



# Levitt LETTER

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

inside: Rich Meaning  
of Immanuel p.4

## The Hanukkah-Christmas Connection

ChosenPeople.com

Many people see Hanukkah and Christmas as two opposing holidays. Centuries of anti-Semitism in the Church have created massive rifts between Jewish and Christian communities. The prominence of Christmas in American culture especially has caused some Jewish people to see celebrating Christmas as a threat to Jewish identity. **Santa, reindeer, and decorated evergreens obscure the fact that Christmas is about the birth of the Jewish Messiah.**

Therefore, it is easy to suppose that Jesus has nothing to do with Hanukkah and that there is nothing Jewish about Christmas. This common understanding, however, does not reflect the history of either holiday. What did Jesus celebrate?

### Jesus Celebrated Hanukkah

Christmas as a holiday did not exist until centuries after Jesus was born. Moreover,  
*(continued p.2)*

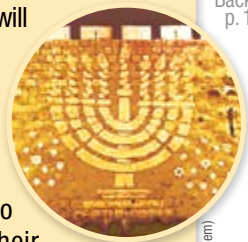
**REMEMBER:**  
*Hanukkah: Sunset December 18 to sunset December 26*

### A Holocaust Hanukkah Miracle

JPost.com

Naomi Yakobovich will never forget her Hanukkah miracle. It occurred in December 1943, when she and her family were sent to Auschwitz from their home in Hungary.

Naomi grew up in an affluent family in Transylvania, along the border between Romania and Hungary. Her father was a law professor, and her mother took care of Naomi and her two siblings. When the war broke out, the Hungarians took the family's property. Four years later, the family was sent to a concentration camp. After a few months in the camp and despite efforts by Naomi's older sister to make her look taller, older, and  
*(continued p.7)*



# The Hanukkah-Christmas Connection *continued from cover*

people did not celebrate birthdays in that time, so Jesus certainly did not celebrate Christmas. He did, however, participate in one winter holiday.

In the Gospel of John, Yeshua visited the Temple during “the Feast of Dedication” (John 10:22–23)—another term for Hanukkah. While Hanukkah practices have changed significantly since the 1<sup>st</sup> century, Yeshua celebrating this holiday highlights His connection to Jewish traditions. Yeshua lived a Jewish life, which naturally included observing the holidays. Moreover, during this festival, He identifies Himself as the Messiah and as God (John 10:25, 30).

Craig Keener, a New Testament professor at Asbury Theological Seminary, wrote about Jesus’ Hanukkah celebration:

Jesus offers a bridge between what has historically evolved into two separate faiths, and an opportunity for deeper reconciliation and mutual appreciation. The Gospels offer countless examples affirming Jesus’ Jewish identity. The tradition about [Him] observing Hanukkah is merely one of these, but it is one that invites our attention at this season.

**Hanukkah is a powerful story of God intervening on His people’s behalf and showing His faithful lovingkindness. Antiochus Epiphanes, known**



Detail of *The Pharisees Question Jesus*, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum, New York



Detail of *Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue*, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum, New York

in Jewish history as “Antiochus the Madman,” ruled the land of Israel when it was under Hellenistic (Greek) control in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. When he demanded that the Jewish people worship the Greek gods and give up their Jewish identity, they revolted. This rebellion, led by the Maccabees, proved successful.

When the Jewish fighters returned to Jerusalem, they discovered that the Greeks had sacrificed a pig on the altar, thus desecrating the Temple. According to Jewish tradition, when they were rededicating the Temple, they only had enough oil to light the menorah for one day. The light, however, lasted for eight days.

## Jesus is Jewish

It is important to acknowledge Jesus’ connection with the Jewish people. Novelist Howard Jacobson wrote, “Jesus was a Jew. Everyone knows that, don’t they?” The answer, as Jacobson noted, is not a simple yes or no. Jesus’ parents were certainly Jewish as they *“performed everything according to the Law of the Lord”* (Luke 2:39). His extended family were also observant Jews (Luke 1:5–6).

However, there are many — both Christians and Jews — who actively or passively reject Jesus’ Jewishness. Many, perhaps ignorantly, use “Christ” as if it were Jesus’ last name

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instead of a title meaning "Messiah." During the winter holiday season, many Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of a Jewish Messiah who is also the Savior of the world. They celebrate the birth of a Man whose earthly ministry overwhelmingly encompassed Jews. **His disciples were all Jewish. He observed Jewish Law and the feasts** (John 2:13; 5:1; 7:2, 10; 10:22; Luke 22:14–15), **and His last words on the Cross were from the Hebrew Scriptures** (Matthew 27:46; see Psalm 22:1).

### The Hanukkah-Christmas Connection

Jewish followers of Jesus see Hanukkah as a time to celebrate another gift of God to our people (and the whole world!) — Jesus the Jewish Messiah. During Hanukkah, we celebrate how God provided light in the Temple for eight nights. How appropriate it is to

also remember the Light of the World, through whom we have the Light of Life (John 8:12).

Without Hanukkah, there would be no Christmas. If God had not intervened during the historical events of that first Hanukkah by helping His people overcome the powerful Greeks, the Jewish people and Judaism would not have survived to set the context for Jesus' birth. A Jewish virgin would not have given birth to a child who would be raised as Jewish. The Messiah would not have died and risen again to atone for our sins.

Hanukkah is a demonstration of God's faithfulness to the Jewish people. Just as He was faithful to bring them through Greek persecution, He was faithful to send them the Messiah Yeshua.

Please see *The Feast of Lights* (DVD set) on [p. 17](#). ☆

# The Rich Meaning of Immanuel

ONE FOR ISRAEL

OneForIsrael.org

The word Immanuel gets mentioned a lot at this time of year due to one of the most startling Messianic prophecies in Scripture:

*Therefore Adonai Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive. When she is giving birth to a son, she will call His name Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14*

Immanuel, Emmanuel, Emanuel—like Hanukkah, there are several ways to spell it in English, but in Hebrew it is two words: **אֱלֹהֵינוּ אִל** —with-us God, or God with us.

This promise to be with us does not just suddenly appear in Isaiah 7. God's plan to live among us is noted throughout Scripture.

## The Garden of Eden

In the Garden of Eden, God and Adam walked together in the cool of the day. The close fellowship God once had with humanity is something He longs for; He grieved for it when it was lost. God's love for us and desire to be with us is seen in action as He creates an environment in which sin can be dealt with and fellowship restored:

*I will set My Tabernacle among you, and My soul will not abhor you. I will walk among you and will be your God, and you will be My people. — Leviticus 26:11–12*



Detail of *The Expulsion of Adam and Eve*, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



Detail of *The Erection of the Tabernacle and the Sacred Vessels*, illustration from *Figures de la Bible* (1728)

## The Temporary Tent of Meeting

We see God setting up His tent in the middle of the camps of Israel, with a fully functioning sin-disposal system, so He can be among them. He walks with them, accompanying them with a pillar of cloud and fire, and makes His desire for closeness and connection abundantly clear.

But even more than a temporary tent, God had a greater plan:

*"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will live among you" — it is a declaration of Adonai. "In that day many nations will join themselves to Adonai and they will be My people and I will dwell among you. Then you will know that Adonai-Tzva'ot [the LORD of Hosts] has sent Me to you." — Zechariah 2:10–11*

*Draw near to Me, hear this: Since the beginning, I have not spoken in secret. From the time it existed, I was there. So now Adonai Elohim has sent Me, and His Ruach [Spirit]. — Isaiah 48:16*

God's plan to live among us has been in place since the dawn of time. The Eternal One, who was there since the beginning, is sent by the Father and His Spirit.

This time, it's personal. No longer mere meaningful symbols and prophetic accoutrements in a purpose-built Temple—God Himself is coming to visit.

*(continued on next page)*



## A Royal Visitor in Disguise

I heard a story while I was in Jordan that the king received reports of welfare officials mistreating their clients. So, the king disguised himself as a needy man and then approached clerks at different offices seeking help. Whenever he encountered someone who was rude, disrespectful, or unkind, he took them aside and revealed his true identity. He then explained what they had done wrong and fired them. Needless to say, services improved considerably after citizens understood that they might be serving the king!

Just as Jordanians did not expect their king to visit in such a humble manner, neither did Israel, by and large, recognize the time of their visitation (Luke 19:44).

The King of kings was among them, but in disguise. He looked like an ordinary Jewish carpenter from Nazareth. I heard a child say that Jesus was “God with skin on,” and that’s a good summary of the incarnation.

The idea of a virgin giving birth is so shocking that Jewish people balk at the idea that it could mean what it says (as do far too many people who call themselves Christians, to their shame). But God is not known for avoiding the outrageous. He dares people to believe. It stands to reason that He can do the impossible — He can do anything. It also stands to reason that the God Who created the universe would not arrive among His creation in an entirely ordinary way. Even the Jewish sages had a saying: “The redeemer whom I shall raise up from among you, will have no father” (Genesis Rabbah of Rabbi Moshe haDarshan).

