

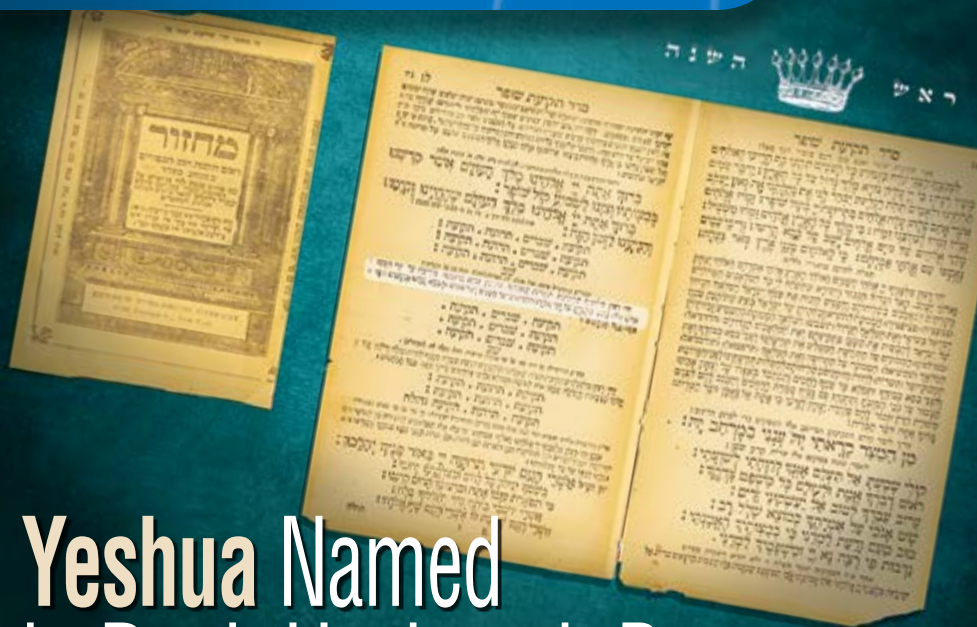


Levitt LETTER

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

— ROMANS 10:1

inside: The Yom
Kippur War p.8



Yeshua Named in Rosh Hashanah Prayer

Yeshua.org

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins this year at sunset on Friday, September 18 and ends at sunset on Sunday, September 20. The Biblical name for this holiday is *Yom Teruah* (in Hebrew, literally, "day of shouting/raising a noise"), or the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24).

On High Holy Days, the Jews read from an Orthodox *machzor* or prayer book.

A very interesting prayer that mentions the name of a high priest, or *kohen gadol*, appears in various older *machzorim* (pl), going back over 100 years. The high priest's name is Yeshua.

This prayer — called "*Sar HaPanim*" (Hebrew for "Prince of the Face") — is recited during Rosh Hashanah between blowings of the *shofar* (ram's horn) and names Yeshua as the One who atones for our sins.

(continued p.2)

REMEMBER:

Rosh Hashanah 2020 Friday, September 18 to Sunday, September 20 (sunset to sunset),
Yom Kippur Sunday, September 27 to Monday, September 28 (sunset to sunset)

Observing Yom Kippur Despite the Odds

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller
Aish.com

For years, Mendel Futeras defied the Soviet Union. Studying Torah was strictly forbidden by the Soviet authorities. Even possessing Jewish books was grounds for imprisonment. But Mendel risked his life day in and day out, educating his fellow Soviet Jews in secret. Finally one day, the authorities discovered him and sentenced him to forced labor in one of the USSR's feared gulags (labor camps) in Siberia.

There, Mendel tried to keep as many of the *mitzvot* (commandments) as possible, but it wasn't easy. One Yom Kippur, he felt particularly

(continued p.3)



R. Mendel Futeras



Yeshua Named ... *continued from cover*

The prayer reads:

"May it be Your will that the sounding of the shofar, which we have done, will be embroidered in the veil by the appointed angel, as You accepted it by Elijah, of blessed memory and by Yeshua, the Prince of the Face (Face of Hashem) (Prince of God's Presence) and the one who sits on God's throne. May You be filled with compassion toward us. Deserving of praise are You, LORD of compassion." (S. Birnbaum, *Behind The Curtain, Siddur HaShalem*, part 2, p. 282)

The prayer probably was taken from Isaiah 63:9, which mentions an individual with the title "Sar HaPanim," meaning "Prince of the Face" or "The Angel of His Presence."

Rabbi Simcha Pearlmutter, an Orthodox Jew from Miami, Florida, led a group of American Jews in 1967 to found the Ir Ovot kibbutz south of the Dead Sea. In an interview, he revealed that this prayer is also known as "*Machzor Rabah*." Taken from an Orthodox Jewish prayer book recited during Rosh Hashanah between the blowing of the shofar, **it names Yeshua as The One who atones for our sins**. The title of the prayer is "*Sar HaPanim*," meaning Prince of the Face.

Rabbi Pearlmutter attended yeshiva (Jewish seminary) for a number of years after coming to know Yeshua as the *Mashiach* (Messiah) on his own, without being evangelized by Christians, or even reading the New Testament. Rather, he set out to disprove Yeshua, only to find Yeshua pursuing him through his studies in the Torah, in Jewish literature, and, more importantly, in the *siddurim* (books of daily prayers) and *machzorim* (High Holy Days prayers) — the prayers

composed by Jewish sages speaking of Yeshua. Pearlmutter came to believe — as did other rabbis who visited him during his 25 years in the desert of Israel — that Yeshua is the Messiah, the *Mashiach HaShem* (*HaShem* is God's title in Hebrew).

Rabbi Pearlmutter died in 1999.

Go to a Jewish bookstore today and look in contemporary Rosh Hashanah *machzorim*. You'll very likely see that **the name Yeshua is gone from the prayer**. Apparently, it **has been deleted from a traditional Jewish siddur after having been included for many centuries** without any objection.

In an interview with Rabbi Pearlmutter:

"So, the last prayer says that we call upon the name of Yeshua, that it may atone for all our sins. Now I want you to understand very clearly that I did not write this prayer, and I did not publish this book, and I did not write this book. This book was written by rabbis long ago, and this prayer cannot be taken out of this prayer book — not by me, and not by any other rabbi. Even if a rabbi desired to extract it, he could not — not if he is an Orthodox and observant rabbi who goes by rabbinical halachah [Torah-based law]. That's because he is bound by what we call the word and the prayers of Chazal. 'Chazal' means, Chachameinu zichronam livracha, 'Our wise men of blessed memory.' And what Chazal has put in, we are of insufficient authority to remove."

May Messiah Yeshua be revealed to Israel and all the Earth without delay so that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. ★



"Yeshua, Prince of the Face."
Special thanks to Phil Goble of afii.org.



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Observing Yom Kippur ... *continued from cover sidebar*

low. Without a *machzor* (Yom Kippur prayer book), he was only able to recite a few prayers from memory. One was *V'chol Ma'aminim* ("We all Believe"). But this Yom Kippur, Mendel had a difficult time believing the words. In such a dark place, he wondered, was it really possible to have such faith?

Then, Mendel noticed one of the prison guards—a rough-looking man with a big scar across his face—staring at him. Frightened, Mendel tried to look as if he wasn't fasting and praying, but the guard came towards him. Speaking quietly, the guard said:

"I see you praying today. I know you are fasting today. I want you to know that I am fasting as well. I know it's Yom Kippur today, yet I don't know a single thing about Judaism except a prayer, *Modeh Ani* ('I Give Thanks'),

that my grandmother taught me when I was a child. I have been repeating this prayer all day. I just want you to know you are not the only one celebrating Yom Kippur."

After 14 long years, Mendel was able to escape from that gulag and make his way to Israel, where he dedicated his life to teaching Torah. It is not known what happened to the Jewish guard.

God always supplies — oftentimes through unexpected means ... or people! — David ★



Rabbi Mendel Futerfas wearing a "casket"—a *casquette* (French for "cap")—that was customary in Russia

Money & Power: Eccles. 5:8–20

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



The Widow's Mite, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

We continue our study in Ecclesiastes with the final thirteen verses in chapter five. Solomon writes about wealth, work, and life. Since he is the wealthiest man of his time, he may know a thing or two about money. Let's hear what he has to say on the subject.

Unchecked Power Brings Oppression (5:8–9)

Verse eight begins, *"If you see the oppression of the poor..."* Solomon observes that rich people wield the most power and influence. They have leadership roles in almost all sectors of government. The verse goes on to explain that officials watching over officials creates a complicated and controlling system. Solomon is concerned that such a system creates a group of untouchables — and that's never a good situation in any organization.

The world does need leadership — it is a Biblical principle. Solomon writes in Prov. 29:18a, *"Where there is no revelation [vision], the people cast off restraint."*

Love of Money Doesn't Satisfy (5:10)

Solomon knows firsthand that a person who loves money will not find satisfaction or happiness. Ask a person who loves money, "How much is enough?" The answer will always be, "More."

But money isn't the issue. The problem is man's love of money. *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* 1 Tim. 6:10



Jewish half-shekel coins (see our [half-shekel keychain](#) on p. 19.)

Solomon knew all too well that some people couldn't handle wealth; it would ruin their commitment to God and family. Yes, it can provide some comfort and a sense of security. But consider the parable of Jesus in Luke 12:19–20, *"And I [a rich man] will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be, which you have provided?'"* Sobering thoughts, don't you think?

(continued next page)





Wealth Creates Restlessness (5:11–12)

Solomon makes a good point that as people gain riches, more people surround them to live off their successes. He then gives us a startling contrast.

Many wealthy people cannot enjoy a good meal or a sound night's sleep, because their minds are continually churning about the next business deal. *Love* of money is the trouble, not the money itself.

In contrast, the man who labors in the field all day, looking after his sheep or cultivating a crop, comes home at sundown, enjoys a good meal, and then fades into a restful night's sleep. I use an agricultural illustration because that was the work of the majority in Bible times.

