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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

April 2020

Leviticus 23:5 instructs: "On the fourteenth day of the first month [Nisan] at twilight is the LORD's Passover." If you're having trouble counting the feast days, it's likely because today's Jews ignore Nisan 14 and celebrate Passover—now a week instead of one day—on Nisan 15 (April 9 this year). **Knowing that detail enables you to accurately calculate the feasts from Passover to Pentecost** (Lev. 23:5–16). You're welcome.

Our cover story emphasizes the connection that Passover offers to Jews and followers of Messiah and how we Believers can share that bond with Jewish friends. It's the lesson that Zola taught in his *Miracle of Passover* study booklet, CD, and DVD. (Watch *Our Jewish Roots* for a special program with Dr. Jeffrey Seif discussing the Resurrection-Passover correlation.) You can also follow the events of Passion Week (p. 21).

Kirsten and Sarah take us into Israel to look anew at Christ's temptation by Satan (6) and the prophetic unified-worship movement (7). Zola recalls his own "road to Damascus" revelation (10), and Todd Baker defines how "Messianics" differ from "Christians" and why you should know the distinction (11). The Lord guided our TJF team (12), and we see His hand in preserving a Dead Sea Scroll (32).

Reviewing current events, Mark points us to a brief video that explains where Israel's critical security borders lie, and we see why the current "peace plan" is likely to fail (8) because it doesn't address the root cause (cover side story).

Yom HaShoah falls this year on April 21, which corresponds to 27 Nisan on the Hebrew calendar and marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Appropriately, an Auschwitz memoir published in 1946 is now available in English (28).

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



Margot


Margot, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Our film crew has been working to produce new television series for you. This is the time when the big bills hit and when we need your help the most. I know you will appreciate the finished programs when they air, but our major expenses have to be paid for in advance of the air dates. Can you please help us now? Thanks, and God bless your prayers and donations.

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Levitt LETTER

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

APRIL 2020

Agnus Dei (The Lamb of God), painting by Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664), Museo del Prado



Passover: A Time to Share the Gospel with Jews

By Grant Berry / CharismaNews.com

The Passover narrative tells how the Jewish people escaped the grips of the world superpower of that day (Egypt) at a time in world history when the power of God was clearly seen.

Not only so, but when we look at the Passover in its fulfillment through the New Covenant — through the Messiah Yeshua/Jesus — it tells two other very exciting stories. It acts as a prophetic shadow to foretell the Gospel, as well as the final judgment of sin when Messiah returns. **First He came as a Lamb; but when He returns, He will come like a Lion!**

It is a mirror image, a divine portrait from Israel's physical experience through the Passover to a spiritual fulfillment that

(continued p.2)

REMEMBER:

Jewish Passover 2020 begins at sunset on Wednesday, April 8 and ends at sunset on Thursday, April 16

Easter 2020 is Sunday, April 12

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) 2020 is Tuesday, April 21 (Nisan 27)

(Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before.)

inside: What Trump's Peace Deal is Missing (part 1) p. 8



Whose Fault is Lack of Peace Really?

By Yochanan Visser
IsraelToday.co.il



Jared Kushner, President Trump's most important adviser for issues related to the peace process, repeatedly has said he thinks that the Palestinian Arabs would choose peace with Israel in order to improve their quality of life, and also falsely claims that Israel and the PA are equally to blame for the lack of progress over the last 15 years.

In fact, **it was Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas who ruined the chance to achieve peace** when he turned down the unprecedented offer made by former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert in 2007 and the proposal made by former U.S.

(continued p.9)

U.S. presidential adviser Jared Kushner and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Passover... *continued from cover*

ultimately offers all mankind hope and deliverance from sin. This really excites me as a Jew and a follower of Yeshua, as it not only confirms the message of salvation, but also acts as a bridge and a confirmation from the old Covenant to the new one.

The Passover Plan

Israel was enslaved and there was no way out for them. We in the world are in bondage to sin and there is no way for us to escape judgment except for the blood of the Paschal Lamb. The deliverer Moses foreshadows the Deliverer Yeshua/Jesus, and both obviously moved in divine power.

As Moses extended his staff to demonstrate the power of God with the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea, so Yeshua/Jesus extended His hand in miraculous healing and deliverance. He also broke through every physical dimension that God established on the Earth: He walked on water, calmed storms, multiplied food, and raised the dead. Moses delivered Israel physically; Yeshua/Jesus delivers us spiritually with the New Covenant that was prophesied to Israel (Jer. 31:31–34).

Yeshua/Jesus also reflected the Paschal lamb that was taken outside the city at twilight and sacrificed. The lamb had to be perfect, and none of its bones were to be broken. So also was Yeshua/Jesus perfect so He could pay the final sacrifice for man's sin.

The lamb's/Lamb's blood is to be sprinkled on the doorpost/heart of each man who calls out to Him for forgiveness of sin, so that when the Angel of Death comes into the city at Judgment Time (see Revelation), he will see the blood and "pass over."

It is written in the Torah that nothing unclean can come into God's presence and survive; but when we put our trust in Yeshua/Jesus, God sees the blood of His Son on the doorpost of our heart. In this way, we can come directly into His presence with intimacy and fellowship, just as foretold by the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31–34). Only Yeshua has fulfilled the numerous prophecies concerning the Messiah (Is. 7:14, chapter 9, chapter 53, Micah 5:2). Even Moses told us to follow Him (Deut. 18).

His mission on Earth was to bring God's plan of salvation to Israel and then to the world, to

the Jew first, then to the gentile (Rom. 1:16).

He was the Passover Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. He willingly gave His life so that God's plan could be fulfilled through Him, which He made clear to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, *"You would have no authority over me if it were not given from above"* (John 19:11). All of this took place on the Passover itself—coincidence or divine plan?

When Israel marched out of Egypt, the Bible tells us that a cloud led them by day and a pillar of fire by night. Neither the cloud nor the fire left them, protecting them also from the Egyptians.

Both the cloud and pillar were God's Holy Spirit. When you put your trust in Yeshua, His Holy Spirit lives in your heart to lead, guide, and protect you. Nothing we do earns God's salvation in our own lives, no works, no acts. **Like the Israelites, we only have to be still and put our trust in Him.** His judgment will not only pass us over, but He will lead us across the sea and into a new life of faith and His presence.

He Made the Passover Eternal

In fact, on the Passover itself, Yeshua took both the bread of affliction (*matzoh*) and the Cup of Redemption (the third cup)—the two greatest symbols of the Passover *Seder*—and made them eternal through His own body and blood. What an amazing connection!

These special times in our Jewish-Christian spiritual history are very much intertwined. It is not a mistake or accident but rather a divine layout for mankind's deliverance from sin, ultimately fulfilled in Messiah Yeshua.

At almost the identical moment when I realized that my sin separated me from a righteous and Holy God, Yeshua revealed to me that He had paid the price for that sin. I did not feel condemned but released and freed. Instantly in my heart, I experienced an incredible deliverance and was filled with the Holy Spirit. I was meeting the God of Abraham for the first time in my life, and I will never forget that day as long as I live.

Watch for the special Passover program on *Our Jewish Roots*. Truly understanding Communion comes after knowing the power of the *Seder*. —David ★





Teaching

- 4** What Does Purim Have to Do with Righteous Gentiles? (part 2)



4

Studio Co-host

- 6** Pinnacle Point



6

On the Ground in Israel

- 7** Blessings of Unity

- 8** What Trump's Peace Deal is Missing (part 1)



10

Classic Zola

- 10** Pesach hu l'Adonai

Ask the Chaplain

- 11** Difference Between Messianic Believer and Christian?



11

TJF Report

- 12** Divine Healing and Obedience to Task



13

A Note from Mark

- 13** Israel's Critical Security Needs



16

- 15** ZLM Bulletin Board

Parsons: Hebrew Lesson

- 16** Awaken to the Spirit

- 18** ZLM Order Form



- 21** How Jesus Spent His Last Week



- 22** Letters to ZLM

- 25** Crossword Puzzle



Science

- 26** Creating Elusive Terahertz Waves



Medicine

- 27** Seal Wounds with a Hot-Glue Gun



- 28** Auschwitz Memoir in English



- 30** Select Briefs

Archaeology

- 32** Why is the Temple Scroll So Well Preserved?



Muslim Focus

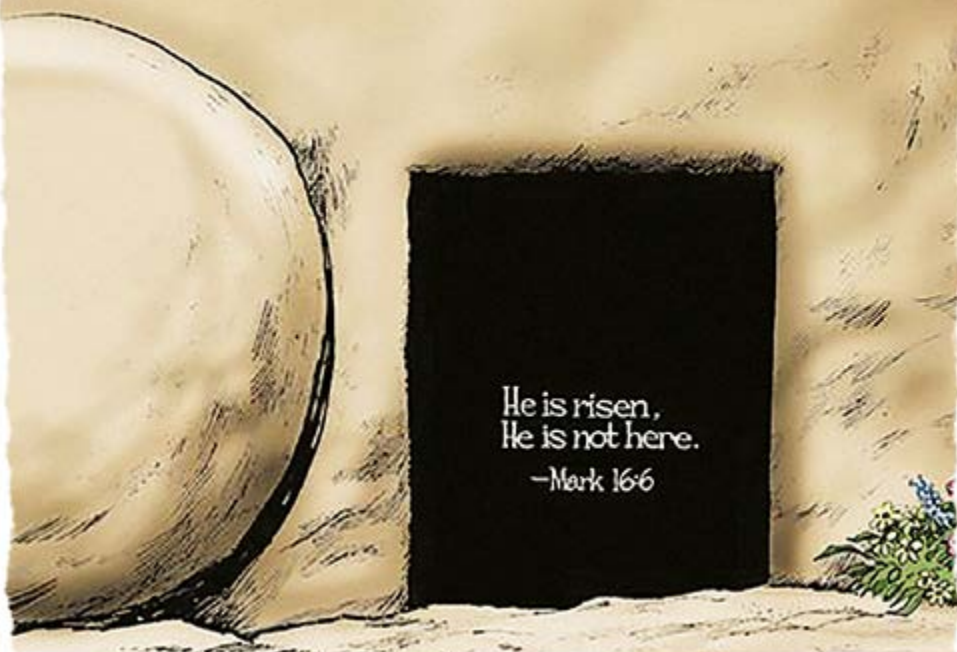
- 34** Late-Night Gyms Boom in Gaza



- 35** Jewish Humor



BYRON San Diego Tribune
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What Does Purim Have to Do with Righteous Gentiles?



