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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

October 2021

The Lord provides (Prov. 3:5-6). Since February, you may have noticed our ads for an editor to take over when I retire at the end of the year. After reviewing many outstanding applicants, we selected an extraordinary candidate with degrees and experience in journalism and theology. Greg has helped edit the ministry's publications this past month and will be your new editor come January 2022. We trusted that God would provide, and He did. It is, after all, His ministry.

This October *Levitt Letter* is full of topics you love: Holocaust survival stories (pages 8 and 30), Tony's Bible study (4), archaeology (1, 32), prophecy (10, 26), and, of course, scientific and medical contributions from Israel (28, 29).

Classic Zola begins a three-part examination of the symbols and Old Testament revelations of the Messiah's First Coming, which the Church traditionally celebrates in December because no one knows the exact date for certain. Part 1 considers Bethlehem (10).

Anti-Semitism still creates misery (1, 26, 34), but our Savior offers Believers hope in our world and in eternity (6, 14, 16).

Enjoy your reading. I've enjoyed being your editor and am confident that my blue pencil is in capable hands.



Margot

Margot, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Zola Levitt Ministries operates solely on donations from you readers and from viewers of our weekly television program *Our Jewish Roots* (35). Your regular contributions allow us to produce new Bible-teaching series and keep our monthly newsletters free. The free content at **levitt.com** ensures answers for nonbelievers after the rapture of the Church causes them to wonder, "What just happened?"

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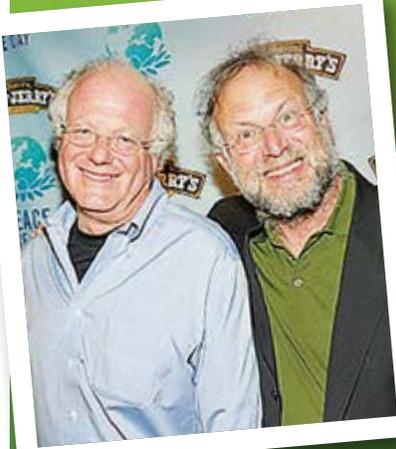
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Levitt LETTER

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

inside: **The Greatest
Story (part 1) p.10**



**BEN & JERRY'S
WILL END SALES
OF OUR ICE CREAM
IN OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN
TERRITORY**

© Instagram / benandjerrys

A Note to Ben & Jerry

By Clifford D. May / *The Washington Times*

Dear Reader: As Zola used to write, "I couldn't say the following better myself." You'll appreciate the brief history lesson below. — Mark

Dear Messrs. Cohen and Greenfield,

I read [your op-ed in *The New York Times*, "We're Ben and Jerry. Men of Ice Cream, Men of Principle,"](#) and am offering feedback.

First: You call yourselves supporters of Israel. I don't doubt it. But you should be aware that the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement with which you're now associated openly seeks Israel's extermination.

"Definitely, most definitely we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine," Omar Barghouti, founder and leader of the movement (really an agit-prop campaign) has stated. **"No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine."**

(continued p.12)

There are no Jewish holidays this month, but consider these: *World Communion Sunday* is Oct. 3, *World Mission Sunday* is Oct. 24, and *Reformation Day* is Oct. 31 this year.

Dr. Eilat Mazar

Queen of Jerusalem Archaeology

SEPTEMBER 10, 1956—MAY 25, 2021



photo
courtesy
of Eilat Mazar
estate

By Megan Sauter
BiblicalArchaeology.org

Dr. Eilat Mazar (1956–2021), who passed away in May, was archaeology royalty. Her grandfather, Benjamin Mazar, directed excavations most notably in Jerusalem. He served as Professor of Biblical History and Archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for decades and even became president of the university. Her cousin,

(continued p.2)

Dr. Eilat Mazar ... *continued from cover sidebar*

Amihai Mazar, also pursued archaeology at the Hebrew University and directed excavations.

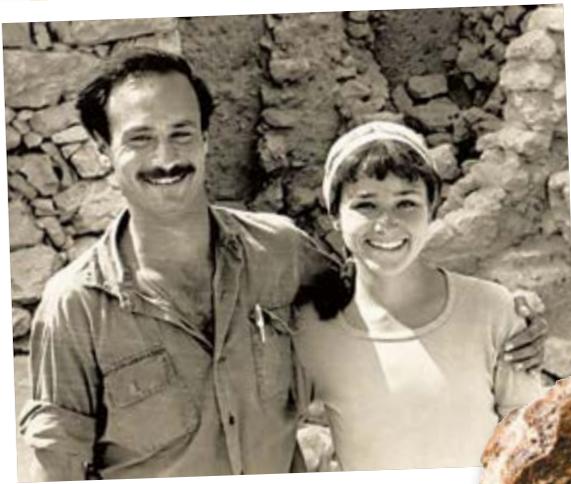
Eilat's first experience with archaeology was working on her grandfather's digs. Later, she joined the excavations in the City of David, where she was quickly promoted to supervise her own area. She studied archaeology at the Hebrew University, focusing on Phoenician culture and excavating along the northern coast of Israel.

prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 38). She also dug at the base of the Temple Mount, where she uncovered bullae of King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah.

Recently, she published *Over the Crossroads of Time: Jerusalem's Temple Mount Monumental Staircases* that reanalyzed her grandfather's excavations, arguing that the grand staircase leading to the Temple Mount, whose foundations he had uncovered, was much grander than originally thought. As she discovered, it was likely a four-way monumental stairway that was gradually completed during the opening decades of the first century A.D.

May her memory be a blessing!

Dr. Eilat Mazar's contributions to archaeology bless our pilgrims every time Zola Tours visits the City of David. — Kirsten ★

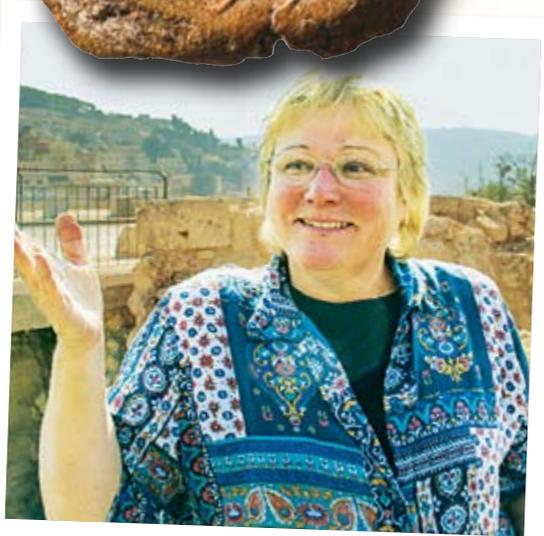


top: A young Eilat Mazar at an excavation
right: The King Hezekiah bullae. In 2009, Mazar's team discovered the unique, intact bullae with the inscription "of King Hezekiah of Judah."

While she made significant contributions to understanding the Phoenicians, Eilat Mazar became a household name when she returned to dig in Jerusalem with her grandfather. Following further in her grandfather's footsteps, she joined the faculty of the Hebrew University. She later directed her own excavations in the City of David and uncovered the possible remains of King David's palace and the bullae (seal impressions) of two royal officials, Jehucal and Gedaliah, who the Bible says were hostile to the



credit: Hersh Zoliner/Watch Jerusalem (courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)



Dr. Eilat Mazar



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The Beatitudes of Zionism

BY DAVID RUBSAM

Blessed are those who are not Jewish and yet have a Jewish heart.

Blessed are those who build up Mount Zion.

Blessed are those who stand with Israel, even if their numbers are few.

Blessed are those who bear good will toward the Jewish people.

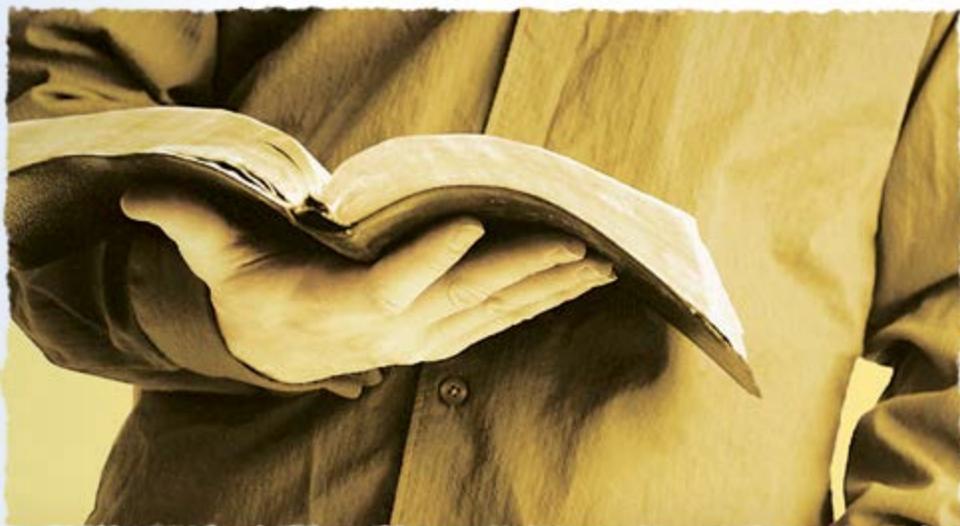
Blessed are those who bless the Jewish people.

Blessed are those who bless the inheritance of Jacob.

The Lord will bless those who bless His Chosen People.

Is God's Word Reliable? (Psalm 119:57–80)

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



Tony's monthly survey of Psalm 119 began in [August's Levitt Letter](#).

There was a time in the not too distant past when a man's word was his bond — his promise of integrity. There was a time when a handshake or a nod sealed the deal. Unfortunately, we live in a time when litigation has taken a front seat.

