



# Levitt LETTER

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

— ROMANS 10:1

## ISRAEL'S Annexation Puzzle

inside: Bible Lesson  
by Tony Derrick p.4

By David Parsons, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, VP & Senior Spokesman

After three elections and 17 months of political deadlock, it was a relief for most Israelis when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and political rival Benny Gantz finally agreed on a deal to form a unity government. The coalition agreement hinges around a rotation formula between the two men, and even though there are still many hurdles to overcome, the logjam does appear to be broken.

Yet the broad coalition will instantly face some steep challenges, such as ending the Coronavirus lockdowns, reviving a shuttered economy, and deciding whether to annex parts of Judea and Samaria.

No matter how this annexation decision plays out over coming months, the irony is that history has somehow cornered Israel into an internal debate about annexing lands that it already owns. So how did this come about?

### Remember San Remo

Among the recent casualties of the Coronavirus threat were plans to celebrate the centennial

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## Does Jesus Know When He's Coming Back?

By Ryan Jones  
*Israel Today*

If the answer to the title's question is still "no," then why do we keep trying to calculate it?

Living in Israel, it is not uncommon to encounter those who have sold everything and come to this land in anticipation of Jesus' imminent return.

A heavy overemphasis on the End Times has dominated Christian life for over a century now. It's understandable. Twice during that period, the entire world has been embroiled in enormously destructive wars, and one of the more "impossible" Biblical prophecies has been fulfilled — Israel has been reborn. Since then, Jesus' own prediction of



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# The First Thing Israel Ever Did

BY SHANI FERGUSON / MaozIsrael.org



If you were to poll gentile Christians and Messianic Jews around the world asking their opinion on the most important “duty” as a Believer\*<sup>†</sup>; you’d get a variety of answers: helping the needy, sharing the Good News with others, having Godly character, and praying. I don’t think any one of these could be counted as “incorrect.” They are all important. But if we understand ourselves to be eternal beings, there is one act we as Believers will perform both now and in the next life: worship.

In a way, you could say that we spend our lives practicing for the moment we will come face to face with the One who is the essence of all that is good and true. The Bible says we will spend forever worshipping Him, and I suspect it will simply be because it will take an eternity to get over that first moment when we encounter Him.

## The Children of Israel

For all the bad commentary the Children of Israel deservedly receive for their behavior in the desert, they don’t get enough credit for the first thing they did upon being delivered from the Egyptians. After watching their God crush the gods of those who had been their masters for 400 years, the Children of Israel stopped on the shore, wrote a song, pulled out their instruments, and danced and sang before God in worship. At their core, the Jewish people are a people of worship.

For hundreds of years, Jews exclusively wrote worship songs to the one true God in Hebrew. As the Jews were scattered to the four winds and access to the God of Israel was offered to the nations, worship in Hebrew — the language of the “filthy Jews who rejected God” — became an abomination. This terrible stain on Church history must be redeemed in our day.

**Virtually everything you know about worshipping God, you learned from Jews who lived thousands of years ago** — before musical

notation and before most of today’s instruments were invented. If the mere echoes of ancient Israel’s worship have brought the world so much light, think how much more can be received when Israel’s modern-day psalmists are reinstated to their posts as singers, songwriters, composers, and musicians.

We believe in restoring the calling of the Levites, whose lives were dedicated to maintaining an atmosphere of worship in Israel. However, as definitive tribe distinctions are all but lost to us today, we embrace King David as our source of inspiration. **David was a psalmist of the Tribe of Judah**, and his passion for worship and love for God influenced the world of worship more than anyone who has ever lived. (Even Jesus and Paul quoted Psalms.) Based in Tel Aviv, Maoz Israel is dedicated to restoring this atmosphere of worship to the Land.

## Israel’s Children

Jerusalem-based *Fellowship of Artists* — the artistic branch of Maoz — includes *Music Making for Kids*, which assures that dedicated, believing kids have access to the best musical training available in Israel. With our own record label and over 3,000 sq. ft. of professional studio space, we offer an in-house team of technicians and musicians to serve artists from the beginning to the end of the creative process.

Our modern-day psalmists are tireless. Even during COVID-19, the young musicians stuck at home remained determined. So while other kids were watching Netflix, our musicians continued their lessons online. In building an army of worshipers, the sky isn’t our limit — it’s our destination.

**Worship is vitally important in our walk with God. And to worship in Hebrew ... even better!** — David ★

\* “Believer” is short for “believer in Yeshua/ Jesus as Messiah.”





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## Toons for Troubled Times

"If we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane." —Robert Frost

**MOTHER GODS & GRIMM** BY MIKE PETERS



# Listen to His Voice: Eccles. 5:1–7

**Tony Derrick**  
Theologian for  
Zola Levitt Ministries



*The Pharisees Question Jesus*, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum



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Are we living in the End Times? Is this the Tribulation? What is going on in our chaos-driven world? I can't imagine that any thoughtful person who reads their Bible would deny that we are living in the End Times. But if you believe in a pre-Tribulation (as Zola did) or pre-Millennial Rapture, then you know that this is not the Tribulation. So, consider how awful life will be for those who are left behind when the Rapture of the Church occurs. We've got work to do!

**In our study of Ecclesiastes, the first seven verses of chapter 5 instruct us in the necessity and tranquility of worship.** Would you like to draw aside from the constant statistics about COVID-19 and videos of rioting on the news? Let's do that together, if only for a few moments! I pray that this time will be a solace to your soul.

## Draw Near and Listen for God's Voice (5:1)

Solomon's admonition in verse 1 obviously came from observing the loud clatter of people coming to the Temple to worship. The crowd was gathering and talking over business deals, marriage arrangements (you read that correctly), and other deals of commerce. Do you think that it's different now? Think again! Probably as many deals are discussed and settled in the church building as in office buildings. Solomon was admonishing the people to be quiet and listen for God's voice. I agree: Don't talk so much when coming into the presence of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. A quick "hello" or "good to see you" is fine, but not endless chitchat.

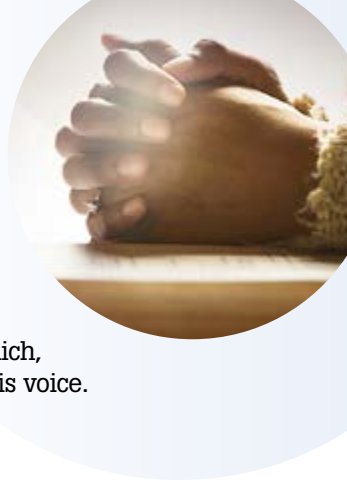
Sometimes preachers' sermons can be without pathos. (I've preached a few of those myself.) But keep in mind that the recipient needs to be as prepared as the person delivering the message. The admonition is "draw near and hear" from the person God has chosen to be His messenger. Okay; enough on that.

## Be Quiet and Still (5:2–3)

The most often quoted corollary verse is Psalm 46:10, "*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*"

Solomon made his point about not bringing the stresses of life into the worship experience. Of course, we cannot turn off everything that causes us to wring our

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hands in the work-a-day world, but Solomon emphasizes that a quiet demeanor before God soon becomes our spiritual “hideaway” in His presence.

Perhaps the first line in the hymn “Rock of Ages” by Augustus Toplady tells us best: “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.” It is a moment of worship in which, instead of filling the air with our voice, we quietly listen for His voice. Again, be quiet and still.

### Make a Vow, Keep a Vow (5:4–5)

Read verse 4 very carefully. *“When you make a **vow to God** (emphasis mine), do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed.”*

These two verses are so straightforward that they really need no explanation. But, read with care the part in bold. The vow is made in the eyes of God. So, if you vow at the altar to love, honor, and cherish your mate, that vow is made in the eyes of God. If you vow (promise) to make a financial or other commitment in business, then that is a vow in the eyes of God.

Verse 5 is a common-sense statement. *“Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”* Since vows were strictly voluntary in Biblical times, and remain that way today, either keep them or don’t make them. As Jesus reminded His audience in Matthew 5:33, “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’”

The only point to add here is that the Bible’s word “pay” means “keep”—don’t think exclusively of monetary transactions. As previously noted, a vow is a promise in the eyes of God.

### Don’t Wimp Out (5:6–7)

Solomon is calling out people who say they will but, when the going gets tough, won’t. Have you ever said okay with your fingers crossed behind your back? If a Believer makes a commitment to someone (or something), no excuse exists before God to not fulfill that commitment. As one of my professors would say, “not even on pain of death.”

This is serious business. We live in a society that looks for the easy way out of everything! Personal responsibility has become passé. Solomon is calling all of us back to commitment and personal responsibility, whether we teach, preach, own a business, run a household, or whatever our traffic pattern in life may be.

