

We're living through unusual and trying times. The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed and frightened people.

Now, it's more important than ever to focus on gratitude — the practice of noticing and being thankful for what is valuable and meaningful to you. It's good for your mental and physical health, it can help you relax, and its effects can help you stay well through the pandemic and beyond.

It's Healthy

Focusing on silver linings. Counting your blessings. Stopping to smell the roses. These aren't just clichés; they're activities that research shows may enhance your quality of life. The health benefits of practicing gratitude are wide-ranging — and maybe even a bit surprising.

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REMEMBER:

Daylight Saving Time ends 2 am Sunday, November 1 Election Day (U.S.) is Tuesday, November 3 Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26 Thanks for Giving and Taking

By Kirsten Hart OJR Co-host

For many years, I've been intrigued by the popular worship song written by Matt and

Beth Redman, "Blessed Be Your Name." The familiar lyric is based on Job 1:21, "The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away." The bridge in that song repeats the phrase "You give and take away, You give and take away, My heart will choose to say, 'Lord, blessed be Your name."

I'll be honest with you, I haven't liked singing those words (no offense to the Redmans). Why? Because in my mind, I envisioned this larger-thanlife God ripping away from our lives everything we love. Snatching (if you will) from our hands, all that matters

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Matt Redman album, Blessed Be Your Mame: The Songs of Matt Redman Vol. 1, 2005, Survivor Records

TABLE THEORY



AHAVA Mineral Skincare products:

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

AHAVA — Mineral Hand Cream (3.4 oz.)

This mineral-rich cream is specially formulated to protect hands and safeguard them from environmental and household damage. It instantly improves the skin's moisture level, smoothes rough, dry skin, and restores suppleness. Witch Hazel extracts sanitize and smooth the skin, providing a refreshing, revitalizing effect. Allantoin heals dry, cracked skin and blemishes.



AHAVA—Mineral Foot Cream (3.4 oz.)

This effective moisturizing cream softens and renews rough feet including soles. Powered by AHAVA's proprietary Osmoter™ and natural plant extracts, the rich formula of concentrated Dead Sea minerals helps to soothe, repair splits and cracks, and leaves feet smooth and hydrated. Avocado, Wheat Germ, Sweet Almond, and Jojoba oils smooth, soften, nourish, and comfort the feet. Aloe Vera soothes. Tea Tree Leaf oil contains antibacterial and antifungal properties. Salicylic acid helps renew skin.



AHAVA — Mineral Body Lotion (17 oz.)

The Dead Sea minerals and soothing Aloe Vera in this quickly absorbing body lotion protect the skin while they stimulate and elevate the natural hydration processes for a smooth, refined skin texture. Aloe Vera extracts soothe and provide natural moisture. Witch Hazel extracts smooth and sanitize the skin, providing a refreshing, revitalizing effect.





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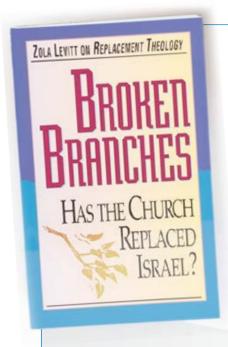












<u>Broken Branches</u>— Has <u>the Church Replaced Israel</u>? study booklet

by Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology

What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, well-intentioned denominations seem to have sprouted blinders to their heritage, the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using Grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read booklet for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)

Solomon's Turning Point:

Tony Derrick Theologian for *Zola Levitt Ministries*



Ecclesiastes 7:1–14

In the first six chapters, we witnessed Solomon tossing off restraint and exhibiting lack of wisdom — an interesting development since he has been identified as the wisest man to ever live. Solomon had lost his way spiritually but is now beginning to turn around.

Do you recall the "prodigal son's" turning point (Luke 15)? It occurred in verse 17: "But when he came to himself..." Solomon's transitional moment similarly arrived. He came to his senses and began to exercise the wisdom with which God gifted him.

The Work of Practical Wisdom (7:1–8)

"A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Solomon points out that it should be everyone's desire to leave a good name that bestows great influence and untarnished reputation.



The Return of the Prodigal Son, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum



Verse 1: A good ointment is known for its quality. We all want products of quality, but quality products cannot compare to someone with a good reputation—someone who has improved the lives of others.

In the second part of verse one, we read that the day of death is better than the day of birth. What? We don't like to discuss death. We try to avoid the subject, and modern western medicine has helped to extend the life expectancy of most people. Solomon, however, knew that life under the sun could not compare with life in the presence of God.

Paul expressed it this way in Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." I think Paul and Solomon are on the same page on this one.

The next three verses are very similar in their message, so we will consider them together.

Verse 2: "Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart."

Verse 3: "Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better."

Verse 4: "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."

Traditionally, at least in the South, when a person dies, someone will provide a meal for the grieving family. During that mealtime, memories are shared and laughter fills the hall. Then, once everyone is gathered in the memorial service, the food and laughter are forgotten, and an attentive perspective about life comes into focus as they mourn. According to Solomon, only fools would look upon the memorial service as frivolity.

Verse 5: "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools."

The wise person who rebukes (corrects) us could be a teacher, friend, or a parent. If we are wise, we will accept it and give thanks that someone cares about us.

Verse 6 compares the words of fools to the crackling fire of a thorn bush—quickly popping and just as quickly fading out.

Verse 7 suggests that the temptation to live outside of wisdom could become so intense that a person could give in to it and ruin their reputation.

Verse 8: "The end of a thing is better than its beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Why is the end better? Because we can look back and see how everything progressed to bring us to a point of completion. No matter your stage (age) in life, you probably have thought about moments

you could re-do. Normal? Yes. Possible? Not a chance!

"A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth."

Ecclesiastes 7:1

During this pandemic, we all have experienced the challenge of being patient. But rather than rushing ahead, we should take the advice found in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God..."

Living Life Now (7:9-10)

Solomon follows in verse 9 with wise counsel, warning that we should not be quick to anger, because the end result may cause us to look foolish, not wise. That harks back to verse 1 regarding a good reputation. We could miss the opportunity to be heard if we "blow our top."

Verse 10 points us to the age-old question: Do we really want to relive yesterday? From my walk through history books about the "good ol' days," it seems to me they really weren't that good. I doubt that any of us would trade our modern conveniences for yesteryears' struggles. I agree with the Psalmist: "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Practicing Practical Wisdom (7:11-14)

- 1. Wisdom brings a defense, a protection. Verses 11 and 12 point out that living life in wisdom prevents the overwhelming foolishness that Solomon addressed in the first six chapters foolishness that can shorten one's life. I think that is what Solomon was addressing in verse 12: "... wisdom gives life to those who have it."
- **2.** Wisdom acknowledges that God is ultimately in control of everything. Look at verse 13 as we close this study: "Consider the work of God; for who can make straight what He has made crooked?" Simply put, who can change what God has done?

The conclusion in verse 14, then, is that God has appointed prosperity at times and, at other times, adversity. Our response to each is the key to a life lived in wisdom!





Thanks for Giving and Taking

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



continued from cover

to us. God gives you something; then before you know it, He takes it away—as if you never deserved the very gift that He gave you in the first place. Those words always left me feeling that if you think you finally have happiness in your life, just watch. God can pluck it away before your very eyes!

November brings the American season of Thanksgiving. Amidst the delicious feasting on our favorite traditional dishes, many of us also reflect on the goodness of God in our lives. Thanksgiving is a day to purposefully sit back and count our blessings. We number and name the things God has *given* us. But do we ever consider thanking Him for what He's taken away?

