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**Enhancing Trust** 

Dear Reader, April 2019

2019 is one of the rare years in which the spring Feasts as laid out in Leviticus 23:4-14 coincide with the days of the week that our Lord celebrated in His final year on Earth. Yeshua ate His last Seder on Thursday (the eve of Passover), died on Passover (Friday), lay in the tomb on Unleavened Bread (Saturday), and rose on First Fruits (Sunday).

Zola explains on p. 4 how the time between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday constitutes three days and nights. However, because most rabbis celebrate only Unleavened Bread — renaming it Passover — and completely miss Passover on Nisan 14 and First Fruits on the following Sunday, you'll see that the Jewish "Passover week" begins this year at sunset on Friday, April 19, the eve of Nisan 15.

Our cover story explains Passover's importance to Yeshua and His family, and why it provides a perfect witnessing opportunity to the Jewish people. See our handy timeline of how Yeshua spent those three nights and days per all four Gospels (p. 13).

Our profiles of Rescuers continue on p. 10, while Kirsten (6) and Todd (12) both explore God's Shekinah and Todd clarifies a seeming contradiction of Paul. Our new columnist-in-Israel Sarah Liberman sees evidence that God-sanctioned declarations last forever (8).

If there's ever to be a peace plan in the Middle East, we need to understand what's at stake and why (1, 28, 34). Meanwhile, Israel continues to bless the world (26, 27, 32).

Shalom and please remember to Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim — Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6)



Margot, Editor Zola Levitt Ministries

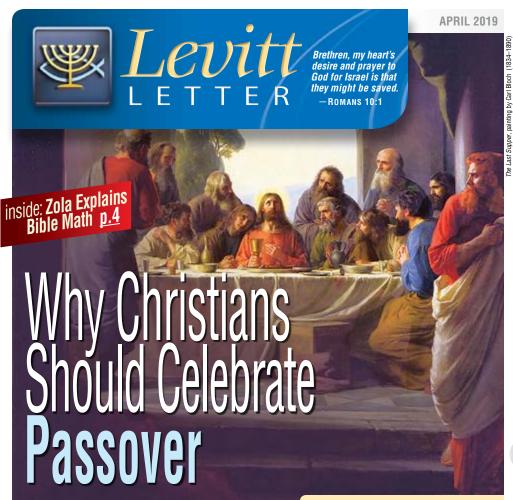
**P.S.** If you enjoy reading the *Levitt Letter* and learning about the Jewish roots of the Christian Church, please support ZLM with your prayers and dollars. We rely on God to provide for our ministry by touching the hearts of our readers and viewers. Please see p. 3 for a super-simple way to effortlessly increase your donation.

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By Bernard Starr, Ph.D. / Algemeiner.com

The Passover holiday commemorates the Exodus of Jews from slavery in Egypt. It is a celebration of freedom.

For Jesus/Yeshua — a dedicated, practicing Jew — Passover was a seminal event. Although the Gospels do not give us His full biography, they do make it clear that Passover loomed large in His life. After His birth and sojourn in Egypt, the only thing we learn about Him is that He and His family traveled to Jerusalem every year for Passover: "Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover" (Luke 2:41).

This arduous 80-mile trip over crude roads — with donkeys, provisions, and lambs for the ritual sacrifice — could take as long as seven days. Jesus' family's faithful participation is a testament to their dedication to Judaism and the Torah and the importance of Passover.

(continued p.2)

#### REMEMBER:

Jewish Passover 2019 begins at sunset on Friday, April 19, ends at sunset on Saturday, April 27 First Fruits/Easter 2019 Sunday, April 21 Trump's Peace Plan: Fake News or Familiar Delusion?

By Ryan Jones IsraelToday.co.il

Israelis were taken aback recently when their evening news announced purported details of U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan that didn't quite fit with what they'd come to expect from the American leader.

According to Channel 13 News journalist Barak Ravid, who cited a "senior American" official, Trump was planning to offer the Palestinians a fully-sovereign state on 85–90% of the West Bank, with the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem as its capital city. The report further claimed that Trump wants to return

(continued p.7)

# Why Christians Should Celebrate Passover *continued from cover*



Jesus Found in the Temple, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

We next meet Jesus at age 12 at that year's Passover celebration in Jerusalem. During His family's return trip from the festival, Mary and Joseph notice that Jesus is not among the extended family and other Jews from Nazareth. They return to Jerusalem to search for Him and find Jesus in the Temple debating the Torah with learned rabbis (Luke 2:42–47).

After this incident, Jesus again vanishes from the Gospels, this time for 18 years. He resurfaces at age 30, when He is baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan and His ministry begins. Three years later, at the end of His ministry, Passover again takes center stage among events that will be monumental for Christianity and the world. Early on the day of the Passover feast, before His

arrest in Gethsemane garden (that leads to His trial and crucifixion), He tells His disciples to prepare the traditional Jewish Passover (Luke 22:7–13).

That on the very day that Jesus forecast His imminent death He chose to celebrate the traditional Passover meal with His disciples is a powerful statement about the importance of Passover in His life and His dedication to Judaism.

Unfortunately, art representations of the Passover Last Supper — the chief means by which the largely illiterate Medieval and Renaissance European populations learned about this important holiday — typically presented it as a Christian celebration, when it was exclusively a Jewish event.

The fact that Jesus and His disciples were Jews is often overshadowed by emphasis on the ceremony at the end of Jesus' Passover *Seder*, which became the Eucharist sacrament in Christianity.

Even Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* looks like a gathering of monks rather than a Passover Seder attended by dedicated Jews. The foods on the table are not the traditional ones for Passover; indeed, items such as eel and bread would have been a desecration according to the Torah. Moreover, it is known that Jesus ate only kosher food.

Sadly, such artworks that omit Jesus' Jewish identity and instead picture him as a Renaissance-era Christian in settings alien to His origins in the Jewish village of Nazareth have served to drive Christians and Jews apart.

Over the centuries, the Passover *Seder* has evolved to reflect the different cultures of Jews as they scattered throughout the world after the Temple's destruction in A.D. 70. Today, in addition to retelling the story of the exodus from Egypt, many Jews include contemporary and personal perspectives on freedom, slavery, and other social issues.

**Pope Francis: "Inside every Christian is a Jew."** Celebrating Passover offers Christians an opportunity to reconnect with the common foundation of the two faiths and experience the authentic Jesus as He lived and worshiped. At the same time, Believers can add to their Passover celebrations a Christian perspective while honoring the Jewish Exodus and freedom. (To learn even more about this common foundation, order *Dicovering Our Jewish Roots* on p. 19)





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to designate Zola Levitt Ministries as the nonprofit to receive the charitable gift that your purchases generate. Thanks.



You shop. Amazon gives.

# Zola Explains the Three Days and Three Nights



BY ZOLA LEVITT / Levitt.com/fags

We rerun this most-asked question during the season when you may ask it yourself. (Also, see the helpful chronology on p. 13.) — Editor









Details of three paintings by Carl Bloch (1834-1890): Ieft: Christ at the Cross. center: The Burial of Christ, right: The Resurrection of Christ

#### Friday to Sunday?

If the Lord was crucified on Friday and rose on Sunday, how could that . encompass three days and three nights?

The Gospel accounts indicate that the Lord was crucified on Friday at 9:00 a.m. and taken off the cross at 3:00 p.m. His body was prepared for burial and interred at sundown the same day, which was the beginning of the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The Lord then arose on Sunday morning after sunup.

According to the modern way of counting, this spans barely two days. Yet that time period seems to disagree with Jesus' earlier prediction:

> "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." — Matthew 12:40

The prophecy can be understood when we examine the Jewish way of counting

days and nights. We must recall that the Jewish day always starts at sunset, so that Friday really begins on Thursday evening (a fact that is reflected in the language of Genesis — "the evening and the morning" are the first day). The second day, then, begins at sundown on Friday and continues through the daytime on Saturday. Finally, Sunday begins at sundown on Saturday and stretches through Saturday night and the daylight hours of Sunday, making the third day. Since the Jews counted any portion of daylight as a full day, then Friday morning through Sunday morning would have been seen as three **complete** days and nights.

(continued next page)



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#### SIDE NOTE:

Day 1: Friday =sundown on Thursday (night) to Friday sundown (day) -Crucifixion

Day 2: Saturday = sundown on Friday (night) to Saturday sundown (day) Sabbath rest

Day 3: Sunday =sundown on Saturday (night) to Sunday sundown (day) -Resurrection

People have sometimes struggled to move Passover (the "Last Supper") back one day in order to get three days and three nights the way we would count them in the Western world, but that would be inaccurate. Even in the Western world we begin each day on the night before at midnight, so the concept is not strange to us. Supporting this understanding of the Lord's crucifixion on a Friday (against those who claim that it happened on a different day) is the centuries-long history of Christians celebrating Good Friday, not "Good Thursday" or "Good Wednesday." This evidence indicates that we can trust the accuracy of the Bible's account, and also confirms that knowing the Jewish roots of Christianity can open a deeper understanding of God's Word.

