



# 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 2) p.8**

## Jesus (Yeshua) Celebrated Hanukkah

By David Brickner / [JewsForJesus.org](http://JewsForJesus.org)

*Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the Temple, in Solomon's porch.*

— John 10:22–23

That is the only Biblical reference to a well-known winter holiday that Jesus celebrated—a holiday many will celebrate in a couple of weeks. You know it by another name (hint: it's not Christmas!). No, my Jewish people will celebrate the Feast of Dedication, commonly known as *Hanukkah*.

### The Historical Origins of the Holiday

Many are surprised that the only Bible verse mentioning Hanukkah is found in the New Testament. That is simply because the holiday commemorates an event that occurred during the intertestamental period, approximately 165 B.C. A Syrian King named Antiochus invaded the Jewish nation and

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#### REMEMBER:

*Hanukkah 2021 begins at sunset Sunday, November 28  
ends at sunset Monday, December 6*

## Be THANKFUL As You Go

By Kirsten Hart,  
OJR Co-host

David and I moved to Florida recently. A few weeks ago, we closed on the sale of our Branson, Missouri house, so we're officially Floridians now. One aspect of our new Florida life that thrills us is the ability to "play" outdoors all year long! We're "going, going, going" in the best ways possible. Swimming, hiking, riding roller coasters, evening walks—all part of our new lifestyle. We're active, and it feels wonderful

November is the month of thankfulness. Granted, we should be thankful to God every single day, but since 1789 when President George Washington issued a proclamation, America has been celebrating an official day of thanksgiving at the end of November.

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# Passwords

Greg Hartwig  
ZLM Webmaster  
[www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)



Creating passwords constitutes one of the biggest challenges when using computers and the internet. Users are supposed to make them complicated with symbols and numbers, and the resulting password should be more than just a few characters long. *And* we're supposed to remember them when asked. *And* some websites require us to change them every month. *And* now we are advised to have a different password for every account!

But there is good news. It has been determined that **the biggest factor that really matters for effective passwords is length**. So rather than coming up with a complicated password, it is actually better to use a phrase — a string of words, such as "I do not like cucumbers at all" (sometimes you may need to remove the spaces between words). Such a password (passphrase?) is much easier to remember and remains hard to hack due to its length.

But you still need a different password for every account so that if one account is breached and your

password stolen, a hacker can't try that password on other common sites and break into those accounts.

Using a Password Manager — such as LastPass or 1Password — solves that problem. A Password Manager can remember your passwords for you, but you still need a good password for the Manager in order to access your other passwords. That's where this new recommendation is handy: Use a phrase that you can remember instead of trying to come up with a complex but nonsense password. And write down the password/passphrase for the Password Manager somewhere safe rather than depending on your memory only.

For more information on the subject, please see my article on "Dealing with Passwords" in the [June 2020 Levitt Letter, page 21](#).

Great advice! I've never considered using a phrase or sentence. Safeguarding passwords will be easier now. — Kirsten ★



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UNCOMMON (NON-GIBBERISH) BASE WORD      ORDER UNKNOWN

Tr0ub4dor &3

CAPS?      COMMON SUBSTITUTIONS      NUMERAL      PUNCTUATION

(YOU CAN ADD A FEW MORE BITS TO INCREASE THE THE THE SIZE IS ONLY ONE OF A FEW COMMON FORMATS)

~28 BITS OF ENTROPY

$2^{28} = 3 \text{ DAYS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$

(PLAUSIBLE ATTACK ON A NEW SERVICE WITH SERVICE YES, CROAKING A STOLEN PHRASE IS FASTER, BUT IS NOT WHAT THE ORIGINAL USER SHOULD WORRY ABOUT)

DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: EASY

DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: HARD

correct horse battery staple

FOUR RANDOM COMMON WORDS

~44 BITS OF ENTROPY

$2^{44} = 530 \text{ YEARS AT } 1000 \text{ GUESSES/SEC}$

DIFFICULTY TO GUESS: HARD

DIFFICULTY TO REMEMBER: YOU'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED IT

THAT'S A BATTERY STAPLE. CORRECT!

credit: xkcd.com

THROUGH 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY TRAINED EVERYONE TO USE PASSWORDS THAT ARE HARD FOR HUMANS TO REMEMBER, BUT EASY FOR COMPUTERS TO GUESS.





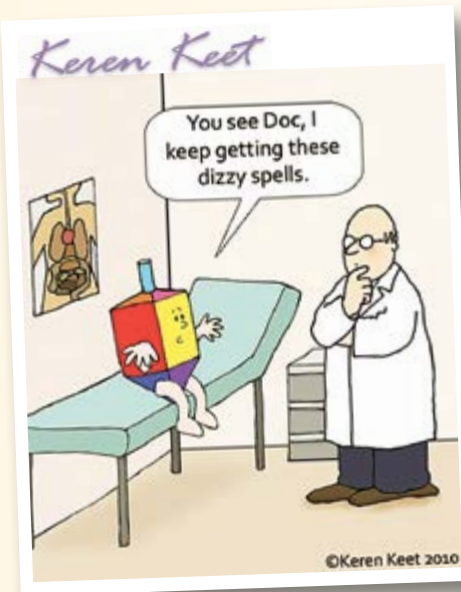
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## Hanukkah Cartoons



# Why David Loved God's Word (Psalm 119:81-120)

Tony Derrick  
Theologian for  
Zola Levitt Ministries



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

Last month, we explored whether we can trust God's Word. The Psalmist gave his definitive answer in the verses that we covered; and, of course, his answer was a resounding "yes."

In this section of Psalm 119, David describes God's Word with his experiences in life, and explains why he depends on God's Word.



## 1. The Word of God is Trustworthy (119:81-88)

Have you ever been in such anguish that you wanted to give up? That is the message David expressed when he wrote that his *"soul faints for the Lord's salvation."* David had many enemies, but he remained faithful to God and His Word. He anxiously waited to be vindicated for his faithfulness.



Our world today is somewhat like David's pre-Messiah world — anti-God: This attitude causes many Believers\* to back away and remain silent. As Christians, we need to step to the forefront and express our faith in Yeshua without fear. The Gospel of Matthew 10:28 quotes Yeshua saying, *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

## 2. The Word of God is Unfailing (119:89-96)

I respect David's confidence when he says that God's Word is settled in Heaven. That phrase gives me proper perspective.

David had experienced God's faithfulness through the generations. He was very aware and admitted



*(continued next page)*

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



that God's law and precepts preserved his life. We can take comfort in knowing that God is faithful to fulfill His Word in our generation. He will never abandon that which He has created. What an encouraging thought!

### 3. The Word of God is Compassionate (119:97–104)

David expressed his love for the Word of God and how it made him wiser than his enemies and teachers. He likened God's Word to honey in his mouth. Sweet indeed.



### 4. God's Word is a Light on the Path (119:105–112)

Have you ever visited a cave and turned off the lights? Could that utter blackness have given rise to the expression "It was so dark, you could cut it with a knife"?

David understood that if he didn't try to live in the light of God's Word, the world would be a very dark place. He was quick to call out to God, asking Him to direct him and light his path to faithfulness. David declared that he would joyfully follow God's statutes.



### 5. God's Word is a Refuge and Shield (119:113–120)

David concluded this section by expressing comfort that God's Word was both his refuge and shield. This sentiment reflects the reassurance of Psalm 91. When you are weary and it feels as if the world is closing in on you, Psalm 91:2 can bolster your confidence again. *"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.'"*



In these uncertain times, everyone needs the encouragement that only God's Word can bring. Yes, God's Word can be trusted. ★

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR





# Jesus (Yeshua) Celebrated ... *continued from cover*

BY DAVID BRICKNER (r) JewsForJesus.org



demanded that my people abandon the God of Israel and His ways. His plan: impose Greek customs to ensure that no one could worship the God of Israel.

Antiochus defiled the Temple in Jerusalem. He placed idols in the house of the Lord and sacrificed a sow upon the holy altar.

**It was a terribly dark period in Israel's history, but God raised up a small**

band of heroes led by a family known as the Maccabees (Maccabee means "hammer") who waged a successful rebellion against Antiochus and drove the Syrians out of Israel. We call the holiday *Hanukkah* (dedication) because the high point of the victory that God gave us over Antiochus was rededicating the Temple in Jerusalem.

