



# Levitt LETTER

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

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Prayer of Moses After the Israelites Crossed the Red Sea (1861), painting by Ivan Kramskoi (1837–1887)  
The Resurrection of Christ (1861), painting by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890)

## Why Are Passover and Easter Celebrated at Different Times?

OneForIsrael.org

*Sometimes, the celebrations of Passover and Easter coincide [as they do this year], but other times they can be weeks apart. Why is this?*

### How the Passover Date is Set

The lunar calendar by which the Biblical feasts are given their dates is very different from the Western solar calendar. In the Hebrew calendar, every new moon indicates a new Jewish month or “*Rosh Hodesh*” (“head of the month”). Passover always falls in the middle of the Jewish month of Nisan—when the moon is full. God designates this as the first month of the year (Exodus 12:2).

In ancient times, rabbis would watch the sky and then send to the Jewish communities the message of when the holiday was to be observed. Communicating by beacons and messengers was not a foolproof method, as some Samaritan scoundrels lit fires at the

*(continued p.2)*

#### REMEMBER:

*Passover Week: sunset March 27 to sunset April 4  
Resurrection Sunday/Easter: Sunday, April 4*

## Dr. Tom McCall

SEPTEMBER 1, 1936—JANUARY 29, 2021



We are saddened to announce that Dr. Thomas Screven McCall went to be with the Lord on Friday, January 29, 2021. He passed quietly at Hospice in Tyler, Texas. Dr. McCall held a Th.M. in Old Testament studies and a Th.D. in Semitic languages and Old Testament. He served as Zola's co-author, mentor, pastor, and friend for nearly 30 years. Read some of his best Bible teaching at [levitt.com/essays](http://levitt.com/essays).



# Passover and Easter *continued from cover*

wrong times to deliberately confuse and aggravate the Jewish people. Date setting became a political power struggle within the Jewish diaspora.

## How the Split Occurred

In the first centuries after Yeshua, the early disciples naturally remembered His death and resurrection every Passover and First Fruits, which was when they happened. This was God's plan. **He designed the Passover feast from its outset to foretell the redemptive sacrifice of the Messiah.** It is laden with symbolism pointing to Yeshua, and how His death and blood would force death to "pass over" us as it did for the Israelites who daubed the blood of the lamb on their door frames.

As the years went by, the Messianic community became more gentile and Church leaders grew weary of depending on rabbinic authorities for the correct date on which to commemorate this important event. Relations between the rabbinic community and the Christians deteriorated significantly, with a lot of hostility in both directions. The Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 decided to take matters into its own hands:

*"In rejecting their [Jewish] custom, we may transmit to our descendants the legitimate mode of celebrating Easter...*

*We ought not, therefore, to have anything in common with the Jews, for the Savior has shown us another way.... We desire, dearest brethren, to separate*



Mosaic of Constantine (detail), Hagia Sophia

*ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews,"* wrote Emperor Constantine to all those not present at the Council.

If these words do not shock you, they should! The Nicene Council decided to make a deliberate break with the people of Israel and celebrate a separate festival on the first new moon after the spring equinox (always March 21 on the Gregorian calendar). **"Easter" doesn't appear in the Bible.** (The King James Version erroneously translates the word *Pascha* [Aramaic for "Passover"] to "Easter" in Acts 12:4.)

## The Implications, and the Situation Today

The animosity that developed between the Jewish and Christian communities led to Yeshua's followers being ripped away from the roots of the tree into which they had been grafted. Christians decided to separate themselves not just from the people of Israel, but also from God's festivals, which were deliberately created to help us appreciate God's plan of redemption. Passover was God's initiative, and He devised each detail of it on purpose. We are not judged for not celebrating the Passover, but we miss out on many treasures that God placed in His Word for us to learn from. Sadly, the Council of Nicaea decided on behalf of all Christians from that time onward that Passover had no relevance for them.

As Christians were cut off from the roots of their faith, the message of Yeshua became more and more obscured and alien to the Jewish people. The Church became a gentile "no-go-zone" for Jews. The evil root of anti-Semitism crept into Christianity. Sadly, for much of Church history, Jewish people were persecuted at the hands of Christians. This happened especially at Easter, when angry mobs would rage against those they considered to be "Christ killers." Most Christians have no idea about the scale to which this sad statement

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is true. Jewish persecution is not taught in Sunday School or even Church history classes.

### Jews and Gentiles Draw Together in Yeshua

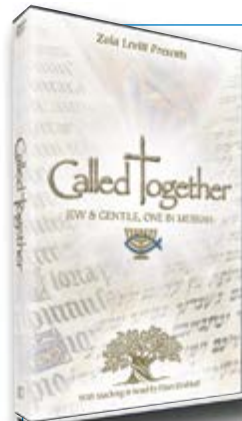
However, you and I live in exciting days. **We have seen some colossal steps in healing the rift between Jew and gentile.** More Jewish people have come to believe in Yeshua as Messiah in the last 19 years than in the previous 19 centuries! Many gentile Believers now take an interest in the Jewish foundations of their faith. Many churches hold Passover seders, explaining the feast. Since the Bible became widely available in different languages in the last few centuries, appreciation for the people of Israel has grown.

We are destined to become "One New Man" in Messiah (Ephesians 2:15), and this is a destiny that God will ensure. His Son, Yeshua, will have only one bride, not two! It's important to remember what Yeshua's death

and resurrection actually accomplished and meant... as Paul urges us in Colossians 2:14-17.

The celebration of Passover is a perfect example of how Messiah would fulfill the prophecies of His death and resurrection. It was a shadow of what was to come... and did come. We still celebrate it.

Simply said, we can't appreciate Resurrection Sunday if we don't understand the Passover. —David ★



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# The Counsel from Wisdom

## Ecclesiastes 10

**Tony Derrick**  
Theologian for  
Zola Levitt Ministries



We embark on one of those chapters in the Bible that is difficult to understand. Bible students and commentators would prefer to avoid Ecclesiastes 10. But to be consistent in our study, we cannot set it aside for convenience. The language that Solomon uses throughout this chapter includes a lot of symbolism but is poignant to his readers. **Solomon reveals the wisdom of his life experiences and unpacks them as valuable life lessons.**

### 1. Wisdom Wins the Day (10:1–4)

If you've ever been on a picnic, you understand that a fly in your food ruins your appetite for that particular dish. Because this chapter is written in symbolic language, we can understand that Solomon isn't talking about dead flies in ointment, but one foolish act that can ruin a person's testimony and reputation.

This example comes to mind: When making a three-egg omelet, if the third egg added is putrid, it ruins the whole omelet. (*Cooking tip: Break each egg into a separate dish before adding, just in case.*)

Foolishness or folly, we might say, doesn't stop to consider the consequences of the actions. A fool rushes to the excitement without carefully assessing the situation. A fool lives by his or her own standards without regard to what God says. It's little wonder that the Bible states, "*The fool has said in his heart there is no God*" (Psalm 14:1a).

The terms "right" and "left" in verse two have nothing to do with politics but with direction. The symbolism is that a wise man goes in one direction, while a fool goes the opposite way. Then Solomon gives excellent advice to the hot-tempered: The best way to deal with an obstinate employer ("ruler" is his term) is not to resign, but to walk through it, knowing that wisdom will bring protection and direction.

The example of Joseph comes to mind. You remember the story from Genesis 37–47. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and, in time, was made the head of household by Potiphar. He was placed in a great position because of his faithfulness, his continued walking with God.



*The Glory of Joseph*, gouache on board by James Tissot (1836-1902), The Jewish Museum, New York



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## 2. Wisdom Calls for a Life of Humility (10:5–7)

Solomon had observed that rulers often assigned positions, not based on qualifications but as knee-jerk decisions. He doesn't give a specific example, but his reference is very clear. He had witnessed fools occupying high positions, while the qualified were pushed aside as servants. He noted that some who were irresponsible were made commanders on horseback. He makes a point to say in verse 5, *"There is an evil I have seen under the sun."*

## 3. Common Sense Examples (10:8–10)

*"He who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent. He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits wood may be endangered by it. If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success."*

What is Solomon saying? He advises wisdom in everyday life. A foolish person will carelessly dig and fall into a pit; break through a wall and be bitten by vipers hiding there, or be hurt while quarrying stones or splitting wood with a dull ax.