## Do the Gospels Disagree on When Jesus Died?

Did Jesus celebrate the Passover and die on Passover day, or did He celebrate and die on the day before? Matthew, Mark, and Luke say He died on Passover day, but John seems to claim that He celebrated and died the day before the Passover. Why the difference?

The difference between John's Gospel and the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) regarding the Passover and death of Jesus is attributable to the fact that two systems were used at that time for reckoning Passover day. The

Judeans used a method of reckoning different from the Galileans' (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The Galileans and Pharisees measured days from sunrise to sunrise, whereas the Judeans and Sadducees used the sunset-to-sunset reckoning in John's Gospel.

"And the evening and the morning were the first day." — Genesis 1:5

Thus, Jews from Galilee celebrated their Passover on Thursday evening, with Passover day starting at sunrise Friday morning. Jews in Judea and Jerusalem, however, celebrated Passover on Friday evening at sundown. Consequently, according to John and the Jews in Judea, Jesus' celebration on Thursday and death on Friday before sunset occurred on *erev Pesach* (the eve of Passover), because Passover started for them at Friday's sunset.



The Galilean method used by *Jesus* and His disciples would have the Passover Lamb slain and Last Supper on Thursday, 14 Nissan. The Judean method used by John would have the Passover Lamb slain on 15 Nissan.

Most scholars agree that because of the two different methods of timekeeping, there were two days for the slaying of the lambs, which makes sense given the number of lambs being slaughtered. That task couldn't be done in a single day.

There is no contradiction; the Gospels reflect the two different chronological systems for determining the Passover.

# **Radiance**

Kirsten Hart Studio co-host of Zola Levitt Presents



Can you imagine your face shining so brightly that people can barely look at you? I'm not referring to a brand-new facial cream but to God being such a force in your life that your face actually radiates His glory — akin to His Shekinah (see Todd's explanation on p. 12). You would never have to utter a word or hand out a tract about Christianity. People could see God's radiance on your face and know that something supernatural is happening in your life.

With some passages of Scripture, I like to "chew" (ponder, dig into the meaning). Exodus 34, verses 29-35 in particular, offers a "chewable" portion. Moses' face was radiant when he descended from Mount Sinai. Why? Because he had spoken with the Lord. I mean, he had a one-on-one



with God Almighty, and Moses didn't come back looking normal.

People are hungry for tangible proof that God exists, that His power is real. What better proof than a face radiating so much light that a veil has to cover it so not to blind others? I would love to be a walking display of God's power in my life, with no words necessary. Wouldn't you?

A friend observed that it would be very hard for people not to make the "face shining" about themselves. "I'm closer to God because my face is brighter than yours." Moses had to be a very humble man not to make his shining face about himself and how "worthy" he was (Numbers 12:3). Tony Derrick's Bible lesson on James (March 2019 Personal Letter) reminds us that if we're looking to serve in God's Kingdom, we need to humble ourselves before Him, "and He will lift you up" (James 4:10).

On the final day of our Israel tours, we gather for Communion near the Garden Tomb. Last fall, I encouraged our group: "When you go back to your normal lives, I pray that God will shine from your face, and people will notice this radiance and want to know what's different about you."

Awhile after the tour, one of our pilgrims wrote me that a co-worker had remarked, "You look so different after your tour. I mean, your face is literally glowing..." It appears that God is still in the business of radiating His glory off our faces after we encounter Him. Jesus told us that we are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16). Some people think that He meant that symbolically, but I think that Moses' radiance is still a possibility.

May your walk with Yeshua be so divinely intimate that people notice a glow, shine, and radiance coming from your eyes, face, and smile. Shine His light and love!

"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord." — Exodus 34:29





# Trump's Peace Plan ... continued from cover sidebar

to a long-abandoned UN proposal to place Jerusalem's "Holy Basin," the area of the Old City and its immediate surroundings, under some form of international supervision.

The Trump Administration's engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict had previously led most Israelis to believe that gone were the days when the Palestinian Authority (PA) could flout its peace obligations and still have nearly all of its demands met.

But offering to give them a fully-sovereign state on most of Israel's Biblical heartland and divide Jerusalem would suggest otherwise, especially when the PA still incites its people to hatred and violence against Israel's Jewish population.

The White House immediately dismissed the Channel 13 report as "inaccurate."

Trump's special envoy for the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, tweeted the following:

were even known, because he knew the Americans wouldn't offer him all he and the Palestinians demanded. It's the same reason he's been refusing to rejoin negotiations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu since the second term of Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama.

Abbas's rejectionist approach suggests that Trump was sending up a test balloon and that Ravid and Channel 13 did not, in fact, report inaccurately. Trump knows he's got to give the Palestinians something really good to get them back to the table, so perhaps he was trying to see just how much the Israelis would go for.

The problem with that approach, if that's what happened here, is that Trump, like all his predecessors going back to Jimmy Carter, has failed to understand just how intransigent the Palestinian leadership has become.

Israel's former prime minister
Ehud Barak already tried to offer the
Palestinians all that Trump is now
allegedly offering, and more, only to
have Yasser Arafat throw it back in
his face. Abbas, who was mentored
by Arafat, isn't now going to accept
a Palestinian state on anything less
than the pre-1967 armistice lines, i.e.

a truncated East Jerusalem. He's staked his entire legacy on rejecting such compromises.

It's delusional for anyone to think that they can get the Palestinian leadership to now climb down from this tree, even a "master dealmaker" like Trump.



#### Green<mark>blatt Tweet</mark>

© 257 2:13 PM - Jan 16, 2019

So, just another case of fake news? Could be. Israel suffers from it just as much as America. Or, perhaps the Trump Administration was sending up a test balloon to see which provisions would be strongly rejected and which would find some degree of

acceptance among the parties involved. It's not an uncommon tactic for the Americans.

Either way, one aspect of the story that's being ignored—
it's been ignored for over two decades now— is the PA's rejection of any proposal that doesn't meet its demands 100%...and then some.

Months ago, PA leader Mahmoud Abbas rejected Trump's "Deal of the Century" before any details



President Donald Trump meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in the Oval Office on May 3, 2017.

# **Blessings and Curses**

On the Ground in Israel
Sarah Liberman
SarahLiberman.com
ZLP Contributor





Sarah teaching at the Sea of Galilee

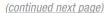
Have you heard people say that walking in the Land of Israel brings the Bible incredibly alive? It is true. As a Messianic speaker and the director of Ascend Carmel Worship Programs, I constantly search out illustrations of Biblical principles that leave a lasting impression and change our lives. Israel is full of them!



#### Capernaum

Recently, I taught on location at Capernaum, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Mark chapter eleven mentions Capernaum along with Korazim and Bethsaida—the three main Jewish cities in the northern shore area during Yeshua's time and where Yeshua conducted much of His public ministry and performed many miracles. Though they saw the Messiah Himself, the people there would not repent. In righteous anger, Yeshua cursed the cities for their lack of repentance. (Matthew 11:20–24)

Since Israel's regathering and the Jewish state's re-establishment in 1948, many Biblical cities and towns in Israel have been rebuilt and restored. But when you look around the shore of the Sea of Galilee at these three exact locations today — two thousand years after Yeshua pronounced His words over them — you see nothing but rubble and ruins. The power of God's ancient promises carries through the generations; I am astounded to consider how it affects modern Israeli lives.





Sarah teaching at Mount Carmel

#### **Jericho**

The city of Jericho is another visible example of the everlasting nature of God's promises. After taking the city, Joshua pronounced a very specific curse over it (Joshua 6:26) because its people did not repent and, instead, defied the God of Israel. Joshua declared that anyone who attempts to rebuild the city will lose his first- and last-born sons. Some 500 years later, in the time of King Ahab, Hiel of Bethel attempted to rebuild the city. He paid dearly for it, exactly according to Joshua's words. (1 Kings 16:34)

When you visit Jericho, all that's left of those ancient walls—still to this day—are piles of rocks scattered around the valley floor.

#### Abraham

However, if it is true of curses, it is also true of blessings. A blessing once pronounced is just as powerful. Incredible blessings were promised to those who obey the Lord. Abraham's obedience gave him and his descendants an inheritance of blessing which is still in effect today.

All people have a choice as to which — blessings or curses — will be at work in our lives. We can decide to be with the Lord as laid out below ... or not.

"See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, and to keep His commands, decrees, and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you."

— Deuteronomy 30:15–16

Please visit <u>SarahLiberman.com</u> to learn more about the author. Our pilgrims to Israel see firsthand the truth of these cursed cities. Come with us. —Kirsten



Haifa Tib ERRANEAN Nazareth • SEA Hadera

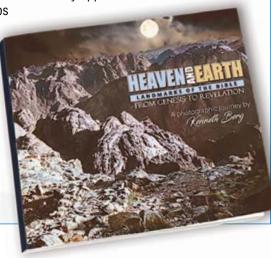
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#### *Heaven and Earth* Book

Ken Berg's favorite Holy Land photographs and stories

For four decades, the producer of *Zola Levitt Presents* has traversed the Bible Lands with his camera at the ready. Now this well organized, full-color portfolio of Ken's most inspirational shots chronicles key appointed

places that God chose as backdrops for His Holy Writ, the Bible, to unfold. From the mountaintops to the rivers and seas, deserts, and archaeological excavations, this book's narrative lets the reader commune anew with Scriptures written thousands of years ago.