In today's world, can Believers* convince unbelievers to trust the Word of God? My concern is that often we read the Bible without considering that *God* is speaking directly to the world in which we live. Hebrews 4:12 is very instructive.

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

This verse confirms that our time with God is essential to His plan for our lives. We can only convince others when we are convinced.

This month's section in Psalm 119 emphasizes how we interact with God and His Word. We can either believe what God says, as David did, or we can resist, like Jonah, and get swallowed up in an unbelieving world. Verses 57–80 contain three main lessons.

1. Be Consistent in Believing God's Word (119:57–64)

Even with all of his failures, David was a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14). David understood that God was his everything or, as the psalm's verse 57 says, "his portion" or destiny.

David called on God's mercy even as he remained faithful to God's Word. He continued a close



(continued next page)

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





relationship with like-minded Believers who also kept God's precepts (vs. 63). It is an important reminder that Believers need to maintain fellowship with each other in order to share burdens and also victories.

2. Be Convinced God's Word is Dependable (119:65–72)

The psalmist was completely convinced that he could depend on the truth of God's Word. This section leaves us with valuable insights.

- 1) **Verse 66** — Teaches us to ask for good judgment. Regardless of our place in life, we should always call on God to direct us to good judgment. Life offers many opportunities to stray from God's Word, so we must be vigilant, as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8. *"Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*
- 2) **Verse 68** — David acknowledges the goodness of God in His willingness to restore fellowship with His people. A great example is the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15.
- 3) **Verse 71** — David offers further advice in verse 71 when he recognizes affliction has its purpose. The term *affliction* in this case doesn't refer to illness but to enemies of the good that David wanted to accomplish.



Living life as a Believer isn't the easy street that some portray it to be. Ups and downs will present moments of testing our faith. Knowing that God's Word is dependable can lead the Believer through times of difficulty.

3. Be Hopeful for the Triumphant Future (119:73–80)

David knew that God had created him for a purpose, and he was determined to fulfill that purpose. He called on God in verses 78–80 to be merciful when his enemies would try to discredit his faith. David knew that he would have detractors to the truth; but he also knew that God would honor his commitment to that truth.

I pray that this month's section gives each of us the encouragement we need to stand boldly and confidently on the Word of God. Be encouraged! ★





top: Kirsten back in the recording studio this year **right:** Album cover of the 1971 original motion picture soundtrack for *Fiddler on the Roof*

Our Tradition

I grew up in a household that watched *Fiddler on the Roof* whenever that 1971 movie starring Topol aired on television.

It was a family tradition. Even as a young girl, I enjoyed singing along to “Matchmaker, Matchmaker” and “L’Chaim (To Life).” My parents have advanced degrees in music and conducting and taught musical theater. I will never forget the live production they directed of my favorite Jewish musical.

David grew up in a family that sang and toured together. My father-in-law’s first Minister of Music in the Indiana church he pastored was Bill Gaither. **Music has always been a part of our lives.** David and I are thankful for our rich musical heritages.

Zola’s Songs — a New Tradition

When we interviewed with Zola Levitt Ministries, Mark Levitt wanted to know if we could freshen up songs that Zola had written and recorded years before. That prospect thrilled us, and we have been honored to record songs that Zola personally penned long before we came on board.

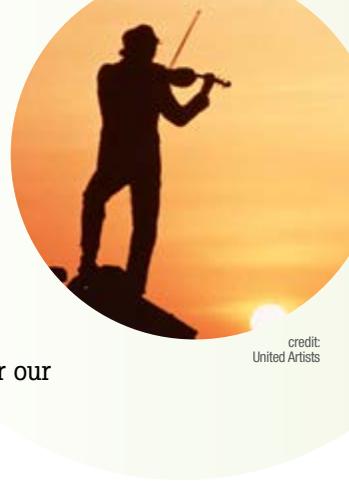
Sammy Davenport has arranged the music for every episode of our weekly TV program — *Our Jewish Roots*, previously called *Zola Levitt Presents*. He creatively evolves the original tracks and orchestrations that Zola wrote years ago, refreshing them for a new generation.

The words and music notes that Zola put on paper inspired us to resurrect songs that hadn’t been broadcast for years. We did just that, when we updated enough recorded songs to fill a CD. It thrills me to hear David’s Gospel Music Hall of Fame voice sing Zola’s lush melodies and powerful Messianic messages. Together, we recorded 11 songs for the CD *Zion Song*.

Singing and recording Zola’s songs has become our new tradition! While we

(continued next page)





credit:
United Artists

may not be up on a rooftop playing a violin like actor Tutte Lemkow (1918–1991), who portrayed the fiddler on the roof in the movie, we are able to sing on location throughout the Holy Land. We endeavor to bring Scripture-based, Israeli-flavored Messianic songs to viewers who may not be familiar with Zola’s original recordings. We think you’ll agree that it’s wonderful to hear our ministry founder’s gift for writing songs and melodies.

Hear It for Yourself

If you haven’t already purchased *Zion Song*, you’ll want to add it to your listening library. ([Order here.](#)) for easy ordering. You can listen to sample clips of Zola’s music at levitt.com/music. By the way, we’re recording songs for another CD! We’ll keep you updated on that release. ★

Sample the music of *Zion Song*

Apple: <https://apple.co/3zMrkYa>

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YouTube Music: <https://bit.ly/3BliuLC>



[I Call You Friend](#)

music CD

with 10 Messianic Songs

Marty’s voice is magnificent, and he sings Scripture in such a way that inspires profound worship. Our *Psalms of Ascent* TV series features much of this heartfelt exaltation of the Lord.

[Zion Song](#) music CD

During his lifetime, Zola Levitt composed over 200 Spirit-filled songs. Musicians David and Kirsten Hart revived this rich legacy when they became the studio hosts of our television broadcast.

On *Zion Song*, David and Kirsten sing 11 songs written by Zola and arranged and orchestrated by Sammy Davenport.



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The Shofar that Defied the Nazis



PART 2 BY RALPH BLUMENTHAL (r) NYTimes.com

Dr. Judith Tydor Schwartz's story about a death camp shofar came to light after she visited the Holocaust exhibition at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage and mentioned her father's account to the curator, Dr. van Pelt. She said that she still had the shofar. Had it ever occurred to her to offer it to a museum? "Oh, God no," she replied, "we used it." Her father, Chaskel Tydor, a modest man, never revealed much in interviews she conducted with him before he died in 1993 at 89. **But until the end of his life, she said, "the Auschwitz shofar accompanied his wanderings."**

Chaskel Tydor ran a travel agency in Manhattan, married his secretary, Shirley Kraus (Dr. Schwartz's mother), managed uranium mines in Montana and South Dakota, and eventually moved back to Israel. Born in 1903 in Bochnia, Poland,

near Krakow, Tydor and his Hasidic family fled to Germany during World War I. Living in Frankfurt as Hitler rose to power and war loomed in 1939, he and his wife, Bertha, sent their young son and daughter to safety on a Kindertransport to Belgium. Mr. Tydor was arrested later that year and imprisoned in Buchenwald, one of the first and largest concentration camps, near Weimar in central Germany. From there, in October 1942, he was transported to Auschwitz III, the forced labor camp also known as Monowitz/Buna, where the authors Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel were also held. Within several miles stood the gas chambers and crematories of Auschwitz II, Birkenau.

In the camp he learned that Bertha, fleeing Germany for Poland, had been caught and murdered in Auschwitz, along with other family members. In despair, he was restrained from killing himself on the camp's electrified wire. He was initially assigned to a construction detail carrying large sacks of cement, leaving him with a permanently disabled shoulder. But as an older prisoner with experience in the camps, he was designated a block secretary, responsible for assigning work details. By attaching names of the dead to some assignments, he was able to afford others relief in the sick bay, "enabling him to save hundreds of Jewish prisoners," Dr. Schwartz said.



Chaskel Tydor, pictured here, said he was given the shofar by another prisoner as the Nazis prepared to flee Auschwitz in 1945. He carried it with him for the rest of his life.

credit: Landon Speers for The New York Times



(continued next page)

Dr. Judith Tydor Schwartz, the daughter of Chaskel Tydor and an expert on the Holocaust, outside the Museum of Jewish Heritage.



credit: Landon Speers for The New York Times

Around Rosh Hashanah 1944, he arranged to send some religious prisoners out where they might constitute a *minyán* (quorum of 10 adults) to conduct a prayer service. When they returned, he learned about the shofar's sounding. Tydor told his daughter, "I was told of the person who had it, but when asked, he denied, maybe from fear."

In January 1945, the Germans hurriedly began dynamiting Auschwitz and emptying the camp as the Russians approached. Tydor and some 60,000 other survivors were herded on a 30-mile march to another subcamp. But the night before they left, another prisoner came up to him and pressed on him a rag-wrapped object. The

shofar. **The man said, "I'm going to die on this march. If you live, take this shofar. Tell them we blew the shofar at Auschwitz."**

Tydor survived the march and ended up back in Buchenwald, where he was liberated by the American Army on April 11, 1945. Later that year, he joined a group of former concentration camp prisoners and other freed Jews aboard the steamship *Mataroa* to Palestine, then under British mandate and soon to become Israel. Off the coast of Haifa on Rosh Hashanah 1945, he blew the shofar.



credit: Landon Speers for The New York Times

Praise God for Holocaust-era stories of bravery and devotion that still inspire Jew and gentile alike. May we always remember the lessons of WWII so as never to repeat them. — Kirsten ★

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.



