



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

courtesy: jewsforjesus.org

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the Maccabees p.24

How a Jewish Girl Met the Messiah Through Christmas

By Ceil Rosen / JewsForJesus.org

I was newly married that New Year's Eve 1951. I looked out a window, and a star in the southwest dazzled me with its brilliance. Was that what the Christmas star over Bethlehem looked like? I suddenly realized that I, a Jew, half believed something that I'd always been taught was untrue.

As a child in foster care, I spoke only Yiddish in my Orthodox parents' home. I used to pray in my own words whenever I felt lonely or frightened. But when I was four, my parents taught me to recite prayers in Hebrew, which I didn't understand. That was a turning point. Prayer became a duty instead of a way to connect with God, and I no longer prayed in my own words.

From age six, I attended Hebrew school every day after public school. After we students mastered the Hebrew primer, the Old Testament became our textbook. We

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REMEMBER:

Hanukkah is Nov. 28–Dec. 6 (Jewish holidays begin and end at sunset), *Christmas* is Saturday, Dec. 25

How Blue and White Became the Colors of Hanukkah

By Rachel E. Greenspan
TIME.com

Though scholars like Dianne Ashton, a professor of religion and American studies at Rowan University, point to the role of Hallmark Cards in spreading and popularizing blue and white (and sometimes silver) as the colors of Hanukkah, a representative from the company tells *TIME* that there is no record confirming how their use of these colors came about. But, while blue and white decorations are largely an American phenomenon and not part of the holiday's celebration elsewhere, the most common reason cited for the color

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How a Jewish Girl Met the Messiah ... *continued from cover*

studied vocabulary and translated the Torah (Five Books of Moses) and the historical books. Nothing was mentioned about those Scriptures to provide spiritual comfort or understanding. We knew that our Jewish Bible (the *Tanakh*) included the poetic books and the prophetic writings, but we never studied these in Hebrew school.

My parents kept a kosher kitchen and *Shabbat* (Sabbath) rituals. However, our family did use the electric lights on *Shabbat*. We also cooked, rode public transportation (we had no car), and went shopping. I knew that more-Orthodox Jews did none of those things. And others less Orthodox than my family did not observe as many rules as we did. Those discrepancies confused me.

Why observe some regulations and not others? Did it really matter? Some Jews got away with doing less. If God really ordained all those laws, shouldn't all of us Jews keep all of them? If not, why keep any? God was not very important to me. I didn't think that He loved me, and I saw no reason to love Him. At best, I considered Him an authoritative being who exacted a heavy toll from us Jews for the privilege of being His chosen people.

Then, my high school chorus had a major role singing carols in our school's Christmas program. I'd always sung the carols, even when I was younger, without feeling guilty because I would not sing about Jesus being my Lord or Savior. I was Jewish and wasn't supposed to believe in Him. As long as the word "Jesus" didn't have "Lord" connected to it, I wasn't doing something against my religion.

However, on stage singing, "*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,*" I suddenly found myself pondering the words' meaning. Was there something true about Jesus being for us Jews? Yet what did it matter? I didn't even believe in my own Jewish God, so why should I believe in Jesus, the gentile God?

After I married Moishe, I felt a sense of freedom to be whoever I wanted. For

the first time since I was a small child, I prayed in my own words, asking God's forgiveness for saying He didn't exist and thanking Him for His many blessings.

Moishe bought me a record player and some records, among which was a Christmas album by Mario Lanza. The words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" struck me. What did it mean, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight"? The Messianic hope? But who would fear the coming of our long-awaited Messiah, and why?

The gentiles said that Jesus was the Messiah. Did we Jews feel threatened by their beliefs? Were we afraid to think about Jesus in those terms because it might be true? Was Jesus the Everlasting Light the song mentioned? I listened to another song, "We Three Kings," and thought about the miraculous star they said led the Wise Men to the infant Christ child. **I had grown up hearing those carols in school. I had even secretly enjoyed singing them**—except for the awkward parts that called Him "Lord." Now I was considering those songs in a new way and wondering if their message might be true. I felt I must ask God about that.

I prayed, "God, is there anything to what the Christians are saying about this Jesus? I'm ready to do what You want now, even going back to the strict rules I have been avoiding. I'm ready to light *Shabbat* candles, keep kosher, observe all the laws, and be an Orthodox Jew again. But please show me. Do You want that, or do You want me to believe what the Christians say about Jesus?"

I forgot about my prayer in the bustle of the next weeks, but God didn't. That was when I looked out the window and saw the star. From that moment, a hunger grew in me to read the New Testament. I knew it told all about Jesus, and I had to find out who He was! Getting a whole Bible with both Testaments was easy, though I had to hide it from my husband and family.

I began reading Matthew 1:1—"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ,

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the son of David, the son of Abraham." *What's wrong with that?* I thought. *Why don't we Jews believe in Jesus? He's Jewish!* Every day, whenever I had a few moments alone, I took out the Bible and read it. It all made perfect sense to me. **I knew that He was real. I loved Him, but I was afraid.** My parents, my friends, even my husband would be furious. Dared I pursue this thing?

Then I came to Matthew 10:37 and read: "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me." I remembered that I had prayed for God to show me the truth, and I knew right then that I had to accept what I felt He was showing me, regardless of the cost.

Ceil eventually brought her husband, Moishe Rosen (1932-2010), to Yeshua. He went on to found the internationally acclaimed Jews for Jesus ministry, headquartered in San Francisco since 1973. ★

Meet Suzy!

ZLM office-worker Suzy answers phones and processes incoming mail. She has worked at ZLM for a few months now, and took over from her daughter Krissa, who held the position for about a year and a half. For them, ZLM has become a family tradition! Suzy is working at ZLM after her retirement from spending most of her adult life in church ministry.



We have job openings for other office-workers if you know anyone in the Dallas area who wants to use their office skills to further God's Kingdom. The jobs come with a competitive salary and benefit package. Keyboard literate candidates with office experience should address their resumés and cover letters to Jane at staff@levitt.com, perhaps after reading the Help Wanted notice on the levitt.com homepage. ★

David's Character

(Psalm 119:121–128)

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



David, sculpture (between 1501 and 1504) by Michelangelo (1475–1564), Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence, Italy

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

1. David's Authority and Humility (119:121–122)

Here is David in his judicial role. As the king, he carries out judgment on the lawbreakers and justice to those who have committed to trying to live a Godly life. He declares that he has exercised justice as intended by the laws of God.

David prayed that God would hold him up against his enemies because he kept the Law, was just in his dealings with people, and was fair in his judgments.

In verse 122, David asks God to be his surety (strength). That request calls our attention to what Yeshua became to all of us. Hebrews 7:22 tells us, *"by so much more Jesus has become a Surety of a better covenant."*

David asked God for the ability to continue keeping the Law, and the strength to do good and not evil. Hezekiah prayed the same prayer when he was facing illness and possible death. Isaiah was sent to Hezekiah to tell him that God had heard his prayer and would extend his life fifteen more years. *"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer, I will add to your days fifteen years'"* (Isaiah 38:5).

Our Messiah is our Surety in a world where Satan is trying to oppress and devour all who follow the way of truth. Satan knows that truth will free a person from the shackles of sin and bondage. (John 8:32)

2. David's Servant Heart (119:123–124)

The human eye expresses with great accuracy the distress and anguish a person is going through. David is patiently waiting for the Lord to show up and bring justice to his enemies.

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



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





God will come to the aid of His own. We must wait! He *will* show up and not disappoint in our hour of need.

In verse 124, David, as with all of us, understood that to be a servant of the living God, we can only do so by the mercy of God. Paul understood this when he wrote in Romans 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*

David implores God to teach him. He read God's word, meditated on it, but knew that only God could speak to David's heart through His word and reveal His will for life and service.

3. David's Surrendered Life (119:125–126)

David comes to a moment of full surrender when he says, *"I am your servant."* This may be the greatest statement a person could offer to God — a completely surrendered life.

The Psalms were written to be lived, not just to be read. Every Believer* needs to heed the words of David in this section of Psalms.

In verse 126, David calls on God to act. It could have been that David needed God to work against his enemies, or he may have been asking God to send the promised Messiah to fulfill the Law and begin His reign as the prophets had prophesied.

David seems to be running out of patience; he wants results immediately! Who doesn't? But as Nahum wrote in 1:3, *"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked."*

4. The Grace David Received (119:127–128)

David received grace because he loved the commandments. He did not fulfill them completely, but he loved them. He loved them all equally. That is a lesson for each of us. We will not be able to completely keep all the commandments because of our sin nature, but it doesn't stop us from loving them.

It is difficult to maintain a life committed to the precepts of God's Word.

But if we live the disciplined life that David modeled for us, it is possible. ★



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



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



* "Believer" is short for "believer in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

A Charitable Heart

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



It's that time of year again when we give to those we love. I'm the worst at withholding gifts. A few years ago, I had all of our Christmas presents wrapped and under the tree. I was so excited for everyone to see what they got that we celebrated Christmas morning two weeks early! Rarely do Hart family members have to wait until a certain date to open gifts.

The Giving of Gifts

Scholars debate whether the origin of giving gifts during this time of year began with the Wise Men bringing gifts to the Christ child or with the Roman tradition of presenting offerings to the Roman god Saturn. Nevertheless, many households practice this seasonal tradition of giving gifts. Hanukkah started out as a Feast of Dedication and has also evolved into giving gifts to children.