# Rescuers (continued from last month)



#### BY JONATHAN BLAUSTEIN (r) NYTimes.com

Our profiles of "Rescuers," non-Jewish Europeans who risked torture and death to save Jews during the Holocaust, continue. We hope that these stories documented by Malka Drucker, a children's book author, and Gay Block, a portrait photographer, will inspire others to stand strong in difficult times. (Our monthly series began in the November 2018 Levitt Letter, p. 10.)

#### Rescuer Agnieszka Budna-Widerschal

Agnieszka Budna-Widerschal was interviewed in Israel, where she moved with her second Jewish husband, Shimon. She sheltered her first Jewish husband, Motl, in Poland during the war and also saved his brothers.

The Catholic woman described her brazen plan to sneak her brothers-inlaw through the ghetto to safety: "I pretended to be drunk while the two brothers walked on either side of me, holding me under my arms. There were Nazis all over the street. I knew we would surely run into one of them, and when we did he just took one look at me and said with disgust, 'Ach, that's just like a Pole!' And he walked his way, and we went ours!"

Though her family came through World War II intact, Motl died soon after from diabetes. Worse yet, in 1954, during a period of rising anti-Semitism, Agnieszka's 9-year-old daughter Bella was killed, pushed onto a train track by a gang of Polish teenagers.

Agnieszka and Shimon emigrated to Israel a few years later.



Agnieszka Budna-Widerschal (b. 1909)

#### **Rescuers Alex and Mela Roslan**

Alex and Mela Roslan were from Bialystok, Poland.

Alex had a textile business and noticed his Jewish clientele were disappearing, so he put on a star and entered the ghetto. "I saw so many children, hungry and starving," he recalled. "They were so skinny. The parents had been taken to 'farms,' but we knew what that meant. I came home and told Mela we had to do something. We decided to go to Warsaw."

(continued next page)





The young couple took an apartment and eventually hid three young brothers: Jacob, Sholom, and David Gutgelt, ages five to nine. The Roslans treated the boys like their own children, but never let them forget their Jewish heritage. Though they weren't ever discovered, tragedy struck when Sholom died of scarlet fever and the Roslans' son Yurek was killed by a Nazi sniper.

RESCUERS

Jacob and David survived

the war and eventually reunited with their father in Israel where they changed their name to Gilat. Alex and Mela moved to America and lost contact.

In 1980, David moved to study for his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, and was reunited with the family that saved his life. "At first I didn't recognize him," Alex said. "I hadn't seen him in so long, and he had a beard. But then he threw his arms around me. David is a mathematician, and Jacob is a nuclear scientist."

Jacob's Rescue, Drucker's best-selling children's book, was based on Mela.

These "Rescuer" profiles could be a valuable source for Sunday School teachers to read to their classes. —David



Jacob, David and Sholom Gutgeld pose with their Aunt Janke in the Warsaw Ghetto, prior to hiding with Alex and Mela Roslan

#### Ask the Chaplain

# Ask the Chaplain

If Paul taught that circumcision could not save (see Galatians), why did Paul have Timothy circumcised in Acts 16:3?

Timothy was Jewish. The context here indicates that Paul's purpose in conducting the circumcision was not for Timothy's salvation, but for his service and ministry among observant Jews who were aware that Timothy's father was Greek. Paul knew that Timothy's uncircumcised condition would hinder Timothy's ministry as a Jew among the Jews. Paul did anything that would help to win souls to Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Understanding that the circumcision was performed within the context of ministry should dispel any idea of contradiction.







Timothy and Lois, painting by Rembrandt's student, Willem Drost (1633–1659), Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia



The Transfiguration of Jesus, painting by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890)

What is the "Shekinah" of God?

The word Shekinah is a compound formed by a combined usage of Sephardic and Ashkenazic Hebrew. The noun basically conveys the idea of God's visible presence shining in a supernatural way. The best examples from Scripture: When God's glory was over the Mercy Seat in the Tabernacle and when Jesus shone the glory of God on the Mount of Transfiguration. The Shekinah is the radiant, visible, brightness of the glorious light of God.

Though the word *Shekinah* does not appear in Scripture, the concept clearly does and is present throughout the Word of God. When Jesus prayed for the divine glory that He

had with God the Father in eternity past to be restored at His ascension, the Savior was referring to the visible, radiant glory of God that He shared with the two other Persons of the divine Trinity.

> "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." — John 17:5





#### JEWS FOR JESUS

# **How Jesus Spent His Last Days**

JewsForJesus.org

**Thursday:** Jesus and His disciples prepared the Passover lamb¹ and had their *Seder* meal together.² Jesus shared heartfelt words with His disciples and offered an intercessory prayer in their behalf.³ They arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus suffered in agony, awaiting what was to come.⁴ Later that night Jesus was betrayed and arrested.⁵ He was tried first by Annas and later by Caiaphas and other religious leaders.⁶

**Friday:** Early in the morning, Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Pilate again. He was led to the cross and crucified at 9 a.m., died at 3 p.m., and was buried just at sundown that day. Jesus died at the time when the Passover lambs were being sacrificed.

**Saturday:** Jesus' body was in the tomb during the Sabbath, and the Pharisees hired Roman guards to keep watch at the tomb.<sup>9</sup>

**Sunday:** Christ was resurrected from the dead.<sup>10</sup> His was the first of many resurrections to come, in which it was a type of first fruits offering. (First fruit offerings were made on this day, the day after the Sabbath.)<sup>11</sup>

#### Scripture References

1.	Matthew 26:17-19	Mark 14:12-16	Luke 22:7-13	
<b>2.</b>	Matthew 26:20-30	Mark 14:17-26	Luke 22:14-30	
3.	Matthew 26:30-35	Mark 14:26-31	Luke 22:31-39	John 15:1-18:1
4.	Matthew 26:36-46	Mark 14:32-42	Luke 22:39-46	John 18:1
<b>5.</b>	Matthew 26:46-56	Mark 14:43-52	Luke 22:47-53	John 18:2-12
6.	Matthew 26:57-75	Mark 14:53-72	Luke 22:54-65	John 18:13-27
7.	Matthew 27:1-30	Mark 15:1-19	Luke 22:66–23:25	John 18:28-19:16
8.	Matthew 27:31-60	Mark 15:20-46	Luke 23:26-54	John 19:16-42
9.	Matthew 27:61-66	Mark 15:47	Luke 23:55-56	
10.	Matthew 28:1-15	Mark 16:1-13	Luke 24:1-35	





11 Leviticus 23:9–14: 1 Corinthians 15:23

Adapted from *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* by Harold W. Hoehner. Copyright 1977 by The Zondervan Corporation; 1973, 1974 by Dallas Theological Seminary. Used by permission of The Zondervan Corporation.

(Also, see the Classic Zola article on p. 4.)









Four engravings on copper by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) from "The Engraved Passion" series:

\*\*Ieft: Betrayal of Christ (No.3), \*\*second from left: Bearing of the Cross (No.10), \*\*second from right: The Lamentation (No.13), \*\*right: Resurrection (No.15)

# **Inheritance Stewardship**

A devoted, long-time donor recently received a sizeable inheritance and emailed ZLM for suggestions on ways to increase her giving. Below are excerpts from our email exchange. — Mark

#### Dear ZLM,

I have followed your ministry's teaching for a very long time, and I read every page of your news magazine. My beloved mother passed away last year and left me a fair amount of money.

I always tithe monthly to ZLM and recently retired. My financial advisor suggested that I give from my inheritance's interest. How might I do this? My husband and I believe in your ministry and want to support it.

Thanks again, J.M. (OH)

#### Good afternoon, J.M. —

Thank you for faithfully sustaining our outreach. Besides writing a monthly check from the interest account, there may be an easier and more tax-advantageous approach: donating before-tax income in a tax-deferred retirement account. Do you or your husband have an IRA or 401 (k)? My March Levitt Letter column touched on ways to help you make offerings that lower your taxable income. You can read the full article at levitt.com/the-secret-way-seniors-can-keep-deducting-gifts-to-charity

Consider purchasing an annuity (e.g. www.ImmediateAnnuities.com). Allocating annuity payments to a nonprofit is arguably one way to give from an inheritance's interest or income. Our ministry offers free informational pamphlets on stewardship that weigh a variety of strategies for giving wisely over the long term. —Mark

#### Hi Mark,

My husband and I have been on two of your Israel tours, and words cannot describe how wonderful these trips are. We saw your dad speak in Columbus, Ohio. He was as entertainWise as a Serpent by Mark Levitt ZLM Director



ing and knowledgeable in person as on TV. What a special man and teacher! I am sure he and the Lord are proud of how you have kept the ministry alive through very challenging times.

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond. Hopefully, we can figure out how the Lord wants us to do this.

#### Hello again, J.M.—

Your financial advisor might suggest that you purchase an annuity that names ZLM as a beneficiary. A donor-advised fund could allow you to allocate a demonstrable one-time gift to ZLM while retaining control of how it is spent. Our office manager will mail you an assortment of complimentary stewardship pamphlets.

