



Levitt LETTER

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

MAY 2023

inside:
Miracles! p.6

The Day that Changed the World

By Jared Eaton / UMJC.org

The Festival of *Shavuot* is the only holiday celebrated in both Jewish and Christian traditions. The Church may call it "Pentecost" and their celebration may have a different focus, but *Shavuot* commemorates the birth of these two religions — at Sinai for the Jews and in Jerusalem for the Church.

But despite its importance, compared to other Jewish holidays there aren't many customs connected with *Shavuot*. Aside from a few traditions like eating dairy and studying Torah all night, the main *mitzvot* (commandments) connected to *Shavuot* are reading the Book of Ruth and hearing the Ten Commandments.

Looking for ideas on how to celebrate *Shavuot*, I asked some of my pastor friends what they were planning for Pentecost. They all replied that they had nothing special planned.

Shavuot/Pentecost should be one of the biggest holidays in the world, but it's

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REMEMBER:

Shavuot: Sunset Thursday, May 25 to sunset Saturday, May 27
Pentecost: Sunday, May 28

UN Denotes Israel's Establishment as a "Catastrophe"

AllIsrael.com

In November, the United Nations (UN) voted to hold an event in 2023 to recognize the 75th

"*Nakba* Day." The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved a resolution that commemorates the *nakba*, Arabic for "catastrophe," referring to the modern State of Israel's establishment in 1948.

In 1998, Yasser Arafat proposed that the day after Israel's 50th anniversary as a state should be remembered by Palestinians as a day of catastrophe. It's related to the displacement of many Arabs living in the land during Israel's fight for independence and survival under

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Emblem of the United Nations

Image: Detail of *Tongues of Fire Descend on the Apostles at Pentecost*, lithograph — artist unknown (Wellcome Collection gallery, 2018)

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Palestinians Celebrate Murders of Israelis

BY HUGH FITZGERALD / FrontPageMag.com

Yet again, Palestinians held ghoulish celebrations following the murder of Israeli civilians. Images on social media showed Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank celebrating a terrorist attack in East Jerusalem in February that ultimately killed three Israelis.

In a Twitter video, a man tells children in Gaza to distribute pastries in honor of Hussein Qaraqe, who rammed his car into a bus stop.

Palestinians always distribute pastries and candies after terror attacks on Israelis. And sometimes there's more. When seven Israeli civilians leaving a synagogue were murdered in Neve Yaakov, Palestinians honked car horns, set off firecrackers, and engaged in a lot of *Allahu-akbaring*.

"The heroic action in Jerusalem is a natural response to all the crimes of the occupation against the Palestinian people, the last of which is the massacre in the Aqabat Jaber camp," stated Hamas spokesman Hazem Kassem. He was referring to an IDF operation to neutralize roughly half a dozen terrorists who conspired to attack an Israeli restaurant in January.

Qaraqe's "heroic action" was driving into a group of Israelis, mostly mothers and children. Two people died immediately: six-year-old Yaakov Pelli and Alter Shlomo Liderman, a 20-year-old newlywed. Later, Pelli's eight-year-old brother Asher died from his injuries. Several others were seriously wounded.

The Islamic Jihad Movement issued a celebratory statement: "We affirm that this blessed operation, which healed the hearts of our people, came as a natural and legitimate response to the crimes of the occupation."

Apparently, nothing heals Palestinians' hearts like seeing dead Israelis. Murder is a "natural and legitimate response" to the crimes of the Zionists, who refuse to comply with the Palestinians' desires — a Palestinian state "from the river to the sea."



CNN headline

Media responses were also interesting. Jordan's *Roya News* noted: "Two settlers killed in car-ramming operation in occupied Jerusalem."

Was someone young enough to have a teddy bear really a "settler" who deserved to be killed? That's what various Arabic-language media called him. They never noted his age.

CNN's headline stated, "Two dead including child as car rams people at Jerusalem bus stop." This prompted criticism on Twitter from the Israel Foreign Ministry: "This wasn't a self-driving car @CNN.... The driver, a Palestinian terrorist, *intentionally* rammed into a bus stop packed with children and families traveling before Shabbat."

Nothing explains CNN's headline that endows the car with agency and denies that of the driver bent on murder. Here's what they should have stated: "Palestinian rams car into Israelis, killing two, including a six-year-old."

Think, CNN, before you headline.

And while you're at it, how about a story on how Palestinians pull out all the stops when they celebrate the murders of Israelis? For many in your audience, that will prove most instructive. ☆





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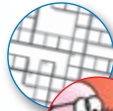
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Genealogy Chart

Full Color, 16"x20" 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.

Please see the article *"The God of Miracles"* on p. 28.



The Day that Changed the World

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Detail of *Ten Commandments*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860)

not given the prominence that it deserves. I believe this is because both Judaism and Christianity miss big pieces of what *Shavuot* is about.

