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P.O. BOX 12268
DALLAS, TX 75225-0268

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Enhancing Trust

January 2023

Dear Reader,

Our oldest daughter was expecting her first child, and she and her husband decided to wait until birth to discover the baby's gender. In late November, after months of anticipation, they met their daughter (and my wife and I met our third granddaughter!). A wonderful gift, she also brings a great responsibility for her parents, grandparents, and many others.

A new year is often like a new baby. While often accompanied by anticipation, it also includes obligation, especially for us Believers. We must *"walk worthy of the Lord ... pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Col. 1:10). I pray you will join me in seeking to live this way — following the example of Yeshua/Jesus — throughout 2023.

In this *Levitt Letter*, the insights from Kirsten (6), Sarah (9), and Mark (14), and John (16) may assist you in your mission. You'll read about contemporary Israelis who are hearing about Yeshua (13) and learn how some creative Italian doctors saved Jews during WWII (24). In addition to discovering the realities of anti-Semitism and ways to respond (cover, 34), you'll find our regular features of science, medicine, humor, and more.

Especially throughout this new year, please remember to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6),



Greg Miller, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for Zola Levitt Ministries. Through your partnership in the Gospel (Phil. 1:6), we will continue to develop Bible-teaching resources that help others know and follow Yeshua. We eagerly anticipate new television programs, publications, and more to come this year, which are made possible through your generosity.

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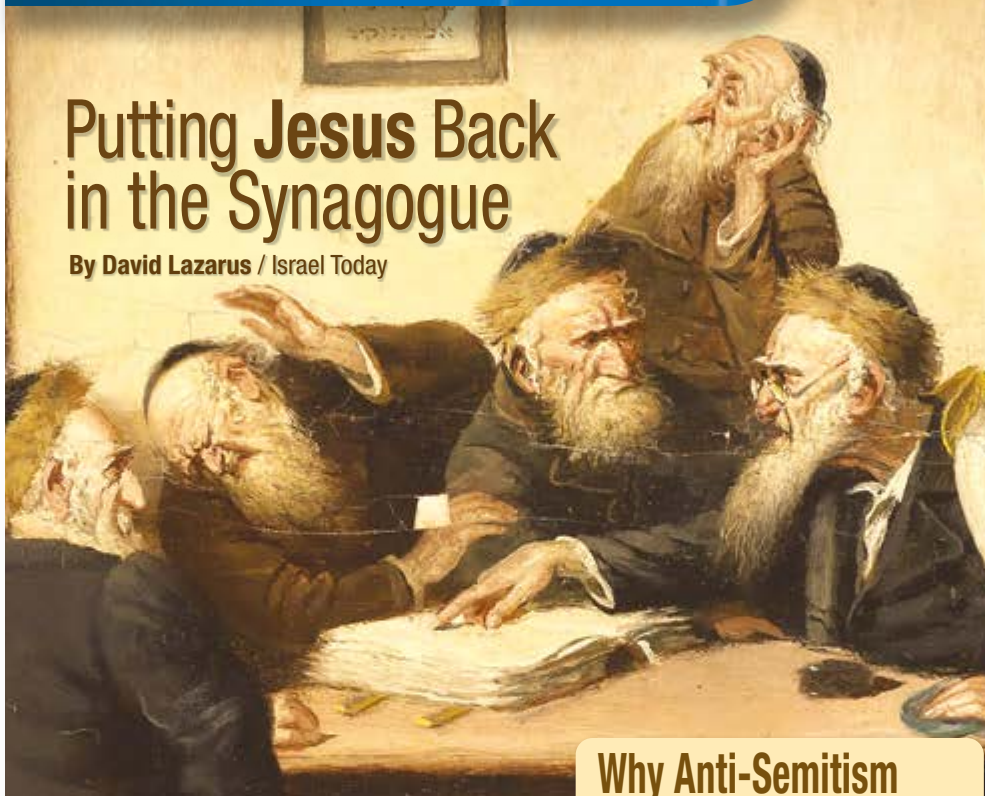


Brethren, my heart's
desire and prayer to
God for Israel is that
they might be saved.
— ROMANS 10:1

inside: The Branch
of David p.8

Putting Jesus Back in the Synagogue

By David Lazarus / Israel Today



Detail of An Issue of Dispute in the Talmud, painting (19th century) by Carl Schieffler

Israeli academics and scholars are now willing to recognize that certain Messianic passages were intentionally omitted from the synagogue readings. Research shows that passages were excluded from the weekly portion because of their "Messianic" connotations. **Were the passages so clearly pointing to Jesus that the rabbis were afraid to read them in the synagogue, concerned that Jews might believe in Jesus?**

A portion of the Torah from Genesis to Deuteronomy, called *Parashat Hashavua*, is read every Shabbat in the synagogue. Added to the Torah portion is the *Haftarah*, which are additional readings taken from the Prophets.

The earliest mention of this practice is found in the New Testament when Jesus stands up in the synagogue in Nazareth on the Shabbat and reads from the Book of Isaiah. Following that *Haftarah*, Jesus explains that

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REMEMBER:
Epiphany: Friday, January 6

Why Anti-Semitism is a Christian Concern

By Luke Hilton
JPost.com

Statistics show that anti-Semitism is on the rise in nearly every nation in the world. This concerns Christians who believe in the Bible.

The Prophets are very clear that one day every nation in the world will fight and stand against Jerusalem. They refer to "nations." This means that it is up to individuals to stand against the tide of Jew-hatred and instead stand with the land and people of Israel. That obligation means supporting Israel, the people of Israel, and the Jewish people who have not yet returned home.

Let me be clear: Many, many nations of the world have mistreated the

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Mine Eyes Have Seen— **Zola's After-Christmas Musical** DVD

One 30-minute TV program

In this “after-Christmas musical,” Zola narrates the moving story of Simeon, the aged-but-faithful servant who waited to see the Messiah face to face. This beautifully staged half-hour presentation will have you singing along with Simeon and Anna about the arrival of the King of kings, the Holy One of Israel.

Note: the actor portraying Baby Jesus is Zola's grandson.

Soundtrack available on [The Works II CD](#) and in MP3 format from iTunes and Amazon.



“Grafted-In” Messianic **Sterling Silver Necklace**

A solid sterling silver rendition of a classic Messianic symbol that combines the menorah, Star of David, and the Christian fish. Stir curiosities and witnessing opportunities with this tribute to light, God, and abundant love (Malachi 3:3). Includes 18" sterling silver chain.

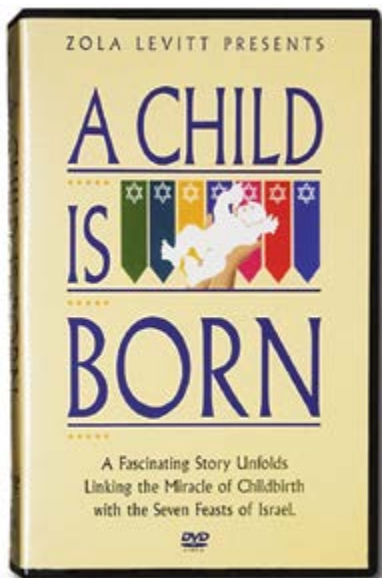
(1½" x ½", 1⅝" with bail)



A Child Is Born DVD

One 30-minute TV program

This program links the Miracle of Childbirth with the Seven Feasts of Israel! Zola discovered, quite by accident, an amazing series of Biblical “coincidences.” It seems that every one of us, as we develop in the womb, follows the schedule of the Seven Feasts of Israel that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. This half-hour program illustrates the surprising similarities of these two chains of events, each established by God according to His purpose.





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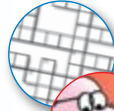
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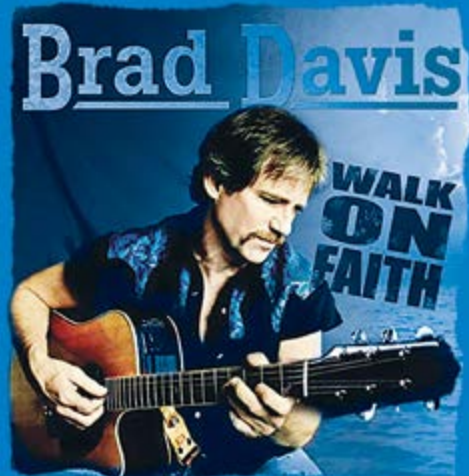
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Never Give the Devil a Ride

Soulful singer Brad Davis rhythmically beseeches:

*When you're on the road to nowhere, with a million miles to go,
and you're lookin' for someone to share the ride;
and you see him in your headlights, waitin' for some weary soul.
And he's standin' with temptation by his side,
Never give the devil a ride.
He'll be in that driver's seat, as soon as he's inside.*



When the devil says he wants to make a deal ... let the hands of Jesus take the wheel! Enjoy Brad's 3½-minute music video. ☆



Putting Jesus Back ...

continued from cover

He is the One about whom the Scripture is speaking.

It is well known that the tradition of reading from the Prophets after the Torah portion on Shabbat was an accepted custom in Nazareth several decades before the destruction of the Second Temple. Evidence of this can be found in Acts 13:15.