I appreciate your complimenting my efforts to maintain this ministry's integrity. As the business manager here for thirty years now, my tenure exceeds Zola's on television (1978–2006). But he actually began his personal ministry in 1971, within weeks of being saved, so he actively ministered for 35 years.







YOUR UNCLE LEFT JUST ENOUGH TO PAY MY FEE."

**Note:** Our office subsequently mailed J.M. the following pamphlets, and I suggested she read <u>Scott Burns's "couch potato investing" article</u>.

- 5 Ways to Make the Most of Your Gifts
- The Charitable IRA
- Giving Through Life Insurance
- Q&A About Life Insurance
- · Planning for the Future
- Your Guide to Effective Giving
- Is Your Will Obsolete?

# ZLM Bulletin Board



#### Israeli Doctor Saved Abbas's Life

Last May, when doctors for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas feared he would die from pneumonia at the Istishari Arab Hospital in Ramallah, Israel surreptitiously sent a specialist to provide treatment. The 83-year-old's health had declined for a year while the PA misled the

public and the media about his perilous condition. Then, thanks to a discreet disregard for BDS that he otherwise supports, Abbas received the most advanced (read: Jewish) medical care available — and went home a week later.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

> GIVING THROUGH YOUR WILL

# PA pays 6X more to Terrorists than to Needy

The Palestinian Authority's 2017 budget allocated 550 million shekels to terrorist salaries, ranging from 1,400 – 12,000 shekels (\$390 – \$3,300) per month for each *individual*. In contrast, the PA paid only 90 million shekels to 118,000 needy families, ranging between 250 – 600 shekels (\$69 – \$166) per month per family. The 90 million shekels for the needy amounted to less than one-sixth(!) of the 550 million shekels that subsidized murderous terrorists.



#### How to Watch ZLP

Viewing our television program Zola Levitt Presents (ZLP) is easier than ever. Ways to watch your favorite episodes include:

- Scheduled Broadcasts: local TV, cable, satellite (request our free airing schedule on p.19 or see it at <a href="www.levitt.com/schedule">www.levitt.com/schedule</a>).
   Scheduled broadcasts include Daystar, Freeform (formerly ABC Family), Dish, DirecTV, and dozens of independent stations.
- Online: levitt.tv and YouTube.com/ZolaLevittPresents
- TV boxes: see www.levitt.com/roku
- Video podcasts (via iTunes for iPhones, iPads, etc.): see www.levitt.com/podcasts
- DVDs: available on page 18 and at store.levitt.com.

Public libraries and friends welcome you to watch *ZLP* as well.

#### FREE ITEM

# Pamphlet of the Month

The 14-page booklet **Giving Through Your Will** outlines a number of ways to include a charitable gift in your will, living trust, or other estate plan. It also includes forms that may help you prepare to meet with your advisors. One section touches on "Ways to Make Gifts," such as giving a specific amount, property, percentage, and residual. To receive this free booklet, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

#### "Come Home!"





#### Our Good Shepherd's Care

by John Parsons Hebrew for Christians Hebrew4Christians.com



# יהוה רעי לא אחסר

"The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want." - Psalm 23:1 (KJV)



Where it is written, "the LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1), we note that "I shall not want" (לא אחסר) does not mean "I shall not desire," but rather "I shall not lack." When the Lord is your Shepherd, you can trust that you have all that you need. Note that David uses the future tense here (i.e.,אחסר,) because God is ahead of your next moment, so to speak: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him" (Matt. 6:8). God's Name means Presence, Life, Love, and "I-AM-with-you-always."

Yeshua is our Good Shepherd (הרעה הטוב) who makes us lie down in green pastures, a place of abundant life, and then leads us to still waters, literally "waters of rest" (מֵי מַנְחוֹת), that will restore your soul (the Hebrew verb translated "restore" is an intensive passive of the verb shuv, "to turn," indicating that the Shepherd causes your soul to return to the Divine Presence for healing and life). Yeshua said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28). Yeshua is the one who makes the paths of righteousness for us; He leads us on the way to the Father (John 14:6).

"So don't be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow has its own troubles. Live one day at a time" (Matt. 6:34). It makes no sense to worry about the future if the LORD is the Good Shepherd who tenderly watches over your way (Psalm 23:1). Every day we are given "daily bread," but we must remember that manna could not be stored without becoming rotten (Exod. 16:20). God's provision is "sufficient unto the day."

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). Therefore "be strong and of good courage" — chazak ve'ematz. The LORD God promises "never to leave you nor forsake you," and to be with you wherever you go (Josh. 1:5,9; Heb. 13:5, Psalm 139; Matt. 28:20). In the Greek New Testament, the wording of Hebrews 13:5 (i.e., "I will

never leave you nor forsake you") is highly *emphatic*: "Not ever will I give up on you (où  $\mu \dot{\eta}$   $\sigma \epsilon \dot{\alpha} \nu \dot{\omega}$ ); no, not ever will I leave you behind (ούδ ού μή σε έγκαταλίπω)." Μαν you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd calling you, and may He forever keep you under His watchful care. Amen.



Sourtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

# **ZLM Store**

# FEATURED

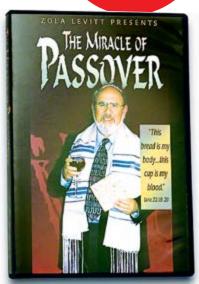
# The Miracle of Passover DVD, CD, study booklet (One of our most popular and

best-selling titles!)

Passover, the crown jewel of the Biblical feasts, begins this year at sundown on Friday, April 19.

In the booklet, CD, and DVD, Zola explains the origin and significance of Passover and demonstrates the feast in which Christ is revealed through its very elements. This is one of the most basic and important Bible studies, shedding clear light on the mysteries of the Lord's Supper and unearthing the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Zola demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-five centuries old, typifies Christ-even in Jewish homes that don't realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come.



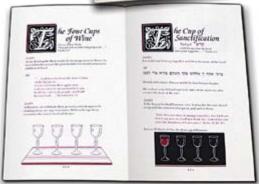
## The Messianic Passover Haggadah - a Messianic book of celebration

You don't have to be Jewish to relive the Feast of Redemption—just redeemed! This 2-color, 36-page book guides you step by step through the traditional Passover Seder, the dinner Jews celebrate annually to remember the Israelites' rescue from Egyptian bondage.

This unique Haggadah focuses on Yeshua's teaching in the Upper Room, which institutes the Lord's Supper. The theme of redemption recurs throughout the evening. You'll find words and sheet music for the songs traditionally sung on Passover. Singing them will enrich your experience.

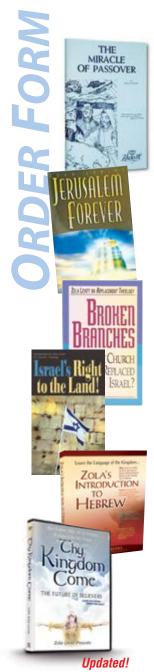
Scripture quotations come from the popular Complete Jewish Bible.







#### **ZLM product ORDER FORM**



Order online at https://store.levitt.com
By phone call 24/7: 800-966-3377, or ZLM Dallas office: 214-696-8844, or print/tear out this 2-pg. form, fill out box at right, mail to ZLM, Box 12268 Dallas TX 75225

#### **Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library**

Qty. Title	Price	Total
A Christian Love Story	\$3	
Glory! The Future of the Believers (p.24)	\$3	
How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	
In My Father's House	\$3	
Israel, My Promised	\$3	
The Miracle of Passover (p.17) (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	
Mix or Match:50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	

#### **Books**

Qty. Title	Price	Total
An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	. \$3	
The Beginning of The End	. \$8	
The Bible Jesus Read	. \$10	
Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel	?	
(Zola on Replacement Theology) (pictured)	. \$6	
Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy	. \$10	
Genesis One	. \$5	
Heaven and Earth (p.9)		
The Iranian Menace (p.31)	. \$8	
Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	. \$2	
Once Through the New Testament	. \$9	
Our Hands are Stained with Blood	. \$16	
The Messianic Passover Haggadah (p. 17)	. \$6	
Raptured	. \$10	
Signs of the End: Millennium	. \$7	
The Warrior King	. \$12	
What About Us?	. \$8	
Whose Land Is It?	. \$6	
Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured)	. \$39	





#### **Featured DVDs**

Qtv.	Title	Price	Total
	Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Bad Moon Rising (8 programs, 2-DVDs)		
	Beauty for Ashes (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	The Bible: The Whole Story (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	
	Called Together(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Eretz Israel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Ezekiel & MidEast 'Piece' (8 programs, 2-DVDs)		
	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	The Miracle of Passover (p. 17) (3 programs, 1-DVD)		
	<b>NEW!</b> Return to Eden (p. 20)(10 progs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Thy Kingdom Come (pictured) (12 programs, 3-DVDs)		
	Zion Forever(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	