Origins of *Shavuot*

In early Judaism, *Shavuot* was primarily a harvest festival and pilgrimage. The Feast of Weeks marks the time when the wheat fields in Israel were harvested and brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. But these ideas aren't very concrete if you're not an ancient Judean farmer. Also, this abstraction, coupled with the lack of observances, has led to *Shavuot* being the least known holiday amongst secular Jews, many not even knowing that it exists.

But there is a greater significance to *Shavuot*. It takes place 50 days after **Passover**. During those 50 days, the Israelites, who had been freed from slavery in Egypt, made their way through the wilderness and traveled to Mount Sinai.

One of the key themes of Passover is freedom, but our tradition teaches us that the Jews were not really free when Pharaoh let them leave. They may have been physically free, but

in their hearts, they were still slaves, unable to come to grips with their newfound freedom.

The Jewish people did not experience true liberation of mind, body, and soul until they came to Mount Sinai, heard God's voice, and received the Torah. On *Shavuot*, we celebrate not just being given some laws; we celebrate being given our freedom, our identity, and our soul.

Shavuot after the Resurrection

For Christians, *Shavuot*, or Pentecost, as it's known, commemorates the events described in the second chapter of Acts. During the festival of *Shavuot*, when thousands of Jews were gathered in Jerusalem to bring their wheat harvest offerings to the Temple, a mighty wind from Heaven rushed down and tongues of fire rested on the assembled followers of Yeshua (Acts 2:3). They began to speak in all the languages of the world, each one of them proclaiming the Gospel and God's mighty acts.

The crowds were amazed. When Peter

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



stood up to tell the people about the death and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua, over 3,000 Jews came to faith that day.

From that time, everything was different, as it still is today. No longer confined to Jerusalem, the Gospel spread throughout Israel and into the nations. Empowered by the *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit), the followers of Yeshua performed miracles, healed the sick, and raised the dead. Thousands and thousands of people — Jews and gentiles — came to faith, and the Gospel was preached in every nation and tongue.

The giving of the *Ruach* was an occasion as momentous as the giving of the Torah. If the first *Shavuot* was the birth of the Jewish people, this *Shavuot* was the birth of the Yeshua movement. What had once been a small, insular group soon became a worldwide phenomenon that continues to grow.

Celebrating *Shavuot*

We have much to celebrate, yet many people pay little attention to *Shavuot*. For both Jews and Christians, *Shavuot* is at best often treated like a minor holiday; at worst it's something that we forget altogether.

The problem is that both sides are only getting half the story. For Jews, we celebrate the giving of the Torah, but the story ends there. This was a one-time gift, never to be repeated. And the Church celebrates the giving of the Spirit, but there's no context involved. For the average Christian, the Spirit was given on just some random day in history.

Both stories are amazing on their own. When we read them together, however, we see not only some miracles but also a story of progressive revelation — a God who continues to give more and greater gifts to the world.

Yes, we celebrate the giving of the

Torah for itself. But we also understand that there is even more cause for celebration because God has sent Messiah Yeshua — the Word made flesh (John 1:14) — to fulfill the Torah (Matt. 5:17).

And we can celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit in the full context of God's revelation to us. First, God sends His Word so that we know His will for us. Then, He sends His Son so that He can dwell with us and love us personally. Finally, He sends His Spirit so that nothing can separate us from His love ever again.



Detail of *Paul at the Areopagus*, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872) for *Die Bibel in Bildern*

On the first great *Shavuot*, God gave us the gift of the Torah. On the second great *Shavuot*, He gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. No one can know the hour or the day of Messiah's return (Matt. 24:36), but perhaps Yeshua will come on a third great *Shavuot*. How fitting would it be for God to give us the greatest gift of all on a day such as this!

Please see the DVD set, *Acts: Then and Now* on [p. 17](#). ☆



source: depositphotos.com

Female prisoners

To parallel the current series on *Our Jewish Roots*, I asked readers and viewers to submit their own personal miracle stories. Here is one from Cale-Deane — a long-time ZLM supporter — that will help you believe in ***The God of Miracles***. —Kirsten

Angels All Around

"He shall give his angels charge over you..." (Ps. 91:11). I had just finished reading that part of my study of Psalm 91 when it was time to leave for the women's prison. With nervous anticipation, I joined nearly 300 volunteers ranging in age from 17 to 77 and representing some 120 churches and more than 15 denominations. We came from all over the U.S. to spend a week visiting 12 Alabama prisons and witnessing to the inmates.

The Department of Corrections granted unusual freedom to our group, allowing us to enter areas of the prisons that were normally off-limits to outsiders. At one prison, guards met our group at the facility's outer gate, and we lined up to be searched. They were very thorough, even searching a large Bible carried by the woman ahead of me. The guard told her to take it back to her car because large, hard-back books were considered weapons. Technically, the guard was right ... the Word is sharper than a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12)!

Close Their Eyes

Next, it was my turn. I stepped forward holding an accompaniment tape (I was there to sing), my Bible, and two small vials of frankincense and myrrh anointing oil tucked inside the pocket of my Bible carrying case. *"Please Lord, let me go unnoticed,"* I prayed.