A wise person will proceed with caution at every turn and experience safe success. So, if wisdom is the key to success, where do we find it? James 1:5, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

## 4. The Folly of a Fool (10:11–20)

Solomon points out in verses 11–15 that a fool would rather hear himself talk than listen to wise counsel. A foolish person will dominate the conversation without regard for the truth or even common sense. As verse 15a states, *"The labor of fools wears them."* Foolish people make everything complicated for themselves and others. They can't even follow simple instructions on how to enter a city.

In the final analysis, Solomon contrasts the difference of wise leaders in the land to those who are incompetent and, in fact, lazy! Buildings decay and the house leaks while the leaders feast on good wine and food. They believe that *"money answers everything."* Solomon counters that thinking in verse 17, *"Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles, and your princes feast at the proper time—for strength and not for drunkenness!"*

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SOLOMON'S WISDOM PUT TO THE TEST  
(trying to program his DVR)

Solomon concludes with a warning to not criticize leadership, even if we believe it is deserved. God will always have the final say and carry out judgment in His timing. ★

# Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

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



*Israel in Egypt* (1867), painting by Edward Poynter, Guildhall Art Gallery, London, England

Passover begins at sunset on Saturday, March 27. Though David and I have learned a lot about the Jewish roots of our faith while hosting ZLM's weekly television program for four years, I realize that I still have much learning to tackle.

I scratch my head when contemplating the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. (Read the whole saga: Exodus 7–12.) Considering that God is a God of free will, why would He choose to harden a heart (Exodus 7:3)? Furthermore, why claim that He *Himself* would make Pharaoh reject releasing the Israelites?

**If God preordained that Pharaoh would say "no," why even send Moses and Aaron with a request?**

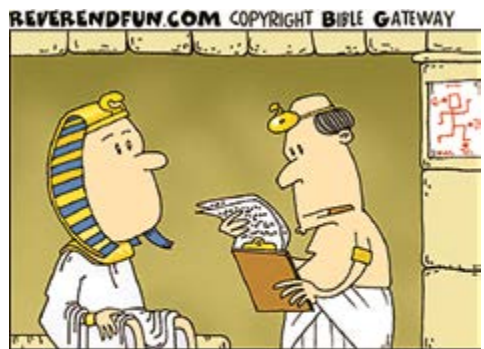
## Free Will, or Not Free Will?

Free will? Not free will? Predestination? Grace and love are easier topics to discuss. But we're approaching the Passover season, and I can't seem to walk away from this perplexing question.

It's called "Passover" because God "passed over" Hebrew houses smeared with lamb's blood when the Angel of Death came in the 10<sup>th</sup> plague. God redeemed and freed His people. We understand that the blood on the door foreshadowed the Lamb's blood shed on Calvary. We celebrate the miraculous transformation from bondage to freedom.

But why allow—or even *cause*—the hardening of Pharaoh's heart? If God could make Pharaoh's heart hard, couldn't He also make it soft? Why wouldn't God tap into His loving nature to soften Pharaoh's heart the first time Moses entreated, "Let my people go"? That gesture would have saved much heartache and death.

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YOU SEEM TO HAVE SOME HARDENING OF THE HEART,  
WHICH COULD BE PROBLEMATIC IF NOT CORRECTED



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## Becoming Stubborn

During my study, I noticed that Pharaoh hardened his own heart for the first five plagues. We are told that he himself “hardened his heart” (Ex. 8:15). Some modern versions translate “hardened his heart” as “became stubborn.” It was becoming a habit. Can we, for just a moment, give a little consideration to what Pharaoh was facing? His whole work force was asking to leave. Complying with Moses’ demands would threaten everything in his empire. Not the easiest of choices.

Letting go of control is not easy. It can cost us everything, as it did Pharaoh. Being faced with life-altering decisions often throws us into self-preservation mode, protecting what we have accomplished. In doing so, we ourselves can develop stubborn hearts. Decisions turn into habits and evolve into character. **Pharaoh let himself create his heart of stubbornness. God foreknew that this would happen.**

## Guard Your Heart

Unfortunately, Pharaoh’s heart not only was stubborn, it shattered. While we may never understand some of the “whys” behind the story of Passover, we as Believers\* should work on keeping our own hearts soft and readily available to listen to God’s voice (Ezekial 36:26). ★

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

## Jerusalem Approves Expanded U.S. Embassy

By Lahav Harkov, JPost.com

The Jerusalem Municipality’s Building and Planning committee approved plans for a new U.S. embassy building in Jerusalem in January. Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion called it a “historic and exciting moment,” and hopes it will inspire other countries to move to the capital.

The approved plans include expanding the current embassy site in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Arnona, as well as construction of a new embassy on Derech Hebron (Hebron Road). A district council also needs to approve, but the plans are expected to pass easily.

Antony Blinken, President Biden’s new Secretary of State, said that Biden would keep the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem. U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman moved his primary office to the existing U.S. consulate in Arnona in 2018, while a branch office remained operating at the embassy’s Tel Aviv site.

Details of the expansion plan for the current U.S. embassy in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Arnona



Credit: Jerusalem Municipality



(credit: U.S. State Department)

The Trump administration sold the ambassador’s beachfront residence in Herzliya Pituah, reportedly to philanthropist and Trump donor Sheldon Adelson, who died in January.

While the new compound is being built, the next ambassador could reside at the U.S. property on Agron Street in Jerusalem, though it is much smaller than the Herzliya house and does not have the grounds for large outdoor events. The U.S. also retains a suite at the King David Hotel. ★



# The Fruit of Believers

Classic Zola Levitt  
from 1986  
35 years ago



On our recent trip to Israel, I managed to fall asleep in the airplane on the way over. I slept like a baby. I must be getting old.

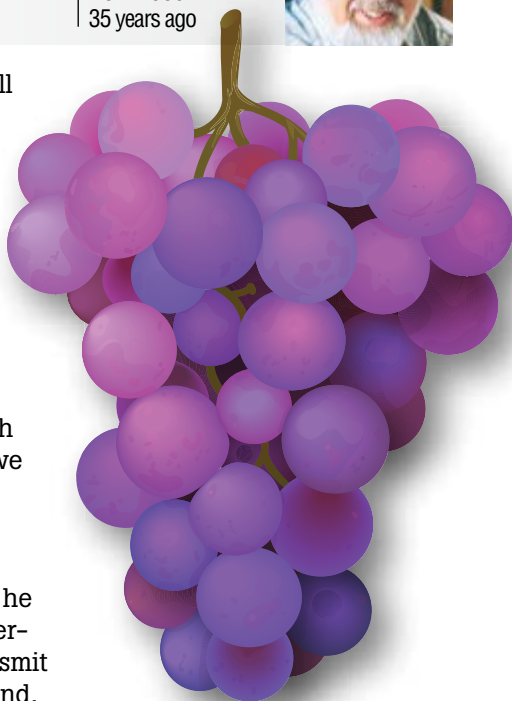
As a result, I found myself wide awake at bedtime in Jerusalem. We put the tired travelers to bed and then Jeff Seif, Josef, our faithful Israeli guide of many years, and I ended up at the Western Wall of the Temple, the *Kotel*.

Our taxi driver must have thought we had some important prayers to make. After much negotiation, he agreed to wait for us, and we found ourselves at the center of the world.

## Josef's and Simon's Good News

It was there that Josef disclosed to me that he had become a Believer. Of course, I was overwhelmed! It has been a job of years to transmit the faith to this good brother of the Holy Land.

Josef is the second guide who has come to faith primarily due to accompanying our tour groups. The guides are natural observers of people, and they can discern true Believers from nominal Christians. I am delighted that our pilgrims provide such an effective witness. Years ago, another guide, Simon, came to the Lord by the same means.



The Western Wall, or *Kotel*, in the old city of Jerusalem

The Hebrew New Testament from which Josef read is one that our ministry provides to our Israeli friends. Josef fell into the habit of reading from it often, and, of course, the Word of God never returns void (Isaiah 55:11).

When Believers all go to Israel for 1,000 years in the Kingdom to come, we can rest assured that there will be two competent guides among us to show us the way home. ★

An Israeli coming to the Lord is not the “up-the-aisle” ceremony we know in the Western Church. Josef simply said, “I have come to think the way you do.” It was one of the most spiritual moments I ever enjoyed at the Wall, and there have been many of them.