God was made manifest, which is what glory is all about. God’s glory came to us in the Messiah — the person of Jesus, full of grace and truth because He is God Himself.

*And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth. — John 1:14*



Detail of *The Gifts of the Magi*, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld



Detail of *An Angel Announces the Birth of Christ to the Shepherds*, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

## Immanuel: Together Again at Last

God’s great plan to visit was in order to pave the way for unending togetherness. He dealt with sin once and for all, so that anyone who wanted could be cleansed of the sin that separates and restored in relationship with Him.

It’s hard to imagine what it will be like when we are truly with God forever. I know that God is looking forward to it with great joy.

*“Behold, the dwelling of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them. They shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them and be their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away.”*

—Revelation 21:3–4 ☆

# Giftling Gelt

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



credit: Liz West, (Wikimedia Commons)

I grew up in New Jersey, where I had many Jewish friends and there were synagogues on every corner. Though I was raised in a Protestant church-attending family, I became somewhat familiar with Judaism. In elementary school, I recall going into the home of my friend, Sara. It seemed like everything inside was covered in foil! While I knew very little about Jewish traditions at Passover, I thought that looked really cool. (I've since discovered that many Jewish people cover food preparation surfaces with foil to protect from leaven during Passover.)

## Chocolate Delights

As a child, I enjoyed eating the golden-wrapped chocolate “coins” that were sold in mesh bags around Christmas time. I didn’t realize, however, the Jewish connection to those coins, which are sometimes called Hanukkah *gelt*. (*Gelt* is the Yiddish word for money.) Traditionally, Jewish children receive *gelt*—either as chocolate coins or real money— at Hanukkah.

The chocolate coins are designed like currency from Israel’s Hasmonean period (142–37 B.C.). After the Maccabees gained freedom from Syria (142 B.C.), the Jews minted bronze coins with the seven-branch menorah on one side. These coins were a reminder of the tradition of the miracle of oil that burned for eight days when the Maccabees regained control of Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple.

## Gifts of Appreciation

In medieval times, Jewish children gave coins to their teachers as gifts of appreciation at Hanukkah. Today, many Jewish children continue to give during the Hanukkah season, and many non-profit organizations also receive *gelt* during this time.

According to Chabad.org, Hanukkah *gelt* “celebrates the freedom and mandate to channel material wealth toward spiritual ends. This includes donating ten percent of the *gelt* to charity and using the remainder for kosher, wholesome purposes.”

## Giving Gelt

Our goal in this ministry is to give valuable instruction on the *Jewish roots of Christianity*. Yet we also give *gelt* to *other* ministries that spread the *(continued on next page)*



Chocolate, gold-foil covered coins



credit: photo by Eran-Amos as a part of Vanamo Media

life-changing Gospel of Yeshua overseas. If you're curious about the ministries that we support, please contact our office for a current list. You may be surprised by how much non-chocolate gelt is given away!

In this giving season, would you consider gifting gelt to help ZLM further our Gospel outreach? You can help us walk into 2023 with a stable financial foundation. That's a gift that keeps on giving.

We wish you and your family a Happy Hanukkah. May we all celebrate God's greatest gift to us — His Son Yeshua (Jesus). He is the *"light of the world"* (John 8:12) given to us to show us the way to God. ✨

## A Holocaust Hanukkah Miracle *continued from cover sidebar*

healthier, the two sisters were sent on the Death March to Auschwitz, where they were placed in line for the gas chambers.

About 20 people were in line ahead of them. Then Naomi's Hanukkah miracle happened—the chamber ran out of Zyklon B, the cyanide-based pesticide used in death camps. Naomi and her sister were sent back to the work camp where they survived through the rest of the war.

A few years later, Naomi and her husband Meir immigrated to Israel where they raised two children and four grandchildren, including Doron, an officer in the Israel Defense Forces who specializes in physical fitness for soldiers in basic training.

"My grandmother always said that our state is important, and we need to guard it. For me, it's a given that in my service, I wanted and needed to have a meaningful service and to continue my grandmother's legacy," said Doron. "Three of my grandmother's grandchildren became officers and

[recently] her second granddaughter was born—our light during Hanukkah. [She is] an additional Hanukkah miracle."

Doron continued, "My biggest dream and that of my grandmother is that we'll be able to fly in uniform and salute at the block [where] my great-grandfather and great-grandmother lived, at the place that my family was captured, while my grandmother is alive." ✨



Naomi Yakobovich and her granddaughter Doron, an officer in the IDF

credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit

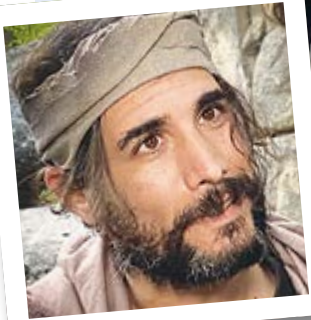


# Behind the Scenes in Israel

**Ken Berg**  
Founder and President  
Berg Productions



above: Actors and production crew from *Much Like Peter* beside the Sea of Galilee left: Yuval, the actor who portrayed Peter



Our wonderful production of *Much Like Peter* will not soon be forgotten. After a very long absence from Israel due to the pandemic, it was thrilling to set my feet once again on the land I love so very much.

Springtime in Israel is gorgeous with wildflowers blooming everywhere, especially in the Galilee area, where we were filming. That's the good news. The bad news was that we needed to modify our shooting schedule almost every day because of the rain, which of course was the reason that the flowers were so beautiful!

Dr. Jeffrey Seif came to Israel well-prepared, as usual, for his teaching. He was a real trooper in dealing with the wind and rain, as were the rest of the crew. Since this series was based on the life of Simon Peter, I had written scripts for our dramatic reenactments well in advance and had coordinated locations, props, and such with our Israeli producer.



Wildflowers above the Sea of Galilee

To simplify things, and because of budget restrictions, I limited the dialogue to Peter and his brother Andrew. They spoke in Hebrew, bringing to the scenes an authenticity rarely seen on screen. *Our Jewish Roots* has always sought to remind viewers of their Jewish roots, via the dialogue, props, locations, and the many other aspects of production.

*(continued on next page)*





David and Kirsten Hart brought us some wonderful, fresh renditions of songs written by Zola Levitt and arranged by Sammy Davenport. Much like Jeff's teaching and the dramatic reenactments, the Harts sang from locations on and around the Sea of Galilee.

One of the greatest moments for me was when **Yuval** — the actor playing the part of Peter — came to me on the first day of our shooting and told me in hushed tones, "**Ken, I have a confession to make.**" I wondered what I was

about to hear that he would approach me in such a startling way. "Ken," he proclaimed, "I'm a Believer." I could hardly believe my ears. Never in the 43 years of my production in Israel has an actor ever told me that. Tears came to my eyes when I realized that the Lord had ordained it all. Yuval's scenes on camera turned out to be all the more believable because he already knew Yeshua/Jesus. In the video, when, as Peter, he is telling his brother Andrew about his encounter with the Lord, he was doing far more than acting. **His tears were real! And so were mine.**

I believe that *Much Like Peter* is one of the best series that we have ever produced. I want to give a big *todah* (thank you) to those of you who have generously contributed to Zola Levitt Ministries for making the series possible. Thank you for helping us to bring the Bible alive and share the Gospel of Yeshua/Jesus with viewers everywhere.



*top:* Filming the actors portraying Andrew and Peter  
*bottom:* Filming Dr. Seif's teaching at Banias (Caesarea Philippi)



*Ken Berg, the founder and president of Berg Productions, has been producing quality film and video projects for 44 years.*

Ken has a deep love for everything related to Israel. As you watch this series, especially the dramatic reenactments, you'll appreciate his gift for capturing the Holy Land's stunning beauty. You can view this series online at: [levitt.tv/media/series/DMLP](http://levitt.tv/media/series/DMLP) — David ☆



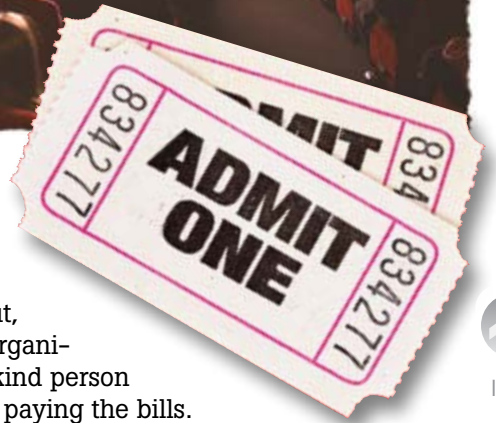


# The Price of a Movie

by Zola Levitt  
from 1992  
30 years ago



credit: photo by Jake Hills on Unsplash



In a recent series of speaking engagements in the western U.S., I noticed a problem wherever I spoke — reasonably good crowds came out, but they did not adequately support the organizations that sponsored me. As a result, a kind person behind the scenes picked up the slack by paying the bills. If it had not been for that selfless one's willingness to contribute with no applause, someone would have to explain to airlines and hotels that because we are Christians, we could not meet our expenses.