Why do I get the impression that Solomon may be giving insights into his own life? He is the wealthiest man on the planet. He is the king of Israel, with an untold number of servants. He enjoys the best of food, wine, and entertainment. And as the Bible tells us in 1 Kings 11:3a, "*He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.*" Did he have trouble getting a peaceful night's sleep? I'll leave that answer to you.

More Evils under the Sun (5:13–17)

Remember, Solomon is very wise and very wealthy, so he understands finances. His message could be to not put all your eggs in one basket. While his words seem blunt, they carry a tone of compassion. The financial world can change in the blink of an eye for anyone, wealthy or not.

Solomon again reminds us of that inevitable moment we tend to ignore: death. He notes that a person works and saves, and then, all of a sudden, his financial world comes crashing down. All is lost. Or, maybe that individual somehow escapes the financial crash, but suddenly drops dead of a heart attack. The philosophical adage remains true: "You can't take it with you."

Verses 16 and 17 describe the evil of a person who lives life in the fast lane — a misguided soul who goes at life hard and fast and eventually realizes that he is "chasing the wind." That person soon becomes bitter and cannot enjoy the simplest meal. Anger and bitterness can rise up in anyone. That is one reason why the Bible tells us to "guard our hearts" (Proverbs 4:23).

God is not against us... He is for us! Why else would He send His only Son to suffer and die on a Roman cross to pay the penalty for our sin? It is the love of God, not the love of money, that will push you and me through life's most difficult times and escort us into His presence at our death. What a glorious thought that He loves you and me to the utmost!

Good News from Solomon (5:18–20)

Learn to enjoy yourself. Why wait to enjoy life? Think on good things. Laugh. If you came to my house on a Saturday evening at 5 pm, you would swear that a lunatic was in the house. My release for the week is to watch 1½ hours of "The Three Stooges." Going back to my childhood memories of these three characters provides solace to my soul.

Solomon reminds us to own our work and give the glory for it to God, especially good advice in these difficult times. Settle in and be content with the Lord's sufficiency.

In conclusion, I want to remind you that you are a child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He owns it all; so as His heir, you are rich indeed! ★

At the Trumpet's Call

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



What crazy days we have walked through this year! It doesn't matter where in the world you live; everyone has been affected. Pestilence, protests, travel bans, fear, and premature death occur daily. Are we truly walking through the last of the Last Days? Could this year's Feast of Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year) be our final holy feast before the Church's Rapture?

David and I are both children of full-time clergy. We grew up on opposite coasts, yet simultaneously spent half of our lives inside church buildings. We've heard enough sermons on the End Times and sat through enough Bible college classes that you'd think we'd be able to pinpoint the day and hour of Christ's arrival in the clouds (Acts 1:9–11; Luke 21:27). But, of course, we can't.

Not even the Son Himself knows the day or hour of His return (Mark 13:32). But one likelihood is clear: Those who envision a time for His arrival tend to agree that the Feast of Trumpets (September 19–20 this year) is the most elegant candidate. In describing how Jesus/Yeshua fulfilled the first four Feasts, Zola saw a symmetry in the Rapture occurring on *Rosh Hashanah* and the Second Coming happening on the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), though not in the same year.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, Paul mentions that the Lord will return “with the sound of the trumpet of God.” In Matthew 24:30–31, Jesus Himself states that He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call to gather His elect. During *Rosh Hashanah*, a shofar (a ram's horn “trumpet”) is blown 100 times on each of the two feast days. **Could these trumpet calls correlate to the loud trumpet mentioned in Matthew and Thessalonians?**

Throughout history's turbulent intervals, many speculated that the time had come to sound the alarm and look to the skies for Yeshua to appear. Do we stop looking up because so many false prophets have claimed to know when He'll next appear? Has Jesus “tarried” so long that it seems He may never come back?

If Yeshua does call for His Church this September, we Believers* shall see each other in His glorious heavenly Kingdom. If, on the other hand, we continue our spiritual walks into October, I pray we do so thanking Him for a new season of life to bless and worship Him, and continuing to bear His light and love.

David and I also pray during these Jewish High Holy Days that the burdens of this year's pandemic will melt away and you will feel enveloped in His love and mercy. May we Believers seek repentance and reside in thankfulness **for all that Jesus has done for us.**

L'shana Tovah! (Have a good year!) ★



The Second Coming depicted in woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern*, 1860.



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



Atonement (*Yom Kippur*)

Zola Levitt from
*The Seven Feasts
of Israel* (see p.18)



On the fearsome Day of Atonement, the Jew literally either lived or died, according to God's will:

Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.

—Leviticus 23:27

This was a day of confession and it still is. Israel was to individually "afflict their souls" and be conscious of their national sin. This was the day on which the High Priest of Israel entered the fearsome Holy of Holies, where God Himself dwelt (Lev. 16). The High Priest would make a sacrifice on his own behalf, and then a sacrifice on behalf of all the sins of all the Israelites. It was a most solemn occasion, still treated as the highest of the holy days. We might appreciate some of the difficult laws written right into Lev. 23, along with the punishments involved with this sacred day:

And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God.

For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

—Leviticus 23:28–30

For the slightest violation in terms of working that day (lifting something too heavy, walking too far), one could be cut off from his people, and thus no longer be chosen. Further trips to the Temple would be unnecessary, as redemption would then be hopeless. As to the confession time, God specified twenty-four hours:

It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath.

—Leviticus 23:32

We might balk at the terrible thought of twenty-four solid hours of confession, but then the Jews were confessing the sins of an entire year. We might even balk at the idea of merely staying awake for twenty-four hours, but if our salvation hung in the balance, we would try to make it. Such were the blessings and curses of God's own people.

We would look in vain in the New Testament for a fulfillment for the Day of Atonement.

This is the one feast which is not fulfilled by the Church, because the Church owes no atonement. **The Church is not innocent, of course, but it is exonerated.** Jesus paid off the sins of every one of us. But these are Jewish feasts, and each one is fulfilled for the Jews. The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled in a wonderful way when the Lord returns at His second coming. Zechariah's marvelous poetry pictured the reaction of Israel to the very sight of the King of the Jews returning:

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

—Zechariah 12:10

In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.

—Zechariah 13:1

How sorrowful Israel will feel indeed, in the presence of their King:

And one will say to Him, "What are these wounds between Your arms?" Then He will answer, "Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends."

—Zechariah 13:6

But the atonement will be accepted. God will have at long last ended His separation from Israel, His original wife. The Book of Hosea details the adultery of Israel, in type, and her final redemption and purification. Paul's words bear repeating:

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

—Romans 11:26

Sometimes Christians are confused by teaching that indicates "All the Jews will be saved anyway, so why should we bother witnessing to them now?" This would be an erroneous reading of Scripture, since **only surviving Israel will be saved when the Lord returns.** A man who dies now before being saved, Jew or gentile, cannot obtain salvation in the future, and we should note that it will be very difficult for little Israel to survive the Tribulation in any great numbers. The prophets lament that two-thirds of that nation shall perish at the hands of the antiChrist. ★



The Yom Kippur War: When Israel Was Judged and Nearly Failed



PART 1: BY ADAM ELIYAHU BERKOWITZ (r) BreakingIsraelNews.com



credit: Wikimedia Commons

A knocked-out Israeli M60 tank among the debris of other armor after an Israeli counterattack in the Sinai during the Yom Kippur War



On Yom Kippur, October 6, 1973, while Jews around the world were praying for God to redeem their souls, the still young State of Israel went through a trial of fire that it came very close to losing. For the first three days of the war, Israel's fate hung in the balance while overwhelming Arab forces advanced almost unopposed into the heart of the tiny country. Only the heroic acts of a few individuals saved Israel from total annihilation.

Forty-seven years ago, a coalition led by Syria and Egypt (and supported by the former Soviet Union) launched a surprise attack on Israel. The attack focused on the Golan Heights and the Sinai, territories gained in the 1967 Six-Day War that gave Israel a strategic buffer zone necessary for its survival. Israel, with 400,000 troops supported by 1,700 tanks and 440 combat aircraft, faced a combined force of almost one million soldiers supported by 3,600 tanks and 450 combat aircraft.

First Moves

Egyptian troops numbering 32,000 crossed the Suez Canal in a massive but meticulously planned operation, advancing almost unopposed into the Sinai Peninsula. They quickly overwhelmed the Bar Lev Line, a series of fortifications that Israeli military experts had claimed was impenetrable.

Even more threatening was the **Syrian attack** in the north. While most of Israel was fasting and praying on this High Holy Day, Syria opened fire on Israel's northern border, with 140 batteries of artillery as 1,260 Syrian tanks began to advance on the Golan Heights. Under cover of sophisticated anti-aircraft batteries and deadly SAMs (surface-to-air missiles), the Syrians were impervious to the acclaimed IAF (Israeli Air Force), which initially lost 40 planes from Syrian anti-aircraft efforts.

The next day, Israelis began a counterattack, but their attempt failed. The lauded IAF was nowhere to be seen in the skies over the Sinai desert since air support was needed in the north. Soviet SAM missiles in Egyptian hands proved devastating. Israel reluctantly accepted a ceasefire on October 12, but Egyptian President Anwar Sadat refused.

(continued next page)

Egyptian military trucks cross a bridge laid over the Suez Canal on October 7, 1973, during the Yom Kippur War



credit: Central Intelligence Agency employee

Necessary Risks

After their overwhelming initial success, 28,000 Syrian troops, 800 tanks, and 600 artillery pieces began their offensive push. Standing between the massive Syrian army and Israel were only 160 Israeli tanks — outclassed and outnumbered. Syria's tanks were equipped with night vision, an innovation the Israeli tanks lacked. This forced the Israelis to use a daring tactic: allowing the Syrians to advance to ranges close enough for night fighting before opening fire. On October 9, only six Israeli tanks remained in action, defending a clear path into northern Israel. After the brigade's tanks were down to their last few rounds, they began to pull back. However, right then, a force of some 15 tanks that had been scrambled together arrived. Although the Israeli group was, in fact, a scratch force of repaired tanks with injured men among their crews, the Syrians believed that Israeli reserves were now arriving, and they began to retreat.