Once I contemplated and studied Job 1:21 in context, my eyes opened. God can deliver us from a bad situation in our lives by taking that circumstance away. Sometimes, God takes us out of situations that are harmful for us. His act of taking something away isn't

intended to disappoint us or make us sad. Quite often, He redeems the mistakes or predicaments we once considered blessings.

In Leviticus 16, we learn about the "scapegoat." An actual goat was chosen to symbolically take away the sins of the Israelites. This "scapegoat," bearing all the people's sins for the previous year, was sent into the wilderness on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). As we now know, Yeshua/Jesus was the ultimate Embodiment of the Torah's scapegoat. Jesus took upon Himself the weight of people's sins, not only of the Hebrew people, but of the whole world. He took away our sins and gave us the opportunity to have life eternal through Him.

So, the giving and taking away in Job? I get it now. Yes, we can rejoice that God chooses to give us blessings. But taking away **burdens** can be the greatest gift ever!

Have a blessed holiday of Thanks-giving and Thanks-taking.



DAVE GRANUND © www.davegranhund.com



Zola on Prophecy: Ants on a Picture

Classic Zola Levitt from 1990 30 years ago







Flag of Communist East Germany (1959-1990) ... with ant added

Dear Zola:

We are aware that the old Roman Empire must be revived, but Bible scholars have generally designated East Germany as Gomer who will side with Russia in the invasion of Israel. It seems that both Daniel and Ezekiel's prophecies could have been nicely fulfilled even if Eastern Europe had remained communist and under the control of Russia.

Your thoughts?

To





Defining the Terms

We might define some of the letter writer's terms. The theology is accurate in that Scripture indicates a revival of the former Roman Empire in the same territory (Western Europe), and it indicates that the area we call Eastern Europe is where the people called Gomer migrated after the Flood. On old Biblical maps, Gomer is found to the northwest of Israel, and modern commentators have associated it with Eastern Europe. To specify East Germany as Gomer is too specific; the Eastern European area is meant. Some teachers refer to it as the "Danube territories."

The prophets specified that the Empire would be revived (Daniel 7:19–28) and that the disposition of Gomer toward Israel would be hostile (Ezekiel 38:5, 6).

All prophecy will happen as written whether or not we understand it or are skillful in applying it to what we observe in the world situation.

The prophecy would be clearly understood if everything had stayed the way it was last winter—if the old rules of Communism had remained, and Eastern



The Soviet Union In Its Heyday

Europe was still, in effect, a Russian satellite and ally. With the breakup, people (like this letter writer) are asking what happens to the prophecy of the coming Russian invasion of Israel and the participation of Eastern Europe.

Faith in God, not in Our Understanding

First, we must understand that all prophecy will happen as written whether or not we understand it or are skillful in applying it to what we observe in the world situation. When Dr. Tom McCall and I first published our book on

this subject, Moody Press, the publisher, was skeptical of the theory. Was Russia really going to invade Israel, the editor-in-chief asked, and should we just state it that way in black and white? Once we explained our analysis of Ezekiel's invasion of Gog and Magog (Ezek. 38 and 39), that careful and conservative publisher accepted the book. It was an immediate bestseller.

What fascinates readers are the things seen by Ezekiel, not the observations of us modern writers. In every age, Christians attempt to fit the prophecies into their own worldly situations (a worthy activity). We are not to be asleep as the children of darkness (1 Thess. 5:3-6); we are to observe the world around us and draw conclusions. We can draw wrong ones and we can miss subtleties in the prophecies, but we are to be thinking about these future events and not ignoring them, as the non-Biblically-studied people around us do.

The problem with trying to fit a prophecy fulfillment into the huge picture of ongoing contemporary events is that, as human beings, we can't see the whole picture of global affairs.

In its time, World War I looked just like Armageddon. World War II and Hitler looked to many Believers like the Tribulation Period and the antiChrist. However, both events were missing important pieces of the prophecies.

Israel, for example, was not back in its land until after the Second World War, so key Tribulation prophecies like the rebuilding of the Temple could not be reasonably foreseen. Bible readers adjusted their scholarship accordingly, but didn't drop the idea of watching for the prophecies to be fulfilled. In like manner, the configuration of the satellite states of Eastern Europe looked very good in light of the End Times pictures of Daniel and Ezekiel, but other

configurations may work as well in these prophecies. We must finally remember that all will be fulfilled because, as the Lord put it, "It is written."

The tendency of Bible readers to try to place prophecy fulfillment in their own times occurred here with the prophecy of the Russian invasion of Israel. Teachers have taught throughout this generation, and I am certainly one of them, that the prophecy seems imminent—and it still does, in my view. But Biblically speaking, we have only the information that this prophecy will be fulfilled between the time when the Jewish people are restored to their land, Israel, and the inception of the Kingdom to come, when the sanctuary will be rebuilt in Jerusalem (see Ezekiel's "dry bones" vision in chapter 37*). We have seen,

Imagine tiny ants walking on a gigantic painting, each trying to judge what it depicts.

and are still seeing, the restoration of the Jews back to the Land. This is an ongoing process that began in earnest in 1948 and is receiving an enormous impetus now, with the Jews coming out of Russia bound for Israel.

The problem with trying to fit a prophecy fulfillment into the huge picture of ongoing contemporary events is that, as human beings, we can't see the whole picture of global affairs. Imagine tiny ants walking on a gigantic painting, each trying to judge what it depicts. Add to that the fact that crucial parts

of the world are in an uncomfortable period of transition, most notably Russia and Eastern Europe, and it is difficult to hang our wishful prophecy thinking on any solid surface.

But a few things are clear even in this transitory time, and we'll examine them next month.



Zola's observation above that "all prophecy will happen as written whether or not we understand it" applies just as well to Creation having happened just as written "whether or not we ... are skillful in applying it to what [scientists] observe." — Editor

^{* (}See Ezekiel and the MidEast "Piece" Process DVDs on page 17.)

The Forrest Gump of Jewish History BY MATT LEBOVIC (r) TimesOffsrael.com





Famous photo of "Avengers" partisan group led by Abba Kovner. Kneeling in the front (with hat) aiming his gun is Benjamin Levin.

When Benjamin Levin told his life story to Steven Spielberg, the acclaimed director called Levin "the Forrest Gump of Jewish history."

As the youngest and last surviving member of the celebrated "Avengers" partisan group, Levin later swam off the destroyed Altalena and smuggled himself into the new Jewish state. Earlier this year, at age 93, Levin succumbed to a brief battle with COVID-19 outside New York City.





The formative experiences of Levin's life took place during the Holocaust, when he joined the Avengers partisan group at age 14. In the forests of Lithuania, the adolescent fighter killed Nazis, blew up their trains and bridges, and helped sustain other Jews trapped inside ghettos. The key moments of Levin's life revolved around making difficult choices.

"Ordinary people are put into extraordinary circumstances," said his son Chaim Levin. "What they do after is the measure of humanity."

Important for the partisan group, Levin brought the assets of short stature and a non-threatening appearance — traits that served him well as a scout and saboteur.

After his parents died, Levin and his sister moved to pre-state Israel, where he joined the extremist Irgun, beginning his career in the right-wing paramilitary group by transporting Jewish survivors from Europe to Israel. Traveling through Turkey and Syria, Levin's partisan skills served him until the Soviet army arrested him for these illegal activities.

After spending a year in a Siberian gulag, Levin hitchhiked his way to Italy and rejoined the Irgun. The organization helped him complete a degree in mechanical engineering, after which they assigned him to the engine room

of a ship that sailed around Europe and North Africa in search of funds, ammunition, and fighters for the nascent Jewish state.

