messiah lives within you” (2 Cor. 13:5). The verb “to prove” means to test something (like a precious metal) by fire to determine its purity. The analogy here is straightforward: the quality of our faith will be revealed during times of testing.

Whether Yeshua is living in you (and you are living in Him) is the most important question of your life. Everything else turns on this (John 15:5). The great mystery of faith is always “Messiah in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). As British evangelist Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) once noted, “I don’t ask people if they’re saved anymore; I look them straight in the eye and ask, ‘Does Christ live inside you?’” Are you connected with Him in the truth? Are you drawing life from His life? Do you really live in Yeshua?

Of course, we all fail the test apart from the grace and love of God, since no one can be approved by means of the unaided will. We all need a miracle from Heaven to love God in the truth and to pass the test — but praise God — the LORD helps those who can’t help themselves! We ask God to search us to “see if there is any idolatrous way in me,” so that we can be led “in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:24). This is the underlying request: that by means of God’s testing, we will learn to trust in Him for salvation and life.

Should we live in fear of ourselves? After all, “The heart is deceptive above all things and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). No, because we are accepted in the Beloved. God has not given us a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear; there is no fear in His love (Rom. 8:15; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 John 4:18). The gift of faith is a miracle of grace that transforms us so that we become a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26). Spiritual rebirth means having a new heart with a new set of affections: “I am crucified with Messiah. It is no longer I who live, but Messiah who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Yeshua is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). He calls out to us in the storm of this world saying, “Take heart. It is I; be not afraid” (Matt. 14:27).

So take courage — trusting in Him is the way everlasting. Amen. ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies *by Dr. Zola Levitt & Dr. Jeffrey Seif*

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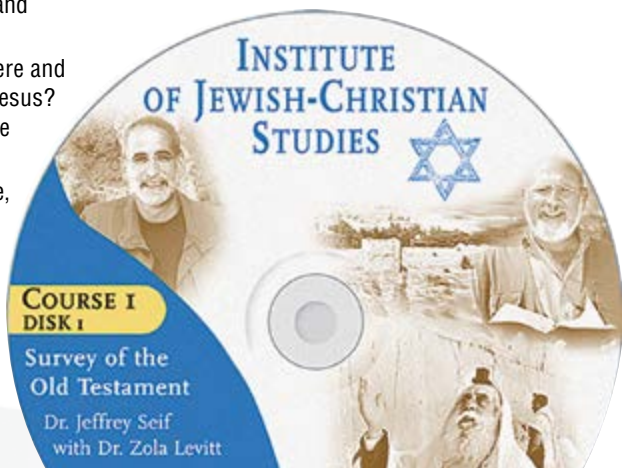
Zola Levitt, a Jewish Believer, was best known as the host of the weekly national television program *Zola Levitt Presents*. He was also widely published, with some fifty books in several languages, and he conducted regular tours to the Holy Land.

Dr. Jeffrey Seif, Messianic Believer and co-host of *Zola Levitt Presents* for five years, is an ordained minister and an expert on subjects related to Israel, the Jewish people, and prophecy.

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The 12 courses include:

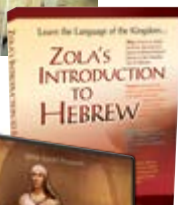
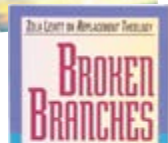
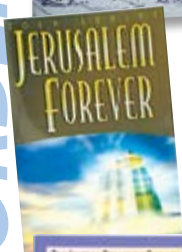
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- 9. Judaism Today** This interesting and thought-provoking study will help you to better understand your Jewish friends, neighbors, etc.
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New!

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The Bible: The Whole Story DVD

7 programs on 2 DVDs

The seven major doctrines of Scripture explained in Zola's clear and informative style—from Genesis to Revelation.

The Abrahamic Covenant Zola traces the journey of Abraham from Ur to Canaan, and reveals how God established an eternal covenant with Abraham.

Israel and The Law of God From the Exodus to the Cross, the Law served as God's standard for man's salvation.

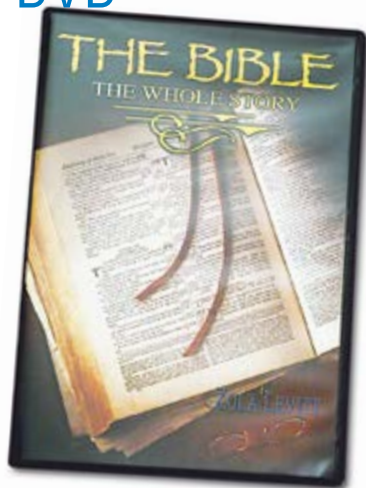
Prophecy—Thus Saith the Lord Zola's overview of how prophecy relates to the Land, the Messiah and the End Times.

