



Levitt LETTER

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

inside: A Short
History of Israel p.8

Why We Celebrate George Washington

By Alan M. Dershowitz / Algemeiner.com

Even though George Washington, like most wealthy Virginians of his time, owned slaves (they were freed upon his and his wife's deaths), we must remember his unparalleled contribution to Jewish equality, not only in the United States but in the world at large. Because history understates what Washington did, a bit of background and context is required.

Most American Jews, and many non-Jews, are familiar with Washington's famous letter to the Jewish synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island in August 1790. He wrote the following about the equality of Jews in our new nation:

For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support ... May the Children of the Stock of

(continued p.2)

REMEMBER:

Feb. 14 (Sun.) – Valentine's Day
Feb. 15 (Mon.) – Washington's Birthday observed

Nourishing U.S.-Israeli Ties

By Lawrence J. Haas,
TheHill.com

Even the closest of bilateral relationships have their ups and downs, and that's surely true of the vibrant ties that the United States has maintained with Israel since Israel's national rebirth more than 70 years ago.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, would be wise to recognize the challenges that each faces, focus on the goals that their governments share, and avoid steps that could complicate their burgeoning relationship.

For both, the political landscape is fraught with challenges but also

(continued p.7)



Why We Celebrate George Washington *continued from cover*

Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.

Rejection of “The Jew Bill” in Great Britain



Royal coat of arms of Great Britain, 1714-1800

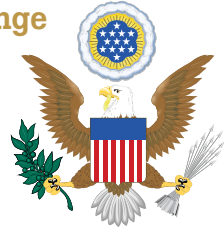
Through the middle of the 19th century, Jews lacked equality in Great Britain and its colonies. In 1753, Parliament enacted the Jewish Naturalization Act (“The Jew Bill”), which provided that Jews residing in Britain or in any “of his majesties colonies in America” may become citizens “without receiving the sacrament of the Lord’s supper.” I own an original copy of that revolutionary law that promised to pave the way to legal equality for Jews. Before that law, Jews were anything but equal in Great Britain. They had been expelled in 1290 and returned in relatively small numbers only during the reign of Oliver Cromwell in the 17th century. Discrimination against them was still rampant.

Jews celebrated their equality after the 1753 legislation passed, but their celebration was short lived.

Reaction to “The Jew Bill” was virulent anti-Semitism from the media, members of Parliament, and many British citizens. Within months, a movement to rescind the law succeeded. This meant that no Jew — in Britain or America — could be a member of Parliament, or even a British citizen, unless they renounced their faith and adopted Christianity. Benjamin Disraeli, who was born a Jew, had to convert to the Church of England before he could become a member of Parliament and, ultimately, prime minister.

A Revolutionary Change for Jews in America

American revolutionaries, whose Declaration of Independence pronounced that all men are created equal, produced and adopted the Constitution, which provided that no religious test should be required to hold office “under the United States.” But several states still had religious tests that excluded Jews from some of the most important benefits of citizenship. The legal status of Jews stood with the states when Washington wrote his influential letter in 1790, declaring, in no uncertain terms, that discrimination against Jews would not be tolerated and that Jews must be treated as first-class citizens for every purpose. It was the first such broad and detailed pronouncement in the history of the world.



The Great Seal of the United States

The Bill of Rights, adopted in 1791, further protected the free exercise of religion and precluded the federal government from establishing any form of Christianity (or any religion) as the official religion of the government.

But individual states were still free to “establish” various denominations of Christianity as their official religions. It took decades for Jews to achieve real equality through all the United States, but it might not have happened without George Washington’s bold and unequivocal pronouncement.

I, for one, will celebrate Washington while criticizing his ownership of enslaved people. No one should be surprised that our founding fathers and mothers, like the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Torah, were imperfect human beings.

Watch next month for our brand-new series, *Faith of our Fathers*. It parallels the deep faith of our Biblical patriarchs with the faith of America’s founding fathers. You won’t want to miss a single episode. —David





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A Greater Love than Ours

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



This month, we celebrate Valentine's Day. Granted, it is not a Jewish feast or holy day. But, we are the Harts, and with that last name, we tend to celebrate love. Let's call February 14 "Love of God Day"—no matter whether Valentine's Day began in recognition of Luperclalia or the martyred saint named Valentine—to focus on the love that we receive from our Creator and Savior. No greater love, no purer love, nor a more sacrificial love exists than that shown to us by Jesus, Yeshua HaMashiach.

The majority of you have probably heard this message for years. My prayer this February 14 is for the reality of our Creator's love to attach itself to your heart in such a steadfast way that you can barely utter your thanks to Him without experiencing His love in a fresh wave of gratitude. ★

Crucifixion (No. 11), engraving by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

Live Life with Gusto

Ecclesiastes 9

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



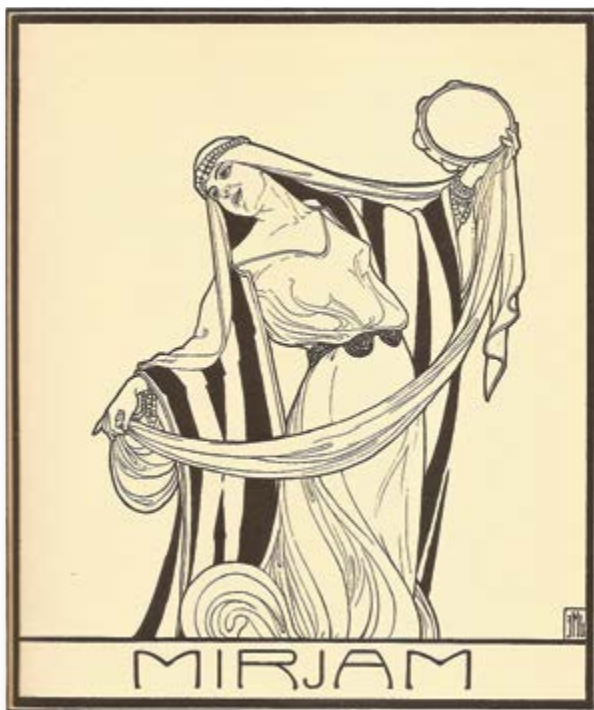
Throughout our study in Ecclesiastes, Solomon has often projected a dim view of life. One would think that Solomon had given up on “life under the sun.” In chapter 9, he looks at life with the wisdom we have come to expect. He concludes that life will be unpredictable, but that all of us should embrace life to its fullest, making every moment count for the Kingdom.

Let’s listen in on Solomon’s pearls of wisdom as he reveals life’s challenges that are common to all, and then encourages his readers to live life with gusto.

Trust God — He is Sovereign (9:1)

In the first verse of this chapter, Solomon declares that people are not the masters of their own fate. Every person, Believer* and non-believer, is subject to the sovereign will of God. The term “sovereign” has been used several times in our study of Ecclesiastes, so an example will aid understanding. Our sovereign God is King and Supreme Ruler over the entire Universe, and our lives are in His hands.

It is encouraging to know that nothing is out of His control. When all seems lost, remember that God is on your side. He really does care.



Mirjam, illustration by Ephraim Moses Lilien (1874–1925), shows Moses’ sister leading the women of Israel in dance to celebrate God’s victory over the Egyptians.

Life has Challenges for Everyone (9:2–6)

Solomon has observed and recorded that all people, regardless of their station in life, will one day come to the conclusion of life and enter eternity. It doesn’t matter if a person is righteous or unrighteous, clean or unclean (ritually), or among those who offer sacrifices or those who don’t. All answer to a Holy and Sovereign God. The main question is where one will spend eternity. Will it be in the presence of Yeshua, our Messiah, or with the great liar and deceiver in endless suffering?

I pause from Solomon’s writings to appeal personally: **If you have never given your eternal destiny to Yeshua, now is the time!** If you have, then you have been sealed by His Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22) and now await being “caught up” (Raptured) to forever be with your Lord.

Back to our study. Let’s look at what Solomon says in verse 9:4a: *“But to him* [\(continued next page\)](#)

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



who is joined to all the living there is hope” (emphasis mine). Solomon is encouraging his readers to dream big dreams and set huge goals, because there is hope and *“God has already approved your works”* (7b). Solomon’s statement should offer encouragement in a day when it seems, for many people, that all hope is lost. It is an offer we all need.

Life is to be Celebrated (9:7–10)

Solomon leaves depressing reminders about death and missed opportunities and now turns his focus to living life to its fullest. He reminds us to enjoy all things in moderation; food, drink, nice clothes, and soothing oils.

Solomon’s list includes enjoying life with your wife (or women, your husband). In other words, enjoy your family, friends, work, food, and drink — all that God calls good.

Life is Unpredictable (9:11–12)

Solomon returns to the inequities of life. We might expect life to go in one direction, and then it takes an unexpected turn. He points out that possibility in 9:11:

“The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, [think Gideon’s army] nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all.”

In 9:12, he illustrates his observations with two common examples:

1. a fish unsuspectingly gets caught up in a net
2. evil suddenly befalls and ensnares a man

Both scenarios depict how quickly everything can change — how unpredictable life can be. I am reminded of a practical, yet philosophical, line in the 1994 movie *Forrest Gump*, when Forrest explains, “Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.”

Life is Complicated by Fools (9:13–17)

These verses are trying to tell us that wisdom often goes unappreciated. Solomon was amazed that someone with enough wisdom to save a city was not recognized for his courage and military acumen. How did this poor man save the city? We are not told. However, as is often the case, in the quietness of the moment, wisdom wins; but the person who yells the loudest gets the attention.

Solomon concludes this chapter with the warning in verse 18 that a lot of wise goodness can be nullified by the foolishness of one person. Or, to put it another way: Sin always affects innocent people. ★



When Israel Opens

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



We love Israel and hope that you, too, love the Holy Land. I never dreamed that a worldwide virus would prevent entry into the earthly Promised Land.

In four years of leading Bible-study tours to Israel, David and I have developed deep friendships with phenomenal Israelis who have become part of the Zola Tours family. Unfortunately, the pandemic has dealt Israeli tourism a devastating blow.

