



ZOLA LEVITT MINISTRIES
P.O. BOX 12268
DALLAS, TX 75225-0268

OFFICE:
214-696-8844
staff@levitt.com

24-HOUR
Purchases & Donations
800-966-3377

TOURS:
214-696-9760
travel@levitt.com

WEBSITE:
www.levitt.com

SECURE ONLINE DONATIONS:
<https://www.levitt.com/donate>
(one time or recurring)



Enhancing Trust

January 2022

Dear Reader,

God has blessed us with a new year. And though many of us can get frustrated with some new challenges that come along, we Believers should remember that "new" is an important word found throughout Scripture. The Lord declared, "Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). He also said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). While a new calendar doesn't end the old challenges we face, it offers us new opportunities to know and work with our Lord throughout 2022.

With this issue, I've assumed the editorial responsibility for the *Levitt Letter*. It's challenging to follow a gifted and beloved editor like Margot, who guided and developed this publication for the last 15 years. Still, I am excited about this new ministerial opportunity and look forward to working with others at Zola Levitt Ministries to glorify God and spread Yeshua's Gospel.

In this *Levitt Letter*, you'll find encouragement from both Sarah (p. 2) and Kirsten (6) about facing new challenges, Tony's continued study of Psalm 119 (4), important insights about Jerusalem (1) and Israel (8), reminders about anti-Semitism (33, 34), as well as our regular features of science, medicine, humor, and more.

Even if you don't make resolutions for the new year, please remember to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim*—pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6),



Greg Miller, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Thank you for your continued support for Zola Levitt Ministries, which allows us to produce new Bible-teaching resources, including television programs, publications, and more, which are available free at levitt.com. If you value this monthly newsletter and the resources we provide, please support us with your prayers and donations. Thank you.

PLEASE DETACH
AND SEND THIS
BOTTOM PORTION
WITH YOUR GIFT.
Thank You

We'd appreciate any
address corrections. Gifts
to ZLM are tax-deductible
as allowed by law.

Please contact me
with Estate Planning
information.

Yes, Greg, I want to be a part of what God is doing through Zola Levitt Ministries. Enclosed is my contribution of: Or securely donate using contacts above left.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

Please charge my contribution to my credit card: MC Visa Discover

Card # _____ Card code _____

Signature _____ Card exp. date ____ / ____

Printed Name _____ Donor # _____

(See number above your name on mailing label)

Address _____ Date signed _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email (optional) _____ Phone _____



Levitt LETTER

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



Israeli soldiers after capture of the Western Wall during the Six-Day War, June 7, 1967. Photo taken by David Rubinger/National Photo Collection of Israel. Photography dept. Gov. Press Office)

Jerusalem Matters

inside: **Why Anti-Zionism
is Anti-Semitism** p.33

By Jonathan Feldstein / Israel365News.com

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand cease to function. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not exalt Jerusalem as my greatest joy! (Psalm 137:5-6)

There's no place that's more central to Jews and Christians than Jerusalem. It's the city of the kings and prophets, the place where Jesus preached, worshiped, and was crucified. As central as Jerusalem is to our history and our faith, Jerusalem faces a threat to be redivided today. **This threat to Israel's sovereignty, however, is not from one of our enemies.**

From the 1840s, the U.S. had a consulate in Jerusalem, then under the Ottoman Empire. When Israel declared independence, and Jerusalem became its capital in 1948, the consulate became a U.S. diplomatic outpost in Israeli Jerusalem. But the U.S. established its embassy in Tel Aviv because it did not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital,

(continued p.10)

REMEMBER:
Epiphany is Thursday, January 6.

Epiphany and the Magi

By Gail Seidel / Bible.org

The visit of the Magi (recorded in Matthew 2:1-11), celebrated on January 6, marks the end of the 12 Days of Christmas and is also known in the church calendar as Epiphany—"the appearing."



The name "Magi" may be derived from the Persian word *magoi*, referring to those who were deeply interested in religion, including the study of the stars and their impact on human events. Scholars think "the east" could refer to the Medes and the Persians or perhaps to the Chaldeans.

While we know little about these men who followed the spectacular star, their demeanor is especially noteworthy. They told King Herod

(continued p.5)

Detail of *The Adoration of the Magi*, Tapestry, Edward Burne-Jones, Musée d'Orsay, 1887



Accepting New Challenges

On the Ground in Israel
Sarah Liberman
SarahLiberman.com
OJR Contributor



Writing Levitt Letter Articles

At the end of 2018, the staff of Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) asked me to write an “On the Ground in Israel” column for the *Levitt Letter*. I still remember my inner struggle about accepting that opportunity. I had never written a regular column before and wasn’t sure what to write. Also, I wondered whether what I wrote would be beneficial to readers.

As a worship leader and recording artist, I am no stranger to writing, but until then, I had mainly written worship songs. I had never considered other writing, but in obedience to the Lord, I agreed. I was so grateful for the ZLM staff’s support as I began my writing journey!

Initially, I provided an Israeli’s perspective on current events. I had several advantages—language, access to local media and locations, and other Israelis who could help me explore topics. These are not always easily accessible to people outside of Israel.

As I continued searching for inspiration, I began writing about my life and our family living as Believers in Israel, including events in the Messianic body there. In each column, I included a Biblical theme to emphasize a relevant life lesson.

Writing the Personal Letter

By mid-2020, the ZLM staff invited me to write the monthly *Personal Letter*. Accepting this challenge allows me to delve deeper into certain topics. Also, it gives me the joy of

greater interaction with more readers.

Most recently, the *Personal Letter* has included a series examining the possibility that the Garden of Eden was in Israel, where the modern city of Jerusalem now stands. Benefiting from visits to relevant locations in Israel, I also accessed research from local tour guides who are also Believers.

Confidence for More

Writing the *Levitt Letter* column and later the more extensive *Personal Letter* gave me the confidence to accept God’s next challenge for me: writing a book about God’s discipleship in our lives. I doubt I would have considered doing this apart from my experiences writing for ZLM.

Chuck Smith, pastor of Calvary Chapel, once stated, “We may not understand it at the time, but everything is preparation for something else.” Perhaps God has something new He wants to do in your life. Perhaps He wants you to accept a new challenge today. I encourage you to follow through and accept His challenge. He is working all things together for good (Romans 8:28), and He alone knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).

Im tirdefu laddat oto—Press on to know Him!

Sarah, we cannot wait to read each new *Personal Letter*! Solid teaching. Readers who have missed any of this series can read previous issues at levitt.com/newsletter.
—David & Kirsten ★





- 2 On the Ground in Israel**
- 2 Accepting New Challenges**
- Teaching**
- 4 David's Awe of God's Word and Righteousness** (Psalm 119:129-144)
- Studio Co-host**
- 6 Be an Avram**
- 7 Non-Jewish Children with Jewish Names**
- Classic Zola**
- 8 Twenty-Seven Days and Counting**
- 9 Dear Mr. Dickens**
- 10 Jerusalem Matters**
(continued from cover)
- Ask the Chaplain**
- 12 What is the Abrahamic Covenant?**
- TJF Report**
- 13 Proclaiming the Gospel in Tzuba**
- Wise As a Serpent**
- 14 Three Wives in Johnny Carson's Shoes**
- 15 ZLM Bulletin Board**
- Parsons: Hebrew Lesson**
- 16 Heeding the Call of Hope**



- 18 ZLM Order Form**
- 21 Castles in Israel** *(part 4)*
- 22 Letters to ZLM**
- 25 Crossword Puzzle**
- Science**
- 26 Electric Flying Car**
- Medicine**
- 27 Using Copper to Cure Diabetic Wounds**
- 28 Select Media Briefs**
- Archaeology**
- 30 Mosaic Floors from Ancient Church**
- 32 Temple-Era Amethyst Seal Discovered**
- Anti-Semitism**
- 33 Why Anti-Zionism is Anti-Semitism**
- 34 Finding Good in Islamic Terrorists?**
- 35 Jewish Humor**



Donating Stock

Many donors save capital gains taxes by donating shares of stock rather than the proceeds from liquidating them. If you would like to donate shares, our ministry's Vanguard info and account number are listed at right.



Vanguard asks that securities be mailed to:

Vanguard
P.O. Box 982901
El Paso, TX 79998

For certified or overnight delivery:

Vanguard
5951 Lockett Court, Suite A1
El Paso, TX 79932

Please provide Vanguard or your broker with the following information:

Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc.
Tax ID Number 75-1680391
Vanguard Account # 6150223
DTC # 0062 Vanguard's
routing # 021000021

Vanguard's toll-free number is 1-800-337-8476 ★

David's Awe of God's Word and Righteousness

(Psalm 119:129-144)

Tony Derrick
Theologian for
Zola Levitt Ministries



1. David's Awe of God's Word (119:129-136)

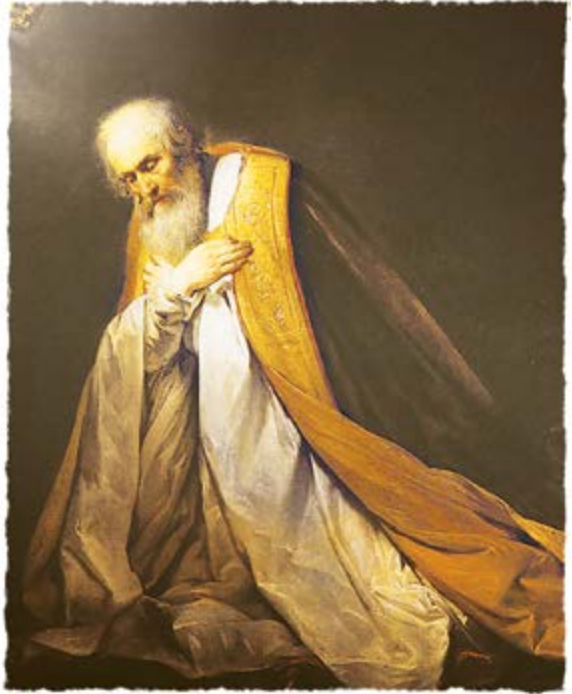
David knew that God's Word is His communication to His people. Therefore, David cherished the Word in his soul. The Word of God is His complete library, communicated through the Holy Spirit, to the writers whom God chose to record it.