With the Syrian attack thus repulsed and the threat removed from the heavily populated northern half of Israel, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) were now able to turn their attention to the south. **By the end of the war, a newly reinstated General Ariel Sharon had surrounded the Egyptian Third Army, crossed the Suez Canal, advanced to positions some 63 miles from Cairo, Egypt's capital, and occupied 618 square miles west of the Suez Canal.**

Victory's High Cost

The victory was spectacular, but it came at a horrifying cost: 2,500 Israelis had been killed and over 8,000 wounded. It was discovered that Egyptians and Syrians had perpetrated atrocities on the 293 IDF captured soldiers and numerous unarmed prisoners of war. The IDF was crippled — 400 tanks had been destroyed and 100 IAF combat aircraft shot down.

A UN ceasefire brokered by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger left Israel pulling back from all the territories it had captured west of the Suez Canal and other territories in the Golan.

This was the closest Israel had come to defeat at the hands of the Arabs. After the sustained euphoria that still remained after the victory of the Six-Day War in 1967, the painful victory of the Yom Kippur War just six years later made it clear that there was no guarantee that Israel would always dominate the Arab states militarily. The dismay and disappointment in the government after the war led to the dissolution of Golda Meir's government.

Next month — one of the individual heroic efforts that saved the Jewish state. ★



top: The 1973 War in the Sinai, Oct. 6–15
bottom: A map of the fighting on the Golan Heights, both from Department of History, U.S. Military Academy



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God's Blessings and Cursings

PART 1:

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1990
30 years ago



In 1990, Zola was asked to write an article for the annual convention of National Religious Broadcasters. Here is the first of two parts of that article.

Media Wars (A.D. 66)

There may have been a kind of "National Religious Broadcasters Convention" back in A.D. 66, just before the Romans plundered Jerusalem, starting another of those seemingly endless Holy Land holy wars. The organization — possibly called "The Empire-wide Spiritual News Broadcasters Association" — would have convened on a comfortable Greek island. The "broadcasting" — though largely in writing and largely by ship and by runner — would have followed the same principle: cover the religious world of the day in light of Scripture, history, and various sectarian points of view.

Interestingly, the major news issue of the day was probably very similar to one of our major debates: Do the Jews really own all of Israel; should the country be partitioned, or should they clear out altogether?

The same factions divided over the matter then in the same ways that they do today. The Biblical group practicing the brand-new Judeo-Christian ethic must have argued, "God gave the land to Abraham and his seed forever. He said the Covenant was 'everlasting'" (Gen. 17:7). A secular contingent, who did not view the Scriptures with favor, probably pointed out that "the Jews haven't been in control in Israel for centuries. Let the Romans administrate the place. They can let everybody come and go as they please. Jerusalem will be an 'international city.'"

And then there were probably myriad non-Biblical religious sects that claimed everything from, "My ancestors were here since the time of Ishtar and Moloch," to, "The Jews took my grandfather's farm."

Naturally, the fate of Israel wasn't up to the members of the media. But, then as now, their views were influential. I imagine that some, then as now, tried to "broadcast" evenhandedly, and some deliberately broadcast partisan views and propaganda, the same as today.

In any case, with hindsight, we can see the results of what happened to Israel at that critical time and for the following nineteen centuries.

The Roman siege came to a bloody ending at Jerusalem, in the rest of Israel, and at Masada, and the empire administrated the Holy Land with an iron fist. If people could come and go freely, they surely weren't Jews, whose members were thinned with Holocaust-like precision.

(continued next page)



Augustus of Prima Porta, marble statue, (microphone added), 1st century A.D. Vatican Museums, Rome

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The first coins issued at the mint of Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), circa A.D. 136, showing Hadrian



Israel Under Roman and Islamic Rule

By the time the lunatic Emperor Hadrian consummated his personal final solution to the Jewish problem, the Israeli nation virtually went out of existence. Israel was dubbed “Syria Palaestina,” Jerusalem was “Aelia Capitolina,” and the Jewish people, under Roman suppression, became a pesky footnote in history. A small number persisted in their *Yom Kippur* wailing at their indestructible Western Wall, but God’s Covenant with His loyal friend Abraham seemed effectively null and void.

The land itself didn’t fare well under Roman rule. It declined and fell with the decline and fall of Rome, until a newly minted religion took it over entirely. **The Moslems**, with their long swords and short supply line, came to stay. They **re-sanctified Jerusalem in the 7th century**, making it significant in the career of Mohammed, who, they claimed, traced his lineage back to patriarch Abraham. This strange rereading of history prevails today.

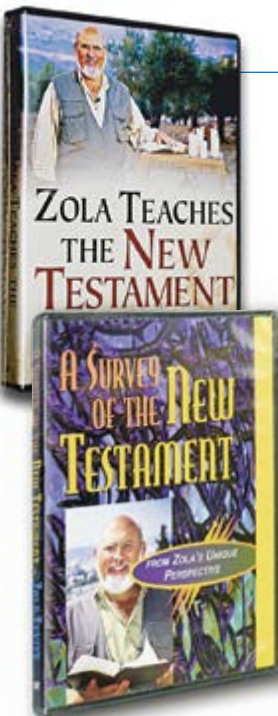
Thus, the world had a long look at one of the three original alternatives for the fate of the Holy Land: giving it to the secular forces of Rome. Broadcasters originally agreeing with that view would want to change their position with hindsight. The Holy Land never prospered, because its original owners, the Children of Israel, had been run off, and no one else treated it with much love. The ensuing centuries of Moslem rule were a story of almost nonstop bloodshed. The Arab tradition of settling disputes with teeth rather than tongue dominated Middle Eastern affairs. The land was constantly contested, and as a result, it suffered.

Relatively brief appearances of the self-styled “Christian” armies of Europe brought no improvement. “Lessons in love” from the Crusaders were lost on those they massacred.

The article concludes next month.

Va’avaracha m’varcheicha umekalelcha a’or — “And I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you.”

— Genesis 12:3 ★



[Zola Teaches The New Testament](#) audio teaching CDs (6 CDs)

Noted for his Old Testament expertise, Zola was often called upon to teach the New Testament as well. In this series of six CDs, he gives a fresh, interesting survey of the entire New Testament before a live audience. A real collector’s item, beautifully packaged.

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Q. What or who are angels?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



A. The Bible mentions angels about 273 times. This frequency indicates the major role that angels play in God’s economy. **The word “angel” simply means messenger (*aggelos* in the Greek, *mal’ak* in Hebrew); the context in which those words appear reveals whether the messenger is human or angelic.** The study of angels in systematic theology is called “angelology.”

Heavenly angels share these characteristics:

1. **personal beings** with intelligence (Matthew 8:29), emotions (Luke 2:13; James 2:19), and a will (Luke 8:28–31)
2. **supernatural power**, obediently carrying out the divine will of God on Earth and in Heaven (Isaiah 37:36; Acts 12:7; Revelation 8:1–13)
3. **spirit beings** that can appear in corporeal (bodily) form (Luke 1:26–28; Hebrews 1:4)
4. **created by God** with immortal spirits that cannot die
5. **do not marry** or procreate as humans do (Jesus speaking to the Sadducees in Matthew 22:30)
6. **materially ambiguous**, capable of entering in and out of our material dimension
7. **direct access to God**



Archangel Michael Tramples Satan,
oil on canvas by Guido Reni,
between 1630 and 1635



A hierarchical ranking exists within the angelic order: seraphim, cherubim, archangels, and ordinary angels. The good angels act as guardians and custodians of the redeemed (Psalm 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14).

Raphael and other medieval artists incorrectly depicted angels as cute, cuddly, chubby infants. They are not. Angels are tall, powerful, and imposing male-like figures. Scripture always refers to angels in the male tense (Mark 16:5). When they do appear, angels look either human or bright and dazzling... so much so that they cause fear, dread, and awe in those who see them!

The Bible speaks of the “elect angels” who remained faithful to God when Satan led the rebellion (1 Timothy 5:21). “Fallen angels” joined Satan against the Lord (Ephesians 6:12; Jude 6). Angels remain angels; they do not become human beings, nor do humans become angels after death. Seraphim have wings (Isaiah 6:2, 6); other angels do not.

God’s Word forbids the worship of angels, and true angels would reject any form of worship directed at them, exhorting instead the worship of God alone. Twice in the Book of Revelation an angel remonstrated with Apostle John when he was overcome with awe and fell down before the angel’s feet (Revelation 19:10; 22:8–9). Paul denounces the worship of angels as error and false doctrine in Colossians 2:18. The Bible says that angels number in the millions, forming an innumerable group (Revelation 5:11; Hebrews 12:22).

Believers are meant to emulate the good angels. Angels are quick, prompt, and unquestioning in their obedience to the Lord. May we as Christians be thusly angelic in our obedience to the Lord! ★

Germany: 110-year-old Mural for a Jewish Business



BY TOBY AXELROD (r) JPost.com

In May, a demolition crew tore down a building in the western German city of Gelsenkirchen. As the walls fell, they exposed a 110-year-old advertising mural on the adjacent brick wall.

It read: “For suits and overcoats with a perfect fit, shop at Alexander.”

The large Alexander family was Jewish and had moved to Gelsenkirchen around 1910 from another German city. The Nazis eventually expropriated their businesses and property. Some family members fled to Brazil. Others made it to the United Kingdom and then to the United States. One brother was captured in exile in Belgium, deported to Auschwitz, and murdered. Today, descendants of the Alexanders live in Brazil and the U.S.

