

ZOLA LEVITT MINISTRIES P.O. BOX 12268 DALLAS, TX 75225-0268

> OFFICE: 214-696-8844 staff@levitt.com

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Dear Reader,

October 2017

You're going to like this October issue. If you imagine that the last of the fall Feasts, Sukkot, isn't meant for gentile Believers, our cover side story will surprise you. I memorized John 7:37-38 - Christ's "Come to Me" invitation - in Sunday School, but had no inkling of (and certainly wasn't taught) its connection to Sukkot.

That Feast omission epitomizes this ministry's mission. Zola's teaching connected my working knowledge of the Bible with its context — how our LORD's listeners interpreted His words according to their **daily Jewish customs**. Zola's teaching illuminated Scriptures I'd learned by rote, and his vision still drives ZLM. Your prayers and donations keep us on the air and in print. Thank you. Would you kindly lend an extra measure of help now that Hurricane Harvey assistance is diverting some of our regular funding?

Our Jan. 2013 Levitt Letter (p. 32) shows how Yahweh and Allah are NOT the same divinity. Now Michael Brown (cover) guides readers through the essential differences between Christianity and Islam, with insights to bolster your own testimony.

The amazing folks at the Middle East Media Research Institute simply translate "sermons" from Arabic into English. We've collected four recent translations (p.33) to reveal a pattern of imams inciting in Arabic and claiming the opposite in English — a deception that Islam condones!

Don't miss the updates regarding today's technology - in archaeology (26, 34), cooperative defense (31), humanitarian Israelis (27) — and Temple Mount news (21).

Zola reveals inspiring details behind our Prophecy Scrolls (10), while Kirsten (6) and Eitan (8) extol living with Hebrew, the reawakened language of the Patriarchs and Prophets. Mark counts our blessings (14) and nudges us to read John 9:4. Tony initiates a multi-part study into End Times prophecy leading to our LORD's return (4).



Please *sha'alu shalom* Yerushalayim — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), Unrast

Margot, ZLM editor

P.S. May discovering the Jewish context of the Bible, sacred to all Believers, embolden your own role in God's Kingdom.

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OCTOBER 2017



Levit

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

inside: The lation and

The Difference Between

By Michael L. Brown / ChristianPost.com

The essential difference between Islam and Christianity is the difference between Mohammed and Jesus.

Jesus:

- A spiritual leader who laid down His life to save the world.
- Accomplished His mission by dying on the cross.

Mohammed:

- A spiritual leader, who became a political leader, then a violent military leader.
- · Accomplished his mission with a sword.

Both religions point to a holy book, allegedly inspired by God, for faith and practice. Both call for high moral standards and serious personal commitment. Both share common traditions (Mohammed learned from Jews as well as from Christians). Both have a vision to spread their faith around the world.

(continued p.2)

Sukknt

By Aaron Eby / First Fruits of Zion ffoz.org

According to Zechariah, a time will come when people from all nations

"will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16). What is the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot in Hebrew?

A sukkah (the singular form of sukkot) is a makeshift shade from the sun constructed of readily available materials. For example, during the late-summer harvest season, a laborer might take a break and use plant stalks, leaves, and branches to provide shade from the oppressive midday sun.

During the harvest season in Biblical times, one would no doubt see many of these little shelters in fields,

(continued p.9)

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The Difference ... <u>continued from cover</u>

But this is where the two faiths diverge. One follows the example of a crucified and risen Savior. The other follows the example of a prophet and military leader. Biblical verses of violence ("Kill the Canaanites") were limited to a specific place and time, and Jesus gave no such commands. Koranic verses of violence ("Kill unbelievers wherever you find them") do not have those limitations. While many Koranic interpreters claim that those verses cannot be applied indiscriminately today, others differ, proudly citing them in their jihadi manuals. The difference is that of the cross vs. the sword. Jesus and His followers never established the death penalty for leaving the faith. The death penalty for leaving Islam, established when Mohammed assumed military dominance, remains in force in many Islamic countries today. Mohammed beheaded some of his enemies. Jesus forbade His followers from taking up the sword in His defense. The differences are glaring and clear. Just compare the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels with those of Mohammed in the Hadith. Jesus never calls for violent acts against enemies of the faith; Mohammed often does. There's no Gospel equivalent to the list of Mohammed's military raids.

Accordingly, the most tolerant expressions of Islam are found when: 1) Muslims are the minority in a country, as in America; or 2) the Muslim-dominated country is secular, as in Indonesia. In contrast, observant Muslim countries exhibit limited tolerance for non-Muslims. As proof, try setting up an open Christian mission to Muslims in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Iran. Tell me how many minutes it lasts.

I commend Muslims who call for a more tolerant expression of their faith, who say that they abhor the terrorism carried out in Islam's name. But they must admit that violent Islam has a long and rich history. Noted Catholic scholar of Islam Samir Kahlil Samir wrote: "I speak about the violence expressed in the Koran and practiced in Mohammed's life in order to address the idea that the violence we see today is a deformation of Islam. ... There are two readings of the Koran and the *sunna* (traditions). Both readings are legitimate. ... The individual Muslim decides what he wants Islam to be."

Thus, acts of violence carried out to advance the Christian faith are the exception to the rule. Violence to advance Islam is all too common.

When it comes to freedom of religion, a country like America, founded on Judeo-Christian principles, allowed this essential liberty from the start. In a country like England, also with rich (if backslidden) Christian history, Muslims can practice their religion freely, even proselytizing non-Muslims. In contrast, if Muslims became the majority religion in England, non-Muslims would become second-class citizens, with limited freedoms (like Christians in Pakistan) unless they converted to Islam. It is true that both faiths seek to spread their message by disseminating information. And both faiths point to the sublime message of their founders. But the message of Jesus leads to liberation while the message of Mohammed leads to subjugation. Again, I know there are moderate Muslims who seek to reform their faith, and many of them are honorable people. And I know that some of them believe they are being true to the real spirit of their faith.

But there's a reason that, generally speaking, true Muslims persecute true Christians rather than the other way around. It is the difference between the sword and the cross.

In addition to Brown's excellent reminder about the differences between Islam and Christianity, Believers have Apostle Paul's powerful statement in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." — Tony

(For more by Michael L. Brown, please see his book described on p.27.) *



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Jerusalem 1967-2017

50 years of reunification ... From King David's purchase, make that 3,050 years!

Besides celebrating 50 years of Jerusalem's reunification in June, we see in October a cluster of anniversaries tied in one way or another to the restoration of Israel to the Jewish people in preparation for the coming of the Lord. These will include:

- The 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation (October 31, 1517) that made the Bible accessible to ordinary Christians so they could read for themselves all about God's promises foretelling His determined purpose to one day restore the Jewish people to their land. The Reformation began just a year after the Ottoman Turks conquered and brought the land of Israel into their empire.
- The 100th anniversary of the Battle of Be'ersheva (October 31, 1917) that led to the liberation of the land of Israel from the Turks after a continuous 626 years of Islamic rule.
- In early November, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration supporting the resurrection of the Jewish national home in Israel. British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour's letter containing the text of the declaration was sent to Lord Rothschild on November 2, 1917.

(*Please see <u>p. 36</u> for our Jewish Heritage Calendar.*)





The Tribulation and Israel

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



Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary defines "tribulation" as "distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution." Tribulation perfectly fits what our LORD describes as He answers the disciples' questions regarding the future.

The world has witnessed a lot of saber rattling in recent years, and most of us have our "spidey senses" standing on end waiting for something cataclysmic to happen. North Korea, Iran, South Korea, China, Syria, Egypt (in a lesser sense), Jordan, and Russia (which typically denies being involved in anything) all garner world attention. And because they're not on the front page, we tend to forget our men and women still in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Are we approaching Armageddon and the Tribulation? Has the end come? There is no better End Times chronology — especially about Israel — than what Jesus (Yeshua) gave in Matthew 24 and 25.



Death on the Pale Horse, etching by Gustave Doré (1832–1883)

Jesus' Foretelling

Let's take a quick look back, and then forward, to Matthew 24. The June 2017 *Personal Letter* covered portions of Matthew 23 when Yeshua pronounced "woes" on the scribes and Pharisees, calling them hypocrites and a "brood of vipers." Then in Matthew 23:37–39, Jesus grieved over Jerusalem.

