



Levitt LETTER

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

Naftali Bennett Israel's New Leader

By Joseph Krauss
APNews.com

inside: **Commitment
to God's Word p.4**

Naftali Bennett in February 2020 (credit: James K. Lee for U.S. Department of Defense)



Naftali Bennett, who was sworn in as Israel's new prime minister in June, embodies many of the contradictions that define the 73-year-old nation.

He's a religious Jew who made millions in the mostly secular hi-tech sector; a champion of the settlement movement who lives in a Tel Aviv suburb, and a former ally of Benjamin Netanyahu who has partnered with centrist and left-wing parties to end Netanyahu's 12-year rule.

His ultranationalist Yamina party won just seven seats in the 120-member Knesset in March elections — the fourth such vote in two years. But by refusing to commit to Netanyahu or his opponents, Bennett positioned himself as kingmaker. Even after one member of his religious nationalist party abandoned him to protest the new coalition deal, he ended up with the crown.

Here's a look at Israel's new leader.

(continued p.2)

IDF Pounds Arson Terror Squads in Gaza

Tazpit Press Service

Israeli Air Force (IAF) fighters bombed Hamas terror targets in the Gaza Strip in mid June in response to dozens of arson balloons launched at Israel by terrorists from Gaza.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) stated that its air force attacked Hamas military complexes that served as camps and meeting places for terrorist operatives in the Khan Yunis and Gaza brigades. "The terrorist organization Hamas is responsible for what is happening in the Gaza Strip and will bear the consequences of its actions," the IDF stated, adding, "The IDF is prepared for all scenarios, including



A F-16 "Sufa" in flight (credit: Israeli Air Force; photo by Major Ofer)

(continued p.31)

Naftali Bennett ... *continued from cover*

An ultranationalist with a moderate coalition

Bennett has long positioned himself to the right of Netanyahu. But he will be severely constrained by his unwieldy coalition, which has only a narrow majority in parliament and includes parties from the right, left, and center.

He is opposed to Palestinian independence and strongly supports Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians and much of the international community see as a major obstacle to peace.

Bennett fiercely criticized Netanyahu after Netanyahu agreed to slow settlement construction under pressure from President Barack Obama, who tried and failed to revive the peace process early in his first term.



Bennett at the pre-election foreign-policy debate at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2013

He briefly served as head of the West Bank settler's council, Yesha, before entering the Knesset in 2013. Bennett later served as Cabinet Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Education, and Defense in various Netanyahu-led governments.

"He's a right-wing leader, a security hard-liner, but at the same time very pragmatic," said Yohanan Plesner,

head of the Israel Democracy Institute. Plesner has known Bennett for decades and served with him in the military. He expects Bennett to engage with other factions to find a "common denominator" as he seeks support and legitimacy as a national leader.

Rivalry with Netanyahu

The 49-year-old father of four shares Netanyahu's hawkish approach to the Middle East conflict, but the two have had tense relations over the years. Bennett served as Netanyahu's chief of staff for two years, but they parted ways after a mysterious falling out that Israeli media linked to Netanyahu's wife, Sara, who wields great influence over her husband's inner circle.

Bennett campaigned as a right-wing stalwart ahead of the March elections and signed a pledge on national TV saying that he would never allow Yair Lapid, a centrist and Netanyahu's main rival, to become prime minister.

When Netanyahu was clearly unable to form a ruling coalition, Bennett did exactly that — agreeing to serve as prime minister for two years before handing power to Lapid, the architect of the new coalition.

Netanyahu's supporters have branded Bennett a traitor, saying he defrauded voters. Bennett has defended his decision as a pragmatic move aimed at unifying the country and avoiding a fifth round of elections.

A generational shift

Bennett, a Modern Orthodox Jew, will be Israel's first prime minister who regularly wears a kippa, the skullcap worn by observant Jews. He lives in the upscale Tel Aviv suburb of Raanana, rather than the settlements he champions.

Bennett began life with his American-born parents in Haifa, then bounced with his family between North America and Israel, military service, law school, and the private sector. Throughout,

(continued next page)



Teaching

- 4** **A Commitment to God's Word**
(Psalm 119:1–24)
- Studio Co-host**
- 6** **Political Idolatry**
On the Ground in Israel
- 8** **Iran and Hamas's Drone Threat to Israel**
- Classic Zola**
- 10** **The Last Battle: Armageddon**
- Ask the Chaplain**
- 12** **Repentance (part 1)**
OJR Production Update
- 13** **August 2021 at OJR**
Wise As A Serpent
- 14** **Still Trying to Say Goodbye to E*Trade**
- 15** **ZLM Bulletin Board**
Parsons: Hebrew Lesson
- 16** **Our Duty to Truth**
- 18** **ZLM Order Form**



4



6



10



12



14



16

21 **Fabulous Castles in Israel (part 1)**

22 **Letters to ZLM**

25 **Crossword Puzzle**

Science

26 **Bringing "Red Gold" to Israelis**

Medicine

27 **Fighting Bacteria Resistant to Antibiotics**

28 **Teenage Sisters Killed Nazis in WWII**

31 **Select Media Briefs**

Archaeology

32 **1,300-Year-Old Church Found Near Site of Transfiguration**

Muslim Focus

34 **Palestinians Revere Hitler**

35 **Jewish Humor**



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he's curated a persona that's at once modern, religious, and nationalist.

After serving in the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit, Bennett went to law school at Hebrew University. In 1999, he co-founded Cyota, an anti-fraud software company that was sold in 2005 to U.S.-based RSA Security for \$145 million.

Bennett has said that the bitter experience of Israel's 2006 war against the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah drove him into politics. The monthlong war ended inconclusively, and Israel's military and political leadership at the time was widely criticized as bungling the campaign.

Bennett represents the third generation of Israeli leaders, after the founders of the state and Netanyahu's generation, which came of age during

the country's tense early years marked by repeated wars with Arab states.

"He's Israel 3.0," Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist for Israel's left-leaning *Haaretz* newspaper, wrote in a recent profile of Bennett. "A Jewish nationalist but not really dogmatic. A bit religious, but certainly not devout. A military man who prefers the comforts of civilian urban life and a high-tech entrepreneur who isn't looking to make any more millions. A supporter of the Greater Land of Israel but not a settler. And he may well not be a lifelong politician either."

If the latest leader of the Holy Land is only "a bit religious," let's fervently pray that he develops a miraculous and resonating passion for the "apple of God's eye." —David ★

A Commitment to God's Word — Psalm 119:1–24

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



I invite you to join me in a survey of Psalm 119.

This reassuring psalm brings an emphasis on God's Word and the comfort that it gives during difficult times. The overall theme of Psalm 119 can be summed up in verses 7–9, *"I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly! How can a young man cleanse his way?"*

We see a definite yearning to follow the precepts of God's Word woven throughout this psalm. The author's identity is unclear, but most scholars agree that it could be David, Ezra, or Daniel. Each of these men was ridiculed for his beliefs and suffered unending efforts to make him deny his faith in the one God — Yahweh.



Prophet and King David (Orthodox Christian icon), early 17th century tempera on wood from the iconostasis of the Miracle Church in Khonekh Chudova Monastery of the Moscow Kremlin

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm as well as the longest chapter in the Bible. Written in an acrostic, or alphabetical arrangement, it comprises 22 stanzas — the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. **Each eight-verse stanza begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.** Verses 1–8 begin with "Aleph." Verses 9–16 begin with the letter "Bet" (also "Beth") and so on — you get the idea. Most modern English translations have the Hebrew letter printed just above each stanza.

Let's look at a few stanzas and how the writer focuses on the Word of God.

1. The Psalmist Commits to Obedience (119:1–8)

He recognized that those who walk in a life of obedience are blessed. He understood that if he committed himself to being more obedient to God's commands, he too could have those blessings. He vowed to maintain a thankful heart because of God's blessings and faithfulness to him. Believers* also can have a life of blessings by living a life of thanksgiving.

Psalm 100:4–5 tells us, *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is* (continued next page)

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

credit: www.obraz.org (Wikimedia Commons)

Back to Cover

To Index

Back to p. 17



good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” We are a very blessed people to know that *“His truth endures to all generations.”* How lost we would be without His truth!

2. The Psalmist Commits to a Pure Life (119:9–16)

The psalmist realized that obeying the Word of God cleanses a person’s heart and also helps maintain a morally pure life. As Paul wrote in Romans 12:2, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* The psalmist shares that goal.

3. The Psalmist Commits to God’s Word (119:17–24)

The author had developed a real hunger for God’s Word. He prayed that God would remove those who continually tried to oppress him. It was his conviction that God, through His Word, could bring him through any difficulty with blessings and honor.

We also can know the blessings of God as we meditate on His Word. It can be *“a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path”* (Psalm 119:105).

Please see *Psalms of Ascent* on [p. 17](#). ★

[The Bible: The Whole Story](#) DVDs

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The seven major doctrines of Scripture explained in Zola’s clear and informative style—from Genesis to Revelation.

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The Kingdom Zola teaches about the future 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth.

[Zola’s Notebook](#)

(The Bible: The Whole Story, above, is Zola’s Notebook on DVD.)

Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola’s Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover.