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Grace—The Gift of Absolute Forgiveness Zola explains how grace can neither be earned nor bought and is especially appreciated compared to the Law.

The Church A study of the believers in Christ, both Jews and gentiles, between Pentecost (Acts 2) and the Rapture.

The Kingdom Zola teaches about the future 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth.

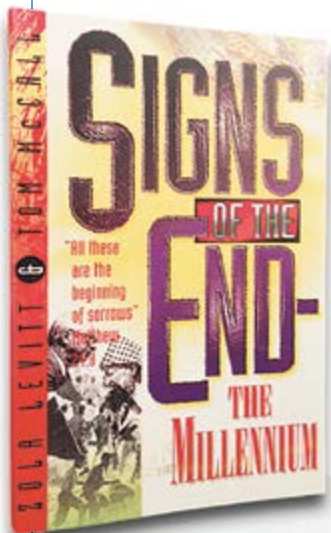


Zola's Notebook

Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola's Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover.

The Notebook has pockets for our newsletters, and provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly are: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.

(*The Bible: The Whole Story*, above, is *Zola's Notebook* on DVD.)



Signs of the End — *The Millennium* study booklet

Three Books in One!

First, the Messiah's own Words warn about the conditions that will prevail in the world at the end of God's plan. Are we now approaching the Great Tribulation and the return of our King?

Second, Zola and Dr. Thomas S. McCall offer a Biblical perspective of world events.

Third, their update titled *The Millennium* makes this a prophecy book of the past, present, and future.

(Many titles also available as eBooks.)

Interview with Chaim Malespin

Kirsten Hart
Studio Co-host of
Zola Levitt Presents



Zola Levitt Presents studio co-host Kirsten Hart sat down for an informal chat with Messianic Bible teacher Chaim Malespin, whom you may recognize from our newest television series, *Called Together*.

Kirsten: Tell us about a favorite childhood memory and what made it special.

Chaim: The first flight of my life — when we made aliyah to Israel. “Special” because I knew we were embarking on an adventure led by God.

Kirsten: If you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

Chaim: Hummus — because I’m patriotic and it has such a variety of styles and flavors.

Kirsten: What is your dream vacation?

Chaim: Skiing the slopes of Mount Hermon. Scuba diving with dolphins in Eilat after a skydive. Having some Bedouin coffee in the Negev. Eating at a fancy restaurant in Tel Aviv after jet skiing in the Mediterranean, then taking a cruise from the port of Haifa. To be honest, a day sitting at the beach would do just fine.

Kirsten: What would you do if you won a million dollars?

Chaim: Invest in the Aliyah Return Center vacation homes and then build my family a home of our own. [\(Watch the video about sponsoring an aliyah family.\)](#)

Kirsten: Have you ever had a nickname? If so, what is the story behind it?

Chaim: “Chaimush” On arriving in Israel, we discovered that people add “ush” to the end of names as a form of endearment.

Kirsten: Tell us about your biggest challenge and how you overcame it.

Chaim: Besides my army service, my biggest challenge of late has been a combination of:

1. getting a degree in government diplomacy strategy history, counterterrorism;
2. proposing/getting married;
3. having a baby;
4. starting a business/starting non-profits, here and around the world;
5. and moving to the north of Israel — all in a couple years.

Kirsten: Describe your normal morning routine.

Chaim: Skipping over our daughter’s jumping in the bed and our son’s alarm-like awakening at 7 a.m. every day, even on holidays, I start the day by making my famous omelet or banana waffles. I get some quiet time listening to Audio Bible as I return from driving my son to the only Believer-run kindergarten in the north. And then the workday begins: meetings with volunteers, donors, tour groups, contractors, architects, government representatives, public figures, etc.

Kirsten: If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Chaim: Trusting God is not a one-time thing or a two-time thing. It is a way of life. ★





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From J.B.B. (FL): The June teaching ([p. 31](#)) was on point. The word “church” isn’t a covenant word. You won’t find “church” in the Bible at all. The Hebrew and Greek use “assembly.” How did the church come up with the name “Jesus”? Please give us more teaching on Yeshua’s name. — “Jesus” is a transliteration from Hebrew to Greek and Latin to English when the Bible was translated. Greek male names all end in “s,” so Yeshua/Jesu became Jesus.

Something I Can Do?

Dear ZLM,

I’ve watched for years—first with Zola back in the day and now. I’m now 72, but I remember once, in my 30s, telling my husband as we traveled that I had never met a Jewish believer in Yeshua. Then at the Gettysburg info center I met a woman—a Jewish Believer—who briefly ministered to me. God heard!