BIZARRO.COM

by Dan Piraro



The Greatest Story

PART 1

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1985
36 years ago



Micah Exhorts the Israelites to Repent (Micah 6:7-8), engraving by Gustave Doré (1832-1883) for La Grande Bible de Tours

God told His people about the coming of the Messiah in some detail throughout the Old Testament. I would like to share some of the key Scriptures and the “hidden” symbolism behind this miraculous birth.

THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM

The Old Testament Prophecy

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me the One to be Ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

The New Testament Fulfillment of Micah’s Prophecy

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He who is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea; for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, who shall rule My people Israel (Matthew 2:1-6).

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius

(continued next page)



Detail of *The Adoration of the Shepherds* by Guido Reni (1575-1642)



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was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone



away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them (Luke 2:1–20).

It is significant that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not only because this fulfilled a specific prophecy, but for more subtle reasons. In Hebrew, *Beth Lechem* means House of Bread. Jesus continually used the image of bread and growing grain in His teachings: *"If a kernel of wheat go into the ground ... it bringeth forth much fruit"* (John 12:24). He was born in the House of Bread, raised in The Branch (Nazareth, in Hebrew, *Nezteret*, means *branch*). In John 6:35, Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger, ..."*

The meaning becomes more profound in Matthew 26:26, which says, *"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'"* The unleavened bread to which He was referring was pure (leaven in the Bible symbolizes sin). It was striped (*"By His stripes we are healed"* Isaiah 53:5). It was also pierced with holes (*"They shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced"* Zechariah 12:10). It was no accident that God planned for His Son to be born in the House of Bread, Bethlehem.

Next month, we'll look at the prophecy and fulfillment of the virgin birth.

New Testament fulfillments of Old Testament prophecy are awe inspiring — as is seeing the Holy Land with your own eyes. — David ★



Perhaps you believe that the Palestinian state Mr. Barghouti hopes to see replace the Jewish state would refrain from killing or expelling Jews and allow them to remain as a minority. But that's hardly a safe bet considering what's happened to Jews elsewhere in the region. (You know what I'm talking about, right?) And is there any country in the Middle East (other than Israel) where minorities — Kurds, Bahai, Druze, Christians, whatever — enjoy even basic rights?

In fact, in Gaza and the areas of the West Bank governed by the Palestinian Authority (PA), 1) selling land to Jews is a crime (with the death penalty for transgressors), 2) bounties are paid to terrorists who murder Jews (children included), and 3) the educational system demonizes Jews (not just Israeli Jews). **None of that is boycott-worthy?**

Your second point is that "it's possible to support Israel and oppose some of its policies." Agreed. The policy you most vociferously oppose is the presence of Israelis in the West Bank.

But consider: **If Israelis were to withdraw from the West Bank, as they withdrew from Gaza in 2005, is it not probable (inevitable?) that the West Bank would become what Gaza has become?**



Palestinian protesters clashing with Israeli troops in the West Bank

I hope you're aware that after the Israelis left Gaza — removing every soldier, farmer, synagogue, and cemetery — Hamas forcibly drove out Palestinian rivals. Since then, Hamas has ruled the territory. Since then, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (both backed by the regime in Tehran that calls Israel a "cancerous tumor") have been waging war against Israelis using rockets, terrorist tunnels, incendiary kites, etc.

If Hamas takes over the West Bank, how long before rockets are fired from there at Israelis in nearby Jerusalem and Tel Aviv? Israelis will respond. Both Israelis and Palestinians will be killed. Your policy preference will have helped bring about this carnage. You're okay with that?

If Hamas takes over the West Bank, how long before rockets are fired from there at Israelis in nearby Jerusalem and Tel Aviv? Israelis will respond. Both Israelis and Palestinians will be killed. Your policy preference will have helped bring about this carnage. You're okay with that?

Maybe you'll say that Israelis need to work out a two-state solution. But they've tried. Offers were made in 2000, 2001, and 2008, not to mention the 1937 Peel Commission proposal and the 1947 UN plan that would have created one state for Palestinian Arabs and one for Palestinian Jews. Those offers were rejected by Palestinian leaders. No counteroffers followed.

It's been years since PA President Mahmoud Abbas has been willing to engage in serious talks with Israelis. He currently demands concessions as a pre-condition for returning to the table.

My theory: At age 85, he's contemplating his legacy. He wants his portrait hanging next to Yasser Arafat's, not used for target practice — as would happen were he to end his career as a "sell-out Palestinian" shaking the hand of an Israeli leader on the White House lawn.

(continued next page)





credit:
Jamie McCarthy/
Getty Images for
Ben & Jerry's

Other Arab leaders know this. It explains why many are no longer unfriendly to Israelis, some even signing the Abraham Accords. A prominent Arab leader (you'd know his name, but the conversation was off-the-record) told me that he and others are "fed up" with Mr. Abbas.

There's much more that you should know but may not.

For example, the "occupied territories" were seized by the Israelis from Jordan — not from Palestinians — in the defensive war of 1967. Jordan had conquered that territory, known as "Judea and Samaria," in the 1948 war against Israel. Jordan subsequently renamed it "the West Bank" (a geographic description), forcibly expelled all Jews, desecrated Jewish religious sites, and prohibited Jews from worshiping at their holiest sites.

Prior to Jordan's occupation, the West Bank had been ruled by Britain. Before that, for centuries, it was a backwater of the Ottoman Empire.

For these and other reasons, the "occupied territories" are in truth disputed territories — of which the world has many: the Western Sahara, Cyprus, Catalonia, Crimea, Tibet, Taiwan, among them. Do you think the Uighurs of Xinjiang would choose to be ruled by Chinese Communists?

Unusually and perhaps uniquely, Israelis are willing to give — "give back" would be inaccurate — disputed territories to Palestinians in exchange for nothing more than peaceful coexistence.

To date, no Palestinian leader has been willing to accept that deal.

You're encouraging such rejectionism. Your boycott asserts that Jews have no right to live in "Palestinian territories" — which even includes the ancient Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem.



Ben & Jerry's said sales in the "territories" sought by the Palestinians are "inconsistent with our values."

Which is why *The Babylon*

Bee recently headlined: "Ben & Jerry's Introduces Fun New Flavor 'Push the Jews Into the Sea Salt Caramel.'" The article adds: "All proceeds will go to Iranian rocket manufacturers to arm noble Hamas mujahideen warriors in their fight to destroy the Jews."

The Bee is a satirical newspaper, but there's a double scoop of truth in its recognition that you're serving Israelis unjust deserts.

Ben and Jerry, one of your flavors is "Half Baked." If you're really "men of principle," you'll ponder what I've said here and ask yourselves whether your anti-Israeli boycott doesn't qualify for the same moniker.

Your friend,
Cliff May



Clifford D. May is founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) and a columnist for *The Washington Times*.



Q. Why did Mark write his Gospel?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian
staff@levitt.com



A. Mark wrote primarily to reach gentiles in the Roman Empire. The Gospel of Mark was probably written between A.D. 50 and 68 — before the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70, as indicated by Jesus’ pointing to the building in Mark 13:2. The early Church affirmed Mark as author of the Gospel, noting that it was based on the Apostle Peter’s eyewitness account. Mark’s Gospel has also been called “the Gospel according to Peter” since much of its content is based on Peter’s testimony.

Mark’s full name was John Mark, and he was a cousin of Barnabas (Acts 12:25, Colossians 4:10). Mark accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5), but eventually left the pair in Perga and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Paul and Barnabas later separated in disagreement about Mark (Acts 15:37–38). Eventually, however, Mark became a solid ministry companion for Paul (2 Timothy 4:11). Mark also worked with Peter in his missionary travels, and Peter referred to Mark as his spiritual son (1 Peter 5:13).

Mark’s Gospel presents the Lord Jesus as the Suffering Servant of the Lord, whose service and sacrifice to God for man is immediate and unswerving (Mark 10:45). Mark tends to place less emphasis on Jesus’ speech and more on His actions, underscored in the early part of Mark’s Gospel by the frequent use of the word “immediately.” Mark also emphasizes Jesus’ humanity more often than the other Gospel writers, often pointing to Jesus’ emotions (Mark 1:41; 3:5; 8:12; 9:36), Jesus’ natural human limitations, and other details that highlight the humanity of Christ (Mark 7:3, 34; 10:13–16). Even so, Mark’s Gospel clearly chronicles the deity of Jesus as God’s Son (Mark 12:35–37; 14:60–62).

Mark wrote primarily to gentiles in the Roman Empire.

He hints at this audience when he:

- 1. translates Aramaic terms for them**
(Mark 3:17; 5:41)
- 2. uses Latin expressions instead of their Greek equivalents**
(Mark 5:9; 6:27; 12:15, 42; 15:16, 39)
- 3. uses the Roman system of keeping time.**

Because Mark’s audience is non-Jewish, he quotes Old Testament Scripture less frequently than the other three Gospels. He does not mention Jesus’ birth or genealogy (as do Matthew and Luke), but begins his Gospel with the inception of Jesus’ ministry at His baptism in the Jordan River.

Mark’s Gospel presents an inspired portrait of Jesus as the Messianic Servant of the Lord — the one to whom sinners should look; *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45).



Detail of *St. Mark* (ca. 1625), oil on canvas by Frans Hals (1582/1583–1666), Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow, Russia



The [July 2021 LL](#) looked at the question: “Why did Matthew write his Gospel?” ★

ZLM Bulletin Board



Do Jewish Lives Matter? (part 6)

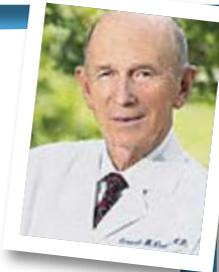
Certainly **not to fans of pornographic movies that depict Nazi soldiers raping Jewish women**. Or to websites that refuse to remove such content. According to the nonprofit group **Fighting Online Anti-Semitism**, dozens of such videos are trending while flagging such content has been ignored. Meanwhile videos with underage subjects (or "revenge porn") dutifully get taken down for the sake of lives that apparently *do* matter.



