



# Levitt LETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

A Shofar blower in 1941 (credit: Zoltan Kluger, Israel State Archives)

## Hearing the Sound of the *Shofar*

JewsForJesus.org

inside: If-Then  
Promises p.6

The ritual most frequently associated with *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year (in most English translations of the Bible called the Feast of Trumpets\*), is the sounding of the *shofar* (ram's horn) in the synagogue. **By Jewish tradition, a person who has not listened to the shofar has not observed the day.** Rabbis have said that the *mitzvah* (commandment) is not fulfilled by merely hearing the *shofar*, as if by accident. Instead, the hearer must listen with the specific *kavanah* (intention) of fulfilling the Biblical commandment.

The Biblical command to hear the shofar is expressed in Numbers 29:1: *And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall*

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\* In the Bible, this holiday is never called *Rosh Hashanah* (the New Year). It falls on the first day of the seventh month as Moses reckoned time. Biblically, the Jewish religious year began in spring, in the month of Nisan (the Passover season).

REMEMBER:

**Rosh Hashanah 5783: Sunset Sept. 25 to sunset Sept. 27**

## Germany to Give \$720 Million to Holocaust Survivors Globally

JPost.com

The organization that facilitates claims on behalf of Jews who suffered under the Nazis said that Germany has agreed to extend another \$720 million to provide home care and supportive services for vulnerable Holocaust survivors, some of whom became homeless refugees overnight in war-torn Ukraine following Russia's invasion.

The New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also known as the Claims Conference, said the funds will be distributed to more than

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Holocaust survivor Ateemis Milon shows her Auschwitz death camp number tattooed on her arm (credit: Nir Elias/Reuters)

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## **The Temple** DVD Set

6 programs on 2 DVDs

Learn the 5,000-year story of God's dwelling place among His people. Six informative half-hour segments deal with the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the Temples of Solomon and Herod, and the future Temples of God, featuring lovely location footage from the Holy Land.

**The Tabernacle, Part I** God's instructions to Moses on Mount Sinai: "And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

**The Tabernacle, Part II** During their journey through the wilderness, the Israelites carried the Tabernacle toward the Promised Land and finally placed it at Shiloh.

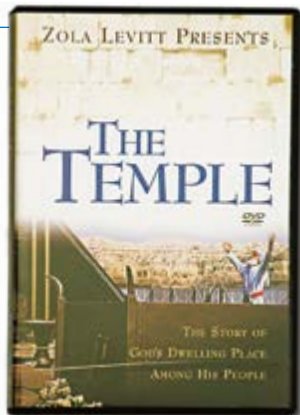
**Solomon's Temple** Follow the construction process of the largest temple ever built by human hands, a wonder of the ancient world that impressed the Queen of Sheba!

**Herod's Temple, Part I** Study the House of God in Jerusalem at the time of Messiah, its construction and its grandeur. The Roman world and 1<sup>st</sup>-century pilgrimage are explained in this Gospel-centered program.

**Herod's Temple, Part II** Examine the great days of the Second Temple and its disastrous destruction, as prophesied by the Messiah.

**The Tribulation Temple** Anticipate the Temple of the future, the blasphemy of the antiChrist, and the return of the King to reign on Mount Moriah.

Please see the article "When Prayer is a Crime ..." on [p. 4](#).



## **Tribulation Temple** CD

By Zola Levitt with Dr. Thomas S. McCall

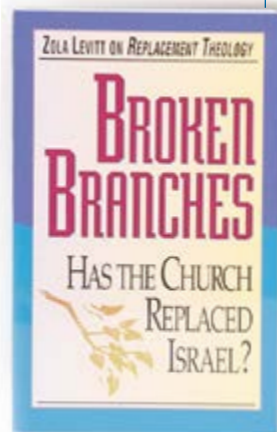
Zola's audio version of his bestselling *Satan in the Sanctuary* (now an eBook) concerning the history of Israel, the Temples, and how the antiChrist will become "Satan in the Sanctuary" when he blasphemes during the Tribulation Period. This key Bible study on a single CD offers the entire history and future of the vital Temple of God in Jerusalem.

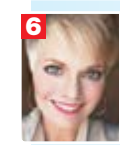
## **Broken Branches — Has the Church Replaced Israel?** book

Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology

What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, **some denominations seem to be wearing blinders to their Jewish heritage**, the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read book for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

Please see the Classic Zola article "Hath God Cast Away His People?" on [p.10](#). (Also available as an eBook.)





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## Wishing Upon a Star?

BY KIRSTEN HART, *Our Jewish Roots* Studio Co-host

David and I live in Orlando. Many people come here for the “magic” — it’s the place where wishes supposedly come true.

My wish is that we would never need to raise funds for ZLM! Could you imagine this ministry being fully funded until the Lord returns? I can!

Instead of wishing upon a star, we are praying that you will help financially support this ministry. Your donations can help our outreach continue to spread the message of Yeshua, teach God’s Word, and support Israel through our weekly television program, monthly



David and Kirsten Hart

newsletters, [levitt.com](http://levitt.com), and more. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ☆

# When Prayer is a Crime and Violence is a Virtue



BY FRED MAROUN (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

The Israel-Arab conflict is full of contradictions. To an outsider like me, however, nothing is as bizarre as the situation on the Temple Mount, the Jews' holiest site. (Muslims call it *Haram al-Sharif*, their third holiest site.)

On the Temple Mount, it is forbidden for Jews to pray, no matter how quietly or discreetly. Actually, **it's forbidden for anyone but Muslims to pray on the Temple Mount.**

**It doesn't matter** that the Temple Mount is the site of the Jews' First Temple destroyed by Babylon in 587/586 BC.

**It doesn't matter** that the Temple Mount is the site where the Jews' Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

**It doesn't matter** that forbidding prayer is a blatant violation of freedom of religion.

**It doesn't matter** that it is a highly anti-Jewish rule applied at the center of the Jewish state.

But it gets more bizarre. Israel — the Jewish state — agreed to this highly discriminatory rule, and the Israeli police enforce it. This agreement occurred between Israel and Jordan after the Six-Day War in 1967 during which Israel recaptured East Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount.

This situation has evolved somewhat in the past year. In July 2021, *The Times of Israel* reported that Israel was “quietly letting Jews pray on [the] Temple Mount,” which was a “break with [the] status quo,” but this change is still tentative. About that time, then Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke out in favor of freedom of worship for Jews on the Temple Mount, but later his office backpedaled by stating that “the status quo holds.” In October 2021, a judge ruled that Jewish prayer was allowed on the Temple Mount if it is “non-noticeable.” But after an appeal by the Israeli government, an appellate judge reversed that ruling, and Israel's Public Security Minister Omer Barlev insisted that the status quo remained intact.

On April 18, 2022, Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher Al-Khasawneh issued a statement saluting rioters who were “hurling their stones in a volley of clay at the Zionist sympathizers defiling the Al-Aqsa Mosque.” How did “Zionist sympathizers” do that? According to *The Times of Israel*, **“Palestinian rioters throw**

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credit: Gadi13



Temple Mount



credit:  
ציון הלוי  
(Zion Halevi)

rocks at Israeli buses en route to the Western Wall, as well as in the Temple Mount compound, in an attempt to prevent non-Muslims from touring the site.” In other words, mere Jewish presence on the holiest Jewish site constitutes “defiling” in the eyes of Israel’s Arab peace partners. Thus, violent opposition to that presence is seen as virtue.

At the same time, the Ra’am party — the only Arab party to participate in an Israeli government coalition — froze its support for the government and threatened to withdraw it altogether unless its demands were met, including restoring “the status quo on the Temple Mount under which Jews are allowed to visit, but not pray.” Ra’am party leader Mansour Abbas is not otherwise anti-Israel; he declared in December 2021 that “Israel will always be a Jewish state.”

Some Arabs try to rationalize their opposition to Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. They cite some rabbis who say that according to Jewish law, Jews should not enter the Temple Mount. A disagreement among Jews on Jewish law, however, is not for non-Jews to decide, and it does not justify violence against Jews.

From a moral point of view, the solution is simple. **Anyone from any religion should be able to pray anywhere they want** if they respect the rights of others to do the same. This is an internationally recognized fundamental human right. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on December 10, 1948 by the UN General Assembly, states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.” **Even an atheist like me who doesn’t care for praying anywhere can understand this right.** Human rights aren’t about allowing others to do what we think makes sense; it’s about allowing everyone to do what makes sense for them.

From a realpolitik point of view, however, the solution is much less clear. The exercise of this fundamental human right by a small number of Jews angers Arabs, including pro-Israel Israeli Arabs and Arab states that have signed peace agreements with Israel. To maintain internal peace and peace with its neighbors, Israel is forced to compromise even on the fundamental freedom of religion of its Jewish citizens.

In response to Jordan’s support for the rioters, Bennett denounced “those who are encouraging rock-throwing and the use of violence against the citizens of the State of Israel,” but he did not specifically name Jordan.