Regardless of which holiday you celebrate, the concept of giving something of meaning to someone you love is rewarding for both the gift giver and (if truly meaningful) the receiver. Some people start planning their gift list months in advance, while others do all their shopping the night before! The older I get, the more thought I put into the gifts David and I give to our grown children. We're now giving fewer *things* and focusing more on gifting adventures and fun experiences.

Our Gift for You

We hope that you have enjoyed the gifts we've given you, our readers and viewers, this year. Every month (free of charge), we've given you high-quality newsletters that appear in your mailbox. The editorial staff works diligently so that you can grow in wisdom and expand your understanding of all things Biblical. Our TV production crew is currently filming a brand-new series about the Prophet Jeremiah at a North Texas "ancient" village film set. Hours and hours have gone into preparing these presents of media that we give to all of you.

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As with the gifts we give our adult children, we aren't giving you another sweater to wear but rather insightful teaching and cinematically filmed dramatic re-enactments to help you visualize what life was like in Bible times. Personally, I'd rather watch an episode of *Our Jewish Roots* than receive another pair of Christmas pajamas!

Donors to Zola Levitt Ministries have graciously "footed the bill" for all of the bounty we have brought your way in 2021. **While our Bible teaching is indeed free of charge for you, would you consider a charitable donation to "pay forward" the gifts you have enjoyed?** Help us offer this free Bible teaching to others who desperately need to hear the message of our Messiah. If you have benefited from what we do, we'd like to invite you to be a regular supporter of this time-tested ministry. Please see [page 35](#) for how to do this monthly.

We pray for abundant blessings to you and your family in this beautiful season of light and love. ★

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Please also see Mark's reply to comments from M.J., M.R., B.R., and C.C. on [p. 22](#) in our letters section.



WWII: Women in the Underground

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM (USHMM.org)

Despite great obstacles, Jews throughout occupied Europe attempted armed resistance against the Germans and their Axis partners. They faced overwhelming odds and desperate scenarios, including lack of weapons and training, operating in hostile zones, parting from family members, and facing an ever-present Nazi terror. Yet thousands resisted by joining or forming partisan units. Among them was Vitka Kempner.

Refugee and Avenger

Vitka Kempner was born in 1922 in Kalish, Poland, on the Polish-German border. When Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Kalish fell and Vitka escaped to Vilna, Lithuania. When Operation Barbarossa, Germany's attack on the Soviet Union, was launched in 1941, Vilna was occupied and the Jews forced into a ghetto. Hearing the rumors about the death camps, Vitka decided to take her destiny into her own hands.

Vitka joined the Vilna chapter of Ha-Shomer Ha-Tsa'ir, a Zionist youth group. The group decided to transform itself into a resistance cell, led by Abba Kovner. Vitka became a founding member of the "Avengers," which would go on to become one of the most famous and most successful all-Jewish partisan units during the war.

The group began to arm members by smuggling weapons through the sewer system, and helped successfully organize the larger Vilna resistance movement known as the United Partisan Organization (FPO). Vitka was responsible for the FPO's first act of sabotage: smuggling a home-made bomb out of the ghetto and blowing up a Nazi train line. Eventually, Vitka became one of Kovner's chief lieutenants; they would marry after the war.



Abba Kovner (center) with Ruska Korczak (left) and Vitka Kempner (right) on a street in Vilna the day of the city's liberation, circa July 13, 1944.

Failed Uprising and Smuggler

After a failed uprising, Vitka helped the FPO evacuate much of the population through the sewer system and into the surrounding forests. Several of the escapees joined their unit and became soldiers. The Avengers continued their sabotage operations, destroying both the power plant and the waterworks of Vilna, the city they once loved.

As the Soviets advanced westward, the Avengers emerged from the forest and joined the struggle openly, helping to liberate Vilna. Following the war, Abba Kovner helped surviving Jews reach British Mandate Palestine. He also formed a new organization with 50 other partisans, reportedly attempting to

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Vitka Kempner (1996)



credit: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, Gift of Peter Powell

poison thousands of Nazi (including SS) prisoners in a Nuremberg POW camp. Accounts vary as to how many Germans were injured or killed.

Besides avenging the Jews killed by the Nazis, Abba and Vitka also reached out to survivors. They helped smuggle hundreds of European Jews into British-occupied Palestine. Vitka and Abba followed in 1946, settling at Kibbutz Ein Horesh and raising two children. Vitka passed away in February 2012 in her home in Israel, two and a half decades after Abba. She is survived by four grandchildren. ★



Courtesy: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum / Provenance: Briskl Family



Right: former partisans from Belorussia and Lithuania at a 1946 reunion in Palestine **Left:** enlargement of Abba Kovner (seated in the center of second row) and his wife, Vitka Kempner (standing behind him)



The Colors of Hanukkah ... *continued from cover sidebar*

choice is an international one: Blue and white are the colors of Israel's flag.

According to Hallmark, their product teams design holiday items on the premise that the color scheme has always been connected to that symbolism.

Israel became a state in 1948, which coincides with the post-World War II cultural Hanukkah phenomenon. Ashton notes that the story of Hanukkah — about the Maccabees reclaiming the Temple and Jewish independence — is also often likened to the story of Israel's independence, making the association that much closer. But the association between Judaism and those colors didn't start in 1948.

Blue and white are also theologically important colors in Judaism. The *tallit* (Jewish prayer shawl) is customarily made in a white

fabric with black stripes and one blue string. This blue fringe comes from the blue snail dye that is mentioned throughout the Torah.

Today's Hanukkah decorations carry on the tradition of the holiday's early American popularity, in that they look just like Christmas decorations, but they're blue and white. "This is participating in the seasonal event that the whole country is doing," Ashton says, "but with the markers showing that you're doing it in a Jewish way."

Always remember that Yeshua Himself celebrated Hanukkah (John 10:22-23).

—Kirsten ★



The Greatest Story

PART 3

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1985
36 years ago



In [October](#), 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).

In [November](#), we considered the “*born of a virgin*” prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 and the Nativity accounts of Matthew (1:18–25) and Luke (1:26–38). Even as Mary brought forth Jesus, the Light of the world, Jewish women continue to light Sabbath candles, bringing light into various celebrations.

Now back to Zola.

At this time of year, Christians around the world are reading about the birth of Christ. God foretold His people about the coming of the Messiah in some detail throughout the Old Testament. I am sharing some of the key Scriptures and the “hidden” symbolism behind this miraculous birth.

THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE THE SON OF GOD

The Old Testament Prophecy

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, “Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee” (Psalm 2:7).

The New Testament Fulfillment

For unto which of the angels said He at any time, “Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee”? (Hebrews 1:5).

So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, “Thou art My Son, today have I begotten Thee” (Hebrews 5:5).



Engraving of Baptism of Jesus found in *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy and Providence* (1921) by William Ambrose Spicer (1865–1952)



David Is Made King of Judah, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*, 1860

THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

The Old Testament Prophecy

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be (Genesis 49:10).

The New Testament Fulfillment

For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood (Hebrews 7:14).

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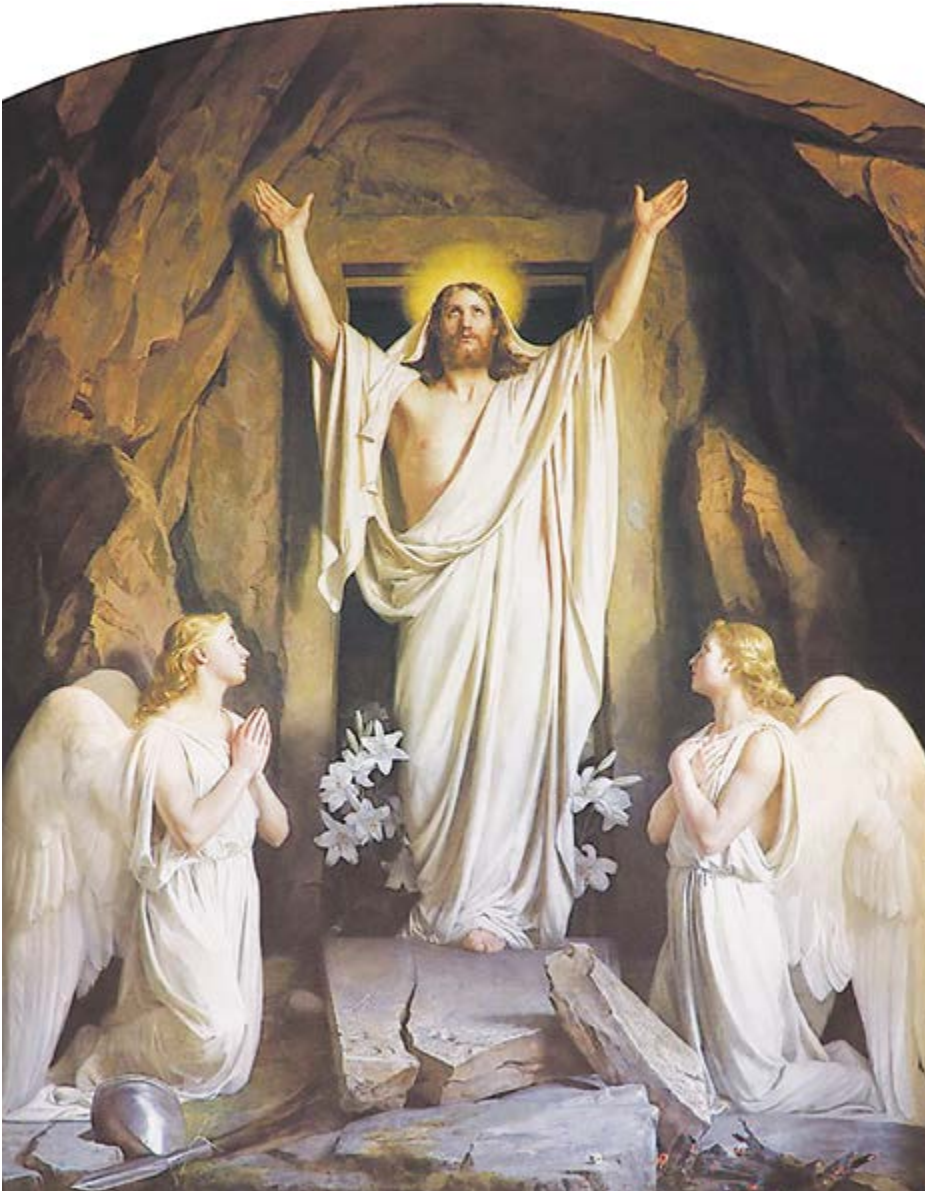


Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was? (John 7:42).

The Old Testament prophecies leading up to the birth of Christ are indeed wonderful as are their fulfillments. I would like to close with the following two verses:

WHOSOEVER believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves Him who is begotten of Him. For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world — our faith.

— 1 John 5:1, 4



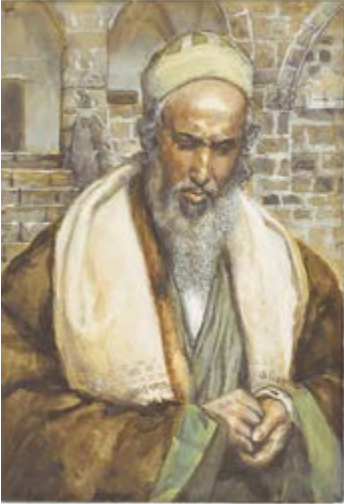
The Resurrection, painting (c. 1881) by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1900)

Q. Why did Luke write his Gospel?

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



A. Luke wrote his Gospel to give an ordered and accurate account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ so that Theophilus — the original recipient — and all future readers may know the certainty of the Gospel's account. Like John, Luke states that his Gospel is based on testimonies of eyewitnesses whom Luke interviewed about the life of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 1:1–4). As with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John, the title is derived from the author's name. Most New Testament scholars believe that Luke was a gentile (a non-Jew). However, others believe he could have been a Greek Jew. ZLM's own Dr. Tom McCall argued for the latter position. Whatever the case, we know that Luke was a physician — Paul confirms this in Colossians 4:14.



Saint Luke, watercolor by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

Dr. Luke joined Paul's ministry team at the time of the Apostle's Macedonian vision (Acts 16:9–10) and stayed with him until Paul's martyrdom in Rome (2 Timothy 4:11). In the prologue of his Gospel, Luke indicates that he is writing to his dear friend Theophilus. When writing to Theophilus in the prologue of Acts (1:1), Luke calls his Gospel "the former account."

Luke probably wrote his Gospel in Rome around A.D. 60–62 during Paul's imprisonment there. We know that he wrote his "account" prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, because Luke records Jesus' prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem but does not record its fulfillment as he does other prophetic events (Luke 19:41–44). Luke makes no mention of Nero's persecution of Christians in A.D. 64. **The absence of these two major events leads to the conclusion that Luke's Gospel dates to A.D. 60–62.**

Luke's Gospel is very detailed in scope and content. Luke opens with John the Baptist's prophesied birth as the Messiah's forerunner. He gives a detailed account of the virgin birth of Jesus and His genealogy through Mary, documenting Jesus as a physical heir to the Davidic throne. The Gospel then chronicles Jesus' full three-year ministry in Israel and in the gentile area of Syrophenicia (southern Lebanon today).

Luke's Gospel concludes with the Resurrection and Jesus' ascension to Heaven. The theological themes of Luke's Gospel emphasize the healing ministry of Jesus as the Great Physician (no surprise from a physician writer). Luke also emphasizes the saving compassion that Jesus expressed toward gentiles and the outcasts of Israel — people like tax collectors, women, lepers, and Samaritans (Luke 5:31–32; 15:1–32).

Luke presents Jesus as the Savior of all, Who came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Luke also shows the noble purpose of women in God's plan of salvation. Mary and Elizabeth receive respectful attention in Luke 1 and 2, and Luke mentions a group of women who financially supported Jesus and the Twelve (Luke 8:1–3). Women also feature prominently after the Resurrection: Mary Magdalene was the first person to see and preach the resurrected Christ (John 20:14–18; Luke 24:1–11).

From Luke 9:51 onward, Luke's Gospel focuses on Jesus' determination to go to the Cross to save lost souls. Luke 9:56 gives the Lord's mission statement of redemption:

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."



Will Spring 2022 Be God's Plan & Timing?



Who imagined at the start of 2020 that Zola Tours would have to miss **four** Holy Land tours? In 37+ years, we had never skipped a tour for any reason! While no business sector escaped unaffected, after healthcare, the travel industry was the hardest hit by COVID-19. Many entrepreneurs found workarounds to stay in business. Israel, of course, relies on foreign tourism and suffered significantly.

The glimmer of hope is knowing that our Redeemer lives and remains on His throne. None of our current situation has taken Him by surprise, and His Word affirms that He has a good plan in place for Israel and for us Believers.* We must continue to rely on His provision to return to Israel in His perfect will, plan, and timing.

And so we prepare for our Spring Tour 2022. With heartfelt belief and desire, we aim to be ready when Yeshua says "Go!" **Tour details are on page 36, and full information is available at levitt.com/tourinfo-spring.**

Our pilgrims cannot wait to walk in the Holy Land of our Savior and experience firsthand:

- **Ancient Jaffa** — from which Jonah tried to flee and wound up in a fish's belly
- **Caesarea by the Sea** — where Peter shared the Gospel with Cornelius, the first gentile Believer
- **Mount Carmel** — where Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal and won
- **Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley** — where the Battle of Armageddon will begin
- A serene and worshipful boat ride on **the Sea of Galilee**, where Yeshua walked on water
- **Mount of Beatitudes** — where Yeshua gave the Sermon on the Mount
- Baptism in the same **Jordan River** where John the Baptist baptized Yeshua
- **Caesarea Philippi** — where Peter declared Yeshua was the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- **Mount of Olives** — where Yeshua ascended to Heaven and where He will return
- **Garden of Gethsemane** — where Yeshua prayed and wept before His Crucifixion
- Following **the Via Dolorosa** path that Yeshua took to the Cross outside Jerusalem
- **Qumran** — where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered
- Floating in the miraculous healing and therapeutic minerals of **the Dead Sea**
- **Shiloh** — where the Ark of the Covenant stood for 369 years
- Praying fervently at the sacred **Western Wall of the Temple Mount (HaKotel)**
- Standing in **the Garden Tomb**

Rather than fret over our inability to travel these last two years, we choose to praise and believe in Yeshua, the Name above all names, and in His perfect will and timing. We plan to return to Israel and visit these fascinating Biblical and historical sites. Will you choose to praise and believe and come with us?

For tour information, please see page 36 and the details at levitt.com/tours. You may also contact me at **(214) 696-9760** or at travel@levitt.com. I will be glad to help in any way possible.

P.S. Think of the joy you can give this Christmas when family, friends, or even a beloved pastor finds Zola Tours tickets from you hanging on the tree! ★



top: the Garden Tomb
bottom: the Western Wall of the Temple Mount (HaKotel)

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



Social Security's Paradigm Shift/Pivotal Prognosis

Wise as a Serpent
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



Scott Burns's financial advice* is as credible as Hal Lindsey's Bible teaching. A graduate of MIT and a seasoned business columnist, Scott's observations have been right on the money for decades. The takeaway from his recent column's excerpts below is that most baby boomers should consider taking Social Security benefits upon reaching full retirement age. Waiting longer could result in reduced benefits in 2033 should Congress balance its budget with declining resources. — Mark

SOCIAL SECURITY'S "Money In–Money Out" Problem

After COVID-19, the fiscal asteroid is likely to hit Planet Social Security in 2033, when benefits may be cut by 22%. The system has been cash-flow negative since 2010. After decades of being cash-flow positive, Social Security now depends on Treasury borrowing.

Trustees use "trust accounting" (which makes things look okay) and "federal cash accounting" (which shows otherwise). **Measuring Social Security in terms of actual cash-in and cash-out shows why there could be a major problem well before 2033.**

The table (right) compares the total "non-interest" income of Social Security with its total annual cost. Then it shows us the net surplus or deficit. "Non-interest income" includes our employment tax payments and the rapidly rising revenue from the taxation of benefits. It excludes interest on the holdings of the trust fund because they are book entries, not cash. Benefits are paid with cash, not book entries.