Deliberate Exclusions?

Was it difficult for the rabbis to repeat in synagogue the very Scriptures that Jesus used to point to Himself as the promised Messiah of Israel? We cannot know for sure because only select

portions of the Prophets are read. Whatever the reason, the exclusion of this particular passage that begins in Isaiah chapter 61 from the weekly readings is noteworthy given the fact that the chapters preceding and following, chapter 60 and the end of chapter 61, as well as chapters 62 and 63, are all read each year as part of the *Haftarot*.

Many other portions of Scripture on which Christians base their faith in Jesus as the Messiah are excluded as well. The well-known, "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son*" (Isaiah 7:14), a crucial passage in Christian theology, is not read.

"*Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently*" (Isaiah 52:13) and the following chapter, which depicts the "suffering servant" who gives His life in atonement for the sins of humanity, is not read in any synagogue. This is significant given the centrality of this passage in the Christian understanding of how Jesus fulfills the Jewish prophecies.

On the second day of *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year that inaugurates the Fall Festivals, the *Haftarah* is the beautiful passage describing God's love for Israel from Jeremiah chapter 31. Yet here the *Haftarah* ends just before the promise of
(continued on next page)



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



Sefer Haftara (ca. 19th century)

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year that inaugurates the Fall Festivals, the *Haftarah* is the beautiful passage describing God's love for Israel from Jeremiah chapter 31. Yet here the *Haftarah* ends just before the promise of



a New Covenant, one of the most commonly quoted passages in the New Testament.

The same treatment is given to Zechariah 11:12–13, which the New Testament interprets as a prophecy concerning the 30 coins paid in return for Judas' betrayal of Jesus (see Matthew 26:14–15; Mark 14:10–11).

Verses like Hosea 11:1 are also excluded: *"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt."* Possibly this is because Matthew uses the verse to explain why the infant Jesus is taken to Egypt and then brought back to Israel. Micah 5:2, referring to the *"Ruler of Israel"* who would come from Bethlehem (see Matthew 2:6; John 7:42), is not read. Also excluded is Zechariah 9:9, *"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."* According to Christian belief, this verse was fulfilled when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey (see Matthew 21:5; John 12:14–15). Other examples could be cited.



Detail of *The Man with the Withered Hand*, watercolor
by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

An Encouraging Step

The exclusion of Messianic passages in the weekly readings was finally raised some time ago at the prestigious World Congress of Jewish Studies held in Jerusalem. For the first time, participants called for ongoing research on the subject, including a critical discussion of how to determine the sources of the custom of eliminating Messianic *Haftarot*.

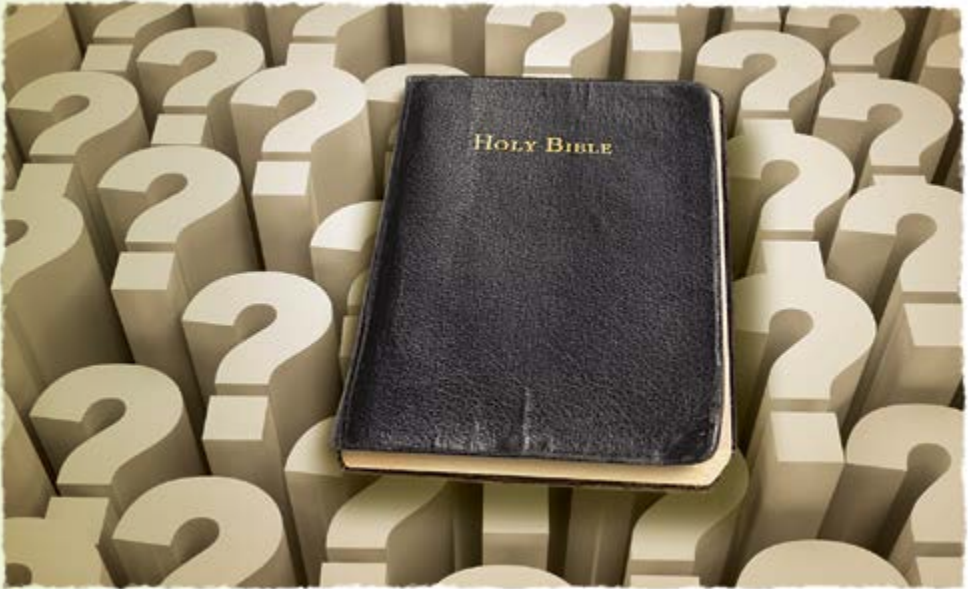
The research is ongoing and has been kept secret for far too long. Perhaps it is the first encouraging step toward restoring some of the key Messianic prophecies back to the synagogue and the Jewish people who gave them to us.



Israel Today originally published this article, reproduced here with permission. Their website is www.israeltoday.co.il.

Yeshua continues to reveal Himself to His beloved Chosen People. Hopefully, the Messianic Scriptures will be restored soon in the synagogue readings for our Jewish brothers and sisters. — David

See *Jesus, the Jews Jew* on [p. 20](#). ☆



Last fall, I wrote several articles for the *Levitt Letter* about seeking truth and asking questions. This is the essence of a quest — the pursuit of an objective. I've been on a continual quest for Biblical truth. Venturing out on such a pursuit, however, requires asking *questions* and making inquiries or examining evidence to discover truth.

If we Believers* are on a quest for hidden treasure, we need to ask many questions: *What* is the treasure? *Where* might it be? *Who* buried the treasure? *When* was it buried? *Why* did they bury it? We don't have problems asking questions about a search for buried treasure. Without asking the right questions, we would not know where to begin or how to continue our search.

Many of us ZLMers attended school for at least twelve years. That's a lot of time spent in a classroom; many years asking questions of our teachers. Those who never questioned a teacher — perhaps about *how* to solve an algebra problem or *what* were the proper steps in a chemistry experiment — didn't fully embrace the learning process or take advantage of the classroom experience. Questioning is necessary to improve our knowledge.

**Questioning is
necessary to
improve our
knowledge.**

Questioning Isn't Encouraged

So why do religious circles often discourage questions?

One of my pet peeve phrases is "*Because I said so.*" I often hear parents say that to a child who asks "Why?" But that response allows no room for questioning. As a parent, and now grandparent, I instead try to spend a few moments explaining a request instead of quickly brushing off children with "*Because I said so.*"

(continued on next page)

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

I believe that God is not threatened by anything that we ask. Based on what I read in many of the Psalms, He will receive our “why,” “how,” or “what” questions! **If you are like me, you have many questions for God.**



God Answers Questions

How does God answer us? Primarily, we have Scripture — the written Word of God. A Sunday School teacher or a pastor asserting something does not mean it is *true*. We should be like the Bereans, who “*searched the Scriptures daily*” (Acts 17:11) to verify that what Paul told them was true. Combined with Scripture, we have God’s Holy Spirit living within us to teach us what we don’t know or understand (John 14:26) and guide us “*into all truth*” (John 16:13).

In 2023, I encourage you to ask questions and seek truth. Ask questions? Yes! Dig deeper into the Jewish roots of your faith so that you can understand the foundations of Christianity? Yes! What an enlightening journey we can all have together! ☆

Why Anti-Semitism is a Christian Concern

continued from cover sidebar

Jews over the centuries. Millions and millions of Jews were murdered simply for being Jews, not only during the Holocaust, but also during World War I, the Crusades, the Inquisition, and countless pogroms.

- We Believers can only take personal responsibility, repent for the actions of our forefathers and our own nations’ guilt, and then forge a new path for history to remember us by.
- We must turn toward Jerusalem, come alongside the Jewish people and Israel, and stand unequivocally with the restoration of God’s Kingdom back to Israel.
- We must be firm in our resolve that when the time comes in our own country, we will be included with the “righteous among the

nations” who stood with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Speaking of the righteous among the nations, a recent list was sent to Israel’s Foreign Ministry of the 17 remaining Ukrainian “Righteous Among the Nations” who are still living. In total, **Yad Vashem lists 2,673 Ukrainians who were responsible for saving Jewish lives during the Holocaust.** Israel grants honorary citizenship to those who are counted in this list, giving them the opportunity to make *aliyah* if they wish.

When reading Ukraine’s history during the Holocaust, these several thousand gentiles are to be credited with a tremendous amount of bravery to have not only stood against the Nazis, but also against many of their own people in saving the lives of Jews.

With anti-Semitism rising all over the world, it is a good reminder for us that no matter how many people will come against God’s land and people, He will always have a remnant who will stand with His Kingdom.

Amidst an ever-growing darkness in the world, may we Believers be counted amongst those who will be called “righteous among the nations” — who will have unconditionally stood with God’s Kingdom, His Word, the Jewish people, and the Land of Israel. ☆



97-year-old Nina Bogorad, one of the last living Righteous in Kiev

credit: Jonny Daniels (source: Twitter)

The Branch of David



BY DR. NOEL RABINOWITZ (r) JerusalemSeminary.org

Matthew 2:23 explains that Jesus' family settled in the small town of Nazareth *"in order that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, that he should be called a Nazarene."* This prophecy, however, appears nowhere in the Hebrew Bible.

