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Dear Reader.

I recall the words I often heard as a teen before leaving with friends: "Remember who you are." Sometimes coupled with another phrase, "Remember whose you are," my parents encouraged me to reflect on what I had been taught and honor my family's (and the Lord's) name with my words and actions.

This wisdom remains appropriate for me, and I believe it is important for all of us Believers to follow. As we approach some of the calendared days that should prompt our remembrance — Yom Kippur, *Sukkot*, and Thanksgiving — we must also live so that we honor the "noble name [of Yeshua] by which [we] are called" (James 2:7).

This edition of the *Levitt Letter* presents reminders of what God has done for us (cover) and how we can live as a result (8, 16). In this issue, you'll also discover witnessing tips from Todd (13), a sneak peek of the new television series on *Our Jewish Roots* (28), insights on Israeli innovation (26, 27), and much more.

"So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it..." (Rev. 3:3). While you do so, please also continue to sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim—pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6),



Greg Miller, Editor Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Our ministry has been especially busy in recent months producing new material for broadcast, publication, and online. As Mark notes (p. 14), "we're reaching far and wide while continuing God's work even as we die." We're also grateful for your prayers and financial support, which enable us to continue sharing Yeshua's Gospel both in the U.S. and around the world. Thank you!

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

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Growing up, I was fascinated by Yom Kippur. How could my father go 24 hours without food? I couldn't imagine skipping a meal, much less a whole day's worth of eating. Why would we do such a thing? To be forgiven of our sins, I was told. Not a bad deal, I figured. We do what we want during the year and then fast for a day and all will be well.

As an adult, I saw no evidence of God's existence, so I didn't fast. In fact, the only Yom Kippur on which I fasted was in 1983, a month before I came to faith in Yeshua. I was searching; I realized that I didn't know where I was going when I died or even if there was a God. But I wanted to know. So on the evening of September 16, 1983, I fasted along with the rest of the Jewish world.

Then after sundown on the 17th, I ate. But no matter how much I consumed, I was still empty inside. I didn't find God during the fast.

(continued p.4)

REMEMBER:

Yom Kippur: Sunset October 4 to sunset October 5 Sukkot: Sunset October 9 to sunset October 16

Four Holocaust Survivors Honored

sraelNationalNews.com

Four people received the 2022 Simon Wiesenthal Prize for sharing their testimonies as Holocaust survivors and for dedicating their lives to Holocaust education and fighting anti-Semitism.

Lily Ebert was born in Hungary in 1923 and deported to Auschwitz in 1944, where her mother, younger brother and sister were murdered. After four months, Ebert and two of her other sisters were put to work in a munitions factory near Leipzig, where she was liberated by U.S. troops. She eventually settled in England in 1967 with

(continued p.2)





Four Holocaust Survivors Honored continued from cover sidebar

three children. Today, her great-grandson, Doy Forman, runs a TikTok account for her

that has over 1.6 million followers. Forman and Ebert also co-authored a book. *Lilv's Promise*: Holding On to Hope Through Auschwitz and Beyond—A Story for All Generations.

Lily Ebert (center)

Zwi Nigal was born in Vienna in 1923. He fled to Palestine in 1939 and fought in the British army against Nazi Germany, His father was murdered

in the Holocaust, After the war, he joined the *Haganah* [the Jewish paramilitary forces from 1920–1948] and fought in Israel's War of Independence. Since his retirement, he has spoken about the Holocaust to an average of 1,500 schoolchildren each year in Germany and Austria.

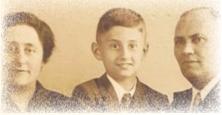


Zwi Nigal (right)

Karl Pfeifer was born near Vienna in 1928 and fled to Hungary with his parents in 1938. He then escaped to Palestine and returned to Austria in 1951, Pfeifer is active

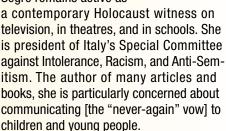


as a journalist and was editor of the Gemeinde, the official newspaper of the Jewish Community of Vienna, Until 2005. he worked as a Vienna correspondent for Israeli radio and as a freelance magazine journalist. He actively works against anti-Semitism.



Karl Pfeifer and family

Liliana Segre was born in Milan in 1930. In 1944, at age 13, she was one of 776 Italian children deported to Auschwitz. Only 25 survived, Today, Segre remains active as



The Simon Wiesenthal Prize is an initiative by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism. Created in 2020, it is named after Simon Wiesenthal, the late Austrian Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter. It honors individuals or groups "for their special civil society commitment to combating anti-Semitism and raising awareness about the Holocaust."

The goal of the award is "to encourage others to raise their voices," said Wolfgang Sobotka, president of the National Council, Austria's lower house of parliament.

With so much negativity and chaos in todav's world. Holocaust survivor stories remind us to remain strong despite our difficulties. —Kirsten



CONTENTS



Teaching

4 Yom Kippur: To Fast or Not to Fast? (continued from cover)

Studio Co-host

6 Is It Okay to Question?



The Light of Tabernacles

Classic Zola

10 "Hath God Cast Away His People?" (part 2)

Ask the Chaplain
What is Biblical
Hermeneutics?



13 From Galilee to Jerusalem



15 ZLM Bulletin Board

Parsons: Hebrew Lesson

16 Rejoicing in the Truth

ZLM Order Form



21 Where to Find ZLM

22 Letters to ZLM

25 Crossword Puzzle

Science

26 Reducing Herbicide Use by Distinguishing Weeds from Crops

Medicine





30 Select Media Briefs

Archaeology

32 Celebrating Sukkot 2,000 Years Ago

Anti-Semitism

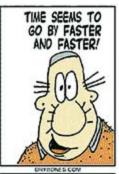
34 The Indoctination of Muslim Children

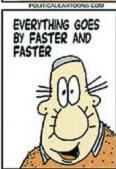
35 Jewish Humor

Dry Bones

Atonement











Two-flag collar pin

With interlocking American and Israeli flags, this unique full-color pin proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of Biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace!

Yom Kippur: To Fast or Not to Fast?

continued from cover

Fasting Cannot Remove Sin

After coming to faith, I realized that fasting cannot remove sin. It was never intended to remove sin. Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement, not the Day of Fasting.

Fasting has become the major focal point of Yom Kippur. But when the Day of Atonement was given to Moses, it was not. The *sacrifice* was. In Leviticus 16, God gives Aaron detailed instructions for Yom Kippur. While that chapter mentions fasting [in some translations], clearly the focus is on two goats.

One goat was sacrificed. The priest laid his hands on the other goat, imparting Israel's sin to the goat, and it was released into the desert.

Fasting cannot and did not atone for sin. This is clear from Scripture: "... on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you" (Lev. 16:30).

You cannot atone for your own sins—"atonement will be made for you." The priest interceded for the people and the goat received the judgment that Israel deserved. But Jewish children around the world are taught wrongly, as I was, that we can atone for our own sins through fasting. This is because the Temple was destroyed in AD 70. With the destruction of the Temple came the end of sacrifices, priests, and goats. The emphasis then changed from blood sacrifice to fasting—not by divine edict, but by the reasoning of religious leaders.

To be fair, I don't know many rabbis who teach that you can sin with reckless abandon and simply fast on Yom Kippur. Still, the way to forgiveness in virtually all Jewish circles is not by relying on an innocent substitute, but on what you can do: fasting, good deeds, repentance, giving, and prayer. These are good, but good deeds cannot erase bad ones any more than not stealing from someone can erase one's guilt for stealing from another person.

To

Why Fast?

There was a purpose in the corporate national fast. It was a gesture of humility and the correct posture in which to ask for mercy. For example, when I was

(continued on next page)



Detail of On the Eve of Yom Kippur, painting (circa 1900) by Jakub Weinles (1870–1938), National Museum in Warsaw



young, I was arrested for shoplifting. While everything was handled out of court and I did community service, I can imagine if my case had gone to trial. When I presented myself before the judge, would I have gone in a t-shirt and ripped jeans? Or would I have worn a suit and tie, presenting myself to show that I understood the seriousness of the situation? Obviously, the latter. It would not guarantee leniency, but it might heighten my chances.

