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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

January 2020

First, apologies for last month's scrumptious-looking Hanukkah jelly doughnuts that appeared so near the "Fat Cells and Melanoma" report (pp. 27, 30). Sorry.

January 6 marks Epiphany, the public opening of God's gift to mankind, when the Magi arrived to acknowledge Yeshua's birth. Read about the holiday's revival on p. 29.

Thumbing through this issue will dispel any doubt that God is active in today's world. Zola despaired of Russian mendacity 40 years ago but recognized a key actor in the End Times (p. 4). Reading with the clarity of hindsight shows God's plan is advancing.

God at work: Be encouraged by our report on increasing religious freedom in the Middle East (8), learn from Sarah about second-generation Messianics in Israel (7), and admire the courage of a Japanese bureaucrat (10) who saw a need and saved thousands! A modern-day Esther positioned by God.

Our To the Jew First team reports on God's speedy response time (13), and the Hebrew Lesson (16) points to God's active interest in our lives. History continues to inform us. This month we discover details about Yeshua's life (32) and judicial proceedings of the Nuremberg trials (34).

Kirsten (6) and Mark (14) shed more light on the new name of ZLM's weekly television program — *Our Jewish Roots* — and several readers weigh in as well (22–25). Please share this issue.

*Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6)



*Margot*


Margot, Editor  
Zola Levitt Ministries

**P.S.** Your support spreads valuable teaching, like theologian Todd Baker's explanations that the Bible's flawlessness reveals God's nature (12) and Jews and Christians needn't act like one another to be saved (12). Thank you for helping us feed Yeshua's sheep with the milk and meat of the Word.

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# Levitt LETTER

JANUARY 2020

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

inside: **Russia in  
Prophecy p.4**

## How the Church Failed the Jewish People

By Susan Michael  
ICEJ USA Director, [IsraelAnswers.com](http://IsraelAnswers.com)

It is in humans' fallen nature to look for a scapegoat, someone else to blame for their problems. It's easier to hold grudges than to forgive and demonstrate the very compassion we preach.

This is also true of the Church and its posture toward the Jewish people. Soon after its inception, the Church fell prey to Satan's lure and embraced the idea that the Jewish people were cursed by God and deserving of maltreatment for the crucifixion of Jesus.

### Theological Seeds Sown

The differences between church and synagogue showed early in the life of the Church. By the end of the Bar Kokhba Revolt (A.D. 132–135), Jewish leaders saw Jewish Christians not as Jews with different views about the Messiah but as "Christians." Jewish Christianity began to fade, while gentile Christianity gained preeminence.

*(continued p.2)*

REMEMBER:  
**Epiphany is Monday, January 6**

## Behind the Scenes of *Joshua*

By Clayton Herring  
Berg Productions

In the middle of a modern town not far from the Dead Sea lies a nondescript, undeveloped area that holds within its excavations the story of defeat. Behold: the ruins of ancient Jericho. While it is difficult to see evidence of the original walls in the archaeological digs, it is obvious that little remains of the defeated Canaanite city. No series on Joshua would be complete without visiting this site and telling the story recorded in the Book of Joshua, chapters 5 and 6. Filming our new series that's coming to you this month, "*Joshua: More Than a Conqueror*," found us at these ruins on a cloudy day in March 2019.

*(continued p.3)*



credit: Ken Berg, Berg Productions

Detail of Taking of Jerusalem by the Crusaders, 15<sup>th</sup>–July 1099, painting (1894–1892) by Emile Signol (1804–1892), Palace of Versailles, France



# How the Church Failed the Jewish People *continued from cover*

Anti-Jewish thought permeated the theology of early Christian leaders such as Justin Martyr (A.D. 185–254) and Tertullian (160–225). Saint John Chrysostom (349–407), one of the most eloquent preachers of truth and love, said of the Jewish people, “God hates you.”

**Centuries of anti-Jewish rhetoric in Church doctrine gave Christians reason to hate the**

**Jews**, whose children they kidnapped and baptized to save them from Hell. They beat Jews at Easter as murderers of the Lord.

Anti-Jewish theology led to laws against the Jews in the Middle Ages, forcing them into walled ghettos or expelling them from their countries.

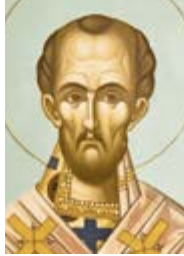


Martin Luther

The Protestant Reformation produced more of the same. Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation’s return to the Bible as the source of religious

authority. Unfortunately, in his later years, Luther turned bitter toward the Jews, outlining ways to persecute them and pleading for some “solution” to them. Four hundred years later, Hitler reprinted Luther’s anti-Semitic writings and leaned heavily on Luther’s work to create his own “solution.”

Christian leaders known for love and charity called the Jews “monstrous animals.” It was not Hitler who thought up the yellow-star badge for Jews to wear, but 13<sup>th</sup>-century Pope Innocent, who called for Jews to be identified by distinctive clothing pieces.



John Chrysostom



Pope Innocent III

Hitler also used medieval Catholic anti-Jewish legislation as a model for his own. Eventually, this anti-Jewish sentiment manifested in the Holocaust. And the Church was silent — neither the Catholics nor the Protestants withstood him. Secular rulers expelled Jews from their lands as if to say, “You have no right to live among us.” Then Hitler later decreed: “You have no right to live.”



Adolf Hitler

## The Need for Humility

Ironically, the Christian religion — an offshoot of Judaism founded by the Jewish Messiah and built on teachings of forgiveness and love — was the devil’s tool to bring hatred, persecution, and murder to the Jews. This in spite of Apostle Paul instructing Believers to honor the Jewish people (Romans 11:28–29), and Jesus teaching that salvation comes from the Jews (John 4:22).

**Christianity did not cause the Holocaust.** But Christian anti-Judaism, which led to anti-Semitism — history’s oldest hatred — made the Holocaust possible.

The lesson for us is to be careful of the seeds we plant. As Christians, we should walk in the compassion and forgiveness of our Lord. If the Church had walked in the humility that Jesus modeled and taught, the Holocaust might never have happened.

No matter what brand of Christian we are, we must guard against the human tendency to blame someone else. May we instead learn to walk in the compassion and humility of our Lord.

**Kirsten and I grew up in Evangelical churches, and it saddens us to learn about the Church’s historically cruel relationship with Jewish people. May ours be the generation that breaks that narrative. — David**







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## Behind the Scenes ... *continued from cover sidebar*

Our camera crew set up here to record Dr. Jeffrey Seif's teaching about the conquest of this Canaanite stronghold.

The Hebrew people, who had been wandering the desert for 40 years, followed the instructions they were given by the commander of the LORD's army, Joshua. They marched around Jericho's walls and blew their shofars. The walls tumbled down. We hope the strongholds and opposition that come against each of you readers will fall under the control of the God of Israel. When that happens, what appears to be an impossible situation can become a decisive victory in the hands of Almighty God.

The new *Joshua* series will make a wonderful Sunday School or Bible group study! —Kirsten ★



Dr. Jeffrey Seif teaching for "Joshua: More Than a Conqueror" on location in Israel

# Russia in Prophecy

Classic Zola  
from 1981  
39 years ago



source: Wikimedia Commons



Map of the Soviet Union Administrative Divisions, 1989

[Back to Cover](#)

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## Different Tactics with the Soviet Union

It's refreshing for a government leader to point out that the Soviets believe they have the "right to commit any crime, lie, or cheat" to attain their goals. When that leader is the new president of the United States, it gives people confidence in him.

President Carter seemed to think that the Russian leaders would honor their promises, tell the truth, and otherwise conduct themselves with the integrity that he himself possessed. One cannot say that the president was a complete fool, but he was far too trusting. The Baptist deacon from Georgia seemed to think that all men want to do the right thing; but the fact is, some men want to do the wrong thing as efficiently and ruthlessly as they can.

President Reagan is not as credulous. In his first news conference on January 29<sup>th</sup>, he said that the Soviets had made no secret of striving for world domination: "I know of no Soviet leader since the Revolution, including the present leadership, that has not repeated the goal of a world revolution and a one-world Communist state."

## AntiChrist Not from Russia

Those final words echo the Book of Revelation's description of a one-world controlling force under the antiChrist's leadership. Lying, cheating, and committing any crime would be characteristic of the Tribulation government as well. The antiChrist will no more consider the common man's welfare than do today's Communists consider the workers of Poland or the dispossessed citizens of Afghanistan. The antiChrist will feel that he knows what's best for the whole world and that "might makes right." The antiChrist, like Russia today, will gather territories with little resistance and will institute a new ideology that all men will be compelled to accept.

But interestingly, scholars of prophecy realize that the antiChrist will not come out of Russia or promote a Communistic ideology. His home base will be Western Europe — the revived Roman Empire — and prophecy implies that he will rise out of Rome itself. Thus, something must happen to the Russians

*(continued next page)*



credit:  
Michael Evans  
(1944–2005),  
National Archives  
and Records  
Administration

before the Tribulation Period to eliminate them from the scene of world domination. The prophet Ezekiel makes clear that Russia will attempt to invade Israel in the latter days, and students of prophecy widely agree that this will be the Russian Waterloo. Perhaps the defeat of Russia and her allies in the invasion of Israel will give the antiChrist his cue to step forward and make his seven-year peace treaty with the Israelis. His reasoning may be, "You were lucky this time, but you need protection. I am close by with my 10-nation Confederacy of Western Europe, and I can help." The Israelis will sign up because they 1) will be scared and 2) will have played their trump card, their nuclear weapons. They will realize that the next assault will be nuclear, and they simply won't have the means to repel it without help from more powerful forces.

### Russian Expansion Expected

The picture of events to come is quite clear from the Biblical reckoning. Russia will proceed to gobble up territory in the manner she has always done, finally coming to Israel. When the Communists attempt to overrun Israel, they will be all but wiped out and no longer a factor in world affairs (Ezek. 39). The antiChrist will step forward and make his covenant ... and proceed to Armageddon.

It is helpful to hear a clear, unvarnished assessment of the Russians from President Reagan. Now if only the world could be convinced that something even worse is following closely behind the Russian Bear.