The Notebook has pockets for our newsletters, and also provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly include: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.





credit: Miriam Alster/Hesfuo



Supporters of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a rally in Tel Aviv in support of him and against his indictment on corruption charges on Nov. 26, 2019

Pointing the Finger

How *could* they! Why would they? Shame on the Israelites. They built a golden calf in the desert. God had just delivered them out of bondage from those who worshiped idols, and here, God's very own were caught committing the same exact sin! Aaron, Moses' brother and right-hand man, let it happen. He actually oversaw the melting of the gold to make this idol.

Believers like to point the finger at these early followers of "I Am" (God's name for Himself) and roll our eyes in righteous disgust. We know from reading Exodus chapter 32 that God struck the people with His wrath and 3,000 men died as a result of worshipping the golden calf.

It's so much easier to distinguish idolatry when it's in the form of a golden image. Golden calves, Asherah poles, and shrines to obscure deities all symbolize blatant, ancient idolatry. Calves have been replaced by other types of idols. A "newer" form of idolatry has been termed *political idolatry*: placing our trust and faith in political figures instead of our Creator.



Benjamin Netanyahu in 2019

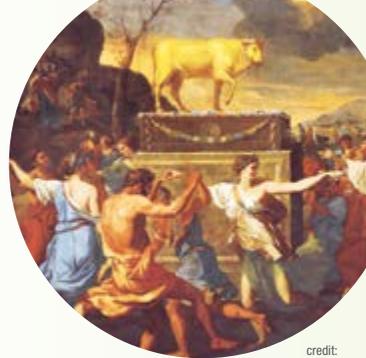
"Man of the Hour"

I read an article recently about the newest change in Israeli leadership. Netanyahu has been Evangelical Christianity's "man of the hour." He's been the great connector, bridging American support to all things Israeli. He's been the Church's prophetic savior so that American Evangelicals could feel a connection to their Jewish roots and see the Church's key role in prophecy. President Trump's support for Israel also gave them that connection.

But we have a problem. **The article I read stated that when Netanyahu is no longer in his position, the "Church" will no longer back Israel.**

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credit:
photo by Saliko
(Wikimedia
Commons)

Netanyahu (according to the author) was our singular glue for Church and Israel. Likewise, Trump was many Americans' political "religious" connection to the Holy Land. Netanyahu and Trump most definitely worked together to maintain peace, but they never were our saviors. The men themselves are not to be idolized. Nevertheless, they became, and remain, political idols.

Trust Only in God

I am reminded of what happens when we take our eyes off of "I Am" and look to something (or someone) else to be a panacea. Daniel 2:21 tells us, "*He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others.*" **We shouldn't put our trust in leaders, but rather in the One who reigns higher than earthly kings and rulers.** What do you think of the term and practice of "political idolatry"?

More on this topic next month. ★

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SOOO, AARON ... YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU "ACCIDENTALLY" DROPPED A BUNCH OF GOLD IN THE FIRE AND IT JUST "HAPPENED" TO COME OUT LOOKING LIKE THIS CALF HERE???



Jewish Heritage Calendar **New!**

5782 (2021–2022)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This colorful calendar begins in September and spans 13 months, through September 2022. **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.



Iran and Hamas's Drone Threat to Israel



BY SETH J. FRANTZMAN / JPost.com



credit: Iranian Army/Wars/Reuters

A drone launched during a combat exercise of Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Semnan, Iran, January 2021

Israel has increasingly had to deal with drone threats by Hamas, downing *unmanned aerial vehicles* (UAVs) that cross from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. The new drone threat was recently showcased by Hamas in a video circulating online that shows the Palestinian terror group with several medium-size drones in Gaza. Hamas says its new drones are called *Shehab* [meteor, shooting star].

Close connection between Hamas *Shehab* and Iranian *Ababil*

The Hamas drones being shot down by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) appear to be based on Iranian *Ababil* drones, models of which have been exported to the Houthis in Yemen, and which the Houthis built and used against Saudi Arabia.

During Operation Guardian of the Walls in mid-May, the IDF said that it “struck a squad of terrorists operating explosive UAV launchers belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip. The squad was struck while they were preparing to launch the UAV into Israeli territory.”

Israel also said that the **Iron Dome Aerial Defense System has new capabilities**, developed and made operational over the years, that make it effective against drones.

Why do drone threats matter?

Drones can carry warheads and also move slowly and maneuver. Most of the Iranian-style drones, called “loitering munitions” or “kamikaze” drones, can be programmed to fly to a certain destination before being dispatched.

UAVs are fired from a rail and can be transported on a truck or even a boat and launched that way. They have a propeller at the back. The gyroscope technology used for guidance in the Hamas drones links Iran to the drone exports that have gone to Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and even farther afield, to be used in places like Sudan, Afghanistan, and Venezuela.

Iran used drones to attack the Saudi Abqaiq oil processing facilities in September 2019 and flew another from the T-4 base in Syria to attack Israel in 2018. That drone flew into Israeli airspace and was shot down by a helicopter.

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There have been numerous drone incidents on Israel's Lebanese border and several on its Syrian border. In addition, Israel's enemies have tried to shoot down Israeli drones. In March, the IDF said, "during routine IDF UAV activity over Lebanon, anti-aircraft missiles were fired toward the UAV. The aircraft was not hit and continued its mission as planned."

Israel uses several terms for drones, usually calling the smaller quad-copters *rakhfanim*, and larger drones *malatim*, meaning a UAV.

The Hamas drones that resemble the Ababil may have a warhead on the front and some sort of guidance system. They have two sets of wings, one toward the rear and a smaller set in the front, looking similar to a flying fish with fins. They are slightly longer than an average person.

Apparently the design is relatively easy to manufacture because the Houthis have become experts at using drones to terrorize Saudi Arabia.

Some of these drones also have increasingly longer ranges. Concern in January pointed to a new drone based in Yemen among the Houthis, which had a 1,250-mile range that could reach Eilat in Israel.

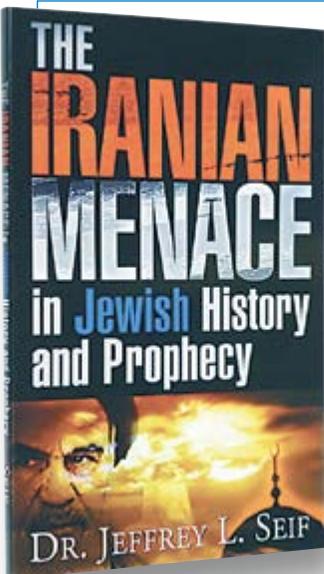
Iran has long boasted that it has drones with ranges of thousands of miles, and claims to have increased the armaments that it can put on the drones. That means Iran has a drone air force that combines the kind of smart munition elements that cruise missiles have. The drones can be operationalized in swarms.

Iran has also tried to copy the U.S. Predator and Sentinel drones, adding munitions to make them like the U.S. Reaper. However, Iran has had mixed success in this.

Though Hamas drones are a threat because they can maneuver and fly low, they use outdated technology.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps's Quds Force oversees support for Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis. It is believed that pro-Iran militias in Iraq have now used drones several times against U.S. facilities. This points to a wider drone war being waged by Iran against Israel, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., and others.

Please also see the [cover side-story](#). ★



[The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy](#) book

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Iran is central in End Times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses Scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After glimpsing Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff's analysis is based on sound Scriptural understanding and two decades of academic contemplation.

(Please see the article "Iran and Hamas's Drone Threat to Israel" above, and Classic Zola, p.10.)

The Last Battle: Armageddon

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1986
35 years ago



In dealing with Armageddon, we approach a subject that has been discussed since at least the days of the Bible's prophets. Men have always felt that life on Earth might end with a bang. Since the Genesis flood, the wages of sin have been well understood.

End Times prophecy includes the difficult subject of the final battle, Armageddon. For further reference, please obtain a copy of *Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy* from our ministry and read it with an open Bible. An entire chapter (9), "Satan on the Battlefield," details this important subject from a Scriptural standpoint ([eBook](#), and [CD](#) on [p. 19](#)).

Difficult to Imagine

In the space we have here, suffice it to say that Armageddon will be the end of virtually all evil on Earth. It will climax the antiChrist's bloody work in the coming seven-year Tribulation Period, and it will involve the armies of the great powers of the world at that time. The powers called the King of the North and the King of the South will assault Israel from their respective directions; they seem to represent nations close to Israel and very hostile to it. If Armageddon were to happen immediately, we would easily specify Syria and Libya to satisfy this prophecy. But conditions that prevail at the time of the battle will dictate exactly who the antagonists are.

The King of the East, however, is very easy to identify. He will bring a 200,000,000-man cavalry (Rev. 9:16) against the tiny nation of Israel with its population [in 2021] of 9,300,000 souls! **China [and also India] are the only nations that could field such a horde of assault troops**, and will be the only ones in that position in the foreseeable future. Perhaps an uneasy alliance of nations from the Orient is involved. But in any case, the attack is directed against the antiChrist, who by this time will have set up a headquarters in Jerusalem (2 Thess. 2:3, 4).