Immediately following, in Matthew 24:2, Jesus told His disciples: "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (speaking of the Temple). He continued to the Mount of Olives, where the disciples came and asked two probing questions: "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

Let's consider a portion of the answer that Jesus gave (in Matthew 24:4–8) and look at corollary passages in Revelation 6. Please grab your Bible and prepare to return here each month until we read about the crowning moment when King Jesus returns.

Warning Signs

Yeshua begins His description of signs with a warning: "Many will come in My name saying, 'I am Christ,' and will deceive many" (Matthew 24:5). The corollary passage in Revelation 6:2 coincides with the opening of the First Seal. "And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to (continued next page) Jesus Beheld the City and Wept Over It, James Tissot (1836–1902)

conquer." This may seem like the perfect description of our conquering LORD, but this occurs at the beginning of the Tribulation. This rider is a false Christ.



Yeshua tells them in Matthew 24:6–7: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." This passage could have been taken from today's news headlines anywhere in the world.

The corollary passage in Revelation 6:4 concerns opening the Second Seal. "Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword."

Revelation 6:5–6 notes the opening of the Third Seal. "When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, 'A quart of wheat for a denarius and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.'"

We find the next sign given by Yeshua in the corollary passage: "And there will be famines..." (Matthew 24:7). Clearly, food will be scarce and very expensive. A denarius equals one day's wage.

The fourth sign that Yeshua gives the disciples is in the last part of verse 7 — "pestilences and earthquakes in various places." Opening the fourth seal revealed one on a pale horse, whose name was Death. Revelation 6:7–8: "When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come and see.' So I looked, and behold a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was

Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth." As Matthew explains in 24:8— "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Ongoing Study

This study may take a few Levitt Letters to complete.

You might want to review Daniel's Seventy Weeks (Daniel 9), because the verses we just covered describe the first half of the seventieth "week," or $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of the Tribulation, clearly showing Israel's punishment for rejecting the Messiah. Next month, we'll continue studying Jesus' teachings on the Mount of Olives.

I must credit the many scholars (too many to name) under whom I've studied, or whose commentaries I've read, who have influenced my Biblical thinking. I stand on their scholarship for what I know about the Bible, Israel, and prophecy. Two, of course, are Zola Levitt and Dr. Thomas McCall who wrote *Satan in the Sanctuary*. The book's excellent Biblical content, with charts to clarify timelines of prophetic events, is a handy tool for any prophecy student.





A Cup of Chai

I discovered chai as a drink option just a few years ago. I like it: sweet with a little spice, a tastv combination of tea, cream, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and even peppercorns! Apparently this

drink goes back thousands of years and has various national pronunciations. Most Americans say ch (as in church), followed by a long i — ch-i.

Another chai I recently learned about comes from our beloved Israel. This chai begins with a throaty h (kh) sound, followed by a long i — kh-i. Chai consists of two letters in the Hebrew alphabet: Chet (ח) and Yod (י).

I grew up singing along with

the famous actor Topol (his given name, interestingly, was *Chaim* Topol) as he sang and portrayed the role of Tevye in *Fiddler* on the Roof. My favorite song in the musical was "<u>L'Chaim</u>." (My second favorite was "Matchmaker, Matchmaker.")

From watching Fiddler on the Roof all those years, I picked up that L'Chaim was a toast To Life! It wasn't until David's and my most recent trip to the Holy Land that I discovered

top: Kirsten's chai necklace bottom: Kirsten enjoying a cup of chai in Israel

To life! To life! L'chaim! L'chaim, l'chaim, to life! May all your futures be pleasant ones Not like our present ones Drink, l'chaim, to life

the true beauty of *chai*. It has become my favorite Hebrew word and symbol.

You may know that our younger son, Ryan, lives in Jerusalem and works as a video production specialist for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ). Before our last tour group arrived, David and I spent five days with our boy. We wanted to see where he lives, where he goes to the movies, where he shops for groceries, and what his everyday life is like. (Side note: The movie theater we visited in Jerusalem was way cooler than any movie theater we've been to in the States. Israel is definitely *not* a Third World country!)

I had read that being at the Western Wall just as Shabbat starts on Friday evening is memorable. So I suggested that David, Ryan, and I go into Jerusalem's Old City late Friday afternoon. Bringing in Shabbat at The Wall (HaKotel) would be a "first" for all of us, and we were excited.

As we walked through the Dung Gate into the Old City, I concluded (again) that we Evangelical Christians are missing out on amazing Jewish traditions. (Please

(continued next page)







Kirsten Hart

Studio Co-host of

To Index

see <u>my column in September's Levitt Letter</u>.) Energy and excitement pulsated everywhere we walked. I've never experienced anything like it. Singing, dancing, and joyous shouts of praise and thanksgiving reverberated throughout the Kotel plaza. IDF (Israel Defense Forces) soldiers circled up, held hands, and danced with joy. We could hear songs thanking Elohim for another week of *chai* (life) being sung in many national languages. Young boys becoming a bar Mitzvah ("son of the Commandment") clustered in family groups. The joy of life was tangible.

I whispered to Ryan, "It's sad that we don't have *anything* like this in the States." He, with wisdom beyond his twenty-three years, replied, "But with this level of *chai* also comes great sorrow."

True, the Jewish people have walked through thousands of years of persecution, yet their gratitude for life, demonstrated by their rejoicing at the beginning of each weekly *Shabbat*, was more than I ever imagined. Why don't we



After the war, Jews turned this symbol of humiliation and death into a badge of honor and national redemption.

in America rejoice like the Israelis do on the eve of *Shabbat*? Have we not walked through enough intense sorrow as a people and nation to appreciate the simplicity of living through another week, to appreciate the coming day of rest? Come to think of it, taking off a Sabbath/*Shabbat* is very un-American. Americans don't seem to rest. We have a hard time stopping everything, shutting it all down to enjoy a time of quiet and gratefulness.

Before leaving Israel, I bought a silver necklace with two sterling charms: the Star of David and the Hebrew word "chai." When Theodor Herzl looked for a symbol for the new Zionist movement, he chose the Star of David because it was so well known and because it had no religious associations.

During the Holocaust, the Nazis chose the yellow star as an identifying badge that they required all Jews to wear. After the war, Jews turned this symbol of humiliation and death into a badge of honor and national redemption.

For me, the Star and "chai" symbolize the extremes of the Jewish people. With great sorrow (the Star) comes the ability to recognize great *chai*. It may be impossible to experience extreme *chai* without walking through extreme pain. Only when Jewish people accept Jesus as *Yeshua HaMashiach* can they experience true life. The pain of the Cross brought the greatest *chai* ever!

I wear the Star of David pendant with pride and joy, as do Israelis. Once a symbol of persecution, it's now a sign of independence, joy, and God's unfailing covenant with His people.

Perhaps, as we enter the fall season, you will enjoy a cup of hot chai tea and remember the Hebrew meaning of *chai*: rejoice that you have life! If you don't have this joy of life that I am writing about, I pray that today is the day you let Yeshua/Jesus into your heart. For truly, only through Him can you experience abundant life. Please, ask Him to become the Lord of your life.

> "I am come that they might have life [chai], and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

For more ways to share your *chai*, please see the four Pro-Israel Collar Buttons on p.24.



My Journey with Hebrew

If you've ever tried to learn another language, you know what it's like. You enter into a new world with sounds and patterns of words that are challenging in their unfamiliarity. It was into such a world that I found myself immersed some 25 years ago, arriving in Israel as a nearly 45-year-old immigrant.

I had studied both Spanish and Russian and used those languages in different seasons of life among people who spoke them natively. But this was different. I was now LIVING in a new/old country, and the language of that country was Hebrew — an ancient tongue, revived against all odds just over 100 years ago.

When Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858–1922) felt compelled to bring Hebrew back to life, he was "swimming against the tide." In the early days of the Jewish return to Israel, at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century, newly born institutions such as the Technion in Haifa lobbied to use German as the language of education in the land of Zion.

Well, my journey was vastly simpler than Ben-Yehuda's. Due to his passion, brilliance, and persistence, Hebrew was chosen as the national language for the reborn nation. By the time Connie and I arrived from the United States in 1992, there were so many native Israelis speaking Hebrew that it was difficult for some to understand my primitive, American accented-version of the revived tongue.

