



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

inside: Sukkot  
in Prophecy, p.10

# Rosh Hashanah —or is it?

By Ron Cantor / MessiahsMandate.org

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is a joyous time when Jews greet each other with *Shana Tova* and *Ketiva VaChatima Tova*—*Happy New Year* and *May you be inscribed for a good year*. Here is the problem. According to the Bible, Rosh Hashanah comes on the first day of the *seventh* month!

*The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of sabbath rest, a sacred assembly commemorated with trumpet blasts. Do no regular work, but present a food offering to the Lord.'"*

— Leviticus 23:23–25

The first day of the seventh month is actually as far as you can be from a New Year. Furthermore, there isn't even a hint in the passage above that it is a New Year. The words "Rosh Hashanah" are nowhere to be found. It is hard

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#### REMEMBER:

*Rosh Hashanah* is Sunday, Sept. 9–11 (sunset to sunset)  
*Yom Kippur* is Tuesday, Sept. 18–19 (sunset to sunset)  
*Sukkot* is Sunday, Sept. 23–30 (sunset to sunset)

## Prepare To Believe

By Heather Dina, ZLM volunteer

Those who believe in Creation as described in Genesis (but even more, those who don't or aren't sure) should consider a trip to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, operated by the Answers in Genesis (AiG) organization. This museum resulted from the Holy Spirit working in the heart of Ken Ham—a red-haired, bearded Australian history teacher who felt led to start a mission to the United States.

Missionaries to America may sound strange, but with all our sophistication, we have abandoned much of our dedication to God and His Word. Even many American churches no longer teach Creation to counter the schools' promoting a Godless

*(continued p.9)*



photo courtesy CreationMuseum.org

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# Rosh Hashanah — or is it? *continued from cover*

to imagine that God expected Jews to celebrate a New Year that doesn't exist. In truth, the name of the holiday celebrated on the first day of the seventh month is *Yom Teruah*—the Day of Blasting Shofars or Feast of Trumpets!

## Why the Name Change?

If you read the passage again, **one thing is clear — it is not clear!** We Jews have no idea what we are celebrating. Every other Jewish holiday is clear, but *Yom Teruah* simply tells us to have a memorial with the blasting of shofars. I think this made the religious establishment uneasy, and thus it became the New Year.

## Its True Meaning?

I am convinced the ambiguity had a reason. All New Testament theology is rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures. The New Covenant brings understanding when it speaks *clearly* about trumpet blasts.

*And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*  
— Matthew 24:31

*In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*  
— 1 Corinthians 15:52

*... we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Messiah will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*  
— 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17

In the light of the New Covenant, we can see that the Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*) is not about remembering something that happened in the past (like Passover or Purim), but a reminder of what will happen in the future.

**The Feast of Trumpets points to the coming of Yeshua**, our being transformed from corruptible to incorruptible, the beginning of the Messianic Age, and the setting up of the Lord's government in Jerusalem, fulfilling what the disciples asked about in Acts 1:6, *"Are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"* Many mocked the disciples for asking this, but Yeshua did not. He merely said that God knows the timing.

I am not saying that the Lord will return on the Feast of Trumpets—no man knows the day or the hour—but I can confidently conclude that this is a day when every Believer should cry out *Come Yeshua, Come!* We should blow shofars and express our longing for redemption—not just the forgiveness of our sins, but the transformation of our bodies and this Earth.

While we cannot force the Lord's return, we can hasten it (1 Peter 3:12) by longing and praying for it. Paul wrote to Titus (2:13) that we should *"wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Yeshua the Messiah."*

Especially during Rosh Hashanah, take some time to pour out your heart to God and tell Him of your longing for Yeshua's return. One day, the Trumpet will blast and we will meet Yeshua in the air (1 Thess. 4:17). Our bodies will be transformed into supernatural bodies (Phil. 3:21), and we will return with Him to Jerusalem where He will set up His kingdom (Rev. 20:6). Hallelujah!

**The Levitt Letter is such a valuable publication! After I read this article, Rosh Hashanah held new meaning for me.** — Kirsten ★





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## Consider Forgiveness at Yom Kippur

God's forgiveness stands out as a theme throughout the Old Testament. Forgiveness is a fundamental Jewish tradition; it's the theme of Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement, which falls on September 19 this year (beginning at sunset the evening before). You are free to forgive even without an apology. Perfect justice is impossible in this world. Forgiving enables you to let go of the past. **Though forgiveness benefits the forgiven, it benefits the forgiver more.** It's logically and psychologically related to hope. It means living *with* the past without living *in* the past.

Isaiah 43:25—

***"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins."***

Colossians 3:13—

***"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."***

Matthew 6:14–15—

***"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."***

Mark 11:25—

***"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."*** ★



# Israel — Earth's Lightning Rod



BY ZOLA LEVITT / [Levitt.com/essays](http://Levitt.com/essays)

The following excerpt from a chapter that Zola wrote for *Foreshocks of Antichrist*, a 1997 book on prophecy, is still relevant to current events in Israel and the world. Thus far, we have examined the series of events that make up the Tribulation. We continue noting the conditions that will contribute to its onset.



An ironic and rather sad feature of the worldwide notoriety of Jerusalem and Israel is that a major part of the Church — the body of Believers\* who will live there during Christ's coming thousand-year Kingdom — is largely oblivious to the significance of ongoing events. Denominational churches see nothing of spiritual importance happening in Israel. Only Bible readers are aware of the repercussions of recent events.

Indeed, Israel attracts violent reactions the way a lightning rod attracts lightning, and that is in keeping with prophecy. Practically the whole world is unified in its desire to force Israel to bow to this awful "peace process," and this asinine consensus shows the widespread lack of understanding of the times.

## A False Peace

False peace will be the theme of the coming Tribulation Period, and we have obviously entered an era of false peace today. Yitzhak Rabin was a fine gentleman and a good soldier, but the peace agreement he set in motion [Oslo Accords] will not last because it is not God's peace in God's timing. Ultimately, all the world's peacemaking will be done by that "Dark Prince," of whom Daniel, the clear-eyed forecaster of the End Times, remarked, "*He shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many*" (Daniel 8:25). Our times parallel Scriptural warnings such as those who cry "*peace, peace; when there is no peace*" (Jeremiah 6:14), and "*For when they say, 'Peace and safety,' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape*" (1 Thess. 5:3).

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\* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

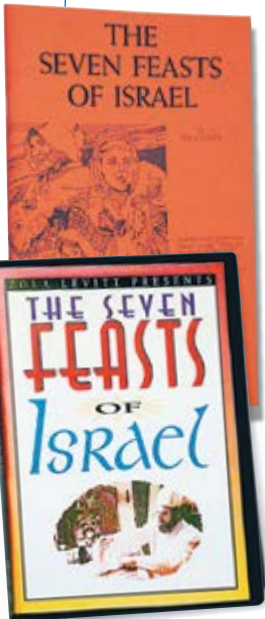


In the interviews that our ministry collected in Israel for our *Jerusalem 3000* television series, a number of spokesmen — Believers and unbelievers, Jews and Palestinians — confirmed all of the above. It is obvious from everything they told us that virtually **no one believes in this “peace process”** with all his heart. But according to their various motives, **it is a means to an end**: for the Palestinians, the end of Israel; and for the Israelis, the end of terrorism. For the American government, it is good PR, and for the United Nations, a sort of victory. For those who are Biblically informed, it is the end of the Church Age.

### Continued Contention

Jerusalem will remain in contention for some time to come. At the time of this writing, the Netanyahu government has ordered all Palestinian offices in Jerusalem to be dismantled, in accordance with the Oslo agreements. The Palestinians were never authorized to place government offices in the Jewish capital, but they did so anyway; and the Peres government, despite many well-publicized threats, never closed these offices. With my TV crew, I interviewed Faisal Husseini, the “Palestinian Representative for Jerusalem,” in the Orient House, an Arab mansion dating from the past century that had been refurbished as a Palestinian governmental headquarters for receiving foreign dignitaries, many of whom have visited. I counted 25 “plainclothesmen” (thugs in jeans and T-shirts) surrounding the building and in the streets on all sides. For me, seeing such an ominous personality as Husseini seated in state in such surroundings felt like an eerie prediction of the antiChrist entering the Temple and declaring that he is the God of Israel! (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

Israel is truly God’s timepiece. Thank you, Zola, for your observations that ring true two decades later. —Kirsten ★



## ***The Seven Feasts of Israel***

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

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

**Passover & Unleavened Bread** The Messiah, clearly presented.

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

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

**Trumpets** The Rapture in its original form.

**Atonement** An awesome day of confession and repentance.

**Tabernacles** Thanksgiving, Old Testament style!  
(See “[The Feast of Tabernacles in Prophecy](#)” on [p.10.](#))

**Hanukkah & Purim** Joyful festivals as Israel rejoices in the blessings of the Lord.



# God's Moedim

Kirsten Hart  
Studio co-host of  
Zola Levitt Presents



It's time for the fall *moedim*, or Feast Days. Before co-hosting *Zola Levitt Presents*, I had never heard of "*moedim*." But now that word holds deep meaning for me. This year, all three of the fall feasts occur in September—and that doesn't always happen. In Leviticus 23, God announced His *moedim* (appointed times)—feasts that all of Israel was meant to observe. Zola wrote a study booklet—[\*The Seven Feasts of Israel\*](#)—explaining the significance of each feast. (See p. 5.)

## God Calls You to an Appointment

On our Zola Tours to Greece, Israel, and Petra, David and I see each day as an "appointed time" that God has set for each pilgrim. It is said, "You don't go to Israel, God calls you there." If God calls every person on our tour, rest assured that He desires to meet them there. As tour hosts, that's our very prayer: May every person who tours the Holy Land with us have his or her personal *moedim*.

Of course, you don't have to go to Israel; God can meet you anywhere. But those who've traveled there will testify to the anointing on that very land. It's just there. One of the anointed spots that we visit is Shiloh, where the first Tabernacle stood for 369 years. I witnessed one of our recent tour pilgrims experience her personal *moed* (singular of *moedim*) there.