It is very difficult to sum up a topic of this magnitude in a small space. But we might observe that Armageddon seems to be the ultimate result of the antiChrist's blasphemy. From the moment he declares himself to be God, causing Israel to revolt, he reveals a certain vulnerability to the rest of the world. He may appear to some to be less than Almighty God in his conceit. And the opposition of the Jewish people to this dictator of dictators will impress the world. The antiChrist just may have feet of clay after all (Dan. 2), they will surmise, and, in the way of the world in all times, some still more tyrannical tyrants will covet the throne.

It's difficult to imagine a battle the size of Armageddon, even to those who understand modern warfare. The forces that join this battle will take 3½ years to mobilize! **Virtually all the armies of the whole world will meet** — those named above and the 10-nation confederacy of Europe under the antiChrist — in that quiet, green valley in Galilee. They will have some 40 miles of flat plain in which to mobilize, but they will spread into other parts of Israel, most notably

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Marshall Islands nuclear test, 1954

credit: United States Department of Energy



Detail of *A Sibyl*, oil on canvas by Domenichino (1581–1641), in the Galleria Borghese of Rome. The *Sibylline Oracles* are a collection of oracular utterances ascribed to the Sibyls, prophetesses who uttered “divine” revelations in a frenzied state.



Jerusalem, which will be almost annihilated. **Half the population of the Holy City will be lost**, and only the coming of the Lord, who said, “and unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved,” will spare the city of God (Matt. 24:22). [Sarah Liberman offers intriguing Armageddon commentary in the [June 2021 Personal Letter](#).]

Misrepresented in Media

Modern news commentators know the term “Armageddon” and use it rather carelessly. They refer to small, localized armed disturbances as Armageddons. America was said to have seen its “Armageddon” in Vietnam. If they were impressed by those battles, they’ll be utterly shocked by the actual Armageddon.

Commentators in the past have also provided various philosophies about Armageddon and the destruction of the world in general. A very interesting body of Jewish literature assembled during the silent years between the Old and New Testaments shows some intriguing and very Scriptural estimations of the final battle.

Known as the *Apocrypha* and *Pseudepigrapha*, these writings show us believing minds at work on the other side of Calvary. Without benefit of the New Testament, they drew their conclusions from Zechariah and the other prophets regarding the end of the world and God’s judgments. Their writings are a kind of Bible-based folklore. The writers might be thought of as the Scofield and Ryries of their day. They commented freely on the Word of God and gave themselves fanciful pen names. Some of their thoughts are impressive in their accuracy.

- **First Book of Enoch** — On the day of great judgment, the fallen angels will fall into the abyss. After the final judgment, all wrong will be destroyed from the Earth. The Head of Days will sit at glory, and the books will be opened.
- **The Psalms of Solomon** — This book, in part, describes how the King of Israel, son of David, will shatter the unrighteous. He will also rule with a rod of iron. He’ll purge the Godless nations.
- **Book of Baruch** — It speaks of a terrible tribulation on Earth that is followed by the Messianic Kingdom. Nations will be judged; those who treated Israel wrongly will be utterly destroyed. Those who were kind will be spared. (Genesis 12:3)
- **The Sibylline Oracles** — God’s wrath is a fire. Before Messiah comes, there will be a judgment of war, sword, and fire. Then will come the Kingdom on Earth.

One might hear similar thoughts from teachers today, and certainly the NT Book of Revelation justifies much of what seems to have been revealed to students of the OT Scriptures long before the first advent of Messiah.

Armageddon is not a pleasant subject. The best news, of course, is that **Believers won’t attend this battle other than as the heavenly army of the Messiah in His second coming** (Rev. 19:11–16). If we see the terrible Armageddon at all, it will be from a safe vantage point behind the white horse of the King of kings.



Greek manuscript of the Book of Enoch, 4th century



“What a friend we have in Jesus!” ★

Repentance

PART 1

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Staff Theologian
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Q. What is the meaning of repentance?

A. The words *repent*, *repentance*, and *repented* are mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. **Repentance is part and parcel of salvation.** A person cannot be saved until he or she repents. Salvation will not be given by God apart from the sinner's repentance.

The meaning of repentance is found in the Hebrew and Greek words for repent. The Hebrew Old Testament word for *repent* is *shuvah* (or *t'shuvah*) and literally means "turn, to turn, or return." This involves making a U-turn on the road of life — a complete 180-degree turn *toward* God and *away* from one's sinful self.

The command to return or repent appears some 32 times in the OT (Deuteronomy 30:2; Jeremiah 15:19; Malachi 3:7). The New Testament Greek word mainly used for repentance is *metanoia* and means, "to change one's mind" and think differently about God, sin, and the need for Jesus Christ.

Repentance is a change of mind that results in a changed lifestyle from sin to holiness, from unbelief to faith in Jesus Christ, from selfishness to a selfless service for God. Repentance includes the element of deep sorrow over sin against God.

Repentance means an admission of guilt and confession of sin to God that produces a complete change of direction in life by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit convicts and enables the repentant sinner to turn to God in faith toward Jesus Christ. Repentance is essential to saving faith. Thus, those who believe in Jesus Christ for salvation will repent; those who truly repent their sin will trust in Christ. Repentance is an indispensable part of salvation in Scripture. This is why John the Baptist and Jesus urgently commanded people to repent in order to bring a real change of life in loving, serving, and obeying God.

Repentance is mandated for entrance into God's kingdom (Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:14–15). Matthew 4:17 tells us that **true repentance will bear the fruits of a changed life devoted to God** (e.g., Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1–10). To repent means to be acutely aware of your own guilt and sinfulness before God (Psalm 51:4–10; 109:21–22). Hence, to repent involves confession of sin to God and belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the same time (Mark 1:15).

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

—Mark 1:15 ★



To
Index

August 2021 at OJR

Clayton Herring
Assistant Producer
Berg Productions



The last time the *Our Jewish Roots* (OJR) production crew filmed in Israel was September of 2019. Wow! That seems like a long time ago. Because we knew that the presidential election would be a big story of 2020, we prepared our series *Kings and Kingdoms* the September before. Little did we know that COVID-19 would kibosh traveling to Israel for almost two years! As a program that brings viewers scenes from Israel, what were we going to do?

By God's grace and provision, we had already shot, edited, and prepared our series *Joshua: More than a Conqueror* to debut in early 2020. Those familiar with the Bearded Bible Brothers (*right top*) who appear on our social media outlets (Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter) will recognize Josh as our Joshua (*right bottom*).



We began 2020 strong with *Joshua*, but with the March lockdowns, we needed to produce something new, and quickly. The production team fixed up a room in our offices to shoot the series *Revelation: Unveiling the Visions*. That series took us to the summer. Then, we dug into our archives to search for timely teachings from past series that would still speak to our viewers. When the studio we rent near Fort Worth started to reopen, we were able to create new studio segments for three series: *Divine Deliverance*, *Jehovah's Treasure*, and *Sar Shalom: Prince of Peace*. Everything in those programs is new except the dramatic reenactments and other footage we had shot earlier in Israel. You know, teachings from the Bible never get old and are still as fresh as today's news — and actually a lot better.

In October 2020, Capernaum Studios (not far from Dallas) reopened, and we seized the opportunity to create completely new and unique Bible lessons. The result was the teaching segments and dramatic scenes for

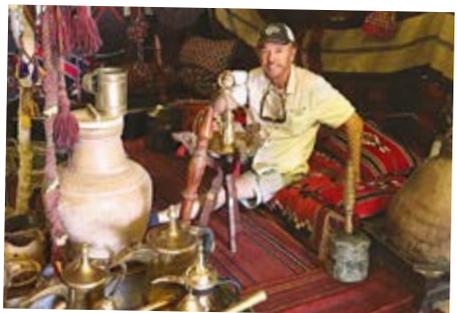
Faith of Our Fathers (*right*). With the help of Christian historian David Barton, this series shows how America, similar to Israel's story in the Bible, was founded by men of faith.



In May, we reprised *Joshua: More than a Conqueror* unaware that its airing would coincide with an attack by Hamas. Thus, while Israel dealt with rockets from Gaza, OJR viewers watched Biblical re-enactments of God leading the Israelites into, and taking possession of, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The next scheduled series was also timely. In 2011, we had produced *Eretz Israel: The Land of Israel* in which Jeffrey Seif taught from many different locations in Israel, driving around in a military jeep. Former CBS correspondent David Dolan provided historical perspectives.

The Land belongs to the Jewish people, and our program brings it to you with love. Director and producer Ken Berg has been to Israel with our production crew twice a year, with rare exceptions, since the 1980s. Israel is in his blood, and the two years away has been difficult for him. Going to Israel is his addiction (a healthy one) that can only be satisfied by a return visit.

Lord willing, Ken will get his "fix" as we plan our October return. Our television production crew have plane tickets in hand, and our Israeli producer there is arranging for us to shoot a new series in the Galilee about the Apostle Peter. We look forward to bringing you Israel afresh! Thank you so much for coming alongside us and supporting us with prayers and donations on this journey. ★



Ken Berg in a Bedouin tent



Still Trying to Say Goodbye to E*TRADE®

Wise As A Serpent
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



For many moons, I have jumped through hoop after hoop and sent form after form to electronic stock-broker E*Trade in an ongoing effort to recover funds that were fraudulently removed from the ministry's account last December 7.

