



Levitt LETTER

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

credit: Photo (November 8, 1863) by Alexander Gardner, Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA

Lincoln and the Jews

By Rabbi David Wolpe / Time.com

inside: Ruth: A
Counter-Culture
Love Story p.4



“One of my most valued friends.” In all the writings of Abraham Lincoln, we find that phrase used only once. It refers to Abraham Jonas, who was a Jew.

In a world where hatred or suspicion of Jews was near universal, our greatest president proved singularly free of this ancient prejudice. A remarkable feature of the beautifully written work, *Lincoln and the Jews* by Jonathan Sarna and Benjamin Shapell, is to learn anew how many Jews Lincoln befriended in his too brief life and the consistency with which he opposed the common anti-Semitism of his time.

Growing up, Lincoln knew no Jews, other than those whom he met in the pages of his well-thumbed Bible. **Yet his was not a grudging admission of Jewish legitimacy but a genuine liking and even admiration.** He even justified the appointment of one assistant quartermaster because he was

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REMEMBER:

Valentine's Day is Monday, February 14
Presidents' Day is Monday, February 21

Fewer Than Half of American Adults Pray Daily

By Leonardo Blair
ChristianPost.com

Less than half of American adults pray daily as church membership continues to decline and the ranks of the religiously unaffiliated swell.

Data from a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2021 found that 45% of U.S. adults say they pray daily compared to 58% who reported doing so in 2007 and 55% who said they prayed daily in 2014.

Some 32% said they seldom or never pray, which is close to the 29% of U.S. adults who identify as religious “nones” — people who describe themselves as atheists,

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Lincoln and the Jews *continued from cover*

Jewish: "I believe we have not yet appointed a Hebrew." Lincoln's quartermaster appointment, Moise Levy, was a well-known and traditional Jew, and the son-in-law of a prominent rabbi.

Most famously, Lincoln countermanded General Ulysses S. Grant's General Order #11, which banished Jews "as a class" from his war zone, from the Mississippi River to the Tennessee River, and from Northern Mississippi to Cairo, Illinois.

A delegation of Jews went to the White House before Grant's order could be carried out. The exchange that followed showed both Lincoln's immersion in the Bible, his characteristically sprightly manner of dealing with even serious issues, and his sense of responsibility for the Jewish community. After recounting Grant's action, the Jewish spokesperson Cesar Kaskel gratefully heard the president's response:

Lincoln: *And so the children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?*

Kaskel: *Yes, and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham's bosom, seeking protection.*

Lincoln: *And this protection they shall have at once.*

Lincoln immediately countermanded General Grant's order.

Some 70 years before, George Washington sent a letter to the Hebrew congregation at Newport, Rhode Island. In his letter, Washington also used Biblical imagery in assuring the Jews of that community and, by extension, throughout the newly created nation, that *"every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."* [See Micah 4:4.]

Both Washington and Lincoln were distinguished by their acceptance of Jews. Narrowing the boundaries of acceptance would fracture the nation one strove to create and the other to unite.



credit:
The Masonic
Voice Review,
Chicago

Abraham Jonas

For Lincoln, the inclination to acceptance culminated in the Emancipation Proclamation. Throughout his life he was capable of judging individuals; when Frederick Douglass visited Lincoln in the White House, he declared that while he was not satisfied with the president's views, he was "well satisfied with the man."

Lincoln and the Jews is filled with rare photographs and letters that tell the story of a man who defied the limitations of his time, and whose strength of character altered the nation's destiny.

Lincoln was shot on Friday night [Good Friday] and declared dead on Saturday morning. As a result, Jews all over the country heard the news in synagogue. In New York's Temple Emanu-El, *The New York Times* reported, people spontaneously rose to recite the *Kaddish*, the Jewish prayer of mourning. It was fitting; not only had the nation lost its president and presiding spirit, but the Jewish people knew they had lost a great man and a great friend.

Please see the books, *America's Godly Heritage* and *The Bulletproof George Washington*, offered on [page 23](#).





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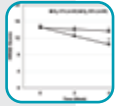
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Fewer Than Half of American Adults ... *continued from cover sidebar*

agnostics, or “nothing in particular,” the study said.

The nation’s share of religious “nones” is now 6% higher than it was five years ago and 10% higher than it was a decade ago, showing what appears to be a galloping trend of secularization.

Even though Christians are still the largest religious group in the U.S., they now only make up a collective 63% of the adult population. When the Pew Research Center began measuring religious identity in 2007, Christians outnumbered “nones” 78% to 16%.

The study noted that the decline in the number of Christians nationwide was mostly concentrated among respondents

who identified as Protestant. Their numbers declined by 10% in the last decade and 4% in the last five years.

While the share of Catholics had fallen between 2007 and 2014 to 21% of the adult population, that number remains the same today.

Protestants were found to be predominantly born-again or Evangelical Christian, among both black and white respondents in the study. Some 58% of white Protestants identify as born-again or Evangelical, while 66% of blacks did so.

With all that’s happening in our world right now, I’m surprised that 100% of Americans aren’t praying 24/7. — David ★

Ruth: A Counter-Culture Love Story

JEWS FOR JESUS.

BY JEFFREY STILL / JewsForJesus.org



Ruth in Boaz's Field (1828), painting by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872), National Gallery, London

The Book of Ruth is often read as a charming tale of pastoral romance that somehow snuck its way into the Bible. But when we read it that way, we overlook the difficult reality of the world that the characters inhabit and the powerful message that the story has for us.

One of the most glaring examples of this is that we often overlook one of the heroine's most striking character traits; **Ruth is a mold-breaker**. Ruth's society is full of boxes, especially for young women, and she breaks pretty much every box that can be broken without engaging in immorality.

The Culture of Ruth

Ruth lives in a culture where you're expected to stick with your particular ethnic group, and you're born into worship of your people's gods. Ruth abandons both of those to follow Naomi.

Ruth lives in a culture where younger people are expected to obey older people, but Ruth refuses to obey Naomi when she bids her to go back home. Later she boldly tells Boaz, an older man, what to do! *"Who are you?" he asked. 'I am your servant Ruth,' she said. 'Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family'"* (Ruth 3:9).

Ruth lives in a culture where young women were supposed to commit their lives to men and live as helpful dependents. But Ruth commits her life to an elderly woman who has no access to resources and power. She chooses caring for her mother-in-law over potential opportunities for romance, status, security, and children in her homeland.

And her rebel spirit is apparently catching. Young women in Ruth's day were expected to stay home and avoid the appearance of scandal at all costs, passively waiting upon a suitor to pursue them. But at the direction of Naomi, Ruth blows all of that up by approaching Boaz in the middle of the

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night at the all-male threshing floor party/camp out. She throws Boaz's blanket over herself and says the 1,100 B.C. equivalent of, "you'd better marry me!"

Then Boaz catches her spirit. He carries the torch of revolution to the legal situation at the city gate. There he breaks precedent when he assumes Naomi's right to sell her family property. And he insists to the nearer kinsman that if he buys the land, he'll have to marry the owner's widow. In making those two assumptions, Boaz risks his own cultural capital in order to gain cultural capital for Ruth and Naomi.

The Commitment of Ruth

But Ruth doesn't break molds out of some modern penchant for iconoclasm. Ruth acts only out of a deep, loving commitment to her Jewish mother-in-law. In desperation to keep Naomi from setting out alone on an extremely perilous journey, Ruth swears an oath to her saying, "*Where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God... May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you*" (Ruth 1:16–17).

In this moment, we see this foreign woman display a kind of love that is usually attributed to God Himself in the Scriptures: *hesed* — a passionate commitment to bless another (Ruth 1:8; 2:20; 3:10). In the subtle way of Biblical stories, that's a way of showing us that God's own *hesed* is shining through this marginal foreign woman to bless Naomi.

The Legacy of Ruth

Many hundreds of years later, Ruth gets a special shoutout in the genealogy of Messiah Jesus that starts the New Testament. That connection to Jesus is very fitting, because in the Bible, there is no other person more ready to trample on social norms for the sake of love for the poor and marginal than Jesus.

Like Jesus, the story of Ruth teaches us what it really looks like for faithful people to live lives shaped by God's Law of love (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:17–18, 33–34; Matthew 22:36–40). It means being so filled with the love of God that we pour it out into the lives of others. It means that we aren't afraid to break through man-made social barriers when they stand in the way of caring for our neighbors. And it means that the harvest of God's provision (whether that provision is grain or social capital or any other kind of blessing) is something we're meant to share with others, even and especially those who society has pushed to the margins.

Ruth's story is a love story, yes, but not a merely romantic one. It's about how the love of God shines through all those who are brave enough to entrust themselves to Him.

I love that our Savior came through the lineage of this gutsy woman! Please see the DVD set, *Ruth: Your People Shall Be My People*, offered on [p. 17](#). — Kirsten ★



Detail of *Christ on the Cross* (1870), painting by Carl Bloch (1834–1890), Museum of National History (Copenhagen)



All You Need Is Love

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



The older I get, the more I realize that what people really need is love. In the past few years, our world has seen a great increase in the “them vs. us” mentality, where someone with differing opinions or beliefs is wrong and must be criticized, corrected, avoided, or “canceled.” This has caused tremendous problems. An example is churches that have split over the vaccine issue! What’s happening to us?