Paul wrote to Timothy that the Word, *"is able to make us wise unto salvation"* (2 Timothy 3:15).

David continues in Psalm 119:130, where he writes that the Word gives light and understanding. He makes a special point to say the Word is for *"the simple"*; regardless of a person's station in life, that person can understand God's Word. This is not a putdown. Instead, it points to God's mercy in making His Word available to all people.

In the next section, starting with verse 131, David makes an interesting comparison: He longs for the Word to quench his spiritual thirst, just as someone in the sweltering heat longs for their physical thirst to be quenched.

In verses 132-135, David calls on God for mercy, direction, protection from his enemies, and further instruction. Like David, we should spend time meditating on God's Word and praying for the discipline to obey it. We must also call on God for His mercy, direction, protection from our enemies, and further instruction.



Detail of *King David in Prayer*, painting (c. 1640) by Pieter de Grebber (circa 1600-1652/1653), St. Catherine's Convent Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

David ends this section by stating how distressed he is because people ignore the law. In verse 136, he says, *"Rivers of water run down from my eyes."* This offers a clear picture of the sorrow David felt because God's law was not being respected and obeyed.

2. David's Awe of God's Righteousness (119:137-144)

David writes in verse 137 that the God of the universe is righteous. This was comforting to David, and it should be to us, too. **No matter what is going on in the world around us, and regardless of what personal failure we experience, God will deal with us in His righteousness.**

God never changes. Hebrews 13:8 emphasizes this about our Lord: *"Jesus Christ, (continued on next page)"*





the same yesterday, today, and forever.” This should invoke a hallelujah from you!

Verse 138 tells us that God’s “*testimonies,*” or His law, are also righteous. They are true from the beginning to the end.

David turns attention to himself in verse 139. He is astonished and disgusted that men would ignore the commands of God. He expresses his anger and is concerned that it may consume him. If you’ve heard of “righteous indignation,” then you know what David was experiencing.

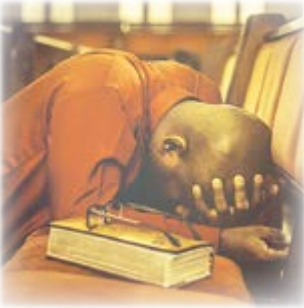
In verse 140, David describes God’s Word as “*very pure,*” and he loved it. And in the next verse, we read David’s humble description of himself. He struck a balance between his humility and his unwavering commitment to God’s Word.

Verses 142–144 complete this section, as David concludes with three reminders:

- 1) God’s righteousness is everlasting.
- 2) God’s law is truth.
- 3) The righteousness of God’s law is everlasting.

Finally, David asks God for a greater understanding of His Word. This prayer will also serve us well. ★

credit: Samuel Martins (Unsplash)



Epiphany and the Magi *continued from cover sidebar*

forthrightly that they came to worship this star-foretold King. They had their gifts ready. Seeing the Christ Child prompted adoration, giving, and worship. Afterward, God warned them in a dream not to follow Herod’s instructions, so they returned to their country by another route.

God was purposeful in including the Magi in the narrative of the Christ Child—the One called Emmanuel, the Word in human flesh (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14). The revelation of Christ to the Magi is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the gentile world—to all nations.

The Adoration of the Magi,
tapestry (1890) by Edward
Burne-Jones (1833–1898),
Musée d’Orsay, Paris



To
Index

Be an Avram

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



It's a new year! Welcome 2022. Like many people, we have great expectations for these next 12 months. If all goes as planned, we will have our two sons, two daughters-in-law, and all three (so far!) grandbabies in Orlando with us. This will be a milestone year for the Hart family, and we are eagerly anticipating each day.

This past year, our family has learned that we must listen carefully to God's directing voice. We left our home of 11 years near Branson, Missouri to journey to a new place. We left behind the known for the unknown. Yet in doing so, we began a new and hopefully more fulfilling chapter. Honestly, our new location is more *fun* than we dreamed possible. **We believe God still guides and calls us and others to new places and greater days.**



Detail of *Abraham's Journey from Ur to Canaan* (1850) by József Molnár (1821–1899), Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest

The patriarch Abraham was known by the name *Avram* (the Hebrew version of Abram) when he lived in the land of Ur in Mesopotamia. In Genesis 11, we learn that Terah, his father, set out from Ur to go to the land of Canaan, but ended up settling in Haran with his whole family. From what we see in Scripture, Avram thrived in Haran. One day, however, God called on Avram to "go" from that place into the land of Canaan. And with the command to go, God also gave him wonderful promises. Even though Avram and his household were beginning an unknown venture, God assured them that He would bless them.

Sometimes it's easy for us Believers* to stay where we are. We get comfortable; we know and relish our routines. Fear of the unknown often keeps us from venturing into uncharted territory. Yet from Avram's story, we see that when we follow God's prompting, our new normal includes blessings beyond our dreams.

While Avram's name meant "exalted father," he was childless. For decades, he lived with a name that constantly reminded him of his inability to produce offspring and establish his lineage. But God called Avram to trust Him and to trust His promises. When Avram was faithful and reached his destination, God gave him a second promise: he would have a son. In addition, God promised that Avram's "seed" (offspring) would be like the stars — impossible to count. Later, God confirmed this by giving him the name Avraham, which means "father of a multitude."

One thing David and I have learned over our 32 years of marriage is that we should not stay put when God is calling us to "go!" For it's in the *going* — the obedience — that God's blessings come. And we must do our part. We must be willing to "pack up our tents" and head out into the unknown.

Are you ready? Are you willing to give up the *known* for the *unknown*? God has wonderful plans for you. I'm already anticipating your unexpected blessings. ★

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



Non-Jewish Children with Jewish Names

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ / JTA.org

As he lists the names of his grandchildren, **Joop van Ooijen** recites what sounds like a roll call in a typical Israeli classroom: Yair, Odelia, Netanya, Yoaz, and Shilon are some of his grandkids with modern names.

But neither the van Ooijens nor their 16 children are Jewish. They are a Protestant Christian family in the Netherlands, which is one of a handful of places in Europe where it's common for non-Jews [gentiles] to have names that are perceived as being distinctly Jewish.

"We're a devout family, and the Bible is always present in our lives — which means Judaism is always present in our lives, and we named our children to reflect that," said van Ooijen, a 69-year-old chemicals retailer.

Besides popular Biblical names like Simon, David, Ruth, and Esther, other distinctly Jewish Biblical names seem to be common in devout Christian circles in the Netherlands.

But many Dutch parents who aren't religious also give their children Jewish-sounding names because they perceive the Bible as part of Dutch heritage and are drawn to the short, decisive sounds of Hebrew names.

"We didn't want something foreign and English-sounding, but we also wanted a serious name that carries a certain weight for when the child grows up," stated Jantine Vonk, a 35-year-old mother of two, Aron and Thirza.

The popularity of Biblical names in the Netherlands has risen significantly since the 1980s. Thirza, for example, was virtually nonexistent in the 1950s. But from 1990 onwards, at least 20 babies were named Thirza, with the peak occurring in 2000 with about 120 Thirzas. [Thirza is a

variant of Tirzah, one of the daughters mentioned in Numbers 26:33. Also, the city of Tirzah is first mentioned in Joshua 12:24.] With boys, the same trend is visible in Levi, a name that almost no one received in 1980. In 2014, there were at least 8,000 Levis in the Netherlands.

Some families have discovered a downside to their children's Jewish names. "There's a lot of anti-Semitism in the school system," van Ooijen noted. "Our children with Jewish names got pestered, some even bullied for it."

Chris Vonk, the father of Aron and Thirza, said, "We considered the possibility that our children might be teased or pestered because they have Jewish-sounding names, but we decided to give them those names anyway. Kids will always find something to tease with. So let it be with those names." ★



left: Joop van Ooijen from YouTube.com **background:** Map of the European Netherlands

Janwillemvaals (Wikimedia.org)



Twenty-Seven Days and Counting

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1983
39 years ago



We Americans are led to suppose that war in the Middle East is almost constant and that Israel herself never stops fighting. In one sense, there's some truth to that; the Israeli people haven't really been able to relax since 1948, when they were restored to the Promised Land. God promised to restore them, but His message through the prophets includes many warnings about conflicts. Peace will not come to the Middle East until the Prince of Peace Himself establishes it.

But if we consider war around the world, a surprising truth emerges. An Israeli native pointed out that since the war for Israel's independence, Israelis have only spent 27 days in actual combat. That's all! Probably no 27 days in all history have received so much media coverage nor scared so many people so much. In contrast, our own nation was at war for some eight years in Vietnam and three years in Korea during the same period. The Russians spent similar stretches of years extending their empire, and they're still at it.

Now admittedly, when the Israelis go to war, they are efficient. They bring everything they have and they use it 24 hours a day. Virtually everybody in the country is in the army, and it's a wonder that things haven't been much harder for them. But if we take the Biblical reports as given, the Lord goes to the battle with His people and He looks after them. And when He says that they will remain in the



Conquest of Sinai during the Six-Day War

land (Amos 9:15), He means what He says. Israel will fight another few days before all is said and done, but their enemies will never succeed when they try to cross God's boundaries.