In this same way, fasting was not intended to atone for sin. But it was the proper attire, if you will, to present your offering before the Lord. Fasting expressed to God an

acknowledgment of and a brokenness over sin. But it was not intended to deal with it, because only the shedding of blood can atone for sin.

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. —Lev. 17:11

Should We Fast?

The Bible says that Yom Kippur "is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come" (Leviticus 23:31). And yet, for Believers* in the New Covenant, we know that Yeshua fulfilled Yom Kippur since He was the once-for-all-time sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 9:26–28). So how should Jewish Believers deal with Yom Kippur?

In the same way that the Yom Kippur fast was the proper posture of humility to present the offering, so it's the proper act of humility to commemorate Yeshua's work of salvation. We should fast as an expression of thanks to Yeshua for sacrificing Himself and paying the penalty for our sin.

We should fast as an expression of thanks to Yeshua for sacrificing Himself and paying the penalty for our sin.

Fasting is one of many ways to express thanksgiving. It is a way of remembering that He took our bullet. It recognizes that we are weak humans and there was nothing we could have done to save ourselves. This is why Yeshua was disgusted by those who used fasting to impress others with their spirituality. Fasting was meant for the exact opposite — as an expression of humility before God.

Furthermore, it can be a time of intercession for unbelieving Israel. People like Anna (Luke 2) fasted and interceded for the Messiah to come, and He came. She read the writings of the prophets and prayed. We know that the Scriptures promise a great awakening for Israel (Hosea 3:5; Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:26). Fasting on Yom Kippur and praying for Israel can be a powerful tool to see that awakening realized.

In closing, may you have a *Tzom Kal*—an Easy Fast—and may the presence of Yeshua be close to you.



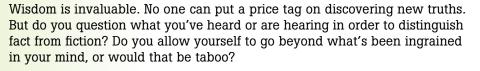
^{* &}quot;Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

Is It Okay to Question?

Kirsten Hart Studio co-host of Our Jewish Roots









Bible 101

One of the first Bible courses I took as a college freshman in 1984 galvanized my spiritual journey. Most of the freshmen there had similar backgrounds—we had grown up in church, attended Sunday school regularly, and had enough Scriptural knowledge to assume that we'd ace that "Intro to the Bible" class. But then the professor stood up and stated, "I want you to erase everything you think you know about the Bible and your faith. We will start from the beginning of the Bible, and I want you to make it yours: not the faith



of your parents, pastor, or youth pastor. It's time that you discover why *you* believe what you believe."

Seeking Truth That's Personal

That statement was shocking. But it opened the door for spiritual exploration that I had never imagined. I set out to pursue Biblical truth in order to develop my own foundation of faith. To this day, I strive to "Make every effort to present yourself before God as tried and true, as an unashamed worker cutting a straight path with the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, TLV).

I'm still seeking Biblical truth and spiritual growth. Honestly, I have

Dr. Jeffrey Seif to thank for much of my continued development. David and I have been the studio co-hosts of *Our Jewish Roots* for over five years! I'm always amazed at how each program provides spiritual insights that cause me to rethink what I heard in churches that lacked a proper Jewish comprehension and foundation. Without contextual knowledge, meaning can be missed. Lacking thorough study, fallacies may be taught as fact. (See "What is Biblical Hermeneutics?" on



p. 12 for more on properly studying and interpreting the Bible.)

A discerning heart gains knowledge, the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. —Proverbs 18:15 (TLV)

Rebuilding Your Faith Foundation

So, is it okay to question? Simply put, yes. In the coming months, I will look at some of the foundational "truths" that churches have propagated that Believers should re-examine through the lens of Scripture. This journey might feel uncomfortable for some ZLMers, but I believe the trek will be worth the reward. **Bon voyage!**



P.S. If you are a crusader for the spiritual truths presented weekly through *Our Jewish Roots*,

would you take up the financial mantle to assure that this ministry continues broadcasting God's message to the multitudes? We depend on you; we need you; we thank you!



"I'd like to get a cost estimate on a bagel."

(see Revelation 6:6)



The Light of Tabernacles

25

BY SAM NADLER / WordOfMessiah.org



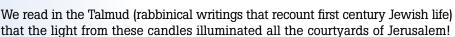
Detail (with light rays added) of Christus Consolator by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890)

Back to

When Yeshua lived on Earth, perhaps the most anticipated and festive Feast of the year was The Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot* in Hebrew). During this time, each family would live in a temporary dwelling (*sukkah*) to remember God's protection over Israel when they wandered in the wilderness. This eight-day festival was one of three Feasts where all Israelites were to "appear before the *LORD*" (Deut. 16:16) in Jerusalem. As people celebrated this Feast, other *Sukkot* traditions developed through the years to illustrate its meaning. One such tradition involved massive golden candlesticks.



On the first day of the Feast, three 75-foot-high candlesticks were erected in the Temple in the Court of Women, where the treasury was located. The Court of Women was a place where all worshipers—men and women alike—could experience the joy of the Feast of Tabernacles around the great candlesticks.

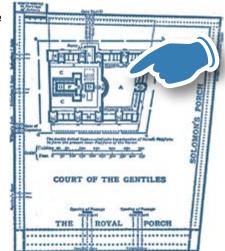


Young men would climb ladders to light the candles. The Talmud states that at the base of the candles, "Men of piety and good deeds would dance ... with lighted torches in their hands, singing songs and praises. Levites without number with harps, lyres, cymbals, trumpets, and other musical instruments (were) there upon the fifteen steps leading down from the Court of the Gentiles to the Court of the Women."

These celebrations continued for seven days. But on the eighth and final day of the Feast, the lights were extinguished for a solemn assembly (Lev. 23:36).



Since the Feast of Tabernacles is a harvest festival (Lev. 23:39), one might question the purpose of this tradition involving these great



Plan of Herod's Temple and Courts from the *Dictionary of the Bible* (1909) [pointing finger indicates Women's Court]

(continued on next page)

candles in the Temple. The ancient prophets help us understand its meaning.

The prophet Zechariah forever identified the Feast of
Tabernacles with the Kingdom reign of the Lord, as a
time when all the nations "will go up from year to year
to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, and to celebrate the
Feast of Tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16). We don't know everything
we'll be doing when Yeshua reigns as King from Jerusalem, but we know
that we'll celebrate this feast. Zechariah teaches that this harvest celebration
points toward the future harvest of the nations to Messiah!

The True Light

But how does the light from the candlesticks relate to the Kingdom? Looking to that day, the prophets explain: "No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, and your God will be your glory" (Isa. 60:19; see also Zech. 14:6–7).

In the Book of Revelation, John foresees this eternal period when the Lord Himself is our everlasting Light (Rev. 21:23; 22:5).

Traditional Judaism refers to this future time as "the world to come" (olam haba), or "the days of Messiah." Today we may need various lights in order to see, but the candles of *Sukkot* pictured the hope of an age where no other light but the Lord is needed. The Kingdom to which the Feast of Tabernacles points is a time when we will no longer walk in the darkness of sin. Rather, we will walk in the gladness, salvation, and freedom of the Lord's light.

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be a light to all nations (Isa. 42:6; 49:6). Thus, the rabbis also consistently saw Messiah as the true light of God.

What did Yeshua do at the Feast of Tabernacles? At Sukkot, He went up to the Temple (John 7:10). When He arrived, those who came for the Feast had been celebrating joyously. But on the eighth day, the day of solemn assembly, no candlelight was evident. How dim it must have been! Yeshua came to the treasury (John 8:20), and near those great but extinguished candles, He declared, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life" (John 8:12).

Yeshua, the Messiah, is the Light. He is the personal Light of God, the revelation of God's glory. He is the perpetual Light of God, the only inexhaustible source of spiritual nourishment. The candlesticks were extinguished each year after the Feast, but Yeshua's light remains. He is the perfect Light of God, providing eternal direction for our lives. And He is the powerful light of God, the "Light of the world," able to make a difference for all people. Regardless of culture and heritage, everyone needs His light.