The day we visited Shiloh was ordinary, not a feast day. As we do for each visit, we began with a movie about Shiloh in the theater overlooking the ancient Tabernacle site. It's a highlight of the tour. Afterward, the group walked down the hill and sat in a spot at the outer court of the tent. A holy hush fell on us as we shared verses about the Tabernacle, aware of the land on which we sat. Then we had some alone time before meeting back on the bus.

## A Meeting with God

I walked slowly, praying around the archaeological dig. As people began making their way back to the bus, I noticed one of our Nigerian pilgrims. I'll call her "Abebi." A few of us remained at the site praying and having our quiet time. Abebi wasn't so quiet.

Abebi was calling to God. Her sandals lay nearby; she was standing on holy ground. Abebi called out with fervor from deep within her soul. She praised God and requested (as did Hannah at that very spot thousands of years ago) for her needs and the needs of her loved ones. The Bible is full of verses about those who cried out to God. Abebi was doing the same.

*"In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came before Him, into His ears."*

—2 Samuel 22:7

It was time to get back to the bus, but I knew Abebi was having a divine appointment with the God of Israel. I waited. **When God is meeting with someone, it's hard to tell them, "You need to get on the bus; we have dinner reservations."** But her meeting had finished, and she joined me to walk to the bus.

## Be Ready

God's appointed times, His *moedim*, were set for the Jewish people. Yet through His Holy Spirit, the God of Israel desires to meet with you. Be ready. And if you decide to travel to Israel with us, come expecting to meet with the Holy One. ★



Hannah  
Prays for Child,  
Julius Schnorr  
von Carolsfeld,  
1860





Jeff Seif in garden area on Mount of Olives,  
Temple Mount in background

# Return to Eden

BY ANDREA DAVIS, Berg Productions General Manager



Filming  
on location  
at ruins in  
Jerusalem



A real treat awaits our viewers! Our new series, ***Return to Eden***, debuts next month and is packed full of insightful teaching by *Zola Levitt Presents (ZLP)* senior theologian, Dr. Jeffrey Seif, with additional input from our studio co-hosts, David and Kirsten Hart. Many Bible scholars and archaeological researchers weigh in as well. *Return to Eden* isn't a story from the Bible; it is the story of the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible draws all mankind back to the paradise that was lost.



The series tackles some geography but concentrates on theology. As Dr. Seif said, it will be a “deep dive into the Jewish and Christian worlds of Biblical history and prophecy.” Ever since Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, God has been building bridges so that those who seek Him can return to Him. Exploring the gap between God and man that sin created, we will learn how God is restoring His relationship with His creation.

Shot on location in the Holy Land — a trademark of *ZLP* — it will take viewers to places they may never see in person — though we sincerely hope and pray that you'll consider touring the Land with this ministry's Zola Tours.

Along with his production crew, Ken Berg, *ZLP* director and producer for over 35 years, made his 70<sup>th</sup> visit to Israel to document this series. To his amazement and delight, he discovered what appeared to be a “mini Garden of Eden” on the Mount of Olives. “This was my 70<sup>th</sup> trip to Israel, and I thought I had seen everything in Jerusalem. But this revelation was so surprising that we shot a number of scenes at the same site.”

If you like what ZLM teaches and want to keep learning, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to Zola Levitt Ministries at this time. Television production and distribution are costly, and the ministry depends on the support of our faithful viewers and readers to keep us on the airwaves and in print.

And as always, please continue to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). ★

# Turkey Farm Turned Shofar Factory

BY ANDREW TOBIN (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Shimon Keinan's business doesn't leave him time to teach you how to blow the shofar. But if you come all the way to his Kol Shofar factory in the Golan Heights, Keinan makes sure you walk away with the horn that's right for you. "If someone is going to blow one of my shofars on Rosh Hashanah, I have to make sure he doesn't fail."

Even in the busy time ahead of the Jewish New Year, Keinan spends much of his day helping customers pick a shofar and make it sound just right. His devotion may not increase his financial bottom line, but it keeps him attuned to a higher calling.



Dror Yoggev blows a shofar while Shimon Keinan watches

On a recent weekday morning, Keinan, 71, was reviewing shofar orders when a family of seven showed up. The husband, Dror Yoggev, had taken the day off from work to make the several-hour drive from central Israel to buy his first shofar. "My father-in-law advised not to go anywhere else," he said.

Minutes later Keinan, whose work uniform consists of a denim apron and a black leather cap, was rummaging through boxes of shofars in the back of the factory. "If it takes more than 15 minutes to pick one, you're doing something wrong," he said.

Over the next couple of hours, Yoggev blew shofars while Keinan offered guidance and criticism: "Chin up. Chest out. Blow from the center of your mouth, not the side."

For Keinan, running Kol Shofar is the fulfillment of a lifelong obsession. He likes to say he was born with a shofar in his hand. But in reality, his parents immigrated to Israel from Morocco in 1949 and never had enough money to buy him one. He learned to blow the shofar as a child at his synagogue, and built his own out of a funnel and tubing.

When he was finally able to buy a real shofar, he blew it every Rosh Hashanah at local synagogues. After marrying, he moved to Givat Yoav in the 1970s, establishing a turkey farm and raising four children.

In the 1990s, Keinan got a chance to turn his passion into a profession when an elderly shofar maker in Jaffa (two hours away) wanted to retire. For two years, Keinan drove to the man's factory twice a week to learn his techniques. In 1998, he turned the turkey farm into a shofar factory.

Keinan sells about 7,000 shofars a year (90% are mail orders), half to Israelis and most of the rest to Jews in the U.S. and Europe.

Keinan says that the hardest part of producing shofars is getting the raw materials. Every two or three years he travels to Africa to buy ram horns — by far the most popular because of their recommendation by the Jewish sages —



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from his native Morocco, where millions of rams are ritually slaughtered every year for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr.

Keinan estimated that he has on hand 20,000 ram horns—filling boxes, shelves, and shopping carts or heaped in huge piles on the floor—2,000 kudu horns, and a few ibex horns. The ibex horns are rare because they come from Israel, where the wild goat is protected. An ibex-horn shofar costs about \$1,000, compared to about \$100 for a ram's horn.

About 15 years ago, Keinan's son, Hanan, 43, joined the family business full-time. Along with his father, he handcrafts every shofar the factory produces (three other employees help run the factory and the office).

Kol Shofar's first two steps for producing shofars are family secrets, but they involve treating the horns to remove the gamey smell and applying heat to straighten them. After that, they saw off the narrow end of the horn, drill a hole in the end and, using a special tool, expand the hole into a mouthpiece. The last step is buffing and shining the exterior.

In recent years, Hanan and his father paved the driveway and built a visitors center, parking area, and restrooms. Last year, 7,000 people took tours of the factory.

But while his son may have a head for business, Shimon remains the heart of the factory. "When it comes to shofars, he has a serious desire to deliver knowledge and perfection," Hanan said. "I think that is a big part of the reason our shofars are really the best."

**Pilgrims on Zola Tours enjoy trying out and buying shofars—very popular keepsakes to take home. —David ★**

## Prepare To Believe *continued from cover sidebar*

evolution. AiG spent years planning this museum, from finding the correct property to obtaining the necessary displays, from vigorous opposition to a successful operation, and providing a dedicated and skilled staff to create and run it. God's hand is apparent wherever you look.

Since the museum opened in 2007, more than 3.5 million visitors have flocked to the outskirts of Cincinnati, Ohio to see it. Within this world-class facility, visitors see Biblical history illustrated in many ways: through stunning exhibits, several theaters, a planetarium, and an extensive bookstore.

There are dinosaur exhibits (yes, they did exist!), walk-through timelines, finches—not Darwin's, but God's—minerals, animatronic figures, archaeological displays, and much more. The extensive botanical gardens outside provide historical plantings, a waterfall, a swinging bridge over a lovely pond, a small zoo with camels to ride, and a zip line. There are also several reasonably priced cafes, or you can bring your own picnic.

For you to experience everything it has to offer, the museum's tickets last two days. Be sure to check the museum's open hours before you go. There is also an annual pass for those who would like to visit more often. ([CreationMuseum.org](http://CreationMuseum.org) or 888-582-4253)

The museum is constantly expanding and improving. In 2016, AiG opened another major attraction just 45 minutes south. It's a life-size reproduction—accurate to Biblical measurements—of Noah's Ark, called the Ark Encounter, where you can explore several floors of first-rate exhibits, including animal cages, award-winning short movies, and the living quarters for Noah and his family. Like the Creation Museum, it offers tasty places to eat, plus a petting zoo and zip line. Its high quality is consistent with other AiG projects.

AiG sponsors nationwide seminars year-round, visiting churches upon request. They produce an excellent bi-monthly magazine, *Answers*, and put on awesome, free light shows at Christmastime. Prepare to be impressed! ★



# The Feast of Tabernacles in Prophecy

BY SAM & MIRIAM NADLER (r) WordOfMessiah.org



*Sukkot* (1894/5), by Leopold Pilichowski (1869–1933), The Jewish Museum (New York City)

The seventh feast in the Biblical calendar, the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) points toward the culmination of God’s redemptive program. Each year, Jews celebrate this harvest festival to rejoice in His sufficiency (Leviticus 23:39–43). After waving *lulav* (date palm) branches (v. 40) in every direction, acknowledging God’s provision for us and His sovereignty as the King who reigns over all, we build three-sided booths (*sukkot*) from these same branches, recognizing His protection over us. With these flimsy booths, we testify that, like the Israelites in the wilderness, our safety comes from God’s ongoing care for us. Like David in Psalm 140:7, we declare that God is our “*sukkah*” (covering) in the day of battle.

## The Best is Yet to Come!

Though joyous, Sukkot points to more than our present provision and protection. Zechariah prophesied that during Yeshua’s reign in the Millennial Kingdom, Tabernacles will be an annual celebration in which *all* nations will gather to recognize the Lord as the source of all blessings.

God’s Word reveals that the nations will one day gather to fight against Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:2). It also tells us who will win, for the Lord Himself will fight for His people (v. 3)! Following the battle, **the survivors from these attacking nations will once again go up to Jerusalem** — not to make war but to worship the Lord of Hosts, in submission to the King of kings (v. 16).