NOTE: Also, see [September](#), [October](#), [December 2020](#), and [April](#), [June 2021](#) *Levitt Letter* Bulletin Boards for parts 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Exercise is a Matter of Stewardship

Dr. Kenneth Cooper, the 90-year-old "Father of Aerobics," begins an inspirational interview with three principles:



1) The way to solve problems is by empowering the people, not the government; **2)** There's no drug that can replicate the benefits of an active lifestyle, and **3)** What you do for yourself determines how well and how long you live. For a worthwhile, 57-minute dose of wisdom and a solid Christian testimony, please listen to and share <https://bit.ly/2XO61ax>.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

I'd Like to Give, But ...

describes a common concern about making charitable gifts. It also presents ways to give other than by writing a check. Among the ideas, you may find the solution to meeting your own obligations while also making the contribution you'd like to give. This free pamphlet touches on considerations such as cash on hand, retirement planning, and providing for heirs. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #2.**



Zola's Bible Resource Exchange

Do you have an extra **Bible dictionary** or **Word study reference book** in new or nearly new condition that you'd like to pass on to someone who needs one (like an inmate or a retiree on fixed income)? Send it to us and we will forward it. (Inmates require softcovers.) On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address. There will be no charge. (Incidentally, ZLM consulting theologian Dr. Tom McCall referred to a New Testament without the Old Testament as "The Amputated Bible.")



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details



The Rock of Our Salvation

by John Parsons
 Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



יָבֵשׁ חֲצִיר נָבֵל צִיץ וּדְבַר־אֱלֹהֵינוּ יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם
 le-o-lam' ya'-koom' oo-de-var'- e-lo-hey'-noo tzeetz' na-veil' cha-tzeer' ya-veish'
 will stand forever | but the Word of our God | a flower fades | grass withers

“Grass withers, a flower fades, but the
 Word of our God will stand forever.” - Isaiah 40:8

This month’s verse sets up a great contrast between *olam ha-zeh* and *olam haba* — this present world and the heavenly realm. King David states, “Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,” and my lifetime is as nothing before you (וְהָלָדִי כְאֵין נֶגְדָה). Surely all mankind stands as a mere “vanity” (Psalm 39:5). Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God, the Eternal, the abiding and true: “Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You” (Psalm 73:25). To the extent that we regard this world as our “home,” we will find the transience of life to be tragic. **But when we regard ourselves as strangers here, merely passing through, our transience becomes a passageway to the heavenly places.**

The carnal mind instinctively fears change since it implies death and dissolution. Therefore, the mind reasons from a continuous state of dread (whether conscious or not). Hence, the “besetting sin” of the flesh is considering the moment “absolute” and regarding the finite as an end in itself. But God is our “Rock,” a metaphor implying that He is the immovable foundation and cornerstone of all reality. The LORD is our strong refuge in the stormy changes we each face in this world; His Divine Presence both grounds us and sustains our way. Therefore, the LORD is called *El Ne’eman* (אֱלֹהֵי נְאֻמָּן), “the faithful God.” His very Name means certainty, reliability, strength, truth, reality, presence, being, life, and such.

Reading the news reminds me that we live in a “withered and fading world” — nearing the prophesied “End of Days” (אֲחֻרַיִת הַיָּמִים). But *baruch Hashem*, our Place (מְקוֹם), is grounded in truth that stands (i.e., יָקוּם, lit. “is raised up”) forever! Yeshua is our life; He is the Word of our God that is raised up forever! So press on in faith. **Believing is seeing, not the other way around. “Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah that leads to eternal life” (Jude 1:21).** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

The Best of Zola's Music Videos DVD set 10 years of Zola on two DVDs

Our production team made a special effort to pair video that was shot on location in Israel and Greece with selections of Zola's favorite, original compositions for your viewing pleasure. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompany Zola's original music on two DVDs. Some songs were written for our television series, and some were simply inspired by Zola's travels through Israel.

FIRST DVD:

Zola's Music Video I (53 minutes)

Zola's unique music is paired with magnificent video footage from the Holy Land. Album excerpts from *Next Year in Jerusalem*; *Messiah*; *Israel, My Love*; and *Beginning of the End*.

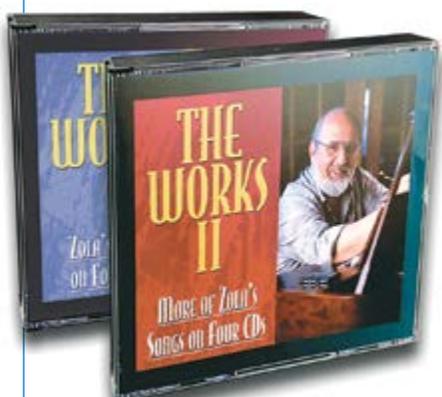
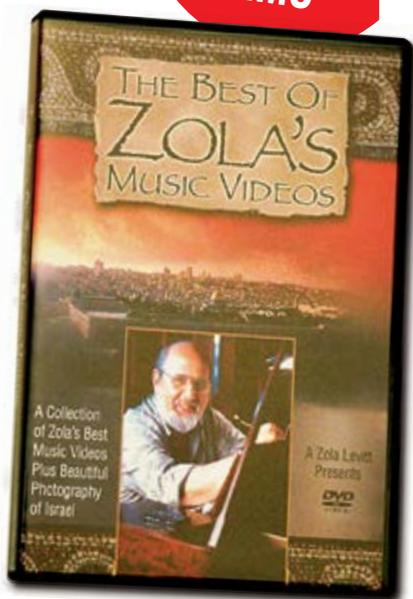
Zola's Music Video II (60 minutes)

A second collection of music. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompanied by Zola's original compositions from the albums *Zola's Songs by Lamb*, *Beloved Thief*, *Return to Galilee*, and *Beyond Words*. A fine marriage of music and video footage.

SECOND DVD:

Zola's Music Video III (78 minutes)

This third collection of Zola's music includes beautiful scenes of Israel and Greece accompanied by music from *Living Waters*, *The Holy Land Today*, *Unto the Gentiles*, and *Israel: By Divine Right*, as presented on our television program.



22-ALBUM SPECIAL

The Works I & II music CDs
BUY 8 CDS (16 ALBUMS) GET 6 CDS FREE!

To get all of Zola's music on CD, order his two collections: His first 8 albums are on 4 CDs in *The Works*, and his next 8 albums are on 4 CDs in *The Works II*. **That's 16 albums on 8 CDs!**

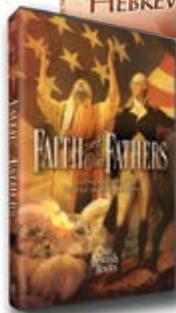
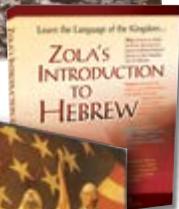
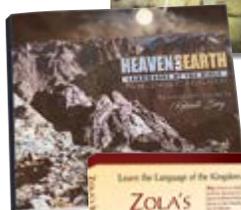
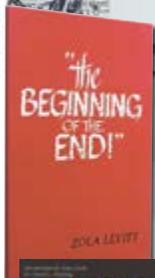
Order both sets as **The 22-Album Special**, and we'll throw in the six individual music CDs that he created afterward:

- *Thy Kingdom Come*
- *Love Stories of the Bible*
- *Champions of Faith*
- *A Pilgrim's Journey*
- *Living Waters*
- *Covenants of God*



(Available online)

ORDER FORM



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House (p.20)	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming (pictured)	\$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 (David Barton)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Weiss)..... (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End (pictured)	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches — Zola on Replacement Theology	\$6	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton)	\$8	___
___	The Green Horse—The Bible & Islam (Norma Archbold)	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg) (pictured)	\$18	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (updated)	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$7	___
___	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff)	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Age of Terror	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Beloved Thief	(64 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (p.17)	(3+ hours, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	A Child Is Born (p.20)	(30 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	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	___
___	Faith of Our Fathers (pictured)	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Gospel According to Isaiah	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Israel, the Church, & the Future	(6+ hours, 4-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Return to Eden	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Revelation	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<i>Sar Shalom</i> : Prince of Peace	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Times of the Signs	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Witnessing Series	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___

To order:

Online:
store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
800-966-3377
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

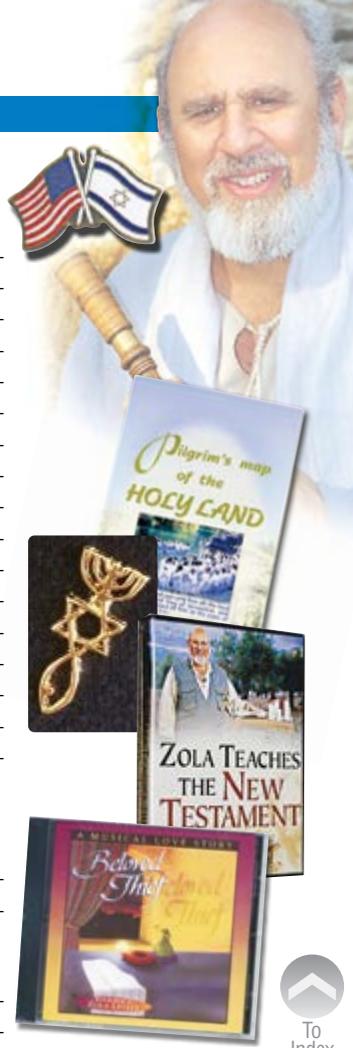


ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured to right and on p.27)	\$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	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3" x 5") (p.36)	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20")	\$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	_____
___	Half-shekel Keychain	\$15	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782 / 2022) (p.20)	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land (pictured)	\$6	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
___	"Things to Come" — Witnessing Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	Tribulation Temple	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs) \$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	22-Album Special (p.17) ... (Zola's 16 albums + 6 CDs free)	\$98	_____
___	Beloved Thief (pictured)	(Musical CD) \$12	_____
___	I Call You Friend (Goetz) (p.7)	(Music CD) \$14	_____
___	Zion Song (The Harts) (p.7)	(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.

