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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

January 2021

Our fathers' faith is sustaining us! Every aspect of this ministry is seeing God's hand at work. You probably see it in your life as well. On the cover of this *Levitt Letter*, you can read how He recently provided for our film crew.

This Covid pandemic brings out both the good and the bad. Israel, of course, keeps introducing new inventions and solutions (p. 9, 26, 27). Kirsten and Mark comment on how the virus has been affecting our society and Holy Land study tours (6, 7, 14), and John Parsons lays out the recipe for peace — both inner and interpersonal (16). Zola recalls for us a time when ZLM staffers welcomed drop-in volunteer assistance (10). We look forward to the return of those days that had fewer cares.

Discover witnessing tips from Todd (12, 13), and what turned one Jordanian Muslim man to Christ (8). Supporters of Palestine should see p. 34. Both our humor (35) and archaeology pages (30) reveal Israel's past, and oenophiles will love reading what Herod added to wine (31).

My family enjoys celebrating all 12 Days of Christmas, especially observing Epiphany on January 6, the day that commemorates the Magi arriving to worship the toddler Messiah. Believers should celebrate year round the Good News that those Magi carried back to their nations.

Enjoy your Epiphany, and as you're making New Year resolutions, please *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6),



Margot

Margot, Editor  
Zola Levitt Ministries

**P.S.** You and I see a strong need for Yeshua's Gospel all around us. Please help ZLM get His message of salvation onto the airwaves and into print by supporting our anointed work. With income from study tours to Israel non-existent last year and this spring due to travel restrictions, we would appreciate some sustaining partners committing to send a few dollars each month.

**Please pray about it, won't you?**

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# Levitt LETTER

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

credit: Hadas Panush/Fest190

## Israel Rules Against Messianic Jews

By David Lazarus / *Israel Today*

Israel's Knesset Finance Committee (pictured above) voted recently to prevent a Messianic Jewish congregation from receiving tax benefits on donations and taxation on land as allowed for synagogues and churches. The committee is headed by Rabbi Moshe Gafni (*center*), one of the heads of the ultra-Orthodox party United Torah Judaism.

The decision should serve as a wakeup call for all Messianic Jews, considering that it was unanimously approved by all 16 committee members, including Arabs and Jews, secular and religious, left-wing and right-wing.

**Financially, this is a setback for the Messianic Jewish movement in Israel, because the ability to write off income tax for donations would have been an important incentive for supporters to donate.** In the U.S., Britain, and many countries around the world, contributing to recognized nonprofits allows donors to reduce the amount of income tax they pay.

*(continued p.2)*

REMEMBER:  
*Epiphany is Wednesday, January 6*

inside: Be  
Ye Kind p.6

## Faith of Our Fathers

By Clayton Herring,  
Assistant Producer  
at Berg Productions

In the face of difficult circumstances, it is easy to get discouraged or diverted from your goal. However, sometimes the only choice is to continue moving forward. (*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9)

Because of scheduling limitations, the *Our Jewish Roots* filming crew locked in a full week of field production at Capernaum Village, located 60 miles from Dallas. Usually, the last week of October is mild in Texas, but not always. Wouldn't you know... an arctic front decided

*(continued p.3)*



## Israel Rules Against Messianic Jews *continued from cover*

But monetary challenges are not the biggest problem for the Messianics, who already receive plenty of support from Christians around the world.

These were the arguments given by Israeli members of Knesset for denying Jews who believe in Jesus tax breaks for their nonprofits:

“These [Messianic] organizations are involved in missionary activities converting Jews to their religion, and we oppose approving tax breaks for them,” Committee Chairman Gafni said at the opening of the hearing.

The problem is that no matter how Jewish you try to make it, **faith in Jesus is still seen to be another, non-Jewish religion**, and not only by Orthodox Jews like Rabbi Gafni. Yair Lapid, the secular chairman of the opposition party that has enjoyed the support of many young Messianic voters in the past, added:

“We vote against a mission that works to convert Jews. It is the right of the Jewish people to protect themselves and their children. This decision is about not giving state funding to missionary activity whose purpose it is to convert Jewish children to *another religion*.”

We are used to hearing such things from Orthodox Jewish leaders, but these words coming from such liberal lips should be a special wakeup call to many Messianic Jews.

Messianic Jews—who have been working hard for the past 50 years to show that a Jew who believes in Jesus *is* Jewish—should be concerned that many in the Israeli government believe that Messianics are converting Jews to “another religion.” Most in Israel see Messianic faith as Christianity, albeit in Hebrew.

It seems that no matter how hard Messianic Jews try to “prove” their Jewishness, the stumbling block is still Jesus Himself. Calling

him by Yeshua—His Hebrew name—does not change the fact that He still represents 2,000 years of Christianity, which is seen as the antithesis of Judaism and, more often, as an enemy of the Jews.

The fact that many Messianic Jews consider themselves as part of Christianity only contributes to the confusion. Clearly, there is still a long way to go if Messianic Jews want to convince Israelis that a Jew who believes in Jesus remains Jewish.

It must also concern Messianics that their request was coupled with one from the Jehovah’s Witnesses for the same valuable status. **In the eyes of the Knesset committee, Messianics and Jehovah’s Witnesses are part of the same problem**, because both are “working to convert Jews in many ways and methods, sometimes in violation of the penal code that prohibits preaching to minors in exchange for conversion to another religion.” Messianic Jews cannot be happy being grouped with Jehovah’s Witnesses, who are considered a cult by Christians, Messianic Jews, and average Israelis.

Will the Messianic Jews in Israel ignore these realities and carry on with business as usual? Will we shout “persecution,” appeal for more Evangelical Christian financial support, and thus further distance ourselves from the Jewish world?

Or will we take to heart the deep rift between the majority of the Jewish people and Jesus and find a way to build bridges back to our own people for the sake of the Gospel?

*I’ve always wondered what was in Messiah’s heart when he wept over Jerusalem (Lk. 19:41). Perhaps it was the sadness of too many of His Chosen not recognizing Him. —Kirsten ★*



credit: Benny Shilovich



The Knesset, Jerusalem, Israel



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## Faith of Our Fathers *continued from cover sidebar*

to come through the area, bringing with it highs in the 30s, a strong north wind, and rain. We needed two full days to complete our dramatic re-enactments inside a small structure that had no insulation, no water, no power... yeah, basically just a shack. Its exterior is pictured below.



But the interior appearance provided a perfect setting for our Colonial-era dramas. Thanks to the artistic vision of our director Kenneth Berg, great preparation from our actors, a talented crew, two propane heaters,

and, of course, the indwelling Holy Spirit, we accomplished our task! (*"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:26)

The post-production process begins now, getting everything ready for the series to debut in late winter or early spring 2021. Please watch for this enlightening series that we hope will inspire your faith. As we are thankful for the Lord's divine deliverance, we also thank you for your financial support. ★



credit: photos by Ken Berg

# Leadership 101: Ecclesiastes 8

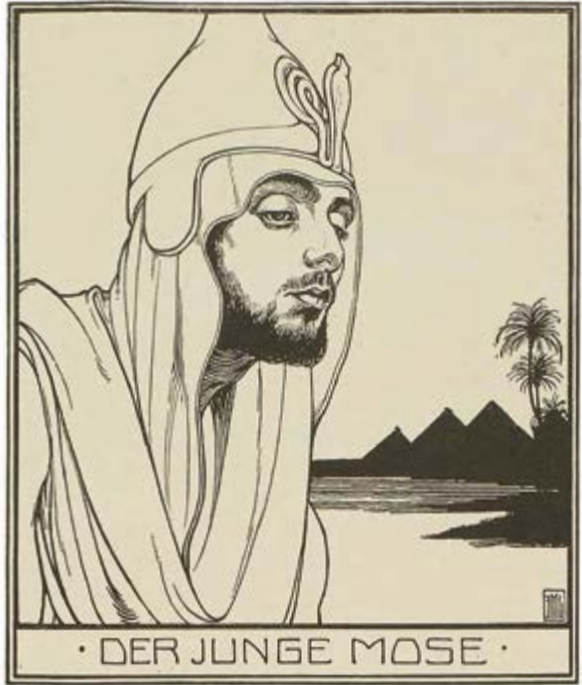
**Tony Derrick**  
Theologian for  
Zola Levitt Ministries



Being in leadership at any time in history brings out the best and worst in people. I'm certain that each of you readers can think of a leader who made wise decisions and a leader who made foolish decisions.

One Biblical example of leadership is Moses. Even though he was chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, he was not allowed to cross over into Canaan — the Promised Land — because he didn't uphold God's holiness before the Israelites (Deuteronomy 32).

In the first nine verses of Ecclesiastes 8, Solomon clearly talks about a person in authority, or we might prefer the title "leader." The following are a few noteworthy points.



*The Young Moses*, illustration by E. M. Lilien (1874–1925)

## Leadership Disciplines (8:1–9)

### 1. Think Before You Act (8:1)

A wise man will cast a vision and confidently lead an organization in a successful direction. The same directive could apply to the head of a household or anyone in a place of leadership.

### 2. Maintain Kindness (8:1b)

*"A man's wisdom makes his face shine."* Wouldn't you prefer to work for, or with, a delightful person rather than a grump? I thought so.

### 3. Control Your Tongue (8:2–4)

Solomon encourages leaders to weigh their words. Just because someone is in a place of leadership doesn't give him the right to verbally abuse. I am reminded of a children's song that applies here: "Oh be careful, little tongue, what you say."

### 4. Make Confident, Informed Decisions (8:5–7)

Solomon uses the term "command," because exercising authority instills confidence in an organization's leader. That same wise leader will know the right timing in making those decisions. In these uncertain times, leaders must be creative, strong, and steady.

### 5. Know Your Limitations (8:8)

*"No one has power over the wind to retain the wind. And no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, and wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it."*

(continued next page)





This verse is very sobering to those hard-pressing leaders who believe that they have the final say about everything. Not so. One cannot control the wind (Hebrew — *ruach*) or the day of death.

## 6. Don't Manipulate People (8:9)

Solomon points out that manipulating people not only hurts the person and the organization but also the leader.

## Leadership's View of Life's Inequities (8:10–17)

The end of this chapter, verses 10–17, focuses on how a leader views the inequities of life. We can use Solomon as our example, taking his advice for future leaders.

