



ZOLA LEVITT MINISTRIES
P.O. BOX 12268
DALLAS, TX 75225-0268

OFFICE:
214-696-8844
staff@levitt.com

24-HOUR
Purchases & Donations
800-966-3377

TOURS:
214-696-9760
travel@levitt.com

WEBSITE:
www.levitt.com

SECURE ONLINE DONATIONS:
<https://www.levitt.com/donate>
(one time or recurring)



Enhancing Trust

April 2023

Dear Reader,

Next month marks the 75th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. This momentous milestone is worthy of celebration because it's a powerful reminder of God's promises and devotion to His Chosen People. As Zionists and anti-Semites alike have witnessed, the Jewish State's founding was a miracle, as is its continued existence.

But what is a miracle? Essentially, it's a sign of God's activity. We Believers recognize God's miraculous presence throughout the Passover and Yeshua's resurrection — both celebrated in April. But miracles are more than events that happened ages ago. God is still at work even now (John 5:17). If you and I pay attention, we cannot deny ample evidence of His hand in our world today. As the Apostle Paul noted, God is *"able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us"* (Eph. 3:20). That's the language of miracles!

This *Levitt Letter* includes an article about the *God of Miracles* (p. 28), the new television series debuting this month on *Our Jewish Roots*. The Classic Zola article touches on the miracle of modern Israel (10), while John Parsons addresses the miracle of new life and spiritual fruit (16). We've also included insights into the growing popularity of the Bearded Bible Brothers (14), stories of Israeli innovation in science and medicine, and much more.

Praise God that He is *"awesome in glorious deeds"* and *"doing wonders"* (Ex. 15:11). As you thank Him for His everlasting faithfulness (2 Chron. 20:21), remember to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* — pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6),




Greg Miller, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Your support helps us continue sharing the Gospel of Yeshua and His eternal truth everywhere, including with Jews in Israel who hear the truth about Yeshua the Messiah for the first time (13). Through your giving we will continue producing insightful teaching like that in *God of Miracles*. Thank you!

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

We'd appreciate any
address corrections. Gifts
to ZLM are tax-deductible
as allowed by law.

☐ Please contact me
with Estate Planning
information.

Yes, Greg, I want to be a part of what God is doing through Zola Levitt Ministries.
Enclosed is my contribution of:  Or securely donate using contacts above left.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please charge my contribution to my credit card: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Card code _____

Signature _____ Card exp. date ____ / ____

Printed Name _____ Donor # _____
(See number above your name on mailing label)

Address _____ Date signed _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email (optional) _____ Phone _____



Levitt LETTER

APRIL 2023

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

inside: What Is
Sanctification p.12

Is There Proof that Jesus is the Messiah?

JewsForJesus.org

Detail of Christ and The Rich Young Ruler (1889), painting by Heinrich Hofmann (1824–1911), Riverside Church, New York (Wikimedia Commons)



From the Hebrew Bible, we can know the Messiah's genealogical background, place of birth, the timeframe of His arrival, and other identifying characteristics. These credentials enable us to identify Him and to recognize imposters. Below are a few; there are many others.

- Of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)
- A descendant of King David (2 Sam. 7:12–16)
- Born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- Arrived before the destruction of the Second Temple (Dan. 9:24–27)
- Presented Himself by riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9)
- Tortured to death (Ps. 22:1–31)
- Matching a unique description, including suffering, silence at His arrest and trial, His

(continued p.4)

REMEMBER:

Passover Week: Sunset Wed., April 5 to sunset Thur., April 13
Resurrection Day/Easter: Sunday, April 9
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day):
Sunset April 17 to sunset April 18

Christians Rediscovering Passover

By David Parsons
ICEJ.org

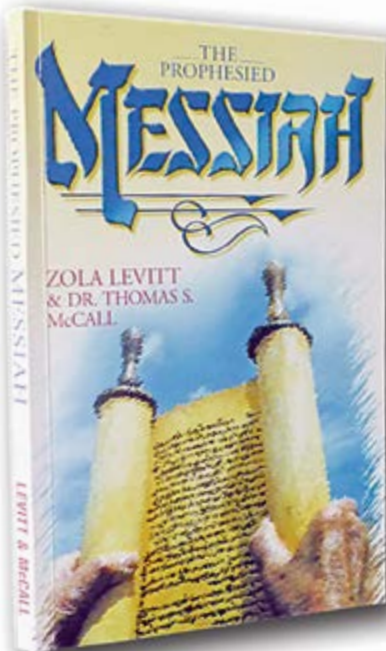
For Jews and Christians, the Passover season is a special time for reflection on the rich spiritual truths contained within this remarkable holiday. Indeed, we can all observe the command to “remember” the incredible Israelite deliverance from bondage in Egypt.

For Christians, the events of a momentous Passover some 15 centuries later have given added meaning to this holiday, so that the truths of the first are reinforced in the latter. Deliverance from Pharaoh's taskmasters became freedom from slavery to sin. The blood of a lamb on the doorposts

(continued p.6)



Matzah Plate with the formula of blessing over the matzah meal.
credit: Claude Truong-Ngoc (Wikimedia Commons)



The Prophesied Messiah book

The Prophesied Messiah book contains the major prophecies of the Messiah, along with color photos and Holy Land maps from our television series of the same name. ***It's extremely important that Believers are able to prove Yeshua as Messiah from Old Testament Scripture***, thus showing objective evidence that our Lord is indeed "The Prophesied Messiah."

One of our all-time most popular books. See Zola's original TV teaching for free in our video archives: levitt.tv/media/series/VMST

The Prophesied Messiah witnessing bookmark

This handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" sturdy bookmark is an excellent witnessing tool.

The Prophesied Messiah bookmark gives Old Testament Scriptures declaring details of Who the Messiah of Israel would be and what He would experience and accomplish.

Things to Come witnessing bookmark

This handsomely designed 2¼" x 7" sturdy bookmark is an excellent witnessing tool.

The **Things to Come** witnessing bookmark uses dozens of Scriptural references to reduce man's fate to two options: "The Future of the Unbelievers" and, on the other side, "The Future of the Believers."

Upon request, receive one bookmark free with any purchase or donation. Or you can send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope.





- 4 Teaching**
4 Is There Proof That Jesus Is the Messiah?
(continued from cover)



- 8**
6 Christians Rediscovering Passover *(continued from cover)*



- Studio Co-host**
8 A Not-So-Christian Ordinance
10 The Hardest 40 Years



- Ask the Chaplain**
12 What is Sanctification?



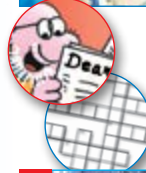
- TJF Report**
13 Ministry in Tiberias and Mount Hermon
14 Here Come the Bearded Bible Brothers!



- 15 ZLM Bulletin Board**
Parsons: Hebrew Lesson
16 Fruit in His Season
18  **ZLM Order Form**



- 21** Israelis Treated Syrian Earthquake Victims



- 22** Letters to ZLM



- 25** Crossword Puzzle



- Science**
26 Disinfectant Lasts for Months, Not Minutes



- Medicine**
27 Israeli Home Dialysis System Gets FDA Approval



- OJR Production Notes**
28 *The God of Miracles*



- 30** Select Media Briefs



- Archaeology**
32 Hezekiah's Monumental Inscription



- Muslim Focus**
34 Top Aide Bashes Palestinian Authority Leader



- 35** Jewish Humor

Social Media Outlets

ZLM's social media outreach 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>

Most weeks include five or six different videos:

- **Mondays**—music featuring one of Zola's songs with scenic Holy Land videos
- **Tuesdays**—the Bearded Bible Brothers discuss Biblical topics
- **Wednesdays**—debut of a new episode of *Our Jewish Roots*
- **Thursdays**—Faith Foundations (Dr. Todd Baker) or Bible Prophecy (Dr. August Rosado)
- **Fridays**—a classic *Zola Levitt Presents* program
- **Saturdays**—an interview from David and Kirsten Hart or a behind-the-scenes video.

What a wonderful way to augment our weekly television broadcasts and the archives at levitt.tv! ☆

Is There Proof that Jesus is the Messiah? *continued from cover*

death, burial in a rich man's tomb, and resurrection (Isa. 52:13–53:12)

In His lineage, birthplace, time, and lifestyle, Jesus matched the Messianic expectations of the Hebrew Scriptures. The record of this fulfillment is found in the New Testament. But other factors combine to further substantiate the Messiahship of Jesus.

First, He claimed to be the Messiah. When a woman said to Him, "*I know that Messiah is coming,*" He replied, "*I who speak to you am He*" (John 4:25–26). If Jesus had never claimed to be the Messiah, why would we try to prove that He was? **His own claim lays the groundwork for the rest of the evidence.**



Detail of *Woman at the Well*, painting by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834–1890), the Chapel at Frederiksborg Palace, Copenhagen

Why didn't most Jewish people believe in Jesus?

By the time of Jesus, the Messianic hope had become greatly politicized for many Jews. They were seeking deliverance from Rome's tyranny. Although Scripture spoke both of the sufferings and of the victories of the Messiah, the victorious aspect had become uppermost for most people because of Roman domination. This lopsided view of the Messiah has stuck with many Jewish people, and the politicization of the

Messianic hope has continued to this day.

But not all Jewish people rejected Jesus' claims. All the first followers of Jesus were Jews. In fact, the rabbis of that time and afterwards were aware of the many Messianic prophecies

that Christians claimed were fulfilled in Jesus. So, for instance, although the Talmudic rabbis concurred that Isaiah 53 was a prediction of the Messiah, by medieval times, the pressure from those who applied this prophecy to Jesus was remarkable. Thus, Rashi, one of the greatest medieval Biblical scholars, reinterpreted the chapter and determined that it referred to the nation of Israel. This interpretation is maintained today by many Jewish scholars, though it only dates to the Middle Ages.