Yeshua is the only Light worth following. So if you have the Light, turn it on. Seek His guidance. And if you don't yet have His Light, you can receive it by trusting in Yeshua as Messiah! By following Him daily, you will never walk in darkness; you will have the "Light of Life." This Feast of Tabernacles, may you anticipate His glorious Kingdom by shining the Light of Messiah to others in this darkened world.

Considering the verse "I am the light of the world" along with the Feast of Tabernacles illuminates the Lord's words. —David

Please see *The Seven Feasts of Israel* (DVD set, CD, and booklet) on p. 20.



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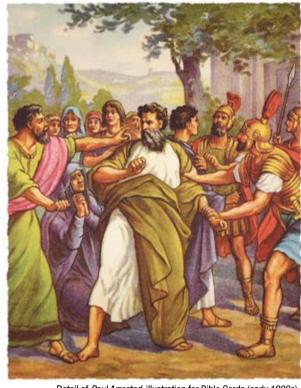
Classic **Zola**

"Hath God Cast Away His People?"

by **Zola Levitt** from 1991 31 years ago

Last month, Zola addressed Romans 9–10, in which Paul expresses his concern for the salvation of the Jewish people. Paul notes how, for the most part, they rejected righteousness through faith in Jesus and instead tried to achieve right standing with God through keeping the Law. — Editor

Paul begins Romans 11 with the question: "Hath God cast away His people?" (verse 1). The Apostle's answer to that question is succinct: "God forbid!" Then Paul gives his own Jewish lineage as evidence that Jews are saved by faith in Christ, just as gentiles are. Replacement Theology — the idea that



Detail of Paul Arrested, illustration for Bible Cards (early 1900s)



the Church has replaced Israel—is certainly at odds with Scripture. Paul says plainly, "God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew" (11:2).

The Apostle gives evidence of the sound doctrine of the remnant of Jewish Believers of his day (verses 2–6) and the fact that they understood that their salvation was by faith and not by works. And he then notes the Jews' blindness in

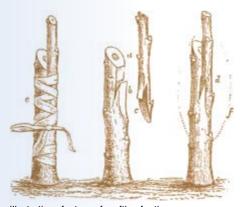


Illustration of a type of grafting for the Encyclopedia Britannica (1893)

part and their rejection of the Gospel as providing the gentiles the opportunity for salvation (verses 11–25). That gave rise to the analogy of the wild olive branch—the gentiles—being grafted into the good olive tree. Paul warns the gentiles not to boast of their position, since in reality the Jewish branches are more natural to the original tree. He also cites a time when "the fullness of the gentiles" will be accomplished (verse 25) and the conversion of Israel will be undertaken again at the Second Coming.

In Romans 11:26, Paul states that "all Israel shall be saved." Many people misinterpret this to mean that the Jews get a second chance just because they are Jews. In reality, however, Jews have the advantage of simply seeing the Lord Jesus with their own eyes as He accomplishes the Second Coming in

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Detail of *The Predication of Saint Paul* (1779) painting by Joseph-Benoît Suvée (1743–1807), Los Angeles County Museum of Art

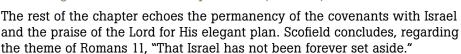
Jerusalem. (See "The Second Coming" booklet on p. 24.)
There are some things one just cannot disbelieve, such as seeing Him ride out of Heaven in a white robe identified as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16) and accompanied by a heavenly army. Wherever the Lord returns, those people looking at Him will believe and Israel simply has the advantage of being at that location. The uncleanness of Israel, Paul states, was "in part" and the Lord's coming solves it. As Zechariah pictures the Second Coming:

credit: The Ciechanowiecki Collection, Gift of The Ahmanson Foundation

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem.... In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

—Zechariah 12:10—13:1

Concluding, Paul reiterates that God collectively treated Israel "like enemies" for the gentiles' sake. Even so, God never recalled His "election" of them by the "everlasting" Abrahamic Covenant. Israel will yet receive all of God's glorious promises, since they are irrevocable, or, as Paul puts it, "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (verse 29).





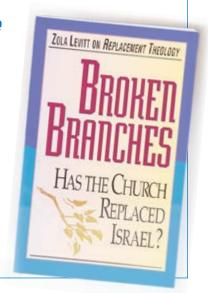


Broken Branches — Has the Church Replaced Israel? book

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.

(This and most titles are also available as eBooks.)



Ask the Chaplain

Q.

What is Biblical Hermeneutics?

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



The principles and methods used to interpret God's Word are called Biblical hermeneutics. The word "hermeneutic" comes from a Greek word that means "interpreter." Biblical hermeneutics is vital for understanding the meaning and application of Scripture.

Context is key in Bible interpretation.

Five questions help us to consider the context of a book or letter:

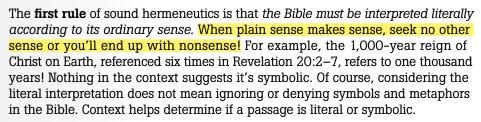
- 1. Who is the author?
- 2. When was it written?
- 3. Who was the original audience?
- 4. What was the occasion for writing?
- 5. What is its literary genre?

A verse's context includes the verses preceding and following it — the immediate context. It also includes the chapter, book, and even other Scripture — the general context.

Exegesis (from a Greek word that means "to

lead out") is essential in hermeneutics. To exegete a passage involves letting Scripture speak for itself. Thus, exegesis is what comes out of the Bible.

However, *eisegesis* (from a Greek word meaning "into") means reading into Scripture. Cults often read their own false ideas into a passage to justify certain erroneous beliefs and actions.



The **second rule** of Biblical hermeneutics is that *a passage must be interpreted historically and grammatically.* Undergirding this is the Grammatical Historical Method of interpretation. Grammatical means interpreting a text according to established rules of Hebrew or Greek grammar. Historical means understanding a passage in the time that it occurred and the culture and background that prompted its writing. For example, when Jesus speaks of "living water," we must consider His statement in the context of the water libation ceremony on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:37–39).

Finally, the **third rule** of Biblical hermeneutics is that *Scripture interprets Scripture*. Theologians call this the "analogy of faith." The Bible is its best interpreter. Thus, the more difficult-to-understand passages of the Bible are best interpreted by passages that are clearer.

Every Believer should interpret God's Word responsibly and correctly. The rules of Biblical hermeneutics are vital for this pursuit.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

—2 Timothy 2:15









From Galilee to Jerusalem

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader

During our March 2022 outreach, August Rosado and I gave out Bibles with Arabic and Hebrew Gospel tracts before we left the beautiful Galilee. While checking out of our kibbutz, we talked to **Yosef** — a moderate Muslim. He welcomed our conversation about the true identity of Yeshua the Messiah. When Yosef told us his name, he added that names do not matter, but what counts is what is inside a person.

August and I agreed and noted what the Bible teaches: "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Yosef gladly received the Bible we

offered. Then we encouraged him to study the evidence that Yeshua came to Earth as the unique Son of God and only Messiah to offer God's salvation for those who believe in Him.



Yosef

While traveling to Jerusalem, we stopped for fuel and talked with **Sivan** and **Shir**. We explained that we were in Israel to inform Jewish people like them that the Scriptures reveal Yeshua as

the Messiah of Israel and the world. Both ladies were extremely touched when they heard that Yeshua died in their place so they could receive salvation — forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Sivan said she was pregnant with her first child and was very nervous. August and I prayed that she would have a healthy and safe delivery. We also prayed that she and Shir would encounter the saving power and love of Yeshua the Messiah as they read the Hebrew Bibles we gave them.

The next day, after praying at the Western Wall, August and I visited



August, Sivan, Shir, and Todd

the Jewish Quarter of the Old City to share the Gospel. The Lord led us to **Shira**, who made *aliyah* to Israel six years ago. She's now an accomplished Israeli artist.

We explained that Messiah's love for His Chosen People compels us to visit the Land He gave them forever to share the spiritual riches of Yeshua the Messiah and the Bible. August and I added that the existence of a Jewish person like her proves that the God of Israel exists, keeps His promises, and fulfills His Word. Scripture, of course, is trustworthy in all that it reveals about Israel, the world, and the Messiah.