My heart’s desire was to travel to Israel, but our budget and time never allowed for it. After we had sold our house to move into retirement, my husband gifted me with a trip with our local church. Oh, my! I had the feeling that I’d come “home.” I’ve even told people that I could live in Israel! Jerusalem was my favorite! I loved the [Journey of Restoration](#) television series that you did to enable people to “virtually” travel there; your programs bring Israel alive to me again.

I know we’re to be disciples and share our faith with others. But God has me in a place where doing that is difficult. Health issues have rendered me undependable to even serve in our local church on a regular basis. I hope that God sees my heart and opens an avenue of service for me. I know it’s by the Holy Spirit that we can share His Gospel.

I’m not sure why I’m writing to you except someone on your program said that you would like to hear from us. I just want you to know that your teaching encourages me, and I’m thankful for the ministry! E.N. (FL)

Dear E.N. —

You have a wonderful, inspiring testimony as to your love for the Lord and the Jewish people. There are many prayer warriors who feel that that’s all they can do. Praying just may be the highest priority for this ministry and the Jewish people (Matthew 7:7–8). — Tony

Dry Bones HOMEWORK



A Good Work in the Lord

Dear ZLM,

Blessings to ZLM. Just a comment regarding the change in the faces at *Zola Levitt Presents*. This ministry operates on a tight budget. Charity Navigator gave it less than its highest rating for a long time because it did not carry enough of a “reserve.” I don’t know how, from a worldly perspective, this ministry has survived. It can only be because our Lord blesses it. The staff and all involved continue to honor Him.

When Zola graduated, I was saddened but at the same time rejoiced. Sandra stepped up along with Jeffrey Seif. Then Myles and Katharine took the helm. Next Tony and Jane made a quick stop, and now David and Kirsten.

ZLM continues to bring us production quality far better than a YouTube video. Times change. The methods of sharing the Gospel have changed. The faces associated with spreading the Gospel have changed over almost two thousand years, yet the message remains the same. Again, blessings to all. —G.B. (TN)



WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

Dear G.B. —

You are correct! From a worldly perspective, this ministry would have never survived, not even during Zola’s day. It has been a work of God since the very beginning, and Zola was quick to admit that. (Jane’s brief stop in the spotlight followed years of faithful service in the background since 1989.)

“... [Be] confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). — Tony

Hi G.B. —

The faces have changed, but the message does remain the same. Thanks for your continued support of this ministry. The reason it has survived? Because people like you understand that we have a message to proclaim. —David Hart

What?! ... You Need Donations?

Dear ZLM,

I was sorry to see your hosts depart. If you put the new hosts in place to increase donations, that won’t work with me. If I had known of your need, I would have given before, but will think hard before I send in any money in to your ministry.

An extremely disappointed long, longtime viewer, D.S.

Dear D.S. —

Are you actually saying that our fundraising efforts have been too infrequent to compel you to support this ministry despite your longtime happiness with our Bible teaching? In effect, that’s a vote against spreading our Messianic message. And *now* you’re thinking hard ... really?

Please, D.S., open up to the possibility of sunshine after rain. **David and Kirsten will be introducing a variety of Messianic Jewish Bible teachers whose depth and breadth of expertise will exceed any we’ve had in a long time.** Then maybe you can lend us a hand for a change rather than joining what Zola termed “the overcrowded ministry of rebuke.” —Mark ★



Mummy DNA Confirms Egyptian Descent From Ham



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



An Egyptian sarcophagus from 400 B.C. shows Anubis, supervisor of the mummification process.

In a scientific first, DNA from Egyptian mummies has been decoded, producing results about the origins of the ancient Egyptians. The results trace the First Egyptian Dynasty (ca. 3150–2890 B.C.) back to Biblical Ham, as described in the Book of Genesis.

Until now, no empirical data confirmed the origins of the ancient Egyptians, and could only draw on literary and indirect archaeological references, and inferences made from genetic studies of present-day Egyptians. Egyptians today exhibit a significant sub-Saharan genetic influence. Based on these secular sources, most researchers believed that ancient Egyptians came from northern Africa, a belief that contradicts the Biblical account, which designates the forefather of Egypt as Mizraim, a son of Ham.

“From these the coastland peoples of the gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations. The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.” Genesis 10:5–6

According to the Bible, Mizraim settled in Egypt whereas his brother Cush settled in Africa, establishing two distinct and separate nations that did not share a common heritage. Empirical evidence implied that the origins of Africa and Egypt were the same.

The recent study of the DNA of mummies, led by Johannes Krause of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, shed light on the subject and **supports the Biblical narrative**.

