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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

April 2018

It's spring! Be sure to admire Israel's stamps with flower fields on p. 3, where Kirsten smiles at Zola's question, "Who colored the wild flowers?" (p. 2)

Whether or not you've stumbled through Passion Week's timetable, Zola laid out the events concisely for you (1, 4), clarifying how the Gospel's narratives align.

Did you know that International Holocaust Remembrance Day, every January 27, coincides with the anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation, whereas *Yom HaShoah* ("Holocaust Memorial Day") evokes the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on Nissan 27 (April 12 this year)? See more on p. 1 and on 10, regarding Poland rewriting history.

This issue introduces what may become a regular feature: a crossword puzzle (31) whose solution is tied to our current *Zola Levitt Presents* television series. We hope puzzlers enjoy it while others benefit from its answers (33). On p. 4, Kirsten reminisces about her favorite highlights of Zola Tours' Greek tour / Aegean Sea cruise (4).

See how Israel adapts and develops technology for its national security (26) and why it is necessary (15). Read about Israelis' advances in joint replacement materials (28), and drop in on the ongoing blessings that stem from two of this ministry's benevolence funds: Lone Soldiers (8) and Hebrew4Christians (22).

In archaeology, a newly translated Dead Sea Scroll reveals a unique Jewish calendar and names heretofore unnamed feasts (34). Meanwhile, the Gabriel Stone (32) is causing Jewish academics to consider that Yeshua's Resurrection actually conformed to ancient Jewish beliefs.

Adhering to the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam* ("repair the world"), Israelis offer assistance globally in water conservation — even to profoundly anti-Semitic South Africa (29), while EMTs (21) and the "Swiss Schindler" story (30) demonstrate a related vein of Judeo-Christian ethics.

Express your own solidarity with God's will by remembering to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Shalom,
Margot, ZLM editor




P.S. If you enjoy these articles and our regular features like **Ask the Chaplain** (13), **TJF Report** (13), and the **Hebrew Lesson** (16), please consider assisting us with an automated monthly gift (35). The *Levitt Letter* is free only as long as donors step forward to sponsor it. Please prayerfully resolve to become one yourself.

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

The Feast of First Fruits and Resurrection Sunday

By Zola Levitt / Levitt.com/essays

We should look carefully at the original instructions for the third feast and understand fully their implications:

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, "When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest. And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it." — Lev. 23:10–11

To paraphrase, God is saying to Moses, "I am taking My people into an exceptionally fertile land, and I would like them to acknowledge that fact. Each spring, when the first harvest of the year is available, the people should bring some of their initial crops to the Temple so

(continued p.2)

REMEMBER:

**Passover begins at sunset Friday, March 30, 2018,
and ends at sunset Saturday, April 7, 2018
Resurrection Sunday is April 1, 2018**

inside: **Calculating
the 3 Days p.4**

Siren Marks Holocaust Memorial Day

By Aron Heller
Associated Press

Israel comes to a standstill on *Yom HaShoah* as people stop in their tracks for a two-minute siren that wails across the country in remembrance of the Holocaust's six million Jewish victims.

The ritual is the centerpiece of Israel's annual Holocaust Memorial Day for those who were systematically killed by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II. Pedestrians stand in place, buses stop on busy streets, and cars pull over on major highways — their drivers standing on the roads with their heads bowed.

(continued p.9)



The Feast of the First Fruits ... *continued from cover*

that the high priest can publicly present them to Me. This must be done on the Sunday ("the morrow after the Sabbath") during the week of Unleavened Bread [the seven days following Passover]."

Thus, early in the Bible, God honors Resurrection Sunday, the Sunday after Passover, as representing things that come up out of the ground spontaneously and miraculously after the long, dead winter. We see this miracle every spring and we take it for granted, for which of us has to go out and do anything special to our trees or shrubbery to make them produce their first fruits in March and April?

I was once a guest on a radio talk show on the subject of UFOs and general signs of the presence of the enemy in today's world. A listener called in and said, "You seem to find so many signs of the devil around. How come there are no signs of God?"

When I got my voice back, I was able to tell that caller a thing or two about appreciating the immense gifts we have, regularly and without our efforts, from our Creator. **Who colored the wild flowers?** Who made the tropical fishes in all their variety? Who took the trouble to make the forests and the mountains of the world in such a way that the most primitive of human beings can "live off the land," hunting, harvesting, and eating with confidence?

No one has to expend any effort whatsoever to deserve these first fruits. They are the free gift of God, as is our coming resurrection.

The original name of the third feast, however, contains a great truth. If there are first fruits, then there must be second, third and so on, and that is the true meaning of this Sunday. We do not merely celebrate the resurrection of the Lord on First Fruits, but more so, the resurrection of the entire Church. That the Lord rose from the dead is cause for great wonder and blessing, but are we really surprised? He could

raise the dead Himself; He could walk on water; He could feed the thousands. The greater miracle is that we ordinary, mortal, earthly sinners will all rise! As Paul presented so clearly:

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.

— 1 Cor. 15:22–23

Those "in Adam" die, since all descendants of our sinning original father have inherited his terrible tendency. But in Christ we are made alive again. And this will happen in some given order, as the Scripture tells us. Christ is the firstfruits; His "number" was one. Apparently, we all have a number and we will be raised from our graves in order. *"The dead in Christ shall rise first"* (1 Thess. 4:16–17), since they obviously have lower numbers.

Jesus celebrated the Feast of First Fruits in the appropriate manner by rising from the dead on that day. He also gave the Father His proper First Fruits offering; graves were opened and dead people rose and were seen after His resurrection in Jerusalem (Matt. 27:52–53). Our Lord, not unlike any farmer of the soil, gratefully brought before the Father a few early "crops" of what would be a magnificent harvest later on. We sometimes fail to note that Jesus was not the only deceased person to rise on that miraculous day of First Fruits. Those He brought forth from their graves represent a "type" of the Church. We, too, shall be brought forth from our graves for the big fall harvest — the Rapture — at the Feast of Trumpets. It was not only, then, the Lord's resurrection that demonstrates our promise, but also the resurrection of those chosen saints of the time, which assures us of our own triumph. ★





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Wild flowers of Israel

“Who colored the wild flowers? Who made the tropical fishes in all their variety? Who took the trouble to make the forests and the mountains of the world in such a way that the most primitive of human beings can “live off the land,” hunting, harvesting, and eating with confidence?”

Zola's line, “Who colored the wild flowers?” (p.2) made me smile. God can be seen in simplicity as well as intricate details. Thank you, Zola, for this reminder. —Kirsten ★



Stamps from Israel depicting some of their spectacular wild flowers

Calculating Crucifixion to Resurrection Equals 3 Days

BY ZOLA LEVITT / Levitt.com/faqs



The Jewish “Day”

We know that Jesus was crucified on Friday because His body had to be taken down before the Sabbath (John 19:31). The Sabbath always falls on Friday evening at sunset — no exceptions.

In the first century, the Jews measured days differently than we in the West do: Jewish days measured from sunset to sunset. This reflects the language of Genesis — “the evening and the morning were the first day.” In the Hebraic concept called the “*Onah*,” Jews reckoned half a day as a full day. Therefore, Thursday sunset to Friday sunset (or a portion of that time period) would be one day. Friday sunset to Saturday sunset would be the second day. Saturday sunset to Sunday morning, though half a day, would be considered a full day — the third day.



Lamentation at the Tomb, 15th c.,
Anonymous Russian icon painter,
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia

An Impossible Proposition

Some propose that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday or Thursday. But that would constitute too many days. The Gospel accounts indicate that the Lord was crucified on Friday at 9 a.m. and taken off the cross at 3 p.m. His body was prepared for burial and interred at sundown the same day, just before the beginning of both the weekly Sabbath and the annual seven-day Festival of Unleavened Bread. The Lord rose on Sunday morning after sunup (on the Feast of First Fruits).

According to the modern way of counting, this 27 or 28 hours spans barely two days. Yet, Jesus’ earlier prediction stated: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matt. 12:40).

Because Jewish days always start at sunset, the day on which He was crucified and interred (Friday) began on Thursday evening. The second day began at sundown on Friday and continued through daylight on Saturday. Finally, Sunday began at sundown on Saturday and stretched through

(continued next page)





Saturday night and the daylight hours of Sunday, making the third day. **Since the Jews counted any portion of daylight as a full day, Friday morning through Sunday morning would have been seen as three complete days.**

The Evidence of Christian Tradition

People have sometimes struggled to move Passover (the “Last Supper”) back one day in order to tally three days and three nights the way we would count them in the Western world, but that would be inaccurate. Even in the West, we begin each day at midnight, so the concept of a dark beginning to the day is not strange to us. Also, the centuries-long history of Christians celebrating Good Friday (not “Good Thursday” or “Good Wednesday”) supports the Lord’s crucifixion on Friday. This tradition by Christ’s followers provides more evidence that we can trust in the accuracy of the Biblical account, as well as further confirmation that knowledge of the Jewish roots of Christianity can open a deeper understanding of God’s Word.