1. Solomon observes in verses 10–14 that it is unfair for the wicked to go unpunished. In verse 11, his consternation derives because punishment for the wicked doesn't come quickly enough for him. Every leader wishes that dealers in lies and falsehoods would see just rewards quickly. But, that's God's business, not ours.

Leaders want results — quick results and fair results. Unfortunately, there are mysteries about life that we will never understand.

I generally don't use personal examples, but this one rings true for me. My maternal grandfather could often be heard singing, if ever so softly, the song "Farther Along" (Stamps-Baxter Music Co. 1937). Granddad was born a triplet in 1898, and lived through two world wars, the Great Depression, the assassination of a president, and more. Here's the song's chorus:

*Farther along we'll know all about it,  
Farther along we'll understand why;  
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,  
We'll understand it all by and by.*

Solomon notes in verse 13 that it is only a matter of time before the wicked will be punished.

*"But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days,  
which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God."*

2. In verse 15, Solomon concludes that life should be lived with the enjoyment and blessing of God. His reference is not to "loose living," but to enjoying the rewards of honest work and Godly leadership. It can be accomplished when one accepts that **God's purpose is sometimes a mystery**.

Please remember: *"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"* (Romans 8:28, KJV). ★



# Be Ye Kind Ephesians 4:32

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



## Congratulations... you made it to 2021!

After the year we just had, that's quite an accomplishment. 2020 was a year of extreme change and adapting to unusual circumstances and ways of living. You did it. I did it. We did it. Whew! I'm ready for a new year.

My line of work makes me a frequent visitor of social media sites. I enjoy reading about the daily events of folks around the world. My personal take-away from this past year of observing life through social media eyes: We really need to work on our kindness.

As a body of believers in Messiah, we have been charged to be kind to one another. This is typically an easy feat when those around us agree with our point of view. It's actually rather enjoyable and comforting to communicate with those who believe what we do. Kindred spirits. Fellowship. Easy.



If we've learned anything from this past year of sparring politics and science, it's that we, as a human race, are far from mutual agreement. I have friends and family who are polar opposites in their views on politics, church attendance, and face masks. It seems as though walking through a **worldwide pandemic caused many to build up walls rather than embrace each other with respect and kindness.** I think we can do better. Paul instructs us to do better.

In Ephesians 4, Paul describes for the church at Ephesus what the body of Believers\* *should* look like. Apparently, the ancient Ephesians had to deal with some of the same issues that we face today—especially how we treat each other. People in Paul's day didn't have social media to "hide behind," as we do today. It's easier to lash out at someone with a different view when you aren't face-to-face. (It shouldn't be, but it is.) Believers in Paul's day, as today, didn't utilize all of their kindness skills.

In Ephesians 4:1, Paul urges us all to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Indeed, we Believers have received a high calling. Yet one of the characteristics Paul urges us to display should be simple: kindness. In verse 4:32, he tells us simply to *"be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* (NIV)

*(continued next page)*



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

If you can't say something nice,  
don't say anything at all.

What if all Believers vowed this year to extend a little extra kindness to others in our world, even if they have drastically opposite points of view? **Are you familiar with the expression “Kindness goes a long way”?** Let’s make that our 2021 motto. ★



## Until It's Gone

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



“You don’t know what you have until it’s gone” applies to friends, family, and many other blessings you and I too often take for granted. “More than I can say grace over” can be a suitable reply when asked, “What’s been happening with you lately?” Both sentiments presently aptly apply to our ministry.

In 2020, for the first time in four decades, we missed filming Holy Land television footage and hosting our spring and fall study tours. The setbacks and inconveniences caused by COVID-19 have forced us to adapt (which we’ve done rather well) and

primed us to be especially grateful when we return to Israel this fall.

Thank the Lord for Capernaum Village. Near Dallas, it has been a wonderful location for dramatic re-enactments of Biblical events. PTL, despite the pandemic, we’ve successfully kept our two new national television networks — TBN on Thursdays and TCT on Sundays (see [p. 35](#) for [airing schedule](#)). We’ve been blessed by Sarah Liberman, our *Sabra* on the ground in Israel, whose *Personal Letter* messages began last [July](#), and by Tony Derrick’s incredible Ecclesiastes study that resumed in the [August 2020 Levitt Letter](#). ★



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# From Disillusioned Muslim to Christian Arab Zionist

BY RAMI DABBAS (r) [Algemeiner.com](http://Algemeiner.com)

I am a Jordanian Arab from a Muslim family, born in 1989. In 2010, I decided to leave Islam after becoming fed up with all the jihadist violence, intolerance, and persecution of non-Muslims. What made my decision final was the realization that this violence and hatred was justified by verses of the Koran and Hadith.

From 2010 to 2012, I was an atheist, though I continued to seek the truth regarding God and religion, even visiting Buddhist temples in Amman.

I was a university student at the time and announced my newfound atheism through social media, which immediately turned many friends and colleagues against me. They felt I was backward in my thinking, and I came to feel the same about them.

As you are no doubt aware, atheism is detested in the Arab and Islamic world. I faced a lot of hurtful opposition from those around me, but I kept my head down and focused on completing my university studies. It wasn't easy. There were those who tried to have me kicked out because of my stance against Islam, but they failed.

In 2012, I decided to visit a church and learn more about Christianity. I was curious about Jesus. After four months of investigating, I joined an international church under the auspices of an American priest. On the very first day, I was asked to pray for salvation, after which one of the Christian brothers gave me weekly Bible lessons. Shortly after, I was baptized in the Jordan River.

Jordan is seen by many as a moderate Muslim country. But even here, it is illegal to leave Islam. The civil courts are still governed by sharia law, and a complaint against you for rejecting Islam can result in criminal punishment.

This didn't deter me. **In 2012, I made an online video telling people in Arabic about how I'd become a Christian. Several days later, I was attacked by three radical Muslims.** I also received threats from a radical Salafi movement under the leadership of Jarrah Rahahleh, an international terrorist who used to send jihadists to Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and who was arrested many times by Jordanian authorities. Further threats came from others.

I left Jordan and joined some European demonstrations against radical Islam. Then came the terrible right-wing terrorist attack in Norway by Anders Breivik. Given his affiliation with a defense league based in England, European authorities tightened the noose on the entire anti-Islam movement.

But I had already found my peace. From the darkness of Islam to the emptiness of atheism and finally to salvation in Christ, my journey for truth had brought me to the light of Jesus.

Rami, we will pray for your boldness and supernatural protection as you walk out your calling in life. —David ★



A worshiper walks in front of the Dome of the Rock in the compound known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City, March 2020.

credit: Reuters / Ammar Aweid



# Arabs From Gulf States Rush to Learn Hebrew

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

Maysoon Hameed comes home from work as a vice president of an Emirati bank, spends time with her family—and then begins a 90-minute live Hebrew class online.

“After the UAE signed the [Abraham Accords](#) with Israel, there are a lot of investment opportunities” for both sides, Hameed says. “If I have colleagues from Israel, we don’t have to speak English all the time, even though that is the international business language. We feel closer speaking in a mother tongue.”

Hameed is one of nine Emirati students of Citizen Café, a Hebrew language and Israeli culture school in Tel Aviv.

“We have always had ambassadors and diplomats, so we barely noticed a few businesspeople from the UAE,” says Tamar Pross, who founded Citizen Café in 2015.

“But after the peace agreement, an article mentioned an Emirati diplomat studying with us. Suddenly we noticed more people contacting us. Educated, sophisticated, lovely people from the Gulf tourism and business sector are all eager to engage with Israelis.”

Asked why they want to learn Hebrew, some UAE students said that they have Israeli friends and want to impress them. Some are Jews who live there and want to learn about their heritage.

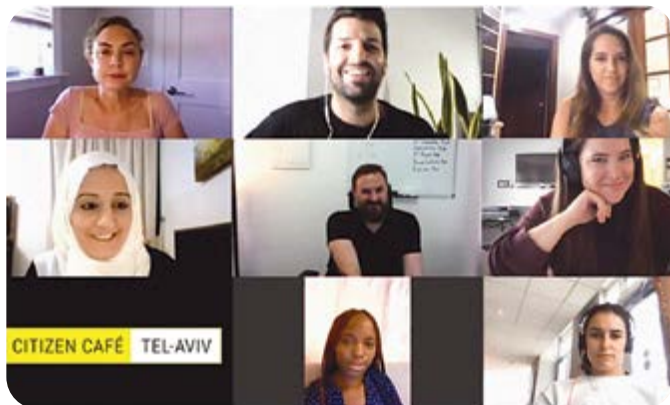
“They all tell us how motivated and eager they were to connect and

engage with Israelis, and a lot said they can’t wait to visit. The Emiratis are very active on our social media groups,” Pross continues, noting that the pandemic has been a busy time for Citizen Café. The 60 classes in fall over Zoom required a staff increase from 10 to 40 to meet the demand from countries spanning China to America.

Ulpan-Or provides Hebrew lessons to about 100 middle and high schools abroad, mainly in North America. Co-founder Yoel Ganor says demand grew in the first wave as people got comfortable using online platforms like Zoom.

Gil Pentzak, director of Ulpan Aviv, also saw an increase in students—both adults and children—during the first wave of the pandemic in March.

Ulpan Aviv’s one-to-one Hebrew lessons reach students on several continents. **Typically, students are businesspeople, diplomats, or Christians** wanting to learn Biblical Hebrew.



A Citizen Café Hebrew class, including Maysoon Hameed from Abu Dhabi, middle left.

Ami Steinberger, founder and CEO of Ulpan La-Inyan, also has more classes now than in pre-corona times. “We moved to an online platform at the start of the pandemic, and now people are learning online from just about everywhere.” ★



credit: courtesy Citizen Café

# “Ye Shall Know Them by Their Love”

John 13:35

Classic Zola Levitt  
from 1981  
40 years ago



Remembering the days before COVID-19, when ZLMers could drop by and lend a hand.

This is a general thank you to all of those who have volunteered help, services, cookies, and whatnot to our ministry. Many local folks have come to our offices and done a day's work — or several days' — in stuffing envelopes, recording gifts, answering phones, and the like. To those we are tremendously grateful.



*Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, woodcut for Die Bibel in Bildern (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)*

Out-of-towners have offered odds and ends of goods and services that have many times helped this ministry get through some pretty painful times. None of you has asked anything in return for what you have given, and your good works are generally known only to the Lord. You have stored up much treasure in Heaven.

Any help with the outreach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is precious to God, as He made clear in the Scriptures time and again. We can't list every one of you in this space, so we'll take this public method of expressing our thanks for your love. God, who knows every one of you personally and keeps better records than we do, must be extremely proud of you.

## For Sinners Only

**I finally heard a “St. Peter at the Pearly Gates” story worth repeating.** This one had to do with a rather learned and pious pastor of a large church.

The good pastor was quite confident as he approached Peter, seeking entrance into Heaven. “I’m sure you’ve heard of me,” he told the Apostle. “I’ve occupied a very important pulpit for the past 40 years and sent quite a few people your way. I imagine my good works have been noticed up here. I’d now like to come in.”

“Actually, we haven’t heard of you,” Peter replied. “But we have a point system in Heaven in order to be fair to everyone. Perhaps you could outline your career in the ministry for me and I’ll give you the appropriate score for each of your actions.”

The pastor was very cooperative. For the next hour or so he regaled the patient Peter with work after good work, especially emphasizing his unblemished character and his forgiving nature. At the end of it all, Peter was duly impressed. At length he told the cleric that he would award him a “10.”

*(continued next page)*





“Does that mean I can go into Heaven now?” asked the evangelist.

“Not at all,” said Peter. “You need 100 points.”

The churchman was aghast. “Are you kidding!” he exclaimed. “I spent my whole life in the service of the Gospel, and you’re giving me a measly 10 points!”

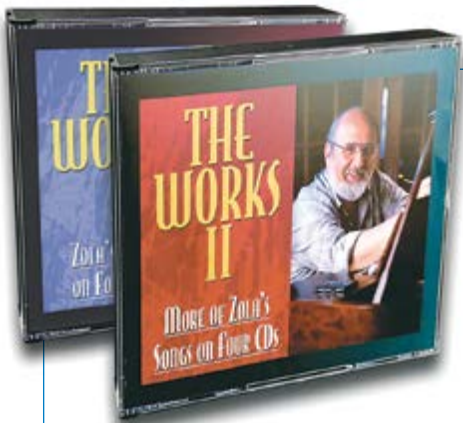
Peter said, “Can you offer me anything more that we might credit you for?”

The minister dug around, trying to recall every good service he had ever done for the Lord — his church, his community, his denomination, etc., etc. As the day wore on, the hour grew late. The pastor’s jacket was thrown over a chair and his tie was loose. Perspiring, he finally looked up at Peter piteously and said, “Blessed Apostle, surely there’s mercy in Heaven. How many points do I have now?”

“20 points,” Peter told him.

“Oh, I just don’t understand this,” exclaimed the extremely frustrated man. “Where will I ever get 80 more points? If it weren’t for the grace of God, nobody would ever get into this place!”

“That’s 100,” replied Peter calmly. “Go on in.”  
(Eph. 2:8–9) ★



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## Q. What is the Gospel?

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**A.** The Greek word for “gospel” (*euaggelion* or *euangelion*) translates as “good news.” *Euaggelion* occurs 93 times in the Bible. We get our words evangel, evangelism, evangelical, and evangelist from this Greek word. An evangelist proclaims the Gospel message; an evangelical believes in the centrality of the Gospel for salvation.

To understand the Good News, we must first be told the bad news. From the beginning, God meant His Law to be the universal standard of moral perfection for man to live by. Adam — the first man — and all his descendants, broke God’s Law. The violation of that Law brought God’s just punishment of physical and spiritual death upon disobedient mankind (Genesis 3:17–19; Romans 5:12–20). Both Testaments and world history show that all have broken God’s Law (Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:23 — “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”).

### The Gospel Defined

The only remedy to this bad news is, of course, the Good News of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, we have the Gospel defined for us: *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, ...<sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, ...<sup>3</sup> ... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*

**1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.** His sinless, perfect sacrifice on the cross paid/fulfilled our sin debt, because we mortals are incapable of perfect obedience (Matt. 5:17; Rom. 10:4; Colossians 2:13–15).

**2. Christ was buried** to prove that He truly died.

**3. After three days, Jesus physically rose from the dead** as proof that God the Father accepted His sacrifice for our disobedience, that death had been defeated, and that eternal life is given to those who believe in this Gospel message. Jesus’ conquering sin and death to give sinners eternal life and reconcile them to God is good news indeed! The Gospel is God’s power that saves Jews and gentiles who believe this divine message (Romans 1:16).



*The Crucifixion* (1511) from the engraved Passion series, No. 11, by Albrecht Dürer



### The Gospel is Good News that:

- God in His abundant love for humanity sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save sinners from God’s condemnation, from spending an eternity separated from God’s presence (John 3:16–18).
- salvation cannot be earned or worked for. It is a free gift from God that is accepted by simple trust in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:4–7).
- God forgives the sins of those who believe in the Gospel. They are no longer under His condemnation (Colossians 2:13; Romans 8:1; Mark 1:15).

**The Gospel is not about doing good works to be saved, being nice, or engaging in social justice causes.** It is about what God has accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save Hell-bound sinners. What must you do to be saved? Acts 16:30–31 gives the answer: “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ [the Author and Message of the Gospel], and you will be saved!*” ★

# Reaching Jews and Arabs

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
ZLM Staff Theologian  
TJF Team Leader



We were in Jerusalem on the Sabbath, but **To The Jew First** fellow team member August Rosado and I had an effective, if quiet, day of Gospel ministry. We handed out Hebrew Bibles to one Jew and two Arabs, each of whom was open and ready to hear about the marvelous things that *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Jesus Christ) has done for them.

**Avri** — short for Abraham — told us that after he was born in Philadelphia, PA, his mother made *aliyah* to Israel with him and his sisters several



Avri

years ago. When he told us that he loves his country very much, we replied that he should, because God gave this land to the Patriarch Abraham and to his physical descendants for an “everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:7–8). Taking a cue from his full name “Abraham,” August and I reminded Avri that God would use the Jewish people to bless all the nations of the world (Genesis 22:18).

The Jewish people blessed us especially when they gave the world knowledge of the one true God through the Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish Messiah. **We told Avri that Yeshua proved Himself to be the prophesied Messiah** when He fulfilled at His First Coming all the Messianic prophecies described in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). August and I offered an excited Avri a complete Bible in Hebrew (with both Testaments bound in one volume) so that he could read this prophecy fulfillment for himself. He enthusiastically accepted the Scriptures from us. What a joy it was to see this open-hearted man eager to meet the Messiah of Jewish Scripture for the first time ever... to God be the glory! We look forward to seeing him again on the next Gospel outreach to Israel.

The following day, our ministry team ventured into the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. A cheerful Israeli woman named **Rachel bid us join the Virtual Reality Bible Tour** that lets you participate in major Old Testament events. August and I experienced Joseph in the pit and David fighting Goliath.

Afterward, she introduced us to the ingenious creator of this virtual Biblical world — **Avital**. It was the perfect opportunity for us to explain how both Testaments of the Jewish Bible are joined together by Divine covenants and by Old Testament Messianic prophecies that are fulfilled in the New Testament.



August, Avital, Todd, Rachel

The Jewel in the crown of Biblical revelation is the Messiah — most Jews are still looking for Him. As Rachel, Avital, and his friend listened with appreciative interest, August and I pressed on: The proofs all point to Yeshua of Nazareth as that awaited Messiah. We explained that in our ministry’s love and gratitude to the Chosen People, we give back to them the complete Scriptures in Hebrew so that they can know this Messiah and believe in Him for salvation and forgiveness of all sin. The trio welcomed our gesture by taking two Bibles for serious reading.

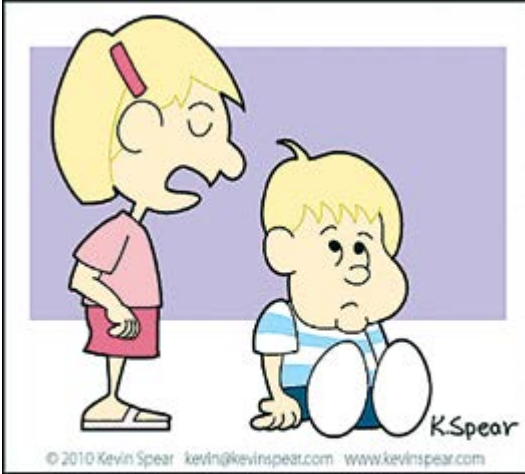
**This report is from a previous year’s outreach trip because of the current pandemic. — Editor** ★

# Seeking Constructive Criticism

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



Below is an email exchange from Kirsten to our newsletter editor and me, and my reply. You'll agree that Kirsten's heart is in the right place.



"You should be glad to have a big sister.  
You'll benefit from years of constructive criticism."

**Kirsten proposed writing this note to viewers and readers who write to us:**

Lately, I've become disheartened with many Christians' attitudes and comments on social media and in some of the mail we receive. Mark even mentioned particular letters that were too negative to work with.

Some Christians who disagree with others' points of view act as though it is appropriate to verbally attack rather than offer constructive criticism. To the contrary, we Believers are compelled to be the salt and light of the world. Of course, it is okay to disagree with each other. However, as living temples of the Holy Spirit, we need to express ourselves with compassion and encouragement.

I pray that in 2021, we can all be beacons of God's incredible love and goodness — so that others can deem us worthy of being called followers of our Savior.

## Mark to Kirsten:

Fortunately, the vast majority of our incoming mail is positive. Some letters come with generous donations along with short and sweet comments that might seem too self-congratulatory to publish.

For decades, we've routinely archived the steady flow of "Love your show," "Keep up the good work," and "Can't wait for your next LL" comments, because they encourage us. Meanwhile, our refuting negative comments helps some readers overcome similar mindsets while revealing to others the resistance we face.

**This ministry has always benefited from constructive criticism** and sent to "file 13" commentary that is contrived to discourage us and waste our time. Sometimes an insightful, anointed response can harness such negativity to our benefit "Wow, you took that beating on the chin and reciprocated with pearls that even this nasty swine can't trample!"