My "Wise As A Serpent" feature in the [July Levitt Letter \(p. 13\)](#) gives the back story. The left column furnishes our new Vanguard account's information for donors to contribute shares of stock, potentially saving capital gains taxes that typically arise from liquidating them. The article's right column is subheaded "Time to Dump E*Trade?"

Three internet links lead to an abundance of evidence that E*Trade is mistreating an alarming number of its investors. **How does its parent company, Morgan Stanley, tolerate it garnering so many one-star reviews and egregious complaints**, such as, "They're keeping my nest egg and won't give it back?!" (Prov. 13:24)

Remarkably, it seems necessary for this ministry to initiate a calling campaign to beseech E*Trade's 30 branch offices to implore their corporate headquarters to finally do the right thing by this ministry. Calling their customer "service" line is a ridiculous waste of time. All that we're *still* asking is to remove remaining restrictions so that we can close our accounts and Never. Ever. deal with E*Trade again.

For toll-free numbers of each E*Trade office across the U.S. visit:

<https://us.etrade.com/contact-us/branch-locator>

Assuming you have extra time on your hands, you might call one, two, or three of their offices on successive days, perhaps beginning with the ones that are closest to where you live.

You could start by asking whether they are aware of the many one-star reviews they're accumulating by stonewalling clients who need to withdraw their funds. You might advise whoever answers the phone that you're praying for them. Maybe suggest that they read those reviews (google "E*Trade Ripoff") and weigh whether to pursue more reputable employment. Of course, there's no need to be rude or place blame. However, they must know that ZLM supporter calls will continue until our office receives all the precious donations entrusted to them.

The home page at www.levitt.com has an E*Trade counter at the bottom. It tallies how many days I have been jumping their relentless hurdles to restore our account. Initially, they had me provide a Dispute Inquiry Request and notarized statement. In March, they required a police report and a copy of my driver's license. In May, they had to have a form that supposedly helps fight terrorism. In June, they suddenly needed a W-9. Who knows what make-work task they'll dream up next month. Once our day counter at www.levitt.com freezes, please stop calling their various branches. Until then, YOU can help recover this ministry's roughly \$21,000.

Let's hope the saying "a squeaky wheel gets the oil" applies to our "lost" \$21,000. Squeak away, ZLMers! — Kirsten ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



Hogan's [Jewish] Heroes (part 1)

In the television comedy series *Hogan's Heroes* (1965–1971), German WW II POW camp Stalag 13's inmates conduct espionage and sabotage, making fools of their warders. John Banner (1910–1973), who portrayed Sgt. "I know NOTHING" Schultz, was Jewish. Born in Vienna, Banner fled in 1938 to avoid Nazi persecution and emigrated to the U.S. as a political refugee. Werner Klemperer (1920–2000), the bumbling, comical Col. Wilhelm Klink, was also Jewish. He fled Germany in the 1930s and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. (More next month.)



Jew-Shaped Candles

Stoking the flames of anti-Semitism, a beekeeping center in Poland recently marketed "Little Jew" (5") and "Big Jew" (6") candles featuring a bearded man in Jewish Orthodox dress holding a coin. To sell the sizzle, their description mused: "the image of a financially successful Jew ... gives off a pleasant, warm light and a nice scent while light-ed" — where many Jews were burned 80 years ago. Burn the Jew ... and all that's left is a gold coin.



Contacting Consumer Advocates

Please share this month's *Wise As A Serpent* (p. 14) and *July's* (p. 13) with your favorite business columnist or consumer advocate. (Perhaps use your cell phone to email pictures of the pages.) Advise them that googling "E*Trade Ripoff" or "E*Trade Sucks" could lead them to spread the word on the latest investment operation that seems to turn into a black hole for many investors. Maybe ask their opinion on whether FINRA and the SEC are as "asleep at the switch" as the now-defunct NASD. Please cc this ministry if you're sharing your own E*Trade horror story.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

American taxpayers have long been allowed to make charitable gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities that are worth more than they initially cost, and take an income tax deduction based on the gift's full current value, bypassing capital gains tax that otherwise would be due upon sale. The free pamphlet *Giving Securities* explains the basics of harnessing longstanding tax benefits. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #11.

GIVING
SECURITIES

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





Our Duty to Truth

הַדְרִיכֵנִי בְאֵמֶתְךָ וְלִמְדֵנִי כִּי־אַתָּה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעִי
 yeesh-ee' e-lo-hei' kee - a-tah' ve-la-me-dei'-nee va-a-mee-te'-kha had-ree-khei'-nee
 the God of my salvation | for You are | and teach me | in Your truth | lead me

“Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
 for You are the God of my salvation...” - Psalm 25:5a

Followers of the God of Truth are responsible to “do truth” and reject what is false (1 John 4:6). As Yeshua said, “For this purpose I was born, and for this purpose I have come into the world — to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice” (John 18:37). This means that we have a moral and spiritual duty to think clearly and not to abuse our minds (Phil. 4:8; Rom. 12:2). The LORD will help us to do this, as Yeshua said: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you a Helper (παράκλητος, someone “called to one’s side”), to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth (i.e., *ruach ha’emet*: רוח האמת), whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him” (John 14:16–17).

The Spirit of Truth helps us “discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable, and perfect” (Rom. 12:2) and empowers us to take “every thought captive” to the reality of God’s Presence (2 Cor. 10:4–5). Truth is connected to memory — both in our personal histories as well as the history of God’s redemptive actions performed on our behalf. Truth is described as “a-letheia,” literally meaning “not forgetfulness.” Hence, we are commanded to constantly remember what God has done for us and to “diligently repeat” the truth to our children (Deut. 6:4–9). Similarly, the Spirit of Truth brings to remembrance the words of Yeshua to our hearts (John 14:26).

Followers of Yeshua love the truth and sanctify its importance. The ministry of reconciliation is defined as “the word of truth, by the power of God, through weapons of righteousness” (2 Cor. 5:18, 6:7). Indeed, the “word of truth” is a synonym for the Gospel message itself (Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5; James 1:18). We are saved by Yeshua, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). God commands all people to believe this truth (Acts 17:30–31; 1 Tim. 2:4). **Since people perish because “they refuse to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thess. 2:10–12), the issue of truth is essential to salvation itself.**

Genuine *teshuvah* (repentance) implies that we will change our thinking in order to be transformed by God’s truth (2 Cor. 13:8). During these perilous days, may God help us all to think clearly and to turn our thoughts to Him. May He protect us from the vanity of a darkened mind and from all distractions that attempt to seduce us away from Him. **May the LORD give us the purity of heart to know and do His will in the truth. Amen.** ★



Psalms of Ascent

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs
on 2 DVDs

In this eight-part series, Jeff Seif and Sandra Levitt examine Psalms 120–134, the “Psalms of Ascent.” While these psalms may have been sung by ancient Jews going up to the Temple in Jerusalem, they are surprisingly appropriate and timely for Believers today. Eitan Shishkoff (ZLM’s Man in Haifa) and the music of Marty Goetz (see p. 19) are featured.

Psalms 120 & 121 From the UN headquarters in Jerusalem, Jeff reminds us that King David had to deal with deceitful enemies and distress but realized that his sure source of help was the Lord.

Psalms 122 & 123 This ministry’s signoff is “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6). Jerusalem has had its share of battles yet is still central in the hearts of Jews and Christians.

Psalms 124 & 125 The Lord has sustained Israel these many centuries. King David saw divine protection and likened it to the mountains around Jerusalem.

Psalms 126 & 127 The Israelites have returned to the Promised Land. At the Temple Mount, we learn that human efforts to build are in vain without the Lord’s protection.

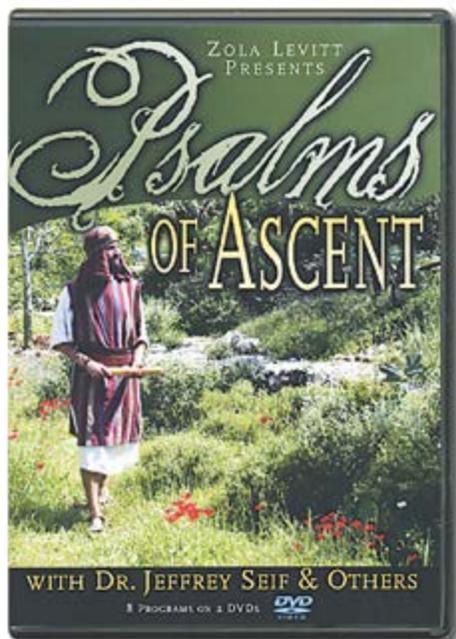
Psalms 128 & 129 The psalms clearly teach that fear of the Lord and honoring His ways bring blessings to individuals. Israel has seen much affliction, but the Lord’s support is unwavering.

Psalms 130 & 131 God’s ears are open to our cries for help. Always there, He faithfully pours out His forgiveness and redemption. Believers need to pray for an awakening among His People.

Psalms 132 & 133 The Lord chose Jerusalem as His abiding place; it remains His to this very day, despite replacement theologies. In this fractious world, dwelling together in unity is a blessing.

Psalms 134 Many come up to Jerusalem seeking and praising God. Marty Goetz sings a wonderful rendition of “Benediction.”

(Please see Tony’s article “A Commitment to God’s Word” on p.4.)



ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

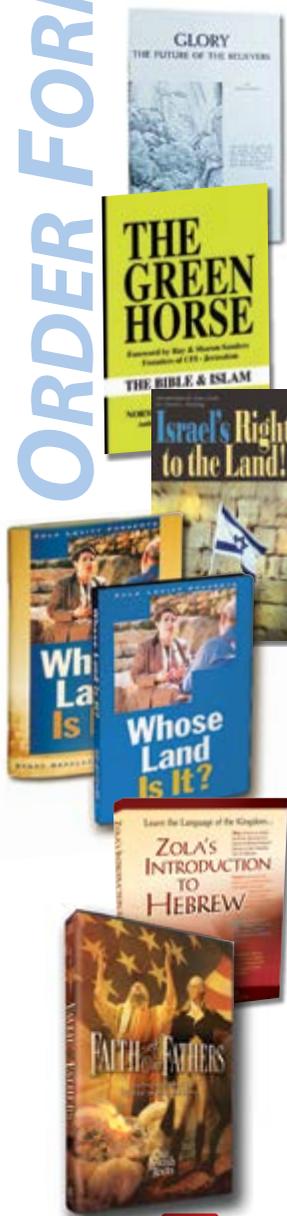
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers (pictured)	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming (p.23)	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In?	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match:..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (Barton)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Weiss)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (Barton)	\$7	___
___	The Green Horse— The Bible & Islam (Archbold) (pictured) ..	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) (p.9)	\$8	___
___	Israel: By Divine Right (transcript)	\$10	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Bad Moon Rising	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Bible, The Whole Story (p.5). (7 programs, 2-DVDs)		\$39	___
___	Close Encounters w/ Yeshua (p.20) ... (10 progs., 2-DVDs)		\$59	___
___	Daniel and the Last Day's Battle	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" Process ..	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith of Our Fathers (pictured) ... (8 progs., 2-DVDs)		\$49	___
___	Israel, My Love	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Psalms of Ascent (p.17)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Revelation	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Promise	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Times of the Signs	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Warrior King	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



To order:

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store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
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 ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844

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

ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas TX 75225





ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Trio (Body, Foot & Hand)	\$98	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$58	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	_____
___	Drink Koozies (p.36)	2 for \$5	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain)	\$39	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782/2022) (pictured & p.7)	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
___	Pro-Israel Button (D) (pictured)	(4 of 1 design) \$6	_____
___	"Things to Come" — Witnessing Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	Zola's Notebook (p.5)	\$25	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____

New!



Teaching CDs

___	Beginning of the End (includes music)	(2 CDs) \$12	_____
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (pictured)	(9 CDs) \$39	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	I Call You Friend (Goetz) (pictured)	(Music CD) \$14	_____
___	Jerusalem 3000	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	Zion Song (The Harts)	(Music CD) \$12	_____

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



Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

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

For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.

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

Name _____

(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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On what station/network do you primarily watch *Our Jewish Roots*? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

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

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

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

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Close Encounters with Yeshua

DVD Set

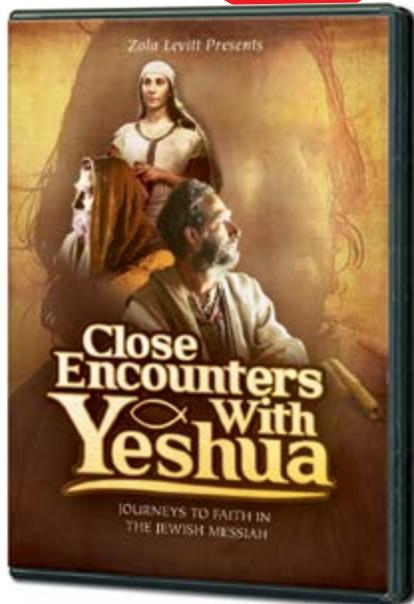
Ten 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

Close Encounters with Yeshua focuses on how Yeshua/Jesus came to Earth supernaturally, ministered, and today calls people to Him. David and Kirsten Hart introduce this ten-program series from the studio, while Myles and Katharine Weiss teach from Israel.

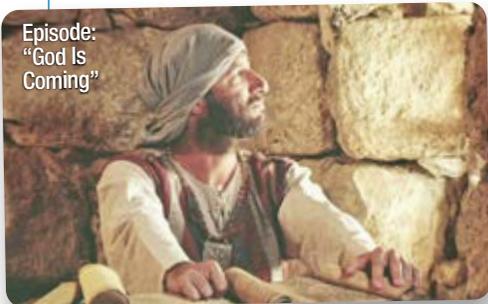
God is Coming Abraham's travels in the desert led him into dependence on and relationship with his God. *Interviews:* Dean Bye of Return Ministries; and Chaim Malespin of the Aliyah Return Center.

Humble Beginnings In a simple animal stall, Yeshua entered the world as a baby, lived to fulfill the Law, and promised to return as the Lion of Judah. *Interview:* Pastor Daniel Sayag of Carmel Congregation.

Jewish Context As a boy, Yeshua came to the Temple to offer sacrifices. Later, He became the sacrifice, the Lamb of God. *Interview:* Karen Davis of Carmel Congregation.



Episode:
"God Is
Coming"



Miraculous Ministry Near the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua performed miracles that amazed many but disturbed others. *Interview:* Eric and Terri Morey of The Galilee Experience.

Prophecy Fulfilled At a synagogue in Magdala, likely visited by Yeshua Himself, Myles and Katharine remind us of Scripture's reliability. *Interview:* Pastor Juan Maria Solana of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and the Magdala Center.

Living Water At the recently discovered Pool of Siloam, location of cleansing rituals, Yeshua performed a miracle that proved Him prophet, priest, and the King we await. *Interview:* Arab pastor Vincent Shammas.

Mountaintop Experience From the Mount of Transfiguration, where the Father honored His Son, Yeshua sent out His Disciples.

Life Laid Down Yeshua descended the Mount of Olives like a king, but surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Interview:* Carolyn Hyde, Heart of G-d Ministries.

Empty Tomb The Crucifixion and the Cross led to the empty tomb, and thus removed the curse on mankind. *Interview:* Samuel Smadja of Messianic Assembly and Sar-El Tours.

Interview with Gary Bayer Writer and television presenter Gary Bayer explains how Yeshua, comforting him during his battle with cancer, became more real.



To
Index

Fabulous Castles in Israel

PART 1

BY NAAMA BARAK (r) Israel21c.org



From palaces hanging off a cliff in the desert to knights' halls and imposing fortresses, Israel is the place to imagine yourself in shining armor.

When you think of Israel, castles probably aren't the historical attractions that come to mind. Which is a shame, considering that the country boasts some truly magnificent examples.

Some of them date back thousands of years while others are more recent, but they are all monuments to fascinating history, lost empires, and power struggles worthy of their own Netflix show.

David's Citadel

One of Jerusalem's most well-known landmarks, the David Citadel at the entrance to the Old City is a big, imposing complex that was originally the site of King Herod's watch-towers some 2,000 years ago. It was then turned into a fortress by the Arab rulers of



David's Citadel

Jerusalem, further fortified by the Crusaders, and then fortified yet again by the returning Arab rulers. The minaret that now adorns it was added by the Ottomans, who also surrounded it with a moat. Today, the citadel houses archaeological finds, the Tower of David Museum, and a very impressive light-and-sound show.

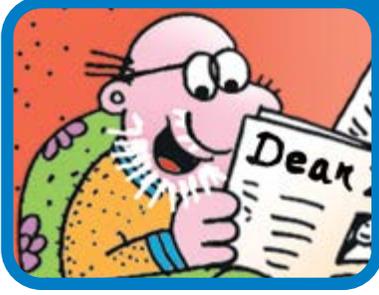
Nimrod Castle

Nimrod Castle, on the slopes of Mount Hermon in northern Israel, looks like it was taken straight from the set of *Game of Thrones*, being medieval and all. The huge complex was built by Muslim rulers on a strategic spot to protect the important road to Damascus.



The ancient Nimrod Castle in Israel's north is a stunning example of the country's many castles and fortresses.

It fell out of use hundreds of years ago but still very much crowned the local landscape, even leading a visiting Mark Twain to call it "the stateliest ruin of that kind on Earth." Today it is a national park that is open to the public, who can enjoy an ancient stone inscription, interesting architecture, and magnificent views. ★



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From B.P. (FL): These booklets of [A Christian Love Story](#) will be given to over 40 college students wanting to grow in their faith and learn how to evangelize and disciple others. I loved reading it and am so glad to pass it on.

From S.Y.H.: [Jehovah's Treasure](#) was great! Thank you for freely sharing this great series. May Yeshua continue to bless your ministry.

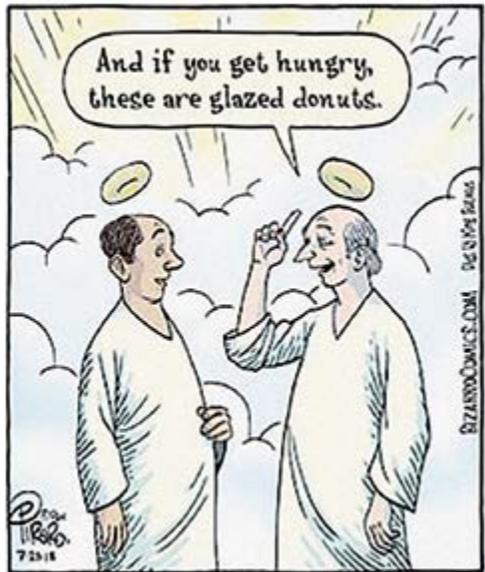
From H.H. (OH): Zola, best Bible teacher I've ever had. Love the onsite teachings at: levitt.tv/classic_zola.