Over time, another building went up alongside the mural, further blotting out the memory of the Alexanders. But the structure also protected the mural for decades.

Now Gelsenkirchen, a city of about 260,000, is debating how to best preserve the mural. It’s considering a plan that might include a memorial plaque and windows in the eventual new neighboring structure through which visitors could see the mural. The timing is unclear, but there is general agreement to preserve it among the city-run housing group that owns it.

In the early 20th century, the city’s Jewish community numbered nearly 2,000. Today it has about 380, mostly coming from the former Soviet Union.

Jewish community president Judith Neuwald-Tasbach hopes the discovery will trigger the city’s students to research local Jewish history, perhaps as part of next year’s events marking 1,700 years of Jewish life in Germany.

“Some people don’t know that the Jews lived here for so long,” she said. “Local Jews were everyday folk; some of them had shops, and they wore suits with a perfect fit.” ★



Alexander family's century-old mural in Gelsenkirchen, Germany



credit: Gelsenzentrum E.V.

Magical Water?

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

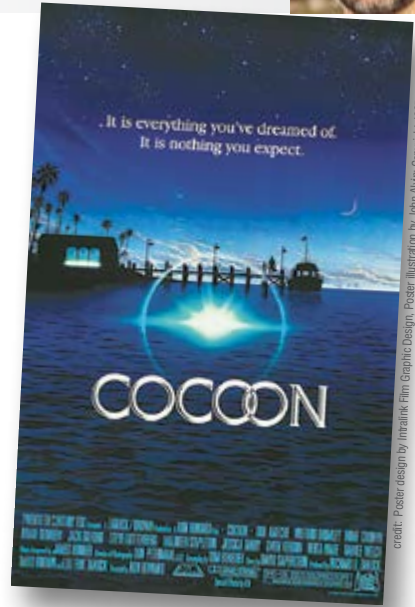


In my mid-20s, I was mesmerized by the trespassing scenes in the 1985 classic movie *Cocoon*. Extraterrestrial pods containing aliens had made their way to a secluded, periodically abandoned swimming pool. Adventurous seniors from a Florida retirement community sneaking in for boisterous swims discovered that their vim and vigor returned phenomenally as their geriatric afflictions subsided. Fortunately for them, the pool's submerged cocoons had magically energized the water, and it restored the geezers' vitality. Never mind the baptismal or born-again implications.

A decade earlier, I had swum in a very similar pool—same size, equally fancy-schmancy—at a famous, waterfront Dallas mansion. Now that 10-acre, White Rock Lake estate, past which I bicycle twice daily, is listed for a cool \$18.5 million. (See its listing at <https://bit.ly/2OhM4kr>.) I am blessed **not** to have to maintain that 91-year-old, 10,511-square-foot house with its tennis courts, 4-lane bowling alley, putting greens, 2-story guest house, pool house, and 16-car garage! Nonetheless, at the invitation of my parents' connected friends—who hoped to reel me in to sell Amway—I dove, splashed, and did cannonballs in the very same pool water of prosperity as oilman H.L. Hunt, his wife, his children, and his grandchildren.

Not that I would trade that singular experience for my baptism by Dr. W. A. Criswell at downtown Dallas's historic First Baptist Church. Or my Jordan River baptism by my beloved father Zola during my college days. Or, for that matter, my anointment with olive oil by Jews for Jesus founder Moishe Rosen at his home, with his capable successor David Brickner as a witness.

I have a theory (humor me) that splashing about in what some



credit: Poster design by ImaLink Film Graphic Design, Poster Illustration by John Alkin, Copyright 1985, 20th Century Fox

Film poster for *Cocoon* from 1985,
20th Century Fox Film Corporation

megalomaniacs would deem “holy water” explains why almost everything I’ve touched ever since has turned to gold. Among the prosperous: my high school lawn mowing business, employers for whom I’ve sold, enterprises I’ve managed, individuals I’ve coached financially, and, most significantly, this ministry (thanks to you!). **Now that theory is, of course, very dumb** ... and far less enthralling than physicists speculating about our universe’s origins.

It’s a theory that, when I’m done wringing out all its ridiculousness, brings Romans 8:28* to mind. My seemingly serendipitous tendency to look at clocks exactly at 8:28 a.m. (and p.m.!) reminds me that God has a sense of humor and may be winking at you and me. Perhaps He winks when we barely miss green lights and have “opportunities” to reflect and exercise our patience** (Phil. 4:6). Trusting in neither my own understanding nor that of others leads me back to faith, thanking God for what I don’t have as well as what I do. ★

* “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

** a virtue (Eph. 4:2— *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*)



ZLM Bulletin Board



Do Jewish Lives Matter?

Not if you ask O'Shea Jackson, the famous, yet not-so-cool rapper known as Ice Cube. He was recently accused of inciting racism for tweeting anti-Semitic images resembling propaganda used by Hitler and the Nazis. One of them depicts Jews playing *Monopoly* on a board resting on the backs of Blacks.

In 1991, the Simon Wiesenthal Center condemned Ice Cube's *Death Certificate* album for its racist lyrics, including calling for the murder of a Jewish music industry figure. In 2015, his entourage attacked a rabbi in Detroit as Ice Cube hurled anti-Semitic epithets at him for wearing a yarmulke.



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** Please see *Seniors "Deducting" Contributions* in the [2019 March Levitt Letter, p.14](#).

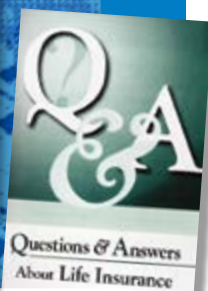
FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Did you know that by simply naming a ministry like ours as the beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, you can make a larger gift than otherwise possible? This month's pamphlet **Questions & Answers About Life Insurance** addresses questions such as 1) Who should think about giving life insurance? 2) How do I make a life insurance gift? 3) What are the benefits to me and the charitable recipient?

To receive a free copy, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #20.



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...” (Deut. 6:5)

וְ	אָ	הַבְּ	תָ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱ	לֹ	הֵי	כָ	לְ	בְ	כָ	בְ	ךָ
(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
be-khol'-le-vav'-kha	e-lo-hay'-kha	Adonai	et	ve-a-hav'-ta										
with all your heart	your God	the Lord	[]	and you shall love										

Some Christians seem to think that Jesus died on the cross for their sins so that they can now live their lives without regard for sin; but that is, of course, a perversion of the truth. Jesus did not suffer, bleed out, and agonize on the cross for our sins to give us a license to disregard the dreadful horror of sin and God’s great cost to remedy our hearts. Indeed, by treating sin lightly, we disparage the sacrificial work of Yeshua on our behalf—we “crucify the Son of God afresh” and thereby deny God’s wrath for sin as well as His severe mercy given to those who trust in Him (Heb. 6:4–9).

When considering the matter of *teshuvah* (i.e., “repentance” or returning to God), it is vital to understand that God does not love you based on your obedience, though His love for you will lead you to obedience. Only after accepting that you are accepted despite yourself—despite your inherent inability to please God, despite your incurably sick heart, despite your disobedience, sin, and so on—it is only then that earnest, Spirit-enabled obedience can spontaneously arise within your heart. In that sense, “obedience” is like falling in love with someone.

It is your love that moves you to act and to express your heart; and were you prevented from doing so, you would undoubtedly grieve over your loss. Therefore, the “law of the Spirit of Life in Messiah” is first of all empowered by God’s grace and love. **We walk by faith, hope, and love—these three.** And this explains why the very first step of *teshuvah* is to love God with all your heart: *Shema!* Listen! “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.” The first work of faith is to believe in the miracle that God’s love is “for-you-love.”

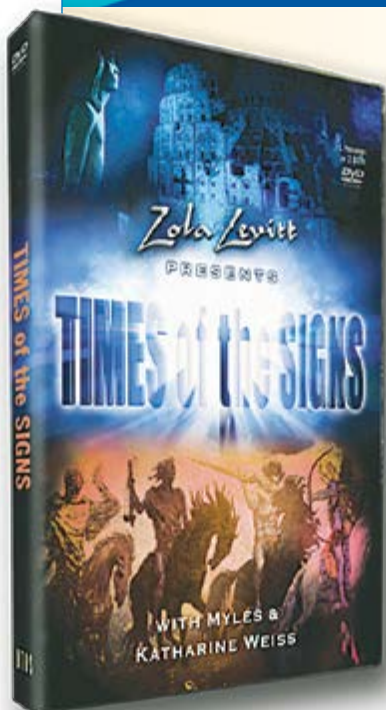
If you find yourself operating from a sense of God’s conditional acceptance, you will undoubtedly need to repeat the same sins over and over until your heart is finally convinced of its incurably wretched state. You must first be utterly sick of yourself to believe in the miracle of God’s deliverance. Only after this will the word of Messiah find its opportunity.

On the other hand, if you are truly convinced that you are unconditionally accepted by God based on **His** love and righteousness, **you will come alive by the power of the Spirit and be enabled to live free from what binds you to fear.** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection





Times of the Signs

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this eight-program TV series, Myles and Katharine Weiss encourage Believers to look beyond the troubling prophetic signs of our day and live in growing expectation of our Messiah's return. Series guests include: Jimmy DeYoung, Jim Fletcher, Jeremy Gimpel, Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Wilfred Hahn, Bill Koenig, Tim LaHaye, Avi Lipkin, Randall Price, David Rubin, Bill Salus, Carl Teichrib, and Andy Woods.

On the Prophetic Horizon Reviews the major prophetic signs that point to the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the quickening pace of prophecy.

Government on Whose Shoulders? Satan continues his push to exclude God and install a man-based government over Earth. Mankind's only hope: accepting Yeshua's sacrifice on the cross.

Green to the Extreme As the environmental movement glorifies nature as "Mother Earth," Believers worship the Creator, not creation.

