



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

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Sin Impact God? p.4

Are Modern-Day Believers Still “The Salt of the Earth”?

By Dr. Michael L. Brown / CharismaNews.com

In one of the most famous passages in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said to His disciples (and, by extension, to His followers today), *“You are the salt of the Earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot”* (Matthew 5:13).

But what, exactly, does it mean to be the salt of the Earth? And what does it mean to lose our saltiness?

Many New Testament scholars explain that **one of the main functions of salt in the ancient world, where refrigeration did not exist, was preservation against corruption.**

Applying this to the Lord’s words, one scholar explains: “Jesus’ followers are the saving element of the human race. ... They have a power of preservation which counteracts corruption and decay. ... As salt prevents food from spoiling, so the disciples are to prevent the corruption of morals. The presence

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Americans Becoming Less Pro-Israel, More Pro-Palestinian

JNS.org

While Americans continue to favor the Israelis over the Palestinians, 55% now sympathize with Israelis and 26% with the Palestinians, according to a recent Gallup poll.

That percentage of Americans who side with the Palestinians represents a new high. A survey conducted in February revealed the slight dip in support for Israelis and the increase for the Palestinians.

The poll also found that 77% of Republicans sympathize more with Israelis while only 13% with the Palestinians. Among independents,

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...“The Salt of the Earth”? *continued from cover*

of the disciples delays the corruption of the world and its consequent judgment.”

Others emphasize that just as salt improves the taste of food, so Believers* should “improve the quality of the society in which they live.”

Still others emphasize both characteristics: “The disciples make a purer Earth and make it a better place to live.”

Suffice it to say that our calling to be the salt of the Earth is anything but trivial. If Believers are taken out of the world, corruption, rot, decadence, and madness will only increase. Remove us from the world, and everything falls apart.

But that’s only true if we really are salt — if we are living differently than the world (in moral and spiritual terms) and are functioning as the moral conscience of our society.

New Testament scholar R.V. Tasker (quoted by D.A. Carson) noted, “The point is that, if Jesus’ disciples are to act as a preservative in the world by conforming to Kingdom norms, if they are called to be a moral disinfectant in a world where moral standards are low, constantly changing, or non-existent ... they can discharge this function only if they themselves retain their virtue.”

And that is really the crux of the matter. We can’t fix something else if we ourselves are broken. We can’t prevent the spread of corruption if we ourselves are corrupt. We can’t function as salt if we ourselves have lost our saltiness.

Ironically, salt still looks the same whether it is salty or not, which means that we can deceive ourselves by outward appearance. Outwardly, we may look fine. But what is the state of our souls? What is the quality of our lives? What is the health of our marriages and families? Whom do we resemble more, the world or the Lord?

The truth is that, for more than a generation now, rather than us changing the world by shining the light into dark places, by overcoming evil with good, by winning the lost and making disciples, by separating ourselves from the sin and pollution of the society, the world has largely changed us.

Thank God for Believers who are burning bright and retaining their saltiness. But many are not, which helps explain the current state of our nation. And so, just as “politics is downstream from culture,” in a country where the Christian faith is supposed to be dominant, culture is downstream from the Church.

That means that, if you trace back the moral and spiritual decline of the society, you will find that much of it began among us, the professing followers of Jesus.

That’s also why we are so often ridiculed, mocked, denigrated, and even ignored. It is not so much because we are being persecuted for our faith as much as **we are being “trampled underfoot” (as Jesus noted) because we have lost our saltiness.**

Of course, Jesus is making a spiritual point rather than discussing the qualities of salt. But if salt can lose its saltiness (certainly this is true spiritually speaking), what do we make of the Lord’s question, “How can it be made salty again?”

In natural terms, there is nothing that can be done. Salt that lost its saltiness has no useful purpose.

Thankfully, the whole Bible calls straying Believers to turn back to God in repentance. As we do, the Lord Himself forgives, restores, and renews.

“God, make us salty again!” The fate of America depends on it. ☆

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



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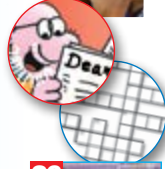
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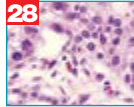
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Our Hands Are Stained with Blood book (Now updated!)

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.

Please see the [Michael Brown article on cover](#).

How Does Sin Impact God?

BY DR. NICHOLAS J. SCHASER / IsraelBibleCenter.com

Every Bible reader knows that human beings feel the consequences of their sins: Cain's iniquity led to his estrangement (Gen. 4:9–14); humanity's wickedness caused earthly corruption that ended with the flood (Gen. 6:5); and Paul says that *"the wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23). The negative influence of sin is a huge problem for people. But is human sin also a problem for God? In Scripture, sinful actions generate physical burdens that weigh down human beings. These sins can become so heavy that people alone cannot carry them, and God takes on the burden in Heaven. This divine sin-bearing provides the precedent for Jesus' shouldering the weight of sin on behalf of humanity.

Cain and Pharaoh

Cain was the first Biblical figure to experience sin as a burden. After murdering Abel, *"Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear'"* (Gen. 4:13). Though most moderns might interpret Cain's problem as a psychological one — akin to stress or grief being emotionally overwhelming — the Hebrew word *nasa* describes a physical reality: rendered literally, Cain complained that the weight of his "sin is too big to carry." Even



Detail of *Egyptians Ask Moses to Depart*, engraving (1866) by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) from *Doré's English Bible*

Cain After Killing His Brother Abel (1896), sculpture by Henri Vidal (1864–1918), Tuileries Garden in Paris, France

the stubborn Pharaoh of the Exodus knew that transgression engenders a life-threatening burden. When God sent the plagues against Egypt, Pharaoh appealed to Moses and Aaron, *"Forgive [nasa — bear, carry, take] my sin... and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me"* (Ex. 10:17). Sin is a death-dealing force that enters the world and overloads humanity.

Ezra and the Prophets

When iniquities become too numerous for human shoulders to

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photo credit: Joe deSouza (Wikimedia Commons)



hold, God feels the impact. When Ezra told God that *"our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the Heavens"* (Ezra 9:6), he was not speaking in hyperbole. The build-up of human sin can become so substantive that God must intercede to lift the load. In Isaiah, God declared, *"I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts... have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them"* (Isa. 1:13–14). According to Jeremiah, the Babylonian exile occurred because *"the LORD could no longer bear your evil deeds and abominations.... Therefore your land has become a desolation"* (Jer. 44:22).



Detail of *Ezra Kneels in Prayer*, engraving (1866) by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) from *Doré's English Bible*

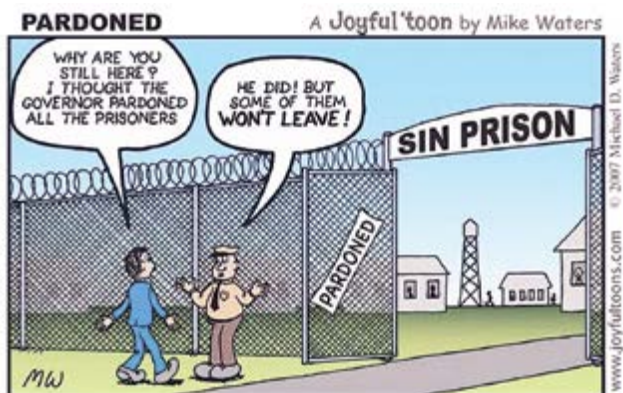


Detail of *Crucifixion of Jesus*, engraving (1866) by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) from *Doré's English Bible*

been healed" (1 Pet. 2:24; see also Isa. 53:4–5). Peter's thinking recalls God's experience of bearing iniquity as noted in Israel's Scriptures: sin kills, and the sins that Jesus carried on the Cross caused His own death. At Golgotha, the crushing weight of iniquity did its worst. Through Jesus, however, God defeated sin at its own game. ★

Jesus

Based on this divine willingness to take on the burden of sin, it should be no surprise that God's Son, Jesus, confronted this same problem on the Cross. In an allusion to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, Peter explained that Jesus *"bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have*



He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. — COL. 2:13–14 NV

Prophetically Speaking

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



We all desire to hear a good word spoken to us. Comfort, encouragement, and hope spur us on each day. No one wants to hear more doom and gloom. We hear enough discouraging news on a daily basis—inflation, crime, war, and an uncertain future can really deflate us. Tell me something positive, please!

These days many people claim to speak for God. But the empty words of many prosperity prophets who promise financial blessings and supernatural abundance are far different from the truth proclaimed by God's ancient spokesmen to Israel, Judah, and the nations. How do we know who speaks truth and who merely speaks "favorably" (1 Kings 22:13), tickling our ears (Isa. 30:10; 2 Tim. 4:3) for riches (Micah 3:11)?