PART 2: BY ANDREW KOSS (r) MosaicMagazine.com



credit: National Gallery of Canada

Detail from *The Triumph of Mordecai* by Botticelli, circa 1475.

[Last month](#) we looked at the Purim proclamation: “Harbonah, to be remembered for the good!” We considered Harbonah’s minor role in the Esther narrative and God’s promise to strangers and eunuchs (Isaiah 56:5) of “an everlasting name.” We asked the question:

What has this to do with Harbonah? He is both a gentile and a *saris*, a word usually translated in Esther as “chamberlain,” since many ancient Middle Eastern societies employed eunuchs as court functionaries. Whether or not the *sarisim* in the Book of Esther were of the castrated sort, it’s worth a guess that Isaiah’s message applies doubly to the only gentile character in Esther portrayed in an unambiguously positive light.



Detail of *Esther Before Ahasuerus* (1547–48), by Jacopo Tintoretto

Even Ahasuerus is depicted as a well-meaning dupe, a drunk, and a quasi-villain who casually gives the go-ahead to Haman’s plan for genocide and reconsiders only on discovering that his queen is among its prospective victims. Esther’s other gentiles are generally neutral characters.

Harbonah, by contrast, speaks out just once but does so to stand up for the Jews, motivated, it would seem, by a sense of justice: The punish-

ment devised for Mordecai should be meted out to the deviser Haman. And this brings us back to the reading from Isaiah and the promised reward to non-Jews who choose God:

Also the sons of the alien, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants, every one that keepeth the Sabbath from violating it, and holds fast to My covenant;

(continued next page)



The medal of the Righteous bears the Jewish saying: “Whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe” (Sanhedrin 37, 71).

*Even them will I bring to My holy mountain,
and make them joyful in My house of prayer:
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall
be accepted upon Mine altar; for Mine house
shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*

(Is. 56:6–7)

The “house” here is the Temple, and the “mountain” the Temple Mount. Although nothing in the Book of Esther specifies that Harbonah joined himself to God or kept the Sabbath, by standing up for God’s people, he too found himself an “everlasting name.” This is the meaning of the rabbinic phrase “to be remembered for the good” and the reason our poet made room for Harbonah prominently at the end of his poem.

Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem popularized the term “righteous among the nations” to refer to those gentiles who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, often risking their own lives in the process. While Isaiah apparently had in mind gentiles who related to God in a righteous way, and not necessarily through their relations specifically with Jews, singling out Harbonah focuses our attention on

those who exert themselves to protect Jews. In commemorating such people, Yad Vashem has given them, too, “a place and a name” in the original sense of that phrase.

The Book of Esther is a quintessentially diasporic text. It takes place entirely outside the Land of Israel and deals with themes that are staples of the diaspora experience: anti-Semitism, Jews passing as gentiles, the issue of Jews who obtain influence in non-Jewish societies, and so forth. The phenomenon of the “righteous gentile” is part of this experience too.

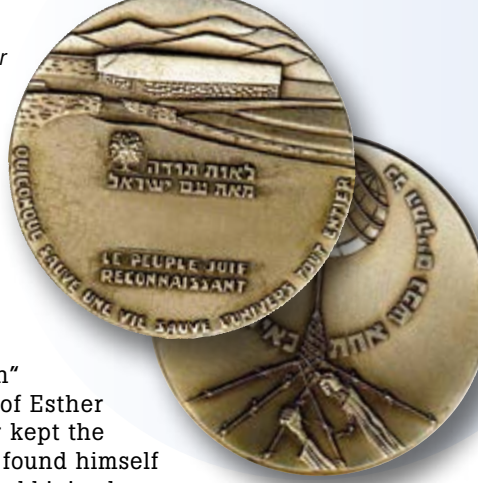
And here is where the enduring relevance of the Harbonah story comes in. Last year, for instance, the vexed question of Polish collaboration in the Holocaust once again made headlines, the subject of a diplomatic fracas between Jerusalem and Warsaw. Surely the efforts by the Polish government to distort or cover up the historical record are deserving of sharp criticism, and the hundreds

if not thousands of Poles who aided in the extermination of the Jews deserve ignominy no less than did the thousands of ancient Persian subjects who volunteered to help Haman.

But the exhortations of both Isaiah and Jewish religious teachings would also seem to apply collectively and individually to the thousands of Poles who saved Jews, often exposing themselves to great danger. Nor is the message of these passages limited to acts of heroic selflessness during the *Shoah* (Holocaust). Think, for instance, of Zidan Saif, the Druze policeman who gave his life defending a Jerusalem synagogue against terrorists in 2014—or the many gentile politicians who at decisive moments in history spoke up for the Jewish people and the Jewish state.

To be sure, the names of prominent figures would be remembered regardless of what they did for the Jews. Part of the message of singling out Harbonah, then, lies precisely in the fact that unlike them, he is a minor character. Today, not everyone who writes a small check to pro-Israel ministries or shares an article on Facebook criticizing anti-Semitic remarks can be known to posterity. But in the midst of the Purim celebrations of Jewish redemption, they, too, deserve to be remembered for the good.

The more we delve into Scripture, the more we see its consistency and application, like the parallel between an ancient supporter of Jews and their modern saviors. Insightful, indeed. — Kirsten ★



Isaiah, from a Bible card published by the Providence Lithograph Company, 1904



The Temptation of Christ, painting by Ary Scheffer (1795–1858)

Matthew 4:5 (Satan leads Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple)

A highpoint of every Zola Tour is the day that we journey to the Davidson Center, an active archaeological dig and museum on the southern slope of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Every time we visit, we see them digging up new and fascinating discoveries from thousands of years ago.

Ilan Barkay, our beloved tour guide on every Zola Tour, always beams when he takes us to this particular spot on Mount Zion. As we traverse the ancient pathways and steppingstones, Ilan points out the pinnacle of the Temple to us. In the Book of Matthew, chapter 4, we learn of Jesus being tempted by Satan on the pinnacle, the highest point on the Temple wall.



The pinnacle of the Temple

"If You are the Son of God," he said, "throw Yourself down. For it is written: "He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone." (NIV Matt. 4:6) Satan, himself, knew the Holy Scriptures well... well enough to misquote them into a false context.

Jesus rebuked the Deceiver and told him, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Most of us are familiar with this temptation. As I looked up at this high point in the wall on a recent visit, something struck me as profound. In my eye's view, I simultaneously saw the southeast corner pinnacle and the high point of the Mount of Olives. Although the stones at the top of the Temple Mount wall today may be hundreds of years newer than the ones Jesus stood on, the view was the same.

At the moment when Satan was tempting Jesus to jump off the peak to prove a prophecy true and thereby gain power over the Son of God, Yeshua could see the place from where He would soon ascend to Heaven after rising from the dead. He also knew — though He was a man, He was able to see the future — that He would one day return to that very spot (the Mount of Olives) as King of Kings to reign on His earthly throne. **Jesus could look Satan in the eye during His temptation and also see across the valley to His triumphant future!**

Never get so distracted by your current circumstances that you imagine succumbing to Satan's promises is your ultimate solution. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus gives life! The Deceiver would have liked nothing better than for the Messiah to take a flying leap off the high point of the Temple. But Jesus rebuked his words and knew what His true future held.

I pray that the Lord will open your eyes to the blessed future He has for you! ★



Overwhelming Blessings of Unity

Two thousand years ago, as Yeshua walked along the road to Samaria here in Israel, he met a woman at a well. Of all the questions this woman could ask the Son of God, she brought up a dispute concerning worship.

True Worship

During their encounter, Yeshua made this amazing statement:

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

(John 4:23)

Few times in the Bible do we get a glimpse of what God Himself seeks. According to Yeshua, God is looking for worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Fast forward 2,000 years and you find today's believers in Yeshua in Israel — a young and relatively small body of people. Within that group, the number who are dedicated to serve in worship as their primary calling constitute an even smaller minority. Only several hundred, in fact. Since we do not have many inter-congregational ties in the Land, these leaders can feel very isolated.

Worshipping Together

As a worship leader myself, I wanted to gather the people who are dedicated to worship here in Israel for a time when we could encourage and support each other. In one location where we could share our hearts and our struggles and hear messages directed toward inspiring and helping us.

Earlier this year, my vision became reality as 90 leaders from approximately 25 congregations met for a groundbreaking day and a half in a "worshippers round table" in Israel. This was a

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



first-ever event, so the unity and excitement were tangible. New relationships formed, old friendships rekindled, and a sense of togetherness and camaraderie, uplifting and encouraging, emerged. The theme that echoed throughout the day: The Lord is raising up an army of worshipers for such a time as this.



For many, this was their first opportunity to pray with and for other worshipers in the Land, and it truly connected us. Even with our differences in style and approach, we are united in our pursuit of the Living God.

A sense of true oneness permeated the air. **Arabs, Jews, Ethiopians, Russians, English speakers — we acknowledged our common pursuit of the Lord.** I've never heard such beautiful sounds as when we came together in seeking His face in worship during that weekend. It was the sound of His people worshipping God in Spirit and in truth. This kind of unity commands the blessing of the Lord:

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity!... For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore."

(Psalm 133:1, 3)

If Sarah's topic interests you, let us know if you'd like to see a series on [Our Jewish Roots](#) covering the prophetic worship movement happening in Israel. —David ★

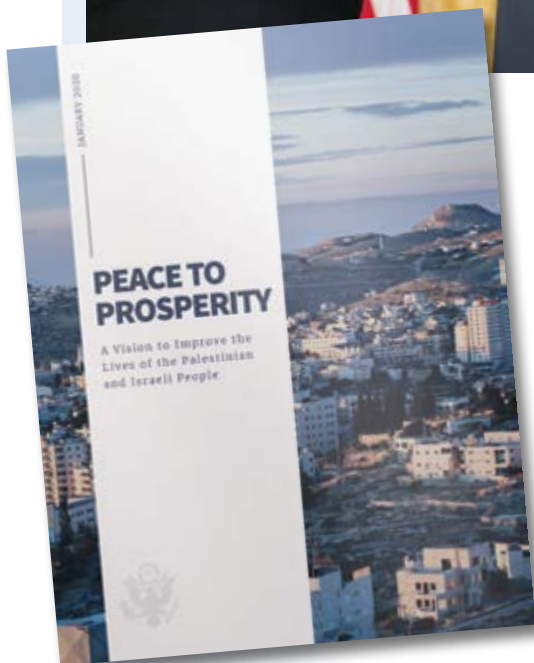


What Trump's Peace Deal is Missing

PART 1: BY RYAN JONES (r) *Israel Today*



credit: The White House in Washington, DC (official White House photo by Shealah Craighead)



top: President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Jan. 28, 2020 in the East Room of the White House to unveil details of the Trump administration's Middle East Peace Plan.

left: President Trump's vision for a comprehensive peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, titled [*Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People*](#)


Back to
Cover


To
Index

Even if by some miracle the Palestinians are compelled to change their tune and accept U.S. President Donald Trump's comprehensive "Peace to Prosperity" deal, it won't result in genuine peace.