No Contradiction Between Gospel Accounts

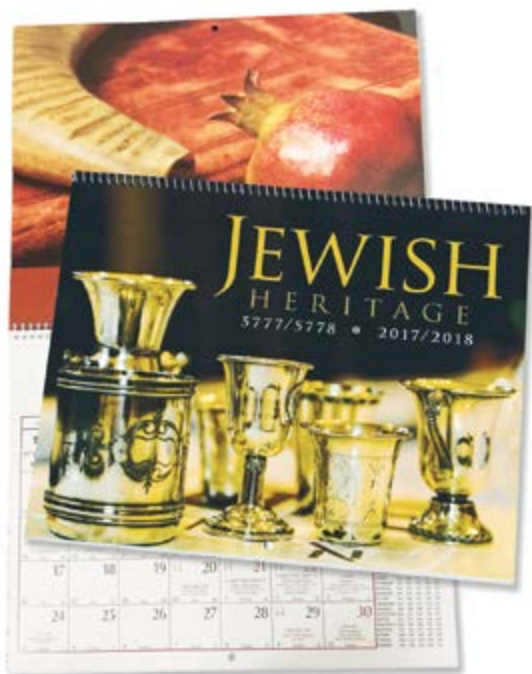
One more question that frequently arises: Did Jesus celebrate the Passover meal and die on Passover day, or was it on the evening before? Matthew, Mark, and Luke say it was on Passover day, but John seems to say He celebrated the day before. Why the difference?

John’s Gospel differs from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) concerning the Passover and the death of Jesus due to the fact that two systems were used at that time for reckoning Passover day. The Galileans (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) used a different method of reckoning than the Judeans (John).

The Galileans (and Pharisees) measured days from sunrise to sunrise, whereas the Judeans (and Sadducees) used the sunset-to-sunset reckoning of John’s Gospel. Thus, according to John’s Judean reasoning, Passover began on Friday evening, and Jesus died on the eve of Passover. But using the Galilean reckoning in the other three Gospels, the Passover meal was Thursday evening, with Passover day starting at sunrise on Friday morning.

There is no contradiction, because the Gospels reflect the two different chronological systems for determining the Passover feast.

Zola’s teachings continue to dispel notions of imperfections in the Bible. — David ★



This year’s [Jewish Heritage Calendar](#)



It's All Greek to Us!

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Zola Levitt Presents



above: Kirsten and David in Mykonos
right: The ruins of Corinth



It's spring. Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and all I can think about is that we're six months away from our next tour to Greece, Israel, and Petra. You still have time to sign up for the tour. If you've been waiting for a "sign" to take a Zola Tour, consider this cordial invitation your sign.

On *Zola Levitt Presents*, David and I weekly invite you to the adventure of a lifetime to Israel. We mention Greece and the Greek isle cruise, too. But I want to share with you the **Top 10 Reasons** why David and I believe that you should travel to and tour Greece with us.

1. See the Acropolis, Parthenon, and Mars Hill for yourself. They're magnificent. Pictures don't do these sites justice. Mars Hill (an actual *hill*) is where Paul preached to the Athenians about the "Unknown God" (Acts 17:22–31). A few steps away from Mars Hill sits the Acropolis where temples were built to many different Greek gods. You will be able to stand in the same exact spot as Paul! Climbing up to the Parthenon and seeing all of Athens spread out before you takes your breath away.

2. The sidewalks in Athens are made of marble. This feature fascinated us. Even the sewer grates are *marble*. Marble streets might not be a life-changing reason to visit Greece, but adding that the gorgeous hotel where we stay is just feet away from the Hellenic Parliament where you can watch the famous Changing of the Guard makes #2 a good combo.

3. The Bible's books of 1 and 2 Corinthians comprise the letters that Paul wrote to the church in the Greek city of Corinth. On our tour, we get to **stroll through the beautiful old city of Corinth** with its sprawling views of the Ionian Sea. Walking where Paul walked as he taught the Corinthians feels like time travel. Look up to see the Acrocorinth ("upper Corinth"), a monolithic rock on which sits a fortified citadel with gates that date back to the 4th century B.C. Bring your walking shoes to explore this ancient and expansive site.

4. As if the days spent in Athens and Corinth weren't enough, we hop on a ship to **cruise the Aegean Sea**. The sapphire waters of the Aegean will make you want to gaze at them endlessly. Then a wide variety of food

(continued next page)





awaits you. Our favorite has to be Greek Bar-B-Q night on the Lido Deck: endless dishes of grilled meats, salads, sides, and *desserts*. Worth the whole trip! The ship's cabins? Ocean views! The dining room cuisine? Exquisite. Meet David and me on the upper Lido (water/pool) Deck whenever we approach a port and we'll point out the best spots for magnificent views.

5. Ephesus. Not only did Paul write to the Ephesians, he was also a resident of the ancient metropolis. Only 10% of Ancient Ephesus has been uncovered, yet it takes us *a whole day* to explore. We had no idea of the magnitude of this city. Prepare to be amazed there. Solid marble streets. Wall frescoes — still marvelously visible and vibrant — painted thousands of years ago. The profusion of mosaic “floor rugs” made me seriously reconsider the flooring in our condo, wondering if I could replicate intricate designs we saw in the terrace houses. And if you're a cat lover, bringing cat food to feed the Ephesian “street cats” is quite popular.

6. We sail to Patmos. **Patmos!** We journey into the cave believed to mark the spot where Apostle John received the Revelation of Jesus Christ and “penned” those visions as the Bible's last book. There's a crack in the ceiling of the cave that tradition says occurred when the voice of the Lord spoke to John. After exploring this site, we meet as a group for Praise and Worship. Nothing like singing “Revelation Song” together, just steps from where Scripture unfolded.

7. You can use U.S. dollars and credit cards throughout Greece, but it's fun to **deal in Euros**. This grandmother still thinks that using foreign currency is cool.

8. “It looks like snow on top of the mountains. How can snow be on a Greek Island?” (Me, on our approach to Santorini). I soon realized that the “snow” was actually a myriad of pure, white Santorini houses. **Santorini's unparalleled beauty makes it one of the most beloved Greek Islands.** After our guided bus tour up to the town of Oia (If you don't like heights, sit in an aisle seat!), we explore the majestic cliff-side village on our own. When the shop merchants offer you a sample SantoNut, accept it. These sesame seed and honey-covered peanuts are delicious. We bought a bag and munched throughout the rest of our outing!

9. A sunset on the island of Mykonos. Can a Zola Tour to Greece be romantic? Yes. Mykonos at sunset shall prove that correct.

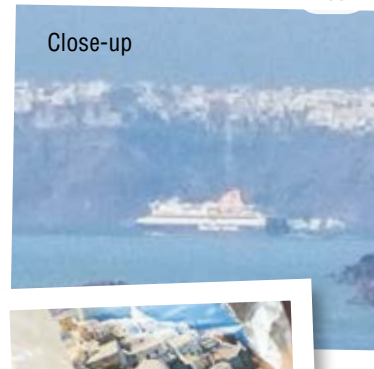
10. After debarking, we jump on our tour bus and head straight for the Athens airport to board our plane for Israel. Then, because it's a Zola Tour, the experiences keep getting better.

We'll save a seat on the bus and a cabin on the cruise ship for you! ★

“Snow-capped”
mountains of
Santorini



Close-up



ZLM's Lone Soldier Benevolence Fund in Action



Dear ZLM,

Thank you so much! I haven't seen my family in nearly a year. However, due to your generosity, I will be able to fly back to them for a month. You bought a plane ticket for a stranger, and for that I thank you.

It's funny, ever since I made *aliyah*, everyone has told me that we are not strangers but family. An act of kindness such as yours reminds me of just how accurate that saying is. I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to fly back to my family and friends.



Dear ZLM,

I am a humanitarian liaison to Palestinians in the West Bank. I have been in Israel for 2 years.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to fly home and see my family. I'm going to get to be there for my two youngest brothers' birthdays. I haven't seen my family in over six months, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be there and share in family *simchas* (joyful events). My parents, brothers, and I really appreciate it.



Sometimes people wonder whether their donations to a ministry are used appropriately. As the father of a son in the U.S. military, I know the importance of soldiers taking a break to reconnect with family. Rest assured, your donations are making a positive impact on Israeli lives. These IDF soldiers' gratitude is the fruit of one of our ministry's designated funds. Thank you, donors. — David ★

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New! Hebrew Names of God Notecards (set of 12)

Rich calligraphy with the meaning and history of each of the 12 Names. Unique devotionals with Old and New Testament connections on the back of each card, useful for personal reflection, 12-week Bible studies, and framing on a conversation wall.