I think of Proverbs 27:17 ("*As iron sharpens iron...*") and Zechariah 13:9 ("*And I will bring the third part through the fire...*"). And a somewhat mixed metaphor: If you can't take the heat, then let it roll like water off a duck's back.

Rather than negativity, our ministry's mail actually reflects resilient support for solid Bible teaching despite the pandemic! Gearing up staffers to work from home and revenue loss from canceled Israel tours cut into meticulous budgets. Still, we ZLM workers remain heartened by the thousands of letters with donations each month that quietly, reliably pay our massive bills.

1 Peter 4:16 comes to mind in the sense that taking hits and insults while doing the Lord's work and coming back strong with Biblical insights adds to God's glory. ★

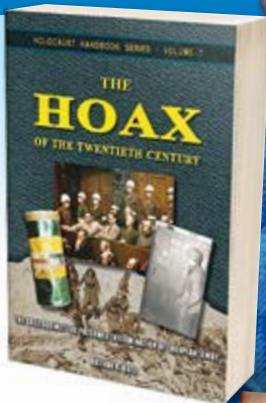


# ZLM Bulletin Board



## Book Calls Holocaust a Hoax

A revived 1976 book is an Icelandic-language translation of *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century: The Case Against the Presumed Extermination of European Jewry*. Authored by Arthur Butz, it was advertised online in time for Christmas shoppers. The Swedish city of Malmo ended its partnership with the Arab Book Fair after it learned that the fair was promoting anti-Semitic texts at events across Europe.



## New ZLM Board Member



Now retired in Oklahoma, Lou Hays was our ministry's *Levitt Letter* editor in the mid-2000s and a close personal friend of Zola for decades. A master chess player and savvy golfer (he wrote a book!), he's also an accomplished

entrepreneur, owning and operating a travel agency and ice cream store. An avid volunteer with animal rescue, Lou is a sincere Believer in Yeshua and a strong supporter of Israel. He recently began serving as a volunteer on the ministry's board. Welcome aboard, Lou!

## New Tax Deduction

"Under the CARES Act, beginning in 2020, individuals who do not itemize deductions may deduct up to \$300 in charitable cash contributions (the limit applies regardless of the filing status). This universal charitable deduction is an above-the-line deduction and is deducted from the taxpayer's income prior to calculating adjusted gross income. This deduction is in addition to the standard deduction." Source:



<http://www.ecfa.org/Documents/News/ECFA CARES Act Document.pdf>

## FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

The 16-page *Giving Through Retirement Plans* states the importance of planning for financial well-being during retirement. Its main section, "Tax-favored Savings Plans," includes these topics: 1) Making gifts today, 2) Give from mandatory withdrawals, 3) Special tax-free gift option, and 4) Making future gifts.

The "Technical Advisory Section" discusses testamentary gifts from retirement accounts and special considerations. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #18.**



## "Come Home!"

### Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details







## The Shema of Holy Listening

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God; the LORD is One.” – Deut. 6:4

שְׁ	מַע	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	יְהוָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶחָד
(2) (1)	(1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(1)	(1)	(2) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
e-chad'	Adonai	e-lo-hey'-noo	Adonai	yees-ra-el'	she-ma'	
one	the LORD (is)	our God	the LORD (is)	Israel	listen!	

**Which commandment of the Torah is the most important of all?** Or, to put it another way, what is it that God requires of us? What is the purpose of our lives, and how can we fulfill that purpose? Yeshua began to answer this question by declaring the *Shema*: “*Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is One*” (Mark 12:29).

The great commandment is always *shema*, “listen,” because sincere listening requires that we surrender our self-centered perspective and immerse ourselves within the meaning and needs of another. Listening opens us to God’s heart in all things, and therefore is essential for the “conversation” between your soul and the LORD. The act of listening is a sign of love, and that’s why we feel so lonely when we have no one willing to hear our words. Many people are quick to speak but precious few sacrifice themselves through selfless listening. The spiritual life, however, ultimately is *shared* life: We can do together what we cannot do individually. Yeshua prayed that we would know how much we need one another (John 17:21–23). The first step is to *listen* to God.

Genuine listening creates a sense of trust and openness between people. When real listening is going on, there is no need to “talk over” the other person, because the listener “speaks” through his or her respectful silence. Nonetheless we must set godly boundaries. It is *not* loving to listen to someone gossip, slander, abuse themselves, or chatter about vanities — *unless* this somehow leads to honest self-disclosure. Spiritual listening is “set apart,” holy, and hears the words spoken from the heart in a place of refuge.

God never asks of us what He does not do. If He urges us to listen to Him, to heed the voice of His love, then we can trust that He likewise listens to us and will answer the call of our hearts for Him. Regarding the *Shema*, “holy listening” involves more than just hearing with the physical ear, of course, but *hearing with the heart*: “*You shall love ... you shall talk of God’s love at all times, in all places, and know Him in all you do*” (Deuteronomy 6:5–9).

We are able to listen to God by the agency of God’s Spirit. God’s words are breathed out and made alive to us in a mysterious way (John 3:8; 6:33). And just as God breathed into us the “breath of life” to become a living soul, so Yeshua breathes into us the Holy Spirit to quicken eternal life within us (John 20:22). **Communing with God and others means breathing out the words of life that were first breathed into us.** ★



## *Sons of Israel*

### DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs  
on three DVDs

Filmed on location where it happened in the Holy Land. Zola teaches on the fascinating lives of some of God's key men—from Abraham to the Messiah and the Apostles. An informative and stunningly beautiful history of the people God chose and the special men among them that He used for His purposes.

**The Father of a Nation** On Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, Zola begins with the father of the nation, Abraham. This humble man from Ur relocated to a land he had never seen and received a promise to be a blessing to all people on Earth.

**The Blessing** At The Holy Land Experience (Orlando, Florida), Zola presents Abraham's child of the promise, Isaac, his son Jacob, the lineage of these patriarchs and the impact of choice. Zola interviews Yitzhak Navon, president of Israel 1978–1983, and former political secretary for David Ben-Gurion.

**Sons and Tribes** The 12 sons of Jacob formed a nation set apart from the world. Zola visits the Upper Room where the Lord met with His 12 Apostles who would change the nations of the world with His message.

**Out of Exile** At The Holy Land Experience, Zola teaches about Moses, the reluctant leader who gave up his royal place in Egypt to lead the Hebrews to the Promised Land.

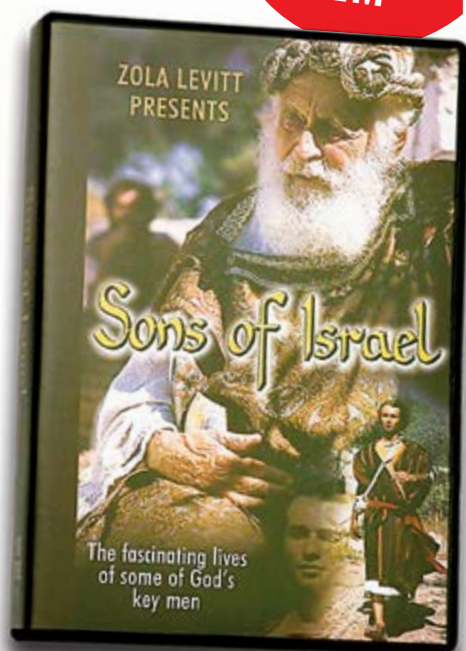
**A Nation Ruled** With the Knesset in the background, Zola chronicles the time of the Judges and Israel's need for a political system to keep order. Two experts discuss Theodor Herzl, the founders of the modern State of Israel, and how Biblical mandates influenced its development.

**A Desire to be Like Others** In view of David's Tower in Jerusalem, Zola teaches that Israel's desire for a human king resulted in Saul, David, and ultimately Jesus.

**A Promise of What is to Come** At The Holy Land Experience, Zola reviews how the Prophets guided the Israelites to become the nation God called them to be. At Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery, archaeologist Steve Pfann explains the law's transition from oral to written form.

**Free at Last!** Zola speaks about the Messiah, the Redeemer that Israel was looking for, and why the majority of the Jewish people did not recognize Him when He came the first time.

**Unto All Nations** At the ruins of Emmaus, Zola chronicles how the Gospel spread through Paul and Peter and the other Apostles.



ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story .....	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers .....	\$3	___
___	<b>How Can a Gentile Be Saved?</b> (pictured) .....	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House .....	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised .....	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover .....	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land .....	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming .....	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In? .....	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)</b>	<b>\$49</b>	___

Books

___	An Epic Love Story (Weiss) ..... (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End .....	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches (Zola on Replacement Theology) .....	\$6	___
___	Genesis One—A Physicist Looks at Creation .....	\$5	___
___	The Green Horse—The Bible & Islam (Archbold) .....	\$12	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (Berg) (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	<b>The Iranian Menace</b> (Seif) (pictured) .....	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land .....	\$2	___
___	<b>The Mountains of Israel</b> (Norma Archbold) (pictured) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Once Through the New Testament</b> (pictured) .....	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (updated) .....	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium .....	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King .....	\$12	___
___	What About Us? (Ethan Shishoff) .....	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It? .....	\$6	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (p.23) .....	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Beloved Thief .....	(64 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Close Encounters w/ Yeshua .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	<b>The Dark Prince</b> (p.20) .....	(10 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Divine Deliverance .....	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Gospel According to Isaiah .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>The Holocaust</b> (pictured) .....	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Joshua .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Mine Eyes Have Seen (After Christmas musical) (1 prog., 1-DVD)		\$19	___
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___	<i>Sar Shalom: Prince of Peace</i> .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>Sons of Israel</b> (p.17) .....	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
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___	Thy Kingdom Come .....	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Upon This Rock .....	(1-hr. TV special on DVD)	\$19	___
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**214-696-8844**

Print/tear out this 2-pg. form,  
fill out box at right, and mail to:

**ZLM, Box 12268**  
**Dallas TX 75225**



## ORDER FORM continued

### UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

### Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
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___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5').....	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart.....	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut).....	\$2	_____
___	<b>Grafted-In Lapel Pin</b> (pictured).....	\$10	_____
___	Half-shekel Key Chain.....	\$10	_____
___	<b>Hebrew Names of God Notecards</b> (12 unique cards) (p.33).....	\$24	_____
___	<b>Jewish Heritage Calendar</b> (5781 / 2021) (pictured).....	\$6	_____
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace.....	\$39	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem.....	\$12	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker.....	\$2	_____
___	"Things to Come" — Witnessing Bookmark.....	2 for \$1	_____
___	<b>The Classic Zola Collection</b> .....	80 products for \$999	_____
___	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only)....	no charge	_____