My heart breaks over the many arguments I hear about almost every imaginable topic. People are wasting precious breath and time with others debating issues that have no eternal value. And these arguments only serve to drive people further apart. As Jesus’ disciples, we must learn to love each other (John 13:34).

On Israel’s stunningly beautiful Mount Eremos (or the Mount of Beatitudes), Jesus taught His followers guidelines for living a Godly life. He also promised blessings for those who follow God’s principles, especially related to living at peace with others: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”* (Matthew 5:9). The peace Jesus emphasized is the Hebrew word *Shalom*, which is total or complete well-being, both personally and *communally*.

When we seek to be peacemakers with our neighbors, family, congregation members, and people we know (and even may not know — through social media), we are showing God’s powerful love. This is greatly needed in our world.

A pastor I know recently had a “friend” tell him that he would die within two years because he got the vaccine. Can you imagine that? Exodus 22:21 says, *“You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”* Instead of oppressing each other verbally (whether we’re talking to strangers or friends), let us speak words of life and love that enable us to be peacemakers. This is love in action.

I need love. You need love. Strangers need love. We *really* need to love each other. Love is how others will know that we are Believers* in Jesus Christ because love sets us apart. It *should* set us apart. **I’d like to challenge you this month, in this season where many people focus on love, to speak words of life (chai in Hebrew) every time you are tempted to speak negatively.** I am challenging myself to do this too! And by the way, Happy Valentine’s Day from the Harts! ★

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



The Blossoming Fruits of Peace



BY KATE NORMAN / BridgesForPeace.com

The Abraham Accords between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain ushered in an era of peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors that has flourished for over a year. In the precarious neighborhood of the Middle East, the Jewish state previously had open peace agreements only with Egypt and Jordan, signed in 1979 and 1994, respectively. But those agreements have thus far only brought peace on a governmental and military level, with people-to-people ties remaining lukewarm.

With the Abraham Accords, however, both Israel and her new Gulf-state friends have enthusiastically pursued friendship, cooperation, and peace. The Accords were signed in September 2020 by then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, then-U.S. President Donald Trump, Emirati Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al-Zayani. **These leaders vowed to “encourage efforts to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue” to advance a culture of peace among the three Abrahamic religions and all humanity.**

Since then, the new allies have kept their word. Every day seems to bring an announcement of cooperation in agricultural technology, banking, healthcare, aviation, water and irrigation, energy, and other fields. **For example, Tel Aviv University and the UAE are teaming up to solve an age-old dilemma in the Middle East: water scarcity.** While the Jewish state has made strides in water conservation and irrigation, turning arid deserts into blooming farmland, the Emirati kingdom remains parched. Thus, the two formed an Israeli-Emirati water research institute, harnessing Israel’s water savvy, particularly the Israeli invention Watergen — a device that can turn air into drinking water.

“The Abraham Accords have given countries in the Middle East the opportunity to improve and advance relations in various fields,” Watergen’s owner and president emphasized. “Thanks to the agreements, we — an Israeli company — are

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Abraham Accords participants (l-r): Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald J. Trump, and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the United Arab Emirates Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan



credit: Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead

able to cooperate with our Middle East neighbors to solve one of the region’s difficult problems — water scarcity. Throughout history, conflicts have centered around controlling water sources. Today we are doing the opposite: building peace and a common future around a groundbreaking Israeli technology.”

The Accords have stimulated more than just business and economic cooperation. The newfound friends have also encouraged people-to-people friendship and dialogue. Israel and the UAE established reciprocal direct flights after the Accords, and over 130,000 Israelis have flocked to the Emirati kingdom since then, amid sporadic windows of travel opportunity during the pandemic. They have been welcomed with open arms, and the kingdom has even established a kosher food industry to ensure that their Jewish visitors are never without dining options. All three nations have voiced enthusiasm to resume visits once the borders are fully reopened [when the pandemic subsides].

Another beautiful symbol of the thriving peace is Sharaka, the Gulf-Israel Center for Social Entrepreneurship. (*Sharaka* is Arabic for “cooperation.”) Comprised of young entrepreneurs, activists, and social media influencers from Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain, Sharaka hosts delegations to visit Israel and the UAE to create opportunities for young people to experience each other’s homelands and cultures. The organization’s mission is “deepening mutual understanding, building personal ties, and encouraging diverse forms of cooperation.” The group hosts delegations of young Emiratis and Bahrainis to experience Israel: to see the land; tour historical sites; meet with Israeli political, cultural, and religious influencers; learn about the Holocaust at Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial; share in a *Shabbat* (Sabbath) dinner; experience Israel’s thriving start-up scene; and better understand the security challenges and geopolitical reality.

Sharaka.



One Arab alumna of Sharaka wrote about her experience in Israel: “Having breakfast and dinner [with] different families from different backgrounds and religions, as food brings us together at one table, we learned a lot about Israel and different communities with amazing food experience and meeting amazing people! Also meeting with the Israeli students, we had an enjoyable

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Sharaka promotional image from its LinkedIn page

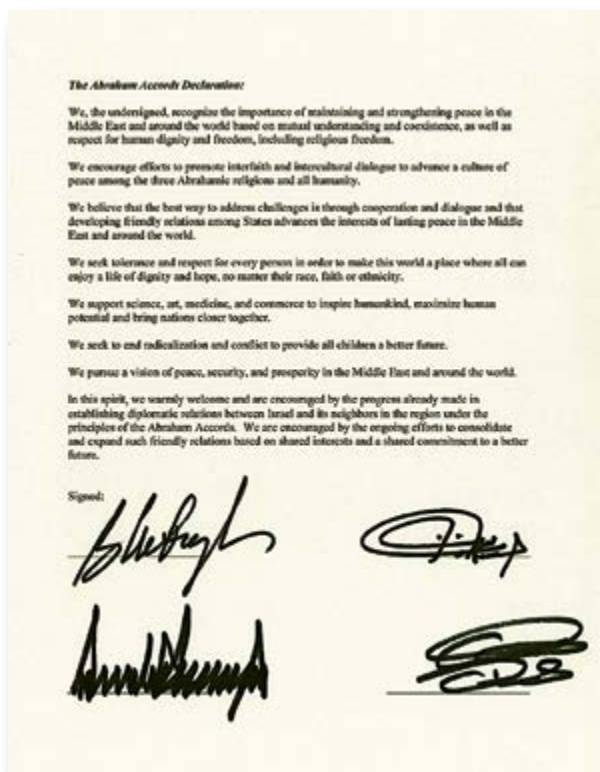


Logo for the Abraham Accords Declaration

time talking to them and sharing our experiences and exchanging our cultures that seemed so similar, and we gained a lot of friends after this.”

Jewish, Muslim, and Christian young adults not only gain invaluable experience on the ground in each other’s nations, but also host regular online Zoom meetings for cultural discussions and exchanges. And after visiting and learning about each other’s countries and cultures, they can return home and share what they have learned with others, creating a ripple effect of peace and understanding.

The Abraham Accords initiated a new chapter of kinship between the sons of Abraham. It has marked a new era of peace, of people-to-people friendship and cooperation, of learning and gaining new understanding of each other’s cultures, and of joining arm-in-arm for the mutual betterment of the nations and the region as a whole.



The Abraham Accords Declaration

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid made a historic visit to the UAE in July 2021 to inaugurate the Israeli embassy in the capital of Abu Dhabi as well as a consulate in Dubai. After his visit, Lapid and his Emirati counterpart, Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, wrote a joint statement that summed up the fruits of the Abraham Accords: **“Peace isn’t an agreement you sign — it’s a way of life.** The [embassy inauguration] ceremonies we held ... aren’t the end of the road. They are just the beginning.”

guides on our drive to Petra a few years ago about his family. He said, “We all want the same things: peace, our children to prosper, a roof above our heads. We aren’t any different from people in every other country. There are only a few leaders in our government who make things difficult.” When we focus on our similarities and open our hearts, we can find peace with our brothers and sisters. — Kirsten ★

We were chatting with one of our Jordanian tour



The New “Christian” Anti-Semitism

Classic Zola Levitt
from 1992
30 years ago



Why am I making such a big deal out of the new “Christian” anti-Semitism? Am I really spending my energies on worthwhile issues? Or am I just a spokesman for Israel and its people?

A friend of mine told me that a liberal minister in Connecticut referred to me as “an agent of the Israeli government.” There’s a lot of truth to that, since for twenty years I have been in the service of the King of the Jews. But aren’t we all? Are not Believers who are Israel-bound for a one-thousand-year kingdom headquartered in Jerusalem, “agents” of the true Israeli government — the Heavenly one — which is well on its way to taking over down here on Earth?

