



# Levitt LETTER

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

— ROMANS 10:1

inside: **ZLP Leaving  
Freeform p.3**

# The Danger of Replacement Theology

By **Susan Michael**, International Christian  
Embassy Jerusalem USA Director

In his 2018 book, Andy Stanley wants to change the way Christianity is taught in order to reach new generations of skeptics. While he has every good intention, the pastor of the second-largest church in America proposes a shocking approach that takes the Church back centuries — not to the first-century as he claims, but to a later time when Replacement Theology prevailed and the Church was, therefore, largely anti-Semitic.

Though that may not be his intent, it is the result of his dismissing everything Jewish in the Bible — namely the Old Testament — deeming it obsolete. Apostle Paul said the Old Testament was useful for “teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). While New Testament writers all treated the Old Testament Scriptures as foundational, Stanley sounds more like second- and third-century

*(continued p.4)*

#### REMEMBER:

***Pentecost (Shavuot) 2019 begins at sundown on Shabbat, June 8, and concludes at nightfall on Sunday, June 9.***

## Calculating Pentecost's Date

By Dr. Thomas McCall,  
ZLM senior theologian

For Believers in Jesus the Messiah, the dating of Pentecost is one of the most exquisite examples of type and fulfillment in the Scriptures. “Pentecost” means *fifty*, and is numbered fifty days from another feast, First Fruits. The Lord explains these calculations in Leviticus 23:10–11, 15–16. He directed that the Feast of First Fruits was to occur on the day after the Sabbath (verse 11), which was always the Sunday of Unleavened Bread (now renamed “Passover week”). Pentecost, then, was the day after the seventh following



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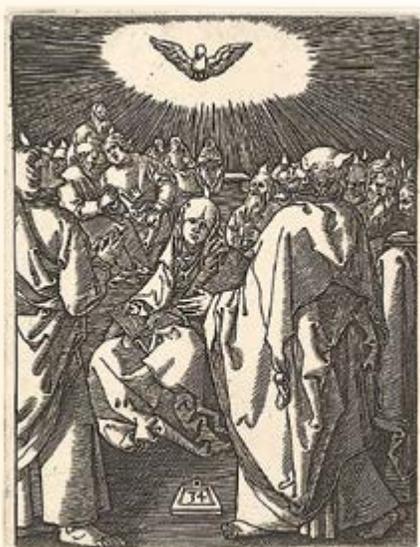
## Calculating Pentecost's Date *continued from cover sidebar*

Sabbath (verses 15–16), which would be the fiftieth day after First Fruits and also on a Sunday.

The fulfillment of these feasts is striking. Jesus died on the Friday of the Passover celebration and had to be buried hastily before sunset, which was when the Sabbath began. His body remained in the borrowed sepulcher throughout the Sabbath day, but on that Sunday morning, when the priest was to offer the First Fruits offering in the Temple, Christ rose from the dead, the first fruits of them that slept (1 Cor. 15:20).

For forty ensuing days, the Lord appeared to His Disciples in His resurrection body, and then ascended into Heaven. Ten days later, the Sunday of the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Believers in Jerusalem and created the *ekklesia*, the called-out body of Christ—the Church. These fulfillments were no coincidence but rather part of the overall plan and purpose of God in verifying the powerful meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ, and the establishment of the new body of Believers.

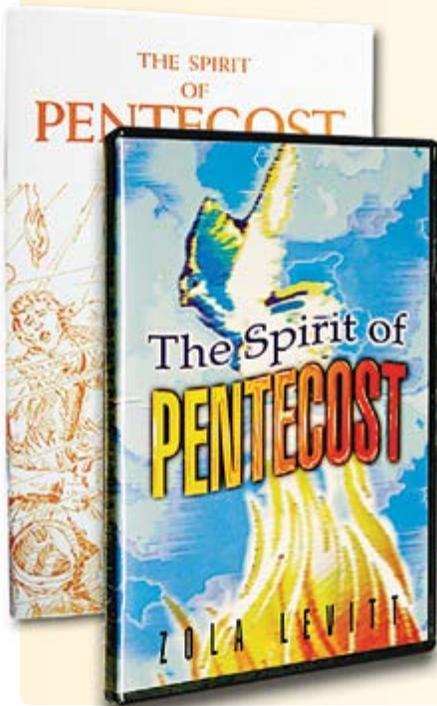
From then on, the Jewish Believers in Christ must have repeatedly informed the people of Israel about the nature of the fulfillment of Passover, First Fruits, and



*Pentecost*, engraving by Marcantonio Raimondi (c. 1470 – 1534), Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Pentecost. It would have made a great impact on the Jewish people who lived between the resurrection of Christ and the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, a span of about forty years.

It is vitally important for the Church to return to its Jewish roots. Remember: those present at the Acts 2 Pentecost were Jewish ... not Catholic, Baptist, or even Pentecostal. *Jewish.* —David ★



## [The Spirit of Pentecost](#) [study booklet & teaching CD](#)

by Zola Levitt

An insightful look at Peter's stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel.

Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The "birthday of the Church" is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

See the related cover article,  
[Calculating Pentecost's Date.](#)

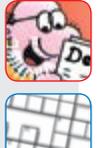
*(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)*



- 4 Teaching**  
**4 Danger of Replacement Theology** *(continued from cover)*
- 6 Studio Co-host**  
**6 Peace is Good for Everyone**
- 8 On the Ground in Israel**  
**8 When God Calls You By Name**
- 9 Classic Zola**  
**9 Zola on Replacement Theology**
- 10 Ask the Chaplain**  
**10 Sheol & the “sure mercies of David”**
- 11 40 Years of Peace Between Israel and Egypt**
- 12 Zola Tours**  
**12 Divine Encounters This Fall**
- 14 A Note from Mark**  
**14 Giving Until It Hurts ZLM**
- 15 ZLM Bulletin Board**



- 16 Parsons: Hebrew Lesson**  
**16 The Gift of Willingness**
- 21 Letters to ZLM**
- 23 Crossword Puzzle**
- 25 Who’s Who in Israeli Politics**
- 27 Science**  
**27 World’s Tallest Solar Tower**
- 28 Medicine**  
**28 Sleep Vital to Repair DNA Damage**
- 30 Select Briefs**
- 32 Archaeology**  
**32 Christian Roots in the Very Soil of Israel**
- 34 Is the Future of ISIS Female? (part 2)**
- 35 Jewish Humor**

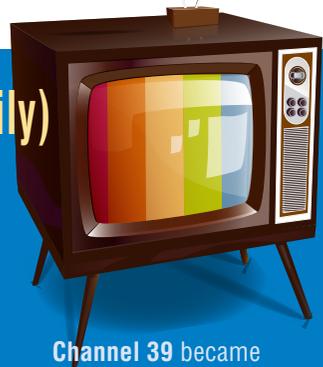


## ZLP Leaving Freeform (ABC Family)

**May 19:** Freeform television network’s last day to broadcast *Zola Levitt Presents*. Without prior notice, they recently began listing their ministerial TV programs, including ours, as “Paid Programming” rather than specifying the programs’ names. That radical change undermines our viewers’ ability to watch and record our program on Freeform—unless, that is, they happen to know our day, time, and channel.

Local Dallas station KXTX-39 was ZLM’s first TV station in 1978. It became a station of The Christian Broadcasting Network, then ABC-Family, and finally Freeform. It has been a wonderful 40 years!

**We’re available 24/7 at [Levitt.tv](http://Levitt.tv).** ★



## The Danger of Replacement Theology *continued from cover*

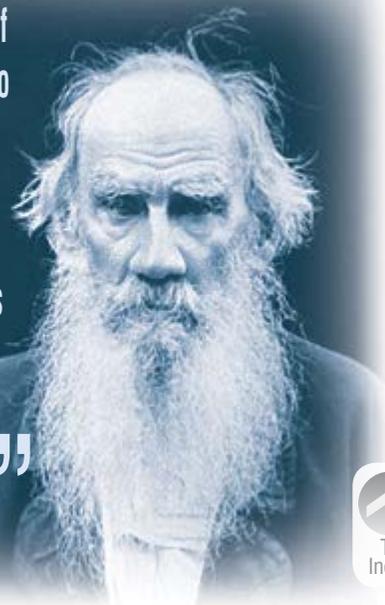
Church Fathers when he says that the Old Testament and Judaism have been brought to an end and replaced with something completely new: Christianity.

Even more disturbing is the way he describes Judaism in only negative terms. During the time of Jesus, the priesthood and some Pharisees had become corrupt. Jesus was not the only one who denounced them for it. But in this book, Stanley describes Judaism itself as the problem, calling it legalistic, hypocritical, self-righteous, and exclusive. He even claims that Apostle Paul tried to keep Judaism from “eroding the beauty and simplicity” of the ekklesia (church) of Jesus. Of course, Paul was against legalism, not Judaism.

Lacking space to address all the issues found in Stanley’s book, this article only summarizes the dangers in adopting Stanley’s definition of “irresistible Christianity.”

“The Jew is the symbol of eternity. He is the one who for so long had guarded the prophetic message and transmitted it to all mankind. A people such as this can never disappear. The Jew is eternal. He is the embodiment of eternity.”

— Leo Tolstoy



### **The Bible No Longer Makes Sense**

Replacement Theology teaches that the Old Testament is obsolete and thus produces a disconnect between the Old and New Testaments. When taught in its proper context, however, and under the inspiration of the very Holy Spirit who inspired its writing, the Bible makes perfect sense from Genesis to Revelation!

### **Anti-Judaism Leads to Anti-Semitism**

Christian history teaches us that the anti-Judaism of some early Church Fathers led to anti-Semitism and persecution of the Jewish people by later generations. This highlights the danger in Stanley’s negative descriptions of Judaism. He even blames the sin of the Church throughout history on the influences of Judaism — the ultimate example of anti-Semitic scapegoating! Leading Christian voices must resist this theology and stop the slide down a slippery slope toward renewed anti-Semitism in the Church.

### **Jesus Becomes Gentile**

Reading Jesus from any perspective other than a first-century Jewish one lends itself to misinterpretation. If the Church considers the Old Testament irrelevant to the Christian faith, then it is studied less and less, creating followers of Jesus who are unaware of the Old Testament foundations for all He did and taught. He was not some Greek god with a mythical birth and resurrection story, but came in a carefully prepared Jewish context that explains His teachings, death, resurrection, and His future return as King. Without that context, we read Jesus through gentile, twenty-first-century eyes that see Him just like us, and not who He really is.