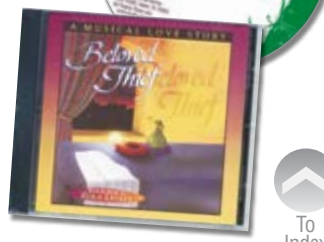


### Teaching CDs

___	<b>Discovering Our Jewish Roots</b> (p.36) (pictured) (9 CDs)	\$39	_____
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?..... (CD)	\$7	_____
___	Jesus, the Jews Jew..... (CD)	\$7	_____

### Music CDs: Hear samples at [levitt.com/music](http://levitt.com/music)

___	<b>Beloved Thief</b> (pictured)..... (Zola's Musical CD)	\$12	_____
___	<b>The Works</b> (p.11)..... (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	<b>The Works II</b> (p.11)..... (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	<b>The Works I &amp; II + 6 CDs FREE</b> = 22 albums (p.11)....	\$98	_____



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

**Please fill out area below and send the entire page.**

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up to \$15.99, add \$5  
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For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

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## *The Dark Prince: When The Devil Has His Day* DVD Set

Ten 30-minute TV programs on three DVDs

In this made-for-TV miniseries, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes viewers through Bible texts that speak about the devil. *The Dark Prince* gives a **behind-the-scenes look at Evil's workings and its ultimate uprooting when Christ returns.**

**Satan's Rise and Demise in Genesis** Genesis focuses on how Creation strayed and who is responsible. We discuss Satan's emergence and God's plan to crush him when Satan rises to rule the world at the dusk of human history.

**Satan in Biblical History** Biblical history's bookends—the paradise lost story in Genesis and the paradise restored story in Revelation—illustrate Satan's rise and demise. These lessons should encourage people to position themselves on the right side of the battle line.

**The Ruler of This World** Isaiah describes the “ruler of this world”—Satan—through an actual ruler of the ancient world; Matthew relates how Satan once offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. The temptations that the Lord avoided are ones that we should avoid as well.

**To Steal, Kill, and Destroy** Daniel and Revelation describe unimaginable beasts that would wreak havoc upon a decaying world. We examine their application to end-time Bible prophecy.

**Deceit, Betrayal, and Coming Miseries** The devil's tools—deceit and betrayal—were first displayed in the Garden of Eden. We look at Jesus' agony and betrayal—also in a garden—and the flurry of miseries that will be unleashed on this planet before the garden paradise is restored.

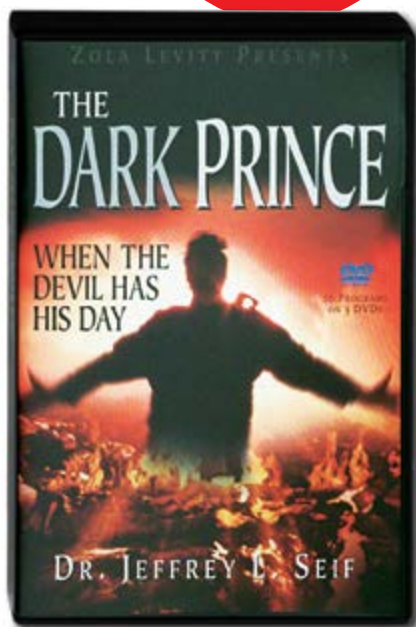
**Armageddon and the Final Conflict** We look at Job as evidence that Satan attacks individuals. In Revelation, Satan's assaults culminate in the Battle of Armageddon.

**The Collapse of an Intoxicated World** Revelation vividly relates how the world will lament the evil prince of this world, whose demise is brought about by the Lord's return.

**The Second Coming!** We look at the return of Jesus and the restoration of paradise.

**The Experts Speak, Part 1** Jeff interviews Paul Wilkinson, Wayne House, Tom McCall, and Chuck Missler about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and the European Union.

**The Experts Speak, Part 2** Jeff interviews Thomas Ice, Wilfred Hahn, William Koenig, Todd Strandberg, Joel Rosenberg, and Tim LaHaye about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and a global government.



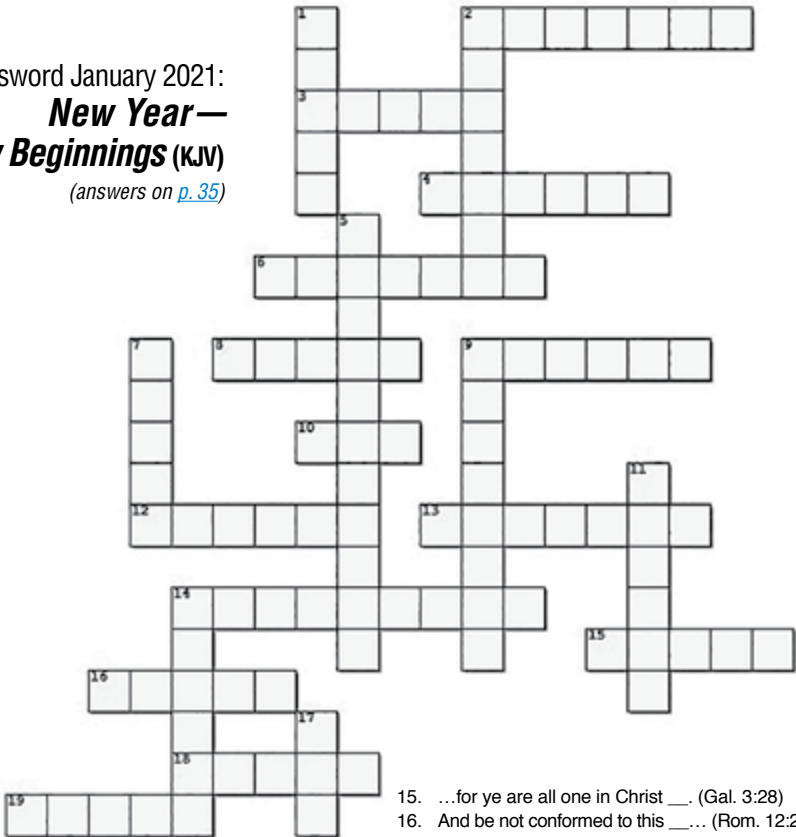


NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR



Crossword January 2021:  
***New Year—  
 New Beginnings (KJV)***  
 (answers on [p. 35](#))



**ACROSS**

- 2. For by Him were all things \_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:16)
- 3. ...except a man be born \_\_\_\_ (John 3:3)
- 4. Know ye not that ye are the \_\_ of God... (1 Cor. 3:16)
- 6. Nevertheless we, according to His \_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 3:13)
- 8. Not by \_\_ of righteousness... (Titus 3:5)
- 9. Therefore we are \_\_ with Him... (Romans 6:4)
- 10. And that ye put on the new \_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:24)
- 12. ...Behold, I make all \_\_ new... (Revelation 21:5)
- 13. But seek ye first the \_\_ of God... (Matthew 6:33)
- 14. ...that our old man is \_\_ with Him... (Romans 6:6)

- 15. ...for ye are all one in Christ \_\_\_\_ (Gal. 3:28)
- 16. And be not conformed to this \_\_\_\_ (Rom. 12:2)
- 18. For by grace are ye \_\_ through faith... (Eph. 2:8)
- 19. Let your \_\_ so shine before men... (Matt. 5:16)

**DOWN**

- 1. ...that in Me ye might have \_\_\_\_ (John 16:33)
- 2. That if thou shalt \_\_ with thy mouth... (Rom. 10:9)
- 5. For we are His \_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2:10)
- 7. Trust in the Lord with all thine \_\_\_\_ (Prov. 3:5)
- 9. ...Repent, and be \_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:38)
- 11. Remember ye not the \_\_ things... (Isaiah 43:18)
- 14. Therefore if any man be in \_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 5:17)
- 17. Behold, I will do a \_\_ thing... (Isaiah 43:19)





# Letters to ZLM

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

## Comments on ZLM's social media:

**From P.H.:** My goodness. I am loving the series [Joshua: More Than a Conqueror](#) as I prepare to give a message on Joshua. Thank you for this sound teaching that is so rich with wisdom. I understand why people enjoy your television series: the quality of the videos is topnotch and the re-enactments are professional and well done. Many blessings to all involved!

The Wall Street Journal



"Yeah, that surprised me too."

## Lesson from Ecclesiastes

Dear ZLM,

I really liked Tony Derrick's lesson from Ecclesiastes on time ([April 2020 Personal Letter](#)). Time usage has always been a challenge for me. I tend to do things slowly, but time never slows down for me. Tony put people's allotment of time in perspective for me.

Also, [Zola's Introduction to Hebrew](#) helped me during a 2017 trip to the Holy Land. I will try to give whenever I can. My husband is a Jew and accepted Jesus as his savior over 30 years ago. — J.K. (HI)

Dear J.K.,

Tony's ongoing Ecclesiastes study has blessed us as well. The persistent lockdown gives us all an opportunity to use Zola's book on learning Hebrew to prepare for the 1,000-year Kingdom. —David and Kirsten

**Note:** Please see [Zola's Introduction to Hebrew](#) on [p. 23](#).

## Give it to God!

Shalom, Sarah!

You're right—I was never taught about the sin of gluttony! I only came to read about it in Luke 7:34, describing Jesus associating with sinners and gluttonous men. But your article truly explains eating to excess and not controlling your appetite and other bad habits!

Your description of the vomitorium made me laugh at first; but then I sobered, thinking about bulimia. My sin was sugar—always had to have it. Now, thanks to you, I gave that problem to the Lord. Thank you for opening my eyes to this option! I look forward to seeing you on *Our Jewish Roots* soon. —R.P. (CA)

Dear R.P.,

Thank you for your comments. Too many Americans (and Israelis, I'm afraid) are addicted to sugar.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/sugar/americas-deadly-sugar-addiction>.