## Miracle of the Oil

According to tradition, when the Maccabees recaptured Jerusalem, they immediately set out to rededicate the Temple. But they needed consecrated oil to rekindle the sacred candelabra. They found only enough for one day, and it would take eight days to produce enough oil for Temple use.

The zeal to rededicate the Temple was so strong that, despite the dilemma, they decided to light the candelabra. The miracle was that the oil continued to burn for eight days. This is why we celebrate Hanukkah for eight nights and why the *hanukkiah* (Hanukkah menorah) is lit for eight nights. But this miracle isn't mentioned in the early accounts of the Maccabean revolt.

Many believe that a more likely reason

to celebrate Hanukkah for eight days is that the Maccabees celebrated a belated **Feast of Tabernacles**. Solomon himself had chosen that very same Feast to dedicate the Temple when it was newly built. So an eight-day festival of joy and thanksgiving would have been an appropriate rededication of the Temple.

## Jesus at the Temple on Hanukkah

The Jews of Jesus' day were aware of the events that had led to the Feast of Dedication when they approached Jesus in the Temple on Hanukkah. It was in the context of that recent history that they said to Jesus, *"If you are the Christ, tell us plainly"* (John 10:24). As the Messiah, they reasoned, He had the power to preserve the Jewish people from the tyranny of the Romans, just as God had preserved them from Antiochus. Jesus answered them with a rebuke, *"I told you, and you do not believe"* (10:25).

Jesus **claimed divine power** to preserve and sustain His people, but not in the manner they hoped. **His power was not temporal and physical but eternal and spiritual.** He offered salvation not from Roman oppression but from the oppression of Satan, sin, and even death itself.

He made an astounding claim: *"I and My Father are one"* (10:30). Remember, this is Hanukkah. Fresh in my people's minds was the fact that they had rejected the false claims of Antiochus. Now here is Jesus, standing in the Temple asserting His own claim to deity. The Jews took up stones to stone Him (10:31).

## The Miracle of Immanuel

When my people rejected Antiochus, God kept His promises, miraculously preserving them. But when the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus' claims that day, they missed an even greater miracle than Israel's victory over the Syrian army. They missed the miracle

*(continued next page)*



of Immanuel, God with us, that gave Jesus the right to claim power to preserve those who come to Him. Only as God in the flesh is Jesus *“able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him”* (Heb. 7:25).

God does keep His promises, even when we fail to recognize it. He said, *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ... For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6). Jesus fulfilled these promises from God. In Him, God has proven His faithfulness to Israel and to all the world.

Those of us who have accepted His claims can celebrate the miracle of Hanukkah as well as the miracle of Christ’s birth. Because God keeps His promises, He will save and sustain

Israel. He will save and keep all those who call upon His name through faith in Immanuel, our Messiah Jesus. **Because God keeps His promises, He has made each blood-bought Believer to be His own Temple, where Immanuel, God with us, has taken up residence.** Please join us in dedicating ourselves anew to live for Him by the power of the *Ruach HaKodesh*, the Holy Spirit who burns within us.

Please see [The Feast of Lights](#) on [p.17](#). ★



## A BLESSED HERITAGE:

“Appointed and Anointed” (March 2009 *Levitt Letter* p.32) includes a picture of Jews For Jesus founder Moishe Rosen (l) and director David Brickner anointing me with olive oil. Zola regarded them as dear friends, and I do too. — Mark



## Be THANKFUL as You Go *continued from cover sidebar*

The Bible is full of verses and stories concerning being thankful and having a grateful heart. One, in particular, recently caught my attention.

In Luke 17, ten lepers call out to Jesus, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” What interested me is that the Lord didn’t instantly heal them. Rather, we are told in verse 14, *“as they went they were cleansed”* (my emphasis added). As the ten lepers were doing what Jesus had instructed (to go show themselves to the priests), they received their healing. They had to take physical steps of faith to become bodily restored.

How wonderful for these men who had suffered under the physical and psychological pain of leprosy: *As they walked*, they were freed from being unclean. They received a fresh opportunity to live life in society with the freedom to move around.

What a gift Messiah had given them!

With joy and gratitude, the “outsider” leper—a Samaritan—returned to thank the Great Healer (17:15–16). How that must have touched Jesus’ heart! Jesus told the healed leper, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well” (17:19). Once again, action was involved. Rise. Go. I’d like to add one more: **be thankful.**

Miracles happen around us *daily*. Some we notice, others we may only realize once we’re in Heaven. **As you walk through your days and weeks, remember to do so with a thankful heart.** Always follow the example of the Samaritan leper: Make the effort to go back and thank our Savior.

If you are in need of a healing, please write to our P.O. Box or email [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com). We would be honored to pray for you. Perhaps your healing will come as it did for the ten lepers—even as you are walking to tell someone about your miracle. ★



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# The Greatest Story

## PART 2

Classic Zola Levitt  
from 1985  
36 years ago



[Last month](#), we covered the “born in Bethlehem” prophecy from Micah 5:2 and its fulfillment in Matthew 2:1–6 and Luke 2:1–20. Bethlehem, meaning House of Bread, took on special meaning when Jesus said, “*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger, ...*” (John 6:35) and when we considered the Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26) and His stripes by which we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).

Now back to Zola.

God foretold 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.

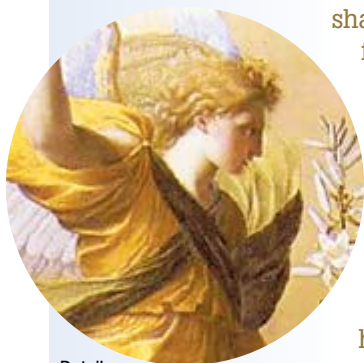
## THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

### The Old Testament Prophecy

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; “Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

### The New Testament Fulfillment of Isaiah’s Prophecy

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, “Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS (Matthew 1:18–25).



Detail  
of *The Annunciation*  
by Eustache Le Sueur

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her and said, “Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, “Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb,

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*The Prophet Isaiah*, engraving by Gustave Doré  
(1832–1883) for *The Bible Panorama*,  
1891, by William A. Foster



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and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:26–38).

**In Orthodox Judaism, women are responsible for very little regarding ceremonial activities;** however, the mother of the house is to light the candles for Passover and for each Sabbath. God chose a woman, Mary, to bring us the Light of the world, and the Jewish women continue to bring the light to the various celebrations.

Next month: The Messiah was to be the Son of God and from the Tribe of Judah. ★



Detail of *The Annunciation*, painting by Eustache Le Sueur (1617–1655)

## Q. What is the Noahic Covenant?

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



**A.** The Noahic Covenant is found in Genesis 9:8–17. Seven times the word *covenant* appears in Genesis 9, referring to God’s promise to Noah. In this covenant, God promises mankind — in the person of Noah — that He will never again destroy the Earth with a worldwide flood. God makes this promise to every living creature (Genesis 9:9–10). **The Noahic Covenant is God’s first covenant with mankind.** (Some consider the Edenic Covenant [Genesis 1:28–30] the first, but that statement is more a mandate and command than a “covenant,” *per se*.)



Woodcut of Noah disembarking from the ark,  
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for  
*Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860)

**The Noahic Covenant includes several aspects:**

**First, it is an unconditional covenant,**

because God is the only Party who will perform the promise, and its ratification does not depend upon the effort of Noah or any of his descendants.

**Second, the promise to keep the covenant is based on the power and faithfulness of God alone.**

The covenant promises that God will never destroy the whole world by a watery deluge ever again but will replace the old Heaven and Earth by a renovating fire at the conclusion of Christ’s 1,000-year reign (2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 20:9; 21:1).

**Third, God connected a unique sign to this covenant: the rainbow.**

Every rainbow in the sky symbolizes God’s reminder that He will never again punish the Earth with a global flood (Genesis 9:12–17). The rainbow shows us that in wrath, God remembers mercy. God is faithful and can be relied upon to keep His promises.

**Fourth, the Noahic Covenant is everlasting (Genesis 9:16).**

The term *everlasting* means that from the time of Noah onward, God will keep His promise of not destroying the Earth with a flood. Whatever God promises in His Word, He will honor. Just as God saved Noah and his family from the wrath of the flood, **the repentant sinner can find salvation in Jesus Christ and escape God’s wrath.** Yeshua/Jesus is our spiritual Ark; He came to save those who trust in Him from God’s eternal wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

*“They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”*

— 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 ★

# Trusting the Lord's Protection

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

On every **To The Jew First** (TJF) outreach trip, we endeavor to make the scenic and arduous drive to Mount Hermon, bringing the Gospel to the courageous Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers stationed there. Mount Hermon is the traditional site of the Transfiguration (see Matthew 17).