To my surprise, the guard just looked at me and waved me on! She never searched me. Better still, she did not search my Bible. I looked up to Heaven and quietly gave thanks to God.

Words of Deliverance and Healing

I was to sing in a dorm filled with depressed and angry women who were recent arrivals at the prison. Halfway through my program, I not only

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experienced problems with the boom box but also encountered a very vocal heckler. Recalling the words from Psalm 91, I laid a hand on the box and looked at the heckler. I silently prayed that no evil would occur and that the Lord would shut the woman's mouth. Then, as her angry eyes met mine, the derisive language ceased, and she quickly disappeared into the adjoining bathroom.

During my final song, a young woman who was quietly weeping stood near me. She had been asleep in the farthest part of the room and came forward when the music awakened her. Approaching hesitantly, she asked if I prayed with people. Though already a Believer, she was broken in spirit by her situation. After I anointed her with oil, we joined hands in prayer. That was one of many divine appointments God granted me during the week. ✨

UN Denotes Israel's Establishment as a "Catastrophe" *continued from cover sidebar*

attack by five Arab nations. Since Arafat's proposal, Palestinians have marked May 15 with demonstrations and strikes.

The UN vote was 90 to 30 with 47 abstentions. Supporting the resolution were Arab states that have formal peace agreements with Israel, including Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. Countries voting against the resolution included the U.S., the UK, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, and Australia.

Gilad Erdan, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, spoke to the UNGA on the day of the resolution. He noted that by "passing such an extreme and baseless resolution, the UN is only helping to perpetuate the conflict. By supporting resolutions that single out, condemn, and vilify Israel, you are telling the Palestinians that their path of incitement and terror-funding truly pays off."

Before the vote, Erdan emphasized that the UN continues to ignore the "Jewish *nakba*," which saw 750,000 Jews expelled from Arab or Muslim countries around the time of Israel's establishment, forcing them to leave everything behind. In countries like Iraq, many Jews disappeared and were never heard from again. He displayed a copy of *The New York Times* from May 16, 1948. Its headline reads, "JEWS IN GRAVE DANGER IN ALL MOSLEM LANDS." He asked, "What



Israel's Ambassador to the UN,
Gilad Erdan, on Nov. 30, 2022

would you say if the international community celebrated the establishment of your country as a disaster? What a disgrace!"

Erdan mentioned the UN vote (on Nov. 29, 1947) to end the British Mandate and to form both a Jewish and an Arab state. The Arabs, however, refused, choosing instead to fight and attempt to destroy Israel.

The Israeli ambassador added that Jews living in the Middle East and in North Africa "did not revolt against the international community's decision. They did not try to annihilate another people. Their only crime was being Jewish. This is the true *nakba*. This is the disaster ... that this body has ignored for decades."

He also noted that other diplomats tell him privately that they know the "right of return" demanded by the descendants of Arabs displaced by the war 75 years ago would bring an end to the Jewish state. ✨

Why They Won't Talk About the Oslo Accords

BY STEPHEN M. FLATOW (r) JNS.org



Media pundits spend a lot of time “explaining” why some political or social development just occurred. In March, *The New York Times* presented what it claimed are the real reasons behind the controversy over Israeli judicial reform. The latest election results, which brought Israel a new government — and the judicial reform plan — are part of a “rightward drift” that goes back a number of years, according to the *Times*’ Jerusalem Bureau Chief Patrick Kingsley.

“The failure of peace negotiations with the Palestinians in the 1990s led some Israelis to lose faith in the centrist and leftist leaders who had championed the process,” Kingsley wrote. Think about that. Kingsley and the *Times* described the most widely-acclaimed Mideast peace agreement of the 20th century as “the failure of peace negotiations with the Palestinians.”

source: screenshot



Patrick Kingsley, *Times*
Jerusalem Bureau Chief

Then and Now

Consider the signing of Oslo I (Sept. 13, 1993) on the White House lawn — with a dramatic handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat. Also recall the Oslo II agreement (Sept. 24, 1995), with Israel’s withdrawal from the territories where 98% of the Palestinian Arabs live. Both agreements are, in the eyes of the *Times*, “the failure of peace negotiations with the Palestinians.”

Back in the 1990s, however, the *Times* considered the Oslo Accords a tremendous success. Its lead editorial on September 14, 1993 — the day after the signing of Oslo I — declared that after decades of “warfare and only a few moments of promise,” the signing of the agreement “brought the brightest promise of all: reconciliation between the two main parties to the conflict, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.”



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat at the White House in 1993

credit: Vince Musi / The White House

The editors of the *Times* were ecstatic that “these old enemies came together to recognize each other’s right to exist.” They also heaped praise on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for saying “what seemed to be on everyone’s mind: ‘Enough of blood and tears. Enough!’”

But — and here’s the kicker — the *Times* also noted that Oslo “commits the Palestinians to the principle that their Israeli neighbors are on the land to stay and are to be lived with in peace.”

Therein lies the problem.

The New York Times and those who share its views loved the Oslo Accords

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because Israel was surrendering to many of the demands of the Palestinian Arabs. Therefore, it was, in their eyes, a triumph, not a “failure.”