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### **A Blind Church**

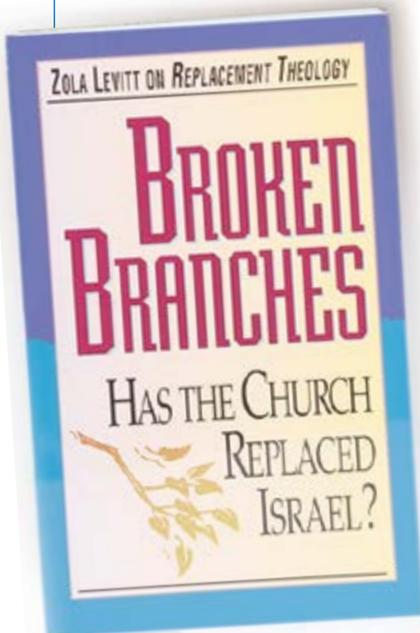
Replacement Theology holds that the Jewish people have lost their standing with God due to their rejection of Jesus as Messiah, while the Church has assumed their place. Therefore, their return to their ancient homeland in the last 100 years is just a political accident with no theological significance. These Christians deny that the God of Israel brought the Jews back to the Land just as the Hebrew prophets said He would. Israel's repatriation prepares the way for the next glorious act of God in which the Messiah returns to Earth to defend Jerusalem, judge the nations for their evil treatment of His people, and establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. A blinded Church will not understand the times we live in and may find itself outside the move of God in our day.

### **Throws Out the Baby with the Bath Water**

Instead of throwing out legalism or the misapplication of Mosaic Law, Stanley has thrown out the entire Old Testament, thereby fostering new generations of Believers who adhere to a Christianity that is void of its eternal, spiritual context, which is, simply put, a Jewish one. A better solution to the problem that Stanley is trying to address is to study Scripture in its proper cultural and religious context and to teach the overarching story of the Bible that truly makes it the most exciting book ever!

Many replacement theologians carry what our ministry's senior theologian Dr. Thomas McCall calls an "amputated Bible" — the New Testament without its OT roots. (Imagine the futility of planting freshly-cut flowers!) Most of those same pastors, however, maintain an undying devotion to the OT principle of tithing. — Kirsten

*P.S. — don't miss [Classic Zola on p. 9](#). ★*



### **[Broken Branches — Has the Church Replaced Israel?](#) [study booklet](#)**

*by Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology*

What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, well-intentioned denominations seem to have sprouted blinders to their heritage, the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using Grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read booklet for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

*(Please see [cover story](#) [The Danger of Replacement Theology](#), and the [Classic Zola](#) article on [p. 9](#), [Zola on Replacement Theology](#).)*

*(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)*

# Peace is Good for Everyone

Kirsten Hart  
Studio co-host of  
Zola Levitt Presents



**left:** Kirsten at Petra, Jordan, with local vendor behind her **right:** Kirsten with a waiter in Jordan restaurant



I love meeting ethnic groups that I wouldn't find at home, and I encourage our Zola Tours pilgrims to learn "hello," "thank you," "yes," and "no" in the language of each country we visit. At the very least, we should be able to thank those who serve us in hotels and restaurants. *Toda* (thank you) in Hebrew is relatively easy to memorize. *Efcharistó* (pronounced like "F. Harry Stow") is Greek for "thank you." I wrote that word phonetically (ef-ha-ree-stow) in black Sharpie on my arm until I had it down.

On David's and my first trip to Israel, I noticed that most hotel employees are Arab. Shukraan, I learned, is "thank you" in Arabic. It sounds like shoo-krawn. Shoe... crayon. (That mnemonic worked for me!) Simply saying "thank you" in Greek, Hebrew, or Arabic opens doors of communication and brings a twinkle to the eyes of serving staff.

**Razi, a head chef at our hotel in Tiberias, is now a friend with an exceptionally friendly smile.** On our latest trip, he stopped slicing a gorgeous prime rib for our group to give me a big hug. He claims to never forget a face, and loudly expressed his joy at having the Zola group back.

Razi returned our *shukraans* to everyone's benefit. The Tiberias *Rimonim* hotel serves what I call a "Ding-Dong cake." (Think: a Hostess Ding Dong® multiplied by 1,000!) I had talked up this delicious cake to our group, so the restaurant ran out quickly at our first dinner. For the next two nights, Razi brought out extra Ding-Dong cakes from the back...just for us.

Aladdin guides our day trip in Petra. I'm pretty sure his name is Allah, but he goes by Aladdin because many Americans unfortunately stereotype Arabs as

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*"Red and yellow, black and white,  
all are precious in His sight."*

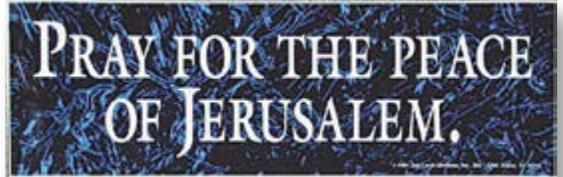


out-to-get-us Muslims. Aladdin makes our day in Jordan memorable, and we love him.

On the bus ride back to the Israeli border, David and I chatted with Aladdin. As he talked about his family, I said, "Peace is good," to which Aladdin replied, "Yes, very good. We all want that... except for a very few at the top."

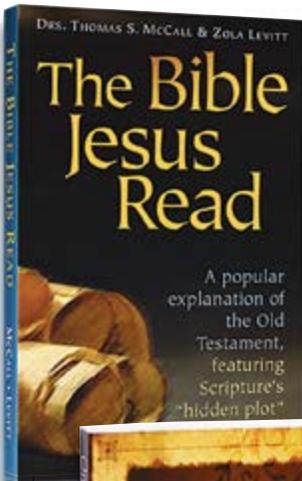
Aladdin and Razi are our friends. They are both Arab and Muslim — and they are wonderful people who want the same basics that you and I want in this life: the ability to provide food for our families, a roof over our heads, and clothes to wear. We are sons and daughters, parents and grandparents; we all want peace.

Remember the lyrics to "Jesus Loves the Little Children"? "*Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight.*" We need to add some "latte and mocha" colors to that list. Jesus died for — and loves! — all of us... Razi and Allah included, of course.



[Zola Levitt Ministry's "Pray for the Peace" bumper sticker](#)

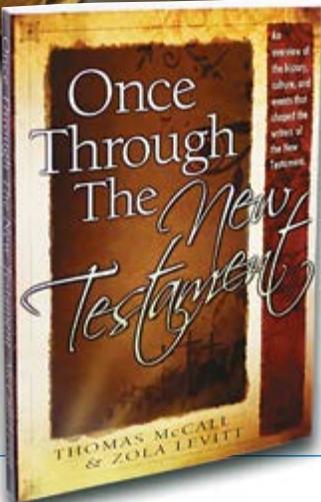
I will continue to challenge unloving stereotypes. You too: pray about leaving your comfort zone, meeting people of different faiths and backgrounds, and sharing the love of Jesus through a smile, a *toda*, *efcharistó*, or friendly *shukraan*. ★



## [The Bible Jesus Read](#) book

*by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt*

A popular explanation of the Old Testament, featuring Scripture's "hidden plot." Relevant to all who want to understand the beginning of God's plan and the roots of the Church on Earth.



## [Once Through the](#) [New Testament](#) book

*by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt*

A most readable and clear survey of the New Testament. The theology is understandable and treated with thoroughness in this concise, but complete, study.

*(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)*

# When God Calls You By Name

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



Your name is a very important part of your social identity. In fact, you will easily and readily give this piece of information away, even without being asked, “What’s your name?” Hebraic culture puts a high value on the meaning of names. When you meet Israelis, they often ask you the meaning of your name. In Israel, everything has to mean something.

I was profoundly affected by this idea while leading an Ascend Worship Program tour here in Israel when I came across a Biblical sycamore tree. I was struck by how tall and big it was, with large thick branches extending sideways, sturdy enough for a person to easily and securely stand on.

## Zacchaeus’s Name

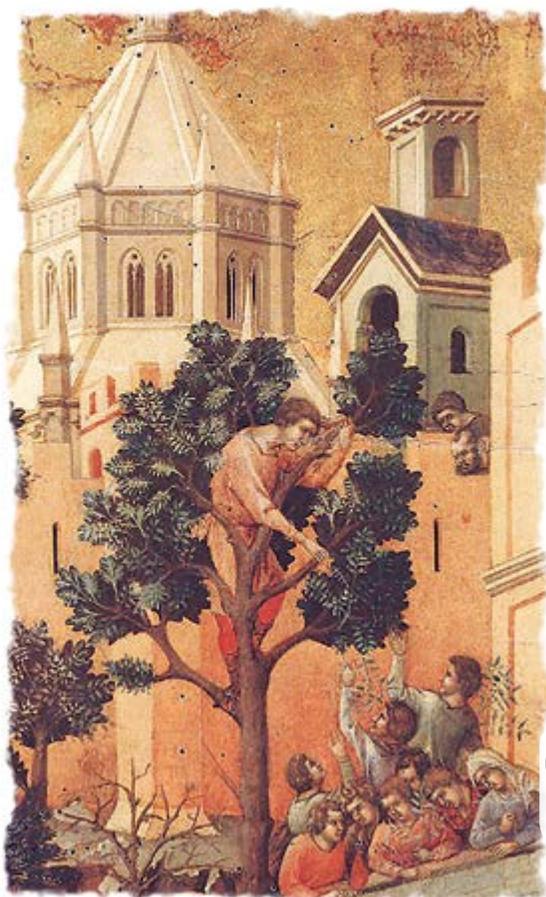
Such a tree stands in Jericho, just like on the day when Yeshua passed through that town. I’m sure you’re familiar with the story of Zacchaeus but perhaps not with the incredible truth revealed in the description of what occurred that day.

Zacchaeus was Jericho’s tax collector, and a short man. As Yeshua passed by, surrounded by the masses, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree in order to catch a glimpse of this man he had heard so much about. In that very moment, Yeshua looked up and locked eyes with the man in the tree. Yeshua called to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I am coming to your house.”

Now Zacchaeus was despised because he overtaxed people to enrich himself. Here is the amazing part of this story: “Zacchaeus” in Hebrew means **innocent**. As in, a man who stood trial and was found not guilty. So when Yeshua called him by name, He was proclaiming the prophetic and redemptive power of the work of God in his life. When Yeshua came to Zacchaeus’s house, this truth became his reality and Zacchaeus repented, now totally transformed. What a dynamic result in one small moment!