I hope that you continue enjoying my Hebrew lessons on our television program. Be well. — Sarah

(continued next page)



## Real hosts

Dear *OJR*, I sure do miss a real host, “Zola”! —M.A. (WA)

Dear M.A.,

Yes, we miss Zola, too. Meanwhile our newest hosts are fast approaching their fourth anniversary with ZLM and, along with Dr. Jeffrey Seif, continue planting lots of seeds. (How ‘bout you?) Did you know that squirrels plant millions of trees every year? 😊 —Mark

## English Bible translations

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your explanation of how Yeshua became Jesus ([October 2020 Levitt Letter, p.7](#)).

Interesting note: The 1611 King James Bible (KJV) is a version of the 1560 Geneva Bible, which King James didn’t like (because of its margin notes) and tried to eliminate. The Pilgrims fleeing King James brought the Geneva Bible to America. **The American church was founded on the Geneva Bible, not the KJV.** The 1560 Geneva was a version of the Tyndale Bible and basically says the same thing. Not until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century did readers see significantly more understandable versions of the English Bible, e.g., the NASB (1971) and the NIV (1978). —D.P.



## King James Only

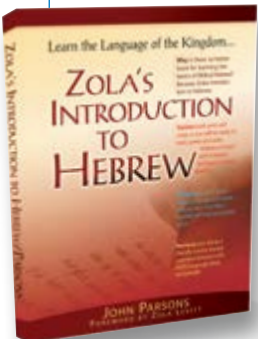
Dr. Seif,

Recently, on your show about Revelation, you blew an opportunity to tell the truth when you used the NIV Bible translation rather than King James. Not telling the truth does nothing for the Kingdom of Jehovah. You have proven to be non-Believers in the 10 commandments — just like other false prophets on Sundays. —D.R. (PA)

Dear D.R.,

How about doing our readers a favor and sending a concise summary of what you believe they missed learning on *OJR*. Then we can publish *that* to edify. Reading different translations usually clarifies meaning. I’m sorry you didn’t find that to be the case. (Please see the letter on Bible history above.)

You could also post your research on the ZolaBoard, accessible beneath the “Discussion” tab at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com). You might find your fellow ZLMers’ replies worthwhile. —Editor ★



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*New copies of Zola’s Introduction to Hebrew are available at Amazon for between \$50 and \$228! (We sell it for just \$39 plus shipping.)*





# U.S. and Israel Worked Together to Hunt al-Qaeda No. 2



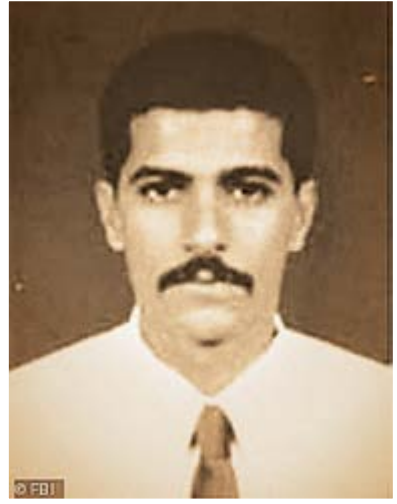
BY MATTHEW LEE and JAMES LaPORTA (r) APnews.com

The United States and Israel worked together to track and kill a senior al-Qaeda operative in Iran, a bold intelligence operation by the two allies.

Four current and former U.S. officials said Abu Mohammed al-Masri, al-Qaeda's No. 2, was killed by assassins in the Iranian capital in August 2020. The U.S. provided intelligence to the Israelis on where they could find al-Masri and the alias he was using at the time, and Israeli agents carried out the killing, according to two of the officials. The two other officials confirmed al-Masri's killing.

Al-Masri was gunned down in a Tehran alley on August 7, the anniversary of the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Al-Masri was widely believed to have participated in planning those attacks and was wanted on terrorism charges by the FBI.



Abu Mohammed al-Masri

Al-Masri's death is a blow to al-Qaeda, the terror network that orchestrated the September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., and comes amid rumors in the Middle East about the fate of the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. The U.S. intelligence community is trying to determine the reports' credibility.

Two of the officials — one within the intelligence community and with direct knowledge of the operation and another former CIA officer briefed on the matter — said al-Masri was killed by Kidon. Kidon is a unit within the secretive Israeli spy organization Mossad allegedly responsible for the assassination of high-value targets. In Hebrew, *Kidon* means bayonet or "tip of the spear."

The official in the intelligence community said al-Masri's daughter, Maryam, was also a target of the operation. The U.S. believed she was being groomed for a leadership role in al-Qaeda, and intelligence suggested that she was involved in operational planning.

Al-Masri's daughter was the widow of Hamza bin Laden, the son of al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden. Hamza was killed last year in a U.S. counter-terrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.

Al-Masri's death was reported, albeit under an assumed name, in Iranian media on August 8. Reports identified him as a Lebanese history professor potentially affiliated with Lebanon's Iranian-linked Hezbollah movement and said he had been killed by motorcycle gunmen along with his daughter.

Lebanese media, citing Iranian reports, said that those killed were Lebanese citizen Habib Daoud and his daughter Maraym.

The deaths of al-Masri and his daughter occurred three days after the catastrophic August 4 explosion at the Port of Beirut and did not get much attention. Hezbollah never commented on reports, and Lebanese security officials did not report that any citizens were killed in Tehran. ★



# Iranians Face Chess Ban for Refusal to Compete Against Israelis

BY ZACHARY KEYSER / JPost.com

The Iranian Chess Federation (ICF) could be facing an imminent international ban for its continued refusal to allow Iranian chess players to compete against their Israeli equivalents, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) said. The warning also included the mention of Iran boycotting other events that list Israeli players as participating.

"We are increasing pressure on Iran to follow the law, and if it does not comply, the Iranian federation will see the consequences," said vice-president of the FIDE, Nigel Short. Short added that Iran's refusal "to request their players compete against all countries in FIDE before the next GA [General Assembly], or any future boycott by an Iranian player will automatically result in the ICF's suspension from all FIDE activities."

Iran notoriously uses this practice across all sporting disciplines, where in tournaments, if one of its competitors is set to go up against an Israeli, the Iranian athlete will often feign injury, bow out of the competition, or just flat-out refuse to compete.

According to a few documented cases, Iranian athletes are specifically instructed by government authorities to do so. The most recent is the Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei, who claimed that he was forced to lose his final two bouts at the 2020 World Judo Championships in Tokyo so as not to face his Israeli counterpart Sagi Muki or share the podium with him. The Iranian Judo Federation was shortly afterward placed under investigation, where it still remains, following Mollaei's claims.

Short reported **12 separate occurrences** to the FIDE General Assembly where Iranian chess players either forfeited



Chess masters gather in Jerusalem for the International Chess Federation (FIDE) championship.

matchups against Israeli competitors or withdrew completely from tournaments hosting them. Short has described the Iranian efforts in the past as "absolute in-your-face racism."

FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich warned Iran last June that if it kept up its antics, the FIDE would act accordingly.

"There had been repeated cases where athletes from Iran refused to participate in games with Israeli citizens," Dvorkovich said. "It is important for FIDE that everyone abides by the Charter. Therefore, we ask the ICF to confirm in writing its position on the admissibility of the mentioned games (between Iranian and Israeli players)."

Farhad Nikoukhesal, the chairman of the ICF, claims that it is the choice of the athlete whether to compete or not, and the choice is not influenced by the government — although there have been numerous documented accusations pointing to the contrary.

Short denied Nikoukhesal's claims and noted the aforementioned case of the judoka Mollaei, who after claiming to be forced into throwing his final two bouts, sought asylum in Germany and in the future will compete under a foreign flag.

Two of the most successful Iranian chess players, Ghazal Hakimi Fard and Alireza Firouzja, both renounced their Iranian nationality (in February 2020 and December 2019 respectively) following years of instruction to avoid competition with Israelis. ★



# “Soapy” Sinks Help Save Lives from COVID-19



SCIENCE: BY MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN (r) *The Jerusalem Post*

The coronavirus crisis has heightened the world’s attention to proper hygiene, which is considered a key component in preventing the spread of COVID-19. An Israeli company, Soapy Care, has brought hand hygiene into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Soapy micro-station

“Drones and self-driving cars support our environment,” said company founder and CEO Max Simonovsky. “With something as basic as hand hygiene, you don’t have any smart tools to support you.” Until recently.

Soapy Care has reinvented the concept of the sink to help ensure that where it’s most important — such as hospitals and schools — hands are really getting clean.

The company offers AI-enhanced, internet-connected, eco-friendly, hygiene micro-stations that help users wash their hands according to standards set by the World Health Organization. The system offers step-by-step guidance for an optimal wash with every use, tracking how well you do and letting you know in real time. It has instant and unlimited warm water and a special proprietary hand soap.

Yet, it uses 95% less water and 60% less soap than washing at a regular sink, the company said.

When customized, Soapy sinks offer user facial recognition, temperature measurement, and instant high temperature notifications — essential in the coronavirus era. The company offers a similar platform for hand sanitizing gel.

Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv has already implemented both systems throughout its coronavirus wards and at other key locations in the hospital to help ensure good hygiene for its medical and other staff.

“One of the main risks in the coronavirus department is not coronavirus — the patients already have it — but the other diseases or infections that might complicate the treatment of the patients,” Simonovsky said. “We want to make sure that someone going into the department with another disease will not spread it around.”

The other aspect is the real-time feedback. First, doctors and other staff receive feedback if they have washed their hands well. Moreover, since the machines take the user’s temperature multiple times, someone who came into work healthy but started to develop symptoms throughout the day could be caught earlier — before he or she has a chance to spread the virus.

Since COVID-19, business has grown, Simonovsky said. The company website includes a section dedicated to the virus with a note that “Soapy hygiene micro-stations can help to halt the spread of COVID-19 and literally save lives.” ★



# Predicting Epileptic Seizures



MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) Israel365news.com

Epilepsy — a neurological disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal — causes seizures or periods of unusual behavior, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness. The disorder affects both males and females of all races, ethnic backgrounds and ages — some 65 million people around the world.

The symptoms of involuntary seizures can vary greatly, with some people just staring blankly for a few seconds while others repeatedly twitch their arms or legs. Seizures can vary from the briefest lapses of attention or muscle jerks to severe and prolonged convulsions; their frequency can also vary. Children with epilepsy may outgrow the condition with age. The seizures may involve a part of the body (partial) or the entire body (generalized) and are often accompanied by loss of consciousness and control of bowel or bladder function.