Immanuel Tours, our Israel-based tour partner for over twenty years, arranges impeccable treatment for Zola Tours pilgrims. Our hotels, food, spotless motor-coaches, the jokes and wisdom from our primary tour guide **Ilan Barkay** (right), and the numerous daily perks rank second to none. We long to get back to the Land! Israeli tour sites and businesses need our support, smiles, and dollars.

We gentile Believers owe a debt to the Jewish people.

That's a Biblical fact! In Romans 15:27, Paul tells of how the early church in Greece made financial contributions to the poor in Jerusalem. Paul concluded: *"They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Greeks [gentiles] have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings."*



Zola Tours tour guide Ilan Barkay

credit: Kirsten Hart



How can 2021 Believers mirror the early Greek church?

- First, financially affirm Zola Levitt Ministries. When you give to this ministry, you open a direct channel to supporting sister ministries in Israel. *Our Jewish Roots* lists our various benevolence funds on the screen each week.
- Second, register for our next tour. We make it easy for you. Contact Sandra at **214-696-9760** or travel@levitt.com, or get more information at levitt.com/tours.

Our tour guides and bus drivers do lots more than just guide pilgrims and drive the buses. Because of our first-rate treatment and the Romans 15 mandate to care for the Jewish people, we tip them generously. Even in tourism's current economic drought, we continue to bless them financially from afar. That was Zola's idea, and we continue his tradition.

(continued next page)

We anxiously await our next Holy Land adventure, and we hope to see you on the bus.

This Valentine’s Day have fun. Give sweet Valentines, but also remember that you have the greatest power of love within your soul — the Holy Spirit. Speak words of kindness and change lives with a love that is beyond your natural understanding during February and beyond. ★

Nourishing U.S.-Israeli Ties ... *continued from cover sidebar*

provides opportunities for progress.

Biden’s signaling he does not plan to focus on Israeli-Palestinian peace at the outset is welcome news. He faces far more pressing global challenges, and he probably recognizes that the same obstacles to peace that bedeviled his predecessors remain. They include a Palestinian side that largely rejects the reality of Israel, and an Israeli side that feels burned by Palestinian leaders who have rejected numerous offers of statehood and, instead, opted for more violence.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Perhaps, too, Biden recognizes what last summer’s events confirmed: Israeli-Palestinian peace never was the key to broader Arab-Israeli peace. To its chilly peace deals with Egypt and Jordan, Israel now has

warmer and potentially broader deals with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. These Arab nations are driven by the economic and military benefits of engaging with Israel, and by the fears they share with it over a threatening Iran.



(credit: David Lienemann)

Official portrait of then Vice President Joe Biden

For decades, America’s close military, diplomatic, economic, and other ties with Israel have generated vast benefits for both sides. At a time of such hopeful change but also serious challenge across the Middle East, it’s a relationship that each should nourish carefully.

Let’s pray that Biden’s administration will be the friend to Israel that Trump’s was. —Editor ★



What About Us? book

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff (“Our Man in Haifa”) focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology.

A Short History of Israel

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1979
42 years ago



The questions keep coming:

"What right does Israel have to exist?"
And especially: *"By what right do Jews return to their historical land?"*

While the world doesn't believe the historical and prophetic statements of Scripture, the answers are nevertheless found in Bible prophecy. God's purposes and programs will be carried out.

Though the Jews have prophetically scattered around the globe, a small handful has always been in the Land. Jewish immigrants began to trickle back to Palestine, buy land from Turkish landowners, and redevelop the country. In 1881, there were about 25,000 Jews in Israel; by 1922, there were some 83,000.

But in recent years, Arab propaganda has spread a myth: *"Palestine was always an exclusively Arab country."*

For four centuries, Turkey controlled Palestine. After the Arab invasion in the seventh century, Arabic became the language of the minority population; yet **Palestine was never exclusively an Arab country. There was never an Arab state or Palestine Arab nation.** The Palestinian Arabs never ruled the country or formed any social or political identity.

It's well known that over the past centuries, the Arabs living in Palestine — being nomads with no ties or loyalty to the land — actually destroyed the land. The area was dead and lifeless in every aspect. Mark Twain visited Palestine in 1867 and wrote: "... desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given over wholly to weeds — a silent mournful expanse. ... There was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere."

In 1931, a British report read: "We found the land inhabited by Arabs who lived in mud hovels...large areas were uncultivated ... many Arabs were cattle thieves and harbored other criminals... there was little public security."

In the midst of this, God began moving His people, bringing about



Looking to the East, illustration (1901) by Ephraim Moses Lilien (1874–1925)

the promised return to the Land. (Deuteronomy 30:1–10)

In 1917, before the end of World War I, the British issued the Balfour Declaration, which favored "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." The Arabs welcomed the Jews. King Emir Faisal of Syria wrote: "The Arabs, especially the educated among us, ... wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home ... our two movements complete one another."

In the 1920s, all seemed to be going well. T. E. Lawrence wrote of Palestine: "The sooner the Jews farm the land the better; their colonies are bright spots in a desert." The Jews worked wonders. They reclaimed and irrigated the land, drained the swamps, and planted millions of trees. Each year they harvested two to five crops off the same acreage.

But by the 1930s, there was conflict between Arabs and Jews. Why?

Answer: Until Israel's Messiah returns, the Jews will be hounded even in their own Land because of satanic opposition to God's people. In Revelation 12, John writes of the End Times and seeing Israel chased into the wilderness "where she has a place prepared by God," who will protect the Jews of Israel. The Jews have no rest until after the coming Tribulation. Then, many who survive will accept Christ as their personal Savior and national Messiah. ★



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Toward Middle East Peace

During the summer of 2020, secret negotiations to bring about new peace agreements in the Middle East came to light. Israel and the UAE and Israel and Bahrain signed two new “normalization” agreements called the [“Abraham Accords.”](#)

The Israeli public greeted the news of these agreements with little to no interest. While the COVID-19 crisis dominated the agenda, even the media barely noted the historic significance of these events.

The agreements focus primarily on economic and civil cooperation between the countries in areas like agriculture, tourism, health, energy, innovation, and climate change. However, they mark a change in the political landscape that cannot be ignored.



Signing of the Abraham Accords on Sept. 15, 2020

It is important to consider what isn't included in the Accords, at least not in the “public” parts. Missing are statements concerning the supply of advanced weapons and military technology, any statement concerning a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and any mention of the Iranian threat. Looking at this new development, we must ask the question: Why now?

The U.S. desires to organize a coalition of pragmatic Sunni Arab nations that will block Iran and the advances of Russia and China (who both actively seek a foothold in the Middle East). The UAE and Bahrain are also concerned about the strength of two

On the Ground in Israel
Sarah Liberman
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OJR Contributor



additional competing forces, also vying for control in the region:

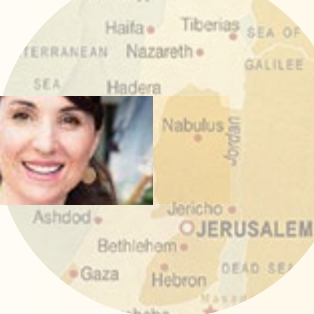
- The Iranian-Shia axis is increasing its pressure in the Arab Gulf both economically and militarily. This challenge is of increasing concern due to Iran and China's recent deepening alliances.
- The Turkish-Qatari axis is seeking to establish control in the region via Northern Iraq, Syria, the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, and Libya. The UAE and Turkey are practically at war in Libya. Additionally, Qatar openly supports Palestinian terrorism, and Turkey is striving for control of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Jordan, which signed an agreement with Israel 26 years ago, objected to these new deals. Jordan fears that without a strong statement on the Palestinian conflict in the form of a two-state solution, Jordan itself will become the Palestinian state by default.

Israel's interests in these agreements are clear: establishing meaningful alliances in the fight against Iran's radicalization, and increasing stability and economic prosperity in the Middle East. The new Accords successfully overcome the automatic veto on peace agreements with Israel that has been traditionally adopted by most Arab countries since 1948. This goal was clearly accomplished ... and without the drama of a new uprising among the “Palestinians.”

The Iranian, Russian, and Chinese responses to the Accords will determine just how close Israel is to an all-out East vs. West conflict. Watch for upcoming developments in the region, such as a revised nuclear deal between the West and Iran, Turkey's aggressive plays for dominance in the region, and Hezbollah's actions on Israel's northern border.

Now more than ever, we must pray for the peace of Jerusalem! ★



Two-Flag Collar Pin

With interlocking American and Israeli flags, this unique full-color pin proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of Biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace!



(Pin shown actual size)

The Purim Link Between Nazis and Anti-Semitic Iran



BY RABBI WARREN GOLDSTEIN, Chief Rabbi of South Africa (r) JPost.com



Detail of *Esther Denouncing Haman* (1888), painting by Ernest Normand (1857–1923)

Something unexpected happened when Julius Streicher, one of the high-ranking Nazis sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials, was executed.

Moments before Streicher was hanged on October 16, 1946, *Newsweek* reported, “He shouted to witnesses facing the gallows, ‘Purimfest, 1946.’” **Why would a condemned Nazi mention Purim in his last words?** Streicher was obviously familiar with Queen Esther’s history, in which Haman planned a genocide of the Jews. However, when Haman’s plans were thwarted, he and his 10 sons were hanged.

Streicher was acutely aware of the irony of history — that he was one of 10 Nazis hanged after being sentenced at the Nuremberg Trials. (In fact, 11 had been sentenced to die, but Hermann Goering committed suicide before his sentence was carried out.) Ten were hanged, just like Haman’s 10 sons in the Book of Esther. Amazingly, Streicher saw the historic link between the Nazi genocide and the attempted genocide of Haman. Like the Nazis, Haman also intended to wipe out every Jew — man, woman, and child.

There is a deeper irony, of which Streicher was certainly not aware. *Megillat Esther* (the scroll of Esther) lists the names of Haman’s 10 sons. According to the *Halacha* (collective works of Jewish law and custom), three of the letters in these names are written in smaller font than the rest of the text — a *tav*, a *shin*, and a *zayin* — and one letter is written in larger font — a *vav*.