#### **ORDER FORM continued**

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!		
Studies, Specialty, Etc.		
Qty. Item	Price To	
2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2	
AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	_	
AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.		
AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz		
Flag of Israel (3' x 5')		
Genealogy Chart		
Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	
Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)		
Half-shekel Key Chain		
Jewish Heritage Calendar (5779 / 2019) (pictured)		
Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12) (p.36)	\$8	
Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Necklace		
"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker		
Pictorial Map of Jerusalem		
Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land		
FREE Airing Schedule		
Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no cha	rge
Teaching CDs The Miracle of Passover (p. 17)	\$7	_

# JEWISH LERITAGE DOOR TO SHARE THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT



#### PLEASE SEND THIS ENTIRE 2-PAGE ORDER FORM—THANKS.

\_\_\_\_ The Works ...................(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs) \$49 \_\_\_\_ The Works II .................(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs) \$49 \_\_\_\_

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

Shipping & Handling Ch up to \$15.99, add \$5 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9 \$61 to \$97.99, add \$10 \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPI	For shipments outside the United States, please DOUBLE shipping. Please send U.S. funds.  (Please allow about 2–3 weeks	SubtotalShipping (See left chart) UPS shipping (\$4 extra) Rush! (\$5 extra) 8.25% Tax (Texas only)
Any amount that exceeds the listed p	rice is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.	Donation?
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On what station/network do you	primarily watch our programs?	
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# ZLM Store

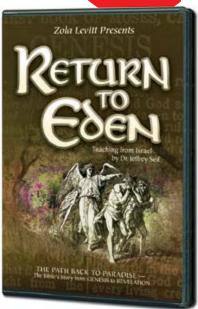


#### Return To Eden DVD Set

Ten 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

**Return to Eden** tells the Bible's story from Genesis to Revelation. The Lord bridged the relationship gap (caused by mankind's sin in the Garden of Eden) by creating a special relationship with a people and a land that eventually led to the Messiah. David and Kirsten Hart present this series that features teaching from Dr. Jeffrey Seif, interviews, insights from worship leader Sarah Liberman (see p. 8), and music composed by Zola Levitt.

**Out of Eden** Adam and Eve's sin led not only to man's expulsion from the Garden of Eden but, more importantly, to the loss of personal fellowship with the Lord. To bridge this relationship gap, God instituted the sacrificial system.



**Back to Eden** The journey to restoring a relationship with God has no shortcuts. God tested Abram's faith. The Tabernacle allowed people access to the Holy God by providing the setting for sacrifice necessary to atone for sin.

**Recreating Paradise** For 369 years, the Israelites could approach the Lord via the Tabernacle in Shiloh. The Menorah symbolizes not only the Jewish people but also the Tree of Life.

**Eden and Old Testament History** The Lord wants to restore fellowship with His creation and is rebuilding us and making us a testimony to His faithfulness.

**Eden and New Testament Prophecy** Sin leads to loss, and rebuilding can take generations. In the end, the Lord will renew His relationship with His people and dwell with them forever.

**Eden and Israel** Solomon's Temple was a reconstitution of the Garden of Eden. Today, the Lord is bringing the Jewish people back to their ancestral homeland.

**Jesus and the Return to Eden** When Messiah returns, New Jerusalem itself will be the Temple of God.

**Paradise Restored** Adam and Eve started in the Garden of Eden paradise. Believers will spend eternity with the Divine in a similar paradise. The choice one makes now to accept Jesus or not dictates where one will spend eternity.

**Bonus Interviews – Part 1** Extended interviews with: Doron Keidar, Cry for Zion; Dr. Seth Postell, academic dean of Israel College of the Bible in Netanya; and Guy Erlich, owner/director of Balm of Gilead Farm.

**Bonus Interviews – Part 2** Extended interviews with: David Parsons, vice-president of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem; singer Pat Boone; and Yehuda Glick, member of Israel's Knesset.

This Bible series makes a wonderful resource for homeschoolers! — Kirsten



# **IDF's Mammoth Prep for Passover**

13

BY YAAKOV LAPPIN (r) JNS.org

Despite its round-the-clock security missions, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) brings the holiday spirit to its personnel. As Passover nears, members of the Binyamin Brigade serving in combat and combat-support roles explain how they celebrate while in military service.

Sgt. Shir Zandberg, an Operations Sergeant, said, "I am protecting my own sector," referring to the fact that the Binyamin Brigade defends her home community. This provides her with intimate knowledge of the area and the awareness of ongoing security alerts and incidents.

Zandberg acts as a bridge between those reporting incidents on the ground and the military forces that respond to them. Her 12-hour shifts will be briefly interrupted this Pass-

Sgt. Shir Zandberg

over when she celebrates the Seder meal with her family.

The securitythreat level changes from one holiday to the next, according to Zandberg. "Before every holiday, we prepare for

what will happen, in line with the latest security evaluations," she said.

Last year, she attended the Passover Seder at the base. "The brigade rabbi really brought the spirit of the holiday to the base." Dozens of soldiers and officers who remained on base sat at tables as the rabbi read from the Haggadah. That experience feels like an expanded family celebration, said Maj. Assaf Diler, Deputy Commander of the Ram Battalion, whose wife and children will celebrate the Seder on base.

The Ram Battalion conducts daily security missions in the territories and is also part of the Homefront Command's Search and Rescue Brigade, meaning that its soldiers extract the injured from rubble and deal with unconventional-weapons attacks.

"Our soldiers can be on a routine activity in Judea and Samaria one minute, and in the next minute, change their green vest and helmet for yellow ones to go on rescue missions anywhere in Israel," he explained.

At their Seder, soldiers have the added satis-faction of knowing that



Maj. Assaf Diler

they enabled many civilians to hold their own holiday meals a few hours earlier. Like many combat units, the battalion holds its Passover Seder later than the civilians they defend.

"Protecting entire families who sit down for the meal," he added, "gives the soldiers real significance."

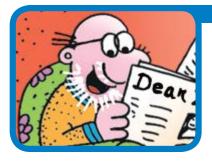


#### Making the Bases Kosher for Passover

The Brigade's Rabbi Yehuda Mantel spoke about the "very complex logistical" operation to make the entire military kosher for Passover. "Within a few hours, we do this. Everyone—from the chief of staff down, from north and south—participates."

The operation includes bringing new dishes to bases across the country. Reserve soldiers volunteer to assist in this mammoth task. "The IDF can't take time off to do this. It must defend Israel as normal," affirmed the rabbi. Even units stationed at lookout towers in far-flung locations will take part, he said. "We have to ensure it is kosher for Passover."

Passover is the IDF's holiday. "We have won the privilege of being a Jewish military in a Jewish state that we can safeguard. Nothing suits the holiday more than that," said the rabbi.



# Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the **web store** and **video archives**.

#### **Hebrew Lessons Bless Me**

Dear ZLM,

John Parsons's teachings have been a blessing and encouragement. Seems the Lord has him write exactly what I need many times. The Lord is with you all. Keep up the good work of faithfulness to the Lord. —L.M. (NM)

Dear L.M. —

Please keep John in your prayers. Aside from continuing health concerns and his young family's needs, his home's heater went out in the midst of the



John Parsons

arctic blast that Minnesota endured in January. ZLM continues to relay 100% of contributions that are designated for John's **Hebrew4Christians.com** ministry.

For more than a decade, John has furnished the *Levitt Letter*'s monthly Hebrew lessons as an unpaid volunteer. Do yourself (and him) a favor by ordering *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*, this ministry's Hebrew primer offered on page 18 and online at **store.levitt.com/hp**. — Mark

#### **Wretches and Wrenches**

Dear ZLM,

I am sad and sick in my heart because of a recent cartoon in the *Levitt Letter*. It is most offensive to me, a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in extremely bad taste. I can't speak for Yahweh, however I doubt very much if He is even smiling about this cartoon. To joke or make fun of something as precious as God's amazing grace is shameful! It has no place in a Judeo-Christian magazine. — K.O. (WA)



Dear K.O. -

Your letter objecting to the comic from our <u>January 2019 Levitt Letter (p. 22)</u> reminds me of a tale about a shade-tree mechanic working on his old jalopy among overgrown grass. This weekend grease monkey was a devout but clumsy hayseed who loved his hymns.

Unfortunately, one afternoon he fumbled his favorite wrench and couldn't find it among his lush lawn. Consequently, he brought his grass-eating dog, Mace, to assist with his search. Mace dutifully chomped away, and before long, the mechanic rejoiced: "A-grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, who found my wrench fer me!"

It was not our intention to offend you, but please imagine many thousands of our subscribers chuckling at the comic you mentioned as they recalled the *original* lyrics from "Amazing Grace." Incidentally, "A cheerful heart is good medicine" (Prov. 17:22). — Mark

(continued next page)



#### Fleecing God's Sheep

Dear Mark,

I was appalled at your degrading statements about Zion Oil and its founder (<u>January 2019 Personal Letter</u>). Whether any of your claims are true or not, John Brown is (like each of us) created in God's image. Your superior attitude, unloving, unkind, and mocking words of condemnation do not express the love of Christ.