<mark>I dove into the cha</mark>llenge with all my might, studying Hebrew day and night for our first *Our Man in Haifa* **Eitan Shishkoff and wife Connie**





Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858–1922)

- Born Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman, in Lithuania; learns Biblical Hebrew and goes to yeshiva to become a rabbi
- becomes more interested in secular studies; leaves yeshiva for Russian school and gains exposure to Hebrew literature and Zionism
- grows interested in national revivals in Balkans and Italy; decides that revival of Hebrew as a modern, spoken language could unite Jews and lead to a Jewish state in Palestine
- moves to Paris (1878) and takes advanced Hebrew classes but terminates studies after contracting tuberculosis
- moves to Jerusalem (1881), where he tirelessly promotes Hebrew as the national language of the Jews

year in the land. Adding to the challenge was the fact that my closest relationships formed with fellow immigrants who came from the former Soviet Union. They were also learning Hebrew, albeit expressing themselves with Russian accents and imperfect grammar. We now joke about the fact that we invented our own versions of the language.

It can be a gray, misty world when you understand only partially what's being said. You feel detached, disengaged. Conversations can be going on all around you, but you catch only fragments. Yet this experience has been relived millions of times, by immigrants and refugees. The biggest incentive for becoming functional in Hebrew in Israel is that local conversations are conducted in the reawakened vocabulary of the Patriarchs and Prophets. That fact alone makes the struggle worth the effort.

I still make linguistic blunders and often have to pause while constructing a credible, comprehensible sentence. And though I ask people to repeat themselves way more often than I'd like, the request is worth the humiliation. What a privilege to be among the people of resurrected Israel, seeking to make Yeshua known in His native tongue!* To

^{*} New Testament authors repeatedly and specifically mention people speaking Hebrew because people really were speaking Hebrew. NT authors knew Aramaic, and most certainly knew the difference between Hebrew and Aramaic. Please see Zola's Introduction to Hebrew on p. 18, described at store.levitt.com/HP.

Sukkot continued from cover sidebar

vineyards, and orchards. But they are not just for harvest. Jonah also built such a *sukkah* to sit in as he waited to see what would come of Nineveh (Jonah 4:5). Jacob built *sukkot* for his cattle during his journeys, and named the place after them (Genesis 33:17).

When the ancient Israelites escaped from Egypt, they left their houses behind. They would have gathered whatever brush they could find to keep the sun off their heads. God Himself also sheltered them from the sun's rays; His presence was the *sukkah* they needed.

Because of its uses, the *sukkah* symbolizes both harvest and sojourning.

The Biblical Source

Let's look at the institution of this Feast in the Bible in Leviticus 23:34–43.

- Sukkot is a happy seven-day holiday
- Begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month
- Connects to the harvest
- The first and eighth days are days of rest
- Celebrants rejoice using four kinds of plants that are bound together and

shaken every day in each direction to express prayer and worship

- An everlasting commandment
- Jews in Israel are commanded to dwell in a sukkah for seven days
- Commemorates the Exodus from Egypt

Sukkot Today

Today Jewish people all over the world celebrate this joyous festival by building *sukkot*, usually a small hut of natural plant material, such as branches or bamboo. They add decorations and furnishings to make it feel festive and comfortable. Depending on the weather, one might eat meals or even sleep in the *sukkah* each night.

Prayers for rain occur on the seventh day. In ancient times, these prayers accompanied a ceremony in which water from the Pool of Siloam was poured on the Temple altar.

The Gospel of John says that Jesus taught in the Temple during *Sukkot* (John 7:2–14). On the seventh day, *Hoshana Rabbah*, He said, *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me …Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water*" (John 7:37–38).





Story Behind the Prophecy Scrolls Classic Zola from 1982 35 years ago

2

Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc. turned into an arts and crafts shop as volunteer workers joined our staff in preparing the beautiful **Messianic Prophecy Scrolls** offered on recent programs. We were deluged with Christmas orders for this unique item. They are hand-lettered and individually assembled, and present the vital Scriptures showing Jesus in the Old Testament. The Scrolls are still available. [See details on <u>p. 11.</u>] Your donations substantially help our ministry.

Made like Jewish temple scrolls, the Messianic Prophecy Scroll presents, in Hebrew and English, Old Testament prophecies and New Testament fulfillments in Jesus Christ.

The calligraphers who hand-copied the Scriptures for our Prophecy Scroll described their considerable effort. The remarks of these deeply spiritual helpers (Mr. and Mrs. Elyahu Ben Abraham, who would take nothing for their labors) should interest us all.

The greatest challenge facing us as we prepared the scroll was to include the most compelling prophecies in the limited space available.

To our great joy, the Bible is full of fulfillment in Christ. We chose a few of the most demonstrative examples, hoping to help the reader quickly find prophecies of interest and begin an in-depth study with Bible in hand. This scroll begins with two non-Biblical segments, which bear some explanation. The first is a blessing, and the second a prayer. The blessing has been recited by devout Jews for thousands of years prior to reading the Scriptures. It is proper to recite this blessing when you witness to a Jewish person, as it should set him at ease, reassuring him that he will be studying familiar Scripture. The blessing uses the word *torah*, Hebrew for "instruction." The words are interchangeable.

In modern Jewish worship, *Torah* has come to mean the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy. We used "*torah*" instead of "instruction" to make witnessing to Jews easier. We want you to feel comfortable reciting the blessing that thanks The Almighty for His instruction, for such praise is proper by Jews and gentiles alike.

The prayer comes from the "Sabbath" section of the *New Union Prayer Book*, an order of service used by many American synagogues. This prayer has special significance: To those who know The Messiah, it is a prayer that more shall come to know Him. To those who still await the "Good News," it is a prayer of anticipation. Our prayer is that, through you, many prayers will be transformed from expectation to exultation.

(continued next page)







When the readings from the Scriptures are completed, the Jewish people recite another blessing. We omitted this closing blessing from the scroll because we hope when you witness to a Jew, he will mentally close the study with the blessing that he has heard so often. Possibly that blessing, coming to mind as the study is finished, will reinforce the impact of what has been revealed. The blessing is as follows:

"Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the universe who has given us Thy instruction [torah] of truth and thereby planted among us life eternal. Blessed art Thou, Lord, Giver of the instruction [torah]."

We wanted you to know it and appreciate it, and possibly close your study of the scroll with this blessing, again appropriate for gentile and Jew. If you witness to a Jew, and recite this blessing at the close of your study, it most certainly will make an impression on him. As you can see, Jewish traditions are full of direct references. to Jesus as the Christ who was expected, if only some Believer would point them out to the non-believer.

שכם ונתתי מטו The writer of the Psalms looked forward to these days, and gave us the following verses that state our feelings about the work we have undertaken:

רתב לאות על יד ל מוזזות ביתר ובש ן תשמעו אל מצות אהבה את יהוה אי

בת הגנר ותיו

זר ואכרת

"This will be written for the generation to come; That a people yet to be created may praise the Lord. For He looked down from His holy height; From heaven the Lord gazed upon the earth, To hear the groaning of the prisoner; To set free those who were doomed to death; That men may tell of the name of the Lord in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, And the kingdoms, to serve the Lord." Psalm 102:18-22

May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and confirm the work of our hands.



To Index



Messianic **Prophecy Scroll**

Beautiful, useful, and revealing, A lovely and very spiritual art object for mantelpiece or coffee table display, this wood and parchment scroll is hand-copied and handmade. The Messianic prophecies are written in Hebrew and English. A marvelous witnessing tool and gift idea. (See also our Secrets of the Scrolls DVDs on p. 17.)

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker Zola Levitt Ministries Staff Theologian



What does the Bible mean by "circumcision of the heart"?

