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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

July 2020

Our world is in COVID, part 2 — reopening while judging how best to do that. My own pastor is toying with a monthly “PJ Sunday” for those of us who enjoy the streaming worship service in our pajamas.

With safety measures in place, ZLM’s office is caught up but not yet open to the public. We hope you and your family are staying safe. You may find Mark’s suggestions helpful (p. 14).

For comfort that God is still in control, start on p. 4 of this issue and read through Kirsten’s message of hope (8). Jump to p. 28 to learn how Drs. Salk and Sabin gifted their polio vaccines to serve humankind, and then see recent Israeli research and development to combat this and future viruses (26, 29).

This July issue has a theme: American Independence is closely tied to Jewish history (cover articles and 21). Celebrate our nations’ common love for religious freedom and democracy!

Classic Zola examines prophecy (6), and guest author Norma Archbold debunks Palestinians’ deceptions about the Land (10) even as Israel prepares to formally reclaim the heartland of Judea and Samaria with its occupants’ blessing (3, 31).

With an understanding of God’s faithfulness to Israel and, by extension, the Church (16), please *Sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim* — Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6)



Margot

Margot, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. For novel incidents of Muslim hypocrisy and rapaciousness, see 31 and 34. Next month, we’ll “float” the newest Iranian suggestion: “If every Muslim were to pour one bucket of water, Israel would be washed away.” You can’t make this stuff up! If you value our advocating for Israel, please support us with your prayers and donations. Thank you.

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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

inside: **God at Work
in the Chaos p.4**

U.S. Jews Proudly Celebrate the 4th of July

By **Rabbi Devorah Marcus** / SDJewishWorld.com
Temple Emanu-El, San Diego, California

Happy 4th of July! Jews consider the commemoration of America's Declaration of Independence extremely important, and the U.S. Jewish community tends to celebrate it with enthusiasm and abandon.

This is because, as Jews, we have been blessed to call America home for 366 years. True, not all of our families have been here that whole time but, as a people, Jews have been on this continent since its earliest colonial days. Some of our family trees trace back to this original group. Others of our trees trace back to refugee admittance after internment in Nazi camps. This year, I'd especially like to direct our attention to the nature of Jewish immigration to this country, because our history is important to frame and understand our present.

The first group of Jews who came to America comprised 23 Jewish refugee women and children who arrived after fleeing Brazil. After facing rejection at most ports of entry

(continued p.2)

The Jewish Meaning of July 4th

By David Geffen
JPost.com

Professor David Macarov made

aliyah with his wife, Frieda, in 1947. Both fought in the 1948 War of Independence. After the war was over, the Macarovs returned to the U.S., where David earned his PhD in social work. They returned to Israel in the early 1950s, and he became the first professor in the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He died at the age of 97 a few years ago. He wrote:

"You realize that without the United States' openness to accepting Jewish immigrants from 1881 until the immigration quotas of 1924, there would not be an American

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U.S. Jews Proudly Celebrate 4th of July *continued from cover*

up the eastern seaboard, they were grudgingly allowed to disembark by an unhappy Dutch official, Governor Peter Stuyvesant, who complained to the governing Dutch West India Company that the Jews were “a deceitful race, hateful enemies and blasphemers of the name of Christ.”

Only financial reasons persuaded the Dutch West India Company to overrule Governor Stuyvesant and allow the Jews to stay: They did not want to alienate and anger their Jewish financial investors. **And thus was the first Jewish community in America: refugees without a penny to their name,** allowed to stay so as not to negatively impact international trade, and only on the condition that they support their own poor so not to burden the broader community.

With this small group of refugees, America demonstrated both her greatest potential and her greatest challenge—to welcome refugees from all corners of the world, understanding that those who struggle to flee and survive are profoundly motivated people, driven by a desire to secure safety, liberty, freedom, and opportunity for themselves and their children. Compare this to the tendency to fear those whom we do not know, to assume terrible things about them, and to confront poverty with a fear of becoming impoverished ourselves.

These same struggles, opportunities, and challenges present themselves today.

The Jewish Meaning of July 4th

continued from cover sidebar

Jewish community today of six million as successful as it has been. Moreover, too many people have forgotten about how boldly the U.S. fought to defeat Hitler and his partners and the Japanese and their allies.”

“I was one of 550,000 Jews who served in the U.S. military. We now also know that over half a million Jews fought in the Red Army. That victory seven decades ago saved the world and saved the world for Jews. Always remember that American Jews who came from Europe from the 1880s, and people like myself, have celebrated July Fourth, American Independence Day, every day of our lives. I believe only a Jew like Irving Berlin could have written ‘God Bless America.’”



Map of North and South America, for Dutch West India Company c. 1671 by Jacob van Meurs

So, in this month of celebrating American independence, American integrity, and American pride, I ask us Jews to consider how we will meet these demands today. I ask us to consider what we ourselves will do with our freedom, security, power, and autonomy now that we are solidly on the inside. I ask us to consider what it means for each of us to be Americans and how we can best express our gratitude for the incredible safety, security, freedom, and opportunity that this great country has shown us.

Happy Birthday, America! May our country continue to be a place of safety and security, freedom and liberty. May we have the courage to live up to our greatest potential. May God bless America, and may America remain a nation worthy of God’s blessings. ★





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IDF Gears Up for Annexation of Judea and Samaria

WORLDISRAELNEWS.COM

credit: Flash90/Yaakov Naumi

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are prepping for three scenarios if the government’s plan to annex the Jordan Valley and Judea and Samaria comes to fruition.

In one scenario, there will be no major disturbances other than mild riots. In the second scenario, terrorist attacks and larger riots in Judea and Samaria and Gaza will occur. In the most extreme scenario, the Palestinians will launch violent riots and a continuous wave of deadly terrorist acts on a grand scale.

According to a recent poll, over two-thirds of Palestinians living across Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip support a new intifada against Israel to stop the implementation of President Trump’s Middle East peace plan.

Prior to his recent trip to Israel, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said applying sovereignty over Judea and Samaria is



Israeli soldiers during training

“Israel’s decision,” a clear indication that the U.S. would support such a move.

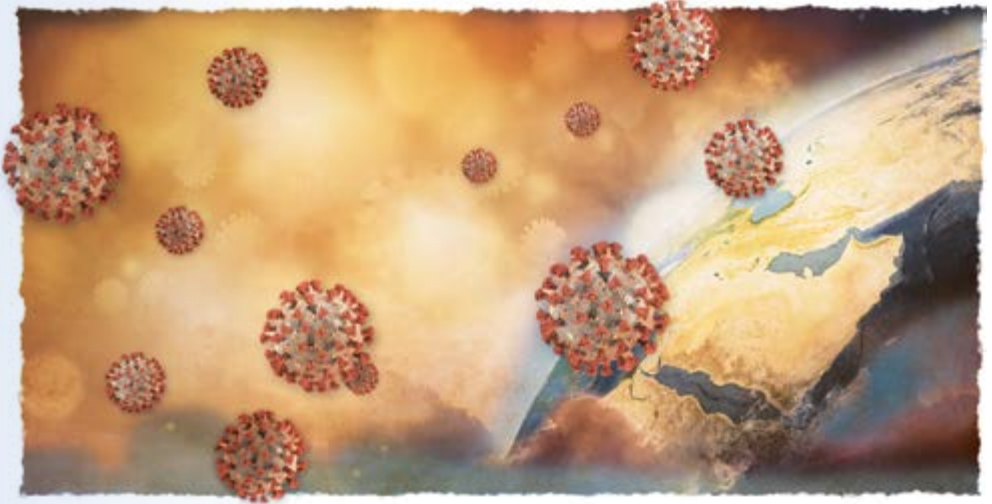
Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has warned of dire consequences if Israel proceeds with annexation. The PA rejected Trump’s plan though it provides for a Palestinian state in 70% of Judea and Samaria.

[See related article on p.31.](#) ★

God Is at Work in the Chaos of COVID-19



BY TAMARA CHAMBERLAIN / Crosswalk.com



COVID-19 has flipped our world upside down. Years from now, if the Lord tarries, scholars and historians will analyze the effects of this pandemic on our society, economy, mental health, physical health, and our spirituality. The world has been caught by surprise in many ways.

But God most certainly has not.

Even in the midst of chaos, make no mistake, God is at work. His plans will not be thwarted, and His people will not be overcome. **Here are four signs God is at work in the chaos of COVID-19.**

Greater Openness to the Gospel

History has shown that people are more open to religion during times of crisis and instability. We empathize and relate to lost and confused hearts looking for answers, realizing that regardless of how much we plan, strategize, and think ahead, we can't control what happens around us.

People search for hope in the midst of chaos, and studies show that part of that search includes religion. With churches closed, it might seem like bad timing for people to be more open to the Gospel. But the opposite couldn't be truer.

People may be reluctant to walk into a church because of how foreign and intimidating it feels, but that doesn't stop us from sharing the Gospel. As believers in Jesus, we have an opportunity to minister and share His truth like never before.

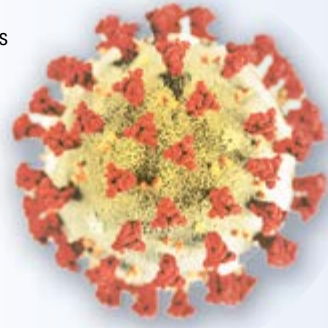
As we witness the pandemic, we are all standing on common ground. Here is an opportunity to share with friends and family why you aren't paralyzed by fear. Let your peace be a testimony to the truth of Jesus.

Community Is Stronger than Ever

It's astonishing how connected people are even when unable to see each other in person. God is at work drawing people together during a time of crisis.

(continued next page)





Technology has been a true benefit for families, friends, and churches to stay connected during a time of social distancing. People are longing to stay connected — through Zoom calls, FaceTime, and other creative ways.