Our most recent journey was fraught with peril. Once TJF team member August Rosado and I reached the Golan Heights, about 30 minutes from Mount Hermon, a thick fog reduced visibility to nearly zero! A torrential downpour added risk as we ascended the mountain's 7,336 feet in elevation with winding roads and constant hairpin turns. Yet August and I were not deterred, because the Lord's peace guarded our hearts and minds. We rejoice in our divine calling to bring the salvation of the Jewish Messiah to His people that He has regathered to Israel in these last days before His return.

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
ZLM Staff Theologian  
TJF Team Leader



At the IDF base near the top of Mount Hermon, we met two soldiers. After giving them bottled water and snacks, August and I expressed our appreciation for their bravery. They stand against the Muslim tyranny that has failed its satanic purpose to remove the Jewish people from the land that God gave to them forever (Genesis 17:7–8).

In the complete (two-Testament) Hebrew Bibles that we offered each soldier, we pointed out the Scripture verses that reveal the greatest Jew who ever lived. Yeshua is the One who died for our sins, conquered death, forgives all sin, will return to restore and redeem Israel, and will reign over all the Earth from Jerusalem. He is Jesus the Messiah, and He lives today.

Both soldiers accepted the Bibles and lifted them in an air of triumph. Pray that these two young Israeli soldiers see the powerful God and Savior revealed as they read the Scriptures during their isolated time on the mountain of the transfigured Messiah. ★



Two IDF soldiers on Mount Hermon with Pastor Todd Baker



# Closure on Our Beloved Bibi

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



Dear Reader,

I'm *still* a diehard fan of Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu — even after reading Sarah Liberman's credible, boots-on-the-ground perspective on his ouster. Many times since Bibi won Israel's 1996 election and became the first prime minister born in the State of Israel (and the youngest), I

wondered whether he would have been a superior U.S. president to any of our recent ones.

I anticipated heartfelt complaints (like the two below) about our [August 2021 Personal Letter](#). Why didn't I request a rewrite from Sarah? Besides the reasons I give below, her impassioned, cut-to-the-chase explanation of Bibi's election loss in June helped me grieve the confident face and bold voice of a politician who, for a quarter century, I regarded as nearly an angel.

Now I newly regret the killing, 45 years ago, of Bibi's equally courageous older brother, Yonatan "Yoni" (1946–1976; may God rest his soul). Yoni perished while fighting in the historic, heroic hostage rescue at [Entebbe](#). Dramatic re-enactments portray a "mission impossible," achieved perhaps at too great a cost.

See [here](#) for the preview of *7 Days In Entebbe* (2018) and [here](#) for the complete movie *Raid on Entebbe* (1976).

Imagine the positive impact Yoni could have had on Israel's prosperity had he survived to assist Bibi's political team. America is not the only nation to lose its best and bravest in battle. Nor is Bibi the only exemplary leader to exhibit human frailties. **Both his numerous successes and the lessons of his failures benefit everyday citizens** as well as current and

*(continued next page)*

credit: Maity STERN/U.S. Embassy, Jerusalem/Roman Kubansky (Wikimedia Commons)



**above:** Benjamin Netanyahu, former prime minister and current opposition leader of Israel, pictured here in 2019



**above:** two photos of Yonatan Netanyahu



**above:** last photo of Yonatan Netanyahu (circa 1976)

credit: unknown photographer, courtesy Yoni.org (Wikimedia Commons)



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future leaders. Blessings on his head.

## Two Letters Scolding Sarah's Report on Bibi

### 1. Dear ZLM:

I would like to discontinue receiving your newsletter by mail. I was shocked and saddened that Sarah Liberman would denigrate Benjamin Netanyahu as she did in the August 2021 *Personal Letter*. —LB, New York

### 2. Dear Sarah:

I found your nearly four-page assault on former Prime Minister Netanyahu partisan and disgusting. Hopefully others will judge it as beneath ZLM's caliber. What you did breaks the rules. You turned your news magazine into a political hit-piece on someone who has already paid for his sins and shortcomings at the ballot box after dedicating most of his life to preserving *Ha Eretz*. No mention of the latter. You simply cannot turn the news magazine of a non-profit religious organization into a *tabula rasa* for political retribution — even if friends and members of your family were treated poorly. Shame on you! Please take a moment to reflect, reassess and make things right. In His service,  
— Rev. ERT

## Mark's Response:

Here is the email that I sent to our ministry's editorial team:

Good morning, fellow ZLMers.

Sarah's message in this month's *PL* will be difficult for many subscribers who have adored Bibi through the years, even though its credibility seems to speak for itself. That said, **most readers should appreciate Sarah's evenhanded nod to Bibi's earnest efforts on Israel's behalf after**

**her revelation that most foreigners are clueless about his country-men's chronic criticisms.** Sarah subsequently ties in an appropriate Bible lesson with two examples that illustrate the importance of valuing the people closest to you, lessons that might have benefited Bibi. (Thanks, Sarah!) —Mark

## Sarah's Reply:

Sarah kindly "replied all" to my email as follows:

Dear wonderful team,

I do apologize in advance for any [future] negative emails, letters, and responses. It was not my intention to be divisive. I am simply reporting the reasons for the election's outcome. If you need to send anyone directly to me, please feel free to do so. Many blessings and thank you all for your wonderful work. — Sarah

## Mark's Reply:

Here is my "reply all" to Sarah:

**No apology needed, Sarah — *au contraire!***

In fact, Kirsten astutely commented, "I personally quite enjoy Sarah's honesty and insight about Bibi. People want insider truth? There it is."

Zola used to explain in our newsletters that he could only *write* about the news — not change it. Wherever ZLMers splash down on evaluating Bibi's political accomplishments and shortcomings will inevitably be up to them. Hopefully, most will appreciate your on-the-ground perspective and the good intent with which you share it.

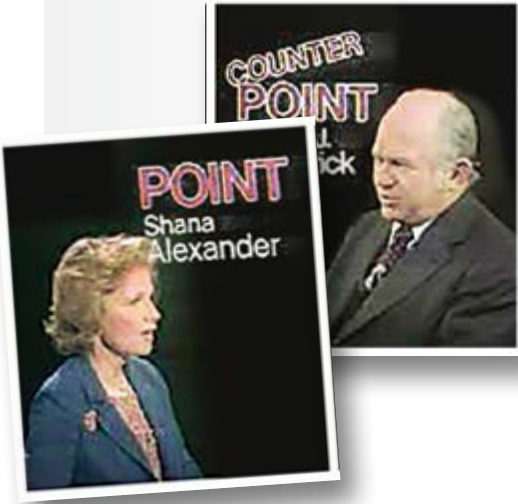
Who knows? Understanding Bibi's key, self-sabotaging flaws may help them through their grief from losing him and inspire them to lead more

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responsible lives themselves.  
Blessings from Stateside. — Mark

### Mark's Summary:



In the late 1970s, the TV news magazine *60 Minutes* featured debate segments called “Point-Counterpoint” between Shana Alexander and James Kilpatrick (above).

*Saturday Night Live* shamelessly satirized those segments with Jane Curtin and Dan Aykroyd (right). **Name-calling (“Jane, you ignorant slut!”) was among the punch lines — mocking those who tend toward *ad hominem* arguments** (attacking the person rather than their position). Please, Dear Readers, write us with cogent counterarguments worth



printing in the *Levitt Letter*.

In the *Personal Letter*'s fourth paragraph, Sarah observed, “Israeli taxpayers have been paying for three Netanyahu family residences for the past 13 years.” As I recall American taxpayers fortifying Camp David, Hyannis Port, San Clemente, and Mar-a-Lago, I suggest maybe three is not excessive for a prime minister. Rev. ERT concluded his note to Sarah, above, with this P.S.: “How many residences do you own?” Answer: No one who works for this ministry owns more than one residence. You would be surprised how nominally we are compensated for this work that we love. Just sayin’ — Mark

See also [Letters to ZLM on p. 21](#). ★

**BABY BLUES**  
Alec Soper / Scott



To Index



# ZLM Bulletin Board



## Do Jewish Lives Matter? (part 7)

... Obviously not to a certain German district police commissioner. She wrote roughly a dozen fawning fan letters to Stephan Balliet, the imprisoned neo-Nazi serving a life sentence for killing two people in an attempted 2019 attack on a synagogue. **The officer used a pseudonym when writing admiringly with sympathy for the murderer's criminal agenda.** Not connected to the perp's arrest or guarding him, she has been suspended pending further investigation.