We need to come back to the place in society where

Ecclesiastes 5:7b is the mantra for our generation and the one to come, *“But fear God.”* When the fear of God is a person’s primary focus, then the worship of God is the most natural thing for that person to do.



*Jesus Speaks Near the Treasury*, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

If you’d like to catch up on previous chapters of Tony’s study, see the February – June 2020 *Personal Letter* at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com). — David ★

# Find Your Peace

**Kirsten Hart**  
Studio co-host of  
*Our Jewish Roots*



credit: iStock Photo



One of our first overnight guests in the first home we owned remarked, “Your home is so peaceful.” I considered that the best compliment! One of my goals as a wife and mother has been to keep a peaceful home. I have done my best to keep our homes clean, tidy, and a shelter from the troubles of the world.

Over the past few months, we have watched chaos and mayhem ripping through our country. The unpredictability of a virus coupled with widespread riots stripped away much of our residing peace. In the face of many uncertainties, is it possible to maintain a sense of calm?

## Protect Your Soul

I enjoy my ongoing relationships on social media. They connect me to friends and colleagues across the world, but recent concerns and conflicts have become overwhelming.

**Proverbs 4:23** tells us to guard our hearts. We must protect ourselves from the harshness that we see on TV, social media, and in print. Why? To protect our spirits and souls.

God desires for us to reside in peace. In Numbers 6:22–27, He gave the beautiful Aaronic blessing, as peace was a gift that God wanted for His children.



credit: iStock Photo

*“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you **peace.**”*

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Canoes ready to be rented on the Jordan



credit:  
Kirsten Hart

## True Peace

So, what is peace? One definition is *freedom from disturbance*; synonyms include *tranquility* and *calm*. In my own life, peace allows me to breathe in situations that are out of my control. It's knowing that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. God wants to give us peace, but we need to receive it and do everything in our control to maintain our Spiritual walk.

Chaim Malespin lives in Israel and has been a recurring guest on *Our Jewish Roots*. Recently on Facebook, he posted a video of himself kayaking with friends on the Jordan River — laughing, enjoying being together in nature, and simply soaking up the beauty of God's creation. They were finding peace (and joy!) in the midst of extremely trying days. Sometimes we Believers need to seek out peaceful situations, limiting our exposure to the harsh realities that currently face us in these unprecedented times.

## Seek Peace

*Shalom Chaverim* ("Go now in peace, friends"). Seek peace, be peaceful, and may you be a shining light to those with whom you come in contact.

**P.S.** August's "dog days of summer" are famously hot, unusually humid, and tend to foster inactivity. They can become a season of stagnation. We don't want any "dog days" at ZLM, preferring to keep active and running full steam ahead. To be frank, we need your financial support. We don't want to stop production, but paying those bills really requires financial backing. If you have the means, would you please consider sending this ministry a monetary "cold drink of water" this month? Thanks for your support! ★



credit: iStock Photo



## Does Jesus Know When He's Coming Back?

*continued from cover sidebar*

widespread conflict, pestilence, and lawlessness certainly seems to have come to pass.

Given all this global drama, one could see how many might believe that we are in the very Last Days. And, perhaps we are. But ... we were explicitly cautioned by Jesus that no one can know the exact date of this long-awaited event. We were told to be prepared, but it seems to me, Jesus warned against the very kind of precise End Times predictions that have become so popular among Evangelical Christians.

*"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father."*  
(Matt. 24:36)

I wish I had a nickel for every time I've heard someone declare that Jesus is coming back on a particular *Rosh Hashanah!* — Kirsten ★



*Jesus Christ Knocking at the Door,*  
steel engraving by Peter Carl Geissler  
(1802–1872) depicting Revelation 3:20

# How Not to Fear the End Times

Classic Zola Levitt  
from 1983  
37 years ago



In our [June](#) and [July](#) issues, Zola confronted the dire times we live in and looked at how they coincide with what Scripture describes as the End Times. How can we remove our fear of it?

We needn't wait for prophesied events to reach completion to know that the end of the current Church Age is near. Jesus/Yeshua said that when we saw these things "*begin to happen*" (Luke 21:28), then there was hope of His return. Believers\* who have our hope in Him know that we will escape the worst of these consequences and will be Raptured (literally, "caught up") to be with Him in Heaven.

We need to always be watching and looking. Jesus compared the approach of these signs to birth pangs: "*All these are the beginning of sorrows*" (Matthew 24:8).

Sorrow, or "travail" in Biblical language, is simply "labor," and no woman ever ignored labor. When the pains come, even if there is an episode of false labor, sooner or later there will be a delivery. That is our Lord's image for the signs of the End.

Those of us in Christ have no need to despair at what is happening, because Jesus is preparing a place for us now. He said:

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. — John 14:1–3*

He will come back for us from Heaven:

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
— 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17*

He gave us full warning:

*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. — Matthew 24:42, 44*



*The Four Horsemen, woodcut (1498), by Albrecht Dürer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)*



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\* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."





credit:  
State Farm

**The only solution to all that we're confronting in these times is deliverance by Jesus Christ / Yeshua HaMashiach.** If that sounds like an old, old story, then I'm proud to repeat it. I'm confident of it, I believe it myself, preach on it, and I always have. This world needs to wake to the reality of Christ's return.

This is what the Bible says, pure and simple. Without the return of Christ, Christianity is pointless. What we see is not all we get. True Christians wait for Him every hour. I quoted Him a moment ago as saying, *"If it were not so, I would have told you."* Some say it is not so — that Jesus Christ will not really return. They don't think a man can come back from history. They don't even think He's alive. Or if they think that He's alive, they don't think He's concerned for us — not concerned enough to come and do something. Well, I believe that is why He said, *"If it were not so, I would have told you."* He would not have asked us to endure pain if there were not some way out — some plan of God, some redemption.

Our salvation is paid in full: *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Ephesians 1:7).

Yeshua shed His blood on the cross for our salvation, and that is how we have our redemption. We need only believe in that Cross event and be willing to believe that He's really coming back. When we are with Him, all of this travail will be finished. All of our wars, our famine, our pestilence, all of our betrayal, our lack of love, all of our poisoning the air, the water, and the land that God gave us — all of it will be finished. We'll be at home with Him. We must simply understand that we can't do it ourselves; we must receive Christ's gift by faith. Then, in a life of Christian devotion and service, we await our eternal inheritance.

A façade of religion exists, especially in the West; but the difficulty is with true belief. **Our relationship with Jesus Christ as Messiah must be an affair of the heart**

and not merely head knowledge or inconsequential respect. God keeps the Book of Life, and only those whose names have been written in it will be saved. If we haven't totally committed our lives to Jesus as Savior and Lord, we can attend all the churches in the country but still miss out on salvation. Nicodemus, a ruler among the Jews and evidently a brilliant scholar of the Bible, still was not saved. Jesus told him, *"You must be born again"* (John 3:3).

**Dear Readers,** you know what true belief in Christ means: Your heart, your mind, and your will must turn to Him; He must be Lord of your life so that you serve and follow Him as you're directed by Him, openly and boldly.

How much longer until you realize that you need to get off a sinking ship? How much more terrifying does life have to become, and how much more menacing the inhumanity of man, to persuade you that there must be a better way? In these troubled times, I say with open arms, "Come and be with us Christians. We're leaving and going to a better place." ★



Detail of *The Large Passion: The Last Supper*, woodcut (ca. 1510), by Albrecht Dürer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

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# Israel's Annexation Puzzle *continued from cover*



Key world leaders at San Remo, April 1920

of the San Remo Conference, a 1920 diplomatic conclave that served as a monumental moment in the modern-day rebirth of Israel as a nation. **At San Remo, the international community first recognized the Jewish people's historic right to reconstitute their national sovereignty in their ancestral homeland — including what we now call the West Bank.**

At the end of World War I, the victorious Allied Powers met with the vanquished Germans at the Palace of Versailles in 1919 and agreed on how to redraw the map of Europe. They then gathered a second time the following spring in San Remo to sit with the defeated Turks and divvy up the lands the Ottomans had just lost in the Middle East.

In April 1920, the leaders of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Japan — with American foreknowledge and acquiescence — made some fateful and unusual decisions that still resonate to this day.

Rather than claiming lands conquered in war as their own territory, as with most victors before them, these “Principal Allied Powers” decided to maintain possession of the Ottoman lands and hold the sovereign title in trust for the benefit of the local inhabitants until they were ready to govern themselves. This was

accomplished through the novel concept of the mandate system.

The San Remo conference actually marks a self-imposed end of the colonial era. The age of empires exploiting the populations and resources of foreign lands for their own enrichment was passing. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was advocating freedom and self-determination for native peoples worldwide. And the European powers responded with the concept of mandates, or trusteeships, to help them develop and mature as free, self-governing nations.

## Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts (1870–1950)

Credit for the mandate concept belongs to Mark Sykes and more directly to Jan Christiaan Smuts, a remarkable figure. Smuts fought against the British as a commander of South African forces in the Second Boer War, only to later serve as a member of the British cabinet. He was the only person to sign both peace treaties ending the First and Second World Wars. Smuts also became a champion of respecting and empowering native peoples, and he had a special affinity for the Jewish people.

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Jan Christiaan Smuts, Minister of Defence Union of South Africa, *The Times History of the War*, 1914 (vol I). Published by *The Times of London* 1914–1915.





In 1919, Smuts had drafted a memorandum setting out the mandate concept, which later became Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. This document, first unveiled at San Remo, specifically mentions Palestine as a mandated territory to be developed into a Jewish state in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917.

At San Remo, the allied powers agreed to apply the mandate system to the vacated Ottoman territories. The British were assigned trusteeships over Palestine (including Transjordan) and “Mesopotamia” (later Iraq), while the French were given guardianship over the areas of today’s Syria and Lebanon. The mandatory powers were to hold sovereign title in trust for the native peoples and help them progress towards self-rule. And, quite importantly, the Jewish people were recognized as indigenous to Palestine to the same degree as the Arab peoples were considered indigenous to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. Further, the national beneficiaries of the Palestine mandate were deemed to be the entire Jewish people, even those still living in exile.

These decisions were encapsulated in the San Remo resolutions, and two years later they were affirmed by the League of Nations when approving the British and French mandates in the region.

**The British recognized the pre-existing right and claim of the Jewish people to the historic Land of Israel in the 1917 Balfour Declaration,** which was then endorsed by other leading world powers at San Remo in 1920, and finally affirmed by the broader League of Nations in 1922. The United States promptly endorsed Britain’s Mandate in Palestine, both in a joint act of Congress in 1922 and in a treaty with Great Britain two years later, and pledged to be a guarantor of its provisions, which included the obligation to encourage “close settlement of Jews on the land.”

Nothing since has nullified the Jewish right and title to the entire lands west

of the Jordan River. Not the UN Partition Plan of 1947, which was rejected by the Arabs. Not even the Oslo Accords.

### As Noble as the Neighbors

What all this means is that the nation and people of Israel are now considering whether to annex something they already own. The Jewish people may have lost control of the West Bank during the 19 years it was (illegally) occupied by Jordan, but they never lost their sovereign title to it. The State of Israel came back into possession of these territories in 1967, and the world has been trying to talk them out of it ever since.

What all this means is that the nation and people of Israel are now considering whether to annex something they already own.

Yet those who question or deny Israel’s legal claim to Judea and Samaria need to realize that Israel’s title to this land is just as solid as the sovereign claims of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq to their own lands. The reason is that they all can be traced back to a “common grantor.”

Under this legal principle, the source and quality of one man’s title to a piece of land is considered to be just as good as his neighbor’s if they can both trace title back to the same grantor in the same basic transaction. In this case, Israel can trace its claim of ownership to Judea and Samaria back to the same decision-makers, meeting at the same San Remo conference and relying on the very same principles of international law which created the sovereign states of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq.

So, if Damascus is truly Syrian, if the Lebanese belong in Beirut, and the Iraqi people own the land between the two rivers, then the Jewish people have every right to lay claim to the Jordan Valley as their home. ★



### Q. Does the devil exist?

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**A.** The Holy Scriptures clearly affirm the existence of a maleficent spiritual being called Satan, whom the Bible also calls “Lucifer” and “the devil.” The very name Satan means “adversary” and reveals his evil character as the enemy of both God and man.

#### Scriptural references:

Scripture calls him “Satan” 66 times and “the devil” 34 times. **Satan is not an influence, myth, or idea.** The Bible presents him as a real, actual being with personal attributes. Isaiah 14:12–17 and Ezekiel 28:11–17 describe Satan as a celestial being of the highest order — a cherub that formerly guarded the throne of God and led Heaven in worshipping the Lord.

But pride was found in Lucifer as he thought to be like God. He led a revolt against the Most High, taking a third of the angels with him: These fallen angels are the demons that serve under Satan’s command (Revelation 12:4).

Satan is the supernatural author of all deception and anything that contradicts God’s will and Word. Jesus called him “*the father of lies*” (John 8:44). Be aware that people who deny, contradict, or twist the Scriptures have Satan as their ultimate source!

Since being cast out of Heaven, Satan has sought to thwart the will of God. He appeared in the Garden of Eden as the serpent and enticed our first parents to rebel against God (Genesis 3:1–6). Once man forfeited his right to rule for God on Earth, Satan became the “*god of this world*” and the “*prince of the power of the air*” (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Jesus called Satan “*the prince of this world*” (John 12:31; 14:30, and 16:11).

Satan tempted Jesus in the desert for forty days, trying to get the Son of God to act on His own authority apart from God the Father. Each time, Jesus rebuked and defeated the devil by using the Word of God (Matthew 4:1–11). Jesus triumphed over the devil for all time at the Cross, where He stripped Satan of his power and pronounced on him a final judgment that will be carried out at the Second Coming. “***For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil***” (1 John 3:8).

When Jesus returns to Earth, He will incarcerate Satan in the bottomless pit for nearly the entire 1,000-year reign of Messiah (Revelation 20:1–2). Near the end of the Millennial Kingdom, the Lord will release the devil so that he can deceive the Nations and lead a final revolt against King Jesus. Christ will defeat it with fire from Heaven and will cast Satan into the Lake of Fire, where he will be tormented for all eternity (Revelation 20:2–10).

In the meantime, God’s Word exhorts believers in Christ to resist Satan and stay alert, knowing that he prowls around like a lion seeking whom he may devour (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8). The devil lives on borrowed time and is on God’s leash. His defeat was legally declared at the Cross and will be permanently dispatched at the end of Christ’s Millennial reign. God and His people will win in the end!

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”*

— 1 Peter 5:8–9 (ESV) ★

Please see [The Second Coming](#) study booklet on [p. 22](#).



# Our Jewish Roots

Clayton Herring  
Producer  
Berg Productions



From left to right: Ken Waller, Bill Elliott, Kirsten Hart, Clayton Herring, Andrea Davis, David Hart, Belin Parks, Jeffrey Seif, Kenneth Berg. Caleb Colson took the photo.

The photo above was taken in May when we came together (but not too closely) to record the studio segments for our new series, **Revelation: Unveiling the Visions**, currently airing on *Our Jewish Roots*. We acted responsibly by practicing “social distancing” whenever we could; and when we couldn’t, we wore face masks, used hand sanitizer, and washed our hands often. When you watch the new series, you will notice added space between the Harts and Dr. Seif on the set.

Do you feel awkward not shaking a hand or giving a hug to people you know well and care about? The “elbow bump” is a poor substitute. David, Kirsten, and Jeff appear to enjoy working together ... and they do. Actually, everyone on the Berg Productions crew works together well. We are thankful for that, and it is one of the reasons that we always begin each studio day in prayer. We know whence our strength comes (Psalm 121:2).

Several people — never or rarely seen — work behind the scenes to make an episode of *Our Jewish Roots*. We rent studio space in Haltom City, Texas, and hire a professional “gaffer,” Bob Truax. (A gaffer makes necessary adjustments and finely tunes the lighting.) We have a longtime relationship with a professional makeup artist (Belin Parks) who gets and keeps David, Kirsten, and Jeff looking good in front of the camera.

Three camera operators (Caleb Colson, Bill Elliott, and Ken Waller), all of whom work out of our Berg Productions office, cover every angle. Office manager and social media coordinator Andrea Davis keeps track of scripts and timings. Producer Clayton Herring (that’s me) keeps things moving and helps director Kenneth Berg, who actively orchestrates the camera angles and remains the driving force behind the television program, just as he was in Zola’s day.

Absent from the studio for only three months since filming **Kings and Kingdoms**, we returned to a surprise. It may have been the COVID quarantine or even the new grandson, but you will soon see for yourself ... Kirsten changed her hair color from dark brown to golden blonde! What doesn’t change: our commitment to producing our weekly television program and expanding our reach and exposure on the Internet.