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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 _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Subtotal _____

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

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

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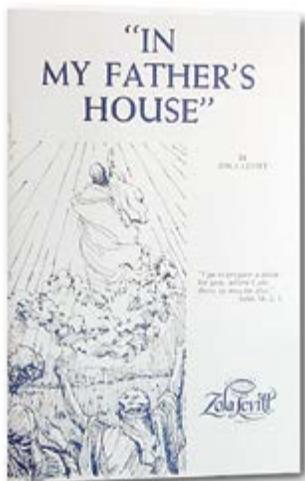
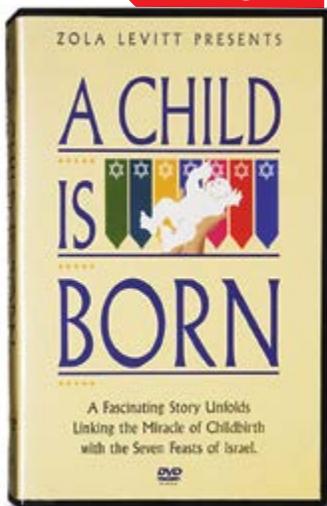
Total _____



[A Child Is Born](#) DVD

Links the Miracle of Childbirth
with the Seven Feasts of Israel!

Zola discovered, quite by accident, an amazing series of Biblical “coincidences.” It seems that every one of us, as we develop in the womb, follows the schedule of the Seven Feasts of Israel that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. This half-hour program illustrates the surprising similarities of these two chains of events, each established by God according to His purpose.



[In My Father's House](#) study booklet

A unique and very important Bible study. Most people plan more carefully for a two-week vacation than for the seven years we Believers will spend as guests in our Messiah's Father's house. What will we do during our time among the “many mansions,” and how do we prepare for it?



[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 began 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.



Fabulous Castles in Israel



PART 2

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.

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. Here, we have whittled them down to our favorite castles and fortresses, to be admired while wearing your finest gown.

(Continued from the [August 2021 Levitt Letter](#).)

Montfort Castle

Montfort Castle is a unique Crusader castle in that it was built not to protect the Christian kingdom from Arab invaders but rather to house some of the Teutonic Order's administration and protect it from rival Crusaders. Built in the 13th century, it is located on a steep cliff in the northern Galilee, where it is surrounded by green forest. Today, it is part of a national park that is also home to rare and endangered plants.



Montfort Castle

credit: Seih Avonstam via Shutterstock.com



Masada

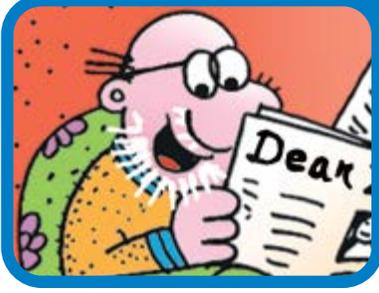
Possibly the most jaw-dropping fortress on this list, Masada is one of Israel's leading archaeological sites. Perched atop a cliff in the Judean desert, this complex housed King Herod's palaces and was where Jewish rebels fortified themselves against the Romans until, according to tradition, they killed themselves in A.D. 73 instead of falling captive.



Masada

credit: StockStudio Aerials via Shutterstock.com

Nowadays, Masada National Park is one of Israel's most popular tourist sites, accessed by two walking trails or a less strenuous cable car. The best time to visit is sunrise, when the desert and the adjacent Dead Sea light up. ★



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

From A.L. (LiveChat): Thank you for highlighting the important contribution by Jews during the American Revolution. Including ALL the notable Jewish Revolutionary War heroes would add ten pages to your news magazine. Keep up the good work. And may God bless you and prosper you in all your ways.

I enjoy these articles too. We'll keep them coming. —David

Asked and answered

Dear ZLM,

RE: ["Does Jesus Know When He's Coming Back?"](#) by Ryan Jones. Jones could have easily answered the question. See Mark 13:32, *"only the Father knows."* Why issue an attention getting headline and not provide the answer? —C.C.

Dear C.C.,

You're referring to an article from our [August 2020 cover](#). I believe Ryan Jones not only answered the question, but gave us good "food for thought" in that we shouldn't be dwelling on a specific date, but rather living in expectation, and simply be prepared. —Kirsten



Dissent and support

Responding to all the letters pro and con on masks and vaccines, which we will not rehash here:

I suppose disappointing people is the name of the game since Covid began. We've successfully offended, disappointed, and caused people to disassociate themselves from our ministry since the words "masks" and "vaccines" arrived on the scene. Even Jesus couldn't make everybody happy with His teachings and actions. I guess we're in good company. We're thankful for the numerous letters that offered encouragement, understanding, and support. —Kirsten

Home run

Dear ZLM,

We enjoyed the [Faith of Our Fathers series](#) on your weekly *Our Jewish Roots* TV program. David Barton's library of books, letters, and articles is a treasure. —L. and K.P. (CO)

Dear L. and K.P.,

We agree that David Barton hit a home run on *OJR*. Many have expressed appreciation for his insight and wisdom. —David



(continued next page)

Where was the Garden of Eden?

Dear Sarah,

Re: your offer to expand on information regarding the Garden of Eden's relationship to Jerusalem, I'm interested. — R.G.S. (PA)

Dear R.G.S.,

Yours was one of many letters we received expressing interest in Sarah Liberman's study of the Garden of Eden's location. Our free *Personal Letter* provides Sarah's outstanding insight and Bible teaching from Israel. The [September 2021 PL](#) began her series on the Garden's whereabouts. At levitt.com/newsletters, you can access any *Personal Letters* or *Levitt Letters* that you may have missed. — David



Modern map of the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers



Which valley?

Dear Sarah,

Re: your [June 2021 Personal Letter](#) regarding the Battle of Armageddon. I am sending you an essay that I wrote for my own analysis of your data. — J.R. (OR)

Dear J.R.,

You prepared an essay in rebuttal of Sarah Liberman's study concerning the location of the Battle of Armageddon. How fortunate that her article spurred you to dig and research the topic on your own. Inspiring students and peers is the goal of a good Bible teacher. Until we all have the exact answers on prophecy, let's continue to sharpen one another (Prov. 27:17). — David



Idolizing political leaders

Dear ZLM,

Regarding Kirsten Hart's article "Political Idolatry" ([August 2021 Levitt Letter, p. 6](#)), I pray for the man I voted for; I never pray to him. — R.M.C.

Dear R.M.C.,

I hope you also pray for the leaders you *don't* vote for — all our leaders need prayer. — Kirsten

(continued next page)

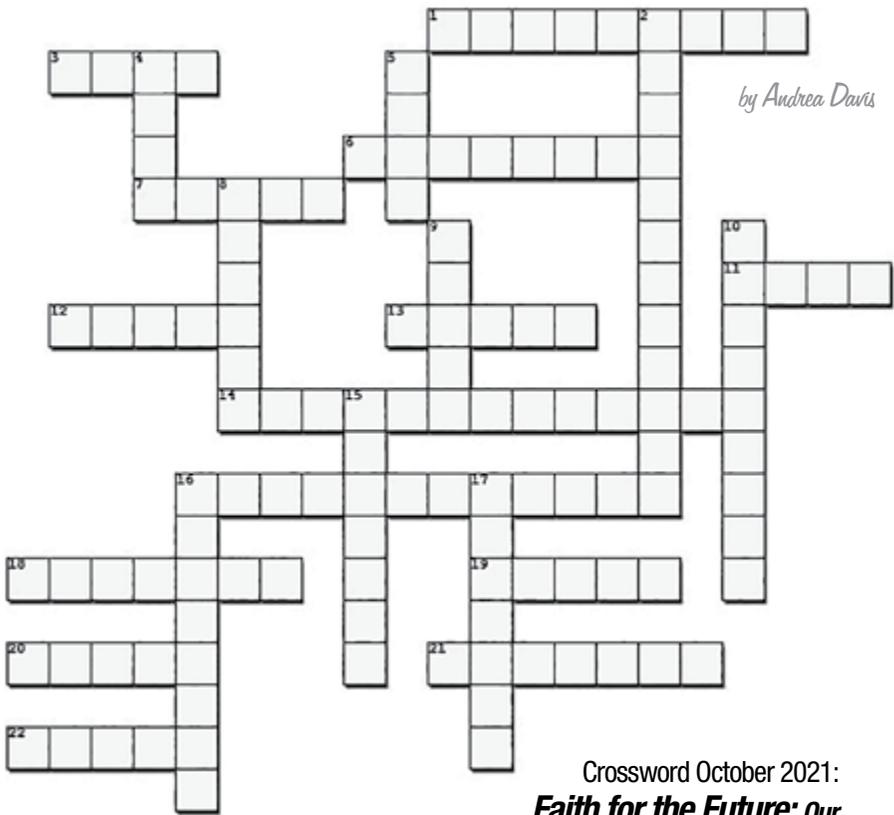
Many happy returns

Dear ZLM,

This is my 40th year with your ministry. I am now 88. My late husband and I went to Israel with Zola and Mark in 1981 — it was Mark's first trip to Israel! God Bless, — J.S. (TX)