Previous attempts to study the DNA of mummified remains were inconclusive. The hot climate of Egypt, combined with the ancient Egyptians’ embalming process, destroyed most DNA. For this study, researchers sampled 151 mummies from Abusir el-Meleq, about 60 miles south of Cairo. Their

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



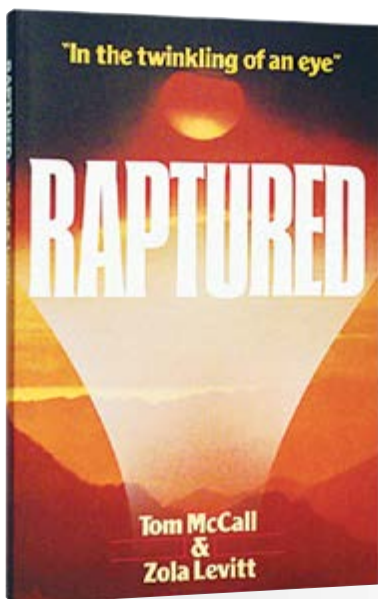


samples spanned 1,800 years of ancient Egyptian history, from about 1388 B.C. to 426 A.D.

The researchers collected 90 samples of mitochondrial DNA and three samples of genomes, the total of an organism's DNA. The results showed that ancient Egyptians were more closely related to populations from the Near East and southwest Asia than to northern Africa. The study revealed that the African influence on Egyptians is relatively recent, entering into the gene pool after Roman times.

These new findings fit in with the Dynastic Race Theory espoused by archaeologist David Rohl. Based on the Biblical account of Ham, Rohl's theory holds that Ham and his people arrived from Mesopotamia across the sea after the flood, conquered the Nile Valley, and established the first Egyptian dynasties. Rohl explains that Horus, one of the most significant Egyptian deities, was, in fact, Ham. The name "Horus" means "the distant one," implying that he came from far away.

To confirm his theory, Rohl led an expedition in 1988 into Wadi Hammamat, a dry riverbed in Egypt's Eastern Desert that is the main desert route from the Nile to the Red Sea. Over 100 ancient wall carvings and drawings depicted longboats with as many as 70 oarsmen. These images conformed to Rohl's theory that a sudden period of cultural and technological development during Egypt's First Dynasty resulted from an influx of Mesopotamians who sailed around the coastline of the Arabian Peninsula into the Red Sea, ultimately dragging their boats across the desert to the Nile. ★



[Raptured](#) Book

By Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

The Rapture of the Church—discussed in full with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are evenhandedly debated as to which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth—Believer and unbeliever alike. *(Please see Tony's related comments on [pp. 4-5](#).)*

(Many titles also available as eBooks.)

Cutting Rx Errors in Real Time

MEDICINE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



A new study by Harvard Medical School shows that software developed by Israeli startup MedAware helps reduce prescription errors, potentially saving the lives of patients.



photo by Abed Rahim Khattib

Prescription drugs

Ra'anana-based MedAware has developed software that uses algorithms and machine

learning based on data and patterns gathered from thousands of physicians who treat millions of patients. The data are used to identify and give alerts about prescription errors in real time.

The company says its self-learning, self-adaptive system is proven to dramatically reduce healthcare costs while improving patient safety.

The Harvard study analyzed records from almost 800,000 patients to assess MedAware's software. The report found that **MedAware's technology identifies errors otherwise undetected by current systems** in use, minimizes the risks arising from fatigued doctors who are used to getting false alerts from current systems, and reduces prescription errors with high accuracy.

The findings, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* (JAMIA), showed that MedAware's technology sets a new standard for prescription alerts and patient safety versus traditional safety systems, which are not geared to identify random or complex errors, like prescribing a medication used only in pregnant women for an elderly male.

The current clinical decision support (CDS) systems in use suffer from high false alarm rates that create "alert fatigue" — when physicians learn to simply disregard notifications, said MedAware.

In the U.S. healthcare market, more than \$20 billion is lost annually as a result of prescription errors and their consequences. Medication errors harm at least 1.5 million Americans every year and cause the annual premature deaths of more than 220,000 patients, according to the MedAware website. Adverse drug events are among the most common medical errors. Of the 4 billion medical prescriptions written annually in the U.S., 8 million contain life-threatening errors. ★



NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GoCOMICS.COM/NonSequitur



Standing By Israel, Loving the Benefits!



BY TEDDY SANEM, ZLM volunteer (r)

Ten days into the month, I start hanging around my front door. I don't want to miss the postman's knock alerting me to a package delivery. The moment he knocks, I rush to grab the box and, sure enough, the return label says "Israel."

Exploring the contents and unwrapping my new treasures gets surprisingly exciting. Some things I can readily identify, like the bottle of wine. A cluster of grapes decorates another wine stopper. My daughter, who takes her wines seriously, will get that on her birthday. Other items—like the tahini paste—are new to me. The jar says it's made from sesame. I know I'll like that!