From M.R.: Love and miss Zola. Can't wait to talk with him in eternity. Thank you, Mark, for your faithfulness to your father and your Father. May God continue to bless Zola Levitt Ministries. I faithfully support you by prayer and financially each and every month. To the Jew first [\[and also the gentile per Romans 1:16\]](#).

From B.H. (MI): Could you offer return address labels with the "grafted-in" logo? I think it is beautiful and would sell well. I would order them with big, bold, easily-read print. — [Would you settle for a self-inking "grafted-in" logo stamp?](#) How many do you suppose you would order, considering what a glorious gift that would make for your fellow Believers? — Mark

BIZARRO.COM

by Dan Piraro



Modern-day miracles

Dear ZLM,

I was living in my car when I asked ZLM to pray for me. The Lord has provided me a beautiful apartment—it came out of nowhere! The Lord does bless. Praise God! —P.C. (OH)

Dear P.C.,

A miracle indeed! Thank you for sharing your story and reminding our readers that God *still* performs His wonders. — David

(continued next page)

Sarah Liberman's lessons

Dear Sarah,

Having you present the Biblical and historical evidence that the Garden of Eden was located in the area of Jerusalem sounds exciting. I will watch for it in the future. Thank you. —N.B. (AR)

Dear Sarah,

I would like to know more about the Biblical basis for the Garden of Eden being around Jerusalem. — E.

Dear ZLM,

Sarah Liberman's articles are the very best! I'm looking forward to reading more, especially the upcoming information on the historical evidence that the Garden of Eden was located in the area of Jerusalem. —K.S.H. (TX)

Dear N.B., E., and K.S.H.,

I agree with all of you. I was blown away to learn that Jerusalem might be the site of the Garden of Eden! Wouldn't it make sense that Yeshua would redeem mankind on the very spot where sin first entered the world? God is very symbolic and purposeful. I, too, look forward to reading Sarah's *Personal Letter* about this topic. —Kirsten

Prophecy's importance

Dear ZLM,

In a recent *Our Jewish Roots* television program, Dr. Seif was asked, "How important is prophecy? What role does prophecy play in a Believer's life?" His answer addressed prophecy in our future, i.e., things to come.

I agree that future prophecy is important because it tells us where in God's timeline we are. However, past prophecy is more important because:

- It proves that future prophecy will be fulfilled.
- It proves that the Bible is the ONLY Word of God. All other religious books are man's word. —E.C.

Dear E.C.,

Good thought — knowing about fulfilled Bible prophecies adds credence to as yet unfulfilled ones! —David

(continued next page)



The Second Coming study booklet

Examines in detail various theories of the Lord's return and the Kingdom of God.

Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact Scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming with the Rapture of the Church.

More on the Origin of Easter

Dear ZLM,

When your magazine declares Alexander Hislop mistaken in his conclusion that “Easter” comes from the pagan goddess Ishtar, you are wrong! ([May 2021 Levitt Letter, p. 21](#)) My *Winston Dictionary* (copyright 1946) supports Hislop’s position. — E.K. (AR)

Dear E.K.

Though several theories exist, the origin of the word Easter remains unclear.

One theory holds that it originates from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre (*Ostara* in German). Her story involves a dying bird that was magically turned into a rabbit but could still lay eggs. Such scant evidence for the Eostre theory exists — only a single document

from A.D. 725 with little or no supporting history elsewhere — that

it’s most likely untrue. And there is some evidence that part of the story is a modern invention.

Hislop equated *Easter* with the goddess Ishtar in the 19th century. The names are somewhat similar. Zola thought this a possible explanation. However, more recent scholarship suggests that this association is unlikely. [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) explains:

“There is now widespread consensus that the word derives from the Christian designation of Easter week as in *albis*, a Latin phrase that was understood as the plural of *alba* (‘dawn’) and became *eostarum* in Old High German, the precursor of the modern German and English term.”

Consequently, current scholars believe that Easter derives from a Latin phrase for “morning / rising / new light,” translated into German as *eostarum*, which became *easter* in English.

Whether or not the word *Easter* stems from a pagan origin doesn’t change what it means today. Christians use *Easter* to refer to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that is what Believers celebrate — not eggs or ancient goddesses. You may call it “First Fruits” — its feast name in Leviticus 23 — if you prefer or “Resurrection Sunday.” Not liking the *name* of the holiday is no reason to not celebrate the resurrection of Yeshua and His conquering of death.

Please do read the article on [pp.8–9 of the March 2016 Levitt Letter](#) where all of this is explained.

— Blessings, Greg Hartwig, ZLM webmaster

P.S. If you have difficulty seeing an archived *Levitt Letter*, please append “&open” (without the quotes) to the unsuccessful URL. — Greg

(continued next page)



Ostara (1884) by Johannes Gehrts. The goddess flies through the heavens surrounded by Roman-inspired putti, beams of light, and animals. Germanic people look up at the goddess from the realm below.

credit: D.Kinsella (wikimedia)



Portrait of Alexander Hislop

To
Index

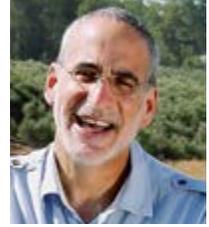
Resources for learning

Dear ZLM,

My grandson, 16, has been watching your program since he was about seven years old. We both enjoy the teachings of Dr. Seif and David Barton and the *Levitt Letter*. Blessings to you and those behind the scenes. —S.S. (CA)

Dear S.S.,

Many ZLMers agree that our TV program and monthly publications are fantastic learning tools for children as well as adults. I will pass along your compliments about the *Faith of Our Fathers* series to our production staff. —Kirsten ★



Dr. Jeffrey Seif

by Andrea Davis

Crossword August 2021:
Eretz Israel (KJV)
(answers on p.35)

<p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. ...for I will hasten my word to ___ it. (Jeremiah 1:12) 6. ...and I will be their ___. (Genesis 17:8) 9. And he called the name of that place ____ (Genesis 28:19) 11. And I will make of thee a great ____ (Genesis 12:2) 13. And the Lord ___ unto Abram... (Genesis 12:7) 14. ...get thee out of thy ____ (Genesis 12:1) 17. Joshua made ___ a long time... (Joshua 11:18) 18. Command the children of ____ (Numbers 34:2) 19. And he dreamed, and behold a ____ (Gen. 28:12) 	<p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ...and there he built an ___ unto the Lord... (Gen. 12:8) 2. ___ not, for I am with thee... (Genesis 26:24) 4. And I will make thy seed to ____ (Genesis 26:4) 5. And I will establish my ____ (Genesis 17:7) 7. And thy seed shall be as the ___ of the earth... (Genesis 28:14) 8. ...and go into the ___ of Israel... (Matthew 2:20) 10. ...and they shall ___ it for ever. (Exodus 32:13) 12. Be strong and of good ____ (Joshua 1:6) 15. And David ___ over all Israel... (2 Samuel 8:15) 16. I will ___ them that ___ thee... (Genesis 12:3) 17. So Joshua took the ___ land... (Joshua 11:23)
--	--



Bringing “Red Gold” to Israelis



SCIENCE: BY JAMES SPIRO (r) calcalistech.com

Platinum, gold, saffron — some of the most valuable materials in the world continue to be in high demand across global markets. Saffron, the most valuable spice available in the world market, is ripe for disruption. A new company has set out to make it more accessible than ever.



credit: Baghgoi, via wikimedia

Sargol saffron, the strongest Iranian grade

The company, **Saffron-Tech**, founded in 2020, has patented a technology that measures the

exact parameters to grow saffron in a controlled environment locally in Israel instead of relying on importing it from Iran, where 95% of it is grown and exported.

Saffron is valued at roughly \$4,500 per pound, making it one of the most expensive materials in the world and earning it the nickname “red gold.” There are a few reasons for this: the spice has a myriad of uses, such as flavoring, dyes, and even medicine. However, extracting the needed amount from flowers is incredibly labor-intensive. It takes 68,000 flowers, with a total of 204,000 strands, to produce just one pound, and it requires an entire year to grow.

Currently, farmers need to rely on a lot of space, a lot of time, and a lot of labor for one puny pound.



above: An example of a vertical farm
left: CEO of Saffron-Tech, David Freidenberg

Saffron-Tech’s patented technology can grow saffron bulbs in vertical farms with controlled temperatures, climates, water usage, and sunlight to speed up the harvest and produce three cycles a year.

“By manipulating what the plant thinks is happening, we believe that we can make saffron grow three times a year, at high-end quality,” explained CEO of Saffron-Tech, David Freidenberg.

Naturally, questions arise about the value of a material when its production can suddenly triple, saving labor costs, time, and physical space. When it becomes easier to produce and is more accessible to the consumer market, the cost will drop. It’s the same reason why sand is cheap but diamonds are not.