*Jacob Deceives Isaac*, painting by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (1836–1902), The Jewish Museum, NYC



*Entry into Jerusalem* (detail), painting (tempera on wood) by Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255–1319)



## Jacob’s New Name

Another man who had a conversation with God about his name was Isaac’s son Jacob. God and Jacob had a physical

*(continued next page)*



discussion about Jacob’s name; they wrestled. You see, Jacob had lied about his name to his earthly father. After years of exile, when God asked him what his name was, Jacob finally told the truth and God changed his name to “Israel.” From that point on, Jacob was no longer defined by the name man gave him. Look at Isaiah 43:1,

*But now, this is what the Lord says, He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are Mine.”*

## Your Name

The name by which God calls you has a prophetic and redemptive power. Are you defined by that name or by the name that man gave you? Your identity is linked to your destiny, so if you haven’t done it yet, please have a discussion with God about *your name*. You will be surprised by what you hear. ★

## Zola on Replacement Theology

Classic Zola  
from 2000  
19 years ago



This ministry has criticized Progressive Dispensationalism, the doctrine taught by many well-respected seminaries. (Staff theologian Todd Baker explained the flaw in Progressive Dispensationalism at [levitt.com/essays/progdisp](http://levitt.com/essays/progdisp)).

**Progressive Dispensationalists conflate the throne of God in Heaven with the throne of David.** God’s throne *in Heaven* is obviously not an earthly place. The Book of Revelation mentions the heavenly throne, and it is spoken of elsewhere in Scripture. David’s throne *in Jerusalem*, on the other hand, was certainly earthly and will be in the Kingdom to come. By saying that they are the same throne, Progressive Dispensationalists effectively cut Israel out of the prophetic picture and accelerate a Kingdom event — Jesus sitting on the throne of David in Jerusalem — to the present day. According to Progressive Dispensationalists, Jesus is now sitting on the throne of David in Heaven, and we are currently enjoying the

beginning of the Kingdom. It doesn’t take deep theological thought to see the flaw in this reasoning.

While Todd’s essay clarifies the issues with the relevant Scripture, I am concerned mainly with the effort to shut Israel and the Chosen People out of the Kingdom to come. This is a wasted exercise on the part of those who, to say it kindly, are not particularly preferential to those whom God loves, the Jews. For Moody Bible Institute, Dallas Seminary, and any number of other fine Bible schools (who formerly supported Israel and praised the Chosen People) to have turned to an error of this magnitude is shocking. The logical end of this doctrine — out-and-out Replacement Theology — would be the complete dispossession from Christian thinking of those whom God chose and the Land He promised. This simply must not happen. ★



# Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q.** In the Old Testament the word *Sheol* is used as a general term for the place of the dead. What exactly does it describe?

**A.** *Sheol* was considered a place made up of two areas: a paradise side where all the Old Testament righteous souls went after death, and the hell side where all the wicked went. Prior to the Cross, the account that Jesus gave of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19–31 affirmed these two sides of *Sheol*, or Hades (the Greek name for Pluto, the god who ruled the place of the dead).

The paradise side (called “Abraham’s bosom” in Luke 16:22) where the departed saved in the Old Testament went after death was separated by a gulf (across which no one could pass) from the side of torment for the unsaved. At His Ascension, it is believed that Jesus emptied the paradise side of *Sheol* and took the redeemed souls with Him to Heaven (see Ephesians 4:8–10). For a detailed study of the doctrine of eternal reward and punishment, see the book *Death and the Afterlife* by Dr. Robert Morey.



*Lazarus Carried by the Angels to Heaven*, illustration from the book *The Story of the Bible From Genesis to Revelation* (1860), artist unknown



*Isaiah*, engraving by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860)

**Q.** What are the “sure mercies of David?”

**A.** The “sure mercies of David” alludes to the eternal covenant God made with David, promising David that one of his descendants would reign on a divine throne over an eternal kingdom, which of course finds its fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah (see 2 Samuel 7:12–16; Psalm 89:19–37). ★



To Index

# 40 Years of Peace Between Israel and Egypt



BY DENNIS ROSS and DAVID MAKOVSKY (r) *The Wall Street Journal*



photo: Moshe Miller/GPO

Members of the Israeli delegation at Camp David, September 1978: from left Aharon Barak, Ezer Weizman, Menachem Begin, Ilan Tehila, Moshe Dayan, Elyakim Rubinstein, Avraham Tamir.

Israel and Egypt have been at peace for 40 years. In a region beset by national, sectarian, and tribal conflicts, the treaty between the two nations has endured since its signing on March 26, 1979. It has withstood the assassination in 1981 of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, two Palestinian intifadas, two wars in Lebanon, and the election of the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi as Egypt's president in 2012. Even though Morsi refused to deal directly with the Israelis — or say "Israel" — he did not walk away from the treaty during his year in power.

The peace remains cold, with little contact between Egyptians and Israelis. Yet both governments remain invested in it. **For Israel, this means that the largest Arab-Muslim state and army — linchpin of the coalition that fought Israel in four wars between 1948 and 1973 — is no threat.** Except when Saddam Hussein lobbed a few Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War, no Arab state has attacked Israel in the intervening four decades.

Egypt also has gained from the accords. It has been spared costly wars — so much so that Sadat's successor, Hosni Mubarak, once declared that if Al Jazeera was so eager to fight Israel, it could go ahead, but Egypt was done paying that price. Since 1979, Egypt has also been one of the largest recipients of U.S. military and economic assistance, totaling close to \$70 billion.

It took heroic leaders to produce the treaty. Sadat made a historic trip to Jerusalem, and later declared — echoing Israeli Prime Minister Menachem

Begin — "No more wars, no more bloodshed." He was ostracized in the Arab world, but he persevered, convinced that Arab states would, in time, come back to Egypt — and he was right.

Begin understood that an agreement would require total withdrawal from Sinai, including the Israeli settlements there — anathema to his political base. He knew that his plan for Palestinian autonomy would alienate his closest comrades, many of whom called him a traitor.

For his part, President Jimmy Carter was prepared to roll the dice in a high-stakes summit at Camp David and carry the burden of dealing with the leaders while thrashing out 22 drafts before reaching agreement. The security and financial commitments he made to both sides — \$3 billion a year to Israel plus the costs of relocating the bases out of the Sinai and \$2 billion a year to Egypt — helped close the deal.

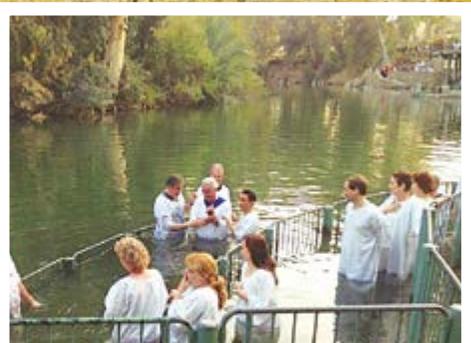
Today, prospects for peace between Israel and its other neighbors are uncertain at best, notwithstanding the common threat from Iran. Neither the Arabs nor Israel appears to have leaders with Sadat's and Begin's boldness. Yet we have the Egyptian-Israeli agreement to thank that peace is even thinkable.

[According to our Jewish Israeli Zola Tours guide, Ilan Barkay, the Sinai has some scenic spots along the Red Sea. Though Israelis miss them, Ilan considers them worth the sacrifice for the ongoing decades of peace with Egypt. — David](#) ★



# Divine Encounters This Fall

BY SANDRA LUTTRELL (r) Zola Tours Manager



Baptisms in the Jordan River



Magnificent experiences await you in the Holy Land — from seeing the Bible locations where Yeshua lived, walked, taught, and performed miracles in His earthly life, to encountering His living presence everywhere — in what you do, hear, and see! **Each time my husband and I visit Israel, we are greeted with new special moments and Holy Spirit-filled revelations that resonate long afterward.**

- being baptized in the Jordan River, spiritually symbolizing Yeshua's own baptism by John
- walking on the Southern Steps of the Temple in Jerusalem and realizing that Yeshua stood and taught on these very steps
- entering the Garden Tomb and visualizing the *dunamis* (supernatural power) that returned Yeshua to life.

These encounters with the Divine continue to linger in our minds and spirits. Touring the Bible's lands changes lives and enhances spiritual walks so much that many Zola Tours pilgrims return with dear ones in order to share these eye-opening experiences.

Please consider coming with *your* family and/or friends to join this amazing, life-changing study tour. Our Fall Tour 2019 is rapidly filling up. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. (See details on page 36.) Here is a summary of our 2019 itinerary.

*(continued next page)*



Worship and music

Our Divine Encounters happened by:

- seeing the ancient gate at Tel Dan that is named after the patriarch Abraham and dates back 4,000 years to his lifetime
- standing in Shiloh where the Ark of the Covenant resided for 369 years; Hannah prayed for and dedicated her son Samuel to the LORD in this place

## Grand Athens and Ultra Grand Tours

Pilgrims on the Grand Athens and Ultra Grand tours will depart from Liberty International Airport (EWR) in Newark, NJ on September 10<sup>th</sup>, arriving in Greece on the 11<sup>th</sup> to begin a spectacular tour of Athens and Corinth.

A three-day cruise will take them to the breathtaking Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos (where John wrote Revelation), Crete, and Santorini, and includes an unforgettable tour of the massive ruins of Ephesus, home of Paul's Ephesian congregation, in present-day Turkey.

## The Deluxe and Grand Petra Tours

The Deluxe and Grand Petra pilgrims will depart from JFK Airport in New York City on September 16, meeting-up in Tel Aviv with their fellow pilgrims from Greece (after their short flight from Athens) on the 17<sup>th</sup> to begin their extraordinary Messianic tour of Israel! As a pilgrim, you'll visit the sites above where Mike and I encountered the Divine, as well as locations whose names are familiar from your Bible studies: Caesarea



Kirsten and David Hart in Greece

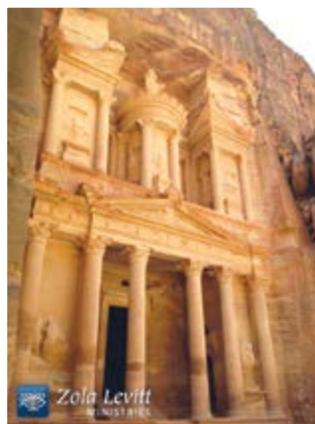
by the Sea, Mount Carmel, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Bethlehem, Mount of Olives, Masada, Qumran, the Dead Sea, and many others. Throughout the tour, but especially boating on the Sea of Galilee, we encounter and worship our amazing Savior!