On this fundamental issue of basic human rights for Jews, the Jewish state finds itself at the mercy of Arabs. This is ironic considering that Israel was meant to be the one place on Earth where Jews are guaranteed equal rights with everyone else. At the same time, **the stubborn and sometimes violent Arab opposition to basic Jewish human rights is a reminder of why Israel exists.** If Jewish rights are limited in the Middle East even within the Jewish state, one can easily imagine how much more limited they would be if Israel did not exist.

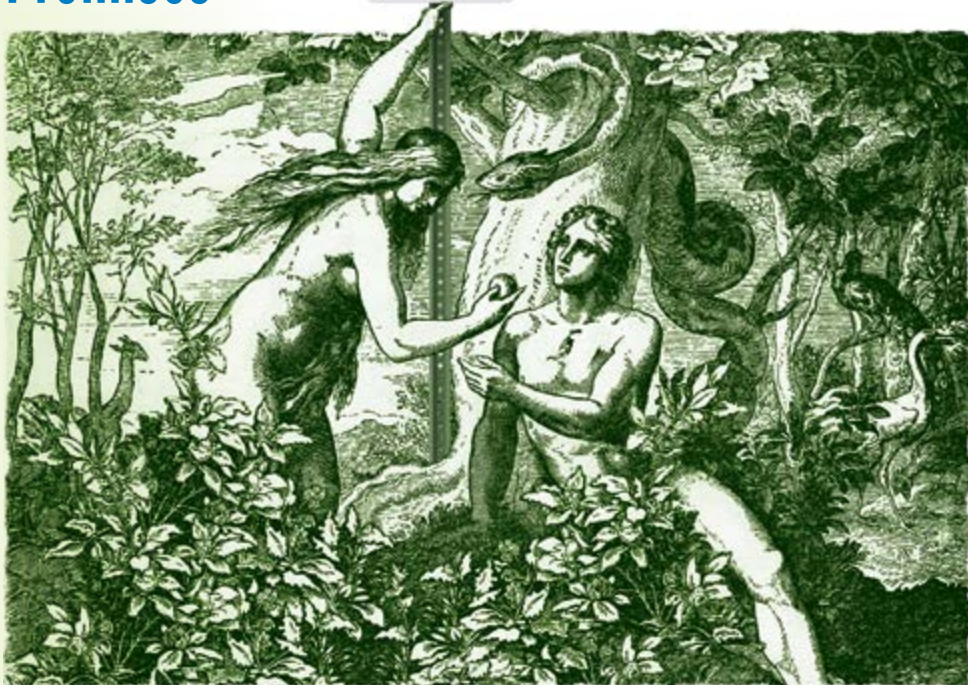
Such turbulence surrounding the site of God’s earthly footstool! Muslims may try to forbid prayer there, but prayer doesn’t have to be spoken aloud. —Kirsten ☆



# If-Then Promises



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



*Adam and Eve and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, engraving by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) [modified for modesty... and sign added]

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As drivers in the U.S., we face conditions — “if-then” decisions. *If* we drive under the speed limit, *then* we won’t get stopped for speeding. But *if* we exceed the speed limit, *then* we might get stopped by law enforcement and receive a ticket. Some people abide by these conditional laws; others disregard them, thus exposing themselves to potential penalties.

We Believers\* face conditional decisions daily, not just when driving. This reality has been true throughout history. The Book of Genesis reveals that God created humans with free will — the ability to choose. Adam and Eve had the freedom to eat fruit from any tree in the Garden, except one — the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *If* they ate from that tree, *then* they would surely die.

Soon, however, they believed the serpent’s lies and dismissed God’s truth. The “if” happened. The couple yielded to temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. They didn’t obey the conditions God stated; therefore, they suffered the consequences.

Last month, I mentioned the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel ([“Prophetically Speaking,” p. 6, August Levitt Letter](#)). On *Our Jewish Roots* this year, we are featuring these two courageous servants who communicated God’s Word. The messages they delivered to God’s people contained many “if” promises.

Through Jeremiah, the Lord said, *“If you repent, I will restore you...”* (Jeremiah 15:19). This was a conditional statement. God wanted to restore His people, but He expected action from them. **In many of the “if-then” promises in the Bible, God requires us to act** — to do something. And typically, our part is minor compared to God’s part.

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



## Doing Our Part

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, Yahweh made a conditional promise. He noted four things for His people to do: *"humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways."* God's promise — *"then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land"* — far outweighed what the people were to do.

Jesus even declared, *"if you have faith as a mustard seed ... nothing will be impossible for you"* (Matthew 17:20). Again, we see that the reward outweighs the requirement.

**What "if" hinders you from experiencing God's promises?** Do you struggle with giving up control? Do you fight against following commands that don't make sense to you? I pray that you will realize that your Creator loves you and wants only the best for you. He will give you the reward of eternal, abundant life *if* you surrender your life to Him. May it be so. ✨

## Germany to Give \$720 Million ... *continued from cover sidebar*

300 social welfare organizations in more than 80 countries.

In recent years, during negotiations with the German government, the Claims Conference pressed the dire need to increase home care funding for Holocaust survivors both in the U.S. and globally.

The new allocations are distributed to social welfare organizations in regions where significant numbers of survivors live, to ensure that vital services such as home care, medical care, emergency

assistance, and food are available for Holocaust survivors in those regions.

These considerable funds constitute one of the largest allocations from any grant-making organization in the world in one year and the largest amount ever allocated for the Claims Conference in a single year. In 2021, the organization distributed \$653 million in grants to over 300 social service agencies worldwide. This year the conference estimates that the funds, through the grants and partner organizations, will reach approximately 120,000 survivors.

**More than 75 years after the Holocaust ended, in the U.S., survivors continue to suffer, with 40% of the 36,000 survivors in the New York area living in or near poverty.**

Gideon Taylor, president of the Claims Conference, stated, "We are proud to announce this significant allocation at a time when these funds are critical, due to the age, poverty, and increasing disability of our waning survivor population, and as they also continue to face the ongoing uncertainty and threat of COVID-19. We know these funds provide vital support during these difficult times." ✨



credit: Courtesy



Holocaust survivors renew their wedding vows after 70 years in a ceremony organized by the Claims Conference

# Hearing the Sound of the *Shofar* continued from cover

*do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.*

The word “trumpets” does not appear in the Hebrew text, but it is implied. Nor does the word *shofar* appear in the Hebrew text of the Torah related to the holiday called *Rosh Hashanah*. In the passage quoted above, the holiday is simply called *Yom T’ruah*, a day of blowing. However, it means more than simply “blowing” a trumpet or ram’s horn.

## The Three Trumpet Calls

Three basic trumpet calls are sounded in the synagogue during the *Rosh Hashanah* service.

**The first** is the *t’kiyah* — one long, sustained blast. In ancient Israel, this reassuring sound signaled that the watchmen guarding the city were on duty and all was well. That sound periodically divided up the watches of the day and night.

**The second** trumpet call consists of three successive blasts called *shevarim*. In ancient times, these signaled a significant event — the changing of the guard, the arrival of an important person, or a call to assemble for welcome news. The sound of *shevarim* was less routine than the *t’kiyah*, but it was welcome because it meant good tidings.

**The third** trumpet call — the one mentioned in the Bible in reference to the Feast of Trumpets — is the sound of alarm. It consists of nine rapid bursts on the *shofar*, referred to as *t’ruah*. This alerted Israel that they were under attack and that all the fighting men were to gather immediately for battle. The *t’ruah* might also be sounded for another calamity that required an urgent convocation of all the people. Thus, in most Biblical texts where *t’ruah* appears, the word is translated “alarm.” A simpler, better translation of the Hebrew phrase *Yom T’ruah*, usually rendered “Feast of Trumpets,” would be “Day of Alarm.” This very literal translation communicates more of the flavor and intent of the holiday.

## The Day of Alarm

To use the Bible’s own terms, then, *Rosh Hashanah* is the Day of Alarm. The question arises: Why should Israel be alarmed? The summer harvest season had ended. The barns were full of grain and the storehouses were filled with fruit. What more could be wanted or needed? The Torah gives the answer:

*When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them... and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember*  
*(continued on next page)*



Jewish man blowing a *shofar*. Photo from between 1934 and 1939, Library of Congress



*the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, **if you ...forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods ...**I testify against you this day that **you shall surely perish ...** because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.*

—Deuteronomy 8:10–14, 17–20 (emphasis added)

By instituting the fall festivals consisting of the Day of Alarm, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Booths (forsaking secure homes to live in flimsy huts), God taught Israel an important lesson: With God on her side, she need not fear earthly calamities or earthly enemies. Likewise, she must not seek security in earthly things, but in her relationship with Him.

*Rosh Hashanah (Yom T'ruah)* was a preparation for *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. It was intended to turn minds away from the secular affairs of the summer season to focus on spiritual issues: God's holiness, the people's sin, and the atonement God had provided.

Ancient Israel needed to be periodically alarmed — by the awareness of sin that separated her from God, and by her need for atonement. In the synagogue today, the *shofar* sound of *t'ruah* should still alarm people. It should still register as an alert that points to the danger of remaining in sin without atonement. Scripture says, "*Your iniquities have separated you from your God*" (Isaiah 59:2) and "*The soul who sins shall die*" (Ezekiel 18:4).