“It’s true we’re going to have more saffron in the market, but it will be better saffron,” Freidenberg explained. “No one else grows saffron in vertical farming machines. That, by itself, is unique.” ★



Fighting Bacteria Resistant to Antibiotics

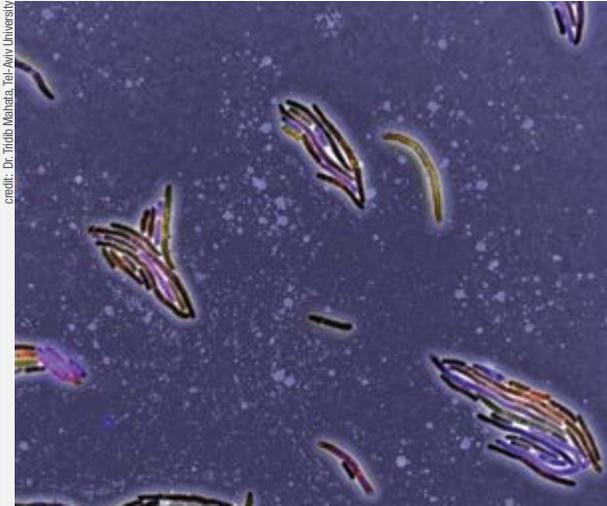
MEDICINE: JPost.com

Researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) have reported developing a process by which “good” viruses can attack the systems of “bad” bacteria.

This method could destroy and affect reproduction capabilities of the bacteria by blocking the replication mechanism of the bacteria’s DNA without damaging its own. Distinguishing good viruses from the bad bacteria could further understanding of bacterial mechanisms for evading bacteriophages (viruses that infect and replicate within bacteria) and using bacteriophages to combat bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance of bacteria is a challenge that many scientists face today. The TAU researchers suggest that a potential solution for this problem lies within further investigation of the discovered process.

The researchers found that the bacteriophage protein works off a DNA-repair protein in the bacteria to “cut the bacteria’s DNA as it is being repaired.”



Elongation of bacteria due to inhibition of division caused by the bacteriophage protein

“The bacteriophage takes advantage of the bacterial DNA’s need for repair, while the bacteriophage itself has no need for this specific kind of repair,” said Prof. Udi Qimron, one of the lead authors of the study. “In this way the bacteriophage destroys the bacteria without suffering any damage itself.”

“The ability to distinguish between oneself and others is of enormous importance in nature and

in various biological applications,” Qimron added. “Thus, for example, all antibiotic mechanisms identify and neutralize bacteria only, with minimal effect on human cells. Another example is our immune system, which is geared toward maximum damage to foreign factors, with minimal self-injury.”

The researchers developed a process that searches for types of bacterial variants not impacted by this mechanism, being those that have developed immunity to it. This, in turn, led them to discover the specific bacterial mechanism affected by bacteriophage takeover.

“We found that the ‘immune’ bacterial variants simply stopped repairing their DNA in ways that are vulnerable to the bacteriophage attack, thereby evading the bacteriophage’s destructive mechanism. Shedding more light on the ways in which bacteriophages attack bacteria, **our findings may serve as a tool in the endless battle against antibiotic-resistant bacteria,**” concluded Qimron.

The researchers published their findings in the scientific journal *PNAS* — *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. ★



Teenage Sisters Killed Nazis in WWII



BY BECKY LITTLE (r) History.com



Teenagers Freddie and Truus Oversteegen

Freddie Oversteegen was only 14 when she joined the Dutch resistance during World War II, and only a couple of years older when she became one of its armed assassins. Together with her sister — and later, a young woman named Hannie Schaft — she lured, ambushed, and killed German Nazis and their Dutch collaborators.

Freddie and her sister Truus, who was two years older, grew up in the city of Haarlem with a single, working-class mother. Their mother considered herself a communist and taught her daughters the importance of fighting injustice. When Europe was on the brink of war in 1939, she took Jewish refugees into their home.

Through their mother's example, Freddie and Truus "learned that if you have to help somebody, like refugees, you have to make sacrifices for yourself," says Jeroen Pliester, chair of the National Hannie Schaft Foundation. "I think that was one of the main drivers for them: the high moral principle and preparedness of their mother to act when it really matters."

Under Nazi Occupation

In May 1940, Nazis invaded the Netherlands, beginning an occupation that lasted until the end of the war. In response, **the girls joined their mother in distributing anti-Nazi newspapers and pamphlets for the resistance.** "We glued warnings across German posters in the street calling men

(continued next page)

source: National Archive



German paratroops dropping into the Netherlands on 10 May 1940



Truus Oversteegen (pictured with rifle) worked alongside Hannie and Freddie.

to work in Germany,” Freddie later recalled in interviews she and her sister did with anthropologist Ellis Jonker, collected in the book *Under Fire: Women and World War II*. “And then we’d hurry off, on our bikes.”

These acts weren’t just subversive, they were also dangerous. If the Nazis or Dutch police caught the sisters, they might have killed them. However, **the fact that they were young girls — and Freddie looked even younger when she wore braids — meant that officials were less likely to suspect them of working for the resistance.** This might be one of the reasons why, in 1941, a commander with the Haarlem Resistance Group visited their house to ask their mother if he could recruit Freddie and Truus.

Their mother consented and the sisters agreed to join. “Only later did he tell us what we’d actually have to do: sabotage bridges and railway lines,” Truus told Jonker. “And learn to shoot, to shoot Nazis,” he added. I remember my sister saying: “Well, that’s something I’ve never done before!”

In at least one instance, Truus seduced an SS officer into the woods so that someone from the resistance could shoot him. As the commander who recruited them had said, Freddie and Truus learned to shoot Nazis too, and the sisters began to go on assassination missions by themselves. Later, they focused on killing Dutch collaborators who arrested or endangered Jewish refugees and resistance members.

“They were unusual, these girls,” says Bas von Benda-Beckmann, a former researcher at the Netherlands’ Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. “There were a lot of women involved in the resistance in the Netherlands, but not so much in the way these girls were. There are not that many examples of women who actually shot collaborators.”

Skills and Duties

On these missions, Freddie was especially good at following a target or keeping a lookout during missions since she looked so young and unsuspecting. Both sisters shot to kill, but they never revealed how many Nazis and Dutch collaborators they had assassinated. According to Pliester, Freddie would tell people who asked that she and her sister were soldiers, and soldiers don’t say.

Consequently, we don’t have many details about how their “liquidations,” as they called them, played out. Benda-Beckmann says that sometimes they would follow a target to his house to kill him, or ambush them on their bikes.



source:
North Holland
Archives

source: North Holland Archives



source: North Holland Archives



top: Freddie Oversteegen
middle: Truus Oversteegen
bottom: Hannie Schaft



(continued next page)

Their other duties in the Haarlem Resistance Group included “bringing Jewish [refugees] to a new hiding place, working in the emergency hospital in Enschede... [and] blowing up the railway line between IJmuiden and Haarlem,” writes Jonker. In 1943, they joined forces with another young woman, Hannie Schaft.

Hannie was a university student who dropped out because she refused to sign a pledge of loyalty to Germany. **Together, the three young women formed a sabotage and assassination cell.** Hannie became their best friend, and the sisters were devastated when the Nazis arrested and executed her in 1945, just three weeks before the war ended in Europe. After initially only being wounded by her executioner, Hannie’s last words purportedly were, “I’m a better shot.”

Scars and Remorse

After the war, the sisters dealt with the trauma of having killed people and losing their best friend. Truus created sculptures and later spoke and wrote about their time in the resistance. Freddie coped “by getting married and having babies,” as she admitted in 2016. But the experience of war still caused her insomnia. In another interview, Freddie recalled seeing a person she’d shot fall to the ground... and having the human impulse to want to help him.

“We did not feel it suited us,” Truss told Jonker of their assassinations. “It never suits anybody, unless they are real criminals.”

Both women died at age 92 —Truus in 2016, and Freddie on September 5, 2018, one day before she turned 93. Throughout much of the sisters’ long lives, the Netherlands failed to properly recognize the women’s achievements and sidelined them as communists. In 2014, they finally received national recognition for their service to their country by receiving the Mobilisatie-Oorlogskruis, or “War Mobilization Cross.” ★



Freddie Oversteegen in 2018, shortly before she died



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Main Street,
West Orange, NJ

NJ Town Condemns Anti-Semitism

By Eric Kiefer / Patch.com/New-Jersey

New Jersey’s Town of West Orange mayor, town council members, and Human Relations Commission recently issued a statement condemning anti-Semitism “in all its forms.”

Its statement read, in part:

We know that the FBI Uniform Crime Report in 2019 documented that over 60 percent of anti-religious hate crimes in America were committed against Jews.

It called for “all local, state and federal authorities to investigate and prosecute all criminal instances of Antisemitism whenever they occur”

and encouraged “our leaders, educators, community organizations, houses of worship and all citizens to work to understand and oppose Antisemitism.”

It concluded: “As we continue to confront the realities of everyday injustice impacted by members of the Jewish community and other marginalized groups, let us continue to come together as a community to support and affirm those impacted by oppression.”

I grew up in New Jersey. More politicians ought to make such a stand.

— Kirsten ★



West Orange Mayor
Robert D. Parisi



IDF Pounds Arson Terror Squads ... *continued from cover sidebar*

the resumption of hostilities, in the face of continued terrorist operations from the Gaza Strip.”

