



Levitt LETTER

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

— ROMANS 10:1

inside: Faith that
Perseveres p.4

Christus Consolator by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890), Brigham Young University Museum of Art

Yeshua Fulfilled 4 of the 7 Lord's Feasts

By Zola Levitt (1979)

In His Passion Week, Yeshua celebrated the first three of the Lord's seven feasts, each in the befitting manner. He was crucified on Passover, becoming the Blood of the Lamb by which the Chosen People had escaped slavery in the Exodus. He was buried on Unleavened Bread (*"This bread is my body"*)—**a case of a dead man arranging his own burial at the appropriate time.** Then, He was raised on First Fruits, in a prototype of the future resurrection of the Church.

That wasn't the end of the Lord's ministry on Earth, even though we assume that He was inactive after that point. Rather, He kept His promise to the disciples in John 14 by sending the Holy Spirit. The fourth feast, Pentecost (*Shavuot*), occurs 50 days after First Fruits (Lev. 23:15–16), and on that very day in the year of Messiah's crucifixion, the Holy Spirit attended the Pentecost festivities

(continued p.8)

Shavuot: Sunday, May 16 to Tuesday, May 18
(Jewish holidays begin and end at sunset.)
Pentecost: Sunday May 23

How Jews Celebrate Shavuot

Chabad.org

The word *Shavuot* means weeks. The feast celebrates the completion of the seven-week Omer (sheaf) counting period between Passover and Shavuot.

God gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Shavuot commemorates this event. Jews renew the acceptance of God's gift, and God "re-gives" the Torah.

The giving of the Torah was a far-reaching spiritual event that touched the essence of the Jewish soul for all time. Jewish sages have compared it to a wedding between God and the Jewish

(continued p.9)



David's Shield, Not Star

IsraelBiblicalStudies.com



David the Psalmist—Repentance, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)



Surprisingly, the use of the six-pointed star as the Jewish symbol goes back only a few hundred years. In Hebrew, this star is not called a “Star of David” but *Magen David* מִגֶּן דָּוִד — the “Shield of David.” Why is this an important difference?

The Hebrew word for shield, *magen*, literally means a protective covering. In Genesis 15, God makes a covenant with Abram, saying: “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield (*magen*).” In Psalms, we find another usage of *magen* in reference to God that King David himself made, repeating over and over

that God alone is “our help and our shield” (*magen*), the Provider of true security. Thus, the “Star of David” is really a symbol of God’s protection. The true power of the Shield of David is best appreciated in the Hebrew language.

To learn more about how God is our shield, see “Faith that Perseveres,” on p. 4, the start of Tony’s new series on the Psalms. ★



David the Psalmist—Worships, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



- 2 David's Shield, Not Star**
Teaching
- 4 Faith that Perseveres** (Psalm 40)
Studio Co-host
- 6 Untapped Power**
Classic Zola
- 8 Yeshua Fulfilled 4 of the 7 Lord's Feasts** (continued)
- 9 How Jews Celebrate Shavuot** (continued)
Classic Tom McCall
- 10 Palestine vs. Israel as the Name of the Holy Land**
Ask the Chaplain
- 12 What Does the Sealing of the Holy Spirit Mean?**
A Note from Mark
- 13 Now That You Mention It**
- 14 ZLM Benevolence Funds**
- 15 ZLM Bulletin Board**
Parsons: Hebrew Lesson
- 16 Ten Matters of Heart**



- 18 ZLM Order Form**
- 21 Letters to ZLM**
- 23 Crossword Puzzle**
Science
- 24 Night Vision for U.S. Army**
Medicine
- 25 PulseNmore Revolutionizes Prenatal Care**
- 26 Codebreaker Who Busted Nazi Spy Rings**
- 28 Select Media Briefs**
- 30 Deaf Rabbi Translates Bible into Sign Language**
Archaeology: double feature
- 31 New Dead Sea Scrolls Discovered**
- 32 Earliest Human Symbol?**
Anti-Semitism Focus
- 34 Neo-Nazis Gathering in Spain**
- 35 Jewish Humor**



Jewish Heritage Calendar 5781 (2020-2021)

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!
(While supplies last!) Calendar goes through September 2021.

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar began last 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 Editor's response to B.B. "What date is Pentecost?" in our letters section on [p.22](#).



Back to p.23

Faith that Perseveres — Psalm 40

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



How are you doing? Seriously. How are you doing? It would be wonderful if you and your fellow ZLM partners could gather in one large hall of fellowship. Though not currently possible, the staff at ZLM in Dallas, Texas, nevertheless, has your spiritual and physical well-being in prayerful thought.

The pandemic that interrupted “life as usual” has given each of us pause to consider our priorities and renew our faith. God is still on His throne, and we can trust Him even when His

will is a mystery to us. Paul reminds us of that fact in Romans 11:34 — *“For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”* (NKJV)

Over the next few months, we will look at a few of the encouraging psalms. When we consider the psalms, we usually attribute them to King David. He did pen the majority, but other people authored some, as noted in the following divisions. **Before we begin our study with Psalm 40, it would be helpful to consider how the psalms are divided.**

The Book of Psalms actually comprises five books that were written over a thousand-year period. The books break down as follows:

Book I: Psalms 1–41

Book II: Psalms 42–72

Book III: Psalms 73–89

Book IV: Psalms 90–106

Book V: Psalms 107–150

Other than David, the following authors have been identified:

Moses: Psalm 90

Solomon: Psalms 72, 127

Asaph: Psalms 50, 73–83

Heman: Psalm 88

Ethan: Psalm 89

Sons of Korah: Psalms 42, 44–49, 84, 85, 87

Let’s take up our brief study of Psalm 40, in which David points out the need to surrender one’s life to God, no matter the circumstances.

1. Commit to God in Trials (40:1–10)

David comes before the people encouraging them to trust in God. He had spent an extended time in prayer (an example for all of us), and in his patience, God delivered him. Watch closely what God did.

- He brought David out of a horrible pit — a pit of despair and depression. We all have had our Covid lockdown time to pray. Eventually, victories may be revealed because God’s people bowed a knee to the Sovereign of the Universe.
- He renewed David’s faith and trust in His purpose for his life. As we know, David was a musician, and God gave him a new, inspiring song. It is difficult to sing an inspirational song and be depressed at the same time.

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David the Psalmist—Praise and Thanks, woodcut for Die Bibel in Bildern (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld





In verse 4, David begins recounting the blessings of God. He notes, “*They are more than can be numbered*” (40:5).

I would encourage you at this point to draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper. On one side list your troubles, and on the other side list your blessings. See if you don’t agree with David that God has done wonderful works in your life.

Of course, some of you readers/ZLMers are facing problems: financial, relational, or physical. Our world is so focused on the bad news that we often forget that, even in our trials, God is always there for us!

In verses 9 and 10, David admits that he cannot keep silent, and proclaims to the people the many victories that God had given him. He advises continued trust in God and encourages calling on Him at all times, not just in times of trouble.

Back to verses 6–8 to bring special attention to the message that David is presenting to the people.

2. The Messianic Message (40:6–8)

The writer of Hebrews 10:5–7 cites these verses to confirm that Yeshua’s obedience unto death showed what the Mosaic Law could never provide: complete deliverance from the curse of sin.

Matthew reminds us that **Yeshua fulfilled the law; He did not destroy it** (Matthew 5:17). David’s verses in Psalm 40:6–8 remind us that we must each submit to God’s will as we understand it from His Word.

3. Call on God in Trials (40:11–17)

Verses 11 and 12 suddenly find David becoming more immediate in his request for mercy and protection. David doesn’t list the evils that surround him, but he offers some insight when he mentions “my iniquities” in verse 12. We can assume that David’s sins had caught up with him. The good advice that I’ve often heard from seasoned pastors is to keep short accounts with God.

In verses 13–16, David’s prayer becomes very specific in asking God to confuse his critics, such that they become embarrassed that they have

attacked the king. These verses cause Psalm 40 to be categorized as an “imprecatory” psalm. Imprecatory psalms ask God to bring down His righteous indignation on someone or some group. Tempting, isn’t it?

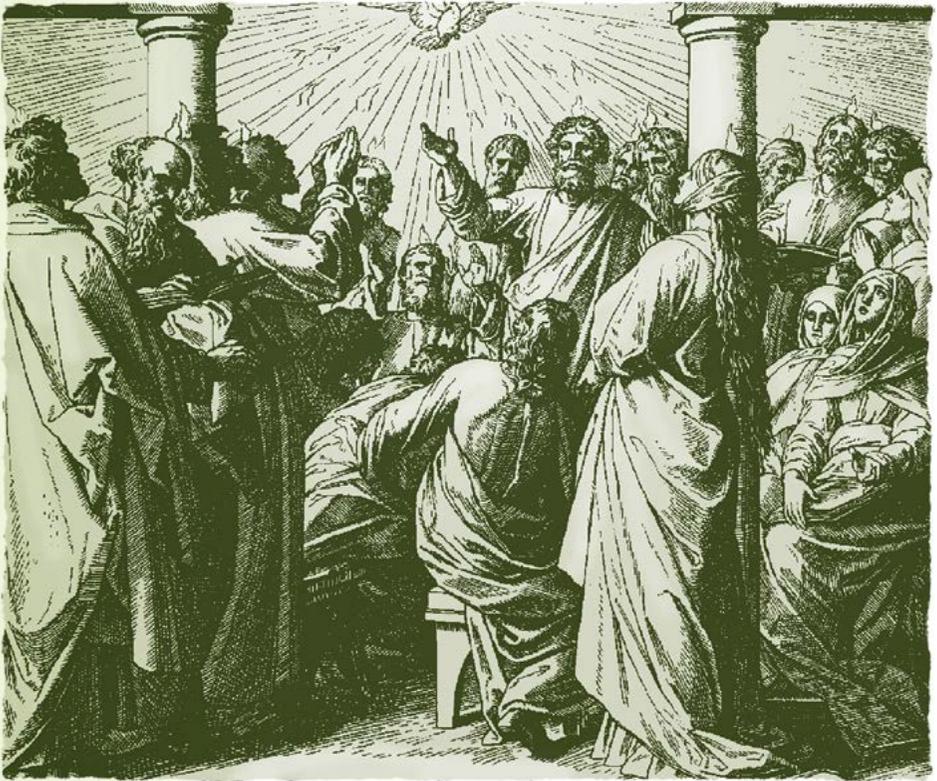
Finally, David admits that he is totally dependent upon God for deliverance and mercy. Verse 17 reveals that David considers himself “poor and needy.” The king of Israel poor and needy? In his own words, yes ... and aren’t we all? ★



David the Psalmist—Thanks, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

Untapped Power

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



Pentecost, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)



What if you could function at 100% of your capabilities from now through the rest of your earthly days? What would your life look like if you daily tapped into an unparalleled power from the moment your eyelids opened until the time you chose to go to sleep? Does that sound appealing or interesting to you?