Since the 2008–2009 financial crisis, Social Security has operated at a cash loss. Totaling the losses yields a whopping \$4 trillion. Nearly \$3.4 trillion of the losses will be hitting in the next 13 years. Every dime will need to be borrowed. Social Security will have gone from being an \$80 billion "cash cow" in 2007 to a \$449 billion "cash suck" in 2033, with worse to come.

SOCIAL SECURITY: A Future of Increasing Red Ink

All figures in **billions**. Actual results from 2010–2020. Trustees' projected intermediate results for 2021–2033.

YEAR	Money In	Money Out	Shortage
2010	\$664	\$713	-\$49
2011	\$691	\$736	-\$45
2012	\$731	\$786	-\$55
2013	\$752	\$823	-\$71
2014	\$786	\$859	-\$73
2015	\$827	\$897	-\$70
2016	\$869	\$922	-\$53
2017	\$911	\$952	-\$41
2018	\$920	\$1,000	-\$80
2019	\$981	\$1,059	-\$78
2020	\$1,042	\$1,107	-\$65
2021	\$1,004	\$1,151	-\$147
2022	\$1,108	\$1,226	-\$118
2023	\$1,163	\$1,299	-\$136
2024	\$1,218	\$1,378	-\$160
2025	\$1,273	\$1,460	-\$187
2026	\$1,339	\$1,547	-\$208
2027	\$1,397	\$1,638	-\$241
2028	\$1,458	\$1,734	-\$276
2029	\$1,522	\$1,834	-\$312
2030	\$1,586	\$1,936	-\$350
2031	\$1,650	\$2,034	-\$384
2032	\$1,716	\$2,134	-\$418
2033	\$1,785	\$2,234	-\$449
	Total Loss		\$4,066

Source: ssa.gov/oact/TR/2021/VI_G3_OASDHI_dollars.html#243934

The trust fund is only an accounting artifact. It tells us how much the U.S. Treasury owes the trust fund. When Social Security goes to redeem its special Treasury notes for the cash needed to pay benefits — as it will be doing in greater and greater amounts — the Treasury will have to borrow the cash in the public markets. It will be adding to the amount of money the Treasury already needs to borrow to cover the deficit from everything else. It's not a pretty picture.

Entitled "Maximizing Social Security," the [December 2013 Levitt Letter Serpent](#) article publicized tactics from [SocialSecuritySolutions.com](#). Now, however, 2033 seems more likely than ever to bring diminished Social Security benefits. Consequently, depending on life expectancy, it could be wise to begin taking benefits at full retirement. Meanwhile, Revelation 6:6 prophesies that a loaf of bread could cost a day's wages. — Mark ★

* See scottburns.com/social-security-is-paying-out-more-than-it-is-taking-in for the complete article.



ZLM Bulletin Board



Do Jewish Lives Matter? (part 8)

Don't bother asking former staff members who wore SS uniforms at the nightclub called Unfair in Japan. Nazi-themed decor featured swastika-adorned walls and champagne bottles. The nightclub sparked outrage and apologies shortly before its parent company closed it. The bar's debut reflects broad ignorance about the Nazis' atrocities during WWII.

NOTE: See parts 7-1 by following links from [November 2021, p.15](#).



Holocaust? What Holocaust?

A 2020 survey of 11,000 people ages 18 to 39 in the U.S. by the nonprofit organization Claims Conference found that 56% of them do not know what Auschwitz is.

- **Baby Boomers:** "Never again!"
- **Generation Y / Millennials** (ages 25–40): "Never again ... uh, what?"
- **Gen Z** (ages 9–24): "Uh, what?"

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

—George Santayana, writer, philosopher

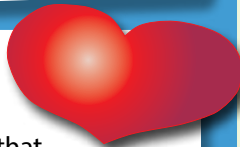
What is Pikuach Nefesh?

It's the Jewish principle that places saving someone's life over all other religious obligations, even the most venerated and important ones — including *Shabbat* and keeping kosher. Driving a car or using the telephone is permissible on Rosh Hashanah if someone's health is seriously jeopardized. It is a *mitzvah* (commandment) to violate *Shabbat* for someone who is dangerously ill. See:

<https://youtu.be/N-5hFUyxMTQ>

for a light-hearted, three-minute discussion on this Old Covenant concept. And remember that Believers* are under the New Covenant.

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



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

People with IRAs can make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities in amounts up to \$100,000.

Did you know that Traditional IRA assets are not only subject to income tax when withdrawn during one's lifetime or by survivors, but also may be subject to state and/or federal estate tax if left to loved ones other than a spouse? To receive the free pamphlet *The Charitable IRA*, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #23.



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details



Decision and Revelation

by John Parsons
 Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



חֲפֹצְתִי	כִּי־בוֹ	מִצְוֹתֶיךָ	בְּנִתִּיב	הִדְרִיכֵנִי
cha-fatz'-tee	kee - voh'	meetz-vo-te'-kha	been-teev'	had-rec-khei'-nee
I do delight	for therein	Your commands	in the path of	cause me to go

“Lead me in the path of Your commandments,
 for therein do I delight.” - *Psalm 119:35*

Every one of us is a teacher of sorts, proclaiming through our personal choices what we believe to be true. False teachers are those whose choices “teach” that there is no God, no eternal life, no meaning to life, and ultimately, no real hope. We all teach by our choices; we communicate by our assumptions of what we consider to be of “ultimate concern.”

Postmodern philosophy abandoned the haunting existential questions of life, such as: What is real? Why is there something rather than nothing? What is the purpose of life? Who am I? What happens when we die? and Do moral choices matter?

Postmodernist thinkers argue that the hunger for meaning is really about power and control. Nonsense! People may evade the great questions of life by pretending that they are unknowable, but Scripture attests that mankind was created in God’s image and is intuitively aware of God’s reality and power: “For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made; so they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

Our sacred duty to honor God’s truth also implies a sacred animosity toward lies and false teaching. “Do not be deceived: Associating with false teaching corrupts good character” (1 Cor. 15:33). We hate sin because it wounds and kills the soul. Awaken to the holiness of life; turn away from vain thoughts and lies.

Followers of Yeshua must love the truth and abhor the lie. Tolerating sin in a world ripe for judgment is a tacit form of “collaboration” with the enemy. Indeed, the devil finds intolerable the objection that people have a supposed “liberty” to sin. But the LORD is clear on this point: Those who call evil good and good evil are doomed. Therefore we are enjoined: “O you who love the LORD, hate evil” (Psalm 97:10; Amos 5:15).

The connection between loving God and hating evil is repeated in the New Testament: “Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good (Romans 12:9). If we truly love the LORD, let us walk in the awe of His great Name **“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19).** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

Eretz Israel

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

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

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

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

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



Episode: "The Land Promised"

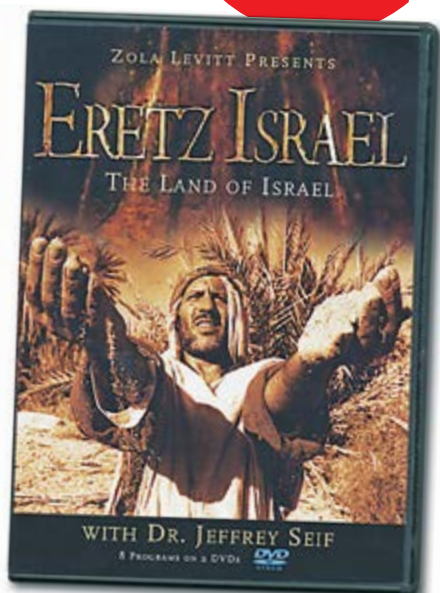
Jeff interviewing David Dolan on the Mount of Olives

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

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

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

Please see C.C.'s comment about ZLM's timeless teaching on [p. 22](#).



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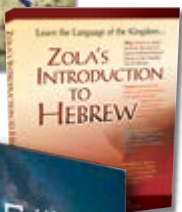
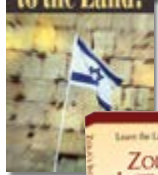
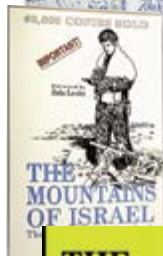


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ORDER FORM

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



New!

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) (p.27)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Weiss)	(Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3
___	The Beginning of The End (p.23)	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches — Zola on Replacement Theology	\$6	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) (p.27) ...	\$8	___
___	The Green Horse — The Bible & Islam (N. Archbold) (pictured) ...	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured).....	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold) (pictured).....	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (updated).....	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium.....	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King (Jeff Seif).....	\$12	___
___	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff)	\$8	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured).....	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Beauty for Ashes	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Beloved Thief	(64 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos	(3+ hours, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	A Child Is Born	(30 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel (p.17)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith for the Future (pictured) ..	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Faith of Our Fathers	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Feast of Lights	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	The Holocaust	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory ...	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Journey of Restoration	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Mine Eyes Have Seen (p.20)	(1 program, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Return to Eden	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Revelation	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Temple	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	The Witnessing Series	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___

To order:

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store.levitt.com

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ZLM Dallas office:
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Dallas TX 75225



ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Trio (Body, Foot & Hand)	\$98	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$58	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$23	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20") (p.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 (pictured)	\$15	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782 / 2022) (p.36)	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	The Classic Zola Collection (p.7)	79 products for \$999	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	The Beginning of the End (includes music) (p.23) ... (2 CDs)	\$12	_____
___	Tribulation Temple	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs) \$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Next Year in Jerusalem (pictured)	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	The Works	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs) \$49	_____
___	The Works II	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs) \$49	_____

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Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

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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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(only within the contiguous U.S.)