Josef appeared in our series *Israel, My Love*. He was featured in numerous location scenes, leading our group of tourists. He stood out in the program about Galilee when he read the Beatitudes in Hebrew at the spot where Yeshua spoke them in His Sermon on the Mount.





# Interesting Exodus Facts

BY LEIBEL GNIWISCH (r) Chabad.org



## 1. Jews have been celebrating Passover for 3,333 years since the Exodus

The Feast of Passover celebrates the Exodus of the Jewish People from Egypt in the year 2448 (1313 B.C.). **This year is 5781, which means Jews have been celebrating for 3,333 years.** Every year, Jews gather around the dinner table — if possible, with family and friends — for a Seder. It's not hard: You follow the instructions in a small book called the *Haggadah*, which includes telling the Exodus story, drinking four cups of wine, and eating *matzoh* (unleavened flatbread), bitter greens, and a festive meal.

## 2. Moses was the hero

Moses was the son of Amram, a prominent Jewish leader. Pharaoh ordered the slaughter of all Jewish infant boys, so Moses' mother set him afloat in a buoyant cradle on the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter found and adopted him, raising him in the palace. At the age of 80, Moses was instructed by God to approach Pharaoh and demand the immediate release of the Jewish people.

## 3. It took 10 plagues before Pharaoh freed the Israelites

When Moses commanded Pharaoh to "Let my people go," Pharaoh refused and even increased their workload. Moses warned that if Pharaoh continued to refuse, God would rain plagues down on him and anyone complicit in his wrongdoings.

### There were 10 plagues in all:

1. Blood
2. Frogs
3. Insects
4. Wild Beasts
5. Pestilence of Livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the Firstborn

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Charlton Heston plays Moses in *The Ten Commandments* (1956), the eighth-highest grossing film of all time (adjusted for inflation).



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#### 4. The Exodus happened in the springtime month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar year 2448

God planned for the Exodus to take place during the most ideal weather for travel (Exodus 13:4).

#### 5. The Diaspora has two Seders

When the Temple stood in Jerusalem, the first day of the Hebrew month was established by the supreme Jewish court (*Sanhedrin*) based on when the new moon had been sighted. On the 30<sup>th</sup> day of each month, the Sanhedrin would wait to see if anyone had seen the moon. If witnesses arrived and their testimony rang true, that day was the first day of the new month. If not, that day was day 30, and the next day would be the first of the new month.

Communities outside of Israel were often left uninformed of the court's decision (no internet back then!), so considered both the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> as possible first days of the month. This influenced the observance of holidays because two separate days could be the festival's date.

Nowadays, when we know exactly when the first day of the month is, Jewish law still mandates that communities in the Diaspora celebrate two days of major Jewish holidays. The second Passover Seder mirrors the first and is celebrated the following evening.

#### 6. The Jewish calendar is adjusted to make sure Passover always falls during spring

According to the Torah, the Passover must be observed during the "month of spring" in Israel (Ex. 23:15). This timing is so important that the Jewish calendar is adjusted to make sure it happens.

Because the lunar cycle (upon which the Hebrew months are based) is 11 days shorter than the solar cycle (which determines the year's seasons), **an extra month is added to the Hebrew calendar seven times**

**in every 19-year cycle**, allowing the lunar calendar to match up with the solar one. The extra month is always a second Adar (the month right before Passover).

#### 7. Specific foods adorn the Seder plate

At the Passover Seder, we eat specific foods to remind us of slavery and freedom. The most important is *matzoh*, an unleavened cracker made of wheat, spelt, oats, barley, or rye. It commemorates the fact that the Exodus happened so quickly that the dough on the Israelites' backs didn't have enough time to rise. We also eat *maror*, a bitter herb — traditionally horseradish and romaine lettuce — to remind us of the pain of slavery.



The Seder meal

We celebrate our freedom by reclining on pillows as aristocrats did and drinking four cups of wine.

We also eat *charoset*, a paste made from apples, ground nuts, and wine, to symbolize the clay the Israelites had to mix and form into bricks. A hard-boiled egg symbolizes our mourning after the destruction of the Holy Temple.

#### 8. Many Egyptians left Egypt with the Israelites

The Torah says, "A mixed multitude (*erev rav*) went up with them [out of Egypt]" (Ex. 12:38). The commentators explain that these were converts who were awestruck by God's miracles and desired to place their lot with the Israelites.

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Moses was happy to accept them, but God warned him that they would eventually cause trouble. Moses insisted on allowing them to remain, and unfortunately the “mixed multitude” was responsible for the sin of the Golden Calf (Ex. 32:7).

## 9. Shabbat also commemorates the Exodus

As slaves in Egypt, the Israelites were not permitted to cease working for even a moment. Upon their exodus, God commanded them to refrain from working one day a week to remind them of their freedom. In the Friday night *Kiddush* (Shabbat blessing), we mention this element of *Shabbat*. “[The Sabbath] is the first to be called holy and a commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt.”

## 10. The Israelites received full restitution before leaving

The Israelites did not leave destitute, as slaves are wont to do.



*The Water Came on Pharaoh and His Soldiers*, from the 1897 *Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us* by Charles Foster

They received full restitution for their years of labor before leaving. Abraham had been promised that his offspring would leave the land of their oppressors “with great wealth” (Gen. 15:14). The Torah tells us that the Israelites were instructed by Moses to visit their neighbors before they left and request their gold, silver, gems, and expensive garments. The Talmud describes Egypt at that time as a silo emptied of its grain or a fisherman’s net devoid of fish. ★

## [Jewish Heritage Calendar](#) 5781 (2020–2021)

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



Please see related article, “Interesting Exodus Facts” above (starting on [p. 9](#))



# Water Baptism

## PART 1

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**Q. What does water baptism mean?**

**A.** The Word of God considers the doctrine and practice of baptism to be a part of the elementary principles of Christ. Baptism is a foundational doctrine of the Bible (Heb. 6:1–2). Scripture names seven different types of baptism—hence the plural use of baptisms in Hebrews 6:2.

**Seven different types of baptism in Scripture:**

1. **the Baptism of Moses** (1 Corinthians 10:1–2)
2. **the Baptism of Suffering with Christ** (Mark 10:38–39)
3. **the Baptism of John** (Mark 1:4–8)
4. **the Baptism of Jesus** (Matthew 3:13–17)
5. **the Baptism of Fire** (Matthew 3:11–12)
6. **the Baptism of the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 3:11–12)
7. **Christian Baptism** (Matthew 28:19)



Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist, from series of woodcuts by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern*, 1860



I will focus on Christian, or Believer's, baptism. The Christian's immersion in, and being lifted out of, the water beautifully symbolizes the Believer's death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus Christ to receive a new life with God (Romans 6:3–7). Water Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the New Testament Church, the other being the Lord's Communion Supper.

Water baptism is one's public testimony to the world that he or she is now a follower of Messiah Jesus. **Baptism is their profession that He died for them, was buried, and rose from the dead to give eternal life to those who believe Christ's Gospel.** The Christian is to be baptized in obedience to the Lord's command given in Matthew 28:19—in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—or in the Name of Jesus (Acts 2:38).

Water baptism is for believers in Christ only—hence, the term "Believer's Baptism." The Book of Acts shows baptism for those old enough to understand and believe the Gospel.

[While infant baptism is not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, baptizing children can signify parental dedication to suffering little children to come unto Jesus (Matthew 19:14). Whole households were baptized due to the head-of-household's faith (Acts 16:14–15).]

The Biblical act of baptism should follow the sinner's conscious and deliberate belief that Christ died for his sins and rose from the dead to give the believer eternal life. Through that faith, the person is "born-again" by the power of the Holy Spirit and forgiven of all his sins. At that point, he is ready for water baptism. The apostolic pattern practiced in the Book of Acts is first belief for salvation in Christ, with water baptism afterward (Acts 2:41; 8:35–38; 19:3–5). ★

# Faith of Our Fathers

Clayton Herring  
Assistant Producer  
Berg Productions



Actors in OJR's newest series *Faith of Our Fathers*

In October 2020, we filmed the teaching segments and dramatic scenes for our series ***Faith of Our Fathers*** at Capernaum Studios near Dallas, Texas. The weather was forecast to be the coldest and wettest of the season. You may remember that I talked about this in my [January Levitt Letter front-page update](#).