There is a popular belief that humans use only 10% of their brain's power. What could we accomplish if we tapped into a mere 10% *more*? I have some mind-shattering information for you. You have the potential to function at 100% every single day of your life! You can access a power more substantial than anything created by man. What's even more extraordinary — the Messiah told us that we have the ability to do **even greater things than He did** while He walked this planet (John 14:12). Every single one of us has that ability, yet it remains our greatest untapped powerful resource.

Power from on High

May is an important month when Jews and Christians celebrate *Shavuot/Feast of Weeks*, better known in Evangelical Christianity as Pentecost. (See [p. 22](#) for why we celebrate the same feast on different dates this year.) In Luke 24:49, Jesus told the Disciples, *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."* Jesus was a walking, living, *resurrected-from-the-dead* being when He said that!

As we know from the Scriptures, His words became reality. When the Holy
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Spirit filled the Disciples *and their companions* with more spiritual capacity than they could imagine, they were able to function with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. The incredible news for you today? The Holy Spirit hasn't changed a bit from that first Pentecost. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, we have the opportunity to do even greater things than Jesus did! He healed every person who came to Him and miraculously fed thousands. One day we'll be able to read the unwritten volumes of miracles that He performed (John 21:25).

When you believe the Word of God, you must also believe the promise that the Lord gave us in John 14:12, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Choose Now How You Will Live

How are you going to choose to walk out the rest of your days? Power set at 100%, or a paltry 10%? The choice is yours. The best part? The power of the Holy Spirit is completely free for the asking!

Chag Shavuot Sameach (Happy Pentecost!)

Kirsten's enthusiasm is contagious. Fans of "baby steps" could resolve almost every day to do 1% or 2% better than yesterday. Self-improvement needn't be cold turkey, though turning over a new leaf can be. —Mark ★



[The Spirit of Pentecost](#)

[study booklet & teaching CD](#)

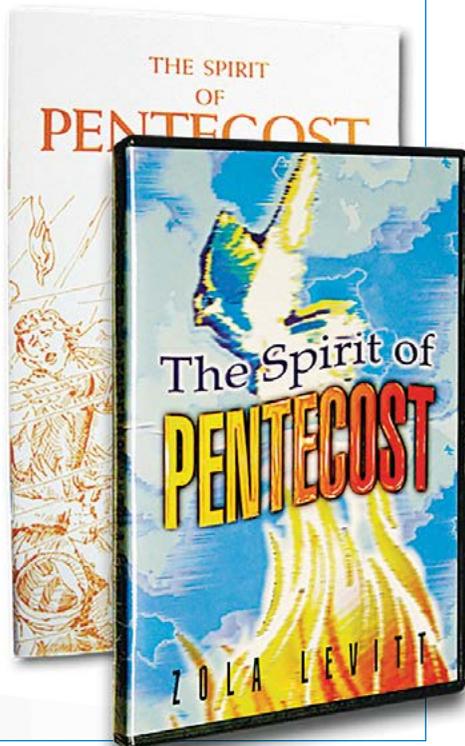
by Zola Levitt

An insightful look at Peter's stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel.

Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The "birthday of the Church" is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

Please see John Parsons's Hebrew Lesson on [p. 16](#).

(All titles also available as eBooks.)





at the Temple site *"like a rushing, mighty wind."* What occurred at that Pentecost represents the summer harvest — a larger harvest than First Fruits in the spring but not as large as the fall crops — and the Holy Spirit harvested 3,000 people (Acts 2:41). On the occasion when the Law had been delivered to Moses, Israel had made a golden calf, and by God's direction, 3,000 were killed (Ex. 32:28). Now, on this Pentecost, the same number were returned to the Chosen People, *"The letter kills, the Spirit gives life"* (2 Corinthians 3:6).



Detail of *The Last Supper* (1875), painting by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890)

That was the last of the Lord's activities that we have seen on Earth, other than the various personal miracles that we each experience in our holy walk with Him. We are due, therefore, for upcoming enactments, each on its appropriate feast day, if the Lord is to continue the system He has begun.

Future Fulfillments of the Feasts

If we are correct about the ongoing fulfillment of the feasts in their given order, we should expect the Rapture of the Church on the Feast of Trumpets/*Rosh Hashanah* (1 Thess. 4:16–17; 1 Cor. 15:51–52). We cannot be dogmatic on this point since the Lord intends to come by surprise. (The Church is becoming more aware of the feasts — even expecting Him to return on the Feast of Atonement/*Yom Kippur* — Lev. 23:27). Yet, He intends to surprise us *"like a thief in the night"* (1 Thess. 5:2), and so there is some debate about whether He will continue to fulfill the feasts or whether He will pick some other system, surprising us all. I, Zola, prefer the idea of the Day of Trumpets, itself, and am aware that many in the Church are expecting the Lord on that very feast in some future year. We are not those who are asleep after all; we Believers* are supposed to be waiting and watching expectantly (1 Thess. 5:1–10).

If our theory is correct then, the Lord should continue to fulfill the last two feasts — even after the Rapture of the Church. And indeed it appears that He will. The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled at the Second Coming, when *"they [Israel] shall look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son ... and all Israel will be saved"* (Zech. 12:10; Romans 11:26). It must be stressed that it is only surviving Jews who will be saved. Thus, it is necessary to witness to the Jews now, if they are to go in the Rapture of the Church, and not relegate them to waiting through the Tribulation Period and Armageddon for the Second Coming. Many of them will perish in such circumstances and never live to see the Lord return. Thus, they will be lost, and this

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* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."





will greatly grieve the Father, who loves them.

Finally, the Lord will celebrate the seventh feast, the Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot*, when He places His own tabernacle here on Earth among us and the world will come from year to year to worship Him (Zech. 14:16–19).

A Bright Future

Clearly, then, Christians have a very bright future. **First Fruits, in essence, means that our Savior will return for us.** Buddha and Mohammed did not promise their followers that they will return. With these worldly religions, what you see is what you get. But our King is coming! First Fruits represents, in a way, the whole point of Christianity — what we see is not all we get. This life is only the beginning. Even if we are dead, we shall rise — just as those dead branches of winter bear fruit every spring. Let us pray with John, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus*” (Rev. 22:20).

Zola’s teaching here is vitally important for Believers of non-Jewish descent to understand. Nothing Yeshua did was random; it all integrates with our Jewish roots. — David ★



How Jews Celebrate Shavuot *continued from cover sidebar*

people. Shavuot also means “oaths,” for on this day God swore eternal devotion to His Chosen People, and Jews in turn pledged everlasting loyalty to Him.

In ancient times, two wheat loaves would be offered in the Holy Temple on Shavuot. It was also at this time that people would begin to bring *bikkurim*, their first and choicest fruits, to thank God for Israel’s bounty.

Jewish Community Traditions

- The holiday lasts one day in Israel, two in the diaspora, a holdover from the days of slow communication.
- Women and girls light holiday candles to usher in the holiday, on both the first and second evenings of the holidays.
- It is customary to stay up all night learning Torah on the first night of Shavuot.
- All men, women and children should go to the synagogue to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments on the first day of Shavuot.
- As on other holidays, special meals are eaten, and no “work” may be performed.
- It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Menus range from traditional cheese blintzes to quiches, casseroles, and more.
- On the second day of Shavuot, the Yizkor memorial service for the dead is recited.
- Some communities read the Book of Ruth during morning services, as King David — who is believed to have died on this holiday — was descended from Ruth the Moabite.
- Some communities decorate their homes (and synagogues) with flowers and sweet-smelling plants in advance of Shavuot. ★



Palestine vs. Israel as the Name of the Holy Land

Classic Tom McCall
from 1997
24 years ago



During the last few centuries, the world — Christians included — has fallen into a bad habit. We have bought into some early Roman propaganda by using the name *Palestine*, the name which Roman Emperor Hadrian dubbed the country of Israel in A.D. 135. This longtime misname has become common usage. Calling Israel *Palestine* is as incorrect as calling today's Russia "the Soviet Union" or referring to Berlin as being in "East Germany." Our ministry's [late] senior theologian, Dr. Thomas S. McCall, completely explores the subject here. If you know people who have fallen into this bad habit, please share this article with them. — Zola



Many Bibles include maps of "Palestine"

Current Propaganda's Use of *Palestine*

There is a propaganda war going on now regarding the term *Palestine*. At one time it might have been argued that *Palestine* was an innocuous designation of the Middle Eastern area that is generally thought of as the Holy Land. During the last few decades, however, the term *Palestine* was adopted by Arabs living in Israel in the area west of the Jordan River. ***Palestine is specifically employed to avoid using the name Israel and must be considered an anti-Israel term.*** On all Arab maps published in Jordan, Egypt, etc., the area west of the Jordan River is called *Palestine* without any reference to Israel. *Palestine* is the term now used by those who want to deny the existence of Israel as a legitimate nation in the region.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) — the political entity within Israel that is gradually obtaining pockets of territory through the "peace process" — adopted this misnomer. Although it must deal daily with Israeli officials, the PA hates to use "Israel" in any of its communications.