This year, *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)* will focus on two well-known prophets: Jeremiah and Ezekiel. God called these men to speak His message, which involved more warning than encouragement. But the people of Israel and Judah rejected the warnings and appeals to repent and return to the Lord. They preferred the false prophets who claimed that the status quo was wonderful. But those deceivers spoke *"false visions, divinations, idolatries, and the delusions of their own minds"* (Jer. 14:14).

Though God's true prophets delivered warnings, a thread of hope permeated their messages. Yet it was conditional: *If* the people turned from their wicked actions

and returned to the Lord and His ways, *then* He would welcome them back.

I believe that God speaks through people today. Certainly, He relays messages of hope and encouragement. We must remember, however, that He also conveys rebuke and correction. Thus we must be discerning as we listen.

There's no better prophetic voice to listen to than that of our Lord. The writer of Hebrews emphasized: *"in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe"* (Heb. 1:2). God continues to speak to us through His Word, which is *"alive and active"* (Heb. 4:12).

This ministry helps ZLMers hear from the Lord God, know Him through His Son Yeshua, and follow His ways. We offer free resources including our weekly television program *OJR*, the monthly *Levitt Letter*, and www.levitt.com to present God's message across the country and around the globe. Since you value our Bible teaching, would you consider financially supporting our Gospel outreach? Your donation will help many more souls discover our Savior and the Jewish roots of Christianity. Thank you! ✡



The Prophet Ezekiel, engraving by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) from *The Bible Panorama, or The Holy Scriptures in Picture and Story* (1891) by William A. Foster



Changes & Challenges

Clayton Herring
Assistant Producer
Berg Productions



We crew members at Berg Productions hope that you have been enjoying the ministry's newest television series, [Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon](#). Can you believe that it has taken us more than four decades to devote a series of programs to the prophet Jeremiah? Perhaps we were afraid it would have been too much of a downer. We anticipated dealing with warnings and judgments, and there were plenty of those. Fortunately, Jeremiah wove substantial messages of hope and restoration between the book's dark clouds.

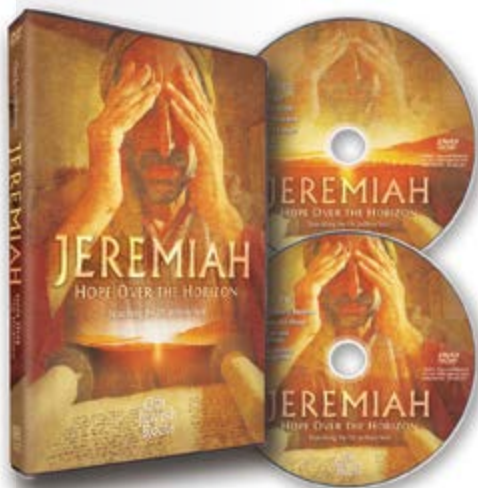


(l to r) Hosts David and Kirsten Hart on the new set with OJR teacher Dr. Jeffrey Seif

from filming in Israel for two years. After we finally arrived in Israel in March 2022, the weather threw us curve balls. Israel is a rather arid country, and rain is almost always a blessing. For a camera crew trying to film for television, however, the rain was not such a good thing; it caused plenty of angst. Nonetheless, we thank the Lord for enabling us to return stateside with stunning footage for our powerful series about the Apostle Peter.

Speaking of challenges, you and I see the economic upheaval all around us. **Inflation and financial uncertainty affect not only each of us individually but also Zola Levitt Ministries.** The ministry was almost forced to severely cut our television production budget until we received an unexpected bequest from a long-term supporter. His planning ahead really helped us bridge the gap for the time being. Please consider including ZLM in your will as well as contributing to our ministerial efforts in the short term. Your contributions are vital for us to continue unveiling the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. We fervently desire to continue bringing light to this dark world (Luke 1:79). We can't thank you enough for your part in this mission from God.

Watch for the debut of **Much Like Peter** toward the end of September. See if you can spot the white caps on the Sea of Galilee, reminiscent of Peter's water walking (Matt. 14:28-29). ☆



Please see program descriptions on [p.20](#).

The debut of this series in May was your first opportunity to see our new studio set. You might recall the studio photos on [page 14 of last month's Levitt Letter](#). The set's construction turned out beautifully. Much of the credit goes to C. Scenic in Dallas for their creativity, flexibility, and professionalism in helping us build it almost from scratch. We were concerned that the change of surroundings might detract from the natural conversation between David, Kirsten, and Jeff. Thankfully, they felt it was even more comfortable than the previous set.

In the spring of 2020, we were less than two weeks away from filming a series on Peter. So it was a monumental setback when COVID prevented us



The Emergence of Arab Zionism?

BY MELANIE PHILLIPS / JNS.org



credit: Josh Haslam

A Bahraini man chats with an Israeli at Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda outdoor market, October 2021

While Western liberals and the U.N. Human Rights Council double down in their determination to demonize, delegitimize, and destroy Israel, support for that beleaguered country is coming from a surprising direction—the emergence of Arab Zionists.

In *The Jewish Chronicle*, Jonathan Sacerdoti reported that a number of Arab influencers, with hundreds of thousands of followers on social media, have emerged to promote Israel and support the Jews.

A Syrian blogger began a video begging the Israeli government to “occupy” the whole of Syria to save more lives. “The Golan Heights is the only area in Syria that hasn’t been destroyed and had its people killed,” he said.

In another video, an Arab academic was moved to tears by visiting Jerusalem’s Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem, promising: “Today, together, Muslims, Jews, and Christians, we promise you, it will never happen again.”

It appears that something hitherto suppressed in Arab society has now been unlocked. **The Abraham Accords have liberated Gulf Arabs to declare their support for Israel and the Jews.*** Largely it’s the result of a revolt

against the religious extremism that the Arabs exported to the rest of the Islamic world.

This extremism developed after World War I. When world leaders carved up the Middle East following that war and the related collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Arab Muslims originally supported the return of the Jews to their ancestral home in Palestine.

In 1918, Sherif Hussein, the guardian of the Islamic Holy Places in Arabia, referred to the Jewish people as Palestine’s “original sons” returning to their “sacred and beloved homeland.”

This support, however, was transformed into murderous enmity by the rise of Islamism—extremist political Islam. This arose in the early years of the last century as another result of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, which had hitherto held political Islam in check.

The godfather of Islamism was the Egyptian Sayed Qutb, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. He drew with fanatical literal-mindedness upon Islamic religious texts and their theological enmity toward the Jews. According to the scholar of Islam Robert Wistrich, Qutb’s invective

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* Please see p. 7 of the February 2022 *Levitt Letter*



turned anti-Semitism into the marker of Islamist movements. Throughout mainstream Muslim society, it made the Jews into a metaphor for Western domination and immorality, and a threat to the integrity of Islam.

Islamism was imported by the British into Mandate Palestine in the 1920s and 1930s in the person of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini. His virulent anti-Semitism merged Islamic theological enmity towards the Jews with Nazi racial Jew-hatred.

Now, however, led by the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Gulf states are turning away from Islamism as a losers' charter.

Islamists view modernity as the lethal enemy of Islam and believe that behind modernity are the Jews. To bin Salman, by contrast, the Arabs must embrace modernity because the Islamist alternative will return them to tribal desert primitivism. And Israel is the key to modernity, as well as protection against their common Shia Islamist foe in Tehran.

Of course, these reformist Arab voices are still few. While many Muslims shun political Islam, their theology remains imbued with a hatred of the Jews and the call to *jihad*, holy war against them.

Nevertheless, these open expressions of Arab friendship towards Israel indicate a significant movement of the geopolitical tectonic plates. The "Palestinians" are now being abandoned by their erstwhile Arab allies.

Palestinianism is imbued with Islamism. This doesn't just apply to Hamas, whose charter channels Qutb and holds the Jews responsible for all the ills of the world. It also applies to the supposedly moderate Palestinian Authority, whose leader Mahmoud Abbas openly venerates the Islamist al-Husseini, who was Hitler's ally in the Middle East and

committed to a "Final Solution" of the Jews throughout the region.

Yet despite these baleful facts, the West persists in believing that Israel is the problem.

It's no coincidence that this inversion of truth and lies is redolent of Communist brainwashing. The Soviet Union used the Palestinian cause to subvert the West's grasp of reason and knock it off its moral compass. To achieve its objectives, the Kremlin devised Operation SIG, a disinformation campaign intended "to turn the whole Islamic world against Israel and the U.S."

But it also needed to target the West itself. It did this by transforming the Arab war of extermination against the Jewish state into something the West would support: a campaign for self-determination by the oppressed.

So in the 1960s, in cahoots with Egyptian-born Yasser Arafat, it created a fictitious Palestinian Arab identity.

As Arafat said, "The Palestinian people have no national identity. I, Yasser Arafat, man of destiny, will give them that identity through conflict with Israel."

The culturally demoralized West has been totally taken in by all this.

As an increasing number of Arabs realize that Israel is not their enemy but their indispensable ally, the Palestinians' last remaining hope is the West's obsessive animus against Israel and the Jews.