Our Petra extension goes to the beautiful resort town of Eilat in southern Israel, stopping in En Gedi (where David hid from Saul), at a model of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, and in Tel Be'er Sheva (Biblical Beersheba), where both Abraham and

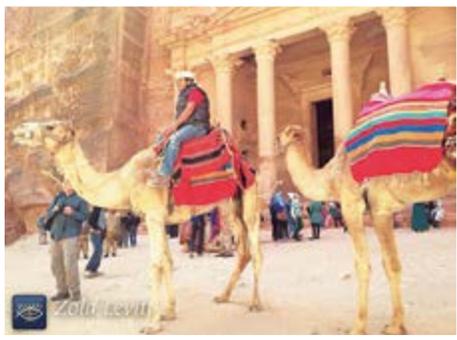
Isaac swore oaths with King Abimelech over wells they had dug. Crossing the Aqaba border into Jordan, we visit the monumental structures in the city of Petra, believed to have been carved into the sides of a rose-red sandstone gorge by the ancient Nabataeans. In 2007, Petra was named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

For centuries, the Jews longed to celebrate Passover in their homeland, declaring, "Next year in Jerusalem!" May you say for yourself, "This year in Jerusalem!"

**Most Holy Land Tours don't have a full-time travel manager like our beloved, detail-oriented Sandra. To the contrary, other tours' passengers must deal with wholesaler customer service reps who change from day to day. With Zola Tours, pilgrims get in-house, personalized service. Thanks, Sandra, for your years of steady devotion to making our tours the best! — Kirsten ★**



Petra



Colorful Petra



# Giving Until It Hurts ZLM

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



Since Zola's graduation to Heaven, this ministry has forwarded more than \$1.34 million to a dozen designated funds. During our recent years' six-digit deficits, I have joked about writing those generous checks in red ink. Believe me, the recipients are some of the most self-sacrificing Christians ever.



"If God loves a cheerful giver, why are you supposed to give 'til it hurts?"

Last year, to help offset yet another 11% health insurance increase, I eliminated our mail clerks' peer-review performance incentive. One of them, with us for nine years, moved on to greener pastures shortly thereafter, so let me emphasize our general fund's importance.

Did you know: Our policy of relaying 100% of contributions designated to sister organizations results in ZLM's general fund covering related costs. These include credit card service fees, postage for business-reply envelopes, answering service charges, 1-800 tolls, and employee time.

Making such giving convenient cannibalizes our general fund contributions that otherwise would help sponsor *Zola Levitt Presents*, the *Levitt Letter*, and [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

Covering those processing costs seems justifiable in helping our donors identify reputable, like-minded causes. Where better to plant trees than Israel? — Thanks, **Jewish National Fund!** Who better to receive the *B'rit Hadashah's* (New Testament's) Good News of Yeshua face-to-face than Holy Land residents? — Way to go,

**To the Jew First Fund** emissaries! John Parsons could be deemed the Lone Ranger of Messianic Hebrew teaching! Please see his Hebrew Lesson on page 16 and visit [Hebrew4Christians.com](http://Hebrew4Christians.com).

Hats off as well to the **Temple Mount Fund** — unearthing and preserving Israeli antiquities; **Bridges for Peace** — providing food, clothing, etc. to Israel's newest immigrants; and the **Aliyah Return Center**, directed by Chaim Malespin, training pastoral interns and developing infrastructure in the Galilee. Our own **Good News Fund** provides emergency benevolence for the neediest ZLMers, and the **Lone Soldier Fund** assists IDF troops who don't have family nearby.

**FACTOID 1:** *For the first time, TV-streaming households outnumber those with traditional cable (please see p. 15). Cable television's ongoing decline is one of the megatrends behind last month's Note from Mark, "A Numbers Whisperer?"*

**FACTOID 2:** *For the first time in my three decades of managing this ministry, uncertainties led me to renew our office lease for three years instead of five. One of our board members, Mark Nelson, a seasoned commercial realtor, negotiated the lowest possible rate that I could imagine — one that matched that for a dreary, older building.*

*Many New Yorkers who previously lamented living in Brooklyn are now grateful if they can afford to remain there. And we ministry staffers appreciate our office space more. Nonetheless, we still advise visitors, "Prepare to be disappointed" when they ask to tour our humble facility (see p. 15).*

Rest assured, I value your prayers and generosity even more than most Brooklynites love their neighborhood! ★



# ZLM Bulletin Board



## Prepare to Be Disappointed...

... if you visit our office suite. Our ministry's "headquarters" isn't much. No grand fountains, modern art, or palatial accommodations.

It's a rented, 3,100-square-foot basement space filled with

a dozen desks, some good office equipment, lots of Bible-teaching materials in a warehouse/shipping area, and casually-dressed, very willing workers for our Lord. Hiring outside vendors for our printing, mailing, video duplication, etc. lets us stay small. When the Rapture comes, we won't leave much behind.



## TV-Streamers Take the Lead

More households now subscribe to streaming TV than to traditional cable and satellite. Consulting firm Deloitte's 13<sup>th</sup> annual digital media trends survey reveals that 69% of households have at least one streaming video subscription, compared with 65% who have a cable or satellite subscription. The findings confirm that cord cutting continues as households seek Roku, Netflix, and other alternatives. To weigh possibly cutting your own cord, please click on "[Watch on Roku](#)" beneath [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)'s "Zola TV" dropdown menu.



## FREE ITEM

## Pamphlet of the Month

The gifts you make to causes you care about say a lot about you and your life. You can make a difference to those causes now—and meet your own and others' needs—by taking advantage of any of five charitable giving and estate planning techniques. The pamphlet entitled ***Five Ways to Make the Most of Your Gifts*** discusses giving through 1) your will, 2) securities, 3) retirement plans, 4) life insurance, and 5) while receiving income. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.



## Donate with a Smile!

When you shop at Amazon, log in through [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) instead of the regular website, and Amazon will donate to ZLM 0.5% of your net purchase total.

You can use the same log-in that you use for [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), and you'll see the same merchandise at the same prices. Please be sure to designate Zola Levitt Ministries as the nonprofit to receive the charitable gift that your purchases generate. Thanks.



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details





לֵב טָהוֹר בְּרָא־לִי אֱלֹהִים

“Create for me a pure heart, O God...” (Psalm 51:10)

לְהִים	אֱ	בְרָא־לִי	טָהוֹר	לֵב
(3)   (2)   (1)		(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(1)
e-loh-heem		be-rah-lee	tah-hohr	liev
O God		create for me	pure	a heart

**People confuse morality with religion**, saying things like, “If I do good, the rest will take care of itself.” Yet Yeshua did not come to simply teach (or reinforce) moral truth, but *to die* for our sins and to transform our nature. **The message of the cross is not that we should reform ourselves with renewed hope, but rather that our old nature must die and be replaced with something far greater.**

When King David cried out to the Lord, “Create in me a clean heart, O God,” he did not use the Hebrew word *yatzar* (יָצַר), which means to “fashion” or “form” something from pre-existing material (Gen. 2:7), but instead he used the word *bara* (בָּרָא), a verb exclusively used in the Torah to refer to God’s direct creation of the cosmos (Gen. 1:1). In other words, King David understood that no amount of character reformation would be enough; therefore, he appealed to the very power of God that alone could create *yesh me’ayin*, or “out of nothing.” Such is also the nature of the required remedy that Messiah fulfilled on the cross.

Yeshua taught, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). The Greek word translated “pure” is *katharos* (καθαρός), sometimes used to describe the cleansing of a wound (catharsis), or to describe the unalloyed quality of a substance revealed through refining fire. Metaphorically, then, purity of heart refers to separation from the profane — singleness of vision, wholeheartedness, passion, and focused desire for the sacred. Faith is a great trembling of love: “With this ring I do worship thee...”

As we center our affections on Yeshua, we become pure in heart — i.e., unified, made whole, and healed of our inner fragmentation. We see the Lord both in this world, through His effects, and then *panim el panim* (פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים), “face to face,” in the world to come. Our hope purifies us for that coming magnificent day of full disclosure (1 John 3:2–3; Hebrews 12:14).

**May the LORD renew a willing spirit within us all. Amen. ★**



## [The Covenants of God DVD Set](#)

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The covenants that God made with men throughout the Bible act as guideposts for understanding Scripture. In this series, Zola reviews the eight major Covenants by analyzing verses and interviewing experts. We now live under the New Covenant, which will be completed when our Lord returns.

**Edenic Covenant** Made with Adam (mankind) before man's fall. Physicist Gerald Schroeder explains how a 15 billion-year-old universe does not contradict a six-day creation.

**Adamic and Noahic Covenants** God's covenant with Adam after the fall promised a Redeemer. His covenant with Noah established human government.

**Abrahamic Covenant** Confirmed the Adamic promise of redemption and founded the nation of Israel.

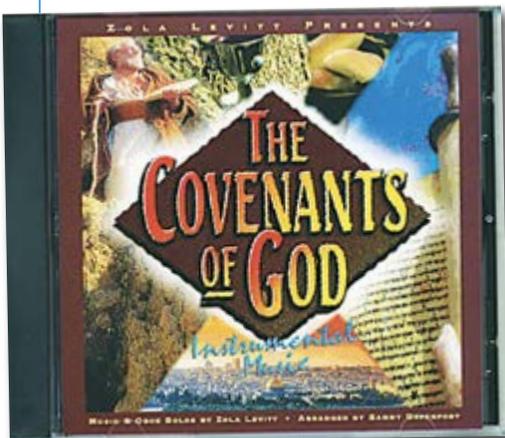
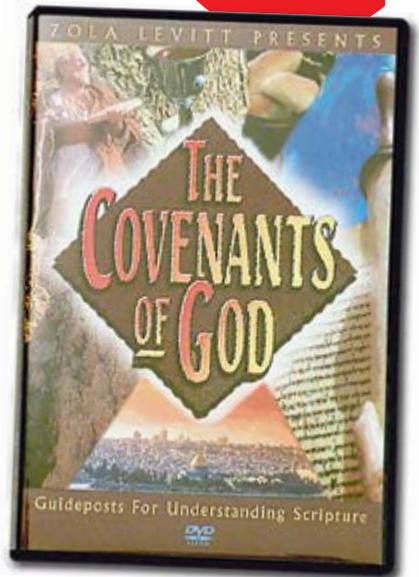
**Mosaic Covenant** Gave Israel commandments, judgments, and ordinances because "Man's heart is evil" (Genesis 8:21).

**Land Covenant** Secured the final restoration of Israel.

**Davidic Covenant** Established David's kingdom forever and God's plan of redemption through the future Messiah.

**New Covenant** Rests on the sacrifice of Christ and secures unconditional eternal life with Him for Believers. Zola's interviews focus on the relationship of Jews and Christians.

**Review** Understanding God's Covenants enriches our faith and expands our knowledge of the great Creator we are privileged to call "Father." To Him be the glory forever!



## [The Covenants of God Music CD](#)

Composed by Zola and played by him on his 1941 Lorée oboe, this album's music reflects the beauty Zola saw, the sadness he felt, and the pure inspiration God gave him. Heavenly!

All of Zola's music is available online in CD or digital format.

ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Glory! The Future of the Believers</b> (pictured) .....	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? .....	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House .....	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised .....	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover .....	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land .....	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming .....	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches .....	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Spirit of Pentecost</b> (p.2) .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Jerusalem Forever</b> (pictured) .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:</b> .... 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	___
___	<b>The Bible Jesus Read</b> (p.7) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Broken Branches:</b> Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology) (p.5) .....	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy .....	\$10	___
___	The First Christians .....	\$8	___
___	<b>In the Footsteps of the Rabbi</b> (pictured) .....	\$14	___
___	The Iranian Menace .....	\$8	___
___	<b>Israel's Right to the Land</b> (pictured) .....	\$2	___
___	<b>Once Through the New Testament</b> (p.7) .....	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood .....	\$16	___
___	The Passover Haggadah (Messianic) .....	\$6	___
___	Raptured .....	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: Millennium .....	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King .....	\$12	___
___	What About Us? .....	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It? .....	\$6	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (pictured) .....	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Beauty for Ashes .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs) \$59	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos .....	(2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	<b>The Covenants of God</b> (p.17) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	The Dark Prince .....	(10 programs, 3-DVDs) \$59	___
___	<b>Esther</b> (p.20) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs) \$59	___
___	Journey of Restoration .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs) \$59	___
___	<b>Return to Eden</b> (pictured) .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs) \$59	___
___	Secrets of the Scrolls .....	(7 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	(7 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	Times of the Signs .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs) \$49	___
___	Zion Forever .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs) \$59	___

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

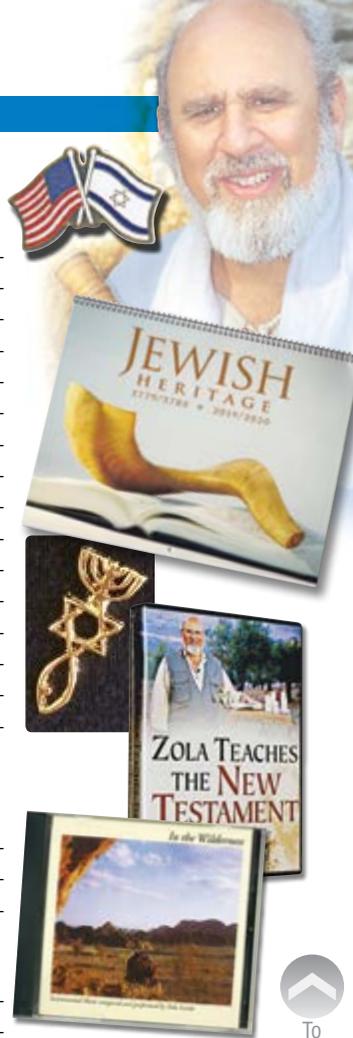


**ORDER FORM continued**

**UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!**

**Studies, Specialty, Etc.**

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	<b>2-flag Collar Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$2	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz. ....	\$37 <sup>50</sup>	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz. ....	\$22	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz. ....	\$23	___
___	Drink Koozies .....	2 for \$5	___
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5') .....	\$10	___
___	Genealogy Chart .....	\$10	___
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut) .....	\$2	___
___	<b>Grafted-In Lapel Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Half-shekel Key Chain</b> (p.36) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>NEW! Jewish Heritage Calendar</b> (5780/2020) (pictured) .....	\$6	___
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Necklace .....	\$39	___
___	Notecards—Hebrew Names of God (12 cards) .....	\$24	___
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem .....	\$12	___
___	<b>"Pray for the Peace" Bumper Sticker</b> (p.7) .....	\$2	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark .....	2 for \$1	___
___	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only) ....	no charge	___



**Teaching CDs**

___	Christian Love Story .....	(CD)	\$7	___
___	<b>Spirit of Pentecost</b> (p.2) .....	(CD)	\$7	___
___	<b>Zola Teaches the New Testament</b> (pictured) (6 CDs) .....		\$29	___

**Music CDs: Hear samples at [levitt.com/music](http://levitt.com/music)**

___	<b>The Covenants of God</b> (p.17) .....	(instrumental)	\$12	___
___	<b>In The Wilderness</b> (pictured) .....	(instrumental)	\$12	___
___	The Works .....	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	The Works II .....	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___

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

**Please fill out area below and send the entire page.**

**Shipping & Handling Chart**

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 SHIPPING

For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

(Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.)

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping (See left chart) \_\_\_\_\_  
 UPS shipping (\$4 extra) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rush! (\$5 extra) \_\_\_\_\_  
 8.25% Tax (Texas only) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

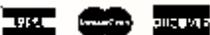
On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? \_\_\_\_\_

Donor # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

(see number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or, Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Card ID# required \_\_\_\_\_



Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Esther: For Such a Time as This* DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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

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

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

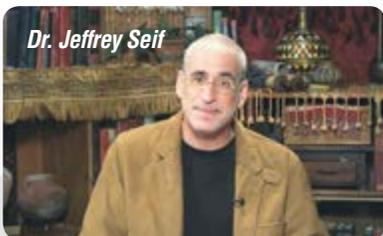
**Called to be Courageous** Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worthy: "If I perish, I perish!" If only we all had such resolve!

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

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

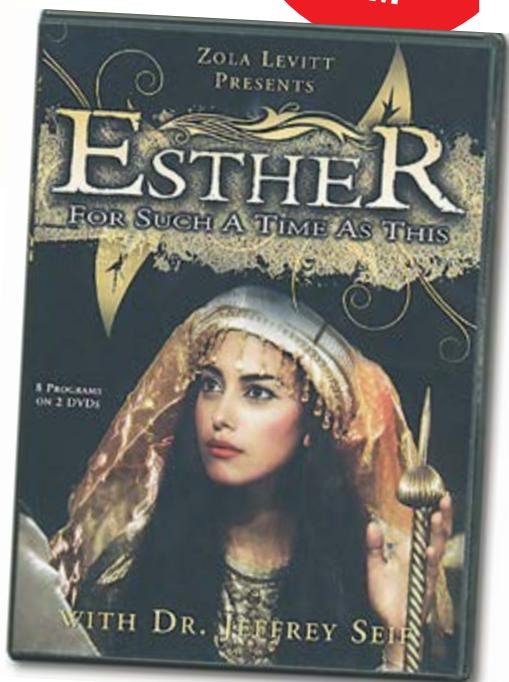
**Justice at Last!** Our story's villain meets his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

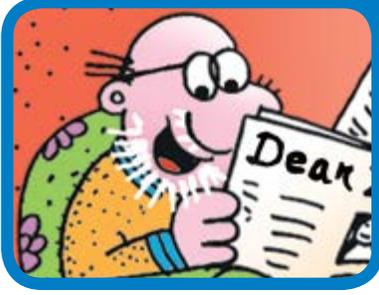
**Fight We Must!** Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Spirited self-defense is Biblical.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif

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





# Letters to ZLM

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

## Comments from LiveChat at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From H.K. (South Africa):** Am happy for ZLM. I am blessed by your programs on Daystar. I am praying for you to accomplish what God started in you and me. Am praying for my personal finances, so I can support Zola's TV programs. Thank you again for taking the truth to the Jew first and also the gentile. Blessings. — Thanks for understanding the importance of knowing our Jewish roots. The Jews were called to take the good news to the nations ... and they did, through the disciples. Now Believers are called to bring the light back to the Jewish people. What a gift they gave us and ongoing opportunity to return the favor. — David

## From Zola's former chess buddy (now 96!)

**Re:** Trump recognizing Israeli authority over the Golan Heights ([see p. 31](#))

The idea that Israel should return the Golan Heights to Syria is outrageous. From 1948 until 1967 [when Israel decisively won the land back in the Six-Day War], Syrian military forces were free to shoot from the Heights at Israel night after night, so Israeli children did not sleep in their own beds, but rather in bomb shelters.

Arab leaders do not need the Heights returned as a condition to restart peace talks with Israel. Returning it to Syria would be catastrophic, as Israeli lives would again be at risk. Sadly, perhaps, that could be their point. — Sol Schwarz

### Dry Bones

Trump and History



## He's a prison *shaliach* (emissary) for Christ

Dear ZLM,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending me the *Levitt Letter*. After I am blessed by it, I have been using it to help witness to a young man who thinks he is Messianic but whose beliefs are all over the place. Your February and March issues let me point him toward Jesus. Isn't God awesome ... He already knew what I would need! — R.D. (inmate in GA)

Dear R.D.,

Thank you for proving that our newsletters can be used for more than "just" reading. They can be tools to reach people for Christ! That is the kind of good news we are thrilled to hear! — David

*(continued next page)*

## ZLM's special niche

Dear ZLM,

After prayerful consideration, I am doubling my monthly donation. You serve our Lord in ways not provided by other ministries:

- teaching the fulfilled and unfulfilled prophecies as they relate to the Feasts that He gave to Israel for them to rehearse/practice until He comes
- sharing Yeshua's good news with all people in Israel (Jew, Muslim, gentile) and providing resources for their spiritual growth
- monthly newsletters that include articles of varied concerns.

We "cut the cable" and no longer view your TV program — the internet is cumbersome for me — but I will continue to support ZLM with dollars and prayer. — R.M.B. (FL)

Dear R.M.B.,

Your letter was refreshing! You *get* that this ministry is actively moving forward and listening for God's direction. Doubling your giving? You are helping take the good news of Yeshua to the world! Thank you. — David

## Prefers a not-so-Jewish Christ

Dear ZLM,

Please remove me from your mailing list. Since the previous host departed, I find your material to be "political" and very biased toward the old teachings of the Old Testament and that of the early Jewish Church. That is my opinion and probably not shared by others. — Yours in Christ, L.McK. (SC)

Dear L.McK.,

You won't have trouble finding a ministry that will ignore the Old Testament and give you a non-Jewish history of the Church. But truth is truth. Jesus/Yeshua was Jewish, and so were all the leaders of the early Church. Still, you control your TV remote and what you choose to view and read. We're sorry to see you go, but *shalom* (if that's not too Jewish for you. If so, "good-bye.") — Kirsten

## Re: 3 days and nights

Dear ZLM,

Your [April issue \(p. 4\)](#) claims that the Crucifixion happened on Friday, but you're wrong. Common sense dictates that He was crucified on Wednesday and that there were two Shabbats that week, one high and the regular Sabbath. Things have gone south with ZLM since Zola passed.

*(continued next page)*

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR



Also, Zola didn't believe that Believers should follow Torah and the Feasts. Yeshua, Paul, and others followed Torah, as people can read in the Word if they only would and not depend on wrong teachings. This ministry is falling. —E.G.

Dear E.G.,

It is wonderful that in the body of Christ we can have personal differences about issues that don't matter much and still love each other. This ministry stands behind Zola's teachings on the three days.