After a year of sailing, the ship was renamed *Altalena* [a nom de plume of Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky]. In addition to weapons donated by France, on board were hundreds of Holocaust survivors and American volunteers.

In June 1948, a few weeks after David Ben-Gurion declared Jewish statehood, the *Altalena* attempted to dock in Tel Aviv. Once docked, Irgun members could rearm their comrades engaged in battles for Israel's survival.

Due to rumors that the Irgun was planning a military coup, the recently established IDF attacked the *Altalena* on Ben-Gurion's orders.

Under machine-gun fire and shelling, Levin was among the last people to jump from the smoldering ship, along with its captain. With several other Irgun fighters, Levin managed to cross the beach and sneak into the country. Three years later, he met his wife Sara, a Hungarian Jew, who in another twist of fate, as a member of the Haganah paramilitary group had been

credit: Israel Government Press Office

June 22, 1948—The ship *Altalena* burns after being shelled near Tel Aviv.

supporting soldiers as they fired on the *Altalena*, the ship her future husband was on.

Although political opposites within Zionism, the couple had two children and moved to the U.S. in 1967. After working as a mechanic for the NYC transportation authority, Levin fulfilled a dream by owning his own gas station.

For many years, Levin was a fixture at New York City high schools, where he spoke about the Holocaust and importance of the choices people make. For the past few years, said Chaim Levin, the survivor needed his son to be his voice in these encounters. However, he still relished the hugs and handshakes bestowed on him by thousands of students through the years.

Despite the horrific circumstances of his youth, Levin had "an enormous amount of energy and joy and love," said his son. "He was by far the most popular person in the nursing home."

In the 1994 film *Forrest Gump* starring Tom Hanks, the protagonist finds himself at the center of many turning points in history. Gump had Vietnam, JFK, and running across America. Levin had Lithuanian forests, the Avengers, and swimming ashore from the *Altalena*.



Ask the Chaplain



Do Jews come only from the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin since the other ten tribes of Israel are lost to history?

Dr. Todd BakerZola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Some historians mistakenly teach and believe that only survivors from the Southern Kingdom of Israel are Jews, whereas Scripture includes and calls those from the Northern Kingdom Jews as well. While the term "Jew" originated as a shortened form of "Judah," "Jew" and "Israelite" became synonymous terms about the time of the Babylonian captivity (597–538 B.C.).



Mosaic depicting the twelve tribes and their Hebrew names, from Givat Mordechai Etz Yosef synagogue facade. Ha Rav Gold Street, in Jerusalem.

Scripture never claims that ethnic Jews come only from the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The burden of proof would fall, therefore, on anyone making this mistaken claim; they would need to show this historical pattern in Scripture — but they cannot. A Jew is any descendant of the 12 sons of Jacob. To say that descendants of the 10 "lost" tribes are not called "Jews" or "Israel" is incorrect and not supported by history or Scripture.

Genetic science in Israel has recently identified through DNA Jews who belong to the various tribes of Israel—most recently, Jews descended from the ancient Tribe of Levi (e.g. Zola and Mark Levitt). God has preserved



and knows all of the tribes now, even if they remain unknown to man. Were they lost to history, then the promise of Jeremiah 31:35–37 would be void along with all the other End Times prophecies calling for the nation of Israel's regathering and rebirth. In the New Testament, the same people who are called "Jews" 174 times are also called "Israel" no fewer than 74 times. Statements like those in Matthew 19:28; Acts 21:39; 22:3; 26:1–7; Romans 11:1–2; 2 Corinthians 11:22; Philippians 3:5; Romans 9:4–5 illustrate this practice.

Since the first remnant returned after the Babylonian exile, sacred historians, prophets, apostles, and the Lord Himself regarded "Jews" — whether in the Land or in "dispersion" — as representatives of "all Israel" and the only people in the line of covenants and promises that God made with their fathers. The terms Jew and Israel are used interchangeably in Scripture to refer to one and the same people.

Moreover, in the Tribulation Period, when the Jewish people are back in the Land of Israel, God will gather 144,000 Jewish evangelists—12,000 from each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:3–8). This, too, indicates that all Twelve Tribes are known to God and never lost to history. In the Millennial Kingdom, the Land of Israel will be divided into twelve portions, one for each of the Twelve Tribes to live in as the Lord assigns (Ezekiel 47–48). The people who constitute the nation of Israel are known, preserved, and protected by the God who promised that they would never cease to be a nation before Him (Jeremiah 31:35–37).

Many want to claim that they are the 144,000. But how many can correctly reconcile their family tree with the math equation given in Scripture? — David *

Soldiers in the Far North

On every Gospel outreach to Israel, **To The Jew First** team members travel
to Mount Hermon in far north Israel to
visit Israel Defense Forces soldiers stationed there and give them Messianic
Gospel tracts and complete Hebrew
Bibles. (Complete Bibles include both
the Old and New Testaments.)

August Rosado and I arrived at the military outpost wearing our IDF jackets to show our solidarity with the IDF. Two soldiers — Yuval and Shagah — emerged from the small station to greet us. After August and I shared some of the major Messianic prophecies from the Tanakh (Old Testament) with them, they were both compelled by the Holy Spirit to accept complete Bibles in Hebrew from us. Shagah gave us a brotherly hug in response to this evangelical gesture.



August with IDF soldiers Yuval and Shagah

August and I explained that Mount Hermon is the likely site of the Transfiguration of Messiah Yeshua and that Moses and Elijah stood on each side of Him, indicating that the Law and the Prophets point to Yeshua/Jesus as the promised Messiah. Yuval said that he wanted to read about it in Matthew 17 from his new Bible.

The next day August and I drove to Jerusalem from Tiberias. As we have done for the last few years, we stopped at Kasser-al-Yahud in the Judean desert alongside the Jordan River.

Dr. Todd BakerZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



Todd and Moran at Kasser-al-Yahud gift shop

In the tourist gift shop, we met **Moran**, the young Jewish cashier, and were able to share with her this site's Biblical significance. We explained that the greatest prophet of the Old Testament (Isaiah) had prophesied that a forerunner would prepare the people of Israel for the coming Messiah Yeshua (Isaiah 40:1–3). John the Baptist was the prophesied forerunner, and many archaeologists believe that this spot in the river is where John the Baptist baptized Yeshua/Jesus (Matthew 3).

As in the days of John, Jew and gentile must still repent of their sins (teshuva) and put their trust in Yeshua the Messiah. He was crucified as the final kippurah (atonement), buried, and raised from the dead three days later to give us eternal life and a home in Heaven after we die.

Moran was very excited to learn all this from the Gospel that we earnestly shared with her. When August and I offered her a complete Hebrew Bible, she jumped at the opportunity and repeatedly said that she looked forward to reading about what everyone must do to be saved (Acts 16:30–31).

Praise God for a powerful witness to interested soldiers and an open daughter of Abraham.

This report is from a previous year's outreach trip because of this year's pandemic. — Editor



Contemplating Life as an Echo

A Note from Mark by Mark Levitt ZLM Director



Except for Yeshua, Zig Ziglar (1926-2012) is my favorite motivational speaker of all time. In the mid-80s, after earning a business management degree from UT Austin, I was a greenhorn salesman. Zig's sales training audiocassettes (remember audiocassettes?) and books gave me the essentials for conducting sales presentations and closing purchase transactions.