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

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Total _____



Mine Eyes Have Seen— Zola's After-Christmas Musical DVD

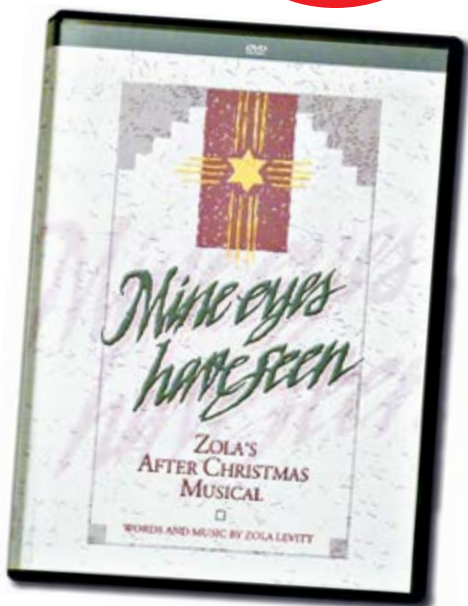
One 30-minute TV program

In this “after-Christmas musical,” Zola narrates the moving story of Simeon, the aged-but-faithful servant who waited to see the Messiah face to face. This beautifully staged half-hour presentation will have you singing along with Simeon and Anna about the arrival of the King of kings, the Holy One of Israel.

Note: the actor portraying Baby Jesus is Zola's grandson.

Soundtrack available on *The Works II* CD and in MP3 format from iTunes and Amazon.

Please see related articles on the [cover](#) and [p.28](#).



Abraham to Jesus

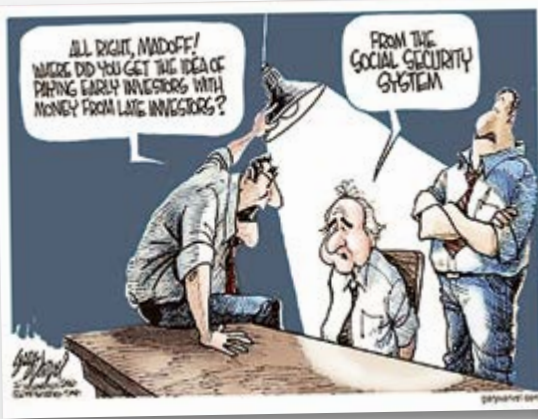
Genealogy Chart

Full Color, 16" x 20" chart,
mailed in a sturdy tube.

A personal work of art and a visually fresh Messianic poster that will be at home in the living room, office, or classroom. A novel gift idea. The tree roots connect the lineage of Isaac and Jacob through Abraham. The leaves include Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and spaces for you to write in your family members, grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel.

Please see “Ask the Chaplain” on [p.12](#). Note in particular the 4th-from-last paragraph: “*He gives a detailed account of the virgin birth of Jesus and His genealogy through Mary.*”

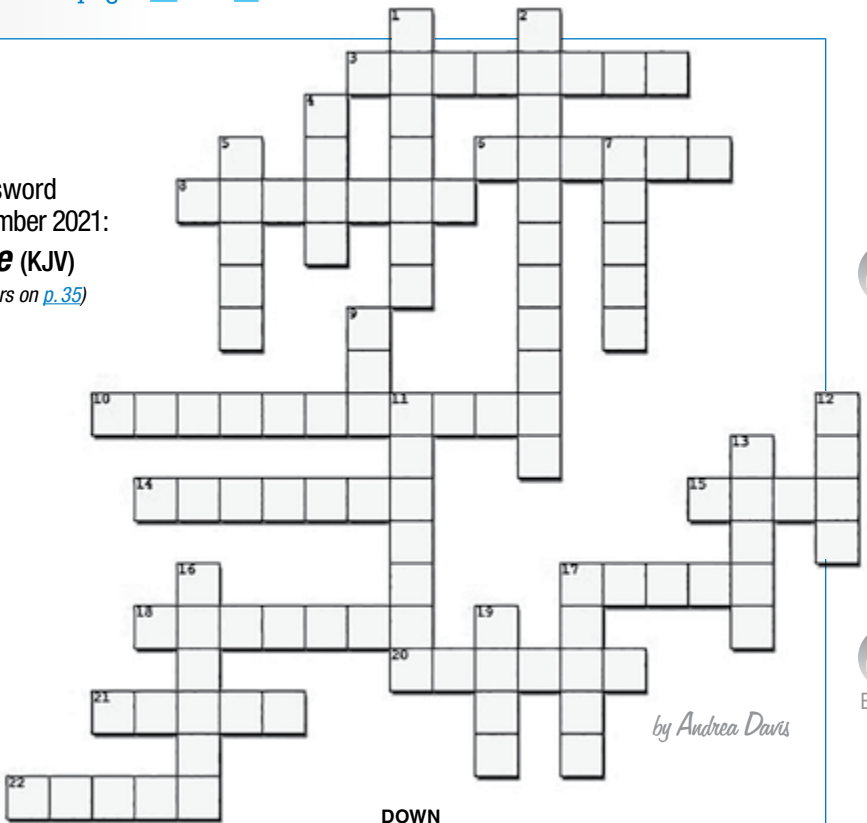
Fun and Games



For more on Social Security and Noah's Ark, please see related articles on pages [14](#) and [31](#). ★



Crossword December 2021: **Love** (KJV) *(answers on p.35)*



ACROSS

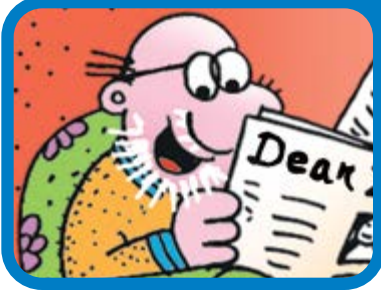
3. ...for God loveth a ___ giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
6. For the ___ loveth the Son... (John 5:20)
8. ...they shall ___ that love Thee. (Psalm 122:6)
10. ...there is none other ___ greater than these. (Mark 12:31)
14. ...that a man lay down his life for his ___. (Jn. 15:13)
15. If ye ___ Me, keep my commandments. (Jn. 14:15)
17. ___ be with them that love our Lord Jesus Christ... (Ephesians 6:24)
18. He that loveth his ___ abideth in the light... (1 John 2:10)
20. O love the Lord, all ye His _____. (Psalm 31:23)
21. ... ___ them that curse you... (Matthew 5:44)
22. For God so loved the _____. (John 3:16)

DOWN

1. ...thou shalt love thy neighbour as _____. (Lev. 19:18)
2. ...putting on the ___ of faith and love... (1 Thes. 5:8)
4. He that loveth his life shall ___ it... (John 12:25)
5. But the ___ of the Spirit is love... (Gal. 5:22)
7. ...love the Lord thy God with all thine _____. (Deuteronomy 6:5)
9. ...ye cannot serve ___ and mammon. (Lk. 16:13)
11. No man can serve two _____. (Matthew 6:24)
12. ...while we were yet sinners, Christ ___ for us. (Romans 5:8)
13. We love Him, because He first ___ us. (1 Jn. 4:19)
16. A ___ loveth at all times... (Proverbs 17:17)
17. The Lord loveth the _ of Zion... (Psalm 87:2)
19. ...but love covereth all _____. (Proverbs 10:12)

by Andrea Davis





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 M.J.: Zola Levitt was one of my favorite Bible teachers. I listened to and believed his lessons. I just learned that this kind man passed on to Heaven in 2006 from cancer. God bless his soul, dedicated to God’s Kingdom through His Son, Yeshua Jesus. Amen.

From M.R.: God bless Zola! He was my teacher of my Jewish roots when I gave myself to Jesus. I’m a faithful supporter of ZLM until I’m called home. Thank you all —and especially Mark— for your continued faithfulness to Messiah.

From B.R.: Oh my goodness, Zola! I just watched *The Beginning of the End* (1987). We were both so young when you recorded this teaching that is as relevant today as it was 30+ years ago. I hope you know how faithful your successors are in maintaining your dreams and your standards. Your To The Jew First ministerial outreach is nurtured, while we who are grafted-in are edified by your ministry. We’re in good hands; you are in the Best Hands!

From C.C.: As I have for the last 30+ years with all your programs, I bought the *Eretz Israel* DVD set when it first came out in 2011, because ZLM’s teachings are timeless, just as the Bible is timeless. (*Eretz Israel* is described on [p. 17](#).)

Dear M.J., M.R., B.R., and C.C.: At levitt.com beneath the “Zola TV” tab, clicking on [Classic Zola Archives](#) gives free access to decades of our Video Archives. They’re categorized as follows:

- Prophecy
- Israel
- Bible
- Zola
- Jews
- Christians
- Feasts
- Holidays
- Ministry
- History
- Musicals/
Music Videos
- Government
- Special Topics
- Specials
- Bible Characters
- Muslims/Arabs
- Current Events

ZLM characterizes this vast, searchable resource as *Zola Free Buffet*. (John 21:17) — Mark

P.S. You can also add these titles to your private library to view without the internet. (See [p. 7](#).)