Social distancing reminds us that we were never meant to live in isolation. God even said that man was not meant to be alone (Genesis 2:18). It's not the way He designed humanity.

Forced Rest

The world has slowed down in a way we've never seen before. The mandate to "shelter in place" is forcing people to pause and rest. It's not a pace of life our society is used to living. And it's not one that comes easily. But it's a life God has called us to.

God even modeled rest for us, *"And He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done"* (Genesis 2:2). This model of rest from work is something not many of us are good at. But this call to rest is really a call to trust God.



Rest isn't only good for our physical health; it's good for our spiritual and emotional health too.

To step into the rest to which God called us is to actively let go of control and put it in God's hands. You and I are being forced to slow down and rest. Making rest a priority in your life allows God to revitalize you.

Your Faith Is Growing

COVID-19 is affecting everyone in one way or another. Questioning God's sovereignty and provision in times like these challenges your faith and makes your faith more likely to grow. Though the Church itself is not being persecuted, Believers are collectively facing hardship, and **the Church has a long history of growing during times of difficulty.**

James the brother of Jesus, said, "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:3-4).



Though Christians shouldn't go looking for difficult situations, we should view them as opportunities to grow our faith. Relief might not come when or how you want it, but God is always true to His promises.

It may be difficult to see the hand of God during this time. But rest assured, He is working all things for His glory and for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). ★



“DOOMSDAY!”

PART 2:

Classic Zola
from 1983
37 years ago



In June we saw that God is an ever-present source of hope ... even for non-believers when the chips are down.*

What the Bible Says about the End Times

The Old Testament prophets foresaw an end to this world as we know it. They prophesied a time, which they called “the Last Days” or “the End Times,” in which **society would simply collapse** under a tremendous outpouring of God’s wrath. Men would no longer be able to live together, and under the influence of terrible delusions would destroy their own world. This view of events has never been popular, understandably, but it’s time we took it seriously.

The New Testament continues the same theme, especially in the words of our Lord to His Disciples about the End of the Age. Jesus was very candid when He answered their important questions about the future. He said:

And there shall be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. — Luke 21:25–28

Any Bible student is aware that our times match fatally well with those powerful words. Those conversant with the speeches and the lessons of Jesus Christ are very aware that there is an end to earthly life and that our Lord was speaking of that end in that passage.

The Disciples themselves were concerned about the end of the world, and they asked Jesus some very important questions:

And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came upon Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? — Matt. 24:3

On this occasion, our Lord did not answer in parables but rather stated most clearly what we now refer to as “The signs of the end.”

Never since the time of Noah has the possibility existed that the human race would be finished off to the last man, woman, and child. Never in all the bloody history of the world has it ever been remotely possible that men, and men alone, could destroy the world.

But now it is. With our technology and super-germs, we can destroy this entire earth within a matter of hours. Today, we are terrified — not merely for one

(continued next page)



credit: Steve Farn



* A Believer is anyone who believes in Yeshua as Messiah



another but terrified within ourselves. We are as terrified as any people anywhere at any time who ever faced death.

Jesus' signs in the heaven may well involve killer satellites, laser weapons, bombs and missiles, and poisonous gases by which we can ensure the cessation of life on this planet.

Jesus also spoke of disease, famine, hunger, and suffering:

And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences: and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. — Luke 21:11

Some might argue that men have always been plagued by such adversities. But it is a matter of common sense that these things are more intense now than ever before. **Famine and disease run rampant in a badly over-populated world.** New forms of disease have visited our generation that the world never before contemplated — **ever more-virulent viruses** and sicknesses and cancers resulting from our environmental pollution.

Morally, we have not seemed to grow at all. In fact, it's arguable that we have deteriorated through the ages. Paul wrote to Timothy:

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. — 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Are these the Last Days? If Timothy could see our circumstances today, he might think that Paul was referring to our time.

Not all signs of the end are negative. Jesus indicated that the Gospel of His kingdom would be preached throughout the world:

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. — Matt. 24:14

We can see that this process is well under way. The nations of the world are receiving the Gospel as never before due to improved television and print journalism [and, of course, now the internet] that fully blanket the globe with information. The job is certainly not finished, but it is well under way ... and indicates that we should be watchful.

Next month: Now that we've seen how Scripture describes the End Times, what can we do to remove our fear of it?

Be sure to watch (or record it or view it at levitt.tv) the brand-new series about Revelation and the End Times that is airing on *Our Jewish Roots* this month and next! — David ★



Land of Hope

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



The Caravan of Abram,
watercolor c.1896-1902 by
James Tissot (1836-1902),
The Jewish Museum

Seeing light at the end of a tunnel is essential to humanity. We need to know that there are definite ends and new beginnings. Also necessary: motivation, encouragement, and something called hope. This past couple of months have provided an unexpected walk for Believers and unbelievers alike. Many have suffered job loss, financial struggles, and even unforeseen loss of loved ones... all because of an unusually threatening virus. In times of uncertainty, we yearn to know that there is a worthwhile future beyond the horizon.

Hardships

God is aware of this need in His creation. When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness under Moses' leadership, they needed to know that their pilgrimage would reach a destination. God gave them the promise that they were headed to a land flowing with milk and honey. An actual land awaited them! And as *Jehovah Jireh* (their Provider) described the Promised Land multiple times, it was a *good land*. They were going to a place for ownership and stability, but also, He was promising that this land would provide for all their physical needs.

Through desert hardships, wars, confrontations, disappointment, and even in spite of disobedience, God still presented a tangible hope for His people. Thousands of years later, we Believers are no different from the ancient Hebrews. Having hope remains essential to our mental and emotional stability.

Hope

Hope is a desire that our future will be brighter than our yesterdays or even our present. Believers' hope is the assurance that our eternity in Heaven will be joyous beyond compare. **Our hope lifts our spirits and renews our faith** to glorify God no matter what our eyes may see. We live with God's promise that He will direct our steps, which He does when we let Him.

Filled with the Spirit of God, Peter preached to thousands on Shavuot (Pentecost). I love his message in Acts 2:25-26, "*David said: I saw God before me for all time. Nothing can shake me; He's right by my side. I'm glad*"

(continued next page)





from the inside out, ecstatic; I've pitched my tent in the land of hope." (Message version)

There's just something about the image of David pitching a tent to dwell in a location called the "Land of Hope." Tents in Bible times weren't little overnight pup tents. They served as homes for families over long periods. David—and Peter by his declaration—was ready to stake his ground and dwell where hope abounded.

I hope your family is growing closer as it makes its way through this pandemic. The Hart family hit a rough patch when family members were barred from tending to a hospitalized loved one (not COVID-19), but we rely on our eternal hope. Remember the prophet Jeremiah's assurance that the Lord desires to "*prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future*" (Jer. 29:11). ★

The Warrior King: DVD set *David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times*

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Warrior King tells the story of King David's time; it is also the story of our own time. **With challenges larger than Goliath all around us, we need Bible-based leaders now more than ever.** In this eight-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif speaks to that need. Dramatic re-enactments—shot on location in Israel—complement the teachings in this series.

The Call We consider how David captured the heart of Israel, his selection by Samuel, and the amazing battle with Goliath that catapulted him to renown.

David and Saul We explore David's abuse at the hands of King Saul, and his bond with the king's son Jonathan. We evaluate Saul's death and David's gracious response.

Family We look at David's marriage and family intrigue.

Wars David was a warrior—a spiritual role model for us all! Philistine, Amalekite, and Ammonite wars are discussed, along with modern-day relevance.

Celebrated Warrior King Though anointed by God for kingship, David spent 13 years running from Israel's first king before ascending to the throne.

A Messianic Prototype The New Testament refers to Jesus as the "Son of David." We examine how the Old Testament predicted a coming Davidic Son.

Israel's Sweet Psalmist David's gift for creating poetry and music shows a softer side.

Messiah We consider the Messianic parallels in David. You'll walk away saying "Messiah lives!" and, we hope, appreciating that He lives in you.



The Warrior King book

From the TV series of the same title, this 86-page transcript of highlights includes dozens of photos and an abundance of Hebrew with translation. Can be used with the series or independently. *The Warrior King* is a story about the Old Testament's David—Israel's greatest soldier. It's also about the Bible's "Son of David"—Jesus, and how God uses abysmal circumstances to improve those who rely on Him.

Barren or Blooming?

Norma Archbold
(1938–2019) author of
The Mountains of Israel



Living as a West Bank settler in the 1990s, Chicagoan Archbold addressed arguments over the settlements. — Zola (1995)

The court of world public opinion makes important decisions about Israel. As in any court, the rule of GIGO (garbage in, garbage out) applies. In other words, a decision is only as good as the facts upon which it is based. Decisions based upon lies are unjust.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has long understood that public opinion moves politicians, and that political decisions determine whether or not they will succeed in forming a state that they hope will eventually replace all of Israel.

The Old Saw

For years all over the world, the PLO has been playing to public opinion. Unfortunately, much of what they offer is untrue — like the old saw that this land was not a barren desert that was made to bloom but a land with people in it over the centuries. Their success in forming public opinion was demonstrated recently when this canard was repeated by a Roman Catholic priest in a conference at the Tel Aviv University Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research.

The old saw above leaves important questions unanswered. The truth of the last half of the sentence seems to validate the first half, but in fact does not. We all know that people lived in the land, but were there millions of people or just a few? Did they work the land and care for it, or did they allow it to lie fallow? The fact that people lived here over the centuries says nothing about whether the land was fruitful or not.

It is not surprising that well-meaning people (including most Palestinians) conclude that the land was not barren. After all, none of them lived in the mid-19th century when Jews began to restore the land. And faced with a campaign to obscure the facts, few among us know enough to challenge the saw. Therefore, most people believe what they hear repeated. And the PLO makes certain that we hear their version over and over.