In the '90s, Zig taught Sunday School classes that I attended at Prestonwood Baptist Church in North Dallas. It was no secret that much of his famed, secular sales training had Biblical roots. Here's one of his classic quotes: "Life is an echo. What you send out comes back. What you sow you reap. What you give you get. What you see in others exists in you." Sarah Liberman echoed similar Biblical particulars in the October Personal Letter, citing Galatians 6:7 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.



For weeks now, I have been admonishing this ministry's staffers, contractors, and vendors to sow into preparedness. "I'm a Prepper; You're a Prepper ..." on page 21 of the January 2013 Levitt Letter explains why all Believers are "preppers":

By accepting Jesus as their Savior, they stockpile an abundance of grace (Romans 5:17). Whenever the Rapture comes, they have

their ticket to ride. And, if the Lord tarries, they're prepared with their Pearly Gates pass.

During Thailand's 2004 tsunami, Dr. Dwayne Meadows, a NOAA* conservation biologist and educator, was in a beachfront vacation bungalow with his back to the Indian Ocean. The ocean suddenly receded a quarter mile from the shore, building a tsunami that carried Meadows out to sea. After swimming back to shore, he realized that the sea level was again astonishingly low and that another wave was coming. He quickly led survivors of the first wave inland to outrun the second. He was prepared with knowledge on which he acted.

Dr. Meadows's video entitled, "The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: A NOAA Scientist's Story of Survival" is at:

https://bit.ly/2FT2rmG

At only 2½-minutes, it is laden with

wisdom. He explains that the best defense you can have is your own preparedness. Tsunamis resemble pandemics (and echoes, for that matter) in the sense that they come in waves. His admonition to learn the basics about tsunamis can be applied to learning that pandemics mutate, ebb, and flow.

Proverbs 21:20 relates to preppers, whether their goal of self-sufficiency is three days, weeks, or months (I gravitate

toward several weeks): "There is desirable treasure and oil in the squanders it." Matthew 6:34 advises us not to worry about tomorrow, in part, because "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Meanwhile, today's pandemic(s) drawing back like the Indian Ocean in 2004 may signal that we should prepare for (and not worry about) sheltering in place.

dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man

^{*} National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ZLM Bulletin Board the peace Jerusalem



Spock's Jewish Blessing

Since Star Trek's television debut in 1966, millions of Trekkies, impersonating the famed half-Vulcan, have been unknowingly blessing one another! For the origin of Spock's Vulcan salute, see actor Leonard Nimoy's enlightening five-minute interview

at youtube.com/watch?v=DyiWkWcR86I.

Courtesy of the Yiddish Book Center, the clip is full of Hebrew tidbits and reveals whence Spock got his widely recognized "Live Long and Prosper" greeting gesture.

Hint: look at the Hebrew letter Shin. り





Zola's Free Buffet

25 years ago, our vendor offered to copyright protect the VHS cassettes on which we marketed our television series. We declined after imagining post-Apocalyptic evangelists being foiled when trying to distribute copies of Zola's timeless Bible teaching to underground cell churches. Now we've gone a step further in disseminating Messianic teaching: Our news magazine ads for DVDs (pp. 17, 20) serve as menus for a free online buffet that is open 24/7 (levitt.tv) for those who crave solid, two-Testament, Bible

teaching from Israel.



Donate with a Smile!

When you shop at Amazon, log in through Smile.Amazon.com instead of the regular website, and Amazon will donate to ZLM 0.5% of your net purchase total.

You can use the same log-in that you use for Amazon.com, and you'll see the same merchandise at the same prices. Please be sure to designate Zola Levitt Ministries as the nonprofit to receive the charitable gift that your purchases generate. Thanks.

amazonsmile

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Q&A About Estate Planning

discusses embracing the future by taking time to prepare for it. After explaining what estate planning is and what occurs without a plan, the pamphlet suggests how to begin creating one. It also touches on ways to complement a will, such as trusts, joint ownership arrangements, powers of attorney, and beneficiary designations. Finally, it suggests ways to make charitable gifts within estate plans while enjoying immediate tax savings, plus other benefits. To receive a free copy, email staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. Request POM #5.





Let Your Light Shine

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



אַלתִים יְחָנֵנוּ וִיבָּרְכֵנוּ יָאֵר פָּנָיו אָתָנוּ סֶלְח

"May God be gracious to us and bless us; may He cause His face to shine upon us, Selah*" (Psalm 67:1)



It is written in our Scriptures: "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Our Savior is "the Light of the world" (John 8:12), the overarching Reality that gives light to every soul who is born (John 1:9). As the Source of all light, His power is irrepressible, invincible, and overcomes every shade of darkness. Yeshua is the "Logos" (Word), the underlying "Logic" of all of Creation.

Unlike the transient radiance of the heavenly bodies, the Divine Light remains constant and supreme over all of Creation, without any diminution or variation: God is the "Father of Lights" (James 1:17). And just as we know that the sun still shines even on the most overcast of days, so we understand that the Divine Presence is always there — always giving, always shining, always loving us.

We can trust in the power of our God to help us, since His radiance and truth pervade the darkness to enlighten our way (Psalm 112:4). As Yeshua said of His mission, "I have come into the world as a light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46). O precious LORD our God, let Your light shine upon us.

May the light of God's love shine within you brightly. As Yeshua our Savior said, "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, such is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21). Note that the Greek word for "manifest" means to "shine inside" (ἐμφανίζω, from ἐν, "in" and φαίνω, "shine"), indicating that the revelation would be inward light of the Divine Presence.

Indeed, the Hebrew word for "praise" (tehillah) comes from a verb that means "to shine" (halal), from which we derive the word "halo." Similarly, the word "aura" comes from

the Hebrew word ohr, meaning "light." Let your inner light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give honor to your Father in Heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

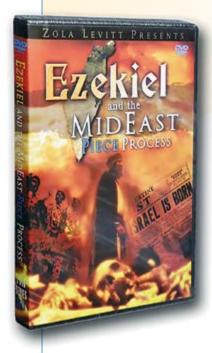
^{*} Selah generally indicates a pause or rest — an interlude for reflection.





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In this eight-part television series, **Dr. Jeffrey Seif** and **Mrs. Sandra Levitt take viewers into one of the Bible's most mysterious and fascinating books**. Ezekiel forcefully predicts Israel's re-emergence as a nation-state at "day's end," and prophesies that neighboring nation-states will marshal military resources to annihilate the fledgling state. Let's consider pieces to Ezekiel's End Times puzzle.

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Israel's Neighbor States Israel will rally against its hostile neighbors. This program highlights Ezekiel's predictions that larger regional forces will mobilize against Israel in a climactic war that the aggressors will lose.

The Valley of the Dry Bones Israel's re-emergence as a nation is dramatized through a startling vision of skeletons rising from their graves, forming a mighty nation. Independence Hall in Tel Aviv serves as the backdrop to a remarkable prophecy fulfilled in 1948.

The Battle of Gog and Magog The nations surrounding Israel are bent on its destruction. Thousands of years ago, Ezekiel foretold an end-times war, but also predicted a miraculous Israelite triumph.

The Restored Temple Ezekiel prophesied a restored Earth and a new Jerusalem Temple from which miraculous healing waters will spring forth. Ultimately, God's ways are known on planet Earth.

Please see the Classic Zola Levitt article on page 7.