When you splatter muddy words on a person and his character, you sling that mud on the image of God and on Christ who lives in him. It is one thing to disagree with a person but quite another to slander. You have used your newsletter as a platform of degradation and that is why I ask you to remove me from all your mailing lists. Thank you, S.K.B. (NJ)

#### Dear S.K.B. -

Over the last 17 years, Brown's Zion Oil company has squandered \$171 million in investments from those who are gullible enough to mistake Deut. 33:24 as referring to petroleum rather than olive oil. That vast sum would have let ZLM <u>double</u> our ministerial efforts over the last forty (40!) years.

Your excoriation of my lack of love for Zion Oil takes me back to Yeshua's not-so-gentle-meek-and-mild rebuke of moneychangers at the Temple. Messiah despised seeing worshipers fleeced on the Lord's premises. And I believe it's an abomination to distort Scripture to exploit the aspirations of naïve investors. Just as Yeshua denounced their actions and not the moneychangers, so we denounce Brown's continued practices and not him.

Unless the <u>January Personal Letter</u> inspired you to throw good money after bad into Zion Oil's coffers, please send a certified letter confirming whether Brown has decided that the remuneration is just too good to stop Zion's charade in the face of the multiple investor lawsuits mentioned by the credible source that I quoted: *The Dallas Morning News*. Moreover, if *The News* has libeled Brown, then maybe he could collect a handsome legal settlement from them ... to perhaps pour into more dry holes. —Mark

**P.S.** In the twenty months since you made a purchase and donation, ZLM has sent you 720 pages of *Levitt Letter* news and 160 pages of *Personal Letter* Bible studies. Out of 880 pages of content, your objecting to a single page gives our ministry a batting average of nearly 99.9% — WAY better than any wildcatters, *nu* (Yiddish for "isn't that so")?!?

(continued next page)



... or a left-behind theologian.



#### **Teaching an Unbelieving World**

Dear ZLM,

I had to stop my donations awhile back due to some unexpected expenses, which I have now worked through. Zola's teachings mean very much to me, and your news magazine is a monthly highlight. While I miss Myles and Katharine, I appreciate the new hosts.

It would distress me if Zola Levitt's teaching were not available to an unbelieving world. Please keep up the good fight. As my finances improve, I will seek to increase my monthly support of your ministry. Shalom from a grafted-in gentile who is learning Hebrew through John Parsons's monthly lesson in your *Levitt Letter*. — A.K. (UT)

#### Dear A.K. -

Be reassured that Zola's teaching will remain available 24/7—his TV programs (on <u>levitt.tv</u> and our social media), and his Notes, letters, and essays at <u>levitt.com/essays</u>. His study booklets are affordable, and many are available in digital format. From one grafted-in gentile to another, thank you. May we continue to share Yeshua's life-changing message. —David

**P.S.** — For those interested in learning Hebrew, we offer John's primer *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* on p. 18.

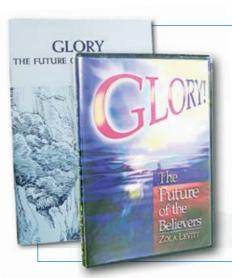
#### **Zola's Teaching Continues**

Dear ZLM.

Please unsubscribe us from the *Levitt Letter*. We don't want the cost of postage to detract from our gifts. We partner regularly with other ministries. We were originally attracted to the show because you were airing Zola teaching. It seems the show has gone in a different direction now. —I. and G. (Canada)

#### Dear I. and G. —

If you haven't been reading or sharing our news magazines, then we should stop mailing them to you. Then again, if you find you're missing Zola's fine teaching in his monthly "Classic Zola" article, please resume your subscription and/or read it online at <a href="Levitt.com">Levitt.com</a>. You can also <a href="Sign up">Sign up</a> to receive free notifications whenever we post new <a href="Levitt Letters">Levitt Letters</a> and <a href="Personal Letters">Personal Letters</a>. To access the vast archive of Zola's teaching from television, please visit levitt.tv. —Editor <a href="Continued next page">(continued next page)</a>



#### Glory! The Future of the Believers study booklet and teaching CD By Zola Levitt

Prophecy studies often deal with the Tribulation, the antiChrist, Armageddon, and other cataclysms to befall an unbelieving world. This delightful study deals with the happy events prophesied for Believers:

- the Rapture
- the Marriage Supper
- · the Kingdom, etc.

The future for those who believe.



Index



#### **Zola's Songs by Lamb** music CD

The popular Messianic singing group Lamb originally recorded Zola's first album of spiritual songs. This upbeat presentation of the music of the Holy Land includes a word sheet with Hebrew translations. (Lamb performs in our Close Encounters with Yeshua series.)

#### **Rebranding Zola?**

Hi ZLM,

I have loved Zola Levitt's teachings for years, and no one can take his place. So, why not *rebrand him*?

Look at Dr. Adrian Rogers or Dr. James Kennedy, both of whom have been <u>rebranded</u>. These wonderful ministers have been <u>deceased for a number of years</u>. Do the same with Zola Levitt's lectures.

Why throw away a good thing? You are making a huge mistake in how you're presenting your programs. Just my opinion. Good Luck, B.W. (PA)

Dear B.W. -

Zola's weariness at explaining how the New Testament could squeeze three days between Yeshua's crucifixion and resurrection (see <u>p. 4</u>) inspired him to create our website's Q&A page, accessible beneath <u>levitt.com</u>'s "Information" tab.

Now I am contemplating adding a Q&A to dispense with the mistaken perception that this ministry has "thrown away" Zola's (or anyone else's) Bible teaching. If you'll click on "Zola TV" at levitt.com, you can experience and review all of Zola's (and our other teachers') best ZLM teaching to your heart's content. Try it, you'll like it! — Mark



#### He'll Make A Way

Dear Kirsten,

While you may have taken writer's liberty in your <u>February 2019 Levitt Letter</u> <u>article (p. 6)</u>, it comes across as Abraham forgetting God's promise of becoming a great nation through his seed (Gen. 17). Of course, if Isaac had been sacrificed, there would be no great nation.

Confusion? Anger and grumbling? None of these crossed Abraham's mind going up the mountain. Abraham told his young men, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come back to you." In other words, both would return!

If that statement doesn't tell of no confusion or anger, then Abraham's answer to Isaac when asked, "...but where is the lamb?" surely does: "My son, God will provide for Himself a lamb." *Jehovah Jireh* ("God will provide"), B.M.

Shalom B.M. -

I wholeheartedly revere Abraham's faithfulness and goodness. That is why God chose him in the first place!

Confusion and anger were what I personally would have felt in the seemingly grave situation that Abraham faced. I apologize that the limited space didn't let me adequately convey that ALL those thoughts of doubt would have been mine. I'm thankful that God asked Abraham and not me to sacrifice an only son, because I'm not sure I would have been as willing. — Kirsten

# A Flower That Hears Approaching Bees

SCIENCE: TimesOflsrael.com

Israeli scientists at Tel Aviv University (TAU) say they have found a flower that hears the approach of pollinating bees and hawk-moths and produces extra and sweeter nectar in response.

Using the evening primrose, or *Oenothera drummondii*, the scientists showed that the sound of a flying bee, as well as "synthetic sound-signals at similar frequencies," induced the flowers to excrete sweeter nectar within three minutes.

The plants' "ear" is simple: The flower petals themselves, which vibrate when sound waves at the frequency produced



Evening primrose flower on a beach

by pollinators' wings pass by, serve as "the plant's auditory sensory organ."

The flowers did not respond to higher frequency sound.

"Our results document for the first time that plants can rapidly respond to pollinator sounds in an ecologically relevant way," the scientists explain. The ability



Bees on honeycomb

to hear the approaching pollinating insect can offer a huge advantage to a plant, they say.

"The great majority (87.5%) of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators for reproduction," the scientists note. "In these plants, attracting pollinators can increase plant fitness and is achieved using signals such as color, odor, and shape, and by food rewards of nectar and pollen."

However, offering such an "increased reward" — for example, producing extra or sweeter nectar — can be physiologically costly. It can rot: "[A]

standing crop of nectar is subject to degradation by microbes," the scientists note. Oh, and it might also be "robbed" by ants.

If a plant can detect an approaching pollinator, however, it could release the better nectar only when an appropriate pollinator arrives, "in a way that would increase the probability of pollination."

To test this possible sense of hearing in the flowers, the scientists say they measured "petal vibration and nectar sugar concentration in response to sounds. We analyzed the effect of different sound frequencies, including both pollinator recordings and synthetic sounds at similar and different frequencies." The study's results suggest plants may have evolved, and may still be evolving, to become better at hearing, primarily through the shapes of flowers. It also suggests that human-made sounds could be negatively affecting plants' ability to attract the appropriate pollinators by confusing their sound-detection and nectar-production systems.



# New Israeli Research May Lead to Life-Saving Therapies for Metabolic Disorders

MEDICINE: BY HANA LEVI JULIAN (r) JewishPress.com

New research at Tel Aviv University (TAU) suggests that the role of yeast, the world's most basic eukaryotic unicellular organism, may pave the way for the development of novel, more effective therapies. The research was published in *Nature Communications*.

There are hundreds of metabolic disorders — including phenylketonuria, tyrosinemia, maple syrup urine disease, and homocystinuria. These disorders lead to congenital diseases that produce a critical enzyme deficiency that interferes with the body's metabolism. The pathologies and symptoms vary among the diseases, but all of them are usually fatal and have no known cure. Most metabolic disorders affect infants.