All the nations will orient around God’s Will as they worship Him each year in Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles. By the same grace that spared them, survivors will not be foes but followers of the King. Sukkot anticipates God’s greater harvest, when all nations will yield to Messiah, established on His throne in His Kingdom’s capital, Jerusalem (Matthew 25:31).

Today’s Sukkot celebration presages the future setting for worshiping the King as it annually honors Yeshua and anticipates His royal return. As Believers recognize Yeshua’s centrality in the Biblical calendar, we become witnesses to His future Jerusalem-centered reign over all the nations.

The Feast’s purpose is to demonstrate that God reigns over all His creation. However, Zechariah 14:17–19 indicates that resistance to Messiah’s future rule will continue as nations refuse to go up to the Feast to worship Him. Zechariah states the punishment for those who refuse.

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## Punishment?

Yes, for Zechariah speaks of the Kingdom Age, not of Heaven. In the 1,000-year Kingdom, Believers and unbelievers will live together on Earth. The corrective punishment Zechariah notes will bring the nations to worship the one true God.

Believers should use the annual feast to examine our attitudes. Do we worship Yeshua as King in every aspect of our lives? Do we uphold His authority in our relationships, activities, and finances? Let us honor Messiah through this Feast as we rejoice in His eternal love! Come quickly, Lord Yeshua!

Primarily gentile churches miss Sukkot's depth and beauty. I thank ZLM for continuing to teach Believers the significance of their Jewish roots. —David ★

## Tips to Keep You Well Over the Fast

Classic Zola  
from 1994  
24 years ago



I want to share an amusing and perhaps useful article that appeared on the front page of *The Jerusalem Post* just before Yom Kippur — the Day of Atonement, a day of fasting [2018 update: begins at sunset on Tuesday, September 18 and ends at sunset the following evening]. For those of you who fast periodically, the following advice may be helpful.

Professor Elliot Berry, head of clinical nutrition at the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Medicine, offers the following tips for this Yom Kippur.

### The day before fasting:

- People with chronic diseases, such as diabetes or a heart condition, should consult a doctor and/or rabbi before deciding whether to fast.
- An ideal pre-fast meal consists of non-spicy dishes of complex carbohydrates — pasta, potatoes, corn, beans, rice, and whole grain bread, with several glasses of water or juice.
- The pre-fast meal should include some salt because the intense heat is likely to deplete the body's sodium supplies through perspiration.
- The best way to avoid hunger and thirst during a fast is to eat and drink frequently but gradually during the day before fasting.

### While fasting:

- If possible, pray in an air-conditioned synagogue.
- Don't walk far in the heat — and that includes a trek in 100° F weather to the Western Wall.
- The “anti-fast drops” being sold around the country have absolutely no known beneficial effect.

### At the end of the fast:

- Break the fast gradually, beginning with juice, followed by a light snack. Only an hour or so later should one sit down to a full meal.

My own suggestion would be to make your peace with God and come to the Messiah so that your atonement will already be made and you won't have to fast at all, at least to atone for your sins.

Better still, come with us and see the Land of the Lord and His always most interesting brethren on the next Zola Tour [see p. 36 for details].

Be sure to tune in to our series now airing [2018 update: the refreshed classic teaching *Thy Kingdom Come*]. Thank you again for your generous gifts that make ZLM's work possible.

God's blessings on you. ★





## Fall Feast Order

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q.** Our Bible study came to something puzzling in Nehemiah 8:1–9:2. According to Zola and Leviticus 23:26–44, the order of the Lord’s feasts is: Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles; but the order in Nehemiah’s time was Trumpets, Tabernacles, Atonement. **Can you explain why the order got turned around?**

**A.** After consulting several reputable commentaries, I conclude that the Jews who returned to Israel from exile in Babylon and Persia, under the shared leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, had allowed the three feasts to be largely forgotten during the exile. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) isn’t actually mentioned in Nehemiah, perhaps because it had more to do with priestly activity, while Nehemiah 8–9 emphasizes what the community did. Thus, Nehemiah’s people had time to prepare for and proclaim the Feast of Tabernacles, even though the timing didn’t adhere to the Levitical instruction. At the time when Yom Kippur (Atonement) sacrifices were to take place in Nehemiah’s time, the Temple was still under construction, so the proper way to observe Yom Kippur was not yet available.

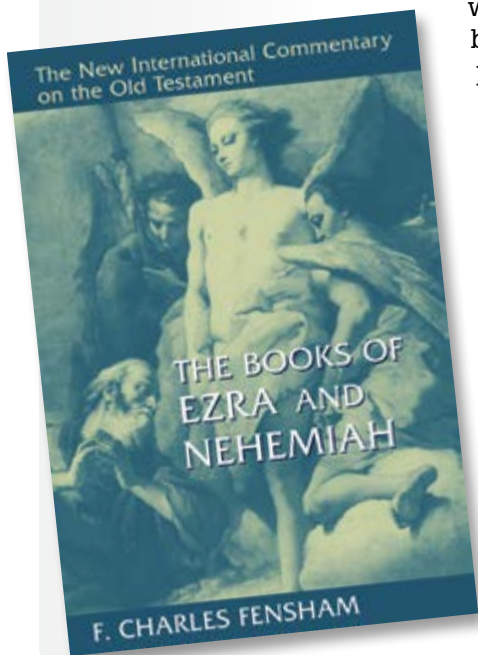
Bible commentator F. Charles Fensham’s (1925–1989) exegetical observation helps us understand: “The problem with the approach of modern scholars is that they want to link every assembly of the people to a prescribed festival in the Pentateuch [five Books of Moses]. We can think here of the Day of the Atonement, but this day was celebrated on the tenth day [per Leviticus 23:27]. **The best solution is to regard this assembly [in Nehemiah’s time] as something unique which happened on that occasion under special circumstances**” (Fensham’s *The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*, p. 222).



Bible commentator  
F. Charles Fensham

The third feast in Nehemiah’s time *could* be construed as Atonement, but no mention is made of the High Priest sacrificing a goat in the Temple, an act that was required for Yom Kippur (Leviticus 16). The Jews’ repentance was for having intermarried with foreigners and for their various sins as a nation, as Nehemiah 9:2 also indicates. So equating this confession with the Day of Atonement is tenuous at best, especially since that feast was mostly predicated on making the appropriate sacrifice in the Temple by the High Priest — and at this time the Temple was not yet rebuilt.

Another indication that the feast in Nehemiah 9 probably was not a formal observance of Yom Kippur: the nation spent three hours reading the Torah and another three hours of confession of sin and worship to the Lord for a total of six hours of spiritual activity on the 24<sup>th</sup> day (Nehemiah 9:1–3), whereas on the Day of Atonement they were instructed to spend twenty-four hours in confession of sin “from evening to evening” on the 10<sup>th</sup> day (Leviticus 23:32). This alone constitutes a difference between the two observances. ★



# TJF in Netanya

Robin Hopper  
TJF team member



At the mall in Netanya, our **To The Jew First** (TJF) team broke into three groups: Patty and August Rosado, Kenny Gee and Todd Baker, and my wife Sue and me.

Sue and I immediately visited Aviv, with whom I've built a friendship over the past three years, every chance I get to meet him. I have given Aviv [\*They Thought For Themselves\*](#) and a number of Hebrew tracts that address the *Tanakh's* (Old Testament) Messianic prophecies and their fulfillment in the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament).

After leaving Aviv's store, Sue and I walked around the mall, waiting for the Holy Spirit to guide us to our next encounter. (Adonai prearranges all our "chance meetings.") Sue was drawn to a clothing store, and while she ministered to a saleswoman, I felt the need to go to the "Refresh Juice Bar" and get something to drink. Two young women were tending the store; Golin took my order. While she prepared my drink, I mentioned that I come to Israel to return to my people what they first gave the world. When Golin inquired what that was, I pulled out a complete Hebrew Bible (with both the Old and New Covenants). She timidly took it, thumbed through it, and asked, "How much is this?" When I responded that it was a gift, she looked at the Bible again and questioned, "For me?" When I assured her that it was, she became excited and started talking to her co-worker Or, who had been listening.

Or (Hebrew for "light") looked at the Bible, glanced at me, then back to Golin's Bible. I asked Or if she would like a copy for herself, and she nodded. When I told her that I needed to get one from my car, she offered, "That's OK; you needn't bother." But I insisted

that it was no bother, and headed for the car. When I returned, Or was busy with a customer. I didn't want to interrupt, but I did get her attention and handed her the Bible. She hugged it and said, "*Todah, Todah Rabah!*" ("Thank you, thank you very much!"). Sue and I headed out to see what else Adonai had in store for us.



TJF fall team members Todd Baker, Patty Rosado, August Rosado, Robin (Aviel) Hopper, Sue Hopper, Kenny Gee

Minutes later, August came up and asked if I had an extra Bible. I had brought a couple from the car. August had just made the same offer I'd made to Or, but the woman he had promised to bring a Bible was Orthodox — praise the Lord, because the Orthodox usually rebuff our offers! Then, Todd asked for a spare Bible, as he was headed to grab one from the car, and a short while later he and Kenny returned, mission accomplished.

In just over an hour, Sue and I gave out three Bibles, August and Patty gave out three, and Todd and Kenny handed out three. We left Netanya feeling good about the morning's ministry. Please consider making a donation to this valuable ministry. ★



# Too Many Donors?

Gideon (aka Jerubbaal) led a troop of 300 valiant volunteers in a legendary victory over a Midianite army of 135,000 soldiers. Of his 32,000 initial recruits, 22,000 returned home out of fear. 9,700 of the remaining 10,000 were disqualified for drinking river water on their knees rather than using their hands to bring the water to their mouths. (Judges 7:1–7)



*Gideon Defeats the Midianites,*  
Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1860

Why does this incredible Old Testament battle remind me of the observation “With Arab oil and Jewish brains, the Middle East could be a paradise,” or Israeli diplomat Abba Eban’s (1915–2002) remark, “The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity”? Perhaps these quotes spring to mind because those 135,000 Midianites might have been as incapable as the vast majority of Arabs who languish in transmillennial poverty.