We emphasized how Yeshua fulfilled every prophecy that points to Him as the true Messiah of Israel. Shira accepted the complete Hebrew Bible

and Messianic reading materials we offered so she could personally explore these life-changing truths. Now we pray that God's Spirit will clearly reveal the unbreakable



Shira

Messianic connection Jesus makes between both Testaments of Holy Scripture so that she will come to saving faith in Him.



A Note from Mark

Living Well; Dying Well

Dr. Henry Mobley (1930–2018) was one of Zola's wisest and best friends.



He was a remarkable internist whose expert guidance in the mid-'90s saved my lovely wife from the clutches of hepatitis C. He also was a founding board member of this ministry, serving for more

than a decade. He instructed that we Believers should conduct our lives as though we could either die tomorrow or live forever.

Moishe Rosen (1932–2010), founder of Jews for Jesus, commended Zola for consistently giving of himself



and working diligently for the Lord until lung cancer took its bitter toll.

The allegory of the long spoons is attributed to Rabbi Haim of Lithuania. It illustrates the difference between banquets in Heaven and Hell. People in Hell insist on feeding themselves, so they starve because the lengthy spoons are too unwieldy. In Heaven, however, the diners successfully feast by cooperatively feeding one another across the table.

Related to feeding others, that's what ZLM does, as noted on page 15 of June's Levitt Letter:

Zola's Free Buffet

In 1995, our vendor offered to copyright protect the VHS cassettes on which we marketed our television series. We declined after imagining post-Apocalyptic evangelists being foiled when trying to distribute copies of Zola's timeless Bible teaching to underground churches. Now we've gone a step further in disseminating Messianic teaching: Our news

| Mark Levitt | ZLM Director | since 1988



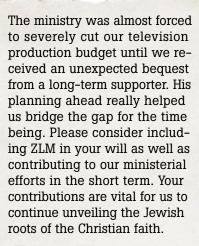
magazine ads for DVDs [pp. 17 and 20 in this issue] serve as menus for ZLM's free online buffet that's always open (at levitt.tv) for those craving solid, two-Testament, Bible teaching from Israel.

Now I commemorate the life and legacy of Alfred Weinstein (1948–2021) of Littleton, New Hampshire. Alfred was a designer of electric boats,

an expert skier, avid cyclist, and martial arts instructor. He also loved this ministry's outreach enough to leave most of his estate to ZLM to help feed his fellow readers and viewers.



Last month's "State of the Ministry" article (p. 14) included this update from our assistant television producer Clayton Herring:



This ministry's role in fulfilling The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20) resembles Gideon's defeat of the Midianites as recorded in Judges 7. After 22,000 soldiers departed, 10,000 remained. But then God reduced Gideon's army to just 300. We ZLMers, too, are relatively few, but we're reaching far and wide while continuing God's work even as we die.



ZLM Bulletin Board

Do Jewish Lives Matter?

Very little — according to the Spanish band Tribade, who in mid-August defaced an Israeli flag at the popular Sziget Music Festival in Hungary. The Barcelona-based female rap group wrote on the flag, "Free Palestine" and

"Israel Doesn't Exist," along with a drawing of male genitalia and a profane message. The band's website featured Instagram Stories of them sneaking into an area where Israeli attendees were staying to vandalize the flag. Festival organizers condemned the band's hateful actions and barred them from future performances at the event. Please see page 36 to give your own flag of Israel a happy home.



Pamphlet of the Month

Questions & Answers

A well-planned will is often the centerpiece of an effective and thoughtful estate plan, making it possible to distribute cash, investments, real estate, and personal property to family and others. A will can reduce settlement costs and make "gifts of a lifetime" to favorite charities. The pamphlet Questions & **Answers About Wills and Bequests** addresses who needs a will, who needs an updated will, and more. To receive a free copy, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. Request POM #21.

Free Levitt Letter Overages

Would you like 7, 14, or 21 recent Levitt Letters to give away at your church, health club, or doctor's office? We print extras for subscribers who want to serve as Newsletter Ambassadors. You

can deliver this ministry's anointed teaching to those who don't know it exists — FREE. Please help us reach more people by periodically letting us know how many newsletters you can put to good use.



Clicking on **Donations** at levitt.com allows you to contribute to our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt ministry from anywhere. You can even text a donation amount to 469-615-2009. Our SECURE Donation Form lets you donate just about anything: money, vehicles, assets (stocks and mutual funds, real estate, business interests), gift cards, or other (bulk donation, inventory, commodities, jewelry, precious metals, etc.). For credit and debit card donations, you still can call 1-800-WONDERS (1-800-966-3377) anytime or, during office hours CT, 1-214-696-8844. Or write to us at P.O. Box 12268, Dallas TX 75225.





HebrewLesson Rejoicing in the Truth

by **John Parsons**Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com





"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name – you are Mine."

- Isaiah 43:1b

If God truly is the One we confess our Almighty Creator, our Righteous King, our Merciful Redeemer, and our Loving Savior, the sacred Beginning and End of our existence, the Holy Center of our life, and our great Heavenly Father who emptied Himself of all divine prerogative and gave up everything to seek and to save us from death; if He is the One who delivered us from the terrors of Hell by absorbing our shame and setting us free; if He reigns in everlasting glory and overmastering power as our Healer; if He providentially ordains our way to ensure that we shall never be apart from His love, so that we shall be with Him forever in Heaven; if our Lord is indeed as we believe, then surely we must celebrate the gift of the life that He has given to us. Everything must be grounded in joy, even our brokenness and sorrows (Phil. 4:4). "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

Despair, however, is the denial of reality; it is the denial that God has indeed redeemed us, called us by name, and regards us as His beloved. Note that despair in this sense does not mean having feelings of hopelessness or depression (though it might), because the happiest of people are in despair if they are blind to the truth

about ultimate reality. Despair is an ontological condition of the soul—it relates to one's essence or the nature of being. People in despair are lost to reality, regardless of their present emotional state.

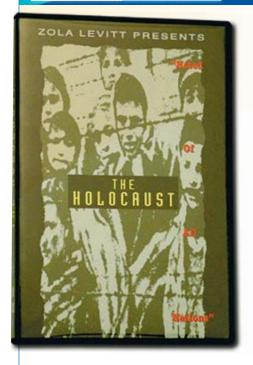
We must be careful that we don't harden our hearts through bitterness (Heb. 3:12). We all experience times of testing, struggle, and sorrow, along with harrowing grief and poignant heartache. I am not suggesting that we should be in an "up" mood at all times. We are "sorrowful yet always rejoicing" (2 Cor. 6:10). This means that we can sound the depths of our troubles and discern the Everlasting Arms (Deut. 33:27) that uphold our way, even if we suffer. Nevertheless, we should carefully guard our inner life and tend to our hope. We should run from the darkness of doubt as we would run from death itself.

Considering these foundational truths, take time to inwardly reaffirm your faith in God and rehearse your trust in His promises. Tell the Lord how much you need Him and how much He means to you. Let Him know how thankful you are that He has redeemed you and called you by name, so that you belong to Him forever.



ZLM Store





The Holocaust

DVD Set

Six half-hour TV programs on two DVDs

Selected from our *Signs of the End* series, these six programs cover the most tragic event in history. Zola Levitt and his crew report on the awful Holocaust through hard-hitting interviews and an on-location taping at Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich, Germany. (Please see the <u>cover article</u>, "Four Holocaust Survivors Honored.")

They Survived Includes interviews with Holocaust survivors Dr. Eric Kulka and Efraim Zuroff. Dr. Tom McCall also interviews the head of research at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum and the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.

An Eyewitness at Dachau A visit to Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich. Includes interviews with Dachau survivor Bikolas Lehner and with an American eyewitness who visited the camp just after the war in 1946.

A Spy Among Neo-Nazis An interview in Israel with Yaron Svoray, investigative reporter

and spy. He gives background regarding the motivations of his mission to go undercover for eight months among neo-Nazis in Germany.

Nazis Today Zola continues his interview with Yaron Svoray. Yaron shows photos that he took of neo-Nazis during his undercover mission — evidence about which the German government has done nothing.