## Supporting God's Work

**Christians, in general, do not appropriately support their own causes.** Churches and ministries keep on going because they are principally underwritten by those with the gift of giving who quietly keep the bills paid. Any other enterprise would collapse under such a system. As a matter of fact, that way of doing things runs contrary to Scripture. Acts 2:44–45 states: *And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.* This passage emphasizes that we Believers\* have all things in common and we are to share one another's burdens according to what we have. Obviously, people in this world have different means and different capabilities to lend support to God's work. On the other hand, there is truly no excuse for Christian people to participate in a ministry and then never chip in to hold it together. I don't know of any restaurant where you can be fed without paying.

## An Efficient Ministry

In reality, our ministry doesn't need that much per-viewer (or per-reader) support to survive. We are extremely efficient, operating this international *(continued on next page)*

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



credit:  
photo by  
Christian Wediger  
on Unsplash

outreach with about a dozen workers. We have always done a good job with our television programs, our study materials, and our music. People have been greatly blessed. Many have rededicated their lives and, most heartening of all, many have come to Christ through our efforts. We have survived on national television, created all of our own products, and successfully served beside some of the largest ministry organizations in the world.

What we need at this ministry is for everyone who partakes of it to contribute to it. The size of your contribution does not matter. The Biblical principle requiring each Believer to *"give as he is able"* (Deuteronomy 16:17; see also 2 Corinthians 9:7) would be perfectly fine if everyone would participate. It's interesting to consider that if everyone in an average-size church would simply give the price of a movie as an offering when I speak there, there would be three times the amount necessary to cover expenses. The movie people put their booth out front, and you must pay before seeing what you get. In church, your gift is voluntary, and you know what you are receiving.

If every person who watched only one of our programs sent in the price of a movie, we would have enough money to produce brand new, on-location programs for the next fifteen years with no need for further contributions!

The end of the year is coming. This is truly the season when we learn just how much harvesting in the Lord's fields you expect of us. It's entirely up to you! This ministry has virtually no reserve funds and has always operated on your financial support.

**What we need at this ministry is for everyone who partakes of it to contribute to it. The size of your contribution does not matter.**



### No Waste Here

I was asked once if I wore a Rolex watch. I was able to say that, like our ministry itself, I gladly make do with less (my Casio watch cost \$29.95). There is no waste here. Those of you who have been with us a long time realize that we manage our money carefully and we tell the truth. Our financial statements are, of course, available to all. Would you kindly do what is right and what the Lord would lead you to do toward this ministry that has served you faithfully all year? The beautiful new programs in the latest series have obviously set us back financially, and we certainly need help right now. Your substantial year-end gifts will ensure that we can plan for more location programs next year.

### We Need Your Help

Can you send us the price of a movie? Is each of our programs that you have watched this year worth the price of a movie? I have always told you straight forwardly when our ministry did not need the money\*\* — people have marveled over the fact that occasionally I have advised our viewers to give their money to some other ministry. Well, presently we have real needs and we need help. Thank you for putting us in your prayers.

May the celebration of our Lord and Savior's birth bring you great joy and gladness! ☆

\*\* Please see "Pray About Your Two Pence" ("A Note from Mark," p. 14 of the July 2018 *Levitt Letter*), and also Zola's *Personal Letter from December 1980*.

### Q. What is Justification? (Part 2)

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian  
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**A.** Justification, according to *The Baker Compact Dictionary of Theological Terms*, is “a mighty act of God by which He declares sinful people not guilty but righteous instead. He does so by imputing, or crediting the perfect righteousness of Christ to them.”

Justification is not a gradual process by which we become right with God over time. Instead, this happens immediately as God pronounces us righteous based solely on our faith in Jesus Christ.

From the moment someone believes in Jesus, that person is justified and receives the perfect righteousness of Jesus

Christ. The righteousness of Christ consists of His passive obedience — He willingly died on the Cross for the redemption of sinners. Christ’s righteousness also includes His active obedience — His complete and perfect conformity to the Law of God on our behalf (Romans 5:6-11; 10:4).

The basis for justification before God is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26; 4:23-25). Because of our sinful human nature (Psalm 51:5; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 5:12), every person is separated from God (Isaiah 59:2) and deserves to die (Romans 6:23). But because of His great love for humanity, God had a plan to deal with human sin. In obedience to His Father’s perfect plan, the sinless Jesus willingly died on the Cross as our substitute.

The Apostle Paul explained that justification came through a great exchange: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). God placed all of our sins on the sinless Christ; He became the sacrifice for our sins. In exchange, God gives Believers the perfect righteousness of Christ. When God looks at us now, He sees us clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

In his book, *Not Guilty*, James Buchanan summarizes justification: “The way of justification to be of help to us must take into account three facts: that we are helpless in God’s sight; that a holy God cannot simply overlook our sin; that Jesus Christ graciously made Himself a substitute for sinners — their sin for Him, His obedience and holiness for them. And these facts are stated on the authority of the Bible, God’s revelation of truth to us.”

In the Old Testament, Job asked, “How then can a man be righteous before God? ...” (Job 25:4). The New Testament responds that God in Christ paid the penalty for our sins so that we can be declared righteous before God. God the Father gives us the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ the moment that we believe.

*Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

— Romans 5:1



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



## Sharing the Gospel in Tel Aviv and Netanya

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

After a 10-hour flight in June 2022, August Rosado and I finally arrived in the Glorious Land of Israel (Daniel 11:16). We met **Roman** at the airport and explained our God-given mission to Israel. It is to thank the Jewish people for recording the oracles of God (Romans 3:2). These are written in both Testaments — especially the Messianic prophecies fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. After briefly reviewing some of these fulfilled prophecies, Roman replied, “Wow,” having never heard them before. Now, however, this open-hearted Jewish man can learn much more because he gladly accepted a Hebrew copy of the complete Word of God.



Roman and Todd

In Tel Aviv, we met **Karina**. She was also wowed after hearing the Jewish Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. We explained how Jesus came to Israel to die on the Cross of Calvary and what it means for the salvation of both Jew and gentile. Karina was delighted to receive a copy of the Hebrew Bible. Our prayer is for her to experience the saving love and power of Jesus the Redeemer; He wants to transform her life.

The next day, August and I distributed six complete Hebrew Bibles in the beautiful coastal city of Netanya. The



August, Todd, and Karina

Lord led us to a shopping mall where we shared the Messiah Jesus with two Jewish ladies — **Sagit** and **Shiraz**.

These young Israelis were pleasantly open to hearing about God’s plan for Israel as it relates to the Messiah. Sagit was thrilled to hear about the detailed prophecies concerning the Jewish Messiah that exclusively point to their fulfillment in Yeshua of Nazareth. She declared, “Yeshua is the Messiah” after hearing our witness for Him. August and I added that God is bringing Jewish people back to their ancient homeland, in fulfillment of prophecies like Isaiah 11:11–12, to hear and accept the Gospel of Messiah until His Second Coming (Hebrews 9:28). **Sagit said this gave her chills; she showed us her arm to confirm it.** When we gave both ladies some Messianic Gospel tracts and complete Hebrew Bibles, Sagit exclaimed that we made her day. ✨



Sagit and Shiraz



# We Don't Need No Education

Mark Levitt  
ZLM Director  
since 1988



*The Wall* (1979) is the eleventh album by the English rock band Pink Floyd. It is a rock opera that explores Pink, a jaded rock star whose self-imposed isolation from society forms a figurative wall. Bassist Roger Waters conceived *The Wall* in the late '70s, and it sold over 30 million copies. "Comfortably Numb" was one of its three hit singles.

The [April 2014 Levitt Letter Bulletin Board](#) included the following announcement entitled "Comfortably Dumb":

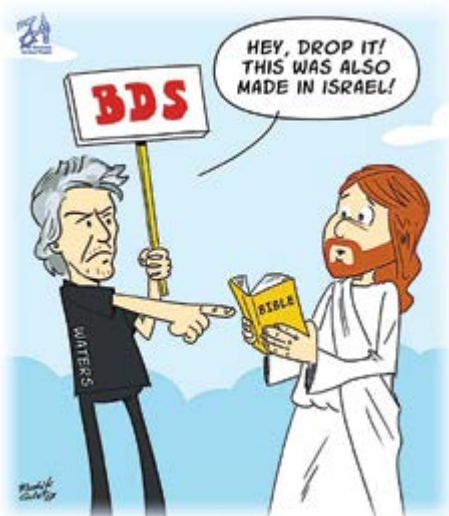
Roger Waters, co-founder and former front man of the legendary British rock band Pink Floyd, is reportedly worth \$230 million [now \$310 million]. According to Waters, Israel is a "racist apartheid regime" that practices "ethnic cleansing." **Likening Jews to Nazi collaborators, he compares Israel to the Nazis themselves.** He believes that Israel is guilty of genocide, only "this time it's the Palestinian people being murdered." So much for his hit song's sentiment: "We don't need no education!" (*The Wall*—1979)

In August, **New York University** fired a professor after students complained that "they were not given the grades that would allow them to get into medical school." Maitland Jones Jr., a widely accredited professor of organic chemistry (who previously taught at Princeton for four decades), was terminated after 80+ students signed a petition complaining about high withdrawal rates and low exam scores. Does Dr. Jones's firing portend physicians who can't pass fundamental chemistry exams?