Where anti-Semitism is concerned, I’ve seen it all my life. Dallas’ most famous country club doesn’t admit Jews. And I was never able to get a job in my own field, despite graduate degrees, excellent grades, and very good training. But as a Believer in Christ, what I am seeing now is something that I could never have anticipated. I am

seeing people who style themselves as “Christians”—readers of the Gospels set in Israel and worshipers of the Jewish Messiah, the only begotten Son of the God of Israel—cursing and defaming the Chosen People of the Bible!

I once detailed the radio talk show in Dallas that developed from an article in an issue of *Christianity Today*. The theme of both of these anti-Semitic exercises was to sow doubt about the legitimacy of modern Israel in prophecy and the status of its people as the true Chosen People. This is impossible theology, and in reality, simple Jew-hating. And of course, these two instances represent many more. It’s just that in both of these cases, spokesmen of some Christian integrity were called upon and a periodical trusted over decades by Christian readers was utilized.

I want to say this loud and clear: There are two great groups of people who call themselves Christians in America, and they invariably take opposite views of Israel. Liberal denominational “Christians” tend to not read the Bible and not support Israel. On the other hand, I don’t believe I’ve ever met a Bible-reading, born-again Believer who ever cursed Israel in any manner. One’s position toward Israel seems to depend on how much Bible one reads. True Believers love Israel, and fakers view Israel as just another political entity in this world. (Or worse, they try to disenfranchise it altogether by saying the Church — whatever they mean by that — is now Israel, and the real Israel doesn’t exist anymore!) Real Believers take Israel at face value — obviously the fulfillment of End Times

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Westboro Baptist member picketing
a Jewish Community Center

credit:
HoppingRabbit34
(Wikimedia Commons)





prophecy and the answer to God’s voluminous promises to restore His people to their land. Mere “professors” rather than confessors of the faith invariably defame Israel and its people.

What’s new these days—and the reason I bring up this whole subject—is that **there are wolves in sheep’s clothing, as Scripture predicts, hovering all around this crucial issue.** Full professors at distinguished seminaries are teaching a new generation of future ministers that Israel is “politically incorrect” and “disobedient.” This unscriptural philosophy plays right into the program of the antiChrist, who will need to use global defamation of Israel to justify his ravaging of that small democracy. Well, my view as a student of the Bible with an honorary Doctor of Theology, twenty-one years in the ministry, and leading tours to the Holy Land hasn’t changed since the day I wrote this stanza on my album, *Next Year In Jerusalem*:*

*Father, You’ve chosen Your people.
Father, You’ve chosen Your land.
When all of the souls to the Kingdom come,
Father, with Israel I’ll stand!*

I don’t want to debate this issue, write friendly letters back and forth, or cultivate well-meaning friendships with bigots. I want to give them what Moses gave Pharaoh, David gave Goliath, Gideon gave the Midianites, and on and on through what General Sharon gave the PLO. Jewish people do not have to take defamation lying down, and Jewish believers in Jesus Christ need to correct misguided brethren and real wolves in sheep’s clothing with what Scripture calls “the sword of the Lord” (Judges 7:18–20). ★



* The music CD, *Next Year in Jerusalem*, is offered on [page 19](#). Please see the music CDs, *The Works I & II*, offered on [page 36](#).



[Our Hands Are Stained with Blood](#) book—*Now updated!* By Michael L. Brown, PhD

“And they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

Contrary to the sweet sentiment of that hymn’s lyrics, this book documents with unrelenting intensity the prolific anti-Semitism at the hands of the “Church.” From the first “Christian” persecutions of the Jews in the 4th century to the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust to anti-Semitism in today’s pulpits, this book is a sure cure for someone who imagines persecution of God’s Chosen is a hoax. It is a history every Christian must understand.

Dr. Michael L. Brown, founder and president of FIRE School of Ministry in Concord, NC, is widely considered to be the world’s foremost Messianic Jewish apologist.

(This and many titles also available as eBooks.)

Q. What is the First Messianic Prophecy in the Bible?

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



Christ carrying the Cross (early 17th century), oil on canvas by Anthony van Dyck (1599–1641), Musei di Strada Nuova, Genoa, Italy

A. In Genesis 3:15, God says, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will crush your head and you will strike His heel.”* The early Church fathers labeled this passage the *Protoevangelium*, which literally means, “the first Gospel” because it is the first time the Gospel message of salvation is revealed in the Bible. The word *Protoevangelium* comes from a compound word: *proto* (meaning “first”) and *evangelium* (meaning “Gospel”). In context, Genesis 3:14 reveals God speaking to the serpent after he seduced Adam and Eve into sin. God says (in Gen. 3:15) that there will be ongoing hostility between the spiritual offspring of Satan, as represented by the serpent (see Revelation 12:9), and the spiritual offspring of Jesus Christ, the Seed of the woman.

The Hebrew word for “seed” in Genesis 3:15 is singular (*Zerah*), and clearly points to the Messiah Jesus. Jesus is the “Seed” of Genesis 3:15 because the verse anticipates a virgin birth. The seed of insemination is provided by the man alone, but in Genesis 3:15, the Seed belongs to the woman alone; no human male is mentioned. This looks forward to Mary, a virgin who gave birth to Jesus, the Seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15.

The first Messianic prophecy of the Bible was gloriously accomplished through what the Lord Jesus Christ did for sinners on the Cross and in His resurrection from the dead. By His death on the Cross, Jesus struck the mortal blow to Satan’s head, so to speak, while Satan inflicted a temporary blow to Christ. But Jesus was healed three days later when He victoriously rose from the dead, conquering death and gaining ultimate victory over Satan and the powers of darkness. Hebrews 2:14 emphasizes, *“Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

The Christian website *GotQuestions.org* provides an excellent conclusion to the Messianic fulfillment of Genesis 3:15. It states, “Because of what Jesus did on the Cross, He ‘crushed’ the devil’s head, defeating him forever. The *Protoevangelium* shows us that God always had the plan of salvation in mind, and informed us of His plan as soon as sin entered the world.” The fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 by the Messianic Seed of the woman demonstrates the truth of 1 John 3:8, which states:

“For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”



Sharing the Gospel of the God-Man

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader



While at the Mamilla Mall and in the Jewish section of the Old City of Jerusalem, fellow **To the Jew First** team member August Rosado and I shared the Gospel and distributed complete Hebrew Study Bibles among the Chosen People. We passed out four Bibles, and with each one, we proclaimed the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah.

For instance, Isaiah prophesied, *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder”* (Isaiah 9:6). The prophet was clearly speaking of the God-Man Yeshua, because he added that this Child/Son/Ruler is also *“the mighty God, the everlasting Father.”*

Anna understood this and continued to listen. We explained how Yeshua, as both God and Man in one Person, died on the Cross in Jerusalem as the *kipporah* (atone-ment) for our sins according to Isaiah 53. We also noted that three days later, He rose from the dead as the conqueror of death, giving us eternal life! All this was foretold in the Jewish Bible.

After sharing this witness about the divine and human

nature of Messiah, we gave Anna a Hebrew Study Bible and teaching materials that cover various topics in Scripture about this magnificent Messiah. In March, we hope to follow up with Anna and discuss what she has learned from the Scriptures and Messianic materials we gave her.

[This report details a previous year’s outreach because of the pandemic’s travel restrictions.](#) — Editor ★



Todd and Anna

Anna was one of the four people who took a keen interest in what we taught from the Word of God. We shared with Anna a Biblical study that shows Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel through the Messianic prophecy He fulfilled from the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). We were amazed when Anna said that she already knew the New Testament declares Yeshua of Nazareth to be both God and Man! **We replied by sharing how this affirmation of the God-Man Messiah was also foretold by the Hebrew prophets.**



Agreeing to Disagree

A Note from Mark
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



Sarah Liberman explained in the [August 2021 Personal Letter](#) why she and many other Israelis were not fans of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. She offered a cogent Bible lesson along the way, for which I commended her.

I offered an opposing view (also popular with many Americans) in the [November 2021 Levitt Letter's](#) "A Note from Mark" ("Closure on Our Beloved Bibi," pp. 12–14). Its conclusion mentioned the "Point-Counterpoint" debate segments from late-1970s episodes of the *60 Minutes* television news magazine.

David Newman, an Odessa, Texas high school teacher wrote the cordial, persuasive article excerpted below. He encourages debating fairly and understanding opposing views in order to test (and be better able to defend) our own convictions. —Mark

Banning Books is a Blow to Civility

There has been a resurgence of calls for the removal of objectionable books from public school classrooms. Such calls can come from people motivated by a range of concerns or ideologies. Perceived threats of indoctrination engender a distorted mirroring of demands for banning or canceling, in the interest of protecting students' rights to autonomous thought.

Example: If, as some book-banners claim, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* constitutes pornography or bias about history, then such fare from a Nobel laureate must be excised. **Many people opposed to indoctrination may be sacrificing the most potent weapon against indoctrination: the skill to read a book and debate its value.**

With today's stark divide separating alternate realities, individuals must learn to listen to opposing points of view. Then, if they must argue, they can do so without violence or exaggerating the chasms

already dividing us — without loss of civility in discourse.