Dear J.S.,

Happy Anniversary! You've seen many changes in our ministry over these 40 years. Thanks for staying with us. — David ★



by Andrea Davis

Crossword October 2021: **Faith for the Future: Our Journey with the Patriarchs**

(answers on [p.35](#))

ACROSS

1. I am _ with Christ... (Galatians 2:20)
3. Now the _ shall live by faith... (Hebrews 10:38)
6. ...the faithful God, which keepeth _... (Deut. 7:9)
7. For by _ are ye saved through faith... (Eph. 2:8)
11. O _ the Lord, all ye His saints... (Psalm 31:23)
12. Through _ we understand... (Hebrews 11:3)
13. ...faith, if it hath not _ is dead... (James 2:17)
14. ...his faith is counted for _ (Romans 4:5)
16. All Thy _ are faithful... (Psalm 119:86)
18. The Lord is my _... (Lamentations 3:24)
19. For we walk by faith, not by _... (2 Corinthians 5:7)
20. Now faith is the substance of things _ for... (Heb. 11:1)
21. Buried with Him in _... (Colossians 2:12)
22. ...thy faith hath saved thee; go in _ (Luke 7:50)

DOWN

2. ...Thy _ reacheth unto the clouds. (Psalm 36:5)
4. I will _ of the mercies of the Lord for ever... (Ps. 89:1)
5. ...well done _ and faithful servant... (Matt. 25:23)
8. ...Jesus the _ and finisher of our faith... (Heb.12:2)
9. ...Thy faith hath made thee _ (Matthew 9:22)
10. A faithful man shall abound with _... (Prov. 28:20)
15. So then faith cometh by _... (Romans 10:17)
16. For ye are all _ of God by faith... (Galatians 3:26)
17. ...if ye have faith as a grain of _ seed... (Matt. 17:20)



Halloween Tales and Traditions in America

HISTORY.COM

People mark the Halloween holiday with costumes, decorations, and parties. Creepy legends and characters have evolved based on real, terrifying events.

Witches on Brooms

The earliest known images of witches on brooms date to 1451, when two illustrations appeared in French poet Martin Le Franc's manuscript *Le Champion des Dames (The Defender of Ladies)*. In a pagan fertility ritual, rural farmers would leap and dance astride poles, pitchforks, or brooms in the light of the full moon to encourage the growth of their crops. This "broomstick dance" became confused with common accounts of witches flying through the night on their way to orgies and other illicit meetings.

Irving Writes *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow After Fleeing Yellow Fever*

Washington Irving's 1820 tale of a headless horseman who terrorizes the real-life village of Sleepy Hollow, New York is considered one of America's first — and scariest — ghost stories. Irving may have drawn inspiration for his story while a teenager in Tarrytown, New York. He moved to the area in 1798 to flee a yellow fever outbreak in New York City.

In Irving's story, a lanky newcomer and schoolmaster, Ichabod Crane, is chased by a headless horseman. Irving's tale weaves together actual locations and family names, and a little bit of Revolutionary War history with pure imagination and fantasy.

credit: Getty Images



19th century depiction of a family member dying from consumption

Jack-o'-Lanterns and the Legend of "Stingy Jack"

According to an Irish myth, "Stingy Jack" tricks the Devil into paying for his drink and then traps him in the form of a coin. The Devil eventually takes revenge and Stingy Jack ends up roaming Earth for eternity. Jack does, however, have a lighted coal, which he places inside a carved turnip, creating the original Jack-o'-lantern.



credit: Getty Images

Portrait of Mary Shelley (detail), 1831, by Samuel John Stump

Mary Shelley Carried Her Dead Husband's Heart

Author Mary Shelley is world renowned for her terrifying *Frankenstein* fiction, but few know that she had a dark secret of her own. Shelley's husband, Percy, drowned at age 29 when his boat was caught in a storm in July 1822. Percy's and his fellow sailors' bodies were found 10 days later. They were cremated, but Shelley's heart did not burn (perhaps due to a bout of tuberculosis earlier in his life). Mary Shelley eventually took ownership of her late husband's heart and is said to have carried it around in a silk bag.

Haunted Houses During the Great Depression

On Halloween 1933, people were outraged when hundreds of teenage boys flipped over cars, sawed off telephone poles, and engaged in other acts of vandalism across the country. They began to refer to that year's holiday as "Black Halloween." Rather than banning the holiday, **many communities began organizing Halloween activities — and haunted houses — to keep restless, would-be pranksters occupied.**

Horror Movies Inspired by the News

On November 13, 1974, 23-year-old Ronald "Butch" DeFeo Jr. murdered his entire family in their sleep. One year later, the Lutz family purchased the house of the murders in Amityville, New York. George and Kathy Lutz claimed that they experienced shocking paranormal phenomena in the house: green slime oozing from the walls, a creature with red eyes, and multiple family members levitating in their beds. The claims appeared in Jay Anson's 1977 book, *The Amityville Horror*, which inspired the 1979 movie.

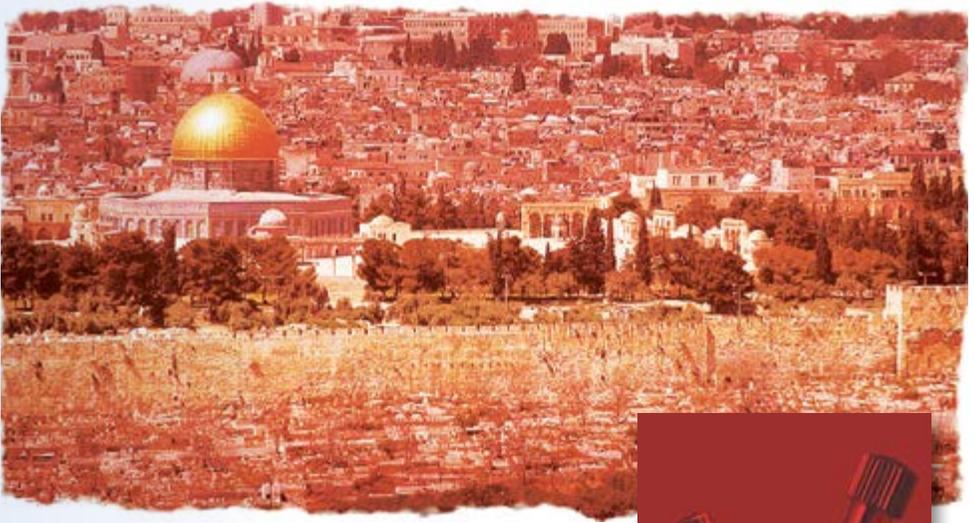
Rather than giving any sort of nod to Halloween, the purpose of this article is to share some history. Believers could possibly host a Bible study for would-be pranksters. —Editor ★



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Anti-Semitism in Prophecy

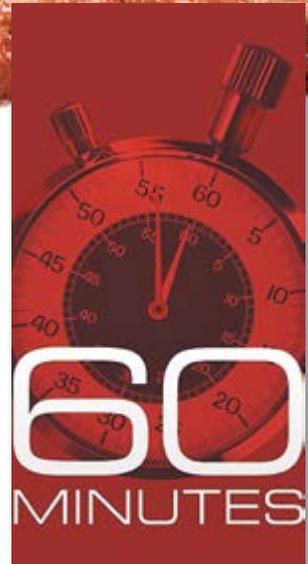
Classic Zola Levitt
from 1991
30 years ago



top: the Temple Mount as seen from the Mount of Olives
right: the *60 Minutes* masthead

[Last month](#), Zola pointed out anti-Semitism in his 1991 world and the root cause. Our society 30 years later isn't that different. This month, Zola's observations lead him into the realm of prophecy. — Editor

The nation of Chile has just lifted a 16-year ban on the Jewish movie *Fiddler on the Roof*. The unwillingness of Jewish people to bow to totalitarian governments has always scared dictators. The play is about the triumph of the underdog against overwhelming odds. In Chile, the underdog may triumph with an easing of central government powers.



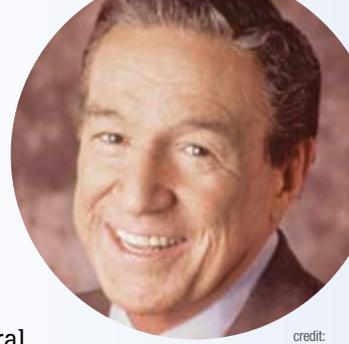
Sex, Lies, and Anti-Semitism

A mindless *60 Minutes* segment that was supposedly a report from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem was another example of media bias against Israel and the Jewish people. I don't think that I have ever seen a more unbalanced news report, even on PBS. If I hadn't covered the Temple Mount situation myself on our own program, and talked to a number of eyewitnesses to the events, I might not be so convinced. But because I did, the lies on *60 Minutes* didn't work on me. *60 Minutes* quoted no Israeli who was involved in the conflict. And as I explained on television, they simply distorted what they knew to be the truth, presumably in order to sell soap.

The Temple Mount story was followed by a report on prostitution in Amsterdam, with lots of lascivious pictures, and I'm afraid that sort of thing has become *60 Minutes's* rightful territory. News programs willing to sell out for ratings should sell out with subjects like sex, not with anti-Semitism — especially when the untruthful reporter, Mike Wallace in that instance, is Jewish.

By the time they selected a blond Palestinian youngster with a British accent to represent that side of the conflict and interviewed a female ambulance

(continued next page)

credit:
CBS News
portrait

driver who said that Israeli soldiers shot at her when she went to pick up the wounded, I couldn't take much more. I don't think even Yasser Arafat would believe that Israeli soldiers shot at an ambulance, because he knows Israeli soldiers better than that. If Arafat didn't have faith that virtually every Israeli soldier is a good and moral person down to the bone, he wouldn't have those Palestinian youngsters out there throwing stones at them.