At least two more wars are scheduled in prophecy for Israel, and the Holy Land will survive them as usual. The Russian Invasion, at the beginning of the Tribulation Period, will be another of those "instant wars," and the Battle of Armageddon will be stopped by the King when He comes.

Until that time when the fighting gets spiritually serious, there's little to worry about. We know that our Kingdom is secure. In the meantime, we should remember to look upwards to Heaven because peace is on the way. ★



Heaven and Earth book

Ken Berg's favorite Holy Land photographs and stories

For four decades, the producer of ZLM's television programs has traversed the Bible Lands with his camera at the ready. Now this well organized, full-color portfolio of Ken's most inspirational shots chronicles key appointed places that God chose as backdrops for His Holy Writ, the Bible, to unfold. From the mountaintops to the rivers and seas, deserts, and archaeological excavations, Ken's narrative lets the reader commune anew with Scriptures written thousands of years ago.

credit: Department of History, U.S. Military Academy (Wikimedia Commons)



Jewish Fan Schooled Charles Dickens



BY ERIKA DREIFUS / JTA.org

As a writer, literature professor, and a U.S. Jew, I am pained when authors whom I admire launch exaggerated or misinformed attacks on Israel. I was distressed when Irish novelist Sally Rooney declared that she wouldn't allow her latest novel to be published in Hebrew by an Israeli publisher "that does not publicly distance itself from apartheid and support the UN-stipulated rights of the Palestinian people."

With their focus on words, writers should do better, especially when they organize, join, or promote anti-Israel endeavors. If their misrepresentations are without malicious intent, they're in desperate need of further education.

Over a century ago, one reader sought to so educate Charles Dickens.

Dear Mr. Dickens, a picture book recently written by Nancy Churnin, tells of the exchange between Dickens and Eliza Davis, a Jewish woman who wrote to protest anti-Semitism in *Oliver Twist*.

Davis (1817–1903) wrote that Dickens's portrayal of "the Jew" Fagin in *Oliver Twist* landed "like a hammer on [her] heart," as Churnin writes. To Davis, Fagin promoted "a vile prejudice" against her people. This bewildered Davis, who had considered Dickens heroic because he "used the power of his pen to help others."

In response, Dickens wrote that Fagin was based on real-life Jewish criminals. "Any Jewish people who thought him unfair or unkind — and that included Eliza! — were not 'sensible' or 'just' or 'good tempered,'" Churnin relates. Davis tried again, but Dickens didn't respond.

Yet the Jewish character in his next novel, the estimable Mr. Riah in *My Mutual Friend*, was no Fagin. After that novel appeared, Davis thanked Dickens for "a great compliment paid to myself and to my people." The author's

response was much warmer. In a magazine essay, Dickens referred to Jews as "an earnest, methodical, aspiring people." And in a later version of *Oliver Twist*, Dickens instructed the printer to remove references to "the Jew" and to use Fagin's name instead.

There's another aspect of Eliza Davis's story that resonates: Instead of calling Dickens out publicly, Davis approached him one-to-one.

Against the tide of rising anti-Semitism, *Dear Mr. Dickens* provides a positive, action-oriented message of *tikkun olam* — the Jewish value of repairing the world. The book also promotes an important message about confronting injustice with written words.



Dear Mr. Dickens cover

Although I've occasionally gone public, private communications with writer-friends and acquaintances — especially after the May 2021 war between Israel and Hamas — have proven far more fruitful, yielding corrections, deletions, and other changes. For this, I've expressed thanks.

I don't expect "great compliments to me and to my people" from authorial idols and colleagues. All I'm seeking is fairness and freedom from vile prejudice. ★



Jerusalem Matters *continued from cover*

despite its 3,000-year Biblical history and its choice as modern Israel's seat of government.



U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, 2008

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, a bipartisan law, declared Israel's capital as Jerusalem, noting it "should remain an undivided city," and called for the U.S. to move the embassy there. Because of a clause that allowed successive presidents to defer doing so, moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem didn't happen until 2018. Then the consulate that had been operating as a separate entity was closed and merged its work into that of the embassy. So, what's the problem?

For over 3,000 years, Jerusalem has been the heart and center of Biblical Israel, the Jewish people, and modern Israel. **The Bible mentions Jerusalem over 600 times, but it is never cited in the Koran.**

The stand-alone consulate was grandfathered in when Israel restored sovereignty and when Israel reunited Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War. But U.S. policy remained schizophrenic: supporting Israel but not Israeli authority in Jerusalem. The consulate became a diplomatic office to "the West Bank" and, at the time of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, a diplomatic office to the newly-created Palestinian Authority (PA).

I live in the Judean mountains, over the "Green Line" from what was Israeli territory before 1967, sometimes

called "the West Bank." For years, U.S. diplomats came to this area to assess and report back on life on the ground. I hosted many such diplomats in my home, offering them tours and insight into modern Jewish life in Judea. Invariably, the same diplomats would visit me before or after visiting Palestinian Arab communities nearby with the same agenda.

Besides being invited to the U.S. Embassy's Independence Day celebration, for several years the U.S. Consulate invited me to their parallel celebration on another day. The parallel celebration included not only Jewish ("settler") leaders from "the West Bank," but also Palestinian Arab leaders. One year, I found myself very close to then-Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the PA. For people supposedly not able to live together, we coexisted fine in the consulate's backyard.



The U.S. Consulate General building in Jerusalem, March 4, 2019

The U.S. Consulate is closed, and presumably, the U.S. can find another venue to celebrate its independence with Palestinian Arabs and Jewish Israeli "settlers." But now, the Biden Administration wants to reopen the consulate as its diplomatic office to the PA, in a building in central Jerusalem that is part of sovereign Israel. Such a move is unprecedented — one nation having a diplomatic office to another entity in the capital of a third nation.

(continued on next page)



Opening a U.S. Consulate to the PA in Jerusalem is a dangerous precedent.

It will not bring peace but will push peace further out of reach. Recognizing PA sovereignty over any of Jerusalem presupposes the outcome of negotiations that should be resolved between the parties. Even if the tried-and-failed “two-state solution” is the default U.S. position, setting up a consulate to the PA in western Jerusalem contradicts that. This would embolden

A variety of U.S. domestic issues are at play, from some wanting to undo anything related to Donald Trump’s presidency, even if it was positive, to Democrats pandering to the anti-Israel extremists in their party ahead of mid-term elections. The U.S. may also be upping the ante regarding the consulate to win concessions from Israel on other issues, specifically relating to Iran.

Dry Bones

Jerusalem Consulate



Despite this comic’s unflattering portrayals of Prime Minister Bennett and President Biden, it makes a valid point: the proposed consulate is obviously a bitter pill our two allied nations should avoid like the plague. —Editor/Mark

the PA and its terrorists by showing Palestinian Arabs that they can win major concessions without sincerely negotiating or ceasing terror.

Both Prime Minister Bennett and Foreign Minister Lapid have declared that they will not support this U.S. attempt. While that should be enough to block it, no one knows what pressure the U.S. may bring on the issue.

A U.S. Senate bill has been proposed to prevent the opening of a separate consulate in Jerusalem. But unlike the 1995 law that was overwhelmingly bipartisan, only Republicans support the current bill. **If the U.S. wants a diplomatic office to the PA, it should be in Ramallah** along with 39 other countries whose diplomatic offices are there.

Scripture reminds us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. *Shalom*, “peace” in Hebrew, comes from the same root as *shalem*, which means “whole.” It is also central to the name Jeru-SALEM. So, when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, please pray that the American effort to redivide Jerusalem will fail. Pray for Jerusalem to remain whole, under Jewish and Israeli sovereignty. ★

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!

See the related [cover](#) article, “Jerusalem Matters.”



Q. What is the Abrahamic Covenant?

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



A. The Abrahamic Covenant is an eternal, unconditional covenant God made with Abraham. Genesis 12:1-3 notes six components of this covenant:

1. a land
2. a great nation
3. a great name
4. a blessing for Abraham
5. a curse
6. a blessing for all the families of the Earth

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." —Genesis 12:1-3

Five times in Genesis 12, God says, "I will." This assurance signifies that He alone has the power and unfailing commitment to keep the covenant and to fulfill its promises to Israel, the gentile nations, and its ultimate fulfillment through Abraham's greatest Descendant, Jesus Christ.

In the Ancient Near East, two parties of a conditional agreement typically passed between the pieces of a sacrificial animal. But Genesis 15 records that God put Abraham into a deep sleep while God alone moved between the animal pieces. This act shows that the Lord alone will keep all the promises of His covenant.

The Jewish people — the nation of Israel — are Abraham's descendants in fulfillment of this covenant. God emphasized that He will treat other people like they treat the Jewish people. If people curse and harm the Jews, God will harm and curse them. But God will bless and benefit people who bless the Jews. God has confirmed the veracity of this covenant in the continued pattern of defeat, ruin, and annihilation of those who have sought to harm the Jewish people.

The covenant guaranteed a homeland for Abraham and his "seed" — a land that will be theirs forever (Genesis 17:7-8). **The land aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant will ultimately be fulfilled at the return of Jesus Christ,** when the Jewish people will live within the expanded land boundaries that God originally specified to Abraham and foretold in Ezekiel 48.

Abraham's "seed" has three basic meanings in Scripture, and context determines the meaning:

1. **In a physical sense** — Seed usually refers to the Jewish people.
2. **In a spiritual sense** — Believers are the seed of Abraham; Believers are justified by faith and are blessed with Abraham (Galatians 3:7-9).
3. **In an eternal sense** — The Lord Jesus Christ is the Seed of Abraham, in whom all the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant find their ultimate fulfillment (Galatians 3:16).