For more on Russia in prophecy see the [book](#) and [CD](#) "[Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy](#)" below. ★



### [Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy](#)

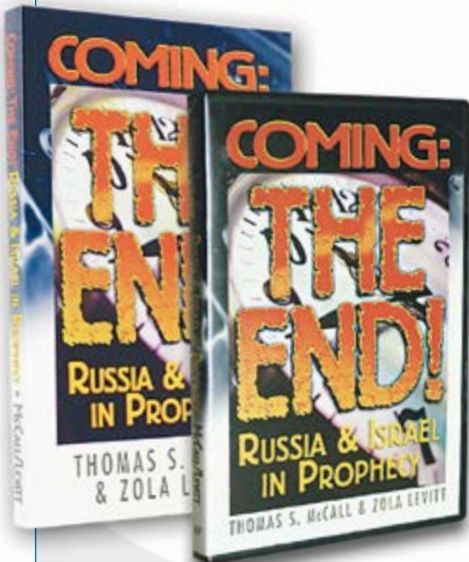
[book & CD](#)

by Zola Levitt and Dr. Thomas S. McCall

This study of a primary End Times prophecy is vital for all who believe the Scriptures. One chapter, "A Strategy for Unbelievers," even tells unbelievers how to cope with the Tribulation Period! This basic book of prophecy analyzes the world situation in surprising terms. Hal Lindsey called it "a must-read for everyone who wants to know where we are on God's timetable."

(Please see [Classic Zola article](#) above.)

[This and many titles also available as eBooks.](#)







God instructed Abraham, the very first Hebrew, to leave his life in Ur and journey to an unknown region. Abraham's place of blessing moved. God had new days, new experiences, and new adventures already planned for Abraham, but He required him to venture out of the familiar in order to experience the new.

Many of us tend to shun change. We get comfortable. We know and like our routines. Life just seems to melt into each new day – get up, get ready for work, go to work, come home. Rinse and repeat. But what if there were more to life? What does it take to get you to move out of your comfort zone and follow God into an unknown and uncharted future?

We just survived the hectic Thanksgiving–Christmas season. When Jesus was an infant in arms, an angel warned Joseph of King Herod's sinister plans, and **overnight the holy family fled to an unknown life in Egypt**. Mary and Joseph followed the angel's instructions even though they did not know what lay ahead in a new land. Where would Joseph find work? Where would they live? What would life be like for them in this foreign country. Let's not forget that Egypt had been a land of bondage for the Hebrews (think: Moses).

## Unknown Territories

**Has God ever nudged you to pick up and enter unknown territory?** That has happened to David and me several times during our thirty years of marriage. And it may be happening again. No, we're not leaving ZLM. But it may be time for us to move to a new location. Still ... selling our dream home for an unknown? Yet, what would we miss if we dismissed a possible new venture?

As we personally ponder our future, and where God may be physically guiding us, I don't want to make the mistake of staying put longer than our God-appointed

time. The prophet Elijah was taken care of by the brook Cherith. God provided fresh water in a natural spring and sent birds to literally bring food to Elijah. But that season of provision ended. Elijah's physical place of nourishment and residence was now in a different location.

What does this new year hold for you? Are you open for a fresh new adventure? Keep your ears and eyes alert for the Holy Spirit speaking to you and possibly guiding you into a new season. I, for one, am thankful that Abraham

listened to God's voice to pack up and journey to a new land. For Abraham's listening and obeying brought about the Covenant that resulted in our Messiah's First Coming.

My prayers go to you and your family in this new year. May the voice of God be very real in your everyday life. Happy adventuring! ★



*Flight into Egypt*, woodcut for "Die Bibel in Bildern" (1860)  
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)

# The Next Generation of Messianic Israelis

On the Ground in Israel  
**Sarah Liberman**  
[SarahLiberman.com](http://SarahLiberman.com)  
ZLP Contributor



Throughout history, people called to do a new work have had to keep their original vision alive and close to their heart to encourage themselves as they faced the challenges of “breaking new ground.” If you’ve ever pioneered something, you know that as time passes and much effort and cost are invested, you can’t help but look to the future and wonder “Will this work continue beyond me?”

What happens, then, when a new generation comes on the scene? Will they run with the same zeal as those in the previous generation? This “catching of the vision” is what determines whether the work continues or dies.

Here in Israel, the pioneering work of building the Messianic community that began in the 1970s was done primarily by immigrants. These people came from many countries, had their families here, and struggled adapting to their new lives as they raised the first generation of native Israeli Believers.

These young Believers grew up without anyone questioning their Jewish identity, a question often faced by Messianic Jews in other parts of the

world. As a result, there are fewer Jewish cultural expressions in Israeli congregations today than you might expect. **In the last 40 years, the Body (of Christ) in Israel has grown from several hundred to tens of thousands.**

Throughout the year, there are youth and young adult weekends and programs specially designed for believing soldiers serving in active duty. There are many opportunities for young people to connect, with several hundred gathering at a time. Young leaders in the land are pioneering their own works in evangelism, business, ministry, and congregational leadership. This expansion is the blessing of the Lord and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

However, sometimes transitions like this can cause friction when the new generation wants to expand the work in ways different from the original vision. This season in the Body, therefore, calls for maturity and humility on the part of the younger ones and a willingness on the part of the older folks to let go and spur on the newer members. I believe there is a special blessing to multi-generational units working together, respecting what came before and being open to the new. Please join me in praying about this critical time, that the work of building up the Body of Messiah in Israel will continue and expand in great measure.

*“And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”*

Genesis 17:8 ★





# Religious Freedom in Israel and the Arab World



**PART 2:** BY JOEL C. ROSENBERG (r) JPost.com

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." — Proverbs 31:8–9*

At a conference designed to make the advancement of religious freedom a top global priority and give voice to many who feel voiceless, the author spoke from "An Israeli Evangelical's Perspective," and focused on the state of religious freedom in Israel and the Arab-Muslim world. [Last month](#) we reviewed Israel's widespread religious freedom. This month and next we consider ...

## The State of Religious Freedom in the Arab World



Leaders and representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states pose during a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on May 18, 2018

I'm pleased to report that something very hopeful is happening to the safety and freedom of Christians in the Arab world. Not long ago, radical Islamists were beheading Christians in Libya, burning down churches in Egypt, waging genocide against Christians in Iraq and Syria, and vowing to exterminate Christianity through our region.

Today, the situation in some Arab locales is vastly different.

- Arab-Muslim leaders have been valiantly fighting to defeat the forces of radical Islamism.
- Tens of millions of Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis have been liberated from the forces of barbarism and savagery.
- A growing number of Arab governments are waging an ideological and theological battle against radical Islamists in their mosques, schools, and on social media, and are training a new generation of clerics to preach moderation and mutual respect.
- Some Arab-Muslim kings, crown princes, presidents, and prime ministers are calling for a new era of peaceful coexistence with Christians and Jews.
- Some are even inviting Christians to meet with them to improve religious freedom and the quality of life for Christians in their countries.

*(continued next page)*

Such trends do not receive nearly enough attention, but they should, for they are real and historic.

Over the last two decades, I have traveled extensively across North Africa and the Middle East, from Morocco to Afghanistan, building friendships with Muslims and Christians.

## Meetings with country leaders

Recently, I had the opportunity to lead five delegations of American Evangelical leaders to Sunni Arab countries — twice to Egypt, and once each to Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia — meeting with Christian leaders, but also with Muslim leaders at the highest levels.

In Amman, King Abdullah II — winner of 2018’s Templeton Prize for his extraordinary history of promoting interfaith dialogue and religious freedom — invited our delegation to a working lunch at the palace.

In Cairo, we spent almost three hours in private talks with President El-Sisi — the first time an Egyptian president has ever met with an Evangelical delegation.

In Abu Dhabi, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed spent two hours with our delegation in his home — also the first time a leader of the United Arab Emirates had ever invited Evangelicals for such meetings.

In Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also spent two full hours with us — and we were told this was the first time Evangelical leaders had been invited to meet with senior members of the Saudi royal family in 300 years!

In each country, we made it clear that we were not coming for a photo-op, but to build long-term strategic friendships. And in each country, our talks were friendly, even warm.

We listened to each leader’s vision for reform and his record of accomplishments. We asked candid questions about the challenges facing Christians in their countries, and about the plans they have for improving religious freedom for Christians and all religious minorities.

We came away from each country encouraged.

**Next month: Now what?**

While religious freedom in Arab nations may never rival Israel’s, it’s fortunate that Arab leaders seek to root out Islamist oppression — not that the agenda of Islam itself has changed. —Mark

“For God so loved the world” (John 3:16). God’s “business” extends to the entire globe. He is alive and well and very active! —David

*The author lives in Jerusalem with his wife and sons.* ★



**top:** Yemenite Jew blowing a shofar  
**middle:** Druze sheiks in traditional dress  
**bottom:** Prayer in Cairo, detail of painting by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904)



# Japanese Man Saved 6,000 Jews

BY DAVID WOLPE, rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles / NYTimes.com



"Even a hunter cannot kill a bird that flies to him for refuge." This Samurai maxim inspired one gifted and courageous man to save thousands of people in defiance of his government and at the cost of his career. The astonishing story of Chiune Sugihara raises the questions: What shapes a moral hero? How does someone choose to save people that others turn away?

Research on those who rescued Jews during the Holocaust shows that many of them exhibited a streak of independence from an early age. Sugihara was unconventional in a society known for prizing conformity. His father insisted that his son, a top student, become a doctor. But Sugihara wanted to study languages and travel and immerse himself in literature.

Forced to sit for the medical school exam, he left the entire answer sheet blank. The same willfulness was on display when he entered the diplomatic corps and then, as vice minister of the Foreign Affairs Department for Japan in Manchuria in 1934, resigned in protest of the Japanese treatment of the Chinese.

A second characteristic of such heroes and heroines, as the psychologist Philip Zimbardo writes, is "that the very same situations that inflame the hostile imagination in some people, making them villains, can also instill the heroic imagination in other people, prompting them to perform heroic deeds." While the world around him disregarded the plight of the Jews, Sugihara was unable to ignore their desperation.