**NOTE:** Also, see [September](#), [October](#), [December 2020](#), and [April](#), [June](#), and [October 2021](#) Levitt Letter Bulletin Boards for parts 1-6.



YOUR GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE GIVING

### FREE ITEM

## Pamphlet of the Month

**Your Guide to Effective Giving** begins with a reminder that "charitable gifts remain deductible for those who itemize deductions for federal tax purposes." Learn about giving the right gift at the right time in the right way. After touching on cash, securities, and other property, this guide delves into retirement funds, life insurance, and ways to donate while retaining income. The pamphlet concludes with a helpful summary of federal tax considerations for charitable giving. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #1.**



## Planting Trees in Israel

In 1901, the World Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Israel for Jewish settlement. Since then, the JNF has become best known for planting millions of trees throughout the Holy Land. A portion of your contributions to this ministry can be designated for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom. The trees cost only \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate if you ask.

This is a ZLM Benevolence Fund

## Jewish Population Rises to 15.2 Million

The global Jewish population has increased by 100,000, with 6.9 million (45.4%) residing in Israel as compared to 6.8 million last year. Those figures include people who define themselves as Jews and don't identify with another religion. Including people eligible for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return raises the world total to 25.3 million, of whom 7.3 million are in Israel. Jews in the U.S. increased by ~300,000 to 6 million. Canada increased to 393,000 Jews; Great Britain to 292,000. France, with 446,000, decreased.



## "Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details



## Sorrow and Comfort

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



יְנוּחָמוּ	כִּי־הֵם	הָאֲבֵלִים	אֲשֶׁר־י
ye-noo'-cha'-moo	kee'-hem'	ha-a'-vei-leem'	ash-rei'
shall be comforted	for they	those who mourn	blessed are

“Blessed are those who mourn,  
 for they shall be comforted...” - *Matthew 5:4*

*“And He opened His mouth and taught them saying, ... ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted’” (Matthew 5:2, 4). Mourning is the expression of care, the voice of pain, the sorrow of a broken heart. Those who mourn care deeply; they feel the weight of loss; they grieve over sin. Such sorrow expresses the longing to be released from the inner sickness of evil, as Yeshua said, “from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts...” (Mark 7:21).*

Our own evil desires convict us of the truth. Here there is no place left to hide, no rationalization, no vain hope for self-reformation — just the raw realization of our fatal condition and the sincere appeal for God’s healing mercy in Yeshua. Mourning over our sins draws us to God, to the Comforter (παράκλητος) who “comes alongside” to bind up the broken heart (2 Corinthians 1:4). The danger remains, however, for those who deny their sin and refuse to grieve and mourn, since they are made blind to God’s forgiveness and comfort (John 9:39–41). How shall God be able in Heaven to dry up your tears when you haven’t wept?

One of the difficult tests of our faith is “enduring ourselves” as we learn to love as God loves us. To do so, we must receive the miracle of Jesus. **We must look beyond the realm of appearance, where the “outward man” perishes**, to the realm of ultimate healing, where the “inward man” is finally liberated from the ravages of sin and death. This is the comfort we have in affliction: God’s promise revives our hearts to say, *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25).*

Even in the “valley of the shadow of death” (i.e., this moribund and broken world), the LORD is with us and comforts us with His Presence (Psalm 23:4). We are given this eternal promise: *“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of Heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:49).* **The day draws near; may God help us draw near to Him!** ★



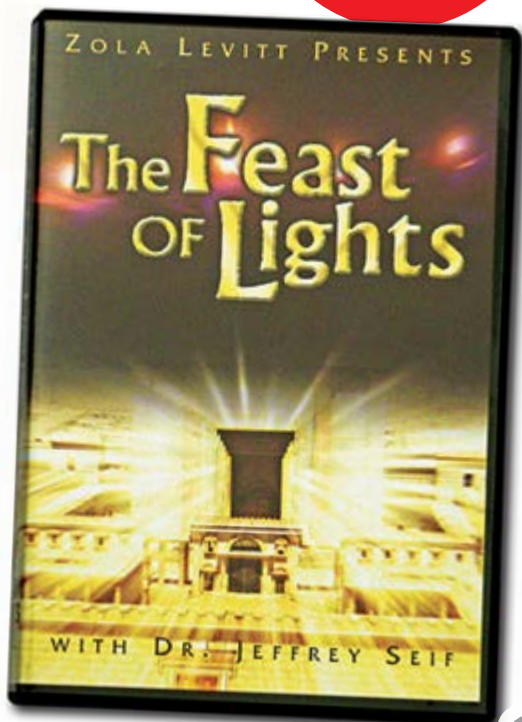
Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

## [The Feast of Lights](#)

### DVD Set

Three 30-minute  
TV programs on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have threatened the Jews with extinction. Yet, each time, God provided a leader who would shine the light of God's faithfulness. Hanukkah—the Jewish Feast of Lights—harks back to a time before Christ when an anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's deliverer arose (foreshadowing Yeshua, the Ultimate Deliverer), lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. In every generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



### **The Story of Hanukkah**

Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story of Hanukkah wherein Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many have sought to destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). We look at harvesting olive oil and its importance to the menorah in the Holy Place.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif

celebrating Hanukkah, as well as its prophetic image of our Messiah. Jeff interviews Rabbi Marty Waldman about the recent increase of Messianic Jews. Zola interviews a Messianic minister in the city of Ashdod named Simcha Davidov.

### **The Light of the World**

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). At a Messianic synagogue, Jeff explains the significance of light in cele-

### **The Feast of Dedication**

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, and the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and a heartfelt look by Zola and Jean Rosenberg at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today.

(Please see article "[Jesus/Yeshua Celebrated Hanukkah](#)" on [cover](#).)

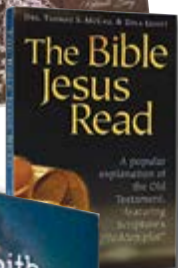




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___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) .....	\$8	___
___	<b>The Green Horse— The Bible &amp; Islam</b> (Norma Archbold) (p.22) .....	\$12	___
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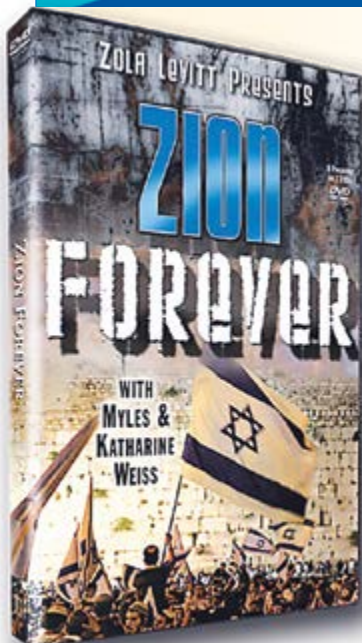
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## Zion Forever DVD Set

This nine-part series looks back at Israel's history and forward into prophecy while remembering the present status of the Temple Mount, the most contested real estate on Earth. Throughout the series, we hear from "Our Man in Haifa" Eitan Shishkoff, archaeologists Eli Shukron, Dan Bahat, and Shimon Gibson, tour guide Hannah Ben Haim, and Israel expert Shahar Shilo. Zola Levitt's music complements the narrative and scenes of Israel.

**The Place** The Holy of Holies stood on a foundation stone called in Hebrew *HaMakom* (The Place). In exploring the ancient City of David, we hear from knowledgeable archaeologists and tour guides.

**Western Wall** The Western Wall is the closest that Jewish people can get to the site of the Holy of Holies. We see a Bar Mitzvah celebration at the Wall and hear how King David purchased the threshing floor atop Mount Zion.

**Southern Steps** Myles and Katharine Weiss walk along the southern edge of the Temple Mount where Messiah and other worshipers would have entered.

**Kidron Valley** From the Kidron Valley, which lies between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives, we hear the history of Jerusalem. Messiah will enter through the Golden Gate when He comes again.

**Valley of Elah** Young shepherd boy David slew the giant Goliath here. We discuss the walls of ancient Jerusalem, the Gihon Spring where David's forces invaded the city, and the tunnels at the southern end — possibly the final resting place for Judean kings.