At the time, most Israelis cautiously supported Oslo because they hoped that the Palestinian leadership would keep its promise. They hoped it was sincerely “committed,” as the *Times* editorial put it, “to the principle that their Israeli neighbors are on the land to stay and are to be lived with in peace.”

Broken Promises

But Palestinian leaders didn’t adhere to that principle. Instead, the bombings (one of which took the life of my daughter Alisa in 1995), shootings, and stabbings continued. Terrorist groups were not disarmed or even outlawed. Israel’s dozens of extradition requests for terrorists were ignored. An entire generation of young Palestinian Arabs was raised to hate Jews and Israel — not to embrace “the principle that their Israeli neighbors are on the land to stay and are to be lived with in peace.”

That’s why the *Times* never talks about Oslo. That’s why Kingsley could not even bring himself to say the words “Oslo Accords.” That’s why he now calls them “failed peace negotiations,” not negotiations that produced an agreement to which the Palestinians are bound. **Acknowledging Oslo would mean admitting that the Palestinians have violated their obligations every day since the Accords were signed.**

What Should Happen

Telling the truth about Oslo would mean:

- confronting the Palestinian Authority (PA) and demanding it take steps that everyone knows it will never take.
- giving up the illusion that surrendering territory to the PA will lead to peace.
- acknowledging the painful truth that the Accords do not contain a single word prohibiting Israel from building Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria.
- acknowledging another painful truth — that Israel’s 1995 withdrawal from the areas where 98% of the Palestinian Arabs reside essentially means that Israel’s “occupation of the Palestinians” ended 28 years ago.

Otherwise, the public would realize that Palestinian Arab leaders’ promises are worthless and any future agreement with them will be another sham for which Israel will again pay in blood. ☆



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



Q. What is Dual Covenant Theology?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian
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A. Dual Covenant theology teaches that Jews can be saved apart from Jesus the Messiah and the New Covenant.

Advocates claim that it is unnecessary for Jewish people to believe in Jesus as the Messiah for salvation. In this view, Jews can be saved by keeping the Law of Moses, or through circumcision as part of God's covenant with Abraham and his physical descendants — the Jews (Gen. 17:13, 19, 21).

According to Dual Covenant theology, Jews have their own way of salvation via the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants, while gentiles receive salvation through Jesus and the New Covenant He ratified (Luke 22:20).

Contradicts Scripture

This erroneous teaching contradicts Scripture!

John the Baptist implored his fellow Jews: *"Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"* (Matt. 3:2). Likewise, Jesus proclaimed to them, *"The time is fulfilled,*

and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15). Jesus focused His message on *"the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Matt. 10:6; 15:24). He later warned the Jews, *"For unless you believe that I am He [Messiah], you will die in your sins"* (John 8:24). If Dual Covenant theology were true, then the Lord's warning to the Jews about their unbelief would be a lie!

After Jesus' ascension, the Apostles taught that Jews must repent and believe that Jesus is the Messiah (Acts 2:36–38; 3:12–19; 5:29–32; 28:17–28). Proclaiming the Gospel beginning with the Jews (Rom. 1:16), the Apostles never taught that anyone could be saved without faith in Jesus.

God's covenant with Abraham did not provide salvation for the Jews. Rather, God promised that Abraham's "seed" would bless "all nations" (Gen. 22:18) — this "Seed" is Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:16). John the Baptist countered the false notion that being born an ethnic Jew automatically saves and grants entrance into God's Kingdom (Matt. 3:9).

What is required of all — Jew and gentile — is repentant faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. As the Apostle Paul noted: *"A man is not justified by the works of the Law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; for by the works of the Law no flesh shall be justified"* (Gal. 2:16). Paul clarified that the Old Covenant was given as a *"tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Gal. 3:24). The Law points us to Jesus, through Whom we are justified — made right with God by faith.

Jesus stated, *"No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). **There is only one way of salvation for Jews and gentiles alike — through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

"Nor is there salvation in any other [than Jesus Christ], for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

— Acts 4:12 ✨



Detail of Moses with the Two New Tablets of Stone, artist unknown, from *Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us* by Charles Foster (1897)





During our October 2022 Gospel outreach to Israel, August Rosado and I drove from the Galilee to the Golden City of Jerusalem. East of Jericho, we stopped at Qasar al-Yahud. This was likely the place where John baptized Jesus and also where Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land.

Walking into the gift shop, we saw two park rangers, **Sagit** and **Danny**. After the customers dispersed, the Lord gave us time to speak to these Jewish men about Yeshua the Messiah.

August and I pointed out that the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) foretold that the Messiah's forerunner would come first to prepare the way for Messiah's first coming to Israel (Isa. 40:3–5; Mal. 3:1; also see Matt. 11:10). We explained that *Yochanan HaMatbil* (John the Baptist) fulfilled this prophecy — he prepared the way for Yeshua to bring the Messianic Kingdom to Israel.