Palestine, therefore, must now be considered a political propaganda term with massive anti-Israel and anti-Jewish implications. The world press uses the term to question the legitimacy of modern Israel. Christians also have used the term *Palestine* for centuries in referring to the Holy Land area in general. In earlier times, this might have been excused (though Biblically questionable) because of its common usage. In light of the current propaganda war against Israel, however, Christians must now re-evaluate the term *Palestine* and consider its Biblical, theological, and prophetic inaccuracy.

Biblical Use of *Palestine*

The term *Palestine* is rarely used in the Old Testament, and when it is, **it refers specifically to the southwestern coastal area of Israel occupied by the Philistines.** The term is a translation of the Hebrew word *Pelesheth* and is never used

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to refer to the whole land occupied by Israel. Before the Israelites occupied the land, it would be generally accurate to say that the southwestern coastal area was called *Philistia* (the Way of the Philistines, or *Palestina*). The central highlands were called *Canaan*. Both the Canaanites and the Philistines had disappeared as distinct peoples by the time of the Babylonian Captivity of Judea (586 B.C.), and they never reappeared.

The New Testament never uses the term *Palestine*. The term *Israel* primarily refers to the people of Israel rather than to the Land. However, at least two passages use Israel to refer to the Land:

Saying, Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead who sought the young Child's life. And he arose, and took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. (Matt. 2:20–21)

But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say to you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man shall have come. (Matt. 10:23)

The first passage refers to when Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned from Egypt to Israel. The second has reference to the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the Land of Israel. Jesus, Matthew, and the angel speaking to Joseph use the term *Israel* with reference to the Land, even though the Roman authorities did not recognize the term.

It is clear, then, that the Bible never uses the term *Palestine* to refer to the Holy Land as a whole, and that Bible maps that refer to *Palestine* in the Old or New Testament are, at best, inaccurate, and, at worst, consciously deny the Biblical name of Israel.

History of the Term *Palestine*

Where did the term *Palestine* originate? How did the world and the Church get into the habit of calling the Land of Israel *Palestine*? One of the guides we used in our tours to Israel was Zvi Rivai, an Israeli Messianic Believer, who had researched this subject extensively [and is now gone to be with the Lord]. According to Zvi's research, before A.D. 135, the Romans used the terms *Judea* and *Galilee* when referring to the Land of Israel. When Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the Roman government struck a coin with the phrase *Judaea Capta*, meaning "Judea has been captured." Early Roman designations never used the term *Palestine*. ★

Next month: How *Palestine* crept into Church terminology and what Believers can do to rectify the use of the misnomer.



Q. What Does the Sealing of the Holy Spirit Mean?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian
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A. The New Testament speaks three times about the sealing of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). This term refers to the mark identifying the Believer as God's own and kept forever by His power. It is an unbreakable seal of divine ownership and salvation.



In the ancient world, a seal was primarily used in three ways, which also describes the three purposes for the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Placing an ancient seal denoted that a document was genuine and certified by the one who sealed it.** So also the Holy Spirit sealing the Believer of the Gospel denotes God's certification that the Believer's salvation is authentic. The Bible acknowledges no Christian being saved *without* the Holy Spirit; every true Believer is sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit *without exception*. The Holy Spirit's seal is God's certification that a person truly believes the Gospel and is marked out as genuinely saved.
- 2. The ancient seal was affixed to denote ownership.** Today's equivalent would be the title deed to a house or piece of land. The one who has a title deed possesses proof that he is the rightful owner of a purchased property. This analogy accords well with the imagery of the seal of the Holy Spirit within the context of Ephesians chapter one. The Believer is possessed by God and is an heir of eternal life in God's Kingdom. The purchase price is the shed blood of Jesus Christ that has redeemed the sinner (Ephesians 1:7). Thus, the seal of the Holy Spirit is the indelible sign, proof that God through Christ has redeemed us from sin.
- 3. The ancient seal was meant to ensure the security of the sealed object, to protect its contents from being violated.** During New Testament times, the Greco-Roman world customarily sealed official documents. Scribes, administrators, and rulers would place soft wax on a document and impress it with the regal or government insignia to guarantee authorship, authenticity, ownership, and authority.

The Holy Spirit is God's seal of protection over the Believer. Under this sacred seal, no man, demon, or any other thing can wrest the Christian from his secure position in Christ. The seal of the Holy Spirit is the imprint on the child of God — the sign that he or she is placed under the eternal security of salvation. Those who trust in Christ are secure forever in the Father's hand. Once they receive eternal life vouchsafed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, *"they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand"* (John 10:28).

Apostle Paul described the sealing of the Spirit as the "earnest money" or "down payment" of God to the believer in Christ (Ephesians 1:13–14). The down payment of the Holy Spirit is the Lord's guarantee that He will finish the work of salvation in the life of the Believer. Paul used the Greek word ἀρραβὼν (*arrabon*) in Ephesians 1:14. It means *down-payment* and carries the idea that God's sealing the born-again Believer with the Holy Spirit guarantees not only the Believer's safety but also the assurance of the final inheritance of salvation.

The sealing of the Holy Spirit guarantees that what God starts with salvation, He will complete with the glorification of all Believers (see Philippians 1:6). ★



Now That You Mention It

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



Dear ZLM,

For years, we nominally but consistently supported your efforts. Recently we took inventory of our stewardship to ensure that we're making wise choices.

At one time, we were very pleased that ZLM supported several additional ministries. We enjoyed your interviews of their representatives. They gave us a sense of being part of a larger effort. We liked your supporting Todd Baker and Jews for Jesus and

were pleased that Todd accompanied our tour to Israel with you.

These former interviews and teachings are now a thing of the past, and we miss them. It appears that now you have elected to spend your resources on actors and actresses to explain your message. This may be beneficial, but I do not hear reports of the results. We no longer will support your effort but pray that God leads you to use your platform for the best advantage. —H.E.R.

Dear H.E.R.,

Thanks for the constructive criticism and your years of steady support. **May I bring you up to date and encourage you to revisit your recent stewardship decisions?**

Our ministry does continue to support several additional ministries (please see [p. 14](#)), including Todd Baker's **Brit-Hadashah Messianic** outreach and To the Jew First. The April *Levitt Letter* features two articles by Todd — "Water Baptism" on [p. 12](#) and a recent To The Jew First (TJF) mission report on [p. 13](#). That same issue's [front cover](#) displays the Jews for Jesus website address with their reassuring article "Is the NT Accurate about the Resurrection?" Todd will greet and speak to our study tour group in Israel this fall during his next TJF mission trip.

Former interviews and teachings remain available at www.levitt.tv. Please read this *Levitt Letter's* bulletin board item ([p. 15](#)) "**Zola's Free Buffet**" (John 21:17). It explains that our two monthly ads for DVDs ([pp. 17, 20](#))

serve as menus for levitt.tv, where you can see all of our TV programs — new and old — anytime, for free. It's good to hear that you enjoy these conversations. **We'll resume interviewing Israeli ministry leaders once our TV crew gets back into Israel.**

The April *Levitt Letter* offers Zola's classic *Seven Feasts of Israel* teaching ([p. 17](#)). Meanwhile, the new **Faith of Our Fathers** TV series (described in the *March Levitt Letter* on [p. 13](#)) features Christian historian David Barton, founder of **WallBuilders**, which presents America's forgotten history and heroes with an emphasis on our moral, religious, and constitutional heritage.

Now please take a moment to reflect on the collective, ongoing impact of ZLM's mainstays: *Our Jewish Roots*, the newsletters, and www.levitt.com. ★

Mark



ZLM Benevolence Funds



Per the Note from Mark on the previous page, here are the internal funds and sister ministries to which ZLM relays designated contributions.

Since January 2019, ZLM has distributed more than \$110,000 to the listed recipients. We relay 100% of the amounts received and deduct zero for processing expenses. Supporters and staffers alike delight in helping other causes above and beyond our mainstay ministry outreaches — all thanks, of course, to your remarkable generosity.

To the Jew First Fund

ZLM's ambassadors to Israel share the Gospel primarily with Jewish Israelis, and also reach for the Arabs. The fund covers expenses including airfare, meals, transportation, and other essentials.

Good News From a Far Country Fund

With Israel's recent COVID-19 self-quarantine, our tour drivers and guides have been hit hard financially. Donations designated for this benevolence will help subsidize their income until tourism returns to the Holy Land.

Lone Soldier

Soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces typically rely on their parents for financial help, housing, food, and laundry facilities on the weekends. "Lone soldiers" are typically Jews who have made *aliyah* and have no family in Israel. This fund helps with basics like food and clothing.

Jewish National Fund

Contributions sponsor tree planting in Israel. Each tree costs \$10. You may request a personalized certificate to reflect your donation.