Books now seem to be an indelible mark of an unbridgeable chasm dividing me from the generation who will manage the world when I am gone. I wonder whether the world that has supplanted the one in which I grew up is altogether better.

We have now social media and social media echo chambers. Now people do not have to confront opposing perspectives with any sense of common ground. We fight over who is silencing whom, or which "side" is indoctrinating the other.

I still believe the somewhat controversial books on my shelf could enable civility and a sense of common ground to moderate such fights. If only they weren't abandoned in the rush for more instant, less demanding, sources of gratification.



Please buy and share this ministry's books and newsletters. You might leave them in public places to be discovered. ZLMers are cordially invited to email staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box to briefly, logically refute any of our newsletter content. (Proverbs 27:17) —Mark ★

ZLM Bulletin Board



photo: YouTube screenshot



Do Jewish Lives Matter?

Probably not to Brazilian journalist José Carlos Bernardi, a pundit for right-leaning Jovem Pan, a Brazilian broadcasting network. He recently stated how Brazil could attain the same level of economic development as present-day Germany. "Only by attacking Jews will we get there. **If we kill a gazillion Jews and appropriate their economic power, then Brazil will get rich.** That's what happened with Germany after the war." He subsequently apologized for the remark.

Growing U.S. Anti-Semitism

A string of anti-Semitic attacks has persisted across Brooklyn, a hub of Jewish history and culture with a population of over 500,000 Jews. Recent attacks come amid a rise of anti-Semitism in the U.S. The American Jewish Committee indicated that 82% of American Jews believe anti-Semitism has increased over the past five years. (See "Classic Zola," [p. 10](#).)

Word Search Video Archives

Our Jewish Roots viewers can review and share teaching segments by searching our ministry's website for topics of interest. For example, to search for mentions of "prince":

1. Go to [levitt.tv](#)
2. Search for "prince" in the **Video Search** box
3. From the results, click on, say, the 1529-17 episode
4. Search for "prince" in the Caption Search box
5. Double click on any timestamp in the results, and the video will play at that spot

Opening the "Transcript" heading (down the page) shows the transcript text and enables researchers to click on timestamps and jump to any point in the video.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

If you own property that you no longer wish to occupy or manage, a charitable gift can meet multiple goals. **Giving Real Estate** is a 20-page pamphlet that discusses topics including: 1) property that has changed in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution. The Technical Advisory Section addresses real estate held long-term, depreciated real estate, and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #14.**



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Surrender to Peace

אֱלֹהִים כִּי־אֲנֹכִי וְדַעוּ הָרַפוּ
 e-loh-heem' kee' – ah-noh-khee' oo-de-oo' har-poo'
 God that I am and know be still

“Be still and know that I am God...”
 - Psalm 46:10

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). This is something you must do; you must quiet your heart to know the Divine Presence. Therefore *“set the Lord always before [you]”* (Psalm 16:8) and refuse anxious thoughts that weigh upon you, creating pressure and “dis-ease.” Quieting your heart allows you to hear the holy whisper: *“It is I; do not be afraid”* (John 6:20). Once the storm of fear dissipates, you can access God’s truth. As the Spirit says, *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength”* (Isaiah 30:15).

Worry is a place of exile and pain. Since God’s Name (יהוה) means “Presence” and “Love,” **being anxious is practicing the absence of God’s presence** instead of practicing His presence. A divided house cannot stand. When Peter writes, *“cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you”* (1 Peter 5:7), the word translated “anxiety” comes from a verb that means to divide into pieces. Bring your brokenness to God — including those distractions that make you ambivalent and afraid — to receive God’s healing for your divided heart.

The verb translated “be still” (*rapha*: רָפָה) means to “let go” — to stop striving and to *surrender everything* to God’s care (Romans 8:28). “Being still” means letting go of your “need” to control the world. Relax your hold and rely on God’s care for your life instead, without “taking thought” for tomorrow and its concerns (Matthew 6:34). The past is gone, after all, and the future is God’s business; you only have the present moment to call on our Lord. So, be faithful in the present hour, asking God for the grace and strength you need to endure and engage the task at hand. In this way, you will experience *“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding”* (Philippians 4:7).

Some of us may find it difficult to trust, to open our hearts to receive grace and kindness. For those wounded by abandonment, it can be a great struggle to hear the voice of God calling you “beloved,” “worthy,” “valued,” and “accepted.” When you find faith to receive God’s word of love, however, your heart comes alive, and you begin to heal. You discover the grace of being accepted despite your unacceptability. **Yeshua speaks words of comfort: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet still believe” (John 20:29).** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



Ruth: *Your People Shall* *Be My People*

DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs
on two DVDs

We follow the famous love story verse by verse and watch as Israeli actors re-enact it in Hebrew. Myles and Katharine Weiss explain the Biblical characters' journey from darkness to destiny, and Messianic Israeli Arie Bar David clarifies Israelite culture at the time of Ruth. Sasha and Anya Poberejny provide the uplifting music.

The Covering Naomi and Ruth journey from Moab to Israel.

Road To Bethlehem After ten years of famine, Naomi returns to Israel. Her faithful daughter-in-law declares, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Finding The Redeemer Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem at harvest time. The romance between Boaz and Ruth begins.



Breaking Of Bread Boaz asks Ruth to break bread with him. Our Heavenly Father invites us into a relationship through His Son, Jesus (the Bread of Life). The story of Ruth and Boaz bears a similarity to the relationship of Myles and Katharine — Jew and gentile in the harvest field of the Lord.

Virtuous Woman Naomi sends Ruth to Boaz's threshing floor where he promises to take care of her.

Kinsman Redeemer Boaz desires to be Ruth's husband. However, a closer relative must be consulted first.

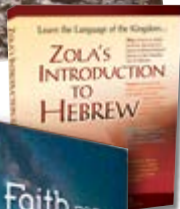
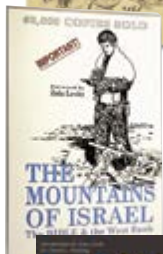
Redemption God included gentile Ruth into the family of Israel and lineage of the Messiah. Ruth's story pictures the full restoration for Believers due to the blood of Yeshua.

Future Of Hope Ruth and Boaz get married and raise a family. Naomi's life changed from tragedy to restoration and hope. Yeshua wants to do the same for us.

Please see article "[Ruth: A Counter-Culture Love Story](#)" on [pp. 4–5](#).



ORDER FORM



New!

To order:

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store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
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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**

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

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) (p.23)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Miles Weiss) (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches — Zola on Replacement Theology	\$6	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) (p.23) ..	\$8	___
___	The Green Horse— The Bible & Islam (Norma Archbold)	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg) (pictured)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) (p.22)	\$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) (p.11)	\$16	___
___	The Warrior King (Jeff Seif)	\$12	___
___	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff)	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

___	Bad Moon Rising	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Bible, The Whole Story	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Called Together	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Close Encounters w/ Yeshua	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith for the Future (pictured) ..	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Revelation	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ruth: Your People Shall Be (p.17) ..	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<i>Sar Shalom</i> : Prince of Peace	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Promise (p.20)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Warrior King	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



ORDER FORM continued

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___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	_____
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___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	_____
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___	Pro-Israel Button (A) (pictured)	(set of 4) \$6	_____
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___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	Christian Love Story	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	(CD) \$7	_____
___	A Survey of the New Testament (pictured)	(CD) \$7	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	22-Album Special (p.36) (Zola's 16 albums + 6 CDs free)	\$98	_____
___	Champions of Faith (pictured)	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	Next Year in Jerusalem	(Music CD) \$12	_____

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



Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

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up to \$15.99, add \$5
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For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. **Please ONLY send U.S. funds.**

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

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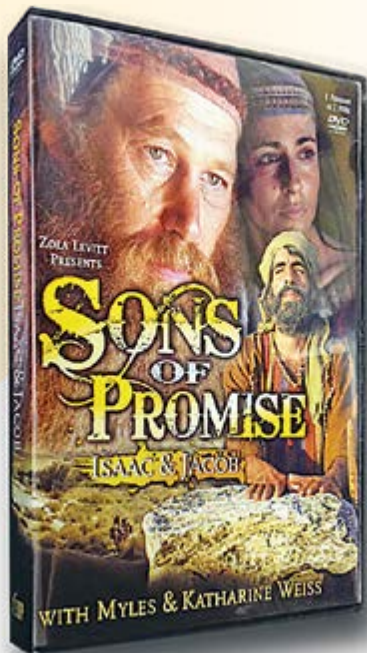
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Sons of Promise— Isaac & Jacob DVD set Eight programs on 2 DVDs

This eight-program series joyfully recounts the history of Abraham’s son and grandson—Isaac and Jacob—to confirm God’s eternal covenant with the Children of Israel into this day. With the modern miracle of Israel in the background, the ancient story yields to the contemporary, and together they tell the tale of God’s faithfulness.

The Wells of Salvation Abraham’s servant ventures out to find a wife for Isaac—God’s Covenant continues from generation to generation. Myles interviews Jan Willem van der Hoeven—a Dutch-born student of Corrie ten Boom, longtime resident of Jerusalem, and champion of the Jewish people. Mark Levitt interviews a representative of Bridges for Peace.