But today's cancel culture doesn't stop *there!*

Nine student groups at the **University of California, Berkeley, School of Law** developed what some are calling "Jew-free zones," purportedly to ensure "the safety and welfare of Palestinian students on campus."

The students' exclusionary bylaw



resolves to "not invite speakers that have expressed interest and continue to hold views, host, sponsor, or promote events in support of Zionism, the apartheid state of Israel, and the occupation of Palestine." Erwin Chemerinsky, the law school's dean, is Jewish. He acknowledged that the bylaw theoretically bans him from speaking at the school he leads.

Jewish advocate Justine Murray, who repeatedly exposed anti-Semitic bias at Syracuse University, suggests that the situation at Berkeley Law is a "giant goose-step" toward the normalization of anti-Semitic policies.

**Now imagine woke students like those at NYU and UC Berkeley putting their heads together and signing petitions to fire all Jewish professors in order to protect Palestinian students.**

## An Open Invitation to Roger Waters and/or Others Who Hate Israel

Are you an anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist who embraces Palestinian land rights? If so, please send us your arguments for why the Chosen People should ignore both Genesis 12:3 and the Balfour Declaration and vacate to an alternative. Please submit an up-to-450-word article to be used in a Point-Counterpoint feature in the *Levitt Letter* and at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com). ☆



# ZLM Bulletin Board



**Do Jewish Lives Matter ...** to those who peddle anti-Semitic school apparel? T-shirts with graphics that erase the State of Israel from the map — and replace it with a Palestinian-drawn state — are the new fashion statements of implicit Jewish genocide. Unlike KKK robes and Nazi uniforms that clearly evoke evil, apparel that promotes the Jewish state’s eradication is sold with impunity and worn publicly. In addition, shirts printed with “from the river to the sea” are designed to mainstream anti-Semitism and promote the elimination of Israel and its Jews.

## 15.3 Million Jews Worldwide

Israel’s population has reached 9.6 million. Of these, 7.1 million (74%) are Jewish, 2 million (21%) are Arab, and half a million (5%) are neither. The population grew by 187,000 (2%) over the last year. The Central Bureau of Statistics projects the population will reach 10 million in 2024, 15 million in 2048, and 20 million in 2065. In the last year, however, the global Jewish population increased by just 100,000 (0.7%). **Sadly, it is more than one million less than it was before the Holocaust.**

15,300,001



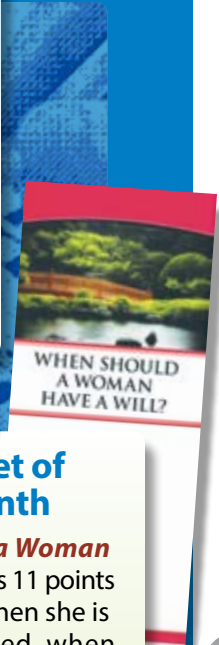
## Do You Pass the Israel Test?

Economist George Gilder asks whether you envy or admire those who surpass you in invention, creativity, and wealth. Envious typically hate Israel. Gilder’s assessment of Jewish accomplishments in Israel — benefiting Hebrews, Arabs, and other gentiles there — leads to his observation regarding misdirected anger. **The Israel Test, he explains, is the central divide in the world today.** Whether a society envies and resents Israel’s success or celebrates and tries to replicate it is indicative of that society’s progress. Countries that “pass” the Israel Test tend to rise. Those that don’t tend to sink. Yet because Satan opposes God’s selection of the Jews, anti-Semitism would persist even if Israelis were less successful.

## FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

***When Should a Woman Have a Will?*** lists 11 points that include: when she is single or married, when she has children (minors or adults), when she owns property, and when her marital status changes. “A properly drafted will or trust can reduce estate taxes, probate expense, and other costs — even for modest estates.” 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 #6.**



## “COME HOME!”

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

## The Knowledge of God

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



תְּחִלַּת חִכְמָה יְרֵאָת יְהוָה וְדַעַת קְדוּשִׁים בִּינָה  
 bee'-nah' ke-doh-sheem' ve-da'-aht Adonai yeer'-aht' chok'-mah' te'-chee-laht'  
 and knowledge of the Holy One the fear of the LORD the beginning of wisdom [is]

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Prov. 9:10)

**The knowledge of God is our supreme good** and the “chief end of human life.” It is our highest blessing, more precious than earthly riches, power, or any pleasures this world affords (Jer. 9:23–24; Prov. 3:15; Matt. 13:44–46). Those who do not esteem the true knowledge of God invariably fall into darkness, idolatry, and despair (1 Thess. 4:5; Eph. 4:17; Hos. 4:1–2).

The knowledge of God sets us free to receive the inestimable blessing of eternal life given in and through the Messiah. Yeshua testified to this: *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Yeshua the Messiah, the One You sent”* (John 17:3). Knowing God is the very reason for our existence, and nothing compares to its superlative excellence (Phil. 3:8). *“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”* (Rom. 11:33).

We attain the knowledge of God by initially believing in its possibility. This in itself is a miracle, since only God can make us come alive to “see” and “hear” the truth of the Spirit (John 3:8). We must also humble ourselves, confess our

need, and ask God for the grace to truly know Him. We must be willing to carefully study His Word. This involves doing *teshuvah* — “turning to God” and trusting that He wants us to have a genuine relationship with Him (Deut. 10:12).

We come to know God in our need for deliverance, our poverty of spirit, and our inner desperation for life. Without these primary and existential concerns, we will not be receptive to the divine presence. **As we begin to trust in God, however, holy desire is awakened within us to know Him more deeply.** We begin to enshrine His presence within the sanctuary of our hearts, making a place for Him, affirming His reality as the precious and glorious One (Exod. 15:11; Psalm 145:5). Only then do we discover the “one thing” that King David desired — to dwell in God’s presence all his days, beholding His beauty and inquiring in His palace (Psalm 27:4).

***I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.***  
— **Philippians 3:8** ☆





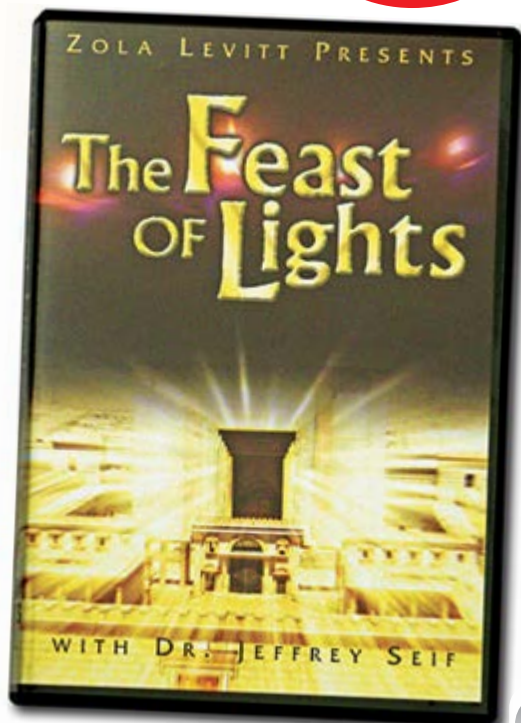
## *The Feast of Lights*

### DVD Set

Three 30-minute  
TV programs on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have threatened the Jews with extinction. Yet, each time, God provided a leader who would shine the light of God's faithfulness.

Hanukkah — the Jewish Feast of Lights — harks back to a time before Christ when an anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's deliverer arose (foreshadowing Yeshua, the Ultimate Deliverer), lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. In every generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



### **The Story of Hanukkah**

Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story of Hanukkah in which Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many have sought to destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). We look at harvesting olive oil and its importance to the menorah in the Holy Place.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif

### **The Light of the World**

Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). At a Messianic synagogue, Jeff explains the significance of

light in celebrating Hanukkah, as well as its prophetic image of our Messiah. Jeff interviews Rabbi Marty Waldman about the recent increase of Messianic Jews. Zola interviews a Messianic minister in the city of Ashdod named Simcha Davidov.

### **The Feast of Dedication**

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, and the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and a heartfelt look by Zola and Jean Rosenberg at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today.