*(continued next page)*



Credit: The Asahi Shimbun, Getty Images



Credit: Gal Tibbon/Agence France-Presse, Getty Images

**top:** Chiune Sugihara, in an undated photograph  
**bottom:** Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan at a tree planted in memory of Chiune Sugihara in the garden of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem







credit:  
United States  
Holocaust Memorial  
Museum, courtesy  
of Hiroki Sugihara

In 1939, Sugihara was sent to Lithuania where he ran the Japanese consulate. There he was confronted with Jews fleeing from German-occupied Poland. Three times Sugihara cabled his embassy asking for permission to issue visas to the refugees. The cable from K. Tanaka at the foreign ministry read: "Concerning transit visas requested previously STOP Advise absolutely not to be issued any traveler not holding firm end visa with guaranteed departure ex japan STOP No exceptions STOP No further inquiries expected STOP."

Sugihara talked about the refusal with his wife, Yukiko, and his children and decided that despite the inevitable damage to his career, he would defy his government. Psychologist Zimbardo calls the capacity to act differently "the heroic imagination," a focus on one's duty to help and protect others. This ability is exceptional; but the people who have it are often understated. Years after the war, Sugihara spoke about his actions as "natural": "We had thousands of people hanging around the windows of our residence," he said in a 1977 interview. "There was no other way."

Day and night he wrote visas. He issued as many visas in a day as would normally be issued in a month. At night, his wife massaged his hands, aching from the constant effort. When Japan finally closed down the embassy in September 1940, he took the stationery with him and continued to write visas that had no legal standing but worked because of the seal of the government and his name. At least 6,000 visas were issued for people to travel through Japan to other destinations, and in many cases entire families traveled on a single visa. It is estimated that over 40,000 people are alive today because of this one man.

With the consulate closed, Sugihara had to leave. He gave the consulate stamp to a refugee to forge more visas, and he literally threw visas out of the train window to refugees on the platform.

After the war, Sugihara was dismissed from the foreign office. He and his wife lost a 7-year-old child and he worked at menial jobs. It was not until 1968 when Yehoshua Nishri found him that his contribution was recognized. Nishri had been a teenager in Poland, saved by a Sugihara visa and was now at the Israeli embassy in Tokyo.

Every Zola Tour visits Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, and their section dedicated to ordinary folks who heroically put their lives on the line to rescue and save Jewish people. — Kirsten ★



Chiune Sugihara and his son, Nobuki, in Golan Heights, Israel, 1969



# Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian

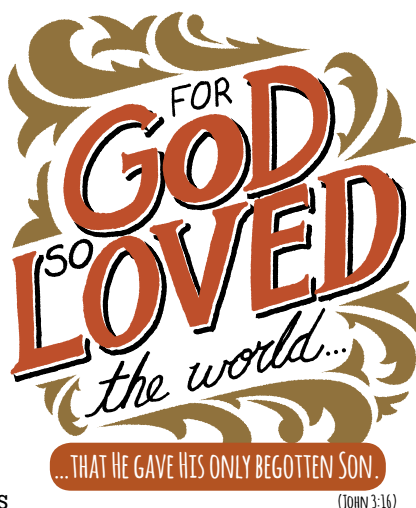


**Q. Are gentiles required to become Jews in order to receive salvation?**

**A. Salvation is a free gift, received solely by faith and trust in Jesus Christ.**

In Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council affirmed “that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ” Jews and gentiles are saved in the same way (Acts 15:11).

Jesus made it quite clear that the only requirement for salvation — for both Jews and gentiles — is believing in Him. He told the Jews that they were to believe in Jesus whom God sent (John 6:29); Paul instructed the gentiles (non-Jews) in the same way: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). The Book of Galatians refutes the mistaken belief that gentiles had to be circumcised and become Jews to be saved. Likewise, Jews were not to act like gentiles to be saved. Both are justified the same way — by faith in Jesus Christ alone (Galatians 2:16).



**Q. Why is Biblical inerrancy important?**

**A. Inerrancy is important because it directly reflects on the God of the Bible's character.**

The Scriptures have been (and are currently being) found to be accurate concerning history, theology, doctrine, morality, prophecy, and science. “Inerrant” simply means “without error.” God is perfect and incapable of error. Therefore, if the Bible is, in fact, the Word of God, it must also be perfect and free of error, reflecting the mind, will, and program of a perfect God. Biblical inerrancy is based on the character of a God who cannot lie and whose way is perfect (Hebrews 6:18; Psalm 18:30).

The historic position of the Christian Church for the last two thousand years has maintained that Jesus and the Apostles affirmed the inerrancy of the Bible. The Bible claims to be perfect — “the Law of the Lord is perfect” (Psalm 19:7) — and pure, word for word (Proverbs 30:5). Christians believe that God created the universe and that He wrote a perfect Book without error.

If the Bible were filled with errors, then God would not be omniscient; if the Bible were untrue, then God would not be a truth teller; and if the Bible were mistaken in its doctrines and teachings, then God would be incapable of truthfully communicating clearly and accurately. However, God’s Word is clear, perfect, pure, and reliably infallible, and we can stake our lives and eternity on what it says, knowing that the infallible Christ it reveals is “able to save to the uttermost” (Hebrews 7:25). ★



# When God Answers Prayer Immediately

Every outreach includes one witnessing event that stands out; our fall outreach was no different.

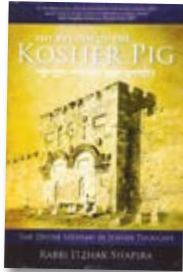
My wife (Sue) and I headed out early to pray at the Kotel (the Western Wall of the Temple Mount). We found parking about a mile from the Jaffa Gate and headed into the Old City. There was little foot traffic as none of the shops were open yet, and we made good time. While we were walking, we encountered a man going the same direction. His name was Yisrael.

I asked Yisrael if he had any news about the Temple being rebuilt. He responded, "From your lips to God's ears, we can only pray," then added that about two weeks earlier, a "red heifer" had been sacrificed on the Mount of Olives in preparation for building the Third Temple. We conversed as we walked.

Sue had a copy of *Return of the Kosher Pig* by Rabbi Itzhak Shapira and offered it to Yisrael. She thought he looked Orthodox and would enjoy it. He thumbed through the book but said that the rabbi probably would not approve. He suggested putting it in the library at the Kotel, as he was sure someone would want to read it. I found this statement very puzzling. At this point, we turned in different directions, ending the encounter. But God had additional plans.

Sue and I spent about forty minutes at the Kotel, and my last prayer was: "Father, send us someone who is hungry, who wants to know You; someone You want to hear the Gospel of Messiah." As we headed toward our car, we were surprised to find Yisrael walking beside us, but he did not seem to see us until we called out his name.

I showed Yisrael a book that his rabbi could hardly find offensive, because it was commentary on Isaiah 53 — *Isaiah 53 Explained* by Mitch Glaser, in Hebrew. Yisrael explained that, in the Old City, he had to be careful about what books he had in public. I told him that this small book was about one chapter from the Book of Isaiah, straight from the *Nevi'im* (Prophets), and a foreshadowing of the arrival and suffering of *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Jesus the Messiah).



Robin Hopper  
TJF Team Member



I was shocked when Yisrael said that he wanted to know more about Jesus, that he needed to know if Jesus was real or not. He explained that he wanted a Messiah but was confused. If Jews and Christians worshiped the same God, how could they be so far apart? He wanted to talk and asked if we had time for coffee. We answered that we had all the time in the world for him.

We found a coffee house in the Old City not far from the Grand Synagogue. With little foot traffic, we spied a secluded table where we could talk freely. **Yisrael wanted to know the difference between Christianity and Messianic Judaism.** The answer in a nutshell: You do not stop being Jewish when you come to faith in Messiah Yeshua. Though in general, denominations of the Church have wandered from their Jewish roots, Yeshua/Jesus was Jewish. He kept kosher, kept the Teachings (*Torah*), taught from the Prophets and the Writings (*Nevi'im and Ketuvim*), and read from all three sections of the *Tanakh* (an acronym formed by the initial Hebrew letters of "Torah," "Nevi'im," and "Ketuvim" = *TaNakh*). Yeshua taught and quoted exclusively from the *Tanakh*.

We told Yisrael that Yeshua did not come to create something new; He came to fulfill what already was. I also mentioned that I did not come to the Apple of God's Eye (Israel) to convert anyone and did not want a single Jew to stop being Jewish. I travel to Israel to introduce my people to Messiah Yeshua, and to return to Israel what Israel first gave the world: the Scriptures. On hearing this, Yisrael opened up about caring for his parents, who are Holocaust survivors, and questioning how a loving God could subject them to all that. We discussed personal loss and suffering—ours, his, the Israelites', and Yeshua's in dying for man's redemption.

As I prayed for him and for his parents, Yisrael teared up, bringing me to tears. Please pray for Yisrael, that he sees Messiah in the literature we left with him. Pray that he has dreams and visions of Messiah Yeshua and comes to faith.

I prayed for God to send us someone who was hungry, and He sent Yisrael who listened to the answers we had for his questions and allowed us to pray for him and his parents. I pray that we have the opportunity to water the seed we planted. If not us, I pray that the Lord will send someone after us to confirm what we shared. God always answers prayer. ★

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# Behind the Scenes at ZLM

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



The following exchanges offer some behind-the-scenes history of this ministry. Enjoy!

**Dear ZLM:** I was pleased to see the articles about Sandra Levitt in the [November Levitt Letter](#). I went to Israel with Zola Tours when she was a leader of the trip. I loved her and her devotions and her caring presence. I am very happy for Sandra to have a new, fulfilling life. — C.M.

**Dear C.M.:** A number of [Levitt Letter](#) readers mistakenly assumed that a falling out with Sandra and her son Will concluded their eight-year ZLM stints. To the contrary, God simply moved them to different battlefronts. A similar scenario occurred with Jeff Seif when, after his initial five years at this ministry's helm, he took a well-deserved break to pursue personal goals, including another PhD.