Jesus rose from the dead

The resurrection is perhaps the most convincing vindication of Jesus' claims. Israeli scholar Pinchas Lapidé wrote a book that has attracted no small amount of attention in the Jewish community. In *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective*, Lapidé argued that Jesus' resurrection is well within the realm of possibility. After all, he reasoned, the Hebrew Scriptures give a number of accounts of people coming back to life. Why not Jesus as well? Regrettably, Lapidé failed to note that Jesus' resurrection is described in terms that go far beyond the resuscitation stories. Lapidé never came to grips with the fact that Jesus predicted His own resurrection, which vindicated His claims to Messiahship.

Throughout history, people have explained away the resurrection as either non-historical ("It never happened")



Engraving of Rashi by William of Paris (1539) in *Rashi: A Portrait* (Elie Wiesel, 2009)

source: Wikimedia Commons



(continued on next page)

or as non-supernatural (“Here’s how it could have happened”). But these explanations have been unsuccessful. If the Romans took Jesus’ body from the tomb, they could have produced it when the word spread that He had risen. If the disciples stole it, could such a fabrication account for the change in their attitude? Three days earlier, they were disillusioned, defeated idealists who had hoped that Jesus would usher in a new world order. Could such a lie account for their hope, their boldness in the face of official persecution, and for the high ethical standards they set?

Perhaps Jesus never died; perhaps, as Hugh J. Schonfield proposed, He just fainted on the Cross and revived in the tomb. But this ignores the fact that the Romans pierced Jesus’ side, which would have most certainly killed Him. Also, there was a contingent of Roman soldiers guarding the tomb and a huge stone blocking its entrance. There was no way that a resuscitated Jesus could have escaped and then convinced hundreds of skeptical eyewitnesses that He had conquered death! Was it a hallucination? It must have been quite a hallucination to be seen by different people at different times in different places. You might

be able to fool one person, but can you fool 500 who saw Him at one time? And, unlike hallucinations, appearances of the resurrected Jesus stopped as suddenly as they started, 40 days after the resurrection.

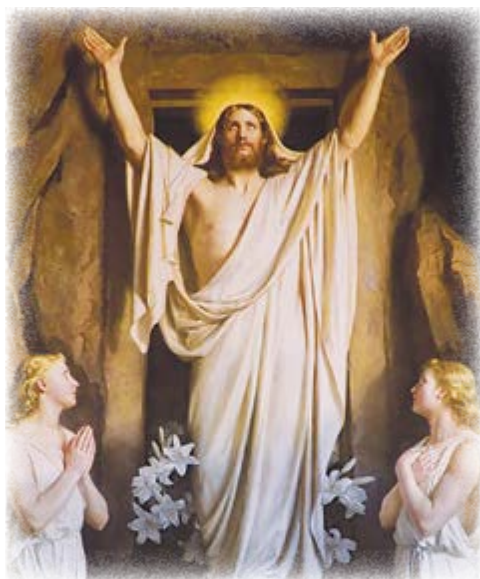
The only satisfactory explanation is that the resurrection actually occurred, as the Scriptures state. Thus, it’s a solid reason for accepting the Messiahship of Jesus.

Jesus transforms people’s lives



Because He provides atonement for sin and reconciliation with God, Jesus brings peace, joy, and purpose into people’s lives. Apart from faith in Him, there is no basis for true peace or direction, for, as the psalmist says, “*The wicked are estranged from the womb*” (Psalm 58:3). That this estrangement is healed by the reconciling ministry of Jesus is the common experience of those who believe in Him.

Between the objective evidence of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, and the subjective verification in our own lives, there’s ample evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be! ✨



Detail of *The Resurrection*, painting by Carl Heinrich Bloch, Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo, UT

Christians Rediscovering Passover *continued from cover sidebar*



Detail of *The Crucifixion of Jesus*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

became a typology of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

Yet the parallels were lost for centuries to most Christians when the early Church leaders severed our faith from its Jewish roots. In time, this hostility to Judaism produced vicious blood libels against Jews at Passover.

Returning to Our Roots

Today, however, multitudes of Christians are rediscovering our Hebraic roots.

Even respected Jewish scholars have started joining Christian theologians in rediscovering the "Jewishness" of Jesus and the Hebraic origins of Christianity. One notable in this regard is Prof. David Flusser (1917–2000) of the Hebrew



Prof. David Flusser

University of Jerusalem, considered the leading Orthodox Jewish expert

on the Second Temple era and early Christianity.

Flusser placed Jesus within the Pharasic tradition and viewed Him as among the great sages of His time, such as Hillel and Ben-Shammai. But Flusser concluded that the Galilean Preacher went boldly beyond the classic Judaism of that day, for instance by proclaiming the advent of the Kingdom of God and espousing a radical ethic of loving one's enemy.

As a result of such groundbreaking scholarship, the Feast of Passover is one occasion when the lineage and cultural identity of Jesus as a "son of the covenant" now holds so much more meaning for Christians. In fact, **nothing reattaches Christians to their Jewish roots faster than realizing the Last Supper was actually a Passover seder meal being led by a Jewish Rabbi.**

Jesus and Jewish Traditions

We can see in the Gospel narratives just how closely Jesus held to Jewish traditions in presiding over the Passover meal with His disciples — His *talmidim*.

Cups of Wine

For instance, He followed the custom then developing in first century Judaism



Detail of *The Commencement of the Last Supper*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

(continued on next page)

of serving four cups of wine at the Passover meal to mirror the four great “I will” statements of Exodus 6:6–7. When Jesus took the third cup — considered the “cup of redemption” — He used it to seal a New Covenant with His followers.

Words of Betrothal

Interestingly, He also used customary Jewish words of betrothal at that same moment, promising to go build them all mansions in His Father’s house and to come back for them one day as the Bridegroom for His Bride (John 14:2–3).



Detail of *New Jerusalem*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

The Command to Remember

In serving them wine and unleavened bread, Jesus further played off the command to “remember” the Passover by instructing His disciples to always partake of it “*in remembrance of Me*” (Luke 22:19).

Demonstrating Servanthood

Then, one of the most extraordinary moments of the Last Supper came when He washed the feet of His disciples.

Like other great rabbis of His day, Jesus had developed a unique preaching style by telling parables, many of which are universally known to this day, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. But He was different



Detail of *Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

in the way that He also practiced what He preached. In washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus taught by deed and not just words what it means to be a servant in His Kingdom (John 13:14–15).

Showing Grace

And finally, Jesus demonstrated tremendous grace that evening when He gave the place of the guest of honor (on His immediate left) to Judas, even though Jesus knew Judas would soon betray Him. What a difference it would have made down through history if Christians had understood that Jesus was never bitter toward Judas.

Sadly, it is too late to change that history. But we are witnessing a change in Christian attitudes toward the Jewish people today, as we understand better the Jewish matrix of our faith. This historic shift is helping to build Christian support for an embattled Israel at a critical hour. And just as importantly, it is shielding multitudes of Christians against modern-day blood libels and other anti-Semitic lies now being hurled at the Jewish state.

Our son, [Ryan Hart](#), worked in the ICEJ’s media department. David, thank you for your boots-on-the ground insights on Passover. — David ☆

A Not-So-Christian Ordinance

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



above: Detail of *The Last Supper* (circa 1562), painting by Juan de Juanes, Museo del Prado, Madrid
right: A traditional Passover seder plate



As many of you know, David and I grew up in the Christian faith. When we became the studio co-hosts for *Zola Levitt Presents* (now *Our Jewish Roots*), we had a lot of Biblical knowledge that came from many years of working and serving in churches and ministries. Even so, we had much to learn about the Jewish roots of our faith.

Like many Believers, we had participated in communion since the time when we believed in the sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation. And whenever we partook of the elements, we were reminded that the “Lord’s Supper” was an ordinance of the Christian Church. Jesus Himself instituted it:

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” —Luke 22:19–20

Since this is in the New Testament, and Jesus initiated the Church, **most Believers*** assume that communion belongs to Christians. But does it?

A Jewish Experience

Unfortunately, many Christians forget (or ignore) that everyone who partook of the bread and wine in the upper room was fully *Jewish*. And many Christians don’t realize that the unleavened bread and wine that Jesus shared with His

(continued on next page)

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



disciples that night were only *parts* of the Jewish Feast of Passover.

The bread and wine do not make sense unless you understand the *whole* Passover Feast. Zola Levitt wonderfully explained the beauty and depth of it in *The Miracle of Passover*. I highly recommend this easy-to-read study booklet.

We've Had It Wrong

As a child, I remember going to the Presbyterian Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey to attend various services with my parents. I enjoyed their communion because they had fluffy loaves of fresh-baked bread. Each of us would walk to the front and tear off a piece of the loaf to represent the Body of Christ. I never hesitated—I always took a chunk of that wonderful bread!

Years later, as I learned that yeast represents sin, I realized that the Passover bread would never have yeast in it. **The seminary had it all wrong. Why? Because they did not understand the “Jewishness” of communion.** It always has been and always will be part of the whole Passover Feast. And until we Believers understand God’s provision for His Chosen People who were slaves in Egypt (which is represented through the Feast), we cannot fully understand the significance of communion.

Yes, communion is an integral part of Christian worship. But we will never fully appreciate its significance if we do not understand its Jewish roots. And for that knowledge, I thank this ministry’s founder, Zola Levitt. *Chag Pesach Sameach* (Happy Passover Holiday)! ☆



“Matzoh” postcards (12-pack)

Imagine receiving greetings on this unique postcard made of *matzoh* (Jewish unleavened bread).

Unfortunately, matzoh is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well, so we've created a 6" x 6" postcard.

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





Classic Zola

The Hardest 40 Years

by Zola Levitt
from 1988
35 years ago

Editor's note: In this article from 1988, Zola referenced modern Israel's 40th Passover in its Land. This year celebrates modern Israel's 75th Passover in the Land.



left: Detail of *Passover and Death of the Firstborn*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) **right:** Buchenwald survivors arrive in Haifa (1945)



When we think back to the Exodus, that first great Passover when the angel of death spared the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, we realize that a 40-year period was involved then, too. And those 40 years weren't easy either. Back then, some 3,500 years ago, it took the Israelites 40 years of wandering in the wilderness to just get into a position to fight for the Land.

God was with them, and He made it very clear that they were to take the Land. Through Moses, He told them to "possess the land" as they gathered across the Jordan from Jericho. To quote the Lord exactly, He said, *"Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them"* (Deut. 1:8).