The majority of these diseases currently lack effective treatments and patients must maintain a strict diet, avoiding certain food items that contain substances their bodies cannot break down. Often the proposed solutions, such as bone marrow transplants, are extremely expensive and only partially effective.

Now researchers are looking at the role of yeast.

"The same yeast that serves as a basis for the bread we eat and the beer we drink now also serves as an instrumental model of metabolic disorders," says Dr. Dana Laor of TAU's George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, the lead author of the study conducted in Prof. Ehud Gazit's TAU laboratory.

"Three Nobel Prizes have been awarded in the last decade for research related to yeast. Yeast grows quickly; it's affordable; and it's easily manipulated as a simple unicellular organism," Dr. Laor explains.

The research is based on previous studies conducted by Prof. Gazit and his colleagues that revealed the role of toxic metabolite accumulation in the pathology of metabolic disorders. "We have known for a while now that amyloids are linked to severe diseases of the central nervous system, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's," Prof. Gazit says. "They characterize genetic metabolic disorders as well. While each condition is separately considered as 'rare,' these disorders constitute a major proportion of pediatric genetic diseases."

"Our research may help identify the molecular mechanisms involved in these diseases and thereby help to develop suitable drugs," says Dr. Laor. "Thousands of children's lives may be saved and their quality of life significantly improved."



No worries. 2 Cor. 5:1–5 assures Believers that new bodies will replace our earthly ones.



# Is Jerusalem Sacred to Islam?



BY MOHAMAD TAWHIDI (r) JPost.com



Jerusalem as seen from the Mount of Olives

Jerusalem is home to around 400,000 Muslims, but is it a sacred city according to Islam? To answer this vitally important question, we need to inquire how cities become sacred according to Islam.

#### Sacred cities in Islam

Throughout human history, every religion has been associated with an area that has been sanctified, respected and revered. Tens of sacred cities—such as Mecca, Medina, Qum, Karbala, and Najaf—are exalted due to clear verses of the Koran or sayings of Prophet Mohammad acknowledging their glory.

There is a big difference between a city being sacred in the eyes of God and it being a sacred Islamic city. For example, all prophetic tombs, birthplaces, and areas where miracles took place are considered sacred in Islam, but they are not specifically Islamic locations. A sacred Islamic location is a location wherein a significant Islamic event has taken place by either Allah or Mohammad.

#### Jerusalem in Islamic scripture

The Holy Koran states very clearly that the Holy Land, Jerusalem, belongs to the Jewish nation of Moses, the Israelites:

"And [mention, O Mohammad], when Moses said to his people, "O my people, remember the favor of Allah [God] upon you when He appointed among you prophets and made you possessors and gave you that which He had not given anyone among the world." —Koran: 5:20 onwards

The above verse also makes it clear that God "had not given (this land to) anyone among the world" other than the Jewish nation. From this verse, and others of similar context, we understand that Jerusalem is a sacred city according to God, but it is not a sacred Islamic city, due to the fact that its sacredness was established before the existence of Islam.

After the emergence of Islam in the year 621, it is believed that Mohammad took a miraculous and spiritual night journey to Al-Aqsa Mosque ("the Farthest Mosque"). This event is reported in the Koran in the following verse:

(continued next page)







"Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from the Sacred Mosque (Mecca) to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs..." —Koran 17:1



Two vital matters need to be addressed regarding the above verse:

- 1 Prophet Mohammad traveling to a location does not make that location "Islamic."
- 2. There is little evidence that "Al-Aqsa Mosque" is actually in Jerusalem, and there are a large number of Muslims who believe that "the Farthest Mosque" is a reference to a mosque in the heavens, not on Earth, due to the fact that the current Al-Aqsa Mosque did not exist during the lifetime of Mohammad, making it impossible for him to have visited it.

Messengers of both Judaism and Christianity had arrived in Jerusalem to preach their Scriptures centuries before Mohammad. Therefore, it cannot be historically accurate to say that Mohammad brought Islam to Jerusalem before them.

Up until the migration of Mohammad to Medina in 622 and the official establishment of Islam therein, Islam was a minority religion when compared to the two well-established religions of Judaism and Christianity. Besides, the citizens of Jerusalem who converted to Islam merely changed their own faith, not the entire history of Jerusalem.

Thus, neither Islamic scripture nor history claims that Jerusalem is a sacred Islamic city.

Islam as a religion officially came to Palestine in the year 636, four years after Mohammad's death. When Omar, the second caliph of Islam, realized that Islam was still a minority religion in the "The Holy Koran states very clearly that the Holy Land, Jerusalem, belongs to the Jewish nation of Moses, the Israelites."

Islam was still a minority religion in the region, he adopted the *jizya* system, forcing Christians and Jews to pay tax.

When Caliph Omar came to Jerusalem to appoint his governors, he built "the Aqsa Mosque," which many Muslims mistakenly think was built by Mohammad.

The notorious caliph of the Fatimid Caliphate, Al-Hakim, caused much damage to the entire region, even killing John VII, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, a provocative act that laid the groundwork for the First Crusade. Due to the defeat of the Crusaders, Muslims became the majority by the sword, not by the pen.

The citizens of Palestine may convert to Islam, but in no way can Palestine be considered Muslim land. In fact, Jews were in this land long before even Christianity arose. Their ancient cultural links remain unbroken, as in the saying each Passover, "Next year in Jerusalem."

I do not understand the Muslim struggle for Jerusalem. Islamic laws strictly prohibit relieving oneself while facing Mecca; in fact, toilets in all Islamic countries and most Muslim homes do not face Mecca. Yet Bukhari reports that Mohammad chose to deliberately relieve himself while facing Jerusalem.

Does it make sense that Palestinians are dying for Jerusalem when their own beloved Prophet used to prefer defecating toward it? A Muslim may reject Israel being a state, but he cannot deny the fact that the entire region, including Palestine, is, in fact, Jewish land. (See article on p. 34.)

The writer, an Iranian-born Australian Shia Muslim Imam, is president of the Islamic Association of South Australia.





The Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem

#### **Anti-Semitic Dutch Publisher**

By Cnaan Liphshiz / JTA.org

A Dutch publisher that created school textbooks accusing Israelis of ethnic cleansing has released a new text omitting Jerusalem's significance to Jews.

The omission occurred in a textbook about social issues, *Plein M* by Nordhoff Publishers for preparatory middle-level applied education level schools, including public schools. It states that Jerusalem is holy to Muslims and Christians, but does not mention Jews. (See p. 28 article "Is Jerusalem Sacred to Islam?")

It also states that Jews and Christians were "mostly treated well" by Arabs throughout history. It does not mention capital taxes and many pogroms perpetrated against Jews in Arab countries before and during the flight of at least 800,000 Jews from those countries in the 20th century. Today, there are fewer than 7,000 Jews living in Arab countries.

Likoed Nederland, a pro-Israel group, called the book a form of "historical falsification," adding it "reads like Palestinian propaganda."

In 2015, Nordhoff defended a history book that states that David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, declared statehood after "Jewish militias carried out murders in Arab villages, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled and settled in refugee camps

across the border." That book does not mention Arab atrocities during the same conflict.

# Immigrant Imam Teaches Hatred of Jews

Middle East Media Research Institute MEMRI.org

In January, the Al-Zahraa Islamic Center in Detroit uploaded to its YouTube channel an anti-Semitic lecture by its imam Bassem Al-Sheraa. Al-Sheraa said that the Jews have distorted sacred texts and sanctioned the killing of prophets such as Jesus





MEMRI screen capture of Al-Sheraa

and John the Baptist. He accused the Jews of employing tricks and fraud in matters of religion and morality, and of amassing gold and spreading usury.

Explaining that usury is a "peculiar Jewish philosophy," Imam Al-Sheraa said that the Jews have used it as a means of attaining power, even though it contradicts their religious teachings, and that even the modern

(continued next page)



banking system is based on the Jews' "instructions and vision." He further said that Jewish women have historically established and managed "dens of female iniquity" and headed the brothels of Europe, and that the Jews allow their faith to be passed down maternally so that their women could increase the Jewish population through prostitution.

Al-Sheraa graduated from the Najaf Hawza in Iraq. He emigrated to the U.S. and founded the Scholarly Najaf Hawza in Northern America—Michigan.

# Promise Kept — U.S. Embassy

**Associated Press** 

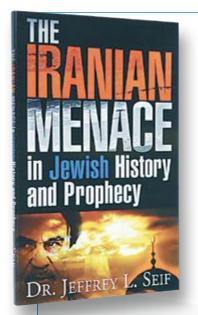
As promised last October, the U. S. officially shuttered its Jerusalem consulate in March, downgrading its diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy. For decades, the consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians. The symbolic shift hands authority over U.S. diplomatic

#### THE ARGYLE SWEATER BY SCOTT HILBURN



channels with Judea, Samaria, and Gaza to ambassador David Friedman, a longtime supporter of the settlement movement and critic of Palestinian leaders (who called the move "the final nail in the coffin" for the U.S. role in peacemaking). Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, announced that the U.S. would unveil Trump's peace plan after Israel's elections in April.