Sure, the detailed proposal addresses the problem of ongoing Palestinian incitement against Israel and the Jews, and the failure to educate their population for peaceful coexistence.

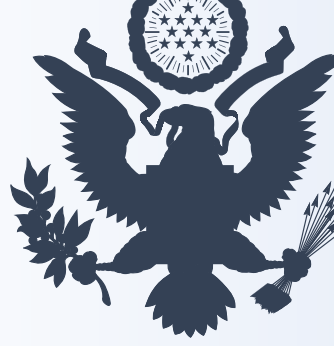
But Trump's "deal of the century" fails to recognize that this is a foundational step that must be fully completed before anything else is done. Unfortunately, the fast-paced nature of international politics and diplomacy all but precludes the decades-long process that is now, after 20 years of intense anti-Israel incitement, necessary to prepare the soil of Palestinian Arab society for the seeds of peace.

True Peace Lies in the Heart, Not on Paper

Many pieces of paper headlined "Peace Agreement" have been signed, and many more will be in the future. But on the ground, there will be no peace.

Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy said it best in an address to the UN General Assembly in 1963:

(continued next page)



"But peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper, let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people."

If that is true, then Arab officials who today push for written peace agreements are, at the same time, **ensuring that true peace will remain elusive** by training their people to hate.

Today, an entire generation of Palestinian- and Israeli-Arabs believes even the most unsubstantiated lies taught to them by their elders, educators, and media. And these lies are not formulated to be temporary tactics in a short-lived conflict but rather to engender **life-long animosity toward Israeli Jews**.

Evidence of Palestinian Incitement, Israeli Compliance

Some claim that Israel is no more innocent in this regard. But a cursory examination of after-school children's programs on Israeli and Arab television reveals that, in general, **Israelis are educating for peace and coexistence, while the Muslim-Arabs are educating for conflict**.

Next month we'll look at what after-school programs teach. ★



Whose Fault Is Lack of Peace Really? *continued from cover sidebar*

Secretary of State John Kerry in 2013.

Had the Palestinian Arabs truly been interested in improving their lot, they would have done so already in July 2000, when Yasser Arafat was offered an independent state by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton and former Israeli PM Ehud Barak.

The essence of the conflict is, however, the stubborn Palestinian refusal to finally come to terms with the existence of a Jewish state, and that explains why they also turned down this new American proposal.

After all, this is what they have been doing since 1947, when the leadership of the Jewish community in what the British called "Palestine" accepted a state—much smaller than what the Palestinian leadership has been offered now—under UN resolution 181, and the Arabs rejected it out of hand and then started a war.

The Palestinian "settlements" that our study tour pilgrims see on Highway 60 between Shiloh and Jerusalem do not lack in "quality of life." Trust me, their housing looks like resort living, with mansions everywhere. —Kirsten ★



credit: Amos Ben Gershon/GPO

U.S. presidential adviser Jared Kushner and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Pesach hu l'Adonai

Classic Zola
from 1991
29 years ago



"It is the Passover to the LORD." (Exodus 12:11)

"L'chal-ha'evarim: ken anachnu harabim guch echad bamashiach."

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ." (Romans 12:5)

A very special anniversary for me happened recently: On March 14 twenty [now 49] years ago, I became a Believer in the Messiah. The Lord has worked it out so that I could celebrate this occasion in Jerusalem with the pilgrims on our spring tour.

Yesterday, as a guest on a national Christian radio talk show, I was asked to tell how I came to faith in the Lord and whether or not I now doubted my decision. In light of my anniversary, I thought it appropriate to retell the story here.

In 1971, I was a graduate student working on a doctorate in music when some friends convinced me to attend a couple of Campus Crusade for Christ meetings. There, I was introduced to verse-by-verse study of the Bible, a new concept for me. Although I had had a thorough Jewish education—I attended Hebrew School and Sunday School in synagogue, became Bar Mitzvah and was confirmed—I had never witnessed such study of the Scriptures, and I was impressed. Three weeks later, I asked the Lord, "If You're there, show me." He did then... and has shown me a world of marvels since.

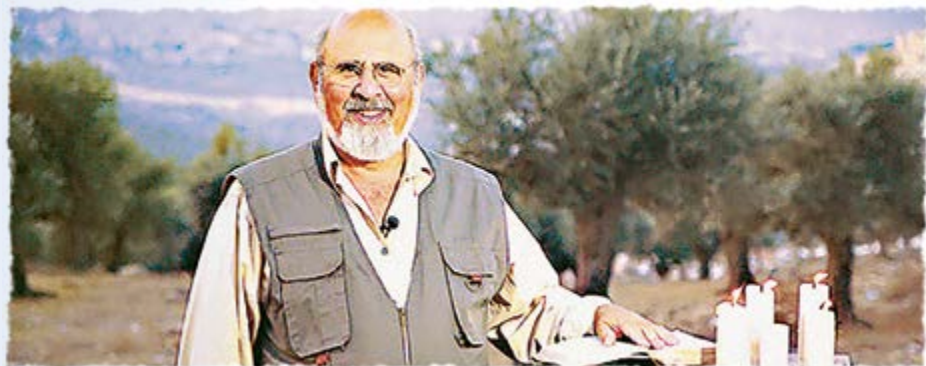
I began my service to the Lord by writing, and my first couple of books did very well. Then a local Christian radio station asked me to host a call-in

program, which led to hosting a television series and leading tours to Israel. The Lord even granted me a desire of my heart by allowing me to continue my music, sending me new songs that reflected my new life in Him.

The radio interviewer yesterday asked if I ever doubted my faith. It is possible for me to doubt an invisible God, and I can doubt what I feel and what I think from time to time; but it's different with prophecy. I can't doubt events the prophets foretold—events I've talked about on television and written about in my own books—that are happening around me. I can't doubt wars in the Middle East and other prophecy fulfillments when I can plainly see them. **When all else fails, prophecy marches on.**

Now, 20 years and 31 trips to Israel later, I'm remembering my first glimpse of the Promised Land—the land of my people and of the Messiah of Israel—the Land that I wrote about in one of my early books, *Israel, My Love*. For those of you who couldn't join us for our March tour, you have another opportunity with our next tour. (See [p. 36.](#))

And thanks for the twenty years. If the Lord tarries long enough, I hope He will grant me twenty more years to serve Him and you. ★



Zola Levitt in the Garden of Gethsemane, 2004



Q. Is there a difference between a Messianic Believer and a Christian?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



A. Essentially, when it comes to believing in the Gospel and trusting in Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ) alone for salvation, the answer from Scripture is “no.” When it comes to particular forms of worship and practices, however, secondary, non-essential differences distinguish the two groups of worshipers.

Many in the Messianic community refuse to be called “Christian” because of how the term has been misused against the Jewish people throughout the history of the Church. However, the word “Christian” is used three times in the New Testament to refer to both Jews and gentiles who are “believers and followers of Jesus the Messiah.” There is no titular difference between Jewish and gentile believers — the New Testament calls them both “Christians.”



Followers of Jesus were first called “Christians” in Antioch (Acts 11:26). In Acts 26:28, King Agrippa asks the apostle Paul if he is trying to persuade the king to become a Christian. Paul, an ethnic Jew, affirms that he is a Christian and wants Agrippa to become a Christian too. **In acknowledging that he is a Jewish Christian, Paul doesn’t use any term that contrasts a Jewish believer to a gentile believer;** both are called Christians. For Paul, a Christian can be a Jew or gentile. In 1 Peter 4:16, Peter addresses both Jewish and gentile believers as “Christians” when exhorting them to glorify God if they suffer individually for being Christian.

The word “Christian” simply means “follower of Christ.” “Messianic Jew” is a contemporary term invented in the last part of the twentieth century and refers exclusively to Jewish believers in Jesus who also incorporate practices of Judaism, such as observing the Saturday Sabbath, celebrating the feasts of Israel, keeping kosher, and conducting synagogue-oriented worship.

While there is nothing wrong with these practices, they do not accrue extra merit before God, nor do they make a person more spiritual than other born-again Christians who choose not to incorporate them into their practice or worship. Such practices are not necessary for salvation; however, penitent faith in Jesus is.

Creating a doctrinal or ethnic division among gentile believers and Jewish believers — like the label of Christian versus Messianic Jew — resurrects the wall of partition that Jesus removed as Lord and Savior of both Jew and gentile (namely, any who believe in Him for salvation) per Ephesians 2:14. As Jewish and gentile followers and believers in Christ, we need to come together and unite on the historic essentials of the Judeo-Christian faith and carry out the Great Commission to evangelize and disciple the nations.

With that said, Jews do not cease to be Jewish when they come to faith in Messiah, and gentile believers do not need to adopt and embrace the practices of Judaism. Faith that Jesus saves produces a born-again believer and is all that matters in the end (see Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:8).

Employing the correct terminology is vitally important when ministering and reaching out to the Jewish people (our calling as Believers). Thanks, Todd. — David ★

Divine Healing and Obedience to Task

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



At the BIG mall in Tiberias, **To The Jew First** (TJF) team member August Rosado and I met **Lenor**. When we told her that the God of Israel had sent us to bring Yeshua's Good News of salvation

to His people, she started to tear up. Lenor admitted that she had been recently diagnosed with an incurable condition.

This information opened the door for us to tell her about the healing power

of Yeshua from Nazareth, available for her today. His power can heal the stroke of sin and the blight of physical illness through His Word that we offered her from the Holy Scriptures.

Lenor was comforted by the Holy Spirit working through us. We assured her that God sent Yeshua as the Messiah to purchase salvation and healing for her through His death on the cross. August and I offered to pray and ask Adonai to heal her in the mighty name of Yeshua the Messiah. After we prayed for her in the store, Lenor said that she felt the uplifting power of prayer.

