



Levitt LETTER

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

Thankful for His Provision

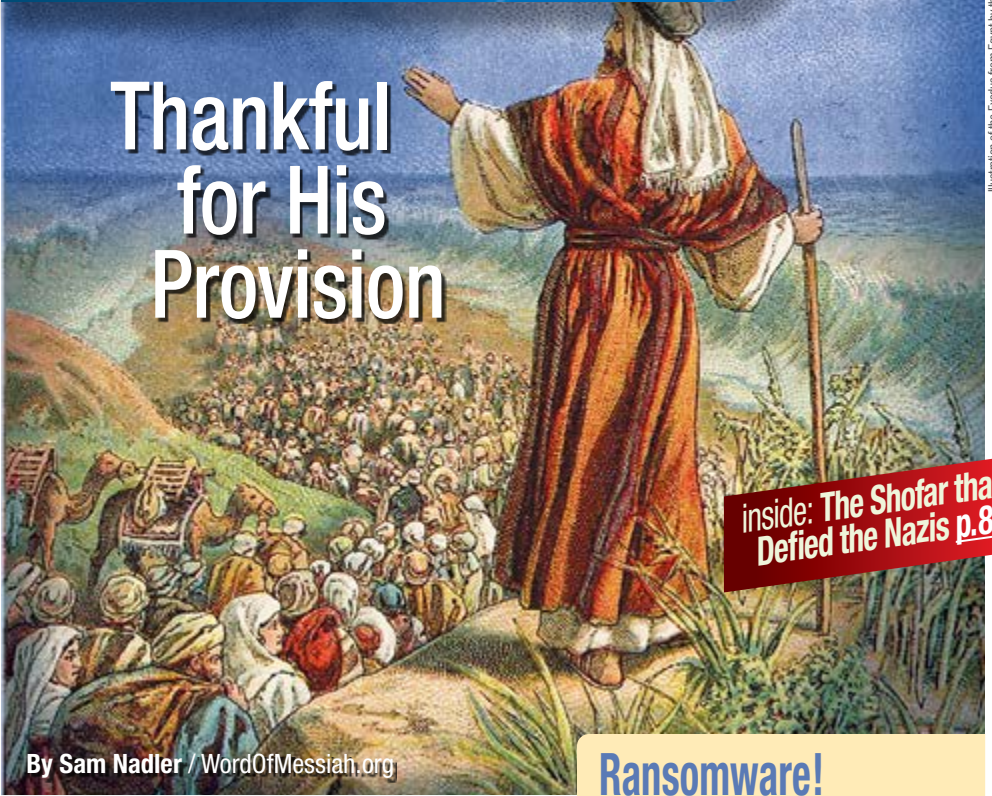


Illustration of the Exodus from Egypt by the Providence Lithograph Company, 1907

inside: **The Shofar that Defied the Nazis** p.8

By Sam Nadler / WordOfMessiah.org

The Feast of Booths (*Sukkot*) is a harvest festival. Sukkot was a way of both looking back to remember God's provision in the Wilderness for 40 years and also rejoicing in God's goodness and blessing of the present harvest in the Promised Land. As a harvest feast, it reminds Believers of the Lord's wonderful provision for our lives. One of the provisions from the Lord is His security when we are vulnerable.

In the Wilderness, the desert tribes living there considered the Israelites easily conquerable. But the Lord was their secret weapon that guaranteed victory. As Israel was redeemed from Egyptian bondage by God's power, so they were kept through the Wilderness trials by God's power. It was all the sovereign work of God. Sukkot reminds us of Passover, in which we

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REMEMBER: (all holidays are from sunset to sunset)
Rosh Hashanah 5782 Sept. 6 to Sept. 8
Yom Kippur Sept. 15 to Sept. 16
Sukkot Sept. 20 to Sept. 27

Ransomware!

By Greg Hartwig
levitt.com webmaster

Ransomware, in the news recently due to high-profile attacks on large companies and infrastructure, has been around since at least 1989.



Computer viruses started out mostly as pranks or to damage systems for revenge. They would display a message on the screen and then make the computer crash. Eventually, someone decided to make money from them. Cryptocurrencies, like Bitcoin in 2010, made payments untrackable and anonymous.

Ransomware can also affect home users. Ransomware is a virus that damages your computer files, but the damage can be reversed... if you pay the ransom. Rather than ask for an

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Thankful for His Provision *continued from cover*

see the secret to enjoying both the sufficiency and security that the Lord has for our lives. **During Sukkot, God commanded His people to dwell in a booth (*sukkah*) for seven days as a memorial.** The booth symbolizes not only freedom from bondage but also true security in God.

In our “wilderness journey” today, reliance upon Him is still our hope and protection. Sukkot reminds us that the people of God can never live as if we could manage spiritually on our own (Leviticus 23:43). We need the Lord. He is our sufficiency. As illustrated in the Wilderness, our protection is in the Lord, for He Himself is our Booth (John 1:1, 14).

Our Covering

The word *sukkah* means “to cover,” as in protection. God’s hand was Moses’ *sukkah* in the cleft of the rock. When Moses asked the Lord to show him His glory, God said to Moses: *“Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passes by, that I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand while I pass by”* (Exodus 33:21–22).

King David acknowledged that the Lord was a *sukkah* of protection in his battles. He praised God with this song of deliverance from Psalm 140:7, *“O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, Thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.”*

Our Protection

In the Kingdom, Messiah will be all the protection Israel or any nation will ever need. Our security is not found in our own abilities or possessions, but in Him, our *Sukkah*. Though to the world we may look weak and frail, in Messiah we are secure and strong. He will cover and protect us. Paul seems to hint at this very idea when he writes, *“Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creature; the*

old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Sukkot testifies to the transitional nature of this world and helps us remember the temporary nature of this life. There was no true rest in the Wilderness. The booth itself had to be a temporary dwelling; we are to *“dwell in a temporary abode”* (Leviticus 23:42).

Whatever you and I own now will one day pass away. My certain hope is to one day be with God, in the true Promised Land of Heaven. Even the Patriarch Abraham had this hope (Hebrews 11:9–10). Like Abraham, we also look forward to our heavenly home, which our Lord has gone ahead of us to prepare (John 14:2–3).

Our Eternal Sukkah

One day we will be in the very presence of the Lord, and still Sukkot will be pictured as the eternal hope of all who believe in Yeshua. There will be no more hunger, thirst, or weeping because *“the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes”* (Revelation 7:17). We will be covered by *“the Lord’s tabernacle [*sukkah*]”* (Revelation 7:15). Every nation, tribe, people, and language will give honor and praise to Yeshua, the Lamb, *“when He comes, in that day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe”* (2 Thessalonians 1:10). This will happen because Messiah our *Sukkah* will dwell among us (Revelation 21:3).

Let us be thankful for His protection and provision in all circumstances, and appreciate the covering He provides in all seasons of our lives.

Christian Believers* don’t need to dwell in a booth for seven days, but we revere this symbolic Fall Feast that our Lord Himself celebrated. Please also see *The Covenants of God* DVDs and CD on [p. 17](#). — David ★

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





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Jewish Heritage Calendar

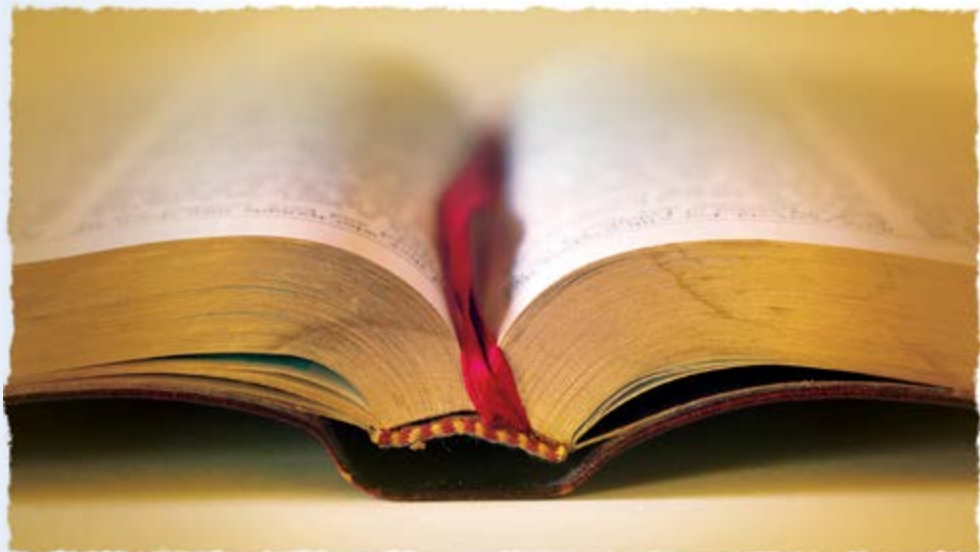
5782 (2021–2022)

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.



Praising God for His Word—Psalm 119:33–56

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



This teaching from Psalm 119 began last month. Some sections are similar in content, so we pick up our survey at verse 33.

1. Teach Me Your Ways (119:33–40)

In this section, David admits that the steady life of faith can be achieved only by divine guidance. He knows that to delight in the Lord is the pathway to living a victorious life. *"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart"* (Psalm 37:4).

David was thoughtful in his desire to lead a devoted life in the Lord. We often think only of David's failures, but his main desire was to please God. That is a lesson we can all learn from the life of David.