God Himself reminded His chosen ones that He had a promise to keep. There were four centuries of silence from Heaven during the Egyptian slavery, but the Almighty powerfully spoke, reminding them of the great covenant He had made with their fathers. He had Moses appoint Joshua to *"give them as an inheritance the land which you will see..."* (Deut. 3:28).

The series of battles that followed still continue, in a sense. It's not much land, not very rich, not very favored, but no people since the Exodus have really been content to let the Chosen People have it.

Difficulties Then and Now

There are many thought-provoking parallels between the 40 years of wandering and the 40 years of present-day Israel. Both began with the legal establishment of a nation. God's Law given on Mount Sinai began the period of wandering and consolidated two million slaves into a functioning theocracy. In 1948, Israel's Declaration of Independence consolidated some half-million immigrants into a democracy. Afterward there followed, for both generations of Israelites who lived so far apart in time, a difficult period of adjustment. The refugees in the wilderness had real hardship. Without God's gift of manna from Heaven and the quail that were made to fly over the desert, they might well have perished.

Likewise, in the barren Israel that the pioneers returned to in 1948, there was great difficulty with everyday life. The land had been denuded of trees. There were swamps and unplantable wilderness areas everywhere. Malaria was rife. Both groups of Israelites had to contend with enemies on all sides who were not

(continued on next page)



merely political foes but religious foes as well. The special relationship the Chosen People enjoyed with God was anathema to the pagans of the wilderness and likewise to the Islamic factions of today.


And on that point, it is fair to say that both of those generations of Israelites pursued an up and down relationship with God. The people of the Exodus worshipped a golden calf early on and lacked confidence to enter the land during their sojourn at Kadesh Barnea. **Modern Israel, established as a religious state for Jewish people, has been criticized for a highly secular viewpoint** on the part of the majority of its population. But it would be fair to say this about any modern nation today. **The Scripture truth that no one "seeketh after God" (Rom. 3:11) has been all too accurate in every age.**

Miraculous Beginnings and Results

Perhaps the most striking parallels of these two distant generations have to do with the beginning and ending of each story. In both cases, it took a miracle, a real act of God, to begin the process. And in both cases, a kingdom was the ultimate result. In the Exodus, the parting of the Red Sea, of course, is one of the great Biblical moments. The acts of God in Egypt, such as the plagues, would not have been enough. But the final Heavenly act of liberation was the miracle that started it all.

In the modern generation, the re-establishment of the land after the 1,900-year absence of most of its people is without historical precedent and is miraculous as well. No one gave the Jewish people much of a chance of ever returning to Israel after so long an absence. The persecution and suffering, climaxed by the incomparable Holocaust, had most historians thinking that the Jewish people would perish and be forgotten. But when God made His original covenant with Abraham and his descendants to give them the Land, the Lord said it was "everlasting." He fulfilled His promise some 4,000 years later!

The Kingdom to Come

Looking at the ending of the story, the Exodus led to the establishment of a kingdom for the posterity of the generation who endured it. Battling all the way and with many stops and starts, they established a nation that in the glorious days of King David and King Solomon dominated the Middle East and made its mark on world history. And in modern times, Bible readers know that whether the Lord tarries or comes now, the ultimate ending for the Land of Israel is the Kingdom to come, for which we pray, **"...Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done..."** (Matt. 6:10). 



Credit: Rudi Wasserstein - Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs



left: David Ben-Gurion declaring independence (May 14, 1948) **bottom:** Detail of *Ten Commandments*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*



Credit: Ilan Brumer



top: (l to r) Uzi Narkiss, Moshe Dayan, and Yitzhak Rabin in the entrance to the Old City of Jerusalem during the Six Day War **bottom:** Detail of *The Fall of Jericho*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

Q. What is Sanctification?

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



A. **Sanctification refers to making something holy.** The Biblical word “sanctify” (Hebrew *qadash*; Greek *hagiazō*) can refer either to objects or people that are set apart (separated) for God.

In the Old Testament, the furniture and instruments in the Tabernacle were sanctified — set apart for God’s use (Lev. 8:10–12). Also, the Levitical priests and people of Israel were separated by God for a holy purpose in the world (Lev. 21:6, 8; Ex. 19:5–6).

In the New Testament, the Greek word *hagios* often is translated “holy” (as with God’s Spirit — Mark 1:8; Acts 5:32; etc.), but sometimes is translated “saints” (Phil. 4:22; Heb. 6:10; Rev. 5:8; etc.). Saints are those who are sanctified through salvation. Once a sinner believes in Jesus Christ and becomes right with God through Jesus’ imputed righteousness (justification), that Believer is set apart for God’s purposes (sanctification). **While justification reflects our *standing* before God, sanctification expresses our *state* before God.**



Detail of *Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane*, engraving by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

Emery Bancroft, writing in *Elemental Theology*, connects these aspects: “In justification we are declared righteous so that in sanctification we may become righteous. Justification is what God does for us, while sanctification is largely what God does in us. Justification put us into a right relationship with God legally, while sanctification exhibits the fruit of that relationship experientially in a life separated from a sinful world and dedicated unto God. **Justification makes us safe; sanctification makes us sound.**”

Sanctification comes through the Father (1 Thess. 5:23), the Son (Heb. 13:12), the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16), and the Word of God (John 17:17).

There are three stages of sanctification:

- 1. Positional sanctification** is a change of status — from God’s enemies (Rom. 5:10) to His special possession (1 Pet. 2:9); from slaves of sin (John 8:34) to slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:18). This comes through belief in Jesus’ atoning death on the Cross (1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18).
- 2. Progressive sanctification** is the lifelong process where Believers grow more like Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10). This involves continually submitting to God’s transforming work (Rom. 6:13; 12:1), turning away from sinful desires (Rom. 8:13), and supplementing our faith with Godly qualities (2 Pet. 1:5–7). This maturity is promoted through Bible study, prayer, worship, ministry, and fellowship with other Believers.
- 3. Ultimate sanctification** (glorification) happens in the future “*at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23). God will make Believers perfect and sinless — completely holy in mind, body, and spirit — just as Jesus is now. In our glorified, resurrected bodies, we will be forever free from the presence and power of sin.

“We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

— 1 John 3:2 ☆

Back to Cover

To Index



Ministry in Tiberias and Mount Hermon

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader

During our October 2022 outreach, August Rosado and I traveled to Tiberias. This center of Orthodox Judaism in Israel can be a difficult place to discuss Yeshua because many Orthodox Jews find Him to be abhorrent to their erroneous notions of a Messiah.

Nevertheless, August and I went to the Big Mall where we met **Agam**. She said that she previously worked in another shop in the mall called Naaman. We noted that Naaman was also the name of an ancient Syrian military leader who sought help from the Prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5:1–14). The prophet instructed Naaman to dip into the Jordan River seven times to be healed of leprosy. After hesitating, Naaman did so and was miraculously healed.

Agam was surprised to learn that this was in the Bible. August and I then told her about someone greater than Elisha — Yeshua the Messiah — who performed most of His miracles in Galilee. We explained that Yeshua connects both Testaments of the Bible. Agam was amazed to hear this for the first time (a recurring irony that we've experienced in Israel).


She gratefully accepted a complete Hebrew Bible from us, understanding that it includes the teaching that Messiah has come and is coming again. **August and I explained that Messiah will come into the lives of**

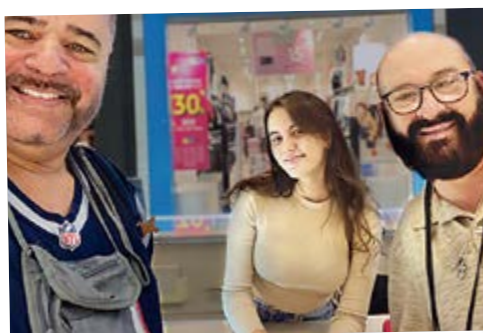
those who repent and trust in Him for salvation. With a beaming smile, Agam received the message that we shared about the crucified and risen Nazarene from Galilee.

The next day, we went to Mount Hermon to visit the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers stationed there. Upon arriving, we cautiously approached a vehicle where we met **Roi and Edgar**.

Wearing our IDF jackets, August and I gave them bottled water and snacks, expressing our support for their work to protect Israel. Both soldiers thanked us. We added that since everyone needs more than physical food (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4), we wanted to give them God's Word in both Testaments.

We explained that Yeshua as Messiah was foretold in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament), and its fulfillment is recorded in the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament). August and I also noted what happened on that same mountain many centuries ago. Moshe (Moses) and Eliyahu (Elijah) appeared and stood with Yeshua to symbolize that the Law and the Prophets confirm that He is the promised Messiah. On that day, Yeshua also revealed His divine nature by radiating God's blinding glory (Matt. 17:1–8)!

Both soldiers were amazed to hear this for the first time. August and I added that they could read it for themselves, and they joyfully accepted a copy of the complete Hebrew Bible. 



August, Agam, and Todd



Roi, Todd, and Edgar



Here Come the Bearded Bible Brothers!

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



Dear Reader: You probably know that most of our staffers and our production crew are aging baby boomers. But this isn't true for our notably younger Bearded Bible Brothers. Their concise social media videos appeal remarkably well both to younger and older Believers. Please see the related Bulletin Board announcement on the next page. — Mark



Joshua and Caleb

Dear Mark,

Ken Berg and I discussed with Joshua and Caleb the possibility of expanding the Bearded Bible Brothers (BBB). They mentioned how important Zola was when they were growing up. Their parents were both Messianic Believers before their boys came along. They prioritized watching *Zola Levitt Presents* each week. Because of their background, Joshua and Caleb are humbled and honored to be affiliated with ZLM.

As you know, Berg Productions presently produces the BBB only when time and money allow — about 35 programs per year. We post several BBB videos per month to YouTube, etc. Surprisingly, they routinely generate substantially more views and comments than our other online posts, including the weekly *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)* programs.

With additional funding, we could increase the number of BBB videos to 52 per year — a new episode every week. The BBB would remain where they are on our *OJR* social media outlets. Meanwhile, we could begin developing separate YouTube and Instagram channels, which would include links to both the *OJR* channels and levitt.com.