The war of extermination against Israel is the unfinished business of both Nazism and communism. Yet Western Israel-bashers can't see how Islamism has fused both these murderous systems in an onslaught not just against Israel but against the West itself.

While the Arab world increasingly turns its face towards survival and the Jewish people, the West remains intent upon marching in the opposite direction. ☆

Now, however,
... the Gulf states
are turning away
from Islamism as
a losers' charter.





Classic Zola

My People Are Destroyed

by Zola Levitt
from 1990
32 years ago



source: Screen capture from documentary video Saddam Hussein: The Truth (www.military-stuff.org)

Saddam Hussein

The Old Testament warns us: "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*" (Hosea 4:6). There are two massive populations today who are suffering from a media blockade of the truth; two nations that are worried and misinformed. I refer to the everyday citizens of Iraq, who can't get truth because of their government, and the ordinary citizens of the U.S., who can't get truth because of their mass media.

Distorting the News

In a sense, the Iraqi situation is more understandable; it's a matter of life and death for dictatorial regimes to distort the news. But profit is the motivation for distortion for American television networks and newspapers. Disasters, fear, and bloodletting appeal to people even when they are not really happening. Snake oil sellers want to address the largest possible crowds.

The following letter, which ran in *The Jerusalem Post* recently, really touched me.

To the editor of *The Jerusalem Post*:

Sir,

The serious decline in tourism to Israel because of the Gulf crisis is having a negative effect on our economy and is also affecting the image of Israel in the mind of American Jewry. When we mailed our annual Rosh Hashanah billing to our membership, we included the following urgent suggestion:

The ongoing gross distortions and exaggerations of the U.S. media regarding Israel and the current crisis in the Gulf are having an extremely detrimental effect on tourism to Israel. The media portrays Israel as living in a state of crisis. It is urgent that we do our best to correct the impression that we [in Israel] are living in the middle of a "battle zone." The truth is that we go about our lives here in a normal manner watching the events and developments in the Gulf just as the Americans do.

Neither we nor Israel have the funds to counteract the distortions

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portrayed in the U.S. media. There is one route, however, which does not cost great sums of money, but which can effectively give the U.S. public the real picture.

We can send letters to our friends and families, and more important, to our hometown newspapers, telling them that there are no battles or wars taking place in Israel. We can let them know that life is normal, with families preparing for the holidays, taking vacations, and relaxing at the beach.

We call upon all Americans living in Israel to send such letters without delay, particularly to their hometown newspapers. The effectiveness of such letters appearing in daily and Anglo-Jewish newspapers throughout the United States cannot be overstated.



courtesy:
San Diego
Union-Tribune

Misinformation Enslaves; Truth Frees

Why is it important that people like you and me know the facts of a situation like this one? It is so we can make accurate decisions. We are constantly being persuaded that foreign relations are in the hands of the White House and that wars are in the hands of the Congress, thus we forget that the president and the Congress are in our hands. We the people run America, according to the guarantees of our Constitution. The trouble with misinformation is that we the people get out of touch with how to operate our national affairs. We trust President Bush, on the whole, but we should never forget that he works for us. Moreover, with correct information about any foreign or domestic situation, we could better inform or correct him as to our wishes for our own destinies.

The Iraqis have no such guarantees. However, as the whole world knows, they could get rid of their troubles with one bullet. In all of the Arab nations, power is not elected, but seized. Dictators rule by their whims, not by the will of the governed.

It may be a feature of some future peaceful world that the Arab people take more of an interest in ruling their own nations so that the whole world is not threatened with going up in flames every time a lunatic tyrant grabs the royal palace.



Detail from *Sermons and Deeds of the Antichrist*,
Luca Signorelli, 1501, Orvieto Cathedral in
Umbria, Italy

What is the point of all this political discussion? How does it affect our spiritual lives? The answer lies in the career of the antiChrist, whose prime product is misinformation. From his phony love of peace to his alleged knowledge of international finance, this dark prince will simply fool people the world over. If we are preparing for the Tribulation period now, then our own media, operated by some of our most untruthful fellow citizens, is setting up the antiChrist's major weapon.

Lies will one day enslave the world, but as the coming King said, "*The truth shall make you free...*" (John 8:32). ☆



Q. What is Theology?

Dr. Todd Baker
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A. Theology comes from two Greek words: *Theos*, meaning “God,” and *logos*, meaning “word or study.” Essentially, theology is the study of God or the study of God’s Word seeking to know the God of the Bible.

Humans cannot know God unless He supernaturally reveals Himself. And no one can truly know God apart from His revelation through His Son — Jesus Christ. As Jesus stated, *“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father.... Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him”* (Matthew 11:27).

While we can never fully comprehend all there is to know about God during life on this Earth, we learn about Him through Scripture. Studying God’s written Word — all 66 books of the Bible — is essential to understanding theology. Through the Bible, we discover that God is the eternal I AM (Exodus 3:14), the one God who reveals Himself in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:21–22). In Scripture we also discover that God is completely holy, self-existing, self-determining, and sovereign over all.

The aim of theology is to know this Holy God, to believe in Him for salvation, and to love and serve Him so that He will be glorified in our lives.

A right theology provides the foundation on which to build an abundant life. On the other hand, a wrong theology leads to a hopeless life without direction or purpose.

Christian theology seeks to understand the God of the Bible through the central Person of Jesus Christ, God’s salvation for humanity, and the role of Believers in God’s plan.

The aim of theology is to know this Holy God, to believe in Him for salvation, and to love and serve Him so that He will be glorified in our lives.

There are several categories under the umbrella of Christian theology:

- 1. Biblical theology** is the study of the doctrines of the Bible, based on their chronological and historical background.
- 2. Systematic theology** refers to organized structures or systems. It formulates orderly, rational, and coherent accounts of major Biblical topics including *eschatology* (the study of End Times), *soteriology* (the study of salvation), *pneumatology* (the study of God’s Holy Spirit), *ecclesiology* (the study of the Church), *hamartiology* (the study of sin), and others.
- 3. Historical theology** focuses on the development and formation of Christian doctrine throughout the history of the Church.
- 4. Dogmatic theology** deals with teachings, dogmas, or articles of faith that have been formulated by a church or ecclesiastical group. Some of these developed in response to problems or heresies that emerged through the centuries of Christian history.

Theology begins and ends with the Bible, God’s Holy Word.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16–17 ☆





50th Gospel Outreach to Israel

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader

On our third day in Israel in March 2022, August Rosado and I were preparing to leave Netanya. Before checking out of the hotel, **Liad** came to assist us with our luggage and a large box of Hebrew Bibles. August and I explained to him why we distribute the complete Bible that contains both Testaments: The unity of the Testaments is established by the central Person of Biblical revelation — *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Jesus the Messiah).

Liad was genuinely curious and wanted to know more. We gave him a Hebrew Study Bible and pointed out *“those very things the prophets and Moses said would come — that the Messiah would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to gentiles”* (Acts 26:22–23). One prophecy we showed Liad was Isaiah 53. This foretold the suffering and atoning death of the Messiah for the salvation of Israel and the world. We noted that this was perfectly fulfilled in Yeshua’s suffering and death.



Todd and Liad

After hearing this truth, Liad responded that he wanted to read the Scriptures as soon as he got home from work! We thank the Lord Jesus and His Spirit of truth for working through us to whet Liad’s appetite for God’s Word. We pray that he


will know Yeshua — the crucified and risen Messiah who came to redeem Jews and gentiles who believe in Him.



Todd and Mary

The following day we had a great day of ministry in Tiberias. We distributed five Hebrew Bibles with Messianic Gospel tracts. **Mary** was a sweet Jewish lady we met in a gift shop near the Sea of Galilee. The Lord Jesus performed almost half of His recorded miracles in that area.

Mary appreciated our unwavering support for Israel. August and I told her that the reason for it was that God chose the Jewish people to give His Word and His Son — Yeshua the Messiah — to the world (Romans 9:4–5). Then I shared with Mary my testimony of how the risen Jesus saved me at age 18 from atheism and drug addiction. He gave me the free gift of salvation with a new life. I also explained how that change left me with an unquenchable love for God’s Chosen People.

August and I said that this love brings us back to Israel each year so we can share the Good News about the Messiah with God’s people. Mary listened attentively as we explained that the Messiah is Jesus the Galilean, who is revealed in both Testaments of the Hebrew Bible. She happily accepted our gift of a study Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts that focus on this crucial saving truth! 

ZLM's Expendables (for Yeshua)

Directed by Sylvester Stallone, *The Expendables* (2010) is a star-studded action film about a CIA operative who hires a team of elite mercenaries. Portraying the past-their-prime soldiers of fortune are aging actors including Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren, Bruce Willis, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. In the film, they are tasked to overthrow a Latin dictator who is controlled by a corrupt ex-CIA agent. Despite overwhelming odds, they complete their mission and live to reprise their roles in two sequels.