God’s dwelling place

Dear Sarah Liberman,

I’m enjoying your Garden of Eden series. Is God secretly dwelling among us? I can’t answer with 100% certainty. However, after reading your [latest installment in the Personal Letter](#), I feel a stronger connection to our faith. — A.M.

Dear A.M.,

We believe that the Spirit of God dwells *within us*. While it is a mystery how that happens, it is the miracle we are promised with the New Covenant. 1 Corinthians 6:19 states, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...?” — David

(continued on next page)





Father figures

Dear Kirsten,

Thank you for the wonderful article about our desire for a “king” to rule over us as opposed to our Creator (“We Want That Too!” in [September 2021, p.6](#)). It confirmed some of my thoughts about recent American presidents. God is in complete control, and nothing takes Him by surprise. That gives me great comfort. —H.L.

Dear H.L.,

We *want* to be able to put our faith in political leaders, but they should never take the place of the King of kings. —Kirsten

Kudos to Sarah

Dear ZLM,

Wonderful Bible teaching from Sarah Liberman. Particularly on Eden and her prior series. She obviously spends much time in the Word. Keep it up Sarah, and be encouraged. —D.B.

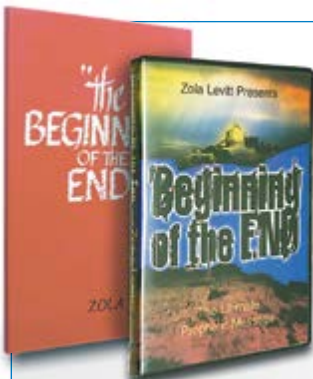
Dear D.B.,

We believe Sarah is special, too. We had to pinch ourselves when she agreed to start writing from Israel for the ministry. —Kirsten

Welcome encouragement

Greetings ZLM,

No complaints or questions; just a shout-out to a favorite show. We love every episode of *Our Jewish Roots* and also the *Levitt Letter*. We may not be Jewish, but our favorite Carpenter was. May He continue to bless everyone involved in this outstanding ministry. —S. & K.H. (FL) ★



[The Beginning of the End](#) [book & teaching/music CDs](#)

A most unusual study with a dramatic urgency. The Rapture, the antiChrist, the Third Temple, Armageddon, and the Second Coming are among the subjects considered, along with world affairs leading to The End. A “must-read”! The CD version includes the original music and soundtrack of this dramatic TV series. (2-CD set)

Please see comment from B.R. on [p.22](#).

A Message to Believers from the Maccabees



BY SANDRA TEPLINSKY (r) LightOfZion.org



Maccabees, painting (1842) by Wojciech Stattler (1800–1875), National Museum in Kraków (Poland)

As we welcome the radiance of Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication mentioned in John 10:22, the holiday casts its annual glow of heaven's life-light into our hearts. It reminds us that no darkness can or will extinguish the fire of God's covenant love. That love burns eternally for you, His cherished son or daughter, just as it does for Israel.

The miracle of Hanukkah came about through the inspired valiance of Jewish warriors known as the Maccabees. **The Maccabees** were an ancient family of priests, untrained for battle. They **led a remnant army of Jews to miraculously defeat powerful anti-Messiah forces** seeking to upend the worship of Yahweh. These heroes of faith overcame wicked world systems and anti-God government strongholds of their day.*

In Yeshua/Jesus, our battles are not against flesh and blood but principalities, powers, and rulers of evil in heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12). Nevertheless, what might the Maccabees say to us about the battles we face today?

1. God's covenant people are proactive for His purposes.

The Maccabees steadfastly believed in the sovereignty of God. They trusted that He was in control over their nation, but they were not resigned to passivity. They actively engaged with God — under His leadership — for the sake of His covenant purposes. They proactively repented for Israel's compromise with the world and grievous national sin. They fasted, prayed, and strategically mobilized a faithful remnant. Then they and their followers took up arms and fought.

(continued on next page)

* The events of Hanukkah and the Maccabees were prophesied in Daniel 11, especially verses 31–33, and should also be seen as a prophetic foreshadow of anti-Messiah forces in the End Times. (See also Matthew 24:15 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.)



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2. Love stokes passion for courageous action.

Fiery love for God and His Word — not unrighteous anger, fear-driven rebellion, or hate — is the anointed ammunition of victorious Kingdom warfare. The Maccabees did not stir up strife in Israel. They did not start a war out of soulish indignation at injustice. Instead, God rallied an army to their side in response to their zealous and jealous passion for Him.

3. Faith fuels perseverance to move mountains.

The Maccabees were outlandishly outnumbered by their enemies at a dark time in history. They knew the battle could never be won by human might or military strength, but only by God's Spirit. Whatever the outcome, they determined in advance to stay the course, even unto death.

"It is easy for many to be overcome by a few; in the sight of heaven there is no difference between deliverance by many or by few; for victory in war does not depend upon the size of the army, but on strength that comes from heaven." (1 Maccabees 3:18–19)

4. Sovereign God redeems all things for His Kingdom purposes.

The Maccabees never received a personal prophetic word from God assuring military victory, government turnaround, or successful recapture of the Temple. But they clung to the words of Scripture assuring ultimate Kingdom victory. Whether or not the unrighteous government remained in power — which it did temporarily, despite their victory — they trusted Yahweh's Kingdom purposes would prevail. Which they did, and will for eternity.



Martyrs refusing to sacrifice to the Greek idol, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860)



5. The traditional Hanukkah story of oil burning miraculously for 8 days in the lamp of the rededicated Temple is legendary.**

Nevertheless, the Maccabees did in fact recapture, restore, and rededicate the Temple. Hanukkah commemorates that rededication. [Yeshua observed Hanukkah. John 10:22–23] **Therefore, Hanukkah, which means "Feast of Dedication," is a perfect time to rededicate your own living temple** (1 Cor. 6:19) to the God of miracles and blazing love-light. Then, let His holy oil (Holy Spirit) fill and refill your lamp so that even in times of darkness, you shine joyfully for Him! ★

** The 8-day-oil story first appears in the Babylonian Talmud, written hundreds of years after the actual event. It is not found in the historical books of the Maccabees, the works of Josephus, or other reliable records of Hanukkah. Bear in mind that to inspire Jewish observance of the law during exile in Babylon, rabbinic writers of the Talmud admittedly created new forms of worship. Many modern day traditions are based on these "creative expressions." Only God knows the truth about the miracle of holy oil, which He surely could have performed for His beloved people.

Buildings Creating Their Own Energy

SCIENCE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org



credit: courtesy of TurboGen



credit: Rohan Mekhechaam / Unsplash

left: TurboGen CEO Yaron Gilboa **background:** Electricity
right: TurboGen's TG-40 microturbine



credit: courtesy of TurboGen



To Index

Last June, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio sent out a desperate message as a heat wave blanketed the area. “We need New Yorkers to take IMMEDIATE action: reduce your use of electricity in your home or your business for the rest of the day. We need to avoid energy disruptions during this heat emergency,” the mayor pleaded.

Messages like this will be more frequent as electricity usage rises and breakdowns in the electrical grid become more common. Extreme weather and electric vehicles will add even more load in coming years. One solution is for buildings to create their own energy — on-site systems that work 24/7 to provide combined cooling, heat, and power (acronym: CCHP).

Israeli company TurboGen recently introduced microturbines that simultaneously generate electricity, heating and cooling, replacing traditional boilers and air conditioners in multifamily residential buildings, public buildings, hotels, hospitals, and offices.

Based on jet-propulsion technology developed at Israeli defense company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, TurboGen microturbines make CCHP from natural gas. In the future, they could be powered by renewable solar, bio-gas, and hydrogen fuels, says TurboGen CEO Yaron Gilboa.

Natural gas goes into the microturbine to generate electricity and heat water for bathrooms

and kitchens. Extremely hot air produced as a by-product of this process is collected for heating. In the summer, a dedicated chiller converts the hot air for air conditioning and refrigeration.

While a standard generator normally reaches 35% to 40% efficiency in energy production, a TurboGen prototype reaches 90% efficiency by using the heat from the turbine as a source of energy. Thus, it uses less natural gas to reach the same level of energy output.

Unlike competitors’ systems that require cranes to install, the TurboGen systems “can go in a freight elevator and are suitable for smaller buildings,” says Gilboa. In addition, the microturbines can operate for five years before requiring maintenance.

Buy electricity, not equipment

TurboGen doesn’t sell the system, so customers don’t pay for setup and installation. Instead, TurboGen sells the energy generated by the microturbines at the customer’s facility, and the customer receives a discount on regular energy rates. ★

Arming Good Germs to Kill Bad Germs



MEDICINE: BY NATHAN JEFFAY (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

A Tel Aviv lab has equipped good bacteria with “poisoned arrows” that destroy bad bacteria. “We have built an antibacterial weapon that enables ‘good’ bacteria to attack bad bacteria with toxins and neutralize them,” said Dr. Dor Salomon, the lead researcher of the Tel Aviv University project.