Seizure episodes result from excessive electrical discharges in a group of brain cells. Treatment with medications or surgery can control seizures for most epileptics; some need lifelong treatment to control their seizures; for others, seizures eventually go away.

Israeli researchers at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev in Beersheba recently developed a system that predicts that an epileptic seizure is about to occur. The wearable device, which uses machine-learning algorithms for analyzing electro-encephalogram (EEG) signals, can predict seizures up to an hour prior to onset and send an alert to a smartphone.

The invention, “Epiness,” is a first-of-its-kind device for detecting and predicting epileptic seizures based on proprietary machine-learning algorithms.

Because up to 30% of patients do not adequately respond to anti-epileptic drugs and therefore live under constant fear of impending seizures, the central nervous system disorder is highly pervasive and at times debilitating. For such patients, a viable seizure prediction device could offer a substantial improvement in quality of life, enabling them to avoid seizure-related injuries. **Current seizure alarm devices can detect a seizure in real time but are unable to provide advance warnings of impending seizures.** Before now, there were no seizure-predicting devices to alert patients and allow them to prepare for upcoming seizures.

Epiness combines a wearable EEG device with state-of-the-art software that minimizes the number of necessary EEG electrodes and optimizes electrode placement on the scalp. The sophisticated machine-learning algorithms are designed to filter “noise” that is not related to brain activity, extract informative measures of the underlying brain dynamics, and distinguish between brain activity before an expected epileptic seizure and brain activity when a seizure is not expected to occur.

Researchers are currently developing an accurate and user-friendly prototype for clinical trials. ★





Researchers at Tel Aviv University working on the nanosatellite they hope to launch in 2021

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### Tel Aviv University Aims To Launch Shoebox-Size Satellite

By Shoshanna Solomon / TimesOfIsrael.com

Tel Aviv University is planning to launch a research nanosatellite, the size of a shoebox, hitching a ride on a spacecraft to be sent by NASA and U.S. aerospace firm Northrop Grumman to resupply the International Space Station in the first quarter of 2021.

Once it's at the ISS, a robotic arm will release the TAU-SAT1 nanosatellite into low-earth orbit (LEO). The satellite will conduct several experiments while in orbit, including measuring cosmic radiation in space.

Ofer Amrani, head of Tel Aviv University's miniature satellite lab: "The satellite's dimensions are 4" x 4" x 12" — the size of a shoebox. **It weighs less than 5.5 pounds.** TAU-SAT1 is the first nanosatellite designed, built, and tested independently in academia in Israel."

### SAUDI JOURNALIST: Turkey and Iran are Greater Threat than Israel

MEMRI.org — Middle East Media Research Institute

In his article titled "Peace Is A Necessity, Not A Choice" in the Saudi state daily *Okaz*, published one day before the signing of the peace agreements between the UAE, Bahrain, and Israel, Saudi journalist Fahd Ibrahim Al-Dughaiter welcomed

these agreements as harbingers of coexistence, economic growth, and constructive competition in the region. Al-Dughaiter added that Saudi Arabia not only does not oppose the agreements but has future development plans of its own that require peace and stability. Therefore, it has the right to make decisions that serve its supreme interests at a time of its choosing.



Fahd Ibrahim Al-Dughaiter

Al-Dughaiter wrote further that the Arab states have supported the Palestinian cause for years and have sacrificed for it, **yet the Palestinian leaders have been stubborn and corrupt**, filling their own pockets with the aid money provided by the Gulf. Responding to Palestinian claims that normalization with Israel is an act of betrayal, Al-Dughaiter stressed that the Arab countries that have signed peace agreements with Israel, starting with Egypt and Jordan, have continued to support the Palestinians and their rights.

However, he said, the recent decades have seen vast changes in the region, chief of them the growing threat to

(continued next page)



the Arabs posed by Turkey, Iran, and their regional proxies — much greater than the threat posed by Israel. These changes have caused the Arab countries to reassess their priorities and to advance toward peace with Israel.

## Love Your Enemies — Matthew 5:44

By Ryan Jones / *Israel Today*

Senior PLO official Saeb Erekat died of COVID-19 at a Jerusalem hospital on November 10, 2020. He was the long-time chief negotiator for the Palestinians.

What you might not know about him:

1. Erekat was a harsh critic of Israel, and often repeated claims aimed at delegitimizing the Jewish state. In 2014, for instance, he claimed to be a direct descendant of the Canaanites, and therefore with ancestors in the Land long before Israel.
2. Unlike many of his Palestinian colleagues, Erekat was never linked to financial corruption and was said to have lived in relative modesty.
3. Erekat was a regular guest of Israeli media and cultivated close ties to Israel’s “peace” camp.

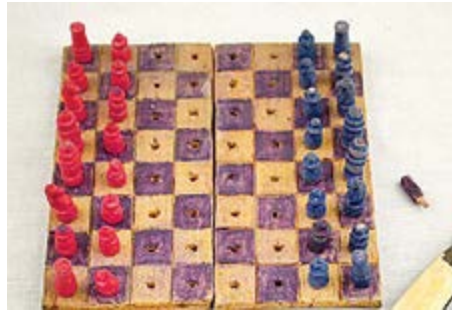
Why was Israel helping him?

“Love” might be too generous a word to describe Israel’s feelings toward Erekat. And perhaps he



Me listing for Jesus all the reasons I should be exempt from loving MY neighbor

didn’t view himself as Israel’s “enemy.” Still, despite his antagonism, Israel provided the PLO official with **critical medical treatment** on numerous occasions, including when he fell ill with COVID-19.



Chess boards

## Chess in the Holocaust

[Newsrael.com](https://www.newsrael.com)

The Objects Collection Division in the Museums at Yad Vashem contains examples of chess games used by Jews during the Holocaust. The ages-old game of thought was smuggled in and concealed. It served as a distraction for those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Some of the kits were purchased before the war; others were carved from wood or stone by carpenters, engravers, or artists in the ghettos and extermination camps during it. Sometimes the game of chess would create fast friends who supported each other in the horrors. It was always a distraction from the inhuman conditions: the cold, hunger, terrible diseases, and the fear of death. ★



# DOUBLE FEATURE: An Old Cup and Wine Tasting

## 1,400-year-old Cup Adds Understanding of Early Christian Church

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY LEAH MARIEANN KLETT (r) ChristianPost.com



While excavating a ruined 6<sup>th</sup>-century church in Northumberland, northern England, archaeologists unearthed a unique 5<sup>th</sup>-century cup etched with symbols of early Christian iconography.

According to the Vindolanda Charitable Trust, the lead cup or chalice was recovered in 14 fragments from the Vindolanda Roman fort near Hadrian's Wall, a 73-mile stone barrier constructed around A.D. 122 to mark the edge of the Roman Empire.

Though in poor condition, symbols identified on the cup include a chi-rho (a monogram said to represent Jesus Christ), a happy bishop, ships, a congregation, a fish, and a whale. Additionally, letters in Latin, Greek, and potentially Ogam — an early medieval script — appear alongside the drawings.

"The combination of so many of these etchings and the context of the discovery makes this artifact one of the most important of its type to come from early Christianity in Western Europe," states the Trust. "It is the only surviving partial chalice from this period in Britain and the first such artifact to come from a fort on Hadrian's Wall."

Andrew Birley, director of Vindolanda excavations, said that the inscriptions may have conveyed Christian events at a time when Bibles were difficult to acquire.

"So far, when we find etchings on stones in churches or on mosaic floors, unless they are an integral part of the structure, we have considered them 'graffiti' left by worshipers — the early Christian equivalent of Banksy. This artifact changes the narrative quite a bit," he said.

"The etchings are no random act, and a chalice is a holy Christian artifact. It is the only portable artifact from this period yet to have been found that is festooned with 'graffiti' or etchings. The symbols are a Christian code of sorts, mechanisms by which Christians could identify and tell Biblical accounts to each other. Remember, this is long before anything like the Bible would have been commonly available."

Studying the chalice, he said, could help reveal "what was important to congregations almost 1,500 years ago, just after the fall of Roman Britain."

"This is a really exciting find from a poorly understood period in the history

*(continued next page)*



Buried amongst the remains of a 6<sup>th</sup>-century Christian church, 14 fragmentary remains of a rare lead Christian cup or chalice



of Britain,” said Dr. David Petts, a researcher in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. “Its apparent connections with the early Christian church are incredibly important, and this curious vessel is unique in a British context.”



The excavation also discovered the foundations of a significant church of the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century, large enough for about 60 parishioners. Though the church had collapsed, the chalice had been securely sealed under the rubble, perhaps in a ceremony marking the end of the building.

“Being able to prove that you’ve got a church from the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century is difficult unless you find associated material within it,” Birley said. “Because this chalice is a definite Christian artifact, it helps us to reevaluate similar buildings on Hadrian’s Wall of the same period; they have similar features but don’t have artifacts preserved.”

Birley also told BBC News that finding “a chalice smothered in Christian symbols” offers an opportunity for increased understanding of Christianity’s spread across the region.

“Many potential church structures have been located from this period, but without the Christian artifacts to back up that assumption, they could not be proven beyond doubt,” he concluded. ★

## Wine-Tasting 2,000 Years Later

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ARIEL BULSHEIN (r) IsraelHayom.com



Cutting-edge scientific techniques could soon allow us to sample the same wines that King Herod drank, but it’s not certain whether we’ll enjoy them. Food archaeologist Dr. Tziona Ben-Gedalya discusses recreating the flavors of the past.

“When I taught archaeology, the emphasis was mostly on the big, obvious things — monuments, temples, engineering and building styles, architectural elements, etc.,” says Dr. Ben-Gedalya.

“The things having to do with people’s daily lives in ancient times — what they ate, what they drank, what the flavors were, what activities took place in the buildings that were discovered — were overshadowed,” she notes.

**Bioarchaeology**, a multi-disciplinary field that has flourished in the past few years, has been shining a spotlight on questions like these. This new area of research **uses innovative technology** developed for work in biology, chemistry, and medical science **to answer questions about the history of humanity**.