The Bridegroom and the Bride Isaac and Rebekah’s love for each other represents that of Yeshua and the Bride of Christ. Myles interviews Saul Singer, co-author of *Start-up Nation*; Mark interviews a Jewish National Fund spokesman. Through JNF, ZLM contributors have planted a forest of trees in Israel.

Blessing, Covenant, Contention The conflict between Ishmael and Isaac precedes the contention between Jacob and Esau. Mark interviews an archaeologist digging near the ancient City of David.

Mayim B’sason (Water from the Wells of Salvation) In the face of famine, Isaac re-digs Abraham’s wells, and God confirms His eternal covenant with the Hebrew people.

Myles and Katharine interview the Lone Soldiers, remarkable Jewish young people who leave the comfort of their families and foreign homes to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

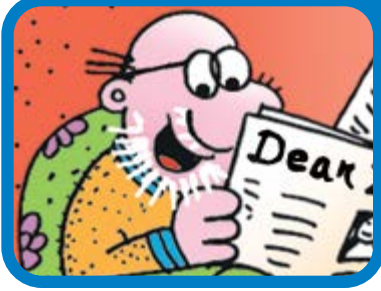
Brothers and Birthrights The struggle of Jacob and Esau over their destinies began in the womb and continues to our day. Mark interviews Our Man in Haifa, Eitan Shishkoff, about Tents of Mercy, his multifaceted ministry that touches many in Israel.

The Promise of Heaven Touches Earth In spite of Esau’s murderous rage, Jacob dreams of a Heavenly touch. God’s Covenant continues into the third generation. Illustrating this continuation, Myles and Katharine interview young Israeli Messianic leaders.

For the Love of Rachel Jacob serves Laban repeatedly to earn his bride, demonstrating the importance of patience and commitment in God’s plan. Mark interviews Dr. Todd Baker, who leads To The Jew First, our Gospel outreach to Israel. (See article on [p.13.](#))

L’dor V’dor (From Generation to Generation) Jacob wrestles with God, and his transformation provides hope for us all. Myles interviews his own firstborn son, Jonathan, about the blessing of a Yeshua-centered home life.





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com and YouTube

From D.B.: I watched Zola's show on TBN back in the 80s. Now I really appreciate listening to my old cassette tapes of his. What a great Bible scholar and musician he was. I look forward to meeting him up yonder.

From T.N.: Thank you so much, Sarah, for your honesty in sharing your thoughts, knowledge, and opinions. As a Messianic Jew in the upstate New York mountains, I have no reliable insight to the Israeli side of life. Consequently, **I really appreciate hearing about real Israeli life and not the American version of what we think it might be.** Thank you!

I have enjoyed your music for years. I recently saw (on YouTube) an interview you did about personal difficulties early in your career. I too have been victimized in a way that we obviously find very difficult to live with and talk about.

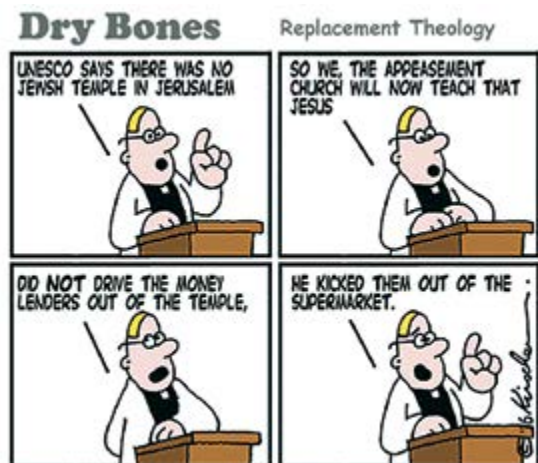
I have ministered for many years to women who've been victimized physically, sexually, and emotionally. Watching your interview has made my appreciation of you even stronger. Thank you for writing, sharing, ministering, and singing. You inspire me to continue to allow Adonai to come with His fire and continuously purge this vessel for His honor and glory.

Dear T.N.: Sarah continues to inspire all of us. I'm thankful you have "dug a little deeper" to understand why we at ZLM are so honored to have Sarah as an integral part of this outreach. — David

From E.R.: Sarah, I have just read your articles about the Garden of Eden [beginning in the [September 2021 Personal Letter](#)], which were very interesting. Since you're "on the ground" in Israel, I want to mention some issues I have seen on YouTube. Some claim that the two Temples were on top of the Temple Mount. There are many others who assert that the Temples were about 600 feet to the south in the City of David. Both groups seem to think they have the right location. One group believes it could not have been on the Mount because of the lack of water for washing the slaughter area and other reasons. If there cannot be any certainty about location, who is going to know where to build the next Temple?

I was on a tour of Israel in 1971. I am 84 now. I enjoy your television program with the Harts and Dr. Seif. Anyway, I would love to hear from you if possible. I

(continued on next page)



www.drybones.com

know I am not remembering all the claims from both sides, but I hope you get the gist of my thoughts.

Dear E.R.: We also have heard different schools of thought on the Temple's location. While we don't know where the third Temple placement will be, we do know Who will be reigning from that spot for 1,000 years. — David

From W.C.: Hello and *shalom*! I want to try to express how much I appreciate this ministry. A friend recommended Zola to me years ago. I have been a follower ever since. Soon I became a donor to help support this valuable ministry. Your television programs are so well developed. So much is explained in such short airtime. Dr. Jeff is such a blessing by humbly sharing his knowledge. His precious wife, Dr. Barri, is an excellent addition to the program. I love David and Kirsten's input and, of course, their singing. I also enjoy the personal family stories.

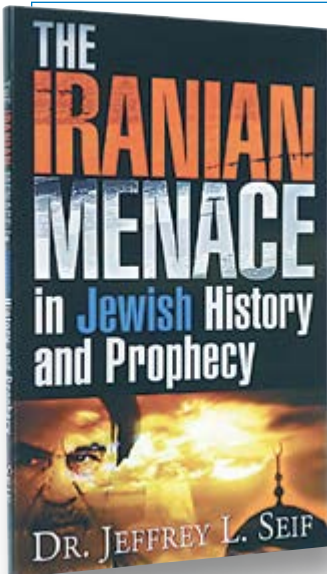
Aside from the TV program, let me comment on the financial support of the ministry. I am so impressed and appreciative of the way you manage donations. My experiences from donating to other television ministries I love to watch and help support are so different. I have stopped donating to some of them because of unexpected (sometimes expensive) gifts, high dollar glossy advertisements, and other publications. Thank you for relaying allocated funds for important purposes like the To The Jew First Fund and the Lone Soldier Fund.

I pray for this ministry every day, and I also pray for the peace and safety of Jerusalem, Israel, and the Jewish people. God bless all of you.

Dear W.C.: Your words of praise are sweetness to our souls and health to our bones (Proverbs 16:24). Thank you for recognizing the purity of this ministry and the value of the Bible teaching we present to the world through our various media. God bless you! — David

From D.C.: What a beautiful song! [*Have You Seen Him?*—Music by Zola Levitt] I'm looking forward to meeting dear Zola one day in Heaven. His ministry has really made an impact on people over the years. I didn't find out about ZLM

(continued on next page)



The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy book

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Iran is central in End Times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses Scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After glimpsing Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff's analysis is based on sound Scriptural understanding and two decades of academic contemplation.

(Many titles are also available as eBooks.)



[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 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.

until years after Zola went home to be with Jesus. What a smart, talented, and gifted man whose heart longed to praise the Lord and to teach others about Jesus. What a beautiful soul.

From D.R.: [Regarding Sarah's writing about the Mount of Olives crucifixion site, in the [November 2021 Personal Letter](#).] **I disagree with this theory.** To be able to see the torn veil from the Mount, observers would have had to be in the spot where the red heifer was sacrificed, and every door from the Eastern Gate back would have had to be open. Passover pilgrims filled that mountain. If Adonai Yeshua was crucified there, He would have had to walk across the entire city of Yerushalayim to get there, as Pilatos [Pontius Pilate] always headquartered in Herod's palace when he was on site, never in Antonia, as it was a barracks and unfit for his wife to stay in. Plus, where is the tomb on the Mount of Olives where our Lord was buried? The tomb was in a garden near the site of the crucifixion. It's an interesting theory, but I don't believe this one can stand up to testing. Blessings to all.

From R.M.: Do gentiles have to go to church on Saturday?