Is Matthew guilty of inventing a Messianic text? Absolutely not — he is simply employing a Jewish hermeneutical technique called *midrash*. The key to interpreting this statement lies in recognizing a wordplay between "Nazareth" Ναζαρέτ (*Nazaret*) and "Nazarene" Ναζωραῖος (*Nazoraïos*).

The wordplay is based on Isaiah 11:1 and the Hebrew word נֶצֶר (*netzer*), which means "branch" or "shoot." The word occurs only here, but the Dead Sea Scrolls attest to its Messianic significance. In the *peshar* commentary on Isaiah 11:1-5 (4Q161), we encounter a reference to the Davidic Branch whom God will raise up in the Last Days to deliver the faithful and rule over the nations: "[Interpreted, this

concerns the Branch] of David who shall arise at the end [of days]"

But how do "Nazareth" or "Nazarene" relate to נֶצֶר (*netzer*)? Although the name seems so familiar to us, "Nazareth" should actually be spelled "Natzeret." The English spelling is a transliteration of the Greek word Ναζαρέτ (*Nazaret*), which is itself a transliteration of the Hebrew word נִצְרֶת (*Natzeret*). The Greek alphabet does not have a letter that corresponds to the Hebrew צ (*Tzade*), so instead it uses the Greek letter ζ (*Zeta*) or "z."

This small detail has resulted in centuries of confusion about the town's name and about Matthew's prophecy!

After the exile, descendants from the House of David established the town and named it "Natzeret" to assert that God had preserved the royal line of Messiah — "the Branch." Matthew picks up on this fact, confirming that Jesus is the *Netzer* of Isaiah 11:1, the Messianic Branch of David. ✡



Detail of *The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple*, painting (1854/1855) by William Holman Hunt (1827–1910), Birmingham (UK) Museum and Art Gallery

God Uses Our Identity to Forge Our Destiny

On the Ground in Israel
Sarah Liberman
SarahLiberman.com
OJR Contributor



While growing up in Israel, I spent many hours imagining that I lived in a different nation. I didn't enjoy living here. My family came from England, and as a child, I often wished that I could live there. So as soon as I was able, I moved there ... and spent a difficult year in the UK. It was not at all what I had imagined!

In the early 2000s, married and with children, my family lived in the U.S. But even after we returned to Israel over 14 years ago, I continued to think about opportunities that I might have as a worship leader if I lived elsewhere.

God had other plans, however, and He has kept me in Israel since that time.

One day while talking with a spiritual leader in our congregation, I was "complaining" that I didn't live somewhere else and wasn't in a different role in my life. He responded: "Your identity is linked to your destiny." Finally, through the Lord's leading, **I came to understand something about God's desire and purpose for my life: they are different from mine.**

In the past few years, I have had many opportunities to speak at conferences, to groups in person and online, and even to Zola Tours groups in Israel. Recently, I unexpectedly shared insights from the Old Testament with a group of Iranian Believers who were on a trip abroad.

Their response surprised me. They were amazed to hear Biblical truths that God has taught me through His Word over the past 10 years. Afterward, I realized that I have a wealth of Biblical wisdom and insights because of my unique identity:

- I read the Bible in its original language. Thus, I understand many deeper meanings of Scripture that come from knowing Hebrew.



Cover image from ZLM'S DVD
Watch Therefore and Be Ready

- I have firsthand cultural knowledge of the people of Israel. This gives me unique insight into the lives and actions of many Biblical characters.
- I have a contextual understanding of the Bible's geopolitical situation. This informs my understanding of many Biblical events.

I now realize that the truth revealed to me years ago is playing out in my life in a significant way. Each month in the *Personal Letter*, I share my unique perspectives about Israel and Biblical truth. I am very much looking forward to another impactful year in 2023!

Perhaps you, like me, have been waiting for "something else" to happen in your life. I have learned that God knows exactly what He is doing, even when we don't understand it. If you commit to Him whatever you do, He will establish your plans (Proverbs 16:3).

Sarah's Biblical insights blessed our Zola Tours pilgrims when she met with us in October. We look forward to her joining us again in March 2023. —Kirsten ☆





Classic Zola

A Letter to Dan and Mike

by Zola Levitt
from 1999
24 years ago

When I say that it is very difficult to make peace between Israel and the Arabs in the Land, I am sometimes scorned. Some, like my Jewish and gentile friends Dan and Mike, who are informed strictly by American media, feel that the Israelis are being intractable and stubborn. Their solution is simple: give half the Land to the Arabs; that will satisfy them, and peace will ensue forever. Only, it won't work.

The reason I had to explain something so elementary is that my friends are misinformed by the Israel-bashing media. In any case, I thought I would present to them this open letter.

Dan and Mike and all others who are interested, **let us imagine that we have become "Nation Makers" for a new Palestine.** Let us suppose, for the moment, that we have the right to choose just what people will become a new nation. This is a grave responsibility, and we should take it seriously.

Politics and Economics

Our **first** consideration will be the politics of the people who want to form a nation. Having only just finished hostilities in Kosovo and looking forward to years of difficulty there, we realize the last thing we should do is prop up a new dictator. Slobodan Milosevic has brought more agony to far more people than any one man should ever do. Closer to home, we have watched Fidel Castro create a nation of paupers and utterly ruin what could be a delightful Caribbean island. I would submit that **Yasser Arafat** is the same quantity — not truthful, running a corrupt government, and to all evidence, still a terrorist at heart. And so, politically, **the proposed Palestine would be very problematic.**

Our **second** consideration would be economics. Are the people who are proposing to be a new nation a success in this important area? Actually, the new Palestine would have very little to sell or to trade. It produces almost nothing. Its universities and brainpower seem given over to righteous indignation and constant protest, as in Iran. The economy, such as it is, would remain utterly dependent on Israel, which is considered their worst enemy. And so, economically, **the proposed new nation would probably fail.**

(continued on next page)



Map of the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip), marked by the Green Line (2012)



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, 1994

credit: Wickey-ni (Wikimedia Commons)

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credit: Yaacov Saar (Wikimedia Commons)



Good World Citizens?

Third, we must consider something that could be called a “hostility quotient.” Would the new nation fit into a peaceful world? Here, the grades would also be very low. While only a small percentage of Arabs are terrorists, that’s all it takes for total chaos. There are only a few groups in the world who bomb utterly innocent civilians, but the Palestinians are among them. They still use terror as a technique of negotiation. In this crucial area, **their score would be awful.**

Fourth, we must consider the religious position of the citizens. Would they be compatible with other nations, or rather be bent on conquering them? In a largely Christian world, would they conduct amiable and courteous relations with Christianity in general? Are they friendly with the other religions? In reality, Muslims are barely compatible with other Muslims, and are openly critical and hostile toward all other religions.

This failing would be a serious consideration in creating a new nation.



credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit (Wikimedia Commons)

Israeli Police officers and Zaka officers at the scene of a bus attack in Tel Aviv, 2002



Finally, we need to consider the potential new nation’s alliances in the secular, everyday world. Would the new nation conduct friendly relations with most of the UN? Does it have much in common with the major powers, the U.S., Europe, or China?

Here again, our proposed new Palestine would have some difficulties passing muster. It has mostly rogue nations for friends, including Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the like. It has no genuine relationships with the powers mentioned above.



A Disadvantaged Nation

And so, Dan, Mike, and others, it seems like we would accomplish not peace, but potentially much more conflict by creating this ill-equipped new nation. Believe me when I tell you that I am like every Israeli and every other supporter of that brave democracy in wanting peace in the Land, but each person should ask himself, “Does Arafat really want peace with Israel, or does he simply want the Land for himself?” **Purposely manufacturing a politically, economically, and spiritually disadvantaged dictatorship is not the way to achieve peace anywhere.** ☆

Q. What is the New Covenant?

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



A. The New Covenant is the promise God made guaranteeing the permanent forgiveness of sin.

It is based solely on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah. Jesus is the Mediator of this covenant — His blood brings remission (or forgiveness) of sins for all who believe in Him (Matthew 26:27–28; Mark 14:23–24; Luke 22:20). Only through the shedding of blood can there be a remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22).



Detail of *Lamb of God* (in Latin, *Agnus Dei*), painting (circa 1635) by Francisco de Zurbarán

Under the Old Covenant, sins were temporarily forgiven by the blood sacrifice of an innocent animal. Levitical priests offered these sacrifices to God on behalf of the people of Israel. But **in the New Covenant, Jesus Christ is the sacrifice.** Through His blood that He shed on the Cross, sin's penalty is permanently removed for all who believe in Him (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:26; 10:16–18). As a result, Believers now have direct access to God apart from any human mediators (1 Timothy 2:5).

The New Covenant fulfilled the Old Covenant and made it “obsolete” (Hebrews 8:13). John MacArthur writes that the Book of Hebrews gives “a study in contrast between the imperfect and incomplete provisions of the Old Covenant given under Moses, and the infinitely better provisions of the New Covenant offered by the perfect High Priest, God’s only Son and Messiah Jesus Christ.”