On the topics that do matter—that Yeshua came to save the lost and that it's our job to get that good news to everyone (Matt. 28:19)—we should all rally round each other.

When we get to Heaven, God can sort our differences of opinion. Until then, let's please love one another. —David

## Loves Biblical crossword puzzles

Dear ZLM,

If you ever publish the *Levitt Letter* crossword puzzles in book form (or via download), I would be interested and willing to pay for them. —L.P.

*(continued next page)*

### Crossword June 2019: *Divine Deliverance, part 2*

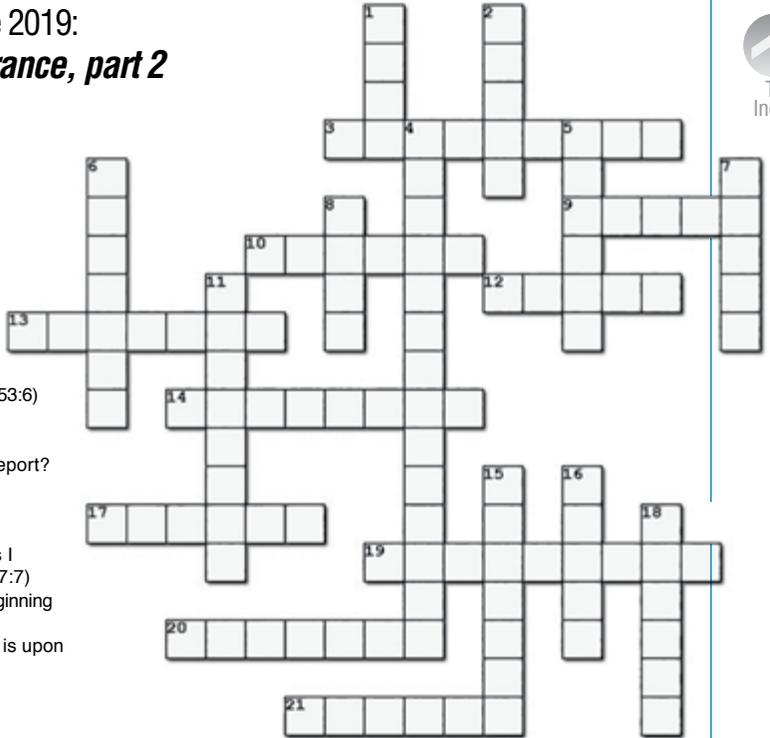
(answers on [p.35](#))

#### ACROSS

3. And he sent them to \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 2:8)
9. And the \_\_\_\_ came in... (Luke 1:28)
10. ...Arise \_\_\_\_ him... (1 Sam. 16:12)
12. All we like \_\_\_\_ have gone astray... (Isa. 53:6)
13. ...the angel \_\_\_\_ was sent... (Luke 1:26)
14. Who hath \_\_\_\_ our report? (Isa. 53:1)
17. And Boaz said unto the \_\_\_\_ (Ruth 4:9)
19. So I prophesied as I was \_\_\_\_ (Ezek. 37:7)
20. All these are the beginning of \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 24:8)
21. The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord is upon me... (Luke 4:18)

#### DOWN

1. ...for He shall \_\_\_\_ His people... (Matt. 1:21)
2. And Naomi took the \_\_\_\_ (Ruth 4:16)
4. But He was wounded for our \_\_\_\_ (Isa. 53:5)
5. ...Our Father which art in \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:9)
6. Yet man is born unto \_\_\_\_ (Job 5:7)
7. And many of them that \_\_\_\_ (Dan. 12:2)
8. So \_\_\_\_ took Ruth... (Ruth 4:13)
11. He is despised & \_\_\_\_ of men... (Isa. 53:3)
15. ...to \_\_\_\_ all that mourn... (Isa. 61:2)
16. ...can these \_\_\_\_ live?... (Ezek. 37:3)
18. ...to give unto them \_\_\_\_ for ashes... (Isa. 61:3)



## Un-holy book

Dear ZLM,

The [April Levitt Letter \(p. 28\)](#) refers to “the Holy Koran” ... *holy*?

When the word “holy” is used, it should only be with respect to the Lord and what He has proclaimed to be holy. His word and His word alone is Holy. But even using “holy” and “Koran” together would seem to give that false book legitimacy or spiritual truth or significance.

We as Christians must be very careful what we allow to be called or written as “holy.” To call anything other than our Lord “holy” is to diminish the word and who He has proclaimed Himself to be. —C.M.

Dear C.M.,

We hope you are aware that articles not written by ministry workers are reprints. Mohamad Tawhidi, the author of the article in question (“Is Jerusalem Sacred to Islam?”) is an imam in Australia.

We agree with you 100% that the Koran is NOT holy. We reprinted the article—using the author’s own words—because we found it refreshing that a Muslim imam would be objective enough to admit the truth about Jerusalem and Israel—that Jerusalem is NOT sacred to Islam—and that the Holy Land (including so-called “Palestine”) belongs to the Jews. We felt that not censoring the author’s statements made them that much more powerful.

As for the Koran’s significance: Because its teachings will inspire future terrorists even if the West routs ISIS and the Taliban, we have to admit that the Koran holds inexcusable significance for the world. (See [July 2019 Levitt Letter, p. 31.](#))

Thank you for your observation and well-expressed reasoning. — editorial staff

## Wonderful suggestion

Dear ZLM,

As longtime ZLM viewers and contributors, we donate monthly but also donate easily through AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)). Our donation to ZLM from our purchases was over \$400 during a slow purchase period. So without even trying, we are able to help the ministry.

I hope more people take up this option to donate by specifying Zola Levitt Ministries. Please continue to publish your *Levitt Letter* newsmagazine, etc. as we enjoy it. —S. and L.P. (IL)

Dear S. and L.P.,

The ministry is thankful for your “slow” purchasing period! Kirsten and I have also added this option to our Amazon shopping experience ([see p. 15](#) “Donate with a Smile!”). —David ★

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

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# Who's Who in Israeli Politics

Haaretz.com

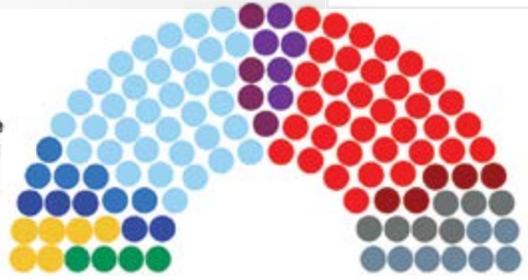


Illustration: A Flourish data visualization

Preceding elections, Israel's politicians maneuver behind the scenes forming coalitions that will allow them to be included in Israel's parliament majority and thus have more influence over Israeli policies.

The following breakdown shows the results of the recent election and who won the right to govern the Jewish state.

As many as 40 parties compete at Israel's ballot box. Israelis vote for parties, not individual candidates (the candidates are chosen by the parties, some through primaries). The more votes a party gets, the more seats it has in Israel's 120-seat parliament, the Knesset. A government is formed by a coalition of like-minded parties that capture more than 60 seats.

## Election position, number of seats in the new Knesset, head of party

- 1. 36 Likud**, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu  
Israel's right-wing flagship, and Netanyahu's party, opposes a Palestinian state, supports settlements, and encourages privatization in the economy. Netanyahu said he would annex Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank if he won another term.
- 2. 35 Kahol Lavan (Blue and White)**, Benny Gantz  
Former military chief Gantz emerged as a serious rival to Netanyahu. Gantz is a popular former armed forces chief and a political newcomer who joined forces with right-wing Moshe Ya'alon, a former defense minister, and center-left former finance minister Yair Lapid to form the new centrist Kahol Lavan party. Gantz has called for pursuing peace with the Palestinians while maintaining Israeli security interests. He has signaled that he would make territorial concessions toward the Palestinians but has also sidestepped the question of Palestinian statehood.
- 3. 8 Shas (the Sephardi Haredi party)**, Interior Minister Arye Dery  
Almost permanent fixture in successive governments, represents Jews of Middle Eastern origin.
- 4. 7 United Torah Judaism (the Ashkenazi Haredi party)**, Deputy Health Minister Yaakov Litzman  
Represents ultra-Orthodox Jews of European origin. Successive coalition governments have to rely on support from ultra-Orthodox parties, which put their sectoral demands above larger issues like security and Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and oppose mandatory army service for their followers.
- 5-6. 6 Hadash-Taal**, Ayman Odeh and Ahmad Tibi  
Draws most of its voters from Israel's 20 percent Arab minority, supports Palestinian statehood, and advocates for Israel's Arab minority.

*(continued next page)*



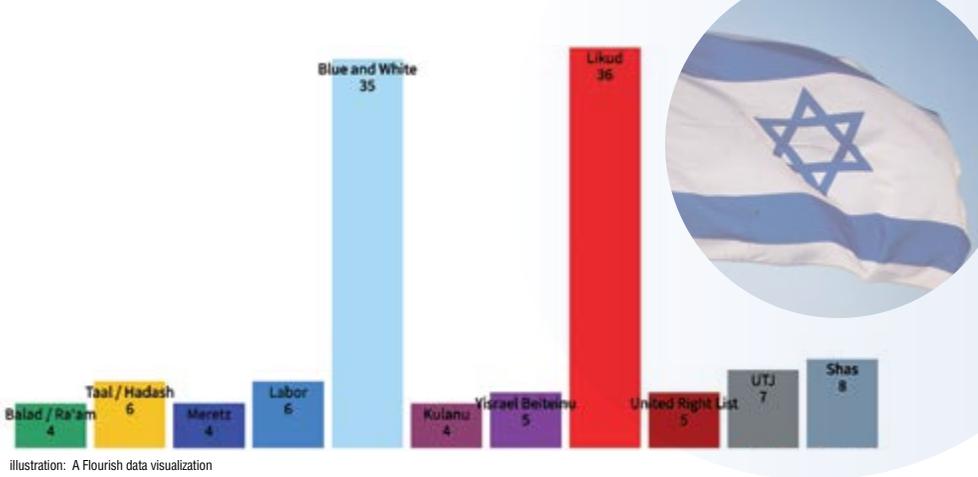


Illustration: A Flourish data visualization

- 5–6. 6 Labor**, Avi Gabbay  
Social democratic, longtime dominant center-left party in Israel, stresses social and economic reform, pursuing peace and a two-state solution with the Palestinians.
- 7–8. 5 Union of Right-Wing Parties**, Rafi Peretz and Bezalel Smotrich  
Representative of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, it repudiates the idea of a Palestinian state and stresses Israel’s Biblical and religious connections to land the Palestinians seek for a state. Union includes Jewish Power, an ultra-nationalist religious party that includes disciples of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who advocated the “transfer” of Palestinians to neighboring Arab countries and a ban on intermarriage between Jews and Arabs.
- 7–8. 5 Israel Beiteinu**, Avigdor Lieberman  
Champions the interests of Russian-speaking immigrants, along with a hardline defense policy that calls for the execution of terrorists.
- 9–11. 4 Meretz**, Tamar Zandberg  
Zionist and supporting minority rights and religious pluralism within Israel, the left-wing party has not been part of a coalition government in the past two decades. Popular with liberal middle-class Israelis, Meretz advocates a two-state solution with the Palestinians.
- 9–11. 4 Kulanu**, Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon  
A center-right party focused on lowering Israel’s high cost of living, Kulanu casts itself as moderate right-wing, focused on socio-economic issues.
- 9–11. 4 United Arab List-Balad**, Abbas Mansour and Mtanes Shehadeh  
UAL-Balad’s leaders are a mix of Islamist and Arab nationalists. It describes itself as a democratic movement opposed to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory.