Including envelopes, these high-quality and colorful cards measure 5½" by 8½" and mail with a single First Class stamp.

Yom HaShoah... *continued from cover sidebar*

In homes and businesses, **people stop what they are doing** to pay homage to the victims of the Nazi genocide in which a third of world Jewry was annihilated.

A wreath-laying ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial follows, with Israeli leaders and Holocaust survivors in attendance. A public reading of names also takes place in Israel's parliament, where Israel's prime minister and other leaders recite the names of relatives who were killed. Other ceremonies, prayers, and musical performances take place in schools, community centers, and army bases around the country.

The annual remembrance is one of the most solemn days on Israel's calendar. Restaurants, cafes, and places of entertainment shut down, and radio and TV programs are dedicated almost exclusively to documentaries about the Holocaust, interviews with survivors, and somber music. The Israeli flag flies at half-staff.

Israel was established in 1948, just three years after the end of the war, and hundreds of thousands of survivors fled there for safety. Some 100,000 elderly survivors remain worldwide; the youngest are in their 70s. With the passing years, and the dwindling number of survivors, greater emphasis has been put on commemorating their individual stories.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, called on the public to share testimony and provide more names of those who perished. Yad Vashem's Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project has collected many, but over a million victims remain unidentified.

"It is a race against the clock to collect as many names of those murdered during the Holocaust before there are no more survivors left," said Alexander Avram, the director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names. **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that in the face of the world's indifference to the genocide of the Jews in World War II, Israel is the guarantee the Jewish people will never be that weak again.**

"The lesson is that we must be able to defend ourselves by ourselves, against every threat, against every enemy," he added.

President Reuven Rivlin has cautioned that although the Holocaust is "permanently branded in our flesh," it "is not the lens through which we should examine our past and our future."

Every Zola Tour to Israel includes a visit to Yad Vashem. It's a sobering yet greatly needed reminder of mankind's history of anti-Semitism. We shall never forget. —Kirsten ★



A siren sounds at 10 a.m. on Yom HaShoah (April 12 this year) signaling two minutes of quiet remembrance. The UN-sanctioned International Holocaust Remembrance Day occurs every January 27.



Poland's Anti-History Holocaust Law

BY MARC SANTORA (r) NYTimes.com



Child survivors of Auschwitz, wearing adult-size prisoner jackets, stand behind a barbed wire fence.

When the Nazis looked to build Auschwitz, the most notorious death camp of the Holocaust, they chose Oswiecim, an out-of-the-way village that had been home to a Polish Army barracks.

Yale historian Timothy Snyder lamented that few know that the failed 1944 Warsaw Uprising resulted in more deaths than the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

Unlike in other countries, there was no collaborationist government in Poland. The Nazis wanted to destroy their state and enslave the Poles. By the end of World War II, six million Poles had been murdered, including three million Jews — nearly half of all the Jews killed in the Holocaust.

That shared pain has at times been a source of understanding. But it became a source of anger recently when Poland's president Andrzej Duda — over furious objections from historians, the Israeli government, and others — signed legislation making it a crime to suggest that Poland bore any responsibility for atrocities committed by Nazi Germany.

The law has two parts. One part outlaws the phrase "Polish death camps," a term that scholars agree is misleading since the camps were erected and controlled by Nazi Germany.

Historians find more troubling the second part, which makes it a crime — punishable by a fine or up to three years in prison — to accuse "the Polish nation" of complicity in the Holocaust and other Nazi atrocities. They say that the nationalist government is trying to whitewash the role of Poles in one of history's bloodiest chapters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likened the law to Holocaust denial. Israel's education minister, Naftali Bennett, whose planned visit was canceled by Poland after he criticized the law, responded: "The blood of Polish Jews cries from the ground, and no law will silence it."

Critics say the new law pits two narratives of immense suffering against each other.

(continued next page)





Photo by
Michał
Józefaciuk

Many Poles — even those who oppose the governing Law and Justice Party — feel that the nation's wartime experience, as victim and resister, has not been properly told and is not adequately understood. Invaded first by the Nazis and then by the Soviets, Poland and its people — gentiles and Jews alike — suffered immensely.

Although many Poles risked their lives to save Jews, others energetically took part in pogroms, murdering at least 340 Jews in the town of Jedwabne in 1941 and 42 in the city of Kielce in 1946, after the war ended, to take two notorious examples. Still others extorted or betrayed their Jewish neighbors.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust remembrance center in Jerusalem, formally recognizes more than 6,700 gentiles in Poland as "righteous among the nations" because they risked their lives during the war to save Jews — more than from any other country in Europe. It estimates that 30,000 to 35,000 Polish Jews were saved because of such efforts.

Poland has generally been a responsible steward for the six main Nazi extermination camps in Poland, including Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here, visitors learn about suffering by Poles, Soviet soldiers, Roma, and Jews, largely without politics getting in the way. There are no audio tours; artifacts like the vault of human hair that is slowly turning to dust make interpretation seem unnecessary.

Jonathan Ornstein, the executive director of the Jewish Community Center in Krakow, said one of the sad side effects of the dispute has been that it obscured the "miracle" of the rebirth of Jewish life in Poland. "What is happening here is real and strong and will survive," he said.

But how to refer to places like Auschwitz is a matter of contention. Poles have long chafed at the term "Polish death camps."

Yale historian Timothy Snyder said the new Polish law attempts to distance the country from the European Union. "The Polish administration tends to identify the EU with Germany," he said. "The notion of wartime victimhood at the hand of Germans follows pretty easily into one of sovereignty. And sovereignty is the right to define yourself as innocent." ★



[Meshumed!](#) Book

By Zola Levitt

Remarkable stories of Orthodox Jews who accepted their Messiah even in the concentration camps of World War II Europe! Some of the most dramatic testimonies in print.

Originally commissioned as an official history of one of America's oldest and finest missions to the Jews.

(See [article about Holocaust Memorial Day on p.1.](#))

This and other ZLM eBooks are available at the following providers:

eBooks — store.levitt.com/books

iBooks — itunes.apple.com

Amazon Kindle — amazon.com

The Eternity of Hell

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



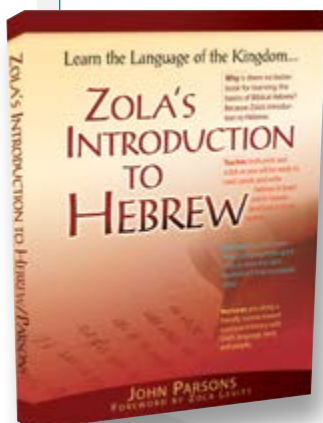
Q. Jehovah's Witnesses, and even some Christians, deny that Hell for the unbeliever lasts forever. What does the Bible say?

A. The Jehovah's Witnesses' view of Hell is completely false and goes against what the Scriptures clearly teach. This cult holds to Annihilationism — the belief that at the final judgment, God will destroy the wicked so that they will cease to exist and thus end their suffering. This view denies that Hell lasts forever for the unsaved who died in their sins. Jehovah's Witnesses are fond of saying that a loving God would not create an everlasting Hell. But a just and holy God would indeed allow for the existence of Hell for those who refuse to repent of their evil. For the worker of iniquity, there will be an eternal, never-ending torment and punishment.

Using a rich man as a prime example of this divine truth, Jesus' lesson in Luke 16:19–31 clearly shows an everlasting existence for the unsaved in Hell. The punishment in Hell of the sinful dead is described throughout Scripture as *"shame and everlasting contempt"* (Daniel 12:2), *"unquenchable fire"* (Matthew 3:12), *"everlasting fire"* (Matthew 25:41), a place where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43–48), a place of "torment" and "fire" (Luke 16:23–24), "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where "the smoke of torment rises forever and ever" (Revelation 14:11), and a "lake of burning sulfur" where the wicked are "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

Indeed, the same Greek word for "eternal" used for "eternal life" in the New Testament is the same exact word used for "eternal punishment" (compare John 3:16 with Matthew 25:41), thus showing that the punishment of the unbeliever lasts forever, without annihilation. The torment of the unsaved in Hell lasts the same eternity as the glory the redeemed will enjoy in Heaven. Scripture is quite clear that eternal punishment of the unsaved in the Lake of Fire will last forever. Hell and the Lake of Fire — the former will be cast into the latter — is the eternal place of the damned with no end (Revelation 20:10, 14).

Jesus Christ came to save sinners from suffering eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, but they must repent and believe in Him before they die (John 3:16, 18, 36). ★



Zola's Introduction to Hebrew study book

There is no better book for learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Unlike most academic books on Biblical Hebrew, this course provides a step-by-step approach that will enable you to understand the Hebraic mindset while learning the alphabet and vowel signs. Studying at your own pace, you will master the Hebrew alphabet, sound out actual Hebrew words, and begin connecting your studies with your heart by reading Hebrew prayers, blessings, and even passages from Scripture! (*See p. 22 of this Levitt Letter to learn to pray in Hebrew for the peace of Jerusalem.*)

New copies of Zola's Introduction to Hebrew are available at Amazon for between \$85 and \$126! (We sell it for \$39.)