**Ein Gedi** David hid from King Saul in a cave near the spring at Ein Gedi oasis. We hear about the discovery of the Pool of Siloam and that the current King of Israel is Yeshua Himself.

**Temple Mount** The Temple Mount is the earthly center of spiritual warfare. We see thousands of artifacts from Bible times that have been discovered in the debris discarded over a decade ago from unauthorized Moslem excavations. Guest archaeologist Zachy Dvira was first to note the debris's importance.

**Mount of Olives** From the Mount of Olives, we look to the future of the Temple Mount. Archaeological finds continue to surface on Mount Zion, confirming Jewish heritage as recorded in the Bible.

**In the Meantime** The Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque currently sit atop the Temple Mount. A representative of Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which governs the area, gives us the Moslem perspective. Guests: David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch, and a Jewish woman who is raising her family in the City of David.







# Letters to ZLM

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

## Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com) and YouTube:

**From D.A.:** Zola was one of a kind, yet those succeeding him have stayed true to his vision of the program. When I met Zola in Jerusalem, he was surprised at how thrilled people were to meet him. The memory makes me smile.

## Political idols

Dear Kirsten,

I am writing about your article “Political Idolatry” in the [August 2021 Levitt Letter](#), criticizing Christian and non-Christian Trump supporters who view him as a savior. You wrote “They never were our saviors” and “We shouldn’t put our trust in leaders, but rather in the One who reigns higher than earthly kings and rulers.”

A savior saves by being brave and taking action, such as Esther who saved the Jewish people. — S.V.S.

Dear S.V.S.,

Esther *pointed to* our singular Savior, Yeshua. Esther was a *forerunner* of Messiah. I don’t believe that any president or prime minister, past or present, can perfectly emulate the life of our Lord. My purpose in writing the article was to point out our need to take care not to build an altar to any human. Now perhaps you can appreciate the parallel connection to Netanyahu. — Kirsten

## An Israeli’s view of Israel’s election

Dear ZLM,

I was shocked and saddened that Sarah Liberman would denigrate Benjamin Netanyahu as she did in the [August 2021 Personal Letter](#). — L.B. (NY)

Dear L.B.,

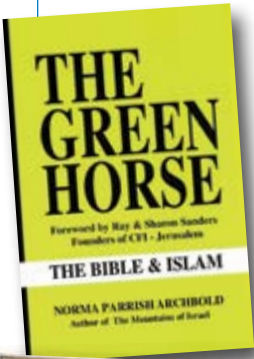
You and other letter writers were upset by Sarah Liberman’s account of the run-up to Israel’s recent elections. (See also Mark’s column on [p. 12](#).)

We get many requests for a “boots on the ground” perspective from Israel. Yet, when we deliver it, we discover that people would rather stick with what *they* believe to be the truth. You can’t have it both ways.

Over the years, we have offered Israeli perspectives from residents of Jerusalem and Haifa. Sarah Liberman contributes to our ministry by giving an Israeli perspective to the Bible and to the news of the day. **Please keep in mind that we don’t see the same news that she — a resident of Israel — does.** Her Israeli perspective may differ from the views of Americans or Europeans. But that’s the value we offer in our newsletters. — Kirsten, David, Editor, Webmaster

*(continued next page)*

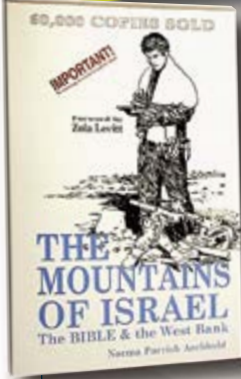




## [The Green Horse](#) book

by Norma Archbold

A 21<sup>st</sup>-century exposé of misinformation, *The Green Horse* explains Islam's history, modern status, and ongoing agenda in a Biblical context. Plainly written with remarkable detail, it contains user-friendly subtitles, illustrations, tables, charts, underlined text, and maps. It includes a 5-page bibliography and Bible references and a "Gallery of Peace Promises and Terror Victims." Named for the Angel of Death's horse in Revelation 6:8 — translated as "pale" but in reality "chloros" ("green"), the traditional color of Islam — this 238-page trove of scholarly treasures is fun to skim, worthwhile to read, and handy as a reference book.



## [The Mountains of Israel](#) book

by Norma Archbold

Once Zola's guest on TV, Archbold presents a refreshing perspective on the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially for those who have studied Israel from a Scriptural view. Enlightening maps, illustrations, charts, and references provide a geographical orientation to the war game of all eternity.

Readers will find eye-opening quotes from witnesses who were in the Holy Land during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. **Their descriptions characterize Israel as a treeless, barren wasteland before the Jewish people's return.** Equally helpful to gentiles and Jews, *Mountains* remains valuable reading since it is presented from a Biblical point of view — God's Word and His plan, of course, remain unchanged.



## Bible versions

Dear ZLM,

I like both the KJV and Complete Jewish Study Bible and find that the CJSB has a more descriptive text. Yet I find it lacking in places. To get as close to the true meaning as possible, do you have any suggestions which translation(s) to look for? — L.L.

Dear L.L.,

The best advice on this issue is found here: [GotQuestions.org/most-accurate-Bible-translation.html](http://GotQuestions.org/most-accurate-Bible-translation.html) — Todd Baker

## Well-meant but misguided

Dear ZLM,

I'm sure you meant well, but to suggest that Zola looks down from Heaven to view the support of his ministry is misguided and not Scriptural. It would hardly be Heaven if saints were able to see this fallen world. — J.B. (TX)

Dear J.B.,

We do speak of Zola "watching from above" as just a figure of speech. However, there is Biblical evidence that those in Heaven are at times aware of what happens on Earth. Revelation 2–3 shows that Christ watches. Angels

(continued next page)



are also aware of earthly events (1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Tim. 5:21). Hebrews 12:1 states that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses,” and Rev. 6:9–11 shows that at least some souls in Heaven know what goes on here. — Webmaster

## Can't understand anti-Semitism

Dear ZLM,

Anyone with an open mind who reads the Bible can clearly see that the Promised Land is Israel. I have studied world history, and to this day cannot understand why anyone would have ill will toward the Jewish People. I thank God for grafting us gentiles into His plan of redemption. — J.O.

Dear J.O.,

How I wish everyone had your heart. You are a living example of 1 Thessalonians 5:11, “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” — David ★

by Andrea Davis

Crossword  
November 2021:  
**Hope (KJV)**  
(answers on p. 35)

**ACROSS**

1. ...but the Lord will be the hope of His \_\_\_\_ (Joel 3:16)
4. That being justified by His \_\_, we should be made heirs... (Titus 3:7)
5. Hope deferred maketh the heart \_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 13:12)
6. Therefore my \_\_ is glad... (Psalm 16:9)
7. ...which is \_\_ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)
8. ...He is our help and our \_\_\_\_ (Psalm 33:20)
10. The Lord is my \_\_, saith my soul... (Lamentations 3:24)
11. But \_\_\_\_ the Lord God in your hearts... (1 Peter 3:15)
14. \_\_\_\_ is the man that trusteth in the Lord... (Jeremiah 17:7)
16. Now faith is the substance of things \_\_\_\_ for... (Heb. 11:1)
17. Let \_\_\_\_ have hope in the Lord... (Psalm 130:7)
18. For the hope which is laid up for you in \_\_\_\_ (Col. 1:5)

**DOWN**

2. ...and will yet \_\_\_\_ Thee more and more. (Psalm 71:14)
3. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and \_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:13)
5. There is one body, and one \_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:4)
8. ...and for an helmet, the hope of \_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:8)
9. Be of good \_\_, and He shall strengthen your heart... (Psalm 31:24)
12. And now abideth \_\_, hope, charity... (1 Corinthians 13:13)
13. Therefore did my heart \_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:26)
15. For we are \_\_ by hope... (Romans 8:24)





# Pilgrim Leader was Hebrew-obsessed

BY RICH TENORIO / TimesOfIsrael.com



Detail of *Embarkation of the Pilgrims* (1857) by Robert Walter Weir (1803–1889), Brooklyn Museum

After leading the Pilgrims through a difficult first winter at Plymouth Colony and going on to help establish and govern the second successful English colony in North America, William Bradford penned an acclaimed account of his group's early decades there. In the midst of the narrative are a number of pages written in Hebrew.

Bradford's account, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, mostly follows the story of the Pilgrims, the voyagers aboard the *Mayflower* who landed in present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts 401 years ago, in November 1620. But the author suddenly veers off to his interest in Hebrew, which is reflected in lists of proverbs, numbers, months of the year, and other words, all written in the letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet with their English-language equivalents.