The Abrahamic Covenant finds its ultimate fulfillment in the New Covenant that was ratified by the coming of Jesus Christ. All the Earth has truly been blessed by Abraham and his descendants through Jesus Christ — the Seed (Descendant) of Abraham who has brought the greatest blessing — salvation to those who believe in Him (Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:14-18). ★



Detail of *The Vision of the Lord Directing Abram to Count the Stars*, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld from *The Bible in Pictures* (1860)



Proclaiming the Gospel in Tzuba

Our **To The Jew First** team spent a full day of ministry in and around Jerusalem. We passed out five complete Hebrew Bibles in the land of Yeshua the Messiah. Our most memorable encounter of the day happened with the last couple to whom we gave a copy of God's Word.

August Rosado and I were in the ancient area of Tzuba, on the western outskirts of Jerusalem. We were looking for the ancient cave of John the Baptist, which Israeli archaeologists discovered in 1999. They believe this could have been a location where John immersed people in an ancient *mikvah* (pool of water used for baptism) that was also discovered there.



Todd and Elad

Coming down from Tel Tzuba, August approached a parked car where a family of four were preparing to leave. The father was a friendly young man named **Elad**, which in Hebrew means "God is eternal." He and Noa, his wife, went out of their way to help us by looking up the exact location of the cave on their iPhones.

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



Elad then spotted my Star of David and Cross necklace and



asked if we were Christians. August and I replied that we were Bible-believing followers of Yeshua. We added that the Messianic prophecies

He fulfilled prove Jesus is the only true Messiah of Israel.* Astonishingly, Elad responded by saying that it could be true. He asked us to explain more, so we shared in detail from the Scriptures.

Elad then asked us why God chose the Jewish people. In response, we shared from Deuteronomy 7:6, Isaiah 42:6, and Romans 3:1–3. These passages emphasize that God chose the Jewish people because of His love for them, and He chose them to record His divine revelation codified in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament).

God's ultimate purpose for the Jewish people was to reveal Yeshua the Messiah and the salvation from sin and death that He alone offers. We suggested that Elad and Noa take a Hebrew Study Bible from us with a Messianic prophecy study guide centered on Jesus as the Messiah. They were thrilled and so glad to hear our message! At their invitation, August and I plan to meet them for further fellowship and teaching when we return to Israel.

Beloved in Messiah, please pray that our encounter and newfound friendship with this precious Israeli couple will allow them and their children to grow in the grace and knowledge of Yeshua the Messiah.

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

* Please see our two bookmarks offered on page 24.

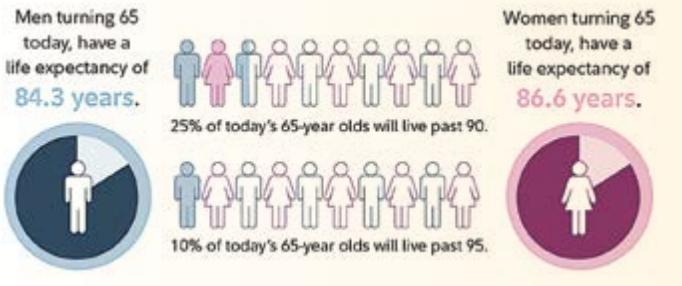
Three Wives in Johnny Carson's Shoes

Wise As a Serpent
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



Many widowed persons and divorcees from marriages of at least 10 years receive Social Security benefits from prior matrimony. They effectively “step into the shoes” of their former spouses. Two concise news articles could enable ZLMers and their friends to breathe major sighs of relief about their retirement income.

1. <https://bit.ly/3D42Fjn> — these concepts apply to widowed persons and divorcees.
2. <https://bit.ly/3kpp0Rw> — offers six pertinent Q&As.



Waiting until Full Retirement Age rather than claiming earlier will yield larger benefits for many years.

Basic Rules

- You and your ex must have been married for 10 consecutive years or longer, remaining eligible even if the marriage ended long ago.
- Both you and your ex must be at least age 62 before you can claim benefits as an ex-spouse. (It's often wise to wait until full retirement age to claim; see the graphic above.)
- To collect on an ex's record, don't remarry before age 60.
- You and your ex must be divorced for two years or longer, or your ex must already claim retirement benefits for you to claim.

Common Misconceptions

- *Your benefit could be reduced or denied if your ex-spouse claims Social Security in a certain way.*
False; your ex has no influence

over your benefits.

- *I have to discuss my claiming plans with my ex. **No, you don't.*** Nor do you need your ex's permission. It's your benefit for your retirement, even if you've been divorced for longer than you were married.
- *If my ex claims against my record, my own retirement benefit will be reduced. **Not so.*** Your ex's claim does not reduce or affect your benefit.

The Wives of Johnny Carson

Question: What happens if your ex has two or three other exes plus a current spouse? Are you still eligible for benefits when they die?

Answer: This was the case with **Johnny Carson** (1925–2005), the beloved, late-night TV talk show host who **was married four times.** His first marriage lasted 14 years; the second, 9

years; and the third, 13 years. The fourth marriage was intact when he died in 2005 and had lasted 17 years. His first and third wives were eligible to claim as ex-spouses on Johnny's primary Social Security insurance. The second marriage lasted only 9 years, so there were no spousal benefits.

When Johnny died, his fourth and current wife, upon reaching full retirement age, would “step into his shoes” and receive the same monthly amount as Johnny. **Two qualifying ex-spouses were also eligible to “step into his shoes”** as surviving ex-spouses who met the qualifications. All three women were **likely receiving the same full survivor benefit amount as Johnny.**

May this article brighten the financial outlooks of many readers and those they care about. (See 1 Timothy 5:3–16.) ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



The Three Stooges Were Jewish

Moe, Larry, Curly, and Shemp were born Jewish. Moses (Moe) Horwitz was born in 1897 in Brooklyn to Solomon Horwitz and Jennie Gorovitz. Moe, his older brother Samuel (Shemp), and younger brother Jerome (Curly) all became world famous as members of The Three Stooges, who were favorites from 1934–1955. Larry was born in 1902 in Philadelphia to a Jewish family as Louis Feinberg. Forty percent of their 190 short films included either Hebrew or Yiddish.



ECFA Approved (still)

For the tenth year in a row, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has steadily monitored various aspects of this ministry's financials, newsletters, website, government documents, television broadcasts, and more. The ECFA knows more about our ministerial effort than some of our employees! Once again, we appreciate the ECFA continuing to accept ZLM as an official member.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

How to Make a Will That Works offers general information about distributing property to family, friends, and charitable interests in light of recent tax law changes. After touching upon the Four Ps of estate planning, the pamphlet answers 38 commonly asked questions. It concludes with pointers on keeping other plans up to date, such as life insurance and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.
Request POM #16.

ZLM's 2020 Fundraising Expenses

To comply with the tax code, this ministry calculates the small percentage of newsletter space and television time that we devote to fundraising. In total, it accounts for less than one percent (0.72%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20%, which is almost 28 times what has sufficed for us. Our hat is off to you, our supporters, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for contributions. You are small in number, amounting to about 3% of our readership and viewership, but your generosity has enabled us to spread Yeshua's Gospel to new frontiers across the globe. Thanks!



"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





Heeding the Call of Hope

חֹשֶׁךְ	יָגִיד	אֱלֹהֵי	יְהוָה	נֵרִי	תֹאדִיר	כִּי־אֲתָה
chosh-kee'	ya-gee'-ah	e-loh-hai'	Adonai	nei-ree'	tah'-eer'	kee - a-tah'
my darkness	outshines	the LORD my God		will light my lamp		for You

“For You will light my lamp;
 the LORD my God outshines my darkness.”
 - Psalm 18:28

The only way out of the painful ambiguity of life is to hear a message from the higher world — the Heavenly Voice — that brings hope to our aching and troubled hearts: *“Faith comes by hearing the word of Messiah”* (Romans 10:17). And yet what is the meaning of this message, if not that all shall be made well by Heaven’s hand? There is hope, and one day all your fears will be cast into outer darkness, swallowed up by God’s unending comfort. *“Go into all the world and make students of all nations”* (Matthew 28:19). This calls us to share our hope that what makes us sick — our depravity and despair — has been healed by Yeshua, and that we escape the gravity of our fallenness if we accept His invitation to receive life in Him. *“For it is You who light my lamp; the LORD my God outshines my darkness”* (Psalm 18:28).

Exercising faith means actively listening to the eternal Voice, the Word of the LORD that calls out in love searching for your heart’s trust. To have faith means validating God’s faith in you — understanding that you are worthy of salvation, that you matter to God, and that the Voice calls out your name, too. Living in faith means accepting that you are accepted and welcomed. Trusting God means that you endure ambiguity, heartache, and darkness, yet you still allow hope to light your way.

Therefore, stay strong and keep hope, for we are saved through hope (Romans 8:24). Faith is the conviction of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1). Do not be seduced by appearances; **do not be deceived in thinking that this world should be your home. No, as Believers we are strangers and pilgrims here**; we are on the journey to reach *“the city of living God, the heavenly Jerusalem ... the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven”* (Hebrews 12:22–23). Therefore, do not lose heart. Keep to the narrow path. Set your affections on things above since your real life is *“hidden with Christ in God”* (Colossians 3:1–4). Do not yield to the temptation of despair. Look beyond the “giants of the land” and reckon them as already fallen. Keep pressing on. *Chazak, chazak, ve-nit chazek* — “Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened!” **Fight the good fight of faith.** May the LORD our God help you *“take hold of the eternal life to which you were called”* (1 Timothy 6:12). ★



Faith of Our Fathers DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Old Testament provides many examples of people whose faithful lives contributed to building up national Israel. Their actions inspired a later generation to carve out a modern yet Godly nation in the New World. In this series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif focuses on these visionaries of faith. In addition, Christian historian David Barton presents original source documents, chronicling many of America's Founding Fathers' Christian beliefs and their monumental efforts to anchor this nation to belief in the God of Israel.