Bethlehem Rewritten In Bethlehem, Arab Christians are caught between God's covenants with the Jewish people and replacement theologies powered by Islam. Too many "peace" proposals exclude the Prince of Peace.

Rebuilding the Temple Learn the history of the Temple Mount from King David's threshing floor to efforts to build a Third Temple.

The Heavens Declare The Lord uses heavenly signs to show us what He is doing, where He is going, and what He asks of us. Believers follow our Messiah, not signs.

The Sword of Allah The spiritual battle with radical Islam is wearying, but we mustn't give up; the Lord wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9) and will return for His own.

New Heaven, New Earth Signs like increased knowledge and the Jewish return to Israel point to the return of Yeshua for His bride, and we Believers want no one to miss out.



Model of the Second Temple as it might have appeared in 66 A.D. (Israel Museum, Jerusalem)



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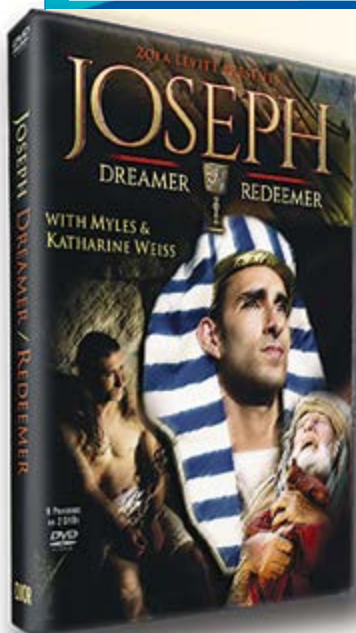
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Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer

DVD Set

9 half-hour programs on 2 DVDs

More than any Biblical patriarch, Joseph presents a preview of the Redeemer, Yeshua. From humble beginnings to becoming a leader of the known world, Joseph pictures our Redeemer. Born to simple parents, Yeshua's ultimate sacrifice as the Lamb of God led to His return as the Lion of Judah. This nine-part series unearths the "Egyptian" (foreign) identity and centuries-long gentile view of Jesus and reveals Him as the world's Jewish Messiah. Ron Cantor and Eitan Shishkoff (Our Man in Haifa) relate the teaching to today's Church.

Jealousy and Rejection First, we see Joseph tending sheep and wearing his colorful coat. Rejection from his brothers has already begun but worsens after he shares his dreams. Myles and Katharine compare Joseph's treatment to Yeshua's rejection by many despite being sent to be the Savior.

Betrayal and Deception Joseph is thrown into a pit and sold as a slave. Father Jacob mourns the loss of his favorite son. Our Messiah was betrayed for money to those who wanted to kill Him. Messianic Believers' numbers are increasing in Israel.

Innocence and Accusation Joseph becomes a slave of the captain of Pharaoh's guard. After a time of prosperity, false accusations condemn innocent Joseph. Yeshua lived a life without sin but suffered for the sins of the world. Joseph's life portrays a prophetic promise.

Faithfulness from Prison While in prison for two years, Joseph faithfully ministers to others. During the Last Supper, Yeshua points His followers beyond short-term difficulties and toward God's glorious plans. Exile is not Israel's or our final destination.

Prisoner to Prime Minister After Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams, he is promoted to the #2 position in Egypt. Yeshua's sacrifice ushered in global salvation and the Holy Spirit. Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel reports on Voice of Israel radio.

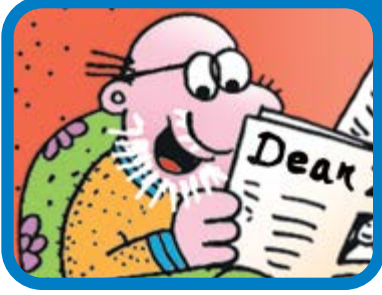
Famine and Recognition Famine leads Joseph's brothers to Egypt for grain. Unrecognized, Joseph tests their hearts. Israel's current situation will change when they recognize Yeshua.

Brother for Brother Joseph's brothers leave Simeon in Egypt as hostage until Benjamin comes. Joseph's identity remains hidden to his brothers. Messiah is currently hidden to most of His Jewish brothers.

Longing and Revelation At home, Jacob misses his sons; in Egypt, Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers. Yeshua reveals Himself through the Scriptures, as He did after His resurrection.

Substitution and Redemption Because of the "stolen" chalice, Judah offers himself in Benjamin's place. Joseph reveals his identity and reunites the family. Yeshua suffered death in our place, accomplishing God's plan for redemption. Our Messiah will return, but this time as the reigning King.





Letters to ZLM

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

Re: "What is the meaning of sin?"

Shalom aleichem, Chaplain,

Your [July Levitt Letter "answer" \(p. 12\)](#) concerning the meaning of *sin* should have defined it in Hebrew as well as Greek. To wit: Hebrew has three distinct words meaning the same as the Greek term *hamartia*. These are most clearly explained in *The Authorized Daily Prayer Book* by J. H. Hertz as "missing the mark," "crookedness," and "rebellion." As written, you left too much unsaid that could create some confusion as to the Hebraic roots of the Christian movement. — Blessings, T.H., M.C.Ed. (TX)

Dear T.H.,

Thank you for your concern and informative elaboration. Given this magazine's significant space limitations, Todd defined sin and addressed its origination, destructive impact, and remedy in Jesus Christ. Fortunately, salvation only requires the sinner to realize that he needs deliverance and salvation through Jesus; hermeneutic sophistication is not needed.

The "information" tab at [levitt.com](#) includes a "Q&A" option with more thorough answers to many Biblical questions. Your two-page Bible lesson probably would be well received at levitt.com's ZolaBoard, which you can access via the "Discussion" tab's drop-down menu. Thanks again for writing. — Mark

Swastikas and statues

Dear ZLM,

After seeing the news brief about swastikas on tombstones in the [July Levitt Letter \(p. 30\)](#), I wondered: How is removing swastikas from tombstones different from removing the statues of Confederate generals or slave owners from public property? Both are a part of history.

I have sympathy for the Jewish people and none at all for Nazis, but I wonder how to answer this question. — A.S.

Dear A.S.,

Many white supremacists despise Jews (and other "non-whites") and favor the Nazi notion of a world ruled by Aryans. Is slavery more offensive than genocide? You decide. Jews have suffered both.

Unfortunately, slavery and anti-Semitism (and sometimes genocide) still abound around the globe. Monuments deemed to glorify white supremacy or other ideals repugnant to a democracy striving for equal rights have their place ... behind large signs that educate those who would rather learn from history than repeat it. Swastikas have their place, too—in museums, Nazi cemeteries, and Hell ... but not in American cemeteries. — Mark

(continued next page)



credit: Michael Field/Wikimedia Commons



Creation stance

Dear ZLM,

I strongly oppose your promotion of media and articles that question and refute God's Word, despite their claim to actually support it. I referred to Dr. Schroeder's [Evidence of God](#) series initially, and now to your article by Matthew Tiscareno, "Is There Scientific Evidence for a Young Earth?" ([August Levitt Letter, p. 24](#)).

God's Word does not need support from the scientific community; it stands on its own authority! Throughout the centuries, man's "scientific" knowledge has changed ... eventually coming to support what the Bible said was true all along.

I feel I can no longer support this ministry. You have faithfully brought God's Word to His people in Israel, and educated many to the history, politics, and value of the Jews, but you seem to be straying into areas which are not of your expertise.

You probably won't publish this, but I still felt led to write it. Regrettably, please take me off your mailing list. —H.D. (NC)

Dear H.D.,

Since God is the One who created science, then thoroughly understanding science yields conclusions that relate back to God's perfection. Some creationists speculate that God created fossils to occupy evolutionists. Meanwhile, other scientists suppose God created a universe that was already a work in progress.

Your refutation that "God's Word does not need support from the scientific community" is irrelevant to Tiscareno's statement, "Science continues to work towards a greater understanding of God's Creation." Seeing science increasingly corroborate the Bible is an inevitable blessing stemming from knowledge increasing, which, by the way, amounts to a fulfillment of prophecy. (Dan. 12:4) —Mark

Dear H.D.,

I [have](#) listened to your concerns and even included your creationist contributions in the *Levitt Letter* where other Young-Earth believers could benefit from them. Creation/evolution is not a salvation issue, nor is a belief in the timing or inevitability of a coming Rapture of the Church. Our readers come from all areas of Christianity to learn more about their faith walk. Even the humor occasionally misses the mark with some.

You've been a faithful member of the editing staff and I'll miss your input. You're welcome back anytime. Meanwhile, be blessed, dear friend. —Editor

Affect or effect?

Hello ZLM,

I have been receiving the *Levitt Letter* and also the *Personal Letter* study letter for many years, thanks to my mother, who went home to be with the Lord in 2017. I have learned much through Zola's Bible teaching.

In the [July 2020 Personal Letter](#), Sarah Liberman states, "God truly wants to partner with us to effect His Kingdom on Earth." The verb used was *effect* (not *affect*), which according to *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, means to "cause to come into being" or to bring about.

I know that there are some Messianic Believers in Israel who do not believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture. Is Sarah Liberman one of them?

More importantly, does Zola Levitt Ministries still teach the pre-Tribulation Rapture about which Zola was adamant? — Respectfully, K.K.

Dear K.K.,

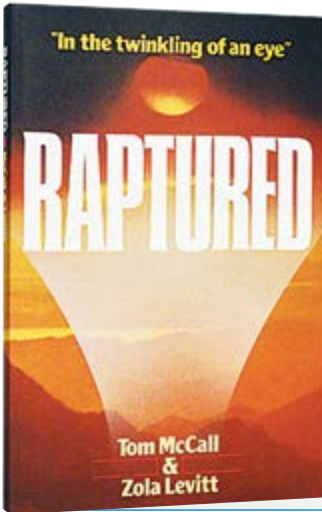
Yes, we do still teach a pre-Trib Rapture. Romans 14:17 describes the Kingdom of God as "*righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*"

(continued next page)

“God’s Kingdom” isn’t limited to the Millennial Kingdom still to come. Furthering His Kingdom effects it.