400+ pages

The Bread of Life

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



On our way to Haifa, **To The Jew First** team member August Rosado and I felt led by the Lord to visit the ancient city of Modi'in and the Maccabean graves there. Modi'in is the ancient city where Judah Maccabee led a successful revolt against the cruel anti-Semitic ruler of the Seleucid Empire, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, in 167 B.C.



Neither of our GPS devices was working properly, so we stopped at a Paz gas station to ask directions. This inconvenience came by way of the LORD's providence to share the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah with the gas station attendants, **Yarin and Rebeka**. The witness started when August asked Yarin for directions to the ancient Maccabean grave-site. That opened a door for us to reveal to her the plan that God has for the Jewish people.

August told Yarin that we love and appreciate the Jewish people for giving the world the Hebrew Bible and Yeshua the Messiah. When we asked her, Yarin said

that she wanted a Bible in Hebrew with the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament). I retrieved one for her from the car. Yarin's co-worker, Rebeka, looked on as I presented Yarin with the *metenah* ("gift" in Hebrew). Her eyes got big and wide and she spoke in a loud voice, "I want this gift, too."

Rarely, in all my years of Gospel ministry in Israel, had I seen such a spiritual hunger from the Chosen People for true knowledge of the Messiah as revealed in the Word of God. Both women were riveted as the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit) helped them learn the importance of understanding that Yeshua is the Messiah who came to Earth as God-man to live, suffer, and die in order to redeem all of Israel and the world.

His atoning death brought salvation through the New Covenant promised first to the Jewish people foretold in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). Both Yarin and Rebeka ate at the table of the Lord and were fed, but wanted more to eat and drink spiritually. Now they have complete Hebrew Bibles (with both Testaments) from this ministry and can feast on Yeshua, the Bread of Life (John 6:35). ★



I Buttonholed a Stockbroker

Wise as a Serpent
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



Matt. 10:16: *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."*

It was in the Dallas Jewish Community Center's locker room that I caught a stockbroker with his pants down ... an ex-stockbroker, who was dressing after his workout and steam bath. He's a nonchalant, likeable, Jewish senior citizen who spends more time recovering in the locker room than exercising in the gym.

He and I offer occasional nods of acknowledgement despite not knowing each other's name. Let me call him "Joseph," my paternal grandfather's name. Incidentally, just showing up where you work out counts for half credit since you're probably going to do some exercise to justify making the trip.

Speaking of Jews working out, see my [March 2012 Levitt Letter Serpent article \(p. 21\)](#). Entitled "Cross Training at The J— (Try it; you'll like it!)," its page header reads, "Strengthening the Body of Christ." Now timeout for a brief endorsement:

Endorsement:

What I found at the JCC in Dallas is not only a workout facility par excellence, but also a friendly collection of considerate, educated citizens of varied ages and abilities. Gentiles are welcome and make up roughly 30% of the membership. To find a J near you, see www.discoverjcc.com.

After years of periodically noticing Joseph, I started a brief conversation: "Today the stock market fell by a thousand points. Back on Black Monday in 1987 [when the stock market plunged 23%], I was blissfully oblivious because I didn't own a share."

His candid reply: "I was a stockbroker on that day."

To which I candidly remarked, "Wow, and you seem like such a nice fellow, rather than a crook!" As you may know, Dear Reader, men's locker-room banter allows frankness seasoned with a sense of humor.



Joseph knew exactly where I was coming from, and he had a strong chin. Then he punched back: "Well, I used to be a stockbroker. Now I serve on arbitration panels." Zola and I had sat before such a panel (NASD* then; now FINRA**) after getting rooked by a stockbroker so corrupt that he should have worn a bandit mask.

Joseph divulged how much such panelists are paid and corroborated my suspicions about those arbitrations being biased, if not fixed. Stockbrokerages, he revealed, have their rosters of preferred panelists who reliably find in their favor in order to be tapped for more workdays. Joseph doesn't get many assignments anymore, however, because the word got around that he's too evenhanded. Now stockbrokerages all but boycott Joseph.

To learn about passive investing that
1. doesn't overpay middlemen, and
2. costs less in declining markets,
please see my archived "Stockbroker"
articles at:

<https://www.levitt.com/essays> ★

* NASD: National Association of Securities Dealers

**FINRA: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority



ZLM Bulletin Board

5 Reasons Why Israel is Ready...

...for War with Hezbollah in Lebanon. Twelve years ago (2006), Hezbollah and Israel were left gutted by a summer war that was costly for both sides. This year on February 10, subscribers to our ministry's **FREE** *Levitt Letter Extra* (LLX) received an email invitation to see our flash newsletter's informative update.

The story began by quoting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his recent tour of Israel's border with Syria and Lebanon with top security officials: "Our face is turned toward peace, but we are ready for any eventuality, and I don't suggest anyone test us." To learn the 5 reasons why Israel must be ready, click on the "Levitt Letter" dropdown menu at levitt.com and then "[LLX News](#)." Why not subscribe?



Free Levitt Letter Overages

Would you like 7, 14, or 21 recent *Levitt Letters* to give away at your church, health club, or doctor's office? We've been printing extras for subscribers who want to serve as Newsletter Ambassadors. Imagine delivering this ministry's anointed teaching to those who don't know it even exists — **FREE**. Please help us reach more people by periodically letting us know how many newsletters you can put to good use.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The State Has Made Your Will pamphlet

begins, "There's no law that says you have to make a will or other estate plans." Then it explains some assumptions the court may be forced to make in the absence of one and possible ways it would divide assets. The various topics are especially relevant to parents of minor children and anyone who wishes to minimize estate taxes. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



Botox for Camels?

More scandalous than steroids for Olympians, Botox enhancements are a big no-no in Saudi Arabian camel beauty pageants. At least twelve "kissable contestants" have been disqualified for having Botox lip injections. The prestigious King Abdulaziz Camel Festival stipulates, "all [camel] beauty must be natural." With 30,000 camels, 300,000+ visitors, and \$31.8 million in beauty pageant prizes at stake, competition at this annual camel fest is fierce. Classic proverb: "A camel is a horse designed by a committee." Meanwhile, such primitives seek to defy the Abrahamic Covenant.



"Come Home!"

**Zola
Tours to
Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details



Pouring Out Your Heart

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians



בְּטַחוּ בוֹ בְּכָל־עֵת עִם שֹׁפְכו־לִפְנֵי לִבְכֶּכֶם

“Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts before Him...” (Psalm 62:8)

בְּטַחוּ	בוֹ	בְּכָל־	עֵת	עִם	שֹׁפְ	כִי־	לִפְ	נִי	לִ	בְּכָל־	כֶּם
(3)	(2)	(1)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
le-vav-khem	shif-khu—le-fa-nav	am	be-khol—et	vo	bit-choo						
your hearts	pour out before Him	people	at all times	in Him	trust!						

I’ve mentioned [before](#) that the Hebrew word **mitzvah** is often translated as “**commandment**,” though its basic idea is about our connection to God (i.e., the root צוה means to “bind” or “unite”). Being connected with the Almighty means talking with Him, relating to Him as your Heavenly Father, and trusting that He esteems you as His beloved child. Whatever else you may think about the commandments of God, this concept of a love connection is foundational and essential.

The very first of the Ten Commandments is *Anochi Adonai Elohekha*, “I am the LORD your God,” which invites you to open your heart to receive the touch of the Spirit of God. There is no love like that of the LORD, but you simply can’t feel that love if you don’t speak to Him, pouring out your heart and clinging to the truth of His love for you.

The idea of pouring your heart out to God in an honest, spontaneous, and earnest way is called **hitbodedut** in Hebrew. After we “talk our hearts out” before the LORD, in our emptiness we can begin to truly listen, as it says, *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength”* (Isa. 30:15). Only after we sigh deeply and surrender are we receptive to the voice of the Spirit’s whisper. *“Blessed are all those who wait for Him”* (Isa. 30:18). We wait, we abide, even when God takes His time or does not immediately intervene. We do not lose heart, for we find strength when we trust in God’s love. The Light of the world still shines: Yeshua, be my inner word, my heart, and my groaning for life today, and forevermore. Amen.

Since the essence of Torah is connection to God, the greatest blessing is to be filled with a steadfast desire to draw close to Him, to experience hunger and thirst (visceral yearning) for God’s presence and touch. Holy desire — expressed in the yearning of heartfelt prayer — is therefore a state of true blessedness; and the more desperate our need for God, the more blessed we are. **It is our desire, our holy need that creates a bond of connection between our soul and its Creator, and that is the deeper meaning of mitzvah.** As Yeshua said: *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”* (Matthew 5:6). ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



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-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives an 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 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 Wilderness Group Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about 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.