## Be Alarmed

For Jewish Believers in Yeshua, the *kavanah*, or central theme on hearing the *shofar*, is joy in the knowledge that we have already allowed the seriousness of our sins to alarm us. We have heard and received the Good News — that God has atoned for sin, and that He delivers us from calamity through the sacrifice of our righteous Messiah Yeshua. ✡



**foreground:** A shofar (Jewish ritual horn) **background:** Detail of *Hasidic Jews Performing Tashlikh on Rosh Hashanah*, painting (1884) by Aleksander Gierymski (1850–1901), National Museum in Warsaw



# "Hath God Cast Away His People?"

by Zola Levitt  
from 1991  
31 years ago

## PART 1

A mindless set of "Biblical" ideas called Replacement Theology would disenfranchise the Chosen People from their status with God altogether and replace them with the Christian Church. This amazing reconstruction of Scripture, which does violence to 10,000 verses, seems meant only in a spirit of anti-Semitism.

A church in Tyler, Texas requested that I teach Paul's brilliant dissertation on the Jewish condition in Romans 9–11, which the Scofield Bible heads **"The Gospel Does Not Set Aside the Covenants with Israel."** Romans 10:1, the centerpiece of Paul's very personal writing, is part of the logo of this ministry:

*"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."* My heart's desire and prayer is the same as Paul's, and I was glad to comply with the request. **I will share below, in abbreviated form, the lucid arguments and very persuasive theology of the great Apostle to the gentiles on the plight of Israel.**

Romans 9–11 discusses the seeming lack of Jewish involvement in salvation by Christ. Jewish salvation was declining at that time (around AD 57), despite Israel's "chosen" status. Had God abandoned them? Was He choosing someone else now instead? Was the Church to replace Israel? Was Christ strictly for the gentiles and were the Jews saved under the Law?

Chapter 9 begins with a statement of Paul's very deep concern for his people. He expresses that he would have given up his own salvation in Christ if it would somehow help the Jewish people. Then he enters a discussion (verse 6) on the cultural and spiritual posterity of Abraham. His statement, *"For they are not all Israel which are of Israel,"* has given rise to a number of cults that disenfranchise the Chosen People — the Mormons, the various lost tribe cults, etc. Paul's statement, however, simply distinguishes between spiritual people and unspiritual people. Both groups are found liberally among the Jews (and among the gentiles) everywhere.

God chooses whom He will (verses 9–13), Paul goes on, and he gives examples of the choice of Isaac over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau. God even "raised up" Pharaoh for His divine purposes (verses 17–18). We have no more basis to question the sovereignty of God than a lump of clay has to question the choices of the potter (verses 19–21). God deals with wrath and with mercy, as with the raising up of Pharaoh and the salvation of Jews and gentiles (verses 22–24).

*(continued on next page)*



Detail of *The Predication of Saint Paul* (1799) painting by Joseph-Benoît Suvée (1743–1807), Los Angeles County Museum of Art

credit: The Clecharowiecki Collection, Gift of The Almanson Foundation

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And though God will call out a massive Church of gentiles, with the Jews there is always a believing remnant.

Paul quotes Isaiah and other prophets (verses 27–28) concerning the idea of the remnant, which was apparent in his day and is seen in today’s world as well. The upcoming Tribulation Period will have the 144,000 as its remnant. The Kingdom will enjoy the participation of “all Israel” when the Lord returns (Rom. 11:26). Paul ends his discussion in Romans 9 with the observation that the gentiles have obtained righteousness by faith, but the unsaved Jews pursued it by works of the Law, which caused them to stumble “at that stumbling stone,” the Messiah, when He appeared (verses 28–33).

Paul begins Romans 10 with the statement about his heart’s desire, quoted above. He admits that the Jewish zealotry for God is not according to knowledge. Having not understood the nature of God’s righteousness, they chose the Law and not Christ when they were given the choice (verses 2–4). At that time, they should have understood the concept of true faith from Moses — at least that it was “*nigh unto them*” (verse 8). The concept of achieving righteousness through pure faith is a thoroughly familiar idea in the Old Covenant, but one that escapes an external performer like a sacramental law keeper.

Paul then presents the “Gospel truth” for Jew and gentile (verses 9–13), quoting Joel 2:32, “...*whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” There could be no mistaking the clear salvation covenant in Paul’s writing:

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, “Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

—Romans 10:9–13

The Apostle then discusses the universal problems of witnessing and missions, quoting the verse we often use on television when we ask for your support, “*How shall they preach, except they be sent?*” (verse 15). He observes that Israel heard the Gospel adequately and was apprised in prophecy of God’s someday turning to the gentiles. Moses and Isaiah both spoke of this (verses 19–20). And finally, at the end of Romans 10, Paul laments that God has stretched out His hand to Israel with little good results and he implies the question, “Hath God cast away His people?”

Next month, Zola addresses Romans 11, where Paul answers this question and explains Israel’s place in God’s plan of redemption. —Editor

Please see the *Times of the Signs* DVD set on [p. 17](#). ☆



*St. Paul Protected from the Mob by the Romans* engraving (circa 1900) for the book *The Story of the Greatest Nations, from the Dawn of History to the Twentieth Century* by Edward Sylvester Ellis and Charles F. Horne

## Q. What was Jesus' "Hour"?

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian  
[staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com)



A. Several times in the Book of John, the phrase "My hour," "His hour," or "the/this hour" refers to Jesus' glorification through His death and resurrection.

### At a Wedding

One occurrence comes when Jesus addressed His mother at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus said to her, *"Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come"* (John 2:4). Jesus was noting that when He started performing miracles, it would begin the inevitable process to the Cross—thus He must assure that it did not happen prematurely.

### In the Temple

John 7:30 notes the second instance: *"Therefore they [the Temple guards sent by the Sanhedrin] sought to take Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."* The guards could not arrest Jesus because it was not the time God sovereignly designated for His Son to be crucified. Another reference notes a similar situation, *"And no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come"* (John 8:20).



Detail of *Crucifixion of Jesus*, engraving (1866) by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) from *La Sainte Bible*

### Before His Crucifixion

Jesus mentioned His "hour" several more times, including John 12:23, *"But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.'"* To this point in John's Gospel, His "hour" anticipated a future event. Beginning here, however, Jesus spoke of it in the present. Shortly afterward, He said it again: *"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour"* (John 12:27). Jesus did not withdraw from His impending "hour"—His ultimate purpose was to suffer and die on the Cross to bring about the salvation of humanity.

Before the Passover, *"Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father"* (John 13:1). Then during the meal, He revealed to His Disciples, *"Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me"* (John 16:32). When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Disciples abandoned Him before the "hour" (time) of His death. Jesus mentioned that time when He prayed, *"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You"* (John 17:1). The climax of Jesus' mission to save mankind was at hand.

Jesus' glorification through His crucifixion and resurrection is the greatest hour in the history of the world. Since this climactic hour has passed, we as Believers have the mission of declaring this message to the whole world. ✨



## At Mt. Hermon and Rosh Pina

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

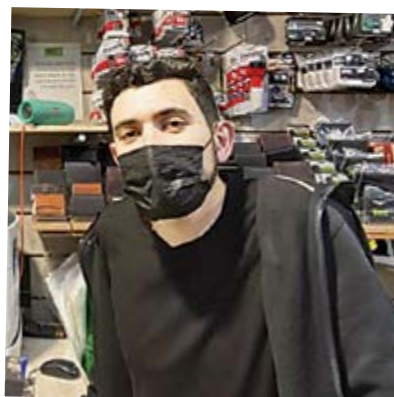
On day five of our March 2022 Gospel outreach in Israel, Dr. August Rosado and I were near snowy Mount Hermon. This was the site of Jesus' transfiguration (Matthew 17). At the base of Mt. Hermon is Caesarea Philippi, where Peter confessed to Yeshua, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matt. 16:16).

**We shared the gospel with Niv and Tanif, two Israel Defense Forces soldiers.** Because it was the Sabbath, they would not let us take their pictures. We gave them complete Hebrew Bibles along with chips, water, and chocolate bars. They said we were awesome (*sababa* in Hebrew), but August replied, "No, you are awesome for defending the State of Israel." Then August explained that Yeshua was transfigured on this same mountain and Moses and Elijah appeared to Him here. They were blown away! They thanked us for coming to Israel.

The next day, we traveled south to Rosh Pina, which in Hebrew means "cornerstone." In this small town (population 3,000) north of the Sea of Galilee, **we visited a hiking store called Ricochet where we met two employees, Eddie and Anas.** When we told them that we had come to Israel to bring God's Word and the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah to

God's people, they were genuinely open to our message.

Eddie stated that he believed that the aim of life was to love your neighbor as yourself. We pointed out that Jesus said the same thing in the *B'rit Hadashah* (New Testament). We added that the first priority, however, is loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Mark 12:30–31). August and I explained that because of God's love for humanity, He sent Yeshua the Messiah to die for our salvation. This Jewish Messiah is the Cornerstone of Biblical revelation in the Jewish Scriptures (1 Peter 2:6).



Anas



August and I asked if they would like a free copy of the Hebrew Scriptures to discover this saving truth for themselves. Both men happily accepted a study Bible and the Messianic Gospel literature that we included.