The word *expendable* can refer to an item that's consumed in service (like a pencil) or to someone or something expected to be replaced rather than rescued. In a sense, we Believers are compelled to be expendable—to die to ourselves daily (Luke 9:23) as we follow our Lord who gave Himself for the salvation of all humanity. ZLM is also, of course, expendable—all to God's glory.

This ministry's crew and that of Berg Productions are mostly baby boomers (born 1946–1964). Like many classic movies' aging heroes, we consistently fulfill our mission though we are not as spry as we once were. While boomers probably comprise the bulk of ZLMers, members of Generation X (born 1965–1980) are also tuning into our Bible teaching, which emphasizes the meat of the Word.

As each year passes, society becomes increasingly secular while income and wealth concentrate among a shrinking minority. One significant result for our outreach is relying on progressively fewer donors while our expenses increase. More than ever before, bequests—financial donations given through a will—are bridging the gap between our regular income and our costs to produce and distribute *Our Jewish Roots* and the *Levitt Letter*.

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



During my 33 years as this ministry's business manager, I've minimized fund appeals, partly to avoid "donor fatigue," but more importantly to dignify the privilege of doing the Lord's work. While we seek to limit fund requests, this news magazine's Bulletin Board offers free estate planning pamphlets each month, including:

- *Q&A About Estate Planning*
- *37 Things People "Know" About Wills that Aren't So*
- *How to Make a Will that Works.*

Feel free to request one or more.

As you and I are called to be expendable, so are the assets our Lord entrusts to our individual stewardship. **An easy way to provide for this ministry's continuing work in the event of your ascension is to make Zola Levitt Ministries a beneficiary** of bank accounts, IRAs, brokerage accounts, life insurance policies, etc. While wills typically prioritize nearest and dearest family members, designating particular assets to our outreach is a convenient way to ensure that your legacy helps to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20). ☆



ZLM Bulletin Board



Do Jewish Lives Matter?

Apparently not to a former Kent, Washington police officer who received \$1.5 million after being investigated for anti-Semitic behavior. Assistant Chief Derek Kammerzell, who frequently joked about the Holocaust, **had an emblem on his office door displaying oak leaves and diamonds, signifying a high-ranking Nazi SS officer.** After complaints against him in September 2020, Kammerzell was given a two-week unpaid leave, which outraged members of the Jewish community. Later he was offered the huge settlement to resign. Once, when photographed with a public figure, Kammerzell said he had raised his hand in a "heil Hitler sign as a joke."



Duplicates? Moving?

Do you receive two or more copies of our newsletters? Please let us know so that we can unclutter your mailbox and cut costs. (And please pass that extra copy on to a friend.) Also, if you are moving and give us your new address a month or more in advance, you won't miss an issue.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Is Your Will Obsolete? This stewardship pamphlet begins with five examples of how a will can become just as obsolete as yesteryear's technology — with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. Our pamphlet also reviews four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, or residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #4.

Israel Bonds

Former Israeli Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon** (*r*) noted, "Purchasing an Israel Bond shows your solidarity and helps finance the future of the Jewish State. More than just a good investment, it allows us to invest in critical infrastructure projects." By purchasing a bond, you become a partner in building what is truly God's country. Warren Buffett stated, "I believe Israel is going to be around forever." For info on rates, please contact: Israel Bonds, 641 Lexington Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10022, (800) 229-9650, www.IsraelBonds.com



"COME HOME!"

**Zola
Tours
to Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection

The Blessing of Godly Sorrow

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



שִׁמָּה דְּמַעְתִּי בְּנֹאדְךָ הֲלֹא בְּסִפְרְךָ
see'-mah deem-ah-tee' ve-noh-de'-kha ha-loh' be-seef-rah-te'-kha

are they not in Your book? in Your bottle my tears store

“Store my tears in Your bottle;
are they not in Your book?”

- Psalm 56:8

“Godly sorrow works repentance (teshuvah) unto salvation” (2 Cor. 7:10).

This deep sorrow is more than just sadness or regret over sin or past wrongdoing. Godly sorrow expresses inner poverty, being “poor in spirit” (Matt. 5:3). In this we realize that our sin is not something out of character, as if it did not really come from us, but rather is a dreadful sickness of the soul (Jer. 17:9), an inner power or corrupting force from which we need divine intervention and deliverance (Jer. 17:14).

We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners.

The Puritans prayed for the “gift of tears” — the blessing of experiencing true repentance before God. They asked God for help because doing *teshuvah* — really doing it as opposed to just thinking we did — requires a miracle, a profound change of direction, a new way of seeing.

Generally, our lives are a tangled web of deceit, self-deception, ignorance, folly, and so forth. Often when we are confronted with a particular sin, we quickly rationalize and even deny our responsibility. But this neither relieves us of the blame nor of the consequences of our sin. Sometimes it takes years to truly understand the depth of

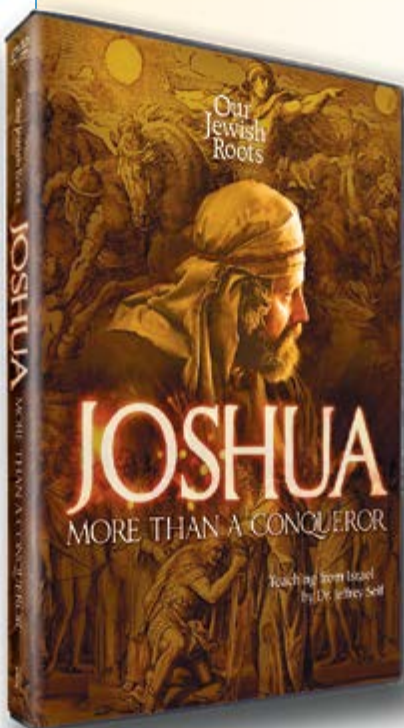
our inner corruption, the sickness of our souls, and the ways we deceive ourselves by making excuses for the pain we have brought to others.

How long has it been since you have wept over your sinful condition? When have you collapsed in on yourself, confessing the horror and revulsion over your sad and desperate soul? Do you feel in your bones the awfulness of your sinful life? Or are you quick to make excuses for your wretchedness? Do you find fault in others as you seek to justify your own hardness of heart? Do you harbor secret resentment that enables you to hold on to your sickness? Making excuses, seeking to justify sin, or harboring resentment are “worldly sorrows” that only produce death (2 Cor. 7:10).

We may give lip service that we are sinners, but do we truly feel the grief and weight of our sin? Do we abhor our sinful nature and “*repent in dust and ashes*” (Job 42:6)? “*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted*” (Matt. 5:4). Dear friend, how can God wipe away every tear from your eyes in the next world if you have not wept in this one?

O pray for the gift of tears. ☆





Joshua: More than a Conqueror

DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

This eight-part series (with Bearded Bible Brother Joshua in the title role) explores Joshua's rise from dependable apprentice to faithful leader of Israel. Dr. Jeffrey Seif offers valuable leadership lessons from corresponding Holy Land locations. Following dramatic re-enactments from Joshua's life, David and Kirsten Hart discuss each lesson's meaning and application with theologian Dr. Seif.

At Sinai We meet Joshua with other recently freed Hebrew slaves at the foot of Mount Sinai, waiting for Moses to descend with God's laws. Joshua's years of leadership training begin as he apprentices with Moses.

The Spy Twelve men are sent to investigate Canaan. Only Joshua and Caleb return with hopeful accounts while the other ten report pessimistically.

At the Jordan Joshua succeeds Moses as leader of the Israelites as they prepare to cross the Jordan River to battle for the Promised Land. God demonstrates that He will be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

At Jericho The first battle for the land of Canaan occurs at a fortified city. Joshua proves his faith by following God's instructions for attacking Jericho. The Lord miraculously brings down the walls, and all the Israelites join the battle.

At Ai Disobedience after the victory at Jericho leads to Israel losing the second battle in conquering Canaan. In spite of failure and disappointment, Joshua shows leadership by following God's instructions to learn from the past and focus on the future that God has planned for Israel.

The Gibeonites Because of deception, Joshua's integrity is severely tested when he faces the decision to either break his vow or keep it under false pretenses with negative long-term consequences. We, too, face deceivers determined to trick us, and we need to pray to the Lord for discernment.

At Shiloh The conquest of the land of Canaan is nearing its end. The Israelites have subdued the south and turn north to put down the last vestiges of resistance. The Tabernacle of the Wilderness comes to rest in Shiloh, where it will stand for over three centuries.

At the End Joshua leaves the legacy of a good soldier and leader of Israel, full of faith in God. Divine strategies exist that help today's Believers become victors and not victims as we seek to follow the Lord's will and direction for our lives.