Duncan Long (God rest his soul) was our beloved news magazine editor for several years until stress took a cumulative toll on him, causing hives! May members of what Zola termed "The Overcrowded Ministry of Rebuke" become more helpful and less critical. — Mark

**Dear ZLM:** I always assumed that Zola was from the tribe of Levi, based on his last name. (Family tradition says I'm also a Levite). HaShem chose the Levites to minister alongside their brothers from Aaron's descendants. Your program's hosts may change, but their job descriptions don't. Zola and his team of successors are following that calling. — L.J.

**Dear L.J.:** You're right about Zola (and yours truly) being from the tribe of Levi, a key topic of my Bar Mitzvah speech in 1973. Because few gentiles grasp the significance of being a Levite, many will more likely tune into *Our Jewish Roots* than into a TV

program named for a member of an Old Testament tribe about which they know nothing. — Mark

**Dear Mark:** Zola was a wonderful teacher to me when I came to know Yeshua in 1979. I'm a gentile. If it weren't for Zola, I would have missed my Jewish connection as a grafted-in, wild olive branch. I pray that Zola's many years of teaching will be accessible again so that new Believers can learn as I have learned. — G.N. (CA)

**Dear G.N.:** Whoever hungers for Zola's original teaching should click on "[Classic Zola Archives](#)" under levitt.com's "Zola TV" dropdown menu. Beneath the "Current Program," [you can see all of Zola's classic television teaching available for free — grouped into 17 categories:](#)

## Zola's Classic Television Teaching categories include:

- Prophecy
- Israel
- Bible
- Bible Characters
- Jews
- Christians
- Muslims/Arabs
- Current Events
- Feasts
- Holidays
- History
- Musicals/Music Videos
- Ministry
- Government
- Special Topics
- Specials
- Miscellaneous

Scroll back up and click on the small television icon to see our entire library of Bible teaching sorted by those same categories and also available for free. **We ministry workers are doing just EXACTLY what many readers and viewers desire: bringing Zola's many years of teaching into your homes again!** — Mark ★



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Planting Trees in Israel

In 1901, the World Zionist Congress established the **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** to purchase land in Israel for Jewish settlement. Since then, the JNF has become most popular for planting millions of trees throughout the Holy Land. Now a portion of your contributions to this ministry can be designated for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom. The trees cost only \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate if you request.



GIVING  
SECURITIES

## Zola's Music— where to find it

You can listen to samples at [www.levitt.com/music](http://www.levitt.com/music), buy CDs from our online store, or get MP3s from Amazon, Apple, and Google. Zola's music is on most streaming services, such as Spotify and YouTube Music. Some services require a subscription, but those two allow free listening (with ads). Search for "zola levitt" on your favorite streaming service and see what you find. Also, if you hear Zola's music somewhere, Pandora can identify it.

## The "Watch-Zola" Button

A prominent button at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv) links to all of this ministry's classic *Zola Levitt Presents* episodes. Now it is easier than ever to zero in on Zola's Bible lessons, pro-Israel prophecy commentary, music videos, and more—all in one place! You'll also find the inspirational tribute programming we created to commemorate highlights of our founder's four-decade career as a Messianic messenger.

Note: please see our **Classic Zola Collection**, offered on [page 23](#).



## FREE ITEM

## Pamphlet of the Month

American taxpayers have long been allowed to make charitable gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities that are worth more than they initially cost, and take an income tax deduction based on the gift's full current value, bypassing capital gains tax that otherwise would be due upon sale. The free pamphlet ***Giving Securities*** explains the basics of harnessing longstanding tax benefits. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #11.**

## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



## Fearing the LORD

by John Parsons  
Hebrew for Christians  
[Hebrew4Christians.com](http://Hebrew4Christians.com)



יִרְאַת יְהוָה לַחַיִּים

“The fear of the LORD is for life...” (Prov. 19:23)

יִרְ	אַתָּה	יְהוָה	לְ	חַיִּים
(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)
yeer-at	Adonai		le-cha-yeem	
the fear [of]	the LORD		[is] for life	

**In the Torah we read:** “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God...” (Deut. 10:12). Notice that “fear of the LORD,” called *yirat Adonai* in Hebrew, comes *first* and is what is required of you. The sages say that to fear the LORD means that **your fear should be like God’s fear. But what could God possibly fear, you ask?** Only this: that you will turn away from His love and destroy yourself. To fear God means abhorring that which breaks the relationship He desires with you. That is the wound of God’s heart, and that is what God “fears.”

Of course, there is also the fear of going to Hell and suffering God’s judgment for sin; but that outcome results from that which God fears: namely, your tragic rejection of His offer of grace and forgiveness given in Yeshua. Nonetheless, even believers in Yeshua should fear sinning against God, because it makes a mockery of His love. How so? Well, if God so hates sin that He suffered and died for you to be free from its power, what sort of insult is it to continue sinning without experiencing fear and trembling?

Consider again the great cost of your salvation (1 Pet. 1:18–19). Yeshua was shamed as a criminal, cruelly beaten, mercilessly flogged, viciously lacerated, and died of asphyxiation upon a cross to intercede for your life and to present His blood as atonement for your sin. He did not die like this so that you could go on sinning with impunity, but to redeem your life from the verdict of the law and to restore your place as a beloved child of God. **Willfully sinning shows contempt for the sacrifice of Messiah** and outrages the Spirit of grace: “Someone who rejected the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know the One who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ and again, ‘The LORD will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:28–31).

Be encouraged, friend. The fear of the LORD is “for life,” that is, it is for your good, and it is the source of your wisdom as His beloved child (Prov. 9:10). It takes wisdom to balance fear over our sin and love for our Lord. **May God help you fall before the cross in fear of your sin yet be raised up by the reality of His love for your soul. Amen.** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



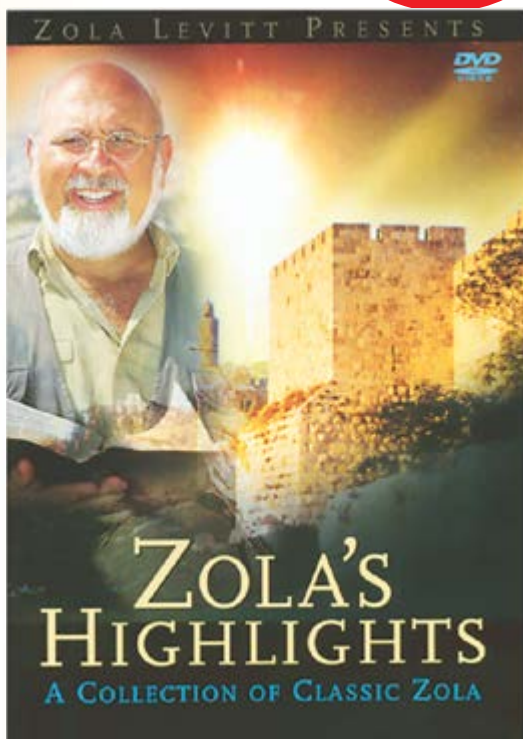


## **Zola's Highlights:** *A Collection of Classic Zola*

DVD

Four TV Programs on 1 DVD

This video collection of classic Zola teaching celebrates the timeless teachings of the late Zola Levitt, one of the most beloved Bible teachers in America. Highlights from 30 years of TV broadcasting are condensed into four half-hour programs that examine Zola's early, mid-career, and later teaching. Stunning on-location footage from Israel gives viewers insights into the Biblical world and Word.

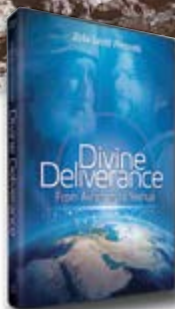
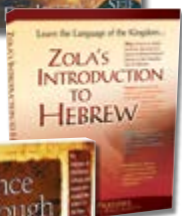


**1. Israel, My Promised** Zola taught the Scriptures from a decidedly Jewish perspective. In one of his first series, *Messiah*, Zola taught about Jesus' Jewish beginnings. In *Armageddon*, he talked about The End. This program contains these topics and others.

**2. Israel By Divine Right** Drawing on Zola's mid-career teachings, we see him investigate and extol the Gospel's expansion beyond Jews ... to non-Jews. Though many knew Jesus as the Savior, Zola wanted the world to know Him as the *Jewish* Savior. With this emphasis, this program also delves into the Dead Sea Scrolls, introduces Islam, and considers prophecy.

**3. Jerusalem Forever** Zola's contagious love for Israel—which mimics Scripture's—is apparent in his music, books, and TV productions. This program visits Zola in mid-career when he teaches about the Bible's Jewish roots, emphasizing his trademark topic: prophecy.

**4. Friends of the Rabbi** Viewer interest in how the Old Testament feast days connect to New Testament events made *The Holy Days of Our Lord* one of Zola's more popular series. Zola examined that connection by focusing on those who claimed to follow Jesus: early Believers, Crusaders, and others.



## Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story .....	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers .....	\$3	___
___	<b>How Can a Gentile Be Saved?</b> (pictured) .....	\$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	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:</b> ..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above) .....	\$49	___

## Books

___	An Epic Love Story .... (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End .....	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches (Zola on Replacement Theology) .....	\$6	___
___	<b>Coming: The End!</b> Russia/Israel in Prophecy (p.5) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Genesis One</b> (p.20) .....	\$5	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi .....	\$14	___
___	<b>The Iranian Menace</b> (pictured) .....	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land .....	\$2	___
___	<b>Once Through the New Testament</b> (pictured) .....	\$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

___	Abraham: Father of Faith .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos .....	(2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Called Together .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Close Encounters with Yeshua .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	The Covenants of God .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>Divine Deliverance</b> (pictured) .....	(12 prog., 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>Evidence of God</b> (p.20) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Holocaust .....	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Mine Eyes Have Seen .....	(1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	A Pilgrim's Journey .....	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Return to Eden .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Sons of Israel .....	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Times of the Signs .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It? .....	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	<b>Zola's Highlights</b> (p. 17) .....	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___

## To order:

Online:  
[store.levitt.com](http://store.levitt.com)

Phone 24/7:  
**800-966-3377**,  
ZLM Dallas office:  
**214-696-8844**

Print/tear out this 2-pg. form,  
fill out box at right, and 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	___
___	<b>AHAHA Mineral Body Lotion</b> 17 oz. (p.27).....	\$37 <sup>50</sup>	___
___	<b>AHAHA Mineral Foot Cream</b> 3.4 oz. (p.27).....	\$22	___
___	<b>AHAHA Mineral Hand Cream</b> 3.4 oz. (p.27).....	\$23	___
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5') (p.24).....	\$10	___
___	Genealogy Chart.....	\$10	___
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut).....	\$2	___
___	<b>Grafted-In Lapel Pin</b> (pictured).....	\$10	___
___	Half-shekel Key Chain.....	\$10	___
___	<b>NEW! Jewish Heritage Calendar</b> (5780/2020) (p.36, pictured).....	\$6	___
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace.....	\$39	___
___	Notecards—Hebrew Names of God (12 cards).....	\$24	___
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem.....	\$12	___
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker.....	\$2	___
___	<b>Pro-Israel Collar Pin (D)</b> (pictured)..... (4 of 1 design)	\$6	___
<b>NEW!</b>	<b>The Classic Zola Collection</b> (p.23)..... 80 products for	\$999	___
___	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only) ....	no charge	___

### Teaching CDs

___	Beginning of the End..... (2 CDs)	\$12	___
___	<b>Coming: The End!</b> (p.5)..... (CD)	\$7	___
___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (pictured)..... (9 CDs)	\$39	___

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

___	<b>Next Year in Jerusalem</b> (pictured)..... (Music CD)	\$12	___
___	The Works..... (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	The Works II..... (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>NEW! Zion Song</b> (Harts)..... (Music CD)	\$12	___

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.

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

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Rush! (\$5 extra) \_\_\_\_\_

8.25% Tax (Texas only) \_\_\_\_\_

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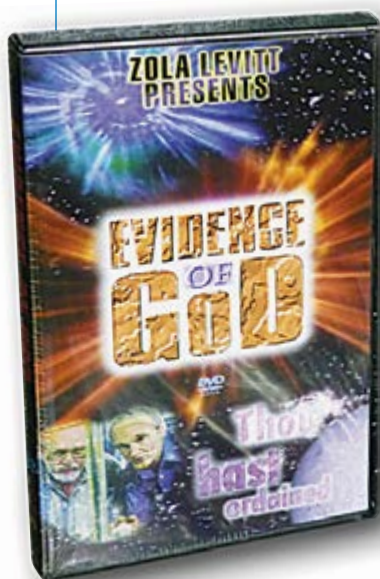
Total \_\_\_\_\_

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To Index







## **Evidence of God**

DVD set

8 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

Countering claims that the Bible's Creation "fantasy" is incompatible with dinosaur bones, fossils, and carbon dating, nuclear physicist Dr. Gerald Schroeder explains time dilation—how time has shrunk since the Big Bang—and bridges the perceived differences between science and Scripture. **Science confirms the Biblical sequence of events that occurred during our planet's first week.**

**The Universe Had A Beginning** Physicist Gerald Schroeder explains how science can look backward in time and count fifteen billion years since the Big Bang; yet, from God's perspective this vast time period happened within six 24-hour days.

**Relatively Speaking** Schroeder presents scientific evidence that time is not a constant. Similar to how astronauts weigh less on the Moon than on Earth, experiments show that atomic clocks run slower on high-speed aircraft. Because the universe is expanding, time is perceived differently in different locations.

**Tuned For Life** Science observes that the universe has expanded a million million times. Dividing 15 billion (the number of years in the scientific record) by a million million equals .015 years, or approximately six days.

**Day One Of Creation** Using the Hebrew Bible, Schroeder and Zola analyze the first day of the Creation account. Out of chaos, God created order.

**Days Two And Three Of Creation** Schroeder demonstrates how both Genesis and science show that a firmament was created and water was formed before life began on Earth.

**Day Four Of Creation** How could the Sun, Moon, and stars not appear until day four? The words "evening" and "morning" correspond to their Hebrew roots—"chaos" and "order"—revealing God's overall trend of creating.

**Days Five And Six Of Creation** Science proposes an explosion of life that agrees in sequence and time with the Bible's account of day five and Schroeder's computations.

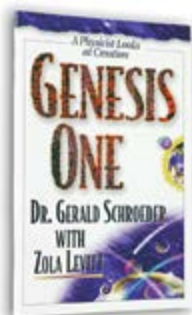
**Creation Reviewed** Zola reviews how science agrees with the Creation account in Genesis 1. Technologically, we are only now achieving the ability to prove how true and accurate the Bible really is.

Please see response to letter on [p.24](#) "Zola's foresight"

## **Genesis One—A Physicist Looks at Creation** study booklet

By Dr. Gerald Schroeder with Zola Levitt

The *Genesis One* study booklet is a transcription of the first two programs from the *Evidence of God* TV series, described above.



# Reflecting on the Hypocrisy of Hanukkah

BY MICHAEL DAVID LUKAS (r) NYTimes.com



Just before Hanukkah, my 3-year-old daughter asked: “Can we celebrate Christmas?”

It’s the question that Jewish parents dread.

“We don’t celebrate Christmas,” I told her. “We celebrate Hanukkah.”

I did my best to sell her on the merits of Hanukkah: latkes, jelly doughnuts, and eight nights of presents.

“Do we have Santa?” she asked, hopefully.

“No,” I admitted, and her face dropped. “They do.”

Most of the year, it isn’t hard for our family to feel both American and Jewish. But in December—with wreaths, Christmas specials, and Santas everywhere—that dual identity becomes a question. Which is why Hanukkah is a big deal for mostly assimilated Jews like me.

The only trouble is the actual holiday. Not the latkes and the dreidels, but the story of Hanukkah—at its heart an eight-night-long celebration of religious fundamentalism and violence.

For most of the past 2,000 years, Hanukkah was an afterthought, a wintertime festival during which people spun tops and ate greasy food to commemorate what has to be one of God’s least impressive miracles—a small container of oil lasted for eight nights! As Jews assimilated into American society, the holiday became a Semitic sidekick for Christmas, a minor festival pumped up so that Jewish kids wouldn’t feel bad about not having a tree.

I envisioned for my daughter the Hanukkah that I grew up with: presents and chocolate gelt; latkes with sour cream and applesauce; a few somber, off-key songs (that no one fully remembered) about Judah Maccabee.

The books at our local library presented a familiar narrative—dreidels and menorahs and pious Maccabees doing battle against their enemies. But between the lines were hints at a darker story.

According to most scholars, **Hanukkah is based on a historical conflict between the Maccabees and the Hellenized Jews**, the

former being religious zealots who lived in the hills of Judea and practiced an ancient form of guerrilla warfare, the latter being mostly city-dwelling assimilationists who ate pork, didn’t circumcise their male children, and made the occasional sacrificial offering to pagan gods.

Some of the details are up for debate, but everyone agrees that the Maccabees won and imposed their version of Judaism on the Hellenized Jews. So Hanukkah, in essence, commemorates the triumph of fundamentalism over cosmopolitanism. **Our assimilationist answer to Christmas is really a holiday about subjugating assimilated Jews.**

The more I thought about this, the more it disturbed me. What am I if not a Hellenized Jew? (O.K., an Americanized Jew, but what’s the difference, really?) I eat pork every so often. While I’ve never offered burned sacrifices to Zeus, I do go to yoga occasionally. It’s pretty clear that the Maccabees would have hated me because I’m assimilated and because I’m the product of intermarriage.

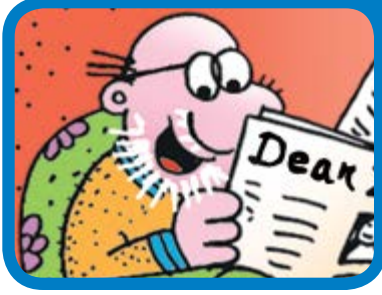
Part of me wanted to skip Hanukkah altogether. Why should I light candles and sing songs to celebrate a group of violent fundamentalists? The answer: It’s not my choice. With my daughter ready to sign up for Team Santa, we had to celebrate something, and I’m not quite Hellenized enough to get a Christmas tree.

So this year, I embraced Hanukkah in all its contradictions. When I lit the candles, I celebrated the possibility of light in dark times and the importance of even the smallest miracles. And when everyone else sang about the Maccabees, I said a prayer for the Hellenized Jews and the “renegade Jews” of our day.

Then I snuck my daughter an extra piece of chocolate gelt and broke out the presents. Because at the end of the day, it’s all about beating Santa.

**His sounds like the perfect family to hear the message that they CAN celebrate Christmas and the Savior’s birth as good Jews! — Editor** ★





Some letters have been edited for space.

# Letters to ZLM

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

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

**From R.B. (MO):** I'm sure you'll do your best to keep Zola's memory alive. As you go, I will go with you. Thank you for asking the opinions of your readers.

**From N.A.P. (FL):** I love the old videos of Zola!

**From C.N. (LA):** Though I am of the Zola generation, I think the new name of the television program makes stunning sense. It will be a "shot in the arm" to add viewers and may also reap more financial support, which would bless the ministry as well as those who receive the teachings via the programs, magazines, and Bible study letters. Praise the Lord for His wisdom! Thank you for working so hard. You bless my socks off!

**From J.B. (on YouTube):** I love these old videos of Zola. It gives me a way to say hello to an old friend.

**From L.D.H. (on YouTube):** I support the ministry, not the name. I think Zola would be proud of how you all have carried on with what he began.