God's Old Testament promise of a circumcised heart (Deuteronomy 30:6) concerns the salvation assurance given through Jesus Christ. Basically, it means that God makes us spiritually alive through spiritual rebirth by faith in Jesus Christ. Thus, we become sensitive and obedient to the Lord, whereas before, our hearts were hardened and disobedient. Here is an excellent definition from the website GotQuestions.org:

The idea of "circumcision of the heart" is found in Romans 2:29. It refers to having a pure heart, separated unto God. Paul wrote, "A Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter." These words conclude a sometimes confusing passage of Scripture regarding circumcision and the Christian. Verses 25–29 provide the context in which Paul was discussing the role of the Old Testament Law as it relates to New Testament Believers. He argued that Jewish circumcision is only an outward sign of being set apart to God. However, if the heart is sinful, then physical circumcision is of no avail. A circumcised body and a sinful heart are at odds with each other. ... Using circumcision as a metaphor, Paul said that only the Holy Spirit can purify a heart and set us apart to God. Ultimately, circumcision cannot make a person right with God; the Law is not enough. A person's heart must change. Paul called this change "circumcision of the heart."

As a Jew trained in the Law of Moses, Paul was certainly aware of this discussion from Deuteronomy 30. There, the Lord used the same metaphor to communicate His desire for a holy people: "And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the



Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live" (Deuteronomy 30:6). Physical circumcision was a sign of Israel's

was a sign of Israel's covenant with God; circumcision of the heart, therefore, would indicate Israel's being set apart to love God fully, inside and out.

Physical circumcision does not make one a child of God; faith in the Lord Jesus Christ does. Believers in Jesus Christ can truly say they are children of "Father Abraham" (Galatians 3:29). God has always wanted more from His people than just external conformity to a set of rules. He wanted them to possess a heart to love, know, and follow Him. ... Even in the Old Testament, God's priority was a spiritual circumcision of the heart (Jeremiah 4:4).

Both Testaments focus on the need for repentance and inward change in order to be right with God. In Jesus, the Law has been fulfilled (Matthew 5:17). Through Him, a person can be made right with God and receive eternal life (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8–9). As Paul said, true circumcision is a matter of the heart, performed by the Spirit of God.



To The Jew First

ShaliachReport Outreach in Rishon L'Zion

Our **To the Jew First** team spent two days of a recent trip in "Rishon," as it is called for short, a beautiful and growing town along Israel's central coast of the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Tel Aviv.

In a mall shop, I chatted with Deron while I waited for Robin, my husband and teammate, to join me. **Deron** accepted an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book in

Hebrew from us and said he'd welcome us looking him up on a future visit.





Our team looks for opportunities to open conversations with locals. That search begins with prayer for guidance, keeping attuned to the Holy Spirit opening doors, and a bagful of Messianic literature to give out to folks who express an interest. The study material that we carry shows Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah and their fulfillment in the New Testament. Our cache includes pamphlets like The Promised Messiah, which you can download in full color onto your computer and print on your printer, and other items like Prophesied Messiah bookmarks. ZLM gives these away with purchases, but if you find them to be handy witnessing tools and need more, store.levitt.com offers them. We also carry copies of Isaiah 53 Explained in Hebrew and complete Hebrew Bibles, which include both Testaments (Old and New) in the Hebrew language.

At a breakfast café, Robin and I met

Kathryn Sue Hopper TJF Outreach Team Ambassador

several waiters who accepted complete Hebrew Bibles from us. Two of them, **Aviv** and **Ido**, also wanted copies of *Isaiah 53 Explained*. Both of them have finished their service in the Israel Defense Forces





(IDF), and Ido will soon enter Tel Aviv University (TAU) to study science.

As we were walking back to the hotel, we stopped at a convenience store to see if they had yogurt to put in our fridge for later. No, they did not stock yogurt. But as we were their only customers, I engaged the young clerk in conversation, asking if he was Jewish and had served in the IDF. Roy said that he had completed his IDF service. I explained that we were visiting from the U.S. and that we support Israel and pray especially for IDF soldiers. I informed Roy that we like to honor Israel's soldiers by giving them a book that most are happy to receive. I had his attention, and I intended to give him a complete Hebrew Bible or a copy of Isaiah 53 Explained. Reaching into my backpack, however, I discovered that all I had left was The Return of the Kosher Pig, which is described as "an unprecedented journey toward the true identity of the

Divine Messiah, the One previously considered un-kosher and unacceptable by Jewish people." I offered it to Roy, who checked it out cover to cover and seemed pretty happy to receive it.



Thank you, Dear Readers, for your prayers and funding of this outreach. We wish you many blessings.

Not a Wizard

No one's ever called me a wizard, let alone the Wizard of Oz. Rarely hiding behind a curtain, I'm still unlikely to meet a scarecrow in search of a brain, a lion seeking courage, or a tin man pursuing a heart — not to mention an innocent girl wearing ruby-red slippers and reciting, "There's no place like home."

Though a charlatan, that "wizard" in Oz merely made a motley crew of seekers aware of blessings they already possessed. The <u>three-minute clip</u> shows Oz's outed guru bestowing:

- 1. to the scarecrow an honorary ThD (Doctor of Thinkology);
- to the lion the Triple Cross medal for meritorious conduct, extraordinary valor, and conspicuous bravery as he is dubbed a member of The Legion of Courage;
- **3.** to the tin man a ticking testimonial.

Adherents of "prosperity doctrines" believe that donating big money to flashy televangelists assures their own road to riches. Diane Sawyer's ABC News *PrimeTime Live* "<u>Men of</u> <u>God</u>" exposé, however, pulled back the Ozian curtain on W. V. Grant, Larry Lea, and Robert Tilton. ABC's classic <u>1991 investigation</u> revealed that those televangelists enriched themselves while fleecing their flocks.

If only a well meaning counselor had clued the duped donors that they already were relatively affluent. Bypassing the wizard's smoke, mirrors, and fanfare, here are well-documented stats excerpted from <u>DoSomething.org's "11 Facts</u> <u>About Global Poverty"</u>:

- 80% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 a day per capita.
- Nearly 1/2 of the world's population, more than 3 billion people, lives on less than \$2.50 a day.





• More than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty — on less than \$1.25 a day.

Isn't material wealth meaningless, though, in the context of eternal life? Who cares whether the creature comforts in American households land most of us in the top 5% of global living standards when this earthly, mortal existence of ours will be over in the blink of an eye?

Once Jesus is our Savior, our personal battles are already won and it's time



Dorothy meets the Wizard—a scene from the 1939 classic film, *The Wizard of Oz*

to fight the good fight, upholding The Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20) for the sake of our fellow man. Now that you and I have the gift of Grace, there's nothing of significance left to add to our net worth. It is time to make larger, more frequent deposits to our "treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:20).

Before we have time to click our heels together three times, so to speak, you and I will be standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10) and inevitably be home in Heaven. And "there's no place like home."

ZLM Bulletin Board

"Jews vs. Nazis" Beer Pong

Such was the game in early August at an Atlanta private school student's party. According to <u>The Jerusalem Post</u>, "Some 19 current seniors at The Lovett School, three alumni, and 10 other students and graduates attended the party." A photo "shows large, red beer cups laid out on a table in the shape of a swastika and a Star of David." A local rabbi, Peter Berg, commented, "The



fact that someone could even conceive of such a game and then play it and think it's funny is beyond words." So, you might agree, Dear Reader, is the "game" of Holocaust denial and any modern-day glorification of the swastika.

Beyond Cable & Satellite

Roku lets "cord cutters" who say goodbye to cable and satellite TV watch Zola Levitt Presents on their televisions. A Roku box gives access via the Internet to 1,500+ channels and 200,000+ movies and TV episodes. Once you add the Zola Levitt Ministries channel (on your free Roku account), you can watch episodes of ZLP on your big-screen TV. Roku even supports closed captions. It is easy to use and the most economical way to watch our program ... other than the scheduled broadcast or levitt.tv. Please see levitt.com/roku

Map without Israel

ABC News Australia recently used a map of the Middle East that included Palestine but not Israel to illustrate a story about how laws in Muslim-majority countries shortchange rape victims. A senior ABC executive



explained that Israel wasn't included in the report, so wasn't pictured. Avi Yemini, a pro-Israel, anti-Islamist activist responded that the excuse "could almost work, except for one 'minor' detail: PALESTINE IS NOT A COUNTRY!" (See <u>online article</u>.)

FREE ITEM Pamphlet of the Month

erusalem

I'D LIKE

TO GIVE

BUT...