We know how to affordably promote videos to viewers who are likely to

regularly watch and share them. In the years to come, Lord willing, the BBB would become a growing source of new *Levitt Letter* subscribers and revenue for the ministry.

We currently have several studio shoots on the calendar, and we are preparing for our upcoming trip to Israel. Still, once we receive funds for expanding the BBB, we could put the remaining pieces in place within six months.

The Lord willing, Berg Productions will continue producing the weekly *OJR* programs until the Rapture. However, if the Bearded Bible Brothers YouTube broadcasts take off, then we should discuss adding a second weekly television program! We definitely believe that expanding the BBB is worthy of the ministry's time, effort, and investment and hope that you agree.

Clayton Herring,
Producer/Media Buyer —
Berg Productions

Dear Reader: ZLM must continue adapting to changing times. One way we can do this is by expanding our BBB Bible teaching for cord cutters and for generations of viewers who still love television. How better to accomplish such worthy goals than with these Messianic-Jewish brothers who've loved Zola's outreach since their formative years? — Mark ☆



ZLM Bulletin Board



Jewish Lives Don't Matter ... to more than 2,500 members of the "Dissident Homeschool Network," a channel on the social media messaging app Telegram. The "dissidents" are neo-Nazi parents whose homeschooling lesson plans commend the virtues of Hitler and white nationalism. Katja Lawrence, aka "Mrs. Saxon," started the group. Ohio's Department of Education is investigating this group that claims public schools are run by "Zionist scum," teaches kids to say "Sieg Heil" in class, and instructs parents not to give their kids "Jewish media content." The network offers parents instructions about how to teach Nazi material while avoiding scrutiny from the authorities.



There is Room for You!

Join David, Kirsten, and other Believers who love the Lord and Israel for the trip of a lifetime! The Deluxe Tour (Israel only) is scheduled for October 16–26. The Grand Petra (Israel & Petra) will be October 16–29. For your tour folder, please call Sandra at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime.



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Questions and Answers About Gift Annuities can help those who wish to give charitably but want to assure that they first provide for their own and their loved ones' financial needs. A gift annuity allows you to further the causes that you believe in while benefiting from one or more of the following: 1) Lifetime payments taxed at rates lower than for other income, 2) Income, gift, and estate tax savings, and 3) Favorable treatment of capital gains. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #12.



The Bearded Bible Brothers

Siblings and Messianic Believers Joshua and Caleb work at Berg Productions, the company that produces *Our Jewish Roots*, this ministry's TV show. The brothers have created dozens of enlightening, short videos (mostly 3–6 minutes) on various Biblical topics. Check out their growing collection of "Joshua and Caleb" videos on youtube.com/OurJewishRoots and our other social media outlets (see [p. 3](#)).



"COME HOME!"

**Zola
Tours
to Israel**



See [page 36](#)
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection



יְהוָה תַּשְׁפֹּת שְׁלוֹם לָנוּ כִּי גַם כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂינוּ פָעַלְתָּ לָנוּ

“O LORD, you will ordain peace for us,
for You have indeed done for us all our works.” (Isaiah 26:12)

יְהוָה	תַּשְׁפֹּת	שְׁלוֹם	לָנוּ	כִּי	גַם	כָּל-	מַעֲשֵׂינוּ	פָעַלְתָּ	לָנוּ
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(1)
la'-noo	pah-al'-ta	kohl'-ma-a-sey'-noo	gam	kee	la'-noo	shah-lom	teesh-poht	Adonai	
You have done for us			for indeed all our works			You will ordain peace for us			O LORD

read Hebrew right to left! ➡

The Book of Psalms, or *Sefer Tehillim*, begins with these words: *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the Torah of the Lord, and in His Torah he meditates day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water that brings forth fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper”* (Psalm 1:1–3).

From these verses, one thing we learn is that spiritual “fruit” requires time to develop, and it comes in its own *season*. The process of spiritual growth is mysterious. It is the result of the Lord’s creative power. Yeshua explained,

“The Kingdom of God (מְלֻכּוֹת הָאֱלֹהִים) is like someone who spreads seed on the ground. He goes to sleep and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. By itself (αὐτομάτη,

i.e., “automatically”) the soil produces a crop, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. And when the grain is ripe, he comes in with his sickle because the harvest has come” (Mark 4:26–29).

The wonder of faith understands the “ordinary” process of a seed’s growth as genuinely miraculous. With God all things are possible — and that includes the miracle of our newness of life. It is the fruit of the Spirit, after all, and this means that both its source and end are found in God’s love and grace.

Thank the Lord God that spiritual growth is a *process*. We are not expected to mature in a day, otherwise we might utterly despair over ourselves. **God helps us to endure ourselves by leading us to surrender to Him, so that the hidden power in the divine “seed” may be released within our hearts** (John 12:24). ✨



Faith for the Future

DVD Set

Ten 30-Minute TV Programs on 2 DVDs

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob demonstrated their faith in God by taking small steps—and sometimes leaps of faith—that often altered the course of their lives while redirecting them toward greater dependence on the Lord. **In this ten-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif shows us strategic events in the Patriarchs' lives through dramatic re-enactments filmed in Israel. Dr. Barri Seif (Jeff's wife) provides a personal perspective.**

Stepping Out in Faith Leaving the familiar for an unknown destination requires putting faith into action. In Genesis, the Lord called Abram to leave his home and travel to the land of Canaan. The journey included difficult situations but culminated in a promised homeland for the Hebrews. Today, may we Believers boldly place our trust in Him and step out in faith!

Conflicting Directions and Destinations Abram/Abraham was promised descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. Little did he know that his two sons (born from different mothers) would father two nations whose hostility toward each other would last millennia. **Sometimes our journey of faith leads us into conflicts and challenges that require greater trust in God.**

Delivering the Unexpected We Believers must prepare ourselves for times when God intentionally delays the fulfillment of His promises until we think it is too late. How could a couple in their 90s have a child? God can and does deliver the unexpected.

Sacrifice and Loss Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son testifies to his bountiful faith in the Lord's promises. We Believers need to trust that God will lead us to the future He has lovingly prepared for us.

Toward the Unknown Seeking a wife for Isaac, Abraham trusted that God would lead him to the perfect mate. Rebekah showed faith when she accompanied a stranger to an unseen land and husband. **Following the Lord always leads to the perfect outcome.**



Love and Marriage Isaac and Rebekah's meeting led to a loving relationship. Believers should remember that singleness and marriage are both gifts from God, and His ways are always best.

Not by Sight Isaac and Rebekah's sons Esau and Jacob held opposite worldviews. While one trusted and valued only what he could see and touch, the other was satisfied to wait for the Lord's timing.

Life's Detours God reminds us of His provision and blessing, but situations don't always work out according to our plans. Sometimes the Lord uses our present circumstances to drive us toward what He has prepared for our future.

Patient Endurance Jacob was promised a land, but was sent abroad for 20 years. He was promised Rachel, but had to wait an extra seven years for her. Good things come to those who wait on the Lord.

Stepping Closer to Destiny Jacob confronted his brother, who felt betrayed. Jacob's wants were still foremost in his mind when he wrestled with an "angel" until he received a blessing. Faith in God pays the most blessed dividends.





Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
_____	A Christian Love Story	\$4	_____
_____	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$4	_____
_____	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$4	_____
_____	In My Father's House	\$4	_____
_____	Israel, My Promised	\$4	_____
_____	The Miracle of Passover	\$4	_____
_____	The Promised Land	\$4	_____
_____	The Second Coming	\$4	_____
_____	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In?	\$4	_____
_____	The Seven Feasts of Israel (pictured)	\$4	_____
_____	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.24)	\$4	_____
_____	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	_____

Books

_____	An Epic Love Story (Myles Weiss) (p.23) (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$4	_____
_____	The Bible Jesus Read (pictured)	\$11	_____
_____	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12	_____
_____	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg) (pictured)	\$18	_____
_____	The House That God Built	\$8	_____
_____	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$9	_____
_____	An Israeli Love Story — Zola's only novel	\$8	_____
_____	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$3	_____
_____	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	\$8	_____
_____	Jews and Jesus	\$10	_____
_____	Meshumed! (Traitor!)	\$10	_____
_____	The Messianic Passover Haggadah (pictured)	\$6	_____
_____	Once Through the New Testament	\$10	_____
_____	The Prophesied Messiah (p.2)	\$10	_____
_____	Raptured	\$10	_____
_____	Satan in the Sanctuary	\$10	_____
_____	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$8	_____
_____	The Trouble with Christians/Jews	\$10	_____
_____	What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff) (p.22)	\$10	_____
_____	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured)	\$39	_____

Featured DVDs

_____	Beauty for Ashes	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	_____
_____	The Bible: The Whole Story	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	_____
_____	Close Encounters with Yeshua (p.20)	(10 prog., 2-DVDs)	\$59	_____
_____	Divine Deliverance	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	_____
_____	Faith for the Future (p.17)	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	Faith of Our Fathers	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Gospel According to Isaiah ...	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	_____
_____	Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon ...	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Miracle of Passover	(2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	_____
_____	New! Much Like Peter (pictured) ..	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	Psalms of Ascent	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	Revelation: Unveiling the Visions ...	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	<i>Sar Shalom</i> : Prince of Peace	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Seven Feasts of Israel	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Stones Cry Out	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	_____
_____	Thy Kingdom Come	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	_____
_____	Times of the Signs	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	_____
_____	The Witnessing Series	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	_____

To order:

Online:
store.levitt.com

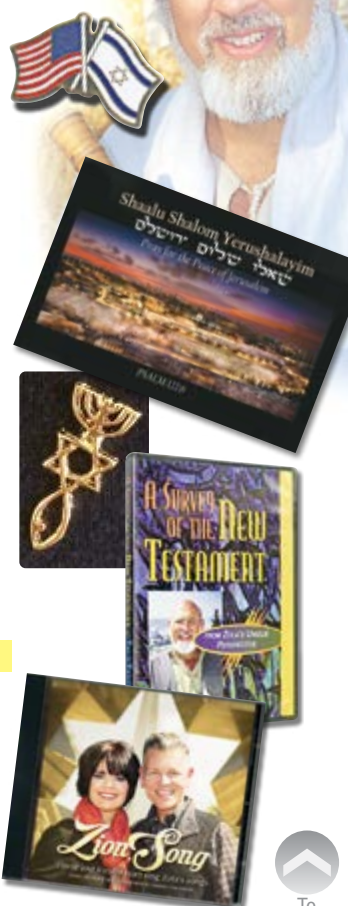
Phone 24/7:
800-966-3377
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844