What do these differently sized letters signify? For generations, different explanations have been offered. In the 20th century, however, another connection was discovered. The large *vav* is numerically 6, corresponding to the sixth millennium. The small *tav*, *shin*, and *zayin* are numerically 707. Together, the four numbers refer to the 707th year of the sixth millennium — in other words, the Jewish year 5707, which corresponds to 1946, the year in which these 10 high-ranking Nazis were hanged. Thus, the unusually sized letters — *vav*, *tav*, *shin*, and *zayin* — found in the names of Haman’s 10 sons allude to the year of the execution of these 10 Nazi war criminals.

Of further interest is that the ten men were sentenced on the 1st of October, in the days between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* of 1946. They were hanged on the 16th of October, on which in 1946 fell *Hoshanah Rabbah*, the day that judgment of the world is finalized.

Since the Torah is God’s wisdom for all times, many symbols cannot be properly

(continued next page)



Nazi official Julius Streicher (1885 – 1946), founder of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer* (*The Attacker*) and organizer of the anti-Jewish boycott



understood until generations later. The differences in the font size of the letters in the names of Haman's 10 sons could not be completely understood in previous generations. Only in October 1946 did the full meaning become clear as 10 Nazis were hanged in the Jewish year 5707, *tav shin zayin*.

What does all this mean? The answer comes from one of the heroines of Jewish history, Queen Esther. At risk to her life, with bravery, conviction, and loyalty, she intervened to save her people. Through her bold and dramatic life, Queen Esther showed us that God's presence permeates our history.

Esther understood that her fate and destiny — and that of her people — were in God's hands. She taught us that sometimes God interacts with the world through "open miracles" — like the 10 plagues and the parting of the sea during the Exodus from Egypt. But mostly He acts in hidden ways, as happened during the time of Purim. The miraculous salvation of the Jewish people was just as spectacular as the open miracles, yet it occurred in a way that was hidden from view and seemingly "natural."

The name "Esther" is said to come from the Hebrew root "to hide," referring to the verse where God says, "on that day I will hide My face from you" (Deuteronomy 31:18). In the entire Book of Esther, God's name is not mentioned once; yet His presence is everywhere. Our celebrations on Purim attribute all of the Esther miracles to God's direct intervention in history, albeit hidden behind the machinations of politics and world affairs.

Queen Esther's message is that we must not relate to these events in natural terms alone; we need to see God's presence in everything, though He is hidden. Esther's message applies to us as individuals in our day-to-day lives. Viewing history at large with Esther's message in mind powerfully demonstrates God's involvement in the affairs of people and the direction of civilizations.

The supernatural miracles of national Israel's rebirth and renewed Torah learning following the Holocaust are but two examples that show God's power and presence in everything. And even in Jews' current dangers, we feel God's presence and involvement.

Julius Streicher, as he was being executed, saw with clarity the connection between the Nazi genocide and the attempted genocide planned by Haman. Persia — where Haman lived — is today called Iran, and its new Hamans, the new Nazis, proclaim their intentions of genocide against the Jewish people.

We must meet this latest Persian threat of genocide with Queen Esther's spirit. Esther pursued not only a practical plan of action that was well executed politically and strategically, she also pursued a spiritual plan: She instructed Mordechai to gather the people to repent, pray, and fast. She understood and felt God's presence in all of the events, and so should we.

The Jewish state and people must prepare practically and strategically, but also spiritually — in the form of prayer and repentance as we heed God's call to return to Him. Israel's supporters can help in this respect. May God once again bless His people with redemption and liberation. Then may we give thanks to Him as we say in our Purim prayers, "for the miracles, the redemption, the mighty deeds, and the victories in battle, which You performed for our ancestors in those days and in this time." ★



Julius Streicher

credit: Heinrich Hoffmann, German Federal Archives



Q. Why did John write his Gospel?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



A major tool that helps readers interpret a passage or book of the Bible is “author intent” — why someone wrote it and for whom. We know from 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21 that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate Author of all Scripture and inspired men to pen God’s Word. But with the Book of John, we focus on why God’s Spirit gave John the task of writing his Gospel. Sometimes an author will state his intent; but if not, the context becomes trickier to deduce.

Luke (6:14) and Mark (3:17) identify John as one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus. John reveals in 20:30–31 his overarching purpose in writing is **so that readers might believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the prophesied Messiah**. **John sets out to prove Christ’s identity** as both God and man united in one Person and sent by God to save sinners who trust in Jesus for salvation (John 3:16).

John centers this evangelical purpose **around eight miraculous signs** (out of the many) that he witnessed Jesus perform:

1. **turning water into wine** (John 2:1–11)
2. **healing the nobleman’s son** (John 4:46–54)
3. **healing the lame man** (John 5:1–18)
4. **walking on the water** (John 6:16–21)
5. **feeding the 5,000** (John 6:1–14)
6. **healing the blind man** (John 9:1–7)
7. **raising Lazarus from the dead** (John 11:1–45)
8. **the miraculous catch of fish after Jesus’ resurrection** (John 21:6–11).



Saint John, from Christ and the Apostles, engraving by Hendrick Goltzius (1558–1617)

John uses these eight miracles to verify who Jesus really is — the Divine Word, the Son of God, and the Messiah come to Israel and the world to save all those who trust Him for salvation.

In his prologue, John affirms that Jesus pre-existed in eternity past as “God the Word” in a face-to-face fellowship with God the Father. This same One who existed as “God with God” stepped into time and became flesh and blood (i.e., human) to save a perishing world from sin and condemnation. Those who believe this claim about Jesus will be saved (John 3:16–17).

The seven “I AM” statements that Jesus proclaimed about Himself form another prominent theme in John’s Gospel, which I will review in a future lesson.

The Holy Spirit brilliantly inspired John’s Gospel to be understood by a young child and still immerse knowledgeable theologians in its inexhaustible depths. John endeavored, then, to invite all people everywhere to read his eyewitness account of what Jesus said and did, and come to the correct conclusion that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and...

“that believing you may have life in His Name.” — John 20:31 ★

Retrospective on Our TV Program's Name Change



BY CLAYTON HERRING (r) Associate Producer for Berg Productions

A Jewish man made history in December 1979 by hosting a half-hour Christmas television special in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. ***Wait! A Jewish man... proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah?***

1979

Local TV station executives liked what they saw and invited Zola Levitt to produce a weekly program. He was able to do that with the help of his gentile-Christian friend and producer Kenneth Berg.

The TV program initially kept the name of Zola's call-in radio program, ***Zola Levitt Live***, but later changed it to ***Zola Levitt Presents*** because, unlike Zola's live radio program, it was recorded. This curious little TV program caught the attention of the fledgling Christian Broadcasting Network. CBN sought to be one of the first religious networks using (what was then) the latest technological advancement in television distribution: cable. No longer restricted to watching only three TV network affiliates, cable subscribers had access to over 70 different channels!

2006

Zola Levitt brought "Christianity through Jewish eyes" to gentile churchgoers and to a small, very quiet minority of religious Jewish people. In 2006, after Zola hosted for almost 27 years, the Lord called him home. ***Zola Levitt Presents*** continued with hosts Sandra Levitt and Dr. Jeffrey Seif, then Myles and Katharine Weiss, and now David and Kirsten Hart. Everyone involved with ***ZLP*** wanted to honor Zola's vision and legacy by keeping the original name, but eventually, a name change became essential.

2010

In 2010—four years after Zola's heavenly birthday—Jeffrey Seif and I attended the National Religious Broadcasters Convention and met face to face (remember that concept?) with our national distribution outlets and other ministries.

One afternoon, Jeff and I bumped into a friend of his — Jonathan Bernis,

the leader of a sister ministry. During our pleasant conversation, Jonathan asked Jeff, "Are you still working on the program named after someone else?" Jonathan's tongue-in-cheek question only acknowledged the obvious: We no longer had Zola Levitt doing the "presenting." No matter how arduous the process, the name needed to be changed; but we remained reluctant. It took another ten years to begin the transition.

2019

The last ***Zola Levitt Presents*** program aired at the end of December 2019, featuring Jeff with David and Kirsten Hart. January 2020 saw the same people in the studio, but the name of the program was now ***Our Jewish Roots***. **By focusing on what was decidedly the most important aspect of Zola's ministry—the Jewish roots of the Christian faith—we could continue the legacy that Zola had begun almost 42 years previously and take it into the future.**

We expanded with the times, beyond television and our free monthly ***Levitt Letter*** news magazine, creating pages and channels on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and other social media. Now this "curious little program" can be seen by anyone with access to the Internet, which means almost the entire world. Though 2020 was a challenging year, our "virtual" presence assured us of a continued and broadening audience. We look forward to a bright future because we remember Who remains in control. HIS Name, as always, is above all names! ★



Above and Beyond Obeying the Law?

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



Dear Reader: Believers are neither above the law nor beyond obeying the law. In fact, they typically should go above and beyond *in* obeying the law. At least one loyal ZLMer imagines a prior article suggested our Savior could espouse criminal intent.

No way! — Mark

Dear Sir,

Concerning Dr. Karl Lorenz's [December 2020 Levitt Letter opinion "WWJD: Would Jesus Wear a Mask?" \(p. 7\)](#).

His moralizing/jawboning about what Jesus might do is revealing, but completely misses the point.

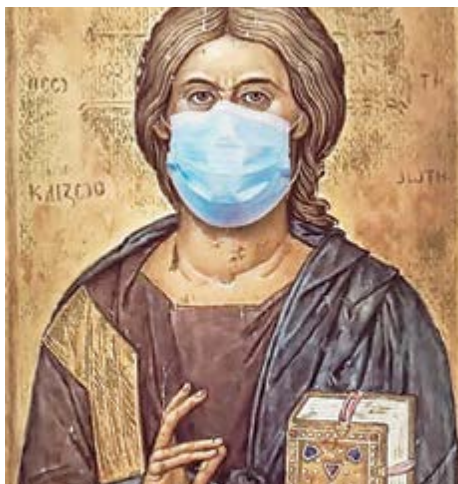
Nobody where I live is asking me to wear a mask. Masks are mandated by the government; any infraction is punishable by fines and/or incarceration. Would Jesus wear a mask if asked to? Certainly; didn't He die for you?