Two Rabbis Includes interviews with Rabbi Stan Eisenberg in Fort Worth and Rabbi David Rosen in Jerusalem. Two rabbis in different hemispheres share a common concern about anti-Semitism.

Righteous Gentiles Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, shares her concern for political support by all democracies for the State of Israel. Pam Rosewell Moore, who was Corrie ten Boom's companion and secretary, reveals some special insights into Corrie's survival during the Holocaust.



Cartoon featured in the April 3, 1933 edition of *The Dallas Morning News*



To Index

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Online:

store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:

800-966-3377

ZLM Dallas office:

214-696-8844

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

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
	A Christian Love Story	\$4_	
	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$4_	
	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$4_	
	In My Father's House (pictured)	\$4_	
	Israel, My Promised	\$4_	
	The Miracle of Passover	\$4	
	The Promised Land	\$4_	
	The Second Coming (p.24)	\$4_	
	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In?	\$4_	
	The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.20)	\$4_	
	Spirit of Pentecost	\$4_	
	Mix or Match: 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 (pictured)	\$9	
_ The Bible Jesus Read	\$11	
Broken Branches — Zola on Replacement Theology (p.11)	\$7	
_ The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton)	\$9	
Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12	
Genesis One — A Physicist Looks at Creation <i>(pictured)</i>	\$6	
_ Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18	
_ The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) (pictured)	\$9	
_ Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$3	
Once Through the New Testament	\$10	
Our Hands are Stained with Blood (Michael Brown)	\$16	
Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$8	
_ What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff)	\$10	
Whose Land Is It?	\$7	
Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured)	\$39	

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_ The Bible: The Whole Story (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39
_ Called Together (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
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_ Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
_ Faith for the Future(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
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_ The Temple (p.23) (6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39
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_ Watch Therefore (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
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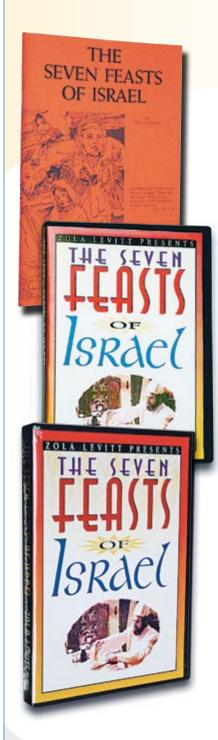
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	lendar (5783 / 2023) <i>(pictured)</i>		
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To Index

ZLM Store





The Seven Feasts of Israel

Study booklet, teaching CD, and DVD

Seven 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

An explanation of the commandments of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai regarding the festival days and their deep significance. The elegant and beautiful system of the special days of holy convocation and how each one has been or will be fulfilled in prophecy.

1st FEAST: Passover

2nd FEAST: Unleavened Bread

The Messiah, clearly presented.

3rd FEAST: First Fruits—

The Resurrection

The true and elegant origin and meaning of Easter.

4th FEAST: Pentecost

The real festival of the Harvest, fifteen centuries old when the Holy Spirit came. An uplifting look at a great miracle.

5th FEAST: Trumpets

The Rapture in its original form.

6th FEAST: Atonement

An awesome day of confession and repentance.

7th FEAST: Tabernacles

Thanksgiving, Old Testament style!

Also discussed in the DVDs:

Hanukkah and Purim

The delightful festivals of joy, when Israel rejoices in the blessings of the Lord, are included in the DVDs.

Please see the <u>cover story</u> on "Yom Kippur" and also these articles: "The Light of Tabernacles" (<u>p. 8</u>) and "Celebrating Sukkot 2,000 Years Ago" (p. 32).









Where to Find ZLM

Clayton Herring Assistant Producer Berg Productions



"Can it be that it was all so simple then?"

That's a line from the 1973 song, *The Way We Were*, performed by Barbra Streisand for the movie of the same name. Just a few years later, Zola Levitt Ministries produced its first TV program — *Zola Levitt Live* — when the television landscape was still "simple."

Back then, television viewers typically switched on the television (probably a 19" or 25" covered with wood grain veneer). Broadcast towers transmitted analog signals often plagued by mediocre picture quality. Later, cable television improved reception and offered more programming. Then VCRs enabled people to record broadcasts for later viewing. (Just don't ask about the pesky flashing "12:00" display!)

Some ZLMers prefer to keep their viewing "old school" apart from the on-demand convenience of viewing via www.levitt.tv. Fortunately, you and I can watch *OJR* on dozens of broadcast, cable, and satellite television networks. Our airing schedule appears in part on page 35 and in full at www.levitt.com/schedule. You can request a free hard copy by emailing staff@levitt.com or by calling us at 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377). Our DVDs offer the best viewing quality.



For the vast majority of viewers with internet access, here are some ways you can find *OJR*:

Levitt.com — This is our main information hub. There you'll find past and present Our Jewish Roots/Zola Levitt Presents television series and individual programs, archived newsletters, our airing schedule, information on upcoming study tours to Israel, and more. Please take a few moments to explore its Home, Zola TV, Levitt Letter, Zola Tours, Store, Donations, Information, and Discussion tabs.

ROKU — We have been operating our Roku channel for many years. By attaching an external Roku box to your television, you can access archives of *Zola Levitt Presents* and *Our Jewish Roots* via the Internet.

social Media — You can find us on the following outlets by searching for "Our Jewish Roots" — YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Rumble, Vimeo, Dailymotion, and Instagram. Please subscribe, friend us, and/or connect with us.

DirecTV and DISH subscribers —

You can view our program on religious channels such as Daystar, TCT, NRB, and GEB. The Canadian streaming service Tugo TV carries *OJR* on Beacon TV on Wednesdays at 11:00 pm ET.

We have yet to appear on secular streaming services like Netflix, Disney+, Hulu and the like. They simply don't feature Biblical ministries like ours. Even most Christian-focused streaming services that offer faith-based movies, series, and documentaries don't carry Bible-teaching ministries.

What the future holds remains uncertain—aside from the Lord's inevitable return. Maybe next year we will look back to 2022 and think, "it was all so simple then." Please stay tuned!







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

Watching online

From B.H.: I no longer own a television set, but I'm so glad I can still receive *Our Jewish Roots* online. Your program has been a blessing to me for 23 years. I return the blessing with a monthly donation. May you continue to enlighten me and others who want to know more about the Jewish roots of the Bible. *Shalom*.

On Yom Kippur we ask the Creator to forgive our sins and failures What the World won't forgive are our successes!

Dear B.H.,

We haven't owned a TV set in quite a while. Like you, we watch our favorite programs online. Thank you for faithfully watching *Our Jewish Roots* (formerly *Zola Levitt Presents*) for over two decades! Your monthly donations enable us to continue God's work. — Kirsten



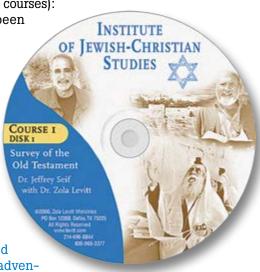
Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies

From P.N. (who ordered all twelve courses): I have a Messianic friend who's been teaching some off-the-wall ideas against the Rapture and Paul's teachings and want to delve further into the Jewish culture and teachings of Jesus. When I hear something that I don't agree with, I want to know if it's me or the teacher (Acts 17:11).

Dear P.N.,

You've found the right source for delving! You are embarking on a fulfilling journey that will gird your foundations of faith and Biblical truth. Enjoy the spiritual adventure! — Kirsten

(continued on next page)



(See p. 19 for information.)

Why go to Heaven?

From C.J.: [Re: "The Temple (1989): Herod's Temple, Part 1" on YouTube] If the Messiah is going to come to His temple on the Earth and set up His rule and kingdom here, then why do we need to go to Heaven? Isn't that what everybody is looking forward to — going to Heaven? That's what we've been taught. That's what I hear every Sunday from the pulpit. How are we going to get there if Messiah is here on the Earth, and this is where His throne and His temple will be? Dear C.J.,

Why can't there be both? Scripture affirms this plan (see John 14:1-4; Revelation 20:1-6). After all, Jesus traveled between Earth and Heaven for 40 days after His resurrection. There is no problem that both the Earth and three Heavens (2 Corinthians 12:2) will exist simultaneously for all time and eternity — including after the creation of a new Heaven and Earth as stated in Revelation 21:1. — Dr. Todd Baker

(continued on next page)

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).