**0 seats in the new Knesset, may disband:**

**Zehut:** Libertarian (favors marijuana legalization) but strongly against Palestinian statehood and Arab-Israeli equality.

**The New Right:** Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked. Opposes Palestinian statehood, supports settlement growth.

**Gersher:** (Bridge) Established in December 2018 by former Yisrael Beiteinu MK Orly Levy. Economic and cost-of-living issues, aiming to reduce inequality. ★



# World's Tallest Solar Tower



SCIENCE: BY DAVID LAZARUS (r) TheIsraelWire.com



photo: David Lazarus

Ashalim solar tower

The Ashalim solar and thermal electric power plant in Israel's Negev Desert is up and running. The state-of-the-art facility is equipped with more than 50,000 computer-controlled heliostats (mirrors) that can track the sun in two dimensions and reflect the sunlight onto a boiler placed on top of a tower measuring 787.4 feet in height. That's higher than some of the tallest skyscrapers in the world—and, by far, the tallest solar tower ever built.

**How does it work?** All of those tens of thousands of mirrors are hooked up to a computer-operated tracking system so that they all move precisely with the orbit of the earth around the sun throughout the day and direct the heat from the sunlight to a spot on the boiler on top of the tower to within 0.0015499969 of an inch. The super-hot water in the boiler produces superheated steam, which is then conveyed down through pipes below with enough pressure to spin a steam turbine-generator at the astronomical speeds needed to produce electricity. The solar-run generator can put out 300 megawatts of clean electricity every day, enough to power 150,000 homes.

Another feature of the Ashalim project uses solar thermal technology that can store energy for use at night in order to provide a consistent and reliable output of electricity. This is one of the largest renewable energy projects in the world. The facility covers an area of over two square miles.

Israel's climate is ideal for solar power, particularly in the Negev, which enjoys more than 300 sunny days a year. Israel has been home to many solar technology breakthroughs, but the government has been slow in moving away from fossil fuels for power. However, that is definitely starting to change with the goal of getting 10% of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020 and with the new solar project. Once the project is proven fully successful, Israel plans to move rapidly towards renewable energy sources.

[Pilgrims who add the Petra extension to our tours of Israel get to see this magnificent tower in person. Even from miles away, this super-tall structure resembles the "Pillar of Fire" that guided Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness. Coincidence? —Kirsten](#) ★



# Sleep Vital to Repair DNA Damage



MEDICINE: BY NAAMA BARAK (r) Israel21c.org



Getting enough sleep is essential for healthy DNA function

While it's no secret that a good night's sleep is important, it's also pretty strange that all living things require substantial shut-eye that leaves them vulnerable in a world full of danger. So, what makes sleep so beneficial that it's worth the risk?

Researchers from Bar-Ilan University wanted to answer that question. In a study published in *Nature Communications*, they sought to define sleep and why we all sleep.



Prof. Lior Appelbaum with zebrafish

"If you think it through, it seems odd that sleep is a common activity, because it's dangerous," says brain scientist Prof. Lior Appelbaum, one of the study's co-authors. "In the jungle, if you're in sleep mode, you may get eaten by a tiger."

This seeming contradiction led the researchers to believe that sleep must have fundamental importance. To determine

whether this is the case, they used innovative 3D time-lapse imaging techniques to scan the chromosome activity of zebrafish to see what happens when the fish sleep.

The reason for experimenting in fish, Appelbaum explains, is that they are transparent and their brain activity isn't hidden behind a skull, making it easier to monitor in its natural surroundings. Also, fish have a brain structure similar to humans, only much less complex.

*(continued next page)*





The researchers developed a way to monitor chromosome movement within the fish, checking what happens to chromosome dynamics and movement during the fish's wakeful and sleeping hours.

Contrary to expectations, researchers discovered that chromosomes move almost twice as much when the fish goes to sleep. The researchers also discovered that single neurons require sleep in order to perform nuclear maintenance.

Nuclear maintenance is required to repair the DNA damage that occurs naturally in our cells. The research showed that during wakefulness, when chromosome movement is low, DNA damage accumulates consistently and can reach unsafe levels.

"During wakefulness, we accumulate DNA damage in the neurons in the brain," Appelbaum explains.

"By the end of the fishes' sleep cycle, they repair everything and the neurons are back to normal."

"Like potholes in the road," he adds. "Roads accumulate wear and tear, especially during daytime rush hours. It is most efficient to fix them at night, when there is lighter traffic."

"We found a causal link between sleep, chromosome dynamics, neuronal activity, and DNA damage and repair with direct physiological relevance to the entire organism," he says. "Sleep gives an opportunity to reduce DNA damage accumulated in the brain during wakefulness."

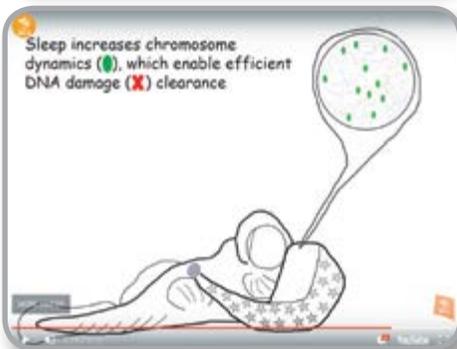
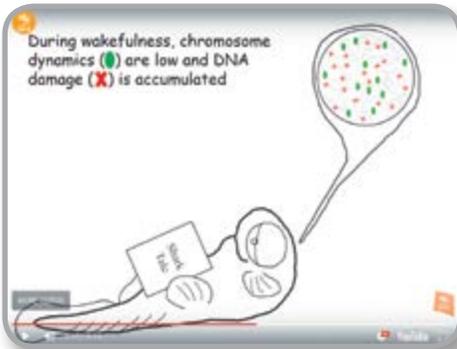
The study's implications for humans are far-reaching. Mentioning Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and ALS, Appelbaum suggests, "It's possible that lack of good sleep over time can harm the brain."

While the connection between lack of sleep and neurodegenerative diseases is still only a suggestion, Appelbaum and his colleagues are keen to explore it in mammals.

"We know that good sleep is good," he concludes. "This research explaining why is the first time we've managed to access the brain and take these photos."

Does he have any tips for a good night's sleep? "Sleep regularly, on time, and as much as needed. Don't delay sleep hours or have long sleep deprivation." As for kicking the habit of too-late TV watching: "Perhaps knowing that sleep deprivation does DNA damage to your brain is important," he chuckles.

Most Bible readers would agree that the benefits of sleep are not only a free gift from God but also comparable to those of keeping the Sabbath. — David ★



top: DNA damage before sleep  
bottom: DNA damage after sleep

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



As a Muslim, U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar is taught by the Koran to hate People of the Book—Jews and Christians. In your prayers for our government, give an extra plea for Omar and other Muslims in policy-making positions. The Holy Spirit can, and does, change hearts.

## Kushner: Middle East Plan in June

By Omri Nahmias, Tovah Lazaroff/JPost.com  
Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's senior advisor, told foreign diplomats in mid-April that the "deal of the century" will be released in June, after Ramadan (May 6 – June 4, 2019).

Kushner spoke in front of 100 foreign diplomats and ambassadors and asked them to keep an open mind regarding the plan. However, he did not provide any new details about the plan itself.

"We will all have to look for reasonable compromises that will make peace achievable," Kushner said.

Whether the plan will propose outright the creation of a Palestinian state, which is the Palestinians' core demand, remains unclear.

During his remarks, Kushner pushed back on the idea that the Trump peace plan mostly centered around the economic package, saying the political component is "very detailed."

"[Kushner] said the plan will require concessions from both sides but won't jeopardize the security of Israel," a source explained. "It requires

everybody approaching the plan with an open mind."

Jason Greenblatt, Trump's special representative for international negotiations, indicated that the peace team will not release any details of the plan ahead of time. "Continued speculation doesn't help anyone & harms the effort. We kindly suggest a stop to the guessing games," he tweeted.



U.S. President Donald Trump's senior advisor and son-in-law Jared Kushner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, February 2019

Meanwhile, newly sworn-in Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said that "There are no partners in Palestine for Trump. There are no Arab partners for Trump and there are no European partners for Trump." He added that Trump's peace plan will be "born dead."

*(continued next page)*





## Golan Decision Moral and Strategic

By Senator Lindsey Graham  
*The Wall Street Journal*

President Trump’s formal recognition of the Golan Heights as part of Israel is strategically wise and morally important.

Israel secured the Golan Heights in 1967 after the Six-Day War, a defensive conflict Israel fought in response to attacks by Syria and other Arab/Muslim nations. Since then, the Golan has been a critical part of Israel’s defenses.

**Before the Six-Day War, Syria used the Golan to shell Israeli towns, villages, and farms in the Galilee indiscriminately.** Those dark days ended with Israel’s victory in the Six-Day War. Returning the Golan to the aggressor would be disastrous for Israel, morally wrong and strategically dangerous.

Rewarding Syria for attacking Israel in 1967 and again in 1973 would dramatically change the cost-benefit calculations for other expansionist dictators. When a state decides whether to invade a neighbor, it has to take into account the risk of losing instead of gaining land. Returning the Golan Heights would tell would-be invaders that territory they lose will eventually be given back. Removing the risk is a recipe for more aggression.

A consequence of the nearby Syrian



U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham

civil war is the foothold Iran has gained in Syria. Tehran and its proxies, especially Hezbollah, helped save Bashar al-Assad’s Syrian dictatorship, and their presence in Syria opens a new front in their war against Israel. It is important to demonstrate America’s determination to confront Iran, which seeks hegemony in the region. Recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan helps convey that the U.S. stands with Israel and won’t pressure Jerusalem to take steps that would undermine its own security.