The issue, then, is not whether Jesus would wear a mask out of consideration for others, but rather would He comply with a government-mandated edict under threat of punishment. His disciples thought not: "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'" (Acts 5:29)

You apparently think the argument is about mask-wearing and have missed the point, ridiculously agreeing to disagree. I truly enjoy your news magazine. I will, however, never read it with the same confidence. — R.L.M. (ME)

Dear R.L.M.,

Thank goodness you enjoy our free news magazines despite whatever splinter is in our eye (Matthew 7:5) and your mistaken assumption. **The article in question was not about whether Yeshua would commit a criminal act.** (Perhaps His not being cited for overturning the Temple's



Detail of *Christ the Pantocrator* by Jovan Zograf (1384) (mask added)

money changers' tables affirmed the hypocritical priests' awareness that He was in His own house.)

Romans 13 advises Believers to obey the government, since no government exists that God has not placed in power. Consequently, those who refuse to obey the law of the land are refusing to obey God. Now please reread the article (or the excerpts below, with my emphasis). Pretend that you're with Yeshua in a setting where today's facemask manifesto doesn't apply, perhaps in your living room.

- Christian love is defined as **putting the needs of others above our own**.
- In the Biblical parable of the sheep and goats (Matt. 25:31–46), **Jesus finds fault even with what we do not do (indifference)** in the face of others' needs (pun intended).
- Keeping your distance and wearing a mask are the most important ways to **show you care**.

Per 1 Corinthians 6:19 (your body is the Holy Ghost's temple), protecting it with a face mask, social distancing, and staying home can be acts of thanks as well as good examples (Romans 14:13).

Blessings, Mark

Please also see letter on [p. 22](#). ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



Then-U.S. Sec. of State Mike Pompeo with Iranian activist Masih Alinejad in 2019

Do Iranian Lives Matter?

Less to some Iranians than the civil rights for which they're rebelling. Echoing Patrick Henry's declaration, "Give me liberty or give me death," Iranian freedom activist Masih Alinejad explains why she's not afraid of her country's "paper tiger regime" who "wets in their pants." Watch her bold, defiant one-minute video at:

<https://bit.ly/3hjk900> (scroll down).

Also, see the September, October, and December *Levitt Letter* bulletin boards for "Do Jewish Lives Matter?" parts 1 – 3.

ECFA Approved (still)

For the past eight years, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has steadily monitored various aspects of this ministry's financials, newsletters, website, government documents, television broadcasts, etc. The ECFA knows more about our ministerial effort than some of our employees! Once again, we appreciate the ECFA continuing to accept ZLM as an official member.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The 8½" x 11" workbook ***A Guide To Your Christian Will*** addresses key questions, like: 1) Who needs a will? 2) What are the advantages of having a will? 3) What happens without one? The Guide then delves into the appropriate steps, such as identifying your heirs and what you'll leave behind, and keeping your records and documents where they can be found. The worksheets include a Key Information Organizer, Facts to Help Your Attorney, a form for listing personal property, and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM code "WILL"**



Hitler Quotes in Police Manuals

A recent report by Louisville, KY high school students drew national attention to Kentucky State Police training manuals that admiringly quoted Adolf Hitler. Hitler was the most-quoted person in the presentation that included lines from *Mein Kampf* and links to a Hitler page on a social networking site. The state explained that they haven't used the presentation since 2013.



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details



Parables and Revelation

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



“I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old.” (Psalm 78:2)

אֶפְתָּחַ	בְּמִשְׁלַל	פִּי	אֲבִיעָה	חֵדוֹת	מִנִּי־קֶדֶם
(3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)
ef-te- chah '	pee' ve-ma-shal'	pee'	a-bee'-ah	chee-doh't'	mee-nee-ke'-dem
I will open	my mouth in a parable		I will utter	dark sayings	from old

Purim is all about parables, disguises, and mystery, making it a perfect holiday to think about Yeshua’s parables.

Yeshua often used agricultural images in His parables. For example, He explained that people are known by the “fruits” of their lives (Matt. 7:16–20). He likened the spread of His message in terms of “sowing and reaping” (Matt. 13:3–23) and compared the Kingdom of Heaven to the secret working of a mustard seed (Matt. 13:31–32). Yeshua regarded the world as a “field” with different “types of soil” for planting (Matt. 13:38–43) and warned of the “great harvest” of souls at the end of the Age (Luke 10:2; Matt. 13:30). He pointed to signs, like the fig tree, to indicate the nearness of the prophesied End of Days (Matt. 24:32–33). Yeshua also used the metaphor of a “vine and its branches” to explain how His followers are to be connected to Him (John 15:1–8).

Undoubtedly, **Yeshua taught in parables because they simultaneously conceal and reveal the truth**. A parable obscures the truth to those who don’t really want it, just as it reveals the truth to those who do (Luke 8:9–10; Psalm 78:2; Matt. 13:34–35). Yeshua’s whole life was a parable of sorts—a “disguise” that led to the victory of our deliverance (Phil. 2:7). His regular use of “figures of speech” to provoke people to examine their own hearts, attitudes, and faith should not surprise us. In this connection, Yeshua never explained the “mysteries of the Kingdom of God” directly to the crowds, nor did He ever pander to the crowd’s clamor or interests. His message was and is always meant for the individual soul who is willing to follow Him—to the one who has “ears to hear.”

Reading the parables can help us take inventory of our lives. For example, whenever we hear the famous “parable of the sower” (Matt. 13:3–23), we are reminded that God is like a farmer who sows seed upon the soil of the human heart (the quality of which may be hard, shallow, choked, or good). If we are honest with ourselves, we will see our own hardness, shallowness, and selfishness in contrast to the fruitfulness marked by the good soil. This recognition may prompt us to seek God for help. Only a new heart (*lev chadash*) created by the power of God’s Spirit can possibly yield the fruit of the Spirit. Yeshua, therefore, warns us: **“Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given; and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away”** (Luke 8:18). ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

Esther: *For Such a Time as This* DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Book of Esther is one of the Jewish people's favorites. In this series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story's details and points out that, like Esther, we Believers may be alive *for such a time as this*.

Beautiful Inside and Out Does God use women? Yes! We consider Esther's rise and Queen Vashti's fall, and how God elevates individuals to places of influence—then as now.

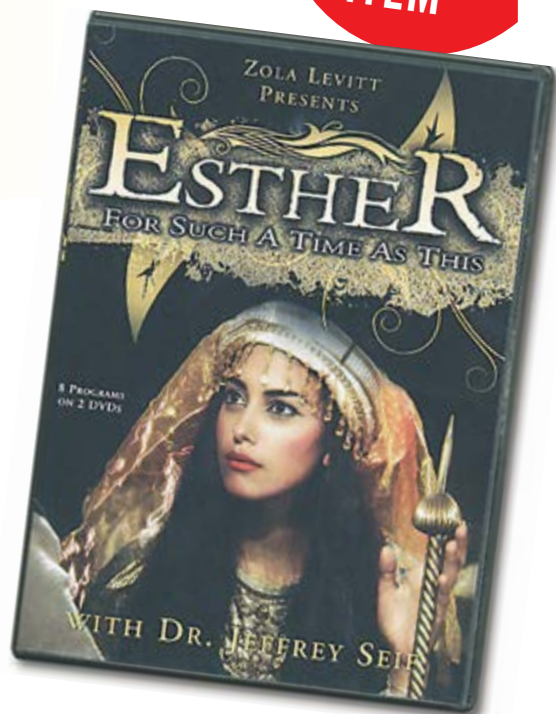
Chosen for a Purpose Though wickedness surfaces in every generation, God positions His people to thwart the devil's plans and fulfill His own. We examine Mordecai and Esther's placement—and our own; for we, too, are called to God's work.

Called to be Courageous Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worthy: "If I perish, I perish!" If only we all had such resolve!

Undone by a Woman Our story's heroine hatches a plan to thwart the scheming Haman. The once-sheepish Esther arises as a shepherdess, boldly taking on the wolf, guiding the saga to its conclusion.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif



God Rewards the Righteous God uses irony to give the wicked and the righteous their just deserts.

Justice at Last! Our story's villain meets his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

Fight We Must! Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Spirited self-defense is Biblical.

The Triumph of God in Human History God turns our mourning into joy. The Jews are bidden to commemorate God's saving power and goodness in an annual celebration, Purim. We should all celebrate God's goodness, thereby banishing the clouds of despair.

Please see the related Purim article on [p. 10](#).



ORDER FORM



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	Glorious! The Future of the Believers (p.23)	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House (pictured)	\$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	___
___	Mix or Match:..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

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) (pictured) ..	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Berg)	\$18	___
___	Israel: By Divine Right (transcript)	\$10	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (p.33)	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold) (pictured)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff) (p.7)	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Bad Moon Rising	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Beauty for Ashes	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos	(3+ hours, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Bible, The Whole Story ...	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Called Together	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Esther (p.17)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece"	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Holocaust	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Israel, the Church, & the Future ...	(6+ hours, 4-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror ...	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Psalms of Ascent	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Revelation (pictured)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ruth: Your People Shall Be (p.20) ...	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<i>Sar Shalom: Prince of Peace</i> ...	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	She Shall Be Called Woman	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Times of the Signs	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___

New!