Please see the [cover article](#), "The Hanukkah-Christmas Connection."



### Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

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___	The Promised Land .....	\$4	___
___	The Second Coming .....	\$4	___
___	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In? .....	\$4	___
___	<b>The Seven Feasts of Israel</b> (pictured) .....	\$4	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$4	___
___	<b>Mix or Match:</b> ..... 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

### Books

___	An Epic Love Story (Myles Weiss).... (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$4	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$11	___
___	<b>Broken Branches</b> — Zola on Replacement Theology (pictured) ...	\$7	___
___	The Green Horse— The Bible & Islam (Norma Archbold) .....	\$12	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (Ken Berg) (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) .....	\$9	___
___	An Israeli Love Story — Zola's only novel .....	\$8	___
___	<b>Jesus, the Jew's Jew</b> (pictured) .....	\$8	___
___	<b>Jews and Jesus</b> (pictured) .....	\$10	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold) .....	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament .....	\$10	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (Michael Brown) .....	\$16	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Raptured</b> (p.23) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Satan in the Sanctuary</b> (p.24) .....	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium .....	\$8	___
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___	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (John Parsons) (pictured).....	\$39	___

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___	Faith of Our Fathers (see p.24) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>The Feast of Lights</b> (p.17) .....	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
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___	<b>Times of the Signs</b> (p.20) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Witnessing Series .....	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___



**New!**

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To  
Index

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___	<b>2-flag Collar Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$2	_____
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___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz. ....	\$58	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz. ....	\$23	_____
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___	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20") .....	\$12	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut) .....	\$3	_____
___	<b>Grafted-In Lapel Pin</b> (pictured) .....	\$10	_____
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___	Half-shekel Keychain .....	\$16	_____
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards) .....	\$24	_____
___	<b>New!</b> Jerusalem Magnets .....	(set of 3 different designs) \$12	_____
___	<b>New!</b> Jewish Heritage Calendar (5783 / 2023) (pictured) ....	\$6	_____
___	<b>"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem"</b> Bumper Sticker (p.27)	\$3	_____
___	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only) .....	no charge	_____

**Teaching CDs**

___	Jesus, the Jew's Jew .....	(CD)	\$8	_____
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (see p.22) .....	(CD)	\$8	_____
___	The Spirit of Pentecost .....	(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>Tell It on the Mountains</b> (pictured) .....	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
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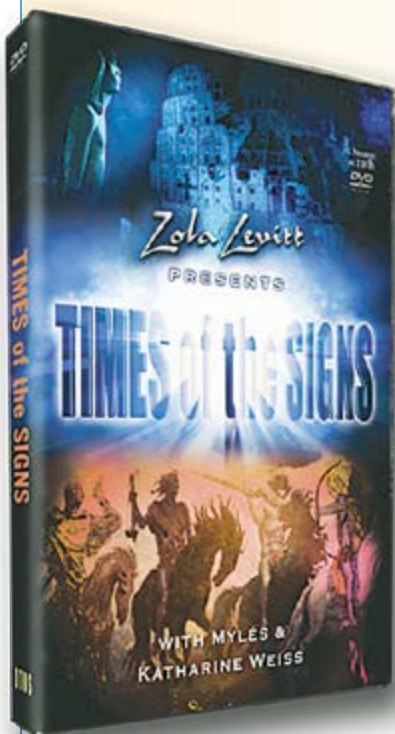
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## *Times of the Signs*

### 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 A.D. 66 (Israel Museum, Jerusalem)



# Israeli EMTs Teach Chicago Faith Groups to Handle Attacks



BY MARION FISCHEL (r) Israel21c.org

Members of Magen David Adom (MDA)— Israel’s version of the Red Cross — flew to Chicago in September to train faith communities about how to respond during the first seven minutes in the case of a terror attack.

A team from MDA, Israel’s national emergency medical and blood-services organization, was invited to the Windy City after the Highland Park shooting in July that killed seven innocent bystanders. This added to the tragic list of terror attacks on public and religious institutions in the United States.

MDA paramedics conducted training sessions at faith centers across Chicago. **More than just a first-aid course, “First 7 Minutes” provides participants with the ability to initiate care while ensuring people’s safety.**

First 7 Minutes director **Raphael Herbst**, a senior MDA paramedic and instructor, said that while it was not possible to know when violence might strike, those who participated in the course would “know what to do when it does.”

“Magen David Adom [teams] are world experts in responding to tragic events and saving lives,” noted Rabbi Aaron Braun, who hosted the interfaith training session at the Northbrook Community Synagogue.

Braun explained that he was proud to be able to share this expertise with his own congregation and the larger community. “I believe we owe it to ourselves and our community to be prepared to react and save lives, if the unthinkable should occur,” he added.

Participants in the First 7 Minutes training sessions in Chicago learned how to minimize casualties by remaining safe during the chaos of a violent incident, and how to administer critical first aid in the time it typically takes first responders to arrive.



courtesy: American Friends of Magen David Adom

*top:* Participants in an emergency exercise  
*bottom:* Raphael Herbst

Pronounced “mah-dah,” MDA is an acronym for the Hebrew phrase “Red Shield of David.” As a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, MDA responds to disasters around the world.

“MDA has emerged as the most experienced mass-casualty response organization in the world,” said Herbst, who became an MDA paramedic after his medic uncle was killed in a terror attack. ☆





# 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](http://www.levitt.com) and [YouTube](#)

## Current News About Israel

**From P.B.:** I always wonder what's going on in Israel, since the U.S. news media say nothing. Could your television program include more about current issues in Israel, such as news on the street, Ukrainian immigration, developments in the government, and who is antagonizing Israel?

Dear P.B.,

We record our studio sessions in Dallas throughout the year, but not on a weekly basis. While we seek to share recent news from Israel on *Our Jewish Roots*, your best source for current information comes in our monthly periodicals — the *Levitt Letter* and the *Personal Letter*. Our *Levitt Letter* often includes current topics from the Holy Land. The *Personal Letter* offers fresh, timely insights from Sarah Liberman — a Messianic Jew born, raised, and living in Israel.

We share the most current news about Israel, however, through our [Levitt Letter Extra \(LLX\)](#) that is sent several times a week through email and social media. You can read and subscribe to the LLX (for free!) at [levitt.com/news](http://levitt.com/news). — Kirsten

## The Seven Feasts of Israel — #4 “Trumpets” on YouTube

**From K.S.:** I just revisited this teaching by Zola; 33 years have passed since I first watched it. My Mom and I used to stay up until 3:00 am in the late '80s to watch Zola and understand the Bible from a Jewish perspective. I've been watching and waiting every year during the Feast of Trumpets for the coming of Messiah.

Dear K.S.,

We Believers should live every day in expectation of Yeshua's return! We ministry staffers are thankful for your early morning dedication many years ago — and that you're still a part of our ZLM family. — Kirsten

*(continued on next page)*



Please see [page 6](#) for more on *gelt*.



## Zola's Godly Calling

**From G.E.L.:** Zola introduced us to our Jewish roots in Christianity. We were very blessed by his teaching and continue our Bible study because of him. Keep looking up "for our redemption draws nigh." Blessings in the name of Yeshua HaMashiach.

Dear G.E.L.,

Zola's message was groundbreaking, and we ZLMers are all blessed by his Godly calling. My parents watched his television program decades ago. It's an honor to continue his legacy alongside David and Jeff. — Kirsten



Zola Levitt

## Genetics or Sin?

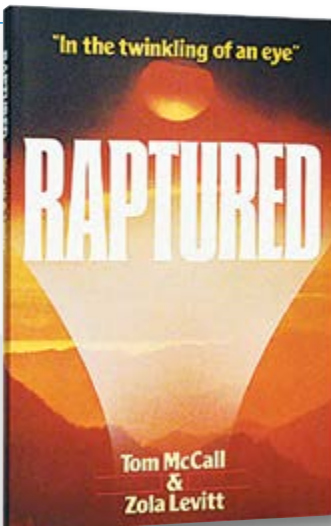
**From P.P.:** (Re: "How Does Sin Impact God?" on [p. 4 of the August 2022 Levitt Letter](#)) This article refers to the wickedness of humanity causing the flood. Books I've seen lately, including L.A. Marzulli's *Countermove*, indicate Satan had corrupted the DNA of mankind by fallen angels taking advantage of earthly women (Gen. 6).

Only Noah's family was genetically pure. Therefore, I don't think the flood was due to the wickedness of humanity alone. God wanted the human race to be pure so the Messiah could descend from it, and it wasn't pure by the time of the flood except for Noah's family.