**Revelation: Unveiling the Visions is the first time this ministry has walked chapter by chapter through the Book of Revelation** with all of its many ups and downs. While we know that the Story ends well, we are thankful that the Lord has protected everyone affiliated with this ministry. We pray for your protection too, knowing that one day we will see our Messiah return to rule and reign. *“Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”* (Rev. 22:20). ★



# Pennies, Ambivalence, and The Rule of 72

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



Steady doubling can have dramatic ramifications — good or bad, depending on the circumstance. If you donated a penny today, two tomorrow, four cents the next day, and continued to double your cumulatively growing contribution, you'd contribute \$164 on day 15 and then \$5,243 on day 20. At the end of 30 days, your daily donation would surpass \$5,368,000.\*

“The Rule of 72” applies to investments, inflation, and anything that grows numerically. It is remarkably useful for grasping the impact of compound interest and many other quantifiable trends, such as the growth of COVID-19 infections. Weather.com recently indicated Dallas’s confirmed cases to be 22.8% higher than the previous week. *Rounding to 24% simplifies the math.*

Since dividing 72 by 24 equals 3, The Rule of 72 indicates that Dallas County’s 24,800 COVID-19 afflicted could double every 3 weeks — with, of course, many variables held constant. Now let’s forecast how many pandemic patients this county, where our ministry is headquartered, may have in a matter of months.

**Week 01:** 24,800    **Week 13:** 396,800  
**Week 04:** 49,600    **Week 16:** 793,600  
**Week 07:** 99,200    **Week 19:** 1,587,200  
**Week 10:** 198,400    **Week 22:** 3,174,400

With 4.3 weeks to a month and Dallas County’s population of ~2.6 million, **we theoretically could have total infection in just over 5 months.** (22 weeks divided by 4.3 weeks per month = 5.1 months to have 3.2 million COVID-19 cases). Maybe less than 5 months, considering when this article went to press.

While pending vaccines and medica-

tions offer substantial hope, viruses’ tendency to mutate may doom the gregarious who dangerously insist on socializing face-to-face while writing off today’s pandemic as yesterday’s news. To viral and indiscriminate pandemics, Black lives matter just as little as White lives, perhaps even less considering the unfair concentration of infections among poor minorities.\*\*

It is difficult to imagine a more optimal petri dish for COVID-19 to flourish than hyperventilating protestors, however justified in their abhorrence of racism and official oppression.

“The issue is not the issue.” Much of today’s rioters’ outrage is attributable to lockdowns and unemployment. “Welcome to my parlor [crowded demonstrations],” said COVID-19 to protestors who are infuriated with poverty and boredom. Their well-intended efforts to be heard are feeding the very viral monster that for months has been pouring gasoline on their moral outrage.

Meanwhile, whether for today’s pandemic or its pending sequel(s), candle burners (Luke 12:35) would be prudent to closely read “How to Recover From COVID-19 at Home,” a potentially life-saving *New York Times* article you can see at [www.nytimes.com/2020/05/27/smarter-living/how-to-recover-from-covid-19-at-home.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/27/smarter-living/how-to-recover-from-covid-19-at-home.html). See also “How to Navigate Your Community Reopening? Remember the Four C’s” at: [www.nytimes.com/2020/06/06/health/virus-reopenings.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/06/health/virus-reopenings.html).

Please help ensure that our ministry will have sufficient resources to continue operating despite threats that are proving to be ominous and insidious. Pray — donate — pray, please. ★

\* [nomadcapitalist.com/2019/05/03/double-a-penny](http://nomadcapitalist.com/2019/05/03/double-a-penny)

\*\* “The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequality of Coronavirus” NYTimes, July 5, 2020.



# ZLM Bulletin Board

Pray for  
the peace of  
Jerusalem

## A Glimpse of Jerusalem

Do you have two minutes to soar like a dove over *Yerushalayim*? To experience a bird's-eye view of Mount Moriah, the Western Wall, Yad Vashem, and other sites, visit: [israeltoday.co.il/video-this-is-jerusalem](http://israeltoday.co.il/video-this-is-jerusalem)

Expertly flown drones launched over appealing locations.

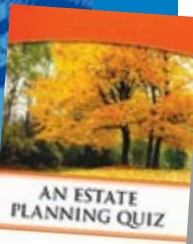


## The Bearded Bible Brothers

Siblings and Messianic Believers Joshua and Caleb work at Berg

Productions, the company that produces and distributes our TV show. They have created dozens of enlightening 3- to 6-minute videos on various Bible topics. Check out their growing collection of videos on our ministry's YouTube channel: ["Meet Joshua and Caleb."](#)

FREE ITEM



## Pamphlet of the Month

### *An Estate Planning Quiz*

Your answers to an informal 25-question quiz may clue you to areas of your estate and financial plans that merit consideration. The True-False questions serve as a checklist of sorts.

A grading scale at the end suggests where you stand between "unusually prudent" and "your loved ones will probably experience significant difficulties." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

**Request POM# 9.**

## Friends in Need ...

Three Persian Gulf states have been coordinating with Israel's health system for help in treating COVID-19 patients, with representatives from Bahrain and the UAE in regular contact with Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv. The third country, likely Kuwait, has requested help installing telemedicine solutions for remote treatment. That's HALF of the anti-Zionist Gulf willing to work with Israel. As Zola used to say, "With Arab oil and Israeli brains, the Middle East could be a paradise!"



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



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## The Importance of Law

by **John Parsons**  
 Hebrew for Christians  
 Hebrew4Christians.com



מִהַ־אֶהְבֵּתִי תוֹרַתְךָ כָּל־הַיּוֹם הִיא שִׁחְתִּי

*“O how I love Your Torah; it is my meditation all the day.” (Psalm 119:97)*

שִׁ	חְ	תִי	הִיא	הַיּוֹם	כָּל־	תוֹרַתְךָ	אֶהְבֵּתִי	מִהַ־						
(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
shee	cha	tee'	hee'	kol	hai	yom'	to	ra	te'	kha	a	hav	'tee	mah
my meditation			it [is]	all the day			Your Torah			O how I love				

**The importance of the Torah, or “law” of God, cannot be overstated,** friends, and we should honor its importance in our lives. Yeshua plainly said to His followers: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter — or even the stroke of a letter (i.e, kotzo shel Yod) — will pass from the law until everything comes to pass”* (Matt. 5:17–18). He further solemnly warned: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven — only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. On that day, many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from Me, you workers of lawlessness”* (Matt. 7:21–23).

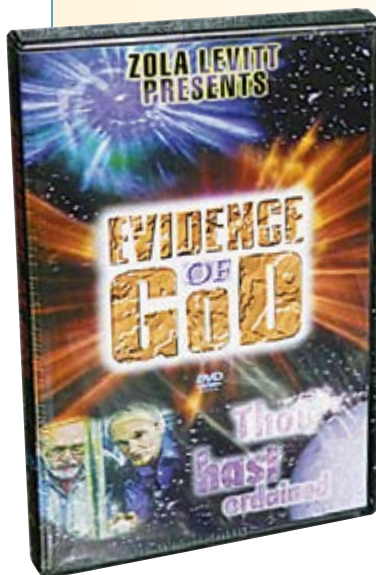
To the ungodly, “freedom” means being lawless, that is, acting under their own authority apart from the will of God. This of course was the original temptation in Eden, when the serpent told Eve that if she acted under her own authority, her eyes would be “opened” and she would be “like God,” knowing both good and evil (Gen. 3:5). That is always the creed of the wicked: “Do as thou wilt...” True freedom, however, is not the supposed right to do whatever you want, but instead is the power to do what is right — living in harmony with moral reality and being liberated from the slavery of impulses to do evil.

The law of God, then, is the blessing of having boundaries, order, and moral sanity within our lives, and that is why the Holy Spirit inscribes the law “within” us — to help guide our steps, protect our way, and empower us to live in obedience to the truth of God (Jer. 31:33). If you are led by the Spirit, you are no longer enslaved to the law of sin and death — that is, the lower nature and its idolatrous impulses — but you will bear the fruit of righteousness, goodness, and truth (Gal. 5:18; Eph. 5:9). Let no one deceive you with vain words. You cannot serve two masters. If you know that the Messiah is righteous, you know that every one that does righteousness is born of God (1 John 2:29).

**God did not send the Savior to suffer and die on the cross so that people would disregard His moral law and go right on sinning.** No, by His sacrifice, Yeshua delivers us from the power of sin and death and thereby empowers us to do His will. Indeed, the New Covenant is the promise (and the reality) of the law of God written upon the heart (Jer. 31:31–33). Amen. ★







## *Evidence of God*

DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

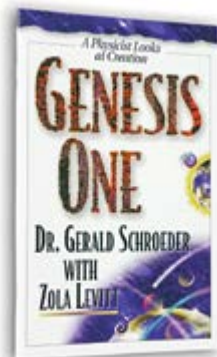
**Days Five and Six of Creation** Science proposes an explosion of life that agrees in sequence and time with the Bible’s account of day five and Schroeder’s computations.