Bridges for Peace

This Jerusalem-based, Christian group inspires Christians and Jews to work side by side for better relations and a more secure Israel.

The Temple Mount Fund

This fund supports archaeological works that continue to demonstrate how science verifies the Scriptures.

Aliyah Return Center

Jewish people from around the world are being welcomed to their ancestral homeland, and many need temporary housing. An abandoned boarding school in the Galilee is being renovated by ARC, led by Chaim Malespin. For more information, visit: AliyahReturnCenter.com.

Hebrew4Christians

Assists John Parsons, author of the monthly *LL Hebrew Lesson* and *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* book. The father of three young sons, John needs support while coping with chronic health concerns. Please visit and support his stellar, user-friendly website Hebrew4Christians.com.

Please send for our free pamphlet "28 Ways You Can Help Israel" or see the online version at www.levitt.com/essays/help-israel. Above are descriptions of Zola's favorite benevolences, which we continue to support. ★

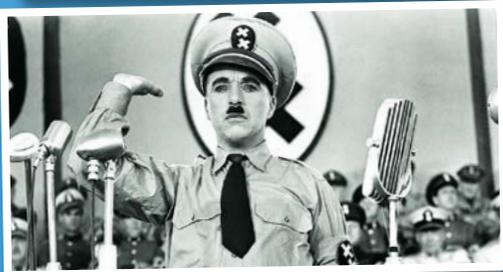


ZLM Bulletin Board



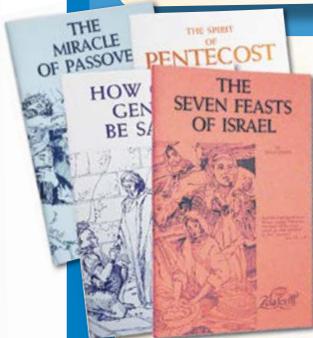
Zola's Free Buffet

Twenty-five years ago, our vendor offered to copyright-protect the VHS cassettes on which we marketed our television series. We declined after imagining post-Apocalyptic evangelists being unable to distribute copies of Zola's timeless Bible teaching to underground cell churches. Now we've gone a step further in disseminating our Messianic teaching: Descriptions of our DVDs in the *Levitt Letter* (pp. 17, 20) and *Personal Letter* serve as menus for a 24/7, free online buffet at levitt.tv for those who crave solid, two-Testament, Bible teaching from Israel.



Charlie Chaplin: The Great Dictator

Charlie Chaplin made the Hitler-mocking film *The Great Dictator* in 1940. He used his own money because the Hollywood studios had financial ties with the Germans and didn't want to irk them. The film is counted as one of Chaplin's greatest works.



50 BOOKLETS for \$49 — Mix or Match!

You may select any combination of fifty of our \$3 study booklets. Share a tremendous value with your friends.

There are 11 titles, so you could bless four people with the complete collection. In addition, you could order two extra of each of Zola's favorite three — *The Miracle of Passover*, *The Seven Feasts of Israel*, and *A Christian Love Story* — and bless newer Christians. Please see [page 18](#) to order.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The 14-page booklet *Giving Through Your Will* outlines a number of ways to include a charitable gift in your will, living trust, or other estate plan. It also includes forms to help you prepare to meet with your advisors. One section touches on "Ways to Make Gifts," such as giving a specific amount, property, percentage, or residual. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #22.**

GIVING THROUGH YOUR WILL



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Ten Matters of Heart

כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל מוֹשִׁיעֶךָ

“For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” (Isa. 43:3)

כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	קְדוֹשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מוֹשִׁיעֶךָ
(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
kee	a-nee	Adonai	e-lo- hey '-kha	ke-dosh	yees-ra-el	mo-shee-e'-kha
for	I am	the LORD	your God	the holy One (of)	Israel	your Savior

During the Feast of *Shavuot* (i.e., “Weeks” or “Pentecost”), His people customarily reaffirm God’s covenant and renew their identity as God’s Children. Toward that end, and in the light of the inner meaning of Torah revealed by Yeshua our Messiah (Jer. 31:31–34), **we may summarize the Ten Commandments of Torah this way:** 1) “I AM your only Deliverer, the One who loves and chooses you; 2) love Me passionately and exclusively; 3) regard My love as sacred; 4) rest in Me; 5) honor your life and its history; do no harm to others; 6) forsake anger, 7) abandon lust, 8) renounce greed, 9) abhor lying, and 10) refuse envy. Know that you belong to Me and that you are accepted. Love others as you are also loved” (see Exod. 20:1–17; Deut. 6:4–5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:36–40; Rom. 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14).

The sages have said that when the Holy One spoke to the people of Israel, each one felt personally spoken to by God, and thus the text expresses God’s voice in the singular, *“I am the Eternal One, your God.”* Indeed, the very first commandment given at Sinai was to accept the reality of our personal deliverance by the LORD: *“I am the LORD your [singular] God, who brought you [singular] out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery”* (Exod. 20:2). In fact, 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 [singular] God in vain,”* and so on. The very first commandment, however, is the starting point for all that follows. Until you accept the LORD as your God and trust Him as your own Deliverer, you are unlikely to heed the rest of the commandments.

“Now the goal of the commandment is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith, though some people, having strayed away, have turned instead to vain talk, desiring to be teachers of the Torah but without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions” (1 Tim. 1:5–7). If your understanding of Torah and the meaning of the Ten Commandments does not lead you directly to God’s great love, you have made a seriously wrong turn.

Shavuot is sometimes called the “culmination of Passover” since our redemption is intended to lead us to life! **The very First Commandment, therefore, is to open your heart to receive the promise uttered by the Holy Spirit: “I am the LORD your God,” and to know the LORD as your Healer, your Redeemer, and your Savior. Amen, may it be so for you, friend.** ★

Please see *The Spirit of Pentecost* on [p. 7](#).



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

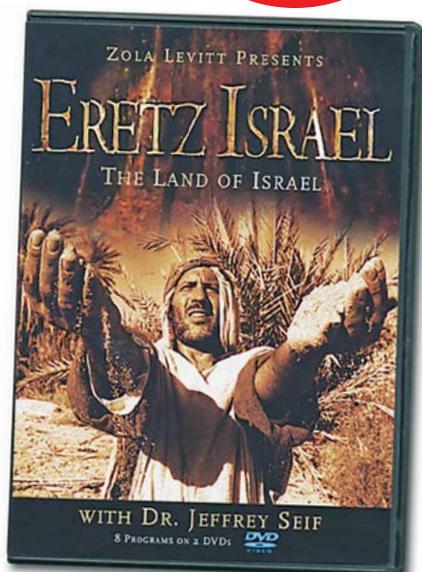


Eretz Israel

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes us through the Land of Israel. By exploring the Holy Land's past, present, and prophetic future according to the Bible, we discover an inextricable relationship between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. Former CBS correspondent David Dolan helps explore the struggles in re-establishing the ancestral Jewish homeland. On-location TV footage, dramas, and wonderful music punctuate the series.



The Land Promised At Bethel, we explore God's promise to Abraham: that his and his children's destinies are eternally bound in the sacred soil—what we appropriately call the “Promised Land.”

Promised to the Next Generation In Be'er Sheva, the God who cares for His people in every generation visited Isaac and confirmed His unwavering intention to give the Land to Isaac and to his seed after him.

To All Generations Bethel became a “gate[way] to heaven” (Genesis 28:17). God affirmed to Jacob that the promises made to Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through him and his descendants.



Episode: “The Land Promised”

Jeff interviewing David Dolan on the Mount of Olives

Promised Forever At the Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon), we review God's Land promises to David and Solomon and clues that speak of victories to come.

Jesus and the Promised Land Jesus/Yeshua's New Testament vision for the Chosen People and the Holy Land underscores the basis for this series: The Land is forever significant; so is its possession by the Israelites.

Israel Fulfilling Prophecy Jeff and David review the State of Israel's Biblical significance, its changing borders, and the Biblical timetable ahead.

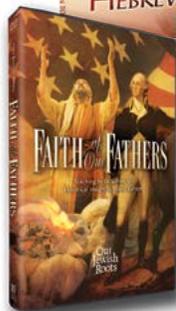
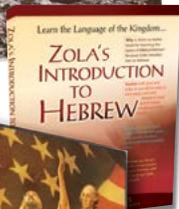
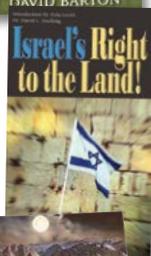
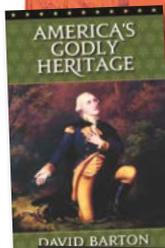
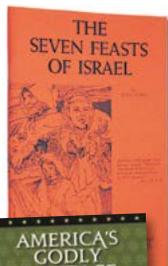
Entering the Promised Land Though the Patriarchs were long dead by his time, Moses picked up and ran with their living Land promises. At Jericho, the ancient Israelites began to contend for the destiny promised by God—their residency in the Land of Israel.

Fighting for the Promised Land The ageless mandate to lay claim to the patriarchs' promises was passed on to Joshua. The battle at Hazor secured the northern territories for Abraham's offspring.

Please see David's response to J.H. on [p. 21](#) in our letters section.



ORDER FORM



New!