In verses 37–40, we find David praying for restraining grace so that he might stay focused on accomplishing God's purpose in his life. That is good advice for all of us. It is necessary to draw aside from time to time and be certain we are continuing in the way God has chosen for us. **We cannot do any better than to reverence the Word of God and listen to His voice.**

2. Surround Me with Your Lovingkindness (119:41–48)

Don't you love the practicality in the writings of David? Don't you want to be surrounded by God's lovingkindness?

David knew from experience that his faith would be put to the test, and reminded each of us to hold steady in the laws and commands of God. He understood that the only true liberty was in God.

In verses 45–48, David notes five endeavors he

(continued next page)



Detail of *The Psalmist David: Repentance*, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



Detail of *The Psalmist David: Worship*, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld





will commit to because of God’s lovingkindness.

- 1) **Verse 45** — *“And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.”* To walk at liberty is to walk in God’s mercy and freedom.
- 2) **Verse 46** — *“I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”* David tells us to never shy away from speaking God’s truth in an unbelieving world.
- 3) **Verse 47** — *“And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love.”*
- 4) **Verse 48** — *“My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.”* David commits to being diligent in his duties to God. The act of lifting up hands toward the heavens is a sign of total commitment.
- 5) **Again in verse 48** — David encourages each of us to be thoughtful in our commitment to God. We should all be unapologetic about our faith.

3. The Continuing Comfort of Your Word (119:49–56)

David sets his hope on the Word of God in verse 49. In the broader perspective, the Word of God is the message of salvation, the revelation of all that God wants us to know about Him, and the order of things to come.

In the next four verses, David reflects on the comfort that God’s Word brings during the most difficult circumstances of life. He finds solace in the fact that no matter the outside pressures of unbelievers, he will continue to rely on the unchanging Word of God.

Verses 54–56 are reminders to all of us that David was a singer of songs. That is an example we can all emulate. Even if you can’t “carry a tune in a bucket,” as the old saying goes, we should all have a song in our heart praising God for His Word. ★



Detail of *The Psalmist David: Praise*,
woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



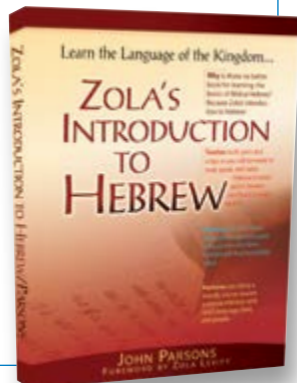
[Zola's Introduction to Hebrew](#) study book

There is no better book for learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Unlike most academic books on Biblical Hebrew, this course provides a step-by-step approach for you to understand the Hebraic mindset while learning the alphabet and vowel signs. Studying at your own pace, you will master the Hebrew alphabet, sound out Hebrew words, and connect your studies to your heart by reading Hebrew prayers, blessings, and passages from Scripture!

You can pay more on Amazon, but we sell it for just \$39 + shipping.

400+ pages



We Want That Too!

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



Michelle Ruggles lived in the yellow house up the street. We were in the same grade at Lore Elementary School, and we both walked to school. We both played in the treehouse her dad built, but there was one big difference between us: She always had the cool clothes way before I did.

In 5th grade, Michelle got her first pair of Earth Shoes. They were the coolest shoes I had ever seen! I desperately wanted a pair, too. In 6th grade, as Earth Shoes were losing their “cool” factor, my mom finally bought me an off-brand pair that slightly resembled the sleek leather lines I had been craving the year before. It wasn’t fun as a child when I saw other children enjoying what I desperately wanted.

The Israelites felt the same way about their leaders.

Other nations had kings; why couldn't *they*? It didn't seem fair. All they had were judges. When the Israelites approached Samuel, the final judge, they asked for a king. *"You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have"* (1 Samuel 8:5). Both Samuel and God (the Great "I Am") knew that this plea would not turn out well.



Saul anointed by Samuel, engraving by an unknown artist in *The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* (1873)

"They have rejected Me as their king" (8:7), God declared to Samuel. From the beginning, God intended to be their Ruler, Provider, Shepherd, and Prime Source. Yet here they were, concerned for their future and wanting what their neighbors had. Yahweh knew that His people would look to their newly appointed earthly king as the source for wisdom, power, and protection.

Last month, this column touched on the term *political idolatry*. It's a trendy term that harks back to the time of Samuel. God warned what would happen under the rule of an earthly king (1 Samuel 8:10–20), but the masses considered the consequences a fair trade. They would now look to an earthly king instead of keeping their eyes focused on their Creator who brought them out of Egypt and consistently provided for their every need.

Any time we take our eyes off of our Heavenly Source and place our faith in an earthly leader (no matter who he is or what political leaning), we engage in idolatry.

Even if the president is a Christian? Yes.

Do we pray for our leaders? Most definitely (1 Tim 2:1–2). Yet we must never forget Who is our Ultimate Source and Leader. We must pledge our allegiance to, and trust in, only the Great "I Am." ★



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Ransomware!

continued from cover sidebar

exorbitant amount of money, the criminals now usually ask for a smaller sum, making it easier for you to pay than fight. Quantity over quality pays off for them.

Ransomware, like other computer viruses, usually needs your help to infect your machine. It needs you to approve what looks like an important update installation, or open an infected Word document or PDF file that looks like, for example, an important invoice sent to you.

Viruses use intimidation and fear to get you to allow them to infect your computer. They warn that if you don't install something (like a security update), bad things will happen to your computer, using computer gibberish to make you feel stupid for not understanding. They imitate authority figures like Apple, Microsoft, or well-known anti-virus software. They want you to panic and make bad decisions.

Viruses can be a serious problem, *but don't be intimidated!* Many are actually hoaxes. Some websites that accept comments have security flaws that allow them to become infected. A visit to one of their pages may produce a sudden pop-up on your screen — possibly with a siren sound — saying, for example, “Microsoft Antivirus Services has detected a virus on your computer! Not removing it will cause PERMANENT DAMAGE to your computer! We can remove this for only \$45.” Thinking this a fair price for security, you submit your credit card information and the “threat” that wasn't really there goes away.

REMEDY

Neither Microsoft nor Apple does this. If it happens to you, quit your web browser if you can, or shut down and restart your computer. Having good computer backups can protect

against viruses. There are many backup solutions for Macs and PCs.

Apple's Time Machine program automatically backs up any changed file. You can back up to a local disk but also consider having an online “cloud” backup. Backblaze, iDrive, and Carbonite charge an annual fee but their backups can hide better from viruses that might try to damage your local backup. Most offer trial periods. Find trustworthy reviews at pcmag.com and tomsguide.com.

Virus prevention tips:

1. Do not open documents from unknown sources, especially if it sounds essential to do so.
2. If you get a scary alert, be very suspicious if it asks for money to fix it. Try restarting first.
3. Install system security patches regularly. Some viruses don't need your permission to exploit flaws.
4. Make sure any website you sign on to (entering a user name and password) is legitimate. For example, make sure it's **facebook.com** and not **facebook.login.hacker.com**.
5. An email claiming “they” have your passwords and are spying on you at your computer is a hoax. They may show you one password retrieved from a hacked site as proof, but this is a hoax. The same for emails claiming the police are about to arrest you if you don't pay a fine. Do not send them money!
6. If your files do become damaged by ransomware, consider seeking professional help to get your files restored from your backup system. Paying criminals for help is a last resort. ★



The Shofar that Defied the Nazis



PART 1 BY RALPH BLUMENTHAL (r) NYTimes.com

For years there have been fragmentary reports of almost unbelievable acts of faith at the Nazi death camps during World War II: the sounding of shofars, the ram's horn trumpets traditionally blown by Jews to welcome the High Holy Days. These stories of persistent hope even in mankind's darkest moments have been passed down despite limited evidence and eyewitness detail.

But could camp prisoners have found ways to sound these horns, piercing the heavens with sob-like wails and staccato blasts, without putting themselves in immediate mortal danger?

Now a new account that addresses that question, and is embraced by several historians as reliable, has emerged from the daughter of an Auschwitz survivor, along with one of the secreted shofars itself.

Dr. Judith Tydor Schwartz, an expert on the Holocaust, says her father, Chaskel Tydor, a longtime prisoner entrusted as work dispatcher at one of the more than 40 Auschwitz subcamps, contrived on Rosh Hashanah 1944 to send fellow prisoners on a distant detail where they might safely, and privately, pray. He did not know that they carried something with them. But when they returned, she said, one confided to her father that a shofar had been produced and blown.

What is more, according to the account of Dr. Schwartz, who directs Holocaust research at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, her father was given the shofar for safekeeping in 1945 by a fellow prisoner as the Nazis emptied the camp and fled the advancing Russians. **That ceremonial ram's horn, about 10 inches long with a right-angled curve like a smoking pipe, was installed at the Museum of Jewish Heritage near Battery Park in Manhattan** as part of "Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away," a traveling exhibition from Poland. [The Polish exhibit is now at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri through January 2022.] While it may never be possible to fully corroborate the story of the museum's shofar, Holocaust historians say it is credible, and resembles other witness accounts of concentration camp shofars and is more detailed.