What is Faith? The Lord called many people in the Bible (like Abram, Noah, and David) to take risks. Trusting in the Word of God became the cornerstone for the creation of the Hebrew people and was valued by many of those who created a nation in the New World.

Faith by Trial Neither personal ambition nor comfort is a goal for a life of faith. Our examples are Noah, the ark builder, and Zerubbabel, rebuilders of the Temple. The *Mayflower* brought Pilgrims who based their New World "promised land" on a Biblical lifestyle.

Faith in the Unseen Even someone's small faith can grow into something spectacular. Christopher Columbus heard the Holy Spirit speak and encourage his four voyages to the New World. Historical records reveal his devotion and desire to serve the Lord.

Faith to Build a Nation Upon **The Bible's accounts of Israel becoming a nation inspired America's Founding Fathers.** They believed that God's Word is the ultimate source for establishing faith and righteousness.

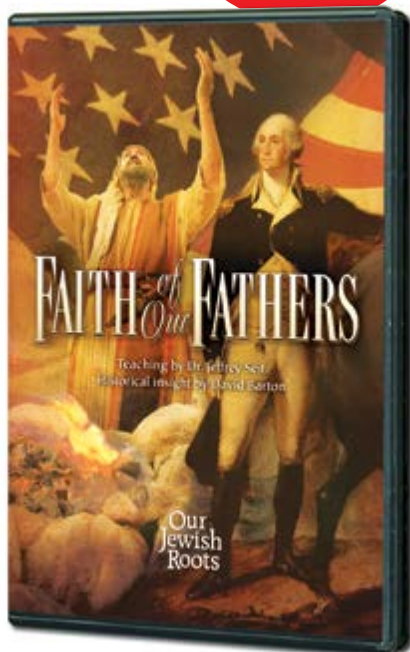


Actors in OJR's series *Faith of Our Fathers*

John Adams helped gather representatives of the thirteen colonies around a set of principles that would become the Declaration of Independence.

The Actions of the Faithful Living out faith sometimes requires boldness. The Bible chronicles Peter's actions, e.g. his attempt to walk on the water. Benjamin Franklin called members of the Constitutional Convention to prayer.

The Application of Faith Narratives about men and women of faith pervade the Holy Scriptures. Most of our Founding Fathers believed in the Bible's God of Israel. Their deeds and writings testify to putting faith into action.



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? (p.23)	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised (p.36)	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In? (pictured)	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Miles Weiss) (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read (pictured)	\$10	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton)	\$8	___
___	Genesis One—A Physicist Looks at Creation	\$5	___
___	The Green Horse—The Bible & Islam (Archbold) (pictured)	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg) (p.8)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (David Hocking)	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament (pictured)	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (updated) (pictured)	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King (Jeff Seif)	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Abraham: Father of Faith	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Acts: Then and Now	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Beauty for Ashes (p.20)	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece"	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith for the Future (pictured) ..	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Faith of Our Fathers (p.17)	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Israel, the Church, & the Future	(6+ hours, 4-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Jehovah's Treasure	(70 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory ..	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	A Pilgrim's Journey	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Return to Eden	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Revelation	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come (p.22)	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	The Warrior King	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___

To order:

Online:
store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
800-966-3377
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844

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

ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas TX 75225



ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$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	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain)	\$39	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782 / 2022) (pictured)	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$6	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker (p11) ...	\$2	_____
___	"The Prophesied Messiah" Bookmark (p.24) 2 for \$1	_____	_____
___	"Things to Come" Witnessing Bookmark (p.24) 2 for \$1	_____	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
___	The Classic Zola Collection	79 products for \$999	_____



Teaching CDs

___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? (p.23)	(CD)	\$7	_____
___	A Survey of the New Testament	(CD)	\$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs)	\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Faith in the Fire (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	Jerusalem 3000	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(Music CD)	\$12	_____



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



Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

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

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

Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.

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

Name _____

(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional) _____

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

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

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

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

Subtotal _____

Shipping (see left chart) _____

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

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

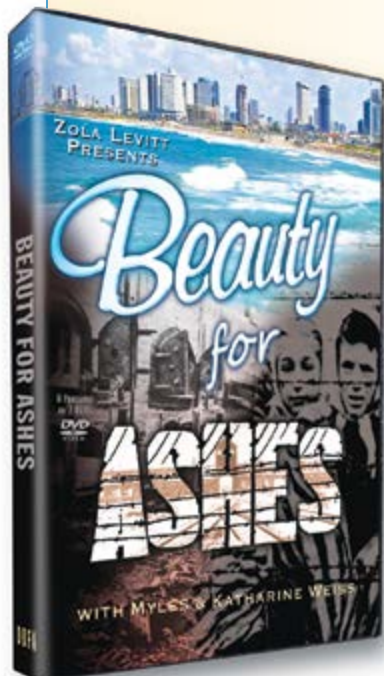
8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____



Cardholder Signature: _____



Beauty for Ashes

DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this nine-program series, Myles and Katharine Weiss contrast the horror that was the Holocaust with the miracle that is the modern State of Israel. Throughout the series, we hear firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors Noah Klieger, Meir Stern, and Eva Mozes Kor.

The Hope To Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe, the “Work Makes You Free” sign over the entrance to Auschwitz offered false hope. In 1948, Jewish hopes materialized when the modern State of Israel was born in a day (Isaiah 66:8).

The Ground Holocaust survivors recount riding in cattle cars bound for Auschwitz. The blood-soaked ground beneath the Death Wall contrasts significantly with the life-giving produce that grows in Israel today.

The Survivors In Auschwitz, we hear about the Jewish people’s extremely slim chances for survival. In Israel, a “start-up nation” today, we hear from executives of high-tech companies.

The Chosen A survivor recounts her experience of Auschwitz, where many were sent to their deaths. From Caesarea, we hear about Israel’s restoration and desire to “repair the world” (*Tikkun Olam*).

The Heart The crematoria at Auschwitz grimly remind Believers of the battle between good and evil. Myles and Katharine speak of Jewish contributions in the arts.

The Process After hearing how Holocaust survivors survived Dr. Josef Mengele’s inhumane medical experiments, we visit Be’er Sheva’s impressive technology center where science in Israel advances mankind’s welfare.

The Future Believers standing with the Jewish people and with Israel are an important component of the nation’s Divine deliverance and resilience.

The Peace After viewing the stunning fields in Northern Galilee from a hot air balloon, we hear from Israelis who endured hardship to become established in Israel. Myles sings a benediction over the pond at Auschwitz.

Extended Interview with Holocaust Survivors (bonus program) Holocaust survivors speak further about being sent to death camps, survival techniques, liberation, and overcoming the traumatic experiences of their youth to live meaningful lives.

See the related news brief, “Auction of Auschwitz Tattoo Stamps,” [p. 28](#).



Fabulous Castles in Israel

PART 4

BY NAAMA BARAK (r) Israel21c.org



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

Some of them date back thousands of years while others are more recent, but they are all monuments to fascinating history, lost empires, and power struggles worthy of their own Netflix show. Here, we have whittled them down to our favorite castles and fortresses, to be admired while wearing your finest gown. (Continued from the [August](#), [October](#), and [November 2021](#) *Levitt Letters*.)

Apollonia Fortress

Seaside Apollonia is one ancient town, established at the latest in the fourth century B.C. It has been the home of Samaritans, Greeks, Romans, Muslims, Crusaders, Jewish immigrants, and most recently, well-to-do Israelis. The Crusaders left the most memorable mark on the place in the shape of a fortress that juts out to the sea. The fortress existed in its entirety for only 24 years before it was razed by Muslim conquerors. Nowadays, it's a popular nature reserve that also includes a Roman villa, a moat, and a mosque.



Apollonia Fortress

credit: Yossef via Shutterstock.com



To
Index

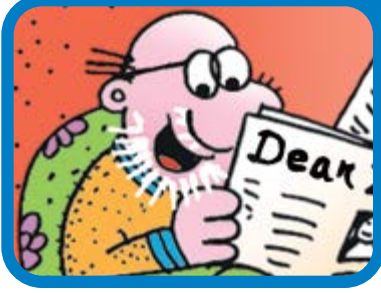
Antipatris Fort

Antipatris Fort is also known as Binar Bashi, a variation on the Turkish word for fountainhead. It was built in the late 16th century by the Ottoman rulers of the Land of Israel to guard the passageway between the sources — or fountainhead — of the Yarkon River and more distant areas and is located on the ancient Via Maris trade route linking Egypt and Syria. The impressive fort is now part of Tel Afek National Park, which boasts a lake and extensive recreational grounds. ★



Antipatris Fort

credit: Tokar via Shutterstock.com



Letters to ZLM

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

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

From A.G.: Zola was an excellent teacher! I used to watch every program with my parents. Now that they are in Heaven with the Lord and Zola, I am trying to watch all of them again. Bless you for putting these up.

From P.R.: Thank you for updating Zola's [Thy Kingdom Come original television series](#). It means a great deal to me that you would take the time to provide this timeless set of lessons.