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



Studies, Specialty, Etc. — UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Trio (Body, Foot & Hand).....	\$98	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$58	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$23	___
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	___
___	Bookmark “The Prophesied Messiah” (p.2)	2 for \$1	___
___	Bookmark “Things to Come” (p.2)	2 for \$1	___
___	Drink Koozies (p.36)	2 for \$6	___
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	___
___	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20")	\$12	___
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$3	___
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)	\$10	___
___	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain)	\$39	___
___	Half-shekel Keychain	\$16	___
___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	___
___	[New] Magnet—“Shaal Shalom” (pictured) ... (3 of 1 design)	\$12	___
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5783 / 2023)	\$6	___
___	Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12) (p.9)	\$10	___
___	The Classic Zola Collection	79 products for \$999	___



Teaching CDs

___	The Miracle of Passover	(CD)	\$8	___
___	A Survey of the New Testament (pictured)	(CD)	\$8	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.24)	(CD)	\$8	___

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	The Works I	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	The Works II.....	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	Zion Song (The Harts) (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	___

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

We Accept
PayPal!

Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

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

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

Please allow about 2–3 weeks for delivery.

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

Subtotal _____
Shipping (see left chart) _____
UPS shipping (\$4 extra) _____
(only within the contiguous U.S.)
Rush! (\$5 extra) _____
8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____
Donation? _____
Total _____

Name _____
(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional) _____

On what station/network do you primarily watch Our Jewish Roots? _____

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

Card # _____ Exp. _____ / _____ Card ID# required _____



Cardholder Signature: _____

Close Encounters with Yeshua

DVD Set

Ten 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

Close Encounters with Yeshua focuses on how Yeshua/Jesus came to Earth supernaturally, ministered, and today calls people to Him. David and Kirsten Hart introduce this ten-program series from the studio, while Myles and Katharine Weiss teach from Israel.

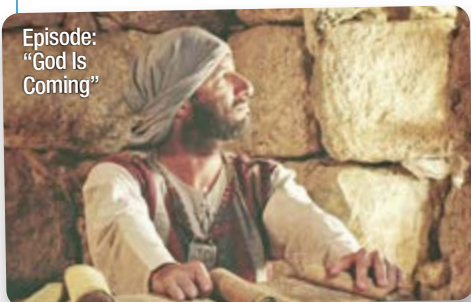
God is Coming Abraham's travels in the desert led him into dependence on and a deeper relationship with his God. *Interviews:* Dean Bye of Return Ministries; and Chaim Malespin of the Aliyah Return Center.

Humble Beginnings In a simple animal stall, Yeshua entered the world as a baby, lived to fulfill the Law, and promised to return as the Lion of Judah. *Interview:* Pastor Daniel Sayag of Carmel Congregation.

Jewish Context As a boy, Yeshua came to the Temple to offer sacrifices. Later, He became the sacrifice, the Lamb of God. *Interview:* Karen Davis of Carmel Congregation.



Episode:
"God Is
Coming"



Miraculous Ministry Near the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua performed miracles that amazed many but disturbed others. *Interview:* Eric and Terri Morey of The Galilee Experience.

Prophecy Fulfilled At a synagogue in Magdala, likely visited by Yeshua Himself, Myles and Katharine remind us of Scripture's reliability. *Interview:* Pastor Juan Maria Solana of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and the Magdala Center.

Living Water At the Pool of Siloam, location of cleansing rituals, Yeshua performed a miracle that proved Him prophet, priest, and the King we await. *Interview:* Arab pastor Vincent Shammass.

Mountaintop Experience From the Mount of Transfiguration, where the Father honored His Son, Yeshua sent out His Disciples.

Life Laid Down Yeshua descended the Mount of Olives like a king, but surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Interview:* Carolyn Hyde, Heart of G-d Ministries.

Empty Tomb The Crucifixion and the Cross led to the empty tomb, and thus removed the curse on mankind. *Interview:* Samuel Smadja of Messianic Assembly and Sar-El Tours.

Interview with Gary Bayer Writer and television presenter Gary Bayer explains how Yeshua, comforting him during his battle with cancer, became more real to him.



Israelis Treated Syrian Earthquake Victims

BY PESACH BENSON (r) JewishPress.com



It's not surprising that the Israeli medical team that treated Turkish earthquake victims in Kahramanmaraş also treated Syrians. Of the millions of Syrian refugees who were already in Turkey, thousands were living in UN refugee camps in and around the southern Turkish city.

"We [treated] Syrians — people who were injured in the earthquake and people who just needed care," stated Lt.-Col. Dr. Ofer Almog. He added that the team was "happy to ... help these unfortunates."

"In some cases, they were very emotional, very surprised that the Israelis weren't who they were told we are," Almog noted. "One person said that everything he was taught all of his life about Israel was a lie. This was the first time they [had met] Israelis, and we weren't as bad as he thought."

Almog, an anesthesiologist and senior officer in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) medical team, went to Kahramanmaraş as part of a group tasked with selecting a site for the IDF field hospital. Ultimately, the Israelis began working inside the city hospital. Not only was it difficult to find a space

large enough for the field hospital in the crowded city, but also most of the city hospital staff fled after the second earthquake.

As the hospital's own staff gradually returned, the Israeli and Turkish medical personnel learned to work together, which brought new challenges. "Many don't speak English, and it was hard to find enough translators," Almog explained. The Foreign Minister sent some translators and the teams got more comfortable working together, as the Turkish members realized that the Israelis were there to help rather than replace.

In mid-February, Israel's United Hatzalah volunteer-based emergency response organization ended its mission early, citing "concrete and immediate threat" to the delegation working in the city of Gaziantep. But at that time, when Almog was asked about threats to the Israelis in Kahramanmaraş, he responded, "I can speak for my team of 150 personnel. We're not afraid. We're working with local teams and local people, and we'll work here as long as we are able." ★



credit: IDF Spokesperson

Israeli medical workers treat a boy in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey





Letters to ZLM

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

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

Zola's Pittsburgh Roots

From K.S.: Why is it not told that Zola Levitt grew up in the Squirrel Hill area of Pittsburgh? My daughter's school friend's mom was in Hebrew School with him. Thanks for any information you may have for me. I live in Pittsburgh and go to Squirrel Hill all the time.

Dear K.S.,

Actually, it was the East Liberty neighborhood of Pittsburgh where Zola was born and raised. That's a stone's throw from the Tree of Life (or L'Simcha Congregation synagogue) in Squirrel Hill where 11 Jews perished in the October 2018 anti-Semitic terrorist shooting. In 1955, Zola graduated from Peabody High School, which in 2012 became the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies 6 – 12. — Mark

Coexist?

From A.T.: The "Coexist" article on [page 6 of the February Levitt Letter](#) might as well include a pentagram and a statue of Buddha because it's NOT about love — it's syncretism [the amalgamation of various religions]. This clever and misleading image nullifies the belief "in Christ alone" and "Jesus is God." This lie about all religions coexisting comes from the One World Religion. The truth begins with the Tower of Babel and ends in the Book of Revelation. This teaching would be the more applicable Bible story. If the symbols were not "religious," the whole thing would have a different meaning. The image is a lie.

From S.W.: We have received your news magazines for years, and also went to Israel with Zola, so I'm very familiar with this ministry. I'm most disturbed with the article Kirsten Hart has written about Coexisting. Why would you let anyone (who's supposed to be a Christian) write an article about that? Loving

(continued on next page)

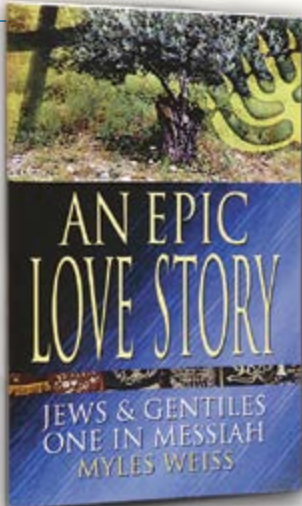


The Coexist image created
by Piotr Młodożeniec



What About Us? book

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff ("Our Man in Haifa") focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology.



An Epic Love Story study booklet by Myles Weiss

The God of love is a matchmaker who desires a Bride for His Son, the Bridegroom of Heaven. This Bride, the Church, will consist of both Jews and gentiles. Yeshua's sacrifice enables gentiles to be grafted into the life of Israel and share in the promises of God. Understanding the role of Israel — God's timepiece — is crucial to preparing for the Lord's return.

This readable booklet tackles topics including:

1. Is Jesus Coming Soon?
2. Why Did Judaism and Christianity Part Ways?
3. God's 9-11
4. Turning Points in the Modern Era
5. The Olive Tree as a Modern Parable

(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)

people, all people? Yes! But coexist? What does light have to do with darkness? Anytime you share the Gospel with viewers and readers, you cannot expect to coexist with their unbiblical beliefs. They worship different gods than we do. I'm very furious that you let her write this in the *LL*. If she is going to continue to write articles for your magazine, I'm not interested in receiving them.

Dear A.T. and S.W.,

I didn't promote equal religions or emphasize that we should adopt others' beliefs. I wrote about loving people who have different beliefs and getting along with them. This is a picture of God's love for everyone, even His enemies (Rom. 5:10). We are commanded by Jesus to love our neighbor as ourselves regardless of that person's beliefs. Please see the [March 2023 Personal Letter](#), which focuses on how Jesus emphasized this loving attitude in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10. — Kirsten

Dear A.T. and S.W.,

We Believers should live peacefully in society with people from different backgrounds who are not Christian (see Romans 12:18). But we do so with the desire to interact with them and share the Gospel so that they might hear about Jesus, believe, and be saved. While we Believers live on Earth, we have no choice but to live in this situation. The alternative is to live in a totalitarian society where only one thought, one worldview, and one opinion is tolerated — that which comes from the State and its ruling dictator at the time.