Were I Gideon, I might resist (and even resent) leading a motley mob of greenhorn goobers who lap water like dogs. However, as a veteran Boy Scout leader, I acknowledge God’s wisdom in selecting the hand-lapping soldier, who could examine what he’s drinking, monitor his perimeter, and remain poised for action.

Could this ministry continue achieving

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



its mission with just 300 donors? Before responding, please weigh TV broadcasting’s power (particularly with DVR recording) and the Internet’s vast reach that enable us to make available *Zola Levitt Presents* and our free monthly *Levitt Letter* to everyone ... everywhere ... 24/7!

ZLM probably needs thousands of valiant donors because we’re covering a much larger battlefield than Gideon could have imagined. Not that I would dare match wits with him. Also, in fairness to Gideon, he had to contend with *all* 135,000 Midianites, whereas this ministry’s board would authorize me to scale down our budget as necessary.

At ZLM’s barest minimum, we could produce what might be termed boy-band videos\* and “broadcast” them solely at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv). Before becoming such a bare-bones operation, we would maintain a modicum of broadcasting on a substantial Christian network such as Daystar and a farther-reaching secular cable network like Freeform (formerly ABC Family).

Putting meat back on the bones, so to speak, we also would strive to continue sending our TV production crew to Israel to film on-location Bible teaching and prophecy updates from Messianic Jewish Bible scholars. **Now you know my deductive reasoning on potential phases of downsizing that could become reality sooner than many “ZLM Zealots” might believe.**

Here is where I ask you, whether you’re a knee drinker or a lapper (those willing to fight): Please help this ministry to prosper and, mark my words, we’ll fight a bigger battle. However, if you’re not able to support us more than you already do, then please watch us, like Gideon, accomplish the miraculous with whatever God provides. ★

\* Please see my “[Note](#)” in [August’s Levitt Letter](#) (to understand the diminished quality of “boy band” productions) and [July’s](#) (to ensure that you don’t give beyond your means).



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## 631 Million Christians

Africa recently surpassed Latin America as home to the most Christians in the world. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Africa's 631 million Christians account for 45% of its population. Latin America's 601 million Christians amount to 92%. CBS News estimates that the highest percentage of Christians, 95.5%, resides in Zambia. Europe is third on the list with 571 million Christians (77%). Asia, fourth, has 388 million Christians (9%). North America is fifth at 277 million Christians (76%). "Christians" include Catholics, Protestants, Independents, and Orthodox and, at 2.3 billion, make up 31% of the global population. Muslims number 1.8 billion; Hindus, 1.1 billion.

Pray for  
the peace of  
Jerusalem

## Avoiding Israeli "Brutality"

The [47-second video](#) includes examples of how to avoid being shot, such as: "When driving a car, do not purposely drive into a crowd of people on the sidewalk," "When an Israeli policeman asks for I.D., do not attack him with a knife," and "If you happen to be holding a Molotov cocktail or a rock, do not throw it at passing cars." Such guidelines could protect militant Palestinians from Israeli brutality. Should flying incendiary kites over Israel's sovereign border be included?

**FREE ITEM**

## Pamphlet of the Month

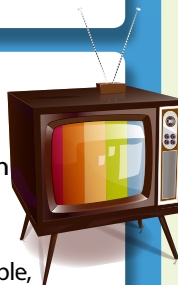
A well-planned will is often the centerpiece of an effective and thoughtful estate plan, making it possible to distribute cash, investments, real estate, and personal property to family and others. A will can reduce settlement costs and make "gifts of a lifetime" to favorite charitable interests. The pamphlet **Questions & Answers about Wills and Bequests** addresses who needs a will and who needs an updated will. To receive a free copy, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com), or write to our P.O. Box.

## How to Watch ZLP

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

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

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



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details





שׁוּבָה יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי כָשַׁלְתָּ בְּעֲוֹנְךָ

“Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled in your iniquity.”  
(Hosea 14:1)

שׁוּבָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַד	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	כִּי	כָשַׁלְתָּ	בְּעֲוֹנְךָ
(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(1)	(1)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	(1)	(1) (2) (3)	(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
shoo-vah	yis-rah-el	ad	Adonai	e-loh-he-kha	kee	kha-shal-ta	ba-a-voh-ne-kha
return!	O Israel	to	the LORD	your God	for	you've stumbled	in your iniquity

**The theme of the High Holy Days is *teshuvah*** (תְּשׁוּבָה), a Hebrew word often translated as “repentance,” though more accurately understood as *turning back* (*shuv*) to God. In spiritual terms, *teshuvah* may be regarded as a practical turning away from evil and a *turning toward* the good, though it is simpler to regard turning to God as *the means* by which we turn away from evil. Indeed, the Greek word translated repentance (μετάνοια) means going beyond our habitual thinking, changing our mind, and learning to see from a radically new perspective. As we look to God, we begin to see that “everything is new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

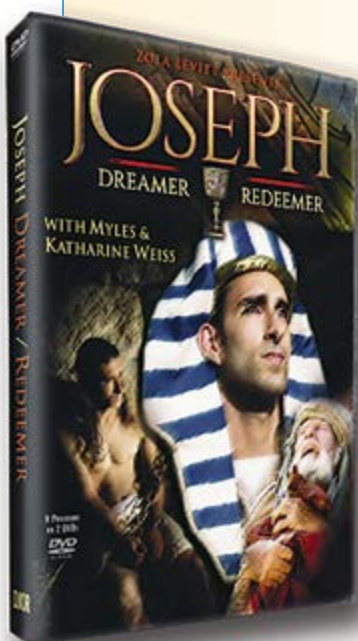
*Teshuvah* (repentance) *believes* that the kindness of God can give life to our dead hearts, and therefore it is first of all a matter of faith, trusting God to perform the miracle for us. However, even though it is a great gift from Heaven, repentance requires *honesty* and acknowledgment of the truth. We must *confess* our inner poverty, our neediness, and mourn the loss and harm caused by our sin (Matt. 5:1–12). Repentance turns away from attempts to defend or justify ourselves and instead turns to God to heal our separation from Him (Rom. 8:3–4). *Teshuvah* buries our old nature when we are made into a new creation.

Yeshua illustrated the heart behind *teshuvah* in the story of the “prodigal son” (Luke 15:11–32). After squandering his inheritance from his father, the wayward son returned home, full of shame and self-reproach. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” The father ordered a celebratory meal in honor of his son’s homecoming. When the older brother objected, the father said, “We had to celebrate and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.”

This parable reveals that *teshuvah* ultimately means *returning* to the compassionate arms of your Heavenly Father. God sees you while you are still “a long way off” (Rom. 5:8). He runs to you with affection when you begin to turn your heart toward Him. Indeed, God’s compassion is so great that He willingly embraces the shame of your sins and adorns you with “a fine robe, a ring, and sandals.” Your Heavenly Father even slaughters the “fatted calf” (Yeshua) so that a meal celebrating your life may be served. Amen. ***Teshuvah* is a gift from God and the very reason that we celebrate the High Holidays.** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



## *Joseph: Dreamer / Redeemer* DVD Set

9 half-hour programs on 2 DVDs

Perhaps more than any of the patriarchs in the Bible, Joseph presents us with a clear preview of the Redeemer, *Yeshua HaMashiach*. From his humble beginnings to his ascendancy as a leader of the known world, Joseph pictures the One to come. Born to humble parents, Yeshua's suffering and ultimate sacrifice as the Lamb of God will lead to His return as the Lion of Judah. In this nine-part series, we lay bare the "Egyptian" (foreign) identity and centuries-long gentile view of Jesus and reveal Him as the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world. Features Myles and Katharine Weiss, Ron Cantor (see [this month's cover story](#)), Eitan Shishkoff, and Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel.

**Jealousy and Rejection** Joseph tends sheep, wearing his coat of many colors. Jealousy and rejection from his brothers worsen after he tells them of his dreams. We compare Joseph's treatment by his family to Yeshua's rejection by many in His day.

**Betrayal and Deception** Joseph's murderous brothers throw him into a pit and sell him as a slave. Jacob, thinking Joseph dead, mourns the loss of his favorite son. Our Messiah was betrayed for money to those who wanted to kill Him.

**Innocence and Accusation** Joseph becomes a slave in Pharaoh's Egypt. After a time of prosperity, false accusations condemn innocent Joseph. Yeshua lived a life without sin but suffered for the sins of the world.

**Faithfulness from Prison** In prison, Joseph faithfully ministers to others. During the Last Supper (Passover Seder), Yeshua points His followers beyond short-term difficulties and toward God's glorious plans for them.

**Prisoner to Prime Minister** After interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph's status moves from prisoner to the #2 position in Egypt. Yeshua's sacrifice ushered in global salvation and the Holy Spirit.

**Famine and Recognition** Famine leads Joseph's brothers to Egypt. Unrecognized, Joseph tests their hearts to see if they have changed. Israel's current situation will change when they eventually recognize the Messiah, Yeshua.

**Brother for Brother** Joseph's brothers leave Simeon in Egypt as hostage until Benjamin comes. Joseph's identity remains hidden to his brothers. The Messiah is currently hidden to most of His brothers, the Jewish people.

**Longing and Revelation** Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Yeshua reveals Himself through the Scriptures. We compare Joseph's life to Israel's history.

**Substitution and Redemption** Judah offers himself in Benjamin's place. Joseph reunites the family. Yeshua's death in our place accomplished God's plan for redeeming the world. Our Messiah will return, but this time as the reigning King.