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

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

By Dr. Gerald Schroeder with Zola Levitt

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



Please see “*Is There Scientific Evidence ...*” on p.24



ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

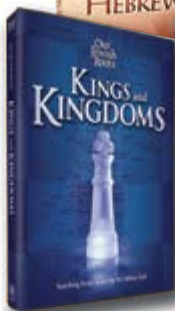
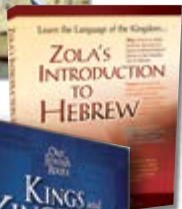
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## [Secrets of the Scrolls](#)

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7 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives a historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Such terms as “son of God,” “branch of David,” “stripes or piercings,” “being put to death,” and “raising the dead” all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



**The Scrolls—A New Revelation** We quickly produced this half-hour program when the DSS first became widely accessible for study. Zola quotes from the Associated Press news release and emphasizes the significance of access.

**The Scrolls: Part 2** Within days of our first program’s broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

**The Scrolls: Part 3** During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls* in English by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert H. Eisenman and James M. Robinson.

**The Scrolls Special** This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

**The Wilderness Group** Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

**In Search of Answers** Dr. Eisenman recaps his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

**Prof. Michael Wise** An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Yeshua. University of Chicago professor Wise helped translate the fragments when they were first released and enthusiastically discusses The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be.

[Please see related archaeology article on p.31.](#)



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# Teddy Roosevelt and the Jews

BY BENJAMIN GLATT / JPost.com

Prior to his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt had developed a special relationship with Jews from his time as police commissioner in New York City, encouraging them to serve and praising them for their dedicated efforts to keep the city safe. Roosevelt recounted in his autobiography that a German preacher, **Hermann Ahlwardt, had decided to go on an anti-Semitic crusade in New York to antagonize the Chosen People. Roosevelt assigned Jewish police officers to protect him**, writing that the “proper thing to do was to make him ridiculous.”

## Many Jewish Supporters

In 1898, his support was so high among Jewish Republican supporters that they printed Yiddish flyers for Roosevelt’s gubernatorial campaign, alluding to the victory by TR and the Rough Riders (which included many Jewish soldiers) over Spain in the Spanish-American War as revenge for the 1492 expulsion of Jews from Spain.

## Against Racism

As the 26<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, “Teddy” Roosevelt again made it clear that he wasn’t going to let anyone be bullied around. He would not tolerate racism or discrimination, and indeed, Roosevelt was the first president to appoint a Jewish cabinet member — Secretary of Commerce and Labor Oscar Solomon Straus, who served from 1906 to 1909. He also intervened with the governments of Romania and Russia on behalf of their Jewish populations and protected the Jews of North Africa from oppression and unfair restrictions and fees.

## For a Zionist State

Embracing an unpopular notion at the time, TR stood out in his later years as an ardent Zionist. He had visited the Jews in Ottoman Palestine as a teenager in 1873 with his family, and Roosevelt wrote a diary of his trip, which included his observations of the Jews’ praying at the Western Wall.

In 1918, Roosevelt stated, “It seems to me that it is entirely proper to start a Zionist state around Jerusalem.” That was shortly after the Balfour Declaration, which favored establishing a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. Former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael B. Oren quoted Roosevelt in his 2007 book and added, “for peace would only happen if Jews were given Palestine.” ★



*Theodore Roosevelt, painting (1903)  
by John Singer Sargent, The White House*





# Letters to ZLM

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

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

**From A.B. (TN):** I enjoy watching *Our Jewish Roots*. The program is spectacular — content, acting, costumes, Biblical knowledge of teachers, variety of Israeli locations. I feel as if I have been there. Definitely one of the best programs on Daystar.

**From P.S. (TX):** Love you all at ZLM! Have loved you for more than 30 years. Thankful the ministry still stands as Zola himself intended. Bless you as you continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. I stand with you, too!

**From B.R.:** I think I first began watching Zola in the mid-80s, and I've been here ever since. Zola was a sweet spirit, and his program hosts have done an excellent job in carrying this ministry forth into these last days. I also put my money where my mouth is and wish my mouth was much bigger!

**From H.H.:** I always enjoy Sarah's Hebrew lessons. There is something special about being able to praise the Lord in the language of His chosen people. Very thankful that the classic television series with Zola remain available, as I missed some of them the first time. I miss Zola.

**From S.M.:** Re: Dr. Todd Baker's *Faith Foundations* #11: [What happens after death?](#)

My believing wife died this morning. I'm going to send the link to Dr. Baker's teaching to all our friends so that they know clearly where we stand: facing the Cross and thanking God for His grace!

Praise Yeshua's name for your assurance and comfort knowing that your precious wife is in the arms of her Savior. Thank you for writing. —Todd ★



## *The Second Coming* study booklet

Examines in detail various theories of the Lord's return and the Kingdom of God.

Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact Scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming with the Rapture of the Church.

Please see "[Does the devil exist?](#)" on [p. 12](#)

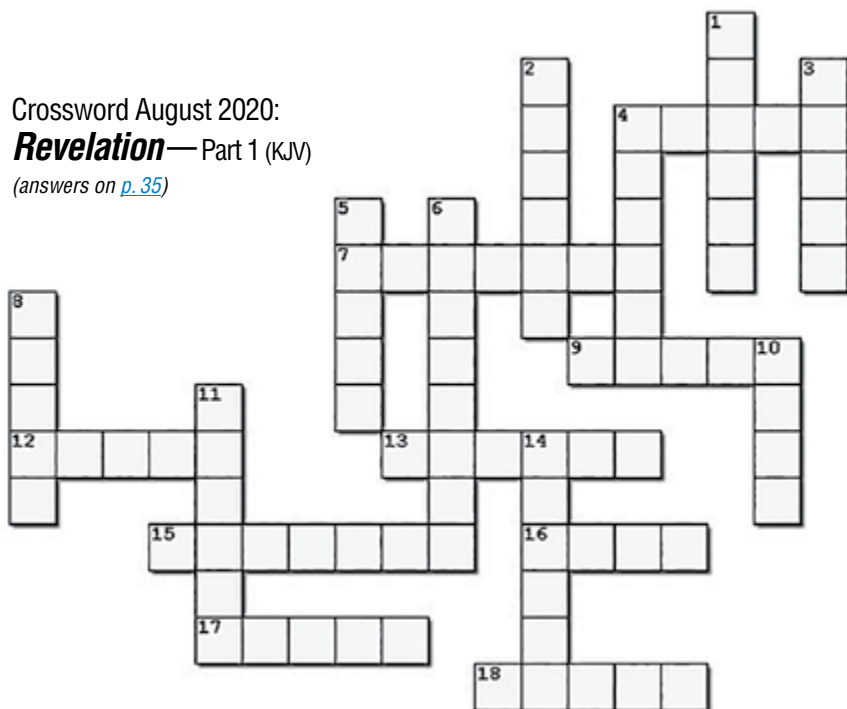
## Zion Song music CD

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 August 2020: **Revelation**— Part 1 (KJV) (answers on [p.35](#))



#### ACROSS

4. And I saw, and behold a white \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 6:2)
7. And I will give him the \_\_ star. (Rev. 2:28)
9. For the great day of \_\_ is come... (Rev. 6:17)
12. And I saw another \_\_ ascending... (Rev. 7:2)
13. ...there was silence in \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 8:1)
15. Behold, I come \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 3:11)
16. And they sung a new \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 5:9)
17. And he had in his right hand \_\_ stars... (Rev. 1:16)
18. Behold, I stand at the door and \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 3:20)

#### DOWN

1. Thou art \_\_, O Lord... (Rev. 4:11)
2. And immediately I was in the \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 4:2)
3. And in those days shall men seek \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 9:6)
4. They shall \_\_ no more... (Rev. 7:16)
5. I am Alpha and \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 1:8)
6. And he said unto me, thou must \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 10:11)
8. ...behold, the Lion of the Tribe of \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 5:5)
10. He that hath an ear, let him \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 2:7)
11. Behold, he cometh with \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 1:7)
14. And thus I saw horses in the \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 9:17)



# Is There Scientific Evidence for a Young Earth?



BY MATTHEW S. TISCARENO, Ph.D. (r) Chem.Tufts.edu



For the past several decades, the question of the age of the Earth has been very divisive among Christians. Many “Young-Earth Creationists” believe that the only valid interpretation of the Bible indicates that the Earth is 10,000 years old or less, and they also claim to have scientific evidence that supports this view of the Earth. At the same time, there are many others who believe that scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the claim that the Earth is about 4.6 billion years old, while the Universe as a whole is 10 to 20 billion years old. Many people in this latter category affirm the intimate involvement of God in this process of creation.

**This author firmly believes that a literal interpretation of Genesis allows for an Old-Earth view that is consistent with mainstream science.** I say this only to emphasize that this writing is not intended to oppose any Christian beliefs, or to tear down anyone’s faith. Rather, the purpose is to ensure that our Faith is based firmly on *Truth*, and not merely wishful thinking.