Sagit and Danny accepted a Hebrew Bible and Messianic Gospel literature so they could read about Yeshua. During our conversation, we also explained that all true Believers in Yeshua are indebted to Israel (Rom. 15:27) for the spiritual riches they gave to the world — Yeshua

the Messiah and God's Word in both Testaments of the Bible. We added that the best way we can repay that debt to the Jewish people is to share the Gospel with them and offer them a copy of the complete Bible in Hebrew.



August, May, and Todd

The next day in Jerusalem, "*the city of the great King*" (Matt. 5:35), August and I went to the Malcha Mall where we met a young Jewish woman named **May**. Explaining that we were Bible teachers opened a door for us. **We spoke to May about the Hebrew Prophets who foretold the Messiah's work to save humanity** when He came to the world the first time. August and I added that Yeshua died in Jerusalem and rose from the dead to save us not only from sin and death but also to give eternal life to all who believe in Him (John 3:16; 11:25–26). We explained that this was prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures (Psalm 16:10; 22:16–18). May was amazed to hear this about the Messiah, who is Jesus of Nazareth.

August and I offered her a complete Hebrew Bible with Messianic literature so she could read for herself the prophecies and their fulfillment. May was deeply touched and could not believe it was a gift. Once we convinced her it was so, May accepted the Bible and said, "Thank you very much," expressing her love for what we spoke and gave to her. ☆

**left:** Danny **right:** August, Sagit, and Todd

The ~~Not~~-Ready-for-Primetime Bearded Bible Brothers

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



Zola's paternal family lived in Latvia, a Baltic state between Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Belarus. In the early 1900s, Zola's father Joseph Levitt (1893–1962) fled Riga, Latvia's capital, to escape the rising tide of anti-Semitism that culminated in the Holocaust. *Kristallnacht*, also called the November [1938] pogrom, predated Zola's birth by less than a month.



Zola (right) with his father

More than once, Zola told me about a derisive comment made about his paternal grandfather: that he was “just” a shoemaker. To that, my humble patriarch replied, “No, I don’t make shoes; I merely *repair* them.” How characteristic of [Proverbs 15:1](#) — “A soft answer turneth away wrath.”

ZLMers have referred to Zola as a prophet, arguable in the sense that his videos and writings remain relevant. Nonetheless, Zola signed his monthly *Personal Letter* as “Your messenger.”

Now here I am, *Mayer Eliezer ben Zelig Fivel Helevi* — Mark Levitt, son

of Zola Philip the Levite. The great grandson of a shoe repairman, I serve as a mere *facilitator* of messengers. With the charisma of a cactus and a face for radio, I’ve been at my ministry post since 1988 — 35 years. My tenure with this ministry surpasses Zola’s 28 years (1978–2006). This November, I will have managed this outreach just as long without Zola’s leadership as I did with him at the helm.

Other Teammates

ZLM’s shoemakers, so to speak, include the Berg Productions team that involves (among others) Ken Berg, Clayton Herring, and Andrea Davis, all of whose writings occasionally appear in this news magazine (as Andrea’s does this month on [p. 28](#)). Credit also goes to some fine news magazine editors — including Greg Miller, Margot Dokken, and Lou Hays — and graphic designers John Wollinka and Don Day.

Zola’s successor messengers and hosts include Dr. Jeffrey Seif (aka Jeff), David & Kirsten Hart, Myles & Katharine Weiss, Tony Derrick, and Sarah Liberman, my favorite *Sabra* (native Israeli), who writes our monthly *Personal Letter*. This devoted team works diligently to bring viewers and readers the best teachings, dramas, news articles, and more from the Holy Land. Whereas secular media often get it wrong, we strive to get it right.

Another Step

In [last month’s Levitt Letter](#) ([p. 14](#)), I mentioned the Bearded Bible Brothers, our ministry’s expanded outreach ministry on social media. It’s wonderful to see a younger audience’s inspired response to our mission of presenting Biblical insights from a Jewish perspective. Joshua

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Joshua and Caleb Colson are the Bearded Bible Brothers

and Caleb Colson are Messianic Believers with a passion to reach our bewildered society with the Good News of Yeshua. Caleb has served 17+ years as a camera operator/editor for Berg Productions. Joshua, who has been involved with Berg Productions even longer, has done mission work in 40 countries.

The Brothers seem like yet another step in the Lord's direction for ZLM, alongside *Our Jewish Roots* TV

programming with Jeff teaching in Israel and studio co-hosts David and Kirsten. As I reflect on how the Lord has directed my steps with the ministry these many years, I'm thankful that He continues to guide our efforts to reach the next generation through relevant media.