ORDER FORM

ZLM PRODUCTS PARTIAL LISTING

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

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___	Israel, My Promised (p. 36)	\$4	___
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Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (Barton) (pictured)	\$8	___
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___	The Bulletproof George Washington (Barton) (pictured) ..	\$9	___
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___	NEW! Jeremiah (p. 20)	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	NEW! Jerusalem Magnets (ABC) (p.23) (set of 3 different designs)	\$12	_____
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___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____

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Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	I Call You Friend (Goetz) (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$14	_____
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Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon

DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

Known as the weeping prophet, Jeremiah was assigned to warn his countrymen of the imminent judgment and deportation at the hands of the Babylonians. Nonetheless, a message of hope and deliverance is woven throughout Jeremiah's writings. This nine-part series features Bible teaching by Dr. Jeffrey Seif, dramatic reenactments by Israeli actors, commentary from Dr. Michael Brown, and applications in studio discussions with David and Kirsten Hart.

Young Man's Visions The Babylonian war machine was coming to Judah. The Lord chose a young Jeremiah to be His prophet and to deliver the call to return to the ways and values that God specified in His Word. Israel's culture, like America's, had veered off the path and was about to reap the consequences.

Sounding the Alarm Idolatry was rampant, so the God of Israel promised destruction for the people of Judah who were living in sin. Jeremiah sounded the alarm, but no one listened. Likewise, many of those living around us today refuse to admit their sin or turn to the Lord.

Corruption and Closed Minds Lies and greed corrupted Judah's leaders, much to Jeremiah's dismay. He wept when they believed false promises of peace and rejected God's justice, righteousness, and truth.

Faith Abandoned and Reimagined Jeremiah's message to repent went unheeded. Consequently, judgment came to those who had abandoned the Lord. Jeremiah took comfort in knowing that following destruction, restoration would come through the New Covenant.

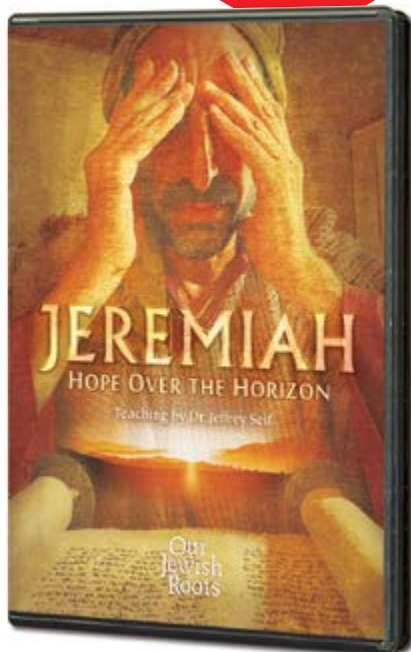
No Escape Jeremiah relentlessly proclaimed God's message. The Babylonians were coming to destroy Judah and deport its citizens. They relied on political alliances for their security. The Lord, however, had withdrawn His protection, so catastrophe was inevitable.

Promises Made Brighter days were coming when Judah's iniquity would be forgiven. God would save His people from captivity and return them to the Promised Land. He promised to write His Law on their hearts and remember their sins no more.

Ruin and Renewal Speaking the truth can bring trouble from those who don't want to hear it. Jeremiah experienced persecution, yet he grieved to see sin's devastating effects on God's people. The same God who brought ruin would also bring renewal, through Yeshua the Messiah.

Hope and a Future Jeremiah records God's promise to deliver His people from captivity after 70 years. Later, the Lord will cause a branch to emerge from David; He will bring justice and righteousness to the Earth. All people in Messiah are grafted into this tree.

Jeremiah in Retrospect This final program features an interview with author and radio host Dr. Michael Brown. Dr. Jeffrey Seif subsequently discusses applications from the life and writings of Jeremiah.



Please see the [OJR Production Update on p. 7](#).

Be a Blessing and Be Blessed!



One of the most memorable experiences I have had in Israel came after crossing the Israeli border from Jordan after a day visiting fascinating Petra. While waiting outside the security checkpoint on the Israeli side, I talked with a female border agent. She asked where I was from, and I replied, "Texas." Then she asked why I was in Israel. I explained that as a Believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and His Son Yeshua, I believe what the Bible says — that Israel is God's chosen Land and the Jewish people are His Chosen People to reveal God to the world. As such, I love and admire both the country and its people. I told her that I was leading a group of other Believers and that all of us were drawn to the Land to be a blessing to those we encountered.

As I spoke the words that Yeshua laid on my heart, tears welled up in her eyes. I hugged her (with her permission), and added that there are many like-minded Christians around the world who stand with Israel and her people and believe that the Land belongs to them. **She was taken aback by this gentile Christian from America speaking words of love, blessing, and affirmation over her and her highly-contested country.** Most Jews are made to feel like they are the "occupiers" and villains in the Israeli/Palestinian controversy.

She went into the guard house and returned with a box of candied dates, a wonderful delicacy. She insisted that I take them. I was overwhelmed to receive such a sweet gift just for speaking the love and grace of our Savior over His Land and His people.

While I don't recall her name, I still pray to my Savior for her; He knows her by name. I pray that she will know His great love and plan for her, His Land, and the rest of His people.



A member of the Israeli Border Police standing in front of the Western Wall

credit: Police Spokesperson's Unit



After two years of being unable to go to Israel to be a blessing, I invite you to join our tour this fall to discover the divine encounters Yeshua has for you. He will open doors for you to share words or perform acts of blessing for Israel and her people. I assure you that you will be blessed beyond measure, just as Jesus promised:

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

— Luke 6:38

For tour information, please see [page 36](#). It will be my blessing to help you however possible.



Letters to ZLM

Some letters have been edited for space.
For ministry products and TV programs,
visit our [web store](http://www.levitt.com) and [video archives](#).

Letters, emails, and comments from www.levitt.com and [YouTube](#)

Sharing the Gospel

From M.H.: [In a recent Levitt Letter letters section](#), someone felt that there wasn't enough evangelism emphasis at ZLM. I suggest inviting readers to provide testimonies of how they have shared their faith with Jews and gentiles from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament/Tanakh) in a winsome way.

Recently, I was working in an office supply store and a man came in wearing tzitzit (tassels on a prayer shawl) and a kippah (yarmulke or skullcap). He needed 100 folders of all the same color (blue or white) for an event at his Hebrew school. I acknowledged, "Go Israel!" when he mentioned the color preference. Initially, we had trouble finding what he needed. Then the Holy Spirit led us to 100 white folders in bundles of 10. Hallelujah!

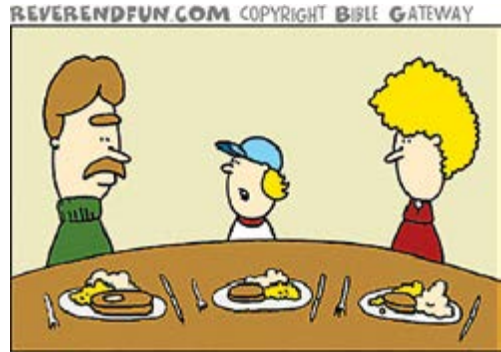
As he prepared to check out, I asked what he did at the Hebrew day school. He was the head of the school and had studied Hebrew in a yeshiva in New York. I shared briefly that I had studied Hebrew in two universities. I noted that I studied under Rav Yeshua (Rabbi Jesus) and that one of my favorite teachings of Yeshua was in the Temple:

Jesus told a parable of how a landowner had a vineyard and the time came to collect payment from the vineyard keepers. First, He sent a servant, and they rejected him. He sent another servant, and they rejected him. Finally, the landowner sent in his own son, saying, "Surely they will respect my son."

However, the vineyard keepers killed the son.

I shared with my new friend how Yeshua then explained from Isaiah/Yesha'yahu that the Stone (*eben*) that the builders rejected has become the Chief Capstone. Thus, Jesus was claiming to fulfill the prophets. The gentleman listened respectfully, then asked about his tax exemption, which I was unable to

(continued on next page)



I KEEP SAYING PLEASE PASS "ME"
BECAUSE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL WE LEARNED
THAT WE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH



authorize. However, my unbelieving manager helped me witness with a tax exemption override.

As the man was leaving, I mentioned my favorite part of studying Hebrew. It involves studying a copy of the first page of the great Isaiah scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls: transcribing, pointing the text, translating it out woodenly, and then smoothing the translation. He said that he would try that with his students and thanked me for the suggestion. May not only the leader but also all the students of that Hebrew day school one day come to faith in Yeshua who fulfilled the Isaiah scroll!

Dear M.H.,

Thank you for sending us your personal witnessing encounter! We would love to hear from others who are sharing the Gospel of Yeshua, especially with the Chosen People. — Kirsten

New OJR Set

From B.B.: The new television set looks great. God bless your ministry!

From R.D.: I love the new set with round table! Thank you for your teachings about Israel.

From B.E.: I love the new set and love *Our Jewish Roots*!