What I didn't mention is how God blessed us unexpectedly. Forewarned of the inclement weather, we intended to rent an RV to assure a warm, dry place for wardrobe and styling, as well as a bathroom. We found one available nearby and made the reservation. On the Sunday before our production week, we arranged to meet Duane Boone with his camping trailer. He was a kind man from a small town outside of Weatherford, Texas. He brought his young wife and their little boy, who was eager to help his daddy.

Duane showed us the luxury trailer and started asking us about our project. His questions continued until he realized that we were making a series of Christian television programs. His face lit up with a big smile. He and his family are Christian. The unexpected blessing came when Duane said, "You know, I am not going to charge you for renting my RV. You are working for the Lord, and I want to be a part of it." He did not charge us a penny for the

three-day use.

These good people weren't giving from their excess wealth but from the goodness of their hearts. We could tell, because Duane told us about a project of his. On his head, a cap with two words and a cross logo read "Lord Life." Duane's side business (well, not really a business, more like a ministry) creates apparel to start conversations and spread the word of Jesus Christ. Fifty percent of the profits go to charity!

Duane blessed us with his generosity and also with his commitment to share the Gospel. Maybe you have had similar experiences when the Lord has blessed you through another Believer. Why don't we keep the ball rolling? I bought my son a "Lord Life" hoodie for his birthday, and I'm passing along Duane's Christian apparel information to you:

[LordLife.net](https://www.LordLife.net)  
[Facebook.com/lordlifetees](https://www.facebook.com/lordlifetees)  
[Instagram: lordlifeglobal](https://www.instagram.com/lordlifeglobal) ★



Set location in the upcoming series *Faith of Our Fathers*



# Pray About Your Two Pence

Stewardship insights from July 2018

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



Some pensioners have little material wealth and, to the glory of God, donate out of their poverty. Are they more spiritual than wealthy donors who give relative pittances out of their abundance? (see Mark 12:41–44) This ministry gratefully receives each gift of two pence.

## Giving too much?

But what about donors who give out of what they don't have? Whoever has a mortgage, car loan, and/or college debt arguably may be contributing funds that he doesn't have. I disagree, since those types of loans are customary and budgeted these days.

**But what about payday loans, car title loans, and pawnshop loans with usurious interest rates?** While I'm doing my level best to balance this ministry's books, I cannot encourage donors who presently rely on these types of credit to donate to ZLM. Respectfully, humbly, I suggest, "Maybe pray about your two pence" if you're living hand to mouth — and for more than one reason.

"Give till it hurts" can mean until it stings a little (denying oneself a luxury), or it can be construed to request that a donor put himself in a bind. Those latter contributions are the sort of sacrificial gifts that ZLM aspires to do without. Please: Forgo the swanky country club membership or the boat that's too costly to maintain, but remember that God is not the author of confusion. (1 Cor. 14:33)

If you're routinely bouncing checks, maybe Yeshua would welcome you to sit out for a round or two and seek help with your budgeting skills. Some people shake me to my core with their generosity. Then, others disturb me by donating to organizations that are awash in reserve funds.

## Post-Retirement Spending

Now let me touch briefly on post-retirement spending. Financial columnist Liz Weston shared a two-part "Spend Safely in Retirement" plan:\*

1. Wait until age 70, or as late as reasonably possible, to claim Social Security
2. Use the IRS's required minimum distribution table, rather than the 4% rule, to determine annual withdrawal amounts from savings\*\*

The plan, originated by Steve Vernon, author and research scholar at the Stanford Center on Longevity, is optimal for creating an income stream from savings ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

Retirees younger than 70 might work part-time or use some of their savings to let them postpone claiming Social Security benefits. A 3.5% rate of withdrawal might be appropriate at age 65. With 401(k) and IRA accounts, the IRS requires a minimum annual distribution of 3.65% for a 70½-year-old. Each year the rate increases. By age 90, for example, it's 8.7%. ★

While this organization's financial needs continue ceaselessly with our weekly television broadcasts and monthly newsletter mailings, we would rather downsize again than ask donors to do without their necessities.

\* See [apnews.com/97b0c9bd5d80c41b9bc92d24031495def/How-not-to-run-out-of-money-in-retirement](https://apnews.com/97b0c9bd5d80c41b9bc92d24031495def/How-not-to-run-out-of-money-in-retirement)

\*\* See [www.fool.com/retirement/iras/2017/05/30/2017-ira-rmd-table-what-it-is-and-how-to-read-it.aspx](https://www.fool.com/retirement/iras/2017/05/30/2017-ira-rmd-table-what-it-is-and-how-to-read-it.aspx)





# ZLM Bulletin Board



**The Number of Jews and Palestinians ... will be equal** by the end of 2022. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics president Ola Awad, Jews and Palestinians will each have a population of 7.1 million living between the Mediterranean and the Jordan. This includes the West Bank (3.1 million as of December 2020), Gaza Strip (2.1 million as of December 2020), and east Jerusalem. Moreover, 6.2 million Palestinians live in Arab states, and another 738,000 live in foreign countries.



## Americans Clueless about Anti-Semitism

In a year when **88%** of American Jews believe anti-Semitism remains a problem:

**21%** 21% of Americans state they've never even heard the term.  
**25%** an additional 25% have heard the term but are unsure of what it means.

These are the findings of two surveys recently published by the American Jewish Committee. While nearly half of Americans have seen antagonism against Jews during the past five years, they're unfamiliar with the term *anti-Semitism*.

## Duplicates? Moving?

Are you receiving two or more copies of our newsletters? Please let us know so that we can unclutter your mailbox and cut costs. (And please pass that extra copy on to a friend.) Also, if you can give us your new address a month or more in advance, you won't miss an issue.



## FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

Complementing our pamphlet on estate planning for women, ***When Should a Woman Have a Will?*** lists 11 points that include: when she is single or married, when she has children (minors or adults), when she owns property, when her marital status changes, when she wants to name her own personal representative, and when she has charitable wishes. "A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs — even for modest estates." 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 #6.**



## "Come Home!"

**Zola Tours to Israel**



See page 36 for details



## The Passover Connection

by John Parsons  
 Hebrew for Christians  
[Hebrew4Christians.com](http://Hebrew4Christians.com)



אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם

*"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt..." (Exod. 20:2)*

אֲנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	אֲשֶׁר	הוֹצֵאתִיךָ	מֵאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם
(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)
mitz-ra'-yeem	me-e'-retz	ho-tzel-tee'-kha	a-sher	e-lo-hey'-kha	Adonal	a-no-khee
Egypt	from the land (of)	brought you out	who	your God	the LORD	I AM

**The great Exodus of Israel from Egypt constitutes the central parable of the Torah.** The bondage of the Israelites to Pharaoh represents humanity's slavery to sin; God's deliverance from bondage is effected by trusting in the blood of the sacrificial Lamb of God; the passage from death to life symbolically comes through baptism into the Sea of Reeds; the journey to truth represents the pilgrimage to Sinai, and so the metaphor continues.

Indeed, the Passover redemption in Egypt led directly to revelation given at Sinai. When the LORD God gave the Ten Commandments, He began: *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Exod. 20:2)*. It is noteworthy that God referred to Himself using the phrase *asher hotzeiteekha me'eretz mitzrayim* (*"who brought you out from the land of Egypt"*) instead of identifying Himself as the Creator of Heaven and Earth (Gen. 1:1). This is because the very purpose of creation is to demonstrate God's redemptive love and to show Him as our Savior and Redeemer, just as Yeshua is the *"Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"* (Rev. 13:8; 1 Pet. 1:18–20; Eph. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:9). *"All things were created by Him [i.e., Yeshua], and for Him ... and in Him all things consist"* (συνεστηκεν, lit. "stick together") (Col. 1:16–17).

**Creation, therefore, begins and ends with the redemptive love of God** as manifested in the Person of Yeshua our Savior, the great Lamb of God. He is the Center of Creation — the *Aleph* and *Tav* — the Beginning and the End (Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:17). All that exists was created for the Messiah: *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen"* (Rom. 11:36).