Experts note that Bradford was a member of the Separatists, a Protestant Christian sect that broke away from the Church of England and who believed that the Bible was better understood in its original language, Hebrew.

The Separatists sought a refuge away from England where they could practice their version of Christianity, first in Holland and then in North America. **Journeying on the *Mayflower*, they saw parallels with Biblical Israelites en route to a "new Jerusalem."** Years after reaching that new Jerusalem, Bradford's decision to add a Hebrew section to his manuscript looks like a significant, if overlooked, part of the Pilgrims' journey.

Bradford represented a broader Christian interest in learning Hebrew that began decades before his time. According to Shalom Goldman, professor of religion at Middlebury College, Vermont, Bradford knew approximately 1,000 Hebrew words, including those for *turtledove* and *cubits*, as well as verses from the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). "It was all about learning the Bible," said Goldman. "I would not say he knew a lot of Hebrew."

## A niche interest

A Christian interest in Hebrew arose only among Protestants and was reflected in Hebrew primers, vocabulary lists, and study groups.

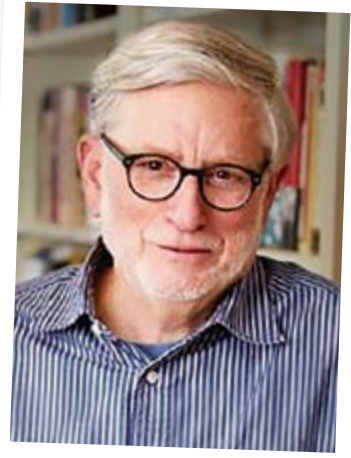
"They were a product of the Reformation," Goldman added. "Protestants were big readers and teachers of Hebrew. They believed the Catholic Church should not have access to translate and explain the *Tanakh*. Every person on their own should learn the Biblical language — or at least, the clergy should learn it."

*(continued next page)*



This Christian curiosity about Hebrew to better understand the Old and New Testaments was called **Hebraism**. Within Protestantism, such views were further embraced by sects, including the Puritans in England, who wanted to be able to read the Bible in the original, suspicious of the King James Bible, which was first published in 1611.

Michael Hoberman, a professor of English studies at Fitchburg State University, Massachusetts and an expert in Jewish American literature and culture, said the colonists believed they were a new generation of Israelites. “They thought about themselves coming to a Promised Land,” Hoberman said.



credit: courtesy

Shalom Goldman, Pardon Tillinghast Professor of Religion at Middlebury College.

### Not your grandfather’s philo-Semitism

Jonathan Sarna, professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, Massachusetts, noted that such apparent philo-Semitism came with caveats. “It’s important to remember it did not necessarily mean they were in love with Jews,” he said. “Indeed, many of the Puritans thought Jews should convert. They found nasty things to say about unconverted Jews.”

“It’s a reminder that you could be deeply religious, you could learn Hebrew, be interested even in the culture of the Jews, without necessarily wanting living and worshipping Jews in your midst,” said Sarna.

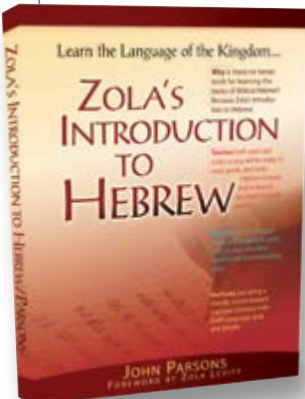
In what the Pilgrims considered their “new Jerusalem,” they were tested from the outset. They quickly lost half of their numbers to disease and harsh winter conditions. The casualties included Bradford’s wife, who died in a mysterious accident. By the 1640s, Bradford was disenchanted with the way his colony was heading and feared that its original spiritual mission was losing force. Out of his sense of failure of mission, he gained a new, late-in-life mission and started teaching himself Hebrew by candlelight at night. Bradford even left a Hebrew inscription on his gravestone that Goldman translated as “God is my strength.”

To learn more about our Founding Fathers’ interest in Hebrew and the *Tanakh*, watch our recent series *Faith of our Fathers* at [levitt.tv/media/series/DFOF](http://levitt.tv/media/series/DFOF). — David

Please see *Zola’s Introduction to Hebrew* book below. ★



400+ pages



## 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!

Please see article “Pilgrim Leader was Hebrew-obsessed” on [p.24](#).

# Fabulous Castles in Israel

## PART 3

BY NAAMA BARAK (r) [Israel21c.org](http://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](#) and [October 2021](#) *Levitt Letters*.)

### Belvoir Castle

Like many of the castles and fortresses dotted throughout Israel, Chateau Belvoir was built by the Crusaders who ruled over the country, and later parts of it, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. Located a short distance from the Sea of Galilee, the castle is concentric, meaning that it has two circuits



Belvoir Castle

of defensive walls, one inside the other. It was ruined by its Muslim conquerors in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to ensure that Crusader forces wouldn't occupy it again in the future, but luckily they only destroyed the top floor and filled in the moat, leaving intact the base that can be viewed today. Nowadays, as part of a national park, the castle boasts not only great ruins but also a stunning panoramic view.

### Cafarlet Castle

Cafarlet Castle, within the serene Moshav HaBonim community on Israel's coastline, is rather mysterious in that there's little historical record of it. It was probably built by the Muslim rulers of the area in the eighth or ninth century, alongside similar fortifications



Cafarlet Castle

constructed along the coastline to protect it from invading Byzantine Christians. The rectangular castle had guard towers in each corner, which all underwent reconstructions when taken over by the Crusaders. Eventually, the area was once again taken by Muslim conquerors, and the castle and surrounding area fell into disrepair. Today, the site remains off-road and is not maintained, so perhaps is best enjoyed from a distance. ★

credit: Albusvic via Shutterstock.com



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credit: Tokar via Shutterstock.com



# Robots Halt Errors in Dispensing Medication



SCIENCE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

RescueDose, an Israeli medical device company, has developed a robot that automatically dispenses medication to patients, reducing the human error that can occur when liquid medications are prepared.

In 2017, the World Health Organization announced that medication errors caused at least one death every day and injured some 1.3 million people annually in the U.S. alone, costing \$42 billion. That year, WHO launched a five-year global initiative to reduce medication associated errors globally by 50%.

Everyone at some point in their lives will take medicine to treat or prevent illness. But if taken incorrectly, serious harm can result. Errors can be caused by health worker fatigue, overcrowding, staff shortages, poor training, or other factors. Any one or combination of these errors can affect the prescribing, dispensing, consumption, and monitoring of medications, which can result in severe harm, disability, and even death.

Founded in 2006, RescueDose is working to ensure that the right patient receives the right medication at the right dose via the right route at the right time. The company aims to do away with manual dispensing and fully automate the process.

**The firm's first product is UniDose, a robot aimed at the nuclear medicine market.** UniDose automatically dispenses accurate doses of radioactive materials, such as when performing medical imaging. Automation helps keep the doses accurate and reduces radiation exposure for staff. Typically, pharmaceutical staff manually prepare the radioactive dosage, which then gets injected into a patient's veins before a scan.

Pilot programs showed a 95% accuracy in the technology's dosage preparation.

A second robot, **ChemiDose**, is still in development. It will dispense medications in powder and liquid forms into ready-to-use IV bags, thus reducing errors when pharmacists prepare patient-specific chemotherapy formulations.