Please pray that these men will have open hearts and minds as they read God's Word. Also pray that *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit) will enlighten them about the truth of Yeshua the Messiah and will draw them to salvation through faith in Him. ☆



August, Todd, and Eddie

# The State of the Ministry

Mark Levitt  
ZLM Director  
since 1988



**Our current state is ... mystifying.**  
Let me explain.

**1.** First, recall this excerpt from last month's article "[Changes & Challenges](#)" (p. 7), written by our assistant television producer Clayton Herring:



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.

**2.** Also, in "ZLM's Expendables (for Yeshua)" last month (["A Note from Mark," p. 14](#)), I shared this concern:

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*.



**3.** The above excerpts startlingly echo my sincere sentiments in "A Numbers Whisperer?" in May 2019 (["A Note from Mark," p. 14](#)), summarized here:



For several years, and [2018] in particular, ZLM's numbers on its financial statements were all but yelling that our multi-year, downward revenue trend was perilously unstoppable. Movie scenes of platoon commanders, under direct orders, leading their soldiers into losing battles played in my mind repeatedly as I began a series of articles to make this ministry's needs known.

You may remember some of those *Levitt Letter* titles from [2018]: ["Letting Go & Letting God" \(May\)](#), ["Have Faith: Death is Not the End" \(June\)](#), ["Making it to the Other Side" \(August\)](#), ["Weighing and Praying" \(October\)](#), and ["A Coward Dies Many Times" \(December\)](#). Before our circumstances became too dire, I felt compelled to caution some of our donors not to go overboard with their generosity. Thus, I wrote ["Pray About Your Two Pence" \(July\)](#).

Fortunately, that third article's conclusion from over three years ago continues to hold true — maybe now more than ever:

**The bottom line is this: We are holding our own;** we aren't having to give up key airtimes... yet. Soon, as more viewers turn to the internet, it may make sense for ZLM to spend less on television broadcasting. For now, however, thank you, thank you, thank you so very much for continuing to help us persevere. **It really is a good, though sometimes scary, fight** (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7). ☆



# ZLM Bulletin Board



## Zola Levitt Ministries' 2021 Fundraising Expenses

To comply with the tax code, this ministry calculates the percentage of news-letter space and television time devoted to fundraising. In total, it amounts to less than one percent (0.73%) of our expenses. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20% — almost 28 times what has sufficed for us. Our thanks to you, our supporters, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for contributions. Though small in number (about 3% of our readership and viewership), your generosity has enabled us to spread Yeshua's Gospel to new frontiers across the globe.



## Please Don't Throw Me Away

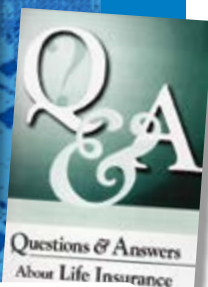
This *Levitt Letter* wants you to read it, save it, and read it again. Later, you could share it by strategically placing it with reading materials at your church, health club, or hair salon. You could clip or black out your mailing address — or even write your phone number/email if you are open to subsequent readers contacting you.



## FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

By simply naming a ministry like ZLM as the beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, you can make a larger gift than otherwise possible. ***Questions & Answers About Life Insurance*** addresses questions including: 1) Who should consider giving life insurance? 2) How do I make a life insurance gift? 3) What are the benefits to me and the charitable recipient? To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #20.**



## Ukrainian President's Grandfather Fought Nazis

During WWII, four brothers from the same Jewish family fought against the Nazis. Only one brother survived. His grandson, **Volodymyr Zelensky** (below), is the current president of Ukraine.



## "COME HOME!"

Zola  
Tours  
to Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details





Courtesy:  
The Jerusalem  
Connection

## The War for Our Souls

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



יְהוָה יִלָּחֶם לָכֶם וְאַתֶּם תַּחֲרִישוּן

ta'-cha-ree-shoon'

ve-a-tem'

lah-khem'

yee-lah'-cheim'

Adonai

you shall be still and you for you will fight the LORD

**“The LORD shall fight for you,  
and you shall hold your peace.”**

- Exodus 14:14

**There is a great war going on**, but it's not a war waged with conventional weapons. Nor is it a war that leaders in this world have devised to attain their devious political ends. No, this is the war for the souls of human beings, and every person alive is currently engaged in it. There is no place of neutrality in this war; you cannot escape the conflict. Passivity or indifference are not options; each of us must choose a side. We are either going forward or going backward; we are either drawing near or pulling away. *Mi Adonai aylai? “Who is on the LORD's side?”* (Ex. 32:26)

The Apostle Paul wrote about this war: *“For though we walk in the flesh [that is, as mortal men], we are not waging war according to the flesh [that is, in human terms]. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to demolish strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ”* (2 Cor. 10:3–5).

Successful spiritual warfare is waged by trusting in the power of God to demolish “strongholds” where evil is deeply rooted. (The word “stronghold” is a metaphor for militant prejudice that seeks to justify godlessness.) In the secular world, these strongholds are expressed in the reasoning

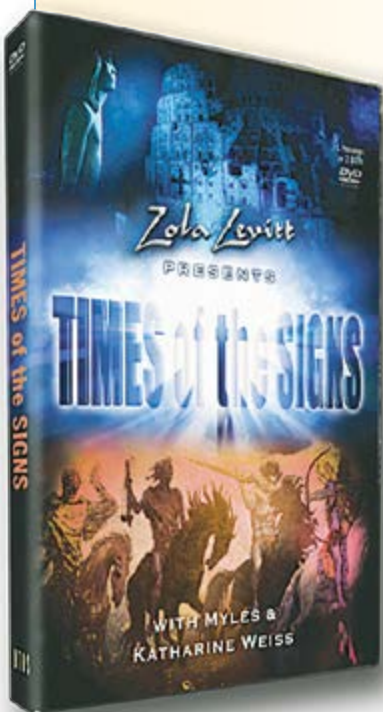
(λογισμός, “logic”) and arrogant opinions (ὑψωματα, “pretenses”) called *“the wisdom of this world”* (1 Cor. 3:19). We must use discernment to identify the fallacies and misleading schemes circulated by this world system. We do this when we “take every thought captive” to the glorious truth of the Messiah.

This is *“the good fight of the faith”* (1 Tim. 6:12). The fight is “good” because it turns on the victory and glory of the Lord, who shares His overcoming life with us. The battle belongs to the Lord; the victory has been secured (2 Chron. 20:15; Rom. 8:37–39). **Always remember that we never fight for, but always from, the place of His victory**, standing our ground in the sufficiency of God's power given to us (Luke 10:19). We must not be afraid but stand firm in the strength given to us by God's Spirit (Zech. 4:6; Eph. 6:11–18). **The Lord will help us in the battle** (Deut. 3:22; 2 Thess. 3:3). ☆

*“No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from Me, declares the LORD.”*

— Isaiah 54:17





## *Times of the Signs*

### DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this series, Myles and Katharine Weiss encourage Believers to look beyond the troubling prophetic signs of our day and live in growing expectation of our Messiah's return. Series guests include: Jimmy DeYoung, Jim Fletcher, Jeremy Gimpel, Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Wilfred Hahn, Bill Koenig, Tim LaHaye, Avi Lipkin, Randall Price, David Rubin, Bill Salus, Carl Teichrib, and Andy Woods.

**On the Prophetic Horizon** Reviews the major prophetic signs that point to the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the quickening pace of prophecy.

**Government on Whose Shoulders?** Satan continues his push to exclude God and install a man-based government over Earth. Mankind's only hope: accepting Yeshua's sacrifice on the Cross.

**Green to the Extreme** As the environmental movement glorifies nature as "Mother Earth," Believers worship the Creator, not creation.

**Bethlehem Rewritten** In Bethlehem, Arab Christians are caught between God's covenants with the Jewish people and replacement theologies powered by Islam. Too many "peace" proposals exclude the Prince of Peace.

**Rebuilding the Temple** Learn the history of the Temple Mount from King David's threshing floor to efforts to build a Third Temple.

**The Heavens Declare** The Lord uses heavenly signs to show us what He is doing, where He is going, and what He asks of us. Believers follow our Messiah, not signs.

**The Sword of Allah** The spiritual battle with radical Islam is wearying, but we mustn't give up; the Lord wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9) and will return for His own.

**New Heaven, New Earth** Signs like increased knowledge and the Jewish return to Israel point to the return of Yeshua for His bride, and we Believers want no one to miss out.



Model of the Second Temple as it might have appeared in AD 66 (Israel Museum, Jerusalem)

Please see the Classic Zola article "Hath God Cast Away His People (Part 1)" on [p. 10](#).