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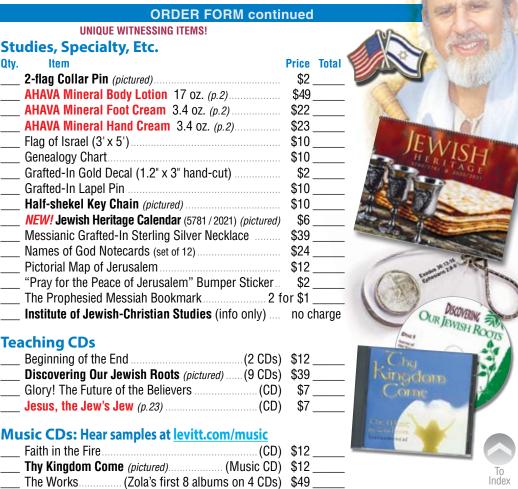
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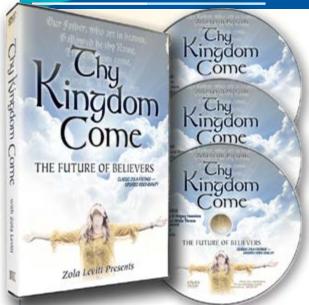
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Thy Kingdom Come—The Future of Believers 3 DVDs

This twelve-program series searches Bible prophecy to reveal the glorious future events awaiting all Believers in Messiah.

Overview From a scenic park near Jerusalem, Zola reveals Believers' future according to Bible prophecy.

The Rapture Zola teaches at a graveyard on Mount Zion about the "catching up" of Believers, the first End Times event on the prophetic calendar. He and Dr. Tom McCall discuss the event's amazing surprise and timing.

The Judgment Seat Of The Righteous Among the ruins of ancient Caesarea, Zola explains how Believers will be rewarded for their works.

The Wedding At the rose garden near the Knesset in Jerusalem, Zola teaches about the Believers' wedding to the Messiah and its Jewish context.

The Second Coming There is no better place for Zola to teach about the return of the Lord than the place from where He left—the Mount of Olives.

The Throne Of Judgment From the Valley of Decision in Jerusalem, Zola teaches on the judgment of those who will live and die during the Great Tribulation.

The Kingdom Begins Viewing the Temple Mount, Zola teaches on the Messiah's 1,000-year reign on Earth. Zola and Dr. McCall talk about day-to-day life in the Messianic Kingdom.

The Kingdom In Progress Zola explains how different it will be to live in the Millennial Kingdom. American-Israeli Reuben Prager prepares for the next Temple.

The Gog & Magog Invasion Zola reveals how, at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, Satan is released one last time to battle the Lord.

The Great White Throne Judgment Zola teaches on this last and final judgment that sees the wicked doomed to eternal separation from God.

Eternity Near David's Tower, Zola speaks of the new Heaven, the new Earth, and the New Jerusalem, and the delightful conditions that await Believers.

The Music Beautiful scenes of Israel from the music videos featured in this series.



Fun and Games

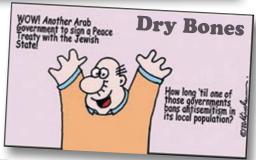
This month, Dry Bones cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen cautiously celebrates the new agreements in the Middle East.

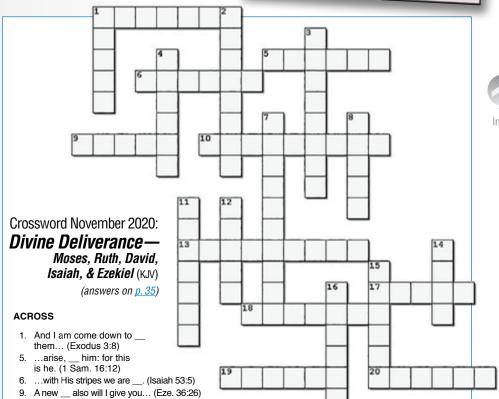
Dry Bones









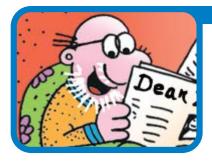


- 10. So they two went until they came to __... (Ruth 1:19)
- 13. And let them make Me a __... (Exodus 25:8)
- 17. And the __ of the Lord appeared... (Exodus 3:2)
- 18. Behold, my __ shall deal prudently... (Isaiah 52:13)
- 19. And Boaz said unto the __... (Ruth 4:9)20. The __ of the Lord God is upon me... (Isaiah 61:1)

DOWN

- 1. ...Joseph, thou son of __... (Matthew 1:20)
- 2. He is despised and __ of men... (Isaiah 53:3)

- 3. And David was the __... (1 Sam. 17:14)
- 4. ...to give unto them $_$ for ashes... (Isaiah 61:3)
- 7. So David prevailed over the __... (1 Sam. 17:50)
- 8. ...if ought but __ part thee and me. (Ruth 1:17)
- ...the Heavens were opened, and I saw __ of God. (Eze. 1:1)
- 12. ...Son of man, can these __ live?... (Eze. 37:3)
- 14. ...and they called his name __... (Ruth 4:17)
- 15. ...and, behold, __ issued out... (Eze. 47:1)
- 16. ...all that thou __ unto me I will do. (Ruth 3:5)



Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the **web store** and **video** archives.

What constitutes "literature"?

Dear ZLM.

Doesn't referring to the Holy Writ, The Bible, The Torah, as "literature" cheapen its integrity as the only authoritative, holy, infallible written Word of God? God's Word deserves better nomenclature than "literature." — J.R. (OR)

Dear J.R.,

The definition of literature is a "collection of written or oral work" — exactly what the Bible is. Some readers object to describing Biblical heroes as characters or figures. Zola was known to laugh about The Overcrowded Ministry of Rebuke as well as The Ministry of Distraction. —Kirsten

It's Biblical!

Dear Dr. Seif,

I purchased videos from Our Jewish Roots so I could free up DVR space on my cable box. I record your programs and appreciate your Bible teaching. I like your perspective on the Apostles being Jewish believers in Jesus. —J.M.H.





Dear J.M.H..

The Apostles being Jews

who believed in Jesus isn't just Dr. Seif's perspective; it's a Biblically documented fact. To learn more about these handpicked, Jewish men living in Israel, you can see our **FREE**, nine-program, Classic Zola television series *The First Christians* at **levitt.tv/media/series/DFC**. Thanks for your purchases. —David

P.S. You might also find this essay on Luke's Jewishness interesting: https://www.levitt.com/essays/luke

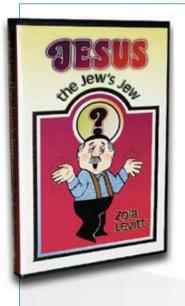
Holocaust survivors

Dear ZLM,

I enjoy the *Levitt Letter* and the stories of Holocaust survivors. I'm amazed that anyone could survive this inhumane campaign, but if we do not stand up for God, His Word, His Truth, and His Promises, it will happen again. Thank you for sharing His Word, Truth, and Promises. May God shower you with His Blessings, in Jesus' name. I now have <u>levitt.com</u> bookmarked so I reread the *Levitt Letters*.—Love & prayers, N.H.

Dear N.H.,

H.R. 943 — 116th Congress (2019–2020) recently passed and expands U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum education programming. The new law requires the



Jesus: The Jew's Jew teaching CD

The book begins: "Let's face it. Jesus is Jewish. He always was and He always will be. He never 'converted' to anything. But it almost seems as though this fact is something to be spoken of in whispers. How could God's Son be one of them? How could the very founder of Christianity, that great 'non-Jewish' religion, get away with being Jewish?"

Zola's first book addressed his heritage and his faith—an especially fresh and unvarnished look at the world unique to Jewish Christianity, a witness to the Chosen People, and Zola's personal testimony.