Dear P.P.,

A fallen nature inherited from Adam was the main reason for the flood. Moreover, deliberate acts of wickedness corrupted humanity so that "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Noah was a just man who found grace in the sight of the Lord (Gen. 6:8). Scripture says nothing about genetics. It's true there was anomalous behavior between "the sons of God" and "the daughters of men" (Gen. 6:2, 4), but **the real fault was humanity's sinfulness before God.** — Todd Baker

*(continued on next page)*



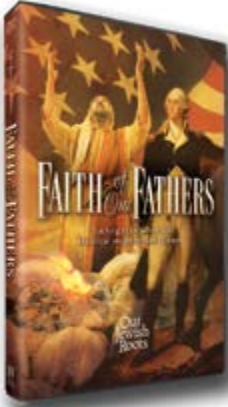
### ***Raptured*** book

By Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

The Rapture of the Church — discussed in full with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are evenhandedly debated as to which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth — Believer and unbeliever alike.

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





### Faith of Our Fathers

**From D.W.:** Thank you Dr. Seif, David and Kirsten Hart, and David Barton for this excellent, wonderful series. It reminded me of history I'd forgotten and also exposed some lies that I've heard.

**From T.D.:** I finally started watching this television series. I love hearing about the authentic history of this country and Christopher Columbus's true legacy. Thanks so much for the work and research that it takes to produce these edifying videos.

Dear D.W. and T.D.,

You are VERY welcome. *FOF* is one of our most popular series. We will share your appreciation with the whole production team. You can watch current and archived programs anytime at [levitt.tv](http://levitt.tv). — David

### Joshua and Caleb Explain — "Achsah's Inheritance" on YouTube

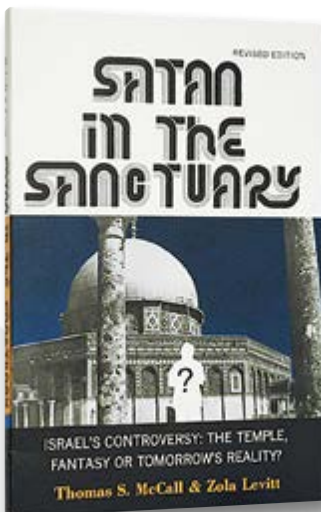
**From F.C.:** Your message is refreshing, and there has never been a dull moment listening to you both. I love your heartfelt teaching. Please God, grant these brothers of mine the ongoing strength to endure.

Dear F.C.,

Joshua and Caleb work at Berg Productions, the company that produces and distributes *Our Jewish Roots*. The brothers, who are Messianic Believers, have created dozens of enlightening videos (most of which are less than six minutes) on various Biblical topics. Check out their growing collection of "Joshua and Caleb" videos on [youtube.com/OurJewishRoots](http://youtube.com/OurJewishRoots), [rumble.com/OurJewishRoots](http://rumble.com/OurJewishRoots), and other online video sites (including those listed on p. 35). — Editor



*(continued on next page)*



### Satan in the Sanctuary

book by Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

Now back in print!

Zola's bestseller concerning the history of Israel, the Temples and how the antiChrist will become "Satan in the Sanctuary" when he blasphemes during the Tribulation Period. A truly readable and relevant study. Originally published by Moody Press and re-released as a popular paperback by Bantam Books.

An audio version of this book is available as "The Tribulation Temple." Hear the entire history and future of the vital Temple of God in Jerusalem. A key Biblical study.

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



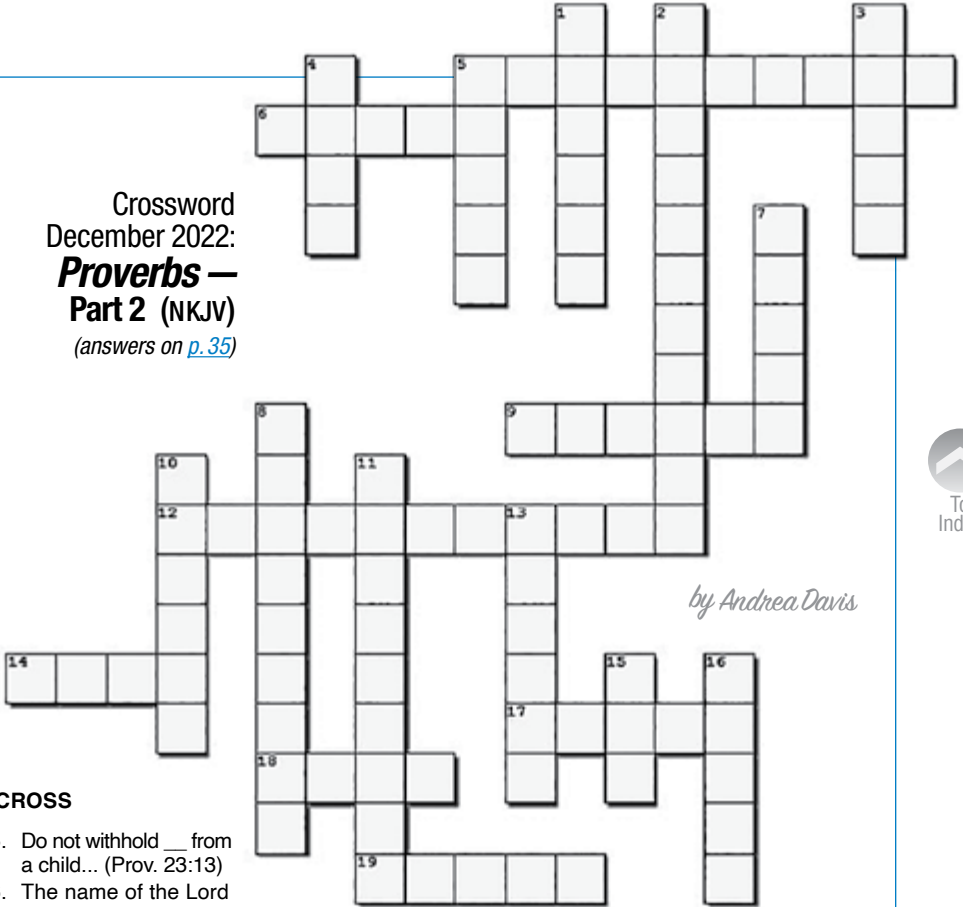
## Watching OJR in Ohio

**From R.Y.:** Thank you for your program on WGGN-TV-52 in Sandusky, Ohio. You do an incredible job with the production and content. Watching it is such a blessing.

Dear R.Y.,

Hello Ohio! You may want to communicate to WGGN that you appreciate the station carrying our program on Sundays at 9:00 pm and Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. We are honored to visit you weekly via TV. Please see our other stations and networks at [levitt.com/schedule](http://levitt.com/schedule). Thank you for your encouragement. — Kirsten ☆

Crossword  
December 2022:  
**Proverbs —  
Part 2 (NKJV)**  
(answers on [p.35](#))



*by Andrea Davis*

**ACROSS**

5. Do not withhold \_\_\_ from a child... (Prov. 23:13)
6. The name of the Lord is a strong \_\_\_... (Prov. 18:10)
9. ...And let her own work \_\_\_ her in the gates. (Prov. 31:31)
12. Everyone proud in heart is an \_\_\_ to the Lord... (Prov. 16:5)
14. Every word of God is \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 30:5)
17. \_\_\_ up a child in the way he should go... (Prov. 22:6)
18. He who finds a wife finds a \_\_\_ thing... (Prov. 18:22)
19. Whoever walks blamelessly will be \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 28:18)

**DOWN**

1. A \_\_\_ loves at all times... (Prov. 17:17)
2. ...But \_\_\_ will come to the workers of iniquity. (Prov. 21:15)

3. Commit your \_\_\_ to the Lord... (Prov. 16:3)
4. Do not answer a \_\_\_ according to his folly... (Prov. 26:4)
5. The silver-haired head is a \_\_\_ of glory... (Prov. 16:31)
7. \_\_\_ goes before destruction... (Prov. 16:18)
8. Also it is not good for a soul to be without \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 19:2)
10. ...And a man is \_\_\_ by what others say of him. (Prov. 27:21)
11. The \_\_\_ man walks in his integrity... (Prov. 20:7)
13. ...But he who \_\_\_ in the Lord will be prospered. (Prov. 28:25)
15. ...But happy is he who keeps the \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 29:18)
16. Make no friendship with an \_\_\_ man... (Prov. 22:24)



# Waste-Based Plastic Alternative



BY JEFF KART (r) Forbes.com



credit: UBQ Materials

*top:* UBQ thermoplastic material made from household waste  
*right:* Lay's display stands in Europe incorporate UBQ

Food, soft drinks, beer, and other consumer products are shipped to and displayed in stores around the world. The displays are usually made from plastics that last forever, produced from oil-based resins. And shipping pallets for the goods are often treated with toxic chemicals to make them last.

Israeli cleantech company UBQ Materials is changing this process. **UBQ is a bio-based thermoplastic made from unsorted household waste.** It is a raw material that substitutes oil-based resins in the production of thousands of products. By using UBQ, manufacturers divert waste from landfills, reduce their carbon footprint, and support a circular economy.