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To  
Index

↑  
Back to  
p. 11



### Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Glory! The Future of the Believers</b> (pictured) .....	\$4	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? .....	\$4	___
___	In My Father's House .....	\$4	___
___	Israel, My Promised .....	\$4	___
___	The Miracle of Passover .....	\$4	___
___	The Promised Land .....	\$4	___
___	The Second Coming .....	\$4	___
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In? .....	\$4	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	\$4	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:</b> ..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above) .....	\$49	___

### Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) .....	\$8	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Myles Weiss).... (Part of 50-book offer above) .....	\$4	___
___	The Beginning of The End .....	\$9	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$11	___
___	<b>Broken Branches</b> — Zola on Replacement Theology (p. 2) .....	\$7	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) .....	\$9	___
___	<b>Coming: The End! Russia &amp; Israel in Prophecy</b> (pictured) .....	\$12	___
___	<b>The Green Horse—The Bible &amp; Islam</b> (Archbold) (pictured) ..	\$12	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (Ken Berg) (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) .....	\$9	___
___	<b>Israel's Right to the Land</b> (pictured) .....	\$3	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold) .....	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament .....	\$10	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (Michael Brown) .....	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium .....	\$8	___
___	The Warrior King (Jeff Seif) .....	\$12	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (John Parsons) (pictured) .....	\$39	___

### Featured DVDs

___	Age of Terror .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Bad Moon Rising .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Beauty for Ashes .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Daniel and the Last Day's Battle .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Dark Prince .....	(10 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Faith for the Future (pictured) .....	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Faith of Our Fathers .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Holocaust .....	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Israel, the Church, & the Future .....	(6+ hours, 4-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Jehovah's Treasure .....	(70 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	<b>New! Jeremiah</b> (pictured) .....	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory ..	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms .....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Return to Eden .....	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Revelation .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Stones Cry Out .....	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	<b>The Temple</b> (p. 2) .....	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come .....	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	<b>Times of the Signs</b> (p. 17) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Warrior King .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Zion Forever .....	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



**New!**

### To order:

Online:  
[store.levitt.com](http://store.levitt.com)

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

Print/Tear out this 2-page form,  
fill out box at right, and mail to:  
**ZLM, PO Box 12268**  
**Dallas TX 75225**



# Studies, Specialty, Etc. — UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	<b>2-flag Collar Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$2	___
___	<b>AHAVA Mineral Trio</b> (Body, Foot & Hand) (p.20) .....	\$98	___
___	<b>AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion</b> 17 oz. (p.20) .....	\$58	___
___	<b>AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream</b> 3.4 oz. (p.20) .....	\$23	___
___	<b>AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream</b> 3.4 oz. (p.20) .....	\$24	___
___	Bookmark "Things to Come" .....	2 for \$1	___
___	<b>Drink Koozies</b> (p.36) .....	2 for \$6	___
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5') .....	\$10	___
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut) .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Grafted-In Lapel Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$10	___
___	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain) .....	\$39	___
___	Half-shekel Keychain .....	\$16	___
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards) .....	\$24	___
___	<b>New! Magnet (Y)—Pray</b> (pictured) .....	(3 of 1 design) \$12	___
___	<b>New! Jewish Heritage Calendar</b> (5783 / 2023) (p.24) .....	\$6	___
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem .....	\$12	___
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land .....	\$7	___
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker .....	\$3	___
___	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only) .....	no charge	___



## Teaching CDs

___	Glory! The Future of the Believers .....	(CD)	\$8	___
___	A Survey of the New Testament .....	(CD)	\$8	___
___	<b>Tribulation Temple</b> (p.2) .....	(CD)	\$8	___
___	<b>Zola Teaches the New Testament</b> (pictured) .....	(6 CDs)	\$29	___



## Music CDs: Hear samples at [levitt.com/music](http://levitt.com/music)

___	<b>Faith in the Fire</b> (pictured) .....	(Music CD)	\$12	___
___	<b>Living Waters</b> (p.23) .....	(Music CD)	\$12	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come .....	(Music CD)	\$12	___

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



We Accept  
PayPal!

Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

### Shipping & Handling Chart

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

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

Please allow about 2–3 weeks for delivery.

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

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Shipping (see left chart) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rush! (\$5 extra) \_\_\_\_\_

8.25% Tax (Texas only) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Donor # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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## AHAVA Mineral Skincare products:

New life for your skin—hands, feet,  
& body—AHAVA from the Dead Sea

Order all three and get **FREE** shipping!

### AHAVA—Mineral Hand Cream (3.4 oz.)

This mineral-rich cream is specially formulated to protect hands and safeguard them from environmental and household damage. It instantly improves your skin's moisture level, smoothes rough, dry skin, and restores suppleness. Witch Hazel extracts sanitize and smooth the skin, providing a refreshing, revitalizing effect. Allantoin heals dry, cracked skin and blemishes.

### AHAVA—Mineral Foot Cream (3.4 oz.)

This effective moisturizing cream softens and renews rough feet, including soles. Powered by AHAVA's proprietary Osmoter™ and natural plant extracts, the rich formula of concentrated Dead Sea minerals helps to soothe, repair splits and cracks, and leaves feet smooth and hydrated. Avocado, Wheat Germ, Sweet Almond, and Jojoba oils smooth, soften, nourish, and comfort your feet. Aloe Vera soothes. Tea Tree Leaf oil contains antibacterial and antifungal properties. Salicylic acid helps renew skin.

### AHAVA—Mineral Body Lotion (17 oz.)

The Dead Sea minerals and soothing Aloe Vera in this quickly absorbing body lotion protect the skin while they stimulate and elevate the natural hydration processes for a smooth, refined skin texture. Aloe Vera extracts soothe and provide natural moisture. Witch Hazel extracts smooth and sanitize the skin, providing a refreshing, revitalizing effect.

Please see Abigail Leichman's article "The Dead Sea Named a Top Healing Spot" on [p. 21](#).



# Dead Sea Named a Top Healing Spot



BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

Topping *Travel + Leisure's* list of recommended international healing destinations for 2022 is the Dead Sea.

This unique body of water, bordered by Israel and Jordan, is also called the Salt Sea (*Yam Hamelach* in Hebrew). At almost 1,000 feet deep, it's the deepest salt water lake in the world. The Dead Sea's shores and water surface are over 1,400 feet below sea level. Its salt concentration is nearly 34%, which is 27 times denser than Utah's Great Salt Lake and 9.6 times saltier than most oceans.

Writing about the Dead Sea, the travel magazine noted: "Besides being absolutely breathtaking, this landlocked salt lake has long been touted for its health-giving properties. From slathering the black mud over your skin for exfoliation and alleviating skin conditions like psoriasis, to its professed natural power to remedy asthma, arthritis, osteoporosis, and other issues, the body of water also boasts a low content of pollen and other allergens. ... At 1,412 feet below sea level, harmful UV rays are filtered through

an evaporation layer above the Dead Sea, the ozone layer, and an extra atmospheric layer. This is said to mean that sunbathers can absorb the beneficial effects of vitamin D from the sun's rays without risk of sunburn and ensuing skin damage."

*Travel + Leisure* noted that Cleopatra is believed to have traveled to the Dead Sea with her Egyptian entourage to bathe in its waters.

Ezekiel prophesied that in the Millennium, waters from the Temple will flow down to the Dead Sea. Its water will become fresh — full of life — and trees will grow on its banks that will provide fruit for food and leaves for healing (Ezek. 47:1–12). — Editor

The Dead Sea is one of our favorite spots on the planet, and every Zola Tour goes there. We always cover ourselves in the healing mud, and then float on the sea! —Kirsten

Please see the *Living Waters* CD on p. 23.

Please also see AhavaMineral Skin-care products on p. 20. ☆



credit: Drew Gilliam on Unsplash

A Dead Sea bather





# Letters to ZLM

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

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

## Perversions of God's Word?

**From N.C.:** My Dad and I watch your program each week and support your projects where we can. I really liked the Bible crossword from Andrea Davis in the *Levitt Letter*. I was disappointed when she switched from KJV to NIV. Most of the "new" versions are based on translations from Westcott and Hort, who were not Christians. Only the King James Version is the preserved (over 400 years) Word of God in English. In England, they picked 49 language scholars and went through each verse seven times to ensure proper translation. Most people don't like "thee" and "thou," but that was to ensure proper noun verb tenses. The NIV had homosexuals on the translation team. That is my studied opinion.



**UNWIELDINESS ASIDE, BOB PREFERRED HIS MORE AUTHENTIC VERSION OF THE BIBLE**

**Dear N.C.:** As you may know, the original documents that we have of God's inspired Word were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Thus, the KJV did not "preserve" God's Word in English. It is one translation into English (among almost 50!) and not even the first English Bible translation (which was from John Wycliffe over 230 years earlier).

Other English translations (or the 700 other language translations) are not perversions of God's Word.

No translation is perfect; all versions have words or phrases that are disputed by some Bible scholars. The KJV also has translation errors. For example, the KJV mentions unicorns in several places (including Numbers 23:22 and Isaiah 34:7) as a translation for a one-horned animal. There are books and web pages that note other translation issues (both minor and major).

Newer scholarship has resulted in more accurate translations than what was possible for the KJV over 400 years ago. Much of the KJV is fine and is the source of some of our most beloved and memorized verses ("For God so loved the world...", etc.). However, some passages are hard for modern English readers to understand due to archaic idioms and words whose meaning has changed. And understanding God's Word to put it into practice in our lives is what is most important.