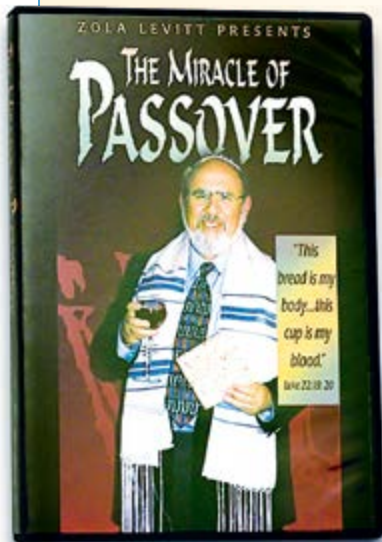
In this connection, note that the Hebrew word *"mitzvah"* (usually translated as "commandment") is really about connection to God (the root of the word means to "bind" or "unite"). When God spoke to the people of Israel, each one felt personally spoken to by God. Therefore, it says in the singular, *"I am the LORD your God."* Indeed, the very First Commandment is to accept the reality of our personal deliverance by the LORD: *"I am the LORD your God who brought you [singular] out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery"* (Exod. 20:2).

In fact, the Hebrew text of the Torah reveals that God used the second person singular (not plural) for all the verbs throughout the Ten Commandments: "You [singular] shall have no other gods beside Me"; "You [singular] shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain," and so on. The First Commandment is the starting point for all that follows. **Until you are personally willing to accept the LORD as your God and to connect with Him as your own Deliverer and King, you're unlikely to heed the rest of the commandments.** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection





## [The Miracle of Passover](#)

[DVD](#), [CD](#), [study booklet](#)

(One of our most popular and best-selling titles.)

**Passover, the crown jewel of the Biblical feasts, begins this year at sundown on Saturday, March 27.**

In the booklet, CD, and DVD, Zola explains the origin and significance of Passover and demonstrates the feast in which Christ is revealed through its very elements. This is one of the most basic and important Bible studies, shedding clear light on the mysteries of the Lord's Supper and unearthing the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Zola demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-four centuries old, typifies Christ—even in Jewish homes that don't realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come.

## [The Messianic Passover Haggadah](#) – a Messianic book of celebration

You don't have to be Jewish to relive the Feast of Redemption—just redeemed! This 2-color, 36-page book guides you step by step through the traditional Passover Seder, the dinner Jews celebrate annually to remember the Israelites' rescue from Egyptian bondage.

**This unique Haggadah focuses on Yeshua's teaching in the Upper Room**, which institutes the Lord's Supper. The theme of redemption recurs throughout the evening. You'll find words and sheet music for the songs traditionally sung on Passover. Singing them will enrich your celebration.

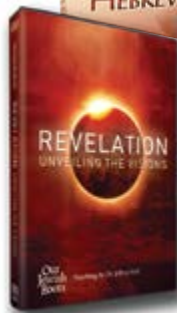
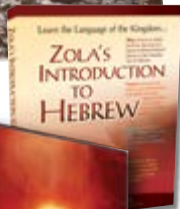
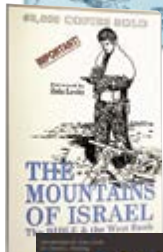
Scripture quotations come from the popular *Complete Jewish Bible*.

Please see the related articles "[Why Are Passover and Easter Celebrated at Different Times?](#)" on the [cover](#), and "[Interesting Exodus Facts](#)" on [p. 9](#).





ORDER FORM



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Print/tear out this 2-page form,  
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**ZLM, Box 12268**  
**Dallas TX 75225**



**ORDER FORM continued**

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**Studies, Specialty, Etc.**

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
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___	<b>The Miracle of Passover</b> (p.17).....	(CD)	\$7	_____
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___	<b>A Survey of the New Testament</b> (pictured).....	(CD)	\$7	_____

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**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.

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*Order all three and get **FREE** shipping!*

### AHAVA—Mineral Hand Cream (3.4 oz.)

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

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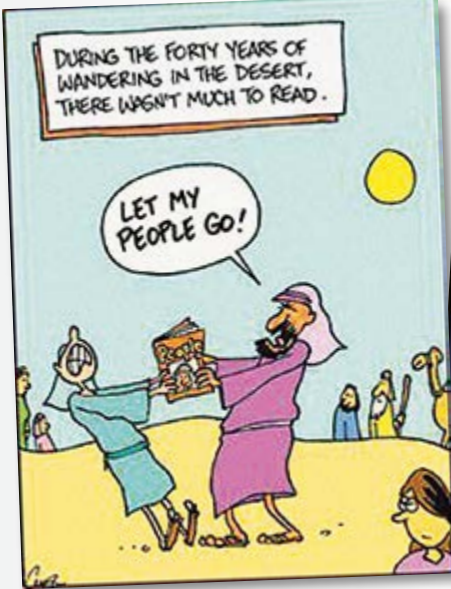
This effective moisturizing cream softens and renews rough feet, including soles. Powered by AHAVA's proprietary Osmoter™ and natural plant extracts, the rich formula of concentrated Dead Sea minerals helps to soothe, repair splits and cracks, and leaves feet smooth and hydrated. Avocado, Wheat Germ,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

### AHAVA—Mineral Body Lotion (17 oz.)

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







Crossword March 2021:  
**Sar Shalom** —  
 Part 2 (KJV)  
 (answers on [p.35](#))

**ACROSS**

- ...if God so \_\_\_ the grass of the field... (Matt. 6:30)
- ...but thou, when thou \_\_\_, anoint thine head... (Matt. 6:17)
- ...for this is the \_\_\_ and the prophets. (Matt. 7:12)
- ...depart from me, ye that work \_\_\_. (Matt. 7:23)
- Beware of \_\_\_ prophets... (Matt. 7:15)
- When thou prayest, enter into thy \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 6:6)
- That thine alms may be in \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 6:4)
- ...consider the \_\_\_ of the field... (Matt. 6:28)
- ...and the rain \_\_\_, and the floods came... (Matt. 7:27)
- ...for the \_\_\_ shall take thought... (Matt. 6:34)
- Take heed that ye do not your \_\_\_ before men... (Matt. 6:1)
- For where your treasure is, there will be also your \_\_\_. (Matt. 6:21)
- Thou \_\_\_, first cast out the beam... (Matt. 7:5)
- Wherefore by their \_\_\_ ye shall know them. (Matt. 7:20)
- For every one that \_\_\_ receiveth... (Matt. 7:8)
- But seek ye first the \_\_\_ of God... (Matt. 6:33)
- ...neither cast ye your \_\_\_ before swine... (Matt. 7:6)
- Behold the \_\_\_ of the air... (Matt. 6:26)

**DOWN**

- ...and \_\_\_ is the way, which leadeth into life... (Matt. 7:14)
- ...the people were astonished at His \_\_\_. (Matt. 7:28)





# Letters to ZLM

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

## Still more on masks

Dear ZLM,

Thank you for your newsletter.

I would like to give you another viewpoint on whether Jesus would wear a mask ([Levitt Letter, Dec. 2020, p. 7](#)). Jesus would not need to wear one because he had perfect health. He couldn't get sick! In fact, He healed others and told us to heal others too! — K.W.

Dear K.W.,

Thanks for writing. Consider this: Jesus got hungry and tired, and He bled when pierced. Biologically, He was very human. I can't imagine Him walking through life without a single cough or snuffle. — Kirsten

## BIZARRO.COM

by Dan Piraro



## Zola's history lessons

Dear ZLM,

I remember thinking years ago that the Jewish people were the Palestinians, but the news was showing otherwise. Then Zola's teaching the history and documented facts set the record straight. I always believed that the Jews were the good guys but didn't know all the historical facts. I'm spreading the word. Thank you for what you do. — J.I.

Dear J.I.,

While we agree that the Land inherently belongs to the Jewish people, it's easy to stereotype ethnicities and wind up with a "them vs. us" mentality. **Jesus came for all mankind**—regardless of political boundary lines. I'm thankful for that inclusiveness and glad that you're spreading the truth. — David

*(continued next page)*

## No “Palestine” in Bible times

Dear ZLM,

It was refreshing to see you address the issue of calling Israel *Palestine* even in Bibles and among denominations that stand with Israel. [Search “calling Israel Palestine” at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com) for many video discussions. — ed.] This name

confusion has greatly bothered me since I was a child. **I never could find a solid historical or scholarly reason to call Israel *Palestine*.** I always thought Jesus was a Jew. He lived in Israel, not Palestine.