PepsiCo, an American multinational food, snack, and beverage corporation, is expanding its use of UBQ across its supply chain with Lay's potato chip displays throughout Europe. The company also has ordered 30,000 shipping pallets made with UBQ for use across Latin America.

Ambev, the Brazilian subsidiary of Anheuser-Busch InBev, also is integrating UBQ material into packaging. And Osem-Nestlé, one of Israel's largest food manufacturers and distributors and a Nestlé subsidiary, is using pallets made with UBQ.

UBQ is produced from municipal solid waste — **"everything that would have otherwise been sent to landfill or incineration: banana peels, baby diapers, pizza boxes, together with various mixed plastic,"** said Albert Douer, UBQ chairman and co-CEO.



credit: UBQ Materials



*(continued on next page)*



# UBQ plays a key role by diverting waste, including all unrecyclable plastic packaging and organic waste that is found in the municipal waste stream

“UBQ plays a key role by diverting waste, including all unrecyclable plastic packaging and organic waste that is found in the municipal waste stream, and converting it into UBQ, which can then be looped back into the value chain for the manufacturing of items like the shipping pallets and display stands we are already creating.”

PepsiCo is synonymous with food and beverages, but steps they’re taking to address the sustainability of products can be easily replicated across industries, Douer added.

“UBQ is one material that has endless applications — everything from auto parts to construction and building. The more we use throughout the supply chain, the more waste we divert, the more CO<sub>2</sub> we

prevent, the less oil-based resins we use, helping us preserve finite resources for future generations,” Douer added.

Since 2018, UBQ Materials has been converting waste into thermoplastic in a plant in the Negev area of southern Israel. It is growing globally with its first large-scale facility in the Netherlands. The company is reportedly looking at multiple additional sites for future facilities in Europe and the U.S. to keep up with demand. ☆



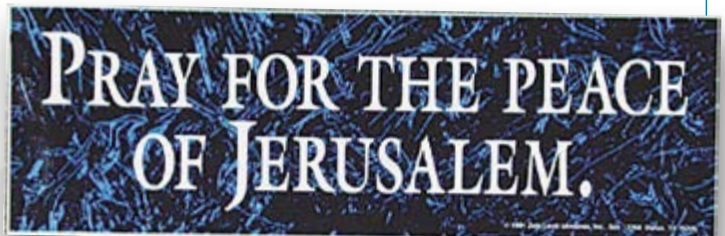
Pepsi shipping pallets made with UBQ

credit: UBQ Materials



## Pray for Peace bumper sticker

Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background. Pass some on to your friends!



# Military Night-Vision Will Save Lives in Hospitals



BY JOHN JEFFAY (r) NoCamels.com



credit: Elbit

A soldier using Elbit's night-vision equipment

Night-vision technology used by soldiers on the frontlines is being adapted to help treat hospital patients in Israel.

On the battlefield, thermal imaging picks up temperature differences to see in the dark. It reveals hidden threats and provides vital data for tank commanders, fighter pilots, drone operators, and more.

In the operating room, it will allow surgeons to see the flow of blood through a patient's heart as never before, providing them with invaluable extra information during a procedure. It will also alert nurses to problems with diabetic patients' feet (patients often don't feel pain because of nerve damage) and avoid possible amputations. Because it constantly monitors carbon dioxide output, it will raise the alarm if intensive-care patients stop breathing.

Israel's Sheba Medical Center recently signed an agreement with Opgal, a subsidiary of the defense electronics company Elbit Systems, to adapt its advanced thermal imaging technologies for medical use.

Thermal cameras originally developed for warfare and surveillance will allow physicians to see beyond the practical limitations of X-rays, ultrasound, and CTI and MRI scans.

They will detect physiological processes based on changes in energy and heat in the body and display these changes on a digital screen.

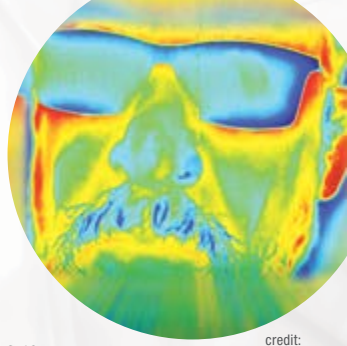
Dr. Boris Orkin, director of the Surgical Innovations Center at Sheba and a surgeon for 36 years, came up with the idea of adapting military technology for hospital use.

**Thermal cameras originally developed for warfare and surveillance will allow physicians to see beyond the practical limitations of X-rays, ultrasound, and CTI and MRI scans.**



*(continued on next page)*

Thermal camera monitors a patient's visible output of carbon dioxide



credit: Elbit

He noted that the cameras will produce super-high-resolution images of up to 6GB, which will provide extremely high levels of detail and will also be stored in a database to help doctors in future decision making.

"In open heart surgery we can see the surface of the heart, but the thermal camera allows us to see electromagnetic energy from the tissue and from the organ," Orkin noted.

In time, he says, thermal imaging could even allow for non-invasive cardiac output measurement and observation of metabolic processes in the body.

**"Thermal technology ... has the potential to help medical teams worldwide to see the invisible and make more accurate diagnoses,"** noted Tsachi Israel, CEO of Opgal.

"We are the leading experts in our respective fields, working together to innovate in order to save lives and prevent suffering for many patients."

Prof. Eyal Zimlichman, Sheba's Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer, remarked: "These are global solutions to global problems. We believe there is great potential here to change the face of medicine on an international level." ☆

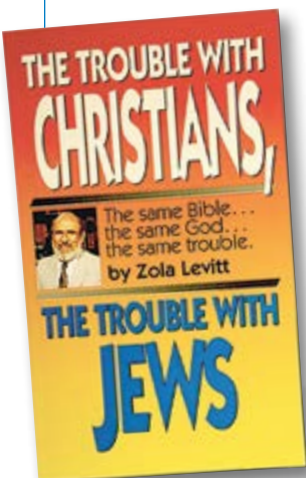


credit: Elbit



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(Left to right) Professor Yitshak Kreiss, director of Sheba Medical Center, Dr. Boris Orkin, director of Sheba's Surgical Innovations Center, and Eran Bluestein, director for business development at Opgal, a subsidiary of Elbit Systems



## ***The Trouble with Christians, The Trouble with Jews*** book

By Zola Levitt

The trouble with Christians and the trouble with Jews is exactly the same: both subscribe to the God of Israel, the Creator God—the God of Scripture—but both have been remiss in actually reading Scripture. The different denominations of Christianity and of Judaism utilize Scripture differently, but it is patently obvious that the vast majority in either camp doesn't have a significant grasp of the Bible.

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Ebrahim Raisi and Lesley Stahl (of 60 Minutes)

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### Iranian President Casts Doubt on Holocaust's Reality

JNS.org

Iranian President **Ebrahim Raisi**, in an interview aired on CBS's *60 Minutes* in September, suggested that there were only "some signs" the Holocaust had occurred and that research into the validity of them should go forward. He also called Israel a "false regime."

Asked whether he believed that six million Jews were murdered in the Shoah, Raisi replied, "Historical events should be investigated by researchers and historians."

Asked about Israel's right to exist, Raisi asserted, "You see, the people of Palestine are the reality. This is the right of the people of Palestine who were forced to leave their houses and motherland. The Americans are supporting this false regime there to take root and to be established there."

### Gunmen Attack Bethlehem Hotel for Displaying Star of David, Menorah

By Khaled Abu Toameh / JPost.com

In early October, gunmen fired shots at a hotel in Bethlehem for displaying the Star of David and a menorah in one of its meeting halls. No one was injured in the attack.

Palestinian social media users claimed that Bethlehem Hotel was preparing to host a group of Jews for *Sukkot*.

They accused the hotel and the Palestinian Authority of "promoting normalization" with Israel.

**Elias al-Arja**, the owner of Bethlehem Hotel, denied the claims. He said that a group of tourists from the Philippines was preparing to hold a Christian religious conference in the meeting hall.

"I was surprised to see that they installed the Star of David," he stated. "I removed it and told them that they are not permitted to hold the conference in my hotel. I don't want any problems."

"**We don't allow Jews to come here,**" al-Arja emphasized. "We never held parties for Jewish holidays. The event was organized by a church from the Philippines."



Elias al-Arja

Several masked gunmen from the ruling Fatah faction in Bethlehem arrived at the scene after the shooting. One gunman said that his group strongly condemns any form of normalization with Israel. "We will strike with an iron fist against anyone who holds

*(continued on next page)*



a normalization meeting, whether in Bethlehem or any other part of the homeland. The revolution will continue until the liberation of all the Palestinian lands.”

A statement issued by the Fatah leadership in Bethlehem condemned the attempt to hold a “Zionist party” in the hotel, dubbing it a “stab to Bethlehem and a betrayal of the traditions and values of the Holy Land.”