Through the ages, many people have denied certain facts of nature because those facts did not fit into their belief systems. Both Christians and atheists are commonly guilty of this error. It should be obvious that any Christian who believes that God is the ordainer and framer of this world, and that God is the initiator of all logic and scientific thought, should never take such a position. Young-Earth Creationists, however unintentionally, have in fact done this.

Regardless of what we may think the Bible says, the facts of nature are also ordained by God, and it is not right to deny them or to misrepresent them in order to support any particular belief system. I intend to set forth the facts of nature in light of the claims made by Young-Earth Creationist leaders in hope that, by better understanding the facts of nature, we will also come to a better understanding of God’s greater source of revelation — the words of the Bible.

The most important element of this theological pursuit is scientific accuracy. My purpose is to investigate “young-Earth evidences” honestly and responsibly,

*(continued next page)*





confident that God will be glorified by the Truth regardless of its theological implications.

## Unexplained Mystery

Even in this age of scientific and technical achievement, there are many natural phenomena that do not have a satisfactory scientific explanation. If this were not so, then Science would cease to exist. We do not fully understand how charges get separated in rainclouds to produce lightning, or how river valleys were carved on the now-bone-dry planet of Mars. Yet, these mysteries do not support one viewpoint over another, they are simply areas in which more needs to be learned.

**The lack of a known scientific explanation does not prove that no natural explanation exists.** In fact, scientists are constantly finding explanations for previously unexplained phenomena, as Science continues to work towards a greater understanding of God's Creation. Therefore, it is a fallacy to assume that a phenomenon has a supernatural cause, simply because no adequate natural explanation has yet been discovered.

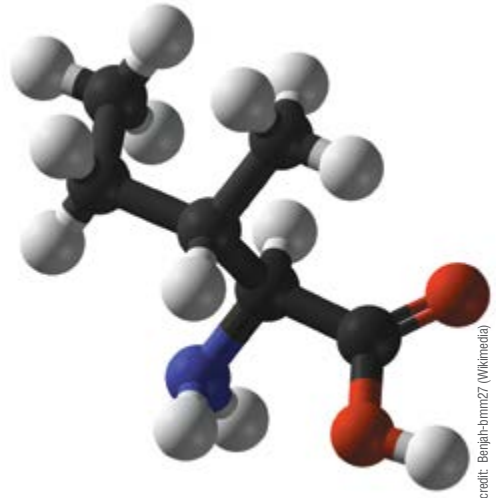
To demonstrate this fallacy, consider the manufacture of organic molecules. Two hundred years ago, it was thought by many that only living cells, endowed with a God-given "life force," could produce organic molecules. This idea — bolstered by the failure of all attempts to produce organic molecules synthetically — was eventually laid to rest when chemists finally succeeded in synthesizing organic molecules. Here, a supernatural explanation was advanced due to the lack of satisfactory natural explanations, and was abandoned when the natural explanation was discovered.

Please note that I am not saying that all supernatural explanations are un-scientific by definition. That would be a *philosophical* statement of "naturalism," not a statement that can be backed up with scientific evidence. Rather, I am saying that any such claim would have to be based upon positive evidence; it is not enough simply to argue from the lack of any known natural explanation. Many arguments that are advanced in favor of "recent creation" are, in fact, based simply upon phenomena that currently lack an adequate explanation, and it is important to recognize this fallacy.

## The One-Sided Equation

A large class of "evidences" presented by young-Earth advocates involve measuring rates of various Earth processes, then attempting to extrapolate them backwards for millions of years. Generally, the purpose is to show that the process in question would build up to absurdity if it were allowed to continue through "evolutionary timescales." The fallacy of most claims of this type is a failure to recognize **the importance of equilibrium**. Most processes on Earth are in a state of balance, in which one process (such as erosion of the

*(continued next page)*



The L-isoleucine molecule, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, showing features typical of organic compounds. Carbon atoms are in black, hydrogens gray, oxygens red, and nitrogen blue.

continents) is counteracted by others (such as emplacement of new continental material by volcanoes).

Generally, processes on Earth do not build up without limit, because there is always another process that opposes the build-up, leading to the establishment of equilibrium. The method for dealing with young-Earth claims of this type is to look for the limiting process that imposes equilibrium. In some cases, the balancing process has simply been overlooked, and the young-Earth claim is laid to rest by pointing it out. Other times the balancing process is not well understood or even unknown, which may seem to lend credence to young-Earth claims.

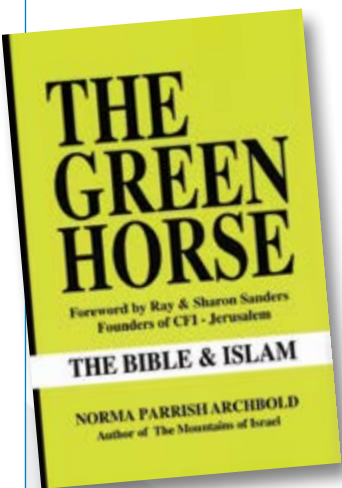
However, in these cases we simply revert to the Unexplained Mystery. Unless we can prove that no balancing process exists (and in most cases that cannot be done), we should adopt the working hypothesis that there is a yet-to-be-discovered process that provides the equilibrium, rather than jumping to the assumption of a supernatural explanation.

This paper by a senior research scientist studying Saturn’s rings goes into geophysics, planetary sciences, and even flood geology. If this subject intrigues you, read more at:

[chem.tufts.edu/science/Geology/OEC-refutes-YEC.htm](http://chem.tufts.edu/science/Geology/OEC-refutes-YEC.htm).

Many Believers would agree that science and the Bible have to go hand in hand. Truth is truth, and science repeatedly corroborates truths from the Bible. Please see Dr. Schroeder’s [“Proof of God in Five Minutes” video](#) . —Kirsten

Imagine the intriguing, open-minded theoretical discussions Dr. Matthew Tiscareno might have with physicist Dr. Gerald Schroeder regarding game-changing concepts such as time dilation that arguably reconcile science with the Bible and vice versa. [Page 17](#) describes our [Evidence of God](#) television series and Zola and Dr. Schroeder’s study booklet [Genesis One](#). —Editor ★



## [The Green Horse](#) — [The Bible & Islam](#) book by Norma Archbold



**Norma Archbold**  
(1938–2019)

A 21<sup>st</sup>-century exposé of misinformation, *The Green Horse* explains Islam’s history, modern status, and ongoing agenda in a Biblical context. Plainly written with remarkable detail, it contains user-friendly subtitles, illustrations, tables, charts, underlined text, and maps. It includes a 5-page bibliography and Bible references and a “Gallery of Peace Promises and Terror Victims.” Named for the Angel of Death’s horse in Rev. 6:8 — translated as “pale” but in reality “*chloros*” (“green”), the traditional color of Islam — this 238-page trove of scholarly treasures is fun to skim, worthwhile to read, and handy as a reference book.

# Training Dogs to Detect Cancer

SCIENCE: BY ESTI ELIRAZ / *Israel Today*



credit: David Cohen/Flash90

Dogs trained by Magen Multi-Field Security (MFS)

They say that the dog is man's best friend. Sefi Sahar is a dog trainer and co-owner of Magen Multi-Field Security (MFS), a company that specializes in using the animals' unique senses and abilities to provide practical solutions to a wide range of problems. The company has around 30 dogs available throughout Israel, including a variety of breeds, most notably the German Shepherd, or Alsatian.

The tasks given to canines are extremely diverse, and include guarding agricultural fields, protecting local communities, searching for missing persons, monitoring ecological conditions, and providing therapeutic assistance to people at risk. After their training at special facilities, nearly all of the dogs go to live with their handlers.

An interesting job for which Sefi is training these dogs is detecting early-stage cancer. Ben-Gurion University is collaborating on the research into using dogs to detect cancer. **The dogs are taught to distinguish between cancer cells and normal cells.** After learning to respond to samples of tissue containing breast cancer cells with great accuracy, the dogs were presented with tissue containing cells that they had never encountered and were able to distinguish between the two. Researchers believe that the dogs are able to detect a unique, not yet clearly defined substance in cancer cells.

Sefi Sahar is the grandson and great-grandson of Jewish butchers from Germany. His family has a long history of dog-handling. In training these canines to such specific and complicated tasks, Sefi explained that you first must look for things that the dog likes. Some like a certain kind of food, others love to play. The trainer must then leverage these preferences by rewarding the dog accordingly as soon as the animal successfully completes a task, like detecting the markers that differentiate healthy and cancerous cells.

Sefi is excited by the success so far: "Each dog has been exposed to a variety of samples. Some were affected by cancer. Incredibly, they've been able to detect the difference with 100% accuracy. We are now expanding our research with an eye toward clinical application."