August and I firmly believe that Lenor is ready to believe in Yeshua for salvation. God's Spirit truly met Lenor in her hour of need so that she could hear about Messiah's all-encompassing love for her. Now she can read and learn His message in depth because, by the grace and healing mercy of God, she has a complete (with both Testaments) Hebrew Bible, compliments of this ministry! Thank you for that.

On every Gospel outreach, the TJF

team negotiates the scenic but arduous drive to Mount Hermon — site of the Mount of Transfiguration in Matt. 17 — to bring the Gospel to the courageous Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers stationed there. *The journey this time was fraught with peril.*

Once August and I reached the Golan Heights, about thirty minutes from Mount Hermon, the road became so thick with fog that our visibility was near zero! This was particularly concerning when the rain became a torrential downpour as we ascended a mountain over 9,300' high with winding roads and hairpin turns. Yet, the Lord guarded our hearts and minds, giving us His peace. We could feel Him urging us on in this divine calling to bring the message of the Jewish Messiah back to His people.

To obey God in this task, we pushed on and finally arrived at the IDF base near the top. There, we met **two soldiers** who eagerly accepted the bottled water and snacks we had brought them. August and I expressed our appreciation for their brave and unflagging fight against terrorists and Muslim tyrants. Decades of rule by such anti-Zionists have failed in their satanic designs to remove the Jewish people from Israel, where the Lord has regathered them. ★



IDF soldiers and Todd



Lenor

Israel's Critical Security Needs

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



The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs recently released a riveting, five-minute video: “Israel’s Critical Security Needs for a Viable Peace” (levitt.com/a/6D2). It is worth watching multiple times. Please carefully read its transcript, below. And be advised that analyzing the video’s maps, Holy Land footage, and remarkable graphics will add immensely to your grasp of precisely why Israel cannot—*must not*—exchange precious, militarily strategic territory for either peace or false promises thereof. —Mark

Israel has historically been a small state surrounded by hostile countries, some of which are many times its size. In its first 50 years, Israel found itself engaged in five full-scale wars.

Israel has little strategic depth. Only 44 miles separate the Jordan Valley and the Mediterranean Sea. A modern military bomber can cross this distance in three minutes!

After the Six-Day War in 1967, when Israel came under attack by four armies on three fronts, UN Security Council Resolution 242 declared that Israel had the right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force. Israel was not expected to withdraw fully to the fragile Armistice Lines from which it had been repeatedly attacked.

Prior to Israel’s unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip in 2005, President George W. Bush sent Prime Minister Ariel Sharon a letter of assurance about the West Bank in which he stated, “The United States reiterates its steadfast commitment to Israel’s security, including secure, defensible borders.”

Both Houses of the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved the letter.

What are Israel’s defensible borders?



Satellite image showing Israel’s critical security needs for a viable peace

1. The Jordan Rift Valley

The Jordan Rift Valley, Israel’s eastern frontier, forms a natural barrier between Israel and the country of Jordan, and beyond Jordan, Iraq, and Iran. The Jordan Valley and the mountains that dominate it create a steep 4,200-foot virtual wall opposite any force attacking from the east.

In the past, Israel faced numerically superior conventional armies. Though outnumbered, the Israeli army succeeded in winning decisively by fully exploiting the principles of ground warfare.

(continued next page)



Today, Israel faces mainly terror armies like Hezbollah, Hamas, and ISIS. It must be stressed that as long as wars are fought and ultimately won by the maneuver of land armies, then terrain and strategic depth will remain at the core of Israeli national security.

To defend itself from attacks from the east, Israel must retain control over the Jordan Valley and the western mountain ridge that dominates it.

Israel cannot concede this vital area in any diplomatic arrangement. That was the position taken by the architects of Israel's national security, like Yigal Allon, Moshe Dayan, and Yitzhak Rabin. And it remains as relevant today as it was back then. *"The security border of the State of Israel will be located in the Jordan Valley in the broadest meaning of that term."* — Yitzhak Rabin

2. Israel's Mountain Ridge

Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines, really the 1949 Armistice Lines, would be suicidal. The western slopes of the mountain ridge dominate Israel's coastal plain, where more than 70% of its population and 80% of its industrial capacity are located. All flights in and out of Israel's main international airport, Ben Gurion, would be threatened by shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. Vital early warning stations facing east would be lost.

With terror armies increasingly using low-flying drones in Syria and Yemen, Israel must protect its air defense assets all along this critical terrain. With a full withdrawal, the country's width would be reduced to a narrow, nine-mile waistline and would be impossible to defend.

Therefore, any future arrangement must include Israeli control over key parts of the mountain ridge, demilitarization of the West Bank, and continuing Israeli control of its air space.

3. Defense from Terror Tunnels

In addition, Israel must protect itself

against the kind of attack tunnels used in recent years by Hamas and Hezbollah along its southern and northern fronts. The attack tunnels are emerging as part of the new strategic landscape facing Israel on all its fronts. To preclude their use, Israel must retain overriding security responsibility within the area from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

In the last two decades, it had been hoped that Israeli withdrawals from Gaza and southern Lebanon would reduce the hostile intent of its adversaries, but the exact opposite occurred. The withdrawals only led to escalating threats along its borders. Moreover, the past notion that great powers will intervene in the Middle East to halt acts of aggression when red lines are crossed has been disproven. Increasingly, Middle East states are on their own.

In a volatile Middle East, where there's an explosive mix of resurgent, jihadist movements and regimes driven by hegemonic ambitions, uncertainty is rampant. More than ever, it is crucial to ensure defensible borders for Israel so that it can defend itself by itself. ★

Related Levitt Letter Articles:

Please revisit two remarkably dead-on, pro-Israel articles:

1. **7 Facts the Media Ignore** — p. 29 of the December 2019 *Levitt Letter*

All of Israel's security measures that upset people (e.g., border barriers) have been put in place to save lives.

2. **Which Occupation?** — p. 10 of the February 2020 *Levitt Letter*

Here are its two yellow-highlighted key points:

- Therefore, [the Palestinians' leaders] won't be satisfied by anything less than the elimination of the State of Israel.
- Regardless of what Westerners think, Palestinians view the occupation to include all of Israel — in other words, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ramat Gan, etc.



ZLM Bulletin Board

Middle East Conflict in a Nutshell (video)

The Middle East conflict is framed as one of the most complex problems in the world. In reality, it's very simple. **Israelis want to live in peace and are willing to accept a neighboring Palestinian state. Most Palestinians do not want Israel to exist.** As Dennis Prager explains, this is really all you need to know. **His five-minute video** helps you understand how Israel was founded in 1948, and how its neighbors have since tried to destroy it again and again.

- Israel is the only real democracy in the Middle East.
- Israel wants peace, but its neighbors want it destroyed.



Pray for
the peace of
Jerusalem

Over 6 Out of 10!

61%

According to a recent study from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), 61% of Americans believe at least one of 11 anti-Semitic stereotypes, such as "Jews have too much power in the business world." The survey, conducted in October 2019, queried 800 Americans 18 and older. Dear Reader, please see the exchange on pages 22–23 between ZLM and anti-Semite J777.

The \$100 Billion Church

An abuse-of-funds whistleblower recently revealed that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church), has amassed a \$100 billion fortune—kept secret from its 16 million members, whose required 10% tithes more than cover the church's annual ~\$5 billion budget. Such massive reserves could sustain their operations with zero income, even from investments, for 20 years! Meanwhile, when our ministry has more than 4–6 months of reserves, as you've seen, we expand our outreach. And our independently audited financial statements are available, free upon request.



credit: David Illiff, Wikimedia Commons

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

How to Make a Will That Works offers general information about distributing property to family, friends, and charitable interests in light of recent tax law changes. After touching upon the Four Ps of estate planning, the pamphlet answers 38 commonly asked questions. It concludes with pointers on keeping other plans up to date, such as life insurance and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.
Request POM# 16.

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



To
Index

Awaken to the Spirit

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



השיבנו יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁׁוּבָה

“Turn us back to you, O LORD, and we shall be turned...” (Lam. 5:21)

הַ	שִׁיבָנוּ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וְנִשְׁׁוּבָה							
(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ve-na	shoo-vah	e-ley-kha	Adonai	ha-shee-vel-noo							
and we shall be turned	to you	O LORD	turn us back								

“You do not know what spirit you are of” (Luke 9:55). Yeshua’s words to His Disciples imply that each of us Believers has the responsibility to know ourselves and to learn the poverty of our hearts. We discover the truth of our spiritual condition in the midst of our daily frustrations, as we experience conflict, opposition, and the inner groan that arises from pressure and disappointment. Spiritual growth means learning to transcend our negative reactions, to stop cursing our conflicts, and to awaken to the blessings that surround and pervade our way. God’s grace enables us to open our eyes so that we may “choose life and live” (Deut. 30:19).

Our struggle with sin reveals the contradiction between the ideals of our faith and the spontaneous reactions of our heart. **The impulse to despair, to be angry, to complain and curse our experience can be transformed into an opportunity to pray, to ask God for help, and to focus on what is real.** This is the “hidden blessing” of our troubles.

When we surrender to God’s Presence, we can breathe in His peace and love, despite the grief we encounter over ourselves and others. When we come to the light, we can honestly ask the LORD for healing (Heb. 4:16). When we seek for the good — and even bless the struggle — we express our trust that God will use our sorrow to help us grow and bring beauty from our ashes (2 Cor. 7:10; Is. 61:3). *Hashivenu*: “Turn us back to you, O LORD, and we shall be turned.”

Our daily struggle with sin reveals our double mindedness. Our failures and brokenness may be used by God to distill the intentions of the heart by helping us to be more honest with ourselves. We begin to realize we are more vulnerable than we first thought; that our faith is not as strong as we imagined, and that our motives are often mixed and subconscious.

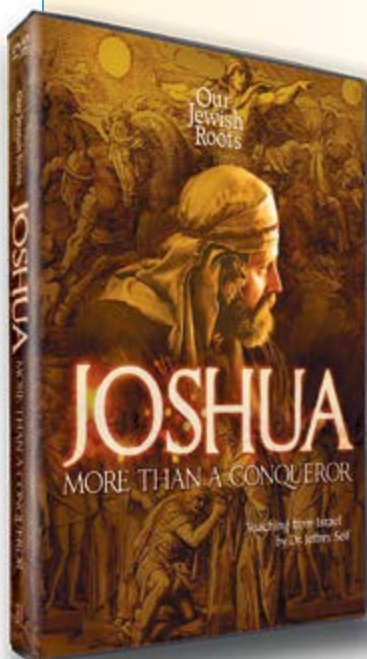
Illusions are stripped away, idols crumble, deeper levels of selfishness are uncovered; the gap between our words and our deeds is exposed. It is one thing, after all, to intellectually think about faith or idealize spirituality, but it is quite another to walk out faith in darkness. Yet it is only there, in the rawness of heart, that we discover what we really believe and how our faith makes traction with reality.