Wallace had the temerity to appear in a skullcap while interviewing a rabbi about the Temple Mount.

And lastly, the most anti-Semitic attack of them all: linking the pillaging of Kuwait with the defensive occupation of the West Bank in Israel. It goes on and on, even in the United Nations. The so-called "International Peace Conference" that the UN has resolved to hold will make a mockery of the term and may well justify Daniel's description of the antiChrist: "...and by peace shall [he] destroy many" (Dan. 8:25). This conference, if it even happens, will be the usual cacophony of brutal Third World nations screaming for blood and ignoring their own savage histories (as we "Americans" ignore ours) to condemn the bravest and most advanced democracy in the Eastern world.

Believe me when I tell you that I am holding back my personal bias. Like anyone else, I wish that everyone would love my particular people. But I'm aware that that's just not going to happen until the Kingdom is established, when all the world will love Israel and visit it at least 1,000 times (Zech. 14:16). I guess it's more in the nature of a plea for a witness to the Jewish people that I present these facts. I wish that the Arab people, the German people, the Russian people, and everyone else would be saved. And that's a proper wish for a Christian. But most of all, I join Paul in his cry (which we use in our ministry logo), "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1).

Combating hatred

All of the world's criticism and pretenses that Israelis are a violent people — in a world where violence in endemic — is just so much service to the enemy.

The best way to combat hatred of the Jews is with love of the Jews, something that God commanded in both Testaments but is too often neglected, even by Believers. Consider this: God calls Jews "*the apple of His eye*" (Zech. 2:8); God "*has not cast out His people whom He foreknew*" (Rom. 11:2); the Gospel is to go "*to the Jew first*" (Rom. 1:16); when the Lord returns, "*His feet shall stand that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east*" (Zech. 14:4); He will set up His kingdom and celebrate His feasts in Israel for a thousand years (Zech. 14:16–19). Therefore, it's high time we cultivate the habit of loving those whom God loves.

Loving the Jews is a well-advised spiritual effort dictated by your own self-interest. After all, didn't Almighty God promise His friend Abraham, "*I will bless those who bless thee, and curse him who curses thee ...*" (Genesis 12:3)?

Thirty years ago, Zola would never have guessed that two gentiles who love the Jewish people would join Jeff in continuing ZLM's mission. — David ★



Our 2-flag collar pin is just one way you can show your love for Israel



Israeli-Developed Missile Will Surprise Enemies



SCIENCE: BY YAAKOV LAPPIN (r) JNS.org

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems recently unveiled a new long-range, autonomous, and low-flying maneuvering missile. Called Sea Breaker, the missile is designed to surprise enemy targets and pose serious challenges to their radar systems. **Because it does not rely on satellite navigation, adversaries cannot disrupt its path to the target,** which is a key capability of the missile.

"It has the ability to infiltrate defense systems, flying low. If it's over the sea, it skims the water, and the ability of the enemy to disrupt it is very limited. Over land, it flies low and comes in using 'sneaky' routes, like a naval commando raid. Once it locks onto a ship, the ship's time starts running out quickly. As the enemy radar tries to figure out where to send interceptors, the Sea Breaker keeps maneuvering," a Rafael source stated.



credit: Rafael

The missile is able to operate in all weather conditions and can deliver a 250-pound warhead to targets with high levels of accuracy.

Capable of targeting both stationary and moving targets, the missile is specifically designed to infiltrate areas that are filled with radars and adversary missiles. Thus Sea Breaker can be used to infiltrate heavily guarded coastal areas, or, if used by a defending military, to defend such territories against enemies.

The missile can be fired from shore-to-sea, sea-to-shore, sea-to-sea, or surface-to-surface.

Operating in any weather condition, the missile delivers a 250-pound warhead to targets with high levels of accuracy. While a single hit can neutralize a frigate-sized ship, the same precision can be used to deliver a "warning" to a ship by hitting an area that would not sink it. Its precision means that the missile is ideal for avoiding collateral damage.

Sea Breaker is made up of a missile, a radar, a launcher, and a command-and-control center. Even clients without ocean-going fleets can use the missile to protect their shores effectively. The mobile launcher allows it to be loaded onto a truck or an aircraft and easily moved.

Its potential targets include naval ships, communication and logistical centers, airfields, port facilities, enemy headquarters, anti-aircraft batteries, and insurgent infrastructure. ★



A CGI image of Rafael's Sea Breaker missile

The missile identifies and classifies targets automatically using advanced artificial intelligence. It is able to designate enemy targets, telling them apart from civilian assets. If fired at a "crowded" area filled with military and civilian ships, the missile uses its algorithms to classify the targets as it approaches them.

While considered an autonomous missile, the source noted that "a person in the loop can stop the attack via a communications channel, change the target, or abort the mission."



Pineapple Gel Effective for Children's Burns

MEDICINE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Israel's MediWound Ltd., a maker of a pineapple-based gel to treat burn victims, recently reported positive results of a key Phase 3 clinical trial of its treatment on children with severe thermal burns.

The study, which evaluated the efficacy of the firm's gel compared with the standard of care alternative, met its three key targets "with a high degree of statistical significance," according to a company statement.

"NexoBrid demonstrated a significant reduction" in the time to achieve the complete removal of eschar (dead tissue caused by a burn) and also a "significant reduction" in wound area that required surgery. It met the standard of care regarding the quality of scars as well.

In addition, the study showed statistically significant reduction in the incidence of surgical excision and reduction in the need for autograft in deep partial burns, as well as a favorable trend in reduction of blood loss during the eschar removal process. The study showed that NexoBrid was safe and well-tolerated.

"The positive results of our pivotal Phase 3 clinical studies in adult patients clearly demonstrate the significant beneficial impact NexoBrid has

on the lives of pediatric burn patients," said Sharon Malka, CEO of MediWound.

MediWound's technology is based on enzymes extracted from the pineapple plant stem in a complex pharmaceutical process.

According to Dr. Lior Rosenberg, MediWound's chief medical technology officer, "The current mode of pediatric burn management requires intensive medical therapy. This poses challenges due to the surgical complexities in treating young patients with severe burns. Having NexoBrid as a non-surgical option provides a minimally invasive alternative to the current surgical standard of care for treating severe burns in pediatric patients."

The NexoBrid CIDS study was performed in children with deep partial thickness and full thickness thermal burns. The study's objectives were to evaluate the efficacy and safety of treatment with NexoBrid compared with standard of care in hospitalized children with severe thermal burns over 1% to 30% of the total body surface area. The study enrolled 145 pediatric patients, from newborn to eighteen years of age, randomized to either NexoBrid or the standard of care, at a ratio of 1:1, across 36 burn centers worldwide. ★



credit: Ananasofor
(Wikipedia Commons)

A ripe pineapple
(Ananas comosus)

"MediWound's technology is based on enzymes extracted from the pineapple plant stem in a complex pharmaceutical process."





Palestinian scouts' salute

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Palestinian Scouts Give Nazi-like Salute

By Nan Jacques Zilberdik and Maurice Hirsch PalWatch.org

While pledging allegiance to "Palestine" at an event organized in Lebanon by the Palestinian Scout Association (PSA) and the Fatah Movement Scout Office, adult and child scouts appeared to make the Nazi salute.

The scout sign (below) is usually made with the three middle fingers touching the brow while the thumb and the little finger are folded and the palm faces out.

However, the Palestinian scouts stretched their arms diagonally into the sky, thus making the scout sign look like the salute used by the Nazis.

The Lebanese Palestinian scouts have become a political organization, **misusing**

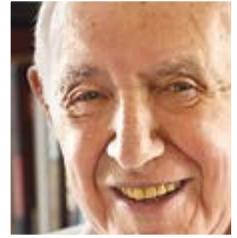
the scouts' platform to indoctrinate the Lebanese Palestinian youth to seek the destruction of Israel and the "liberation of Palestine." Scouts interviewed at the event stressed that youths from the age of 8 and up are taught to be "a second army to liberate Palestine."



Auschwitz Singer and Cantor Dies at 94

By Keren Blankfeld NYTimes.com

David Wisnia (1926–2021) was 13 when Germany invaded Poland. As a teenager, Wisnia



was enslaved and tortured. He hauled away Nazi prisoners who'd killed themselves. His left forearm was tattooed 83526. He discovered his parents and younger brother in a pile of corpses. **Singing for his captors and interpreting preserved his life in the death camp.** After WWII, he arrived in the U.S. as a refugee. In 2020 during a family trip to Auschwitz, he told his grandson, "You are proof that Hitler did not win."

(continued next page)



credit (both photos): Tom Gralish / The Philadelphia Inquirer

top & above: David Wisnia





Ex-Afghanistan Women's Captain Advises: Burn Kits, Delete Photos

By Lizzy Davies / TheGuardian.com

High-profile sportswomen in Afghanistan have been urged to wipe their social media presence and in some cases burn their kit [uniforms] as supporters scramble to protect them from the Taliban.

Speaking from Copenhagen, **Khalida Popal** (right), the former captain of the Afghanistan women's football team, said female players should



credit: Graeme Robertson/The Guardian

take urgent steps to remove all traces of their sporting history. "I'm telling team members, take down your names, remove your identities, take down photos for your safety. Even I'm telling them to burn down or get rid of your national team uniform. It is painful for me, an activist who did everything possible to achieve identity as a women's national team player. To earn that badge on the chest, to have the right to play and represent our country, how much we were proud."