If you click on “About Us” in the dropdown menu beneath the “Home” tab at levitt.com, you’ll see our ministry’s “What We Believe” statement. Its second paragraph reads: “We hold to a **strictly literal and inerrant Bible interpretation**, salvation through Christ alone, an imminent **pre-tribulation Rapture of all Believers**, and the establishment of a **thousand-year [Millennial] kingdom on Earth.**” Zola’s book *Raptured* (now an eBook) is linked and described below and at store.levitt.com/RAP. — Editor

P.S. My mother also brought Zola to my attention. She went home earlier this year. Weren’t we blessed to have such loving mothers!



Raptured book

By Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

The Rapture of the Church—discussed in full with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are evenhandedly debated as to which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth—Believer and unbeliever alike. *(Please see our response to the letter “Affect or effect” above.)*

(Very few copies remain; when these sell out, this exceptional book will be available only in a digital format.)



Love Our Jewish Roots!

Dear ZLM,

Thank you for your wonderful new television programs. First, [*Joshua: More than a Conqueror*](#), then [*In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus*](#) intrigued me with Dr. Jeffrey Seif’s teaching. I greatly enjoy when he reads from his Hebrew Bible in Hebrew while on location in the Holy Land.

Now, [*Kings & Kingdoms*](#); Very refreshing; please keep it up! — A.G.

Dear A.G.,

Kirsten and I are also fascinated by Dr. Seif’s teaching. I grew up in the Church, yet Jeff’s teachings shed light on Scripture in brand-new ways. We’re thankful that you appreciate all the work that goes into producing *Our Jewish Roots*. — David

No laughing matter!

Dr. Seif,

I couldn’t believe what I heard you say on a recent *Our Jewish Roots*. You joked about “maybe having multiple personality disorder” because of your many job descriptions—policeman, pastor, etc. I assure you that having MPD, known now as DID, is no laughing matter! It occurs more frequently than the average person could ever imagine, and it is devastating! — M.J.

Dear M.J.,

Rest assured that Dr. Seif would never deem a disorder a laughing matter.

(continued next page)

Please excuse any offense. It was unintentional. If I had a dollar for every time I inadvertently offended someone, I'd be a millionaire. — David

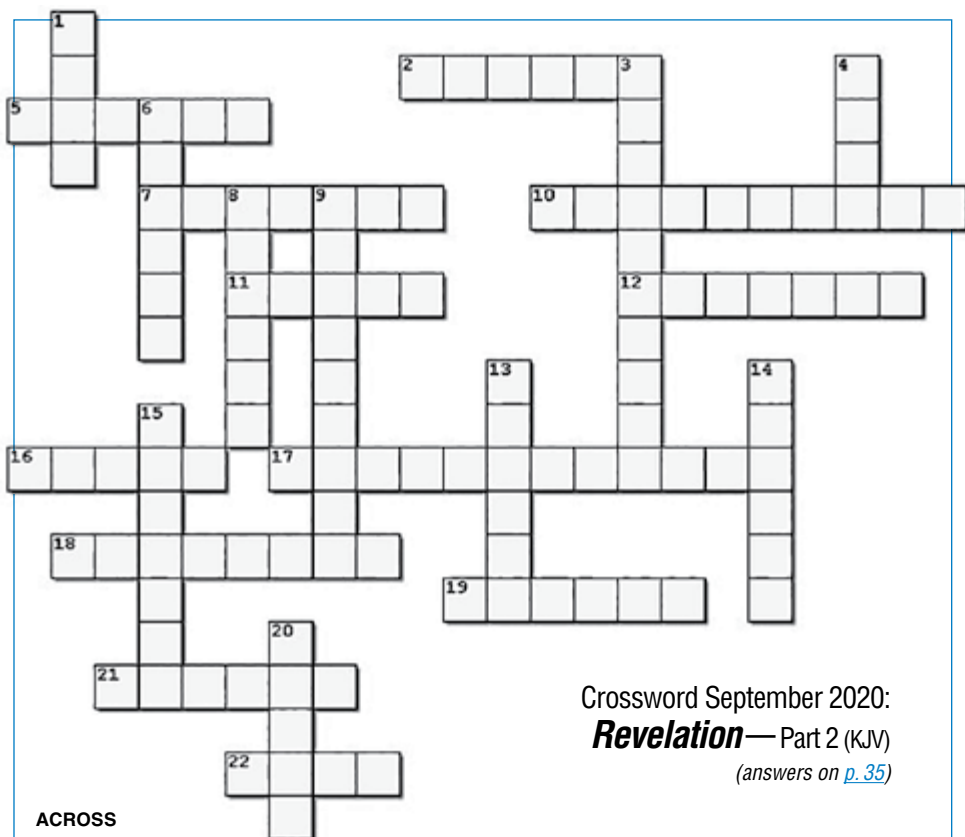
Welcome, Sarah!

Dear ZLM,

Sarah's story in [her first Personal Letter \(July\)](#) is endearing and encouraging. Knowing of Believers like her affirms the hope of God's plan for His creation. The Church should thank you for Sarah and Zola Levitt Ministries. — P.P.

Dear P.P.,

We are blessed to have someone as dedicated, talented, and transparent as Sarah Liberman be part of this ministry. We're thankful that you have taken notice! — Kirsten ★



Crossword September 2020:
Revelation—Part 2 (KJV)
(answers on [p. 35](#))

ACROSS

2. And I saw a great white ____ (Rev. 20:11)
5. ...for the former things are ____ away. (Rev. 21:4)
7. He that overcometh shall ____ all things... (Rev. 21:7)
10. And cast him into the ____ pit... (Rev. 20:3)
11. And the ____ said unto me... (Rev. 17:7)
12. Behold, I come ____ (Rev. 22:7)
16. Behold, I come as a ____ (Rev. 16:15)
17. Blessed are they that do His ____ (Rev. 22:14)
18. ...and they shall ____ (Rev. 11:3)
19. And the great ____ was cast out... (Rev. 12:9)
21. And I saw no ____ therein... (Rev. 21:22)
22. And they sung as it were a new ____ (Rev. 14:3)

DOWN

1. Who shall not ____ Thee, O Lord... (Rev. 15:4)
3. ...was there a great ____ (Rev. 11:3)
4. And they shall see His ____ (Rev. 22:4)
6. Here is the patience of the ____ (Rev. 14:12)
8. And there was war in ____ (Rev. 12:7)
9. For true and ____ are His judgments... (Rev. 19:2)
13. And there appeared a great ____ (Rev. 12:1)
14. Here is ____ (Rev. 13:18)
15. Let us be glad and ____ (Rev. 19:7)
20. And they overcame him by the ____ (Rev. 12:11)



Phone Booths as Lifesaving Defibrillator Stations

SCIENCE: BY VIVA SARAH PRESS (r) NoCamels.com

Israel's public phone booths are being converted into lifesaving public access defibrillator stations as part of a new national collaboration between the country's main phone company and its ambulance service, Magen David Adom (MDA). This would be the first such conversion effort on a national level.

Research shows that people are more likely to survive a cardiac arrest if a bystander uses a defibrillator, a device that sends an electric shock to the heart to potentially restore a normal heartbeat, while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive.

"The earlier an electric shock is given to someone in cardiac arrest, the better the chances of survival. Bystanders have the potential to save a life. The first few minutes are critical. Any passerby can call emergency services and then use the defibrillator, even without any medical knowledge, until emergency services arrive," says the MDA project coordinator.

For Israeli telecommunications company Bezeq, repurposing its rarely used public phone booths was a no-brainer. The phone company donated the booths to the project. "We are happy they will be renewed" for this lifesaving initiative, Bezeq said in a press statement.

MDA and Bezeq have announced a widescale plan to convert thousands of unused phone booths into mini-medical outlets for storing the defibrillator in a well-recognized bright yellow box with red writing, in an easy-to-access and weather-protected site.

"The instructions are easy to understand with visual explanations. We know that people will be stressed, and we want to keep the process simple," says the MDA project leader, adding that there are also text instructions in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Amharic, and Russian.

This is not Israel's first public defibrillator project. In June 2019, MDA and the Ministry of Health, the Municipality of Ramat Gan, and JCDecaux, a street furniture company, inaugurated a defibrillator stand in the middle of a city square. JCDecaux had collaborated on similar initiatives for outdoor defibrillators, including in France, Austria, and the UK.

Another attempt at external defibrillator stations occurred in August 2017, when Ganei Yehoshua Park installed six stations throughout Tel Aviv's biggest city park. Within weeks of installation, the special park cabinets for the community defibrillators were stolen and never replaced.

The MDA project leader says that the yellow medical device container is "vandalism-proof" and sturdier than previous cabinets. The MDA defibrillator device was also built to be "smart" and technologically advanced. For example, a SIM card enables the device to check itself for malfunctions and, if it finds one, send an alert to an MDA technician.

The yellow box is also kitted with temperature-controlling sensors to keep the medical device from overheating in Israeli summers. ★



MDA phone booth defibrillator station



Why Jordan Will Not Oppose Israeli Annexation

BY RAMI DABBAS / IsraelToday.co.il



credit: Nozse Nadjar

King Abdullah II of Jordan

While the July 1 deadline has passed, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to push for annexation of the Jordan Valley and other parts of the "West Bank." Neighboring Jordan continues to lead widespread Arab opposition to this move, going so far as to threaten the stability of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

But at the end of the day, shared national interests will compel the Hashemite Kingdom to accept Israeli annexation and the long-overdue final demarcation of the Jewish state's eastern border.



credit: Menahem Kahana/AP

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu points at a map of the Jordan Valley in 2019 as he promises to extend Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley and Northern Dead Sea area.