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___	<b>The Seven Feasts of Israel</b> (p.5) .....	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$3	___
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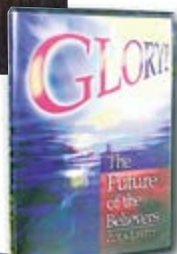
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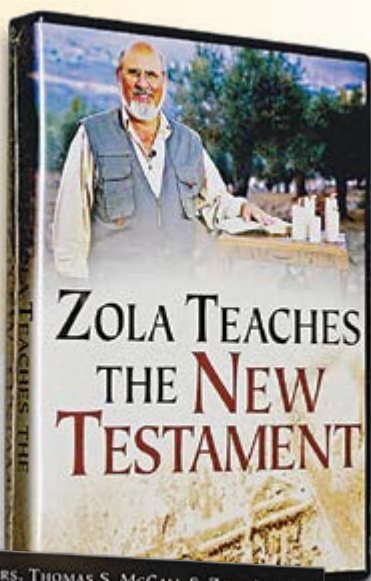
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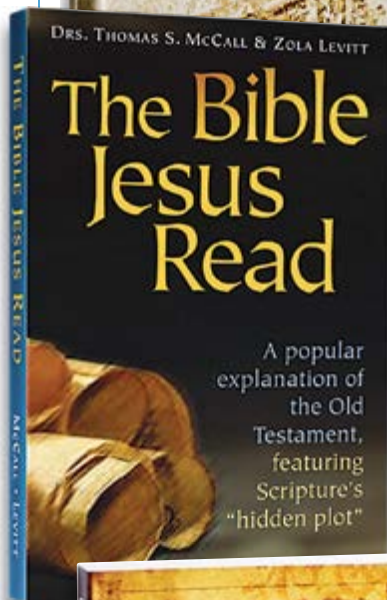
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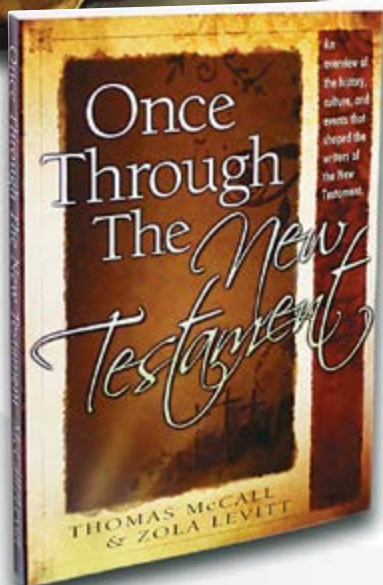
## ***Zola Teaches The New Testament*** set of 6 CDs

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# Israel Shuts Down For Yom Kippur

TimesOfIsrael.com

Israel shuts down for Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. All flights into and out of Ben Gurion Airport cease at 1:35 p.m., while public transport gradually halts, with buses and trains stopping their routes until after the fast day.

As sundown approaches, all local radio and television broadcasts gradually fall silent.

Yom Kippur [Sept. 19, this year] is marked with a 25-hour fast and intense prayer by religious Jews, while more secular Israelis often use the day to ride bicycles on the country's deserted highways. **Security and rescue services, however, remain on high alert.**

For the Magen David Adom (MDA) rescue service, Yom Kippur is one of the busiest days of the year, with hundreds of extra medics, paramedics, ambulances, and volunteers deployed across the country.

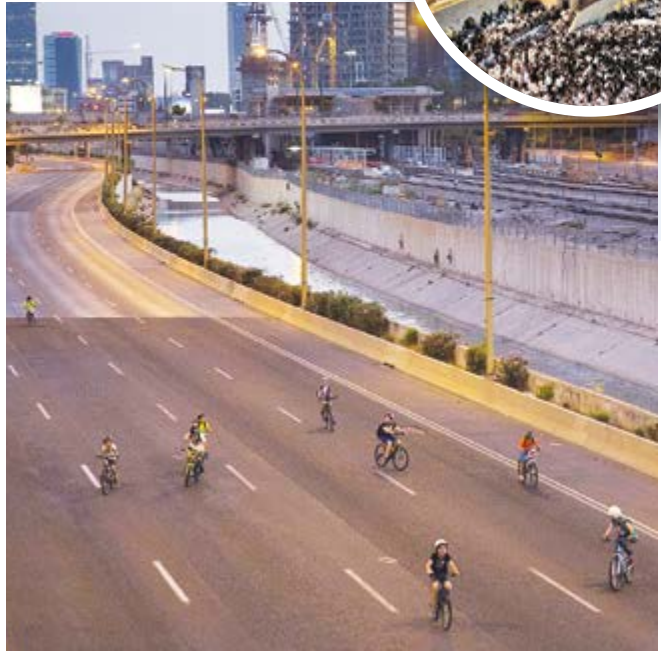
Most injuries over Yom Kippur come from accidents on the roads as tens of thousands of children and teens take advantage of the deserted streets to ride their bicycles. Other common Yom Kippur injuries occur from parents leaving children unattended outside synagogues and dehydration and complications from fasting. [Please see this month's Classic Zola column on [p. 11](#).]

Last year, the IDF imposed a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip beginning at midnight on the day before Yom Kippur and lasting until midnight of the following day.

The closure is a routine procedure during Israeli and Jewish holidays. However, in a less common move, the military also barred Palestinian workers from entering Jewish settlements in the West Bank, with special permission granted in some cases. The additional restriction was likely tied to a terror attack a few days earlier, in which a Palestinian gunman hid among a group of laborers waiting to enter a Jewish settlement outside Jerusalem. When he was called to stop, the terrorist opened fire with a handgun, killing three security officers and wounding a fourth.

Defense officials consider the Jewish high-holiday season, which begins with Rosh Hashanah a week earlier, as a time of increased tension in the region, with a heightened risk of terror attacks.

Our son in Israel can attest that everything shuts down for Yom Kippur — another reason the Holy Land is a special place. Americans could benefit from shutting everything off and enjoying some peace and rest. — David ★

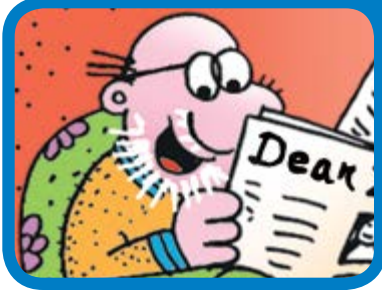


Israeli children ride their bicycles on a car-free Tel Aviv highway on Yom Kippur 2017

Photo (above):  
Luke Tress  
Times of  
Israel

Photo: AP Photo/Oded Eyal





Some letters have been edited for space.

# Letters to ZLM

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

## Notes and Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From M.L.F. (MO):** I just want to thank you for continuing ZLM. I am heading for my 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, God willing! Widowed and living on a fixed income, I have some savings that enable me to send funds to your ministry two or three times a year. I appreciated Mark's article in the recent letter.

Thank you, M.L.F., for mentioning my article "Pray About Your Two Pence" ([p. 14 of the July Levitt Letter](#)). The fact is, this ministry is approaching a number of turning points if our finances continue their long-term decline. While more generous contributions would allow us to maintain the status quo, I believe it would be better to downsize than to ask our donors to make unreasonable sacrifices. — Mark

Happy (early) Birthday M.L.F! This ministry continues only because of your support and that of other faithful givers. Eat some birthday cake for us ... and thank you. — David & Kirsten

**From R.B. (MO):** I am grateful that ZLM opened my eyes to the Jewish roots of my faith. I will uphold your ministry in order to be a part of others learning as I have learned and to send the Gospel out "to the Jew first."

Kirsten and I greatly appreciate your affirmation, R.B. We are also thankful for how Zola's teaching has opened our eyes. May I suggest that you enroll in the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies? (See [p. 19](#) for free information.) Working through the courses greatly expanded Kirsten's and my Biblical knowledge and insight. I know you would also benefit. — David



## Correcting Propaganda

Dear Tony,

Your [Personal Letter \(June 2018\)](#) about Golda Meir, Israel, and the name "Palestine" caused me to jump out of my chair, make copies, and run up and down the road giving out the true meaning of the name "Palestine."

Hearing Israel called "Palestine" makes me nauseous, and I reply, "It is called 'Israel'! What Holy Bible and history don't you understand?" — J.C. (AL)

Dear J.C. —

We have a great task before us to educate the Church about Israel,

*(continued next page)*



which is not being done in most modern pulpits. I hope you caught the [August Levitt Letter \(LL\)](#) article “[Bible Maps Distort History](#)” (p. 2). When I teach a group, I’m often tempted to ask them to turn to the back of their Bibles—the maps—and tear out any map that’s titled, “Palestine in the time of Jesus.”

Thank you for standing up for Israel! — Tony

## Blessing the World

Dear ZLM,

The *Levitt Letter* is unique and interesting. I especially look forward to Israel’s scientific and archaeological discoveries. You truly bless this world. — S.W. (IL)

Dear S.W. —

Thank you. We strive to bring our *LL* readers up-to-date information about how God’s Holy Land and people are thriving... not merely surviving. I look forward to reading every new issue, too. — David



## Searching Levitt.com

Dear ZLM,

Awhile back you printed a list of important contributions to the world by Jews. Can you please print it again? Wasn’t the American Revolution pretty much financed by a couple of Jews? (We pass along our *Levitt Letters* to the senior center, so we cannot look up which editions addressed these issues.) Thanks, C.W. (TX)

**Yes, C.W., you can look up past editions of our *Levitt Letters* and *Personal Letters*.** Clicking on “*Levitt Letter*” at [levitt.com](#) takes you to our [news magazine archives](#) that go back to 1992! Beyond that, at the top, you should see an opportunity to “Search newsletters for...” with directions for using our archives as research tools. [Levitt.tv](#) has the archive of our hundreds of TV programs and a Video Search box on the right.

Therefore, C.W., I’m inviting you to share our newsletters via text and email as well as by circulating hard copies. More specifically, you are welcome to block, copy, and paste links to [levitt.com’s](#) resources and then advise your friends about which pages to see. Blessings, Mark

Dear C.W. —

Each *LL* contains medical and scientific contributions from Israelis, but for the State of Israel’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we listed some historical milestones. See especially Tony’s [September 2017 \*Personal Letter\*](#) and the [June 2018 \*Levitt Letter’s\* cover story](#), “Thou Shalt Innovate.” Other of our lists can be found by searching our newsletter archive, as Mark instructs (above). — Editor

(continued next page)



## Called Together

Dear David and Kirsten,

Thank you for coming to serve Zola Levitt Ministries! I ask your forgiveness and offer encouragement. As a longtime viewer and, as often as possible, a supporter, I was disturbed when I saw two gentiles take over the hosting duties of ZLP. I didn't get why a Messianic program would choose NOT to have believing Jews host. Then I saw your *Called Together* TV series.

I recently found my previously hidden Jewish heritage — an exciting experience. But my pride in discovering my Jewishness led me to wrongful thinking when you came to ZLP, and for that I am truly sorry and ask your forgiveness. Now I get it!