To

15

I'd Like to Give, But... describes common concerns about making charitable gifts. It also presents alternative ways to give other than writing a check. Among the ideas, you may find the solution to meeting your own obligations while also making the contribution you'd like to give. This free pamphlet touches on considerations such as cash on hand, retirement planning, and providing for heirs. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com, or write to our P.O. Box.





The American holiday of Thanksgiving certainly has its roots in the Jewish tradition of giving thanks to God. Some historians believe that the Pilgrims derived the idea for the holiday from the Biblical festival of *Sukkot* (Lev. 23:34), often called "Tabernacles" in the Christian tradition. According to these scholars, before coming to the New World, the Pilgrims lived in exile for a decade among the Sephardic Jews in Holland, since Holland was considered a safe haven from religious persecution at the time.

Because the Pilgrims were devout Calvinists and Puritans, their religious idealism led them to regard themselves as a "new Israel." It is likely that they both observed the Jews of Holland celebrating the festival of Sukkot and learned that the holiday commemorated Israel's deliverance from religious persecution in ancient Egypt. After emigrating to the "Promised Land" of America, it is not surprising that the Pilgrims may have chosen the festival of *Sukkot* as the paradigm for their own celebration of thanksgiving to God. As the Torah commands: "[Celebrate the feast] so that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God" (Lev. 23:39–43). The highly religious Pilgrims regarded their perilous journey to the New World as a type of "Exodus event" and therefore sought the appropriate Biblical holiday to commemorate their safe arrival in a land full of new promise.

The LORD instituted the holiday of *Sukkot* (or "Tabernacles") for us to recall the sheltering Presence of God during the forty-year sojourn of Jewish ancestors in the wilderness (Lev. 23:39-43). During this time, many families construct a "*sukkah*," a small hastily built hut in which meals are eaten throughout the festival's seven days. My family decorates our *sukkah* with hanging fruit, art from our children, and seasonal lights. Inside the *sukkah* we have tables, chairs, and other items to make the shelter our temporary "home."

The theme of the holiday is the transience of life and our gratitude to God for His ongoing care. We remember that we are "strangers and sojourners" like our fathers, and that we are just passing through this world on our way to the Heavenly City

(Heb. 11:9–10). During the Feast of *Sukkot*, which occurs during the time of the fall harvest in Israel, we are commanded to "rejoice in your feast" (Deut. 16:13–16). When we wave our *lulavs* (bouquet of the fruit of the earth and the harvest), it is customary to joyfully sing the refrain of thanks: *Hodu La'Adonai ki tov, ki le'olam chasdo:* "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).



To

The Wilderness Group Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about

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

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

(See related article on p. 10)

ZLM Store

Secrets of the Scrolls DVD Set

7 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2.000-vear-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. Secrets of the Scrolls gives a historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the actual fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as "son of God," "branch of David,"

"stripes or piercings," "being put to death," and "raising the dead" all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.

The Scrolls — A New Revelation We quickly produced this half-hour program when the DSS first became widely accessible for study. Zola quotes from the Associated Press news release and emphasizes the significance of access.

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

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

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

the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.









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	Once Through the New Testament	\$9		Index
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ORDER FORM continued

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ZLM Store

Esther: For Such <u>a Time as</u> This

DVD Set Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Book of Esther is one of the Jewish people's favorites. In this series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story's details, and points out that, like Esther, we Believers may be alive for such a time as this

Beautiful Inside and Out Does God use women? Yes! We consider Esther's rise and Queen Vashti's fall, and how God elevates individuals to places of influence-then as now.

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FEATURED

Chosen for a Purpose Though wickedness

surfaces in every generation. God positions His people to thwart the devil's plans and fulfill His own. We examine Mordecai and Esther's placement—and our own; for we, too, are called to God's work.

Called to be Courageous Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worthy: "If I perish, I perish!" If only we all had such resolve!

Undone by a Woman Our story's heroine hatches a plan to thwart the scheming Haman. The once-sheepish Esther arises as a shepherdess, boldly taking on the wolf, guiding the saga to its conclusion.

God Rewards the Righteous God uses irony to give the wicked and the righteous their just deserts.

Justice at Last! Our story's villain meets his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

Fight We Must! Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Spirited self-defense is Biblical.



The Triumph of God in Human History God turns our mourning into joy. The Jews are bidden to commemorate God's saving power and goodness in an annual celebration. Purim. We should all celebrate God's goodness, thereby banishing the clouds of despair.

Temple Mount Update



BY ALEX TRAIMAN (r) JNS.org

More than 1,300 Jewish visitors ascended the Temple Mount on Tisha B'Av (August 1), the annual day of mourning the First and Second Jewish Temples, which were each destroyed on the 9th day of the Hebrew month Av, in years 587 B.C. and 70 A.D., respectively.

The number of Jewish visitors on August 1 was the most permitted by Israeli police to enter the site since



Border Police at site of terror attack on Temple Mount July 14

Israel's reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Tens of thousands of additional Jewish worshipers prayed at the Western Wall complex adjacent to the Temple Mount.

According to Israeli law, Jews are permitted to visit the Temple Mount, but not to audibly pray. Several Israeli worshipers were arrested for praying at the site. Members of the Jordanian Islamic Waqf, which administers the site, follow the Jewish visitors to ensure that they do not pray. Israeli police also follow the Jewish visitors to ensure that Waqf members do not harm them.

The recent Temple Mount controversy ignited July 14, when Muslim terrorists killed two Israeli Druze policemen near the Mount. Israel immediately installed metal detectors at the site, and Muslims rejected the security measures by refusing to enter the Al-Aqsa mosque complex and rioting in eastern Jerusalem. Amid the riots, an Arab-Muslim terrorist murdered three members of an Israeli family in their home during a Friday night meal. Israel removed the metal detectors in an attempt to restore calm.

In a poll, 77% of Israelis said Israel "capitulated" in its decision to remove the metal detectors. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated, "... as the one who carries on his shoulders the responsibility for the security of Israel, I must make decisions coolly and judiciously ... [with] a wide view of the challenges and threats that are facing us. Some of them are not known to the



Al-Aqsa mosque, the Muslim world's third most sacred site, is at the epicenter of a global Islamic uproar. The mosque must be furious—it's all his story after all!—so how come every camera in the world is pointed at his less holy but more photogenic brother, the Dome of the Rock?

public and as is the nature of things I can't go into details."

While Israel has sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, the Jordanian Waqf controls the Temple Mount and other Islamic holy places in the city. Israel controls the perimeter of the complex.

Israeli media reported that the head of Israel's General Security Service went to Jordan to negotiate the removal of the metal detectors. Israeli plans to replace them with security cameras may take six months to implement.







Comments from www.levitt.com

From L. and V. M. (OH): We like the new you.

From S.S. (MO): I enjoy the Levitt Letter's varied articles and Hebrew lessons from John Parsons. I collect the amusing cartoons and news about Israel. Don't let the critics bother you. I like your ministry and I liked Zola. I pray that your kind of dedication and hard work keep going. Bless you all. - Thank you (and many other letter writers) for your affirming words; they go a long way in spurring Kirsten and me to present "Christianity through Jewish eyes," just as Zola envisioned. — David



A Profound Thank You

Dear ZLM,

I wanted to send a short note to tell you how much I appreciate your sending me the Levitt Letter each month. I am 81 and live on Social Security plus a part-time job. I wish I could be a donor, but our Lord did not bless - or perhaps curse — me with wealth. Your free newsletter is a true blessing, and I enjoy learning about our Jewish roots. Until I can do more, please accept my profound THANK YOU. — H.D. (NM)

Dear H.D.

On behalf of our faithful donors, you're welcome. Even your short note of thanks is sufficient to renew your free subscription for a year. Some readers wonder why they receive a "No More Zola Letters?" inquiry. However, good stewardship compels us to delete recipients who don't appear to be reading, and we simply remove their names until we hear from them. Please help us by giving away any letters you're done reading. Thanks and blessings to you for communicating your appreciation. — Mark

(continued next page)



Priesthood of Believers

Dear ZLM,

I really appreciated Tony Derrick's July Personal Letter on the priesthood. I've studied the Word and have read about us being priests, but this article helped me understand our gentile position in Christ much better. May the Lord's Spirit continue to guide you. — L.D.M.