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he went out, not knowing where he was going.... For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God” (Heb. 11:8,10). Abraham closed his eyes to this world and was given the inner light of truth that would reveal his way to God. **May God help us likewise walk in the Spirit and see the unseen blessing that comes by faith.** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection





Joshua: More than a Conqueror

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series (with Bearded Bible Brother Joshua in the title role) explores Joshua's rise from dependable apprentice to faithful leader of Israel. Dr. Jeffrey Seif offers valuable leadership lessons from corresponding Holy Land locations. Following dramatic re-enactments from Joshua's life, David and Kirsten Hart discuss each lesson's meaning and application with theologian Dr. Seif.

At Sinai We meet Joshua with other recently freed Hebrew slaves at the foot of Mount Sinai, waiting for Moses to descend with God's laws. Joshua's years of leadership training begin as he apprentices with Moses.

The Spy Twelve men are sent to investigate Canaan. Only Joshua and Caleb return with hopeful accounts while the other ten report pessimistically.

At the Jordan Joshua succeeds Moses as leader of the Israelites as they prepare to cross the Jordan River to battle for the Promised Land. God demonstrates that He will be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

At Jericho The first battle for the land of Canaan occurs at a fortified city. Joshua proves his faith by following God's instructions for attacking Jericho. The Lord miraculously brings down the walls, and all the Israelites join the battle.

At Ai Disobedience after the victory at Jericho leads to Israel losing the second battle in conquering Canaan. In spite of failure and disappointment, Joshua shows leadership by following God's instructions to learn from the past and focus on the future that God has planned for Israel.

The Gibeonites Because of deception, Joshua's integrity is severely tested when he faces the decision to either break his vow or keep it under false pretenses with negative long-term consequences. We, too, face deceivers determined to trick us, and we need to pray to the Lord for discernment.

At Shiloh The conquest for the land of Canaan is nearing its end. The Israelites have subdued the south and turn north to put down the last vestiges of resistance. The Tabernacle of the Wilderness comes to rest in Shiloh, where it will stand for over three centuries.

At the End Joshua leaves the legacy of a good soldier and leader of Israel, full of faith in God. Divine strategies exist that help us become victors and not victims as we seek to follow the Lord's will and direction for our lives.



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

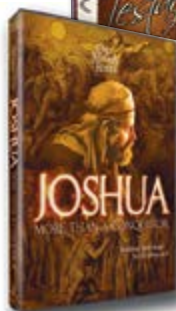
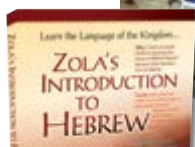
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Eretz Israel

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes us through the Land of Israel. By exploring the Holy Land's past, present, and prophetic future according to the Bible, we discover an inextricable relationship between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. Former CBS correspondent David Dolan helps explore the struggles in re-establishing the ancestral Jewish homeland. On-location TV footage, dramas, and wonderful music punctuate the series.

The Land Promised At Bethel, we explore God's promise to Abraham: that his and his children's destinies are eternally bound in the sacred soil—what we appropriately call the “Promised Land.”

Promised to the Next Generation In Be'er Sheva, the God who cares for His people in every generation visited Isaac and confirmed His unwavering intention to give the Land to Isaac and to his seed after him.

To All Generations Bethel became a “gate[way] to heaven” (Genesis 28:17). God affirmed to Jacob that the promises made to Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through him and his descendants.



Episode: “The Land Promised”



Entering the Promised Land Though the Patriarchs were long dead by his time, Moses picked up and ran with their living Land promises. At Jericho, the ancient Israelites began to contend for the destiny promised by God—their residency in the Land of Israel.

Fighting for the Promised Land The ageless mandate to lay claim to the patriarchs' promises was passed on to Joshua. The battle at Hazor secured the northern territories for Abraham's offspring.

Promised Forever At the Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon), we review God's Land promises to David and Solomon and clues that speak of victories to come.

Jesus and the Promised Land Jesus/Yeshua's New Testament vision for the Chosen People and the Holy Land underscores the basis for this series: The Land is forever significant; so is its possession by the Israelites.

Israel Fulfilling Prophecy Jeff and David review the State of Israel, its changing borders, and the Biblical timetable ahead.



How Jesus Spent His Last Week

JEWS FOR JESUS

JewsForJesus.org

Saturday and Sunday: Jesus drew near to Jerusalem, arriving at Bethany six days before Passover, on Saturday. Jesus was anointed at Simon the leper's house. On Sunday, a great crowd came to Bethany to see Jesus.

Monday: The next day, Jesus entered Jerusalem, visited the Temple, and returned to Bethany. It was Nisan 10, when the Passover lambs were selected. Likewise, the entry into Jerusalem was the day when Jesus presented Himself as Israel's Paschal Lamb.

Tuesday: On the way from Bethany to Jerusalem, Jesus cursed the fig tree, and in Jerusalem He challenged the Temple practice of selling on the premises. Some religious leaders began to plot ways to kill Him. That evening, Jesus left Jerusalem, presumably returning to Bethany.

Wednesday: On the way to Jerusalem, the Disciples saw the withered fig tree. At the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus' authority and wisdom were questioned by some religious leaders. That afternoon Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and delivered His discourse to those assembled. Two additional events occurred on that day: (1) Jesus predicted that in two days He would be crucified at the time of the Passover; and (2) Judas planned with some religious leaders to betray Jesus.

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

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

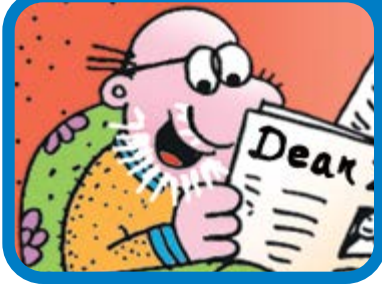
Saturday: Jesus' body was in the tomb during the Sabbath, and the Pharisees hired Roman guards to keep watch at the tomb.

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

[This timeline expands on last year's article. Check our April 2019 Levitt Letter p. 13 for supporting Scripture.](#) ★



Four engravings on copper by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528) from "The Engraved Passion" series: **left:** Betrayal of Christ (No.3), **second from left:** Bearing of the Cross (No.10), **second from right:** The Lamentation (No.13), **right:** Resurrection (No.15)



Letters to ZLM

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

Peace in the Middle East?

Dear ZLM,

I want to share a story with you from the Canadian newspaper *National Post*: In his op-ed "This is a real chance for peace in the Middle East," founder Conrad Black stated, "Since 1993, the Palestinians could have had their state, though it would have been a modest one. But they fought on, oblivious to the evaporation of their bargaining position." — J.W. (Ontario)

Dear J.W.,

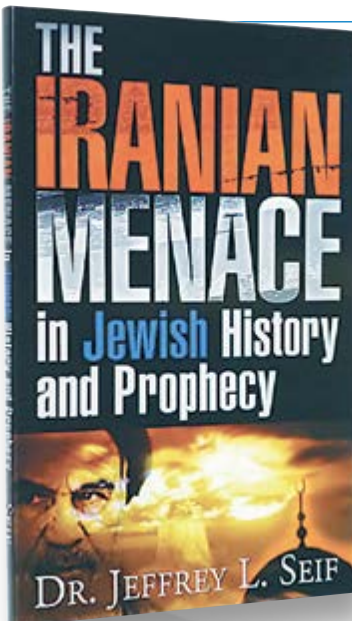
The Palestinians, as you probably agree, are pawns in a scheme by Arab/Muslim nations to promote the bogus agenda of "indigenous rights" in order to grab land and destroy Israel. The only deal that will satisfy Israel's Muslim neighbors is one that renders Israel sufficiently vulnerable militarily, to be quickly and easily destroyed. (See my article on p. 13.) One of Zola's favorite adages: "The Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity!" — Mark

Blaming the Jews ... again

Dear ZLM,

Re: your February cover about "Christian" anti-Semitism being on the rise. This is, of course, a troubling trend, but Jewish supremacism is partially to blame. Many, certainly not all or maybe even most, Jewish people look down on

(continued next page)



The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy book

by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

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

(Please see Mark's column on [p. 13.](#))

non-Jews in a dismissive, some would say arrogant, way. Many of the people behind what is seen as an attack on Western (Christian) values and traditions are in fact Jewish. —J777

Dear J777,

Your next paragraphs continue in the same vein, so I'll stop you right there. Honestly, your attitude bums me out. A visit to a Holocaust museum might open your eyes to the wariness you misinterpret as snobbishness. —Kirsten

Dear J777,

Does "Jewish supremacism," to your way of thinking, include the sense that Jews control the news media? If so, wouldn't you agree it's high time they start throwing their weight around to stem religious hate crimes before more of us are targeted? —Mark

Describing Christianity's origins

Dear ZLM,

I LOVE the program name change. *Our Jewish Roots*: That is exactly where our Judeo Christianity came from! Shalom —J.M.P. (OR)

Dear J.M.P.,

Thanks for *getting it*. —Kirsten

More than a name change

Dear ZLM,

You commented that you are only changing your TV program's name, but it has become a gentile program, and that is disheartening. I don't see a Hebrew program anymore except for topics on *Yisrael*, and you may say that is enough... but it isn't.

I still watch and give to Zola Levitt Ministries, but my heart breaks every time. This is not an angry note. It is a heartbroken one. I know you work very hard to bring us worthwhile information, but sadly Zola's ways have mainly disappeared from this programming. —L.P. (AR)

Dear L.P.,

Are you the same woman who, 30 years ago, accused us of secretly shooting our Holy Land footage in Arizona? Her supposition, shortly after I'd begun

(continued next page)



Heaven and Earth book

Ken Berg's favorite Holy Land photographs and stories

For four decades, the producer of *Our Jewish Roots* has traversed the Bible Lands with his camera at the ready. Now this well organized, full-color portfolio of Ken's most inspirational shots chronicles key appointed places that God chose as backdrops for His Holy Writ, the Bible, to unfold. From the mountaintops to the rivers and seas, deserts, and archaeological excavations, this book's narrative lets the reader commune anew with Scriptures written thousands of years ago.

managing this ministry, was that we were conserving funds—apparently filming Stateside, near where NASA’s supposedly faked moon-landing shots originated!