The Old Testament Prophets foretold the New Covenant and its superiority. In Deuteronomy 30:6, Moses promised that God would circumcise His people’s hearts to enable them to love Him, so that they might live. The Prophet Jeremiah anticipated the New Covenant in which God would give His people a new heart and mind so they will know Him and live in right relationship with Him (Jeremiah 31:31–34). Ezekiel prophesied about the benefit of a permanent indwelling of God’s Spirit in His people (Ezekiel 36:26–27). This is now a reality — the Holy Spirit is the sign and seal (Acts 10:43–45; Ephesians 1:13–14) for everyone who believes in Jesus as Messiah.

Though first promised to Israel, gentiles who believe in Jesus also enjoy the blessings of the New Covenant (Hosea 2:23; Romans 9:25–26; Ephesians 2:11–13). All who receive salvation through Jesus Christ — both Jews and gentiles — make up the Church (Ephesians 2:14–22). While many Jews have not accepted Jesus, this is only temporary until the full number of gentiles receive salvation (Romans 11:25). One day, the nation of Israel will be saved through faith in Jesus, their Messiah (Romans 11:26–27).

While the New Covenant was initiated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, its ultimate fulfillment will come in the future Millennial Kingdom on Earth and in eternity to follow.

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

— Luke 22:20 ☆





On the first day of our June 2022 outreach, August Rosado and I were in Tiberias, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. God's Spirit led us to an outdoor shopping mall where we met **Raina**, a young Muslim lady. She was very upset and in tears, explaining that she had experienced racial discrimination at a recent sporting event because she was Arab.

We told Raina that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34) — He loves the Arabs as much as the Jews. God wants all people to repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:9). Raina teared up when we explained that God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son — Jesus the Messiah — to die on the Cross to pay the penalty for everyone's sins. God's salvation is available to her and to anyone who believes in what Jesus did for them. We emphasized how Jesus' death enabled forgiveness for her and His resurrection that conquered death allows her to receive eternal life. Raina was delighted to receive a Bible and an Arab Gospel tract about Jesus Christ that shows He is the only Son of God — the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6) who enables salvation and access to God. She repeatedly thanked us and said that our visit was proof that God sent us to comfort her with the Words of the Gospel.



Todd and Raina

Returning to the mall the next day, we visited a bookstore where we met an employee named **Orel**. As we do whenever we are in a bookstore in Israel, we suggested that they sell the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament) with the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) in one bound volume because the Messiah's first and second comings are central to the Jewish Bible.



Orel

We were surprised when Orel said that he could see our point. He told us that, as a boy, he read and enjoyed the stories about Yeshua in the *Brit Hadashah*. Orel was somewhat familiar with the claims Jesus made about Himself. August and I noted that the *Tanakh* has specific prophecies about the Messiah. We showed Orel a Hebrew pamphlet entitled "The Promised Messiah" that notes some of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled.

Orel was intrigued and said that he could see the Messianic connection between the Testaments. We offered him a complete study Bible with Messianic study aids so he could read both Testaments in Hebrew to further enhance his understanding of Jesus. Orel's spiritual eyes were opening to accept the truth about Yeshua the Messiah. Pray with us that through his reading, Orel will confess Yeshua to be his Lord and God (John 20:28)! ✨

Wise As a Serpent

Restoring Our Temple

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"

"40 is the old age of youth; 50 is the youth of old age."

— Victor Hugo (1802–1885)

"The claim '60 is the new 40' ... describes the way that people are living longer, healthier lives, and feeling younger at 60 than their parents and grandparents."

— Elise Christian, Lifestyle Editor
at www.restless.co.uk

Taken together, the quotes above suggest that 60, not 40, has become the new old age of youth. What a dream, if the Lord tarries, to achieve 20 more years of healthy, active living before ascending into His welcoming arms. How fortunate you and I are to live in an era of enlightenment about preventive healthcare!

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

— Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

Knowledge has vastly increased about the benefits of properly eating, sleeping, and exercising. Diligent stewardship of God's gifts to us includes maintaining our bodily temples (1 Cor. 6:19). **We are best able to serve the Lord with sound minds and bodies, while unhealthy living is like giving the devil a ride.** (See the lyrics by Brad Davis on [p. 3](#).)

"Aerobic exercises, including jogging, swimming, cycling, walking, gardening, and dancing, have been proved to reduce anxiety and depression...by improving self-esteem and cognitive function."

<https://tinyurl.com/yx562tyd> *

"Exercise helps promote a healthier and longer life. It improves your mood and it helps you to stay active. Benefits of exercise can also reduce the likelihood of cancer and heart disease."

<https://tinyurl.com/56vmwkjv> **

"The best exercise is the one you'll do" is a cheesy cliché that's true. Pursuing a combination of exercises necessitates an ongoing journey of exploration. Jewish Community Centers, YMCAs, and others offer classes that are either free or inexpensive with nominal membership dues.

Many seniors feel better through group exercise programs. Others rely on trainers or gym attendants to help them develop personalized regimens that gradually become more challenging. Why not begin restoring your bodily temple in anticipation of the Third Temple's rebuilding in Jerusalem? ☆

Bodily Restoration

Basic exercises for most adults (especially those age 50 and older) should include:

- **Cardio**—brisk walks, running, swimming, biking, etc. help the heart.
- **Strength Training**—pushups, resistance bands, and modified squats and lunges increase muscle mass.
- **Flexibility Training**—stretching mornings and evenings for five to ten minutes helps prevent injuries and decrease pain.
- **Balance Training**—single leg stands, leg raises, etc. improve stability and help limit falls.
- **Core Training**—sit-ups, reverse curls, and crunches strengthen the abdominals and back.

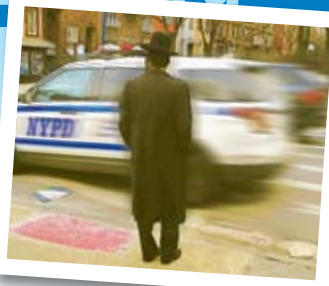




ZLM Bulletin Board

Do Jewish Lives Matter ...

... to NYC prosecutors? In a recent study, Americans Against Anti-Semitism found that **of the 118 adults arrested for anti-Jewish hate crimes in New York City since 2018, only one was convicted and imprisoned.** The study aimed to answer the question "Are there consequences for anti-Jewish hate crimes?" Sadly, in most of the trackable cases, prosecution was nonexistent. Some suspects were sent to psychiatric institutions rather than being criminally charged. Fifteen took plea deals that may not have involved jail time. Charges were dropped in 23 cases. The only conviction was for a relatively high-profile incident.



credit: AFP

CNN Producer Fired for Anti-Israel Remarks

Idris Mukhtar Ibrahim declared himself a member of #TeamHitler and praised Hamas terrorists on Twitter in 2014. The following year, he became a freelance producer for CNN. After he wrote about Israel's incoming government coalition last November, HonestReporting notified the network of his offensive tweets, questioning whether he could impartially report on the Arab-Israeli conflict. CNN responded: "We were not aware of these tweets, which were published before we began working with him. We have informed him that we will

no longer be working with him in the future."



Idris Mukhtar Ibrahim
@im254

I have shifted to team Germany after finding out that Messi supports Israel
#teamHitler

source: Twitter

Tax-Loss Harvesting

Tax-loss selling may lower current federal taxes by selling an investment at a loss — i.e., purposefully taking a capital loss to offset taxes owed on income and/or capital gains. Generating short-term cash, it is relevant only for taxable investment accounts, and the benefit is tax deferral, not tax cancellation. Please ask your accountant whether this could be a sensible way to reduce your income taxes.

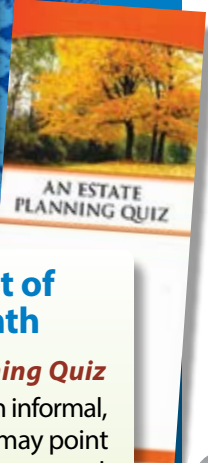
FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

An Estate Planning Quiz

Your answers to an informal, 25-question quiz may point to areas of your estate and financial plans that merit consideration. The True-False questions serve as a checklist of sorts. A grading scale at the end suggests where you stand between "unusually prudent" and "your loved ones will probably experience significant difficulties." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #9.



"COME HOME!"

**Zola
Tours
to Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection

The Light of His Presence

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



כִּי־עִמָּךְ מְקוֹר חַיִּים בְּאוֹרְךָ נִרְאָה־אוֹר
neer-eh – ohr' be-ohr-kha' chai-yeem' me-kohr' kee'– ee-me-kha'
we see light in Your light a fountain of life for with You [is]

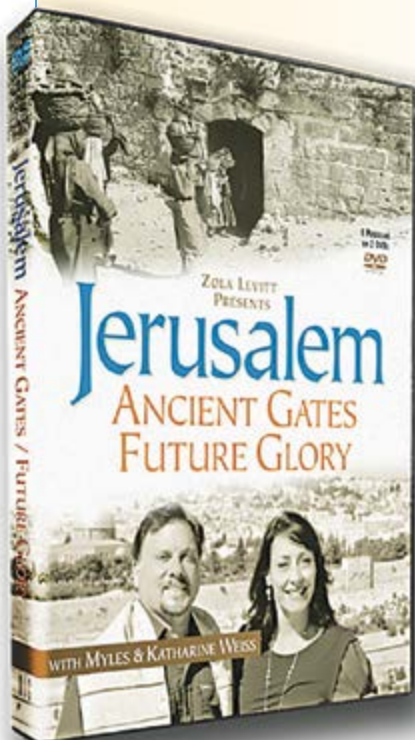
“For with You is a fountain of life;
in Your light we do see light.” (Psalm 36:9)

The Gospel of John records Yeshua’s words: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life, (Ἐγώ εἰμι ἡ ὁδὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἡ ζωὴ) no one can come to the Father apart from Me” (John 14:6).* The Greek word here translated “truth” is *aletheia* (ἀλήθεια) — a compound word formed from an *alpha* prefix (α), meaning “not,” and *lethei* (λήθη), meaning “forgetfulness.” Truth is therefore a type of “remembering” something forgotten, or a recollecting of what is essentially real. Etymologically, the word *aletheia* suggests that truth is also “unforgettable” (i.e., not *lethei*); in other words, it has its own inherent and irresistible witness to reality. People may lie to others or even to themselves, but ultimately the truth has the final word: *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).* Though God’s message may be suppressed by evil forces and darkened thinking, the truth is evident and validated (see Romans 1:18–21).