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, the language of Yeshua. University of Chicago professor Wise helped translate the fragments when they were first released and enthusiastically discusses The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be. ([See related article on p.34.](#))



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

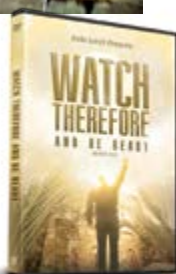
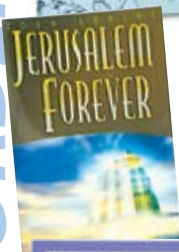
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___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover (pictured)	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever (pictured)	\$4	___
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Books

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___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (p. 12)	\$39	___

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___	The Holocaust (p. 20) (6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
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___	Secrets of the Scrolls (p. 17) . (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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New!

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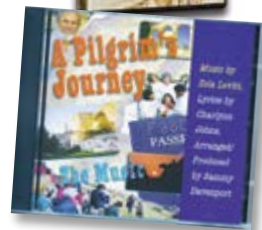
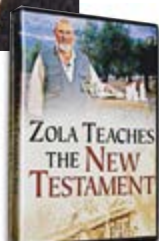


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___	Names of God Notecards (set of 12) New! (p.8)	\$24	___
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Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	A Pilgrim's Journey (pictured)	(Zola's Music CD)	\$12	___
___	Return to Galilee	(Zola's Music CD)	\$12	___
___	The Works	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
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Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

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up to \$15.99, add \$5
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8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

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The Holocaust DVD Set

Six half-hour TV programs
on two DVDs

Selected from our *Signs of the End* series, these six programs cover the most tragic event in history. Zola Levitt and his crew report on the awful Holocaust through hard hitting interviews and an on-location taping at Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich, Germany. (Please see related articles [pp.1,10.](#))

They Survived Includes interviews with Holocaust survivors Dr. Eric Kulka and Efraim Zuroff. Dr. Tom McCall also interviews the head of research at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum and the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.

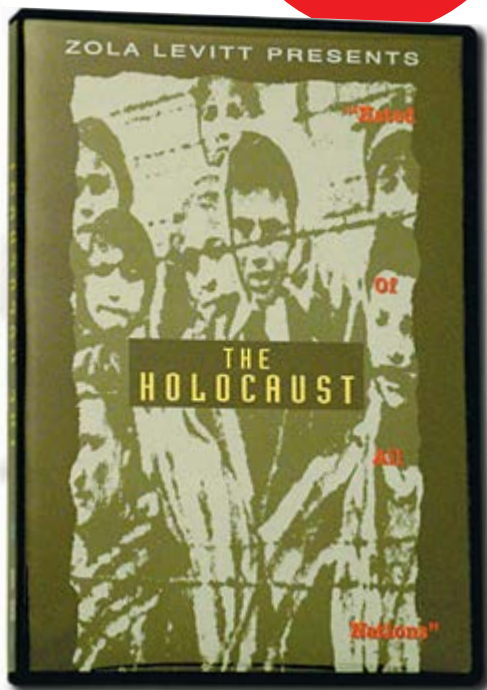
An Eyewitness at Dachau A visit to Dachau Concentration Camp by Munich. Includes interviews with Dachau survivor Bikolas Lehner and with an American eyewitness who visited the camp just after the war in 1946.

A Spy Among Neo-Nazis An interview in Israel with Yaron Svoray, investigative reporter/spy. He gives background regarding the motivations of his mission to go undercover for eight months among neo-Nazis in Germany.

Nazis Today Zola continues his interview with Yaron Svoray. Yaron shows photos that he took of neo-Nazis during his undercover mission—evidence about which the German government has done nothing.

Two Rabbis Includes interviews with Rabbi Stan Eisenberg in Fort Worth and Rabbi David Rosen in Jerusalem. Two rabbis in different hemispheres share a common concern about anti-Semitism.

Righteous Gentiles Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, shares her concern for political support by all democracies for the State of Israel. Pam Rosewell Moore, who was Corrie ten Boom's companion and secretary, reveals some special insights into Corrie's survival during the Holocaust.



Dry Bones



Christian EMTs Save Israelis

BY ELIANA RUDEE (r) BreakingIsraelNews.com



Sroor Abood, one of United Hatzalah's Christian volunteers

Christian volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in Israel have saved hundreds of lives annually, according to Raphael Poch of United Hatzalah.

"In 2017, just five of their Christian volunteers responded to nearly 1,000 emergency calls around Israel," said Poch.

Although the number of Christian volunteers in Hatzalah is relatively low, their impact is widely felt.

"While they may be a minority in Israel and in the organization, these men and women are always on call and drop whatever they are doing to rush out and save the life of a stranger."

Perhaps the Christian ethic of being a Good Samaritan has special meaning when done in the land where the phrase was coined," Poch added.

Sroor Abood, a Christian volunteer with United Hatzalah, has been working with the organization for a year and attests to the Christian ethics associated with his EMT work. "Both Hatzalah and Christianity believe in saving lives," he said. When he is not working as an EMT, Abood saves lives as a Doctor of Emergency Medicine in the Rambam Medical Clinic and in a local medical clinic.

Abood grew up in a Druze town in the Upper Galilee and was motivated to volunteer as an EMT after seeing many of his friends and colleagues join United Hatzalah. Abood maintains that saving lives is simply about

helping people, a value that supersedes politics and religion.

Abood often takes the tools he learns volunteering and applies them to his other work with children of special needs. "One good deed breeds another," Abood said.

Poch is grateful for the Christian volunteers in his organization. "The selfless devotion shown by our volunteers is beyond parallel." He added that his Christian volunteers also fulfill a value of utmost importance in Judaism, which is saving a life.

"As the Talmud tells us, anyone who saves a single life in Israel, it is as if they have saved the entire world," he noted. "The number of worlds our Christian volunteers have saved and the lives that they have touched are innumerable." ★





Some letters have been edited for space.

Letters to ZLM

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

Blessing Jerusalem in Hebrew

Dear ZLM,

You stress for us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Can you please teach us how to pray this in Hebrew: "Lord bring peace to Jerusalem." Thank you ... and keep up the good work! R.P. (CA)

Dear R.P. —

John Parsons, the writer of our *Levitt Letter* Hebrew lessons and author of *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* book, maintains [Hebrew4Christians.com](#), a website devoted to teaching Hebrew history, culture, and grammar to Christians. On the website's page of [blessings \(berachot\)](#), you find under the Messianic Berachot heading "Blessing for Jerusalem." Clicking on that link takes you to a page with 24 reasons to bless Jerusalem, our own tagline "Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim," and the prayer on the right. — Editor

Speaking of designated funds (see p. 8), this ministry has one for Hebrew4Christians.com, a one-man endeavor that epitomizes financial efficiency. Readers seeking ways to supplement their contributions to ZLM's general fund would do well to uphold Parsons's website. — Mark

 Believers in Yeshua HaMashiach understand that Jerusalem is dear to the God of Israel and heed His commandment to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6).

Transliterated Blessing:

אָב הַרְחָמִים הַיְיִבָּה בְּרַצוֹנָךְ אֶת־צִיּוֹן.
av harachamim heitivah birtzonekha et-tziyon
Father of mercies do good in thy will to Zion

תִּבְנֶה חוֹמוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם.
tiveneh chomot yerushalayim
build the walls of Jerusalem

כִּי בָךְ לְבַד בָּטַחְנוּ, מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים
ki vekha levad batachnu, melekh elohim
alone in You for exalted God O King we trust

וְנִשְׂאָ אֲדוֹן עוֹלָמִים.
venisa' adon olamim
Master and uplifter of worlds

Av harachamim heitivah virtzonekha et-Tziyon,
tiveneh chomot yerushalayim.
Ki vekha levad batachnu, melekh el ram
venisa' Adon Olamim.

Hebrew for Christians
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Listening for His Voice

Dear ZLM,

I cut the cable many years ago. I only have antennae, so I haven't seen your *Zola Levitt Presents* program for ages. Nonetheless, I have continued to support your organization because I feel the Lord leading me to. In your [January Personal Letter](#), you detailed a large number of your good works and explained how your existence and ministry was of great value to Israel. This report justified a solicitation, and you mentioned that your reserves were declining and you surely could use increased funds to continue ministering.