You are wonderful hosts for the program, and I am very glad to understand that we Jews and gentiles are indeed "called together." May HE continue to bless you in all that you do and bless and expand this ministry until Yeshua's name is shouted in the streets of Yerushalayim, even by the ultra-Orthodox Haredim! May His peace rest upon you, B.Z.

Dear B.Z. —

Apology accepted; forgiveness given. Hosting ZLP walked us into new territory. None of the viewers knew our hearts, our love for the Jewish people, or our desire to continue Zola's legacy. Transitions and accepting new faces take time. Thank you for your encouragement, and for partnering with us in reaching out to everyone for Messiah. — David & Kirsten

(continued next page)



## ***Called Together— Jew & Gentile, One in Messiah***

Eight programs on 2 DVDs

*Called Together* focuses on how gentile Christians are recognizing their Messianic brothers and sisters (Jewish believers in Jesus/Yeshua) as the natural olive branch that Paul referred to in Romans 11. The Lord calls us to work together to bring the Messiah especially to the lost sheep of Israel. David and Kirsten Hart present these eight programs of Bible teaching that feature Eitan Shishkoff and guest analyst Dr. Jeffrey Seif.

### *Programs include:*

- Friendly Alliance
- Salvation Returns
- Two Loaves
- Olive Oil
- Desert Blooms
- Dry Bones
- Blood Atonement
- Intersection Of Covenants



## Gifts to Open and Use

Dear ZLM,

The *Levitt Letter* is well balanced with lots of serious articles and then jokes to make us laugh. I also enjoy Mark's financial articles. S.S. (CA)

Dear S.S. —

Mark's insight and financial wisdom are gifts to all of us. Now we need to apply the lessons he shares from experts! — David

## King as Commoner

Dear ZLM,

I read with fascination the [May LL cover story](#) about Yeshua that showed the face of an ordinary-looking Jewish man, and could not stop staring at the computer mock-up. I love the fact that Yeshua is one of us! He was indistinguishable in the crowd — no halo, no magnificence. It really made me think of the Savior's "Son of Man" aspect.

What hit me most when I read the article was remembering Isaiah 53:2. *"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him."* Physically, He was just "one of us." I still choke up thinking about this: the Eternal Word would condescend to live among us. God bless your ministry! — S.K.M.

P.S. I now donate and receive your newsletters after someone handed me an old *Levitt Letter* at church awhile back. My daughter also gets the LL. The word is spreading!

Dear S.K.M. —

We received many points of view concerning the *possible* face of Christ. Yet, how much do His looks really matter? I (for one) am thankful that Yeshua doesn't judge us by our outward appearance. Your comments give me more to think about, and I love where they lead. — Kirsten

## Spreading the Good News

Shalom, ZLM,

The [July Levitt Letter](#) was so fantastic, I couldn't put it down. I usually savor it like dessert over a couple of days.

Please send me a few extra copies to mail out to family and friends. Plus, I leave them at the library and post office. Blessings in Messiah, D.L. (FL)

Dear D.L. —

I agree with you. The LL just keeps getting better and better. Thanks for noticing the hard work that goes into its production, and for passing it along to others. — Kirsten

P.S. Computer-savvy family and friends can visit [levitt.com](http://levitt.com) and read *Personal Letters* back to 1998 and *Levitt Letters* back to 1992! ★



Image: computer model by Keith Kasno/National Geographic Image



# Importance of Skeleton Formation In Young Corals

SCIENCE: [BIOENGINEER.ORG](https://www.bioengineer.org)

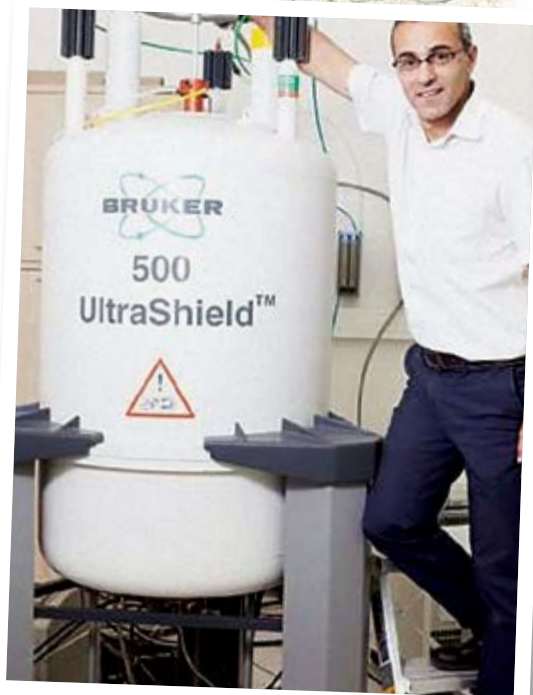
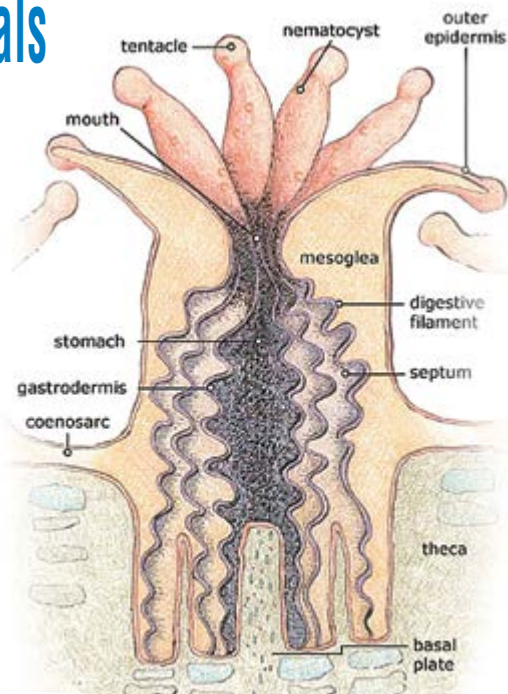
The skeleton formed by a coral plays a key role in the storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Previous studies have focused on the process by which adult corals produce minerals that harden existing tissues to form the skeleton, but the exact stage at which corals initiate the mineralization process has remained a mystery — until now.

For the first time, researchers have identified the biological process of mineralization that occurs in a young coral as it shifts from the plankton (swimming) stage to the “settled” stage in which it forms the skeleton from minerals that protect its colony. The discovery is important for understanding the process of coral reef formation and protecting marine creatures from ecological damage associated with global warming. It also carries implications for **new biotechnological developments using coral extractions to regenerate and reconstruct human bones**.

The research was conducted by scientists from the Department of Chemistry at Bar-Ilan University, the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences at the University of Haifa, and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Their findings were recently published in *Nature Communications*.

Corals begin their lives as plankton polyps that swim freely in the sea. At some point the polyps move into a “settled” stage in which the formation of the skeleton begins. This is a process in which the polyps secrete calcium carbonate very rapidly in order to form and protect the reef colony. Proper development of polyps to the

*(continued next page)*



Researcher Professor Gil Goobes of Bar-Ilan University standing by an 11.74 Tesla Bruker Avance III Spectrometer used in the study

Photo: Bar-Ilan University





settled stage is crucial for the proper development of coral reefs.

In the current study, researchers examined the biological process that occurs throughout these two stages, analyzing gene expression in both the swimming and the settled stages and the maturation of minerals. Through gene analysis, they were able to determine that different proteins had been generated.

Knowing exactly which proteins are used to accelerate mineral growth in corals has important bearings for understanding what accelerates bone growth in humans, as many of the coral skeletal proteins bear striking similarity to bone proteins in humans. Understanding the biological process is also an essential step in mimicking and adapting it to humans in terms of healing fractures or even treating deeper skeletal and spinal problems.

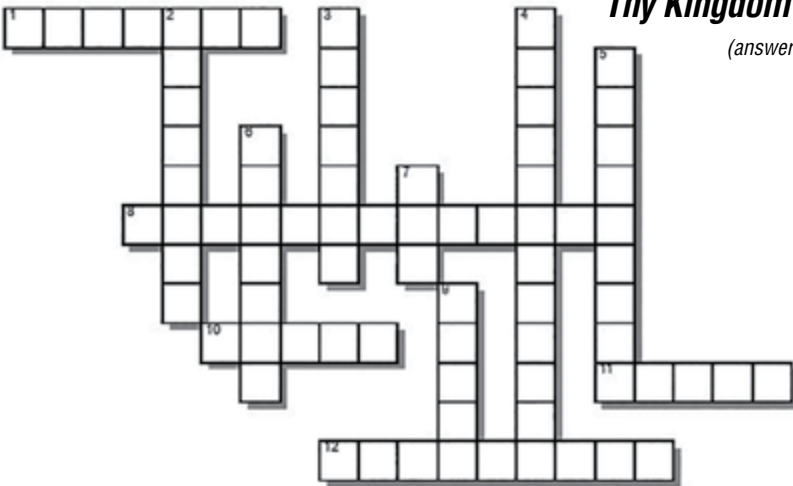
Discovering how skeletal growth can be regulated will advance the development of bio-technological techniques for bone transplants in the human body. Although scientists are a long way from understanding the mechanism by which humans form a skeleton, this is an important step in identifying the genes and proteins responsible for this process. ★



## Crossword September 2018:

### ***Thy Kingdom Come***

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



#### ACROSS

- 1 ... seek ye the \_\_\_ of God...  
(Luke 12:31 KJV)
- 8 ... with \_\_\_ shall he judge...  
(Isaiah 11:4 KJV)
- 10 ... \_\_\_ shall be loosed...  
(Revelation 20:7 KJV)
- 11 And if the family of \_\_\_ go  
not up... (Zechariah 14:18 KJV)
- 12 Give the king thy \_\_\_...  
(Psalm 72:1)