# **The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy** book

by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Iran is central in End Times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses Scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After glimpsing Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff's analysis is based on sound Scriptural understanding and two decades of academic contemplation.

# **Driving Rain Uncovers Horse Figurines**



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN (r) TimesOflsrael.com



Closeup of both horse figurines: *Left:* 2,200-year-old Hellenistic-era horse figurine discovered near Tel Akko *Right:* 2,800-year-old Iron Age horse figurine which was discovered after a rain near Beit She'an

A) To Index

Even while hiking with her daughters, an Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) employee can't leave work behind. When searching for mushrooms following a January rain, archaeologist Ayelet Goldberg-Keidar's two girls, Hadas and Maya, found instead a small 2,800-year-old horse-shaped clay figurine.

"I immediately recognized it as a figurine from the Iron Age — the period of the Kingdom of Israel," said Keidar-Goldberg.

Coincidentally, a second horse statue—this one "only" 2,200 years old—was also recently discovered in a second location, near the seaside site of Tel Akko, by another hiker, Michael Markin. According to the IAA, the Tel Akko horse, depicted with a harness and mane, dates to the Hellenistic Period (3<sup>rd</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> centuries B.C.).

It is not unusual for such finds to make their way to the surface following heavy rains, said Nir Distelfeld, an IAA Theft Prevention Unit inspector. Likewise, nature can get a helping hand from the animal kingdom, when burrowing creatures expose ancient artifacts.

In December 2017, during another family hike, Goldberg-Keidar and daughter Hadas stumbled upon an intact 2,200-year-old clay lamp lying at the mouth of a cave used by a porcupine as a winter den. "Porcupines prefer archaeological sites because the earth is less packed due to man's activities in the past," said Distelfeld.

Through real-time, accurate reporting of finds and their locations, archaeologists can "extract the archaeological information from the site," said Distelfeld. In the cases of these horse



Tel Akko Hellenistic-era horsehead

(continued next page)

heads, preliminary inspection by University of Haifa archaeologist and art historian Dr. Adi Erlich has already yielded a wealth of information. Erlich explained that alongside greater utilization of horses, such figurines were common in Israel during the Iron Age (first millennium B.C.). Figurines or vessels depicting horses were carved both with and without riders, she said.

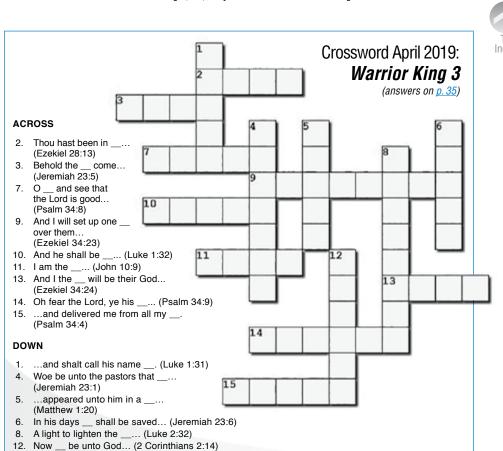


A rider's left hand is apparent on the neck of the small horse statuette discovered by the Goldberg-Keidars. According to Erlich, the style and craftsmanship of the figurine is characteristic of the 9th-7th centuries B.C. On the clay horse head, the artist added ears, a harness, and mane, as well as red stripes which can still be faintly discerned.





Left: Iron Age horse figurine Right: On left is a 2,800-year-old Iron Age horse figurine which was discovered after a rain near Beit She'an. On the right, a 2,200-year-old Hellenistic-era horse figurine discovered near Tel Akko



# Why Jews Praying on the Temple Mount is a Problem for Islam



BY PHIL SCHNEIDER / IsraelUnwired.com

After the Israel Defense Forces liberated the Temple Mount from the occupying Jordanians in the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel's Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan, handed the keys back to the Muslim Waqf. He basically renounced any form of Jewish control over the site. This was a super respectful move ... but a major mistake.

Israel should have held on to its holiest site but worked out some form of compromise for the Muslims to pray nearby at what they consider a place of prayer. But there is no holier place to the Jewish people than the Temple Mount. However, Moshe Dayan was not a devout Jew and did not understand the historic opportunity that he had in his hands. Apparently, God thought it was not yet time for full Jewish control of the holiest site in the world. We have more work to do.

Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who is fluent in Arabic, explains why Muslims are opposed to Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount:

In the eyes of Islam, Islam did not come to the world to live alongside Judaism and Christianity. Islam came to the world to take their place. Furthermore, in order to build itself from the ruins of Judaism and Christianity, everything that was once Jewish or Christian became Muslim. Abraham became the first Muslim; all the churches they conquered became mosques. King Solomon built a mosque in Jerusalem, according to the Muslim version. This of course, according to the verse in the Koran: "Religion for Allah is Islam."

Therefore, when there is Judaism, there is a struggle between "Din al-Haqq," the true religion—Islam, and "Din al-Batl," the false religion, which is Judaism.

Jews lost everything they had in the world. Allah threw them into exile, and they have to stay there as the people of "Dhimma," protected people of Islam, everywhere. Jews have no right to come to the Land of Israel, "Falastin," and take it, because it is a Muslim land. And since the Muslims conquered it in the 7th century, every country has a one-way ticket to enter Islam, not to leave.

In 1948 (Heaven Forbid!) the first accident: a Jewish state was proclaimed! In 1967, a second accident (Heaven Forbid!): they conquered Jerusalem! What will be the next accident? They will want to rebuild the Holy Temple! And then, if the Holy Temple is built, Judaism will return (Allah forbid!!) to be a relevant religion. Then what will become of Islam? Because the Islam that came to the world to take the place of Judaism cannot

tolerate Judaism being a living, breathing religion. It is opposed to the most basic perception of Islam, its whole raison d'être, as a religion that came into being to build itself on the ruins of Judaism [and Christianity].

Therefore, when a Jew prays, it's not good. When a Jew prays in Jerusalem, it's a great deal more "not good." But when a Jew prays on the Holy Mount, there is absolutely nothing worse! Because the next thing he does will be to rebuild the Holy Temple. Judaism will become a relevant religion again, and Islam will have to go back to the desert, because it will have no reason to be in the world. Because Judaism—and perhaps also Christianity, because Jesus was also active in the Temple according to history—will suddenly become relevant religions again, Islam can take its baggage and go back to the desert.

Therefore, this theological "kurzschluss" ("short circuit") is the basis for the whole story of the opposition to Jewish prayer. And the nearer we Jews get to proving that we have come here to stay, the more fanatical and violent the Muslims become; this aggravates them because (Heaven Forbid!) it is happening! This is the theological problem and the basis of the problem.

It is not a territorial problem, it's not a national problem, and it's not a political problem; it is a theological problem! When a Jew prays on the Temple Mount, it's a theological "kurzschluss" for a Muslim. From it stems all the aggression of these people.

(See related article on p. 28.)





# Jewish humor, etc.

#### **An Unbelievable Story**

A little boy returned home from Hebrew School and his father asked, "What did you learn today?"

He answered, "The rabbi told us how Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt."

"How?"

The boy explained: "Moses was a big strong man and he beat Pharaoh up. Then while he was down, he got all the people together and ran toward the sea. When he got there, he had the Corps of Engineers build a huge pontoon bridge. Once they got on the other side, they blew up the bridge while the Egyptians were trying to cross."

The father was shocked. "Is that what the rabbi taught you?"

The boy replied, "No. But you'd never believe the story he DID tell us!"



A cheerful heart is good medicine— Proverbs 17:22



#### Answer Key for April 2019 Crossword (p.33)

 Across:
 Down:

 2. Eden
 11. Door
 1. Jesus

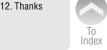
 3. Days
 13. Lord
 4. Destroy

3. Days 13. Lord 7. Taste 14. Saints 9. Shepherd 15. Fears

. Saints 5. Dream . Fears 6. Judah

5. Dream 6. Judah

8. Gentiles



## Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

10. Great

## 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	9 PM Wed	10 PM Wed	11 PM Wed
	3 PM Fri	4 PM Fri	5 PM Fri	6 PM Fri

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of independent channels and is posted at <a href="https://www.levitt.com/schedule">www.levitt.com/schedule</a>

(New series from Israel airing soon!)





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# "Matzoh" postcards

Imagine receiving greetings on this unique postcard made of *matzoh* (Jewish unleavened bread). Unfortunately, matzoh is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well, so we've created a 6" x 6" postcard.

One side is functional—with areas for postage, an address, and a message. The other side quotes Isaiah 53:5—He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

Zola Tours



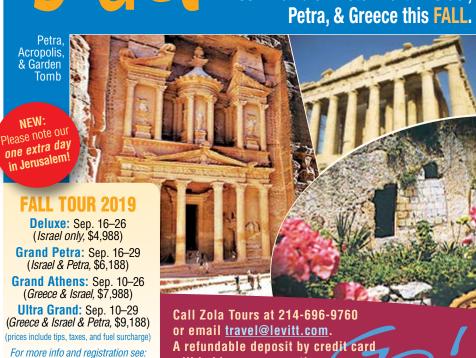
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