RescueDose says competitors' robots are much heavier and more expensive, ranging from a 900-kilogram (1,984-pound) robot that costs \$900,000 to a machine that weighs 1.2 tons and costs \$1 million. The robots developed by RescueDose are five times smaller and 20 times lighter than competing solutions, said Eric Ben Mayor, CEO of the company. The 25-kilogram (55-pound) UniDose robot costs \$100,000. ★



above: The UniDose automated dispensing robot for nuclear medicine



The UniDose robot

credit: YouTube screenshot

credit: courtesy

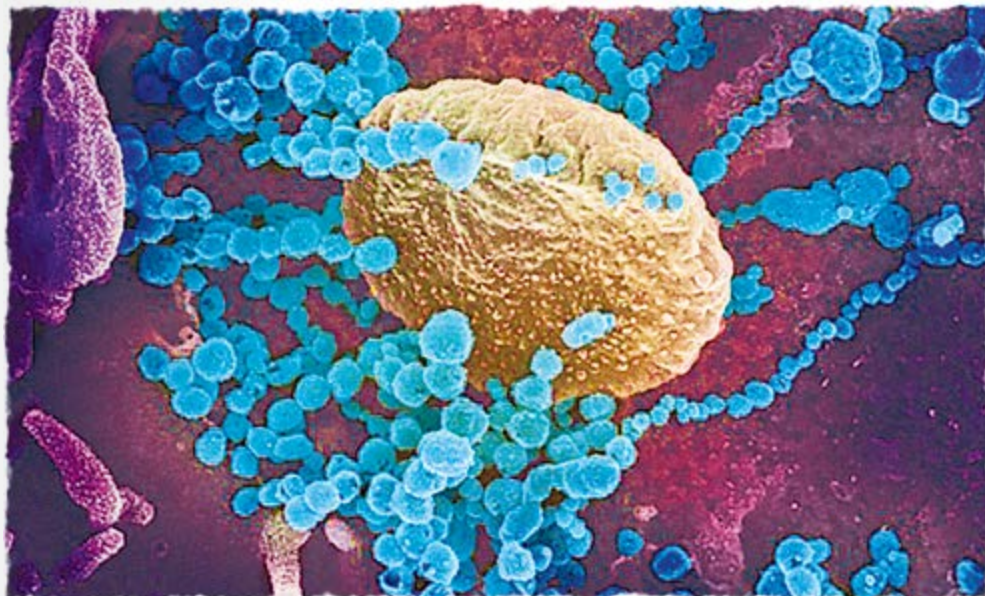


# Putting a “Super Cork” on COVID

WEIZMANN  
INSTITUTE  
OF SCIENCE



MEDICINE: WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / Wis-Wander.Weizmann.ac.il



Scanning electron microscope image of novel coronavirus

Even though vaccines offer help for a “post-pandemic normal,” a constantly mutating SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus) calls for developing new and effective drugs. A new treatment announced by Israel’s Weizmann Institute of Science uses a molecular “super cork” that physically prevents the virus from attaching itself to a cell and entering into it.

**Researchers focused on the non-evolving human receptor ACE2 that acts as the entry site for the virus.**

Current treatments and vaccines target the “spike protein” found on the virus’s outer envelope, but this protein can mutate and become more resistant to treatments and vaccines. Thus, researchers “focused on the non-evolving human receptor ACE2 that acts as the entry site for the virus,” said Prof. Gideon Schreiber of Weizmann’s Biomolecular Sciences Department. This approach is not susceptible to new variants, which is one of the main challenges in fighting the virus.

The enzyme ACE2, which is attached to the membrane of cells on the surface of the lungs and other tissues, is important for regulating blood pressure. Therefore, researchers couldn’t just block the receptor and disrupt

ACE2’s function. So they developed a small protein molecule that could bind to ACE2 better than the coronavirus, without affecting the enzyme’s function.

Using the virus’s own receptor binding domain as a weapon against it, Dr. Jiří Zahradník, a postdoctoral fellow in Schreiber’s group, performed several rounds of “evolution in a test tube,” developed in Schreiber’s lab, on a genetically engineered strain of baker’s yeast. Since yeast can be easily manipulated, Zahradník’s team was able to rapidly scan millions of different mutations that accumulated in the course of this artificial evolution, a process that imitates natural evolution at a much faster pace. Ultimately, the goal was to find a small molecule that would be significantly “stickier” than the original viral version.

*(continued next page)*

credit: U.S. INMID-RML/Handout via REUTERS

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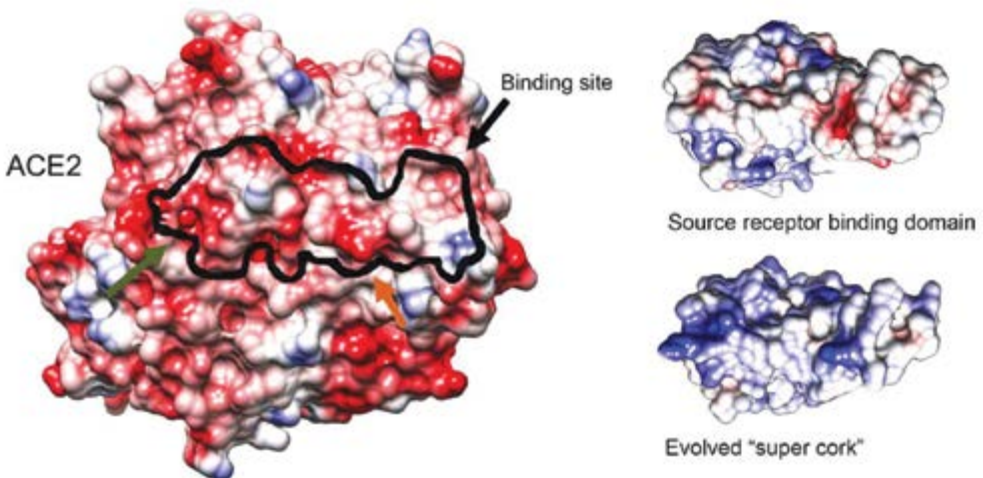
During this scanning process, Schreiber's team supplied strong evidence that SARS-CoV-2 becomes more contagious when mutations improve its fit to ACE2. The researchers found that after the first round of selection, the lab-made variants with tighter binding capabilities to ACE2 mimicked the mutations present in the binding domains of the most contagious SARS-CoV-2 strains that had occurred by means of natural evolution, such as the British variant (Alpha), the South African variant (Beta) and the Brazilian variant (Gamma). Surprisingly, the now widespread Indian (Delta) variant relies on a different trick to be more infectious — by partially evading detection by the immune system.

Eventually, Zahradnik isolated a small protein fragment with a binding capability 1,000 times stronger than that of the original binding domain from which it evolved. This "super cork" not only fit ACE2 like a glove, it was also found to conserve the enzymatic activity of ACE2 — just as the researchers had intended. Furthermore, owing to the strong binding, very low concentrations of the newly engineered molecule were needed to achieve the desired blocking effect.

The team has created an aerosol-based spray that would allow the molecule to be administered to patients as a drug by inhalation.

Researchers from the Weizmann Institute collaborated with colleagues at the Pasteur Institute, France, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S.A., on this innovative treatment. Currently the treatment has been tested on hamsters infected with the coronavirus at the NIH. Preliminary results show that it significantly reduces disease symptoms, and more studies are planned. ★

**This "super cork" not only fit ACE2 like a glove, it was also found to conserve the enzymatic activity of ACE2.**



Structure of an ACE2 receptor (left), the original binding molecule (top right) and the newly engineered "super cork" (bottom right). The black outline indicates the binding site of the "super cork" on the ACE2 receptor.





source: Wikimedia Commons

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### **The New York Times “Mangles” Jewish History**

By Ira Stoll / [Algemeiner.com](http://Algemeiner.com)

*The New York Times* is being criticized for inaccurately suggesting that previous periods of Jewish sovereignty over the land of Israel lasted only briefly.

“Israeli leaders have increasingly drawn on the lessons from Jewish history, noting that the Jews enjoyed two previous periods of sovereignty in the land in ancient times, but both lasted only about 70 or 80 years — a poignant reminder for the modern state that, founded in 1948, has passed the 70-year mark,” the *Times* reported from Jerusalem in an article about an animated movie.

Tamar Sternthal, director of the Israel office of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA), said that the *Times* “mangles the historical record, minimizing the Jewish people’s presence in ancient Israel.”

“Four Jewish kingdoms pre-dated the modern Jewish state during antiquity, and the longest one lasted more than three centuries, not 80 years,” Sternthal noted. “By falsely reporting that the longest Jewish rule in Israel fell in less than 100 years, the *Times* minimizes the historic Jewish connection to ancient Israel, eroding the legitimacy of the present Jewish state.”

*(continued next page)*



### **Israel’s “Gettysburg Address” Equivalent**

#### **Dry Bones**

Three score and thirteen years ago our grandfathers and grandmothers brought forth on this sliver of land, a new yet ancient nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men and women are created equal.

Since then, we, and our sons and daughters, have been engaged in a great war for survival, testing whether our nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure in the face of international hate and libel.

It is for us the living to be dedicated to the unfinished goal which we who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. We are dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that this nation, under God, shall be a light unto the nations — and that our government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Middle East.

—Yaakov Kirschen

©21 Kirschen



Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.