#### DOWN

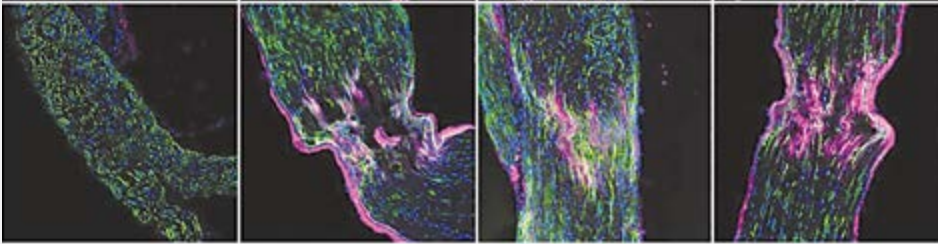
- 2 And there was given him  
\_\_\_ (Daniel 7:14 KJV)
- 3 But as it is \_\_\_  
(1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV)
- 4 1948 War of \_\_\_
- 5 ...cast into the lake of fire &  
\_\_\_ (Revelation 20:10 KJV)
- 6 ...the Lord \_\_\_ is my  
strength & my song...  
(Isaiah 12:2 KJV)
- 7 And the \_\_\_ stood still...  
(Joshua 10:13 KJV)
- 9 Gog and \_\_\_ invasion



# “Lord of the Rings” Protein Jump-Starts Nerve Repair

MEDICINE: WIS-WANDER.WEIZMANN.AC.IL

WEIZMANN  
INSTITUTE  
OF SCIENCE



Large amounts of the mTOR protein (magenta) appear in the sciatic nerve after injury (three images on the right), but are not present in the uninjured nerve (far left)

When the body needs to repair nerve injury, the machinery is already in place. Hidden within nerve cells is a Hobbit-like “one-ring-to-rule-them-all” kind of trigger: a molecular machine that can ramp up the synthesis of the necessary proteins on demand, right at the injured spot. Weizmann Institute of Science researchers and collaborators now reveal how this nerve-repair mechanism is regulated. The findings shed new light on key elements of cellular growth and repair, opening up new directions for the future development of innovative treatments for a wide variety of disorders.

The team of **Professor Mike Fainzilber** in Weizmann’s Biomolecular Sciences Department wanted to know how nerve repair is aided by a protein called mTOR, which serves as a central regulator of protein synthesis in general and of neuronal growth in particular. They discovered that this protein resembles J. R. R. Tolkien’s “one ring to rule them all,” not only for its crucial function but also because it turned out that, like Tolkien’s “one ring,” mTOR can be hidden from view.



Professor Mike Fainzilber



In a study in mice, **team members found that mTOR molecules appeared at the site of injury in the sciatic nerve. What surprised the scientists was the speed with which mTOR turned up.** The sciatic nerve is extremely long; it is made up of neurons whose cell bodies reside in the lower back, but their extensions — called axons — run along the leg all the way to the foot. Had mTOR been produced in the cell body, it would have taken half a day to reach an injured spot in the mid-thigh, yet the scientists detected a sharp rise in mTOR levels within two to three hours. They concluded that the protein must have been manufactured on the spot.

Using an advanced version of mass spectrometry that makes it possible to identify new proteins in living tissue as they are being made, the scientists — working with colleagues at the University of California, San Francisco — determined that in the wake of nerve injury, mTOR stimulates its own production. Increased levels of mTOR then trigger the localized synthesis of other proteins that are essential for the survival and repair of the nerve. When the scientists blocked the production of mTOR after injury, no rise in the synthesis of other proteins occurred in the injured axon.

*(continued next page)*



But how does the increase in the production of mTOR happen? With a lab at the University of South Carolina, the researchers found that even in the absence of injury, instructions for making mTOR are present throughout the axon in the form of messenger RNA, or mRNA molecules, that contain the genetic “blueprint” for making protein. These mRNAs are continuously transported to various parts of the axon, replenishing their supply. When an injury occurs, they are right there, ready to produce the mTOR needed for repair. To test how this mechanism works, the scientists used gene editing to remove a segment of the mRNA molecule that enables its transport. They saw that, as suspected, no protein synthesis took place, and the injured axon failed to survive.

Explains Fainzilber: “Just as Tolkien’s ‘one ring to rule them all’ can wreak havoc in the wrong hands, so can mTOR be dangerous if activated at the wrong time or place within the cell. It could cause unregulated nerve growth leading to pain, or excessive cellular growth resulting in cancer. Thus, manufacturing mTOR only when and where it’s needed, based on locally available mRNA instructions, is a much safer and faster way of providing a controlled supply of this master switch.”

The same latent mechanism is probably responsible for manufacturing mTOR in situations that are unrelated to nerve injury. It could, for instance, help produce the mTOR needed for the nerve growth that occurs in the human body as it continues to develop in the first two decades of life, or in a variety of other cellular processes in which mTOR plays a pivotal role.

## New approaches to regulating mTOR

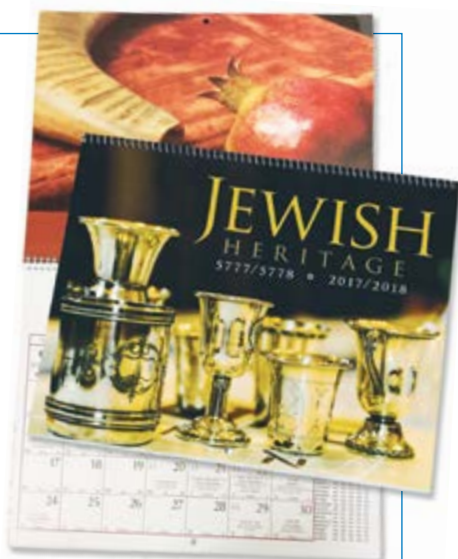
Defects in mTOR functioning have long been shown to be involved in a wide range of diseases, including cancer, diabetes, and obesity. Drugs that interfere with mTOR’s activity already exist on the market. The hidden mechanism for the manufacture of mTOR revealed in the Weizmann study could help develop new approaches to regulating mTOR activity in injury and disease. ★



## Jewish Heritage Calendar 5779 (2018–2019)

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 2019. 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.





# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Minnesota Twins to win the 1965 World Series thanks to pitcher Sandy Koufax

## Sandy Koufax & Yom Kippur

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller / Aish.com

In 1965, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax was at the top of his game. Nicknamed “the Man with the Golden Arm,” his skill had helped propel the Dodgers to the World Series, where the team faced the Minnesota Twins. The opening game was scheduled for Metropolitan Stadium in the Twin Cities, on October 6—a date that happened to be Yom Kippur.

Although he didn’t consider himself particularly religious, **Koufax sat out the game**. “Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish religion. The club knows I don’t work that day,” he later recalled. He became best known not for his amazing skill on the field, but for his principled stand.

The Dodgers lost that game without Koufax, but with his help in the rest of the World Series, they won the 1965 Pennant. Koufax was named Most Valuable Player of the season and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972.

## Iranian Women Rebel Against Hijab

WorldIsraelNews.com

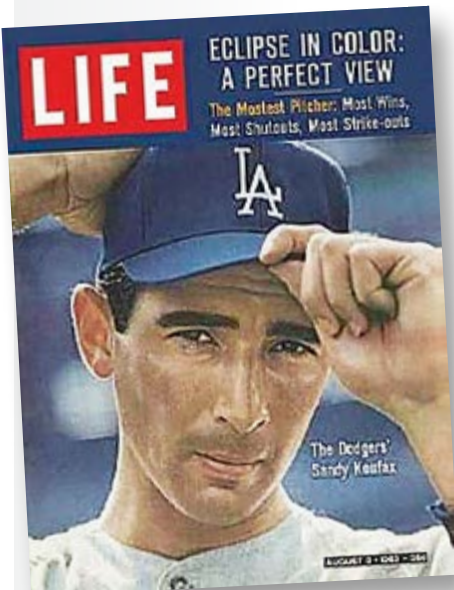


Photo: Hengameh Golistan

Iranian women protesting against the Hijab law in Tehran in 1979

Oppressed since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, many Iranian women have started to fight back, standing up for their freedom, recording abuse, and refusing to don the hijab. Some tweet [videos](#) of themselves and other women with uncovered heads, bearing messages such as: “Women in Iran are recording the abuse they suffer at the hands of men for not

*(continued next page)*





wearing religious clothing. May the good people of Iran free themselves from the shackles of the tyrannical mullah theocracy.”

## Notes removed from Western Wall ahead of Rosh Hashanah

JTA.org



Photo: Debbie Hill/UPI

Workers clear prayer notes from Western Wall before Rosh Hashanah

Workers at the Western Wall empty the holy site of layers of notes from its cracks and crevices for the New Year. The paper pieces are removed under the supervision of the rabbi of the Western Wall a morning or two before Rosh Hashanah. The notes are then buried in Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives cemetery.

Visitors to the wall traditionally write their prayers and hopes on pieces of paper and insert them into its cracks. In addition to the notes that visitors place in the wall, the Western Wall Institute receives via its website and by fax tens of thousands of notes to be placed there. The notes are removed from the wall twice a year, before Rosh Hashanah and Passover, using wooden sticks

dipped in the *mikvah* (ceremonial bath).

It’s touching that each individually written prayer stays in the Holy Land. —Kirsten

## Come Again ...?

By Ronn Blitzer / LawAndCrime.com

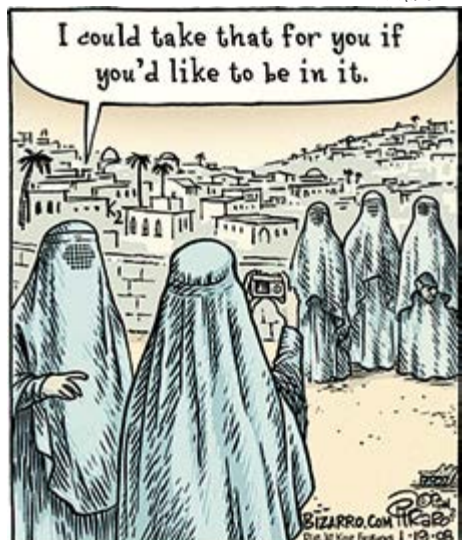
An inmate at a North Carolina jail is suing for \$250,000 because he was “deprived” of lunch every day for a month, even though he had signed a request to fast during Ramadan.

Travaile Speller claims that when the jail only served him *suhoor* (breakfast) and *iftar* (dinner) meals during the month of Ramadan (May 15 through June 15, 2018), the jail was “clearly depriving me of the necessary calories, as well as the recommend [sic] daily value of nutrients that my body requires to function normally.”