One of the most effective systems that bad bacteria have for eliminating other bacteria is called the Type 6 Secretion System, which normally manipulates or kills nearby cells. Salomon’s team has removed this system from bad bacteria and “installed” it in harmless bacteria that have been “programmed” to recognize pathogens and attack them, while not harming other microbes.

Since antibiotic resistance is an ever-growing concern to the medical profession, **solutions like this that fight infection without deploying drugs have the potential to save many lives.**

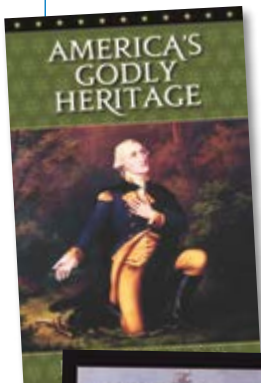
“We have engineered proof of concept for a safe bacterium that can respond to a cue from outside, like the presence of a pathogen we want to get rid of,” Salomon said.

The research team wants to test the technology in fish farms within months, and hopes that within a few years it could become part of doctors’ arsenals against infections in humans. ★



background: 3D rendering of bacteria
foreground: Dr. Dor Salomon

(courtesy of Dr. Salomon)



[America's Godly Heritage](#) book

By David Barton

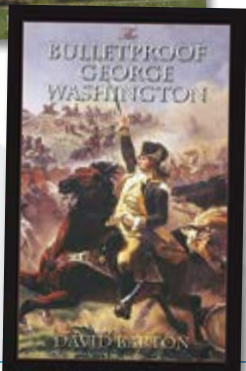
America's Godly Heritage sets forth the beliefs of many well-known Founding Fathers concerning the proper role of Christian principles in education, government, and the public affairs of the nation. The beliefs of Founders such as Patrick Henry, John Quincy Adams, John Jay, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Mason, and many others are clearly presented.

[The Bulletproof George Washington](#) book

By David Barton

Colonial George Washington's perilous experiences in the French and Indian War are chronicled in this riveting account of God's providence and protection. The only officer on horseback to avoid being shot down, young Washington openly attributed his miraculous escape from harm to the intervention of a sovereign God. A story once found in student textbooks, this awe-inspiring adventure is recaptured in a modern edition, complete with maps and illustrations.

(Many titles are also available as eBooks.)



All I Want for Hanukkah is Christmas



BY BEN SALES / Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA.org)



credit: photo by Max Bender on Unsplash

Christmas tree lights

I grew up in suburban Chicago surrounded by fellow Jews — at school, on the weekends, at my friends' houses, and in the neighborhood.



I knew all about my Jewish world and history: Hebrew prayers, codifying of Jewish law in the year 200. But when it came to Christianity, I had a basic idea about Easter, and might have provided a brief bio of Jesus, as culled from popular culture. Until December rolled around, that is. Christmas was inescapable — and I loved it. I still do.

Christmas is everywhere: the malls, the grocery stores, TV, and theaters. I understand how it's a bit much to be bombarded starting from Thanksgiving — make that Halloween — with carols and candy canes, Santa and reindeer, manger scenes, ornaments, mistletoe, and trees. And — on an intellectual level — I object to the commercialism, the conspicuous consumption, and the tackiness.

Actually, I love the tackiness. I love the manufactured happiness. I love feeling snow on my shoulders, walking into a heated cafe, sipping hot cider, and hearing a Christmas song — probably written by a Jewish composer. I love the contrast between the terrible weather and the enveloping cheer, however artificial it is. **I love enjoying the Christmas spirit without worrying about how I celebrate Christmas. Because I don't celebrate Christmas. We Jews have our own winter festival: Hanukkah.**

(continued on next page)





Now, I like Hanukkah. But in America, it's kind of weak sauce. If Christmas is a thick, juicy hamburger on a sesame bun, American Jews have tried to make Hanukkah into a black-bean burger — perfectly edible but nothing like the real deal.

I'm Jewish, so I celebrate Hanukkah. I'm down with the story: the victory of the weak over the strong, the faith fulfilled when a small flask of oil lasted eight days. But I've never liked how American Hanukkah becomes a diluted, Jewish version of Christmas. Christians give presents? We'll give Hanukkah presents, too. They have tinsel? We'll have tinsel. They have holiday sweaters? We'll have those, too.



Nine-branch *hanukkiah*

Just as I can enjoy the Christmas spirit because I don't feel personally invested in the holiday, I feel disappointed in Hanukkah precisely because I *am* invested in it. In any case, Hanukkah is a minor holiday. I don't begrudge anyone its significance; but in Jewish tradition, it's treated as less important than *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, Passover, and a couple of others.

In Israel, Hanukkah is celebrated, but doesn't receive top billing. There are decorations, menorahs in the windows, and *sufganiyot* — doughnuts filled with jelly or cream. Kids get a few days off to sing and play. Exchanging Hanukkah presents isn't really a thing there.

Contrast that with the season that runs from *Rosh Hashanah* through *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*, a series of festivals and holidays that ended in September. In Israel, before *Rosh Hashanah*, supermarkets are stocked with apples, honey, and pomegranates. Temporary stands sell greeting cards on the sidewalks. On *Yom Kippur*, the streets and shops are all closed. Religious people wear white and gravitate *en masse* to synagogue, while those who aren't fasting crowd the empty streets with bikes.



Classic Hanukkah *sufganiyot*

On *Sukkot*, temporary huts seem everywhere, from people's porches to public squares. For close to a month, little business gets done. Need to schedule a meeting or start a work project? "After the holidays" is the common refrain. The Jewish holidays there are celebrated on their own merits, not judged against the overwhelming dominance of another religion's season.

So spare me your "Chrismukkah" and your "Hanukkah bush," and let me culturally enjoy the most wonderful time of the year the way America clearly wants me to. After all, if Idina Menzel and Bob Dylan can rock out to an album's worth of Christmas music, so can I.

Notes to author Ben Sales:

- 1) You're more than welcome to join us at our home for Christmas carols and hot cocoa. But as far as holidays and festivals go, you Jewish folks win hands down! —Kirsten
- 2) Zola often recounted his father Joseph's sentiment about Christmas shoppers who patronized the family's five-and-ten-cent store in Pittsburgh in the mid-1900s: "Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus!" —Mark ★





Headquarters of
The New York Times



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

NY Times Issues Correction on Jewish Sovereignty in Israel

By Ira Stoll / Algemeiner.com

After refusing an initial request by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis [see [November 2021 Levitt Letter, p. 30](#)], *The New York Times* has issued a correction for falsely stating in an article about an animated movie that previous periods of Jewish sovereignty in Israel had lasted for no more than “about 70 or 80 years.”

The *Times* correction stated that the article “referred imprecisely to the time periods when Jews enjoyed sovereignty in the land in ancient times. While the first period of unified sovereignty some 3,000 years ago is believed to have lasted for less than a century, separate kingdoms remained sovereign for hundreds of years.”

The original article stated “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.”

While the correction is welcome, it’s not quite satisfactory. By writing, “is believed,” the *Times* doesn’t say who is doing the believing. And by emphasizing “unified sovereignty,” they seem to be attempting to find a way to restrict terms so the original article can be labeled simply “imprecise” rather than completely wrong.

Though the *Times* proclaims itself to

be the newspaper of record, much of it has remained reliably anti-Israel since Zola canceled his subscription back in the day. Self-loathing Jewish columnists make some of the most fervent anti-Zionists. — Mark

7-Eleven Spreads to Israel

By Zev Stub / JPost.com

Electra Consumer Products said it recently signed an agreement with the global 7-Eleven chain to open dozens of stores around Israel over the next three years, beginning with the launch of a Tel Aviv branch next year. The agreement is for 20 years, with an option to extend for another 50 years.



Ken Wakabayashi (r), Senior Vice President of 7-Eleven International, and Zvika Schwimmer, CEO of Electra Consumer Products

“Unlike a *makolet* (Israeli convenience store), 7-Eleven offers an experience with fast food, a large variety of hot and cold drinks, and various products that do not exist elsewhere,” Electra CEO Zvika Schwimmer said. “I am sure that the shopping experience at 7-Eleven will be different and special for the Israeli consumer.” ★



New Technology Reveals Noah's Ark?

BY HADAS LABRISCH (r) JPost.com



photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat (1570) by Flemish painter Simon de Myle

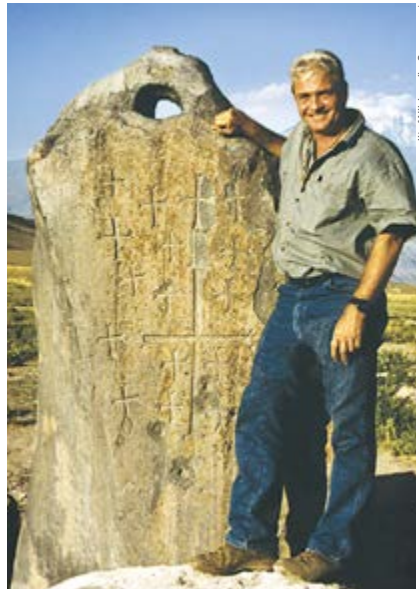
In 1959, a cartographer named Ilhan Durupinar discovered a boat-shaped footprint on top of a mountain in the Dogubayazit region in Turkey. Now, American researchers and Turkish scientists of Noah's Ark Discovered Project claim proof that the Biblical relic lies beneath the surface of the Durupinar site.