Fear of the "Jordan Option"

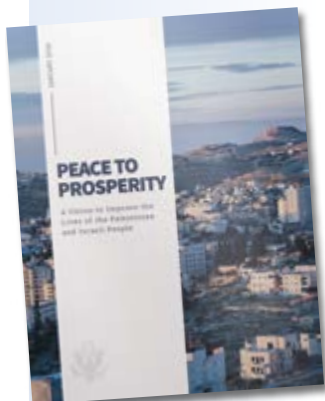
One of the prevailing arguments against the extension of Israeli law over the Jordan Valley, and indeed against Trump's "Deal of the Century" as a whole, is that it will destabilize Jordan.

Many in Jordan worry that the Palestinian majority in the kingdom will exploit the opportunity to advance the "Jordan Option," which would turn Jordan into the Palestinian state. But these fears are exaggerated.

Foundation of common interests

The Kingdom of Jordan has been a strategic partner of Israel for many years, even before the peace treaty

(continued next page)



President Trump's *Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People*

of 1994. There is a strong foundation of common interests, including support for the American presence in the region, opposition to Arab nationalist and Islamic movements, and resistance to the Iranian nuclear threat and Tehran's hegemonic ambitions in the Middle East.

Jordan has long relied on Israel to deter radical groups that would threaten the kingdom's security, while Israel sees in Jordan a reliable buffer against the extremists who hold sway to the east of the kingdom.

Israel certainly has no interest in seeing Jordan become another terrorist haven like Gaza, and for Jordan's capital Amman, Israeli military control of the Jordan Valley shields it from more radical Palestinian elements west of the Jordan River.

It is also important to remember that Jordan did not refrain from signing a peace agreement with Israel at a time when Jerusalem, which is far more important than the Jordan Valley, had been annexed and placed under Israeli sovereignty — this on the condition that Israel recognize Jordan's role in the administration of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Increasing symbiosis

Since signing the peace agreement, Jordan's attachment to Israel has only increased, as Israel provides the kingdom with water and natural gas, and the Israeli lobby in Washington works overtime to ensure American economic assistance to Amman.

It is difficult for Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, or Egypt to take any concrete steps against Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley in light of the looming Iranian threat and concerns over an American withdrawal from the region. The Arab states know that Israel is the key to closer ties with America, and that the Jewish state remains the most effective bulwark against Iranian expansion.

Voices of opposition are often louder from Jordan, but one must not underestimate the political ability of the Hashemite rulers to quietly and effectively confront the anti-Israel sentiments that are prevalent in the kingdom. They have been doing this for decades... and with great success.

This year is an opportune time for all involved, under the auspices of the world's superpower, to move beyond old conflicts and prepare to face the looming threats of the future. And for Israel and its partners, this means finally setting sovereign security borders. ★



Satellite image showing 1) Israel, 2) Jordan, and 3) the West Bank territories



Prayer notes respectfully removed from Western Wall

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Prayer Slips Removed from Western Wall

By Julie Stahl, Chris Mitchell / CBN.com

Visitors to Jerusalem’s Western Wall often place written prayers in the cracks between the stones. Twelve million people visited the Western Wall last year. Have you ever wondered what happens when no more prayers will fit in those crevices? First a little history.

The Western Wall is part of the retaining wall built around the Temple Mount by King Herod 2,000 years ago. When King Solomon dedicated the First Temple, God said His eyes and heart would always be there (2 Chron. 7:16).

According to Israel’s Rabbi of the Western Wall and Holy Sites Shmuel Rabinovitch, the practice of putting prayers to God in the *Kotel*, as it’s called in Hebrew, is rooted in Jewish tradition.

“All the prayers of every person in the world go up from here. Here, the

gates of Heaven are open and Jews and non-Jews, from the Land or from the Diaspora, put their requests here by means of notes that they insert between the (stones) of the Western Wall,” Rabinovitch said.

You Can Have Your Prayer Added to the Western Wall

If Jews and those of other faiths can’t make it to the *Kotel*, they can [send their requests](#) via post office, email, or text.



Prayer notes in the Western Wall

So, what happens when those cracks get too full? Twice a year, workmen remove the old prayer slips to make room for the new.

(continued next page)

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR



The workers use only their bare hands or wooden sticks to remove the notes because the Bible says no tools of iron are allowed in the Temple. But pulling out the notes is only part of the story. According to Jewish religious practice, it's forbidden to destroy anything on which the name of God is written. **That means these little prayer slips are treated with the same respect as worn or damaged Torah scrolls and prayer books.**

So, the notes are bundled in bags and later buried in the cemetery on the Mount of Olives. Rabbi Rabinovitch says that no one reads the papers, because they're meant for the Creator.

"Of course, we pray. We ask the Creator of the World to hear their requests; to hear their prayers and fulfill all the yearnings of their hearts for good," he said.

Ahead of Rosh Hashanah, the traditional Jewish New Year, Rabbi Rabinovitch says it's time to put the hardships of the past year behind us and to look forward to the blessings of the coming year.

[I often carry and deposit handwritten prayer requests from folks at home when our Zola Tours pilgrims visit the Kotel. I consider doing so a privilege and honor. — David](#)

Muslim in Texas Calls for "Justice"

[MEMRI.org](#)

Shi'ite Islamic scholar Molana Shamshad Haider of the Islamic Education Center in Houston, Texas was featured in a two-hour-long tribute to the leader of Iran's Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in honor of the 31st anniversary of his death. The tribute was streamed live on the AIM Islam YouTube channel on June 6, 2020.

He said that Khomeini had been an international leader for all the



Muslims of the world, and that this enabled him to inspire Muslims to support the people of Palestine, Kashmir, Yemen, and elsewhere. Haider elaborated that Khomeini's role was greater in scope than leaders like Hitler, Mussolini, Napoleon, and Stalin, and **added that Islam should dominate the world and bring justice to humanity.**

The AhlulBayt Islamic Mission (AIM) is a Shi'ite Islamic organization, based in the UK and endorsed by representatives of Ayatollah Khomeini (Khomeini's successor as Iran's Supreme Leader) in the UK and the Red Crescent.

[Believers know that Islam won't—can't—deliver justice, but justice is precisely what so many people crave right now. The West certainly needs such bold leadership. — Editor](#) ★

Face Mask to Help Hearing Disabled



MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) BreakingIsraelNews.com

Wearing a face mask is absolutely necessary for helping to avoid both infection by COVID-19 and infecting other people in your vicinity. But it also makes it difficult for the deaf and other hearing disabled to understand you, especially if they read lips.

Now, a doctoral student at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) School of Public Health in Beersheba has helped design a face mask that is transparent in front but doesn't fog due to exhaling.

Carolina Tannenbaum-Baruchi joined forces with Maayan Levin, a mentor of the robotics team at Zinman Darca High School in Dimona (southeast of Beersheba) to solve the problem. **Their solution is the "Read My Lips" facemask.**



face mask

You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind. You shall fear your God: I am Hashem.

—Leviticus 19:14

As both of Tannenbaum-Baruchi's parents are deaf, she has devoted her research to improving the lives of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Israel. Using their 3-D printers, the high school robotics team developed the mask in accordance with Tannenbaum-Baruchi's research insights.

Noted Levin: "It is reusable, washable, and sterilizable, and it is easy to breathe while wearing it." The face mask is transparent in front to enable lip reading and is designed not to fog up from people's breath. What's more, it is comfortable and affordable."

The team is currently looking to mass produce the mask, while continuing to refine the design.

The study was conducted under the auspices of the BGU Coronavirus Task Force to harness the ingenuity of the faculty and the resources of the university to tackle the many challenges posed by the current pandemic. ★

BIZARRO.COM



Remember — we wear our masks to protect others.



DNA Unlocks the Dead Sea Scrolls



PART 2: ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ASAF RONEI (r) Haaretz.com

[Last month](#) we learned how scientists collect DNA without damaging the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Let's see what the DNA revealed.

Using the new DNA research methods, scientists determined the genetic relationship between the different sheep whose skins were used in creating the scrolls. Analyzing the basic genetic groups (haplogroups) of the sheep made it possible for researchers to derive insight concerning "Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice," one of the most intriguing and important texts found in the scrolls at Qumran.



credit: Ohad Zivgenberg

A "Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice" scroll that was found outside of Qumran

"This is a composition that was unknown before the discovery of the scrolls, but 10 copies of it were found among the scrolls themselves — clear evidence of its importance," explains project leader Prof. Noam Mizrahi from Tel Aviv University's Department of Biblical Studies. "What was not clear was whether the importance of 'Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice' was unique to the sectarian group that left the scrolls behind, or whether it represents the work's popularity among a broader community."

One reason for the considerable interest in this composition is that one copy of "Songs" was found 34 miles south of the Qumran caves, in the excavations on Mt. Masada. Many scholars had discerned a connection between the discoveries at both sites. In their view, during the Great Revolt of A.D. 66–70, when the Romans who ruled the country were preparing to lay siege to Jerusalem and the Qumran community was annihilated, the sect's survivors fled and joined the Jewish rebels who had barricaded themselves at Masada.

The new study calls this hypothesis into question, at least as far as the textual evidence is concerned. **A comparison of the sheep DNA showed that the Qumran scrolls were all made from animals belonging to one genetic population, whereas the scroll found at Masada was made from the skin of a sheep from a different group.**

(continued next page)



credit: Shai Halevi / Israel Antiquities Authority

Cave number 11, where some of the artifacts were discovered. Most of the scrolls were found by Bedouins who didn't want to reveal the original location of the valuable antiquities.



“We did not expect that result,” Mizrahi admits. “It shows that it is unlikely that this copy of ‘Songs’ was brought to Masada by a refugee from Qumran, because this scroll differs biologically from the scrolls found at Qumran.”