Deeper in the box, a handcrafted necklace catches my eye. Its stones are set in a beautiful mosaic pattern. The little marzipan "Challah Bread" confection will make a nice dessert after *Shabbat* dinner. I nibble on a ginger kiss, but it is a little strong for me. Those kisses will end up as tea, I think. I inherited my mother's music genes, so I am delighted to get a CD with 15 tracks of Jewish folk songs.

Last month's box contained a "fancy" bottle of olive oil, fresh dates, a beautiful tablecloth, the print of a landscape painting in Israel, a jar of spread with coconut and berries, and a jar of anti-aging skin cream.

In an effort to counter the boycott (BDS) that aims to penalize and isolate Israel, the organization Lev HaOlam supports local Jewish business owners in Judea and Samaria. Jewish families have dedicated their lives to restoring these parts of Israel, and they rely on their businesses to support their families. International boycotts are putting their livelihoods at risk.

[Lev HaOlam](#) connects international supporters with Israel's Jewish pioneers by putting together unique monthly packages that contain gifts and products that are made by local businesses in Judea and Samaria.



Lev HaOlam
לב העולם

For \$99 per month, I will receive over 70 items during the year. By setting some items aside, I will never run out of gifts for special people during the year or have to run to the store to pick up "something" for an unexpected event.

On a map, I have started noting where these businesses are located, and I think about them when I find those names among the Scripture verses.

My good friends, Denise and Tim Schwartz, told me about Lev HaOlam and I pray that others will enjoy this unique way to bless Israel. Remember what our Father said: "I will bless those who bless you" Genesis 12:3.

After I put on my *Lev HaOlam* t-shirt, I'll pour a small glass of wine, kick back, and listen to my catchy new folk music while I think about the land of the Messiah.

For another way to show that you stand with Israel, please see [Drink Koozies](#) on [p.31](#). ★



Five Reasons Why Israel Should Matter to Christians



BY GERALD MCDERMOTT (r) Patheos.com

For most of the last 2,000 years, Christians thought that Israel doesn't matter. The people of Israel don't matter because God (supposedly) transferred the covenant from Jewish Israel to the gentile Church. And the land of Israel doesn't matter because Jesus declared that the meek shall inherit the *Earth*, (supposedly) leaving behind that little strip of land on the Mediterranean.

But Israel should matter to Christians because:

1 **Israel mattered to Jesus.** The Gospels indicate that Jesus predicted a future return of Jews to a restored Israel. In Matt. 24, He states that when the Son of Man returns, "all the tribes of the land will mourn," quoting Zechariah's prophecy about the twelve tribes of Israel mourning when "the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah" (Zech. 12:7, 10). Then in Matthew 19:28, Jesus tells His disciples, "in the new world ... you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the *twelve tribes* of Israel." New Testament scholar and author E.P. Sanders observed that these repeated references to the twelve tribes imply restoration of Israel.

Luke records Anna speaking of the baby Jesus "to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38) and Jesus' expectation that when He returns, Israel will welcome Him: "You will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD'" (Luke 13:35). When Jesus' disciples asked just before His ascension if He would restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6), Jesus did not challenge their assumption that the kingdom would be restored to physical Israel. He simply said the Father had set the date and they did not need to know it yet.

What about the meek inheriting the "Earth" (Matt. 5:5)? Jesus was quoting Psalm 37:11, where the clear meaning is "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the *land*." That last phrase is used five times in this psalm, and each time it refers to the land of Israel, not the whole Earth. Jesus was probably referring to the New Heavens and New Earth.



Christ the Consolator by
Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890)



(continued next page)



2. Israel mattered to Paul. The apostle to the gentiles insisted that Jews who rejected Jesus were still beloved by God and that God kept His covenant with them as a people. He told the church in Rome that “they are enemies of the Gospel for your sake,” but they “are still beloved of God because of their forefathers” and “because the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable” (Rom. 11:28–29). Not past but present tense. Their “calling” was their covenant, enacted when God called Abraham into a special relationship so that Abraham and his descendants would be God’s chosen people.

3. Israel mattered to Peter. After the Pentecost miracle, Peter spoke of a future *apokatastasis*, or restoration, that was to come (Acts 3:21). This was the Greek word used in the Septuagint (the early Church’s Greek translation of the Old Testament) for the future return of Jews from all over the world to the land of Israel to re-establish a Jewish nation.