Christianity does not equally coexist with unbiblical philosophies and religions, because Jesus said He is the only way to God (John 14:6) and salvation comes through Him alone (Acts 4:12). The Christian faith is above all others in this respect, because Jesus is the embodiment of complete divine truth (John 1:1–2, 14; Hebrews 1:1–2). — Editor



Golden Rule (1961) painting by Norman Rockwell (1894–1978) for *The Saturday Evening Post*, April 1, 1961 (Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA)



Joshua and Caleb — The Bearded Bible Brothers

From K.H.: You guys have a wonderful, blessed gift. You are able to bring the Scriptures to life. I found your channel recently and have gone back to watch a lot of your past videos. The Lord bless you and your families.

From A.S.: My wife and I just came across your videos. You two are such a blessing, and you're hilarious! **You had me laughing and then crying in the same video.** We thank God for your ministry. Keep up the good work.

From J.W.: I absolutely adore those two "giants," the Bearded Bible Brothers. Those guys are goofy and dear.

From Y.U.S.: You brothers are amazing! Keep up your awesome work. I enjoy watching your channel. I really like your ancient Jewish look. (Those beards and hair look amazing — blends with your channel!)

Dear K.H., A.S., J.W., and Y.U.S.,

We are grateful to have Joshua and Caleb as part of ZLM's outreach and look forward to more of their insightful Bible teaching. See "[A Note from Mark](#)" on page 14 of this [Levitt Letter](#) for more on the future of the Bearded Bible Brothers. — Editor

Blessed by ZLM

From M.M.: Instead of sending monthly deductions, I will soon send a check to cover my donations for the rest of the year. Hopefully, it will be better for your ministry as well to receive it as a lump sum instead of in monthly increments.

I enjoy watching *Zola Levitt Presents* and *Our Jewish Roots* television programs on my Roku [see [Roku.com](https://www.Roku.com)] and reading the *Levitt Letter* at levitt.com/levletter.

I credit John Parsons for my mastery of Hebrew. [Please see his [Hebrew Lesson on page 16](#).] I greatly benefited from his *Introduction to Hebrew* book and have been studying for several years. I know of two others who have purchased this book

(continued on next page)

[The Spirit of Pentecost](#)

[study booklet & teaching CD](#)

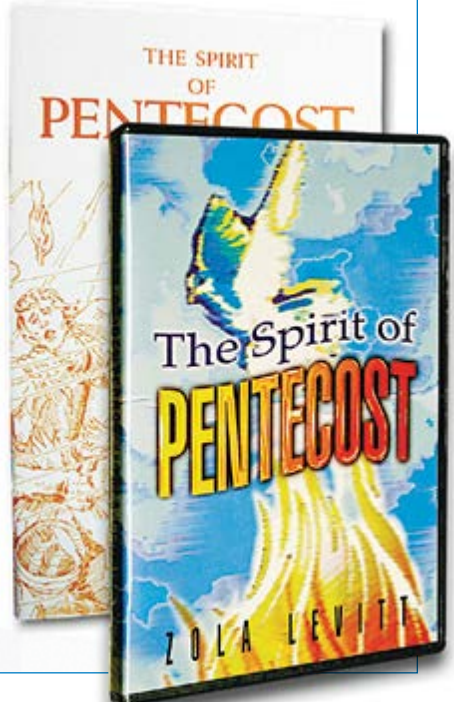
by Zola Levitt

An insightful look at Peter's stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel.

Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The "birthday of the Church" is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

Please see the article "[The God of Miracles](#)" on p. 28.

(Most titles also available as eBooks.)



I have met the Harts through their involvement with Billy Burke's ministry and enjoyed chatting with them. Thank you for what you do. May Yeshua continue to bless and prosper you.

We also enjoyed talking with you. It thrills us to know how *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* book has helped you! And as far as your sending an annual lump sum, we are grateful for any and all donations as God leads you to keep our ministry financially afloat. Thank you! — David ☆



4. And they were filled with the Holy ____ (Acts 2:4)
6. ... "Father, I thank You that You have ____ Me." (John 11:41)
7. So the ____ stood still, And the moon stopped ... (Josh. 10:13)
9. In the ____ God created ... (Gen. 1:1)
11. ... and ____ went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (2 Kings 2:11)
14. ... "Son of man, can these ____ live?" ... (Eze. 37:3)
15. Then there appeared to them divided ____ ... (Acts 2:3)
16. And the ____ of the Lord appeared to him in a flame ... (Exo. 3:2)

1. ... the Lord stirred up the spirit of __ ...
(Ezra 1:1)
2. ... So they said, "Let us rise up and __."
... (Neh. 2:18)

3. ... surely I will add to your days ___ years.
(Isa. 38:5)
5. ... and delivered His servants who ___ in
Him ... (Dan. 3:28)
8. When the Day of ___ had fully come ...
(Acts 2:1)
10. ... He cried with a loud voice, “___ come
forth!” (John 11:43)
12. ... And ___ was in the belly of the fish ...
(Jonah 1:17)
13. ... So ___ was taken up out of the den ...
(Dan. 6:23)

Disinfectant Lasts for Months, Not Minutes

BY ARIEL GROSSMAN (r) NoCamels.com

Food companies work tirelessly to clean their facilities and prevent contamination. But disinfectants survive on surfaces for only minutes before they decompose due to exposure and UV light.

Israeli startup Bio-Fence has developed an additive that makes disinfectants last for weeks, even months. **It can be mixed with nearly any coating or paint to be applied to walls and floors.** Then when the surface is sanitized with a disinfectant, the additive prevents the growth of bacteria for much longer.

In the food industry, the coating only needs to be renewed every five years, noted the company's CEO and co-founder Ofer Shoham. "Our technology creates a film or coating that can stabilize powerful biocides (chemicals that destroy harmful organisms) like chlorine and give them a long-lasting ability."

"The advantage of chlorine is that it's very safe. [But] it only stays active for a few minutes until it decomposes. We take the good things about chlorine and extend its activity on surfaces," he added.

The Bio-Fence additive, which is based on organic material, is synthesized in a way that creates the ability for chlorine to bind to it. The bond is strong enough to prevent it from decomposing, but weak enough so that it can dissolve into bacteria's outer layer of water and kill it.

In 2021, Bio-Fence tested its product with a leading Israeli hot dog producer. Previously, the manufacturing plant had suffered from continuous listeria presence on its floors, despite strict sanitation procedures up to three times a day. After Bio-Fence's coating was applied to the floors and lower parts of the walls, the pathogen was completely undetectable.



courtesy: Bio-Fence

Listeria is a pathogen that primarily plagues food-production plants. While other foodborne bacteria stop multiplying at refrigeration temperatures, it will continue, albeit slowly. This is a great concern since most of our food comes from these facilities. And listeriosis (the result of eating food contaminated with listeria) is fatal in 25% of cases, even when treated with antibiotics.

Beyond food production, **Bio-Fence is also expanding to the healthcare sector.** It has an upcoming pilot with a leading medical facility in Israel, where it will test a concentrated, water-based spray.

Hospital staff will simply insert a chlorine tablet into the Bio-Fence formulation and spray it on surfaces that are high sources of contamination, like bed frames, cabinets, and doorknobs. The film will be active for seven days, destroying existing bacteria and preventing the growth of any other bacteria. ☆

foreground: Bio-Fence pathogen-fighting paint additive
background: Bio-Fence's coating being applied

"Our technology creates a film or coating that can stabilize powerful biocides (chemicals that destroy harmful organisms) like chlorine and give them a long-lasting ability."



Israeli Home Dialysis System Gets FDA Approval



BY MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN (r) JPost.com

The Israeli company liberDi recently received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval that paves the way for millions of people to receive dialysis at home.

The “Digital Dialysis Clinic” allows patients to perform dialysis at home or work or anywhere else while being monitored by their physician using advanced telemedicine.

The system includes automatic catheter flush technology to reduce microbial load that can lead to infection. Sensors collect the patient’s vital signs and inform the doctor about how the patient is doing during his or her treatment. The portable device, weighing about six pounds, includes cellular connectivity.

It takes only 20 to 25 minutes to conduct a dialysis exchange, and then patients can disconnect and go.

One in 10 people worldwide experience kidney disease. In its advanced stages, dialysis increases life expectancy by five to 10 years but leaves about 90% of patients spending half of their remaining lifetime in dialysis clinics. liberDi was developed to free these patients.

To receive FDA approval, liberDi conducted two clinical studies that demonstrated the system’s safety and effectiveness. Patients in a simulated real-world setting used

the system for dialysis under the supervision of three medical centers in Israel. The study “proved that anyone can operate the system following a single 90-minute proper training session,” noted a press release.

While the liberDi system has several competitors, it is the only new technology to have received approval in the last year. Hezkiah Tsoory, the company’s CEO, explained that what differentiates liberDi’s system is its portability and how it protects against infection.

Home dialysis is just starting to catch on. Prof. Edwina Brown, president of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis and Honorary Professor of Renal Medicine, Imperial College London, stated that “all doctors say they want to see patients treated at home and not in hospital.”

Brown added that the world needs more systems like liberDi so that dialysis patients can continue their lives and even take vacations and travel. She noted that boxes of dialysis fluid can be delivered almost anywhere in the world, which “puts the patient in control.”