Dr. Schwartz said she was lending the shofar as additional evidence of the lengths to which imprisoned Jews went to practice their religion in the face of their German tormentors. Their efforts included the mouthing of blessings

(continued next page)



Chaskel Tydor, a survivor of Auschwitz, described for his family how, despite the danger, this shofar, or ceremonial ram's horn, was blown at the camp during prayers.

credit: Landon Spears for The New York Times





credit:
Landon Speers
for The New York Times

during beatings and the trading away of bread rations during Passover when leavened products are forbidden. Abandoned oil drums at Auschwitz, the complex of extermination and forced labor camps in German-occupied Poland where about 1.1 million victims perished, were used in place of traditional huts for contemplation during the harvest festival of Sukkot. Rabbis in the camp decreed that even one minute spent inside was a sufficient *mitzvah* (fulfilling a commandment). And then there were the shofars whose bleats are meant to variously recall Abraham's sacrifice of a ram in place of his son Isaac, the summoning of the Israelites to Sinai for Moses' giving of the law, and the most fervent expression of Jewish hope — "next year in Jerusalem."

"Through the Lens of Faith," a 2019–2020 installation at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oswiecim, Poland, cited a 14-year-old prisoner, Wolf Greenbaum, who saw a rabbi visiting a doomed barracks at Birkenau on Rosh Hashanah 1944 and blowing a smuggled shofar there. Yad Vashem in Jerusalem displays a shofar fabricated in 1943 in the Nazi labor camp of Skarzysko-Kamienna. "In Auschwitz," said Robert Jan van Pelt, a Holocaust scholar and chief curator of the Museum of Jewish Heritage's exhibition in New York, "we know from a number of eyewitness testimonies that shofars were blown." But where and how were they hidden? How did they make their way into the camps? And how did their sounding go unpunished? Accounts say guards were bribed and distracted by prisoners. "If it's one thing I know from all the thousands of survivors I interviewed," Dr. Schwartz said, "it's that the impossible was possible, both to the bad and the good."

Some shofars likely arrived in Auschwitz in mid-1944 with the 440,000 deported Hungarian Jews. Their belongings, left at the camp's railway platform known as "the ramp" where arrivals were selected to live or die, were stockpiled at Birkenau in an immense goods warehouse dubbed "Canada," whose loot was often smuggled out.

Schemes were hatched in the repulsive latrines, where guards disdained to enter. Jack Kliger, the president and chief executive officer of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the child of Holocaust survivors, said he remembers hearing from a friend of his parents that a shofar had sounded at Auschwitz. "If there's an artifact that symbolizes the Jewish soul," Mr. Kliger noted, "you'd be hard-pressed to find something more indicative than a shofar."

Curators say it will be placed in a case with another rare treasure — a prayer shawl, rescued by another prisoner of Auschwitz and on loan from the Amud Aish Memorial Museum in Brooklyn.

Next month: Chaskel Tydor's story

Please share articles like this one with people who need to learn about the bravery of Holocaust victims. —David ★

Dry Bones



“I will curse him that curses thee” (Genesis 12:3)

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1991
30 years ago



God's Covenant with Abraham, from *Bible Primer—Old Testament*, published by Adolf Hult (1869–1943)

God arbitrarily chose an average people, and the world has hated them as though they were the worst possible choice.

As far as signs of the End go, these days we are much more familiar with “wars and rumors of wars” (since we’ve got plenty of that), and with famine, pestilence, earthquakes, and the like, which are often mentioned in prophecy teaching. But the Lord, in the same passage (Matt. 24, the Olivet Discourse), clearly stated the dire consequences of the Tribulation Period for Israel: “...and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake” (Matt. 24:9). Also, as we pointed out in a previous letter, there has to be some rationale for the world to side with the antiChrist in his Tribulation Period invasion of Israel (when he blasphemes in the Temple in Jerusalem — 2 Thes. 2:3, 4).

The anti-Israel actions of the present administration [George H.W. Bush] — the failure to veto the UN peace conference resolution or the criticism of Israeli West Bank policies, for example — seem to be part of the picture. There is an inexplicable turning away from Israel that will lead to spiritual death, not just for this nation but for the whole world, in the End Times to come. It is as sure a sign of the End as the false christs, false prophets, and other signs mentioned above.

To give some examples of this “turning away from Israel,” we have the very idea of our government trying to talk with the PLO a year ago, or President G.H.W. Bush’s visit to Syrian dictator Hafez Assad, Israel’s most indefatigable enemy. To see an American president stoop to shaking hands with a murderer like Assad (who is unquestionably involved with the bombing of Pan Am 103 and any



President George H. W. Bush (1989)

(continued next page)





credit:
Air Accident
Investigation
Branch



Hafez al-Assad (c. 1987)

number of other terrorist as-
saults) was shocking enough,
but now we continue to appease
Arab tyrants by wanting to send
the Secretary of State to Baghdad.
Imagine — first the PLO, then Syria,
and now Baghdad! How long has it been
since President Bush visited his most staunch ally in
the whole world, the Israeli government in Jerusalem?

We somehow have the idea that Arab butchers
can be negotiated with or reasoned with. In effect,
we merely persuade them that we are stooges and
decrease their fear of us as supporters and defenders of Israel.

Sometimes anti-Semitism comes from Jews. Jewish tours are canceling right
and left, but ours and many other Christian tours continue going to Israel.
Christians, of course, don't live in a state of fear. They **are, generally, better
supporters of the Promised Land than the Jews themselves**, because Believers
are better Bible readers. Our own tours continue as usual — right through the
Intifada and the Persian Gulf situation — encountering no problems whatever.
We always visit the Western Wall at the Temple Mount, but the United Jewish
Appeal canceled its visits to the Wall. What a shame, and I mean that word
literally. (See our upcoming tour announcements [on p. 36]. Going to Israel at
this time with our Bible study tour, or another group, would be a real vote of
confidence in Israel and a fine witness to the Jews.)

Then we have the sort of neighborhood cases of the
country clubs that don't admit Jews, like the Dallas
Country Club and many others. TV news reported
the case of Henry Bloch, who founded the famous
H & R Bloch Tax Service and was denied membership
in a Kansas country club because he's Jewish. A rather
famous member, U.S. Open champion Tom Watson,
resigned because of that. Watson must have read
Matthew 25:40, *"And the King shall answer and say
unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have
done it unto one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done it unto Me."* (Black Americans made
tremendous strides this year by protesting their exclusion from country clubs,
but Jewish people so fear anti-Semitism that they feel they dare not protest.)



credit: AFP/Black

Henry W. Bloch in 1980

We previously cited the case of Bob Irsay, [Jewish] owner of the Indianapolis
Colts football team, who referred to ESPN sports commentator Fred Edelstein
as follows: "a little Jewish boy, and he doesn't know what he's talking about."
Few even noticed the story. But imagine the headlines if a similar remark were
made about a Black man (He's a little Black boy), a gay man (He's a little gay
boy), or a Moslem, as examples.

The president's absurd comparison of Saddam Hussein with Hitler was also
anti-Semitic. Certainly Hussein is tyrannical, but common sense tells us that
Hitler has no peer. Since Hitler's actions were particularly committed against
Jews, Jews are deeply wounded by the president's insensitivity.

Next month, Zola's 1991 observations lead him into the realm of prophecy.

Many optimists imagined that anti-Semitism would have disappeared by now.
Eventually, we'll have peace and Biblical prophecy hand-in-hand. — Kirsten ★



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Repentance

PART 2

Dr. Todd Baker
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In [part 1](#), we learned that *to repent* means “to turn around,” to acknowledge our sin, admit our guilt, and desire to turn around our life and head toward God.

**Q. Why should we repent?
What will we gain?**

A. Real repentance will produce, through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, a transformed life — from an unGodly existence to following a Godly path in devotion to Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:28). Repentance means turning away from sin and disobedience and adhering instead to trust and obedience to God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Real repentance is a change of attitude and mind, agreeing with God’s view on sin and the need for salvation in Jesus Christ. The publican’s penitential plea in Luke 18:13 truly expressed the attitude of the repentant sinner: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” Eight times in the second and third chapters of Revelation, Jesus commanded Christians in the Church to repent (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21–22; 3:3, 19). The Believer should live a life of daily repentance, because in “many things we offend all” and fall short of God’s perfect standard (James 3:2).

Christians can ask God *directly* to forgive them. From His Word, we have the assurance that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7–10). Repentance, turning around, is a necessary part of salvation. Jesus made preaching repentance a part of reaching out to the nations with the Gospel (Luke 24:47). The Book of Acts repeats the need for repentance throughout (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30; 26:20).

Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin. Repentance is not something we do to earn salvation. God gives us repentance by His grace (Acts 5:31; 11:18). Repentance is God’s kindness, given to sinners so that they may trust in Jesus to be saved (Rom. 2:4–5). God commands all people to repent (Acts 17:30). Jesus said that unless sinners repent, they will all perish (Luke 13:5)! So, repent and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation so that you will prosper.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

— Acts 3:19 ★



To
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In Jerusalem's Old City

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



This report details a previous year's outreach because of the pandemic's travel restrictions. — Editor

Our **To The Jew First** team members spent the day ministering the Gospel (*Ha Besorah*) in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City at the Mamilla Mall. Meeting again with **Ze'ev**, August Rosado and I learned that he wants to start a Jerusalem chapter of the Jewish Legion. Before Israel's rebirth in 1948, the Jewish Legion was a special regiment of the British

Army, fighting against the Ottoman Turks and later the German Nazis.