The returning children of Israel began restoring the land (draining swamps and planting trees and crops) in the mid-1800s — long before Israel became a state. **Now, more than a century later, how can we prove that the land was desolate?** The Bible says that a matter is established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Historical Record

Many 19th-century visitors to the Holy Land wrote about their experiences. Did these eyewitnesses see a barren land or not?

In 1835 Alphonse de Lamartine wrote,

“Outside the gates of Jerusalem we saw indeed no living object, heard no living sound, we found the same void, the same silence... as we should have expected before the entombed gates of Pompeii or Herculaneum... a complete eternal silence reigns in the town, on the highways, in the country... the tomb of a whole people.”

Mark Twain, who visited Palestine in 1867, wrote what he saw as he traveled the length of the country,

“Desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds — a silent mournful expanse... A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life



Alphonse de
Lamartine



Samuel Clemens
(Mark Twain), 1867

(continued next page)



and action. We reached Tabor safely ... We never saw a human being on the whole route.

There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.

Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies. Palestine is desolate and unlovely... Palestine is no more of this workday world. It is sacred to poetry and tradition, it is dreamland.”

(As quoted by Samuel Katz in *Battleground*.)

Since no one is living today who saw the land before Jewish people began to reclaim it, what evidence do those who claim the land was fruitful offer? None.

They state and repeat the old saw, apparently hoping that their listeners have not read the eyewitness reports of de Lamartine, Twain, Constantine François Volney, Alexander Keith, and W. M. Thompson, who all testify to the land's desolation.

Population Statistics

According to the most reliable estimates, the population when Jewish restoration of the land began (1872–1882) consisted of 141,000 settled Moslems, 65,000 Bedouin-nomadic Moslems, and 55,000 Christians (see *From Time Immemorial* by Joan Peters). The population then was less than 5% of today's population.

To understand what this means, imagine that more than 95% of today's population disappeared. **Is it reasonable to assume that a tiny number of people remaining could cultivate all of the land with the primitive hand tools then in use?**

Of course not. History shows that the gradual return of Jewish people caused the barren land to bloom and the resulting prosperity drew Arabs into Palestine from the surrounding countries.

In large part, the media will determine whether justice or injustice prevails by whether or not they provide the public with the facts.

The Palestinians base their claim to the land on some sort of long history within Israel's borders, but that argument is spurious. The term "Palestinian" as applied to Israel's Arab minority was invented in the 1960s. Before that, the term included Jews, Turks, Druse, or whoever might be found living in the land. — Zola (1995) ★

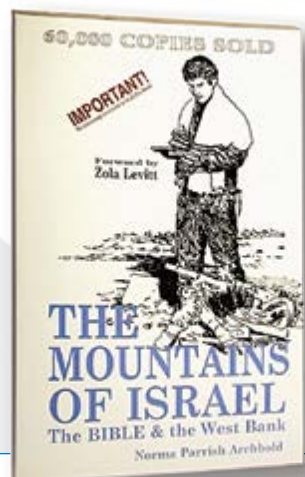
The Mountains of Israel book

by Norma Archbold

As Zola's guest on TV, Archbold presents a refreshing perspective on the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially for those who have studied Israel from a Scriptural view. Enlightening maps, illustrations, charts, and references provide a geographical orientation to the war game of all eternity.

Readers will find eye-opening quotes from witnesses who were in the Holy Land during the 18th and 19th centuries. Their descriptions demonstrate that Israel was a treeless, barren wasteland before the Jewish people's return. Equally helpful to gentiles and Jews, *Mountains* remains valuable reading since it is presented from a Biblical point of view — God's Word and His plan, of course, remain unchanged.

(The article on [the previous pages](#) is just a sampling of Norma Archbold's writing found in this amazing book.)



Q. What is the meaning of sin?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



A. Sin is anything contrary to the law or will of God; it is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). Sin is open rebellion against God's authority; rejecting who He is and what He has done for the salvation of man. Unbelief toward God and His Son Jesus Christ is also sin. Scripture teaches that *"whatsoever is not of faith is sin"* (Romans 14:23).

Sin can be boiled down to two kinds:

1. **the sin of commission** — doing what God forbids, like lying or stealing
2. **the sin of omission** — the failure to do what God requires. *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17).

Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin originated in Satan's rebellion against God (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28) where the first sin was pride — thinking we know better than God. Sin entered mankind through Adam and Eve's disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

Adam's sin passed to his posterity — this is *original sin* and means that we all are born with a nature inherited from Adam inclined toward rebellion against God. (See Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12.)

The end result of sin is both physical death — when the soul is separated from the body — and spiritual death — when the person is spiritually dead in sin and, thus, separated from God. *"The soul that sins will die"* (Ezekiel 18:20; Ephesians 2:1–2). **You and I are sinners not because we sin; rather we sin because we are sinners.**

The New Testament Greek word for sin is *hamartia*; hamartiology is the theological study of sin. *Hamartia* literally means to "miss the mark." We sin because we fail to hit the mark of God's perfect righteousness, which would be perfect moral obedience to God's Law in thought, word, and deed. The grand proof text for the universality of sin has to be Romans 3:23: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Though a just God would condemn all of us sinners with punitive justice, His infinite love compelled Him to send His Son Jesus Christ to take that punishment for us. John 3:16 reveals this wondrous truth. The end of the sin road is eternal hellfire. But God offers a free pardon for those who repent — that is, confess their sin and turn from it, trusting that Jesus Christ's punishment on the cross cleansed sinners from sin's defiling guilt.

His resurrection from the dead three days later gave eternal life to all those who receive God's pardon in faith. The Gospel is the only remedy for sin.



"For our sake, God made Christ our sin offering, who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

— 2 Corinthians 5:21 ★

Sharing in Netanya

The following report is from a 2019 outreach trip. — Editor

In Netanya, fellow **To The Jew First** team member August Rosado and I handed out four complete Hebrew Bibles and met **Netta**. Her demeanor



Netta

suggested an openness to hearing us tell her who the Jewish Scriptures identify as the Messiah. We point out Messianic prophecies in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and then how they were fulfilled in

the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament).

After Netta shared some of her personal hardships with us, August and I assured her of God's unfailing love for her, which He best expressed by sending His Son Yeshua to die for our sins to redeem us for His eternal possession.

I told Netta that **when I look at a Jewish person, I know that three things are undoubtedly true:**

1) God exists, 2) God keeps His promises, and 3) the Bible is true.

To see this for herself, Netta was excited to accept a Complete Hebrew Study Bible and some Messianic Gospel tracts. We exchanged Facebook pages so we can continue our Gospel dialogue. Dear Readers, please pray for Netta to experience the saving love of Yeshua the Messiah as she encounters Him while reading God's Word.

While in Tiberias and the surrounding region of the Galilee, where the Lord did so much of His epic ministry,

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



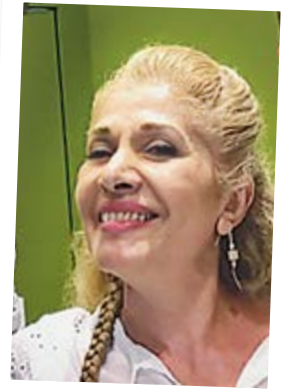
August Rosado and I passed out seven Hebrew Bibles with Messianic Gospel tracts.

Six Bibles went to two young men (**soldiers** hiking on their off time), to Arab gas station attendant **Abdullah**, **two Jewish women** working in a bookstore, and to a **cosmetic store saleswoman**. The seventh person to receive the Gospel of Yeshua and a Hebrew Bible was **Jacqueline**. She told us that, as a Persian Jew, she left Iran before the Islamic Revolution. We had told her that as gentile believers in Yeshua, we are spiritually indebted to the God of Israel and the Jewish people to whom He chose to give His Word and the Messiah (Romans 15:27).

Jacqueline said she had heard something about Jesus when she lived in Los Angeles for four years. This benign familiarity allowed us to offer this good-natured woman God's infallible Word. We showed her, and are confident that she will see for herself, Yeshua the Messiah as the main thread tying both Testaments into one narrative.

God offers salvation, eternal life, and forgiveness of sins through

His Jewish Messiah to those who repent and believe in Him (Mark 1:15). Jacqueline happily received our gift of the Scriptures and Messianic Gospel literature. Please pray that this Gospel seed we planted in Jacqueline's life will bloom into a saving faith in Yeshua. ★



Jacqueline



To
Index

Circling the Drain?

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



Born Jonathan Charasuchin to impoverished Russian-Jewish émigrés in NY in 1914, Jonathan Harris earned his pharmacy degree before becoming an actor. He performed in 100+ plays, entertained World War II troops in the

South Pacific, and became famous on television portraying Dr. Zachary Smith, the dastardly, cowardly stowaway on the cult classic weekly television series *Lost in Space* (1965–1968).

Dr. Smith, an intergalactic Doctor of Environmental Psychology who was an agent for an enemy foreign government, amusingly personified a

paranoid scaredy-cat. “A coward dies a thousand times, a hero but once.” While someone who is *circling the drain* is quickly approaching death, hypochondriacs like Dr. Smith rarely stop imagining that they are in peril.

Circling the *wagons*, on the other hand, is an idiom for bringing everyone together to defend against an attack. At the time of this writing, no ministry staffers or contractors are afflicted with coronavirus or panicked about the possibility. No one is parading through our office, waving their arms, exclaiming, “Danger! Danger! Danger!” as would the *Lost in Space* family’s robot whenever aliens were near.

Neither are we sticking our heads in the sand. Aside from abiding steady reminders to wash our hands and social distance, we’re staggering in-office work schedules and working from home as much as possible. With Dallas currently a COVID-19 hotspot of Texas, we are becoming

progressively more cautious about preempting exposure.