“Kidney disease is increasingly something that happens when you get older,” Brown added. “Being at the clinic three times a week is not something you want to do.” ☆

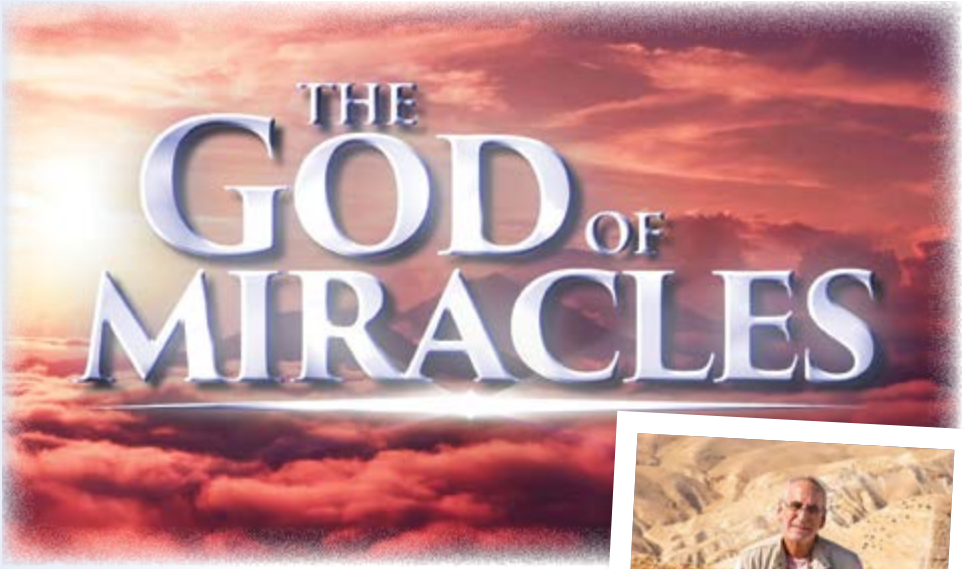
What differentiates liberDi’s system is its portability and how it protects against infection.



top: Traditional dialysis machine **right:** The liberDi device

The God of Miracles

Andrea Davis
Managing Assistant
Berg Productions



The God of Miracles, the new television series for *Our Jewish Roots*, will debut in April. The Bible is filled with examples of our miraculous God at work—from the creation of our universe, when God’s Spirit hovered over the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2), to Jesus’ resurrection from the dead on the third day (Matt. 28:6). While many Believers affirm God’s miraculous activity in the past, they wonder if He still works miracles today. The answer is a resounding, “Yes!”



Jeffrey Seif in the Judean wilderness

Most of us have experienced a situation where we needed a miracle. Occasionally we receive or recognize it. Sometimes we don’t. Still, we can be certain that God is always at work in His world and in our lives.

As Dr. Jeffrey Seif teaches:

A miracle suspends the laws of nature. Miracles are not just things that God did for Bible people way back then on the pages; miracles are done throughout the ages. We find examples in Genesis all the way to Revelation. Beyond the pages of Revelation, we find miracles in the world today as God is watching over His Word to perform it and doing signs and wonders in the process.

In this eight-part series, Dr. Seif takes viewers on a tour of the Holy Land where many miracles occurred—from the southern steps of the Temple Mount to Wadi Qelt in the Judean wilderness, with many locations in between—as noted in both the Old and New Testaments.

We begin in Jerusalem at the Western Wall, where Dr. Seif teaches:

I want to talk to you about the miracle of creation. You can’t go far in the Bible without encountering a miracle. Genesis chapter 1, verse 1, says, “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.” Now that is indeed the ultimate miracle. In this series, I want to explore the miracles that come from God the Holy Spirit, and look not just at how miracles can happen, but how they can happen to you.

(continued on next page)



At the southern steps, Dr. Seif unfolds the miracle at Pentecost. He explains:

I'm going to open up the Bible and go back 2,000 years. This is an account that certainly has implications for our lives today. In Acts chapter 2, the disciples are gathered together in one place. The Holy Spirit falls upon them. Something changes internally with them. They have a new language. They have a new disposition. If the Holy Spirit dwells in you, the prospects for your life are immeasurable.

In the Judean wilderness at Wadi Qelt, Dr. Seif teaches:

In Exodus chapter 17, when the children of Israel were crying in the wilderness due to extreme thirst, God provided refreshment and grace during their difficult time through Moses and a rock. God can also bring grace and refreshment to you in difficult times.

On location at Nehemiah's Wall, we learn about Nehemiah's building effort in his ancestral homeland. Dr. Seif notes:

I like the Nehemiah text in part because there's an example of getting on board with the miracle that God is doing. I think that's where people trip up in part, even those of us who believe in miracles. Sometimes we neglect the fact of our own participation in what God is doing. God works through an entrepreneurial spirit. He's watching over His Word to perform it, and He's working through people in the performance.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif at Nehemiah's Wall



Again, at Wadi Qelt, we learn about a widow whose circumstances were abysmal. Even so, she found help from the Lord through the Prophet Elijah. Dr. Seif teaches:

There was a widow who felt far away from God. In First Kings 17, verse 13, we see God show up in the person of Elijah. He tells her to "fear not." God has a special love for widows, as attested here.

Most of us are familiar with the story of Lazarus — how he died and was entombed for four days before Jesus arrived. Dr. Seif addresses the miracle of Lazarus' resurrection from the dead from a Jewish perspective. It's a fascinating account!



Dr. Jeffrey Seif at a field in Bethlehem

Throughout this series, we will also hear from individuals who have experienced God's

supernatural hand in their own lives. You won't want to miss it!

Please join us beginning April 5 as we discover God's miracles both yesterday and today.

If you have experienced a miracle in your life, would you share your story with us? Email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our PO Box. —Kirsten

Please see *The Spirit of Pentecost* on p.24. ☆



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Sheikh Khalid Qasmi (center) with former Israeli cabinet minister Ayoub Kara (center-left) and Kara's daughter Amira (center right)

UAE Sheikh in Israel: "Best Medical Treatment I Have Received"

By Baruch Yedid / JewishPress.com

Sheikh Khalid Qasmi, from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was recently hospitalized in Israel, the first Arab royal known to have been treated in Israel. The 45-year-old sheikh went to the Emek Medical Center in Afula for treatment related to an automobile accident several years ago.

Qasmi stated: "This is the best medical treatment I have received since the car accident. I have traveled to several countries in Europe and been hospitalized in different clinics since I was injured. But since I arrived in Israel, there has been a great improvement in my condition."

The sheikh added, "I was amazed not only by the quality of the medical staff and the advanced capabilities in Israel, but mainly by the hospitality and the expressions of sympathy from the medical staff and other people I met here."

Ayoub Kara, the former Druze cabinet minister who had invited Qasmi to Israel, stated:

Following the sheikh's hospitalization in Israel, the United Arab Emirates decided to examine the possibility of giving all

residents of the Emirates the right to receive treatments in Israel, at the expense of the state. The Emirates realized that it was an advanced healthcare system and decided that what was appropriate for the sheikh should be given to the rest of the residents of the Emirates.

Growing Christian Population in Israel

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz / Israel365News.com

The Christian population in Israel is growing, making the Jewish state the only place in the Middle East where this is happening.

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics recently reported that the number of Christians living in Israel at the end of 2021 was approximately 183,000 (1.9% of the population). About

(continued on next page)



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



WE'VE BEEN WANDERING OUT HERE FOR YEARS NOW ... I THINK IT IS ABOUT TIME TO STOP ASKING IF WE'RE ALMOST THERE YET



credit: Miriam Aelter/Flickr90



Thousands of Israelis walk on the beach boardwalk in Tel Aviv on Israel's 73rd Independence Day, April 15, 2021

76% of these Christians are Arab. The localities with the largest Arab Christian populations are Nazareth (21,100), Haifa (16,700), Jerusalem (12,900), and Shefa-Amr (10,500).

About 24% (44,400) of the Christians in Israel are not Arab. Most of these immigrated to Israel under the Law of Return, which permitted people with Jewish relatives to become citizens. About 39% of the non-Arab Christians live in Tel Aviv, while 36.3% live in the Northern District and Haifa.

The Christian population in Israel increased by 2% in 2021 as compared to an increase of 1.6% for the Jewish population and 2.2% for the Muslim population. The Christian population increased by 966 due to natural growth and by 952 from "conversion to Christianity."

Christians comprise approximately 5% of the Middle Eastern population (roughly 15 million Christians), down from 20% in the early 20th century.

In the 1990s, about 173,000 Arab Palestinian Christians lived in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip (roughly 18% of the population). That number

has declined severely and is now estimated at 75,000 (about 1% of the population).

Iran's "Death to Israel" Missile

JPost.com

In February, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Aerospace Force unveiled a ballistic missile in a launcher with the words "Death to Israel" written in Hebrew on the side of it.

The Iranian state-run Tasnim News Agency posted a video on its Twitter account featuring photos of a series of weapons at a public exhibition in Isfahan. Aside from the "Death to Israel" missile, the exhibit featured a collection of other missiles, drones, and military vehicles.

It is unclear if the missile is actually operational or if it was just for show. Even so, an unnamed official at Israel's Foreign Ministry stated: "In case anyone has any doubt — the message is clear."

Iran has repeatedly vowed to "wipe Israel off the map." ✡



source: Twitter

Iran's "Death to Israel" missile





Archaeology

Hezekiah's Monumental Inscription



BY CHRISTOPHER EAMES (r) ArmstrongInstitute.org

credit: Prof. Gershon Galil



credit: Vladimir Nayim / Elad Association

left: Prof. Galil's drawing of the inscription **right:** The stone bearing King Hezekiah's inscription

Judah's King Hezekiah is well known from the Bible and from archaeology. His name is mentioned on the prisms of Assyrian King Sennacherib, as well as on some items recovered via excavation or from the antiquities market.

Yet for Hezekiah, as with many other kings of Judah, there has been one missing distinction: "monumental"-style inscriptions, or stelae, such as those preserved in Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt. Most inscriptions that have thus far been unveiled naming kings of Israel and Judah have largely been of the "miniature" variety — royal seal stamps and bullae (pendants or amulets), including those referencing Jeroboam, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. As such, a prevailing belief has been that the kings of Judah and Israel did not have "monumental"-style inscriptions to record their own achievements.

Now, a new discovery (actually, a somewhat old discovery reexamined) changes that picture.