## Remembering our founders

Dear ZLM,

Please keep Zola Levitt's name connected in some way with the ministry he founded. No one is pushing to drop George Washington's name. We need to remember our founders. —E.D.G. (WA)

Dear E.D.G.,

You and I are on the same page regarding honoring my father Zola's legacy as founder of this outreach. His life's work as a Messianic Bible teacher introduced many of today's Believers to the Jewish-based early Church. In fact, please take a look (*right*) at the many ways newcomers to our teaching will quickly appreciate the importance of Zola's teaching legacy and the Levitt connection. —Mark

### The following ministry features will remain unchanged:

- **Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc.** (aka Zola Ministries, Levitt Ministries, ZLM) — our ministry's name
- **Zola Tours** — the DBA/nickname for Travel Experience International, Inc., organizer of Holy Land study tours each spring and fall
- **[www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)** remains our main website entry point
- **[www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv)** receives redirected hits from **[www.OurJewishRoots.com](http://www.OurJewishRoots.com)**
- **Zola TV** — [levitt.com](http://levitt.com)'s link for our TV broadcasting schedule, free video archives, podcasts, music, and instructions for watching internet "broadcasts" on your television set
- **The Levitt Letter** — this ministry's 36-page monthly news magazine
- **The Personal Bible Study Letter** — our monthly 8-page Bible lesson & ministry update mailing
- **Zola's Bible Exchange** — an ongoing effort to share donors' spare Bibles with the needy
- **Classic Zola** — Zola's timeless articles in the monthly *Levitt Letter*
- **ZolaBoard** — a moderated discussion board accessed via [levitt.com](http://levitt.com)'s "Discussion" tab
- **Our fish-and-menorah logo**



**Only the TV Program name will change: *Our Jewish Roots***

(continued next page)



## A generous heart

Dear ZLM,

I am honored to send you this donation in support of your ministry work. During my recent 12 years of incarceration, I have worked with, communicated with, and prayed for dozens of ministries. ZLM has consistently stayed the course, without judgment of my situation, and provided solid teaching of Yeshua and Israel. Keep up the good work. — M.D.L. (IL)

Dear M.D.L.,

With very generous donations like yours, we can and most certainly will keep up the Lord's good work. Your 12 years of LL reading are proof that whether a subscriber is old, poor, disabled, and/or imprisoned, all he has to do is drop us a line every year or so to let us know that our mailings are being read instead of tossed. Your unexpected donation is much appreciated. — Mark

*(continued next page)*

### **The Classic Zola Collection**

**Just \$999 (a \$1,613 value!)**

Devoted fans of our beloved founder will treasure this comprehensive collection of his very durable Bible teaching resources. Whether completing your own library or giving as gifts, you'll find many edifying keepsakes. The **80 collectibles** include:

#### **25 DVD titles**

14 have six to twelve 30-minute TV programs  
**(\$1,025 if purchased separately)**

#### **24 books and study booklets**

plus Zola's Notebook—*The Bible: The Whole Story*  
**(\$192 if purchased separately)**

#### **13 teaching CDs**

**(\$113 if purchased separately)**

#### **18 music CD items**

two of which are 8-album compilations  
**(\$283 if purchased separately)**

Grand Total Value of \$1,613 if purchased separately.

**At just \$999 with free shipping**, this \$1,600+ bevy of Bible teaching resources is a remarkable bargain at a **price reduced by more than 38%!**

*Please see [page 19](#) to order this incredible collection, or click on [The Classic Zola Collection](#) for more details.*



## Zola's foresight

Dear ZLM,

As you debate which direction your ministry should take, allow me to ask which of you would have had Zola's foresight to seek out and publicize physicist Gerald Schroeder's work?

I wish you would list Zola's programs with Schroeder in every issue of the *Levitt Letter*. Most folks who become atheists simply can't reconcile Scripture with the pronouncements of their scientist-priests. —B.B. (CO)

Dear B.B.,

Thanks for commending our teaching that enables scientists to embrace Scripture and theologians to see how the Bible corroborates science. Please see [page 20](#) for descriptions of Gerald Schroeder's *Evidence of God* television series and his study booklet *Genesis One—A Physicist Looks at Creation*.

We may need to keep Dr. Schroeder's theoretical teachings on time dilation, etc. available until the Rapture! —Mark

**P.S.** —Zola once theorized that God created fossils to give evolutionists something to do!

## Ridiculous policy!

Dear ZLM,

TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) discontinuing programming from ministries that lost their founder is a ridiculous policy. It would also be ridiculous to pay attention to that kind of policy. —C.G.

Dear ZLM,

You say TBN stops broadcasting ministries whose founders have passed. Funny ... TBN is still on the air though Paul Crouch passed away in 2013. They need to practice what they preach. They should have pulled the plug on themselves! —A.U. (IL)

Dear C.G. and A.U.,

We appreciate your longtime support. TBN wasn't called the "Paul Crouch Network," which must have eased the transition to its current generation of leadership. In many locales, TBN is the only Christian television available—particularly now that our own ex-broadcasters (such as Freeform, Ion, and INSP) have gone secular. —David

(continued next page)

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NonSequitur



Overcrowding will only happen for those who try to enter by the "wide gate" of their own merit. For Believers in Yeshua, our "entrance" will be quick—through the narrow gate (Matt. 7:13-14)—for it has already been bought with the price paid for by the blood of our Savior (Rom. 3:23-25).

# Suggestions

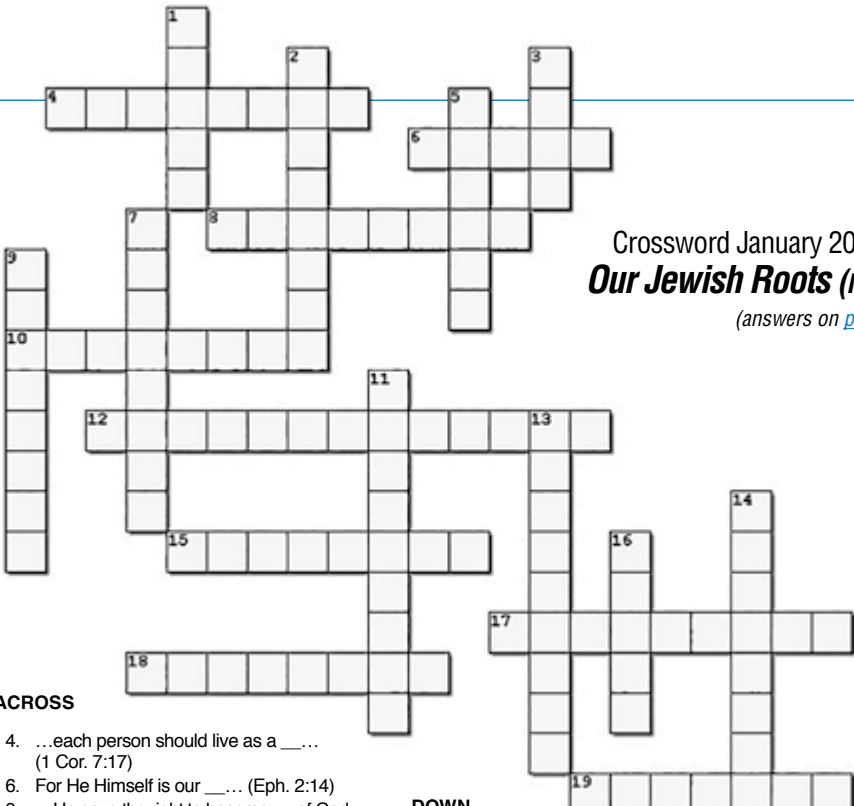
Dear ZLM,

I have two suggestions: 1) Support a charity in Israel that is overlooked or very needed, and 2) Dedicate a short time on each episode to show how “average” Israelis live. —P.H.

Dear P.H.,

You are welcome to designate contributions to the charities in Israel that ZLM supports. **The Jewish National Fund** plants badly needed trees throughout the Holy Land ([see p. 15](#)), and **Bridges for Peace** helps needy Israelis and new immigrants making *aliyah* to get settled with food, clothing, and household necessities. Through our own ministry’s **To the Jew First** fund, we send capable, experienced emissaries to share the Gospel—and of course its Jewish roots ([see p. 13](#)). If you watch our TV program regularly, you’ll see examples of Israeli lifestyles, past and present.

Readers who remember “Giving Until It Hurts ZLM” ([June 2019 Levitt Letter, p. 14](#)) prioritize ZLM’s general fund in order to sustain our TV broadcasts, news-letter and Bible study mailings, and [levitt.com](#). Thanks for doing that important, heavy lifting so that our outreach can help other organizations while paying our bills on time. —Mark ★



Crossword January 2020:  
***Our Jewish Roots (nrv)***  
(answers on [p. 35](#))

**ACROSS**

- ...each person should live as a \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor. 7:17)
- For He Himself is our \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 2:14)
- ...He gave the right to become \_\_\_\_ of God. (John 1:12)
- ...then you are \_\_\_\_ seed... (Gal. 3:29)
- ...there may be \_\_\_\_ for everyone who believes. (Romans 10:4)
- ...what counts is the new \_\_\_\_\_. (Gal. 6:15)
- ...you are no longer foreigners and \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 2:19)
- ...the Gentiles are heirs \_\_\_\_ with Israel... (Eph. 3:6)
- For if God did not spare the \_\_\_\_ branches... (Romans 11:21)

**DOWN**

- ...you are all children of God through \_\_\_\_\_. (Gal. 3:26)
- ...God would justify the \_\_\_\_ by faith... (Gal. 3:8)
- ...look to the \_\_\_\_ from which you were cut... (Isaiah 51:1)
- I ask then: Did God \_\_\_\_ His people? (Romans 11:1)
- ...to create in Himself one new \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 2:15)
- ...we are no longer under a \_\_\_\_\_. (Gal. 3:25)
- ...for whoever loves others has \_\_\_\_ the law. (Romans 13:8)
- ...for \_\_\_\_ is from the Jews. (John 4:22)
- Do not consider yourself to be \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 11:18)
- ...for God is able to \_\_\_\_ them again. (Romans 11:23)





# Using Tech to Replicate the Pancreas

SCIENCE: BY HILLEL FULD (r) JPost.com



photo: courtesy BAIR®

BAIR Bio-Artificial Pancreas(BAP)

According to the International Diabetes Federation, 425 million adults worldwide suffer from diabetes, and the numbers are on the rise. Anyone who suffers from this disease or knows someone who does, is aware of the complications to daily life: constant monitoring, injecting, always being aware of what goes into your body, and how much exercise you are getting.

Many people searching for diabetes solutions are trying to help patients not worry about monitoring blood glucose, calculating required insulin dose, and injecting the hormone.

Beta-O2 Technologies has developed **BAIR®, a device that basically replaces the pancreas and its function of monitoring and controlling glucose levels.** Under normal circumstances,

the pancreas maintains tight control over the glucose levels in our blood. The most significant condition caused by the loss of this function is the disease once called juvenile diabetes — renamed “type 1 diabetes” because the disease affects people of any age and not just juveniles.