Our television programs feature authentic, on-location footage from the Land of the (Jewish) Bible. Dr. Jeffrey Seif is Jewish from head to toe, as are all the other Messianic theologians who’ve taught every TV series since Zola’s heavenly birthday. (We’re celebrating 14 years this month.) Sarah Liberman, also Jewish, teaches Hebrew lessons and writes a monthly *Levitt Letter* column from the Vatican—just kidding! Her column, on [page 7](#), is called, “On the Ground in Israel,” because she writes from the apple of God’s eye, the Land where time began.

David and Kirsten perform Zola’s songs with all the original lyrics. (Spoiler alert! Most of the performers on Zola’s 22 albums are just as gentile as David and Kirsten—and possibly adore Israel and the Jewish people just as much!) This proactive, evolving, adapting ministerial outreach is and always has been a hybrid organization of called-together Jews and grafted-in gentiles. Please see [page 18](#) to order our [Called Together](#) television series. —Mark



Dear L.P.,

Galatians 3:28 tells us that there is neither Jew nor Greek (gentile), neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female; but rather we are all one in Christ Jesus. If God Himself read the letter you just sent us, He might respond, “Jew? Gentile? The Harts and Dr. Seif are *one* in Me.” —David

He was born—it doesn’t matter when

Dear ZLM,

Your *Levitt Letters* and study booklets have been a staple in our congregation’s teachings. However, I question the editor’s comment on January’s article “[Reflecting on the Hypocrisy of Hanukkah](#)” ([p. 21](#)): “His sounds like the perfect family to hear that they CAN celebrate Christmas and the Savior’s birth as good Jews!”

Since there is no date given for His birth, many believe Scripture points to late September or early October (perhaps *Sukkot*?). Please shed some light on what that statement meant. —S.T. (IA)

Dear S.T.,

The author and editor were not debating the date of Christ’s nativity, only that you can be a “good Jew” and celebrate both Hanukkah and the birth of Christ. —Kirsten ★



What About Us? book

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff (“Our Man in Haifa”) focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology.



Zion Song music CD

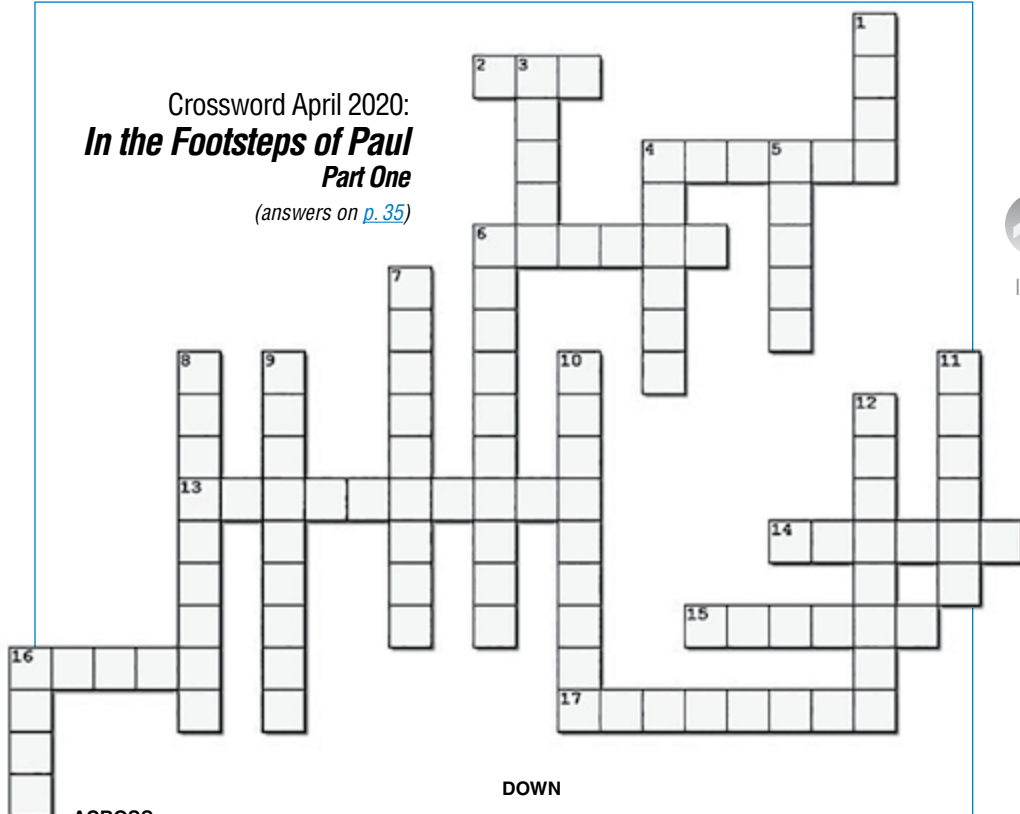
During his lifetime, Zola Levitt composed over 200 Spirit-filled songs. This rich legacy was revived when musicians David and Kirsten Hart became the studio hosts of our television broadcast.

On ***Zion Song***, David and Kirsten sing 11 songs written by Zola and arranged and orchestrated by Sammy Davenport.



Crossword April 2020: ***In the Footsteps of Paul*** **Part One**

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



ACROSS

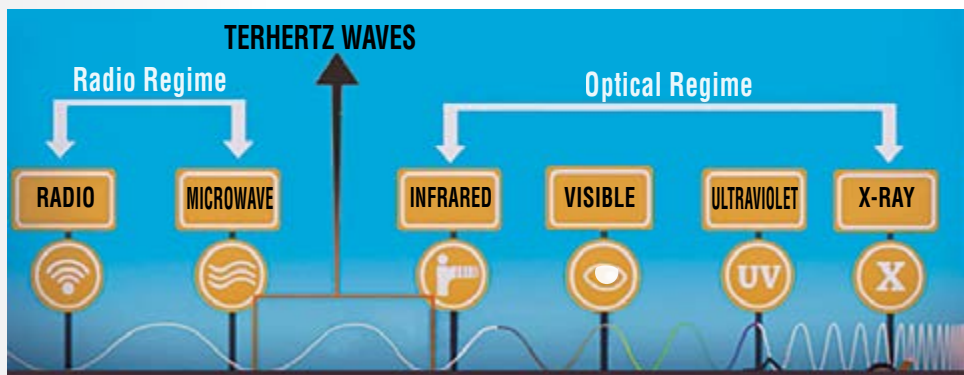
2. ...to the ___ first, and also to the Greek.
(Romans 1:16)
4. ...for he is a chosen ___ unto Me... (Acts 9:15)
6. And straightway he preached _____. (Acts 9:20)
13. And I went up by _____. (Galatians 2:2)
14. Thrice was I ___ with rods...
(2 Corinthians 11:25)
15. ...the brethren received us _____. (Acts 21:17)
16. ...and called me by His _____.
(Galatians 1:15)
17. ...he came near _____. (Acts 9:3)

DOWN

1. And ___, yet breathing out threatenings... (Acts 9:1)
3. And Saul arose from the _____. (Acts 9:8)
4. And a ___ appeared to Paul... (Acts 16:9)
5. And he was three days without _____. (Acts 9:9)
6. ...disciples were called ___ first in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)
7. ...I went up to ___ to see Peter... (Galatians 1:18)
8. And they ___ God in me. (Galatians 1:24)
9. Neither is there ___ in any other... (Acts 4:12)
10. ...the Name of the Lord Jesus was _____. (Acts 19:17)
11. But all that heard him were _____. (Acts 9:21)
12. And God wrought special _____. (Acts 19:11)
16. ...silver and ___ have I none... (Acts 3:6)

Creating Elusive Terahertz Waves

SCIENCE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Terahertz waves: electromagnetic waves that fall between short optical and long radio waves

A group of researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) has developed a new way to produce and control terahertz waves, an elusive type of electromagnetic wave, using nanometric materials. These waves can be used to create devices with advanced imaging abilities that can see through opaque materials like plastics or paper, identify small structures and their composition, or look through paint layers in works of art.

Scientists consider terahertz waves very important due to their unique ability to interact with materials: this makes them useful in accurately identifying different materials. In addition, terahertz waves can pass through materials and objects that appear opaque to other wavelengths, and thus can be used to detect hidden objects and even reveal their composition.

Despite their great importance, however, the ability to produce and control terahertz waves has been very limited compared to other forms of radiation.

Now, researchers at TAU's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology have created nanometric surfaces known as meta-surfaces that enable production and control of terahertz waves.

The nanometric materials were developed at the Nanoscale Electro-Optics Laboratory at TAU's Department of Physical Electronics, by its head, Prof. Tal Ellenbogen, and research students Shay Keren-Zur, May Tal, and Eviatar Minerbi, in collaboration with researchers from Brown University in the U.S. and TAU's School of Chemistry.

Radio waves and microwaves are long electromagnetic waves; light, X-rays, and infrared rays are short electromagnetic waves. Between the short and the long waves on the electromagnetic spectrum reside terahertz waves, shorter than radio waves and longer than optical waves.

The short and long electromagnetic waves already have many uses, thanks to the ability of technology to produce them and control them. Generating application-tailored terahertz waves promises a new tool for terahertz science and applications. "They will improve the ability to detect from afar, without chemical lab tests, the composition and spatial structure of materials. This will enable, for instance, the **easy detection of fake medications and explosives**," Ellenbogen said. ★



left to right: TAU's Shay Keren-Zur, May Tal, and Prof. Tal Ellenbogen



Seal Wounds with a Hot-Glue Gun

MEDICINE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org



Hot-glue guns can be used for more than putting together cardboard furniture, home decorations, and toys. Researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Boston Children's Hospital have developed a hot-glue gun to adhere torn human tissues together.

Most serious injuries are currently treated with staples and stitches that have many drawbacks: They are painful, leave scars, require high skill from the doctor, and sometimes have to be removed after the tissues heal.



Medical hot glue applied to close an incision

Medical glue, on the other hand, can produce improved medical and cosmetic results. But the medical glues used today in dermatology and other fields are very toxic and can be used only on the surface of the skin. In addition, the glue's hardening may make the organ less flexible or the adhesion may not be sufficiently strong.

With these limitations in mind, researchers have long been trying to develop a nontoxic glue that is suitable for different tissues and flexible after hardening. Such a glue would also need to decompose in the body after the tissue is fused together.



left: Prof. Boaz Mizrahi of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Photo: Technion)

right: Technion doctoral student Alona Shagan

In the journal *Advanced Functional Materials*, Technion Biomaterials Laboratory head Prof. Boaz Mizrahi and doctoral student Alona Shagan recently introduced an invention that checks all those boxes.