There are three primary Bible versions: Word-for-word, thought-for-thought, and paraphrased. Each type has its uses. We recommend that people consult a variety of translations when encountering a difficult passage and not limit themselves to a single version or translation style. — Greg H., webmaster

*(continued on next page)*

## The Marlboro Marine

**From P.S.:** My husband and I have been watching your TV program since Zola was with us. I have since lost my dear husband just as we have lost Zola. They completed their journey on this Earth and are now at a different home.

I was so impressed with Mark's article, "The Marlboro Marine," in the July *Levitt Letter* (["A Note from Mark," p. 13](#)). I can remember the first time I saw the picture of that Marine. I wanted to reach out to him and comfort him. I can't help but wonder where this brave young hero is today. God bless you, Mark, and Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller.

## More on Catholic Influence

**From M.B.:** On [page 22 of the June Levitt Letter](#), Kirsten gave a very damning response to a letter from M.T. about Catholic influence at ZLM. Kirsten obviously knows nothing about that whore religion of Rome! Nor the blood on its hands from the death of countless Jews when Rome cozied up to Hitler! Evidently, it's just fine with Kirsten to embrace a religion that does not believe in Christ's finished work on the Cross and wants to worship the female deity, Mary.

**Dear M.B.:** While you've noted some key flaws with Catholicism, **no one has been as thorough as ZLM's own Dr. Todd Baker in his 408-page treatise, *Exodus from Rome Volume 1: A Biblical and Historical Critique of Roman Catholicism*, available at Amazon.** Please reread our editor's reply on [page 22 of the June Levitt Letter](#) for reassurance that "there is no Catholic influence or direction at ZLM." That said, I pray that Catholics and others are led to closer walks with our Lord through ZLM's solid two-testament Bible teaching. —Mark

## Hebrew Resources

**From M.C.:** I have been interested in learning Hebrew. I am starting a class at my church, and your resources are the best I have seen. I would appreciate any information you can send along with my order for *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew*.

**Dear M.C.:** What a gift for all of us to have ZLM's Bible teaching resources at our disposal. *Lehitra'ot* (look that one up!) —Kirsten

*(continued on next page)*

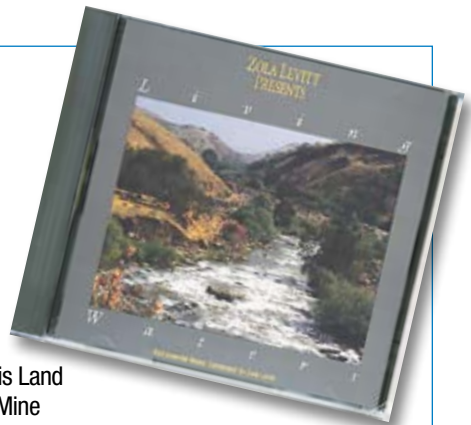


## *Living Waters* music CD

Inspired by the video series of the same title, this instrumental music is a must for those who previously enjoyed *Beyond Words*. Performed by a full symphony orchestra. Relax and enjoy!

### Song titles include:

- At the Feast
- In the Bulrushes
- This Land is Mine
- Theme from *Living Waters* series
- Peace Be Still
- Wishes
- Rebecca at the Well
- At the Oasis
- The Marketplace
- Beside the Still Waters





## Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies

**From D.H.:** I just purchased my sixth course from your Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies. I enjoy listening to the CDs in the car while driving to and from work. I plan to complete all 12 courses and earn the diploma. The knowledge I have gotten from the first five courses has been invaluable. I am a Bible teacher, and this study course has enhanced my teaching so much.

**Dear D.H.:** Kirsten and I have both completed the courses. Every lesson brings new revelation. How fitting that Dr. Seif is also our teacher on our weekly TV program. You can watch most episodes any-time, free of charge, at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv) — David

## Justifying Putin's Invasion?

**From T.K.:** Mark, your rather vague last paragraph in "A Nazi Massacre in Ukraine" [["A Note from Mark," p. 14 of the June 2022 Levitt Letter](#)] left me unsure as to your exact meaning. I'm wondering if you are trying to justify Putin's invasion and mass murder of Ukrainians as some sort of payback for the Holocaust? Please tell us all that this is not the case!

**Dear T.K.:** The last paragraph of my June article was based on Sergei Loznitsa's documentary, *Babi Yar. Context*, which describes  
*(continued on next page)*



credit: Johannes Häfner (1906–1949)

Soviet POWs covering a mass grave after the Babi Yar massacre, October 1, 1941



**New!**



## Jewish Heritage Calendar 5783 (2022–2023)

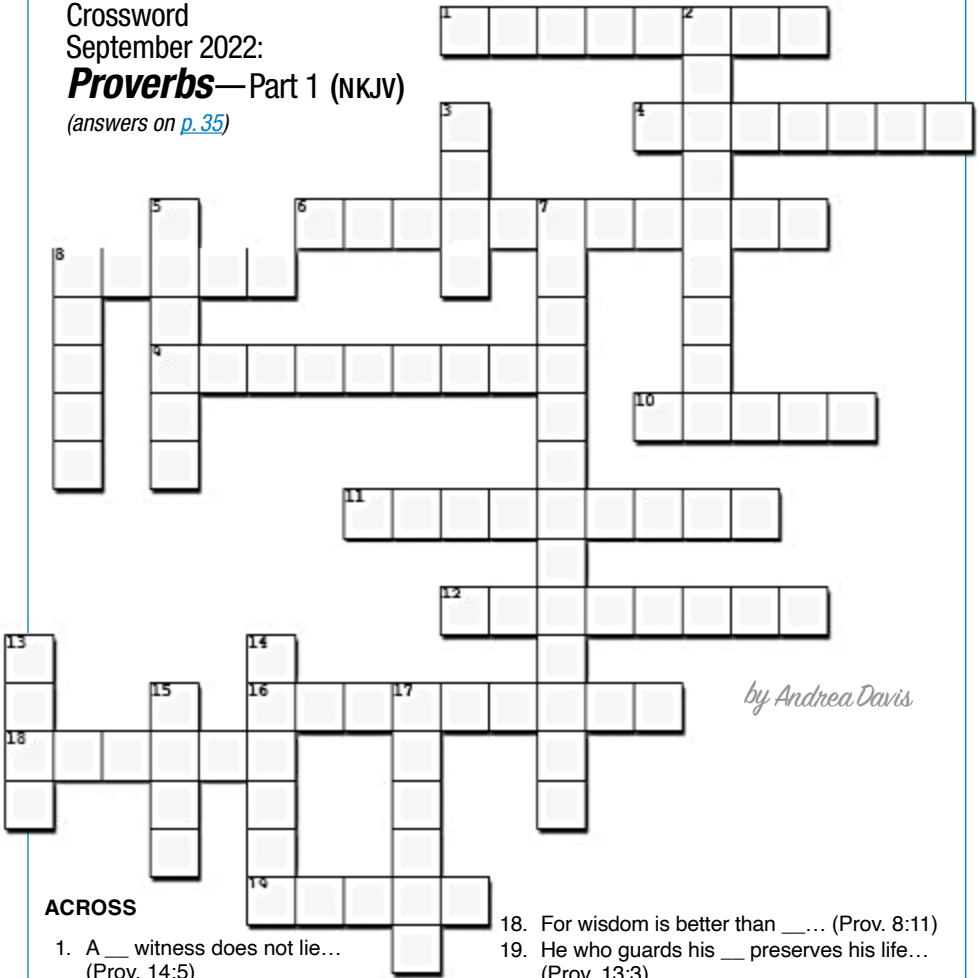
The beautiful and inspirational Jewish Heritage Calendar includes colorful graphics of Seven Feasts of Israel and Hebrew decorations and apparel. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and more. Hebrew words are transliterated into English like they are in the Hebrew Lesson of each month's *Levitt Letter*. The calendar spans 13 months—from September 2022 through September 2023.

Please see [the cover article](#), "Hearing the Sound of the *Shofar*."

the Nazi-led massacre in Ukraine in 1941. The fact that Ukraine's current president is Jewish makes it ridiculous for Russian president Vladimir Putin to claim that his invasion's goal is denazification. Though Ukraine has more than its fair share of anti-Semites, Putin claiming such an honorable motive is preposterous. Thanks for asking. — Mark

P.S.: Please see the Bulletin Board brief, "Ukrainian President's Grandfather Fought Nazis," on [p. 15](#). ☆

Crossword  
September 2022:  
**Proverbs**—Part 1 (NKJV)  
(answers on [p. 35](#))



*by Andrea Davis*

**ACROSS**

1. A \_\_\_ witness does not lie... (Prov. 14:5)
4. My son, keep your father's \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 6:20)
6. Whoever loves \_\_\_ loves knowledge... (Prov. 12:1)
8. When \_\_\_ comes, then comes shame... (Prov. 11:2)
9. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 1:7)
10. \_\_\_ lips are an abomination to the Lord... (Prov. 12:22)
11. The hope of the \_\_\_ will be gladness... (Prov. 10:28)
12. The \_\_\_ soul will be made rich... (Prov. 11:25)
16. He who walks with \_\_\_ walks securely... (Prov. 10:9)

18. For wisdom is better than \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 8:11)
19. He who guards his \_\_\_ preserves his life... (Prov. 13:3)

**DOWN**

2. A quick-tempered man acts \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 14:17)
3. The fear of the Lord is to \_\_\_ evil... (Prov. 8:13)
5. The Lord is far from the \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 15:29)
7. ...And lean not on your own \_\_\_\_; (Prov. 3:5)
8. ...But a man understanding holds his \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 11:12)
13. He who despises the \_\_\_ will be destroyed... (Prov. 13:13)
14. For the Lord gives \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 2:6)
15. A \_\_\_ son makes a father glad... (Prov. 15:20)
17. Righteousness \_\_\_ a nation... (Prov. 14:34)



# Robotic Beehive Helps Save Bees and Global Food Supply

BY GIL PRESS (r) Forbes.com

A third of all the food produced in the world is pollinated by bees. Because of this, the decreasing global honeybee population is a great concern for our food supply.