Dear B.B., R.D., and B.E.,

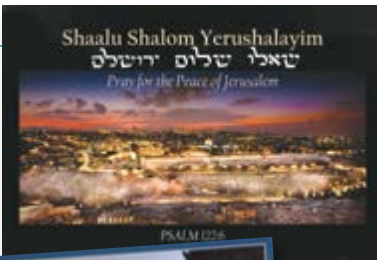
Kirsten and I are also enjoying the new set's look and feel. We've shared your positive feedback with our production team. — David



On the set of *OJR*
(continued on next page)



A



B



Jerusalem magnets

These pro-Israel collectibles are priced for you to acquire by the dozen (or hundred) to share far and wide. Half the fun is discovering new surfaces on which to adhere them for others to discover. Fridges, microwaves, file cabinets, safes, doors, toolboxes, and more. All three photos are Ken Berg originals, shot with the keen eye of a Believer and television producer who has frequently visited Israel for more than four decades. Full color; 4.5" x 3". Beautiful!

A "[Shaalu Shalom Yerushalayim](#)"

B "[Pray for the peace of Jerusalem](#)"

C "[The Lord is King Forever](#)"

C



Second Generation

From D.C.: My dad always watched and supported Zola Levitt Ministries. I am the second generation, and I'm working on the third and fourth! **No matter the name of the TV program, the content is still the same.** If we Christians would stop focusing on the trivial and focus on what really matters, we would be a people right and ready for Jesus' coming!



Dear D.C.,

It warms my heart to know you're a "second generation" ZLM watcher, reader, and supporter. David, Jeff, and I do our best to make Scripture — and particularly the glorious Jewish roots of Christianity — relevant for you and your family's next generations. — Kirsten

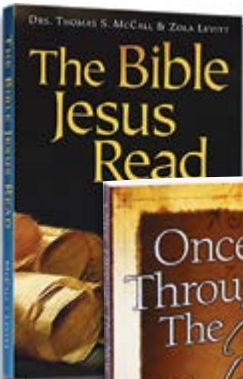
Water Walking

From H.S.: Kirsten's "Water Walking" article ([June Levitt Letter, p. 6](#)) brought me to tears. The passage of Peter walking on the water to the Lord was one of the first that Jesus gave me about trusting Him in life's difficult circumstances. I recalled the lesson, as well, when my husband and I went to Israel on a Zola Tour in 2010. Dr. Jeffrey Seif was our guide, and Zvi Rivai was our Israeli tour guide. We sailed on the Sea of Galilee while Jewish Believers sang praises to God in English and Hebrew. What a glorious memory!

I'm sending a donation to help with your television production. Thank you for your service to the Lord.

Dear H.S.,

I'm so thankful to hear how Peter's walking-on-water story moved you. We
(continued on next page)



The Bible Jesus Read book

by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

A popular explanation of the Old Testament, featuring Scripture's "hidden plot." Relevant to all who want to understand the beginning of God's plan and the roots of the Church on Earth.

Once Through the New Testament book

by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

A most readable and clear survey of the New Testament. The theology is understandable and treated with thoroughness in this compact, but complete, study.

These and many other titles also available as eBooks.

cannot wait for this ministry's Holy Land study tour this October. Sailing on the Sea of Galilee is always a glorious experience. — Kirsten

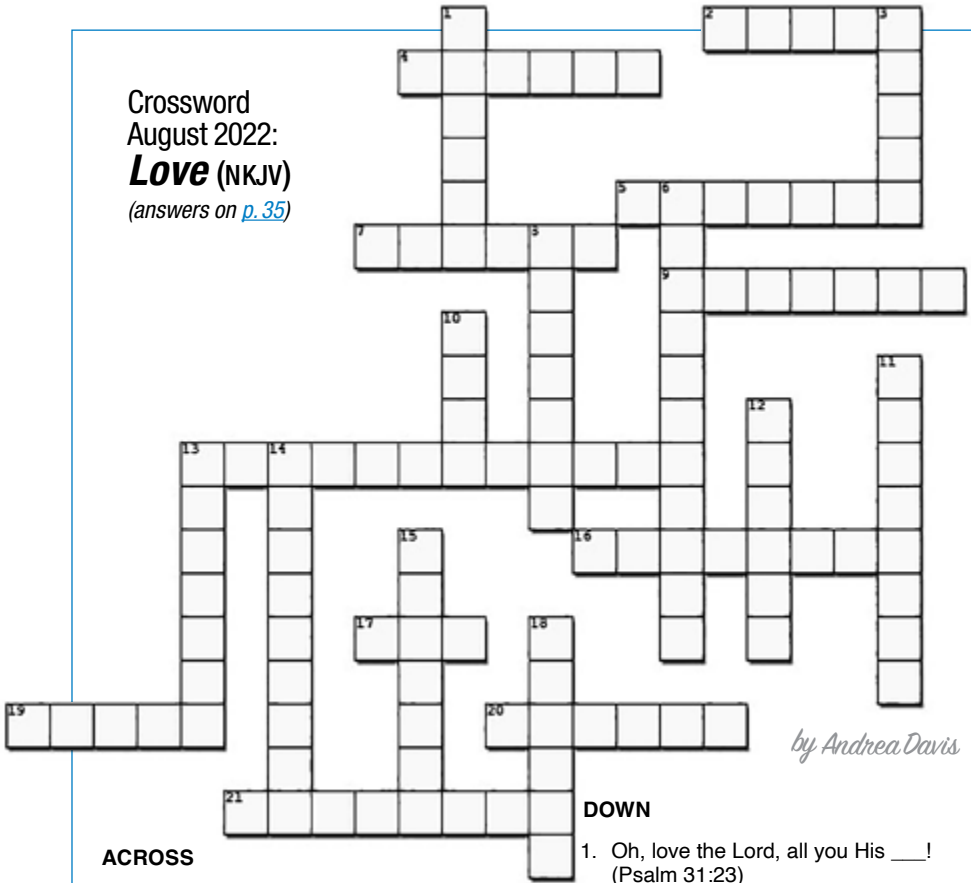
Zola's Music

From C.C.: I bought the *Tell It On The Mountains* CD, and I cry every time I listen to it. Zola's music is magnificent.

Dear C.C.,

It's always an honor for Kirsten and me to record Zola's music. I'm grateful that his musical legacy continues. —David ☆

Crossword
August 2022:
Love (NKJV)
(answers on [p.35](#))



by Andrea Davis

ACROSS

- And now abide ____, hope, love, these three... (1 Cor. 13:13)
- ...And he who loves Me will be loved by My ____ (John 14:21)
- ...but ____ love casts out fear... (1 John 4:18)
- Now Israel loved ____ more than all his children... (Gen. 37:3)
- ...love your ____, bless those who curse you... (Matt. 5:44)
- If you love Me, keep My ____ (John 14:15)
- ...love your ____ as yourself... (Lev. 19:18)
- He who does not love does not know ____ (1 John 4:8)
- For God so loved the ____ (John 3:16)
- A ____ loves at all times... (Prov. 17:17)
- Who shall ____ us from the love of Christ? (Rom. 8:35)

DOWN

- Oh, love the Lord, all you His ____! (Psalm 31:23)
- ...love the Lord your God with all your ____ (Deut. 6:5)
- ...Yes, I have loved you with an ____ love... (Jer. 31:3)
- May they ____ who love you. (Psalm 122:6)
- ...all things work together for ____ to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)
- ...for God loves a ____ giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)
- The king loved ____ more than all the other women... (Esther 2:17)
- These things I ____ you, that you love one another. (John 15:17)
- ...for "love will cover a ____ of sins." (1 Pet. 4:8)
- He who loves his ____ abides in the light... (1 John 2:10)
- ...Because the Lord has loved ____ forever... (1 Kings 10:9)



Water Purification Using UV and LEDs



BY SIMONA SHEMER (r) NoCamels.com



credit: Rafael Ben-Menashe / Tel Aviv University

Professor Hadas Mamane with the SoLED device



Turning on a faucet to get fresh water is not a reality for most of the world. **At least two billion people worldwide use a drinking water source that is contaminated** with feces, according to the World Health Organization.

That's why Professor Hadas Mamane and PhD candidate Dana Pousty, of Tel Aviv University (TAU), worked to develop SoLED. Their patented technology uses LEDs (light emitting diodes) in the ultraviolet (UV) range to disinfect water. Their company, which aims to be a non-profit organization, has received research funds from the Israel Innovation Authority, the Israeli government's support arm.

SoLED is a small, portable device powered by the sun, designed for areas with little to no electricity. It can be connected to any pipeline, filtration system, or water source. As water streams through the device, it is purified by UV light, which offers maximum disinfection. The device is cheaper and easier to use than other water filtration options.

Mamane is head of the Environmental Engineering Program and the Water-Energy Laboratory at TAU's School of Mechanical Engineering. She noted that while our eyes cannot perceive UV light, it's what is absorbed in the genetic material of any cell and makes a change, which does not allow replication.

The researchers spent the last five years researching and testing UV-LED disinfection methods. They worked not only in the lab, but also remotely in India, Tanzania, Morocco, and Mexico.