Dear L.D.M. —

I'm humbled by your response to my teaching. My own understanding of the priesthood of Believers solidified during my association with Zola Levitt and our Messianic guides in Israel. — Tony

THE ARGYLE SWEATER BY SCOTT HILBURN



The Mayan calendar is shaped like a wheel. When it reaches the end, it begins again.

Old Covenant Law Under New Covenant

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hart,

I am incarcerated, so I do not get to see the weekly TV program you host, but I look forward to catching up when I am released.

ZLM came into my life just as the ministry began going through these latest transitions. As my personal experience with God grows, the idea of "coincidence" goes out the window. Definite change is affecting the Kingdom; it makes sense that His best ministries undergo transition also.

Please stand your ground. God promised to make Israel see Him through jealousy aroused by His favor to the gentiles. (Romans 10:19–21)

As for the Law: People seem to overlook a very simple truth: The Covenant did not actually change until Christ died on the cross and His sacrifice was accepted by God. The Father signified His acceptance by rending the veil in the Temple. So, Gospel narratives recount life under the Law up to the point of the crucifixion.

My understanding: Gentiles have simple rules according to Acts 15:28–29 and Matthew 22:37–39: Abstain from meats offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. Love the LORD your God with your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

The Law, Prophets, and Feasts foreshadow heavenly things. Their purpose has always been to teach us about Heaven. (Romans 1:20)

I have a lot of time to study. P.S. Many prisoners are responding to the Gospel. Your ministry is contributing, especially via the *Levitt Letter*. Standing with Israel, R.A. (FL)

Dear R.A. —

Kirsten and I are thankful that God is speaking to you right where you are. Our staff theologians point out that the Gospels (all of them) were written post crucifixion. Biblical scholars accept the following dates as the most probable:

Matthew: uncertain, but after 31 a.d. and before 70 a.d. Mark: 65 a.d. Luke: 59–61 a.d. John: 80–95 a.d.

Your unique viewpoint comes from studying God's word. — David

(continued next page)



Thanks

Dear Mark,

We want to say thanks for how you and your team are making the world a better place. We don't claim to understand what you sacrifice, but you are truly wonderful for doing so. Not that a two-line email is as much as you deserve — but not being able to give enough seems a poor excuse for not giving anything. For what it is worth, thank you! — M. and L.J (UT)

Dear M. and L.J. -

You're more than welcome. You can also help sustain our outreach by inspiring your friends to tune in weekly to Zola Levitt Presents and subscribe to our monthly Levitt Letter. - Mark

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

ATTN: Directors and Producers of *Zola Levitt Presents* and Board of Directors of Zola Levitt Ministries,

Please ask Myles and Katharine Weiss to return to regularly host your Zola Levitt Presents TV show! We really miss them hosting your show! I am an Evangelical Christian, and I have been watching your program since Zola's wife began hosting after Zola's death in 2006. I have seriously given thought to donating to your ministry, but I won't as long as Myles and Katharine are not hosting your show: They are why I watch Zola Levitt!

Thanks for listening! God Bless you all and God Bless all you do in Yeshua's mighty name!

Sincerely yours, B.I. (OR)

Dear B.L.-

You're welcome. Thanks for sending your blessings and multiple exclamation points. Actions speak louder than words, you know, and exclamation points don't pay bills. Nonetheless, I'm hoping you will continue benefiting from our ministry's Bible teaching because of the teaching itself rather than our messengers' personalities.

To

Your failure to ever support our outreach, you understand, was effectively a vote *against* what we were doing before and how we were (continued next page)

<u>Pro-Israel</u> Collar<u>Buttons</u>

If you don't know which button to push, try all four! They all show your solidarity with Israel.

- #A "Shalom"
- **#B** Chai symbol standing for "Life!" itself
- **#C** "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem"
- **#D** Flag of Israel

We offer sets of four buttons in two bargain packages: one of each design, or four of a single design that you want to share.

(For more on the meaning of the Chai symbol, see related article on pp. 6-7)



(Actual size button diameter is 13/4")

doing it. "Supporters" like you probably would miss this ministry as much as anyone if we were gone. Pray that others continue to carry your share of our financial burdens. — Mark

Where are the Jews?

Dear ZLM,

My family and I used to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* all the time, but now it's nothing but gentiles (no offense). This change saddens us. Couldn't you find Jews for the show? -E.B.

Dear E.B. —

If you haven't watched our weekly television program lately, please tune in again and you'll discover substantial lessons taught by Messianic Jewish Bible experts on location in Israel. Real meat from truly edified Christians who were born Jewish. Then you may agree that we have more Jewish Bible teachers than any other program, each one enlightening TV viewers on his favorite lessons from both Testaments. — Mark

Grateful to be Aware

Dear ZLM,

I appreciate the work you do and am pleased to continue supporting the ministry. I miss my satellite TV, but as long as I can receive the *Levitt Letter*, I keep up with what's going on.

Reading Myles's booklet <u>An Epic Love Story</u> made me aware of Believers' connection to Israel. I'm grateful for that awareness, and I know the new hosts will be awesome. God has surely blessed us all in them. — R.B. (MO)

Dear R.B. —

Thank you for your encouraging words. We, too, love how the *Levitt Letter* is chock-full of teaching, insight, prophetic words, and even a Hebrew lesson. Thanks for letting us know that it ministers to you. God bless you. —Kirsten



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

This readable booklet tackles topics including:

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



To

Jerusalem Tower Younger Than Thought

SCIENCE: BY WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / Wis-Wander.Weizmann.ac.il

Gihon Spring, just downhill from the ancient city of Jerusalem, was crucial to the survival of its inhabitants. Archaeologists had uncovered the remains of a massive stone tower built to guard this vital water supply. Based on pottery and other regional findings, archaeologists had originally assigned it a date of 1700 в.с. But new research conducted at the Weizmann Institute of Science provides conclusive evidence that the stones at the base of the tower were laid nearly 1,000 years later. The new results highlight the contribution of advanced scientific dating methods to understanding the history of the region.

Dr. Elisabetta Boaretto, Head of the Weizmann Institute of Science's D-REAMS Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory and track leader within the Max Planck-Weizmann Center for Integrative Archaeology and Anthropology, dated the tower as part of her ongoing research projects with the Israel Antiguities Authority (IAA). Dr. Joe Uziel and Nahshon Szanton of the IAA, in continuing the 2012 excavations around the tower, discovered that the base was not built on bedrock. "The boulders in the tower's base," explains Boaretto, "do not yield any information other than the fact that whoever placed them there had the ability to maneuver such heavy stones. But the soil underneath the boulders exhibits layers of archaeological strata, and these can reveal the latest date that the site was occupied before the tower was built."

The unique and methodical approach of the D-REAMS lab team plans and executes field sampling and excavation from the beginning, together with site archaeologists. From the strata, the team collected remains of charcoal, seeds, and bones—organic matter that can be definitively dated through radiocarbon dating.

The first dating was conducted on mid-tolower levels of sediment, and these dates indeed agreed with those originally proposed. "But there was another half-meter of sediment between the material we had dated and the large cornerstone," explains Boaretto. "At a glance, we thought this might represent only another few hundred years before the stone was placed." The radiocarbon dating method is based on counting the radioactive carbon-14 (¹⁴C) atoms in a sample. These carbon atoms are found in all living things in a small, but stable ratio to those of regular carbon, and they begin to decay at a known rate after death. The Weizmann Institute of Science counts the ¹⁴C atoms in a sample with an accelerator, so it can return highly accurate results on something as small as a seed.



The date revealed by this radiocarbon dating was sometime around 800–900 в.с. That is nearly 1,000 years later than thought, and it moves the building of the tower to another historical period entirely, from the Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

To complete the study, Boaretto and her team questioned whether any explanation could allow the tower to have been built earlier—repairs, for example—but the presence of the large boulders sitting atop layers of earth containing the remains of everyday activities appear to be fairly conclusive evidence that the later date is the correct one. Boaretto: "The conclusive dating of this massive tower that places it in a later era than originally presumed will have repercussions for other attempts to date construction and occupation in ancient Jerusalem."