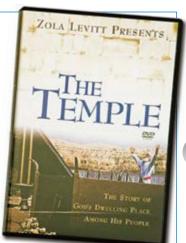
The Tabernacle. Part II During their journey through the wilderness, the Israelites carried the Tabernacle toward the Promised Land and finally placed it at Shiloh.

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 first-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.

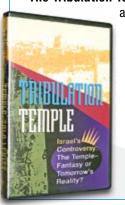
The Tribulation Temple Anticipate the Temple of the future, the blasphemy of the antiChrist, and the return of the King to reign on Mount Moriah.







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.

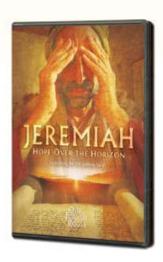


Jeremiah: "Faith Abandoned and Reimagined" on YouTube

From R.P.: America needs more people like all of you from Zola Levitt Ministries to speak Biblical truth on a daily basis. Thanks.

Dear R.P.,

It takes a team to broadcast our weekly programs and to continue ZLM's ministry through print media, www.levitt.com, and our social media outlets. We will relay your gratitude to our entire production crew. — David



Temple Preparations

From F.C.: I just watched "Temple Preparations" on YouTube. *Our Jewish Roots* never disappoints. Your program offers such rich content with Hebrew understanding as a bonus—a wealth of knowledge to enhance the understanding of the Bible. Thank you eternally.

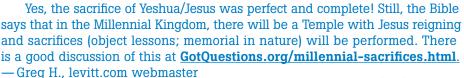
Dear F.C.,

We couldn't agree more about Jeff's insightful Bible teaching and perspective on the current Temple preparations. We enjoyed creating two stand-alone programs between the *OJR* series. —David

"The Red Heifer" on YouTube

From D.T.: Jesus already made the sacrifice! Y'all will see someday! We don't need animal sacrifices. Jesus was the One. He is the One, and He is alive!

Dear D.T..



(continued on next page)







The Second Coming

study booklet

Examines in detail various theories of the Lord's return and the Kingdom of God.

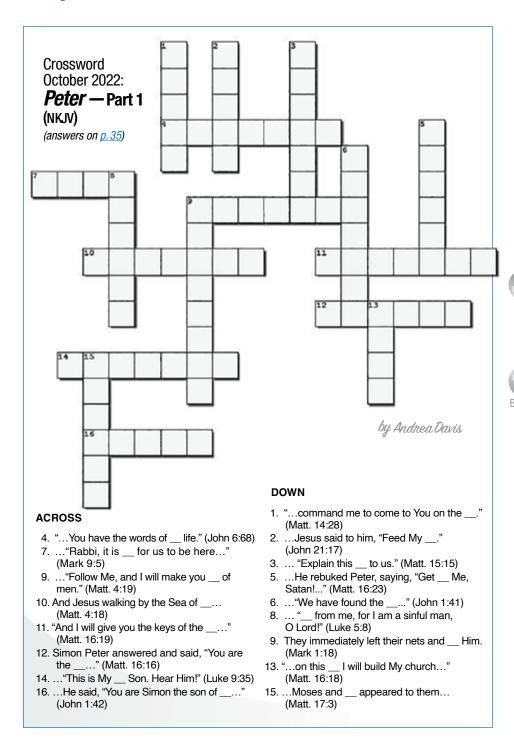
Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact Scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming with the Rapture of the Church.

America the Beautiful

From D.A.: What a blessing you Harts are! I just watched "America the Beautiful" on YouTube (https://youtu.be/mgWtMXm5Vww). It was absolutely beautiful! Thank you.

Dear D.A.,

Your encouragement made my day. We're so honored to bring new life to songs on OJR. — David \Rightarrow



Science in Israel

Reducing Herbicide Use by Distinguishing Weeds from Crops

land (

BY BRIAN BLUM (r) Israel21c.org

Spraying herbicides on weeds has long been an imprecise science. Farmers have had little choice but to spray everything, even though weeds only comprise a fraction of the field.

Now Greeneye Technologies, an Israeli ag-tech startup, has developed a new approach to weed control. CEO Nadav Bocher stated, "We want to change this from a wasteful practice to one of precision spraying, where you spray only where needed."

Artificial intelligence can differentiate between the weeds farmers want to eradicate and the crops they don't want to douse with unnecessary chemicals. Greeneye's software turns ordinary machines into AI-powered



Greeneye images the field using cameras on the boom of a sprayer

"smart sprayers." Cameras are installed on the boom—the long arm on the sprayer. They capture data from the field and allow the spraying vehicle to travel at its normal speed.

Bocher noted that Greeneye's spraying system can detect weeds with 95.7% accuracy. The smart sprayers then target only the weeds with herbicide. That's good for the health of the plants (and the humans who consume them), good for reducing water and soil contamination from pesticide run-off, and good for preventing herbicide-resistant crops.

It's also good for the farmer's bottom line. If a farmer can spray less herbi-



Greeneye aims to help large farms reduce herbicide use

cide (the average with Greeneye is 78.4% less), the farmer can really save, especially for soy and corn where profit margins are extremely thin. Bocher estimates farmers can reduce their costs by more than 50%.

For farmers, this can be a game changer. Globally, farmers spend some \$30 billion a year on herbicides, yet weeds remain a perennial problem. In the U.S. alone, they cost farmers an estimated \$33 billion a year in lost crop production.

A "dual spraying" function also allows farmers to dispense herbicides along with other chemicals, such as fertilizer, fungicides, and micronutrients. The technology works with any brand of spraying vehicle.

The Greeneye software and hard-ware is appropriate mainly for larger, Westernized farms. They already have dozens of customers in Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois who soon will begin using the system. "It will be a few years before we can introduce our technology to India and other countries," Bocher added.

Greeneye is currently focusing on two of the world's largest crops—soybeans and corn (with 175 million acres planted in the U.S.). Eventually, the company plans to add other plants, such as cotton and wheat.



Medicine in **Israel**

Vitamin D May Protect Against New COVID Strain



BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) JPost.com

Researchers in Israel have found that vitamin D supplementation may improve immune function in COVID-19 patients.

Human bodies use vitamin D to absorb minerals like calcium and phosphorus. It not only strengthens the teeth and bones but also helps the muscles, nerves, and immune system. Among its known benefits are helping to prevent certain types of cancer, boosting mood, aiding weight loss, and lowering blood pressure and the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Vitamin D (along with vitamins A, E, and K) is a fat-soluble vitamin that is stored in the body for a long time—unlike water-soluble vitamin C that is flushed out of the body quickly. It can be obtained from egg yolks, fatty fish (including salmon, sardines, and canned tuna), beef liver, fortified milk, cereals, yogurt, and orange juice.

Because many people don't get enough vitamin D each day, taking supplements helps.

Doctors recommend that adults get at least the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of 600 International Units (IU) of vitamin D. However, 1,000 to 2,000 IU per day from a supplement is generally safe. Taking it for extended periods in doses higher than 4000 IU may be unsafe and cause very high levels of calcium in the blood.

Some side effects of taking too much vitamin D include weakness, dry mouth, nausea, and vomiting.

The July issue of *The Israel Medical Association Journal* published an article on the benefits of vitamin D to coronavirus patients. The authors were Prof. Yehuda Shoenfeld and Dr. Vania Borba, both of whom are affiliated



Vitamin D supplements

with Sheba Medical Center in Israel.

Numerous systematic reviews and meta-analyses (composite of studies) have shown that patients with low vitamin D levels are more prone to experience a COVID-19 infection, have worse disease prognoses, and have higher mortality rates. The probability of death was found to be higher by as much as 50% in COVID patients with severe vitamin D deficiency, while this likelihood fell to 5% in patients with good levels of the vitamin, the researchers noted.