In God’s light, we see light. When you enter a dark room with a candle or a flashlight, the light overcomes the darkness. So it is with *teshuvah* (“repentance”) — when we turn to the Lord, His divine radiance overcomes spiritual darkness. In Yeshua is life, the light of the world; those who receive Him behold *ohr ha’chayim* — the “light of life.”

We are living in perilous times, friends. As we approach the End of Days and our gathering together to be with the Lord, may the God of Israel help us walk in the unforgettable and irrepressible radiance of His glory. For in Him is the *“fountain of life” (Psalm 36:9)* and in His light, we see light. May the Lord help us shine with good works that glorify His Name (Matthew 5:16). ***“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Yeshua the Messiah” (2 Corinthians 4:6).*** Amen. ☆





Jerusalem: Ancient Gates Future Glory

DVD Set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Myles and Katharine Weiss delve into the historical and spiritual significance of each Gate in the Old City walls of Jerusalem. Guests include archaeologist Shimon Gibson and Gate expert Tamar Hayardeni. Enjoy the music of Marty Goetz during this eight-part series.

The Dung Gate served as a passage for carrying refuse out of the city *and* leads to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site.

Interview: Rabbi Marty Waldman.

The Zion Gate, that leads to the Jewish and Armenian Quarters of the Old City, was a focal point in the history of the modern Zionist move-

ment. David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) explains the end-times connection between Jews and Christians.

The Jaffa Gate opens to the West and symbolizes the Gospel going out to the gentiles. *Interviews:* Tom Hess (Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations) and faith-filled Holocaust survivor Phillip Meyers, founder of Immanuel Tours.

The New Gate, as its name implies, is the most recent gate and gives access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. It provides a picture of God's heart for unity. *Interviews:* David Parsons (ICEJ) and Jan Willem van der Hoeven of the International Christian Zionist Center (ICZC).

The Damascus Gate points toward Syria's capital as a window to the North and to the Muslim world.

Herod's Gate dates back to the time of Herod the Great. The historical site of many attacks, it represents today's ongoing spiritual battles. *Interview:* Rosemary Schindler.

Lions Gate, also known as "Saint Stephen's Gate," is where the Israeli army entered to re-take possession of the Old City in 1967. *Interview:* David Dolan with Colonel Shimon Cahaner.

The Eastern Gate has been closed since Byzantine times in a Muslim attempt to thwart the Jewish Messiah's Second Coming. The Eastern (or Golden) Gate will open again when the King of Kings returns. *Interview:* Tommy Waller of HaYovel.





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| | | | |
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| ___ | An Epic Love Story (Myles Weiss).... (Part of 50-book offer above) | \$4 | ___ |
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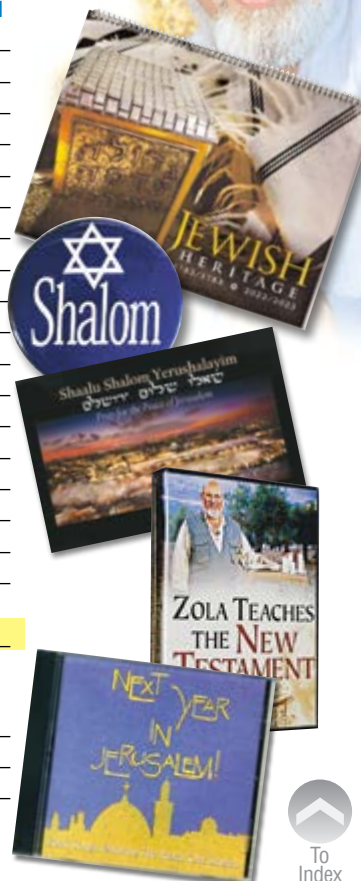
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| | | | | |
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| ___ | Glory! The Future of the Believers (p.22) | (CD) | \$8 | _____ |
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| ___ | Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured) | (6 CDs) | \$29 | _____ |

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

| | | | | |
|-----|--|------------|------|-------|
| ___ | Jerusalem 3000 | (Music CD) | \$12 | _____ |
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| ___ | Thy Kingdom Come | (Music CD) | \$12 | _____ |

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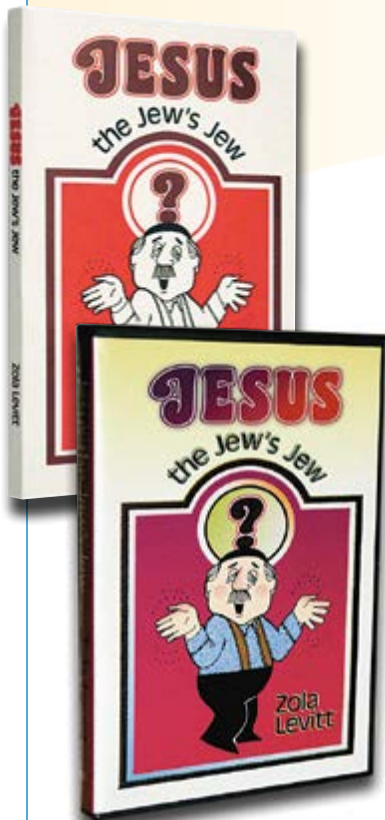
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[Jesus, the Jew's Jew](#) book and CD

Zola's first book addresses his heritage and his faith—an especially fresh and unvarnished look at the world unique to Jewish Christianity, a witness to the Chosen People, and Zola's personal testimony.

"Let's face it. Jesus is Jewish. He always was and He always will be. He never 'converted' to anything. But it almost seems as though this fact is something to be spoken of in whispers. How could God's Son be one of them? How could the very founder of Christianity, that great 'non-Jewish' religion, get away with being Jewish?" —Excerpt

These make excellent gifts for a Jewish friend.

Please see the [cover article](#), "[Putting Jesus Back in the Synagogue.](#)"

[Abraham](#) [to Jesus](#) Genealogy Chart

Full Color, 16" x 20" chart,
mailed in a sturdy tube.

A personal work of art and a visually fresh Messianic poster that will be at home in the living room, office, or classroom. A novel gift idea. The tree roots connect the lineage of Isaac and Jacob through Abraham. The leaves include Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and spaces for you to write in your family members, grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel.





Crossword January 2023: **Ezekiel and the Mid-East "Piece" Process — Part 1**

(NKJV)

(answers on [p. 35](#))



ACROSS

3. "...these men have set up their ___ in their hearts..." (Eze. 14:3)
5. Then the ___ entered me when He spoke to me... (Eze. 2:2)
7. "Son of man, ___ against the prophets of Israel..." (Eze. 13:2)
8. "...I will establish an everlasting ___ with you." (Eze. 16:60)
10. "...I have made you a ___ for the house of Israel..." (Eze. 33:7)
12. "...Indeed I, even I, will bring a ___ against you..." (Eze. 6:3)
13. "...I am sending you to the ___ of Israel..." (Eze. 2:3)
15. "I will establish one ___ over them..." (Eze. 34:23)
18. "...I will ___ you from the peoples..." (Eze. 11:17)
19. "...lift your eyes now toward the ___..." (Eze. 8:5)

DOWN

1. 'The soul who ___ shall die...' (Eze. 18:20)
2. ...and I saw ___ of God. (Eze. 1:1)
4. "...you shall neither mourn nor ___" (Eze. 24:16)
6. "...cause Jerusalem to know her ___..." (Eze. 16:2)
9. "...Turn, turn from your ___ ways!..." (Eze. 33:11)
11. "...Then you shall know that I am the ___" (Eze. 36:11)
12. ...and He caused me to eat that ___ (Eze. 3:2)
14. 'Speak to the house of ___' (Eze. 24:21)
16. "...receive into your ___ all My words..." (Eze. 3:10)
17. "But the ___ of Israel will not listen to you..." (Eze. 3:7)

by Andrea Davis



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](#)

Sarah's Insights

From P.B.: What a wonderful ministry you have given us through our Lord Jesus Christ. You have taught His Bride the love, wisdom, and knowledge of who we are to Him and in Him. I just love the Jewish insights that Sarah brings through each month's *Personal Letter*. I have learned so much from you, Sarah. Please never stop building His Church with the Jewish way of thinking and learning. Thank you all—you truly are a gift from God.