Please check out The Bearded Bible Brothers' brief Bible lessons on YouTube and other social media outlets and let me know your thoughts. ☆



Social Media Outlets

ZLM's social media outreach now includes:

- YouTube:** www.youtube.com/OurJewishRoots
- Facebook:** www.facebook.com/OurJewishRoots
- Twitter:** twitter.com/OurJewishRoots
- Rumble:** www.rumble.com/OurJewishRoots
- Instagram:** www.instagram.com/OurJewishRoots
- Vimeo:** vimeo.com/OurJewishRoots
- Dailymotion:** 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 *OJR* television broadcasts and the archives at levitt.tv! ☆



In His Passion Week, the Lord celebrated the first three Feasts, each in the appropriate manner. He was crucified on Passover, answering to the Blood of the Lamb, which had gotten the Chosen People out of slavery initially. He was buried on Unleavened Bread (*"This [bread] is My body" Mark 14:22*)—a case of a Man arranging His own burial at the appropriate time. And He was raised on First Fruits, as a demonstration of the future resurrection of the Church.

That wasn't the end of the Lord's ministry on Earth, however. Regarding His promise to the disciples in John 14, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The fourth Feast, Pentecost, occurs 50 days after First Fruits (Lev. 23:15–16). On that very day, the Holy Spirit attended the Pentecost festivities at the Temple, *"like a rushing mighty wind"* (Acts 2:2).

Pentecost represents the summer harvest, a larger harvest than First Fruits, but not so large as the fall crops, and the Holy Spirit harvested 3,000 people (Acts 2:41). Back when Moses brought the Law, Israel had made a golden calf, and by God's direction, 3,000 were killed (Ex. 32:28). And now, on Pentecost, the same number were returned to the Chosen People. *"The letter kills, the Spirit gives life"* (2 Cor. 3:6).

That was the last of the Lord's earthly activities, other than the personal miracles that we all experience in our holy walk with Him. Thus, we are due for upcoming performances, each on their appropriate day, if the Lord is to continue the system He has undertaken.



The Descent of the Holy Spirit (1873), artist unknown, from *The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* by Charles Foster

If we are correct about the ongoing fulfillment of the Feasts in their proper order, we should expect the Rapture of the Church on the Feast of Trumpets (1 Thess. 4:16–17; 1 Cor. 15:51–52). Since the Lord will come by surprise *"like a thief in the night"* (1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10), and the Church is more and more aware of the Feasts—even expecting Him on Trumpets—there is some debate about whether He will continue to fulfill the Feasts or pick some other day, surprising us all. I rather prefer the idea of the Day of Trumpets; some in the Church expect the Lord on that very day in some future year. We are not those who are asleep, after all; we are supposed to wait and watch expectantly (1 Thess. 5:1–10).

Please see [The Spirit of Pentecost](#) on p. 24. ☆



ZLM Bulletin Board

Do Jewish Lives Matter ...

to Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.)? Earlier this year, she tweeted a picture of herself standing beside a Palestinian flag in her Capitol Hill office and accused Israel of apartheid. Her political stunt apparently was a response to the Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's crack-down on Arab Israelis' celebration of terrorism. Last year, Tlaib introduced a resolution for the U.S. to recognize the Palestinian *nakba*, Arabic for "catastrophe," referring to Israel's rebirth in 1948. (See the related [cover article](#), "UN Denotes Israel's Establishment as a 'Catastrophe.'")



Tourism is Up!

Reserve your spot now so you won't have to wait until next year. The Deluxe Tour (Israel only) is scheduled for October 16–26. The Grand Petra (Israel & Petra) will go from October 16–29. Join David, Kirsten, and many other Believers who adore the Lord, Israel, and both Testaments! For more information, please call Sandra at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime.

Back to the Borscht Belt

Aaron Bendich, 29, lives in Brooklyn and hosts "Borscht Beat" on WJFF Radio Catskill. This weekly hour of Yiddish music recalls the heyday of Jewish vacationland in upstate New York. Listen live on Sundays at 1:00pm (EDT) on <https://wjffradio.org>. [A Jerusalem Post article](#) has YouTube links allowing you to enjoy songs that reflect the region's rich Jewish cultural history in the early 1900s: "Mein Shtetl Yaass," "Birds Chorus," "Ot Azoy," "Coney Island," "A Chazandl in Amerike," and "Mentshn Zenen Mishigge."



Aaron Bendich

credit: Aaron Bendich

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The 14-page booklet *Giving Through Your Will* outlines a number of ways to include a charitable gift in your will, living trust, or other estate plan. It also includes forms to help you prepare to meet with your advisors. One section touches on "Ways to Make Gifts," such as giving a specific amount, property, percentage, or residual. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #22.**

GIVING
THROUGH
YOUR WILL



"COME HOME!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection

Why We Love the Torah

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



מִה־אֶהְבֶּתִּי תּוֹרַתְךָ כָּל־הַיּוֹם הִיא שִׁיחָתִּי

“Oh how I love Your Torah; it is my meditation all the day.” (Psalm 119:97)

תִּי	שִׁי	הִיא	יּוֹם	כָּל־	תּוֹרַתְךָ	מִה־	אֶהְבֶּתִּי
(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)
see- <i>chah</i> -tee'	hee'	kohl'-hai-yohm'	toh-rah-te'-kha	mah'-ah-hahv'-tee			
my meditation	it [is]	all the day	Your Torah	O how I love			

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). It should be noted that “Scripture” here refers to the Hebrew Scriptures (i.e., the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings). They are the foundation, context, and overarching matrix for the New Covenant revelation. These were the Scriptures that Yeshua used to contextualize and explain His ministry: *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”* (Luke 24:27).