This was the first IAF bombing in Gaza since Operation Guardian of the Walls ended in May. Gaza terrorists launched tens of balloons tied to flammable materials and explosive charges into Israeli territory throughout the day, setting some 30 blazes in areas near Israel’s border with Gaza. The blazes caused damage but no one was injured in the attacks.

An explosive charge tied to a balloon exploded over a kibbutz in the Sha’ar Hanegev Regional Council. A loud explosion was heard in the area, and children who

were at the playground ran for shelter.

Similarly, Gazans rioted at several points on their border with Israel, burning tires and throwing explosive charges. The IDF responded with crowd control.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz stated after the operation in May that Israel would not tolerate any aggression from Gaza and would respond forcefully to any attacks. (See also [p.8.](#))

“No one was injured in the attacks.” I believe we will continue to hear miraculous stories about God’s hand protecting His Chosen. —Kirsten ★

1,300-Year-Old Church Found Near Site of Transfiguration



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY MICHAEL GRYBOSKI (r) ChristianPost.com



Mosaic floor of the ancient church

Remains of a 1,300-year-old church were discovered at the location believed to be where the Transfiguration took place, the Israeli government announced. The Israel Antiquities Authority reported last year that archaeologists had unearthed a church with a detailed mosaic floor at Kfar Kama, a village near Mount Tabor.

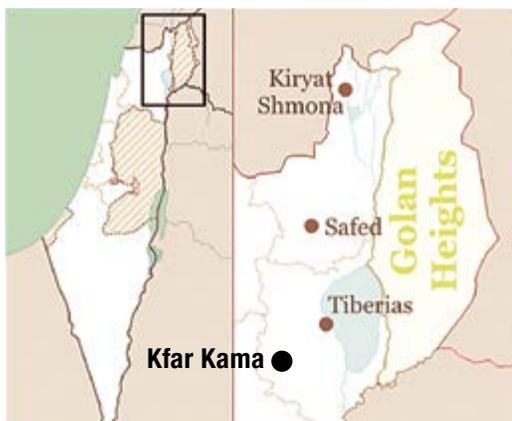
A Byzantine Church

Excavation of the church was carried out by the IAA in collaboration with the Kinneret Academic College and led by archaeologist Nurit Feig.

“The church ... includes a large courtyard, a narthex foyer, and a central hall. Particular to this church is the existence of three apses (prayer niches), while most churches were characterized by a single apse,” explained Feig.

“The nave and the aisles were paved with mosaics, which partially survived. Their colorful decoration stands out, incorporating geometric patterns and blue, black, and red floral patterns. A special discovery was the small reliquary, a

(continued next page)



Kfar Kama located in Northeast Israel

credit: Alex Wiegmann, Israel Antiquities Authority

credit: map of Northeast Israel by Ymhooky, Wikimedia



stone box used to preserve sacred relics.”

The church dates to when the Byzantine Empire occupied the region and indicates that Christians from the time period viewed the area as religiously significant.



Possible Site of the Transfiguration

Many believe that Mount Tabor is where the Transfiguration took place. The summer before Jesus died, He showed His divine being to His disciples Peter, James, and John (Mark 9:2–9):

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could whiten them. And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

According to the apologetics website GotQuestions.org, some believe that **Mount Hermon was the location for the Transfiguration:**

Mount Tabor is less than 2,000 feet, but it stands alone in the area. ... Mount Hermon is a much higher mountain, almost 10,000 feet, and it is closer to Caesarea Philippi where the previous events in Matthew 16 took place. For these reasons, some scholars feel that Mount Hermon is a more likely candidate to be the Mount of Transfiguration.



Color photo of Mount Tabor taken in the late 19th century by French photographer Bonfils

However, the importance of the Transfiguration is not bound to what mountain it occurred on. The Transfiguration is significant because it gave those three disciples a glimpse of the glory that Jesus had before the Incarnation and that He would have again. Perhaps it was also the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy that some of the disciples would see Him coming in the kingdom before they died (Matthew 16:28).

In the final analysis, we simply do not know what mountain is the Mount of Transfiguration. It could be Tabor or Hermon or another mountain that no one has suggested.

Our tours not only point out Mount Tabor, we also journey to Mount Hermon! Visit Israel with Zola Tours and discuss with fellow pilgrims which mountain you think was the site of the Transfiguration. —David ★



Palestinians Revere Hitler

United with Israel
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UnitedWithIsrael.org

Numerous expressions of Nazi sympathies by Palestinian leadership have been documented and exposed over the years, with the admiration of Adolf Hitler being a key part of Palestinian denial and distortion of the Holocaust.

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), a watchdog that monitors Palestinian media and incitement, noted that some expressions of sympathy are blatant, while others are more subliminal.

For instance, Tawfik Tirawi, a senior official of Fatah (the political party of Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas), recently stated in a TV interview that “Hitler was not morally corrupt. He was daring.” Tirawi’s statement offended even the Palestinian interviewer who chose to quickly change the topic.

Palestinian Schools Honor Nazis

Palestinians have named three schools after Nazi collaborators, as well as after terrorists. One school was named after Nazi collaborator and war criminal Amin Al-Husseini and two others were named after Nazi collaborator Hassan Salameh.

“Obviously, schools are named after people whom the Palestinian Authority (PA) Ministry of Education sees as role models for the students to emulate,” PMW underscored. Ensuring that the educational message is emphasized, **at least two schools have posted pictures of Hitler with the text:**

Hitler said: “I could have annihilated all of the Jews in the world, but I left a few so that you would know *why* I annihilated them.”

Hitler Admiration Passed on to the Next Generation

This reverent view of Hitler is being passed on to Palestinian youth through cultural and recreational means as well.



Palestinian-Arab leader Amin Al-Husseini (L) collaborated with Adolf Hitler.

Zayzafuna, a Palestinian children’s magazine funded by the PA, published a submission by a 10th grade Palestinian girl that presented Hitler not only as a positive figure but one to be admired because he killed Jews in order to benefit all humanity.

The girl’s submission describes her dream in which she meets four “heroic” historical figures and has a conversation with each of them. Three of them are renowned Muslims; the fourth is Hitler.

“You’re the one who killed the Jews?” she says to Hitler in her dream. “Yes. I killed them so you would all know that they are a nation that spreads destruction all over the world. And what I ask of you is to be resilient and patient concerning the suffering that Palestine is experiencing at their hands,” he responds.

Although repugnant, a Palestinian teenager’s admiration for Hitler because he killed Jews, alongside other Muslim terrorist role models, is not unexpected. **Palestinian children are indoctrinated to believe that killing Israelis and Jews is heroic.** The PA has named streets, schools, sporting events, etc. after Palestinian terrorists who have killed hundreds of Israeli civilians.

PMW stated: “It is not surprising that a Palestinian child who has been educated to see those who have murdered Jews as heroes and role models will conclude that Hitler, the one who murdered the most Jews in history, is likewise worthy of admiration.” ★





Media Bias

An Israeli vacationing in Europe is visiting the local zoo when he sees a little boy slip and fall into the lion exhibit. The lion suddenly charges the boy and is about to maul him, right in front of his screaming parents.

The Israeli leaps into the den and hits the lion on the nose with a powerful Krav Maga* punch. The stunned lion jumps back, and the Israeli carries the terrified child to his grateful parents.

A newspaper reporter watches the whole event and exclaims to the Israeli: "That was the bravest thing I ever saw!" The Israeli replies, "Thank you, but it was my duty. I saw that little boy in danger and had to do something."

The reporter says, "I'll make sure this gets noticed. This will be on tomorrow's front page. Where are you from and what do you do for a living?" The Israeli replies, "I'm from Israel and serve in the IDF!"

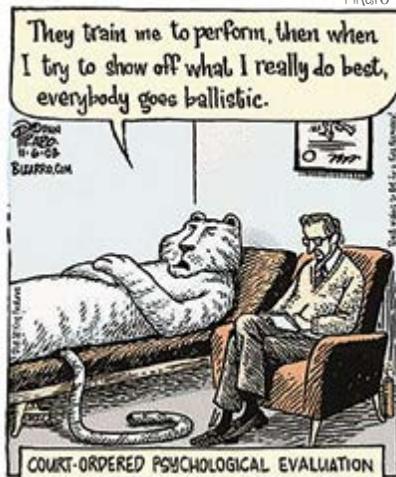
The reporter smiles. "Your bravery will show my anti-Semitic editor how positive we Jews can be."

The next morning, the Israeli buys the local paper and checks the front page. The headline reads: "Israeli Soldier Assaults African Immigrant and Steals His Lunch."

* Krav Maga: A form of defensive martial arts that the Israeli army developed in the 1940s. ★

BIZARRO.COM

by Dan P. Raro



Answer Key for August 2021 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

- 3. Perform
- 6. God
- 9. Bethel
- 11. Nation
- 13. Appeared
- 14. Country
- 17. War
- 18. Israel
- 19. Ladder

Down:

- 1. Altar
- 2. Fear
- 4. Multiply
- 5. Covenant
- 7. Dust
- 8. Land
- 10. Inherit
- 12. Courage
- 15. Reigned
- 16. Bless
- 17. Whole



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