From S.J.: Sarah Liberman's insights are such blessings and are wonderful additions to ZLM's newsletters. It is so helpful to see her information on the Jewish perspective of Christian involvement in Israel. I have assumed for years that the Israelis appreciated what is being done and that it was helping to dispel the horrible actions of Christians in past centuries. Thank you so much for enlightening me.

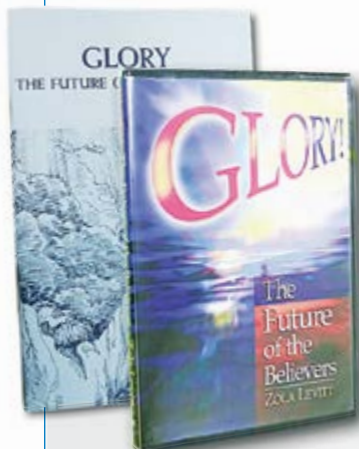


Sarah Liberman

Dear P.B. and S.J.,

As a Messianic Believer living in Israel, Sarah opens our eyes to what's happening there. Her perspective and Biblical insights are a gift to all of us ZLMers. Those of us who went on the fall Zola Tour to Israel were doubly blessed when she joined us in Caesarea Maritima for some incredible Bible teaching. Please see Sarah's article on [p. 9](#) of this *LL*. —Kirsten

(continued on next page)



Glory! The Future of the Believers study booklet and teaching CD

By Zola Levitt

Prophecy studies often deal with the Tribulation, the antiChrist, Armageddon, and other cataclysms to befall an unbelieving world. This delightful study deals with the happy events prophesied for Believers:

- the Rapture
- the Marriage Supper
- the Kingdom, etc.

The future for those who believe.



Missing the Cartoons

From M.O.: I noticed almost no cartoons in the [November 2022 Levitt Letter](#). They were sorely missed. I hope that gripers did not make ZLM “cave.” Remember, *“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine”* (Prov. 17:22).

Dear M.O.,

I’m glad that you enjoy the pointed cartoons our editor chooses for the *LL*. Sometimes it’s feast or famine for the latest Bible-oriented cartoons since they must compete against other worthy graphics for our news magazine’s limited space. You and I agree about the merits of a merry heart. —Kirsten

Joshua and Caleb

From M.G.V.: (re: [“Joshua and Caleb discuss—The False Prophet” on YouTube](#)) I love the way you guys break things down from a Jewish perspective. **Being Jewish myself makes it easy to appreciate how badly today’s Church needs such teaching.** So often, the Jewish perspective and context are missing in many Bible studies and sermons.

Dear M.G.V.,

Kirsten and I believe that grasping the meaning of the New Testament requires reading it with “Jewish eyes.” Thanks for your affirmation of Joshua and Caleb. —David



Much Like Peter

From J.W.: (re: “Much Like Peter — #4 Divine Apparently” on [YouTube](#)) Peter has become a convenient punching bag for formulaic pastors. Nonetheless, I love Peter and find him relatable because he was such a fallible human being.

Dear J.W.,

Peter was one of Yeshua’s best friends. That speaks volumes, regardless of how some pastors may feel about him. —David ☆



Syndrome K—The Fake Disease that Saved Jews



BY STEPHEN SILVER (r) JTA.org



credit: Syndrome K/Freestyle Digital Media

Patients in the “Syndrome K” unit at Fatebenefratelli Hospital

Syndrome K, a new documentary by filmmaker Stephen Edwards, tells how three doctors at a hospital in Rome shielded a group of Jews from the Nazis in 1943–44 by inventing a fake infectious disease. The prospect of catching the disease kept the Nazis, who were occupying Rome following the fall of Mussolini, away from the hospital. The Jews there hung on until the Allies liberated the city in June 1944.

Edwards was raised Catholic but grew up in the large Jewish community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He got the idea for the film when he saw a meme about “Syndrome K” and discovered, to his amazement, that no one had previously made a documentary about it.

Fatebenefratelli Hospital was located very close to the Jewish Ghetto in Rome.

The three doctors were Vittorio Sacerdoti, Giovanni Borromeo, and Adriano Ossicini. Sacerdoti was Jewish, while the other two were Catholic. Borromeo, who among other acts of bravery protected the family of one of his Jewish mentors, is recognized as Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial.

(continued on next page)



credit: Syndrome K/Freestyle Digital Media

Fatebenefratelli Hospital in Rome



Jews were kept in hospital rooms designated as dangerously infectious. “The Nazis thought it was cancer or tuberculosis, and they fled like rabbits,” Sacerdoti told the BBC in 2004.

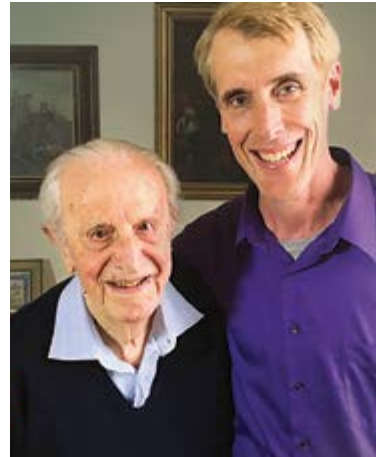
The exact number of Jews saved is unknown, although various historical accounts have placed the number in the dozens.

“That’s why I think it’s such a secret story — the doctors didn’t crow about what they did, or talk about it a lot,” Edwards said.

When Edwards first began working on the film in 2018, he discovered that Ossicini was still alive at age 98. Edwards and his producer went to Rome and interviewed the doctor. On that trip, he also talked to a pair of brothers who survived the hospital as children, along with Pietro Borromeo, the son of Giovanni Borromeo. Both Ossicini and the younger Borromeo passed away within a year of their interviews.

“The story itself was more about the threat of atrocities,” Edwards noted. He added that **80% of Italian Jews survived the Holocaust, a very different percentage from most of Europe.** “This is a story about people being their very, very best, in the face of people being their very, very worst, and that’s what really attracted me to it.”

Beyond the documentary, Edwards is working with a team to develop a feature film version of the Syndrome K story. ✨



credit: Syndrome K/Freestyle Digital Media

Adriano Ossicini (left), one of the doctors behind the Syndrome K ruse, with Stephen Edwards (right) in 2018



Our Hands Are Stained with Blood

book *(Now updated!)* By Michael L. Brown, PhD

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

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

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

Please see the [cover article](#), “[Why Anti-Semitism is a Christian Concern](#).”



Humidifying Air with a Toothbrush-Inspired Device



BY JOHN JEFFAY (r) NoCamels.com

An Israeli inventor has patented a revolutionary air humidifier—inspired by toothbrush technology. It is cheaper, cleaner, and more efficient than any machine currently available.

Hundreds of millions of homes use humidifiers to add moisture to air that dries out by heating. Extra humidity helps improve dry sinuses, sore throats, cracked lips, and other winter ailments.

Existing humidifiers either boil water to create steam or use fans or other methods to evaporate water. But they create condensation, are a nightmare to clean, and can cause infection.

Aryeh Tench's machine has a single moving part — a wand fitted with 6,000 super-fine nylon filaments, similar to the bristles in a toothbrush. As it rotates, the filaments vibrate at speeds of up to 50 mph and break the water into droplets far smaller than those produced by any other method. It evaporates water in 1/100th of a second, inside a device that resembles an air conditioner.

Tench doesn't have a science background but has always been interested in engineering. "One day I told my wife, you know, this toothbrush has tiny filaments in it. They could be used to make water break into little droplets. But there's a problem because they're all stuck together so they don't vibrate."

He set about finding a way to embed thousands of filaments just a millimeter apart, so they could all vibrate individually and break water into tiny particles. And that breakthrough is the key to his new, patented humidifier.

A standard humidifier blows out mist that can breed mold and bacteria. But Tench's humidifier is different. "Ours comes out bone dry. There's no water... It's just air. We have invented and patented one of the best methods

of atomization (breaking a liquid into tiny droplets)," Tench noted.

It took five years to refine the product and invent a manufacturing process to build the core technology. Now they are designing humidifier prototypes "that will be faster, cleaner, cheaper, lighter, smaller, more efficient, and better at communicating with the owner, than any humidification equipment on the market," explained Tench, who co-founded Tench Labs in Jerusalem.



Aryeh Tench with his patented wand

Tench says people are buying 30 million small humidifiers every year, so there's clearly a demand. But they don't make enough humidity for a single room, let alone a whole house. And humidifying a whole house can be expensive.