To order:

Online:
store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
800-966-3377,
ZLM Dallas office:
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
___	2-flag Collar Pin (p. 9)	\$2	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$58	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	_____
___	Drink Koozies (pictured)	2 for \$5	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin	\$10	_____
___	Half-shekel Key Chain (pictured)	\$10	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5781 / 2021) (pictured)	\$6	_____
___	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12) (p. 36)	\$8	_____
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace	\$39	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____

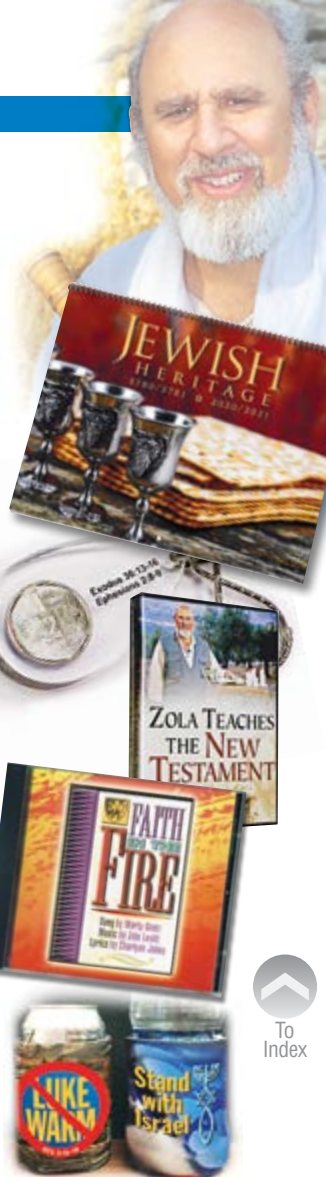
Teaching CDs

___	Glory! The Future of the Believers (p.23)	CD	\$7	_____
___	A Survey of the New Testament	(CD)	\$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs)	\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Faith in the Fire (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	The Works	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Works II	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	Zola's Songs by Lamb	(Music CD)	\$12	_____

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



Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

up to \$15.99, add \$5
 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7
 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9
 \$61 to \$97.99, add \$10
 \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING

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.

Name _____

(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional) _____

On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____ Card ID# required _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Subtotal _____

Shipping (See left chart) _____

UPS shipping (\$4 extra) _____
 (only within the contiguous U.S.)

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____

Ruth: *Your People Shall Be My People* DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs
on two DVDs

We follow the famous love story verse by verse and watch as Israeli actors re-enact it in Hebrew. Myles and Katharine Weiss explain the Biblical characters' journey from darkness to destiny, and Messianic Israeli Arie Bar David clarifies Israelite culture at the time of Ruth. Sasha and Anya Poberejny provide the uplifting music.

The Covering Naomi and Ruth's journey from Moab to Israel. God is bringing Jews and Christians together as in the first century.

Road To Bethlehem After ten years of famine, Naomi returns to Israel. Her faithful daughter-in-law declares, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Finding The Redeemer Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem at harvest time. The romance between Boaz and Ruth begins.



Breaking Of Bread Boaz asks Ruth to break bread with him. Our Heavenly Father invites us into a relationship through His Son, Jesus (the Bread of Life). The story of Ruth and Boaz bears a similarity to the relationship of Myles and Katharine—Jew and gentile in the harvest field of the Lord.

Virtuous Woman Naomi sends Ruth to Boaz's threshing floor where he promises to take care of her.

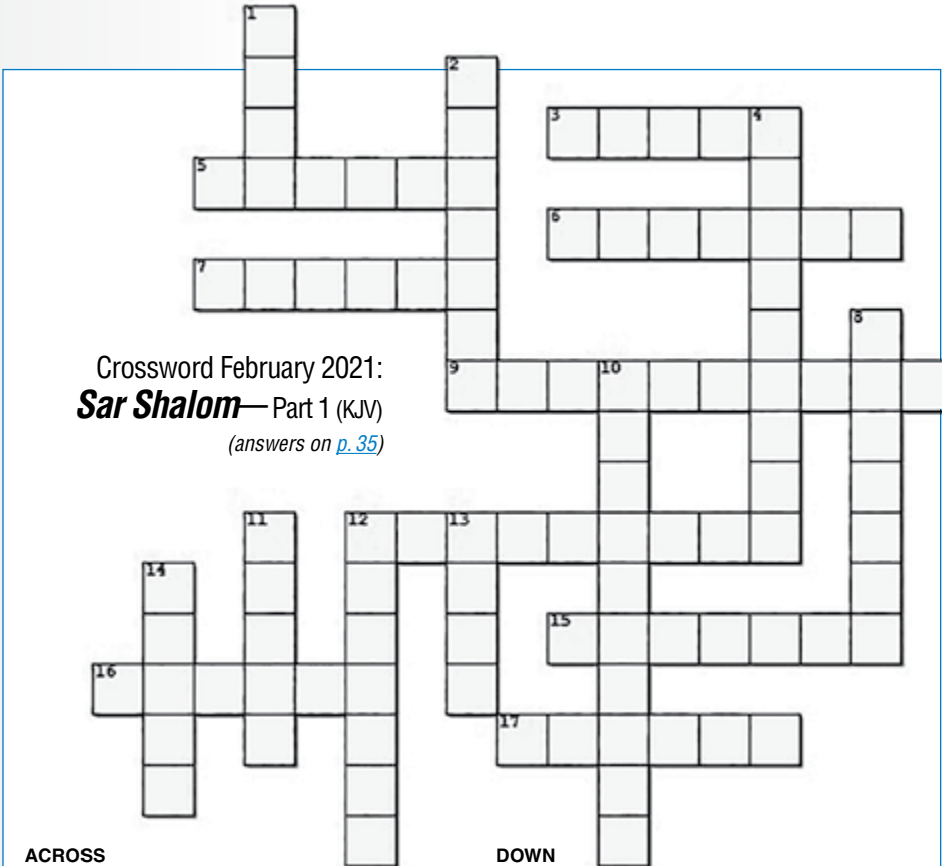
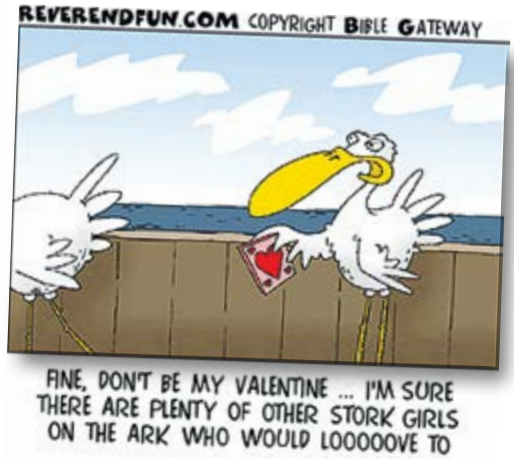
Kinsman Redeemer Boaz desires to be Ruth's husband. However, a closer relative must be consulted first.

Redemption God included gentile Ruth into the family of Israel and lineage of the Messiah. Ruth's story pictures the full restoration for Believers due to the blood of Yeshua.

Future Of Hope Ruth and Boaz get married and raise a family. Naomi's life changed from tragedy to restoration and hope. Yeshua wants to do the same for us.



Fun and Games



Crossword February 2021:
Sar Shalom— Part 1 (KJV)
 (answers on [p. 35](#))

ACROSS

- 3. Let your ___ so shine among men... (Matt. 5:16)
- 5. ...Our Father which art in ____ (Matt. 6:9)
- 6. No man can serve two ____ (Matt. 6:24)
- 7. Judge not, that ye be not ____ (Matt. 7:1)
- 9. And there followed him great ____ (Matt. 4:25)
- 12. ...His ___ came unto Him: (Matt. 5:1)
- 15. And Jesus went about all ____ (Matt. 4:23)
- 16. ...pray to thy Father which is in ____ (Matt. 6:6)
- 17. Blessed are the poor in ____ (Matt. 5:3)

DOWN

- 1. But I say unto you, ___ your enemies... (Matt. 5:44)
- 2. But seek ye first the ___ of God... (Matt. 6:33)
- 4. But lay up for yourselves ___ in Heaven... (Matt. 6:20)
- 8. ___, and be exceeding glad... (Matt. 5:12)
- 10. And lead us not into ____ (Matt. 6:13)
- 11. Blessed are the pure in ____ (Matt. 5:8)
- 12. ...I am not come to ___, but to fulfill. (Matt. 5:17)
- 13. Ye are the ___ of the earth... (Matt. 5:13)
- 14. Neither shalt thou ___ by thy head... (Matt. 5:36)





Letters to ZLM

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

Realistic approach to ministry

Dear ZLM,

Thank you for your realistic approach to ministry, which includes updating programs to remain fresh and accessible. Your financial transparency and accountability are much appreciated, too. —J.E. (AR)

Dear J.E.,

Zola's son Mark has guided this ministry to stay current without compromising our steadfast values. Navigating this Biblical journey doesn't come cheaply. Although we never pressure people for financial giving, it's still very needed to keep our ship afloat. —David



Detail of *Christ the Pantocrator* by Jovan Zograf (1384) (mask added)

More on masks

Dear ZLM,

I am attempting to unmask this question: Would Jesus wear a mask? ([Levitt Letter, Dec. 2020, p. 7](#))

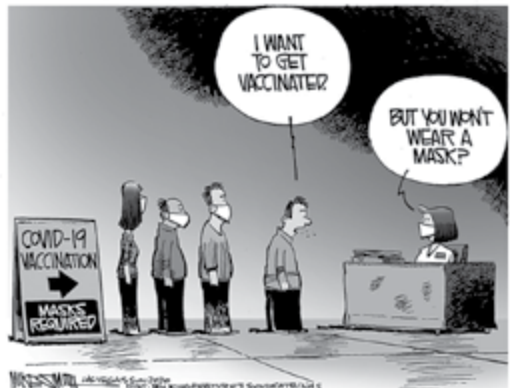
Jesus was born into a world filled with sickness and infectious disease. However, His power was greater than the sickness. Jesus not only healed the leper in Mark 1, but did so by touching him.

I believe the Levitical laws concerning leprosy were given to us for protection. Quarantining amounts to Biblical wisdom. I believe we use this wisdom when we wear our masks and watch where we go during this Covid season. But concerning our Lord Jesus, who created all things and whose very name Yeshua means Savior and Deliverer, C'mon, Man! —T.D. (TX)

Dear T.D.,

Point taken. Dr. Lorenz did emphasize in his article that Christians show Christ's love by putting others' needs above our own. So, while our perfect Savior wouldn't need to wear a mask Himself, we imperfect humans might still want to model His love for others by wearing ours. —Editor

Please see the Mark's [Note](#) on [p.14](#).



Pedantic?

Dear ZLM,

I am a regular viewer of *Our Jewish Roots* and a huge fan of Dr. Seif's teaching. However, when he uses terms like *Matthean Gospel* instead of *Matthew's Gospel*, it sounds artificial and affected even though it may be technically correct. Keep those programs coming. —B.C.