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
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___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In?	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (pictured).....	\$3	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.7).....	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: ...50 Classic Study Booklets (above) (p.15)	\$49	___

Books

___	NEW! America's Godly Heritage (Barton) (pictured)	\$6	___
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___	The Bible Jesus Read (p.22).....	\$10	___
___	NEW! The Bulletproof George Washington (Barton) ...	\$7	___
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___	Eretz Israel (p.17).....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece".....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith of Our Fathers (pictured) (8 progrs., 2-DVDs)		\$49	___
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ORDER FORM continued

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___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	_____
___	Drink Koozies	2 for \$5	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	_____
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___	Half-shekel Key Chain (pictured)	\$10	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5781 / 2021) (p.3)	\$6	_____
___	<i>Buy one, get one FREE</i> (while supplies last!) Goes through 9/2021		
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker ..	\$2	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
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___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	(CD)	\$7	_____
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.7)	(CD)	\$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured) (6 CDs)		\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Champions of Faith (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	Next Year in Jerusalem	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(Music CD)	\$12	_____

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.

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

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Joshua: More than a Conqueror

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series (with Bearded Bible Brother Joshua in the title role) explores Joshua's rise from dependable apprentice to faithful leader of Israel. Dr. Jeffrey Seif offers valuable leadership lessons from corresponding Holy Land locations. Following dramatic re-enactments from Joshua's life, David and Kirsten Hart discuss each lesson's meaning and application with theologian Dr. Seif.

At Sinai We meet Joshua with other recently freed Hebrew slaves at the foot of Mount Sinai, waiting for Moses to descend with God's laws. Joshua's years of leadership training begin as he apprentices with Moses.

The Spy Twelve men are sent to investigate Canaan. Only Joshua and Caleb return with hopeful accounts while the other ten report pessimistically.

At the Jordan Joshua succeeds Moses as leader of the Israelites as they prepare to cross the Jordan River to battle for the Promised Land. God demonstrates that He will be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

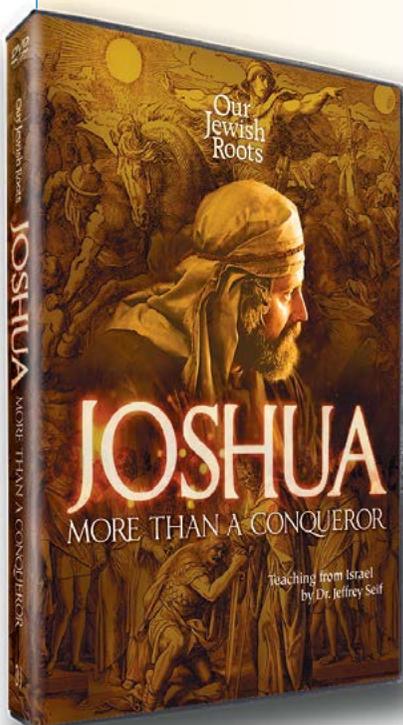
At Jericho The first battle for the land of Canaan occurs at a fortified city. Joshua proves his faith by following God's instructions for attacking Jericho. The Lord miraculously brings down the walls, and all the Israelites join the battle.

At Ai Disobedience after the victory at Jericho leads to Israel losing the second battle in conquering Canaan. In spite of failure and disappointment, Joshua shows leadership by following God's instructions to learn from the past and focus on the future that God has planned for Israel.

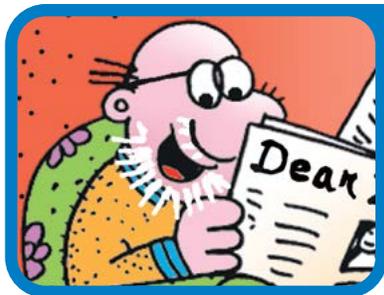
The Gibeonites Because of deception, Joshua's integrity is severely tested when he faces the decision to either break his vow or keep it under false pretenses with negative long-term consequences. We, too, face deceivers determined to trick us, and we need to pray to the Lord for discernment.

At Shiloh The conquest of the land of Canaan is nearing its end. The Israelites have subdued the south and turn north to put down the last vestiges of resistance. The Tabernacle of the Wilderness comes to rest in Shiloh, where it will stand for over three centuries.

At the End Joshua leaves the legacy of a good soldier and leader of Israel, full of faith in God. Divine strategies exist that help today's Believers become victors and not victims as we seek to follow the Lord's will and direction for our lives.



(continued next page)



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From J.S. (YouTube): What a wonderful blessing “Faith By Trial” [from the *Faith of Our Fathers* series] is. Keep up the tremendous work of giving us truth.

From T.B. (AL): Thank you for continuing to carry the \$3 booklets. That price allows us to give them to many in teaching opportunities. ([See offer p. 15.](#))

From H.H. (YouTube): I have always enjoyed Zola’s teaching and could listen to him all day. I can’t believe I never saw this program before [“The Rapture” from *Israel, The Church, and The Future* series]. Zola was the first preacher/teacher I heard in the evening of the day I was saved, 7/3/94. I couldn’t get enough. His teaching is interesting and engaging and wraps all the Bible lessons in humor and love. Miss you Zola; can’t wait to meet you in Heaven. Thank You, Lord, for his service in Your service.

Pagan Easter?

Dear ZLM,

I will not say *Easter* and *Passover* in the same breath. Why would anyone profane Passover with the demonic Easter? — S.B.

Dear S.B.,

You’ll be pleased to discover that Alexander Hislop (1807–1865) got it wrong when he concluded that the name *Easter* derived from the pagan goddess *Ishtar*. It didn’t. As our [March 2016 Levitt Letter](#) explained, [Easter comes from the Saxon and German words for dawn or east](#)—the time and place of the rising sun. The *Oxford English Dictionary* agrees. Both words came from a root that means dawn or morning / rising / new light, or by extension, resurrection. — Editor



Portrait of Alexander Hislop

credit: D.Kinsella (vikiimedia)



When do we call Israel *Palestine*?

Dear ZLM,

The December 1997 *Levitt Letter* included an article entitled “Palestine vs. Israel as the Name of the Holy Land” in which Dr. McCall stressed that the Holy Land/Israel wasn’t called *Palestine* except as anti-Biblical propaganda. Zola endorsed Dr. McCall’s thesis.

In the February 2021 *Levitt Letter*, however, a classic Zola article from 1979 ([p. 8](#)) repeatedly referred to the Holy Land/Israel as *Palestine*. Please explain Zola’s turnaround.

I agree with Dr. McCall and am disappointed that so many Christians have fallen for the trap of referring to Israel as *Palestine*. My own pastor has used *Palestine*, and even my Bible uses it.

Sha’alu Shalom Yerushalayim — J.H. (FL)

Dear J.H.,

Those who conquer the land get to name it. I think the original inhabitants—
(continued next page)

the Canaanites — would be offended that we’re not still calling it *Canaan*. The land where Israel sits has undergone many political and military takeovers before and since the time of Yeshua. You would find helpful our television series *Eretz Israel* (described on p. 17) in which Dr. Seif walks viewers through the complete history of the Holy Land. — David

Dear J.H.,

Zola didn’t turn around. His article covered the period between 135 and 1948, during which time the region *was* called *Palestine*. It was never a sovereign country, but the residents referred to themselves as Palestinian Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Nobody was interested in this desolate strip of land until the Jews began returning to the homeland of their fathers and transformed it into a blooming paradise. Thank you for your letter. We’re rerunning Dr. McCall’s article on p. 10. — Editor

What date is Pentecost?

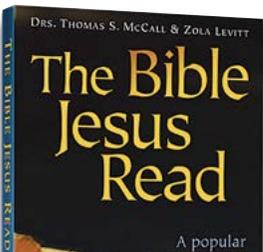
Dear ZLM,

I am confused about the date for Pentecost. I have your Jewish Heritage Calendar that lists it [*Shavuot*] as sunset on Sunday, May 16 to sunset on Tuesday, May 18. The *LL* says that Pentecost is Sunday, May 23. Could you clear this up for me? Thank you — B.B.

Dear B.B.,

Your confusion over the dates of Pentecost and Shavuot is understandable: The Sunday through Tuesday dates are when Jews observe Shavuot, but they calculate the dates incorrectly. Pentecost is Sunday, May 23. **In a nutshell, the rabbis don’t follow the instructions in Leviticus for setting Passover Day on Nisan 14 (March 27 this year). Instead, on Nisan 15 they begin a Passover Week during the seven days that Leviticus says they should be celebrating the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15–21). Then, they ignore the Feast of Firstfruits (to be observed on the Sunday of that week), from which date the Lord instructed them to count 50 days to Pentecost/Shavuot.** By counting

(continued next page)



The Bible Jesus Read book by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

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

Once Through the New Testament book by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

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

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instead from the second day of Passover, they reach May 17. (Dr. McCall addressed this miscalculation at levitt.com/essays/Pentecost.)

The Church, on the other hand, often gets it doubly wrong. First, it ignores Passover (which is the feast that sets the date for the feasts of Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits). Second, by deciding in A.D. 325 to set the Resurrection celebration according to the vernal equinox rather than Passover, in many years the Church too begins counting from the wrong date. This year, the count is correct. Easter was April 4; counting seven Saturday Sabbaths afterward brings us to May 22 (7x7 = 49 days). Celebrating on the *"morrow after the Sabbath"* (Lev. 23:16) i.e., Sunday May 23, makes the count 50, and Pentecost means 50.