According to Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov, an expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls from the University of Haifa, the findings reinforce the possibility that this religious work was widely circulated in Judea at that time, outside the Qumran sect, and has significant implications for understanding the spiritual life of Second Temple Judea.



Masada

Mizrahi adds that discovering the source of the copies of “Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice” is particularly important, because of the uniqueness of the text. It is a liturgical composition — a collection of Sabbath prayers — but also contains an internal narrative. It describes the Heavenly Temple and the angels’ rite of worship. It can be inferred, then, that the authors and readers of the text assumed that there is a Temple in Heaven parallel to the earthly one and that angel-priests in it are engaged in worship. However, activity in the Heavenly Temple did not center around offering sacrifices as was true in the Jerusalem Temple but focused on nonstop uttering of praises of God.

“Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice” is particularly important, because of the uniqueness of the text.

Why is this important? “This was a period when the Temple was still operating,” Mizrahi explains. “Until a generation ago, researchers thought that the idea of fixed and statutory prayer replacing sacrificial offerings in the Temple emerged only after the destruction of the Second Temple.” Discovering prayer collections in the DSS caused researchers to believe that the Judean Desert sect predated Judaism’s transition from sacrificial rituals to the practice of prayer.

Scholars in the past explained that the disputes between different sects of the Second Temple Period, and the insistence by one of them on particularly strict rules of ritual purification, led to the latter keeping their distance from the Jerusalem Temple and remaining secluded in the desert — hence their development of the idea of prayers as a substitute.

However, Mizrahi says that this hypothesis needs to be reconsidered in light of the discovery that the Masada copy of “Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice” is not genetically linked to the Qumran copies.

“It turns out that the idea of prayer as the center of worship was popular beyond Qumran.” It’s possible, he says, that offshoots of the main sect were active elsewhere. **“But now we know that the centrality of prayer in the worship of God was not unique to Qumran.”**

“As long as ‘Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice’ was perceived as a work unique to Qumran, there was a missing link between Qumran and the whole mystical tradition that develops in late antiquity, the early Middle Ages, and afterward,” Mizrahi says. “But if we know now that ‘Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice’ was a work that was known outside Qumran — and until now there was no clear

(continued next page)



sign of that — then we can understand that there were other channels of transmission of these texts and ideas that bridge the missing link.”

Another significant achievement of the new genetic study is to reinforce one of the leading methods for classifying the DSS, which until now was based on the way they were written. For this purpose, the scientists analyzed sheep sequence variation in the nuclear genome, by means of “deep” DNA sequencing and algorithms. These comparisons enabled researchers to distinguish between a cluster of scrolls made from sheep bearing high genetic similarities, and scrolls made from sheep that do not belong to this cluster and that are also genetically remote from one another.

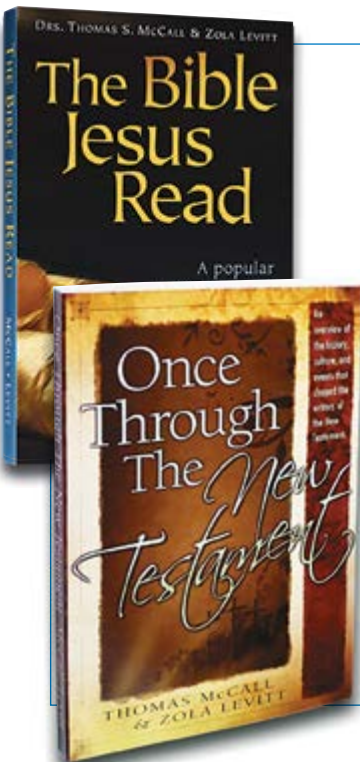
“It turns out that all the scrolls we sampled whose nuclear DNA indicates that they belong to one cluster were correctly grouped as unique to members of the Qumran sect (QSP), whereas the second set (Non-QSP) were probably brought to the sect from the outside,” says The Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Prof. Emanuel Tov.

In addition, the fact that no genetic similarity was found between the external scrolls and the first cluster — nor between any of those scrolls in the external cluster — supports the hypothesis that the Non-QSP scrolls originated in various places throughout Judea. One of the copies of “Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice” found in Qumran now turns out to belong to the second cluster as well.

This further reinforces the hypothesis that “Songs” was widespread outside the sect’s circles.

What next? Pnina Shor, founder of the Dead Sea Scrolls Project unit in the Israel Antiquities Authority, notes that the Authority is working to enlist state-of-the-art scientific tools in an effort to improve the deciphering and preservation of the scrolls.

Wouldn’t information like this article’s add valuable (FREE) history teaching for homeschoolers and remote learners? All *Levitt Letters* offer ideal Bible-based lessons for students, particularly those in high school. — Kirsten ★



The Bible Jesus Read book
by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

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

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

(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)

Toronto Restaurant Dislikes Zionists



BY MARCY OSTER (r) JPost.com

A Toronto health food restaurant has come under fire for using the hashtag “#zionistsnotwelcome” in social media posts.

“Open now — 8pm for non-racist shoppers,” one Instagram post read, with the Zionist hashtag and others, including “#freepalestine.”

In response, Kimberly Hawkins, the owner of Foodbenders, wrote an Instagram post on the issue.

The first thing I will say is that I love Jewish people and they are welcome in my store. I have never said anything about Jewish people. I do not believe criticism of the Zionist political ideology, Israel, or the Greater Israel Project, or pointing out its racist supremacist foundations amounts to criticism of the Jewish people or even Israeli citizens. Some people do believe this and may interpret these criticisms as anti-Semitic, and others will deliberately conflate the two to label you as racist with the primary goal of silencing discussion on Israel.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center called Hawkins’s hashtag anti-Semitic.

“By stating that Zionists are not welcome to its store, this business is basically stating that Jewish people are not welcome,” said Rabbi Meyer May, the center’s executive director. “This is clear anti-Semitism, extremely discriminatory and unacceptable.”

Hawkins countered in an interview with BlogTO. “When I’m making a statement about Zionism, I am not referring to Jewish people,” she said. “It’s about the state government.”

The move apparently has cost business for Hawkins: Uber Canada, Ritual, and DoorDash terminated their delivery agreements with the restaurant and caterer. The Ambrosia Natural Foods chain announced that



Foodbenders store with pro-Palestinian banner in window

it would no longer carry Foodbenders products in its locations.

Meanwhile, Hawkins posted on Instagram an arson and death threat sent through the company’s website.

Hawkins has doubled down on her support for Palestinian causes. She adorned her store window with a large Palestinian flag in addition to the “I (heart) Palestine” sign that was already hung there, and covered her store’s sign with a banner reading “Free Palestine.”

Foodbenders social media posts have said “police brutality is an Israeli export” and “Zionists are Nazis,” and included hashtags such as **#fromtherivertothesea** and **#intifada**. “From the river to the sea” is a popular political slogan used by Palestinians who reject any compromise with Israel. The Palestinian intifadas, which took place in the late 1980s through the early ‘90s and again in the early 2000s, were a series of violent Palestinian protests that involved terror attacks on Israel.

In support, some 200 pro-Palestinian demonstrators held a Day of Rage event in front of the store to protest Israel’s stated plan to annex parts of the West Bank. The protesters accused “Zionists” of brutality and genocide and called for companies to divest from Israel.

[Ms. Hawkins likes Jews ... just not Jews who like Israel. The cover story of August’s Levitt Letter explains Israel’s legitimate claim.](#) — Editor ★





Rabbi Cohen — The Comedian?

Rabbi Cohen, who shall we say was “humor impaired,” attended a conference to help him improve his public speaking skills.

One dynamic speaker boldly approached the podium and gathered the entire crowd’s attention by announcing, “The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn’t my wife!”

The crowd was shocked! But he quickly followed with, “And that woman was my mother!”

The crowd burst into laughter, and he delivered the rest of his talk, which went over quite well.

The next week, the rabbi decided he’d give this humor thing a try and use that joke in his sermon. As he approached the *bimah* (podium) that *Shabbat* (Sabbath), he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him.

Reaching the *bimah* he said loudly, “The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman who was not my wife!”

The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. After almost 10 seconds in the stunned silence, trying to recall the second half of the joke, Rabbi Cohen finally blurted out, “... and I can’t remember who she was!” ★

Answer Key for September 2020 Crossword (p.24)

Across:

- 2. Throne
- 5. Passed
- 7. Inherit
- 10. Bottomless
- 11. Angel
- 12. Quickly
- 16. Thief
- 17. Commandments
- 18. Prophecy
- 19. Dragon
- 21. Temple
- 22. Song

Down:

- 1. Fear
- 3. Earthquake
- 4. Face
- 6. Saints
- 8. Heaven
- 9. Righteous
- 13. Wonder
- 14. Wisdom
- 15. Rejoice
- 20. Blood



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10. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____
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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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FALL TOUR 2020

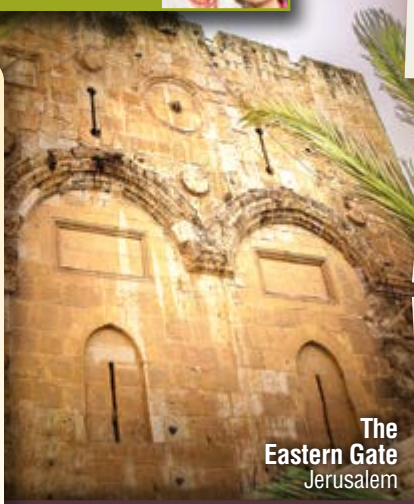
The pandemic forced El Al to cancel our flights and, thus, our Fall Tour. Now we look forward to our 2021 Spring and Fall Tours with even greater enthusiasm, anticipating a return to our beloved Israel and other lands of the Bible.

SPRING TOUR 2021

Deluxe: Mar. 8–18
(Israel only, \$5,288)

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

For more info and registration see:
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See you in
Jerusalem!



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