Israeli startup Nanoscent developed a chip that allows electronic devices to detect coronavirus by "smell." See [July's Levitt Letter, p. 26](#). — Kirsten ★



# Virus-killing Water-based Disinfectant

MEDICINE: ISRAELI INNOVATION NEWS, NoCamels.com



credit: NoCamels staff

Bar-Ilan University's Drs. Eran Avraham, left, and Izaak Cohen, far right

Israeli scientists who developed a method to produce a tap water-based, pathogen-killing disinfectant recently partnered with a local industrial automation solutions company to roll out a "sanitation tunnel" that allows a safer entrance to public places.

Amid the COVID-19 global health crisis, Israeli spaces such as shops, gyms, markets, malls, and office buildings have been allowed to reopen under strict guidelines that ensure patrons and employees wear masks and have their temperatures taken before entering. The sanitation tunnel incorporates the disinfectant solution and adds an extra layer of protection by spraying it on those seeking to enter a space, neutralizing potential droplets on skin, clothing, and materials such as handbags.

**The process is automatic, and the tunnel works with sensors** to pick up when a person is passing through, spraying the solution from different angles through a number of mist nozzles built into the machine.

The tunnel, developed by northern Israel-based company RD Pack, is being piloted at the VIP entrance to Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv, the home court of the three local soccer clubs: Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel Tel Aviv, and Bnei Yehuda Tel Aviv. Sports stadiums must abide by strict hygiene rules and limit spectators to close family and friends of the players, as well as members of the press.

The disinfectant solution itself was developed and patented by Bar-Ilan University scientists Drs. Eran Avraham and Izaak Cohen and Prof. Doron Aurbach, head of the electrochemistry group at the Department of Chemistry and Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials. The material can kill bacteria and viruses, including coronaviruses, and has done so in external laboratory testing against the herpes simplex virus (a skin infection with no known cure) and coronavirus OC43 (the type that causes the common cold).

The technology works through an array of nanometer-shaped electrodes with unique surface properties where the combination of the water and electrodes creates a cleaning material with an effective antiseptic capability for microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and spores).

*(continued next page)*





“When you put electricity in water using the right process, this can transform the chloride and the oxygen in the water into a powerful material that can attack pathogens,” says Dr. Avraham. It is safe for macro-organisms (like skin cells) and does not contaminate groundwater.

Disinfection and sanitation are especially important in hospitals and medical clinics “where pathogens hide in spots that are not easily reachable,” Dr. Avraham says. The solution in small spray bottles requires additional applications. In electrode-free containers, the disinfectants can remain effective for approximately four weeks. After about a month, if untreated, “the solution becomes just water again. When it is in reusable bottle products, you can simply ‘charge’ the solution. This is also a process we developed: a technology to extend the stability of the material,” he explained.

With the sanitation tunnel, the idea is to lessen the chances of a spread. “If someone sneezes or coughs and a droplet lands on your shirt, you have no way of knowing it. But once you go through the tunnel, after approximately 15 seconds of exposure to the disinfectant, the pathogen is eliminated,” he continued.

The idea for such a disinfectant came from “every life with kids,” Dr. Avraham says. Small children are notorious for touching all kinds of questionably sanitary surfaces and placing random objects in their mouths. He looked for “a solution for everyday problems,” working on the tech for a number of years pre-pandemic.

But the health crisis made the tech even more relevant, and the feedback has been extremely positive, he says. The researchers are looking to have the solution manufactured and distributed widely. They don’t have a proposed name for it yet.

RD Pack specializes in developing and constructing automatic machines for processing, packing, and storing products in a wide range of industries, particularly food and pharmaceuticals.

“Wondering how we could help find a solution to the coronavirus,” said Eran Druker, head of business development at RD Pack, “we joined with these Bar-Ilan scientists who developed this amazing product to stop the spread of cross-contamination, because we understood the importance.” Druker says the company wanted to harness the technology “to make it safe for people to get back to their normal lives.”

The solution itself is FDA-cleared, and RD Pack is working to get Israeli Health Ministry approval for the sanitation tunnel. The company envisions a number of spaces that can make use of the tunnel, including hospitals, schools, airports, malls, markets, and pharmacies. ★



Small spray bottles containing the tap water-based disinfectant solution





## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### “The Flood of Jerusalem”

MEMRI.org –The Middle East Media Research Institute

Iranian broadcasting channel Ofogh TV marked Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day on May 22, 2020 by airing a short video “The Flood of Jerusalem” in both Hebrew and Farsi.

In the video, Jerusalem is completely flooded and black fedoras, typically worn by Orthodox Jews, are seen floating above the water and washed to shore. The video ends with a quote from Ayatollah Khomeini’s book: “If every Muslim were to pour one bucket of water, Israel would be washed away in the flood.” The video was produced by the Seraj Organization and by Nasr Internet TV.

If the Iranians’ crazy flooding scheme is responsible for filling the Sea of Galilee to the gills, may they next set their sights on the Dead Sea! — Mark

### Why Jewish Settlers Reject Annexation

By Aviel Schneider / *Israel Today*

The biggest opponents of President Donald Trump’s peace plan giving Israel sovereignty over portions of Judea and Samaria are the Jewish settlers themselves. Their disapproval of the planned appropriation of Biblical lands goes so far that the

right-wing Jewish Settlers Council and the left-wing movement Peace Now are now cooperating to prevent the annexation this summer.

The Americans have given Israel their blessing for the annexation of the Jordan Valley from the Dead Sea to Beit She’an, as well as large settlement blocks. However, as Jewish settlers realize, **annexing only some isolated Jewish settlements will leave other Jewish enclaves under Palestinian rule.**



Protest against annexation

In the plan, the Palestinians will receive 70% of Judea and Samaria, with the remaining 30% being compensated for by lands in Israel’s southern Negev region. Some 15 Jewish settlements would fall under a Palestinian state. By agreeing to Trump’s proposal, Israel will, in effect, concede that *Eretz Yisrael*—the Land of Israel — also belongs to the Palestinians, and that it can and should be divided. ★

# DNA Unlocks the Dead Sea Scrolls



**PART 1:** ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ASAF RONEL (r) Haaretz.com

The large clay jars containing parchment scrolls wrapped in linen in a Qumran cave constituted one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the “Dead Sea Scrolls.” The scrolls opened a window to the daily life of the Second Temple Period and shed light on how various Jewish sects sprang up during that time, one morphing into Christianity.



Book of Jeremiah  
Dead Sea Scroll

credit: Shai Halevi/Israel Antiquities Authority

Questions stem from the collection of scrolls comprising nearly 25,000 fragments of parchment and papyrus that come from an estimated 930 different ancient manuscripts. This vast jigsaw puzzle includes the earliest versions found thus far of all the books of the Hebrew Bible (except the Book of Esther), as well as the Apocrypha and many other works previously unknown.

The conventional theory is that some of those works were written or copied by a zealous Jewish sect, identified by most scholars as the Essenes, who led an ascetic life in the desert. However, there is now general agreement that the collection also includes scrolls that originated from outside the sect, written by other learned individuals of that period. Accordingly, the question of which texts are unique to the sect and which were brought in from outside is crucial for understanding the significance of the texts, and to what extent they represent the ideas in currency in Judea of the latter Second Temple Period (334 B.C.–A.D. 70). A recent study has harnessed the most advanced tools of biological research in order to help solve the mystery.

The study was conducted by researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU), led by Prof. Oded Rechavi from the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences and the Sagol School of Neuroscience, and Prof. Noam Mizrahi from the Department of Biblical Studies. They collaborated with researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden, the Israel Antiquities Authority, TAU’s zoology department, and Weill Cornell Medicine (NYC).

Using DNA sequencing and sophisticated computation, the scientists were able to

*(continued next page)*



Prof. Oded Rechavi (left) and Prof. Noam Mizrahi of Tel Aviv University



credit: Tadmir/Tel Aviv University

identify and catalog 26 parchment fragments (plus 13 leather artifacts) according to the DNA of the animals on whose skins the scrolls were written, and thus to determine which fragments are related to one another and which are not.

“Connecting the wrong pieces can dramatically change the interpretation of any scroll,” says Prof. Rechavi. “Assuming that fragments from the same sheep belong to the same scroll, it is like piecing together parts of a puzzle.”

**The new methods have already helped shed light on a host of important historical and religious issues:** how the concept of sacredness regarding the texts of Biblical books changed over time; when basic notions arose in the realm of Jewish mysticism; and the origin of the idea that prayer could replace sacrificial offerings—an idea that was previously thought to have emerged following the destruction of the Second Temple in A.D. 70.