On a previous visit, August and I had shared with Ze'ev Bible prophecy about the Messiah's future reign



Ze'ev

from a restored Israel. We'd run out of Hebrew study Bibles and had promised to bring one next time. When **Ze'ev** saw that the Bible we now brought him was "complete" (including a New Testament), he jokingly asked, "Are you guys trying to sell Jesus to me?"

We lightheartedly (but with reverent intent) replied that Scripture teaches that salvation is free, paid for in full by Jesus/Yeshua the Messiah (Isaiah 55:1; Ephesians 2:8–9). We further explained that because Yeshua is the greatest Jew ever, Israelis need to read what God says about Him in the Hebrew Scriptures. We gently asked Ze'ev to accept a complete Hebrew Bible from us to see the evidence identifying this Yeshua as the one true Messiah of Israel. Yeshua offers the New Covenant to Israel first in order that they might

be saved through His atoning death (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

Ze'ev was persuaded by God's Spirit to accept our offer.

The next day, we walked Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem and had a very moving ministry with **Rivka** at a store selling skincare products. At first, Rivka rejected the idea that Yeshua and the *Brit Hadashah* (NT) are integral parts of the Jewish world. By the persuasive power of the Holy Spirit and Messianic prophecy, however, August and I were able to show that Moses and the prophets of the *Tanakh* (OT) prophesied Yeshua as the Messiah.

Rivka read Jeremiah 31:31–34 in the *Tanakh*, where God declared that He would make a New Covenant with Israel. This information astounded Rivka and exposed the erroneous rabbinic creation of a false dichotomy between 1) the Jewishness of Yeshua and the New Testament and 2) the Jewish people and culture.

Rivka was delighted to discover that a **Jewish person can believe in Yeshua as Messiah and remain Jewish.**

In fact, to believe in Him for salvation from sin is exactly what the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob wants every Jewish person to do (John 6:29)! The Spirit of God changed Rivka's initial rejection to acceptance and opened her to welcome a complete Hebrew Bible from us. ★



Rivka



Beware of Greeks Bearing ... Vouchers?!

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



The adage “Beware of Greeks bearing gifts” originates from Greek mythology’s story of the Trojan War (1194–1184 B.C.). In Virgil’s poem *Aeneid* (ca. 30–19 B.C.), the Greeks leave their large wooden horse as a “peace offering” at the city of Troy’s gates and sail away in supposed defeat. The unsuspecting Trojans wheel the horse as a trophy into their city unaware that its belly contains soldiers who will conquer them. Today, the phrase cautions people not to trust others blindly.

BIZARRO.COM

by Dan Piraro



Last fall, many tour agencies in Greece offered vouchers in lieu of refunding five-figure deposits. Group tour companies like Zola Tours (ZT) had made initial payments months earlier toward Greek extensions for their Israel tours. Last year’s tours were canceled, of course, due to COVID-19. **Zola Tours declined the voucher and are grateful to have received our refund in full.**

Today, with the blessing of Greece’s ministry of tourism, many (if not most) Greek tourism enterprises continue

withholding client [deposits](#). These involuntary loans (with neither interest nor collateral) are not payable until January 2022. ZT tour partner Universal Travel DMC in Athens, however, returned ZT’s seed money, which I believe put them ahead of their competition. Therefore, Zola Tours passengers didn’t lose a nickel; ZT promptly issued full refunds.

For anyone who might value such vouchers, I ask, “How will these other Greek companies be able to pay deposits to cruise lines, etc. *next year* if they’re unable to refund those amounts *now*?” **Potential tourists to Greece should ask group tour companies this question: “Has your agency been able to refund your deposit like Zola Tours’s did?”**

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be” (per Shakespeare and Prov. 22:7). Some borrowers press lenders to throw good money after bad (“The best way to rescue your five-figure deposit is to send us your pending trip’s six-figure final payment.”). Zola Tours will return to Greece in 2022 thanks to our vendor there who passed a *stress test* of sorts (a term borrowed from banking). We are grateful for our decades-long relationship with this devoted Christian agency.

Prospective Israel tour passengers shopping for Greek extensions should ask prospective group tour companies the question suggested above: whether their 2020 deposits came back from Greek vendors as refunds ... or merely vouchers. Otherwise, for them, 2022’s Trojan Horse might deliver more vouchers.

P.S. Immanuel Tours, our Messianic land agency in Israel, doesn’t require deposits from Zola Tours and is probably as financially stable as they come.

Imagine touring the Greek Islands on a luxurious cruise ship with us! — Kirsten ★



Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

ZLM Bulletin Board

Hogan's [Jewish] Heroes (part 2)

In the TV comedy series (1965–1971), inmates of a German WWII POW camp make fools of their warders. August's *LL* revealed that two star actors were Jews who had fled Nazi persecution. Jewish actors also portrayed these characters:



1) **Corporal Louis LeBeau** — **Robert Clary** (right) Clary sang and danced to survive a Nazi concentration camp. Young and immature at the time, Clary later confessed, "I don't know if I'd have survived if I'd realized the situation I was in."

2) **General Burkhalter** — **Leon Askin** (left top) Born Leon Aschenasy in Austria, he fled to the United States in 1940 after being beaten and abused by the Nazi SA and SS. His parents were murdered in the Treblinka death camp. Askin served in WWII as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Forces.

3) **Major Wolfgang Hochstetter** — **Howard Caine** (left bottom) Born Howard Cohen in Tennessee, Caine served in the Pacific Theater during WWII.



GIVING THROUGH LIFE INSURANCE

Israel's Airborne Laser Interception

Israeli air defenses include Iron Dome (destroys short-range rockets and artillery shells), David's Sling (counters medium- to long-range rockets and missiles), Arrow 2 (intercepts short- and medium-range ballistic missiles), and Arrow 3 (the world's most advanced long-range missile interceptor). Now Israel is among the first nations to intercept and destroy threats from the air using high-power lasers that incinerate threats at up to 0.6 miles. A ground-based, 100-kilowatt prototype with a range of 12.5 miles will be operative in a few years.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Life insurance is an especially flexible planning tool that can be used to meet a variety of personal financial needs. The pamphlet **Giving Through Life Insurance** includes six questions to determine whether a gift of life insurance would make sense for you. It also offers seven ways to give charitably using life insurance. A table summarizes tax benefits, and the Technical Advisory Section addresses basic tax rules and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #15.**



Zola's Free Music

You can listen to samples on our website, buy CDs in our online store or MP3s from Amazon, Apple, and Google. You can also listen to Zola's music via streaming services such as Spotify and YouTube Music. Some services require a subscription to listen, but these two will allow you to listen for free (with ads). Search for "zola levitt" on your favorite streaming service and see what you find. Also, if you hear Zola music somewhere, Pandora can identify it.

"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Beware of False Prophets

יֵשׁוּעַ דֶּרֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְפָנֵי אִישׁ וְאַחֲרֵיהָ דַּרְכֵי מָוֶת
 dar'-khei' – ma'-vet ve'-a-cha'-ree-tah' leef-ney' – eesh' ya-shar' de'-rekh yesh'
 the way to death | but its end is | that seems right to a man | there is a way

“There is a way that seems right to a person,
 but its end is the way of death.” - Proverbs 16:25

“Beware of false prophets,” Yeshua warned, *“who come to you in sheep’s clothing (literally, “the skins of sheep”) but who inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits”* (Matt. 7:15–16; cp. [compare] 2 Pet. 2:1). However, because they come in disguise, pretending to be “children of light,” we must be all the more vigilant. On the one hand, we must beware of those who “wrap themselves in a *tallit* (Jewish prayer shawl)” (legalists) and teach that we should come under the yoke of Sinai (Matt. 23:15). On the other hand, we must beware of those who minimize words of the holy Torah, who falsely claim that the way to Heaven is “broad,” and that we are therefore “free” to walk after our hearts’ desires (antinomians). We must use Godly discernment, friends. **Note this well: the LORD allows false teachers in our midst to test our hearts:** “For there must be (δεῖ) factions among you so that those who are genuine among you may be recognized” (1 Cor. 11:19).

Therefore, “test the spirits” to see if they are “of God.” That is, test whether they focus on the righteousness of God given exclusively through Yeshua — the “narrow way that leads to life” (Matt. 7:14) — or whether they focus on something else. The Holy Spirit always centers the heart on the glory of God revealed in Yeshua (John 16:14; 1 Cor. 2:2).

It is written in our Scriptures, “Watch out, friends, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God, but exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deception” (Heb. 3:12–13). Note that the Greek word translated “exhort” here (i.e., *parakaleo*) comes from the same root used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit to strengthen God’s people: As Yeshua said: “But the *Parakletos* [ὁ παράκλητος], the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Each and every day, then, we need exhortation from one another to remind us of what is real, to encourage us to turn toward the Living God. **As we surrender our hearts to serve as vessels of God’s Spirit, we are empowered to remain steadfast and constant in our devotion, and our hearts are guarded from the temptation to despair. ★**



[The Covenants of God](#)

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The covenants that God made with men throughout the Bible act as guideposts for understanding Scripture. In this series, Zola reviews the eight major Covenants by analyzing verses and interviewing experts.

We now live under the New Covenant, which will be completed when our Lord returns.

Edenic Covenant Made with Adam (mankind) before man's fall. Physicist Gerald Schroeder explains how a 15 billion-year-old universe does not contradict a six-day creation.