Israeli Medical Teams Abroad



MEDICINE: BY LUSIANA TUIMAISALA / FijiSun.com

An Israeli medical team recently performed successful ear, nose, and throat operations for more than 20 patients over a week at the Suva Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, Fiji's capital.

Two-year-old Florabelle Tehilah Mosese's new lease on life followed her operation because, for the first time since she was born, she could breathe with ease. Her father, Fesikatoa Mosese, termed her recovery a miracle from Heaven.

"This is all in God's plan, to have a team

from Israel come and heal my daughter," an emotional Mosese said. "He is a faithful God.... Our family is forever grateful for the kind assistance toward our daughter; we pray for peace of Jerusalem. We love you Israel."

Through MASHAV, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's humanitarian agency, Israel has assisted more than 60 countries in alleviating shared global problems such as hunger, disease, and poverty.

Dr. Robert Berkowitz said the surgery he conducted for Florabelle involved opening her scarred larynx (voice box) and repairing it with a rib graft. The little girl had had severe breathing problems since birth, and the team found a solution for her. Berkowitz said it would take about six weeks for her to heal before they could determine when to remove her breathing tube.

The doctors' visit to Fiji is part of the Jewish philosophy of going out to the world to help those in need — *Tikkun Olam*. A similar team on the same mission visited in 2013. As the MASHAV team flew out, they confirmed that they will return next year.



<u>Our Hands Are</u> <u>Stained with Blood</u> book by Michael L. Brown

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love."

Contrary to the sweet sentiment of this hymn's lyrics, this book documents with unrelenting intensity the prolific anti-Semitism at the hands of the "Church." From the first "Christian" persecutions of the Jews in the 4th century to the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust to anti-Semitism in today's pulpits, this book is a sure cure for someone who imagines persecution of God's Chosen is a hoax. It is a history every Christian must understand.

Dr. Michael L. Brown, founder and president of FIRE School of Ministry in Concord, NC, is widely considered to be the world's foremost Messianic Jewish apologist. See related article on <u>cover</u>.









Polish Jewish Wedding Without Jews



BY CNAAN LIPHSHIZ / JTA.org

Nostalgia for Jews is a well-documented phenomenon in Eastern Europe, with cultural and even substantial commercial aspects.

In Ukraine, so-called Jewish-themed restaurants with pork-heavy menus compete for tourists, while figurines of Jews are sold at markets as good luck charms. In Poland, graffiti reading "I miss you, Jew" have become a common sight.



'I miss you, Jew,' painted by Rafal Betlejewski on a wall at Brzeskiej Street 8 in Warsaw

Beyond the kitsch, Jewish cultural festivals draw large non-Jewish audiences in Krakow, Warsaw, and Budapest. Some credit this trend to a feeling of loss over the near annihilation of once-vibrant Jewish communities. Others trace it to a desire to reconnect with the pre-Soviet past.

Going Further Into Jewish Culture

But even against this backdrop, the well-produced fake Jewish wedding held recently in the village of Radzanów (80 miles northeast of Warsaw) stands out as a remarkable affair. Make-believe Jewish weddings (regular educational events in Spain and Portugal) are rare in Poland.

Organized by a cultural group promoting Polish heritage, the event featured a few dozen non-Jewish volunteers, men and women, dressed in traditional haredi costumes, the men with fake beards and side curls. The non-Jewish bride and groom were "wed" by a fake rabbi in a show before villagers as a lesson in Jewish traditions.

Event producer Agnieszka Rychcik-Nowakówska sees the ceremony as commemorating the hundreds of Jews who had accounted for approximately half of her village's population before the Holocaust.

"We want to remember all those homes of pre-war Jews, who lived a peaceful life punctuated by the rhythm of holidays, family celebrations, and more mundane events," she said.



Wikimedia commons

People dining at the Jaffa Israeli restaurant in Lodz, Poland with the word 'Jew' in the background, June 11, 2016

Jews first settled in Radzanów in 1710, and at their peak numbered about 500. By September 1939, when the Germans took over, the population had dipped below 300. Nearly all who remained were sent to the Mlawa ghetto, never to return.

In Other Places

Elsewhere in Europe, Jewish-themed festivals are held in the absence of a living, breathing Jewish community thanks to nostalgia and a desire to generate tourism revenue.

But in Spain and Portugal where hundreds of thousands of Jews were oppressed 500 years ago during the Inquisition, the passage of time has made goodwill gestures toward Jews less complicated than in the east. In 2013, Spain and Portugal passed laws granting citizenship to descendants of Sephardic Jews — a move whose generosity contrasts sharply with the refusal by Poland and other East European countries to offer even partial restitution for property that was stolen from Jewish communities.

At the fake wedding in Radzanów, organizers turned to Teresa Wrońska, an actress from the Jewish Theater in Warsaw, to assure the wedding's authenticity. She choreographed the entire affair — from the signing of the ketubah (the Jewish marriage contract) to the traditional Jewish music played by a band of locals and musicians from the capital.

Regarding Europe missing its Jews:

Please see this classic article:

"Germany Replenishes Itself with 6 Million Muslims."



Zola's musical Beloved Thief on DVD and CD

DVD Ancient Israeli wedding customs, as they parallel the great moment of the coming of the heavenly Bridegroom, are portrayed in exciting Israeli music and drama. This fully staged musical with fine actors and singers in period costumes of first-century Israel delivers an enchanting, inspiring

hour, worthy of many repeated viewings. (Romantic secret: the leading actor and actress met on the set and married in real life!)

CD The complete soundtrack of Zola's marvelous musical contains fourteen songs that accompany the action of the play.



Salah al-Arouri, a senior Hamas commander recently deported from Qatar, speaking with Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, a special adviser on international affairs to Iran's parliament speaker.





Iran Thanked for "Resistance" (Terrorism) TheTower.org

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, senior representatives from Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) recently met Iranian officials in Beirut, where they thanked Iran for supporting the Palestinian cause.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, adviser to Iran's parliament speaker, said that strengthening the "axis of resistance" — the coalition of Middle Eastern anti-Israel forces, including Iran, its Lebanese proxy group Hezbollah, and the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — would enhance regional security and intensify the fight against terrorism.

Hamas is under pressure to strengthen ties with Iran after its main backer Qatar came under fire from other Gulf states and Saudi Arabia for its terror sponsorship, putting into question the emirate's financial support for Hamas, Iran's terror proxy in Gaza.

Abdollahian called on Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to join forces against the "Zionist entity" in the name of "Islamic unity."

Iran's Mehr News reported that Iranian and Hamas delegations also attacked growing ties between Israel and the Arab world, with senior Hamas commander Salah al-Arouri pledging that Hamas would "continue the fight until the complete liberation of all Palestinian territories."

IRNA reported that Abdollahian told Abu

Ahmad Fouad, deputy general secretary of the terrorist group PFLP, that the only way to support the Palestinian cause is through "resistance," a common euphemism for terrorism, promising Iran's strong support.

"While many regional countries are trying to normalize their relations with the Zionist regime, Iran is the standard-bearer of combating Israel and the cause of liberating Palestine," Fouad said.

In 2016, Hamas met with Iranian diplomats, where the two parties pledged to unite the Muslim world and confront the "Zionist danger."

Israel Defense Forces intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Herzi Halevi this summer revealed that Iran contributes \$50 million to Hamas annually, \$75 million to Hezbollah, and \$70 million to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.











Gal Gadot who starred in the 2017 blockbuster *Wonder Woman*

Modest Gal Gadot

From *Israel Today*

Following the blockbuster success of *Wonder Woman*, Gal Gadot is one of the biggest and most recognizable stars on the planet. Though it was banned in many Muslim nations, the *Wonder Woman* movie has raked in over \$800 million.

But Gadot always seems less focused on herself than on those things most important to her. She's not only one of the most beautiful women around, Gadot is also a fierce patriot who never tires of using her platform to promote Israel and Jewish values.

Her humility was demonstrated when fans expressed outrage over the mere \$300,000 Gadot was paid to star in *Wonder Woman*. Her response: "I am grateful and satisfied." That's the kind of answer you rarely hear in Hollywood. But it is something Gadot would have learned from the Bible as a child in Israel. Numbers 12:3 extols the humility of Moses, and Jewish commentary on the passage teaches that good character must be valued above all.