The new approach is based on a biocompatible, low-melting-point, four-armed N-hydroxy succinimide-modified polycaprolactone (star-PCL-NHS). Star-PCL-NHS is inserted into a hot-glue gun and melts with minimal pressure.

Unlike the glue guns bought in crafts stores, a special medical gun warms the glue to a moderate temperature — just above the body's — so as not to cause a burn. The internal temperature of a craft glue gun is about 320° F. To avoid tissue damage and pain, the team's glue gun has an internal temperature of 122° F.

After the glue is squeezed directly onto the wound, it quickly hardens, bonding strongly with both edges of the wound. The dried glue decomposes within a few weeks, so nothing has to be removed.

The researchers say their novel adhesive — formulated by altering its molecular weight to control adhesive strength, melting point, and elasticity — **is four times as strong as existing medical adhesives and also can be used for gluing together torn tissue inside the body.**

In-vitro (lab glass) and in-vivo (live tissue) evaluations confirm the effectiveness and biocompatibility of this system. The researchers believe the new concept will lead to the development of wound-management devices that will reduce the use of stitches, staples, and pins, speed up the healing process, and reduce scarring.

The research was funded by the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation. ★



Auschwitz Memoir in English

BY MATT LEBOVIC / TimesOfIsrael.com

Seventy-five years after Eddy de Wind wrote his history at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the late psychiatrist's book is now translated into English and a dozen other languages. *Last Stop Auschwitz: My Story of Survival From Within the Camp* was written during the days immediately after the Nazi death camp's liberation. Hiding in a pile of old clothes underneath a barracks, de Wind used a foraged notebook and pencils to craft his account. The book is a montage of the camp's brutalities set against de Wind's love for Friedel, his wife who was imprisoned a few yards away from him in the notorious "Block 10."

De Wind wrote about the smell of "searing flesh" emanating from the Auschwitz I crematorium chimney, and how it affected his mindset.

"You are tired, sick, and disgusted with yourself, because you are a human being and because an SS-man is also a 'human being,'" wrote de Wind.

Although *Last Stop Auschwitz* was published in Dutch in 1946, it did not find a large audience outside of survivors. Since de Wind's death in 1987, family members have worked to publish the book in many languages.

"This book is perhaps the only Holocaust death camp account written 'in situ,' in 'real time' and not affected by fading or inaccurate memories, not influenced by stories or reports learned afterwards," said cousin Dorian de Wind.

Family members see the book's publication in English as fulfilling a promise de Wind made in January of 1945, when he encountered a young Dutch woman named Roosje in the snowy fields around Auschwitz. The camp had just been liberated, and people were searching for food, medicine, and news of loved ones.

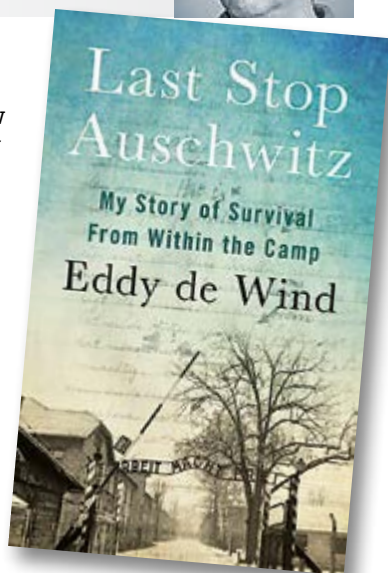
"They will never believe us in Holland when we come back and tell them all this," said Roosje, who had escaped from a death march. Prior to that, she watched her mother die of starvation and was forced to bury her.

"We will make ourselves believable, there will be official reports that will prove the truth of our stories," said de Wind. "And if someone still doesn't believe it, I will ask them: Where then is my mother, my father, my brothers, and the other tens of thousands?"

During the Holocaust, Eddy de Wind witnessed key moments in Germany's war against the Jews. He was the last Jewish doctor to graduate from Leiden University before the Nazis expelled Jewish students and faculty from Dutch universities.

Not long afterward, he was taken away during the notorious pogrom of February 23, 1941, when the Germans arrested 427 Jewish men in Amsterdam's Old Jewish Quarter.

(continued next page)



top: Eddy as a young man
bottom: Eddy at age 70



One of several "Auschwitz Album" images taken from atop a boxcar in May of 1944. Several of the SS officers and newly arrived Jewish victims have been identified.



credit: Yad Vashem



After being sent to a camp near Schoorl, the men were severely beaten and given medical examinations. De Wind's son, Melcher de Wind: "My father, being a doctor, managed to suggest that he was infected with tuberculosis and together with 11 others he was sent away. The men had to run away from the camp, zigzagging for fear of being shot in the back."

Of the 427 Jewish men arrested in that February raid, only two others survived the Holocaust.

De Wind took a step that no other Dutch Jewish doctor is known to have taken: To prevent his mother's deportation to Auschwitz, Eddy volunteered to serve at Westerbork transit camp as a physician. When he got to Westerbork, he learned that his mother had already been sent to Auschwitz. Devastated, he looked after people bound for "resettlement" in occupied Poland, grimly tasked with determining whether inmates were too sick for the next transport.

One of the young nurses caught his attention. Within weeks of meeting her, de Wind asked Friedel Komornik to be his wife, and she agreed. A March 1943 wedding photograph shows the couple seated, surrounded by friends, colleagues, and a bouquet in front of them.

Later that year, Eddy and Friedel were deported to Auschwitz. Unlike most Jews sent to the death camp — called Birkenau, or Auschwitz II — the de Winds were not "selected" for murder upon arrival. Instead, they were imprisoned in Auschwitz I, the main camp, in adjacent barracks.

While Eddy worked, Friedel was imprisoned in the treacherous "Block 10." Inside, SS "physicians" conducted horrifying experiments on women, supposedly in line with Nazi racial theories to increase German breeding power while sterilizing non-Aryan races.

During this time, **the couple passed notes through a barbed wire fence between their barracks.** Both of them had interactions with the infamous Josef Mengele, including when Mengele asked Eddy which infectious diseases were present at Westerbork.



Victim envy

When Eddy returned to the Netherlands in 1945, he reunited with Friedel. Despite his fears, she had not perished in one of the death marches from Auschwitz.

The de Winds' marriage did not stand the test of time. During the years he and Friedel were together, he treated many survivors of Nazi camps. From this work, de Wind developed theories to explain the plight of survivors.

Not only did Eddy suffer from "survivor's guilt," he was also afflicted with "victim envy," said Melcher de Wind. "For my father, survival must have felt like a punishment that he had survived and had to go through the pains of finding out whether someone maybe had survived."

During the final days of Eddy's life, his son witnessed part of the Holocaust's psychological aftermath on his father. On his deathbed in a hospital, Eddy started to cry after learning that a patient in the next room had died.

"He said he felt that because the other had died, he was allowed to live at least one more day," said Melcher. "It felt as if he had survived a selection in the camp. When he died, in his head he returned to Auschwitz." ★



Seated newlywed couple Eddy and Friedel de Wind after their marriage ceremony at the Dutch transit camp Westerbork, March 1943

courtesy: Melcher de Wind



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

The Sodium Guidestar at
Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Israel's New Laser Weapon

By Ryan Morgan / AmericanMilitaryNews.com

Israel's military has successfully tested a laser interception system against incoming mortar shells, drones, and anti-tank missiles, ending years of testing. The Israeli Defense Ministry sees it as a viable means to intercept aerial weapons attacks.

Dubi Oster, the head of the Defense Ministry's optronics R&D department, said the latest breakthrough combines multiple laser beams to form one strong beam. The new development reportedly allows those lasers to intercept attacking weapons at greater ranges and through atmospheric disturbances like clouds and dust.

"During a war, missile interceptors will at one point run out, but with this system, as long as you have electricity, you have a never-ending supply," said Israeli Gen. Yaniv Rotem, the head of the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Research and Development.

Rotem also touted the technology's cost-saving ability, noting that the

electricity required to power the laser would cost only a few dollars, as opposed to interceptor missiles that can cost thousands.

Israel's Iron Dome system shoots down incoming enemy ordnance with intercepting missiles and has been effective in stopping rocket attacks launched from the Gaza Strip.

Israel reportedly wants to adopt the new laser technology on at least three platforms: a fixed ground-based laser system, a maneuverable laser platform for troops in the field, and an aerial platform that can better intercept threats above cloud cover.

The U.S. military has also been experimenting with its own laser missile defense systems. The U.S. Air Force has tested a laser system (SHiELD) for aircraft, to protect them from being shot down.

I'm "Haredi," Not "Ultra"

By Avi Shafran / [The New York Times](http://TheNewYorkTimes)

In 2016, President Barack Obama signed a bill eliminating dated refer-

(continued next page)

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR





credit: Jessica Lehman

Williamsburg, Brooklyn



ences to racial or ethnic minorities. "African-American" replaced "Negro," "Asian-American" or "Pacific Islander" replaced "Oriental" and so on.

It's now generally accepted that racial, ethnic, and religious groups determine how they wish others to refer to them in government documents, popular media, and polite conversation. A different standard, though, applies to Haredim. We're constantly labeled "ultra-Orthodox" when we prefer the Hebrew words "Haredi" (*pl.* Haredim, signifying religious devoutness).

Our men wear dark suits and black hats (and the subset among us called Hasidim, fur hats on the Sabbath and holidays); our women, modest dress and wigs or kerchief hair coverings.

We oppose the label "ultra." Does "ultraconservative" conjure images of Ambassador Nikki Haley, or of Steve Bannon? What do we mean when we call an investment "ultra-risky"? We mean something that is extreme, beyond normal.

Haredim don't buy into certain elements of modern culture, and our value system places family, textual study, and religious observance above certain material goals. Enjoined by our faith to travel on the Sabbath only on foot, Haredi Jews tend to live near their synagogues, and what naturally results are Haredi communities, not "invasions."