**Locals tell us that before the Golan Heights returned to Israel’s jurisdiction, fishermen on Lake Kinneret/Sea of Galilee had to put steel around their boats in order to not be shot while fishing. We thank President Trump for the formal recognition. — David ★**



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# Christian Roots in the Very Soil of Israel



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

Dr. Scott Stripling is in the process of proving his theory concerning the precise location of the Biblical city of Ai. If the theory is accepted, it may be a major step in substantiating the Bible as a valid source for archaeologists.

Dr. Stripling has sifted through the sands of Israel for over 20 years and serves as the archaeological director for Associates for Biblical Research (ABR), a Christian organization that brings together Biblical research and archaeology to mutually advance both disciplines.



photo: courtesy Dr. Scott Stripling

Dr. Scott Stripling overseeing archaeological work

According to the Book of Joshua, the city of Ai was conquered by the Israelites on their second attempt. After an initial attempt resulted in a demoralizing defeat, a God-directed ambush led to success. The king was captured, hanged, and his body placed at the city gates. The Israelites burned Ai completely.

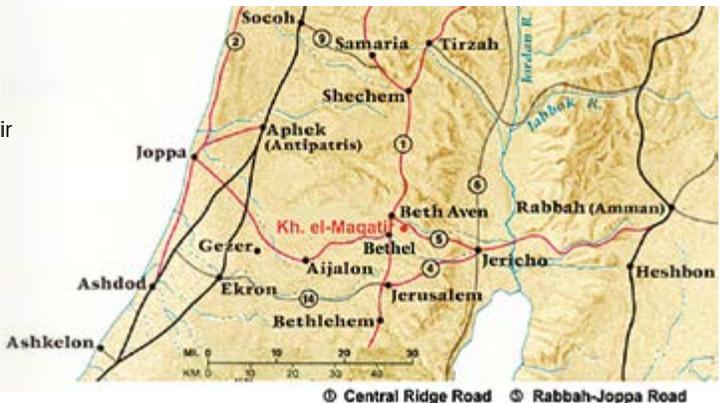
Because the site played a prominent role in the Exodus narrative, Ai's location always created intense interest in Biblical scholars and archaeologists. But the lack of archaeological evidence at early 20<sup>th</sup> century excavations of et-Tell on the east bank of the Jordan and the hypotheses that the Joshua narrative refers to the conquest of Bethel, a few miles from et-Tell, caused most archaeologists to reject the historical veracity of Ai's conquest as reported in the Bible.

In 1994, ABR member Bryant G. Wood began digging at Khirbet el-Maqatir to investigate the possibility that it might be the elusive site of Ai. He was encouraged by the writings of Edward Robinson, an American Biblical scholar and Orientalist, who explored Palestine several times in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. According to Robinson's accounts, when he visited Khirbet el-Maqatir in 1838, locals told him the site was the location of Ai.

In 2008, Wood suggested Khirbet el-Maqatir as the location of Biblical Ai, based on an Exodus in the 15<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Archaeologists who set the Exodus in the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C. disagree.

*(continued next page)*

Map showing Khirbet el-Maqatir in red type





In order to confirm Wood’s theory, the excavations must indicate a fortified city with a gate in the north. Remains of a gate were discovered in ABR’s first year of digging. Dr. Stripling, who directed the excavation from 2013–2017, explained that the Biblical account describes an ambush carried out by Israelite troops hiding to the west of the city, nearby but out of sight.

*And he commanded them, saying: “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.” — Joshua 8:4*

Dr. Stripling believes that the Israelite troops hid in Wadi Sheban, a dry wash to the west of the Khirbet el-Maqtar site. To verify the plausibility of this theory, three members of the ABR excavation team equipped with backpacks ran from the dry wash to the site location, arriving in exactly five minutes. (Et-Tell does not have an area to its west capable of concealing troops.)

Such remarkable results do not come easily, and conditions in what Stripling call “the wild west” were basic in the best of times. “There were 14 years of difficult digging with an 8-year hiatus due to the Intifada,” Dr. Stripling said, describing a site with no running water or bathrooms. “We suffered from constant vandalism. But we persevered and did a skillful job of excavating.”

photo: courtesy Dr. Scott Stripling



Aerial view of archaeological excavation

Dr. Stripling related how he once lectured a group of Ph.D. students at Hebrew University on Mount Scopus whom he described as “the future leaders of archaeology.” Dr. Stripling taught about his methods, including his referring to the Biblical text.



“After the lecture,” Stripling

recalled, “they thanked me, saying that I was the first person who had taught them while using the Bible. Like me, they used texts from Egypt and Mesopotamia, but I was the only one who referred to the Bible.”

Dr. Stripling expressed great respect for the archaeologists he has worked with in Israel but believes there is an unjustified “anti-Bible” bias in the field.

**“Even if you dispute the historical reliability of the Bible, you can’t deny the hundreds of synchronisms between the archaeological data and the Biblical text.”**

Dr. Stripling remains optimistic. “My work in archaeology in Israel has affected me profoundly as a Believer. I already believed in the Bible; but as the years go by, I have seen hundreds of examples of synchronization between the culture we are excavating and what I read in the text. This is a constant reminder that there is a God and that He left a record of His work in history. It is an incredible honor to lead this work.”

Dr. Stripling quotes a verse in Psalms as his inspiration.

*Your servants take delight in its stones and cherish its dust. — Psalms 102:14*

“Archaeology helps establish our Christian roots in Judaism, in the very soil of Israel,” Dr. Stripling concluded.

ABR is also excavating Shiloh where the tabernacle stood for 369 years. ★

# Is the Future of ISIS Female?

**PART 2:** BY VERA MIRONOVA (r) NYTimes.com

The author, a Harvard University fellow embedded with the Iraqi Special Operations Forces, reports that women are playing an important role in ISIS — and security forces are not prepared. [Part 1 of this article appeared in May.](#)



Photo: Pixel

Umm Khattab, the 18-year-old British widow of an ISIS fighter

An increasing number of voices warn that ISIS's move to include women may make it even more dangerous as an insurgency. The rise of women as combatants as well as covert operatives gives the group an edge. When the Islamic State controlled huge areas, it had a well-defined military of men in uniforms. **But for an organization that increasingly needs to prioritize stealth, female operatives are a valuable weapon.**

After the fall of Mosul, for example, the forces I embedded with often saw women walking through the debris with food and water—an act that performed by men would have raised suspicions among the police, but which women could get away with more frequently. As a result of receiving provisions, militants who might otherwise have been forced out of hiding were perhaps able to stay alive. And some government

security forces aren't always prepared to address these changes in the ISIS demographics. While there are women among the civilian forces fighting ISIS in Syria, none occupy combat roles in the army and Special Operations Forces in Iraq.

Women's absence became a security issue during the 2017 operation to retake Mosul: While soldiers typically patted down the men coming from ISIS-controlled neighborhoods and checked them for weapons or explosives as they surrendered, the soldiers were not willing to touch the women. That this reluctance made them more dangerous than the men was widely understood. And women were responsible for many of the suicide bombings that took place almost daily at Iraqi Army positions during the Mosul operation.

Police forces, who today provide most of the security for the city, plan to recruit more female officers and add closed rooms at checkpoints where women can be searched, but officials are pessimistic about the timeline.

Civilians in Iraq are certainly aware of the new face of Islamic State. According to a survey a colleague and I conducted in Mosul last December, 85% of 400 respondents said that in the past, Islamic State women were as radical as men, and 80% agreed or strongly agreed that they played an important role in the group; 82% said they agreed or strongly agreed that ISIS women will be dangerous for Mosul in the future.

If gender roles in Iraq were previously mostly a human rights concern, now they have also become a security concern. A group notorious for its misogyny might be considered ahead of the country as a whole when it comes to gender equality among its fighters, and perhaps, too, in its willingness to see women as fully capable of causing destruction. Iraq will soon have no choice but to rethink its own ideas about gender roles, security, and who can be a threat if it is to keep itself safe. ★



# JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



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

## No Mistake

A U.S. Navy cruiser docked in a foreign port for one week. The first evening, the captain was surprised to receive the following note from the ambassador's wife:

*Dear Captain:*

*On Thursday, my daughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party will be held at the prime minister's mansion. I would like you to send four handsome, well-mannered, unmarried officers. They should arrive at 8 p.m. One last point: No Jews—we don't want Jews.*

As ordered, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, four handsome, dignified, African-American officers in full dress uniform presented themselves to the hostess... whose lower jaw hit the floor. Pulling herself together, she stammered: "There must be some mistake."

"No, Ma'am," replied the first officer. "Captain Greenberg doesn't make mistakes."

Though some readers may initially perceive this joke to be anti-Black, it's actually anti-bigotry, and pokes fun at all racists, whether anti-Jew, -Black, -Mexican, -Asian, etc. — Mark ★



Technically, Moses was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud

### Answer Key for June 2019 Crossword (p.23)

<i>Across:</i>		<i>Down:</i>	
3. Bethlehem	17. Elders	1. Save	8. Boaz
9. Angel	19. Commanded	2. Child	11. Rejected
10. Anoint	20. Sorrows	4. Transgressions	15. Comfort
12. Sheep	21. Spirit	5. Heaven	16. Bones
13. Gabriel		6. Trouble	18. Beauty
14. Believed		7. Sleep	

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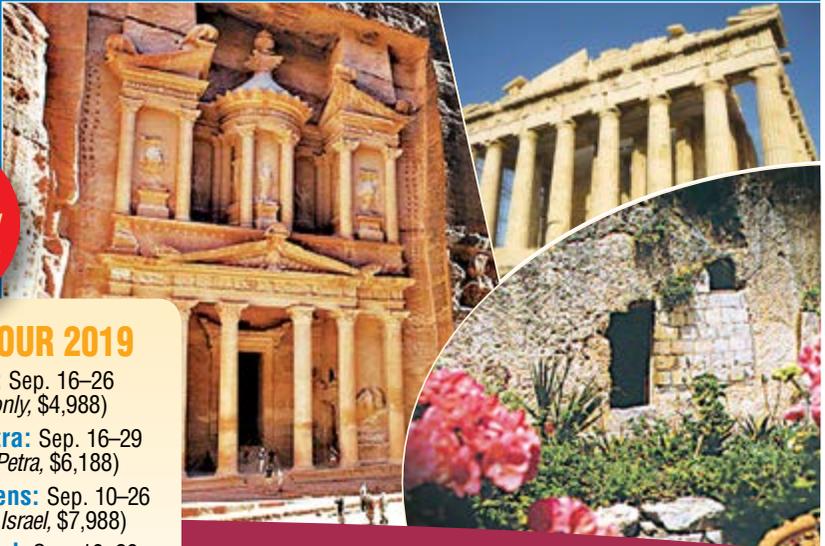
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