(continued next page)



Dear B.C.,

I hear you. Dr. Seif's Biblical proficiency and vocabulary surpass many of ours. As a lifelong student, I rather enjoy enhancing my knowledge of the Bible by learning the proper terms. — David

Workout videos

Dear ZLM,

Just wanted to thank you for your ministry. We've watched for many years and even joined one of your tours in 1999. We do have a decent little library of your videos and I particularly enjoy watching them while using our Total Gym. God bless you all. — K.S.

Dear K.S.,

Learning more about the Bible *while* getting a great workout? Love it! You are an inspiration to feed our minds while keeping our temples healthy. — Kirsten

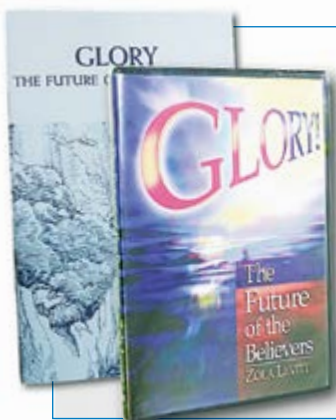
Using resources

Dear ZLM,

We love this ministry and pray that you survive through this time of uncertainty. We watch on Roku and enjoy the *Levitt Letter* news magazine. It is always full of insights that we share with our weekly Bible study. — E.M.

Dear E.M.,

I am glad that you are using your *Levitt Letter* as a Bible-study tool. That's a wonderful practice for others to try. As you've seen, Roku.com offers affordable options (less than \$50 to buy the box that plugs into the TV) for watching television programs like ours with an internet connection instead of relying on cable or satellite. Even non-technical users can plug in the box and enjoy our free shows whenever the mood strikes! — Kirsten ★



Glory! The Future of the Believers study booklet and teaching CD By Zola Levitt

Prophecy studies often deal with the Tribulation, the antiChrist, Armageddon, and other cataclysms to befall an unbelieving world. This delightful study deals with the happy events prophesied for Believers:

- the Rapture
- the Marriage Supper
- the Kingdom, etc.

The future for those who believe.

Holocaust Survivor: Cookbook

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum / Medium.com



above: Rabbi Yitzchak Jedwab and Lennie Kropveld on their wedding day **right:** Lennie Kropveld received this illustrated kosher cookbook as a wedding present in July 1942 in Aalten, Netherlands, and buried it underground when she went into hiding.

The Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in 1940 forever changed the lives of Dutch Jews, including 17-year-old Lennie Kropveld. As persecution increased and deportations began in 1942, Lennie's family made plans to go into hiding. Lennie planned to hide with Rabbi Yitzchak Jedwab, to whom she was engaged. Her father insisted that they marry first.

Before Lennie and Yitzchak went into hiding on a farm, she buried one of her wedding gifts, a kosher cookbook. She hoped that she would one day be able to go back and retrieve it.

Safeguarding for the Future

During the two and a half years they were in hiding, Lennie sewed for the farmer's wife; in addition, her father made payments. Lennie became pregnant and had a very difficult pregnancy. Constant bombings required the four Jews on the farm to hide in a hole in the ground outside for shelter.

The farmer's sister-in-law, a Nazi sympathizer, was staying with the family when Lennie went into labor, so Lennie and Yitzchak hid in the hayloft of the barn. Lennie could not make any noise during the delivery, for fear of alerting the woman to their presence, and

(continued next page)

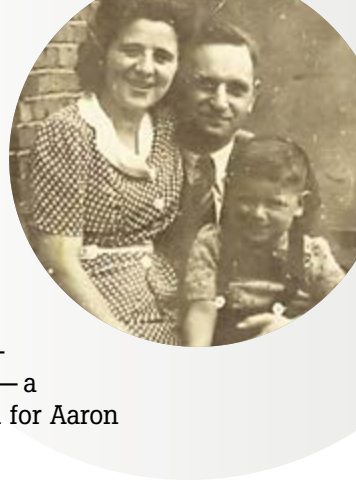


Cookbook's apple tart recipe (translated on next page)

All photos credit: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of Lennie Kropveld, Jada



Lennie and Yitzchak reunited with their young son, Aaron, after the war.



had to cover her face with a pillow. The farmer's wife did not want a doctor to help with the delivery, but after days of labor, Lennie was very ill and Yitzchak insisted.

Their son, Aaron, was born on September 20, 1943. For their son's and their own safety, the new parents dressed him in handmade clothes, placed him in a cardboard box, and entrusted him to the Dutch underground — a mere 12 hours after his birth. A loving foster family cared for Aaron until he was reunited with his parents after liberation.

Remembering the Past

Despite all that she had endured, Lennie did not forget about the cookbook she had stowed away. After the end of the war, Lennie recovered her cookbook from its hiding place as she had intended. Today, the lovingly dog-eared volume resides in the Museum's collection. This artifact, which Lennie herself entrusted to our care, now serves as a tangible reminder of the strength and perseverance of the human spirit.

As the Holocaust recedes in time and we lose its eyewitnesses, it becomes more and more important for the Museum to make accessible the personal stories of those who lived through it. Recipes like these from Lennie's cookbook are a very special way of doing that. ★

Apple Tart

Ingredients:

Puff pastry
1 kilogram (35.3 oz.) apples
100 grams (3.5 oz.) raisins
50 grams (1.75 oz.) almonds
250 grams (8.8 oz.) sugar
and some cinnamon

Directions:

Peel the apples and grate them with a vegetable grater. Wash the raisins, peel and shred the almonds, add the sugar and the cinnamon. Roll out the puff pastry and place it in the bottom of a baking dish. Pour the prepared cake filling in the baking dish and cover it with a lattice made of leftover puff pastry. Bake the cake in an all-around equally heated oven.

Recommended cooking temperature is 350°F for 40–60 minutes, depending on how thinly the apples are sliced (more time for thicker slices).

translated from a Holocaust survivor's cookbook

Fresh Green Pea Soup

Ingredients:

100 grams (3.5 oz.)
shelled green peas
25 grams (0.9 oz.) butter
1/2 tbsp flour
1 tbsp rice
Fine cut parsley
Salt

Directions:

Cook the green peas in sufficient water until they are done. Roast the flour in the butter and sprinkle it with some water from the green peas. Wash the rice and let it cook in the soup. Shortly before serving the soup, add the fine cut parsley and let it cook.

translated from a Holocaust survivor's cookbook



Goliath's True Height

SCIENCE: BY HANNAH BROWN (r) JPost.com



Goliath may have a towering place in Biblical history, but the Philistine warrior described as a “giant” may not actually have been Jack-and-the-Beanstalk tall, according to new research by Prof. Jeff Chadwick of Brigham Young University’s Jerusalem Center of Archaeology and Near Eastern Studies.

Chadwick, an archaeologist with the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project in Israel, delivered an illustrated academic presentation called “Four Cubits and a Span — The Size of Biblical Goliath as Reflected in Fortification Architecture at Tell es-Safi/Gath” at the 2020 Annual Meeting of ASOR (the American Schools of Oriental Research).

Ancient Metrics in Israel

The presentation was based on Chadwick’s seven-year project to identify ancient metrics in Israel, as well as his work over the last 20 years as an archaeologist with the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project in Israel, where he collaborated with Prof. Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University, director of excavations at Gath. It shows that while it is possible that Goliath was quite tall and may even have dwarfed most of his contemporaries, he was still just an above-normal-size person by today’s standards.

Goliath, the Philistine warrior who was bested by David in a one-on-one battle that has become an emblem for all underdogs courageously triumphing over

fearsome adversaries, has long been portrayed as a giant. Several ancient sources, including the Book of 1 Samuel, specify his height as “six cubits and a span,” but four other ancient sources, including the Samuel manuscript of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, state Goliath’s height as “four cubits and a span.”

Many Biblical scholars prefer the “four cubits and a span” reading as the most likely measure.

Since 2013, Chadwick has conducted research on the ancient measurements known as the cubit and the span as part of an extensive project on ancient measurements in general. Visiting

[\(continued next page\)](#)



David and Goliath (1888), color lithograph by Osmar Schindler (1869-1927)



credit: Jeff Chadwick

Measuring a stone ashlar block in an ancient wall with a special 54 cm “cubit” stick



credit: Jeff Chadwick

dozens of archaeological sites in Israel, and measuring hundreds of different architectural features in their excavated remains, **Chadwick has identified the length of the ancient cubit as 54 centimeters (1 foot 9½ inches), and the length of the ancient span as 22 centimeters (8.66 inches).**

Common Measurements

Sites where these measurements were found by Chadwick include not only ancient Gath, but also Jerusalem, Hebron, Beersheba, Tel Megiddo, and Tel Dan, among others. Results of Chadwick’s metrics project are being prepared for publication.

In the presentation, Chadwick noted that the height metric for Goliath found in 1 Samuel 17:4 is absolutely unique — no other person’s height is reported in specific metrics in the entire Hebrew Bible. For example, while King Saul is noted as being head-and-shoulders taller than other Israelite men (1 Samuel 9:2), there is no specific measure given for his height. Chadwick wondered why a precise measurement for the Philistine champion’s height was reported.

Given that “four cubits and a span” (7 feet 9½ inches) has been determined to be the thickness of Gath’s city wall, in the very era that Goliath is supposed to have lived, Chadwick proposed that the Hebrew Bible author metaphorically rendered the extraordinary size of Goliath by describing him as being **as tall as the width of his city’s wall.**

“It seems like an appropriate literary device, to characterize Goliath as being as big as a city wall” Chadwick surmised.

He added that he was not claiming Goliath was not the giant described by the Bible, only that the very tall height given for the Philistine is probably not a literal height but a comparative measure. A person standing 7 feet 9½ inches, or even something near that, would be extremely tall even today. In the Iron Age when Goliath lived, an average man’s height was reportedly between five feet and five foot three. The tallest three basketball players in the NBA of recent memory — Shawn Bradley, Yao Ming, and Manute Bol — stood 7 feet 6 inches (2.286 m.) tall. So, the report of Goliath’s height would remain quite impressive, even if it were in reality a metaphoric comparison to the thickness of his city’s wall.