Please join me in praying for Gal Gadot. While the accolades roll in for her brilliant performance, she will most certainly experience the fire of criticism as "the enemy" spreads the word that she is an Israeli. — Tony

U.S.-Israel Teams Build Interceptors

By Barbara Opall-Rome / DefenseNews.com

Two U.S.-Israeli industrial teams working on jointly funded missile defense programs are ramping up production of three distinct interceptors that collectively defend against an entire spectrum of threats, from shortrange rockets to Iran's most advanced, medium-range ballistic missiles.

Intercepting missiles for all three heavily U.S.-funded missile defense programs—Arrow-3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome—are being built in large part in the United States through a network of prime partners, subcontractors, and suppliers that extend across more than 30 of the 50 U.S. states.

"In accordance with congressional mandates and our government-togovernment agreements, each one of these [intercepting systems] is being produced at least 50% in the United States," said Moshe Patel, director of the Defense Ministry's Israel Missile Defense Organization.

According to Patel, U.S.-based work on all three interceptor programs is transitioning from low-rate initial production (LRIP) to full-rate production. "We're in the final phases of LRIP for all these systems, and we're very proud of the amazing cooperation at the government-to-government and industry-to-industry levels," Patel said.



Intercepting missiles for Arrow-3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome are built in large part in the U.S. through a network that extends across more than 30 states, shown here in blue.



Technology Reveals Missed Details

ARCHAEOLOGY: ISRAEL TODAY

With the aid of modern imaging technology, an inscrutable inscription has been discovered on the back of a pottery shard first discovered and placed in the Israel Museum more than 50 years ago. The pottery was found in 1965 in the ancient desert fortress of Arad.

The ostracon (a shard with writing) was in bad condition, but experts were able to date it to 600 B.C. — just before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Kingdom of Judah. The inscription on the front, which begins with a prayer to God, regards money transfers. "While its front side has been thoroughly studied, its back was considered blank," said Arie Shaus of Tel Aviv University's Department of Applied Mathematics. "Using multispectral imaging, [we] noticed



several marks on the ostracon's reverse side. To our surprise, three lines of text were revealed."

Barak Sober, another researcher, added that the team also significantly improved the reading of the front side, adding four "new" lines.

Arad was an outpost typically manned by 20–30 soldiers on

50 Years Later: New Inscription Discovered

the southern border of the Kingdom of Judah. Dr. Anat Mendel-Geberovich noted, "most of the ostraca unearthed at Arad are dated to a short timespan during the last stage of the fortress's history, in 586 B.C., on the eve of the kingdom's destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. Many of these inscriptions are addressed to 'Elyashiv,' the quartermaster of the fortress."

Regarding the newly discovered inscription, Shaus explained that it is a "request for wine, as well as a guarantee for assistance if the addressee has any requests of his own. It concludes with a request for the provision of a certain commodity to an unnamed person, and a note regarding a 'bath' (an ancient measurement of wine) carried by a man named Ge'alyahu."

Mendel-Geberovich said that while the newly discovered inscription is merely an administrative text like the rest, there is deeper significance. "Its importance lies in the fact that each new line, word, and even a single sign constitutes a precious addition to what we know about the First Temple Period."

The discovery has also made archaeologists much more wary of discarding seemingly unimportant shards without closer examination. "It's daunting to think how many inscriptions, invisible to the naked eye, have been disposed of during excavations," lamented team member Shira Faigenbaum-Golovin.

Spot the Pattern

... in this collection of news articles

1. California Imam Prays to Destroy Jews

BY KATE MATHER / LATimes.com

An imam has drawn criticism after delivering a sermon laced with inflammatory remarks about Jews, calling them "unjust tyrants" and praying to Allah to "destroy them."

Imam Mahmoud Harmoush's comments came during a July 21 sermon delivered at the Islamic Center of Riverside, video of which was translated and published



"Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and all the Muslim lands from...the occupiers. Oh Allah, destroy them, they are no match for You. Oh Allah, disperse them, and rend them asunder. Turn them into booty in the hands of the Muslims."

Inlamic Center of Riverside, California

by the nonprofit Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). The Islamic Center of Riverside also posted a <u>31-minute video of the sermon on YouTube</u>.

In his sermon, Harmoush accused Jews of plotting to take over Palestinian territory, the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, and "most of the Middle East." He also referenced the recent turmoil surrounding the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. [See story on p.21.]

In Arabic: "Oh, Allah, destroy them, they are no match for you. Oh, Allah, disperse them and rend them asunder. Turn them into booty in the hands of the Muslims."

The imam also urged those gathered at the mosque in English: "Wake up, it is time to be a Muslim. Prayer is not the only thing."

2. Imam Asks Allah to Annihilate Jews

Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI.org)



On July 21, 2017, Imam Ammar Shahin delivered a Friday sermon at the Islamic Center of Davis, in northern California, in which he prayed:

"Oh Allah, support the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the Muslim lands. Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews. Oh Allah, destroy those

who closed the Al–Aqsa Mosque. Oh Allah, show us the black day that You inflict upon them, and the wonders of Your ability. Oh Allah, count them one by one and annihilate them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them."

The sermon was posted on the Davis Masjid YouTube channel. Shahin is listed as an instructor of the Zidni Islamic Institute, a California-based organization that teaches Sunni Islam in the West.



Spot the Pattern (continued from p. 33)

3. Imam: "I have always been against violence."

BY MICHELLE BOORSTEIN / WashingtonPost.com



An imam, whose widely distributed July 21, 2017 sermon about Jews set off controversy and fear of violence, apologized at a July 28 news conference, saying his words were hurtful and "unacceptable."

"To the Jewish community, here in Davis and beyond, I say this: I am deeply sorry

for the pain that I have caused. The last thing I would do is intentionally hurt anyone, Muslim, Jewish or otherwise. It is not in my heart, nor does my religion allow it," Ammar Shahin said.

Shahin's inflammatory sermon addressed a situation at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israeli officials had put metal detectors at the site for Muslims to pass through, days after Arab-Israeli gunmen shot and killed two Israeli guards at the site.

"My record is very clear," he said. "I have always been against violence."

This inflammatory rhetoric is not a new phenomenon. Read on:

4. Montreal Imam Calls to Destroy Jews

BY JTA AND TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF / TimesOfIsrael.com

Montreal police are investigating a 2014 video that shows an imam at a local mosque (Al-Andalous Islamic Centre in the Montreal borough of St. Laurent) calling on Allah to "destroy the accursed Jews" and to kill them "one by one."

Sayed al-Ghitawi's video went viral when it appeared in February 2017 less than



three weeks after six Muslim worshipers were gunned down in a Quebec City mosque and Jews across Canada rallied behind Muslims in a gesture of support and solidarity.

At the end of his sermon, al-Ghitawi said, "O Allah, destroy the accursed Jews. O Allah, show us the black day you inflict on them. O Allah, show us the wonders of your power and ability inflicted on them. O the most Merciful, Shook [sic] the ground beneath their feet, O Allah, kill them one by one, O Lord, don't leave any of them [alive]."

Taqiyya, an Islamic legal term, relates to when a Muslim is allowed, under Sharia law, to lie.



Jewish humor, etc.

Creative Matchmaker

Step 1. A *shadchan* (matchmaker, or marriage broker) goes to a poor Jewish man and says, "I want to arrange the marriage of your son."

The poor man replies, "I do not interfere with my son's life," to which the *shadchan* answers, "But the girl is the daughter of a Rothschild." **Dry Bones**

"Ah, well then ..."

Step 2. Then the matchmaker goes to the wealthy Rothschild patriarch. "I have a husband for your daughter."

"My daughter is still too young."

"But the bridegroom is vice-president of the Bank of Israel."

"Ah, well then ..."

Step 3. Lastly, the *shadchan* goes to the president of the Bank of Israel.

"I would like to recommend a young man as your newest vice-president."

"I already have enough vice-presidents."

"But this young man is the son-in-law of the Rothschilds."

"Ah, well then"

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A cheerful heart is good medicine— Proverbs 17:22



Hamas has just agreed to "closer military ties"

with Iran under direct supervision of Iranian

supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei.



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.

Zola Tours

(*Please see <u>p. 3</u> for article on commemorative dates.*)





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