Adamic and Noahic Covenants God's covenant with Adam after the fall promised a Redeemer. His covenant with Noah established human government.

Abrahamic Covenant Confirmed the Adamic promise of redemption and founded the nation of Israel.

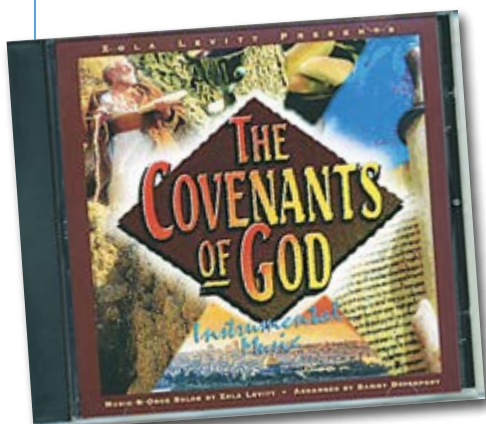
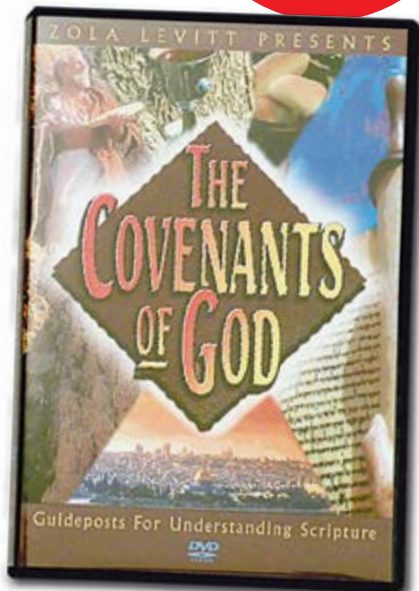
Mosaic Covenant Gave Israel commandments, judgments, and ordinances because "Man's heart is evil" (Genesis 8:21).

Land Covenant Secured the final restoration of Israel.

Davidic Covenant Established David's kingdom forever and God's plan of redemption through the future Messiah.

New Covenant Rests on the sacrifice of Christ and secures unconditional eternal life with Him for Believers. Zola's interviews focus on the relationship of Jews and Christians.

Review Understanding God's Covenants enriches our faith and expands our knowledge of the great Creator we are privileged to call "Father." To Him be the glory forever!



[The Covenants of God](#) Music CD

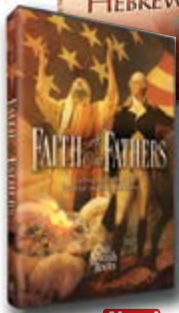
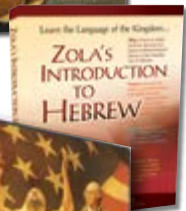
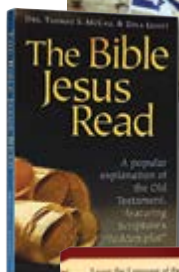
Composed by Zola and played by him on his 1941 Lorée oboe, this album's music reflects the beauty Zola saw, the sadness he felt, and the pure inspiration God gave him. Heavenly!

All of Zola's music is available online in CD or digital format.

Please see Thankful for His Provision on [the cover](#).

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___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In?	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (Barton)	\$6	___
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___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2	___
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___	Gospel According to Isaiah	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Holocaust	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
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Studies, Specialty, Etc.

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___	Half-shekel Keychain (p.29)	\$15	_____
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___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782 / 2022) (p.3)	\$6	_____
___	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12) (p.36)	\$8	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pro-Israel Button (B) (pictured) (4 of 1 design)	\$6	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	The Classic Zola Collection	79 products for \$999	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____

Teaching CDs

___	The Beginning of the End (includes music)	(2 CDs) \$12	_____
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs) \$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	The Covenants of God (p.17)	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	Love Stories of the Bible (pictured)	(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.

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[Secrets of the Scrolls](#)

[DVD Set](#) (also available as
[a Transcript — eBook only](#))

7 half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls. *Secrets of the Scrolls* gives a historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Terms such as “son of God,” “branch of David,” “stripes or piercings,” “being put to death,” and “raising the dead” all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



The Scrolls — A New Revelation We quickly produced this half-hour program when the DSS first became widely accessible for study. Zola quotes from the Associated Press news release and emphasizes the significance of access.

The Scrolls: Part 2 Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20th century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

The Scrolls: Part 3 During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert H. Eisenman and James M. Robinson.

The Scrolls Special This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. **Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.**

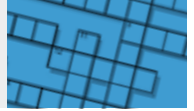
The Wilderness Group Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

In Search of Answers Dr. Eisenman recaps his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

Prof. Michael Wise An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Yeshua. University of Chicago professor Wise helped translate the fragments when they were first released and enthusiastically discusses The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be.

Please see “Dead Sea Scrolls Scholar Flushes Out a Mystery” on [p.32](#).





BIZARROCOM

by Dan Piraro



by Andrea Davis

Crossword
September 2021:
**Rosh Hashanah,
Yom Kippur, Sukkot**
(answers on p. 35)

ACROSS

3. ...and the dead in Christ shall rise ____.
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)
6. Therefore with ____ shall ye draw... (Isaiah 12:3)
8. ...let him come unto Me and _____. (John 7:37)
9. And he shall make an _____. (Leviticus 16:33)
11. ...the joy of the Lord is your _____. (Nehemiah 8:10)
13. ...I Am the ____ your God. (Numbers 10:10)
14. ...ye shall afflict your _____. (Leviticus 16:29)
17. ...shall be the feast of _____. (Leviticus 23:34)
18. The Lord is ____ unto them that wait for Him.
(Lamentations 3:25)
19. ...and they shall be my _____. (Jeremiah 31:1)

DOWN

1. Speak unto the ____ of Israel... (Leviticus 23:24)
2. And the Lord spake unto _____. (Leviticus 23:33)
4. Ye shall dwell in ____ seven days... (Leviticus 23:42)
5. ...and there was very great _____. (Nehemiah 8:17)
7. ...ye shall have an holy _____. (Numbers 29:1)
10. ...thou shalt love thy neighbor as _____.
(Leviticus 19:18)
12. ...a memorial of blowing of _____. (Leviticus 23:24)
15. And thou shalt ____ in thy feast... (Deuteronomy 16:14)
16. ...shall flow rivers of living _____. (John 7:38)





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com and YouTube

From T.R.: I accepted Jesus at age 13; but when I stumbled upon *Return to Galilee* with Zola Levitt, the Lord instilled my love for Israel. As I watched that television series, I wept deeply for Israel. I am convinced that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. **I strongly believe that anyone who does not stand with Israel is not a child of God!** I miss Zola, but I know we will see him soon. Until then, continue in your good works! — Thanks for your encouragement. The teaching in this TV series from several decades ago is timeless. Please spread the word that it's available for free viewing at www.levitt.com (click on Classic Zola Archives under the Zola TV tab). Or go straight to levitt.tv/media/series/VRTG. — Mark

Can't please everyone

Dear ZLM,

My husband and I enjoy reading the *Levitt Letter* but are getting very tired of having to see what we view as propaganda for the vaccine. I've made it to 66 and don't plan to start being injected with the magical cure for the Chinese virus. —K.K. (FL)

Dear ZLM,

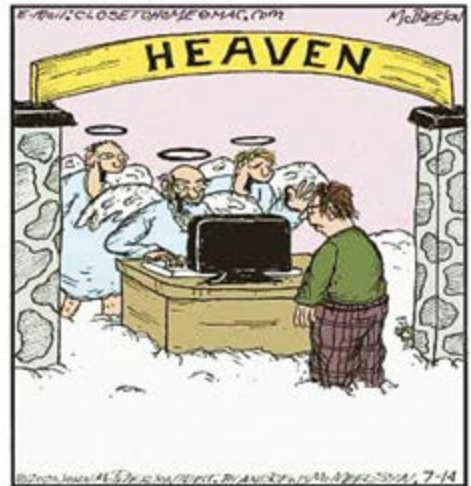
Your ministry responded to letter writers concerned about the coronavirus. Among their points was "It is silly to wear masks because they don't filter out a virus." This is true, but it isn't why we were asked to wear masks. Masks filter out the tiny droplets of moisture that we all expel as we breathe, cough, speak, and sing. The virus is spread by traveling with those droplets. — C.D. (IL)

Dear Readers,

The *Levitt Letter* reprints articles about science and medical breakthroughs in Israel. Use the information how you will. With Christians taking such varied positions on the information surrounding COVID-19, it's fortunate that it isn't a salvation issue. Watching the disparities in infection and death rates between communities of the vaccinated and unvaccinated, one can surmise that one group is going to discover the reality sooner.

Two people argued the merits of the vaccine. One said, "I don't want to be part of your experiment!" The other replied, "You already are: You're in the 'control group.'" Let's keep this newsletter focused on what's important: our crucified and risen Lord. — Editor

CLOSE TO HOME By John McPherson



"Seriously?! You REALLY want to know that? OK ... you spent 147 days, 17 hours and 16 minutes looking for the remote! Ha ha ha!"



(continued next page)

Luther an anti-Semite?

Dear ZLM,

When I google “Adolf Hitler,” Martin Luther’s picture pops up! The reverse is the same; why? —J.P.B.