Tell es-Safi (Tel Tzafit in Hebrew), is located in south central Israel, east of Ashdod, where the Coastal Plain meets the Judean foothills. The large mound, which is a nature reserve, is the site of the ancient and very large city of Gath, a major Canaanite city in all periods of the Bronze Age and capital of the Philistine pentapolis in the Iron Age. The city was located on the south bank of the Eila Valley stream bed.

Gath is famous in the Bible as the home of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4) and also as one of the places where David sought refuge from King Saul (1 Samuel 21:10–15). ★



credit: Jeff Chadwick

The excavated stone foundation of the ancient Iron Age city wall of Gath, the hometown of Biblical Goliath. The wall foundation measures 2.38 meters (7 feet 9½ inches) wide (four cubits and a span).



Link Between Cancers and Meat, Dairy



MEDICINE: BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) Israel365News.com

Moo–ve over from a significant beef and dairy diet to more vegetarian fare to avoid certain types of cancer. An international team of researchers from Israel, France, Italy, and the U.S. has found a direct molecular link between high consumption of meat and dairy and the development of antibodies in the blood that raise the chances of developing colon and breast cancer.

High consumption of these products—especially Roquefort cheese (from sheep’s milk), feta cheese, goat cheese, sheep yogurt, and red and processed meat such as beef steak, lamb and pig meat, and sausage—raise the risk. This connection is similar to the link between high cholesterol and an increased risk of heart disease.

Study Facts

The study was led by Dr. Vered Padler-Karavani of the Department of Cell Research and Immunology at the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research at Tel Aviv University’s George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. The study results have been published in the journal *BMC Medicine* under the title “Association between Neu5Gc carbohydrate and serum antibodies against it provides the molecular link to cancer: French NutriNet-Santé study.”

Neu5Gc is a sugar molecule found in mammalian tissues (and not in poultry or fish). Human anti-Neu5Gc IgG and red meat are both independently proposed to increase cancer risk. Yet, how diet affects these antibodies has been largely unknown. Humans develop antibodies to Neu5Gc in infancy, when they are exposed to certain dairy and meat products. It was already known that these antibodies increase the risk of cancer, especially colorectal cancer, but no direct link had been found between the dangerous antibodies and meat and dairy consumption.

Study Process

For the study, the researchers used an extensive French national nutritional survey called NutriNet-Santé. Salam Bashir, a doctoral student in Padler-Karavani’s lab, and other team members measured the amount of Neu5Gc sugar in a variety of meat and dairy foods common in the French diet and calculated the daily Neu5Gc intake of 19,621 adults who reported all of their food intake online for a period of several days.

Based on these findings and the quantification of Neu5Gc sugar in various food products from France, Padler-Karavani and her team created the “Gcemic index,” which ranks foods whose excessive consumption can lead to an increase in the antibodies—and thus, to a likely increase in the risk of cancer.

The researchers used beef steak, the most consumed mammalian food in the world, as the basis for the Gcemic index and gave it the value “one.” Consuming

(continued next page)



“We found a significant correlation between high consumption of Neu5Gc from red meat and cheeses and increased development of those antibodies that heighten the risk of cancer.”





a food with an index value lower than “one” means that you would have to eat a lot of it to consume a high level of the sugar, and vice versa. Mozzarella cheese, for example, contains only 0.03 of Neu5Gc per gram compared to steak; cow’s milk has a value of 0.13, and mutton received a value of 0.41 — about half a beef steak.

Apart from intakes of total Neu5Gc, three additional classes of dietary Neu5Gc sources were computed — from meat, dairy cows, and sheep and goats. In general, cow dairy has the lowest Gcemic index, while sheep/goat dairy has the highest. Foods that are riskier than steak, such as sheep yogurt (1.69), sheep feta (1.71), and Roquefort cheese (3.35), are usually consumed in smaller amounts than steak.

From the index developed by the researchers:

Type of Food	Food Item	Average Neu5Gc sugar per gram	Comparative Rating
DAIRY PRODUCTS	mozzarella	6	0.03
DAIRY PRODUCTS	Gouda	18	0.11
DAIRY PRODUCTS	milk	21	0.13
MEAT PRODUCTS	beef sausage	32	0.19
MEAT PRODUCTS	steak	163	1.00
MEAT PRODUCTS	pork sausage	207	1.26
DAIRY PRODUCTS	sheep yogurt	277	1.69
DAIRY PRODUCTS	feta	280	1.71
DAIRY PRODUCTS	Roquefort	550	3.35



Study Cancer Findings

The study found a three-fold increase in incidence of cancer and 2.5-fold rise in deaths from cancer in nations that consume more than 4.2 ounces of meat per day. Countries of high beef-meat intake include the U.S., Australia, and France, as well as many countries in South America such as Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile. While the Gcemic index can provide a simple estimate on Neu5Gc content in food, a direct correlation between specific amounts of consumed food with cancer risk requires further investigation to account for other common risk factors.

“We found a significant correlation between high consumption of Neu5Gc from red meat and cheeses and increased development of those antibodies that heighten the risk of cancer,” noted Padler-Karavani. “For years, there have been efforts to find such a connection, but no one succeeded. We were able to find a molecular link thanks to the [our] methods... and the detailed data from the French diet questionnaires.”

In conclusion, the researchers note that, as with anything in life, the consumption of dairy and meat products should be done in moderation. ★



New “Florida Stands with Israel” license plate

“Florida Stands with Israel” License Plate

By Hannah Brown / JPost.com

In a contest sponsored by the Israeli-American Council (IAC) to design a “Florida Stands with Israel” specialty license plate, Daniel Ackerman, a 30-year-old graphic designer from Boca Raton, submitted the winning design. He explained: “The concept focuses on Florida’s state flower, the orange blossom, against the Star of David in the form of a tropical leaf, representing the Florida-Israel relationship and the fruit this partnership bears, ultimately benefiting both states. The symbol interacts with the two waves on top and bottom giving nod to the Israeli flag, Florida’s sandy tourist destinations, and Israel’s deserts in bloom.”

Ackerman said that this was a meaningful project for him, since he comes from a Jewish family. He spent a year in *yeshiva* (Jewish school) before going to college and visited Israel again two years ago after recovering from Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

This specialty license plate will go into production after 3,000 pre-sale vouchers have been sold. A portion of the revenue generated by sales of the new auto tag will benefit Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, Inc. Hatzalah is a non-profit that in medical emergencies deploys community-based, state-certified volunteer paramedics to slash response times and increase survival rates.

European Council Condemns Anti-Semitism

By Jeremy Sharon / JPost.com

The European Council recently condemned anti-Semitism and welcomed The Council of the European Union’s declaration that made the fight against anti-Semitism across policy areas mainstream.



European Council headquarters adapted for social distancing in Brussels, Belgium July 2020

“The increase in threats to Jewish persons in Europe, including the resurgence of conspiracy myths, public expressions of anti-Semitism—especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic— and an increase in antisemitic incidents and hate crime, is a cause of great concern,” read the declaration.

In December, the Council, a key legislative body in the EU, adopted a declaration that expressed concern over the prevalence of anti-Semitism in Europe and called on member states to adopt a series of policies to combat the phenomenon.

(continued next page)



The declaration by **the Council, which comprises ministers from the 27 EU member states**, said that it is “our permanent, shared responsibility to actively protect and support Jewish life,” while noting that “anti-Semitism in all its forms is increasingly prevalent in Europe.”

The World Jewish Congress applauded the declaration, with WJC president Ronald S. Lauder calling it a “significant step forward to make Europe a better place for Jews.”

The Congress noted that this step was taken under German presidency of the council. That is meaningful, they explained, because the ministers that compose the European Council have the authority to “commit their governments to the actions agreed upon by the council” — the main decision-making body of the EU.

Greek Editor: Pfizer CEO Like Nazi Doctor

By Cnaan Liphshiz / JTA.org

A Greek newspaper, whose publisher was convicted recently of anti-Semitic defamation, warned its readers that Pfizer’s Jewish CEO Albert Bourla will “stick the needle” into them. The newspaper also called the pharmaceutical company’s prospective COVID-19 vaccine “poison.”

The front-page article, with pictures of Bourla and Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele, appeared on November 10 in the daily *Makeleio*.

Its publisher, Stefanos Chios, had been fined \$2,200 in October for an op-ed in which he called a former leader of the Athens Jewish community a “crude Jew who runs a loan-shark firm.”



Pfizer’s CEO Albert Bourla

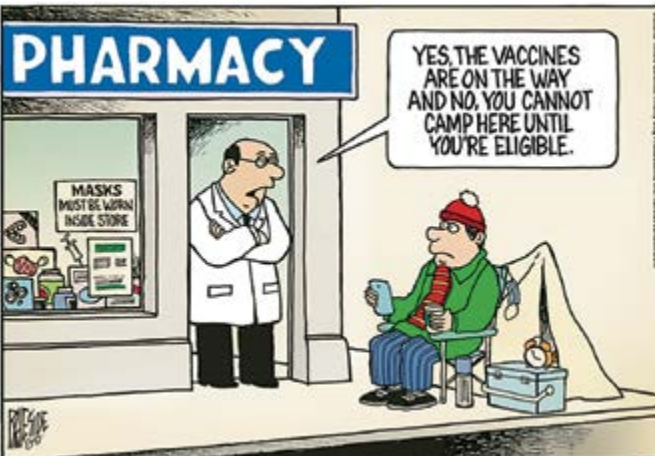
Bourla, a Greek Jew from Thessaloniki, earned a doctorate in biotechnology at a Greek veterinary school.

“A Jewish veterinarian will stick the needle! Terror countdown for the mandatory vaccine,” read the article.

Mengele gained infamy for performing experiments on concentration camp inmates, especially children.

On November 9, Pfizer announced that it had developed a vaccine for the coronavirus that is 90% effective [later raised to 95%] — a development that may signify a breakthrough in the fight against the pandemic, which has killed over two million people around the world.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece condemned the paper and urged authorities to “intervene,” though it did not specify how. The Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs also condemned the paper, calling it “most vile anti-Semitism reminiscent of the Middle Ages.” ★



Beer-Tasting 2,000 Years Later



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY **ARIEL BULSHTEIN** (r) IsraelHayom.com

Cutting-edge scientific techniques could soon allow us to sample the beverages 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. Last month we looked at wine ([p. 31](#)).