"There is ongoing discussion regarding whether low vitamin D is caused by the infection or if its deficiency negatively affects the immune system," the researchers wrote. Still, COVID patients receiving vitamin D supplements saw immune function improvements, mainly by increasing the percentage of blood lymphocytes.

"A growing body of evidence supports the safety and beneficial effects of vitamin D supplementation to fight COVID-19 disease—reducing disease incidence, severity, and mortality among those with sub-optimal levels," they concluded.



To Index

OJR Production Update

Much Like Peter

Andrea DavisManaging Assistant
Berg Productions





has produced a new television

series that will debut on October 5. The eight captivating programs will look into the life and times of the often impulsive yet relatable Apostle Peter. We will see how Believers, some two-thousand years later, are still *much like Peter*. Our production crew pulled out all the stops for this series!

By utilizing Hebrew-speaking Israeli actors, we get a more authentic glimpse into the lives of people touched by the Messiah. With in-depth teaching by Dr. Jeffrey Seif, viewers will gain a better understanding of Peter's trials and triumphs.

Along with the teaching and dramatic reenactments on and near the oftentempestuous Sea of Galilee, David and Kirsten Hart perform songs written by our founder, Zola Levitt.

The series begins with a dramatization of Yeshua/Jesus calling the first disciples to follow Him. We watch as Peter's name is changed to Cephas (which means "A Stone"). Yeshua then shares the Good News throughout the region.



David and Kirsten Hart sing Zola's songs on the Sea of Galilee

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

— John 1:40–42.

Dr. Seif teaches: "Jesus sees past people's human foibles, and He sees the potential of what they can be.

(continued on next page)

Peter is a figure of imperfection that carries on and matures in the process. In that sense, we can all relate to him. In so many ways, we are much like Peter. It's easy to take our eyes off the Lord and put our eyes on the way that we aren't all that we should be. He Who began a good work in you can bring it to completion."



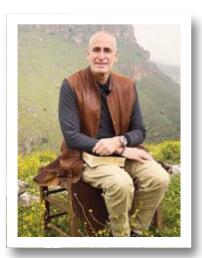
If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.

- John 10:37-38

Dr. Seif: "There are miracles that accompany the Yeshua story. There are bodies transformed, and there are circumstances turned around. People find themselves in the choppy waters of life, and God can calm those seas. Individuals find themselves sinking, and the Lord has a way of resurrecting

them and building them up. We can walk through the storms of life, but if we walk with Yeshua, He can lift us up. We can find success even through the turbulence of trying times."

Dr. Seif: "In the first century, Caesarea Philippi was known as the 'Gateway to Hell.' This was a strange place for Jesus to take His disciples. However, it was at this very location where Peter first confessed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Upon this confession, Yeshua pronounces He will build something new and powerful, and the gates of Hell will not prevail. Success can come from something or someone that isn't perfect. Success can prevail even when we find ourselves in the midst of imperfect circumstances."



Dr. Jeffrey Seif in a mountainous area of Northern Israel

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

- Matthew 17:1-3

Dr. Seif: "We're looking at a snapshot here, a moment in the disciples' experience with Yeshua where something very significant happened. There's congruence here, connectivity between the Testament stories. There's a credence here that Yeshua is the One Whom they (the prophets) spoke about."

See pages $\underline{21}$ and $\underline{35}$ for where you can watch *Much Like Peter* and other *OJR* presentations. In next month's *Levitt Letter*, we'll see how Peter's life continues to play out. Stay tuned!

Andrea wears many hats with ZLM. She manages our social media, creates the *Levitt Letter* crossword puzzles (see. p. 25), and handles Berg Productions' bookkeeping. She has worked with *Zola Levitt Presents/Our Jewish Roots* since the mid '90s! — Kirsten



Palestinian students wave Hamas flags during a July 2022 rally near Ramallah

Fatah Warns Hamas Against Trying to Seize West Bank

By Khaled Abu Toameh / JPost.com

In late June, Hamas members planned to seize control of a Palestinian Authority (PA) security installation near Ramallah. The incident coincided with the 15th anniversary of Hamas's violent takeover of the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the collapse of the PA and its security forces there.

According to sources, PA security forces discovered a weapons cache and tunnel near the headquarters of a PA security installation in the town of Beitunya, west of Ramallah. The discovery came after an explosion in a local carpentry workshop. At least 19 Hamas members were arrested in connection with the weapons and the tunnel.

The Hamas men were suspected of planning to infiltrate and seize control of the security installation that belongs to the PA's Preventive Security Service.

During the coup in Gaza in 2007, Hamas militiamen used a tunnel to detonate explosive devices underneath the headquarters of the Preventive Security Service. Several security officers died in the explosion, and more than 700 Palestinians were eventually killed during clashes between Hamas and Fatah militants and activists. Fatah is a major Palestinian political party.

Hamas is "proceeding with its at-

tempts and conspiracies to control the West Bank," Fatah said in a statement marking the anniversary of the Hamas coup. It accused Hamas of preparing to carry out "sabotage attacks" in the West Bank to undermine the PA and its security forces.

Fatah added that the discovery of the weapons and tunnel was an obvious example of the terrorist group's ongoing efforts to spread chaos and anarchy in the West Bank.

Ben & Jerry's Accused of **Occupying Tribal Land** in Vermont

By Carl Campanile / NYPost.com

Israeli students claim that ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's (B&J) is "illegally" occupying land in Vermont that once belonged to the Abenaki Native American tribe.

Students sent a letter to B&J's chairperson, Anuradha Mittal, accusing the company of hypocrisy. It was signed by more than 1,000 Israeli students and academics affiliated with Students for Justice in America. The group is a counterpoint to Students for Justice

in Palestine. which promotes the boycott, divestment. and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

"We have concluded that



your company's occupation of the Abenaki lands is illegal, and we believe it is wholly inconsistent with the stated values that Ben & Jerry's purports to maintain, Ironically, in July of last year you announced that you would discontinue the sale of your products in Israel because you object to the Jewish State allegedly occupying Palestinian territories," the letter stated.

"Ben and Jerry's has never even offered to provide compensation to this indigenous nation in Vermont," the group asserted. "Justice, morality, and boycotts are not just slogans and anti-Semitic weapons for your food company to point at the Jewish community in Israel. Justice and morality must begin at home."

The students demanded that B&J immediately evacuate the properties "it occupies" in South Burlington, Waterbury, and Saint Albans and "return them to the Abenaki people." They added, "your company has no right to these stolen territories."

The State of Vermont recognized the Abenaki Nation in 2012.

Lufthansa Hires Anti-Semitism Manager After Incident

By Ben Bloch / TheJC.com

German airline Lufthansa is creating a senior management position to tackle anti-Semitism and discrimination after Jewish passengers were barred from a flight in May.

Airline staff and police barred more than a hundred Jewish people from a flight after several Jewish passengers on a previous flight from New York to Frankfurt refused to wear face masks.

The group was traveling to Budapest on an annual pilgrimage to commemorate a Hasidic rabbi. Passengers claimed that Lufthansa employees in



A Lufthansa Airbus A320-200

Frankfurt took action to bar all passengers who appeared visibly Jewish from boarding the connecting flight.

An independent investigation commissioned by the airline found that there was no evidence of institutional anti-Semitism in the incident, even though a Lufthansa staff member was filmed saying that it was "Jewish people who were the mess, who made the problems."

In a letter to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Lufthansa's CEO Jens Ritter said that the task force investigating the incident acknowledged that some of its crew members had been "insensitive and unprofessional." Ritter blamed the incident on "an unfortunate chain of inaccurate communication, misinterpretation, and unintended misjudgments." He also noted that the "several Orthodox Jewish passengers" who were not following mask-wearing regulations had "created a tenuous situation" and triggered "several announcements" from the captain.

The CEO pledged to create a new staff training element regarding anti-Semitism and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. which Germany's government endorsed in 2017.

In a statement following the incident, the airline stated that it "regrets the circumstances surrounding the decision to exclude the affected passengers from the flight." It apologized "not only for the inconvenience but also for the offense caused and personal impact."