[Last month’s Note from Mark](#), “Bracing for Coronavirus Part II,” excerpted two still-worthy news articles concerning avoiding high-dose infections and having the right antibodies. This month I implore ZLMers to read [“Why Days 5 and 10 Are So Important When You Have Coronavirus”](#) — an edifying article at *The New York Times* online.

Here are some of its key points:

- Mark your calendar at the first sign of illness and track your fever and oxygen levels
- A significant minority of patients enter a very nasty second wave of illness
- Around a week later is when to be especially vigilant about shortness of breath, which could signal hypoxia (reduced oxygen levels) and/or pneumonia
- Don’t wait for severe shortness of breath to contact a doctor

Pulse oximeters clip on to a fingertip and are available from Amazon for less than \$50. They measure the blood’s oxygen level; values under 90% are considered low. Normally, people should be able to last at least 5–7 seconds between breaths. **The article also offers an invaluable 14-day timeline of symptoms and suggestions. Reading and sharing it could save your life or someone else’s.**



Regarding this ministry circling the *wagons* rather than the *drain*, I am sounding a yellow (not red) alert regarding our significantly diminished donations. This is a time for fervent prayer — rather than panicking like Dr. Zachary Smith. (Phil. 4:6–7) ★

Jonathan Harris in publicity photo promoting his role on the series *Lost in Space*



ZLM Bulletin Board



Iran Bans ALL Israeli Tech

Iran's parliament recently passed legislation making any cooperation with Israel a crime, specifically including using Israeli computer hardware and software. Since most computers feature Intel chips, Iran should shut down all its computers ... and their internet, which relies on Cisco-produced routers, and the Google and Microsoft Bing search engines, cloud storage, smartphones, international banking, oil storage, cars, health services, and pharmaceuticals, which all rely extensively on Jewish ingenuity. An Iran without "Israel inside," would make North Korea look comparatively advanced!



Word Search TV Transcripts

Our *Jewish Roots* viewers can review and share particular teaching segments by searching our ministry's website for their topics of interest. For example, looking for mentions of "prince":

1. Go to www.levitt.tv
2. Search for "prince" in the Video Search box
3. From the results, click on, say, the 1529-17 episode
4. Search for "prince" in the Caption Search box
5. Click on any timestamp in the results, and the video will play at that spot

Clicking on "Transcript" (down the page) opens the transcript text and enables researchers to click on timestamps and skip around to their hearts' content.

Please: Don't Throw Me Away

This *Levitt Letter* wants you to read it, save it, and read it again. You could park it on your coffee table, in your guest bathroom, or in your car for an occasion when you eat alone or wait in a doctor's office. Later, you might share it by strategically placing it with reading materials at your church, health club, or hair salon. Whether you snip or black out your mailing address—or write your phone number/email for subsequent readers to contact you—is up to you.

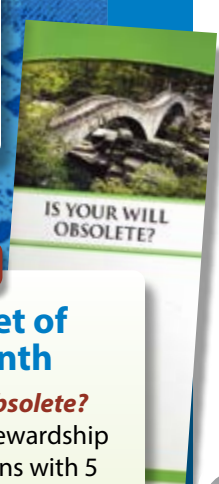


FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Is Your Will Obsolete?

This featured stewardship pamphlet begins with 5 examples of how wills can become just as obsolete as yesteryear's technology: with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. Our pamphlet also discusses four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, or residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM# 4.**



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details





Do you have a Jewish heart? If you say that you love the “LORD God of Israel” (יהוה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) — and it’s clear that the LORD God of Israel loves the Jewish people — it follows that you should likewise love the Jewish people (see Deut. 7:6–8; 14:2; 2 Sam. 7:23–24; 1 Kings 8:53; 10:9; 1 Chr. 17:20–21; Is. 43:1–3; Jer. 31:31–37; Ez. 36:24–28; Rom. 11:1–2; 11:28; Hos. 11:1–11, etc.).

After all, the LORD Yeshua is called מֶלֶךְ הַיְהוּדִים / *melech ha-Yehudim*: the “King of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2, 27:11, etc.), and the very term “Mashiach” [i.e., “Christ”] is a regal term denoting the anointed King of Israel. **Christians who pray to “Jesus Christ” are really praying to Yeshua as the anointed King of the Jews.** And one day (very soon), Yeshua will indeed return to Jerusalem, the “City of the Great King” (Matt 5:35), to assume the throne of David and complete the redemption originally promised to the Jewish people (Zech. 12:1–13:1; 14:1–9, Ezek. 37:12–14, etc.).

God will prove faithful to ethnic Israel. To deny this is to radically question God’s faithfulness to the “Church.” Indeed, let me say this as plainly as I can: Churches or teachers who claim that God has abandoned ethnic Israel are directly impugning the credibility of the Gospel message itself. Yes, it’s that serious an issue!

The physical descendants of Abraham are called בְּבַת עֵינוּ (*bavat eino*), the Jewish people, the “pupil of God’s eye” (Zech. 2:8), a term of endearment that God uses for no other nation on Earth. Indeed, the LORD has never abandoned His original covenant people but will yet choose them for His Name’s sake (Isa. 14:1). The Church has not replaced Israel in God’s redemptive plan but is merely “grafted in” to the original “root” of Israel. “Remember,” Rabbi Paul warns, **“it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you”** (Romans 11:18). ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

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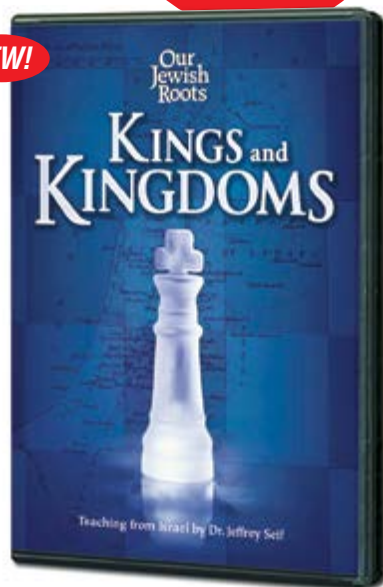
Kings and Kingdoms

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

From the Bible's books of 1st and 2nd Kings, Dr. Jeffrey Seif examines the rulers of ancient Israel and Judah. Their stories reveal lessons in Godly leadership and principles we can benefit from today. David and Kirsten Hart discuss the applications for us as we decide who should be our political leaders. In this eight-part series, we also hear from two Israelis about their perspective on the kings, plus Sarah Liberman, who teaches us Hebrew words for worship.

NEW!



Israel's First Kings On the Mount of Olives, Dr. Seif discusses the reason and roles of the first two kings of Israel—Saul and David—as well as the expectations placed on them. Those in leadership—in fact, all Believers—face a constant temptation to drift away from Biblical values.

Kingdom Divided Solomon, the wisest man, made foolish mistakes by letting in outside influences and allowing his heart to drift away from the Lord. His son Rehoboam drifted much farther. His oppressive policies caused Jeroboam to lead 10 of the 12 tribes in rebellion, creating the northern Kingdom of Israel. The two tribes that remained—Judah and Benjamin—formed the southern Kingdom of Judah.

Israel's Omri and Ahab Illustrating how bad people can come to power in misguided ways, Omri seized the throne of Israel by mutiny. Deterioration continued when his heir Ahab (the worst king ever) not only turned away from God but actively opposed Him.

Israel's Jeroboam II and Hoshea Even though King Jeroboam II was evil, he was praised for securing Israel's border. Leaders should be trustworthy, not bloodthirsty. Israel's King Hoshea reaped what he sowed and, unfortunately, so did Israel at the hands of the Assyrians.

Judah's Joash and Uzziah Young leaders need wisdom and guidance from advisers who are tethered to God's Word. As time went by, King Joash's zeal for the Lord faded as he became prideful. King Uzziah was a young man when he ascended the throne, but he became so obsessed with power, the Lord smote him with leprosy.

Judah's Hezekiah and Manasseh Good King Hezekiah did not depart from following God and His commandments. Faithfulness pays dividends! Unfortunately, Hezekiah's son Manasseh brought Judah horror and bloodshed for the five decades of his rule.

Judah's Josiah and Zedekiah King Josiah rediscovered God's Word and took it seriously. Oh, that our leaders would do the same! Poor leadership leads to bad consequences. Josiah's son Zedekiah rebelled against the Lord, paving Judah's road to ruin.

Israel's Future King Under the Mount of Olives, Jeff visits the tombs of the prophets Zechariah, Malachi, and Haggai. The prophet Isaiah looked to a reunited Israel's ultimate King, who is called "Mighty God" and "Prince of Peace." This is the Lord Yeshua, who will return to rule and reign from David's throne.



ORDER FORM

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___	In My Father's House	\$3	_____
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___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	_____
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___	The Second Coming	\$3	_____
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In?	\$3	_____
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ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

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___	Drink Koozies (pictured)	2 for \$5	_____
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___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	_____
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___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker ..	\$2	_____
___	Zola's Notebook (p.27)	\$25	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	(1 CD)	\$7	_____
___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (pictured)	(9 CDs)	\$39	_____
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Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

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___	Zion Song (Harts) (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____

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

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[Return To Eden](#) DVD Set Ten 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

Return to Eden tells the Bible's story from Genesis to Revelation. The Lord bridged the relationship gap (caused by mankind's sin in the Garden of Eden) by creating a special relationship with a people and a land that eventually led to the Messiah. David and Kirsten Hart present this series that features teaching from Dr. Jeffrey Seif, interviews, insights from worship leader Sarah Liberman (see p. 25), and music composed by Zola Levitt.