"We're losing honeybee colonies at an unprecedented rate globally. Just 40 years ago, the annual colony loss rate was a mere 3%. Today, it's more than 35%. When this rate surpasses 50%, the world will be unable to sustain the bee population," said Saar Safra, CEO and co-founder of Beewise, an Israeli startup determined to save the bees.

Beehome is Beewise's newly designed beehive that includes precision robotics, computer vision, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). It enables constant monitoring of live honeybees, using AI to observe their needs in real-time. Beewise does not alter what beekeepers traditionally do. Rather, it augments their work by upgrading the traditional, 150-year-old beehive.

It's beekeeping at scale, as Safra describes it. The Beehome "provides 24/7 monitoring and smart technology that significantly increases pollination capacity and honey production; detects threats to a honeybee colony such as pesticides and the presence of pests and immediately defends against them; responds to threats in real-time and requires no human intervention; is thermally regulated; protects from fires, flooding, and Asian wasps or murder hornets; and provides enhanced feeding techniques for when forage is not available to the bees."



**top:** Beewise Founders (left to right) Hillel Schreier, Eliyah Radzyner, Saar Safra, Yossi Surin, Boaz Petersil **bottom:** Beehome in the field

There are many threats to this important component of our food supply, including widespread use of pesticides, pollution, new diseases and pests, and more. These factors will continue to reduce the bee population unless beekeepers get the help they desperately need.

**Beewise currently manages more than seven billion bees**, which equates to 25,000 acres of pollinated crops. The company estimates that Beehome has saved over 160 million bees since May 2021.

**"Beehome reduces bee mortality by 80%"** — from 35% colony loss in the field to less than 8% — resulting in increased yields of at least 50%. And Beehome eliminates approximately 90% of manual labor compared to traditional beehives," added Safra.

For beekeepers, a solution that saves their business comes as a great relief, promising to reverse the alarming trend.

Expressions of relief, however, will go beyond the beekeepers. According to the USDA, one colony of honeybees is worth 100 times more to the community than to the beekeeper. ☆

# Snoring Is a Risk Factor for Post-Menopausal Women



BY NATHAN JEFFAY (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Medical professionals around the world could save lives and reduce illness by talking snoring with their post-menopausal female patients, Israeli researchers emphasized.

Undetected sleep apnea is most common among post-menopausal women. The sleep disorder, in which breathing repeatedly stops and starts, can lead to adverse medical conditions including cardiovascular events, hypertension, heart attack, stroke, and even death.

Prof. Ilana Eli of Tel Aviv University, who led the peer-reviewed study that was published in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, stressed that undetected sleep apnea is worrying. She noted that many women are hesitant to tell doctors they snore. They feel it's not feminine, but they are endangering their health by being quiet, as snoring is a risk factor for sleep apnea, Eli said.

Eli, a dental professor and expert in sleep disturbance, found that around **1 in 10 women aged 55-plus who snore develop sleep apnea** — many more than among younger women — but only a tiny proportion of them are diagnosed. This means that many women lack treatment, which is sometimes a relatively simple process of administering oxygen while sleeping.

"Many women wrongly think that it's not befitting for a woman to admit to snoring," said Eli. "But it's important medical information, and there are great benefits to doctors becoming more focused on snoring and asking post-menopausal women if they snore."

**Post-menopausal women with sleep apnea often suffer from unexplained fatigue, headaches, muscle soreness upon waking, and sleep problems.** For some, telling a doctor about snoring can help them piece together complaints and understand that sleep apnea is at the root of the problem.

Eli commented: "The lack of early diagnosis is particularly noticeable in ... women over the age of 50, who suffer from an increase in the incidence of sleep-disordered breathing due to hormonal changes that occur during menopause. We wanted to examine and characterize the phenomenon in this group in order to raise a red flag when necessary."

Eli and her colleagues noted that in addition to doctors, dentists, who are not generally involved in detecting sleep apnea, should be asked to spot cases of it.

The researchers wrote: "Expanding the focus of dental diagnosis beyond the oral cavity and paying attention to common daily symptoms, such as SB [sleep bruxism or teeth grinding], snoring, muscle stiffness, or headaches upon awakening, can help dentists to detect initial signs of OSA [sleep apnea]." ☆



credit: Wavebreakmedia (depositphotos.com)



# "Hard Times are Coming for Jews and Christians"

BY GIDON ARIEL (r) JPost.com



credit: Cheri Behar

Dr. Laralyn RiverWind and Chief Joseph RiverWind

Chief Joseph RiverWind and his wife, Dr. Laralyn RiverWind, have been building bridges between Jews and Christians for the past 16 years.

Joseph was raised in a mixed spiritual family that included traditional Native American ways, non-practicing Catholicism, and Evangelical beliefs. He embraced Yeshua at the age of 30.

After the death of Joseph's father a few years ago, he inherited generational books, photos, and other items that made it clear that **the Spanish portions of Joseph's family were, in fact, Sephardic**. This was confirmed through DNA tests and genealogy tracking done by the Institute for Sefardi and Anousim Studies at Netanya Academic College. But the news of Joseph's Jewish heritage came well after he had begun taking up Jewish prayers, festivals, studies, and socio-political causes.

Laralyn was raised in a Christian home and has been a Believer since her youth. She was raised to love and support Israel.

Together, they have spent the past 16 years embracing Torah and weeding out pagan practices from their religious beliefs. Today, they run FireKeepers International in Elizabethton, Tennessee.

After completing a pilot program in Israel in 2018, the RiverWinds were made "Ambassadors of God" at the Knesset by then MK Rabbi Yehuda Glick on Jerusalem Day.

Joseph is a "peace chief" and the ambassador of his Native American tribe, Descendants of Puerto Rico's First Nation. Laralyn is the am-

*(continued on next page)*





bassador of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. But they say that their favorite titles are “servant of God” and “friend of Israel.”

Christian World (at *The Jerusalem Post*) recently interviewed the RiverWinds.

### **What is the main focus of your activities today?**

*We are preparing people for hard times. We believe that hard times are coming for Jews and Christians. We have been saying this for about a year, and we are beginning to see some of that already unfolding. We desire to see the two [religious] groups work together to optimize survival.*

*One of the ways we do this is by fighting anti-Semitism through public speaking and social media platforms.*

### **How long have you been doing that?**

*For the last year, we have been focusing on survival/hard times. But we have been working on Jewish-Christian relations for 16 years.*

### **What are some of the successful related programs or projects that you have done this year and in past years?**

*We have been working with Jews and others to supply Native Americans (on and off reservations) with personal protective equipment and food during the COVID-19 crisis.*

### **How did you get to where you are today?**

*We got where we are today by loving the Creator, loving others, and listening to wisdom from our elders.*

### **What do you think God is doing with regard to Jewish-Christian relations?**

We believe that God is:

- *calling Christians to repent for the sins of the past toward the Jewish people.*
- *calling Christians to bless Israel/the Jewish people — not so that they themselves will be blessed but instead out of pure love for the Jewish people.*
- *healing the heart of the Jewish people of the wounds of the past.*
- *beginning to build relationships between Jews and Christians so that they can work together during these upcoming hard times.*
- *building a new, unnamed category of people who are hard to define under traditional religious labels; people who love the Creator and His Book — those who read it, study it, and live it. ☆*



Chief Joseph and Dr. Laralyn RiverWind performing



## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Sofia Swidi

### Delegation of Young European Muslims Visits Israel

By Dana Ben-Shimon / IsraelHayom.com

Eighteen-year-old **Sofia Swidi**, a Belgian Muslim living in Brussels, visited Israel in July and found that **none of what she heard about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict back home corresponded to the reality on the ground.**

"What we see in our media is Israeli soldiers with rifles beating Palestinians. The other day we went on

a tour of Jerusalem, and I happened to see an Israeli soldier at the bus stop, and she looked like a regular person, just in uniform. She was very sweet, like any other girl, no matter where you come from or your religion," she described.

Sofia lives in Molenbeek, one of the municipalities that has become known as a place of refuge for extremist Muslims. Its members have perpetrated terror attacks in Belgium and other European countries.

"We feel a little bit safer today; terrorism in Europe has diminished, but the stereotypes against us still exist," she explained. "The attacks and terror hurt us as well; it gives us a bad name. There is a fear of being labeled as 'Muslims, the terrorists.'"