Dear R.M.: It's fine if some Believers wish to worship on Saturday. It's also fine if others want to worship on Sunday. **There isn't a New Testament mandate either way.** As a caution to those who insist that a certain day is better, there are words of rebuke in the New Testament against those who would trouble the Church by seeking to bring Believers under bondage to the religious practices of the Old Covenant (Galatians 2:4, 6). The Church is not under the Old Testament legal system. The Apostle John says it best, *"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* (John 1:17). You can go to levitt.com/faqs to find answers to many other Biblical questions. — Editor

From L.J.: Wonderful video! [*Days of Remembrance: Hanukkah* on YouTube] We watch this yearly as a tradition in our Messianic home during the Hanukkah time. *Shalom!* ★



Forgotten Refugees of the Middle East: Jews



BY CLIFFORD D. MAY (R) JNS.org

About 80% of Israelis are Jews, while close to 20% are Arabs (or “Palestinians” — they may identify as they like). Most Israeli Jews are not from families who migrated from the Middle East to Europe centuries ago. Most are Mizrahim, Jews who have lived for thousands of years among Arabs, Persians, and other Middle Eastern and North African peoples.



The front page of *The New York Times* on May 16, 1948

The late Charles Krauthammer observed that Israel “is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did 3,000 years ago.”

But **imperialist invasions and occupations, which the Jews fought against, led to the dispersal of Jews to lands across the region.** In those lands they were ruled by a long list of conquerors until, in the 20th century, most became subjects of the nation-states created following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

While the Mizrahim suffered persecution, at some times and in some places there was tolerance that allowed them to prosper and make contributions to the societies in which they lived — in commerce, academia, the arts, and even as government advisers. From Morocco to what became Pakistan, Jewish communities survived.

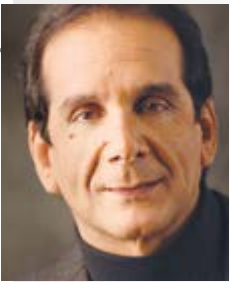
Then in 1940, Nazi Germany defeated France. The French colonial possessions of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia came under the rule of Vichy, a collaborationist government that introduced “race laws” discriminating against Jews, excluding Jews from certain professions and confiscating Jewish property.

In 1941, a Fascist regime took power in Iraq. A few months later came the Farhud, the “violent dispossession” of the Jews of Baghdad, who then constituted almost a third of the city’s population.

Haj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, was the most prominent Arab/Muslim leader in Palestine, which passed from Ottoman to British rule following World War I. In 1929 and 1936, he ignited bloody riots against Palestinian Jews. In 1941, he moved to Berlin, where he met with Hitler and assisted the German war effort by broadcasting pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish messages into the Middle East.

(continued on next page)

credit: The Washington Post



Charles Krauthammer

credit: Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1987-004-09A / Heinrich Hoffmann



right: Haj Amin al-Husseini (c. 1897–1974)
above: Amin al-Husseini and Adolf Hitler, November 28, 1941





source:
www.bbc.
com/news/
world-middle-
east-13610702

Countries where German forces directly exercised power, such as Tunisia beginning in 1942, compelled Jews to wear yellow stars, subjected them to forced labor, and incarcerated them in concentration camps.

The Allied victory in 1945 saved the lives of many Mizrahim. But the end of the war did not dissipate the intensification of hostility toward Jews brought about by the Nazis.

In 1947, the United Nations issued a resolution calling for the partition of Palestine into two states: "one Arab, one Jewish." The Jewish community in Palestine accepted the resolution. The Arab community in Palestine rejected it.

On May 14, 1948, the flag of the British Empire was lowered in Palestine, and the State of Israel was proclaimed. But on May 15, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq attacked.

The Jordanian army conquered Judea and Samaria, which it soon renamed "the West Bank." All Jews, including those in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, were expelled.

But the Arab rulers failed to annihilate Israel. They then turned their anger on their own Jewish citizens, encouraging massacres against them, stripping them of their property and citizenship, and forcing them to flee. Most found their way to Israel, where many encountered bias and discrimination. Increasingly, however, the country has become a melting pot.

I should note that Iran, a predominately Persian [not Arab] country, followed a different path. Initially, Israel and Iran had cordial relations. Then an Islamic Revolution came in 1979. Over the past four decades, Iranian Jews have suffered harsh oppression, and most have emigrated. Iran's rulers today threaten Israelis with genocide while developing nuclear weapons that would make that a serious possibility.*



Students climb up U.S. embassy gates in Tehran, 1979

source: Wikimedia Commons

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Palestinian leaders in Gaza praise Iran's theocratic regime. Palestinian leaders in the West Bank continue to demand that all Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war, along with their millions of descendants, be granted a "right to return" to Israel where they would constitute a majority of the population.

How much does the average Palestinian know about the Jewish refugees from Arab countries? My guess: very little.

Egypt and Jordan have been at peace with Israel for more than a generation, but it's been a cold peace. It would be useful if Egyptian and Jordanian leaders had the courage to acknowledge that their Jewish communities were mistreated and, ultimately, ethnically cleansed. I'd recommend they publish, in Arabic, *Uprooted: How 3,000 Years of Jewish Civilization in the Arab World Vanished Overnight*, by Lyn Julius, the daughter of Iraqi Jewish refugees.

The point of the exercise would not be for Egyptians, Jordanians, and others to feel guilty. The point would be for them to become familiar with their history, and with the history of their cousins, an indigenous people of the Middle East whose self-determination in part of their ancestral homeland was — and remains — both just and necessary. ★

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

Ford to Install Israeli Water-From-Air Tech in Vehicles



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

U.S. carmaker Ford is partnering with Israeli water-from-air tech company Watergen to deliver a built-in drinking water generator in the automotive giant's adventure and recreational vehicles.



courtesy: Watergen

A Ford Ranger vehicle installed with Watergen's Mobile Box water-from-air generator

Watergen's innovative **Mobile Box is the world's first vehicle on-board drinking water system capable of extracting clean water from ambient air.** It can generate up to 5.3 gallons per day of fresh drinking water. The unit simply needs a 12-volt power supply and access to fresh air to produce the highest quality drinking water.

Ford will mount the Mobile Box unit on the bed of the Ranger where it will occupy minimal space due to its compact dimensions (about 2 x 1.75 x 1.5 feet). Its portability means that fresh water is always available — whether on a road trip, camping, or working in the outdoors.

Founded in 2009, Watergen has developed a patented technology that enables cost-effective, low-energy generation of clean drinking water from air, using a series of filters. After the air is sucked in and chilled to extract its humidity, the water that forms is treated and transformed into clean drinking water.

Due to its compact design, the Watergen Mobile Box system can be mounted externally on various types of vehicles, including trucks, trailers, buses, and RVs. At roughly 66 pounds, the impact on fuel consumption is minimal. All the system requires for optimal water production is access to fresh air, a temperature between 59–113° F, and 20–99% humidity.



courtesy: Watergen

Watergen Mobile Box

Watergen develops and manufactures several water generators, including large- and medium-scale generators that can produce between 58 and 1,585 gallons of water per day, depending on the generator, as well as an at-home device that can produce about 6–8 gallons of water per day.

Watergen Chief Marketing Officer Yaniv Fainshnider said the company is working in 80 countries around the world. "We don't need to treat water or to tell people to conserve water; we can just produce it from the air. So many communities around the world don't have access to safe drinking water and we want to be part of the solution," Fainshnider stated. ★



Oxygen While Sleeping Eases Depression



MEDICINE: BY NATHAN JEFFAY (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Breathing high rates of oxygen while sleeping can significantly reduce depression, a preliminary Israeli study has suggested.

Researchers from Ben Gurion University's Faculty of Health Sciences recruited 55 depressed adults and got them to breathe from special tubes as they slept, every night for a month. Around half received regular air, which contains 21% oxygen, while the others received air with 35% oxygen content.

"Among patients in the control group, very few achieved even minimal improvement in symptoms of depression, but in the other group, 30% to 40% made notable improvements," said Dr. Abed N. Azab, the lead researcher in the peer-reviewed study.

At the start of the month-long experiment, participants averaged 15 on the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression, classified as moderate depression. Scores among the control group hardly changed during the experiment, but the average score among those who received oxygen-enriched air steadily dropped, ending at around 10, which reflects an improvement from moderate to mild depression.

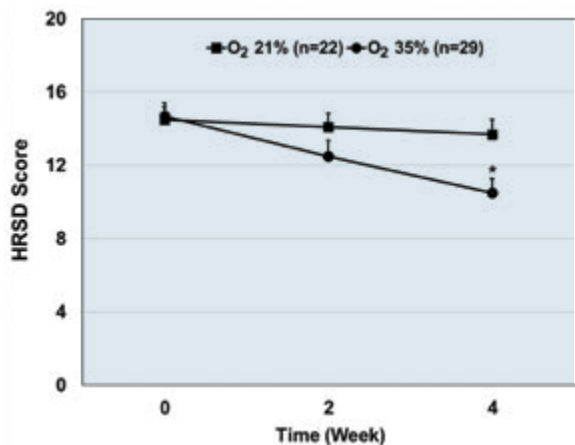
Azab stressed that his research focused on regular oxygen, which is sourced easily and cheaply yet hasn't been widely explored for depression, as opposed to special hyperbaric oxygen chambers, which are expensive and in scarce supply. "Oxygen is known to be very safe, and is also affordable," he added.

Participants in the experiment, all of whom were diagnosed with depression, had canisters and special tubes installed in their bedrooms for use at night. The study was double blind to account for the placebo effect.