See how easy it is to get it right! On your own calendar, establish when Nisan 14 falls. Then follow the instructions given in Leviticus 23, and each year you'll arrive at the correct dates for Resurrection Sunday/Firstfruits and Pentecost/Shavuot. In 2022, the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars happen to coincide (Nisan 14 will be April 15, a Friday), plus the days and dates will fall as they did in the year when Jesus died. — Editor

P.S. The internet has Hebrew-Gregorian conversion tables. If you have a Jewish Heritage Calendar ([p.3](#)), you can mark it up and note your own calculations. ★

Crossword May 2021:
Faith of Our Fathers—
 Part 2 (KJV)
 (answers on [p.35](#))

ACROSS

3. ...Noah was a ___ man... (Genesis 6:9)
4. But he, being full of the Holy ___... (Acts 7:55)
6. ___ the Word; be instant... (2 Tim. 4:2)
7. By ___ he forsook Egypt... (Hebrews 11:27)
11. But Noah found ___ in the eyes of the Lord. (Gen. 6:8)
12. So David ___ over the Philistine... (1 Sam. 17:50)
15. "... ___ ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:2)
19. ...in this will I be ___. (Psalm 27:3)
20. I have fought a ___ fight... (2 Tim. 4:7)

DOWN

1. ...and ___ ye for me... (Esther 4:16)
2. ...I beheld, and, lo, a great ___... (Revelation 7:9)
5. ...he ___ on the water, to go to Jesus. (Matt. 14:29)
8. For if thou altogether holdest thy ___... (Esther 4:14)
9. No ___ that is formed against thee... (Isaiah 54:17)
10. The Lord is my light and my ___... (Psalm 27:1)
13. ...He shall set me up upon a ___. (Psalm 27:5)
14. ...I will sing ___ unto the Lord. (Psalm 27:6)
16. ...There is a son born to ___... (Ruth 4:17)
17. One thing I have ___ of the Lord... (Psalm 27:4)
18. And the ___ prevailed, and were increased... (Gen. 7:18)



Night Vision for U.S. Army

SCIENCE: BY YAAKOV LAPPIN (r) JNS.org



ANVIS HUD connects to the helmets of helicopter pilots, allowing pilots' heads to remain upright and looking out of the aircraft with all relevant information presented in front of the pilots' eyes.

Israel's Elbit Systems defense company will supply the U.S. Army with advanced night vision technology. Elbit's U.S. subsidiary, Elbit Systems of America, was awarded a \$50 million contract to produce spare parts for the Aviators Night Vision Imaging System Heads-Up Display System (ANVIS HUD). The contract will take five years to complete.

An important milestone in the technology occurred decades ago when Elbit began superimposing symbols on top of the night vision imagery. Projecting symbols into the eyes of helicopter pilots showed them their speed, altitude, engine data, and other cockpit information. "We started doing this 30 years ago with the Israel Air Force," the company explained.

This more-advanced system connects to the helicopter pilot's helmet and projects not only the aircraft's internal data, but also data about the external world surrounding the aircraft. With "3D symbols" (a form of augmented reality), the system knows where the pilot and co-pilot are looking and can inject their view with visual data about their environment.

By knowing where the pilots are looking, the system can then highlight information such as the location of a powerline ahead, a high mountain, the name of the town a pilot is flying over, and where the aircraft will be landing. The system provides automatic visual warnings about tall obstacles, and combines outer and inner data into a single seamless image seen by the pilots.

"It's not enough to know that there's a powerline coming up in five kilometers. We need to mark it out in yellow," added the spokesman.

Until the introduction of color into night vision technology, all night vision imagery was green. Once color systems were injected by Elbit, the system could highlight top priority information and alert pilots to the most important information since images in yellow are more important than those in blue, while those in red are the most critical.

Elbit's Brightnite systems employ advanced night vision sensors that "stare ahead" while fusing together the 3D-color imagery and synthetic vision features described above. Pilots are surrounded by a day-like picture from all angles.

(continued next page)



Elbit's X-Sight (head-mounted display system) also presents all of the relevant symbols to the pilots. Goggles are no longer needed in this system. "When they land, they're looking outside, seeing the ground approaching. It makes their entire vehicle and cockpit transparent," said the company.

When supported by the helicopter's sensors, X-Sight can provide a full "transparent cockpit" experience, allowing pilots to peer directly through cockpit boundaries, displaying a 360-degree view of their surroundings with no visual obstacles.

Elbit supplies more than 80% of the world's high-end night vision equipment to soldiers and pilots of transport and combat helicopters worldwide, as well as other forces that rely on nocturnal operations. ★

PulseNmore Revolutionizes Prenatal Care

MEDICINE: IsraelHayom.com

An Israeli startup has launched a new device that allows pregnant women to perform ultrasound scans at home, limiting the need to visit a hospital or doctor's office. The PulseNmore device docks with a smartphone and uses advanced navigation, AI (artificial intelligence) tools, and an app to guide users through the scanning process.

Physicians or sonographers can use telemedicine platforms to review the scans offline or in real time and assess progress or problems.

Israel's largest health care provider, Clalit Health Services, plans to provide the service to tens of thousands of its pregnant members.

"We have successfully miniaturized the traditional ultrasound system to create a solution that is both affordable and accessible for expectant families.

According to Clalit, pregnant women pay 'false' visits to the emergency room more than twice on average with concerns about their babies' well-being. Our solution provides vital information to healthcare providers to determine if a baby is healthy, helping expectant

mothers have peace of mind at home and avoid unnecessary visits to the ER," explained Dr. Elazar Sonnenschein, founder and CEO of PulseNmore.

In addition to obstetrics, the technology allows scanning applications for cardiology and orthopedics, and requires only three minutes of training for a user to operate it. ★



PulseNmore At-Home Tele-Ultrasound



Codebreaker Who Busted Nazi Spy Rings

BY BECKY LITTLE (r) History.com



Elizebeth Smith Friedman, with husband William Friedman

In March 1942, an American codebreaker named Elizebeth Smith Friedman made a horrifying discovery: Nazi spies in Latin America had located a large Allied supply ship named the *Queen Mary* along the coast of Brazil, and German U-boats were planning to sink it. So intent was Adolf Hitler on destroying the ship that he'd offered \$250,000 to

whichever captain could take it out. **Friedman's discovery allowed the *Queen Mary* to evade the U-boats, saving the lives of the more than 8,000 soldiers on board.**

Friedman was one of the first American cryptanalysts, and she played a crucial role in breaking up Nazi spy rings in Latin America during World War II. Yet because of the sensitive nature of her work, she wasn't allowed to publicly reveal her wartime service. Friedman kept the secret of her work until her death in 1980, even as J. Edgar Hoover took credit for her team's achievements by attributing its work to the FBI. It was only after her death that historians and researchers uncovered her wartime contributions.

Riverbank Laboratories

Elizebeth Smith was born in Huntington, Indiana in 1892. She began her career in cryptanalysis in 1916, when a wealthy businessman named "Colonel" George Fabyan hired her to work at Riverbank Laboratories, which he'd founded a few years before in Illinois. Fabyan believed that Sir Francis Bacon was the true author of William Shakespeare's plays and poems. Elizebeth's job was to examine Shakespeare's work for secret messages that Fabyan believed Bacon had included in the plays and poems.

At Riverbank, Elizebeth met William Frederick Friedman, whom she married in 1917. William, born Wolf Friedman in 1891 to a Jewish family from Bucharest, changed his first name to William after his family fled to Pennsylvania from Russia to escape anti-Semitism. Both Elizebeth and William soon realized that the Baconian Theory was simply not true (the couple later debunked the theory in a 1957 book). But they got a chance to use their codebreaking skills in a different way when the United States entered World War I and asked Riverbank Laboratories for wartime assistance.

The Friedmans directed an unofficial codebreaking team during the First World War, and in 1921, they moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the War Department. A few years later, Elizebeth began working with the Coast Guard, cracking codes that helped identify and prosecute bootleggers during Prohibition. For this work, she created a codebreaking unit, becoming the first woman to run a codebreaking team in the U.S. government.

Then came World War II. The Coast Guard moved from the Treasury to the Navy Department, which didn't allow women to run units. Friedman found herself working for a male boss on projects that she didn't agree were the best fit for her

(continued next page)





skills. Even so, she made significant contributions to the war effort through her meticulous codebreaking.

Friedman Identifies a Nazi Spy Ringleader

Friedman didn't choose to work on Latin American Nazi spy rings, says Amy Butler Greenfield, a historian and author of a book on Friedman.

"She isn't actually thrilled with that mission," Greenfield adds. "She goes on record later saying that she doesn't feel she was deployed well during the war."

From what Greenfield can tell, Friedman felt this way because she was used to breaking extremely complex codes. Although the central Japanese and German governments used complex codes during the war, the codes Nazi spies used in Latin America were much simpler, and Friedman would have preferred taking on more complex ones.

"Elizebeth well knew the value of what she was doing," says Melissa Davis, director of library and archives at The George C. Marshall Foundation, which houses the Elizebeth Smith Friedman Collection.

"[Nazi] spies were radioing when troop transports were leaving the United States full of thousands of soldiers, and this information was going to be transmitted to the submarines that could then intercept and sink the troop ships," Davis says. "So she knew she was saving thousands of lives."

One of the major Nazi spies Friedman identified and tracked was Johannes Siegfried Becker, codenamed "Sargo," who was trying to forge an alliance between Germany and Argentina.

"As far as I can tell from looking at all the records, Elizebeth is the one who first comes up with the name of the ship Sargo's on," Greenfield says. "That ship is stopped, and that spy is removed and brought to London, and he confesses everything and gives a huge amount of information about the spy rings. And **that is part of what leads to reeling the spy rings in and to crushing them.**"



credit: NSA

Elizebeth Smith Friedman, U.S. cryptanalyst



Friedman IDs Spy Fronting as Doll Shop Owner

Friedman also examined the codes of World War II spy Velvlee Dickinson, a white American woman who owned a doll shop in New York City and sent coded messages for the Japanese government. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover used Dickinson's arrest and trial to draw attention to his bureau, but he didn't mention that Friedman had reviewed Dickinson's coded letters and offered her insight into what they meant.