(continued next page)

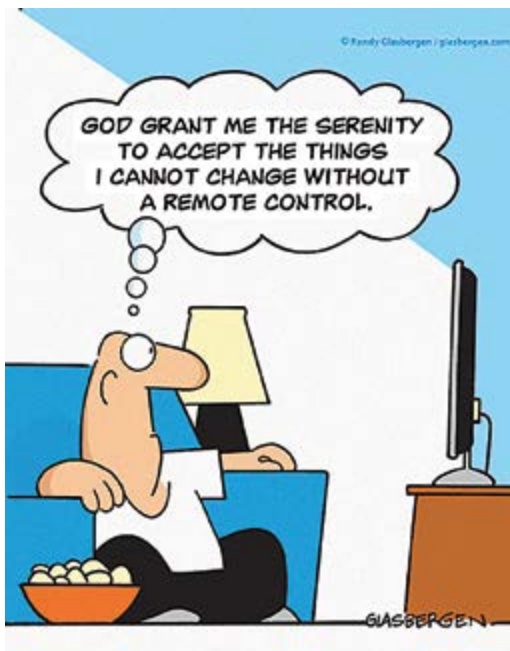
A balance sheet can be balanced by increasing funds or decreasing expenditures. Do you suppose the Lord is trying to tell you something by your organization's current financial challenges? Even if your outreach collapses, Israel will survive. They have survived for thousands of years without you, including the Nazi Holocaust. I won't presume to tell you what to do other than ask yourselves: "What is the Lord trying to tell us?" — R.D.

Dear R.D. —

Even though you are a cable cutter ("Goodbye, cable television!") you still can watch *Zola Levitt Presents* at levitt.com by clicking on "Zola TV." You can watch us on your computer, tablet, or smart phone ... or use your public library's computer. Moreover, at \$29, Roku is a small device that plugs into your television and receives your Internet's wi-fi signal, thus allowing you to watch what many call Internet television.

What do you suppose the Lord is trying to tell us, R.D.? To eliminate needless expenditures? Been there, done that. To cut potentially redundant TV airtimes? Check. To whittle our television production budget? We've done this more than once. To hire more affordable spokespeople? Did that, too. To dedicate a little more time and space to fund-raising? Maybe so. I plan to devote the next *Levitt Letter's* Note from Mark to addressing the issues you've raised. In the meantime, I pray that you will find your checkbook and help ZLM monetarily as I honor your admonition regarding spiritual introspection. (Please see paragraph three of this month's fine Hebrew Lesson on [p.16.](#)) — Mark

P.S. Have you ever had a friend who, in response to being asked for help, smiles and says offhandedly: "I'll pray for ya!"? (Sincere prayer works; insincere prayer, not so much.)



Alpha and Omega

Dear ZLM,

Seeing many changes within this ministry over many years, I can assure my fellow ZLMers that neither your ministry's message nor its mission statement has changed. This is heartening in a world that constantly seeks change ... and not always for the better. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and always. His consistency is a tremendous irritant to secular humanists. — J.

Dear J. —

Jesus/Yeshua is the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 22:13). His message is millennia old, but still alive and needed in 2018. Thank you for being a faithful follower of this ministry. — David

(continued next page)

Seeing the Big Picture

Dear ZLM,

My wife and I have followed your ministry for several decades. The Bible teaching and emphasis on the Jewish roots of Christianity bless us as we learn about God's plan for His creation and people.

We appreciated your sharing in the [January Personal Letter](#) the changes and challenges facing the ministry. **While the truth does not change, the market for it and the means of conveying it do.**

We are increasing our monthly support because your ministry is one that needs to continue.

Press on in proclaiming the message of Messiah! —D.N. (IA)

Dear D.N. —

People like you and your wife keep this ministry alive. Thank you for seeing the big picture and wanting to be part of reaching the world with the Gospel of Yeshua HaMashiach. You're helping to transform lives. —Kirsten

Spiritual Filling

Peace and blessings to ZLM,

Thank you for sending the recent *Levitt Letter*. The Hebrew lesson filled me spiritually. I love the articles, and the funnies lifted my spirit with the goodness of God.

I would love to watch the weekly *Zola Levitt Presents* programs, but we don't get those television stations. I'll be in this cell at this address for awhile, so please keep sending your wonderful monthly wisdom.

May you prosper and be blessed.

Jesus and I love you! —C.L. (CA)

Dear C.L. —

Thank you for the encouraging words. If inmates have access to computers, perhaps you can watch the half-hour programs at [levitt.tv](#). In any case, your letter ensures that you'll remain on our *Levitt Letter* mailing list.

As you grow in your faith, you may discover what the Apostle Paul knew: that incarceration can be an opportunity to spread the Gospel message of salvation to fellow inmates and prison guards. Trust the Lord to use every aspect of your life to help you further His Kingdom.

The Lord bless you and keep you and grant you His peace (Num. 6:24, 26). —Kirsten

Valuable Advice

Dear ZLM,

Just a note to encourage your work in the Lord Yeshua. I read the *Levitt Letter* cover to cover; every page is insightful, educational, and the cartoons and humor fill the air with joyful laughter.

(continued next page)



The only advice I have for the naysayers comes from Thumper's father: "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothin' at all."

I pray that those who value this ministry will provide the resources necessary to meet the current and future needs of ZLM. I will. —M.N.B. (CA)

Dear M.N.B. —

I, too, was taught the "If you don't have anything nice to say" adage. Amen to your kind advice. Be sure to pass your *Levitt Letters* along to your friends, neighbors, and family. And thank you for your faithful, unwavering support! —Kirsten



"Our pastor says all men are brothers. Does that mean all men want to pull my underwear up over my head?"

© Randy Glasbergen www.glasbergen.com

Fake News

Dear ZLM,

The [February 2018 Levitt Letter](#) (p. 33) had a very negative Trump article in it: "No Peace Process To Destroy". *The New York Times* has always been fake news and drivel to Trump and his supporters. Is the *Levitt Letter* a leftist, globalist newsletter now? Explain yourselves because Israel has never had a friend like Trump, and I won't listen to anyone saying otherwise.

Why would you entertain the author, Roger Cohen, a liberal fool, in these pages? He's fake news. Explain yourselves or you will lose this subscriber. —A.R.

Dear A.R. —

Zola Levitt Ministries tries very hard to stay out of domestic politics, choosing instead to maintain a firm stance in support of Israel and the Jewish people. That position tends to land us in one column, but we don't limit ourselves to either column. We take pro-Israel arguments where we can find them, often pointing out that they emanate from unlikely places, including Roger Cohen and *The NYT*.

We published "No Peace Process to Destroy" because it pointed out that the reason given by previous presidents for not moving the embassy — that moving it would jeopardize the "fragile" peace process — is a lame one. The article voiced the arguments against President Trump's actions, then shot them all down. While Cohen may be no fan of Trump, **the article's reasoning was decidedly pro-Israel** and even called the Palestinians wishy-washy: "... there is nothing unswerving about Palestinian policy."

Cohen's statements toward the end (about Russia's position and the Palestinians' claim on Jerusalem and flouting UN resolutions) were all accurate and given without judgment, leaving the reader to decide whether they hold value. If you've read the *Levitt Letter* for any length of time, you'll agree that ZLM doesn't afford them much weight. If you doubted that position, then we should have included a comment at the bottom of the page clarifying our favorable attitude toward moving the embassy. Should I apologize for that omission?

That said, Trump has yet to change official policy. Every president since 1995 has agreed to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem, yet signed a waiver every six months citing the "fragile peace process" as the excuse for the delay. I'll believe that this administration is different if we begin construction and actually move in — hopefully, this year. —Editor ★



IDF Adapts Tech for the Future

SCIENCE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Photo: IDF



The darkened monitoring room

The Israeli army is gearing up for the future by adapting revolutionary technologies from the civilian world — from artificial intelligence (AI) to telecommunications to virtual reality.

Technology will play a huge part in the battlefield of the future, said the head of Israel Defense Forces (IDF)'s Lotem C4i technological division when the IDF unveiled its latest innovations in a recent briefing with reporters at an army base outside Tel Aviv. Quickly changing technology requires that the IDF consistently upgrade the technology it offers its soldiers.

"We need to provide immediate solutions," he said. But these don't all need to come from in-house developments: The plethora of technologies being spewed out by the civilian world offers the IDF the opportunity to dip into "all of the goodies" that are out there and adapt them to the needs of the army, he said.

Last year, the IDF launched its own smartphone, developed in collaboration with Motorola. The new phone, already in use by soldiers in the field, not only revolutionizes communications but also allows a flattening of the chain of command, said the head of systems and projects. Whereas once soldiers reported to a commander, and that commander to his commander, messages are now received directly by everyone in the command chain at the same time.

The phone does not allow communication by users outside the army network and has protections in case it falls into enemy hands. The phone uses a mix of civilian and army networks and includes applications like an army-specific

(continued next page)

By introducing changes gradually, the IDF sees much potential for AI to improve its effectiveness and efficiency.





WhatsApp, enabling soldiers to receive drone-taken images directly on their smartphones, for example, or take pictures or fingerprints of injured soldiers.