(This title is also available as an eBook, as are many others.)

museum to develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to improve awareness and understanding of the Holocaust.

Meanwhile, at <u>levitt.tv/media/series/DHO</u>, you can watch *The Holocaust*, our six-program Classic Zola TV series for free. —Mark

Israeli pioneers

Dear Sarah,

I enjoyed reading your accounts of Israel's pioneers in the <u>August</u> and <u>September Personal Letters</u>. I doubt that most of those early immigrants realized the impact that their bold actions would have on future generations. But these pioneers were fulfilling a prophecy and a mandate from the Lord Himself. These were truly remarkable people, and because of them, Israel lives today. Peace and prayers for you, your family, and for Israel. —A.H. (CA)

Dear A.H.,

Your kind comments have been passed along to Sarah. The pioneers who helped re-establish Israel as a nation are analogous to our study-tour pilgrims who uphold Israel's legitimacy by going there to pray and study their Bible in the land where it was written. —Kirsten

Young Earth, old Earth

Dear ZLM,

From my perspective, we are always finding out things that conform to Scripture. There are some things that we do not understand, that we may never understand, and that we just have to take by faith that God worked them out and it is not for us to

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HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

LETTERS TO ZLM continued

discover (Deuteronomy 29:29). We can't come to understand all things before we come to faith in God, otherwise, it would not be faith. We just have to take God at His Word and believe what He said. —T.R. (SC)

Dear T.R.,

From your pen to our readers' eyes! As a dyed-in-the-wool young-earth adherent myself, I couldn't agree more that Believers must simply accept the literal Word of God at face value, despite whatever modern society's ever-more-enlightened science du jour might corroborate. "Science" that disputes the Bible is reliably junk science, and that (as Zola used to say) is all there is to that. — Mark



Dear T.R.,

I also agree that faith is a foundational requirement, though I still marvel that science continues to affirm God's Word. Put it this way: I don't try to explain to my 3-year-old grandson the intricacies of how a car works beyond the fact that it starts with a key. That's a true statement, but it isn't the whole story. I'll enjoy watching him discover that fuel is also required, and then a battery. Eventually, he'll get the whole picture, but his store of knowledge isn't quite ready yet.

So, I imagine, God gave early man a simple explanation. After all, how do you explain internal combustion and shock absorbers to someone who hasn't yet discovered fire or the wheel? Imagine God's delight as man began discovering all that went into His magnificent Creation and began to appreciate how intricately it all works together! —Editor



Can't please everyone

Dear ZLM,

I am horrified that you published the Jewish Humor column in the <u>August 2020 Levitt Letter (p. 35)</u>. The "joke" was racially charged, made light of the tenets of the Christian faith (e.g., the Virgin Birth), and was sacrilegious towards our Messiah. I'm very disappointed that this is the view of our holy Lord that ZLM has condoned and chosen to publish. Such a "joke" should have no place in the life of a Christian. —B.S.

Dear B.S.,

You're referring to the lighthearted speculation that Yeshua, based on stereotypical character traits, theoretically might have been Black, Jewish, Italian, Californian, Native American, or female. Your horror may highlight the wisdom of T.R.'s approach, above, to take the Bible literally at face value.

Consider the joke's speculative characterizations of Yeshua a Biblical awareness challenge—a tongue-in-cheek reminder that our Savior was born exactly where (and how) prophesied—NOT in Africa, Italy, California, or Native America, or female. Our <u>Prophesied Messiah bookmark</u> on p.19 displays 17 OT prophecies and NT fulfillments about Yeshua's authenticity. Despite the joke's silliness, it could break the ice to discuss the merits of the bookmark or even the Nativity story.—Mark

A father's love — an important role model

Dear ZLM,

Please thank John Parsons for his September Hebrew Lesson in which he pointed out that Spirit-led obedience happens when we fall in love with God. I realized that my problem with obedience stemmed from the fact that I didn't love God enough!

My distant and critical father made me feel unloved growing up. He wasn't affectionate, so I didn't know what a father's love should feel like.

I want to love Jesus and obey Him. I decided to model my mother's love; she loves me very much, and I love her. This is helping me to make the changes I want. I have accepted Christ into my heart and now feel really saved and loved. Thank you for your prayers! —E.H. (OH)

Dear E.H.,

I don't know if any of us is capable of loving God enough. Thankfully, His love continues faithfully, despite our inabilities. Your statement of feeling "really saved" is this ministry's singular goal: that everyone would know real salvation. Thanks for sharing your experience. — David

Consorting with undesirables

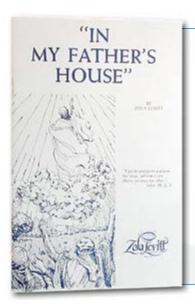
Dear ZLM,

This concerns your *Levitt Letter* cartoons. The last straw was Jesus sitting at a lunch counter having coffee with an obviously bleary-eyed, hung-over cartoon rabbit and saying to the rabbit, "You think you had a rough weekend?" (June 2020, p. 24)

You think that's FUNNY? Mocking the bloody and horrendous crucifixion of the Son of God is FUNNY to you? -M.H. (TX)

Dear M.H.,

God still appreciates a chuckle. But humor isn't universal. Perhaps we'll hit your funny bone next time. As to whether or why Jesus might consort with the Easter Bunny, He was "a friend of tax collectors and sinners," after all (Luke 7:34). —Editor



In My Father's House study booklet

A unique and very important Bible study. Most people plan more carefully for a two-week vacation than for the seven years we Believers will spend as guests in our Messiah's Father's house. What will we do during our time among the "many mansions," and how do we prepare for it?



Battling Alzheimer's with Enzyme-busting Drug



SCIENCE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOflsrael.com

Israeli startup ProteKt Therapeutics is developing a drug to treat early stages of Alzheimer's by targeting an enzyme (PKR) that is believed to play a part in the development of the devastating neurodegenerative disease that causes memory loss and the inability to function.

The company hopes that inhibiting the enzyme will bring about cognitive improvements in patients and slow the progress of the disease. It also hopes that the same treatment, when developed, could help with other neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS [Lou Gehrig's disease], Huntington's, and Parkinson's.

The company was founded by the Carmel-Haifa University Economic Corporation and the Carmel Innovations Fund, based on the research of Prof. Kobi Rosenblum of the University of Haifa.



To Index

Everyone has the enzyme, Yotam Nisemblat, CEO of the Ness Ziona-based firm explained. But people with Alzheimer's were found to have elevated

PROTEKT Therapeutics



Yotam Nisemblat, CEO of ProteKt Therapeutics

levels, or "over-activation," of PKR. "Inhibiting" the enzyme, he added, can bring it back to its normal level of functioning.

Using a robotic and computerized process to sift through millions of molecules, ProteKt has identified a series of 150 small synthetic compounds that could help inhibit the enzyme. The compounds were found to be able to reduce the neuro-inflammatory markers that are typical of Alzheimer's and protect neurons in the brain from the toxicity of amyloid betas, peptides made up of 36-43 amino acids that are the main components of amyloid plaques found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's.

In the lab, the compounds also had the ability to improve critical elements of the neuronal functionality of the cells, indicating their potential to improve cognition.

Future studies will focus on whittling down the group to identify the most effective molecule, further improve it, and make sure it is "selective, stable and soluble"—all factors needed when developing a drug.