Ben-Gedalya, 44, works as a research fellow at Ariel University and a researcher for the Regional Research and Development Center of Eastern Judea and Samaria and the Jordan Valley, one of several centers established in the 1990s for two purposes: to help bring scientists from the former Soviet Union into Israeli research and to foster scientific research and education in the periphery. Over the years, each center developed its own areas of expertise tailored to the areas in which they are located.

### Wine went in, secrets came out

In 2017, archaeologist Roei Porat, who led the delegation to study Herodian (where Herod the Great built a palace fortress and a small town south of Jerusalem), told Ben-Gedalya about the unique vessels uncovered at the

*(continued next page)*





credit: Rose Porat

Dr. Tziona Ben-Gedalya at the Herodian excavation

Herodian site — dozens of handmade storage containers known as “dolia” that measured about 3’ tall by 3’ wide, capable of holding 105-plus gallons. The temptation to probe the purpose of the huge containers was immense.

“I soon joined the Herodian excavation team from Hebrew University. To a large extent, the mission was like a detective trying to recreate events based on what is found at a crime scene. At Herodian, I looked more like someone we now identify with COVID: I came to the excavation wearing laboratory gear: a lab coat and gloves. When you want to take a 2,000-year-old sample, you can’t contaminate it with anything modern.”

Study of the dolia revealed each one to be a perfectly preserved time capsule. Some of the samples were brought to the Ariel University Wine Research Center, which is run by Dr. Eliyashiv Drori. Drori’s search for ancient grape varieties used to make wine in the ancient Land of Israel and his attempts to recreate ancient wines in the university’s research vineyard have made him into an international authority on the subject.

The contents of the dolia are also being examined in Professor Ehud Weiss’s archaeological botany laboratory at Bar-Ilan University, where they reveal plants that were intentionally or incidentally added to the wine-making process. These findings indicate that plants were added to wine for their properties of taste, health, or aroma, and teach us about the climate and the environment of those times — both the wild and cultivated areas where the wine was produced.

## Historical Context

Cutting-edge biology and biochemistry methods might have been used to identify the contents of the dolia, but the historical context was not neglected. The fact that the giant containers were arranged in an enclosed space in Herod’s palace, lined up closely and orderly on the ground floor, gave the archaeologists a hint that the production process was well-organized. **Findings indicate that what has been excavated at Herodian are the remains of Herod’s royal vineyard and wine storage facility.** The huge jars were apparently used for fermentation, aging, and storage of locally produced wine. The wine was decanted from the dolia into amphorae, which might have been stored for use in nearby rooms.

“The large quantity of grape seeds discovered at the bottoms of the dolia, and the organic sediment found with them, appear to be showing us that the dolia

*(continued next page)*



contained wine at various stages of production, since seeds and sediment are removed from the wine at later stages,” Ben-Gedalya explained.



There is no doubt that the king was served the best wine that could be found, produced, or imported from overseas. **Herod did not hesitate to import and had close ties with the Roman Empire.**

Excavations at Herodian and his other palaces have unearthed amphorae incised with delivery addresses and seals, which taught researchers about large shipments of wine from Italy to Herod’s court. Herod expected local wines to be just as good. What’s more, it’s possible that the wines in the dolia found at Herodian were exported as part of the global wine trade.

## Other Questions

The biological and biochemical findings in the dolia raise other questions. Research is currently focused on identifying the type of grapes used to make wine at Herodian, and Ben-Gedalya’s lab is working on characterizing the bio-archaeological aspects of it. The microorganisms used in the fermentation process are also being studied.

As part of a research center that specializes in the medicinal properties of plants, especially ones unique to the Land of Israel, researchers are particularly fascinated by the aromas and health benefits. In ancient times, various plant components, such as honey, herbs, or aromatic oils, were added to wine to help preserve and protect it against microbial activity. The herbs and medicinal plants added to the wine used the alcohol to produce added flavor, aroma, and health benefits. Anyone who wants to reproduce Herodian wine must understand all the ingredients that went into it.

Next month, we’ll look at ancient beer. ★



## **Hebrew Names of God** notecards (set of 12 unique cards)

Rich calligraphy with the meaning and history of each of the 12 Names. Unique devotionals with Old and New Testament connections on the back of each card, useful for personal reflection, 12-week Bible studies, and framing on a conversation wall.

Including envelopes, these high-quality and colorful cards measure 5½" by 8½" and mail with a single First Class stamp.

# What to Expect From “Palestine”

BY MITCHELL BARD (r) Algemeiner.com

The love affair that so many politicians, peace protesters, and pundits have with the creation of a Palestinian state never ceases to astonish. Advocates constantly justify support with solemn intonations about human rights, and yet they show no interest in how Palestinians are treated by Palestinians, independent of the “occupation” by Israel. It is folly to expect anything to improve in “Palestine,” which is more likely to follow the model of neighboring authoritarian regimes than Israel’s democracy. Nevertheless, two-staters envision a Shangri-La that must be created at all costs.

For a preview of life in “Palestine,” let’s look at what the State Department Human Rights Report says about the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Start with the Palestinian idea of democracy. **There have been no national elections in the West Bank or Gaza since 2006.** PA President Mahmoud Abbas has remained in office despite his four-year term expiring in 2009, and he has refused to hold an election, knowing that he would lose. (By some polls, more than 60% of Palestinians want him to resign.) The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) has not functioned since 2007, and the PA Constitutional Court dissolved it in 2018. **Gaza is controlled by terror group Hamas, following a coup that ousted the PA in 2007.**

Here are some of the other lowlights from the report, with respect to the **actions of PA authorities:**

- Unlawful or arbitrary killings, torture, and arbitrary detention.
- Holding political prisoners and detainees, including as reprisal for participation in foreign investment conferences.
- Significant problems with the independence of the judiciary.
- Arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy.



Israeli forces and medics at the scene of a Palestinian terrorist attack in the West Bank, April 22, 2020

- Restrictions on free expression, the press, and the Internet, including violence, threats of violence, unjustified arrests and prosecutions against journalists, censorship, and site blocking.
- Forced child labor and child abuse.
- There are no laws against sexual harassment; and honor killings, though unlawful, continue.
- There is no law against human trafficking.

**Sound good so far?** The same basic situation exists in Gaza under Hamas.

Given these abuses, is it any surprise that Israeli Arabs living in northern Israel object to proposals to incorporate their towns into “Palestine”? Does anyone believe that any pro-Palestine politicians will rush to become citizens of the state they are pining for? How many Palestinians, especially women, want to live under an oppressive Iranian-style regime?

Part of creating a Palestinian state is the notion that it would be a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Setting aside the historical fact that before Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza there was no peace, we know that the Palestinians demand a state based on the 1949 armistice lines, with Jerusalem as their capital. Anything less will be justification for prolonging the conflict. ★

credit: Reuters / Anwar Awad





## The Israeli Ambassador's Speech

The Israeli Ambassador at the UN began, "Ladies and gentlemen, before I commence my speech, I want to relay an old Passover story.

"When Moses was leading the Jews out of Egypt toward the Promised Land, he had to go through the nearly endless Sinai desert. When the Israelites reached the Promised Land, the people had become very thirsty and needed water. So, Moses struck the side of a mountain with his staff and a pond appeared with crystal, cool water. The people rejoiced and drank to their hearts' content.

"Moses put down his staff and went to a solitary corner of the pond to meditate in prayer. But when he returned, Moses found that his staff had been stolen.

**"I have reason to believe, ladies and gentlemen, that the Palestinians stole the staff of our great Prophet Moses."**

Hearing this accusation, the Palestinian delegate to the UN jumped from his seat and screamed out, "This is a lie! There were no such people as 'Palestinians' at that time!"

"And with that premise in mind," announced the Israeli Ambassador, "I will now begin my speech." ★

THE ARGYLE SWEATER BY SCOTT HELBURN



### Answer Key for January 2021 Crossword (p.21)

Across:

- 2. Created
- 3. Again
- 4. Temple
- 6. Promise
- 8. Works
- 9. Buried
- 10. Man
- 12. Things
- 13. Kingdom
- 14. Crucified
- 15. Jesus
- 16. World
- 18. Saved
- 19. Light

Down:

- 1. Peace
- 2. Confess
- 5. Workmanship
- 7. Heart
- 9. Baptized
- 11. Former
- 14. Christ
- 17. New



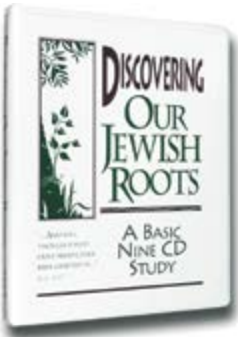
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Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
<b>Daystar Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 369 Dish – Channel 263				
Days	8 PM Wed 3 PM Fri	9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri	10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri	11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri
<b>TBN Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 372 Dish – Channel 260				
Day	3:30 PM Thursdays	4:30 PM Thursdays	5:30 PM Thursdays	6:30 PM Thursdays
<b>TCT Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 377				
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### SPRING TOUR 2021

~~Deluxe: March 10-17~~  
**CANCELED**  
~~Grand: March 18-25~~  
**DUO TO COVID-19**

*Uncertainty in Greece due to the coronavirus prevents us from visiting Greece on our Fall 2021 Tour.*

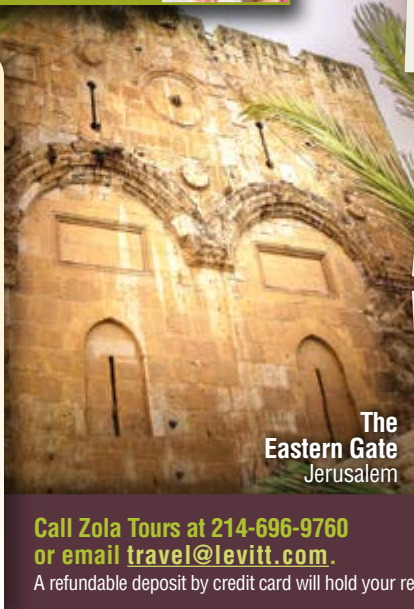
### FALL TOUR 2021

**Deluxe:** Oct. 18–28  
(Israel only, price TBD)

**Grand Petra:** Oct. 18–31  
(Israel & Petra, price TBD)

(FALL 2021 dates are tentative.)

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