Saint Peter in Tears by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682)



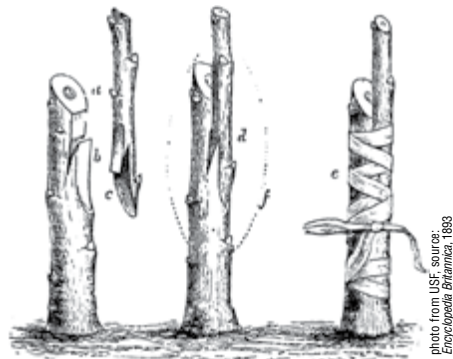
The Four Apostles (John the Evangelist and Peter) by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

4. Israel mattered to John, author of the Book of Revelation. He says in Rev. 7:4–9 that the 144,000 from “every tribe of the sons of Israel” will be distinct from the “great multitude that could not be counted from every nation” — traditional Biblical language for “gentiles.” The Book of Revelation says the two witnesses will be killed in Jerusalem (11:8) and predicts that the battle of Armageddon will be in a valley in northern Israel (16:16).

5. It was through Israel that gentiles came to know God. Jesus said, “salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22). Paul wrote that God sent Israel a “partial hardening” so that there would be space and time for “the fullness of the gentiles” to come in. The rabbis had taught — and apparently Paul believed the same — that when all Israel accepted their Messiah, the end of the world would come. Apparently, this was why, according to Paul, most Jews were not accepting the Messiah. It was “for your [gentiles] sake” (Rom. 11:28). Gentiles were given light to recognize the Messiah *because* God was withholding light from most Jews.

So gentiles owe Jews a debt. Because of what God did to the Jews, gentiles have been able to know the Jewish Messiah and become associate/“grafted-in” members of the “commonwealth of Israel” (Eph. 2:12). Gentiles have become adopted sons and daughters of the Father of Israel (Gal. 4:5; Rom. 8:15).

Israel should matter to us.



A grafting-in process

Israel matters to Kirsten and me, and we’re honored to be part of a ministry that recognizes the need to stand behind Israel and God’s chosen people. — David (*Another way to show your support for Israel — Drink Koozies! See p. 31.*) ★





SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Israeli border police stand guard at the Tomb of the Patriarchs

UNESCO Decision on Hebron

By Ian Deitch and Monika Scislowska/AP.org



The U.N. cultural agency recently declared the old city in the West Bank town of Hebron as a Palestinian World Heritage Site, a decision that outraged Israeli officials who say the move negated the deep Jewish ties to the Biblical town and its ancient shrine.

The move was the latest chapter in Israel's contentious relationship with UNESCO, an agency it accuses of being an anti-Israeli tool that makes decisions out of political considerations.

The 12-3 vote, with six abstentions, came on a secret ballot at an annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Krakow, Poland. The proposal came from the Palestinian side. Israel contended that its historic links to Hebron were ignored, and its ambassador to UNESCO left the session.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said UNESCO's "automatic Arab majority succeeded in passing the resolution that attempts to appropriate the national symbols of the Jewish people." The decision obliges the World Heritage committee to review its status annually.

Iranian Women Banned from Soccer, Bicycles

MEMRI.org



Two of the young women arrested

Iran's Islamic law bans women from attending public soccer matches attended by men. Women who have recently attempted to do so have been arrested. Also, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei recently issued a fatwa banning women from riding bicycles in public, arguing that doing so attracts the male gaze and "violates women's purity" and is therefore forbidden.

(continued next page)





Iranian authorities recently arrested eight young women who had disguised themselves as men in order to watch a soccer match in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. The women face criminal charges.

Alireza Adeli, head of security for the Tehran municipality, stressed that the ban was aimed at "preserving their honor, because the stadium's atmosphere, commotion, and crowds are no place for them. Dear women who wish to watch the match can do so on TV, which broadcasts the games and gives everyone a way to watch them live."

One Upping Immaculate Conception?

The Virgin Mary, with God's blessing, fulfilled prophecy with Yeshua's birth. Now look at what a family of five seems to have achieved with some help from Photoshop — compelled by Saudi ad censorship.

Before:
Mom plays a role in parenthood



After:
No mother needed,
just an inflatable ball. ★



Collapsible Drink Koozies

Set of two (2) neoprene insulators with pro-Israel messages.

Never be LUKEWARM again! Neither when it comes to STANDING WITH ISRAEL nor when sipping your favorite beverage. Sized to hold 12 oz. cans, our ministry's full-color koozie features two distinctive themes:

Side 1: STAND WITH ISRAEL

Side 2: DON'T BE LUKEWARM and Bible reference Rev. 3:15-16

Offered in pairs; wonderful as gifts and conversation starters.

See related articles [Standing by Israel, Loving the Benefits!](#) (p.27) and [Five Reasons Why Israel Should Matter to Christians](#) (p.28).