The industry has been seeking new ways to slow down the illness's progression and halt patients' deterioration. Nisemblat is aware that the way ahead is long. Because there is no clear, single cause of Alzheimer's disease, there is also "no single target" to aim at in trying to beat the illness.

Blood Tests Accelerated by 98%



MEDICINE: BY SARAH CHEMLA (r) JPost.com





The innovative technology, which was published in the peer-reviewed *Nature Communications*, was developed by Professor Tomer Shlomi—a faculty member



tumors based on blood tests.

Prof. Tomer Shlomi

in the Faculties of Computer Science and Biology and a member of the Lorry I. Lokey Center for Life Sciences and Engineering — and two doctoral students.

This new method uses a unique combination of both mass spectrometry and innovative computation. Mass spectrometry is a common device to determine the concentrations of molecules in biological samples. This determination normally requires a process called chromatography that separates the materials according to chemical properties. The innovative computation identifies the optimal working configuration in the mass spectrometer. The computational analysis also corrects the measured raw information and accurately

quantifies concentrations of thousands of molecules in blood samples.

In the current study, Prof. Shlomi's method skips the chromatography and directly uses mass spectrometry without significantly damaging the quality of the analysis.

The test is completed in just 30 seconds, thus shortening the process by about 98% and reducing its cost accordingly.

Giving Thanks During Covid continued from cover

- The practice of gratitude can improve immune function, according to the American Heart Association. This is especially important during the COVID-19 crisis, since people with compromised immune systems face a high risk of becoming severely ill from coronavirus.
- Studies show that people who practice gratitude show a significantly lower risk for mental health issues: major depression, generalized anxiety disorder, and substance dependence and abuse.
- Focusing on positive emotions can help improve your ability to cope with stress.
- Set yourself up for success. In clinical trials, grateful people have been shown to exercise more and eat healthier diets.

Practicing Gratitude Can Be Easy, Rewarding — And Fun

Cultivating thankfulness doesn't require much time or energy. You can start small by taking a few moments to notice things that are going well in your life.

Make this a regular habit by setting aside a short time each day to intentionally practice gratitude. Try one or more of these activities to start.





Write down the things you're grateful for. It doesn't have to be a long list, but regularly challenging yourself to identify and name your gratitude may perceptibly improve your emotional well-being.

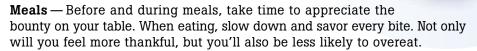
For example, list:

- One place that is safe and relaxes you
- One area that's going well in your life
- · Three activities you enjoy
- Three things you're looking forward to
- Two people whom you love and who love you

Try an easy-to-remember acronym, HEART:

- *Health:* Think of what your body allowed you to do today. Maybe your feet enabled you to walk around the house or your arms allowed you to hold a pet you love.
- Eat: What nourishment did you provide your body today? What was your favorite meal?
- Activity: Did you do something today that you really enjoyed? Take a moment to savor it.

- Relationship: Did you see or talk to someone today who brings you joy? Or are you planning to see someone on a video chat who fits that description? (The person in the mirror counts.)
- *Time:* There's no time like the present. Allow yourself to be grateful for the fact that you're here.



Sleep — Before falling asleep, take a moment to think about the positive things that happened during your day. Gratitude often provides a better night's sleep.



Stop and Savor — It might be hard to recognize positive moments while they're happening, but if you practice enough, you will get the hang of it. When you find yourself enjoying a moment — a sound, a memory, a conversation — try to pause for a bit and bask in the experience.

Devote time to yourself — You deserve some pampering, and it's one more thing you can be grateful for later on.

Pass It On — The more selfless you are, the more you may get out of sharing. You may feel happier and more satisfied with life when you volunteer.

While staying safe, you can check on neighbors, clean out your closet for donations, and say "thank you" to essential workers.

If you find yourself saying that you have nothing to be grateful for, try thinking about all the little things you have. You may find that you're taking for granted certain abilities or privileges you have that others don't.



Now More than Ever

In times of crisis, it's important to stay connected to others, and among its many other benefits, gratitude can help with this, too.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that people who practice gratitude are:



- More generous and helpful
- More likely to offer emotional support
- More likely to share their possessions
- More willing to forgive others

If ever there was a time when these traits were needed, it's now.

This article is worth repeated readings. By the way, David and I are thankful for you, the reader. — Kirsten

The opposite seems to hold true as well: Those who are generous and helpful are more likely to practice gratitude. —Mark





Bahrain Normalizes Relations with Israel

By Hugh Fitzgerald / JihadWatch.org

When the United Arab Emirates agreed in August to normalize relations with Israel, excited speculation arose about which Arab country would be next and when. Would it be Oman, where Prime Minister Netanyahu visited at the invitation of the late Sultan Qaboos in October 2018? Could it be Chad, whose President Deby agreed in January 2019 to restore the diplomatic ties with Israel that it had broken in 1972, but has not yet committed itself to fully normalize? Might it be Sudan, because last February the

head of Sudan's Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, met with Netanyahu in Entebbe, Uganda? And what about Bahrain?

It turned out to be Bahrain in early September. King Hamad of Bahrain is a Sunni ruler with a predominantly Shi'a population, the kind described as "restive." There have been street protests against his rule — an uprising in 2011 was quelled with the Saudis' help — and he worries about Iran meddling in his country. He appreciates Israel's ability to run circles around the Iranians, foiling plots large and small, and sharing intelligence information on the Islamic Republic with the UAE and Saudi Arabia.



Bahrain's FM Abdullatif-Zayani, Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Donald Trump and United Arab Emirates (UAE) FM Abdullah bin Zayed participate in the signing of the Abraham Accords, at the White House, Sept. 15, 2020





The official Abraham Accords emblem

King Hamad is especially glad, as are almost all the Sunni Arabs of the Gulf, that Israel keeps managing to cause delays in Iran's nuclear program.

- Stuxnet, the computer worm that Israeli cyberwarriors used in 2010, caused 1,000 Iranian centrifuges to speed up so fast that they destroyed themselves.
- Israeli agents assassinated, one after the other, four of Iran's top nuclear scientists.
- Then, in the dead of night, in the middle of Tehran, Israeli agents managed to locate a certain nondescript building where the guards had knocked off for the night. The Israelis blowtorched their way in and, within six hours, made off with almost the entire nuclear archive of Iran: 50,000 pages of documents and 134 computer discs full of information.
- Finally, there was the July sabotage of the new centrifuge facility built by the Iranians at Natanz. That attack alone apparently set back Iran's nuclear program by two years.

No country has done more than Israel to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, and the Sunni Muslims in the Gulf — including Bahrain's ruling family — know it. The easing of Sunni Muslim relations with Israel comes amid a backdrop of shared Arab fears about Iran's threat to the region.

Ramallah rages, of course. One can imagine the spittle-flecked fury flying from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, followed by the glum faces of Hanan Ashrawi and Saeb Erekat, expressing that slough of despond into which both have lately fallen. But what can the Palestinian Arabs offer the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Sudan, Chad, or any of those

other Arab states likely to follow suit? Nothing.

Normalizing relations with Israel offers Arabs progress, prosperity, and cooperative ventures in technology, trade, tourism, Israeli advances in medicine, agriculture, defense, cybersecurity, solar energy—shared with Arab researchers, invested in by Arab businessmen, with the entrepreneurial flair of both Israelis and Arabs.

The juggernaut started to roll with the UAE. It has picked up steam with Bahrain. And there's no way now for the Palestinian Arabs—recently rebuffed by the Arab League—to stop it.