Dear J.P.B.,

Luther wrote some very inflammatory statements about the Jews after they rejected his arguments for Jesus and would not convert to Christianity. That was Luther’s style when slighted, even with his peers.

His 1543 treatise *On the Jews and Their Lies* is so caustic that it overwhelms his earlier writings, such as his paper from 1523, *That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew*, in which he complained about the Jews’ treatment by some Christians and condemned their persecution.

Hitler used quotes from such a prominent German figure to support his genocide of the Jews, so they are forever linked, even on Google apparently. —Webmaster



Copy of Lucas Cranach the Elder’s original portrait of Martin Luther (1529)

Maintaining access

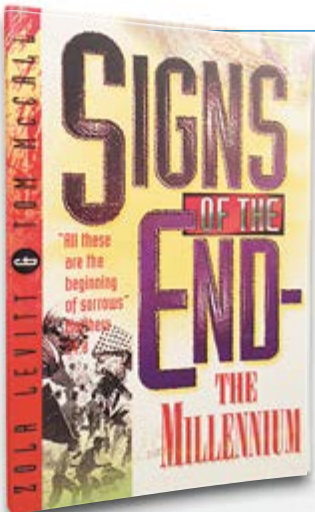
Dear ZLM,

I must have fallen off your mailing list. I hadn’t heard from you for months and thought perhaps Covid had prevented you from producing your newsletter. Then I saw a fellow inmate with his! Yours is the best newsletter that I receive. Please put me back on the list.

We may soon be able to buy electronic tablets. **How can I watch your show?** I love you guys! —J.P. (TX)

Dear J.P.,

Ask and ye shall receive (Matt. 7:7). We’ve reinstated your free subscription. With internet access, you’ll be able to view *Our Jewish Roots* on your tablet 24/7 at levitt.tv. —David ★



Signs of the End — The Millennium study booklet

Three Books in One!

First, the Messiah’s own Words warn about the conditions that will prevail in the world at the end of God’s plan. Are we now approaching the Great Tribulation and the return of our King?

Second, Zola and Dr. Thomas S. McCall offer a Biblical perspective on world events.

Third, their update, *The Millennium*, makes this a prophecy book of the past, present, and future.

(This and many titles also available as eBooks.)

Washington State's 5th-Grade "Native Education" Attacks Israel



BY JONAH COHEN / JNS.org

Public school officials in the state of Washington have inserted the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into mandatory 5th-grade lessons on Native American history. Children as young as 10 are being taught to associate the Native American experience with the Palestinians' "fight to be free from Israeli dominance."

The lesson is part of an otherwise informative Native American curriculum called *Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State*.

Approved by all 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington State, it has since been widely used in K-12 public schools.

Politicization of Israel in Public Schools

The bizarre inclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict seems to be at odds with the curriculum's self-described "place-based approach," which encourages teachers and students to focus on "the context of tribes in their own communities."

"Unfortunately, we're finding this sort of politicization of Israel in public schools across the United States," said Steven Stotsky, who investigates bias in K-12 education for CAMERA International Student Leadership Institute.

"In this case, I find it particularly troubling that the curriculum is being used by anti-Israel activists to divert attention away from Native American history," Stotsky said. "It's as unfair to Native Americans as it is to Jews. Ultimately, it'll damage the credibility of the entire curriculum, as people figure out what's going on."

In response to inquiries, a school official from Washington State's



Flags of the State of Washington and of Israel

Office of Native Education wrote back that "The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not the focus of the lesson."

But, although it is not the main focus, an assignment about Native American revolts against European encroachment tells students that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a useful "contemporary connection" for understanding the Indian Wars for Independence. **The assignment uses leading questions to teach that, like Native Americans, the Palestinians are struggling to have "their sacred homelands returned to them."**

Though most Palestinian Arabs likely view their uprisings in that way, the ancient and unbroken Jewish residence in these same sacred lands is omitted from the lesson. There is no mention of the evidence of Jewish indigeneity or the need for a sovereign Jewish homeland in the often violently intolerant Middle East.

The assignment's language indicates that students will never hear anything about the archaeological and textual discoveries that place the Jewish people in the land more than a millennium before the Arab Islamic colonial incursions. Nor will students learn about the Jewish majority in Jerusalem dating back to the 1800s, or the genetic evidence indicating that most

(continued next page)





of the world's Jewish population can be traced to the Levant.

Perhaps most disturbingly, the centuries-old oppression of Mizrahi Jewish communities in the Arab world, culminating in their brutal ethnic cleansing in the 20th century, is also left out. Nearly one million refugees were compelled by these anti-Semitic atrocities to find refuge in Israel.

Because students do not receive the above information in the *Since Time Immemorial* curriculum, those who complete the assignment will likely come away from it with two notions:

- First, that Israelis are analogous to Europeans who overran another people's territory.
- Second, that the ethical position is to side with the indigenous Palestinians in their fight to reclaim their sacred homeland from Jewish usurpers.

Although the lesson does not explicitly assert either of those two propositions, children are left to make the obvious inferences themselves. But **no schoolchild will be able to avoid the curriculum's suggestion that Israelis are the intruders and Palestinians the victims.**

Those conclusions might not be a conscious deduction on the part of the child. The scandal behind the lesson is that it plays on the innocence of grade schoolers: all those boys and girls who think that they are doing their required Native American assignment, but have no clue about the controversial ethics, history, and politics of the Middle East that are being smuggled into it — and into their subconscious.

Exploitation of Native American Suffering

Any intellectually honest adult can see that this assignment is not an actual lesson on Jewish-Arab history. It is the exploitation of Native American suffering in order to plant in the schoolchild's mind an assumption about the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. It is not a good education but a form of political conditioning.



Dry Bones

OKAY GANG, PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS, 'CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR ...



THE STATE OF "PALESTINE" QUIZ

1. WHEN WAS THE COUNTRY OF "PALESTINE" FOUNDED AND BY WHOM?
2. WHAT WERE ITS BORDERS?
3. WHAT WAS ITS CAPITAL?
4. WHAT WERE ITS MAJOR CITIES?
5. NAME AT LEAST ONE "PALESTINIAN LEADER" BEFORE ARAFAT.
6. WHAT WAS THE LANGUAGE OF THE "COUNTRY OF PALESTINE" ?
7. WHAT WAS THE PREVALENT RELIGION OF THE "ANCIENT COUNTRY OF PALESTINE" ?
8. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF ITS CURRENCY?
9. CHOOSE ANY DATE IN HISTORY AND TELL WHAT WAS THE APPROXIMATE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE "PALESTINIAN" MONETARY UNIT AGAINST THE US DOLLAR, GERMAN MARK, GB POUND, JAPANESE YEN, OR CHINESE YUAN ON THAT DATE.
10. SINCE THERE IS NO SUCH COUNTRY OF "PALESTINE" TODAY, WHAT CAUSED ITS DEISE AND WHEN DID IT OCCUR?
11. WHY DID "THE PALESTINIANS" NEVER TRY TO BECOME INDEPENDENT UNTIL AFTER THE DEVASTATING DEFEAT OF AWAYING ARAB STATES IN THE 1967 SIX DAY WAR?

NOTE: ANYONE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS WILL RECEIVE THE DRY BONES AWARD FOR CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE "WRITING!"

UPDATE: In July, the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction removed what it called "a clear example of implicit bias" against Israel from its mandatory K-12 Native American curriculum.

Jonah Cohen is communications director for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA.org)

"Vigilance" is the word of the day, people. Meanwhile, the propaganda authors and teachers should be required to take "The State of 'Palestine' Quiz" on the left. —Mark ★

Sick Bats Self-Isolate, Helping Avert COVID-Type Crises



SCIENCE: BY NATHAN JEFFAY (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: MinzZig (Wikimedia Commons)

top: Egyptian fruit bats (*rousettus aegyptiacus*) in a typically sociable setting as found in Ha-Teomim cave, Israel
left: Maya Weinberg of Tel Aviv University, with a fruit bat



courtesy of Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv University scientists recently published peer-reviewed research observing that bats that feel unwell stay “home” in their caves, reducing interaction with other species. After researchers made five Egyptian fruit bats sick and followed them in a large colony for 72 hours, they observed that sick bats also stay away from their peers at the slightest hint of feeling inflammation in their bodies.



Using onboard GPS to track foraging, acceleration sensors to monitor movement, infrared video to record social behavior, and blood samples to measure immune markers, the researchers concluded that the self-isolating behavior bats displayed minimizes the risk of infections “jumping” to humans, directly or via another species.

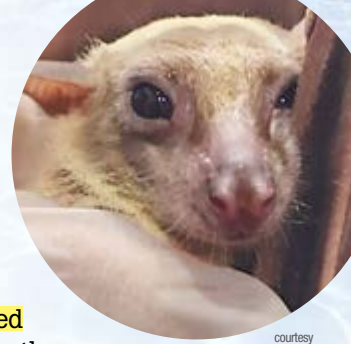
“We observed that, during illness, bats choose to stay away from the colony and don’t leave the cave,” said Prof. Yossi Yovel, head of neuroscience at Tel Aviv University. “This suggests that **in order to encounter a sick bat, people must actually invade the bats’ natural environment or eliminate their habitats.**”

As the coronavirus pandemic prompted lockdowns and social distancing, Yovel’s colleague Maya Weinberg became intrigued by a trait she had observed among bats. “They are the most sociable of animals. Yet totally defying their character, I had noticed that sick bats often separate themselves from others,” she said. This behavior is atypical for animals, who have learned over time to try to play down signs of sickness and remain with the group, where they are safer from predators and less likely to go hungry.