Although both Elizebeth and William performed classified codebreaking during the war, William ended up receiving more public credit for his work, in part because he had to testify during an investigation into whether the United States had prior knowledge of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Recent scholarship has remedied this imbalance by shedding light on Elizebeth Smith Friedman, as well as other women who received little credit for cracking codes during World War II.

This sounds like a movie plot! What a courageous and profoundly gifted woman. — Kirsten ★

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



credit: AP Photo / Tsafir Abayov

Work on a massive underground barrier on the Israeli side of the border with Gaza on September 8, 2016.

Israel's Underground Wall

By Udi Shaham / JPost.com

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently completed construction on an underground concrete wall between Israel and the Gaza Strip as part of the effort to prevent terrorists from crossing into Israel via cross-border tunnels.

The concrete wall is just one component in the 37-milelong barrier, which also includes a fence above the ground, advanced sensors both above and underground, and cutting-edge technologies meant to tackle the tunnel threat and stop terrorist infiltrations.

Senior IDF sources report that 95% of the barrier has been completed and will be operational in the near future.

Fox Guarding Henhouse?

By Maggie Haberman / NYTimes.com

In November 2020, the Trump White House drew criticism from a prominent Jewish group after it appointed a speechwriter, who was fired for associating with white nationalists, to a commission that helps preserve sites related to the Holocaust.

Darren Beattie's appointment for a three-year term to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad will last well into the Biden administration. The Commission helps to identify and preserve European cemeteries and historic buildings, including sites

used to kill primarily Jews during the Holocaust.

Mr. Beattie's appointment was denounced by the Anti-Defamation League. "It is absolutely outrageous that someone who has consorted with racists would even be considered for a position on a commission devoted to preserving Holocaust memorials in Europe," said the group's chief executive, Jonathan Greenblatt. "We urge the administration to rescind his appointment immediately."

Palestinians Campaign to Sue UK for "Victims of the Balfour Declaration"

The Middle East Media Research Institute
MEMRI.org

Palestinian business tycoon Munib Al-Masri recently declared that Palestinians will take legal action against Britain and Israel for the "crimes and atrocities" that Britain carried out

(continued next page)

Dry Bones

The Balfour Declaration





against the Palestinians.

Former Member of the Israeli Knesset Mohammad Barakeh said that while Britain bears a large part of the blame for the Balfour Declaration, Arab countries that are “rushing” to establish relations with Israel form the “filthy trio” of colonialism and imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reactionism.

A Message Of Peace Between Arabs And Jews

The Middle East Media Research Institute MEMRI.org



credit: screen capture from memri.org

Tunisian singer and composer Nomene Chaari

Tunisian singer and composer Nomene Chaari spoke about his collaboration with Israeli musician Ziv Yehezkel in an interview on Al-Jazeera Network (Qatar) in December 2020. Chaari said that he started this project in order to send a message of peace to Arabs, Muslims, and Jews. “We have had enough destruction, enough bloodshed,” he said.

The host on Al-Jazeera asked Chaari whether this project would be considered normalization with Israel and stated that Tunisian president Kais Saied had declared normalization with Israel high treason.

Chaari replied that since the revolution, Tunisians enjoy freedom of thought, freedom of faith, and freedom of speech. He added that as an artist, he cannot be bound by borders and religion, and said that Judaism is the second official religion of Tunisia.

Egyptian Diplomat: Arab-Israeli Normalization is a Major Breakthrough

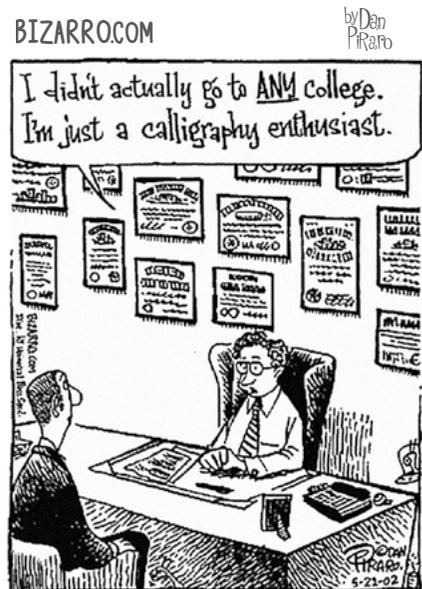
The Middle East Media Research Institute MEMRI.org



credit: screen capture from memri.org

Former Egyptian Diplomat Mostafa El Feki

Former Egyptian diplomat Mostafa El Feki said in a December 2020 interview on MBC Masr TV (Egypt/Saudi Arabia) that the normalization between Israel and some Arab countries is a major breakthrough in the region, which will also benefit the Palestinians. He added that the removal of the barrier between the Arabs and Israel has allowed for more direct contact between Israel and the Palestinians, and that “cutting to the chase” is the only way to bring about a breakthrough in relations between Israel and the Palestinians. ★



Deaf Rabbi Translates Bible into Sign Language

BY DAVID SIDMAN (r) Israel365News.com



Impress [God's words] upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. — Deuteronomy 6:7

Israel's only deaf rabbi is providing the hard of hearing with the gift of Torah by translating the entire Bible into sign language. Rabbi Yehoshua Soudakoff said that attempting to make the Torah "accessible and possible" for Israel's 15,000-strong deaf community who communicate using sign language is a "big responsibility." He added in jest that he "wishes he had competition!"

Along with his crew of Bible scholars as well as actors, American-born Rabbi Soudakoff has launched the groundbreaking mission of translating the 24 books of the *Tanakh* into a visual format. This in turn "brings the Word to life" for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The task is essential to the 40,000–50,000 Jews worldwide who communicate using sign language. This, he explains, is because the Torah is meant to be read aloud in the synagogue three times a week to the entire congregation.

"It is done together as a community, and that's how it is meant to be read. It is a shared human experience. That's really important for deaf people, because many times they are disconnected."

The rabbi categorizes himself as a statistical "odddity" since he was born into a deaf family. But he adds that many deaf kids aren't lucky enough to have deaf parents.

"Their parents do not have a degree in deaf education but are, rather, starting from scratch. They don't know how to communicate with their deaf child, so the child may lose out or feel left out."

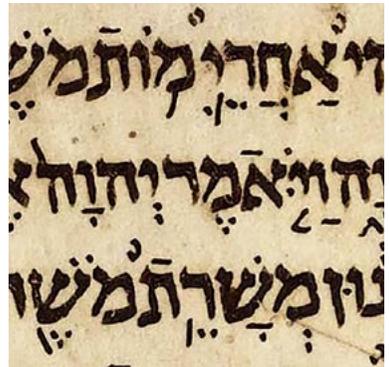
Because the parents "may only be able to give them a brief synopsis rather than the full story, we hope that we will be able to give them direct access to the source."

Rabbi Soudakoff explains that the translation process is "very lengthy." He and his team have only completed the Book of Ruth and are halfway through both Genesis and Esther. He estimates that it will take him approximately 15 years to complete the entire Bible.

Each team requires two people, both fluent in sign language — one a scholar, who can interpret the writing, and the other skilled in expressing the words into a visual format. We then must test the translation with different people to see if they understand it. After that, we video it in a professional studio, adding captions, animations, and voiceovers in post-production. ★



credit: Shutterstock



top: A person communicating in sign language
bottom: Aleppo Codex, 10th century Hebrew Bible (Joshua 1:1).



New Dead Sea Scrolls Discovered



BY PATRICK SMITH (r) NBCnews.com



Scroll fragments

A new set of Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient fragments of Biblical texts dating back almost 2,000 years and thought to have been hidden during a Jewish revolt against Rome, have been found in Israel's Judean Desert.

The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced in mid-March that a four-year archaeological project uncovered portions

of the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets, including the Books of Zechariah and Nahum. It was the first such discovery in 60 years.

Also uncovered was a 6,000-year-old skeleton of a partially mummified child and a 10,500-year-old basket, which Israeli authorities said could be the oldest in the world. A computerized tomography (CT) scan revealed the child's age was between 6 and 12 — with the skin, tendons, and even hair partially preserved.

Among the recovered texts, which are all in Greek, is Nahum 1:5–6, which says: *"The mountains quake because of Him, And the hills melt. The earth heaves before Him, The world and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can resist His fury? His anger pours out like fire, and rocks are shattered because of Him."*



Archaeologists Hagay Hamer and Oriah Amichai at the "Cave of Horror" where the Scrolls were found.

(continued next page)





The basket *in situ*

The Authority said that these words differ slightly from other Bible versions, shedding a rare light on how Biblical text changed over time from its earliest form.

The first set of Dead Sea Scrolls to be discovered were found by a Bedouin shepherd in the same area in 1947 and are considered among the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century.

Most of those scrolls are in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Other items include a cache of coins bearing Jewish symbols, including a harp and a date palm, arrowheads and spearheads, woven fabric, sandals, and lice combs — all thought to date from the end of the Bar Kokhba Revolt (A.D. 132–136), in which Jews fought against Roman rule in Judea.

The area's unique dry climate means documents found there have survived in unusually good condition.

Using methods more likely to be seen in a Hollywood movie than in an archaeological project, researchers had to rappel down a precarious cliff face to reach the cave opening, which is 262 feet below a cliff top and flanked by gorges on either side. Drones were also used to survey hard-to-reach parts of caves. The Authority was keen to point out that accessing the cave is forbidden on safety grounds.