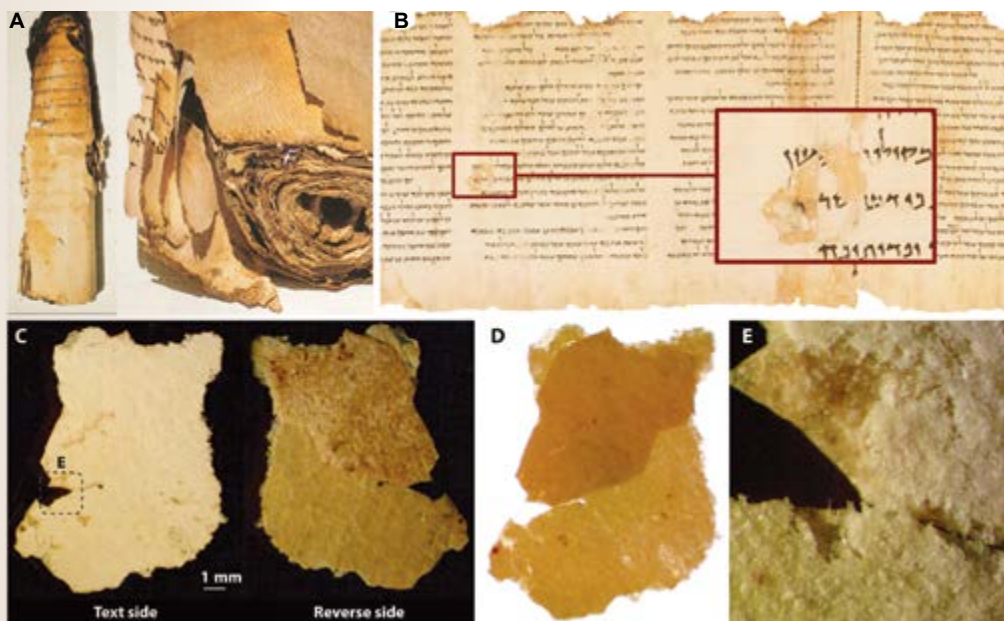
We value civic responsibility and vote in higher-than-average proportions, promoting our values and goals at the ballot box. That's the American democratic process at work.

Anti-Semitism has lately reared its ugly head. Manifested in the streets of Brooklyn and in racist corners of the internet, its targets are often Haredim, visibly distinguishable Jews.

Disparagement, even only in words, adds moisture to the dark cloud of prejudice. Sufficiently saturated, that cloud can yield, as a Jewish poet put it, a hard rain. ★

Why is the Temple Scroll So Well Preserved?

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY BRYAN WINDLE (r) BibleArchaeology.org



Light microscopy of the Temple Scroll (TS), showing its layered structure from the macroscale to the microscale (A) Photographs of the TS show damage to the upper part of the scroll (left). The reverse side of the preserved section (right) shows the follicle pattern of the hairs removed from the skin, which indicated that the text is written on the flesh side of the treated skin. [Courtesy of the Estate of Yigael Yadin.] (B) Column 54 of the unrolled TS. The enlarged inclusion (inset) shows that some parts of the bright, text-carrying inorganic layer have been detached. [Credit: The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.] (C) Fragment of TS showing inorganic layer on text side (left) and reverse side (right). The organic layer has partially detached, revealing the inner surface of the inorganic layer. (D) The same fragment in light transmittance from the back differentiating the thinner lower part, where the detachment has occurred from the thicker upper part. (E) Enlarged optical micrograph of the boxed region in (C).

In a new study published in the journal *Science Advances*, researchers have revealed why one of the Dead Sea Scrolls is so much better preserved than the others. The Temple Scroll is thinner, brighter, and easier to read than most of the other darker, faded parchments found in the Qumran caves.

Using x-ray and Raman spectroscopies, the researchers discovered that the Temple Scroll was coated in a mixture of sulfate salts that was not present on other Dead Sea Scrolls.

Since these specific salts are not native to the caves nor to the Dead Sea, the scholars have concluded that the Temple Scroll was produced using a unique technology

(continued next page)



The entrance to Cave 53 at the Qumran archaeological site, 2019



Some fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls



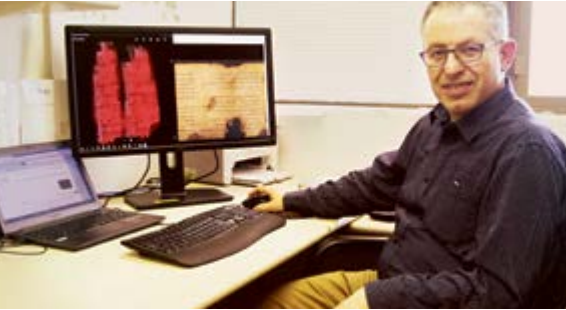
credit: Luke Tress/Times of Israel

credit: AP Photo/Jamie-Andrea Yanak



Three fragments from the Temple Scroll displayed at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, Ohio in 2006

credit: University of Haifa



Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov, head of the Haifa Project for Research on the Dead Sea Scrolls

credit: Shai Halevi, The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library



Preservation work of a Dead Sea Scroll fragment



credit: AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia

The Dead Sea Scrolls are shown in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 2007

in which the parchment was treated by adding an inorganic layer to the writing surface, and that it is this salt coating which is likely behind the scroll's exceptionally well-preserved state.

The researchers underscored the importance of this study: "Understanding the properties of these minerals is particularly critical for the development of suitable conservation methods for the preservation of these invaluable historical documents." The authors added that the salt could also be an ingredient in the scroll's eventual destruction. Because the salts detected on the scroll are known to suck moisture out of the air, their presence could "accelerate [the scroll's] degradation" if not stored properly, the authors said. ★



During Ramadan, Late-Night Gyms Boom in the Gaza Strip

BY FARES AKRAM (r) APNews.com

The month-long Ramadan routine, with high-calorie fast-breaking “iftar” buffets, sugary staples, and hours of sedentary screen time, is a headache for fitness trainers. A growing group of middle-class men in Gaza are worried at the prospect of gaining weight.

A main culprit is the Ramadan dessert known as *qatayef*—fried pancakes stuffed with sweet cheese or nuts, soaked in homemade sugar syrup. A sliver of cheese *qatayef* contains some 350 calories. Fitness trainers acknowledge that it’s hard to resist after a day of deprivation.

Fitness trainer Ammar Abu Karsh tailors meal and workout plans especially for Islam’s holy month, taking into consideration the unique diet, but his clients often get off track.

“We have a problem in our customs and legacy because eating desserts and *qatayef* can never be found in any dietary plan,” he said. “People say, ‘It’s just a month and it will pass, so why should I deprive myself.’”

Abu Karsh schedules his Ramadan workout plan with intensive cardio sessions in the late afternoon before the iftar meal. With the gym’s hours extended until 2 a.m. for the holy month, some Palestinians come late at night to work up a sweat. **Over the past decade, the Gaza Strip gym business has boomed.**

Some 120 gyms, two-thirds of which are professionally equipped, are scattered throughout the territory, according to Tareq Abu el-Jedyan of the Palestinian Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation. It’s a significant spike from Gaza’s pre-2000 gym count: a mere 10.

“Today, things are more professional than in the past...trainees get to know how to exercise right with the correct technique,” Abu el-Jedyan explained.



credit: AP Photo/Hatem Moussa

May 2019: Palestinian at Techno-Gym in Gaza City

Upscale Techno-Gym opened three years ago, with a swimming pool, steam and sauna rooms, and modern bodybuilding equipment imported from Italy. The gym, which primarily caters to workers in banks, telecom companies, and aid agencies who have the cash to spend, serves as a rare respite from the misery of life in the enclave, where unemployment surpasses 50%, tap water is undrinkable, and electricity cuts are routine. The frequent cycles of bloody clashes with Israel have compounded daily struggles.

An Israeli-Egyptian blockade (imposed after the Hamas militant group seized power in 2007) and an intensifying political schism with the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority have thrown Gaza’s economy into free fall, deepening poverty and worsening humanitarian conditions.

Those “bloody clashes with Israel” would cease, as would the blockades, if Gaza residents would stop lobbing rockets and flaming projectiles into Israel. As Benjamin Netanyahu said, “If the Arabs put down their weapons today, there would be no more violence. If the Jews put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.” — Kirsten ★





Getting a Jump on the Holidays

The judge asked the defendant what he was charged with.
"Doing my Passover shopping early," came the reply.
"That's not illegal. How early were you shopping?"
"Before the store opened."

Baking Class

A five-year-old girl excitedly greeted her mother:
"Guess what we made in Hebrew School today,
Mommy. We made unleaded bread!"

Way to Share the Gospel?

A Jewish man took his Passover lunch to the park. He
sat down on a bench and began eating. Shortly there-
after a blind man came by and sat down next to him.

Feeling neighborly, the Jew offered a sheet of
matzoh to the blind man.

The blind man ran his fingers over the matzoh for a
minute, and exclaimed, "Who wrote this?!"

Seder Ingredients

A nerdy-looking man named Herbert sat at the
Passover Seder table and asked,
"Why do I have to sit at the kids'
table? This stinks! This really stinks!"

Moral: No Seder would be complete
without the bitter Herb. ★



Answer Key for April 2020 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

2. Jew
4. Vessel
6. Christ
13. Revelation
14. Beaten

Down:

1. Saul
3. Earth
4. Vision
5. Sight
6. Christians
7. Jerusalem
8. Glorified
9. Salvation
10. Magnified
11. Amazed



Our Jewish Roots TV Airing Schedule

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Daystar Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 369 Dish – Channel 263				
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
NEW! TBN Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 372 Dish – Channel 260				
Day	3:30 PM Thursdays	4:30 PM Thursdays	5:30 PM Thursdays	6:30 PM Thursdays
NEW! TCT Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 377				
Day	4 PM Sundays	5 PM Sundays	6 PM Sundays	7 PM Sundays

WE'RE AVAILABLE 24/7 AT LEVITT.TV.

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of
independent channels and is posted at www.levitt.com/schedule
(New television series from Israel airing soon!)





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Abraham to Jesus

Genealogy Chart

Full Color, 16"x20" chart,
mailed in a sturdy tube.

A personal work of art and a visually fresh Messianic poster that will be at home in the living room, office, or classroom. A novel gift idea. The tree roots connect the lineage of Isaac and Jacob through Abraham. The leaves include Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and spaces for you to write in your family members, grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel.

Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



Zola Tours DISCOVER ISRAEL

Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with
David & Kirsten Hart this OCTOBER!



The Acropolis
Athens



Petra
Jordan



The Temple
Mount
Jerusalem

FALL TOUR 2020

Deluxe: Oct. 19–29
(Israel only, \$5,288)

Grand Petra: Oct. 19–Nov. 1
(Israel & Petra, \$6,488)

Grand Athens: Oct. 13–29
(Greece & Israel, \$8,288)

Ultra Grand: Oct. 13–Nov. 1
(Greece, Israel & Petra, \$9,488)

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