A source close to the country's cycling federation echoed the advice, saying female members had been told to stay at home and avoid posting on social media at all cost.

In a few months, "I'm sure that nobody can guarantee their life. The freedoms they had to ride a bike will be impossible ... They are shocked and they are afraid."

When the Taliban were in power between 1996 and 2001, women were not allowed to work, and girls were barred from going



credit: screen capture from video on The Guardian

Burn your kits and delete photos, says former Afghanistan women's captain

to school, let alone playing sports. Women had to wear burkas to go out, and then only when escorted by a male relative.

Some members of a girls' robotics team — Afghanistan's first — arrived in Qatar after leaving Kabul on a commercial flight. Known as the Afghan Dreamers, the team ranges in age from 12 to 18. While some of the girls went to Qatar to continue their education, other members stayed in Afghanistan. "The Taliban have promised to allow girls to be educated to whatever extent allowed by sharia law," a spokeswoman said. "We will have to wait and see what that means." ★



Bill Bramhall/New York Daily News



3,500-year-old Inscription from Biblical Canaan



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ROSSELLA TERCATIN (r) JPost.com

credit: (both images): Austrian Archaeological Institute/Austrian Academy of Sciences



top: Lachish archaeological site
right: 3,500-year-old inscription found at Lachish



A 3,500-year-old inscription recently unearthed at Tel Lachish in south-central Israel is the oldest piece of writing ever found in Israel and offers unprecedented insights into the development of the first alphabets, according to a recent study in the journal *Antiquity*.

The writing, a combination of six letters on two distinct lines, appeared on a pottery sherd found at the site. The artifact was discovered in 2018 during excavations conducted by the Austrian Archaeological Institute at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

“Our excavation started in 2017,” said Dr. Felix Höflmayer, lead author of the paper and co-director of the excavation at Tel Lachish. “We have been looking into obtaining a radiocarbon sequence for the transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age.” During that period — around the middle of the second millennium B.C. — it was a Canaanite center, making Tel Lachish one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel.

Mentioned several times in the Bible

According to the Book of Joshua (10:35), the Israelites destroyed Lachish as they conquered the Land of Israel at the end of their wanderings in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. Lachish later became an important Israelite city in the Kingdom of Judah, until it was destroyed by the Assyrians in the 7th century B.C. (2 Kings 18:13).

The inscription was dated very precisely to 3,500 years ago, thanks to the

(continued next page)

numerous organic samples collected with it, such as seeds, which allowed the researchers to employ radiocarbon dating. Some believe that another inscription, which was found in the 1930s, might go back to 100 years earlier. But because it was excavated such a long time ago, it is not possible to use radiocarbon dating, Höflmayer explained. “Moreover, many experts have doubts regarding the alphabet script used.”



The new finding is especially significant because it narrows the gap between the earliest testimonies of alphabetic script uncovered in the Sinai region and more recent evidence of Semitic alphabets.

“We know that the early alphabet was invented in Sinai in approximately the 19th century B.C.,” he said. “It resurfaced in the southern Levant much later, only around the 13th and 12th centuries, but we had no clues about what happened between these two periods.”

Before the discovery of the inscription, experts believed that writing might have been brought by Egyptians to the Levant, an area that includes modern Israel, the Palestinian territories, parts of Lebanon, and Jordan.

“In the Late Bronze Age, between 1550 and 1200 B.C., the region was under the Egyptian Empire,” said Höflmayer. “The Egyptians imposed their own administrative system and writing, and many experts thought that the early alphabet might have been introduced in this context. But now we can see that it was already in use at least by the 15th century B.C., when there was not such large-scale Egyptian domination.”

Höflmayer added that even though the letters identified on the sherd bear names and compose words that might sound familiar to a modern Hebrew speaker, the alphabet was not the Hebrew alphabet, but rather an alphabet from which the Hebrew one would evolve centuries later.

The inscription bears letters that the researchers identified as *ayin-bet-daled*, (e-v-d) forming a word that can be *eved*— which back then, as well as in modern Hebrew, means *slave*. The second word deciphered on the sherd features *nun-peh-tav*, (n-p-t) or *nectar*.



Dr. Felix Höflmayer, Austrian Archaeological Institute / Austrian Academy of Sciences, co-director of excavation at Lachish

“All alphabets have somewhat evolved from hieroglyphs, the Phoenician one, the Hebrew one, the Greek one, the Latin one, and so on,” Höflmayer said. “Now we know that the alphabet was not brought to the Levant by Egyptian rule. Although we cannot really explain yet how it happened, we can say that it was much earlier and under different social circumstances.” ★

When Islam Moved in, Jews Fled Sweden



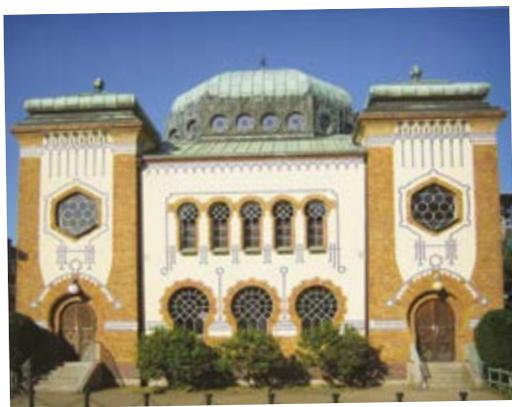
BY GIULIO MEOTTI (r) IsraelNationalNews.com

“Jews are leaving Sweden’s third largest city,” wrote the Swedish daily *Nyheter Idag* in May. The Malmö Jewish Congregation was founded in 1871, and now so many Jews want to leave the city that “there will be no Jewish population in Malmö within ten years.”

All the Jewish children of Malmö, explains the newspaper, have been exposed to anti-Semitism. But the hatred of Jews that came with migrants from the Middle East and North Africa is justified by many Swedish politicians as a “criticism of Israel” or legitimized by some of the city’s leaders.

In the 20th century, Sweden was one of the most welcoming places for Jews in Europe — Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg was Swedish. Malmö was the city-refuge for many who managed to escape Nazi deportation.

When Judith Popinski first arrived in Sweden after her rescue from a Nazi concentration camp, she rebuilt her life in Malmö and for the next 60 years lived happily in her adopted homeland. In 2009, a chapel in her Jewish community of 700 was set on fire. “I never thought I’d see this hatred again in my life, and not in Sweden,” Ms. Popinski remarked. “This new hatred comes from Muslim immigrants. The Jewish people are now afraid.”



Malmö synagogue before fortification

The synagogue in Malmö is now a fortress. The facade is covered with metal plates, the windows are just slits, and cameras point to the entrance. Pressing a button activates the intercom: “Welcome to the Jewish community of Malmö.” Roadblocks have been erected around the congregation and the synagogue, preventing vehicles from getting too close. The nursery school looks perfectly normal, but children play behind bulletproof glass, and their exits require safety protocols.

With 176 nationalities, Malmö is the fourth most multi-ethnic city in the world after London, New York, and Washington D.C. But there seems to be no room for a small minority: the Jews. Almost 40% of Malmö’s inhabitants are of foreign origin and the percentage is constantly increasing. In the 1970s, the Jewish community had over 2,000 members; today there are fewer than 400 left.

Before the 2015 attack in Copenhagen over drawings of Mohammed, there were 23 children at Malmö’s Jewish nursery. Today there are five. Some say that the synagogue in the city will soon be transformed into a museum, given that since 2010, it has lost a third of the faithful. Malmö’s Jewish community could therefore dissolve by 2029 unless circumstances change. It numbered 2,500 Jews in the 1970s, 842 in 1999, 610 in 2009, 387 in 2019, and 200 today. In ten years, there will be no more Jews.

The Wall Street Journal summed it up like this: “Eurabia is in Sweden.” Multiculturalism turned out to be the end of tolerance and coexistence. ★

“I never thought I’d see this hatred again in my life, and not in Sweden ...”





Final Destination

Rachel traveled a lot for business. Flying made her very nervous, so she always carried her Bible because reading it helped her relax.

On one flight, she sat next to a skeptic. When he saw her pull out her Bible, he smirked and went back to what he was doing. Awhile later, he turned to her and asked, "You don't really believe all that stuff in there?"

Rachel replied, "Of course!"

"Well," he said, "what about that guy who was swallowed by a whale?"

"Jonah," acknowledged Rachel. "What about him?"

"How do you suppose he survived all that time inside the whale?"

"I don't really know," Rachel admitted. "I guess I'll ask him when I get to Heaven."

"What if he isn't there?" the man asked snidely.

"Then you can ask him," replied Rachel. ★

Cornered

by Mike Baldwin



"You're lucky. If it wasn't for the autopsy, we never would've caught it."

Answer Key for October 2021 Crossword (p.24)

Across:

- 1. Crucified
- 3. Just
- 6. Covenant
- 7. Grace
- 11. Love
- 12. Faith
- 13. Works
- 14. Righteousness
- 16. Commandments
- 18. Portion
- 19. Sight
- 20. Hoped
- 21. Baptism
- 22. Peace

Down:

- 2. Faithfulness
- 4. Sing
- 5. Good
- 8. Author
- 9. Whole
- 10. Blessings
- 15. Hearing
- 16. Children
- 17. Mustard

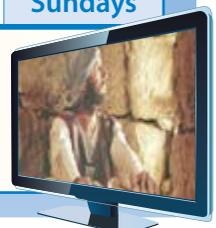


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TCT Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 377				
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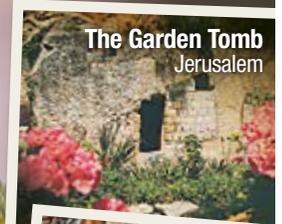
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