The remarkable discoveries were made during an Israeli project to prevent looting in the Holy Land, which experts say has been a constant threat to undiscovered artifacts since the first Dead Sea Scrolls discovery. Antiquities Authority Director Israel Hasson, who launched the operation, urged, "We must ensure that we recover all the data that has not yet been discovered in the caves, before the robbers do. Some things are beyond value." ★

Earliest Human Symbol?

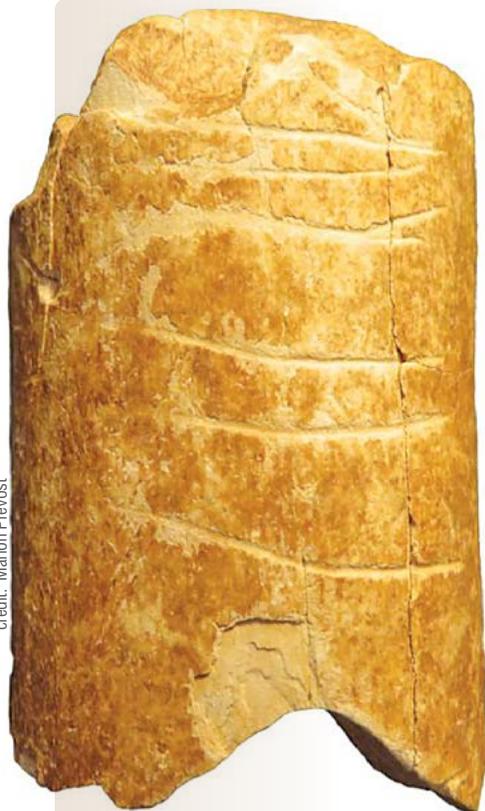
BY JONATHAN LADEN / BiblicalArchaeology.org

A bone fragment marked with symbols was recently found in the Ramie region in central Israel. At approximately 120,000 years old, the fragment is possibly the earliest evidence of human use of symbols ever found. As such, it is an important clue to how symbolic expression developed.

The bone is from an auroch. Aurochs were fierce, wild cattle, closer in size to modern elephants than to cows, but the ancestors of modern, domesticated cattle. Aurochs are mentioned several times in the Bible, sometimes translated as "wild ox." Attempts were made to save the aurochs, including restrictions on hunting; but they became extinct in Poland in 1627. This was probably the first extinction that humans observed and tried to prevent.

The find came from an excavation by archaeologists from the Hebrew University, University of Haifa, and the Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France. Dr. Iris Groman-Yaroslavski explained that the team used three-dimensional imaging, reproduction of the engravings, and

(continued next page)



Etched bone from the Middle Paleolithic, 120,000 years ago (actual size)

analysis of microscopic elements to determine that “people in prehistoric times used a sharp tool fashioned from flint rock to make the engravings.” Archaeologists were also able to determine that the markings were made by a right-handed human in a single sitting.



The researchers noted the importance of the artifact: “This engraving is very likely an example of symbolic activity and is the oldest known example of this form of messaging that was used in the Levant. We hypothesize that the choice of this particular bone was related to the status of that particular animal in that particular hunting community and is indicative of the spiritual connection that the hunters had with the animals they killed.”

It is the oldest symbolic engraving ever found in the Levant. Archaeologists hope that further research can reveal what the symbols were meant to convey. ★

Prime traits

The auroch went extinct 400 years ago, but its genes persist in living breeds. By crossing heritage cattle, breeders are combining key traits.

Forelocks

Long, curly hair.

Coat color

Deep brown to black, with a white stripe running down the back. Light-colored muzzle.

Horns

Light-colored with dark tips. Up to 130 cm long and 20 cm wide at base.



Size

Larger aurochs stood 155–180 cm tall at the shoulder.

Shape

Long and slender legs, elongated and large head, strong neck and shoulder muscles.



Neo-Nazis Gathering in Spain

The Middle East Media Research Institute MEMRI.org

In mid-February, around 300 neo-Nazis gathered in Madrid to commemorate the Spanish Volunteer Division, the Blue Division. (The Blue Division was a WWII unit of Spanish volunteers who fought alongside Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front.) The event was planned by Madrid-based neo-Nazis and was attended by several groups, including España2000 and La Falange — fascist political parties.

At the conclusion of the march, participants left flowers at an obelisk in the La Almudena cemetery that commemorates those who died fighting for the Blue Division. The flowers bore the insignia of the Blue Division, the colors of the Spanish flag, an Iron Cross, a swastika, and the bundle of arrows used by the regime of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco.



Cemetery flowers with fascist symbols

Speakers At The Event

Javier Utrilla, a local priest, denounced communism. Ignacio Menéndez, a far-right lawyer, called on the crowd to not follow COVID-19 restrictions, saying: *"It is necessary that you violate the curfew, that you meet with your family and friends, that you be more than six as we are here today; and that you embrace each other, and that*

you sing and that you live joyfully. Because fascism is joy.... Scream with me, comrades: Hail Spain, hail Europe," giving a Nazi salute as the crowd joined in.



Anti-Semite Isabel Medina Peralta

The speaker who gained the most attention was 18-year-old college student Isabel Medina Peralta. Medina Peralta is the director of the re-organized female division of Franco's Falange political party. During her speech, Medina Peralta said:

It is our supreme obligation to fight for Spain and for a Europe now weak and liquidated by the enemy, the enemy that will always be the same, although with different masks: the Jew. Because nothing is more certain than this statement: the Jew is guilty. The Jew is the culprit; the Blue Division fought to liberate Europe from communism — a Jewish invention to pit workers against one another.

A criminal investigation into her anti-Semitic statements has been opened by Spanish prosecutors.

On Telegram (an extremist-friendly messaging app) and 4chan (an imageboard known for hosting white supremacist content), neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Europe and the U.S. reacted positively to the march. Images of the march were shared across several white supremacist channels. ★

*A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22*



A Major Holiday

The Prophet Elijah came down from Heaven and found himself in New York City. A rabbi passed by and, excited to see him, offered him a tour of the city.

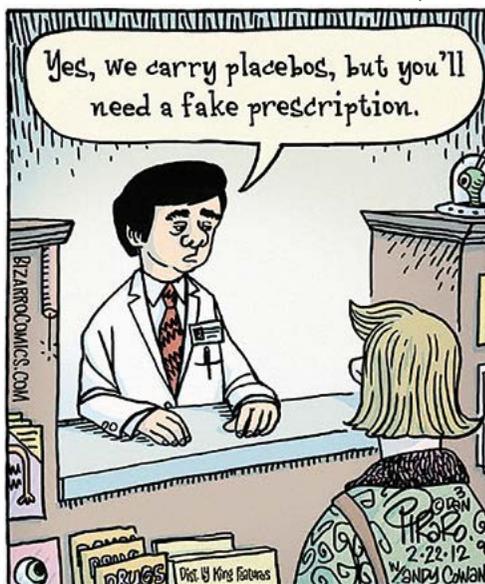
It was December and, in addition to all the Christmas decorations, the city was filled with extravagant Hanukkah decorations, huge menorahs, shops with Hanukkah window dressings, toy stores featuring advertisements for eight days of children's Hanukkah gifts, and supermarkets with special Hanukkah sections.

Elijah turned to the rabbi. "Wow, this is amazing! If Jews in the 21st century make such a big deal about Hanukkah, a very minor holiday, I can't wait to see what you do with Shavuot!"

Note: Also called Pentecost, Shavuot is the second of the three Jewish Pilgrim Festivals. ★

BIZARRO.COM

by Dan Piraro



Answer Key for May 2021 Crossword (p.23)

Across:

- 3. Just
- 4. Ghost
- 6. Preach
- 7. Faith
- 11. Grace
- 12. Prevailed
- 15. Repent
- 19. Confident
- 20. Good

Down:

- 1. Fast
- 2. Multitude
- 5. Walked
- 8. Peace
- 9. Weapon
- 10. Salvation
- 13. Rock
- 14. Praises
- 16. Naomi
- 17. Desired
- 18. Waters



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(Israel only, \$5,288)

Grand Petra: Oct. 18–31
(Israel & Petra, \$6,488)

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

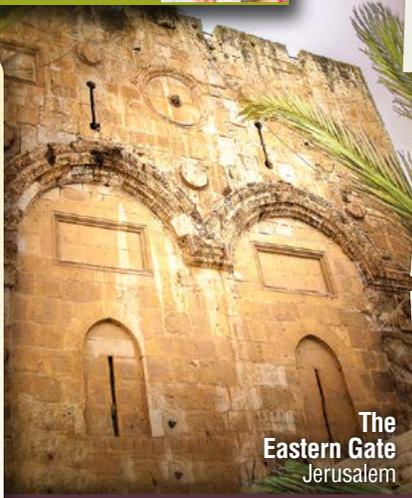
SPRING TOUR 2022

Deluxe: Mar. 14–24
(Israel only, prices TBD)

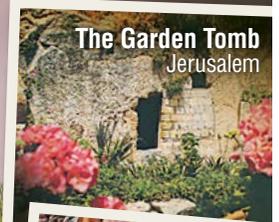
Grand Petra: Mar. 14–27
(Israel & Petra, prices TBD)

(Dates are tentative)

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



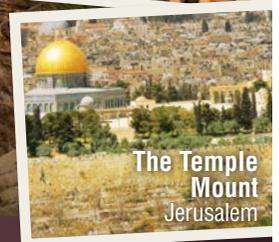
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Jerusalem



The Garden Tomb
Jerusalem



Petra
Jordan



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Back to p. 15