In 2007, a limestone slab was discovered during the excavations of the Gihon Spring area by Eli Shukron and Ronny Reich. The hand-sized fragment (around 5.5 x 3.9 x 2 inches) contains two broken lines of text, each with four large letters. Despite being published the following year, the full potential of the inscription was not immediately established. **A recent review of the inscription, however, has concluded that this inscription actually bears Hezekiah's name.**

This new conclusion was reached by Shukron, together with epigrapher Prof. Gershon Galil, thanks in part to the use of new Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) on the stele. The first line is reconstructed as **זקיה** [ח] ([H]zqyh/[He]zekiah, with the initial letter "h/ח"missing). The second line is reconstructed as the word "pool," Hebrew *bricha* (again with the initial letter having been broken off, thus **יקיה** [ח]). Of course, Hezekiah is noted several times throughout Scripture in regard

(continued on next page)



to the construction of pools and water works. Further, the discovery was made at one of these pool locations.

In a summation of Hezekiah's reign, 2 Kings 20:20–21 notes:

Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit ["Hezekiah's tunnel"], and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And Hezekiah slept with his fathers: and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

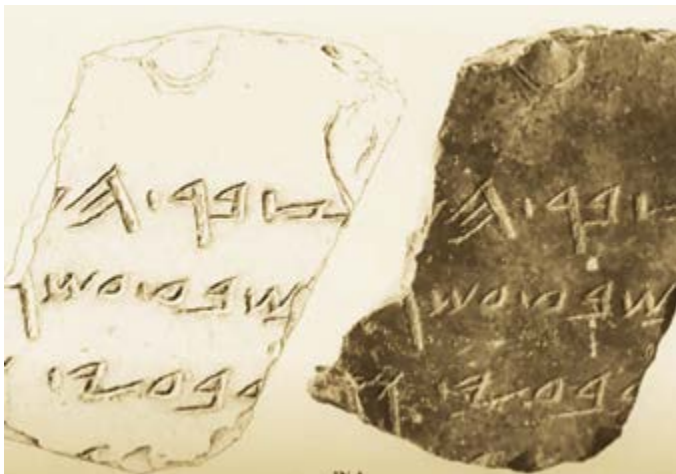
This "new" inscription has further been linked with a fragment found south of the Gihon Spring by archaeologist Yigal Shiloh in 1978. The stone and lettering are of the same type. This text, again fragmentary, includes the word "seventeen/seventeenth." As such, when put together with the above-mentioned monument, it may thus identify the inscription as relating to Hezekiah's seventeenth year of reign (circa 709 B.C.).

The researchers propose that this shattered inscription may be the result of *damnatio memoriae* (Latin for "condemnation of memory") — a typical practice of later rulers who opposed their forebears. Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, rejected his father's worship of God and pattern of rule during the first part of his reign.

In a Facebook post about the discovery, Galil wrote (translated from Hebrew):

*The Israelite kings were remembered in Assyrian, Babylonian, Aramean, and Moabite inscriptions and also on Hebrew stamps — but **this is the first time that a fraction of a monumental Hebrew royal address has been decoded, mentioning the name of the king whose achievements were carried out.** The discovery... reveals that before the eyes of the authors of the historical Biblical texts stood monumental royal writings, which were connected by the authors at the time of the kings mentioned in the Bible.*

Indeed, the received wisdom has been that the kings of Judah must not have utilized monumental inscriptions (somewhat unusual, given the manner of grandeur spoken of in the Bible for various kings). One natural response to this theory is the classic statement: "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." In addition, Jerusalem stands as one of the most attacked, demolished, reconstructed, and re-demolished cities on Earth — thus directly affecting preservation of remains. (In the words of Eric H. Cline's *Jerusalem Besieged*, **the city has been totally "destroyed at least twice, besieged 23 times, attacked an additional 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times."**)



Now, though — among the fragments of Jerusalem's remains — we have a preserved fraction of what must indeed have been a "monumental"-style inscription commemorating one of Judah's greatest kings. ✡

Fragment discovered by Shiloh in 1978, linked to the current inscription

Top Aide Bashes Palestinian Authority Leader

TimesOfIsrael.com

A top adviser to Mahmoud Abbas insulted the Palestinian Authority (PA) president, accusing him of stoking a chaotic succession battle.

An obscenity-laced recording, which exposed fissures within the ruling Fatah party, was leaked in December by the Hamas-affiliated Shehab news site. In it, Fatah Secretary General Hussein al-Sheikh vented his frustration over the 87-year-old PA leader's handling of his successor.

"The succession is at the heart of everything," al-Sheikh noted in what was believed to have been a conversation from several years ago.



Secretary General Hussein al-Sheikh

we can do the right thing without explaining his intentions."

A former minister in charge of liaising with Israeli authorities, al-Sheikh was appointed last year as head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee and as point person for diplomatic negotiations. Some considered the promotion as boosting his chances to eventually succeed Abbas as head of the Fatah party, though others are also vying for the position.

Abbas, whose term officially ended in 2009, has clung to power despite successive health scares and serially canceled elections. He has not named a successor, though in the recording, al-Sheikh claims Abbas favors Mahmoud Aloul, a former governor of Nablus.

In another leaked recording, al-Sheikh scorned others who may be contenders for the top spot, including spy chief Majed Faraj, whom he criticized for contacts with officials in Gaza.

Airing dismay over the number of contenders to succeed Abbas, al-Sheikh claimed that the Hamas terror group is using the divisions to its own advantage.

"The current situation in which there are five people battling for succession is a disaster for the Palestinian Authority," he said, adding in English that it was "the end of the game." ★



Mahmoud Abbas

Abbas "is complicit in the anarchy and has an interest in maintaining it for his own survival," he added, expressing frustration over the lack of consultation on

the process. "It pains me to say these things, but this process is completely different [than it was] after the death of Yasser Arafat."

It was not clear who al-Sheikh was talking to in the recordings, but he openly derided the PA leader's governing style, describing him as testy and mercurial.

Abbas is the "son of 66 whores; he comes and gives his decisions without explanations," al-Sheikh added. "He is not right in the head if he thinks



Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is
good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22

No Joke

Rabbi Epstein, who was “humor-impaired,” attended a conference on public speaking. One speaker came to the podium and stated, “The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn’t my wife!” The crowd was silently stunned. But quickly, he added, “And that woman was my mother!” The crowd burst into laughter, then he delivered the rest of his talk, which was well-received.

The next week, the rabbi decided that he would try the same joke to start his sermon. Approaching the *bimah* (platform), he was a little fuzzy on it. Even so, he announced, “The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman who was not my wife!” The congregation was aghast. After about 10 seconds, trying to recall the punch line, he finally blurted out, “But for the life of me I can’t remember who she was!” ☆

Dry Bones

Passover Weight



Answer Key for April 2023 Crossword (p.25)

Across:

- 4. Spirit
- 6. Heard
- 7. Sun
- 9. Beginning

- 11. Elijah
- 14. Bones
- 15. Tongues
- 16. Angel

Down:

- 1. Cyrus
- 2. Build
- 3. Fifteen
- 5. Trusted

- 8. Pentecost
- 10. Lazarus
- 12. Jonah
- 13. Daniel



AUTOMATIC FIRST AID! Zola's Monthly Gift Program

Increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses to process them, plus you save time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, ZLM will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit/debit card.

If you wish to use your **checking account** for donations, please follow directions 1 through 5 below:

1. ACH transfer date (please circle one): 5th 20th
2. Withdrawal amount (please circle one): \$12 \$18 \$24 Other _____
3. Enclose your check payable to Zola Levitt Ministries (ZLM) for this month's gift. Monthly transfers will begin in about 4 weeks. Make changes by calling 214-696-8844.
4. Signature _____ (required for processing)
5. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____

For **credit/debit card** donations, please follow directions 6 through 11 below:

You may cancel at any time by calling 214-696-8844 or emailing staff@levitt.com.

6. Withdrawal amount (please circle one): \$12 \$18 \$24 Other _____
7. Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover Card ID# required _____
8. Credit/Debit card # _____ Exp. date ____ / ____
9. Signature _____ (required for processing)
10. Printed Name _____ Date Signed _____
11. Charge date (please circle one): 5th 15th 20th

YOU CAN DONATE BY TEXT MESSAGE:

Send a text message with the amount you wish to donate to **469-615-2009**.





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

Collapsible Drink Koozies

Set of two (2) neoprene insulators with pro-Israel messages.

Never be LUKEWARM again! Neither when it comes to STANDING WITH ISRAEL nor when sipping your favorite beverage. Sized to hold 12 oz. cans, our ministry's full-color koozie features two distinctive themes:

Front: STAND WITH ISRAEL

Back: DON'T BE LUKEWARM and the Bible reference Rev. 3:15-16

Offered in pairs; wonderful as gifts and conversation starters.

PO Box 12268, Dallas, TX 75225



Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved



Zola Tours DISCOVER ISRAEL

Experience Israel's beauty & majesty with David & Kirsten Hart in FALL 2023 or SPRING 2024!



**Celebrating 40 years
of Holy Land tours!**

FALL TOUR 2023

Deluxe: Oct. 16-26
(Israel only, \$5,788)

Grand Petra: Oct. 16-29
(Israel & Petra, \$7,288)

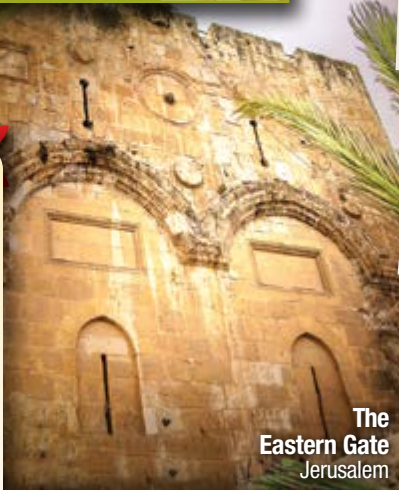
SPRING TOUR 2024

Deluxe: Mar. 25-Apr. 4
(Israel only)

Grand Petra: Mar. 25-Apr. 7
(Israel & Petra)

Spring 2024 dates and prices are pending.

For more info and registration see:
www.levitt.com/tours



The
Eastern Gate
Jerusalem



The Garden Tomb
Jerusalem



Petra
Jordan



The Temple
Mount
Jerusalem

Call Zola Tours at 214-696-9760
or email travel@levitt.com.

A refundable deposit by credit card will hold your reservation.

See you in
Jerusalem!