The new machine will cost as little as \$150 to purchase, and around \$4 a month to operate. Tench thinks the first models, to be manufactured in Israel, will be available for sale in early 2024. ☆

Courtesy: Tench Labs



Nanodiamonds Delivering Medicine Through the Skin



BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) JPost.com

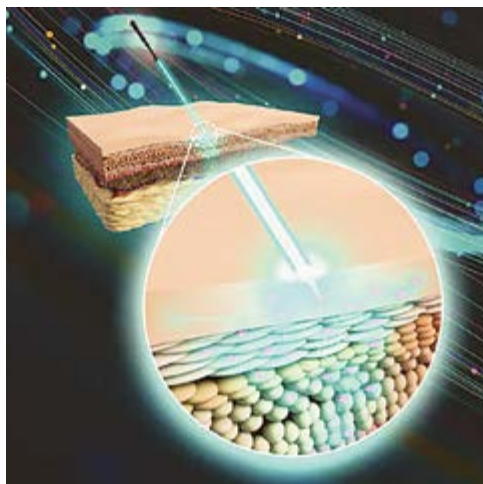
Particles on a nicotine patch penetrate the skin and help wean the wearer off smoking — but only because the particles are no larger than 100 nanometers. (For comparison, a human hair is approximately 80,000–100,000 nanometers wide.)

For other molecules to enter the skin, it is impossible for medicinal and even cosmetic treatments to penetrate the deep layers. Because the particles are so small and difficult to see, it is equally challenging to ensure that they reach the intended target tissue. Typically, such information is obtained through invasive biopsies.

But a new approach developed by researchers at Bar-Ilan University (BIU) in Israel provides an innovative solution to overcoming both barriers. Combining techniques in nanotechnology and optics, they produced nanometric diamond particles so small they can penetrate skin to deliver a variety of remedies. In addition, they created a safe, laser-based optical method that quantifies nanodiamond penetration into the various layers of the skin and determines their location and concentration within body tissue in a noninvasive manner — even eliminating the need for some biopsies.

Artificial nanodiamonds are produced by detonating explosives inside a closed chamber. Under these conditions, high temperature and pressure cause the carbon atoms found in explosives to fuse together. The nanodiamonds created in the process are small enough to penetrate tissue — and even cells — without inflicting harm.

These diamonds can deliver various medications to intended targets, and their distance and location may be controlled because of their minute size. The approach to drug delivery using nanoparticles has already proven successful in previous research.



credit: Aharon Heller

Nanodiamond penetrates through all skin layers

BIU's nanodiamonds have also proven to be effective antioxidants. This ensures that particles penetrating the body are both safe and therapeutic, as their chemical properties allow them to be coated with medication prior to their insertion into the body.

The optical method developed by the team makes it possible for them to identify relative nanodiamond concentrations of particles in the different layers of skin (epidermis, dermis, and fat) through safe and noninvasive sensing based on a blue wavelength laser.

To determine their location and concentration in the skin, patients are briefly exposed to the blue laser beam. An optical system creates a photograph-like 3D image through which optical changes in treated tissue can be extracted and compared to adjacent, untreated tissue using a specially created algorithm.

"This is a significant development in dermatology and in optical engineering," said Prof. Dror Fixler, head of BIU's Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials and a member of the research team. "It could open the door to developing drugs applied through the skin, alongside modern cosmetic preparations using advanced nanotechnology." ☆



The Palestinian Authority's Jesus Envy



BY ITAMAR MARCUS (r) JPost.com

Jesus envy is just one component of the Palestinian Authority's obsessive Israel/Judaism envy. Indeed, Palestinian Authority (PA) leaders are so jealous of everything Jewish that they have created an entire Palestinian heritage in the image of Jewish heritage. The PA falsely teaches its people that Palestinians are a 5,000-year-old nation. They point to Israel's archaeological finds and even ancient Hebrew coins and claim that they are Palestinian archaeological remains. The PA teaches its children that the Palestinian nation was invaded by the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Romans and yet the Palestinians survived. In a nutshell, Jewish history is all falsified as Palestinian history.



credit: Headscarf from image "Ararat" by Yaacov Saar

Christ the Pantocrator (means "Ruler of All"), Russian icon painting (1384) by Jovan Zograf (with Palestinian head scarf added)



To complete its rewriting of history, the PA also distorts Christian history. PA President Mahmoud Abbas once stated, "We celebrate the birth of Jesus, a Palestinian." On another occasion, official PA spokesman Ibrahim Melhem sent "blessings to the Christian communities ... for this holiday ... of the birth of the Palestinian prophet Jesus."

False Claims About Jesus

Some of the Palestinian false claims about Jesus are openly insulting to Christians. For example, according to Christian tradition, Jesus never married and was celibate. Yet Fatah posted on its Facebook page: "There is no doubt that the Jesus Christ you worship as God is the great grandfather of the Palestinian people." The official PA daily *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* went even further: "Easter ... is not a holiday only for Christian Palestinians but a holiday for Palestinian nationalism, because **Jesus is ... the virtuous patriotic Palestinian forefather** ... The Palestinians, Jesus's descendants, rose from the ashes, like the phoenix."

Also insulting to Christians is that **Jesus, who preached nonviolence, is considered a Palestinian terrorist**. The official PA daily wrote in 2020: "Jesus was a messenger of Allah ... the first Palestinian *fida'i* (self-sacrificing fighter)." The term *fida'i* is the Palestinian term for primarily PLO and Fatah terrorists who have committed years of terror attacks against Israelis.

(continued on next page)

Senior Palestinian leader Tawfiq Tirawi took the slurs in a different direction. He posted on his Facebook page that “Jesus, the Messiah, [was] the first Palestinian and the first *shahid* (Islamic martyr).” According to Palestinian Islamic ideology, claiming Jesus is a *shahid* means that He is now celebrating in Islamic paradise and married to 72 virgins.

Possibly the ultimate insult to Christians is that the PA has turned Jesus into a prophet who preached Islam. Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, the PA Mufti, told official PA TV that “the mission of Islam” was an “ongoing chain from Adam to Muhammad... The prophets were all the same religion [Islam]... We respect Jesus, we believe in Him, just as we believe in the prophet Muhammad [as prophets of Islam].”



credit: Dragan Tatic (Wikimedia Commons)

Muhammad Hussein, 2014

A Sinister Goal

The PA repeats these fictions every year, especially around Christmas. Some examples include the broadcast on PA TV of a song with the lyrics: “Jesus is a Palestinian. Those [Jews] who fought him 2,000 years ago are now destroying His people.” Also broadcast was the statement by Israeli Arab politician Sami Abu Shahadeh: “The entire world knows that Jesus is Palestinian.” PA TV also broadcast the Mufti who, again, contradicted Christian tradition: “Jesus was born in Palestine and in Jerusalem (sic) ... Jesus is a Palestinian par excellence.”

Some mistakenly think that the PA’s claiming Jewish history and Jesus is so absurd it can be ignored as a meaningless Palestinian identity creation. Unfortunately, the PA’s falsification of history can’t be ignored, because it has a much more sinister goal: it serves as justification for the PA and Fatah seeking to destroy Israel.

Fatah’s *Waed* magazine for children aged 6 to 15 repeatedly teaches that it is this fictitious history that justifies and guarantees Israel’s destruction: “Palestine underwent dozens of invasions, and many peoples entered it such as the Babylonians, the Persians, the Samaritans, the Assyrians, the Hyksos, the Hittites, the Pharaohs, and the Hebrews. Afterward the Greeks and Romans arrived... In the end, Palestine fell under the Zionist occupation... The occupation will cease to

exist just as what was before it ceased to exist” (*Waed*, Issue 32, pp. 5-6). And this: “Over thousands of years, it has proven that ... there is no invader who invaded this land and did not leave it defeated in the end, and that is what will happen to the Zionist invaders” (*Waed*, Issue 27, p. 23).

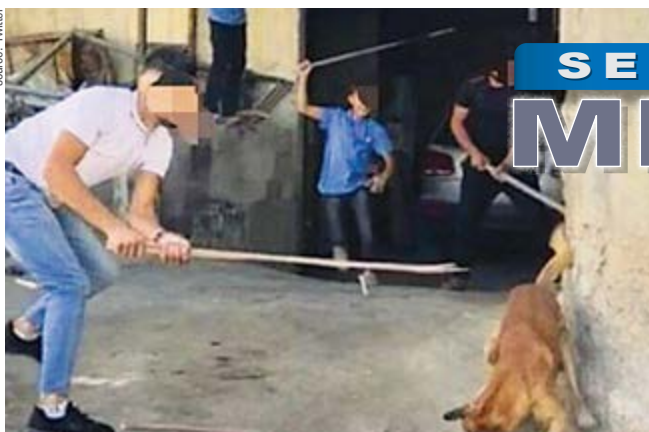
As long as the PA continues to deny

the thousands of years of the Jewish people’s history in the Land—including the fact that Jesus was a Judean—and uses this as a basis to deny Israel the right to exist, a peace process has yet to begin. ☆



credit: Political Cartoon Gallery

An image from *Cartoons and Extremism: Israel and the Jews in Arab and Western Media* exhibition at the Political Cartoon Gallery in central London



Hebron residents attack a stray dog

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Hebron's Mayor Draws Backlash from Dog-Killing Campaign

JNS.org

Hebron Mayor Tayseer Abu Sneineh recently announced a 20-shekel (\$5.83) bounty for every stray dog killed or delivered to the municipality. During a local radio broadcast, the mayor proposed the payment as a solution to the city's dog overpopulation problem.

The initiative sparked outrage on social media, however, after images of residents answering the mayor's call met with hundreds of angry responses.

"Disgusting," "Evil," and "ANIMALS, and I don't mean the poor dog," were a few of the reactions.