Whether these agreements last or not, all Believers should "sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim—pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). —Kirsten

"Martyrdom is for Children"

By Nan Jacques Zilberdik and Itamar Marcus PalWatch.org



PalWatch screen capture

Palestinian kids' destiny is to die for Palestine – they should "sacrifice" themselves for Jerusalem and its holy sites! That is the official message from Abbas' Presidential Office.

In an interview on official PA TV, the Director of the PA Presidential Office's Jerusalem Unit bragged that "the boys and girls of Jerusalem are teaching the entire world what sacrifice and self-sacrifice are."



First Temple-Era Artifacts May Help Save Earth



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



Boys on their way to play cricket walk through a dried patch of Chandola Lake in Ahmadabad, India. The decade that just ended was by far the hottest ever measured on Earth, capped off by the second-warmest year on record, as reported by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



The Bible and pure science converge in a new archaeomagnetism study of a large public structure that was razed to the ground on Tisha B'Av 586 B.C. during the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem. The resulting data significantly boosts geophysicists' ability to understand the "Holy Grail" of Earth sciences — Earth's ever-changing magnetic field.

"The magnetic field is invisible, but it plays a critical role in the life of our planet. Without the geomagnetic field, nothing on Earth would be as it is," said Hebrew University Prof. Ron Shaar.

In the new study published in *PLOS One* scientific journal, lead author and archaeologist Yoav Vaknin harvested pieces of floor from a large, two-story building excavated in the City of David's parking lot. When ancient Jerusalem was burned, minerals embedded in the floor were heated at a temperature higher than 932° F, which magnetized them, thus offering geomagnetic coordinates.

The coordinates taken from the floor give a rare "peephole" of the Earth's magnetic field during Tisha B'Av 586 B.C., said Tel Aviv University Ph.D. student Vaknin.

"The floor of the structure is filled with magnetized minerals that absorbed the [magnetic] field that was on Earth at the time. Since the magnetic field changes all the time, we're trying to reconstruct it. Here, we have a little peephole, accurate to the day, of the ancient magnetic field from 2,600 years ago," said Vaknin.

There is a general consensus among scholars that the arson and wanton destruction depicted in 2 Kings 25:8–9 took place on Tisha B'Av. However, gaining "surety to the month, and even to the year is very rare" when speaking of events that took place 2,600 years ago, said Vaknin.

Archaeological findings such as pottery sherds, bricks, roof tiles, and furnaces essentially record the Earth's magnetic field as they burn. This is because the artifacts are constructed of magnetic minerals—such as the floor's calcite—that are re-magnetized in the high temperature to the direction and magnitude of the field when they were heated.



According to Vaknin, the importance of his study goes well beyond the use of another hi-tech technique that helps to date the tricky First Temple Period. Knowing the dates for the Babylonian destruction allows archaeologists to more securely date other Iron Age artifacts.

But more important, he added, is that the gathered data allows physicists to use pinpointed coordinates to build more complete computer models of one of the most enigmatic subjects in physics: the magnetic field. "Archaeology gives us an incident that we can date very, very accurately," said Vaknin, "very accurate information on the time axis of when Jerusalem was burned." The physicists take over from there.

What is the geomagnetic field?

According to Hebrew University's Shaar, a co-author on the study, "The magnetic field is generated by chaotic electrical and fluid currents at the Earth's core. We geophysicists are trying to understand how it changes with the time, because it is constantly changing, and we are trying to understand why and what mechanisms drive the changes."

According to NASA: "Every magnet produces an invisible area of influence around itself. When things made of metal or other magnets come close to this region of space, they feel a pull or a push from the magnet. Scientists call these invisible influences 'fields.'" If you've ever seen iron chip sprinkles on a piece of paper

being sculpted by a magnet moved under the paper, you've seen a magnetic field.

The study of the magnetic field may be key in comprehending climate change: The magnetic field serves as Earth's shield from cosmic radiation and charged particles from the Sun. It is also used as a navigation tool by man—think compass—and by many birds and marine mammals who are naturally attuned.

Since the study of the magnetic field is still a relatively young discipline that began with Carl Friedrich Gauss in the 1830s, there is a data



TAU PhD student Yoav Vaknin measuring a floor that collapsed during the 586 B.C. destruction of Jerusalem.

blackout from before scientists began charting its coordinates. The ability to gather geomagnetic coordinates from a specific date 2,600 years ago is exceptionally rare, said Shaar. The ability to chart the past may allow scientists to



predict the geomagnetic field's future behaviors, which perhaps may help the future of humankind.



City of David parking lot excavations

"The magnetic field of Earth actually changes its polarity over time. They are called Polarity Reversals. There have been about 170 of these reversals during the last 76 million years according to geological evidence." Also according to NASA, "Geophysicists have noted that the strength of Earth's magnetic field has been decaying — about 5% globally over the past century. However, it is not changing in a uniform way; it grows stronger in some places and weaker in others."

A weaker shield is not considered positive, but scientists still don't know enough to understand what it could mean, said Vaknin.

Use of archaeomagnetism in Israel

"Dating ancient material is never an easy task, never," said geophysicist Shaar.

"We are sitting in Israel on a gold mine! It's unbelievable." Geophysicists work in cooperation with archaeologists who provide them with archaeological material that can be dated and compared with other data points.

"Measuring magnetic data from a floor burned thousands of years ago is no trivial matter. We have to characterize the magnetic particles, understand how the magnetic data was coded in the material, and develop measuring techniques that enable us to read this data. Nature hasn't made life easy

for us," he added.

At the same time, Shaar is cautious about relying on one method to firmly date an artifact or an event. "Fortunately, in this particular study, Yoav [Vaknin] was able to decipher nature's magnetic code and give us important information from several angles: historic, archaeological, and geomagnetic," he said.

Such remarkable discoveries may offer evidence that Israel remains the apple of God's eye! — Mark *



Ashes from the 586 B.C. destruction of Jerusalem in the City of David Park.

Jewish humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is good medicine-Proverbs 17:22



St. Peter's Entrance Test

When Forrest Gump reaches Heaven, St. Peter tells him that he must pass a short entrance exam to enter. There are three questions.

1. What two days of the week begin with "T"?

F.G. — That's easy: Today and Tomorrow.

St. P.— Not what I had in mind, but good

2. How many seconds are in a year?

F.G. - 12

St. P.— How did you get 12?

F.G. — There's gotta be 12: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...

St. P.— OK, I'll accept that.

3. What is God's first name?

F.G. — Andy.

St. P.— What makes you think "Andy" is God's first name?!

F.G. — I passed a church last week and they were singing, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me Lam His own..."

St. Peter opens the gate to Heaven and instructs: Run, Forrest, run!

(see "The Jewish Forrest Gump," p. 10)



Answer Key for November 2020 Crossword (p.21)

Across: 1. Deliver 5. Anoint

6. Healed

9. Heart

10. Bethlehem

13. Sanctuary

17. Angel

20. Spirit

1. David 18. Servant 2. Rejected 19. Elders

3. Youngest 4. Beauty

14. Obed 15. Waters 7. Philistine 16. Sayest

11. Visions

12. Bones

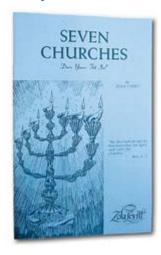
8. Death





Seven Churches -**Does Yours Fit In?** study booklet

by Zola Levitt



The Lord appeared to the Apostle John at Patmos and dictated the dramatic Revelation of Jesus Christ. He began with commentary on seven churches of the time, which has remained an object lesson for all generations. The seven churches of Asia as seen by the Head of the Church.

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