Dear P.R.,
Zola's teachings are timeless, and you are welcome for the update. What a gift that they are available 24/7 for free viewing at www.levitt.tv. — David

From A.M.: Zola has blessed me so much by sharing the connection between the Hebrew customs and the Bible. It has opened so much understanding.

From D.M.: I drew inspiration from John Parsons's article, "The Rock of Our Salvation" ([October 2021 Levitt Letter, p. 16](#)). His comments about the "transience of this life" reminded me of a quote from Thérèse of Lisieux: "The world is thy ship and not thy home." I believe that when Messiah comes, the circle of life will die and give way to what Leo Cardinal Suenens referred to as "the eternal now."

Dear D.M.,
"The eternal now" reminds me of Exodus chapter 3, when God tells Moses to inform the people that "I Am" sent him. Such incredible depth in a few simple words. — David

From J.M. (TX): I am very thankful that I have never spent a penny on Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Otherwise, I certainly would be sick after reading the [October Levitt Letter cover article](#). How can people be so successful in business and yet so ignorant of world affairs and history? **Maybe Ben & Jerry should develop a new flavor for themselves, like "Plagues of Egypt!"**

Dear J.M.,
While I'm a huge ice cream fan, I believe that something sweet can easily become sour. "With great power comes great responsibility." Ben & Jerry need to research their "facts"! — Kirsten



Zola Levitt



(continued on next page)



Sarah Liberman

Sarah Liberman's teaching

Dear ZLM,

I really love your *Sabra* in Israel. Sarah has a gift of explaining Scripture and how it pertains to us. I appreciate her Garden of Eden teaching ([in the *Personal Letter*](#)) about how Adam and Eve were cast out eastward, walking away from God, as we do. I understand how the Tabernacle had its opening to the east with the anticipation that man would repent and walk back westward toward God's presence. I can't wait to read more of Sarah's teachings. — R.P. (CA)

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for the very informative [September 2021 *Personal Letter*](#) regarding the location of the Garden of Eden. My wife and I enjoyed this first lesson, especially about the "four rivers" and the dual meaning of the Hebrew words describing Eden. Looking forward to your next letter. — M.H. (IN)

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for the wonderful lessons on the Garden of Eden. As I have seen in Zola's [Thy Kingdom Come videos](#) surrounding the City of God, there are 16,000 different rose varieties. Such beauty only Elohim has brought to life. I am grateful for your teaching. — P.R.

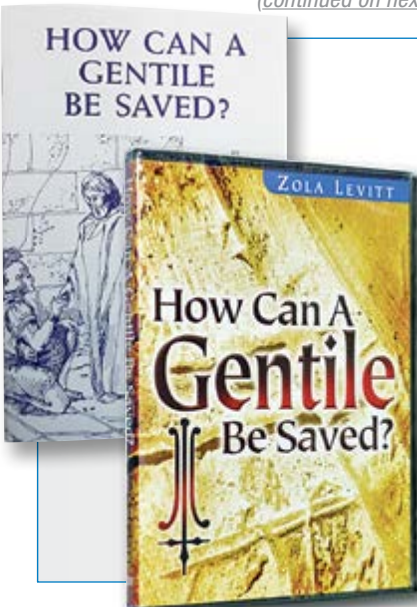
Dear P.R.,

Our Jewish Roots producers updated Zola's *Thy Kingdom Come* series a few years ago. I don't recall the mentioned 16,000 varieties of roses, so I am thankful you brought that up. Jerusalem is full of colorful bougainvillea (one of my favorites). The next time we're in the Holy City, I'll be looking for all the roses! — Kirsten

(continued on next page)



ABRAHAM AND I ARE NOT INTERESTED IN A CONDO COMMUNITY ... WE NEED A PLACE THAT WOULD BE NICE FOR RAISING CHILDREN



[How Can a Gentile Be Saved?](#)

[study booklet & teaching CD](#)
by Zola Levitt

As a Jew, Zola was constantly asked, "How did you get saved?" — as though Jewish salvation is hard to find in Scripture. In this thought-provoking Bible study, Zola turned the tables by asking, "How Can A *Gentile* Be Saved?" An interesting and unique look at grafting non-Jews into God's plan, the study booklet is one of 12 in Zola's Classic Study Library.

(This and many titles also available as eBooks.)

Dear ZLM,

Keep up the good work. Sarah Liberman's Bible lessons (in the *Personal Letter*) are excellent brain exercises. They are enlightening and very thought-provoking. —J.R. (FL)

Dear J.R.,

Referring to Sarah's articles as "brain exercises" is perceptive, and I wholeheartedly agree. New insight is such a gift. —Kirsten

A small gift

Dear ZLM,

I am incarcerated and a Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I don't make a lot of money working in prison, but the Lord has been good to me. I am sending you a check to support your service to the Lord. Extremely unworthy but definitely His. —D.M. (OR)

Dear D.M.,

The fact that you support this ministry while you are in prison is incredible. You signed your letter "Extremely unworthy but definitely His." My friend in Yeshua, none of us deserves anything from the Lord, but in His grace, He has "qualified" (Colossians 1:12) Believers to share in the wonderful blessings of His kingdom. Even behind bars, you are a royal heir! —David

(continued on next page)



The Prophesied Messiah and Things to Come— Witnessing Bookmarks

Both of these handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" sturdy bookmarks are excellent witnessing tools.

The Prophesied Messiah bookmark gives Old Testament Scriptures declaring details of Who the Messiah of Israel was and what He would experience and accomplish.

Things to Come witnessing bookmark uses dozens of Scriptural references to reduce man's fate to two options: "The Future of the Unbelievers" and, on the other side, "The Future of the Believers."

See the related article, "Proclaiming the Gospel in Tzuba," [p.13](#).

Upon request, receive one bookmark free with any purchase or donation. Or you can send us a self-addressed stamped envelope.



Crossword

Dear ZLM,

Could you please print the crossword puzzle in larger type? —L.O. (AZ)

Dear L.O.,

I'm 63, so I understand the value of larger print! Making our crossword puzzle larger might cause it to run off the printed page. That said, we will try to make it easier to read. —David

Thanks for letting us know. This month's crossword is 10% larger. —Editor ★

by Andrea Davis

ACROSS

1. Blessed are the poor in _____. (Matt. 5:3)
3. ...Why do You speak to the people in ____? (Matt. 13:10)
9. For My yoke is easy and My burden is _____. (Matt. 11:30)
10. ... Man shall not live by ____ alone... (Matt. 4:4)
14. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and _____. (Matt. 3:11)
16. Go rather to the lost sheep of _____. (Matt. 10:6)
17. ...And lead us not into _____. (Matt. 6:13)
18. ...your ____ has healed you. (Matt. 9:22)
20. The ____ is plentiful, but the workers are few. (Matt. 9:37)
21. ... ____ and the door will be opened to you. (Matt. 7:7)

**Crossword January 2022:
Matthew (Part 1) – NIV**
(answers on p.35)

DOWN

2. ...____, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. (Matt. 4:17)
4. After Jesus was born in _____. (Matt. 2:1)
5. But I tell you, love your _____. (Matt. 5:44)
6. You are the ____ of the earth... (Matt. 5:13)
7. ...He went and lived in a town called _____. (Matt. 2:23)
8. ...no one knows the Son except the _____. (Matt. 11:27)
11. In those days John the ____ came... (Matt. 3:1)
12. ...an ____ of the Lord appeared to him... (Matt. 1:20)
13. But seek first His _____. (Matt. 6:33)
15. No one can serve two _____. (Matt. 6:24)
19. Enter through the ____ gate... (Matt. 7:13)



Startup Unveils Electric Flying Car



SCIENCE: BY RICKY BEN-DAVID (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: Courtesy AIR

A simulated flight of the AIR ONE eVTOL for consumer use aircraft by Israeli startup AIR.

AIR, an Israeli startup, has unveiled the design for its “flying” vehicle, an “electric vertical takeoff and landing” (eVTOL) aircraft for individual consumers. The company said its aircraft “puts the freedom to fly directly in the hands of consumers” for “adventure, fun, and day-to-day flying.”

AIR ONE is an all-electric, two-seater eVTOL that offers a range of 110 miles on a single charge at speeds of up to 155 miles per hour, with a flight time of one hour. The aircraft has collapsible wings for easy parking and the ability to take off from or land on any flat surface.

“We want to bring aviation to the masses and combine the range, simplicity, and ease-of-use of fly-by-wire [computerized flight systems] with the DNA of cars — usability, low cost of maintenance, and so on. And it’s electric, so there’s a green element,” noted Rani Plaut, CEO of AIR.

AIR has developed software that will allow ordinary people, not just trained pilots, to operate and navigate an aircraft. Because safety is paramount, the vehicle also has a monitoring system enhanced by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide frequent inspections.

The company is currently working with two prototypes and will begin test flights in February 2022 with Israel’s Civil Aviation Authority. AIR has also been working with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to obtain G-1 certification, which outlines initial safety and environmental standards for civil commercial operations. Pending regulatory approval, AIR hopes to finish the certification process by the end of 2023 and start delivering the aircraft in 2024.

Similar eVTOL companies in the U.S. already have G-1 certification. Archer Aviation, a Palo Alto-based firm, is developing an aircraft to shuttle people through cities, while Santa Cruz-based Joby Aviation is developing an all-electric, five-seater passenger aircraft.

In Israel, the aerospace company Urban Aeronautics developed the CityHawk, which is designed for multiple trips in urban areas as commercial air charters and emergency medical services (EMS). Urban Aeronautics has had over 300 successful test flights of its prototypes, which have been in development since 2006.