2,000-Year-Old Eating Habits of Local Jews

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY DANIEL K. EISENBUD / JPost.com

Ancient Jerusalemites from the Second Temple Period were kosher and dined primarily on sheep and goats, with cows and chickens a distant second and third, Tel Aviv University (TAU) researchers reported.

Following several years of archaeological digs at an ancient landfill in the City of David, an analysis of the findings from the 1st century A.D. was published recently in *Tel Aviv: Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University*.

Written by Drs. Yuval Gadot, Lidar Sapir-Hen, and Abra Spiciarich, the study is titled “The Faunal Evidence From Early Roman Jerusalem: The People Behind the Garbage.” Gadot, a senior lecturer at the university’s department of archaeology, indicated that the protracted dig took place some 2,600 feet from the Temple Mount.

“We began digging three years ago in a [ancient] landfill devoted to garbage disposal during the Roman occupation,” he said. “One of the main components found there was food waste, including over 12,000 animal bones, of which we identified 5,000.”

An exhaustive analysis of the bones determined that **Jerusalem’s ancient inhabitants strictly adhered to kosher dietary laws** and primarily consumed sheep and goat meat.

“We found no pork bones or shellfish whatsoever and that 70–80% of the bones were from sheep and goats, with a few cow and chicken bones,” Gadot said. “It was surprising that no pigeon bones were found, because we know that breeding pigeons was quite a big industry,” he said. “In the other landfills closer to the Temple Mount, past researchers found a lot

of pigeon bones, and now we understand that pigeons were not bred for food, but rather for sacrifices on the Temple Mount.”

Gadot added that a substantial amount of vegetable and fruit remnants, including figs and dates, were also found in the City of David landfill, although the researchers focused primarily on animal refuse. Gadot said the cuts of meat from the animals indicate that the inhabitants of the ancient city were decidedly middle class.



photo by Assaf Perez

The ancient City of David landfill.

“The better parts of the animals were not consumed, which shows us that they were not very rich and not very poor,” he said. “When you go to a restaurant, you see the good cuts of the animal, and we didn’t see that here.”

According to Gadot, the livestock, which were raised in herds nearby, were slaughtered at a facility in the capital. “You can see by the marks on the bones how they were slaughtered,” he pointed out. Apart from the animal bones, Gadot noted that numerous antiquities, including coins and broken pottery, were discovered during the dig. “We mostly found things used by people in their homes,” he said, adding that all of the finds have been sent to the Israel Antiquities Authority’s lab for further study. ★



Did the Jews Steal the Palestinians' Land?

BY SUSAN MICHAEL (r) IsraelAnswers.com

A common accusation against Israel is that the state is founded upon land stolen from the Palestinian people. A quick review of history reveals a far different story.

Ancient History

The Jewish people's connection to the Land goes back some 4,000 years when, the Bible states, God bequeathed the Land of Israel to the Jewish people through an unconditional covenant with Abraham. The Bible also records the Israelites' settling in the Land and establishing the Davidic Kingdom there. **Over the next 3,000 years the Jewish people suffered two exiles from the Land; however, a Jewish presence always remained.**

During the second exile, Roman Emperor Hadrian in 135 A.D. attempted to remove all traces of Jewish identity from the area by building a pagan city over Jerusalem and erecting a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount. He also renamed Judea "Palestine" after the Philistines, the ancient enemies of the Israelites.

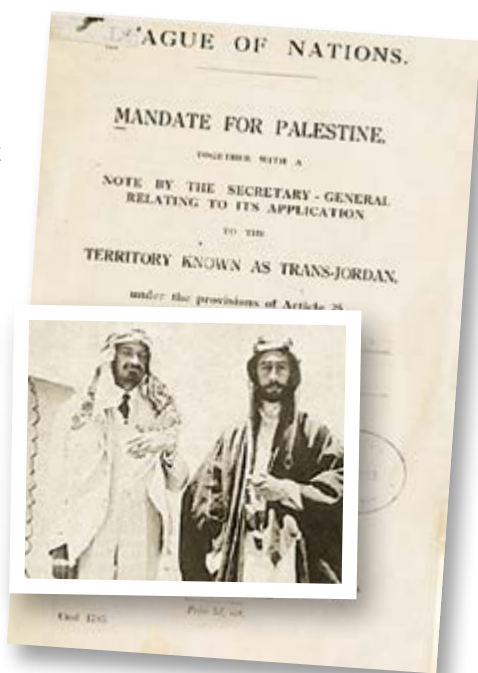
After Roman paganism, the Christian Byzantines ruled the region until the Islamic invasion in the seventh century. Islam ruled until the Ottoman Empire crumbled in World War I.