Before taking part in the Herodian excavation, Dr. Tziona Ben-Gedalya joined a study led by microbiologists Dr. Michael Klutstein and Dr. Ronen Hazan of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The study endeavored to find traces of yeast in vessels believed to once hold beer. These clay jars, found at various sites throughout the country, dated from different eras, beginning with the Canaanite.



credit: Hana Porat

Dr. Tziona Ben-Gedalya at the Herodian excavation

The search for yeast

"I suggested they take the shards to an electron microscope to photograph and identify the sample of the different yeasts that remained. I visited the Kidma vintners, the only ones in Israel who produce wine in pottery jars, using the method employed long ago in Georgia. For the sake of the research, they allowed us to cut off a piece of an old pottery vessel. When I examined it under an electron microscope, I was able to spot microorganisms that were multiplying."

After that experiment, Ben-Gedalya investigated whether the technique that worked for modern-day pottery would work for the much older vessels. It did.

"Small shards of these jugs were scanned with an electron microscope. Then the researchers placed them in liquid that grows yeast and poured the liquid into a petri dish. All of a sudden, microorganisms that had been hidden inside the pottery started to appear.

"A process of selection and antibiotics left only the yeast. After DNA sequencing and mapping them, we found that one of the ancient yeasts was very similar to one used in Zimbabwe today to home brew beer. The researchers and brewers recreated the various beers. The recipes were identical, but using yeast from different places and sources changed the taste and smell. **Thanks to that re-creation, we could taste Egyptian beer, Philistine beer, and Persian beer.**"



Archaeological dig at HaMasger street in Tel Aviv, from which the Egyptian Narmer beer was produced

Surprises in restoration

The findings aren't limited to beer and wine. Another vessel, found in an excavation at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel, that was used in the beer research also contained remnants of honey. Researchers think that it held mead.

Dr. Ben-Gedalya on future projects: "Though it's possible that one day we may be able to make King Herod's wine or recreate beverages from the Roman-era Land of Israel, I'm not sure we'll enjoy the flavors, even ones that were consid-

(continued next page)



credit: Yaniv Berman, Courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority



A beer cruse from Tel Tzafit/Gath archaeological digs, from which Philistine beer was produced.

ered fine in their time. Tastes for wine or beer are acquired, and the modern palate has gotten used to very different flavors. It's no coincidence that brewers of Herod's day tended to add plants to their drinks — like mint — and it's likely that the additions improved the flavor.



"The process of re-creating brings plenty of surprises. I remember a wine festival put on by Ariel University during which they decided to reassemble one of the

dolia. Experienced restorer Leah Tramer worked hard to reassemble the shards, like a big puzzle. In the end, we were amazed to find that the jar was so huge, we couldn't get it out of the room! The university people had to open a double door in one wall to get the restored dolia out.

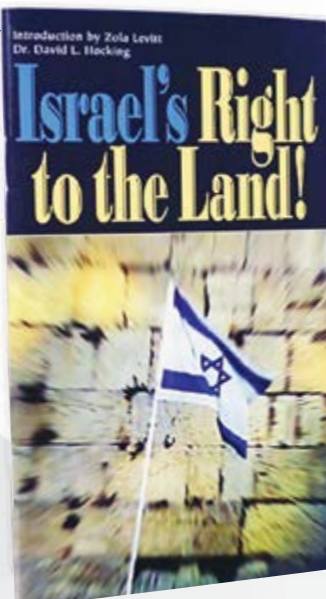
"I'm enchanted by the idea that we will be able to recreate elements of the Roman feast, including the Passover seder. The seder combines food, drink, and conversation, and Herod's hall at Herodian certainly hosted many such feasts. Many people wonder what folks here ate and drank thousands of years ago.

"We are still finding out the secrets of Herodian — King Herod's palace and enormous manmade fortress — and we have lots more work to do." ★



Dr. Ronen Hazan (left) and colleague testing a sample

credit: Yaniv Berman, Courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority



Israel's Right to the Land! study booklet by Dr. David L. Hocking

Just as its title implies, this booklet answers head-on the question: "What right does Israel have to its land?" Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel's Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all.

Let's spread the Word on who owns the Land ("from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates" — Genesis 15:18) by divine right!

Please see Zola's "A Short History of Israel" on [p. 8](#).

(This and many titles also available as eBooks.)

Apologies for Roald Dahl's Anti-Semitism



BY MATTHEW S. SCHWARTZ (r) NPR.org

The family of children's book author Roald Dahl issued a belated apology for his history of anti-Semitism.

"The Dahl family and the Roald Dahl Story Company deeply apologise for the lasting and understandable hurt caused by some of Roald Dahl's statements."

—per the official Dahl website

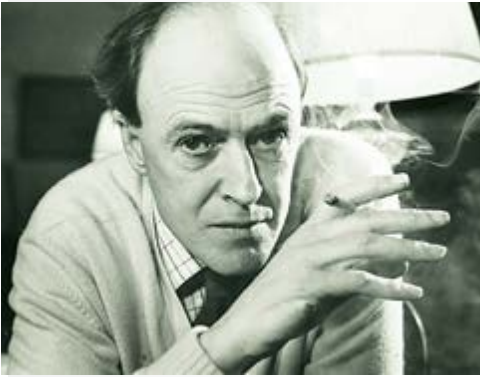
It's unclear when the apology was posted, but it came to light after *The Sunday Times* reported it in December along with further regrets from his family. "Apologising for the words of a much-loved grandparent is a challenging thing to do, but made more difficult when the words are so hurtful to an entire community," the family said. "We loved Roald, but we passionately disagree with his antisemitic comments."

Jewish groups received the apology with appreciation... and all noted the decades that have passed since the author's death. "For his family and estate to have waited thirty years to make an apology, apparently until lucrative deals were signed with Hollywood, is disappointing and sadly rather more comprehensible," the Campaign Against Antisemitism stated. (Netflix reportedly paid The Roald Dahl Story Company at least \$1 billion in 2018 for the rights to 16 of the author's works.)

The group added that though the apology was "encouraging," it's "a shame that the estate has seen fit merely to apologise for Dahl's antisemitism rather than to use its substantial means to do anything about it."

Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, noted the low-key appearance of the overdue apology and remarked that Dahl's "abhorrent antisemitic prejudices were no secret and have tarnished his legacy." Van der Zyl suggested that educators should use Dahl's books as an opportunity for young people to "learn about his intolerant views."

Dahl's anti-Semitic comments caused the U.K.'s Royal Mint to nix a proposed Dahl coin in 2014 ahead of the 100th anniversary of Dahl's birth. He was "associated with anti-Semitism and not regarded as an author of the highest reputation," read the minutes of a commemorative coin subcommittee. ★



credit: Roald Dahl/Getty Images

British children's book author Roald Dahl, as pictured in 1971

The apology comes three decades after the British author's death in 1990. Over his nearly 50-year career, Dahl wrote such classic children's books as *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He also made anti-Semitic comments.

For example, in 1983 Dahl reportedly told Britain's *New Statesman* magazine, "there is a trait in the Jewish character that does provoke animosity. ... Even a stinker like Hitler didn't just pick on them for no reason."

In its brief apology, the family distanced itself from Dahl's anti-Jewish sentiments:

"Those prejudiced remarks are incomprehensible to us and stand in marked contrast to the man we knew and to the values at the heart of Roald Dahl's stories, which have positively impacted young people for generations. We hope that, just as he did at his best, at his absolute worst, Roald Dahl can help remind us of the lasting impact of words."





A Rabbi's Dozen

A rabbi and his wife were straightening the house when the rabbi came across a box he didn't recognize. His wife suggested that he leave it alone, saying that it was personal.

One day when she was out, his curiosity got the better of him. *He opened the box and saw three eggs and \$85.* When his wife came home, he admitted that he had opened the box and asked her to explain the contents to him.

She told him that every time he delivered a bad sermon, she would put an egg in the box ...

He interrupted, "In 20 years, only three bad sermons? That's not bad!"

His wife continued ... "and every time I got a dozen eggs, I would sell them for \$1." ★



"Who knew there was such a fine line between prosperity theology and wretched excess?"

Answer Key for February 2021 Crossword (p.21)

<i>Across:</i>		<i>Down:</i>	
3. Light	12. Disciples	1. Love	11. Heart
5. Heaven	15. Galilee	2. Kingdom	12. Destroy
6. Masters	16. Secret	4. Treasures	13. Salt
7. Judged	17. Spirit	8. Rejoice	14. Swear
9. Multitudes		10. Temptation	



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“Matzoh” postcards

(12-pack)

Imagine receiving greetings on this unique postcard made of *matzoh* (Jewish unleavened bread). Unfortunately, matzoh is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well, so we've created a 6" x 6" postcard.

One side is functional—with areas for postage, an address, and a message. The other side quotes Isaiah 53:5—*“He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”*

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Zola Tours DISCOVER ISRAEL

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SPRING TOUR 2021

Deluxe: March 10-17

CANCELED
DUE TO COVID-19

FALL TOUR 2021

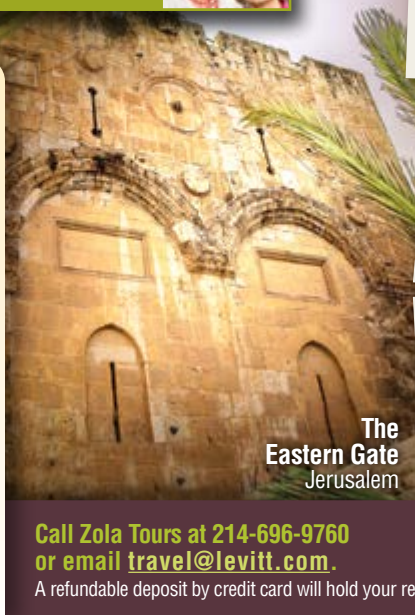
Deluxe: Oct. 18–28
(Israel only, price TBD)

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

(FALL 2021 dates are tentative.)

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

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



The
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Jerusalem



The Garden Tomb
Jerusalem



Petra
Jordan



The Temple
Mount
Jerusalem

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See you in
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