"We randomly divided the participants to those who received oxygen-enriched air and those who received normal air," Azab explained. "Neither the participants nor the researcher on the ground knew who was getting what, and they received the treatment for seven to eight hours a night in their homes for a month. We saw a clear difference between those who received regular air and those who received the oxygen-enriched air. Among those who received extra oxygen, we even had people ask at the end of the study to keep the machines at home because they helped — something we just didn't see in the control group," he said.

Azab noted his team doesn't know how the oxygen impacts symptoms of depression but is hoping to answer that question through further research. He is also planning a larger-scale study to further explore the potential of oxygen.

"This was a small study, but I hope we can replicate these results in a larger sample," Azab added. "If this becomes a routine intervention, it could be an inexpensive way of treating depression and even — given that some depressed people commit suicide — save lives." ★



A graph showing that trial participants who received extra oxygen, represented by the line that falls, had lower scores in a depression assessment system than the control group, as the experiment progressed.





Colombian police officers in Nazi uniforms

Nazi Items at Police Academy Event

WorldIsraelNews.com

At a police academy event in Colombia, officers dressed in Nazi uniforms during a ceremony intended to honor Germany.

The official Colombian police force Twitter post read: "From the Simón Bolívar Police Academy in the city of Tulua, we are organizing an international week with guest country Germany. With these cultural exchanges, we are strengthening the knowledge of our police students."

The post also included images of police cadets dressed in black SS uniforms with red swastika armbands. Others wore the green-gray uniform of the Wehrmacht. One cadet even sported a "Hitler-style" mustache.

Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez later apologized for the event: "Any apology for Nazism is unacceptable and I condemn any demonstration that uses or refers to symbols referring to those responsible for the Jewish Holocaust that claimed the lives of more than 6 million Jews."

School Bans "Proud Zionist" Shirt, Allows BLM Attire

[By AJ McDougall / TheDailyBeast.com](http://ByAJMcDougall/TheDailyBeast.com)

A teacher in Brooklyn, New York filed a discrimination complaint alleging his school discouraged him from wearing

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

a shirt with the words "Proud Zionist" on it, the *New York Post* reported recently. Jeffrey Levy says the school's principal told him to stop wearing the shirt, also emblazoned with the Israeli flag, after multiple students and staff complained about it. The principal, Neal Singh, allegedly told Levy the shirt was "politically explosive," according to court documents. Levy, who teaches English as a second language, said he'd also been reprimanded over a pro-police "Back the Blue" shirt he'd previously worn.

Levy's filing with the Department of Education's Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity complains that Singh

(continued on next page)

Dry Bones

Normal Levels



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photo: New York Post/screenshot



The "Proud Zionist" T-shirt

"has permitted other staff to wear attire with 'Black Lives Matter' [and] 'Feminist'" printed on it. "His attempt to threaten and intimidate

me is anti-Semitic," Levy wrote. In a statement to the *Post*, a spokesperson for the Department of Education said that Singh's "request followed complaints from students and staff and is consistent with [DOE] policies around political neutrality in schools."

Social-Media Campaign Mocks "Angry" Israelis Article

JNS.org

A viral social-media campaign poking fun at *The New York Times* was recently the top Twitter trend in Israel, even garnering the attention of the nation's official Twitter account.

The newspaper published an article titled, "Whose Promised Land? A Journey Into a Divided Israel." Patrick Kingsley, the paper's Jerusalem bureau chief, used depressing descriptions to depict Israelis and their country. In response, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA), launched a social-media campaign called "#SadSadIsrael."

"The Times's article seemed to be asking for ridicule," said CAMERA analyst Gilead Ini, who started #SadSadIsrael. "After 10 days of traveling throughout the country,

Kingsley somehow only found Israelis who viewed their country as a land of 'tensions,' 'inequities,' 'divisions,' 'unrest,' 'fury,' 'ambivalence,' 'illegitimacy,' 'alienation,' 'injustice,' 'discrimination,' 'bias,' 'abuse,' with 'slums' and 'shabby,' 'tired' towns — and hardly a bright spot to be found."

Israelis have been tweeting joyous pictures of themselves with the satirical hashtag #SadSadIsrael. Photos show them at weddings, restaurants, the beach, bars, concerts, on hikes, and enjoying time with family and friends.

Some responders also noted that Israel was ranked the 12th happiest country in the world by the most recent World Happiness Report, published annually by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

"Kingsley's 'journey,' and the 5,000-word essay that followed, said a lot more about the ideological agenda of *The New York Times* than it did about Israel," Ini added. ★



photo: Twitter/screenshot

#SadSadIsrael Tweet

Second Synagogue Found in Mary Magdalene's Hometown



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY RUTH SCHUSTER (r) Haaretz.com



photo: University of Haifa

Remains of the synagogue in Migdal

To the surprise of archaeologists excavating the Galilean town of Magdala, today known as Migdal, a second synagogue dating to the Second Temple period has been found.

It is the first time two synagogues from that period have been found in a single town. The newly unearthed one is smaller and apparently not as ornate as the first, which was found in 2009, but together they shed new light on the devotion of the people in this Jewish town some 2,000 years ago.

Both synagogues existed during the same period, from about 50 B.C. until the Jewish rebellion in A.D. 67. The two synagogues were dated by other artifacts found at the site, including glassware, pottery and coins, excavation co-director Dina Avshalom-Gorni said.

The ancient town of Magdala, just north of Tiberias along the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, was the home of Mary, known as Magdalene (that is, from Magdala). Later it was the main base for Flavius Josephus — or as he was known at the time, Yosef Ben Matityahu. He was a military leader in the ill-fated rebellion against the Romans in the Galilee that would culminate in the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

The Second Temple period began about 2,500 years ago and ended in A.D. 70, when the Romans looted and destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.

The lifetimes of Jesus and Mary Magdalene were within the Second Temple period. "We can imagine Mary Magdalene and her family coming to the synagogue here, along with other residents [of Magdala], to participate in religious and communal events," Avshalom-Gorni said. She also noted that while the first synagogue had a decorative mosaic floor, the builders of this modest second one settled for a compacted, then plastered, earthen floor.

The first synagogue featured brightly colored frescoes on the walls. The second one had white-plastered walls, though some evidence of wall paintings has

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survived. Both had the same basic plan: a square central meeting hall and two rooms on the side. In both cases, the side room in the southwestern corner had a plastered stone shelf which, archaeologists speculate, may have stored the Torah scrolls.



In both cases, the walls were constructed of local volcanic basalt and limestone. Other artifacts from the time, such as pottery and stoneware vessels, were also made of local material.

Magdala as a town was founded in the Hasmonean period, which began in the 2nd century B.C. Like its contemporary Bethsaida, it was a Jewish fishing village. While not everyone agrees that the ruins found north of Tiberias were in the Magdala mentioned in Scripture, both the Talmud and the 8th century Saint Willibald, who walked around the Sea of Galilee, noted the location of Magdala as being between Tiberias and Capernaum, which fits nicely.

As for the surprise of finding another synagogue in a Second Temple-era Jewish town for the first time, Avshalom-Gorni notes that it is unique, but it isn't shocking. "The more we study this time, the more we realize that synagogues were very common," she explained.

Why might the ancient Jewish village or town of Magdala have needed two synagogues at the same time? Josephus wrote that Magdala had a population of 40,000 and a vast fleet of 230 fishing boats. Some people, however, take issue with the Roman-Jewish historian's veracity in some cases, and this may be wild exaggeration, Avshalom-Gorni suggested. But even if it had only a tenth of that number, a town of 4,000 people was big. And since the synagogues were apart, one in the east in a residential area by the foothills, which is the fancier one, and one in the northern industrial zone, they were likely neighborhood community meeting places.

During the Second Temple period, synagogues would likely have been a modest community center and school. While the people didn't worship and perform rituals as is common now, they still wanted a connection to the great Temple in Jerusalem.

"The fact we have found two synagogues shows that the Jews of the Second Temple period were looking for a place for religious, and perhaps also social, gatherings,"

said Prof. Adi Erlich, head of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa. "The stone bearing a relief of the menorah from the other synagogue [at Magdala] suggests that the local Jews saw Jerusalem as their religious center, and their local activities took place under this centrality," she adds.

The Talmud claims that the Romans razed Magdala because of the people's depravity. Josephus wrote that the Romans tore down the town because of the Jewish rebellion.

The ancient town of Magdala is always a highlight on our [Zola Tours pilgrimages](#). Now we have a second synagogue site to visit. When we can tour the Holy Land again, please come with us! —David ★



Archaeologists working at the excavation site

photo: University of Haifa



Ignoring Jewish Ties to the Temple Mount



BY TOVAH LAZAROFF (r) JPost.com

photo: Temple Mount Administration



Jewish visitors on the Temple Mount

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), by a 129–11 vote, recently approved a resolution that disavowed Jewish ties to the Temple Mount and called it solely by its Muslim name, al-Haram al-Sharif.

The text, referred to as the “Jerusalem resolution,” is part of a push by the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Arab states across the UN system to rebrand Judaism’s most holy site as an exclusively Islamic one.