To explore the topic she designed her formal experiment, which has now been published in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. As part of the study, Weinberg and Yovel took five bats and injected them with a pathogen that made them feel unwell.

This is the second study to propose such a theory, coming on the heels

(continued next page)



courtesy of Tel Aviv University

of a November study in the U.S. that reached similar conclusions.

The Tel Aviv paper comes amid a resurgence of interest in the origins of the coronavirus. The World Health Organization said in March that **the virus had probably been transmitted from bats to humans through another animal**. This remains the mainstream theory, though the U.S. is investigating other theories, potentially including the possibility of a laboratory accident in China.

“We saw a very clear pattern of the sick bats moving away from the other bats, and actually backing away in reverse gear, as others came close to them,” Weinberg said. “You can use for bats all the terms we used for humans during the pandemic — social-distancing, self-isolation, and quarantine.”

Weinberg and her colleagues wrote in their paper that the sick bats “ceased foraging outdoors for at least two nights, thus reducing transmission to neighboring colonies,” and their behaviors “demonstrate a strong, integrative immune response that promotes recovery of infected individuals while reducing pathogen transmission inside and outside the roost, including spillover events to other species, such as humans.” ★

Effects of COVID-19 Vary Between Sexes

JPost.com

A recent Israeli study by researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Shamir Medical Center found that the amount of antibodies in recovering COVID-19 patients differs according to age groups, gender, symptoms, and time elapsed since vaccination.

The study, published on *medRxiv.org*, used over 26,000 blood samples from recovering coronavirus patients, both vaccinated and unvaccinated.

The study found a difference in concentration of antibodies in the blood between vaccinated men and women. **Women aged 51 and older had a higher level of antibodies than men of the same ages**. The study explained it might be related to the level of estrogen hormone in women of these ages. And a higher concentration of antibodies was found in women as they get older from the age of 51, although a rise of antibodies in men can be seen from an earlier age of around 35.

This difference between the sexes may be due to changes in levels of

SPECIAL MEDIA BRIEF

testosterone in males and its effect on the immune system.

More noticeable trends found in the study include that **individuals who received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have four times the amount of antibodies of people who recovered from the virus**, and a stronger immune response in general.

A high concentration of antibodies in young adults is, more often than not, a result of a strong immune response, which is in contrast to the same phenomenon seen in elders, which indicates an overreaction of the immune system, associated with severe diseases.

Study leaders TAU’s Head of the Computational Genomics Laboratory Prof. Noam Shomron and Shamir Medical Center’s Dr. Adina Bar Chaim hope that the correlation of vaccine effectiveness with age and sex can be proved using a reliable measure.

According to this article, being a 55-year-old woman has some perks! —Kirsten ★

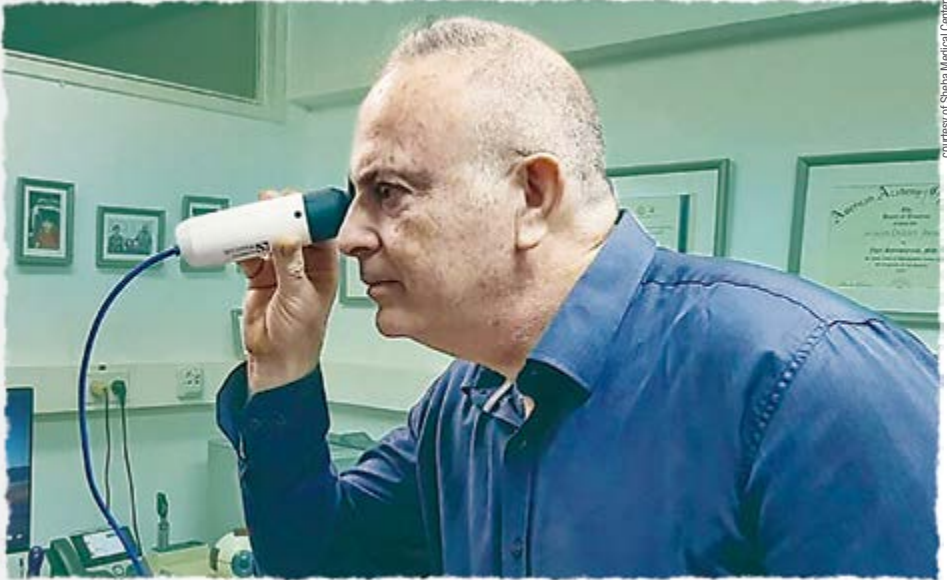


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No-Needle Blood Test



MEDICINE: BY NATHAN JEFFAY (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



Prof. Ygal Rotenstreich, director of Sheba Medical Center's The Retinal Research Laboratory, demonstrating a new blood test device that works by analyzing blood vessels in the eye

Israeli scientists have invented a method to perform blood tests without drawing a drop — and are launching their device into space for testing.

The scientists say that their technology will enable the world's first sample-free blood count tests, which assess the number and type of cells in a patient's blood and normally require lab analysis of a blood sample drawn from a finger or arm. **Their device scans the eye for a few seconds and instantly provides accurate results**, the researchers say.

The Sheba Medical Center team behind the innovation is working on expanding it to perform other blood tests that currently require samples and lab analysis.

Creating Possibilities

"Opening the possibility of needle-free blood tests is truly exciting," said Harel Baris, one of the Sheba doctors behind the new tech. He is sending the technology into orbit in October with Israeli space tourist Eytan Stibbe, hoping that zero gravity testing will help the development process.

Despite widespread fears of needles and the high cost of lab testing, there has been limited progress toward needle-free tests. Last year, Purdue University announced that it was developing an app to assess anemia by taking a photo of the eyelid, but the technology doesn't have potential for other blood tests.

Baris said his device will reduce the need for people to go to clinics in the future for some blood tests, as they will check themselves at home and results will be sent directly to doctors. "It won't only be more comfortable for patients, but will also open up new possibilities for extending remote care, and provide people with the ability to integrate medical care into their everyday life," he added.

Going Into Space

Baris and Sheba's top retina expert, Prof. Ygal Rotenstreich, showcased the technology to Stibbe, who is going to the International Space Station in October.

(continued next page)



Stibbe will run experiments and test technologies for numerous Israeli organizations during his trip, and will use the device to monitor his health.

This will test the device's ability to operate in micro-gravity, where factors that could be skewing test results on Earth — such as unknowingly having tears during the eye scan — are absent. Unlike on Earth (where one can tear up without realizing), in space, the tears form a ball on the eye or face.

The space test will also assess the device's suitability for astronauts, who currently need to give samples for analysis, an expensive and time-consuming process.

Using an Accurate Basis

"Our technology is built on the fact that there are blood vessels in the eye that are transparent, meaning that we can analyze them using light waves," said Baris. "We then gather information that usually needs a lab analysis of actual samples."

As well as performing blood-count tests, the device delivers an accurate reading of oxygen saturation levels, which are today normally taken by

oximeters that slot onto the end of a finger. But there are major questions about oximeters, after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration raised concerns in February that they lack accuracy for non-white people.

The FDA cited research saying that oximeters "may be less accurate in people with dark skin pigmentation." Baris noted: "Regular finger sensors are color-biased, but our sensor works in a totally different way — by analyzing blood in the eye — and will correct this problem." ★



courtesy of Sheba Medical Center

Prof. Ygal Rotenstreich conducts a spectral eye imaging test on Israeli space tourist Eytan Stibbe. Stibbe will take a device to measure his blood count by examining his eyes.



Half-Shekel Keychain

These teardrop keychains each contain an authentic half-shekel coin from Israel and cite the very important verses from Exodus 30:13–16 and Ephesians 2:8–9. Reminiscent of the days when each citizen of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-shekel coin to make atonement. Put your keychain in your pocket; salvation is now free!





Israeli military drones fly in formation

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

IDF Deployed Drone Swarms in Gaza

By Judah Ari Gross / TimesOfIsrael.com

The world saw a taste of emerging military technology, albeit a limited one, in May. During the 11-day conflict between Israel and terror groups in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) used flocks of drones over the Gaza Strip to spot rocket launches by Hamas and attack those sites. The military's use of drones in this way was only recently disclosed.

developed methods of locating launchpads that Hamas and Islamic Jihad had buried and hidden throughout the Strip — in schoolyards, home gardens, and deep within civilian areas. The IDF's artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities helped human analysts interpret a vast amount of satellite and aerial surveillance imagery to locate the launchpads, some of which were built to be used multiple times. This innovation led Israeli Military Intelligence to declare the Gaza campaign the world's "first AI war."

Drone swarms were used dozens of times during the fighting by an

(continued next page)



Israeli military drone

During the fighting, the IDF struggled to prevent the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror groups from launching rockets and mortar shells into Israel. By the end of the conflict, over 4,000 projectiles were fired from the Gaza Strip, killing and injuring several people in Israel and regularly sending hundreds of thousands to bomb shelters.

To prevent these attacks, the military

Dry Bones

Succa & WWII





until-now classified company of the Paratroopers Brigade, based on concepts developed by the IDF's experimental Ghost Unit, which is tasked with trying out and creating new tactics and fighting styles for the military.