I have Ukrainian heritage. While it’s true that at various times in history, Ukraine came under Imperial Russian and Soviet rule (as well as Polish, Habsburg, and others), the Ukrainian nation predates Russia by centuries. At various times, the Ukrainian language and culture were either suppressed or claimed as Russian. While most Ukrainians today can speak both Ukrainian and Russian after years under Soviet occupation, those are not the same language. — M.W.

Dear M.W.,

Too few people understand Israel’s land borders and territorial rights. May I suggest ZLM’s booklet *Israel’s Right to the Land!* and television series *Whose Land Is It?* (below)? ZLM’s easy-to-understand teaching will improve your perspective on this important topic. See also the history of the name “Palestine” on [p.30](#). — David

(continued next page)



“I never imagined that putting on the whole Armor of God would involve strapping a mask to my face before going anyplace!”

## [Whose Land Is It?](#)

[DVD](#), [transcript booklet](#)

Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

**Program 1:** Zola irrefutably reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land’s rightful owners; then defeats arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant.

**Program 2:** In Ramallah, Zola interviewed Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who articulated the Palestinians’ best arguments for claiming Israel.

**Program 3:** Two scholarly Christians — Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Muslim) — unveil the fallacies in Ashrawi’s assertions.

Please see related article “Hanan Ashrawi Resigns from the P.L.O.” on [p.34](#)





## How to query Todd

Dear ZLM,

I would like to ask Dr. Todd Baker a question regarding his article “Did Jesus need to be born of a virgin?” in the [Dec. 2020 Levitt Letter page 12](#). —S.O.

Dear S.O.,

Please send your question to [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) so that we can consider sharing it in the next *Levitt Letter* along with Todd’s response. Though Todd answers many questions that aren’t published, the way to reach him is at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com). — Mark



Dr. Todd Baker, ZLM  
Staff Theologian

## Keeping Zola’s legacy

Dear ZLM,

I have been enjoying the *Levitt Letter* since the early ‘80s. Recent letters have implied that the *LL* has declined since Zola’s passing. **The *LL* is still relevant because many of you were part of what made Zola so popular and have stuck to his principles.** Those who cannot see this are the losers. — B.Y. (IN)

Dear B.Y.,

I think the *LL* is one of the finest monthly ministry publications available for people who are starving for “true news” about Israel. That is exactly what our readers receive in their mailboxes every month for free. Thanks for your “thumbs up” vote and generous contribution! — Kirsten



Zola Levitt, ZLM’s  
Founder (1938–2006)



## Scholarly vocabulary

Dear ZLM,

I love the *Levitt Letter*, but I have struggled to watch the show for over a year now. The way Dr. Seif teaches is too academic and cold. —S.G. (CA)

Dear S.G.,

I love peppermint ice cream, David prefers salted caramel. Everyone has a favorite flavor, just as viewers prefer various types of teaching. Of course, no one does it the way Zola did. He was one of a kind. — Kirsten



Dr. Jeff Seif

*(continued next page)*

Dear S.G.,

Did you miss the *Our Jewish Roots* episode entitled “2021: The Year Ahead”? Or maybe you were as mesmerized as I was by its highlights of our upcoming television productions. Watching it more closely should open your eyes not only to Jeff’s improved warmth and clarity but also to David and Kirsten feeling more at home and coming across better than ever in the studio. Please give it a look-see at [levitt.tv/media/watch/2093](http://levitt.tv/media/watch/2093). — Mark



## A Christian’s guide to writing responses

Dear ZLM,

I love to read the *Levitt Letter* each month. Thank you for your teaching and encouragement which prompts me to know and love God more fully. However, I approach the letters section with trepidation. Some letters bless me, but others leave me shocked by their vitriol.

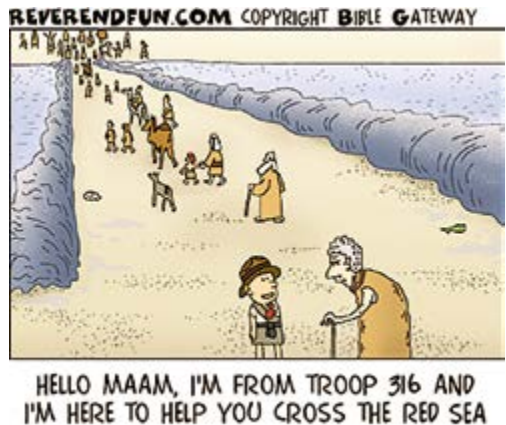
It makes me pray for ZLM. Instead of just silently enduring such words or refraining from giving a curt reply, I hope that you can **use such letters as opportunities to model the superlative love of Christ** for each of us (as described in Philippians 2). When mocked, He did not defend Himself. When criticized, He did not pronounce what would surely have been a “divine” judgment. When struck, He did not simply leave. Instead, He went forward, even as He went toward His death on the cross for us.

Without a proper fear of God, we are predisposed to see ourselves as right and others wrong. However, God does not call us to be “right” but to be humble before Him; not to be “great” but to serve Him. **We Believers are not the standard of Christian excellence, Christ is.**

May you find in Christ’s love and forgiveness the perfect model to respond to writers when they are less than humble. May you be living examples of the Gospel — a death to man’s pride and exalting the God of mercy revealed in Christ for us all. — J.W. (CO)

Dear J.W.,

Thank you for your encouragement and advice and for holding up our Lord as the example to model. We can only promise to try. — Editor ★



# Reversing the Aging Process

SCIENCE: BY MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN (r) JPost.com



Inside a hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber in Florida

Israeli scientists say they have managed to successfully reverse the biological aging process — using only oxygen.

Recent research led by Tel Aviv University's Prof. Shai Efrati, together with a team from Shamir Medical Center, found that when healthy adults over the age of 64 were placed in a pressurized chamber and given pure oxygen for 90 minutes a day, five days a week for three months, not only was the aging process delayed, it was actually reversed.

## Shortening Telomeres

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Aging*, focused specifically on **whether the process could reverse two key indicators of biological aging**: the shortening of DNA telomeres and the accumulation of resultant senescent cells.

A telomere is the end of a chromosome. Telomeres are made of repetitive sequences of non-coding DNA that serve as bumpers to protect the chromosome from damage during replication. Every time replication happens, these bumpers take a hit, making them shorter and shorter. Once the telomere reaches a certain length, the cell cannot replicate anymore, which leads to senescent cells: aging, malfunctioning cells that ultimately lead to cognitive or other age-related disabilities and even diseases, such as cancer.

## Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)

The study involved 35 adults over the age of 64 who were administered hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) utilizing 100% oxygen in an environmental pressure higher than one absolute atmosphere to enhance the amount of oxygen dissolved in the body's tissues.

*(continued next page)*







credit:  
Aviv Clinics

Every 20 minutes, the participants were asked to remove their masks for five minutes, bringing their oxygen levels back to normal. During this period, researchers saw that fluctuations in the free oxygen concentration were interpreted at the cellular level as a lack of oxygen, rather than the absolute level of oxygen.

In other words, repeated intermittent hyperoxic (increased oxygen level) exposures induced many of the mediators and cellular mechanisms that are usually induced during hypoxia (decreased oxygen levels) — a phenomenon called the “hyperoxic-hypoxic paradox.”

“The oxygen fluctuation we generated is what is important,” Prof. Efrati said. “During this process, a state of oxygen shortage resulted, which caused cell regeneration.”

## Ramifications

**The practical ramifications include improvements in attention, information processing speed, and executive functions**, which normally decline with aging. More than half of people over the age of 60 express concern about these declines. According to the study, the changes were equivalent to how the participants’ bodies were at the cellular level 25 years earlier.

“We are not [just] slowing the decline, we are going backward in time,” Efrati said.

Efrati has been studying the aging process for a decade and runs the Aviv Clinics in Florida. This study, he said, is proof that the cellular basis for the aging process can be reversed, adding that it “gives hope and opens the door for a lot of young scientists to target aging as a reversible disease.” It could also enable doctors and scientists to find a way to monitor telomere length and develop medications that could help them grow back when needed.



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## Will it make people live longer?

The effect’s long-term duration is yet to be determined, Efrati said. But “**probably yes**. We know that people with shorter telomeres die earlier, so it makes sense.”