How important is the Torah, friends?

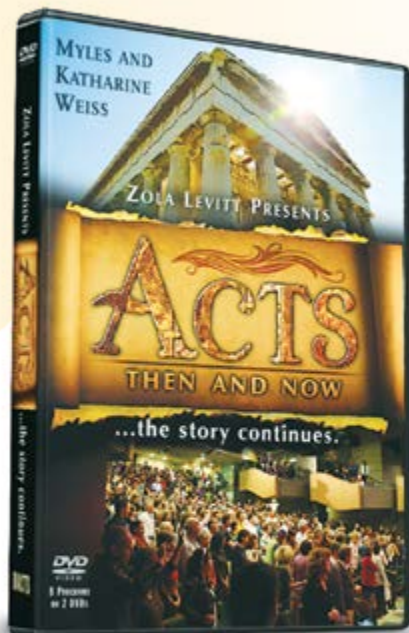
It is essential as the foundation for all that follows, including the very meaning of the Gospel message! The Torah has a logical, a linguistic, and a theological priority for our understanding of the New Testament. The failure to read in context invariably leads to faulty interpretations and various doctrinal errors. *“To the Jew first, and [then] to the Greek”* (Rom. 1:16) is a principle not only about how the Gospel message would transcend ethnic Israel to be offered to all the nations but also of how we should approach the subject of Bible interpretation.

God “breathed out” (θεόπνευστος) His revelation in order, and the message itself must be understood in light of that order (Gal. 4:4–5).

Yeshua repeatedly explained to His followers that He “must suffer” and die (Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) — these divine requirements are noted in Scripture (see Isa. 52:13–53:12). He told His disciples on the road of Emmaus: *“All things had to be fulfilled, which were written in the Torah of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me”* (Luke 24:44). Indeed, Yeshua faulted the rabbis of His day saying: *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; but it is they that bear witness about Me”* (John 5:39). He also stated, *“If you would have believed Moses, you would believe in Me, because he wrote about Me”* (John 5:46).

So love the Torah, friends. Learn its message and study its passages carefully. That is, after all, good New Testament theology: ***“For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope”*** (Rom. 15:4). ☆





Acts: Then and Now ... *the story continues*

DVD Set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Myles and Katharine Weiss show us the implications of the Acts of the Apostles in history and the future.

The Birth of the Church Myles teaches on location at the Jerusalem Temple's Southern Steps. Evangelist Jacob Damkani, a Persian Jew, fearlessly brings the Gospel to Israelis.

The Good News At Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park, Myles illustrates how the Gospel traveled west, with a positive impact on Europe and the Americas. Katharine interviews Rita Tsukahira, who leads a Mt. Carmel ministry for troubled Israeli Arabs and Jews and for refugees from Africa.

To Hear Something New On Mars Hill in Athens, Myles teaches about what Paul encountered while bringing the Jewish Gospel to the Greek world. Dr. Dan Juster explains the theological connection between Jewish and Greek thought.

The Word Goes Forth from Zion Out of Paul's Corinthian letters come timeless instructions on how to live together in a vibrant faith community. Interview with Asher Intrater and son about the faith life of the contemporary Messianic community.

The One New Man In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul immortalizes the unity of the Spirit between Jews and Greeks (non-Jews/gentiles) in Messiah.

The Price He Paid for Us In the Garden of Gethsemane, Myles discusses the blood of the sacrificed Lamb. Interviews with local Believers underscore the price to follow Jesus in Israel today.

Upon This Rock Matthew 16 proclaims the identity of Messiah. Tents of Mercy ministry provides immigrants from the former Soviet Union with humanitarian aid and "living water."

The First and the Last We get a "God's eye" view of the role Messianic Believers play in these Last Days.

Please see the [cover article](#) "[The Day that Changed the World.](#)"





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Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
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___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$4	___
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___	Israel, My Promised	\$4	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$4	___
___	The Promised Land	\$4	___
___	The Second Coming	\$4	___
___	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In? (pictured)	\$4	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$4	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.24)	\$4	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) (pictured)	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$11	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton)	\$9	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy (pictured)	\$12	___
___	The Green Horse—The Bible & Islam (Norma Archbold)	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18	___
___	The House That God Built	\$8	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif) (pictured)	\$9	___
___	An Israeli Love Story — Zola's only novel	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (David Hocking)	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever (p.36)	\$5	___
___	Jews and Jesus	\$10	___
___	Meshumed! (Traitor!)	\$10	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$10	___
___	Raptured	\$10	___
___	Satan in the Sanctuary	\$10	___
___	The Trouble with Christians/Jews	\$10	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	\$7	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured)	\$39	___