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

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

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

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

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

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

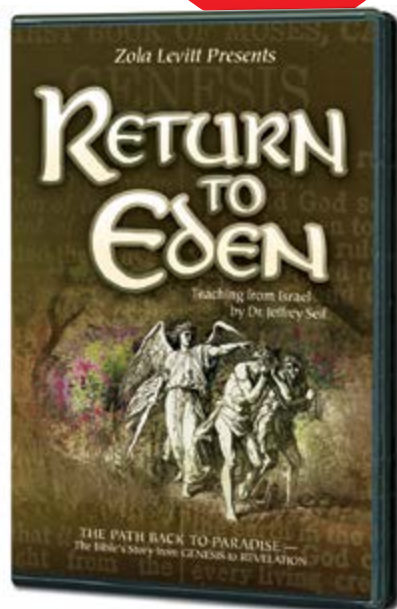
Jesus and the Return to Eden When Messiah returns, New Jerusalem itself will be the Temple of God.

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

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

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

[This Bible series makes a wonderful resource for homeschoolers!](#) —Kirsten



How Hebrew Almost Became the Language of America

BY DAVID LAZARUS (r) *Israel Today*

Puritans seeking to escape the religious persecutions they experienced under the Church of England arrived on the shores of Plymouth, Massachusetts, looking to build a “New English Israel” that would bring about Protestant reforms throughout the English Empire. The region was later renamed “New England.”

New England Puritans held a profound connection with Israel, the Hebrew language, and the Jewish people. In their conviction that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, they revered the original Hebrew and thought it vital in interpreting and understanding Scripture. They viewed the Bible (not the English Church) as their ultimate authority and considered their crossing the Atlantic Ocean to escape the church’s persecutions a close identification with the Children of Israel fleeing Pharaoh’s tyranny by crossing the Red Sea.

Their love of Hebrew led these early New England Christian ministers to develop relationships with Jewish rabbis. Rev. Ezra Stiles, whom the British hounded because he supported the American Revolution, emigrated to New England and struck up a close friendship with Rabbi Haim Isaac Carigal. Stiles eventually learned enough Hebrew to exchange letters with the rabbi and translate large portions of the Hebrew Old Testament into English.

As did many Christian ministers at the time, Stiles understood that knowledge of the original Hebrew was crucial to the proper interpretation of Scripture and even the basis upon which one could properly understand the New Testament as well. He sometimes gets credit for proposing that Hebrew replace English as the official language of the newly forming United States.



Ezra Stiles (1727–1795), painted circa 1770 by Samuel King (1749–1819), Yale University Art Gallery

Hebrew Schools

When Stiles was elected president of Yale University, he initiated a course in Hebrew as a freshman requirement. The Hebrew words *Urim* and *Thummim* worn on the breastplate of the High Priest, perhaps signifying “Light and Perfection,” became part of Yale’s official seal along with the Latin *Lux et Veritas* (light and truth).

Beginning in the 1720s, Harvard University also taught Hebrew, as did other colleges in the area.

“I speak American”

During the American Revolution, there was no lack of anger and even hatred toward the British and everything English. The movement to establish a separate identity from the British included using a different language.

Alas, in the end, Noah Webster, together with others, helped create a uniquely American version of English that was codified in his *Webster’s Dictionary*. As a tourist in Israel looking for directions once asked me, “Do you speak American?”

See also [Zola’s Introduction to Hebrew on p. 24](#). ★





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From D.W.: We very much enjoyed Tony's [May 2020 Personal Bible Study Letter](#) on Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Very timely.

We agree ... such wonderful Bible lessons! Watch for Tony's study to continue, starting in the August *Levitt Letter*.

—David and Kirsten

From A.M.: You pictured Martin Luther on the front of the [May 2020 Levitt Letter](#),

yet you claim to support the Jews. Luther authored the Holocaust and was heavily relied upon by Adolf Hitler to slaughter 6 million Jews.

Zola used to say that the best anti-Semite is someone who doesn't know he's an anti-Semite. Meanwhile, even anti-Semites can experience moments of spiritual enlightenment when they open their hearts to the Lord. —Mark

From I.G.: Wish you'd picked a historical figure other than Luther, i.e. someone other than an anti-Semite, for encouraging words in the present environment. Luther has too much anti-Semitic baggage to serve as a prayer exemplar.

To everyone offended by our mentioning Martin Luther:

Writing such robust, deep foundational Christian lyrics as "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," Martin Luther started out strong, but ended in bitterness when he failed to convert the Jews to Christianity. **He failed, and he became bitter.** Do we stop singing the hymns he wrote because of his later views about the Jewish people? Do we "throw him out with the bathwater?"

We sinners have all failed in areas of our lives; Martin Luther was no exception. But can't we still appreciate the good aspects of his work? Would Evangelical believers have the freedoms we enjoy without the Reformation started by Luther in 1517? Let's learn from his victories *and* his downfalls. —Kirsten

(continued next page)

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Part of the problem or the solution?

Dear Mark Levitt,

The [January Levitt Letter cover](#) pointed out “How the Church Failed the Jewish People” and included Martin Luther’s anti-Semitism in the lineup. Then on [the May cover](#), you invite readers to enjoy a devotional from Martin Luther! Do you need a reboot?! It almost appears that you want to destroy this ministry.

As a Messianic Jew myself, I receive anti-Semitic rhetoric and will stand up against it whatever it takes. This worldwide issue is on the increase. I’m asking you to stand up; your father did. —G.L.J.B.

Dear G.L.J.B.,

As a grandmother, I’m teaching our grandchildren to use kind words and to encourage — not tear down — each other. As a mother, I wouldn’t tolerate any of my children speaking to another person as you did to Mark in your letter. Words like “It almost appears that you want to destroy this ministry” are just mean, and they saddened my heart. —Kirsten

Dear G.L.J.B.,

An *ad hominem* argument is directed against a person rather than the position he maintains. Now that you’ve pointed out Martin Luther’s sins, you’re welcome to submit a superior *Levitt Letter* devotional regarding how Believers should deal with plagues such as coronavirus. By the way, please see Kirsten’s sage answer (*above*) to others who took offense at Luther’s mention. Though, of course, we would never uphold his anti-Semitism.

Needing a reboot (but not wanting to destroy this ministry), I invite you and other Biblically astute Messianic Jews to email audiovisual Bible teaching auditions to staff@levitt.com. “*You either have to be part of the solution, or you’re going to be part of the problem*”—Eldridge Cleaver (1935–1998). —Mark



Potter Heresy

Dear ZLM,

I was more than a little disturbed to see an article in [May’s Levitt Letter](#) about the Harry Potter books being translated into Yiddish. While “Young Hasidim” might be interested in other cultures, interest in witchcraft should be discouraged at all costs — no matter if they feel a connection to the book’s wizards who are “often misunderstood characters who live with their own laws, culture” etc.!

I do not believe that Zola would have allowed this type of article to be included in the *Levitt Letter*. I pray that the editors of this otherwise wonderful publication will seek the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit when choosing articles for publication. —P.K.

Dear P.K.,

I believe that a piece of “pop literature” being translated into Yiddish is noteworthy. Young Hasidim being interested in literature from other cultures was a key point, and the article also mentioned a Yiddish-English dictionary. Do you disagree that Jews may feel a connection with others who are ostracized, whether or not for the reasons cited by translator Arun Viswanath? —Kirsten

(continued next page)



credit: Warner Bros.

The main protagonists in the *Harry Potter* stories

Cutting the cable with Roku

Dear ZLM,

Around five years ago, I cut the cable in our home, as there were very few programs for families. Then I purchased a Roku device and found your program on Roku. Thank you to everyone involved in putting on such wonderfully blessed content. And thank you for keeping Zola's memory alive and the new content true to the way Zola taught it and believed! I know the Lord will continue to bless you as you go forward, until our Messiah returns on the scene. —D.L.

Dear D.L.,

You're exactly right about Roku enabling cable cutters like you — and anyone with wi-fi internet — to watch a varied assortment of *Our Jewish Roots* (and *Zola Levitt Presents*) programs on their television screens. At [Roku.com](https://www.roku.com), the Roku players start at just \$30 and are becoming increasingly popular among viewers saying goodbye to cable bills. —David

Like listening to a concordance

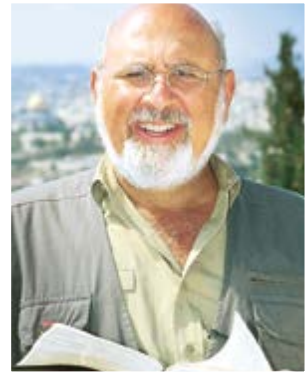
Dear ZLM,

I enjoy your television program whenever I have time to stop and watch it. Watching **Zola** was like listening to a concordance.

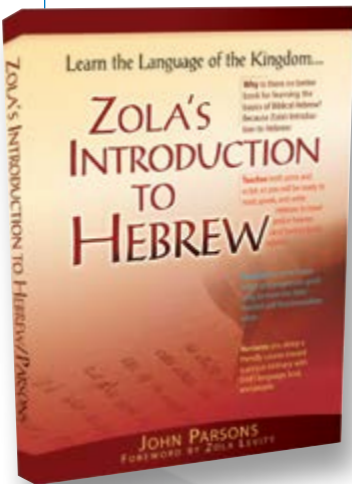
His music was wonderful as well. It would be worthwhile if you are occasionally able to intertwine his music, along with both David and Kirsten and the new teachings with Jeffrey and the other teachers. —B.M.