*Where were al-Arja’s ancestors when Bethlehem was the birthplace of the King of the Jews? What would Christian tourists in Bethlehem have to celebrate without the existence of the most beloved Jew ever? — Mark*

## Shoah Survivors Help Dental Students Treat Trauma

JNS.org

A new online course teaches students, faculty, and staff at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM) how to deliver care to patients who have experienced trauma. The course was created by The Blue Card, an American nonprofit dedicated to assisting Holocaust survivors, in partnership with RSDM.

The interactive course specializes in Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) care. Holocaust survivors will help students develop their knowledge of PCTI care and learn how to recognize and treat a traumatized patient, whether it be a Holocaust survivor, refugee, or war veteran. **Students will learn about triggers and manifestations of trauma in survivors** while also learning about Holocaust survivors and their experiences.



source: Facebook

The Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

“This program is a vital educational tool in furthering PCTI [care] and improving the health and well-being of Holocaust survivors,” said Masha Pearl, The Blue Card’s executive director. She hopes to see the program expand beyond Rutgers to other schools.

“As a Jew, being able to give back to your people, who are the reason you are who you are today—that’s the most important thing you could possibly do,” stated Rafi Anapolle, a predoctoral candidate at RSDM. “I think most of us who do the program—at least the Jewish students—do it because that’s what we need to do.”

Up to 90% of U.S. adults experience a traumatic event during their lifetime, according to research from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. ☆



## Dry Bones

“Jew-Free Zones”





## Archaeology

# Rare Ivory Discovered from First Temple Era



BY AMANDA BORSCHER-DAN (r) TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: Eliyahu Yanai, City of David

Some of the ivories discovered in the excavation

Recently uncovered in Jerusalem's City of David, a trove of ivory fragments has scholars rethinking Jerusalem's ranking among ancient capitals.

These First Temple-period ivory artifacts are the first discovered in Jerusalem and are rarely found in antiquity. Some 1,500 ivory fragments were excavated from the City of David's Givati Parking Lot.

The ivory pieces, likely decorative inlays for furniture or a door, were discovered in a monumental building that might have been a priestly headquarters or the home of royalty. The building was in use when Jerusalem was at the height of its power (the 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.), but was likely razed during the Babylonian Conquest of 586 B.C.

Ivory is mentioned several times in the Bible, referring to extreme opulence, such as King Solomon's ivory throne (1 Kings 10:18), King Ahab's palace adorned with ivory (1 Kings 22:39), and warnings from the Prophet Amos to stop lounging on ivory-inlaid beds (Amos 6:4).

Other ancient capitals that are known for their decorative ivory finds include Nimrud, a capital of Assyria, and Samaria,

*(continued on next page)*



credit: Dafna Gazit, Israel Antiquities Authority



credit: Shaom Kweiler, City of David

*top:* Frame incised with rosettes with a stylized tree in the center  
*bottom:* Illustration showing ivory inlays in the couch-thrones





*right:* Reli Avisar with an ivory plaque adorned with a lotus flower  
*below:* Ivory plaque decorated with a lotus flower



credit: Eliyahu Yanai, City of David



credit:  
Yaniv Berman,  
Israel Antiquities  
Authority

the capital of the Israelite Kingdom. “Now, for the first time, Jerusalem joins these capitals. ... The discovery of the ivories is a step forward in understanding the political and economic status of the city as part of global administration and economy,” the excavation directors noted.

Conservators painstakingly reassembled the fragments. After joining and fusing hundreds of fragments, they understood that the assemblage included remnants of at least 12 small plaques — about two inches square and ¼ of an inch thick — which were originally inlaid in wooden furnishings.

Reli Avisar, an archaeology PhD student whose focus is luxury items in the late Iron Age in Judah, was one of those who analyzed the ivories. According to Avisar, the ivory is most likely from the tusk of an African elephant that was imported to Syria and was formed by master craftsmen.

Avisar explained that in the ancient Near East, beyond being an expensive material to purchase, **ivory signified power**. She noted that kings often imported elephants from Africa to Syria to be able to conquer and kill them.

The decorative motifs were likely created in Syria and then imported to Jerusalem, either as furniture or a door, or as inlays ready to be affixed.

“When we did a reconstruction, we imagined something between a couch or a chair,” she said. Because they also found other luxurious goods in the monumental building — vanilla-flavored wine, special serving dishes, and a rare agate seal — the researchers envisioned a rich, opulent feast.

The decorations — rosettes encircling a stylized tree, lotus flowers, and a few geometric shapes — were “surprising” in that they appear to illustrate a process of selection by the Jerusalemites to fit with their needs and sensibilities, noted Avisar.

In other excavations, the rosette is found on stamped handles of jars or on clay sealings as a symbol of the royal court administration. The stylized tree likewise appears on early proto-capitals that have been discovered in Judah. ☆



Some of the ivories painstakingly reassembled

credit: Shalom Kweiler, City of David



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# Palestinian Islamic Scholar: “If You Don’t Beat Your Wife, She Might Beat You”

MEMRI.ORG

Palestinian Islamic scholar Sheikh Yousef Makharzah delivered a sermon that was aired on Lebanon’s Al-Waqiyah TV in September. He stated that wives who rebel against their husbands should receive discipline.



source: MEMRI

Sheikh Yousef Makharzah

**Makharzah:** “In Islam, if a woman rebels against her husband, she should be disciplined and should be subject to a beating that is not hard. ... The wife should be beaten in a way that will serve as a deterrence for her.”

As an example, Makharzah mentioned a woman who left her home without receiving “permission” from her husband.

**Makharzah:** “A man comes home at night and sees that his wife is out, even though she had not told him anything or asked for his permission. He does not know where she went. What should he say to her? He says: ‘My dear, why do you go out every night without letting me know? It is *haram* [forbidden].

“Such a woman should be lectured to by her husband. He should make her understand, and **if she does not learn the lesson, he should sleep separately from her, and if she still does not learn the lesson, he should beat her.**”

Makharzah bemoaned the fact that Muslims have borrowed ideas from Western culture.

**Makharzah:** “Today ... we borrow our culture from those liars. Who are the liars? The West. In the West, they claim to champion women’s rights and human rights. They are liars and charlatans. Those Westerners went to America. ...

“In America, there was an entire nation called the Indians. There were millions of them. Those who were not killed with bullets were given virus-ridden blankets until the diseases killed them. They completely annihilated them, yet they talk to you about human rights.”

The scholar referenced the recent civil unrest in Iran following Mahsa Amini’s death after being beaten by Iran’s morality police for improperly wearing her headscarf. He criticized the U.S. for “punishing” Iran for killing a woman who went out in public “naked.”

**Makharzah:** “Human beings who uphold some principle may be killed, but when, for example, a woman in Iran decides to take off her clothes and go naked, America punishes Iran for killing this woman.”

Moreover, Makharzah warned that men should beat their wives before the women do the same to them.

“I saw on TV a woman saying: ‘I beat my husband every day.’ When the TV host asked her why, she said: ‘I enjoy beating my husband.’ If you do not beat your wife, she might end up beating you.” ☆



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

<i>Across:</i>		<i>Down:</i>	
5. Correction	17. Train	1. Friend	8. Knowledge
6. Tower	18. Good	2. Destruction	10. Valued
9. Praise	19. Saved	3. Works	11. Righteous
12. Abomination		4. Fool	13. Trusts
14. Pure		5. Crown	15. Law
		7. Pride	16. Angry

## Social Media Outlets

ZLM has expanded our social media outreach, which now includes:

- YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Rumble:** <https://www.rumble.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Vimeo:** <https://vimeo.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Dailymotion:** <https://www.dailymotion.com/OurJewishRoots>



A typical week can include five or six different videos.

- Music **Mondays** feature one of Zola's songs with scenic Holy Land videos.
- On **Tuesdays**, the Bearded Bible Brothers, Joshua and Caleb, discuss a wide range of Biblical topics.
- **Wednesdays** highlight the debut of a new episode of *OJR*.
- On **Thursdays**, we rotate between Faith Foundations with Dr. Todd Baker and Bible Prophecy with Dr. August Rosado.
- **Fridays** feature a classic *Zola Levitt Presents* program.
- On **Saturdays**, you may see an interview by David and Kirsten Hart or a behind-the-scenes video.

What a wonderful way to augment our weekly television broadcasts and the archives at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv)! ✨



## Our Jewish Roots TV Airing Schedule

ZONE	PACIFIC	MOUNTAIN	CENTRAL	EASTERN
<b>DAYSTAR Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> 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
<b>TCT Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> 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
<b>NRB-TV Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 378				
Day	4:30 PM Thur	5:30 PM Thur	6:30 PM Thur	7:30 PM Thur
<b>GEB-TV Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 363				
Day	3:30 PM Thur	4:30 PM Thur	5:30 PM Thur	6:30 PM Thur

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