“They withheld his lunch during Ramadan? They were *supposed* to withhold it during Ramadan,” said Jibril Hough, spokesman for the Islamic Center of Charlotte. “The jail was ... actually respecting his faith.” ★

BIZARRO.COM

by Dan P. Rao





# Should Archaeologists “Prove” the Bible?

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY AMANDA BORSCHER-DAN (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



The fortified city of Khirbet Qeiyafa indicates urban society in Judah at the time of King David

Much ink has been spilled on a passionate ongoing conversation surrounding the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Tel Aviv University's Professor Israel Finkelstein pithily explained to *The Times of Israel* what is, for him personally, revolutionary in the current field of Israeli archaeology: "Regarding biblical archaeology, some of us have been liberated from an uncritical reading of the text," he wrote. "Biblical traditions should be read on the background of their time of composition, the ideology of the authors," Finkelstein wrote, regarding a renewed quest for the tabernacle at Shiloh.



Israeli archaeologist, Prof. Israel Finkelstein

"I strongly believe that one needs to conduct archaeological research and carry out biblical exegesis in the best of methods. There is no need to start from a perspective of either confirming or dismissing the historicity of a given biblical text," Finkelstein said.

Finkelstein is one of several scholars in contemporary archaeology who are taking the Bible not as a blueprint but rather as one of several local sources of information. Cutting through nuance, one may say that two general schools of thought have emerged, with "new" Tel Aviv being on the side of no preconceived notions in research, versus Jerusalem's more Bible-and-spade approach.

Still considered controversial in some segments of international Biblical scholarship, Tel Aviv's critical school of thought has made inroads in the past several decades.

"Most Israeli professional archaeologists are no longer in an ideological 'bind' to use their research to prove national ideologies," explained Bar-Ilan University Prof. Aren M. Maeir.

*(continued next page)*



Photo: Argonauter



"The one-to-one connection that was often made in the past (and at times, even today), between archaeological finds and their political/ideological meaning, is much less felt among professional archaeologists," Maeir said. "It is, though, still very much alive in the general public."



## Historical Biblical "memories"

The conversation is also very much alive in Jerusalem.

"A major debate in the last 40 years is the historicity of the Hebrew Bible," Prof. Yosef Garfinkel, head of the Institute of Archaeology at Hebrew University, replied when asked his opinion on the important finds and developments of the past 70 years.



Yosef Garfinkel with a shrine model made of stone, found at Khirbet Qeiyafa

In recent decades, several discoveries could be interpreted to shore up a Biblical narrative, several of which were found in Jerusalem's ancient Old City. The most recent among them was a clay seal impression bearing what could be the name of the Prophet Isaiah, discovered by Hebrew University's Dr. Eilat Mazar in her recently renewed Jerusalem excavations.

**Garfinkel gives several other examples of archaeological evidence in support of the Biblical narrative.** "A few finds indicate that

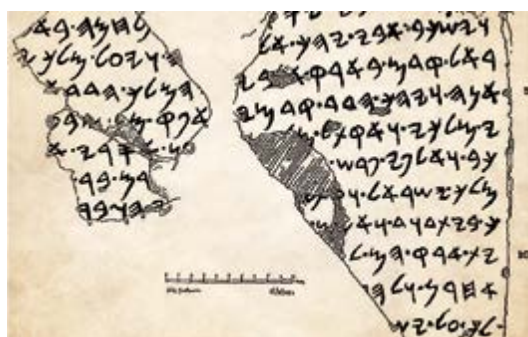
the Bible indeed bears historical memories," stated Garfinkel, who is directing archaeological expeditions to Khirbet Qeiyafa, Tel Lachish, and Khirbet er-Rai.

Garfinkel added that excavations of the fortified city of Khirbet Qeiyafa "indicates urban society in Judah at the time of King David." A portable shrine found at Khirbet Qeiyafa "indicates royal architecture in Judah at the time of David and Solomon."

Among other finds of Biblical interest, Bar-Ilan University Prof. Aren M. Maeir points to the two-horned stone altar from his excavation, the Philistine Tell es-Safi/Gath.

But foremost among the findings that Maeir and Garfinkel both highlight is the Tel Dan Stele discovered in secondary use in 1993 bearing an inscription on a 9<sup>th</sup>-century B.C. stone slab that mentions "House of David." The stone with its fragmentary inscription is called by some the "first historical evidence of King David."

While not naming the fabled king specifically, it does recount the victory of an Aramean king over his two southern neighbors: the "king of Israel" and the "king of the House of David." ★



The Tel Dan Stele mentions "House of David," was discovered by Avraham Biran in 1993

### Answer Key for September 2018 Crossword (p.27)

#### Across:

1. Kingdom
8. Righteousness
10. Satan
11. Egypt
12. Judgments

#### Down:

2. Dominion
3. Written
4. Independence
5. Brimstone
6. Jehovah
7. Sun
9. Magog



# Yeshua vs. Checkpoints

IsraelToday.co.il

The biannual Christ at the Checkpoint conference exists to challenge Christian Zionism and its underlying premise that modern Israel's rebirth is a divinely ordained fulfillment of prophecy. Playing on the sensitivities of socially active Christians, conference organizers gratuitously use images of Israeli security barriers, asking: What would Christ do were He to stand at a checkpoint today? It's an interesting question. The following is one response, submitted by Marc Doyon.



Photo: Wisam Hashlamoun/Flash90

Palestinians cross the Bethlehem checkpoint in June 2018

## BY MARC DOYON

If Yeshua had to go through a checkpoint today, He would do exactly what He did when He had to pass through a Roman checkpoint 2,000 years ago.

Was Yeshua upset? Surely, nobody enjoys waiting. Furthermore, it's a humiliating experience to be considered a potential threat when you are an honest citizen.

Yeshua said to His compatriots (who were rightfully upset about checkpoints in their own homeland):

*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. —Matthew 5:44–48*

Terror isn't the answer to checkpoints since it creates, justifies, and multiplies them. Checkpoints are, however, the lesser of two evils. They are made to prevent entry to the unlawful and the criminal.

Checkpoints aren't anything new and they are everywhere, primarily at each country's frontiers. Since the fall of mankind, the world has been subject to checkpoints because man is a threat to man.

Checkpoints are unpleasant but still a sign of civilization, order, and security. Areas without checkpoints are dangerous and unpredictable. We too often see what happens to a Jew who crosses an area having no checkpoint ... he almost never returns alive.

But no matter, there will always be people constituting an obstacle to Yeshua for political reasons, over checkpoints or Jerusalem. (Luke 9:53)

If Yeshua were living with us today, He would still be an Israeli and would surely serve as an IDF soldier at a checkpoint — isn't He the Lord of armies? — dispensing divine love to His comrades and outsiders alike. People would flock to His checkpoint to hear His wisdom. (And we can access His wisdom in the Scriptures and through prayer.)

We need to ready ourselves for the ultimate Checkpoint that is the day of His return. That will be The Checkpoint, and nobody will enter the World to Come unless s/he has been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. We'd better make sure that we will be judged worthy to access the New Earth (Revelation 21:1) and aren't left behind. (Matthew 25:10–13, Revelation 22:15) ★



# Jewish humor, etc.



## More classic Jewish Mother jokes from the Golden Age of Comedy

**"Jewish Mothers" have perfected the art of suffering and imposing guilt trips and food. *You don't have to be Jewish or a mother to be a Jewish Mother.***

*A cheerful heart is good medicine —*  
Proverbs 17:22

**Q:** Why don't Jewish Mothers drink?

**A:** Alcohol interferes with their suffering.

**Q:** Why do Jewish Mothers make great parole officers?

**A:** They never let anyone finish a sentence.

**Q:** How many Jewish Mothers does it take to change a light bulb?

**A:** "(sigh) Don't bother. I'll sit in the dark. I don't want to be a nuisance to anybody."

Did you hear about the bum who walked up to a Jewish Mother on the street and said, "Lady, I haven't eaten in three days."

"Force yourself," she replied.

**Q:** What's the difference between a Rottweiler and a Jewish Mother?

**A:** Eventually, the Rottweiler lets go. ★



## Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

### Freeform Airing Day & Time by zone

DirecTV – Channel 311    Dish – Channel 180

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	2:30 AM and 5:30 AM Sun	3:30 AM and 6:30 AM Sun	4:30 AM Sun	5:30 AM Sun

### Daystar Airing Day & Time by zone

DirecTV – Channel 369    Dish – Channel 263

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	8 PM Wed 3 PM Fri	9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri	10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri	11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri

Please tell us which of the two Daystar times you value more. We may have to discontinue one. Thanks.

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*(New series from Israel airing soon!)*







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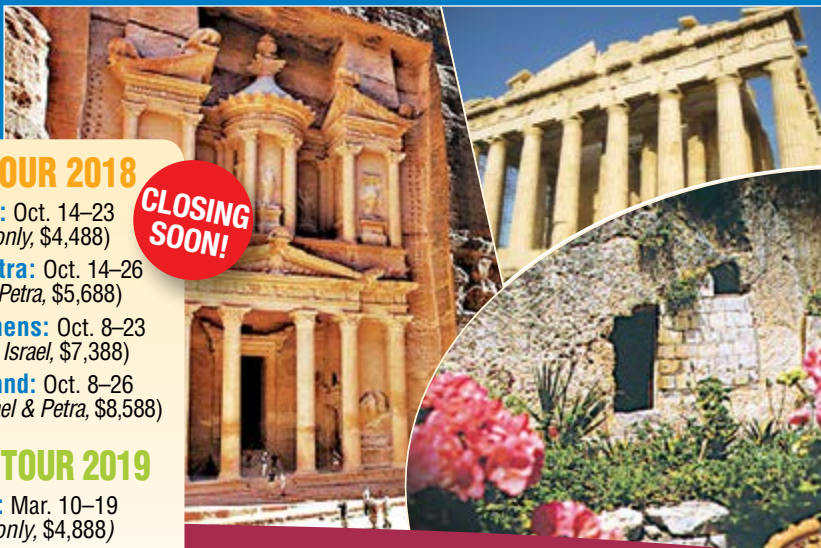
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