Finally, we can have the famous flying car from *The Jetsons* cartoon series we watched as kids! — David ★



Using Copper to Cure Diabetic Wounds



MEDICINE: BY ROSSELLA TERCATIN (r) JPost.com

An innovative Israeli-made wound dressing significantly stimulates the healing of diabetic wounds, according to a new study by physicians at the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa.

"Copper Oxide Impregnated Wound Dressings," developed by Herzliya-based MedCu Technologies, have already received clearance by the major international regulatory bodies — including the FDA in the United States — for use in acute and chronic wounds. ["Cu" is the chemical symbol for copper.]

"What is special about our dressing is that it contains particles of copper oxide," said Dr. Gadi Borkow, MedCu's co-founder and chief medical officer. "Copper has a very powerful antimicrobial efficacy — it kills a wide spectrum of pathogens [including] bacteria, fungi, and viruses; therefore, it helps clear the wound and protect it from infections," he added.

Foot wounds or ulcers are very common among diabetics: about 15% of such patients experience them. They often develop on the bottom of the foot and have a high chance of infection or hospitalization. A high level of glucose in the blood can interfere with healing.

By the end of the treatment for the diabetic patients who participated in the study, the size of their wounds showed an average reduction of 65%. All wounds registered improvement regardless of their initial size or other interfering factors, other than weight-bearing pressure.

Copper is an essential element in human bodies. It enhances wound healing by aiding in the production of new capillaries. **MedCu's wound dressing stimulates this capillary-production process.** "The most frequent reason chronic wounds do not heal is that there is no production of new blood capillaries," Borkow said. "Without new blood reaching the wound, there is a problem of lack of oxygen, no activation of the immune system, no removal of toxic waste."

MedCu's wound dressings are already available and in use. They differ from other forms of treatment for diabetic wounds that are often burdensome and painful and may require hospitalization. ★



Copper Impregnated Wound Dressing



courtesy: <https://ovivtech.co.il/about/>



above: MedCu's co-founders Dr. Gadi Borkow (l) and Danny Lustiger (r)
background: Copper ore





SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

The dies from a tattoo kit, and a manual, are displayed at an Israeli auction house that says they were used on inmates at Auschwitz.

Auction of Auschwitz Tattoo Stamps “Abhorrent”

By Josh Kaplan / TheJC.com

Several Holocaust charities condemned the attempted sale of Auschwitz tattoo equipment by a Jerusalem-based auctioneer.

Meir Tzolman of Tzolman’s Auctions told a reporter, “I want to make sure that the item gets into the right hands and does not disappear from the pages of history.” He said he intended to “increase awareness” and not to “diminish the value of the Holocaust.”

The auction lot includes stamps that would have been dipped in ink as well as an instruction booklet.

Tzolman’s website noted that the equipment is one of only three similar collections that still exist. (The two remaining collections are in museums.)

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the UK’s Holocaust Educational Trust, commented, “This is abhorrent and plummets to new depths of depravity — making a profit off the equipment used to maim and mark Jews out for death. It’s despicable and these items should never be on sale.”

While the bid for the items was over \$3,000, an Israeli court issued a temporary injunction blocking the sale. The anonymous owner has since indicated that he wants to donate the items to the Haifa Holocaust Museum.

Iran’s Textbooks Push Anti-Semitism

TimesOfIsrael.com

Iranian schoolkids are learning anti-Semitism, hatred, and conspiratorial ideas from their textbooks. One is a theory that Western media hyped the COVID-19 pandemic to thwart large-scale attendance at last year’s celebration of the Iranian revolution, according to a study published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).



Students and teacher in Tehran

Specific textbook examples include teaching students to chant “Death to Israel,” a nation the books describe as a fake regime that must be eliminated. They teach that Jews have conspired against Islam from its earliest days, forging Islamic scriptures and using warfare and even Freemasonry to achieve evil aims.

Students are taught that U.S.-led sanctions against Iran are part of a “satanic plan” to eliminate Muslims’

(continued on next page)



To Index



Back to p. 20



religious beliefs. Textbooks also note that the Iranian people, through their nuclear scientists in particular, “have achieved a blessing with your great jihad and the blood of your bounteous youths.”

In 2020, in response to the global pandemic, Tehran updated school textbooks to include a conspiracy theory alleging that Western media exaggerated the coronavirus to drive down turnout at crowded ceremonies for the regime’s 41st anniversary. Iran is the Middle Eastern country worst hit by COVID-19.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL, added, “It is no secret that the Iranian regime continues to promote extremism and terrorism and feeds its people on a steady diet of anti-Semitic and anti-American propaganda. Iran’s textbooks show how deeply ingrained this official campaign of incitement is within society, and how they are reaching impressionable young people with these xenophobic and dehumanizing messages as part of the formal teaching curriculum.”

The ADL called on the U.S. and other countries to “take coordinated action to condemn and to counter Iran’s state-sponsored incitement of anti-Semitism, including in its schools.”

Jewish Marine in Viral Photo

By Ron Kampeas / JTA.org

When Meryl Jaffe heard that President Biden deployed 3,000 U.S. Marines to Afghanistan, she had a feeling that her son, Matthew, was among them. Her family was tracking the U.S. Marine Corps on social media to verify their suspicions.

“Matthew’s sister, Rebecca, saw it



credit: Sgt. Isayah Campbell/USMC

Matt Jaffe with baby in Afghanistan

on one of the Marine websites that she follows on Instagram. She said, “I think this is Matthew,” recalled Meryl Jaffe. “We enlarged the picture, and I’m like, “That’s him.””

The photo was of Matt Jaffe, a 27-year-old sergeant, cradling a baby in Afghanistan in August 2021. The soldier’s smile, and the story behind the photo, helped make it go viral. Matt connected with the infant after another Marine handed the baby to him. The child was later reunited with its father.

It did not surprise Meryl Jaffe to see her son bond with a child. Matt had spent five years coaching kids at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Manhattan and was a go-to baby-sitter for a local family.

“I’m just a Marine, same as the men and women I serve beside, doing a job to help and protect people,” said Matt, who is based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. “It’s pretty grim out here and sad.” Of the photo, he noted, “I had an opportunity to show some humility and do something good for the soul.”

Don’t we all need more “feel good” stories like this? Thank you for your service, Matt! — Kirsten ★



Mosaic Floors from Ancient Church Discovered



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY RUTH SCHUSTER (r) Haaretz.com



credit: Yehoshua Dray

Mosaic floor of the apse, Bethsaida



To Index

For over a thousand years, the fabled Church of the Apostles was lost. According to Christian tradition, it was built on the site of the house belonging to Apostles Peter and Andrew, in the village of Bethsaida on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. **Now archaeologists believe they have found not only Bethsaida but also the ancient church.**

The structure was discovered near remnants of a Roman-era settlement matching the location of Bethsaida as described by the first-century A.D. historian Flavius Josephus. Researchers excavating the site, el-Araj, discovered proof that the structure was an elaborately decorated church. It has gorgeous mosaic floors and inscriptions, and was built in the late fifth or early sixth century.

While mentions of the church are found in Christian writings dating from A.D. 725, there has been no confirmation of its existence.

(continued on next page)



credit: Megan Sauter

R. Steven Notley (l) and Mordechai Aviam (r), directors of the excavations at el-Araj, at one of the main excavation areas



Archaeologists R. Steven Notley of Nyack College and Mordechai Aviam of Kinneret Academic College of the Galilee cannot categorically prove that this is the Church of the Apostles, but no other suitable structure has been found in that area of the lake. It's the only candidate and would befit a grand tradition, measuring approximately 89 feet by 52 feet and being richly decorated.

The team unearthed a mosaic floor with inscriptions made of tiny yellow, red, and orange tiles. Byzantine churches typically had such mosaic inscriptions. The floor bears two inscriptions written in ancient Greek, although only parts remain somewhat intact. One is a dedication to the bishop that describes a renovation of the church during his time in office. This indicates that the church was major enough to warrant fixing up, Aviam said. The second inscription mentions the church deacon who built the compound.

Another site, e-Tell, only a few miles to the north, has been under excavation for 35 years. Some researchers claim that it is the ancient Jewish fishing village of Bethsaida. While the Biblical-era remains at that site are stunning, no remains from the Byzantine Period have been found there.



credit: Achia Kohn-Tavor

Dedication to the bishop

Notley and Aviam note that their site has remains from the Roman Period, when the place would have been a Jewish fishing village, and from the Byzantine time. So they believe that they have discovered the real Bethsaida. The archaeologists hope that continued excavations will provide evidence that this was the famed Church of the Apostles.

THIS is a reason you need to go to the Holy Land if you can! New discoveries of ancient sites and artifacts are being unearthed daily! Israel is revealing proof to the world of its rightful owners. —Kirsten ★



credit: Prof. Mordechai Aviam

Sea of Galilee rose from heavy rain in 2020, flooding the church site



Temple-Era Amethyst Seal Discovered



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ARYEH SAVIR (r) JewishPress.com

A unique Second Temple-era seal, the first of its kind to be discovered in the world, was recently recovered during a dig around the foundation stones of the Kotel (Western Wall), north of the City of David in Jerusalem.

The seal, designed to be worn as a ring, bears the image of a bird (possibly a dove) next to a branch that may depict the persimmon perfume plant, an ingredient of the incense produced for the Temple. The ancient persimmon (unrelated to today's common orange persimmon fruit), was an expensive plant also used to produce medicines, ointments, and perfumes.

The oval seal, made of amethyst in shades of purple and lilac, is 0.4 inches long, 0.2 inches wide, and 0.3 inches thick.

Archaeologist Eli Shukron, who conducted the excavation on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and the City of David at the Western Wall, said: "This is an important find because it is the first time a seal has been discovered in the world with a description of the precious and famous plant about which we could only read in sources and historical descriptions."