Dear B.M.,

Hopefully, sheltering at home has let you catch up on our television programs. **All the songs** Kirsten and I sing on *Our Jewish Roots* are Zola's songs! And you don't have to worry about "catching" the programs since you're welcome to record them on your DVR and watch endless episodes 24/7 on www.levitt.tv for free. —David



(continued next page)



Zola's Introduction to Hebrew study book

There is no better book for learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Unlike most academic books on Biblical Hebrew, this course provides a step-by-step approach for you to understand the Hebraic mindset while learning the alphabet and vowel signs. Studying at your own pace, you will master the Hebrew alphabet, sound out Hebrew words, and connect your studies to your heart by reading Hebrew prayers, blessings, and passages from Scripture!

See the related article, [How Hebrew Almost Became the Language of America \(p. 21\)](#)

New copies of Zola's Introduction to Hebrew are available at Amazon for between \$40 and \$160.80 PLUS shipping! (We sell it for just \$39 plus shipping.)

Sarah Liberman

Dear ZLM,

I would indeed like to see television series covering the prophetic worship movement happening in Israel. — L.S.

Dear ZLM,

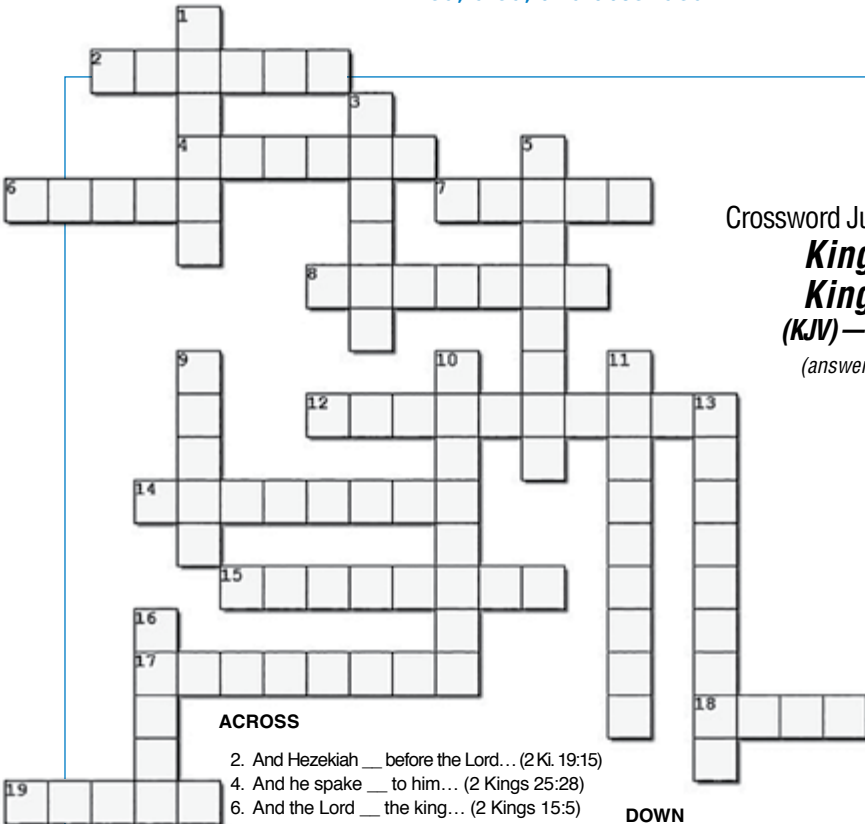
I would be blessed if you would produce a series on the prophetic worship movement in Israel. — J.T.

Dear L.S. and J.T.,

Sarah Liberman, who has been writing a column for the *Levitt Letter*, is a prophetic worship leader in Israel... and worship in Israel among the Messianic community is presently on fire!

As for a whole series on *Our Jewish Roots*? We'd love to bring you a series about what God is doing through His worshipers in Israel and around the world. Thank you for responding to my request in the [April Levitt Letter](#). — David

P.S. Beginning in July, Sarah will write our *Personal Letter* from the perspective of an Israeli Messianic Believer who lives where Yeshua lived, died, and ascended. ★



Crossword July 2020:
Kings and Kingdoms
(KJV) — Part Two
(answers on [p. 35](#))

ACROSS

2. And Hezekiah ___ before the Lord... (2 Ki. 19:15)
4. And he spake ___ to him... (2 Kings 25:28)
6. And the Lord ___ the king... (2 Kings 15:5)
7. For they served _____. (2 Kings 17:12)
8. He ___ in the Lord God of Israel... (2 Ki. 18:5)
12. ...and the ___ shall be upon his shoulder... (Isaiah 9:6)
14. Moreover Manasseh shed ___ blood... (2 Kings 21:16)
15. ...that the ___ of Israel has sinned... (2 Ki. 17:7)
17. And all the people of the land _____. (2 Kings 11:20)
18. He did that which was _____. (2 Ki. 14:24)
19. And he did that which was _____. (2 Ki. 15:3)

DOWN

1. But he ___ in the way of the kings... (2 Ki. 16:3)
3. He built ___ in the House of the Lord... (2 Kings 21:5)
5. And Jehoiada made a _____. (2 Kings 11:17)
9. And he ___ the House of the Lord... (2 Kings 25:9)
10. He ___ the coast of Israel... (2 Kings 14:25)
11. And he carried away all _____. (2 Ki. 24:14)
13. Yet the Lord ___ against Israel... (2 Ki. 17:13)
16. ...for great is the ___ of the Lord... (2 Ki. 22:13)



Puff, Puff, Pass: Sniff Tech to Test Virus at Airports



SCIENCE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

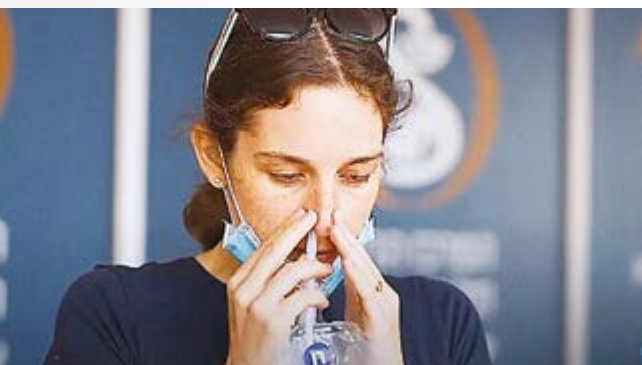
Israeli startup Nanoscent, which developed a chip that allows electronic devices to “smell” odor, wants to use the technology to detect coronavirus.

The startup, based in the Lower Galilee, has begun a trial with Israel’s Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer to identify people infected with the coronavirus via a simple nasal breath test. If proven successful, the technology — a combination of hardware, software and sensors developed by the firm — could be used for mass 30-second screening of people — at stores, hospitals, and airports or border

entries, said the firm’s co-founder and CEO Oren Gavriely.

Viruses, explained Gavriely, change the smell of our bodies and breath. “Each illness has a special pattern.”

Scientific studies, in the lab and in pigs, have suggested that other coronaviruses, such as severe acute



Nanoscent device uses nose-breath to detect coronavirus in patients

respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), which develop in the nose, could be detected much earlier while they were still incubating on the fourth day of infection, by analyzing nasal exhalations.

“Biologically speaking, different viruses develop in different places. The coronavirus develops in the nose. And because it develops there, it changes how our breath from the nose smells,” Gavriely said.

The company’s chip-smelling technology is being developed for a number of applications, such as detecting air pollution, controlling the air quality in cars, and creating a scent recognition pattern to test the quality of a variety of products.

When lockdowns were imposed in China due to the coronavirus infection, the two founders, Gavriely and Eran Rom, asked, “What can we do, using our tech?”

Gavriely and Dr. Orna Barash — the firm’s director of research behind the corona screening development — consulted with World Health Organization (WHO) professionals and researchers and made some changes to their chip design to enable it to analyze the breath of coronavirus patients.

The solution they came up with includes a number of parts: a disposable plastic bag is attached to an exhaling pipe that goes into the nostril (the pipe is produced by Israeli drip irrigation system maker Netafim); this bag is connected to what the firm calls a “nasal scent recorder,” a box containing the chip. The chip

(continued next page)



Oren Gavriely, CEO and co-founder of Nanoscent, at a coronavirus testing center, April 30, 2020

source: YouTube

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credit: Oren Gavriely

analyzes the breath “within 30 seconds,” said Gavriely, and sends the results to the cloud and from there to any other device. The recorder is also equipped with “a pneumatic device” made up of valves and pumps that cleans the sensor after every use.

The trial the firm started in Tel Hashomer aims to train the software to identify the particular smell of breath emitted by coronavirus patients—“like training a dog for a new smell, to enable the software to create a pattern,” Gavriely said.

The startup is also conducting a multinational experiment in Italy and Spain, with two hospitals in each of the countries. The idea is to deploy the technology for mass screening at ports of entry and airline check-in counters. “During check-in, you can nose breathe and confirm you have nothing before you board the flight,” in a process similar to the biometric identification scans at border control. The technology will not replace traditional lab testing for the virus, he emphasized. But if a breath test comes in positive, the person should be put in quarantine until lab test results confirm the diagnosis.

With no vaccine, mass screening is probably the most important tool we have to fight the pandemic, said Prof. Gili Regev-Yochai, in a Nanoscent YouTube video. ★



Prof. Gili Regev-Yochai, director of the infection, prevention and control unit of Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer

source: YouTube



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[The Bible: The Whole Story](#) DVDs

7 programs on 2 DVDs

The seven major doctrines of Scripture explained in Zola’s clear and informative style—from Genesis to Revelation.

The Abrahamic Covenant From Ur to Canaan, the journey of Abraham reveals how God established an eternal covenant with Abraham.

Israel and The Law of God From the Exodus to the Cross, the Law served as God’s standard for man’s salvation.

Prophecy—Thus Saith the Lord Zola’s overview of how prophecy relates to the Land, the Messiah, and the End Times.