Transplanting pancreatic cells is always an option. However, like other organ transplants, the result leaves the patient dependent on life-long use of immune-suppressive drugs. Then there are the devices that help patients monitor their glucose levels in the least intrusive way possible. While those solutions enhance patients’ lives, they still depend on ongoing activity and patient involvement. They are a great Band-Aid, but we can do more.

Beta-O2 has developed a BAIR® transplantation of suitable cells without the need for immune-suppressive drugs. Only relevant cells — and not the whole organ — are transplanted, and the BAIR® device offers a safe environment for the cells, protecting the cells from the immune system and the recipient from the cells. The BAIR® device also allows for the active supply of oxygen to the implanted cells, which is a major medical and technological breakthrough.

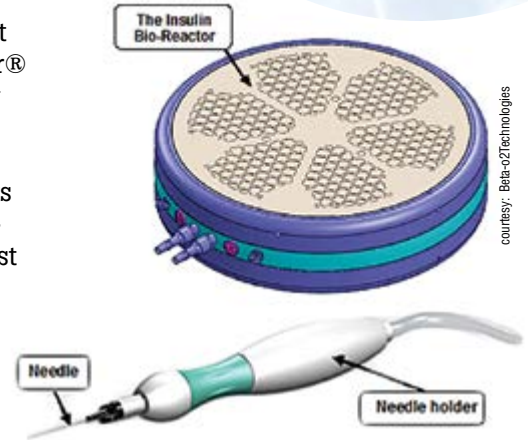
*(continued next page)*



Insulin-secreting  $\beta$ -cells are one of the most oxygen-demanding types of cells in the human body. Adequately supplying the necessary amount of oxygen for these hyperactive cells in a poor-oxygen environment is a challenge met by  $\beta$ Air®.

Located in central Israel, Beta-O2 has completed two human trials. The transplantable device needs to be replaced only once every few years and, adhering to FDA guidelines, is easily retrievable.

Upon successfully completing current studies examining combinations of  $\beta$ Air® second-generation devices containing stem-cell derived beta cells, Beta-O2 plans to conduct its second human trial in 2020 to prove the readiness of its combined solution. The actual transplantation of the  $\beta$ Air® device takes just minutes and requires only local anesthesia, making it a very accessible procedure that offers patients a bio-artificial pancreas and allows them to live life as if their pancreas was doing its job of keeping their glucose levels where they should be. ★



The Beta-O2 implant  
**top:** Bio-reactor.  
**bottom:** needle

courtesy: Beta-o2Technologies



## AHAVA Mineral Skincare products:

New life for your skin — hands, feet, & body — AHAVA *from the Dead Sea*

**AHAVA—Mineral Hand Cream (3.4 oz.)** This mineral-rich cream is specially formulated to protect hands and safeguard them from environmental and household damage. It instantly improves the skin's moisture level, smoothes rough, dry skin, and restores suppleness.

Witch Hazel extracts sanitize and smooth the skin, providing a refreshing, revitalizing effect. Allantoin heals dry, cracked skin and blemishes.

**AHAVA—Mineral Foot Cream (3.4 oz.)** This effective moisturizing cream softens and renews rough feet and soles. Powered by AHAVA's proprietary Osmoter™ and natural plant extracts, the rich formula of concentrated Dead Sea minerals helps to soothe, repair splits and cracks, and leaves feet smooth and hydrated. Natural oils smooth, soften, nourish, and comfort the feet.

**AHAVA—Mineral Body Lotion (17 oz.)** The Dead Sea minerals and soothing Aloe Vera in this quickly-absorbing body lotion protect the skin while they stimulate and elevate the natural hydration processes for a smooth, refined skin texture.



# A.I. and Breast Cancer

MEDICINE: BY SUSAN GUBAR (r) NYTimes.com



A researcher in computer science who seeks to improve future cancer care, Israeli Regina Barzilay is a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a 2017 recipient of a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, known as a “genius grant.” After a breast cancer diagnosis in 2014, Dr. Barzilay, who has degrees from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a doctorate in computer science from Columbia University, began directing her work in artificial intelligence toward helping other patients.

She and her team developed algorithms to predict whether a patient is likely to develop breast cancer in the next five years. Their model is designed to spot the tiny changes on mammograms that turn into tumors. And it detects them regardless of the patient’s race, a significant concern in light of the racial divide in breast cancer mortality.



Professor Regina Barzilay

**Dr. Barzilay explains her efforts to apply machine learning to the disease with this analogy:** Market researchers for Amazon use algorithms based on your clicking on this or that product. Just as machines can be programmed to track a pattern of clicking to predict my eccentric tastes in merchandise, computers can be employed to map the medical history of many patients in order to predict and better treat new cancers — and maybe prevent them.

Her dismay at current approaches to cancer care fuels Barzilay’s enthusiasm for this undertaking. During her treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital, she found that doctors couldn’t answer her questions about how other patients at the same hospital with similar tumors fared with this or that drug or with this or that surgery. Why was there so little information?

Oncologists ground their treatment regimens in clinical trials, which enroll only 3% of the eligible population and thus ignore the experiences of 97% of cancer patients. Barzilay considers such a “primitive” practice “a travesty,” because volumes of patient information accumulate in every hospital. One problem: Hospital data are written in “free-text” — English rather than a structured format (like a database form) that computers can process — which limits their utilization.

Barzilay created a detailed database of pathology reports from three decades on more than 100,000 patients with breast cancer at Massachusetts General and developed an algorithm to parse them. New patients will be empowered by learning how tumors with particular characteristics responded to specific treatments. Machines accessing subsets of the population will also make it faster and cheaper for clinicians to identify patients with particular disease characteristics and to enroll them in clinical trials.

As always with A.I., ethical concerns arise: Cancer data could be misused by insurance companies and employers. Yet Dr. Barzilay believes the payoffs are worth the risks: “Oncologists should be reaching out to researchers in A.I.” Finding no evidence that physicians are doing so, she has embarked on a second project reaching out to them. ★





# Protestants Opening to Epiphany



BY JEFF BRUMLEY (r) BaptistNews.com

For Christians who observe Epiphany on January 6 (a Monday this year), the holiday signifies both **a formal end to the Christmas season and also the world's recognition of Jesus' divinity**. Epiphany (in some places called Theophany) celebrates the New Testament accounts of the Magi's arrival to visit the Christ child. Like many such days on the historic Christian calendar, Epiphany was rejected by many during the Protestant Reformation. But scholars and pastors say the observance of Epiphany is enjoying a comeback in Protestant churches.

For the first time in human history, God as three Persons reveals Himself," said Savas Zembillas, metropolitan bishop of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, explaining that Epiphany is a revelation of the Trinity and also Jesus' public debut, when "the public" (the Wise Men) acknowledged Him.

## An Anti-Catholic Bias

Epiphany can be a hard sell in Protestant congregations whose members are suspicious of anything that sounds Roman Catholic, said Steven Meriwether, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., whose church follows a lectionary (schedule of Scripture readings) and the liturgical calendar.

source: Slovak National Gallery (Wikimedia Commons)



*Adoration of the Magi* (1673), engraving, after a painting by Titian, by Theodor van Kessel (1620–1696)

Suspicion of holy days like Epiphany has been especially strong since the anti-Catholic fever that swept the nation in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, said Richard Wilson, professor of Christian theology at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

But Wilson said Epiphany and the liturgical calendar are very Biblical. The Old Testament offers several examples of the ancient Israelites marking time with festivals and holidays. It's something Christ, His disciples, the Apostles, and the early Church certainly would have been familiar with. "There are deep Biblical roots for marking time in relationship to one's awareness of God at work in the world," Wilson said, adding that following a liturgical calendar actually immerses congregation members in the Bible.



## Churches "healthier for it"

Wilson says that a growing number of Protestant churches are following a lectionary, "probably a result of the maturing of the ecumenical movement, in which many non-liturgical churches become familiar with the liturgy and decide to see what it is about."

What they learn is that the lectionary and church calendar are firmly rooted in Scripture, a realization that lowers barriers to observing special days like Epiphany, Wilson said. "Worshiping communities that pay attention to the waxing and waning that we find in Scripture are healthier because of it." ★



## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Vered Buskila at the  
2008 Beijing Olympics

### Israel's Biggest Delegation Ever to Olympics

By Simona Shemer / NoCamels.com

Israel has won a total of nine Olympic medals since the 1952 Summer Olympic Games in Helsinki, when it was officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee. Israel's first medal came in 1992 when Yael Arad nabbed the silver in judo. The country's first and only gold medal went to Gal Fridman in men's windsurfing at the Olympics in Athens in 2004.

credit: Margo Sugarmann



Israel's baseball team going to 2020 Olympics

At the last Summer Olympics (Rio in 2016), Israeli judokas Yarden Gerbi and Or Sasson claimed bronze medals in the women's 63kg and men's +100kg events, respectively. That year, Israel was proud to have sent its largest delegation to the sporting event with 47 athletes competing in 17 sports, which broke Israel's

previous record of 43 athletes sent to Beijing in 2008.

Now, Israel is going even bigger with plans to send an estimated 85 athletes to compete in 18 sports in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo in July, says Vered Buskila, a three-time Olympic sailor who is now vice-president of the Olympic Committee of Israel. Buskila adds that more athletes have yet to qualify, including Israeli hopefuls for sports like track & field and swimming.

Buskila says the large 2020 delegation is even more unprecedented because the country's national Olympic Committee changed some of the qualification rules after the 2016 games, making it even more difficult for Israeli athletes to qualify for the Olympics.

### China Destroys 3,000-Seat Church

By Michael Gryboski / ChristianPost.com

The People's Republic of China destroyed a church that reportedly could seat 3,000 people and detained its pastors, according to a human rights organization.

China Aid, an international nonprofit Christian human rights group based in Texas, reported the incident in late October. According to the group, Chinese authorities provided no legal papers to justify the demolition.