The Animal and Environment Association in Bethlehem also condemned the action: "This bloody campaign resulted in **killing many dogs, [by] shooting, hanging, abusing, running over them by cars.** What happened today is beyond humanity and ethics. No religion would accept such barbaric actions toward innocent animals."



Photo from the aftermath of the dog-killing campaign

The mayor later backtracked. He claimed that he hadn't been serious and only wanted to "stir stagnant water" in order to "find a solution to the disturbing phenomenon of stray dogs" in Hebron.

Abu Sneineh is a convicted terrorist who was imprisoned with three others for his role in a 1980 attack that killed six yeshiva students. These included two U.S.



Tayseer Abu Sneineh

credit: Bilal Dweik, Arab Media (Wikimedia Commons)

citizens, one of whom was a decorated Vietnam War veteran. Sixteen others were injured in the attack. Sneineh was released three years later in a prisoner swap between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and deported to Algeria. He returned to the West Bank, along with other exiled PLO figures, after the signing of the Oslo Interim (peace) Agreement in 1993.

He was elected Hebron's mayor in 2017.

Premature Syrian Baby Saved by Israeli Doctors

By Pesach Benson / JewishPress.com

Israeli surgeons recently saved the life of a two-week-old Syrian-Kurdish baby born with a heart defect.

The baby — Johnny Yusuf — is a triplet who was prematurely born to Syrian refugees in Cyprus. He weighed

(continued on next page)





credit: Schneider Children's Medical Center



Baby Johnny and his hospital caretakers

3.3 pounds at birth. Cypriot doctors discovered he had a life-threatening heart defect, but the necessary surgery wasn't available in Cyprus.

The Cypriot Health Ministry contacted the Institute of Cardiology at Schneider Children's Medical Center in Israel. Professor Einat Birk advised that they immediately fly Johnny to Israel.

Because Israel and Syria have no relations, officials at Israel's Foreign Ministry and at the Israeli embassy in Nicosia had to secure permits. Arranging the permits and medical logistics took one week.

Professor Gil Klinger, director of the Schneider Children's Medical Center's neonatal unit, accompanied the baby along with medical gear needed for the flight. Also on the flight was the baby's 21-year-old brother.

Johnny received the operation the day after his arrival in Israel. After a month of recovery and observation, he was discharged and returned to his family in Cyprus.

Commenting on the challenging surgery, Prof. Birk noted, "The operation is done with the help of a heart-lung machine. We had to stop the heart and get an alternate blood flow mechanism in place. It is very delicate

and precise work. The margin of error is zero. But Johnny is likely to have a long and healthy life."

Iranian Drone Designed to Strike Tel Aviv, Haifa

[Algemeiner.com](https://www.algemeiner.com)

Iran has "specially designed" a drone capable of attacking Israel's largest coastal cities, said Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, who commands the ground forces of the Iranian army. He identified the drone as "Arash 2" during a television interview in September, Iran's Mehr News Agency reported.

"He noted that [the] drone was specially designed for attacking Haifa and Tel Aviv, adding that it is a unique drone made for that purpose," the semi-official outlet added.

The comments came amid doubts over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other Iranian officials have repeatedly threatened to attack Tel Aviv and Haifa to deter action by Israel, which has pledged to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. In June, Heydari said Iran "will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground by the order of the supreme leader" should Israel make "any mistake." ✨



Iranian Brig. Gen. Kioumars Heydari



credit: Foad Ashtar/Tasnim News Agency (Wikimedia Commons)



Archaeology

Quarry May Have Supplied Stones for Second Temple

TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority

A 2,000-year-old stone quarry discovered in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Hotzvim

Archaeologists working in Jerusalem recently discovered a 2,000-year-old stone quarry, along with a range of massive building blocks in various stages of the pre-construction process.

The large quarry discovered in the modern-day industrial park of Har Hotzvim, which means "quarrymen's hill," likely dates to the 1st century B.C. It would have been active around the time of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

"The large-scale building projects in ancient Jerusalem, such as the Temple Mount, required a vast amount of building materials and the ability to organize and coordinate the quarrying and transportation of thousands of building blocks to the ancient city," said Moran Hagbi, the excavation's director on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA).

The partially excavated quarry covers approximately 6,400 square feet, but archaeologists indicate that it could be two or three times that size.

The massive building blocks extracted from it measure approximately 5 x 6.5 feet and provide "a clear demonstration of all the phases of quarrying and stone preparation," the IAA stated.



credit: Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority

Workers at the quarry site

(continued on next page)





credit:
Shai Halevi,
Israel Antiquities
Authority

"We uncovered large, square blocks of stone about to be detached from the bedrock, prior to loading and transporting them to the ancient city," Hagbi commented. He added that the quarry "presents a golden opportunity; because some of the stones were left [in their original locations], we can copy ancient technologies and experiment with them in order to recreate the processes by which the

building stones were quarried."

Archaeologists and conservationists are hoping to recreate the ancient methods used to detach the stone blocks, as well as to test the effectiveness of methods described in Biblical sources, the IAA said.

The excavation was a salvage dig ahead of the construction of new buildings in the neighborhood.

Eli Eskosido, IAA's general director, added: "In a symbolic way,

Jerusalem's current development boom presents us with an opportunity to excavate and research the great building projects in Jerusalem in antiquity. Before any development project begins in Jerusalem, our archaeologists are called upon to excavate and examine any ancient finds, for the sake of future generations."

Har Hotzvim, in northwest Jerusalem, is the capital's main high-tech park for science-based and technology companies, including Intel, Teva, Cisco, Mobileye, and Johnson & Johnson. ☆



Site of the quarry with neighborhood behind



Overview of the quarry

Responding to Kanye West's Anti-Semitism



BY SLOVIE JUNGREIS-WOLFF (r) Aish.com

The artist Kanye West, now known as Ye, is one of the wealthiest musicians in the world (\$1.8 billion, per Forbes). Lately he has been spewing anti-Semitic tropes across social media and interviews. In case you missed his vile words, here are some.

"I'm a little sleepy tonight, but when I wake up, I'm going death con 3 on Jewish people...."

In an interview with Tucker Carlson that aired in October, he made several abhorrent comments (some of which weren't aired) where he made conspiratorial claims about the Jewish people and Jewish identity. West also wished that his children had learned about Hanukkah instead of "complicated Kwanzaa" because Hanukkah would at least "come with some financial engineering."

West spoke of purported Jewish control in another clip. "Jewish people have owned the Black voice" — whether it's through us wearing a Ralph Lauren shirt, or it's all of us being signed to a record label, or having a Jewish manager, or being signed to a Jewish basketball team, or doing a movie on a Jewish platform like Disney."

And then there's this vitriol: "You know they came into money through the lawyers, when after Wall Street when all the, like Catholics, they wouldn't divorce people, so the Jewish lawyers came and they were willing to divorce people. That's when they came into their money."

Asked to respond to his detestable messages, West said, "I feel happy to have crossed the line of that idea so we can speak openly about things like getting canceled by a bank."

Some tried to excuse West's outbursts by saying that he didn't take his medication, is paranoid, or is dealing with



Kanye West

source: Twitter

mental health issues. Let's not explain away bigotry through excuses. We are all responsible for our words. Words matter. They give birth to animosity and incite violence.

Whether or not you listen to his music or wear his creations, we responsible citizens must take a stand. We must wake up to the poison that is spreading across the world. There is a war of words exploding before our eyes. We cannot ignore anti-Semitism.

Before Instagram restricted his account, West had 18.1 million followers. He had 31.4 million on Twitter before his account went into "Read Only" mode. That's millions of impressionable minds who digest these repugnant lies, millions of hearts who are influenced by this vicious Jew-hatred, who post messages defending him: "Kanye is right."

His art cannot be separated from his toxic messages. I listen to the deafening silence that surrounds me and realize that I dare not grow weary. None of us can.

Don't remain silent. The world needs your voice, your heart and soul. ✨





Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is
good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22

Humor from Classic Jewish Entertainers

*"Those are my principles. If you
don't like them, I have others."*

— Groucho Marx

*"I have enough money to last
me the rest of my life ... unless
I buy something."*

— Jackie Mason

*"I don't mind my wife having
the last word. In fact, I'm
delighted when she reaches it."*

— Walter Matthau

*"Ladies and gentlemen, I want
you to know that I've had a
perfectly wonderful evening.
Tonight wasn't it, but I've had a
perfectly wonderful evening."*

— Groucho Marx



Answer Key for January 2023 Crossword (p.21)

Across:

- 3. Idols
- 5. Spirit
- 7. Prophecy
- 8. Covenant
- 10. Watchman
- 12. Sword
- 13. Children
- 15. Shepherd
- 18. Gather
- 19. North

Down:

- 1. Sins
- 2. Visions
- 4. Weep
- 6. Abominations
- 9. Evil
- 11. Lord
- 12. Scroll
- 14. Israel
- 16. Heart
- 17. House



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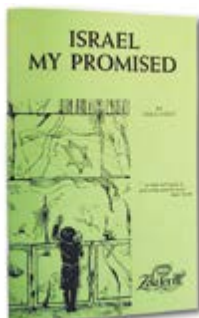
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