The United States, which opposed the text, said that the omission of inclusive terminology for the site sacred to three faiths was of “real and serious concern.”

The Temple Mount, located in the heart of Jerusalem’s Old City, is where the ancient Jewish Temple stood 2,000 years ago. It is also the home of the Aksa Mosque compound, which is Islam’s third holiest site.

“It is morally, historically, and politically wrong for members of this body to support language that denies” both the Jewish and Christian connections to the Temple Mount and al-Haram al-Sharif, the U.S. envoy told the UNGA.

The U.S. has not been the only country to voice concern over the lack of inclusive language. A British [UK] envoy said that the resolution “refers to the holy sites in Jerusalem in purely Islamic terms without recognizing the Jewish terminology of Temple Mount.”

“The UK has made clear for many years that we disagree with this approach—and while we welcome the removal of the majority of these references, we are disappointed that we were unable to find a solution to the final reference,” the envoy said.

“The UK has therefore moved our vote today from a ‘yes’ to an ‘abstention.’ If the unbalanced reference had been removed, the UK would have been ready and willing to vote ‘yes,’” he added.

“This should not be misunderstood as a reflection of a change in UK policy toward Jerusalem. Instead, it is an important signal of our commitment

(continued on next page)





to recognizing the history of Jerusalem to the three monotheistic religions.”

The EU [European Union] took a middle-of-the-road stance, welcoming amendments the PA and the Arab groups made to reduce the annual number of some 20 resolutions on Israel that they present to the UNGA for approval.

“The EU reiterates that whenever referring to the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif in the Jerusalem resolution, both terms— Temple Mount and al-Haram al-Sharif— should be used,” an EU representative said.

The same is true for any text relating to Jerusalem, he explained.

“The EU calls on all sides not to deny the historical ties of other religions to the city of Jerusalem and its holy places, thus trying to delegitimize their history,” the envoy stated.

Despite his words, a fair number of EU member states approved the text, including Belgium, France, Spain, and Italy.



photo: Jeremy Shearon

Jewish man prays at the Temple Mount near the Dome of the Rock

Riyad Mansour, Palestinian ambassador to the UN, thanked those who support the Jerusalem text, noting that it was “an appropriate and needed resolution to give hope and support to our people.”

It pushed back at attempts to transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into a “religious confrontation,” Mansour noted, adding that it relied on language on Jerusalem that had already been approved in UN Security Council resolutions.

He called on the UN to accept Palestine as a member state and to hold Israel accountable for its refusal to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines, so that a two-state resolution to the conflict can be implemented.

“We will never accept to continue living under occupation in an apartheid system; we deserve freedom and dignity in our homeland,” Mansour said.



Dry Bones

Anti-Zionists



DryBones.com

Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to the UN, accused the Palestinians of attempting to erase Jewish history.

“The hypocrisy of these resolutions is truly outrageous. A resolution about Jerusalem that does not refer to its ancient Jewish roots is not an ignorant mistake, but an attempt to distort and rewrite history!” Erdan exclaimed in a speech to the UNGA in advance of the vote.

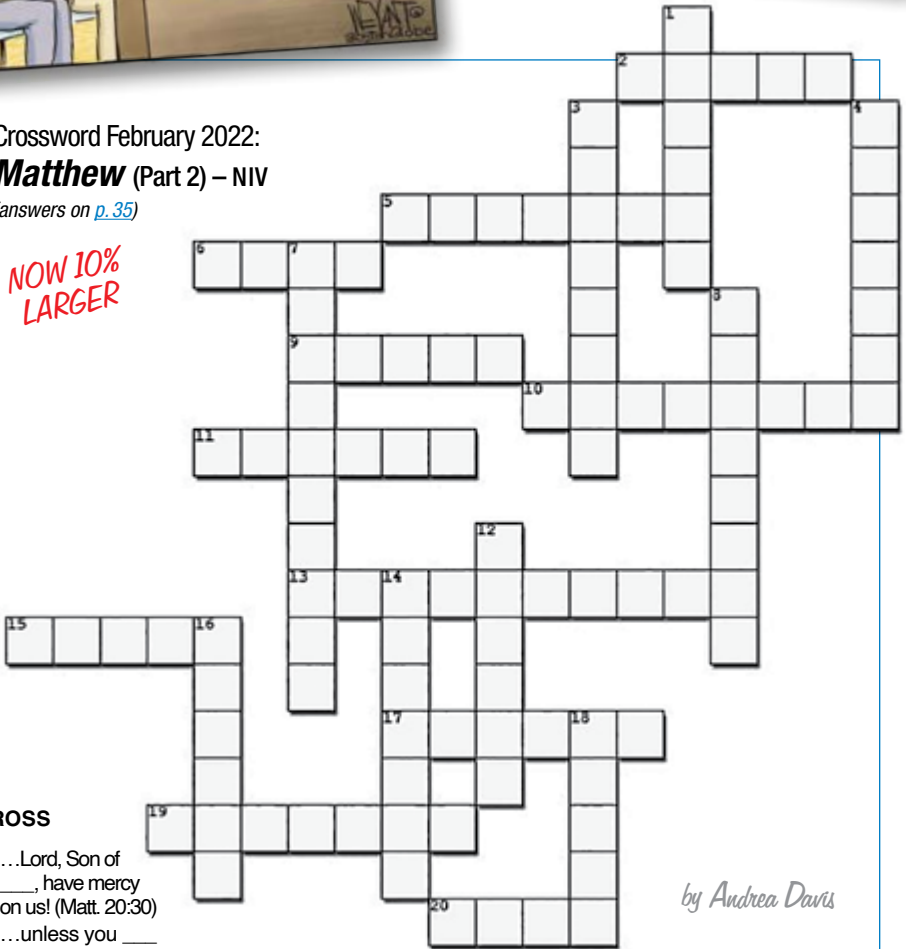
He described how central Jerusalem is to Jewish religious celebrations. “At every Jewish wedding ceremony, the newly married couple stands under the wedding canopy and pledges to never forget their deep Jewish connection to Jerusalem: ‘If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand lose its skill,’ [Ps. 137:5]” Erdan added. ★

Fun and Games



Crossword February 2022: **Matthew** (Part 2) – NIV (answers on p. 35)

**NOW 10%
LARGER**



ACROSS

2. ...Lord, Son of ____, have mercy on us! (Matt. 20:30)
5. ...unless you ____ your brother or sister... (Matt. 18:35)
6. ...on this ____ I will build My church... (Matt. 16:18)
9. Lord, have ____ on my son... (Matt. 17:15)
10. ...with God all things are _____. (Matt. 19:26)
11. ...My house will be called a house of _____. (Matt. 21:13)
13. ...Nothing will be ____ for you. (Matt. 17:20)
15. ...on the ____ day He will be raised to life. (Matt. 17:23)
17. ...they do not practice what they _____. (Matt. 23:3)
19. ...____ is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! (Matt. 21:9)
20. ...There is only One who is _____. (Matt. 19:17)

DOWN

1. For where two or three ____ in My Name... (Matt. 18:20)
3. ...Love your ____ as yourself. (Matt. 22:39)
4. Jesus told them another _____. (Matt. 13:24)
7. ...I have ____ for these people... (Matt. 15:32)
8. ...Let the little ____ come to Me... (Matt. 19:14)
12. ...I was sent only to the lost sheep of _____. (Matt. 15:24)
14. ...A ____ is not without honor... (Matt. 13:57)
16. These are what ____ a person... (Matt. 15:20)
18. He called a little ____ to Him... (Matt. 18:2)

by Andrea Davis



A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22



Gal Gadot's Joke in Hebrew

In an appearance on CBS' *The Late Late Show With James Corden*, Israeli actress Gal Gadot received a challenge from the host: Could she "tell a joke in Hebrew and make Hagar laugh?" (Israeli musician Hagar Ben Ari is a member of the show's house band.)

Gadot said in Hebrew: "A baby is like instant coffee; do you know why? It's easy to make it and it keeps you up all night."

"It's really funny," Ben Ari responded. ★

Dry Bones



Answer Key for February 2022 Crossword (p.34)

Across:

- 2. David
- 5. Forgive
- 6. Rock
- 9. Mercy
- 10. Possible
- 11. Prayer

Down:

- 1. Gather
- 3. Neighbor
- 4. Parable
- 7. Compassion
- 8. Children
- 12. Israel
- 14. Prophet
- 16. Defile
- 18. Child



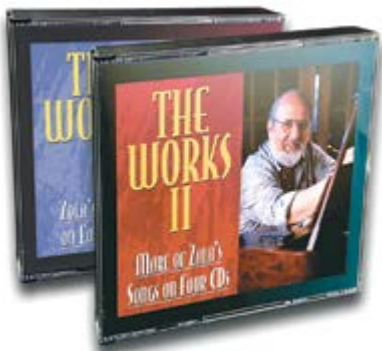
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Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with
 David & Kirsten Hart in FALL 2022!



The Garden Tomb
 Jerusalem



Petra
 Jordan



The Temple Mount
 Jerusalem



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