Archaeology

Celebrating *Sukkot* 2,000 Years Ago



BY ROSSELLA TERCATIN (r) JPost.com



Located to the south of the Temple Mount, this area abuts the Old City walls.

This is the largest area of continuous excavation in the Old City.

Some 2,000 years ago, as the festival of *Sukkot* approached, tens of thousands of Jews left their homes throughout the Land of Israel and beyond and began a journey toward Jerusalem. There, they would encounter a monumental and flourishing city and take part in what likely was one of the most intense religious experiences in the entire Roman Empire.

Ancient remains might not represent the best tools to pinpoint what happened during the seven days of a festival whose characterizing commandment is to build a temporary booth that would leave nothing permanent. Still, excavations in Jerusalem, along with historical sources, have revealed a grandiose picture of that heyday period just before the Romans destroyed the city and its Temple.

"When we speak about a pilgrimage in Hebrew, we use the expression aliyah al a-regel, which ... literally indicates climbing up using one's feet," said Dr. Guy Stiebel, a senior lecturer at Tel Aviv University.

"People took a break from ordinary life, left their houses, and traveled toward Jerusalem, which they reached through the area located at the southern tip of what today we call the City of David," he added.

Archaeological excavations have revealed the gate the pilgrims crossed.

"They would purify themselves in the Siloam Pool and then go straight up to the Temple Mount, through a stepped street that was previously believed to have been built at the time of King Herod," Stiebel noted. "Now we know that the project was actually carried out under Judean Governor Pontius Pilate. In spite of his bad reputation in the eyes of Christianity, he built some of the most impressive monuments in Jerusalem."

The Torah includes the commandment for Jews to go up to Jerusalem during Passover, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*. Later books of the Hebrew Bible also include narratives about Jews performing the pilgrimage, noted Dr. Yonatan Adler,

(continued on next page)





a senior lecturer at Ariel University. He is also an expert in ancient ritual baths—or *mikvaot*—where Jews were required to immerse in order to purify themselves in their daily lives and before visiting the Temple.

"Based on these texts, we can probably assume that some form of pilgrimage was already occurring during the First Temple Period," Adler suggested.

By the first century AD, Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus noted that millions of people took part in the pilgrimage, bringing tens of thousands of sacrifices to the Temple. Philo of Alexandria, a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher, also wrote about the occasion in his work.

The itinerary was designed in such a way that people would experience what Stiebel described as a "wow-effect," similar to that felt by someone visiting a majestic cathedral.

"At the time of Herod, the Temple Mount was known as one of the biggest religious compounds in the Roman world," he said.

The Siloam Pool was only one of the many public ritual baths that have been uncovered on the way to or in the vicinity of the Temple Mount.

"We have found around 1,000 *mikvaot* in the country, and ... some 200 of them are in Jerusalem or its surroundings," Adler noted. "We have to remember that Jews had to purify themselves not only for a pilgrimage but in their daily life as well. However, we have uncovered some public ritual baths that stand on the road to Jerusalem that are not connected to any settlement or agricultural installation, and it is reasonable to assume that they were used by pilgrims on the way to the city."

"We do not know about how the separation of sexes — if any — would work, nor whether people would go in the water in the nude or wearing some clothes," Adler explained. "We also do not know whether there was any specific sensitivity regarding nakedness."

While no traces survive of the ancient booths those Jews probably built

to celebrate the holiday, archaeology provides other important evidence of the centrality of the festival of *Sukkot*.

"The Four Species were featured on the coins minted by the rebels against the Romans during the First Jewish Revolt [AD 67–70]," Adler noted. The Four Species, mentioned in Leviticus 23:40, were to be used during *Sukkot*.



A building on the Pilgrimage Road in the City of David

A palm tree bound with some leafy branches—likely the willow and the myrtle—and one or two citrus appear on artifacts that were also a symbol of freedom and independence against the Romans.

"It is reasonable to think that the rebels considered the Four Species a symbol that anyone would recognize," Adler added. \Rightarrow



Anti-Semitism

The Indoctrination of Muslim Children

Muslim Children in Houston Pledge to be Soldiers of Iranian Leader

JNS.org

Shiite Muslim children in Texas sang a song pledging their allegiance to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The IslamicTV YouTube channel posted the video in July that shows children singing in both English and Farsi.

The Islamic Education Center of Houston initially uploaded the video to its Facebook and YouTube accounts. Those postings were later removed, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

The song, "Salute, Commander," includes these lyrics: "[Khamenei] is calling on his children, his soldiers. ... In spite of my age, I will be your army's commander.... May my father and mother be sacrificed for you; I will sacrifice everything for you.... I make an oath to be your martyr, Ali."

The song's original Farsi lyrics include a pledge to follow in the footsteps of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force Commander General Qasem Soleimani, who died in a U.S. airstrike in 2020.

In February 2019, the Islamic Education Center of Houston held a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. At that ceremony, children sang: "Khamenei is our leader; we are his soldiers."

PA Trains Children to Fight Israel

PalWatch.org

In cooperation with the Fatah Movement, the Palestinian Authority (PA) Security Forces offer military training for Palestinian children as young as seven years old.



Muslim children in Houston pledging to be martyrs

Fatah posted a video on one of its Facebook pages showing the "army camp" where kids "wear soldiers' uniforms, eat their food, and are trained in military order and discipline." The host explains that at the concluding ceremony of all the camps, "commanders of the Security Forces and a member of Fatah's Central Committee are present." He further notes that these camps are for all Palestinian children, regardless of political affiliation, because: "Our battle with the sons of dogs [i.e., Israelis] is long, and we need a young generation."

In the video, children disassemble and assemble weapons. A song in the background stresses the significance of this training, revealing the ideology and atmosphere of the camps.

Lyrics:

"Everyone raised their weapons and put a bullet in the barrel ...

We are the national Security [Forces], we are the men of Al-Asifa
Fatah! Fatah! Fatah! We are its men!
We are the men of Al-Asifa,
we do not fear death..."





Jewish Humor, etc.

Tough Times

Moishe said to his friend, "Max, I'm a walking economy."

"What do you mean by that?" asked Max.

"Well, my hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and the combination of these factors is putting me into a depression!"

Family Matters

While attending a public dinner, a rabbi sat next to a prominent woman. Attempting to impress the rabbi, the woman mentioned that one of her ancestors was present at the signing of Israel's Declaration of Independence.

The rabbi responded, "My ancestors witnessed the giving of the Ten Commandments."

Dry Bones

Every Yom Kippur









Answer Key for October 2022 Crossword (p.25) Down:

Across:

10. Galilee

11. Kingdom

4. Eternal 7. Good 9. Fishers 12. Christ

14. Beloved

16. Jonah

3. Parable 5. Behind

5:30 PM

1. Water

2. Sheep

8. Depart 9. Followed 13. Rock

15. Elijah 6. Messiah

6:30 PM

Thur





Day

Our Jewish Roots TV Airing Schedule

ZONE	PACIFIC	MOUNTAIN	CENTRAL	EASTERN
DAYSTAR Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV - Channel 369 Dish - Channel 263				
Days	8 PM Wed 3 PM Fri	9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri	10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri	11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri
TCT Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV - Channel 377 Dish - Channel 267				
Days	1:30 PM Sun 4:30 PM Mon	2:30 PM Sun 5:30 PM Mon	3:30 PM Sun 6:30 PM Mon	4:30 PM Sun 7:30 PM Mon
NRB-TV Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 378				
Day	4:30 PM Thur	5:30 PM Thur	6:30 PM Thur	7:30 PM Thur
GEB-TV Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 363				

WE'RE AVAILABLE 24/7 AT LEVITT.TV.

3:30 PM

Thur

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes more than a hundred independent channels and is posted at www.levitt.com/schedule

4:30 PM

Thur





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

Proclaim Your Love for the Holy Land!

This beautiful **flag of Israel** measures 3' x 5' and proudly displays two blue stripes and the Star of David. Makes an excellent gift for friends of Israel! (But not for the Spanish band Tribade; see p. 15.)



ECFA Zol

Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