According to the researchers, toward the end of the Second Temple Period, "the use of stone seals expanded and became more common. But in most stamps

discovered so far with plant descriptions, it is common to find plants that were common in the Land of Israel at the time: vines, dates, and olives, which belong to the seven species." [See Deuteronomy 8:8.]

"Examining the seal, we immediately noticed that the fruit that appears on it is unlike any of the fruits we have encountered to date," noted Shua Amorai-Stark, professor emerita in the Art & Aesthetics Department at Kaye Academic College of Education in Beersheba, Israel.

After an in-depth examination of the findings, the researchers hypothesized that it was the persimmon perfume plant.

Amorai-Stark added: "The dove is a positive motif in the Hellenistic, Roman, and Jewish worlds. It symbolizes wealth, happiness, goodness, and success."

The engraving on the seal can attest to the identity of the person who wore the ring. "If it is indeed the famous and expensive persimmon fruit, then it is likely that the seal owner was a Jew of means since the production and trade that took place around the persimmon plant was controlled by Jews living in the Dead Sea basin, where the fruit grew. It is possible that the owner of the seal was a person with an orchard for growing persimmons," explained Amorai-Stark.

Some Biblical commentators identify the persimmon in the list of gifts given by the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon. ★



Ancient amethyst seal

credit: Elyahu Yanai/City of David



Why Anti-Zionism is Anti-Semitism



BY RABBI DOV FISCHER (r) IsraelHayom.com



Israeli flag burned by Neturei Karta in Brooklyn, New York City, March 2012

The “Woke Left” gives this excuse: “We *only* are against Zionism, **not** against Jews. It’s not anti-Semitism; it’s *only* anti-Zionism.”

Certainly, it’s possible to oppose policies of the State of Israel without being anti-Jewish. Indeed, even strong Zionists often oppose discrete Israeli government decisions. For decades, until then-Minister of Finance Benjamin Netanyahu helped steer Israel toward free-market capitalism, many liberal Zionists opposed Israel’s socialist economy. It is acceptable to love one’s family, one’s country, one’s people — and still to criticize them. In America likewise, we find advocates on all sides who stand by their country but criticize the mismanagement of immigration at the southern border or during the Afghanistan evacuation.

What makes “anti-Zionism” different is that it does not aim at policy difference nor even at animus against political personalities. Instead, it invalidates a core component of the Judaic paradigm: the Jewish connection with the land.

Zionism, at its essence, is the belief that a Jew has a special connection with the Land of Israel. Not unlike tens of millions of Bible-loving Christian Zionists, the majority of Jews throughout history have harbored a unique emotional connection to the land of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

For Jews everywhere in the world, Israel is like a “Pesach Seder” or a “Thanksgiving Day” country: You may not love everyone at the dinner table, but you would have it no other way because they all are family.

But to define oneself as “anti-Zionist” is the same as self-identifying as “anti-kosher food.” Certainly, a person may eat all the ham and bacon she likes. No one expects others to be kosher or to prefer soaked-and-salted meat. But to be “anti-kosher”? *Even if you are not kosher, why be “anti” someone else living a more traditional Jewish life?*

Ultimately, *that is what “anti-Zionism” is.* Instead of visiting Israel, one may prefer a vacation in Saudi Arabia. No one has to like people who write from right to left or who have ambulances with red Stars of David instead of red crescents or red crosses painted on them. But to be “anti-Zionist” is like being anti-kosher.

Zionism is a core part of the very definition of a Jew. That’s why “anti-Zionism” is pure anti-Semitism. No one reasonably denies the Italian love for Venice or the French love for Paris. Expatriates’ hearts and minds are fixed on lands of heritage. To deny only Jews that simple human yearning shared by all others is to manifest more than a mere disagreement over where ice cream should be sold or fictional works should be translated. It is to be an anti-Semite. ★



Back to Cover



To Index

Finding Good in Islamic Terrorists?



BY **RAYMOND IBRAHIM** (r) RaymondIbrahim.com

A “moderate” Muslim cleric and counter-terrorism advisor to the UK government recently referred to Israel as a “terrorist state” and praised “martyrs” — jihadist code for suicide bombers.

During his speech, Imam Irfan Chishti told the crowd that if they wanted to become “*mujahideen*” (holy warriors), then they should “emulate the Muslim general Saladin, who expelled the Crusaders from Palestine in 1187.” He then lamented, “Where is the modern-day Saladin?”

The choice of Saladin is interesting and telling. After defeating the Crusaders at the Battle of Hattin in 1187, rather than ransoming or enslaving them, as was common at the time, Saladin had the warrior monks of the military orders of the Temple and Hospital butchered before him. He then had the True Cross, Christendom’s most precious relic, seized and paraded upside down in dirt and dung to Muslim jeers and spits.

Saladin also severely persecuted Egypt’s indigenous Christians, the Copts — including by crucifying or hanging many thousands of them and routinely breaking the crosses off and tarring their churches — even though the Copts, who refer to Saladin as “the Oppressor of the Cross Worshipers,” had nothing to do with the Crusades.

Saladin had a virulent hatred for Christianity, above and beyond his conflict with the Crusaders. Saladin’s retirement wish, according to his Muslim biographer, was to invade and wage jihad on Christian Europe, “until there shall not remain on the face of this earth one unbeliever in Allah, or I will die in the attempt.”

The aftermath of Saladin’s conquest of Jerusalem in 1187 looks like something straight out of ISIS’s playbook. Although he allowed many Christians to be ransomed, Saladin also ordered some 15,000 Christians



Imam Irfan Chishti, UK government advisor on “counterterrorism”

sold into slavery. “Women and children together came to 8,000 and were quickly divided up among us, bringing a smile to Muslim faces at their lamentation,” wrote Muhammad al-Isfahani, one of Saladin’s confidants who was present at Jerusalem’s capitulation, before he launched into a sadomasochistic tirade extolling the sexual debasement of European women at the hands of Muslim men.

Such is the true Saladin of history. But some Western historians ignore his vicious ISIS-like tactics. And many Western commentators who seek to whitewash modern Islam ignore the same pattern used by Islamic terror groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah, who share in ISIS’s worldview.

Sadly, all Imam Irfan Chishti had to do was “apologize” to be reinstated to his high-paying job as a “counter-terrorist” expert in the UK. “Some of my words reflect a clear error of judgment, in the heat of the moment,” Chishti said, “and do not reflect my sentiments or the sentiments of the audience. I now appreciate that my ill-chosen words will have caused offense and hurt to the Jewish community and I tender my most profound apologies.”

Of course, of all his “ill-chosen words,” surely those praising Saladin are not among those he would take back; for few in the West know who Saladin truly was. ★

credit: screen capture from YouTube





How old are you?

90-year-old David was surprised but pleased when his grandsons Sam and Joey came to visit. During their visit, they couldn't help noticing how old David looked.

Sam said, "Saba [Grandpa], how old are you really?"

David, being a bit of a joker, replied, "Well Sam, I'm very, very old. In fact, I'm so old that when I was your age, the Dead Sea wasn't even dead; it was only sick."

Inspiration

A boy was watching his father, a rabbi, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"God tells me."

"Then why do you keep crossing things out?" ★

Dry Bones

Semantic War



Answer Key for January 2022 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

- 1. Spirit
- 3. Parables
- 9. Light
- 10. Bread
- 14. Fire
- 16. Israel

Down:

- 2. Repent
- 4. Bethlehem
- 5. Enemies
- 6. Salt
- 7. Nazareth
- 8. Father
- 11. Baptist
- 12. Angel
- 13. Kingdom
- 15. Masters
- 19. Narrow



AUTOMATIC FIRST AID! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

Increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses to process them, plus you save time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, ZLM will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit/debit card.



If you wish to use your checking account for donations, please follow directions 1 through 5 below:

1. ACH transfer date (please circle one): 5th 20th
2. Withdrawal amount (please circle one): \$12 \$18 \$24 Other _____
3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month's gift. Monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks. Make changes by calling 214-696-8844.
4. Signature _____ (required for processing)
5. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____

For credit/debit card donations, please follow directions 6 through 11 below: You may cancel at any time by calling 214-696-8844 or emailing staff@levitt.com.

6. Withdrawal amount (please circle one): \$12 \$18 \$24 Other _____
7. Credit Card: MasterCard Visa Discover Card ID# required _____
8. Credit/Debit card # _____ Exp. date ____ / ____
9. Signature _____ (required for processing)
10. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____
11. Charge date (please circle one): 5th 15th 20th

YOU CAN DONATE BY TEXT MESSAGE:

Send a text message with the amount you wish to donate to **469-615-2009**.



Israel, My Promised study booklet

See Israel through the eyes of Zola Levitt, a faithful son who made the land of his Father his life's work. A love letter from a sincere writer to his homeland. An intensely personal and heartfelt look at God's country, one of the most misunderstood lands in all history.

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit #1851

Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



To
Index



Zola Tours **DISCOVER ISRAEL**

Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with
David & Kirsten Hart in SPRING 2022!



SPRING TOUR 2022

Deluxe: Mar. 14–24
(Israel only, \$5,288)

Grand Petra: Mar. 14–27
(Israel & Petra, \$6,488)

For more info and registration see:
www.levitt.com/tours

**The
Eastern Gate**
Jerusalem

**The Temple
Mount**
Jerusalem

Call Zola Tours at 214-696-9760
or email travel@levitt.com.

A refundable deposit by credit card will hold your reservation.

*See you in
Jerusalem!*



The Garden Tomb
Jerusalem



Petra
Jordan



Back to
p. 15