The Messiah—Why Jesus of Nazareth? Overview of Jesus as seen through the eyes of different cultures as well as through the revelation of the Word.

Grace—The Gift of Absolute Forgiveness Zola explains how grace can neither be earned nor bought and is especially appreciated compared to the Law.

The Church A study of the believers in Christ, both Jews and gentiles, between Pentecost (Acts 2) and the Rapture.

The Kingdom Zola teaches about the future 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth.

[Zola’s Notebook](#)

(*The Bible: The Whole Story*, above, is Zola’s Notebook on DVD.)

Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola’s Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover.

The Notebook has pockets for our newsletters, and also provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly include: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.



Two Jewish Researchers Changed the World



PART 2: MEDICINE: BY DR. YVETTE ALT MILLER (r) Aish.com

Panic gripped the country as the virus spread. Schools closed and cities were quarantined. It wasn't anxiety over COVID-19, but another scourge that haunted people during the first half of the 1900s: polio. In [June](#), we followed the race to find a vaccine for polio as Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin developed separate research paths to success. Now, we look at their later years.

credit: The Associated Press



Dr. Jonas Salk in 1954



credit: The Associated Press

Dr. Albert Sabin in 1956

Further Endeavors

After abolishing polio, the lives of Salk and Sabin diverged enormously. Jonas Salk moved to California and seemed to drift both personally and professionally. Though he did conduct some research on AIDS in the 1980s, he never again neared the success he'd achieved with the polio vaccine. One of his greatest post-vaccine projects was establishing the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences in San Diego, bringing scientists and contributors in other fields together to work toward goals that could benefit the human race.

Albert Sabin later conducted research into cancer, becoming president of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel in 1970, though ill health caused him to step down two years later. Sabin died in 1993 at the age of 86. Jonas Salk passed away in 1995 at the age of 80. When they died, polio was a disease of the past, relegated to history books thanks to their tireless research and brilliance.

A Legacy of Service

Neither Jonas Salk nor Albert Sabin ever patented their vaccines, though doing so could have made them unimaginably wealthy. When journalist Edward R. Murrow asked who owned the patent to the polio vaccine he'd invented, Salk answered, "The people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the Sun?" By not profiting from their vaccines, both Salk and Sabin ensured that the vaccines would remain inexpensive and widely available.

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Sabin, who'd saved others from paralysis, suffered from two years of paralysis himself (from spinal calcification). The *Chicago Tribune* wrote about his plight and printed his home address. Over 100,000 people sent get-well cards and thanks for all his work. Local school children volunteered to help him count the letters and reply to them. Those gestures, Sabin said, "make me feel that what I did was somehow worthwhile. You always have a feeling of doubting whether what you have done with your life is truly worthwhile... People forget. But these letters... as long as I live, these letters will give me a feeling of warmth."

Let's pray that another Sabin or Salk develops the vaccine for COVID-19 and also gifts it to humanity for wide availability rather than cause a windfall for Big Pharma. — Kirsten ★

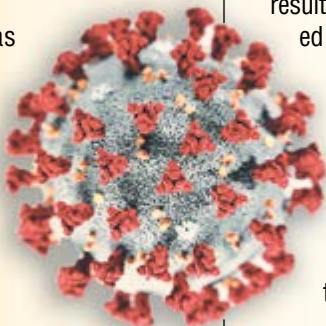


Israel Develops Antibody to Coronavirus

By Hana Levi Julian / JewishPress.com

The Israel Institute for Biological Research achieved a significant breakthrough in its effort to find an antibody to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, officially called SARS-CoV-2 by scientists around the world. The antibody attacks the virus in a unique manner and can neutralize it in the body of the individual who contracts the illness.

Researchers at the Institute led by Professor Shmuel Shapira, said the development phase of the antibody has been completed, though the antibody has not yet been named. The research team next plans to contact international companies to produce the antibody in commercial quantities. ★



Israeli Researchers Create 1st 1-Minute Coronavirus Test

UnitedWithIsrael.org

Israeli researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) recently announced that they created a new coronavirus test that generates results in one minute. The test analyzes samples taken from nasal swabs or breath to flag those infected with the coronavirus.

The Israeli one-minute test relies on a microchip to pick up the virus's effect on biological material in the samples. "The system then analyzes the biological sample and provides an accurate positive/negative result within a minute via a cloud-connected system," according to a statement from BGU. "The point-of-care device automatically backs up the results into a database that can be shared by authorities, making it easier than ever to track the course of the virus, as well as triage and treat patients," the statement added. ★





One of two graves at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery that bear swastikas

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Swastikas on Tombstones at U.S. Military Cemetery

By Ron Kampeas / JTA.org

A foundation that advocates for religious freedoms in the military wants the Veterans Administration to remove German POW tombstones at a San Antonio military cemetery that are inscribed with Nazi symbols and sentiments.

The two tombstones, among 140 for World War II POWs at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, are marked with a swastika inside a German cross, and inscribed, "He died far from his home for the Führer, people, and fatherland." Führer was the title Adolf Hitler assumed for himself.

It's not clear why just these two tombstones, among 132 Germans buried in the cemetery's POW section, have the Nazi inscriptions. Both of the deceased died in 1943.

An estimated 860 World War I and II-era German POWs are buried in 43 cemeteries across the United States.

A retired senior military officer who visited the graves of his maternal grandfather, uncle, and aunt alerted the foundation, spurred to action knowing the stories of Jewish relatives who had suffered anti-Semitism in Europe. The mother of his grandfather, who is buried at the cemetery, was Jewish.

The Veterans Administration "changes out headstones for the smallest of errors," he said. "Leave out the Nazi

symbols and the statement that they honored Adolf Hitler and the fatherland."

[The VA later said it would "begin taking steps to replace these headstones with historically accurate markers that do not include the Nazi swastika and German text."]

How European Money Reaches Terrorists

By Ariel Kahana / IsraelHayom.com



Flags of the EU and ISIS

Money donated by European governments and private individuals is making its way into the coffers of terrorist organizations, a new report from Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry warns. The ministry issued the report after the European Union announced it would be funding Palestinian "civil society organizations," even if they include members who support terrorism.

According to the report's findings, Palestinian activists have established a way of securing European monetary donations that allow them to carry

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out terrorist activity in addition to civil society work.

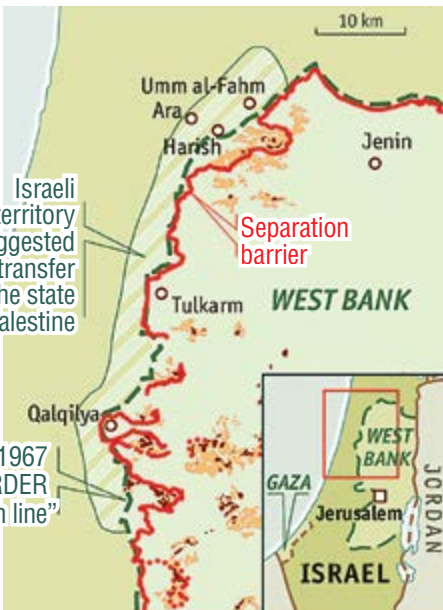
“The links to civil society entities in the west allows them a way of securing financial assistance that they could not receive any other way,” the report states.

In the past two years, the Shin Bet security agency has exposed a number of incidents in which Hamas took control of money belonging to aid organizations that are active in the Gaza Strip, and in some cases used it for military purposes against Israel.

Israeli Arabs say No to Palestine

JPost.com

The Galilee Triangle is a region of Israel that borders the West Bank, predominantly inhabited by 300,000 Arabs. An overwhelming majority of Triangle residents prefer living in Israel, saying that its democracy and justice are better than those in Arab and Islamic countries. If the Triangle becomes part of the Palestinian Authority, many Arabs will vacate to Jewish cities — a move already



source: B'Tselem, Haaretz

begun! The same people who praise the murderers of Jewish children and bluster contempt for the Jewish state hope to stay in it.

[See related article on p.3: IDF Gears Up for Annexation of Judea and Samaria.](#)

PA Refuses UAE Aid Sent Via Israel

AJNTimesOfIsrael.com (Australian Jewish News)



credit: WAM via AP

An Etihad Airways flight with aid for the Palestinians to fight the coronavirus pandemic is loaded with its cargo in Abu Dhabi on May 19, 2020.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) rejected a humanitarian shipment of medical supplies sent by the United Arab Emirates because it coordinated the shipment with Israel.

The unmarked Etihad Airways flight landed May 19 in Israel carrying 14 tons of medical aid to deal with the coronavirus. Israel and the UAE do not have diplomatic relations and there is no air travel between the two countries. The UAE’s state-run WAM news agency issued a statement saying it delivered the cargo of protective gear, medical items, and ventilators to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the Palestinian territory. It did not acknowledge the flight.

The same evening, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas declared an end to all agreements with Israel, including security cooperation, in reaction to the new Israeli government’s plan to annex parts of the West Bank under the Trump peace plan. ★



Another Temple Used Near 1st Temple Era Jerusalem



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



Aerial photo of the temple at Motza at the end of the 2013 excavation

Solomon's Temple on the Jerusalem Temple Mount was likely not the only site of centralized worship in the Holy Land region of Judah, according to a team of archaeologists from Tel Aviv University and the Israel Antiquities Authority.

A massive Iron Age II temple complex, which stood from around 900 B.C. until circa the early sixth century B.C., is currently being excavated at Tel Motza, just four miles northwest of ancient Jerusalem's City of David. First discovered in 2012, the Motza temple is contemporaneous with the First Temple in Jerusalem and uses the same architectural plan.

It would have been about two-thirds the size of the First Temple and was likely built by similar builders who came to the region from Syria in the north, as described in the Bible, said IAA's Shua Kisilevitz.