One disadvantage of the study was its limited sample size. Efrati added that the experiment was conducted using a scientific, monitored HBOT chamber and warned that people should not try this at home. As for claims that sacs inflated with air are hyperbaric treatments: “This is not what is being used in the studies; it is not effective. Moreover, it could be dangerous.” ★



## Proclaim Your Love for the Holy Land!

This beautiful [flag of Israel](#) measures 3' x 5' and proudly displays two blue stripes and the Star of David. Makes an excellent gift for friends of Israel!

# Augmented Reality, 3D Eye Socket Surgery



MEDICINE: BY MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN (r) JPost.com



credit: - Roee Bachims/Dental Pro Video

Surgeons are seen examining a model skull ahead of eye surgery using AR technology.



Prof. Masad Barhoum

“The future is already here,” according to Prof. Masad Barhoum, director-general of Galilee Medical Center, after a team of Israeli doctors from his medical center successfully completed the first-ever repair of a fracture in the floor of an eye socket using augmented reality (AR) and three-dimensional printing technology.

The surgery, performed on a 31-year-old resident of the Galilee, was led by Prof. Samer Srouji of Galilee Medical Center’s Center for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in partnership with doctors from Sheba Medical Center in Tel HaShomer.

**The patient had been severely injured in his face, fracturing his left eye socket, resulting in double vision and impairing the aesthetics and symmetry of his eyes.**

“The innovative technology utilizing a 3D printer and AR resulted in both a particularly accurate execution of the operation and a significant reduction in time,” said Srouji.

Using the healthy side to design a plate that faithfully reproduced the shape of the floor of the eye socket, the medical center built a three-dimensional model of the patient’s skull and printed the plate onto titanium. To accurately position the plate, doctors used AR.



Prof. Samer Srouji

courtesy: [https://tecmtrivawp-content/uploads/2020/03/Samer\\_Srouji.pdf](https://tecmtrivawp-content/uploads/2020/03/Samer_Srouji.pdf)

courtesy: <https://blogs.tmsortel.com/authors/masad-barhoum/>

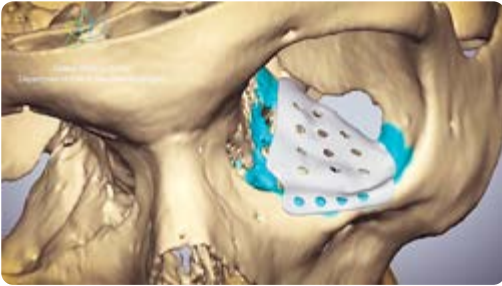
*(continued next page)*

One of the doctors wore Microsoft “HoloLens” glasses that were connected to the computer software containing the patient’s skull and plate models. The virtual hologram was accurately placed over the patient’s head through the glasses, letting the surgeon place the plate correctly in real time.

Wearing the glasses allows users to see intricate details on 3D images and touch, grasp, and move holograms in ways that feel natural. The holograms respond like real objects.

The surgery took only an hour and a half. Following several days of recovery, the patient was released home. His CT scans showed that the plate was optimally placed.

courtesy: video screen capture from Galilee Medical Center, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery



Orbital floor reconstruction screen capture



Surgeon putting on the HoloLens

courtesy: video screen capture from Galilee Medical Center, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Srouji noted that in the past year, despite the novel coronavirus, Galilee Medical Center’s 3D Point of Care unit has stepped up its efforts, collaborating closely with Sheba to promote the use and implementation of 3D technologies in all types of surgeries.

“This technology will contribute to improved clinical outcomes and reduce repeated imaging and surgeries,” Prof. Srouji said.

“I congratulate Prof. Srouji and the department’s team on a first-of-its-kind operation,” added Prof. Barhoumm. “It fills us with great pride.” ★



## ***Broken Branches— Has the Church Replaced Israel?*** study booklet

*Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology*

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

*(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)*







*Sermon on the Mount* (1877), oil on copper by Carl Bloch, The Museum of National History in Denmark

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### BBC: Jesus Was a “Palestinian”

JPost.com

The BBC World Service radio program *Heart and Soul* aired a program titled “Black Jesus” on December 18, 2020, in which presenter Robert Beckford claimed that Jesus was a “Palestinian,” despite the term only coming into use some 100 years after the Crucifixion.

Throughout the program, Beckford noted accurately that artistic depictions of Jesus as blonde and European are historically inaccurate. But when discussing his national identity, the presenter referred to Jesus numerous times as a “first-century Palestinian Jew,” although the term “Palestinian” only came into common use 100 years after His death, following the Bar Kokhba Revolt against the Roman Empire.

The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) highlighted the inaccuracy in a May 2020 report that criticized *The New York Times*. CAMERA noted that “during the time of Jesus, Bethlehem and Jerusalem were in what was commonly called “Judea,” and Nazareth was in what was commonly called “The Galilee.” **The land where Jesus lived did not take on the name Palestine until the second century, well after His death. Thus, the notion of “first-century Palestine” is totally fictional.**

“In 132 CE [A.D.], approximately 100 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, the Jews fought against Roman rule

for a second time in what is known as the Bar Kokhba Revolt,” the report continued. “After the Romans defeated the rebellious Jews in 135, they renamed the land of the Jews ‘Palestina’ to punish the Jews and make an example of them to other peoples considering rebellion. The Romans took away the Jewish name, Judea, and replaced it with the name of an ancient enemy the Jews despised. The Philistines were an extinct Aegean people whom the Jews had historically loathed as uncultured and barbaric.”

The December 13th edition of BBC Radio Scotland’s “Sunday Morning” also made references to Jesus as “Palestinian” without any explicit mention of Jesus’ Jewish identity, according to CAMERA. The organization said it intends to ask the BBC to clarify the historical inaccuracies with a formal request.

**It’s time to dust off those history books.** — David

### Hidden Bunker in Warsaw Ghetto

By Hanan Greenwood / [IsraelHayom.com](http://IsraelHayom.com)

A bunker containing 100-year-old phylacteries hidden from the Nazis in World War II was recently discovered in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto.

In recent years, Polish authorities have begun to demolish buildings inside the Warsaw Ghetto to turn them into residential buildings in a process of urban renewal. Following

*(continued next page)*





one building's demolition, construction workers discovered an entrance to a bunker dug in preparation for the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. One of the Polish construction workers on the site who entered the bunker to clear it out discovered 10 phylacteries that had been hidden behind books and other items.



credit: Shem Olam Faith and the Holocaust Institute

Phylacteries (prayer cases) from the bunker

Hearing of the sensational discovery from their local contacts, European emissaries of the Shem Olam Faith and the Holocaust Institute for Education, Documentation, and Research secretly contacted the construction workers. **Following lengthy negotiations and a commitment to keep the transaction secret from Polish authorities, the phylacteries were handed over to the emissaries.** They recently arrived in Israel, where they were transferred to the institute for disinfection and conservation.

According to Shem Olam Director Rabbi Avraham Krieger, "The discovery of 10 phylacteries in one place testifies to the Jewish lifestyle they maintained in the ghetto. Despite the horrors and the cruel reality in which they lived, they continued to observe the customs and tradition they knew."

He noted that "the number of phylacteries points to the underground minyans [prayer quorums of 10 men] they succeeded in holding inside the bunker, under the Nazis' noses. The phylacteries were hidden alongside

weapons and hunting tools that served the Warsaw Ghetto rebels, testifying to their importance in the eyes of the Jews."

## Ilona Kellner Recipes

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum /  
Collections.ushmm.org

The Ilona Kellner papers consist of hundreds of recipes written by Ilona Kellner on the backs of unused forms from the Nazi labor camp at Hessisch Lichtenau and dictated by her fellow women prisoners.

Ilona worked as a translator and messenger at the labor camp and tidied the factory. She pilfered the blank pages from camp wastebaskets. The forms include munitions delivery and fulfillment receipts for bombs, mines, and mortars; access passes; discharge bills; shift inventories; and prisoner correspondence templates. Two pages appear to include letters from Ilona to her mother.