International Backing of the Return

In San Remo, Italy in 1920, the Allied countries of Britain, France, Italy, and Japan decided that rather than claim the lands in the Middle East vacated by the Ottoman Turks as conquered territories, they would view them as "sacred trusts" intended to prepare the indigenous peoples for self-rule. The 1917 Balfour Declaration had declared Britain's support for Jewish sovereignty in Palestine, recognizing the ancient Jewish connection to the land.

On July 24, 1922, the League of Nations adopted the British Mandate for Palestine (pictured), and thus enshrined into international law the legal right for Jewish people to settle anywhere in western Palestine, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Professor Eliav Shochetman, an expert in international law at Hebrew University, explains that when the United Nations succeeded the League of Nations, the UN Charter contained "a special clause, no. 80, in which it is said that all of the rights that were recognized in international law by the League of Nations still exist and are still binding... there is no document in international law that grants rights of sovereignty to anybody other than to the Jewish people. This is the legal position."



Document: The front page of the Mandate for Palestine and Transjordan memorandum, presented to UK Parliament in December 1922.

Photo: Emir Faisal and Chaim Weizmann signed a brief accord that Faisal linked to Arab control of Syria, however Syria was given to the French.



(continued next page)

Did the Jews Steal the Palestinians' Land?

(continued from p.33)

Israel's Declaration of Independence (1948)

Land Purchases and Statehood

Waves of Jewish immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries resulted in economic development for the local population, Jewish and Arab. Jews bought land from private landowners — many absentee — often paying exorbitant prices for barren desert and malaria-infested swamps. Upon statehood, Israel assumed title over any public lands once held by the Ottoman Empire.

Palestinian Grievances

In 1948, the Jews declared statehood, were recognized by the United Nations, and admitted as full voting members. Israel's founding was legal and accepted by the international community. However, the new Jewish State was immediately attacked by the surrounding Arab nations.

During the 1948 War of Independence, many Arabs living in areas now under Israeli sovereignty were displaced, especially when Arab leaders urged them to flee, promising their return after victory in a few short weeks. Most refugees traveled a few miles to the other side of the fighting, while others fled to bordering nations with the same Arab language and ethnicity. Unfortunately, these Arab nations did not welcome their brethren, but instead put them in refugee camps where many remain to this day.

Israel's Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948 **invited the Arab inhabitants to remain in their homes and become equal citizens in the new state.** The 160,000 Arabs who remained in Israel kept their homes and properties, becoming Israeli citizens who today enjoy the freedoms and opportunities afforded them by the region's only democratic country. Arab citizens of Israel number some 1.8 million.

In the wake of their 1948 defeat, **Arab states expelled more than 800,000 Jewish citizens and stripped them of all their property** — a much larger theft of land and belongings and a larger refugee problem than that claimed by the Palestinians. While Israel absorbed these Jewish refugees, the Arab countries did not absorb the Palestinian Arab refugees.

Summary

True: Some Arabs lost their residences by vacating them in 1948 only to realize they were unable to return once the fighting stopped, and some have lost homes to Israeli military or security measures. Legitimate grievances should be recognized and compensated. However, the statistic is small when compared to the number of Jews who lost property in Arab lands and in no way calls into question the legitimacy of the Jewish State. ★



David Ben-Gurion (First Prime Minister of Israel) publicly pronouncing the Declaration of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948, Tel Aviv, Israel, beneath a large portrait of Theodor Herzl, founder of modern political Zionism



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

High Holidays

A rabbi at the door of the synagogue warmly greets each congregant at the end of Yom Kippur.

“Jonathan, you have to join the army of God,” the rabbi advises one worshiper.

“Rabbi, what do you mean?”

“Jonathan, you only show up for the High Holy Days.”

“Rabbi, *sh-h-h*. I'm part of the secret service!”



Willing to Help

The phone rings at a leading law firm.

“Levy, Schwartz, and Smith,” answers the receptionist in a professional voice. She adds, “Can I help you?”

“Yes,” responds the caller, “May I speak to Mr. Levy please?”

“Mr. Levy is out of the office,” explains the receptionist.

“This is Yom Kippur. Mr. Smith can assist you.”

“That’s okay, Ms. Kippur. Please tell Mr. Levy that his car is fixed and he can pick it up.” ★



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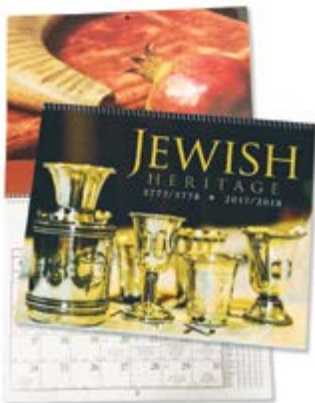
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Jewish Heritage Calendar

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar begins in September and spans 13 months, through September 2018. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.



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Back to
p. 15