What sets drone swarms apart is the autonomy of the swarm, the degree to which they fly together — like a school of fish or flock of birds — and not just all being flown in formation by separate human operators.

Jerusalem Imam Takes on the West

MEMRI.org



credit: memri.org screen capture

Imam Yousef Makharzah

Jerusalem Imam Yousef Makharzah said that the Muslims will shatter the heads of the U.S. and the infidels and conquer Rome. He made his remarks in a Friday sermon that was aired on Hizb ut-Tahrir's Al-Waqiyah TV (Lebanon) in May 2021.

Makharzah added that Allah can revive the dead, and that he will revive the people of Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and all the Muslims in the world. He continued to say that on that day, the Jews would not be a consideration for the Muslims, because Jews are "too lowly, too ignoble, too base, and too disgraceful."

Vines Spell Out God's Name?

Vision for Israel (VFInews.com)

The ancient stones of Jerusalem's Temple Mount host a variety of plant life, including the prolific thorny caper. A religious Israeli woman was shocked to see that the plants on the eastern retaining wall had grown to form the shapes of letters.

The letters seemed to be in *ktiv ashuri* (modern Hebrew script), the calligraphy style used in writing sacred texts. Three letters were clearly seen: י (yod), ה (heh), ו (vav). These are, of course, the first three letters in God's ineffable four-letter name [the Tetragrammaton, minus the final ה (heh)].

A local rabbi remarked: "Anybody can go outside in the morning and see the Name of God spelled out in clouds, hear it in the wind or the birds' song."

Our teacher of Hebrew, John Parsons, comments that this appearance is likely a coincidence, adding that the letters yod-heh-vav never stand by themselves in the Hebrew Scriptures. — Editor ★



courtesy: Batya Vagshal/FB

Bushes growing on eastern retaining wall of Temple Mount



Dead Sea Scrolls Scholar Flushes Out a Mystery



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ROSSELLA TERCATIN (r) JPost.com



credit: Reuters/Florian Zeylun

Volunteers with the Israel Antiquities Authority work at the Cave of the Skulls, an excavation site in the Judean Desert near the Dead Sea, Israel

How did Jews in the land of Israel use the toilet some 2,000 years ago? What kind of facilities did they build, and which social habits did they develop?

Some answers are offered by the legendary Dead Sea Scrolls and the archaeological remains in ancient Qumran, Prof. Jodi Magness, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, revealed recently.

Speaking at the Dead Sea Scrolls Conference organized by New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), and the Friends of the IAA, Magness explained how combining the information provided by some toilets unearthed in the region with some texts on the topic featured in the Scrolls and written by other contemporary authors, a solution to a great dilemma can be found to the question of whether ancient Jews used to relieve themselves sitting or squatting.

"I got into all of this when, way back in the 1990s, the first volume of the final reports on the de Vaux excavations was published," Magness said, referring to the work of Roland de Vaux, a Catholic priest and archaeologist who was director of the École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem between 1945 and 1965. "While reading through it, I noticed a reference by de Vaux to an installation that he found in one of the rooms at Qumran (Lucas 51), which he identified possibly as a toilet."



credit: Jim Hebbeman (Wikimedia Commons)

Prof. Jodi Magness

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of some 25,000 fragments unearthed in the 1940s and 1950s in caves near the Dead Sea. (See p. 20.) The artifacts

(continued next page)



include some of the most ancient manuscripts of the Bible and other religious texts that were not accepted in the canon, as well as nonreligious writings.



Qumran was the nearby settlement, which some experts believe was home to a specific Jewish sect — the Essenes — who many identified as the authors of the Scrolls, or at least of a significant part of them. The toilet found in Qumran was found adjacent to a ritual bath and was dug in the dirt floor of the room. Its sides were covered in dirty mud, and a terracotta pipe with some stones were found around it.

According to Magness, in spite of the lack of a toilet seat at the site, its original usage might be deduced by evidence that several similar toilets were uncovered in the region, including in the City of David in Jerusalem.

Therefore, while squatting toilets were known to exist in the ancient Near East, it appears they were not the kind of facilities used by ancient Judeans, she said. **“We can find out more about the toilet habits of the Qumran sect based on information from the Dead Sea Scrolls,”** she added. Toilets were referred to as “place of the hand.”



Caves at Qumran in the West Bank around where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found

“There shall be a space between all their camps and the place of the hand, about two thousand cubits, and no unseemly evil thing shall be seen in the vicinity of their encampment,” reads a passage from the “War Scroll” (1QM). [The citation indicates the cave number and location.]

“And you shall make them a place for a hand outside the city, to which they shall go out, to the northwest of the city — roofed houses with pits within them into which the excrement will descend, so that it will not be visible at any distance from the city, three thousand cubits,” an excerpt from the “Temple Scroll” (11QT) prescribes.

A vivid testimony of the issue is also provided by Josephus [the first-century historian], who wrote that the group would refrain

from defecating on *Shabbat*, and on weekdays they would find remote spots, cover the excrement, and purify themselves afterward — even though it was not required by the laws of Jewish purity.

“If we boil it down, this group had two main points of concern with regard to the toilet habits,” Magness said. “One was shielding defecation and excrement from God’s view and from the views of others as something that is indecent that must be shielded. The second was an association of defecation and excrement with ritual impurity.”

Please see [Secrets of the Scrolls on p. 20](#). ★



Anti-Semitic Slant of Qatari Newspaper

MEMRI.ORG (# 9444)

In recent years, the London-based Qatari daily *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* has taken a virulently anti-Israel and anti-Semitic line. Since its founding in 1989 by Palestinian businessman Abdel Bari Atwan, who lives in London, the paper has been known for its harshly critical stance against Israel and its allies and support for terror organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and even al-Qaeda. But this tone grew even harsher after Qatar purchased the daily in July 2013, about one month after the present emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad, ascended to power.

This development caused Atwan, who refused to comply with the political line dictated by Qatar, to resign as the daily's editor. He was replaced by his former deputy, Sana Aloul. Since then, **the paper** has maintained an anti-Israel stance, very conspicuous in its articles, which **sometimes take the form of flagrantly anti-Semitic propaganda against Israel and Israelis.**

This anti-Israel and anti-Semitic line is especially noticeable in cartoons published in the daily. Many of these cartoons represent Israel by using the stereotype figure of the bearded and hook-nosed Jew. Others feature classic anti-Semitic themes derived from Christianity or Islam, such as the Jew as the crucifier of Jesus, or the popular anti-Semitic hadith about the Muslims' war on the Jews at the end of days. According to this hadith, Mohammed said: "Judgment Day shall not come before you fight the Jews and [every] Jew shall hide behind stones or trees, and the stones or trees will say: 'Oh servant of Allah, oh Muslims, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'" There are also cartoons that portray Israel and Israelis as vermin, such as spiders or ants, a theme used in European



Classic anti-Semitic motifs taken from Islamic or Christian traditions. **Top:** A cartoon published in September 2020 criticizes the normalization agreement between Israel and the UAE, showing an Arab who has dropped his sword rushing toward now-former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is standing behind a stone that says, "Oh Muslim... Oh servant of Allah... what are you doing?!" This is a paraphrase of the *hadith* mentioned in the article. **Bottom:** A July 2021 cartoon evokes the claim that the Jews crucified Jesus, by depicting a Palestinian prisoner, who is on a hunger strike in an Israeli prison, hanging on a cross.

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anti-Semitism to dehumanize Jews and associate them with danger and disease. Others compare Israel to Nazi Germany, or convey hope for its demise.

The daily's team of cartoonists includes Umayya Juha, a Palestinian known for her virulently anti-Semitic cartoons, which have often been removed from social media after being flagged as incitement. Umayya Juha is affiliated with Hamas and is known as "the Wife of Two Martyrs" because she was the wife of two operatives of Hamas's military wing who were killed. Another regular cartoonist for the daily is Palestinian Mohammad Saba'aneh, who was arrested by Israeli security forces on suspicion of providing services to hostile organizations during a visit to Jordan in 2013. ★



Faith and the Loch Ness Monster

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when, suddenly, the Loch Ness Monster attacked his boat. The beast tossed him and his boat a hundred feet into the air and opened its mouth, waiting to catch and swallow them both.

As the man started to fall toward the open jaws of the ferocious beast, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

The scene froze in place and, as the atheist hung in midair, a booming voice came out of the clouds: "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"God, come on!" the man pleaded. "Just seconds ago, I didn't believe in the Loch Ness Monster either!"

"Well," said God, "as a Believer, you must understand that I won't work miracles to snatch you from certain death; but I can change hearts. What would you have Me do?"

The atheist thought for a minute and then suggested, "God, please have the Loch Ness Monster also believe in You."

God replied, "So be it."

The scene's motion restarted, with the atheist once again falling toward the ravenous animal. The Loch Ness Monster quickly folded his claws together and uttered, "Lord, bless this food You have so graciously provided...." ★

Dry Bones

Three Feasts



Answer Key for September 2021 Crossword (p.21)

Across:

- 3. First
- 6. Joy
- 8. Drink
- 9. Atonement
- 11. Strength
- 13. Lord
- 14. Souls
- 17. Tabernacles
- 18. Good
- 19. People

Down:

- 1. Children
- 2. Moses
- 4. Booths
- 5. Gladness
- 7. Convocation
- 10. Thyself
- 12. Trumpets
- 15. Rejoice
- 16. Water



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