The collection also contains five family photographs (originals and copy prints) from before and after the war, including one of Ilona Kellner and her daughter, Eva Moreimi, with cakes prepared from the recipes for Ilona's grandson's bar mitzvah. ★



**background:** recipe 65/66 (front and back).  
**foreground:** Ilona Kellner and her daughter, Eva Moreimi (1929)



# Ancient Oil Lamp Solves Modern Mystery

ARCHAEOLOGY: TimesOfIsrael.com

Archaeologists announced in December that they had unearthed one of the largest oil lamp workshops discovered in Israel, dating back 1,600–1,700 years. The discovery also solves a more modern mystery.

According to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), the workshop — unearthed ahead of constructing a new neighborhood

in the city of Beit Shemesh — contained hundreds of ancient ceramic oil lamps (two of which bore the Jewish menorah symbol). Also discovered: terracotta figurines and stone molds for the production of lamps.

“These oil lamps provided the main method of lighting in ancient times,” said the archaeologists behind the find, which was made with the help of teenagers and pre-military academy students from around Israel.

The similarity between the site they had discovered and photos published in the 1930s by archaeologist Dimitri Baramki led the archaeologists to solve a decades-long mystery.

In 1934, Baramki, an inspector on behalf of the Department of Antiquities during the British Mandate, discovered a water cistern in the region of Beit Shemesh in central Israel west of Jerusalem. Excavating the cistern, he uncovered a huge quantity of intact oil lamps bearing animal and plant motifs and geometric designs.

The lamps, dated to the Late Roman Period (A.D. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century), became known as the “Beit Nattif lamps” after the name of the nearby village. The lamps have become an archaeological hallmark. Baramki also said he had recovered stone lamp molds and a wide variety of pottery figurines depicting animals, horse-riders, women, and birds.

**After Baramki’s discovery, the location of the cistern was lost and remained a mystery despite efforts to locate it.**

*(continued next page)*



Oil lamps found at Beit Nattif excavation

credit: Yoni Schwartz/Israel Antiquities Authority



credit: Yoni Schwartz/Israel Antiquities Authority



Oil lamps found at Beit Nattif excavation



credit: Moran Ballik, Israel Antiquities Authority



Lamp fragment with menorah symbol found at Beit Nattif excavation



The researchers recognized the new site from photos appearing in Baramki's excavation publication. It even contained items left behind by Baramki himself, including leather baskets used to extract soil and an empty metal box.

"The figurines and the motifs on the lamps from the Beit Nattif region tell the story of the Judean Hills in the period following the Bar Kokhba Revolt," said Benyamin Storchan of the Israel Antiquities Authority, an expert on the Beit Nattif lamps.

"From the writings of [Flavius] Josephus, we know that during the Second Temple Period, Beit Nattif was a regional administrative center — one of 10 principal cities under Hasmonean rule." Storchan added that figurines unearthed at the discovered site indicate that many pagans moved into the area in the following centuries.



Washing a figurine found at Beit Nattif excavation

"A small number of the ceramic oil lamps are decorated with distinctively Jewish symbols — such as the shofar, incense burner, and seven-branched menorah — tell us that **Jewish life continued to exist in the Judean Hills, well after the rebellion's failure,**" he continued. "During this period, Christianity also began to emerge, and some of the Beit Nattif oil lamps carry fish motifs, a Christian symbol. The sheer variety of lamps and figurines proves that the local population featured a mix of pagans, Christians, and Jews." ★

credit: Yotl Schwartz/Israel Antiquities Authority



Excavation director Itai Aviv with a 1,600-year-old human figurine found at Beit Nattif excavation



# Hanan Ashrawi Resigns from the P.L.O.

BY HUGH FITZGERALD / JihadWatch.org

Hanan Ashrawi recently resigned from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the following reasons:

**First**, she disagrees with Palestinian Authority (PA) president Mahmoud Abbas's recent decision to renew security cooperation with Israel. (This is the only reason given for her resignation, but there are others.) Israeli intelligence has helped the PA keep track of, and foil, attacks directed at it and its leaders (including Abbas) by members of Hamas and Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Ashrawi has no idea how important cooperation with Israel is both for the PA's financial state and for its ability to contain the pandemic.

**Second**, Ashrawi is clearly fed up with the despotism of Abbas, who is in the 17th year of his four-year term as president, with no new elections in sight. The PLO Executive Committee and Parliament have seen their responsibilities steadily moved to the office of President Abbas.

**Third**, mismanagement and corruption in the PA have gotten out of hand. The PA provides sinecures (low-work or no-show jobs) in the bureaucracy to the relatives of Abbas's cronies; this practice keeps them loyal to him. While she's not done badly — her net worth is \$5 million — Ashrawi's kept her corruption within reasonable limits; Abbas, with his \$400 million nest egg, has not.\*

**Fourth**, her resignation statement said that "the Palestinian political system needs ... inclusion of youth." Mahmoud Abbas is 85. Enough said.



Palestinian politician Hanan Ashrawi in her Ramallah office

**Fifth**, the death of former PLO Secretary-General Saeb Erekat from COVID-19 in November has increased Ashrawi's workload as the senior English-language spokesperson for the PA. It surely made her consider whether she wants to spend her future defending a scheming despot whom she cannot stand. She has decided against it.

Though considered a moderate in Palestinian politics, Ashrawi was as hardline as any of her colleagues. This truly corrupt woman was heaped with many honors from many international groups. However, there seem to be no awards for Ashrawi after 2006. Perhaps the world finally found out about her Holocaust-denying anti-Semitic views.

Zola interviewed Hanan Ashrawi several times. In our two-part series *The View from "Palestine"* she artfully articulated the Palestinians' best arguments for being the true owners of Israel. Zola's *Whose Land Is It?* TV series (with two scholarly Arab Christians) refuted her false assertions. See description on p. 23. — Editor ★

\* A kleptocracy is a government whose corrupt leaders use political power to appropriate the wealth of their nation.

credit: Miriam Alster/Flickr90

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## The True Meaning of Bread

A Jewish man decided to eat his Passover lunch in the park. He sat down on a bench and began eating. Since Jews do not eat leavened bread during the eight-day holiday, he ate matzoh — flat, crisp, unleavened bread that has dozens of perforations. Awhile later, a blind man sat down next to him. Feeling neighborly, the Jewish man passed a sheet of matzoh to the blind man. The blind man handled the cracker for a few minutes, looked puzzled, and finally exclaimed, “Who wrote this nonsense?” ★

Please see “Matzoh” postcards (p.36)

## Dry Bones

The New COVID-19



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

Across:

- 3. Cloth
- 5. Fastest
- 7. Law
- 10. Iniquity
- 11. False
- 12. Closet
- 15. Secret
- 16. Lilies
- 18. Descended
- 20. Morrow

Down:

- 1. Narrow
- 2. Doctrine
- 4. Alms
- 6. Heart
- 8. Hypocrite
- 9. Fruits
- 13. Asketh
- 14. Kingdom
- 17. Pearls
- 19. Fowls



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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.”*

Please see related Jewish Humor, “The True Meaning of Bread” (p.35).

Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



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## Zola Tours DISCOVER ISRAEL

Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with David & Kirsten Hart in FALL 2021!



### SPRING TOUR 2021

~~Deluxe: March 17-24  
Grand Petra: March 17-24  
Petra: March 17-24~~  
**CANCELED**  
DUE TO COVID-19

### FALL TOUR 2021

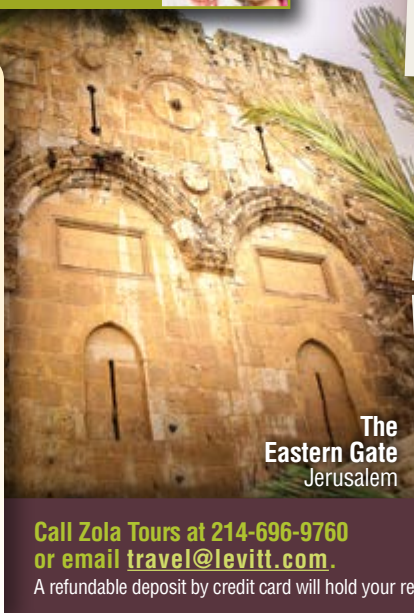
**Deluxe:** Oct. 18–28  
(Israel only, price TBD)

**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](http://www.levitt.com/tours)



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Jerusalem!



The Garden Tomb  
Jerusalem



Petra  
Jordan



The Temple Mount  
Jerusalem



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