The challenges for using these technologies in the military are greater than in the civilian world. Cellular coverage must be ubiquitous, needing to work anywhere and everywhere, above and below ground, or beyond Israel's borders. In addition, all information needs to be delivered in real time, because in the army, a second of delay could mean life or death.

Adapting civilian technologies to the needs of the army includes putting smart sensors to work and making sense of the data using AI. All new technologies adapted and deployed by the army must have built-in cyber security to guard against enemy interference.

The IDF already has deployed sensors around borders and developed a ZTube channel — a sort of YouTube channel — with live feeds from them; the images can also be viewed later on demand.

The use of AI is widespread in the IDF and will increase as it affects the battlefield. At border crossings, the IDF has installed facial recognition technologies to make it easier for Palestinians to come and work in Israel. The system identifies them, and the process is becoming completely automatic.

In addition, the IDF has begun automatic transcription of videos into text, which can be used to make sense of surveillance footage. The technology, based on AI, can read and understand video images and translate what it sees into text. It can cross-reference the images it sees with other relevant information and send an emergency alert if it spots anything that requires special attention. And the IDF is working on text analytics, in which computers grind through vast amounts of texts and rank events in terms of time and importance.

The IDF is also forging ahead with “predictive maintenance,” in which sensors

are installed on tanks, trucks, and other gear to help preserve them at optimal levels. Using advanced analytics and sensors, the system will send out an alert when vehicles and other hardware need servicing.

At the same briefing, reporters saw a demonstration of how virtual reality and artificial reality goggles will become part of the army's toolkit, allowing commanders to

play war games, virtually moving tanks and troops on a battlefield. They'll also be used to train soldiers remotely — for example, allowing mechanics to practice repairing a virtual tank, and paramedics to perform operations on the battlefield, assisted by remote input from medics at a central command.

The IDF is currently using AI in human resources to better match new recruits to jobs. By introducing changes gradually, the IDF sees much potential for AI to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. ★



Using AI to make sense of all the data available will play a key role in giving the IDF an edge on the battlefield

Space Age Material In Hip, Knee Replacement

MEDICINE: TimesOfIsrael.com

As part of a pioneering new treatment, Haifa's Rambam Medical Center used a material developed in Israel for NASA's space program in orthopedic surgery. According to the developer, the advanced polymeric material is "self-shielding, has high heat resistance, zero wear, high strength and light weight, all of which make it ideal for replacing worn joints," reducing the likelihood of further operations as was the case when using materials that could crack over time.

The material, known as MP1, was originally developed by Alisa Buchman for the Israel-based start-up company M.M.A Tech, in collaboration with Prof. Rob Bryant of the University of Virginia. It was intended as a substitute for steel in the space industry, but the medical world also quickly realized its potential benefit.

The first operation on humans using the new material was performed 12 years ago in New Zealand as part of a clinical trial. Late last year, Dr. Daniel Levin, Rambam's joint service manager and specialist in hip replacement surgery, used MP1 in a hip replacement for a woman in her 60s, and recently, as part of a knee replacement surgery on a 48-year-old woman.

Levin explained that materials currently used wear out quickly, requiring multiple surgeries.

"One of the problems with existing implants is wear and tear. Over time, patients have to undergo repeat surgery and replace the implant due to loosening and cracking," he said. "The expectation of the new material is long-term durability and the possibility for patients to live with a better quality of life."

Buchman was proud of the success of her discovery. "Our first recipient has had the joint for 12 years without pain, and we are certainly encouraged by the results of subsequent surgeries," she said. ★



Dr. Daniel Levin performs innovative hip replacement surgery at Haifa's Rambam hospital

Photo by Piotr Feller



IN THE BLEACHERS

BY STEVE MOORE





SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Transporting containers of water in Cape Town, South Africa, in February

Anti-Semitism and Water Shortage in Cape Town

By Seth M. Siegel / *The Wall Street Journal*

Cape Town, South Africa has designated July 9 “Day Zero.” That’s when water taps throughout the city are expected to go dry, marking the culmination of a three-year drought. South African officials aren’t responsible for the lack of rain, but inept management and a devotion to anti-Israel ideology needlessly made the situation worse.

Even before Israel declared statehood in 1948, its leaders focused on water security as closely as they did military preparedness. Mostly desert, Israel would need adequate water to thrive. In the decades since, the country has developed an apolitical, technocratic form of water governance.

Conservation is taught from kindergarten. Market pricing of water encourages everyone to waste nothing and has driven innovation. Israelis helped create desalination, drip irrigation, and the specialized reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture.

Although Israel is in the fifth year of a drought, its citizens can reliably count on sufficient water.

Cape Town is another story. Its reservoirs began receding more than two years ago. This problem turned into a crisis because of subsidy-distorted water pricing, inefficient irrigation, and the lack of desalination facilities and a long-term plan. In 2016,

officials from Israel’s Foreign Ministry recognized the problem and alerted South African national, provincial, and local governments. Israel has trained water technicians in more than 100 countries, and it offered to bring in desalination experts to help South Africa.

South African officials ignored or rebuffed the no-strings Israeli proposal, which would be admirable if South Africa’s rejection came from a can-do attitude and national self-sufficiency. But apparently, South African officials wanted no help from Jerusalem for ideological reasons.

The leadership of South Africa’s dominant political party, the African National Congress (ANC), aligns itself with the Palestinian cause. Although the two countries have diplomatic ties, South Africa under the ANC has refused to develop warm relations with Israel. This antagonism goes back to the 1960s, when current Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lived in Moscow with exiled ANC leaders, and Yasser Arafat often visited. Students and leaders of the two movements were supported by the Soviet Union, and they shared revolutionary aspirations.

Even more confounding, the South Africans turned to Iran for water help. In April 2016, when there was still enough time for a smart plan to make a difference, South Africa’s water minister visited Tehran. She

(continued next page)





By Dave Gomersall and Gavin Thomson

brought home a memorandum of understanding in which Iran agreed to help develop South Africa's water infrastructure.

Unlike Israel, Iran is not known for its water-management expertise. In fact, the recent Iranian protests featured anger over water shortages. Even before the South African visit, a former Iranian agriculture minister predicted that as many as 50 million Iranians — around two-thirds of the population — would need to be uprooted because of growing water scarcity.

As in South Africa, Iran's water shortages can't be blamed only on the weather. Water infrastructure projects in Iran are controlled by the Revolutionary Guard Corps, which diverts water to favored ethnic and political groups. In Tehran, largely untreated sewage is discharged into nearby waterways, a waste of water that also creates health hazards. Years of regime-encouraged over-pumping of groundwater has left agricultural districts without water for crops.

Two months after the South African water minister's Iran trip, Israel brought a team of water profession-

als to Cape Town. Neither the mayor, strongly hostile to Israel, nor any senior municipal official would see them.

If the South Africans are snubbing the Israelis out of solidarity with the Palestinians, they might want to consider this: The Palestinian Authority has worked with Israel on a range of water projects since 1995. Israel offers training for Palestinians in wastewater management, infrastructure, and security. Israel also provides the Palestinian Authority with more than half the water for domestic

consumption by Palestinians in the West Bank. And it pipes more than 2.5 billion gallons of water into Hamas-controlled Gaza each year.

Why does South Africa feel compelled to be so anti-Israel? The question has no rational answer. (See Gen. 12:3.)

"Swiss Schindler" Honored From TheLocal.ch

A meeting room in the Swiss Federal Palace in Bern was recently renamed the "Carl Lutz Room" in honor of the diplomat who, with colleagues in Budapest, saved thousands of Jews in Hungary from the Nazis.

The venue for high-level foreign policy decisions received its new name on the 43rd anniversary of Lutz's death. A commemorative plaque in the room bears his name and those of his colleagues Harald Feller, Gertrud Lutz-Fankhauser, Ernst Vonrufs, and Peter Zürcher.

From 1942 to 1945, Lutz worked as vice-consul for neutral Switzerland in Budapest. When the Germans

(continued next page)



occupied the country in 1944, Lutz managed to hammer out an agreement for the Germans to provide safe passage for 8,000 Jews. He then applied the diplomatic letters of protection he obtained to whole families instead of individuals. When the 8,000 documents were used up, he simply began the numbering series again.

Lutz and his colleagues also set up safe houses around the Hungarian capital where thousands of Jews took shelter. An estimated 62,000 Jews are thought to have been saved by these efforts.

This belated recognition mirrors that of Swiss policeman Paul Grüninger, who, in the face of Swiss immigration laws that prohibited entry to Jewish refugees, defied orders by backdating documents to the period when Jews could legally enter Switzerland. He granted refugee status to 2,000–3,000 Jews.

He was dishonorably discharged from the police in 1940. In the late 1990s, a court cleared his name. The cantonal police force did not honor his achievement until 2014.