Sofia arrived in Israel as part of a 40-member delegation of young Muslim community leaders from France and Belgium. The trip was organized by Israeli education NGO LNET and led by French imam **Hassen Chalghoumi**, who holds moderate views and opposes anti-Semitism.

Abd al-Hamid Benishu, who worked as a Belgian policeman in the 1990s, also participated in the trip. Born in

*(continued on next page)*



### Dry Bones

Israel and Iran



Hassen Chalghoumi

credit: Guillaume



Algeria, he moved to Belgium at the age of 22. He has long warned against the growing extremism among Molenbeek youth.

**"It comes from the mosques. There's brainwashing.** They preach in a more sophisticated manner today, but the messages are clear and the extremism in mosques still exists," he noted. "A Muslim person doesn't see himself as a citizen of Belgium first and foremost, but as an immigrant, part of the Muslim collective. Belgium was too tolerant with Muslims for many years. There is a need for boundaries."

## Almost Half of Israelis Fear a Second Holocaust

JPost.com

Despite the phrase "never again" long linked to Holocaust commemoration, almost half (47%) of the Israeli public are concerned that another Holocaust will strike the Jewish people.

A new survey found that women expressed more anxiety about another Holocaust compared to men (55% versus 42%). It also revealed that younger Israelis are especially fearful — 24% of Israelis under the age of 24 said that they were very worried about a second Holocaust, in contrast to just 12% of Israelis over the age of 45.

Notably, religiously observant Israelis are more worried about an ensuing Holocaust. Israelis who define themselves as *Haredim* (ultra-Orthodox) were very concerned about the likelihood, as opposed to just 11% of Israelis who identify themselves as secular.

The ongoing threat from the Iranian regime, which has repeatedly declared its desire to wipe out the Jewish state, is a noted contributor to Israelis' concerns.

The poll, conducted by the Prima movement, was published before Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day in April. ☆



Memorial candles with names of Holocaust victims that were given away to the public in Tel Aviv ahead of Holocaust Remembrance Day



## Archaeology

# Ancient Mosaics Discovered in Lower Galilee

ALLISRAEL.COM

A team of archaeologists recently discovered depictions of the Biblical heroines Deborah and Jael. The group was working at an excavation site in the ancient Jewish village of Huqoq in the Lower Galilee.

Led by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professor Jodi Magness, the team of specialists and students excavated the mosaics that are believed to be nearly 1,600 years old.

The archaeologists have been working on the excavation of an ancient Jewish synagogue — the Huqoq Excavation Project — since 2011.

They recently uncovered mosaics that portray the story of Deborah the prophetess as recorded in the Book of Judges. She joined Barak in the battle against King Jabin of Canaan. Together, they defeated the Canaanite forces.

Barak had said he would only go to battle if Deborah joined him. Deborah then prophesied that a woman would be honored for killing Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army. When facing defeat at the hand of the Israelites, the Canaanite commander fled the battle and hid in the tent of a Jewish woman named Jael, who killed him by driving a tent peg into his head.

"This is the first depiction of this episode and the first time we've seen a depiction of the Biblical

*(continued on next page)*



Mosaic of the Israelite commander Barak

credit: Jim Haberman



credit: Jim Haberman

UNC-Chapel Hill excavation participants at the Huqoq dig in June 2022, including graduate students and alumni. Bottom row from left to right (seated): David Richman; Christine Stamey; Aislynn Grantz; Madison Brinkley; Suzy Lagunas. Top row from left to right (standing): Emily Branton; Jodi Magness; Jocelyn Burney; Matthew Grey; Grace Curry; Jada Enoch (top right).

heroines Deborah and Jael in ancient Jewish art,” Magness said.

“Looking at the Book of Joshua, chapter 19, we can see how the story might have had special resonance for the Jewish community at Huqoq, [since it happened] in the same geographical region — the territory of the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun,” she added.

The newly-found mosaics are in three sections: the first shows Deborah looking at Barak; the second shows a seated Sisera; and the third shows Sisera lying on the ground after Jael killed him.



According to the Huqoq Excavation Project website, the synagogue was built in the Late Roman period (early fifth century AD). It includes beautiful mosaics that depict many Biblical scenes, including the building of the Tower of Babel, Noah’s Ark, the parting of the Red Sea, Samson from the Book of Judges, Jonah being swallowed by three successive fish, and animals identified as the four beasts representing the four kingdoms in the Book of Daniel.

“The synagogue just keeps producing mosaics that there’s just nothing like and is enriching our understanding of the Judaism of the period,” noted Magness in 2018, following the finding of a depiction of the twelve spies Moses sent to explore Canaan. In the mosaic, the spies carry a pole bearing a cluster of grapes.



A fox eating grapes

“Every village had its own synagogue,” Magness explained at the time. “In Huqoq, there’s a feeling that the villagers said, ‘We’re going to build the biggest and best.’ It’s as if they decided to throw everything into it.”

The land is constantly revealing its hidden treasures!  
It’s such a unique place! — David ☆



# PCUSA: "Israel is an Apartheid State"



BY MICHAEL STARR (r) JPost.com

At its 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in June, the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) declared Israel an apartheid state and established a Nakba Remembrance Day. It also passed two other resolutions highly critical of Israel.

One resolution claimed that there were two sets of laws for Israelis and Palestinians, which are preferential for the former and oppressive to the latter. It also asserted that Palestinian land and water were stolen for use by "Jewish-only settlements" and that Palestinians were denied freedom of residence and movement, living in "separate reserves and ghettos." This echoed language of a resolution passed on the same subject at the North Carolina Democratic Party state convention earlier in June.

The resolution rejected concerns among Christians that ascribing the term "apartheid" to Israel could lead to characterizations of anti-Semitism, having an undue focus on Israel, or hampering constructive dialog, noting that some Christians won't engage in legitimate criticism because of the Holocaust and the failure of some Christian groups to speak against the tragedy.

The International Engagement Committee also unanimously passed a resolution to designate May 15 as "Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day" and to observe it annually. Each May 15, Palestinians commemorate the *Nakba* (Arabic for "catastrophe") — the establishment of the State of Israel and the exodus of Palestinian refugees caused by the 1948 War of Independence, when the nascent state was attacked by several of its Arab neighbors.

The resolution emphasized that the Nakba "does not refer to the establishment of Israel itself, but rather the effect that the war had on the Palestinian people," which the new resolution described as the "expulsion

by terrorism and force of 750,000 Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim."

Another resolution called on Israel to end all military action in Gaza, which a PCUSA committee described as being disproportionate and collective punishment against Palestinians.

Since 2005, Gaza has been ruled by the terrorist organization Hamas, which has launched cross-border attacks and rockets against Israeli civilians. The resolution also called on Gaza to stop firing rockets indiscriminately into Israel. However, only two short sentences addressed Gazan actions, placing the most attention on Israel.

In other actions, the PCUSA rejected the Trump administration's move of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, saying that it damaged peace prospects. The denomination also issued a statement that it rejected "the doctrines of Christian Zionism that tend toward idolatry and heresy."

Arsen Ostrovsky, CEO of The International Legal Forum, condemned the resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state. "This resolution, with its plethora of anti-Semitic tropes, crosses all acceptable boundaries and descends into full-blown Jew-hatred that will only incite and fuel further violence against Jews," he emphasized.

[See the related article, "Presbyterian Leader Targets American Jews," on p. 34 of the April Levitt Letter.](#) ☆





# Jewish Humor, etc.

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

## Children Writing to God

Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now?

Dear God, I went to a wedding and they kissed in the synagogue. Is that OK?

Dear God, Thank You for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.

Dear God, Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

Dear God, I think about You sometimes, even when I'm not praying.

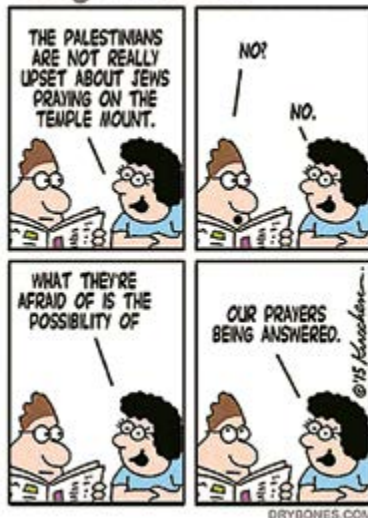
Dear God, I guess it is very hard for You to love all the people in the world. There are only four people in our family, and I can never do it.

Dear God, My brothers told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. They are just kidding, aren't they?

Dear God, Did You mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

Dear God, People say Thomas Edison made light. But in Hebrew school, we learned that You did it. So I guess he stole Your idea. ☆

## Dry Bones



## Answer Key for September 2022 Crossword (p.25)

### Across:

1. Faithful
4. Command
6. Instruction
8. Pride
9. Knowledge
10. Lying

### Down:

11. Righteous
12. Generous
16. Integrity
18. Rubies
19. Mouth
2. Foolishly
3. Hate
5. Wicked
7. Understanding
8. Peace
13. Word
14. Wisdom
15. Wise
17. Exalts



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