The researchers had to first overcome a series of challenges, starting with how to collect the sensitive samples. In most cases, to avoid damage to the priceless antiquities, the researchers extracted DNA from tiny scroll crumbs (“dust”) that had fallen off or been scraped from the backs of the fragments. The researchers even retrieved ancient DNA from the adhesive tape—used in the 1950s to piece fragments together—after it was removed from scrolls!



credit: Shah Halevi/Israel Antiquities Authority

Sampling DNA from a Dead Sea Scroll

The solution to not being allowed to touch the scrolls, one researcher explained, was for the Israel Antiquities Authority (which stores all of the scroll pieces at the Israel Museum) to place the samples in test tubes that were taken to a specially adapted genetics laboratory in Sweden.

## Comparing texts

The first insight divined by the researchers related to the way inhabitants of Second Temple Period Judea viewed the texts of the Bible. Apparently, Judaism in that era didn't have one standard version of the sacred texts; i.e., **not every jot and tittle in the Bible was regarded with the same holiness it would later possess.** The scholars reached this conclusion by examining four fragments of parchment containing sections from the Book of Jeremiah.

**Today all editions of the Hebrew Bible are absolutely identical.** This was the case even before the invention of printing—in fact, since the emergence of the authoritative Masoretic Text in Tiberias in the early Middle Ages, a version that has been preserved almost without alteration to this day. However, other, even older versions of the Scriptures also exist, notably the Septuagint. This Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, originating in Alexandria and dating to the third and second centuries B.C., was eventually adopted by the Greek Orthodox Church and remains in use today. The differences between the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint are especially striking in Jeremiah.

“It's not a matter of changing a letter here and there, or differences between a

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few isolated words,” says Biblical scholar Noam Mizrahi. “The Septuagint text of Jeremiah is 15% shorter than in the Masoretic Text. Furthermore, the two texts differ in the way their sections are arranged; some of the prophecies have differences in the order and content of the verses. The result is completely different ‘editions’ of the prophetic text, and at times entirely different texts.”

Differences of this type disappeared in the wake of the destruction of the Temple. “What remained are smaller differences in spelling, which persisted into the Middle Ages because the books were copied by hand,” Mizrahi continues. “In late antiquity and the Middle Ages, rigorous ‘quality control’ was applied, ensuring that the differences would hardly ever affect an understanding of the content.”

Which versions of Jeremiah appear on the scroll fragments examined by the research team? One fragment contains a long version close to the Masoretic Text, two contain a short version like the Septuagint, and a fourth has a different, independent text.

**The new findings are consistent with a current theory that some of the scrolls came from outside Qumran.**

Mizrahi: “There was scholarly debate about whether they originally belonged to the same or to different scrolls, because they look very similar but differ in the handwriting of the copyist.”

Enter genetic classification: The scientists discovered that the vast majority of scroll pieces they examined were written on the skin of sheep — an animal that could be bred in the Judean Desert climate 2,000 years ago. The fragments of the Book of Jeremiah that stirred debate, however, were written on the skins of two different animals: two on sheep and two on the

skin of a cow, an animal that was not ordinarily raised in the Judean Desert.

For the scientists, discovery of which animal skin was used for copying the texts represented a significant, genetic confirmation of the hypothesis that the writing was not solely the work of the desert sect but of someone from the outside.

“Cow-skin scrolls manifestly originated externally,” Mizrahi says. “And while they might have been brought to Qumran as blank parchments, such a scenario makes very little sense practically and economically, so it seems they were brought as written manuscripts. The conclusion that these are two separate versions of Jeremiah, neither one copied by the local sect but rather originating in a different place, points to a possible openness to divergent texts of the Holy Scriptures and a more general approach in Judea at that time.”

He adds, “As long as there was only the Greek translation, the existence of different versions could be attributed to the Diaspora [the Jews in Alexandria]. But the scrolls indicate that the multiplicity of versions was a basic feature of Judaism as a whole during that period, and particularly in Judea.”

According to other Dead Sea Scrolls experts, **the new findings are consistent with a current theory that some of the scrolls came from outside Qumran.** One reason is that some of them predate the community’s founding. “We have been playing with theories about the Biblical text for hundreds of years. Now, thanks to biology, we have a tool with which to examine those theories.”

Next month, we’ll look at more results and conclusions.

Our Zola Tours pilgrims always learn the latest dig developments when we visit this Qumran site. See also the *Secrets of the Scrolls* series on [p. 20](#). — David ★



# Dubai's Former Police Chief Now on #TeamIsrael



BY DAVID LANGE (r) IsraellyCool.com

Dubai's former police chief Dhahi Khalfan Tamim once claimed that he received death threats from the Mossad after leading an investigation that fingered the Mossad for killing a Hamas terrorist in Dubai many years ago.

He also once tweeted this:



Dhahi Khalfan Tamim



**It turns out he has changed his tune, in a big way.** According to Alaraby news,

*Dubai's former police chief Dhahi Khalfan sparked outrage after tweeting in support of normalization with Israel.*

*The Emirati official recently tweeted that refusing to recognize Israel lacks logic, saying: "Israel is a country based on knowledge, knowledge, prosperity, and close ties with all the countries of the developed world."*

*In a later tweet, Khalfan said that he is ready to visit Israel and would do so before he visits Qatar.*

*Khalfan's tweets were met with widespread anger across the Arab world.*

And there's more. According to Arutz Sheva news,

*In another tweet, he called for the normalization of ties with Israel: "From the moment that the Gulf states normalize their ties with*

*Israel, Qatar's job as a proxy state for terror organizations will end, including that of Al Jazeera. It's known that Qatar still supports Hamas and has relations with Israel. So what's stopping us from having normal ties with them?"*

*"Israel wants long-term peace and security. I'm in favor. All Arab countries, the emirates, and the Saudi kingdom accept Israel. They want to make peace with Israel. When that happens,... the war will end."*

Well done, Mossad. It seems that the memory loss pill you slipped into his hummus has done wonders.

Or possibly, more Arabs in the Gulf states are realizing the truth: Israel is good, and they have been backing the wrong horse all this time.

[Pray that Chief Dhahi Khalfan's insights nudge Dubai toward joining Bahrain, the UAE, and Kuwait in opening their doors to \[more\] Jewish medicine.](#) (See "Friends in Need" on p. 15.) — Mark ★





## God Enjoys A Good Laugh!

There were 3 good arguments that Jesus was Black:

1. He called everyone “brother”
2. He liked Gospel
3. He didn’t get a fair trial

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into His Father’s business
2. He lived at home until he was 33
3. He was sure his Mother was a virgin, and his Mother was sure He was God

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

1. He talked with His hands
2. He had wine with His meals
3. He used olive oil

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was a Californian:

1. He never cut His hair
2. He walked around barefoot all the time
3. He started a new religion

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was a Native American:

1. He was at peace with nature
2. He ate a lot of fish
3. He talked about the Great Spirit

But the most compelling evidence of all—3 proofs that Jesus was a woman:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment’s notice when there was virtually no food
2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn’t get it
3. Even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was still work to do

We hope that this joke covered enough stereotypes to make all our readers feel included. —Editor ★

### Answer Key for August 2020 Crossword (p.23)

Across:

4. Horse    15. Quickly  
7. Morning    16. Song  
9. Wrath    17. Seven  
12. Angel    18. Knock  
13. Heaven

Down:

1. Worthy    6. Prophecy  
2. Spirit    8. Judah  
3. Death    10. Hear  
4. Hunger    11. Clouds  
5. Omega    14. Vision



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2. One **\$500 discount** on each of up to four (4) of our tours to Israel.
3. One-on-one **telephone conference with Mark Levitt** to discuss this ministry’s goals and visions.

**New!**



## **Jewish Heritage** Calendar 5781 (2020–2021)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar begins in September and spans 13 months, through September 2021. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.

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

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

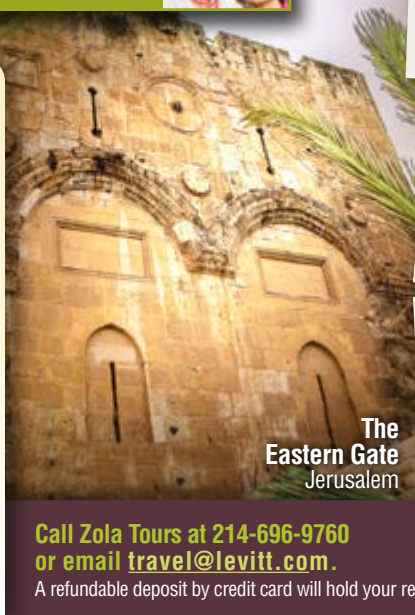
**Ultra Grand:** Oct. 13–Nov. 1  
(Greece, Israel & Petra, \$9,488)

### SPRING TOUR 2021

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**Grand Petra:** Mar. 8–21  
(Israel & Petra, \$6,488)

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