Using 3D scans of ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) technology, the **researchers claim** to have uncovered **a man-made boat structure beneath the ground**, before beginning any excavation. The formation identified in the scans, according to the team, **matches the dimensions of the Genesis description of Noah's Ark**.

Genesis 6–7 describes God's instructions to Noah to build an ark and carry with him a male and female of each animal. The text carries specific descriptions regarding the size and structure of the vessel: length 300 cubits, breadth 50 cubits, and height 30 cubits. Cubit, a Biblical term called *Ama* in Hebrew, means "forearm" and is estimated to be approximately 18 inches.

The Bible further tells us that the Ark landed on the hills of Mount Ararat, a dormant volcano near the eastern border of Turkey. The Durupinar site is approximately 19 miles south of the mountain.

(continued on next page)



credit: Wikimedia Commons

David Fasold, a promoter of the Durupinar site, beside what he claimed was a drogue stone (crosses are believed to have been added later)





The structure that is claimed to be Noah's Ark near Mount Ararat in Agri, Turkey

Researcher Andrew Jones and lead scientist Dr. Fethi Ahmet Yüksel of the Department of Geophysical Engineering, Applied Geophysics Department of Istanbul University believe that the results of the scans indicate a man-made artifact beneath the surface that could well be the Ark, and are eager to continue studying the location.

"The new GPR data shows parallel lines and angular structures 8–20 feet down," claim the team on their project website. "These parallel lines and right angles below the surface are something you would not expect to see in a natural, geologic formation."

However, the scientific world is not keen to accept their assumption. Since the original discovery by Durupinar, the site has been repeatedly questioned and refuted as the location of Noah's Ark. In the 1970s and into the 1990s, American researcher Ron Wyatt studied the site and published his discoveries, which geologist Lorence Collins refuted in 1996 in the *Journal of Geoscience Education*, dismissing the findings as natural rock formation with an unusual structure.

Spikes and wanes in public and academic interest led the Turkish Ministry of Culture to place the site under national protection and label it a national park, but no official excavation projects have been approved. Several independent teams, both Turkish and foreign, are currently studying the site.

Even after the original discovery was deemed superficial and a natural phenomenon, some never gave up on the belief that the original Ark lies beneath the surface. Perhaps the findings by Jones and Yüksel, making use of technology that didn't exist during previous expeditions, could sway the verdict regarding deeper examination of the location that could potentially be hiding one of the most significant relics in history. ★



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YOU'VE DONE WELL PREPARING THE ARK,
BUT FORTY DAYS IS A LONG TIME SO
TAKE THIS DUCT TAPE JUST IN CASE

3,200-year-old Fort

TimesOfIsrael.com

School children and volunteers recently unearthed a 3,200-year-old Canaanite citadel where epic battles were fought during Biblical times near the city of Kiryat Gat in southern Israel.

The Egyptians, who ruled the area at the time, built the fort about 40 miles south of Jerusalem as a defense against the Philistines.

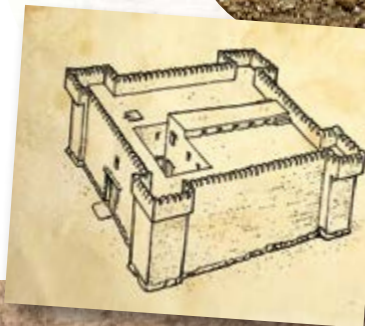
The unearthed structure is 59 feet long and 59 feet wide, with towers in its four corners. A huge doorstep has been preserved that was carved out of a single rock weighing 3 tons. An inside yard with brick paving and columns was flanked by rooms. Hundreds of pieces of earthenware, some of them whole, discovered in the rooms include many bowls produced in an Egyptian style, some likely used for worship.

“The citadel offers a glimpse into the geopolitical reality described in the Book of Judges,” said Saar Ganor and Itamar Weissbein, archaeologists with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). “At the time, the Land of Canaan was ruled by the Egyptians. But then, during the 12th century B.C., two central players appeared in the area: the Israelites and the Philistines. The Israelites settled in unfortified communities on the central mountain ridge, while the Philistines gained power in the southern Mediterranean coast.”

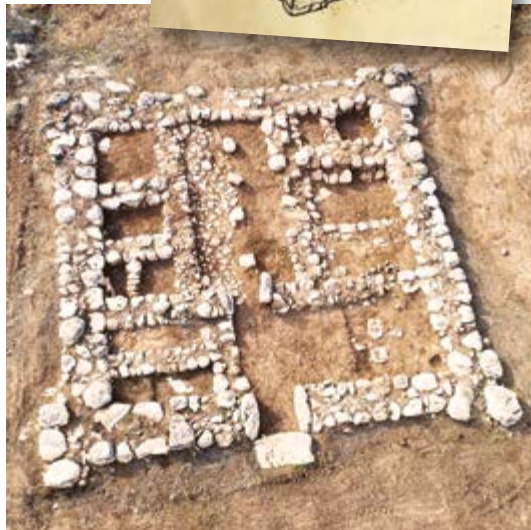
“The Gal On Citadel, located in a strategic spot overlooking the main road that linked the coast to the Judean lowlands, was seemingly built as part of a Canaanite-Egyptian attempt to deal with the new geopolitical situation.”

Similar Egyptian fortresses from the same period have been discovered elsewhere in Israel.

Perhaps we will be able to see this newly unearthed structure on our Spring Tour. — Kirsten



drawing by Itamar Weissbein/IAA



credit: Emi Aladjem/IAA

top: Sketch of the ancient citadel near Gurvin Stream and Kibbutz Gal On **bottom:** Unearthed walls from the 3,200-year-old citadel



credit: Dafna Gazit/IAA

Earthenware discovered in the citadel



Palestinian Mothers: Child's Martyrdom a Joy



BY CHRISTINE DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS (r) JihadWatch.org



Screen capture

Western culture celebrates life, whereas the Palestinian territories embrace a culture of death. The Palestinian Authority (PA), via media outlets and schools, indoctrinates its people to view Islamic martyrdom, which involves killing and being killed for Allah (Koran 9:111), as a triumph. And for some Palestinian parents who lose a child to martyrdom, their child's death is a worthy "sacrifice." Seeing their sons martyred is even a "mission" for some mothers.

Mothers are admittedly joyful about the glories of martyrdom in paradise, as well as the benefits for their lives on earth: the financial rewards given to the families of martyrs by the PA. There's no way of knowing whether the mothers are genuinely happy for their martyred children or just keeping up appearances, but **expressing joy over a child dying in terror attacks and violent confrontations with Israel is what the PA expects and demands.** One of the ways the PA promotes this posture is by broadcasting parents' statements repeatedly in official PA media.

The mother of Omar, a 13-year-old Palestinian terrorist "martyr," was broadcast saying, "Today is Omar's

wedding day. There are no tears and no sorrow. Omar is leaving, and we are all happy because he is happily and calmly going to the Gardens of Pleasure." (The "wedding" is based on the Islamic belief that a martyr for Allah marries 72 "dark-eyed," that is, "virgins" in paradise.)

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has been exposing this travesty since the beginning of the PA terror campaign — the Second Intifada — in October 2000.

"My son had nothing called a funeral, rather it was a wedding," said one mother of a "martyred" terrorist.

Islamic texts instruct martyrdom as a high calling, such as this quote from the Koran: "Let those who sell the life of this world for the next fight in the way of Allah. Whoever fights in the way of Allah, whether he is killed or victorious, on him we will bestow a great reward" (Koran 4:74).

As the mother of two boys, I cannot imagine sending my sons to certain death. I believe that, deep down, their sons' deaths must break these mothers' hearts. — Kirsten ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22



Career decision

After synagogue one Saturday, a young boy announced to his mother, "I've decided to be a rabbi when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?"

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to synagogue on Saturday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."

White hair

One morning, as little Rebecca was watching her mother wash and dry the dishes, she noticed several strands of white hair mixed in with her mother's dark hair.

Rebecca asked, "Why have you got white hairs, Mommy?"

Her mother replied, "Well *ahuva* (loved daughter), every time a daughter does something to make her mother unhappy, one of her mother's hairs turns white."

Rebecca thought about this for a few moments and then asked, "How come ALL of Bubbe's (Grandma's) hairs are white?" ★



New TV Station: Orlando/Daytona Beach

The newest addition to our national broadcast lineup is SuperChannel WACX-55, broadcasting throughout the Orlando and Daytona Beach areas. *Our Jewish Roots* is now airing on Saturday evenings at 6:30. We also have a bonus overnight airing time on WACX-55 (times will vary). Please set your DVRs accordingly and see our full airing schedule at levitt.com/schedule. ★

Answer Key for December 2021 Crossword (p.21)

Across:		Down:	
3. Cheerful	17. Grace	1. Thyself	11. Masters
6. Father	18. Brother	2. Breastplate	12. Died
8. Prosper	20. Saints	4. Lose	13. Loved
10. Commandment	21. Bless	5. Fruit	16. Friend
14. Friends	22. World	7. Heart	17. Gates
15. Love		9. God	19. Sins



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