As water streams through the device, it is purified by UV light, which offers maximum disinfection.

(continued on next page)

One of Mamane's objectives was to provide safe water in low-income settings, especially in rural areas. In her research, she discovered that while many are treating water at the household level, it still harbors pathogens that cause illness and death.

"Other people may feel good about the water they're drinking, but we found in various locations that up to 30% of the water stored in a household setting in a rural area may be contaminated with *E. coli*," she explained.

The challenges of delivering safe drinking water to rural areas include lack of infrastructure, lack of resources to support water treatment (little or no electricity or inadequate piping systems), and relying on the local population for water system maintenance, many of whom are unskilled

or unequipped to do so. Traditional methods of chlorination and filtration also have drawbacks.

"We're not interested in developed countries; we're interested in working with developing communities. We've been told many times that it's not possible to develop an economic model that will work in these communities. I disagree with that," Mamane stressed. ☆

credit: Rafael Ben-Menahe / Tel Aviv University



Professor Mamane (l) and Dana Pousty (r)

"Matzoh" postcards (12-pack)

Imagine receiving greetings on this unique postcard made of *matzoh* (Jewish unleavened bread). **Unfortunately, matzoh is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well**, so we've created a 6" x 6" postcard.

One side is functional—with areas for postage, an address, and a message. The other side quotes Isaiah 53:5—*"He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."*



Discovery May Help Stop Spread of Pancreatic Cancer Cells



BY MAAYAN HOFFMAN (r) JNS.org

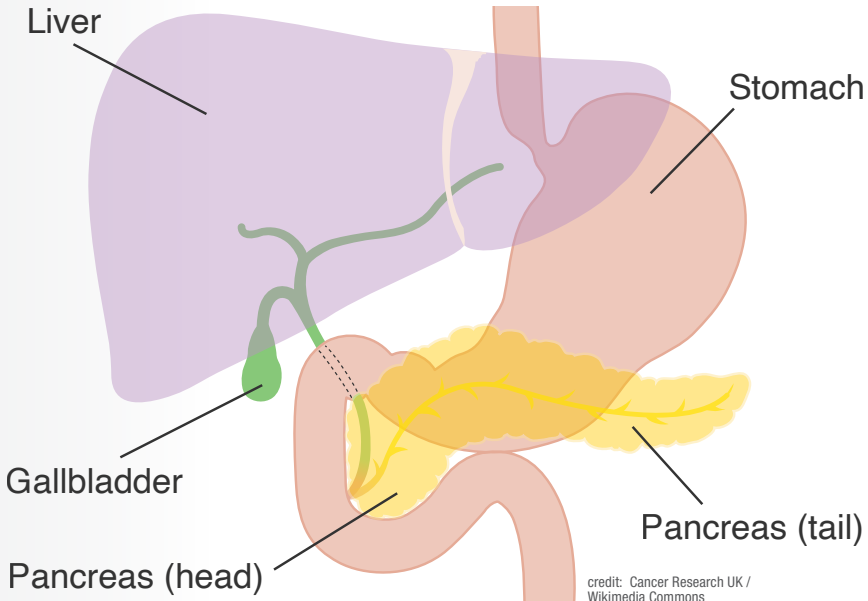


Diagram showing the position of the pancreas



A team of researchers from Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center has discovered how pancreatic cancer cells spread in the liver. This research could be key to developing treatments to slow the cancer and prolong patients' lives.

The study was led by Dr. Tami Rubinek, head of the hospital's oncology research lab, together with doctoral student Shani Journo and under the auspices of Professor Ido Wolf. The team found that a mutation that causes the disappearance of two proteins appears more in liver metastasis and less in pancreatic cancer tumors in the pancreas or other areas of the body, such as the lungs or abdomen.

The liver is often the "killing organ," Wolf said, meaning patients often die when pancreatic cancer spreads to their liver.



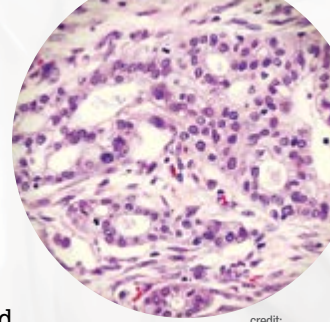
courtesy: Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (www.tasmc.org)

Prof. Ido Wolf (l) and Dr. Tami Rubinek (r)

Pancreatic cancer is one of the top 10 deadliest cancers. Wolf explained that once pancreatic cancer starts to spread, patients generally only live between six months and a year.

(continued on next page)

Micrograph of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
(the most common type of pancreatic cancer)



credit:
KGH
(Wikimedia
Commons)

Between 800 and 900 cases of pancreatic cancer are diagnosed annually in Israel. **In the U.S., some 60,000 new cases are identified each year.** According to Wolf, **the numbers are steadily rising.**

He said that the next step would be to find treatments based on the findings of the study.

Wolf cautioned that it is unlikely that the information will lead to a cure for this cancer. He noted, however, that it would likely lead to treatments that could prolong patients' lives.

This study, the largest of its kind, included 17,000 pancreatic cancer patients from around the world. **It "reveals the Achilles heel of the cancer cell,"** Wolf added.

Dr. Ayelet Erez of the Weizmann Institute of Science, an expert in the dynamics of cellular metabolism (but unconnected to the Tel Aviv research), confirmed the potential implications

of this study. Erez explained, "The results of this work have translational implications as they expose metabolic vulnerabilities of the metastasizing cells that can be targeted for therapy." ☆

credit: Alex Jitlisky (Wikimedia Commons)



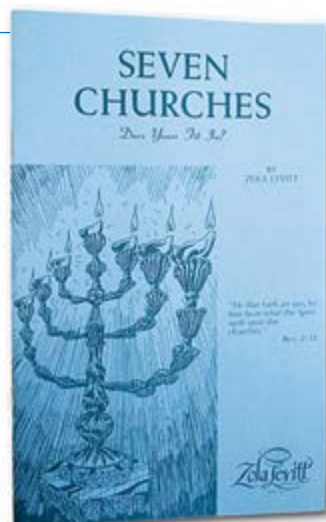
Tel Aviv Sourasky (Ichilov) Medical Center

↑
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Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In?

study booklet by Zola Levitt

The Lord appeared to the Apostle John at Patmos and dictated the dramatic Revelation of Jesus Christ. He began with commentary on seven churches of the time, which has remained an object lesson for all generations. The seven churches of Asia as seen by the Head of the Church.



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SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis

Jewish Heritage Museum Bans Florida Gov. DeSantis

By Selim Algar and Carl Campanile / NYPost.com

New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage barred a philanthropic group from featuring Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a June conference at the site, forcing organizers to relocate.

Tikvah Fund leaders Elliott Abrams and Eric Cohen noted that museum leaders advised them to either disinvite DeSantis or move the annual Jewish Leadership Conference. The leaders refused to cancel DeSantis and instead moved the event.

Cohen said that the museum has previously never given input about or sought to oversee the group's guest speakers. He added that the museum's CEO, Jack Kliger, only stated that "the museum does not host political figures, whether from the left or the right." But Cohen stressed that the museum has hosted Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, former New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and former Gov. Andrew Cuomo in years past.

The action brought a rebuke from New York City Council members Joe Borelli and Inna Vernikov. They wrote a letter to the museum in which they stated, "The lessons of the Holocaust are innumerable. But one of the most critical ones is this: **intolerance in any form breeds hostility, suppression, and ultimately discrimination.**"

Dov Hikind, a former Brooklyn state assemblyman, also denounced the

museum's action. He said, "If this happened to someone on the left, they would be outraged."

Church of England Apologizes for Anti-Jewish Discrimination

By Pesach Benson / UnitedWithIsrael.org

At a special ceremony in May, the Church of England formally apologized for discrimination against Britain's Jewish community. The service was held on the 800th anniversary of the Synod of Oxford, which passed laws that led to the Jews' expulsion.

Jews first arrived in England around 1070 during the reign of William the Conqueror. In 1222, the Synod passed laws against Jews that included curbs on social interaction between

(continued on next page)



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis at the Western Wall in 2017



credit: Yonatan Sinder/Flash90



Jews and Christians, restrictions on vocations that Jews could enter, special tithes imposed on Jews, and a prohibition on building new synagogues. Later, **the laws were expanded to prohibit Jews from owning land or passing an inheritance to their children. The Synod also required Jews to wear an identifying badge.**

In 1290, an edict by King Edward I expelled Britain's 3,000 Jews. They were readmitted by Oliver Cromwell in 1656.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby wrote in a tweet: "Today's service... is an opportunity to remember, repent, and rebuild. Let us pray it inspires Christians today to reject contemporary forms of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism and to appreciate and receive the gift of our Jewish neighbors."