Carl Lutz during the Russian bombardment of Budapest

Photo: ETH Contemporary History Archive

Israel had honored both Grüninger and Lutz as Righteous Among the Nations, a title awarded to non-Jews who worked to save Jewish lives during WWII. ★



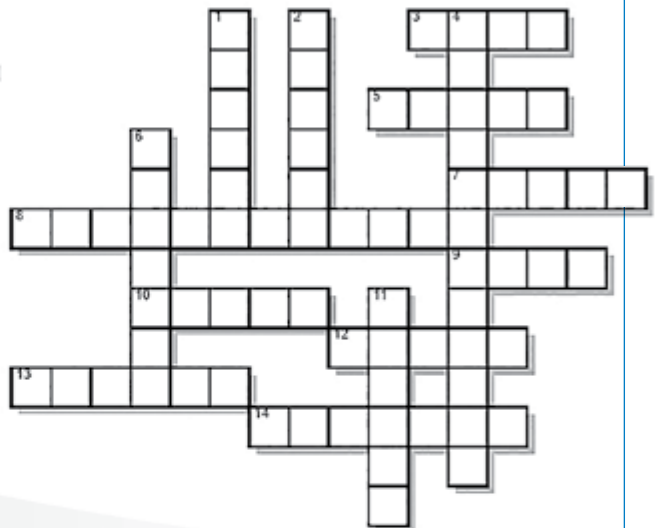
New! Crossword April 2018: *Called Together*—Friendly Alliance

ACROSS

- 3 It's Lebanon today
- 5 Gentile king who helped build the Temple (1 Kings 5)
- 7 "Father Take this ____"
- 8 "His Peace" (Hebrew)
- 9 Father (Hebrew)
- 10 But God, Who is rich in ____ (Ephesians 2:4)
- 12 Wood used in construction of the Temple
- 13 My Lord (Hebrew)
- 14 Friends (Hebrew)

DOWN

- 1 Peace or Hello (Hebrew)
- 2 Blessed (Hebrew)
- 4 Sha'alu Shalom ____
- 6 Jewish king tasked to build the Temple (1 Kings 5)
- 11 ...and the ____ shall rejoice... (Isaiah 35:1)



(answers on [p. 33](#))

Ancient Jews Believed in Third-Day Resurrection—The Gabriel Stone

ONE FOR ISRAEL

ARCHAEOLOGY: OneForIsrael.org (Messianic Jews in Israel)



The Gabriel Stone

“Some Christians will find it shocking... while others will be comforted by the idea of it being a traditional part of Judaism,” suggests Daniel Boyarin, a professor of Talmudic culture at the University of California at Berkeley, talking about an archaeological discovery found close to the Dead Sea around the year 2000.

Unlike the Dead Sea Scrolls, however, this ancient text is written in ink on a stone tablet and gives evidence of an ancient Jewish belief that the Messiah would die and come back to life on the third day.

It is not so easy to demonstrate that the Messiah would rise from the dead using the Jewish Scriptures alone, but we know that Paul the Apostle was able to do just that. (Acts 17:2–3)

And Paul was not the only one—we now know that there were other Jewish people in the first century B.C. who anticipated the same thing based on Bible prophecy. The “Gabriel Stone” gives us insight to that belief.

Like the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found in the mid-20th century, the ancient Gabriel Stone tablet continues to create debate long after its discovery almost 20 years ago. However, Jewish scholars have begun examining the stone more earnestly, causing a ruckus with their findings that point to Yeshua fitting the bill of existing Jewish Messianic expectations of His time.

The tablet is thought to be from the first century B.C., shortly before Yeshua came in the flesh. Dealing with themes of Apocalypse and End Times prophecy based on Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah, it is sometimes called “Gabriel’s Vision” or “Gabriel’s Revelation” because it is written in the first person in the name of Gabriel. The 87 lines of text, divided into two columns, are not all easy to read, and some of the words are simply impossible to make out. However, more experts in recent years have devoted time and attention to unraveling the

(continued next page)



mystery and discovering not only what is written, but also what it meant.

Some of the key experts and scholars who have studied the Gabriel Stone believe that the text talks about the idea of a Messiah figure coming back to life and that the first five words of line 80 read: "In three days live."

This discovery is extraordinary because it shows that this idea of resurrection on the third day existed in Jewish thinking even before Yeshua. We can see that Jonah's experience in the whale and Esther's three-day fast in the face of annihilation give us two "types" of this death-and-resurrection theme within the three-day period; but this tablet shows these thoughts in connection with the Messiah.

Psalms 22 and Isaiah 53 hint that the Messiah would be killed but rise afterward, and Hosea 6:1–2 speaks about a third day resurrection:

*Come, let us return to Adonai.
For He has torn, but He will heal us.
He has smitten, but He will bind us up.
After two days He will revive us.
On the third day He will raise us up,
and we will live in His presence.*

Two ideas of Messiah are common in Jewish thought: One, from the line of David, was traditionally expected to win a political and military victory; the other, a son of Joseph, would suffer and die. Although these ideas predate Yeshua, the idea of a Messianic son of Joseph continued long after Jesus. Indeed, even in the 16th century, Jews strongly expected that the Messiah would come from the north Galilee region and lead his disciples down to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer and die.

Many words of the Gabriel Stone remain undeciphered. But it is wonderful that top academics are having to contemplate the possibility that the death and third-day resurrection of Yeshua, son of Joseph, from the line of David, might not be as alien to Judaism as they thought.

For calculating Yeshua's three days from crucifixion to resurrection, please see [p. 4](#). ★



Crossword Answer Key

Across:

3. Tyre
5. Hiram
7. Sheep
8. Shalom Shiloh
9. Abba
10. Mercy
12. Cedar
13. Adonai
14. Haverim

Down:

1. Shalom
2. Barukh or Baruch
4. Yerushalayim
6. Solomon
11. Desert

Dead Sea Scroll Deciphered

BY ELAINA ZACHOS (r) NationalGeographic.com



Photo: Casey L. Olson and Oren Gutfeld

Archaeologists may be one step closer to decoding the mystery of the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Researchers from the University of Haifa in Israel have restored and deciphered one of the last two untranslated Qumran Scrolls. The collection, which consists of 900 ancient Jewish manuscripts, has been shrouded in controversy since the first scrolls were discovered more than 70 years ago.

The university's Eshbal Ratson and Jonathan Ben-Dov spent one year reassembling the 60 fragments that make up the scroll. Deciphered from a band

of coded text on parchment, the find provides insight into the community of people who wrote it and the 364-day calendar they would have used.

"Because this number can be divided into four and seven parts, special occasions always fall on the same day," Ratson and Ben-Dov say. "The Qumran calendar is unchanging."

The scroll names celebrations that indicate shifts in seasons as "*Tekufah*," Hebrew for "period." These celebrations have been known from other texts but have not been officially named until now.

It also details two religious events known from another Dead Sea Scroll. The festivals, for New Wine and for New Oil, would have been tacked onto the Jewish harvest festival *Shavuot* 100 and 150 days after the first Sabbath of Passover, respectively.

This scroll also gives information about its authors, who would have roamed the region's desert between the second century B.C. and second century A.D. Dates for the aforementioned celebrations appear to have been scribbled in the margins between columns of text, giving the impression that one person added them to the scroll after it was authored by another.

As religious documents, a wave of controversy surrounds the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were written between the second century B.C. and the second century A.D., but their exact authors are highly contested. Scholars agree, however, that the documents—which consist of explanatory, wisdom, apocalyptic, and calendrical texts, in addition to hymns and prayers—were written by Judean desert dwellers.

About 230 "Biblical" manuscripts make up the Scrolls, which refer to practices found in the Hebrew Bible. Other "non-Biblical" documents relate to Biblical texts, describing religious beliefs and community practices rather than explicit stories mentioned in the Bible.

The scrolls are mostly written in Hebrew and code, although Aramaic and Greek scrolls have also been found. Most are scribed on parchment, but some are written on papyrus, and one has been found on copper. Scanning efforts have been made to preserve the ancient texts.

Now, only one known scroll remains untranslated. ★



A piece of parchment rolled up in a jug that was being processed for writing, found in a cave on the cliffs west of Qumran by Hebrew University archaeologists



Jewish humor, etc.



Time's Up

The rabbi's speech kept going on and on. After going way overtime, he stopped, realized his error, and apologized, "I'm sorry, I left my watch at home."

A voice from the audience broke through: "But Rabbi, you have a calendar right in front of you."

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

Jewish Comedians

Rita Rudner

"Why are women wearing perfumes that smell like flowers to attract men? Men don't like flowers. I wear a scent called 'new-car interior.'"

David Steinberg

"Fortunately, my parents were intelligent, enlightened people. They accepted me exactly for what I was: a punishment from God."

Jerry Seinfeld

"I once had a leather jacket that got ruined in the rain. Why does moisture ruin leather? Aren't cows outside a lot of the time?" ★



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