## ***Pray for Peace*** bumper sticker

Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background.

Pass some on to your friends!



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Vaccine Dose = 10 times Antibodies of 2<sup>nd</sup>** [TimesOfIsrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com)

A serological study conducted at Sheba Medical Center in Israel found that antibody levels after the administration of a third COVID-19 vaccine dose were ten times higher than those detected after the second dose.

The preliminary results, seen among vaccinated staff at the hospital outside Tel Aviv stoked optimism as to the amount of time the booster shot retains its protection. The study compared the antibody levels a week after the third COVID-19 vaccine dose was administered to its staff to their levels a week after the second dose was administered.

The hospital said that it was treating the results with caution and would continue to observe the antibody levels over the coming months.



credit: Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90

An Israeli woman receives a COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination center in Jerusalem in September 2021.

**Israel — the first country to officially offer a third dose — began its COVID booster campaign on August 1**, initially rolling it out to those over the age of 60. It gradually dropped the eligibility age, eventually expanding it to everyone age 12 and up who received the second shot at least five months previously. ★



# Ancient Christian Settlement Discovered in Egypt

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY NATHAN STEINMEYER / BiblicalArchaeology.org



credit: Mariluz Gwiazda

Modular construction of ancient Marea

A team of archaeologists from the University of Warsaw recently announced the discovery of a previously unknown Christian settlement in Egypt. The site, known as ancient Marea and located about 25 miles southwest of Alexandria, was built in the third century B.C., shortly after the conquest of Alexander the Great. The newly discovered portions of the site, however, date to the sixth century A.D., when Marea served as a waystation for Christian pilgrims traveling to Abu Mena, location of the tomb of the Coptic martyr Menas of Alexandria, who died in A.D. 296.

Marea was located on the shore of Lake Mariout and was an industrial center and harbor town. Although excavations have taken place since the 1970s, it was only in the last few years that archaeologists were able to reveal the site's deep history. Marea's Christian precinct was home to one of the largest Christian basilicas in late antique Egypt and featured remarkably clear and deliberate urban planning. The precinct consists of rows of identical "modular" buildings, each made up of uniformly sized storefronts, residences, and porticos. It also had bathhouses and latrines, a hospital, and even streets intersecting at right angles — an extreme rarity for the period.

**The 32-acre Christian precinct was discovered using new, non-invasive archaeological techniques**, which were able to study a greater area of the site than traditional excavation allows. Marea also represents one of the very few residential areas constructed in the later years of the Byzantine Empire and the only such settlement that was left unfortified. Only a hundred years after the construction of Christian Marea, however, all of Egypt was conquered by Muslim forces (ca. A.D. 639–646), though Marea survived for another century before its final abandonment in the eighth century. ★



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# MEMRI Documentation Projects



## MEMRI.org

In the two decades since the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) has been monitoring, translating, and documenting content about the attacks in media from the Middle East, South Asia, and beyond. The MEMRI 9/11 Documentation



credit: Ali Ahmed (Fias90)

Hamas terrorist

Project — launched to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks — archives all MEMRI translations, analyses, and clips about the attacks and their aftermath. The Project has amassed one of the largest and most unique archives in the world on this subject. These archives allow an in-depth examination of the ideological roots and other factors that ultimately led to the 9/11 attacks.

### The content includes:

- Primary source material from Arab and Islamic print, broadcast, and online media and other sources.
- Material from al-Qaeda and affiliates, including leaders' speeches, interviews, wills, and statements.
- Material from ISIS on 9/11.
- Al-Qaeda recruitment, outreach, and indoctrination materials.
- Conspiracy theories denying Arab or Muslim responsibility for the attacks — some collected from recent sermons in the U.S. (monitored by the MEMRI Sermons by Imams in the West project.)

### New MEMRI reports and videos added in 2021 include:

- Yemeni Houthis indoctrinating children and teaching that 9/11 was staged by the U.S.
- 9/11 was a turning point in modern Muslim history, states an editorial in an ISIS weekly newspaper.
- The events of 9/11 were staged by the U.S., according to a prominent British Islamist.
- 9/11 and COVID-19 were both orchestrated by global Zionism, according to an Australian imam.
- 9/11 was a Jewish and Christian conspiracy for a pretext to launch an anti-Muslim Crusade, according to a Yemeni Houthis official.
- Collected jihadi reactions to the 9/11 events and to its anniversaries, including celebrations and threats.



Visit [MEMRI.org](https://www.memri.org) to view these collections:

- [MEMRI 9/11 Documentation Project](#)
- [MEMRI TV 9/11 Documentation Project](#)

# Standing Against the Spirit of Haman



BY REV. PETER J. FAST (r) National Director for Canada BridgesForPeace.com

When I survey the Jewish community outside Israel as well as the State of Israel in world affairs, I have a grave concern but also an unshakable hope. My concern is about unbridled anti-Semitism. I have never seen a time of such brazen, public, often accepted, and casually justified hostility against the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Around the world it has spilled into city streets, public squares, university campuses, halls of governance— even within the Church. And the lack of global outrage and condemnation against this *very* public hatred is tragic.

This situation reminds me of Haman in the Book of Esther. Four times we read that Haman is *“the son of Hammedatha the Agagite”* (Esther 3:1, 10; 8:5; 9:24). Agag was a dynastic name for the kings of the Amalekites, who are one of the archenemies of the Jewish people. (See Exodus 17:16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19; 1 Samuel 15:2.) While anti-Semitism is sometimes referred to as the “Spirit of Amalek,” I prefer to call it the “Spirit of Haman.” This is the core of anti-Semitism.

Haman is offended when Mordechai does not bow to him. But instead of responding just to one person, Haman targets a whole group. In Esther 3:8, Haman says to King Ahasuerus, *“There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s, and they do not keep the king’s laws.”* Haman pressures the king to sign a declaration to murder all the Jews in a single day (3:12–13). Thankfully, the Jewish people are spared. After



Israel supporters in Cape Town

Haman’s treachery is exposed, he is hanged on the gallows he intended for Mordechai.

Bridges for Peace has always stood against the “Spirit of Haman.” We believe God will defend His people. This gives me unshakable hope. But as Christians, we must also stand with Israel and demonstrate unconditional love and support for the Jewish community, particularly in the face of public hostility. Many Christians who condemn the hatred but shy away from speaking up would benefit by recalling the words of Dennis Prager:

**“Moral non-Jews who fail to act against anti-Semites inevitably suffer from them . . . .**

Jew-haters begin with Jews but never end with them, as anti-Semitism is ultimately a hatred of higher standards. The anti-Semites first wish to destroy the perceived embodiment of that higher call to good, the Jews. But they do not hate the Jews alone. They hate whatever and whoever represents a higher value, a moral challenge.”

— Prager and Telushkin,  
*Why the Jews?*

Bridges for Peace is a ZLM Benevolence Fund. ★





## Hospital Update

A woman called the switchboard of a hospital and asked how Mrs. Schwartz in room 102 was doing. The switchboard operator put her on hold for a minute, then came back and reported: "Mrs. Schwartz is doing very well! Her lab work just came back and everything is normal. Her doctor is pleased and says she will be able to go home next week."

"Hurray!" shouted the caller.

"You must be a relative to be so happy," observed the switchboard operator.

"No," explained the caller. "I'm Mrs. Schwartz in room 102. Nobody tells me anything!"

## There's Always a Catch

When God was creating the world, He told the angels that He was going to create an extra-special place called Israel. He described the beautiful hills, the verdant fields, the wonderful springs and rivers He planned to create. Then He described how the people who lived there would be smart and resourceful, creating important cities, wonderful art, and amazing scientific innovations.

"Won't the rest of the world be jealous, God, putting so many wonderful things inside Israel?" the angels fretted.

"Don't worry," said God. "Wait until the world sees the neighbors I'm giving them!" ★

### Answer Key for November 2021 Crossword (p.23)

*Across:*

- 1. People
- 4. Grace
- 5. Sick
- 6. Heart
- 7. Christ
- 8. Shield
- 10. Portion
- 11. Sanctify
- 14. Blessed
- 16. Hoped
- 17. Israel
- 18. Heaven

*Down:*

- 2. Praise
- 3. Peace
- 5. Spirit
- 8. Salvation
- 9. Courage
- 12. Faith
- 13. Rejoice
- 15. Saved



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The Garden Tomb  
Jerusalem



Petra  
Jordan



The Temple Mount  
Jerusalem



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