Due to Motza's proximity to the First Temple in Jerusalem, the excavation's principal researchers, Kisilevitz and Prof. Oded Lipschits of TAU's Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology, hypothesize that **this separate cultic site would have been approved by the administration of the Jerusalem "main branch."**

"You could not have built a major monumental temple so close to Jerusalem without it being sanctioned by the ruling polity," said Kisilevitz. The fact that the temple at Motza functioned in parallel with the larger Jerusalem site means that it was "probably under the auspices of Jerusalem," she said, adding that while the entire perimeter of Motza's cultic structure has yet to be uncovered, the excavations have so far yielded every indication of a parallel worship center.

She noted the temple's east-west orientation and a layout that consists of a courtyard and a large rectangular building. This blueprint was developed in the Near East in the third millennium B.C. and is found at other cultic centers in the region, including the Jerusalem Temple and 'Ain Dara and Tell Ta'yinat in Syria.

Among the remains of worship activity are a stone-built offering table, and

(continued next page)



Israel Antiquity Authority's Shua Kisilevitz holding horse figure

credit: P. Parouche, SkyView

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artifacts that include figurines, cult stands, and chalices, which would have been brought by the penitents and been the “furniture” of the temple.



Another telling clue is a nearby refuse pit, where the team discovered bone and pottery remains. Kisilevitz explained that it was used in a similar way that Jews today use a *geniza* for sacred texts. “Anything that you use in a temple, the animals or the vessels, is imbued with religious symbolism and becomes sacred on its own. So, it can’t be discarded; rather it is deposited in the sacred terminus.”

The four figurines discovered at the site — two human-like and two horses — may indicate that the temple was used for worshipping a variety of gods, not just Yahweh as in Jerusalem.

Kisilevitz noted that the Bible records two religious reforms enacted by King Hezekiah and King Josiah, wryly noting that discovering that there were two betrays the widespread cultic practices that were being forbidden. According to the Biblical account, the kings consolidated worship practices to the Jerusalem Temple and eliminated cultic activity beyond its boundaries.

She maintained the figurines — or idols — were not necessarily worshiped, but rather were mediators between the petitioner and his deity (or deities).

“In the ancient Near East, temples were literal houses of the gods,” she said. So along with food, drink, and vessel offerings, these figurines were “a way of reminding the god that you were there and had put in a request,” she laughed.



credit: Clara Amit / courtesy of IAA



What future excavations may uncover

The floor plan of the Motza temple is not fully clear, as parts of the walls are still covered. The archaeologists hope to uncover more with a team of 50 participants, including staff and students from Tel Aviv University, Charles University (Prague) in the Czech Republic, Universität Osnabrück in Germany, and UCLA in the United States.

The team hopes to unearth answers to questions such as when its use as a cultic site halted.

During excavations for a new road to Jerusalem in 1993 and the early 2000s, archaeologists discovered that this fertile area was first settled 9,000 years ago, with an almost continual presence there until today.

Until this Motza discovery, there have been no known large-scale, purpose-built temples in the region of Judah outside of Jerusalem. Nonetheless, Kisilevitz doesn’t think it will be the last, hypothesizing that every settlement would have had some kind of center, depending upon its size and resources.

The Motza temple, however, gives proof of such worship being approved by the Jerusalem priestly classes.

“Despite the biblical narratives describing Hezekiah’s and Josiah’s reforms, there were sanctioned temples in Judah in addition to the official temple in Jerusalem,” said Lipschits in a TAU press release. “Our discoveries thus far have fundamentally changed the way we understand the religious practices of Judahites.” ★

top: Human head figure
bottom: Horse figurine discovered at the temple complex at Motza

3 Muslims Sued NASA for Trespassing on Mars

BY MARTIN CHALAKOSKI / TheVintageNews.com



This Viking 1 image shows the thin atmosphere of Mars. (Superimposed warning with Yemeni flag)

In 1997, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was on the receiving end of a lawsuit filed by three Yemenis who claimed that the Red Planet was theirs and NASA was exploring it without authorization or proper consent from its rightful landowners.

“Sojourner and Pathfinder, which are owned by the United States government, landed on Mars and began exploring it without informing us or seeking our approval,” the wronged men declared for the Arabic-language weekly newspaper *Al-Thawri*, several days after they had filed an official complaint to the country’s prosecutor general in Sana’a, Yemen.

“We inherited the planet from our ancestors 3,000 years ago,” Adam Ismail, Mustafa Khalil, and Abdullah al-Umari declared. And as absurd as it may sound, they allegedly had “evidence” to support their claim.

“It’s a ridiculous claim,” said Brian Welch, then-NASA director of Media Services. “Mars is a planet in the solar system that is the property of all humanity, not two or three guys in Yemen.” Welch added that in accordance to the 1967 United Nations International Space Treaty, no man nor country can claim ownership over land in outer space.

Following several efforts by the U.S. and U.S.S.R., unmanned spacecraft Mars Path-

finder landed on the planet on July 4, 1997.

Pathfinder released the free-ranging robotic Sojourner rover to roam the planet and start a thorough analysis of the rocks and soil in the area. The world was glad to hear NASA’s conclusion that Mars was at one time a wetter world, a friendlier place to possibly sustain life as we know it. These three men from Yemen were not so keen.

Their claim was built around the mythologies of two ancient and long-lost civilizations, the Himyarites and the Sabaeans, that existed several millennia before the time of Christ. According to these beliefs, the two ethnic groups raised a temple to each of the seven planets visible with the naked eye.

Ismail, Khalil, and al-Umari believe that they are direct descendants of the rightful owners of the Red Planet. Most importantly the three insisted, their lineage was enough to claim ownership and file a complaint arguing that Mars is actually their home.

They asked the court to instruct the perpetrator to withhold all information obtained and stop with all operations immediately, claiming that NASA ought to be held liable if any data already gathered from Mars was released without their formal consent.

Needless to say, their petition was rejected. The chief prosecutor—the only official to see the supporting evidence—even threatened the trio with jail. While the lawsuit was laughed off by NASA, the three men attempted to convince investors to purchase land on Mars for the best price: \$2 per square meter.

Though perhaps the silliest, it wasn’t the only time when “sane” men claimed to own something in outer space. It wasn’t the first time that someone tried to sell it either. Nor was it the last time that NASA got sued for something foolish.

Did star-gazing Palestinians tutor Ismail, Khalil, and al-Umari about time-tested land-grab tactics? To the Palestinians’ credit, many of them at least set foot on the acreage they aspire to misappropriate! —Mark ★



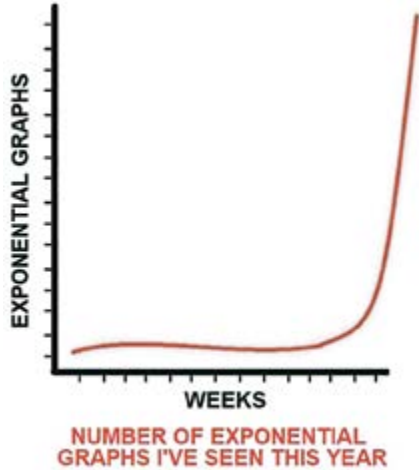


Best. Eulogy. Ever.

Rabbi Sapperstein, fresh out of rabbinical school, had to officiate his first funeral for a homeless man who had no friends or family. The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery across town, and this fellow was the first to be laid to rest there.

Rabbi Sapperstein arrived late, but noticed a few workers gathering around the grave opening. The young and enthusiastic rabbi poured out his heart and soul as he gave his sermon and recited the prayers. He was so powerful that he brought the cemetery workers to tears.

When the service was over, the rabbi walked to his car and, as he opened the door, he heard one worker remark to the other, "I never saw anything like that in the 20 years I've been putting in septic systems." ★



Answer Key for July 2020 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

- 2. Prayed
- 4. Kindly
- 6. Smote
- 7. Idols
- 8. Trusted
- 10. Government
- 14. Innocent
- 15. Children
- 17. Rejoiced
- 18. Evil
- 19. Right

Down:

- 1. Walked
- 3. Altars
- 5. Covenant
- 9. Burnt
- 10. Restored
- 11. Jerusalem
- 13. Testified
- 16. Wrath



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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These teardrop key chains each contain an authentic half-shekel coin from Israel and cite the very important verses from Exodus 30:13-16 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Reminiscent of the days when each citizen of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-shekel coin to make atonement. Put your key chain in your pocket; salvation is now free!



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Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with David & Kirsten Hart this FALL and next SPRING!



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)

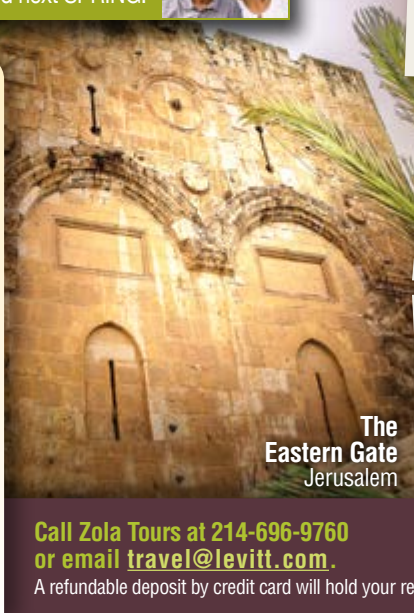
Ultra Grand: Oct. 13-Nov. 1
(Greece, Israel & Petra, \$9,488)

SPRING TOUR 2021

Deluxe: Mar. 8-18
(prices pending)

Grand Petra: Mar. 8-21
(prices pending)

For more info and registration see:
www.levitt.com/tours



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The Acropolis
Athens



Petra
Jordan



The Temple Mount
Jerusalem

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A refundable deposit by credit card will hold your reservation.

See you in
Jerusalem!



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