The church was located in Funan,

*(continued next page)*





3,000-seat church in China destroyed

Anhui province. Its pastors, Geng Yimin and Sun Yongyao, were detained under suspicion of “gathering a crowd to disturb social order.” China Aid President Bob Fu said that the incident was “yet another clear example showing the escalation of religious persecution today by the Chinese Communist regime.”

While China’s persecution of religious groups has existed for many years, **a recent wave of crackdowns on religious practices in China has taken place under President Xi Jinping.** The Communist government has destroyed

or damaged several churches, reflecting concerns about the increasing Christian population of the country.

Please remember that the Church isn’t a building and that home congregations in China are multiplying rapidly. Don’t stop praying for Believers in the Chinese Church! — Kirsten ★

## You May Have Missed...

... the three-minute video at <https://bit.ly/2krtn2C> in which Muslim-Arab woman Sara Zoabi enters a large Jewish settlement and receives kind responses when requesting directions, seeking service in various business establishments, inquiring about Jewish customs, and asking to borrow a cell phone. (Israeli Jews are forbidden to enter Palestinian towns for fear they’ll be abducted or murdered.) ★



NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR





# Rare Mosaic Points to Where Jesus Fed 5,000

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY EMILY JONES (r) CBN.com



Aerial photo of the church floor with mosaic at the end of the excavation season.

On the floor of an early Christian Church overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Israeli archaeologists have discovered an unusually well-preserved mosaic that appears to depict the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Researchers from the University of Haifa exposed the mosaic during excavations on the so-called “Burnt Church” at the Hippos-Sussita excavation site. **Researchers believe the fifth-century church was most likely burned down during the Sasanian conquest in the seventh century.** [The Sasanian Empire, officially known as the Empire of Iranians, was the last kingdom of the Persian Empire before the rise of Islam.]

The fire actually helped preserve the floor because when the roof burned and collapsed, it covered the mosaic floor in a layer of ash, thus protecting it from being damaged by the elements over time.

When archaeologists broke through the ash layer, they found a colorful mosaic depicting images of baskets with loaves and fish, a miracle that is believed to have occurred close to the Sea of Galilee (Kinneret).

“There can certainly be different explanations to the descriptions of loaves and fish in the mosaic, but you cannot ignore the similarity to the description in the New Testament: For example, the New Testament has a description of five loaves

*(continued next page)*



Dr. Michael Eisenberg and one of the roof tiles that covered the floor

in a basket and two fish, as we found depicted in the apse,” said Dr. Michael Eisenberg, head of the excavation team in Hippos on behalf of the university’s Zinman Institute of Archaeology.



This church was partially exposed about a decade ago, and Dr. Eisenberg, his colleague Jessica Rentz, and their team recently returned to expose the remains. The discovery of the mosaic featuring baskets full of loaves and fish challenges the traditional belief that the New Testament miracle took place at the Church of the Multiplication in Tabgha, on the northwest side of the Kinneret. Some experts theorize that Jesus fed the 5,000 closer to the Hippos-Sussita excavation site.

“Nowadays, we tend to regard the Church of the Multiplication in Tabgha on the northwest of the Sea of Galilee as the location of the miracle, but careful reading of the New Testament makes evident that it might have taken place north of Hippos within the city’s region,” explained Eisenberg. “According to the Scripture, after the miracle Jesus crossed the water to the northwest of the Kinneret, to the area of Tabgha/Ginosar. The miracle should have taken place where He began the crossing rather than at the place He finished it. Also, the mosaic at the Church of the Multiplication depicts two fish and a basket with only four loaves, while all places in the New Testament that relate the miracle describe five loaves of bread, as found in the Hippos mosaic. In addition, the mosaic at the Burnt Church depicts 12 baskets, and the New Testament says that the disciples were left with 12 baskets of bread and fish after the miracle.” (Matt. 14:20)

credit: Dr. Michael Eisenberg



Mosaic of fish

However, Eisenberg isn’t convinced that the miracle happened near the Burnt Church in Hippos. He points out **key differences between the newly discovered mosaic and the New Testament account.**

Some baskets in the mosaic appear to contain fruit and not just bread, and some places depict three fish instead of only two.

“No doubt the local community was well familiar with the miracle and knew the location better than we do. It is also logical that whoever ordered the mosaics wanted to create an affinity to a miracle that took place nearby. We will finish the excavation and clean the remaining 20% of the mosaic and carefully examine this assumption,” Eisenberg summarized.

During the preservation process, headed by the Israel Antiquities Authority, two inscriptions in Greek were also exposed in the mosaic. The first inscription talks about two fathers of the church, Theodoros and Petros, creating a sanctuary in honor of a Christian martyr. The second inscription reveals the name of the martyr to be a man named Theodoros. Not much else is known about the martyr.

Researchers also discovered the burnt remains of the church’s doors, a pair of door knockers in bronze cast in the form of roaring lions. ★





# Recordings of Nuremberg Trials

BY CLAIRE PARKER (r) Associated Press



left: Nuremberg court interior

right: Nuremberg trial with Ribbentrop, Hess, Goering

Audio recordings from the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders are available to the public for the first time in digital form after nearly two years of work conducted in secret.

The files capture several hundred hours of the first, high-profile trial of top Nazi leaders in Nuremberg, Germany, after World War II. Since 1950, they have existed only on 2,000 large discs housed in wooden boxes in the International Court of Justice library in The Hague, Netherlands.

Now, curious listeners will be able to listen to the entirety of the judicial proceedings in reading rooms at The Hague, the Shoah Memorial in Paris, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Karen Taieb, Shoah Memorial head archivist, said that she hopes the newly digitized audio files will allow researchers and students to better understand a powerful and emotionally fraught moment in history. Researchers previously had access to trial transcripts.

"You can read the trial, but when you *hear* the trial, it's different," Taieb observed. "For the victims, for example, it's different to hear their voices. The voices are very important, and the hesitation in them."

The trials, which took place from 1945 to 1949, marked a watershed moment in international law. They shed light on the extent of Nazi atrocities during

the Holocaust and set new international precedents for defining and prosecuting war crimes.

During the first and most famous trial, held between November 1945 and October 1946, an international panel of judges found 19 high-ranking Nazi leaders guilty on at least one count and sentenced 12 of them to death. (Ten were hanged, the other two having committed suicide.) **Only 28 hours of the proceedings were filmed.**

Fabien Theofilakis, a professor at the Sorbonne University who researches the Holocaust, said the recordings will prove invaluable to historians. A day after the attack on a synagogue in the German city of Halle on Judaism's holiest day, Theofilakis stressed that this digital access will help ensure that the memory of the Holocaust can be sustained from one generation to the next.

Project head Emiliano Flores said they kept the project secret to protect the fragile Nuremberg discs from neo-Nazis or zealous collectors. "We are extremely proud but also a bit relieved it is finished," he said.

In addition to the audio recordings, film clips presented as evidence of Nazi atrocities during the trial — as well as 250,000 pages of documents and some photos — will be available at the Shoah Memorial for public viewing, Taieb said. ★







**I Want to Get Married**

Little Saul says to his father, "Daddy, Daddy, I want to get married."

His father says, "For that, son, you have to have a girlfriend."

Saul says, "But I've found a girl."

"Who?" asks his father.

"Grandma."

"Let me get this straight," Father says. "You want to marry my mother? You can't do that."

"Why not?" questions Saul. "You married mine."

**New House**

Little Esther asks her friend, "Have you moved into your new house, Rebecca?"

"Yes," replies Rebecca, we moved in last Sunday."

"Do you like it?"

"Oh yes, it's much bigger than the house we had before. We all have our own bedrooms now. All except poor Mommy — she's still in with Daddy." ★

**RIDDLE:**

**Q:** What's the difference between what you squeeze from a lemon and members of a religious Jewish movement?

**A:** One is acidic juice and the other is Hasidic Jews.

**Answer Key for January 2020 Crossword (p.25)**

*Across:*

- 4. Believer
- 6. Peace
- 8. Children
- 10. Abrahams
- 12. Righteousness

*Down:*

- 1. Faith
- 2. Gentiles
- 3. Rock
- 5. Reject
- 7. Humanity
- 9. Guardian
- 11. Fulfilled
- 13. Salvation
- 14. Superior
- 16. Graft



*Zola Levitt Presents* TV Airing Schedule

We're available 24/7 at [Levitt.tv](http://Levitt.tv).  
Please check out Classic Zola teachings  
at [Levitt.tv/classic\\_zola](http://Levitt.tv/classic_zola)

**Daystar Airing Day & Time by zone**

DirecTV – Channel 369    Dish – Channel 263

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

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of independent channels and is posted at [www.levitt.com/schedule](http://www.levitt.com/schedule)

*(New series from Israel airing soon!)*





## ***Jewish Heritage*** Calendar 5780 (2019–2020)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar began in September and spans 13 months, through September 2020. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.

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### **SPRING TOUR 2020**

**Deluxe:** Mar. 16–26  
(Israel only, \$5,288)

**Grand Petra:** Mar. 16–29  
(Israel & Petra, \$6,488)

### **FALL TOUR 2020**

**Deluxe:** Oct. 19–29  
(Israel only, price TBD)

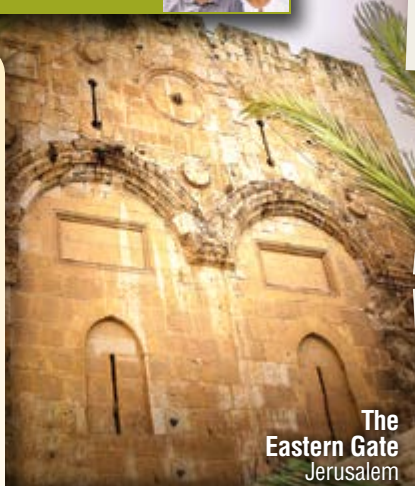
**Grand Petra:** Oct. 19–Nov. 1  
(Israel & Petra, price TBD)

**Grand Athens:** Oct. 13–29  
(Greece & Israel, price TBD)

**Ultra Grand:** Oct. 13–Nov. 1  
(Greece, Israel & Petra, price TBD)

(FALL 2020 dates are tentative.)

For more info and registration see:  
[www.levitt.com/tours](http://www.levitt.com/tours)



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