Arab-American at Michigan Rally: Arabs Will Help Bring Palestinians To Victory

MEMRI.org

Osama Siblani, the publisher of *Arab American News*, spoke at a Michigan rally on May 15, the date when Arabs annually recall the re-establishment of the Jewish homeland as a "catastrophe" (*nakba*).

U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan) attended the event, which was hosted by American comedian Amr Zahr. Zahr's Facebook page livestreamed the rally.

Siblani stated: "Do you see what is happening in Palestine? They thought that 1948 is a demarcation line. They thought we forgot. Now, surprise, *fedayeen* [militants or guerrillas] are setting out from

Americans Becoming Less Pro-Israel...

continued from cover sidebar



54% side with Israelis and 26% with Palestinians. And with Democrats, 40% favor the Israelis and 38% the Palestinians.

Still, the favorability of the Jewish state remains high, according to the poll, with 71% of U.S. adults saying they have a favorable view of Israel while 27% have a favorable opinion of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The 71% viewing Israel favorably matches the average since 2013, while the 27% favorable to the PA exceeds the 22% in that period and continues the upward trend seen in this sentiment over the past decade. ★

the land of 1948. They are striking them with knives and with their bare hands, and they are victorious." He added, "They will fight with stones, others will fight with guns, others will fight with planes, drones, and rockets, others will fight with their voices, and others will fight with their hands and say: "Free, free Palestine!"

Following his assertions, the crowd shouted: "Free, free Palestine!" ★



Osama Siblani

Ancient Wine Spiced with Vanilla

BY DIANA BLETTER (r) Israel21c.org



credit: Ortal Chalaf with restoration by Joseph Bocangoiz

Ancient wine jugs being restored

Researchers from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and Tel Aviv University (TAU) were surprised to discover remnants of vanilla in 2,600-year-old wine jars unearthed in the City of David National Park in Jerusalem.

The researchers were investigating two buildings destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC when they unearthed the eight jars. They date back to the reign of King Zedekiah, who ruled Judah when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and exiled the Jews.

Using chemical tests, the researchers identified remnants of vanilla molecules preserved in the tiny spaces on the insides of the pottery vessels.

Vanilla was not known to be available in the Middle East before Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492.

TAU doctoral student Ayala Amir, who conducted the research in the laboratories at the Weizmann Institute and Bar-Ilan University, said that the “vanilla markers were an unusual find.”

Scientists believe that **the vanilla, considered a luxury, might have come from India via an international trade route that crossed the Negev during the 7th century BC.**

On the handles of some of the jars was a seal impression in the shape of a rosette, indicating that the jar and its contents were part of the royal administration of the Kingdom of Judah. The number of jars indicates the economic importance of wine, noted the scientists.

Ortal Chalaf and Joe Uziel, directors of the excavation, stated that the jars have “opened a window for us” and will help reveal what people ate and drank prior to Jerusalem’s destruction by Babylon. ★



credit: Dafna Gazit/Israel Antiquities Authority



credit: Eliyahu Yana/Ort of David

top: A collection of wine jars after the restoration process **bottom:** A jar handle with a rosette impression

Ancient Oil Lamp Found on Mount Gerizim

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY (r) JPost.com

Conservation work at the Mount Gerizim National Park recently unearthed a nearly completely intact clay oil lamp from 2,300 years ago.

"It is great to find something even after all those years of excavation," said Netanel Elimelech, director of the park run by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. "We found a lot of clay sherds lying around, but to find something complete with signs of its use is pretty nice." Elimelech added that black soot marks from use were evident on the lamp.

The archaeological complex on Mount Gerizim, located near Nablus, was excavated in the 1990s under the leadership of archaeologist Dr. Yitzhak Magen. The Nature and Parks Authority and the Civil Administration recently undertook the conservation and accessibility work.



Ancient Samaritan oil lamp (front view)

credit: Netanel Elimelech/Nature and Parks Authority



Ancient Samaritan oil lamp (top view)

credit: Netanel Elimelech/Nature and Parks Authority

Workers removing debris from an area around a stone bath discovered the lamp. "We were clearing close to the surface and the lamp just popped out," Elimelech noted.

The Samaritans are believed to have used the stone bath for purification and cleansing. Though it is heavy, the bath can be moved.

The archaeological site spreads over almost 100 acres. It includes remains from a large Samaritan city from the Persian-Hellenistic period that was built

around a sacred precinct. A well-fortified wall surrounded the precinct, with the Samaritan temple standing in the center. Remains of a large building containing dozens of rooms were previously excavated south of the precinct. This structure housed an olive press, a splendid residential building, and shops.

The lamp, which is typical of its period, was found in the residential building. Other evidence of daily life — including plates, pots, and vases — were previously excavated in the residence, which archaeologists believe belonged to a family of wealthy priests.

The Samaritans descended from the Northern tribes who intermarried with other people groups after the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC. Today, most members of the tiny sect who number in the hundreds, live either on Mount Gerizim or in the Israeli city of Holon. ☆



Islamic Jihad Shows Off “Tunnel City” in Gaza

BY ADEL ZANOUN (*r*) TimesOfIsrael.com

In a “tunnel city” under the sandy soils of southern Gaza, Palestinian terrorists are preparing for the next conflict with Israel.

The underground passageways are undetected from the surface. But in a wooded area near Khan Younis, seven masked men in military fatigues carried a collection of machine guns and grenade launchers into a tunnel entrance discreetly tucked into the foot of a small hill.

Complete with electric lights, a ventilation system, and telecom cables, the tunnels also have small rooms for storing weapons and ammunition.

An Islamic Jihad official told reporters during a media tour that **the movement has both defensive and offensive tunnel systems**. The latter “is used for taking Israeli soldiers captive, repelling Israeli ground offensives, and carrying out various field operations,” said the commander.

In May 2021, during an 11-day war initiated by Gaza’s Hamas rulers, Israel launched multiple strikes against what it called the “Gaza Metro.” This network of tunnels allowed gunmen to move around without being spotted by Israeli drones, thus taking Israeli targets by surprise.

Residents of Gaza — a cramped, coastal territory home to 2.3 million people — have had a long experience of using tunnels since 2007. That’s when Israel and Egypt imposed a crippling blockade in response to Hamas seizing power. Israel maintains the blockade to prevent Hamas (which openly seeks to destroy Israel) and other Gaza terror groups from importing weapons.

Smugglers established a network of tunnels on the border with Egypt, enabling them to import everything



credit: Mahmud Hams/AP



credit: Mahmud Hams/AP

top: Islamic Jihad terror group members entering a tunnel in the Gaza Strip **bottom:** A member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group in a tunnel

from desperately needed household goods to cars, weapons, and even Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In recent years, Egypt has destroyed most of those tunnels.

Israel, for its part, has boosted its forces around the territory, reinforcing a hyper-secure barrier with an underground steel wall it hopes will prevent tunnels from reaching into Israeli territory. Israeli commanders fear terrorists could use such tunnels to seize Israeli personnel or civilians for use as bargaining chips in prisoner exchanges.

But even if Islamic Jihad’s tunnels cannot reach Egypt or Israel, they are still “a strategic weapon for the resistance,” stated Al-Quds Brigade spokesman Abu Hamza. “We will let the days and the battles to come do the talking about the ability of the resistance to break through this so-called [Israeli] barrier,” he asserted. ☆





Jewish Humor, etc.

*A cheerful heart is
good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22*

Jewish Mothers and Sons

Calling Mom

A Jewish man called his mother in Florida and asked, "Mom, how are you?"

"Not too good," replied the mother. "I've been very weak."

The startled son asked, "Why are you so weak, Mom?"

She explained, "Because I haven't eaten in 14 days."

The man inquired, "Why haven't you eaten in 14 days?"

The mother responded, "Because I didn't want my mouth to be full of food if you should call!"

School Play

A Jewish boy came home from school and told his mother that he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," she said. "What part is it?"

The boy replied, "I play a Jewish husband."

The mother retorted, "Go back and tell the teacher that you want a speaking part." ☆

Dry Bones SIMPLICITY



Answer Key for August 2022 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

- 2. Faith
- 4. Father
- 5. Perfect
- 7. Joseph
- 9. Enemies
- 13. Commandments
- 16. Neighbor
- 17. God
- 19. World
- 20. Friend
- 21. Separate

Down:

- 1. Saints
- 3. Heart
- 6. Everlasting
- 8. Prosper
- 10. Good
- 11. Cheerful
- 12. Esther
- 13. Command
- 14. Multitude
- 15. Brother
- 18. Israel

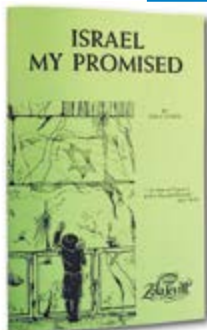


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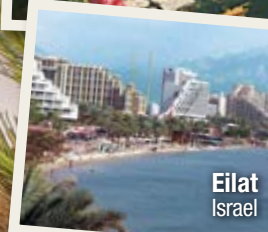
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