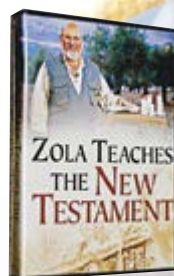
Featured DVDs

___	Acts: Then and Now (p.17)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Bible: The Whole Story (p.23)	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	A Child Is Born (p.22)	(30 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Eretz Israel	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Israel, My Love	(6 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Jehovah's Treasure (p.20)	(70 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Journey of Restoration	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	New! Much Like Peter (pictured)	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Return to Eden	(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Revelation: Unveiling the Visions	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ruth: Your People Shall Be	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	She Shall Be Called Woman	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Israel	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Upon This Rock	(1-hr. TV special on DVD)	\$19	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured)	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Zion Forever	(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



Studies, Specialty, Etc. — UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
_____	2-flag Collar Pin (p.27)	\$2	_____
_____	AHAVA Mineral Trio (Body, Foot & Hand).....	\$98	_____
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_____	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$23	_____
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_____	Drink Koozies (pictured)	2 for \$6	_____
_____	Flag of Israel (3' x 5').....	\$10	_____
_____	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20") (p.3).....	\$12	_____
_____	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$3	_____
_____	Grafted-In Lapel Pin	\$10	_____
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_____	Half-shekel Keychain (pictured).....	\$16	_____
_____	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	_____
_____	New! Jerusalem Magnets (set of 3) (p.20)	\$12	_____
_____	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5783 / 2023)	\$6	_____
_____	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker.....	\$3	_____
_____	Pro-Israel Buttons	(1 each of 4 different designs)	\$8
_____	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
_____	The Classic Zola Collection	79 products for \$999	_____



Teaching CDs

_____	Encounters with UFOs (p.23)	(CD)	\$8	_____
_____	The Spirit of Pentecost (p.24)	(CD)	\$8	_____
_____	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs)	\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

_____	22-Album Special	(Zola's 16 albums + 6 CDs free)	\$98	_____
_____	Living Waters (instrumental only) (pictured)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
_____	Zion Song (The Harts) (p.24)	(Music CD)	\$12	_____



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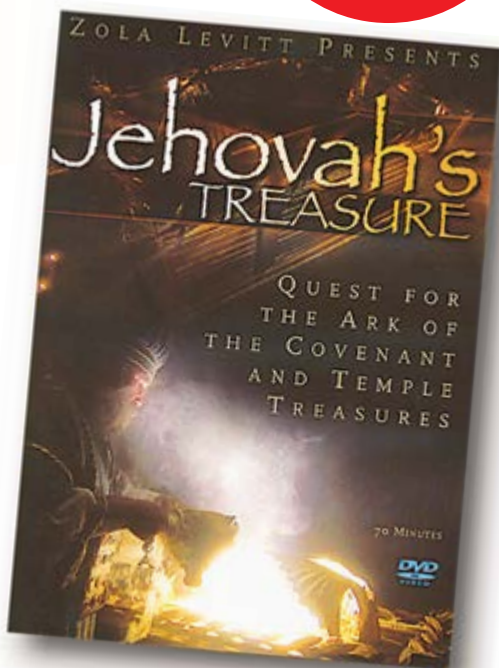


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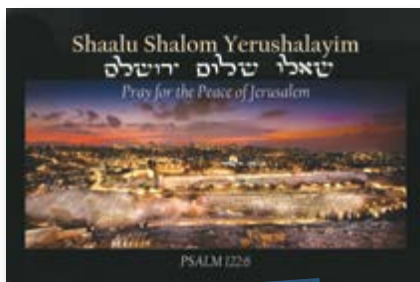
Jehovah's Treasure *Quest for the Ark of the Covenant and Temple Treasures* DVD

This 70-minute TV special on DVD uniquely documents the unearthing of two extraordinary tunnels in the Judean Desert, discovered after the Copper Scroll (one of the Dead Sea Scrolls) indicated that Temple treasures were buried all over Israel, some near the caves of Qumran where the Scrolls were discovered.

Nowhere else in all of Israel has anyone found tunnels like these. Is history finally going to unleash its most profound desert secrets?



X



Y



Z



Jerusalem Magnets

These pro-Israel collectibles are priced for you to acquire by the dozen (or hundred) to share far and wide. Half the fun is discovering new surfaces on which to adhere them for others to discover. Fridges, microwaves, file cabinets, safes, doors, toolboxes, and more. All three photos are Ken Berg originals, shot with the keen eye of a Believer and television producer who has frequently visited Israel for more than four decades. Full color; 4.5" x 3". Beautiful!

X ["Shaal Shalom Yerushalayim"](#)

Y ["Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"](#)

Z ["The Lord is King Forever"](#)



Fun and Games

Breakfast Special

David and Shirley went out for breakfast to a new diner where the special was two eggs, a bagel, and a coffee for \$3.

"I'd like the breakfast special," Shirley said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"I'll have to charge you \$4 because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress noted.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" Shirley asked incredulously. "Then I'll take the special."

"How do you want your eggs?" the waitress asked.

"Raw and in the shell," Shirley replied. "I'll take them home with me." ☆

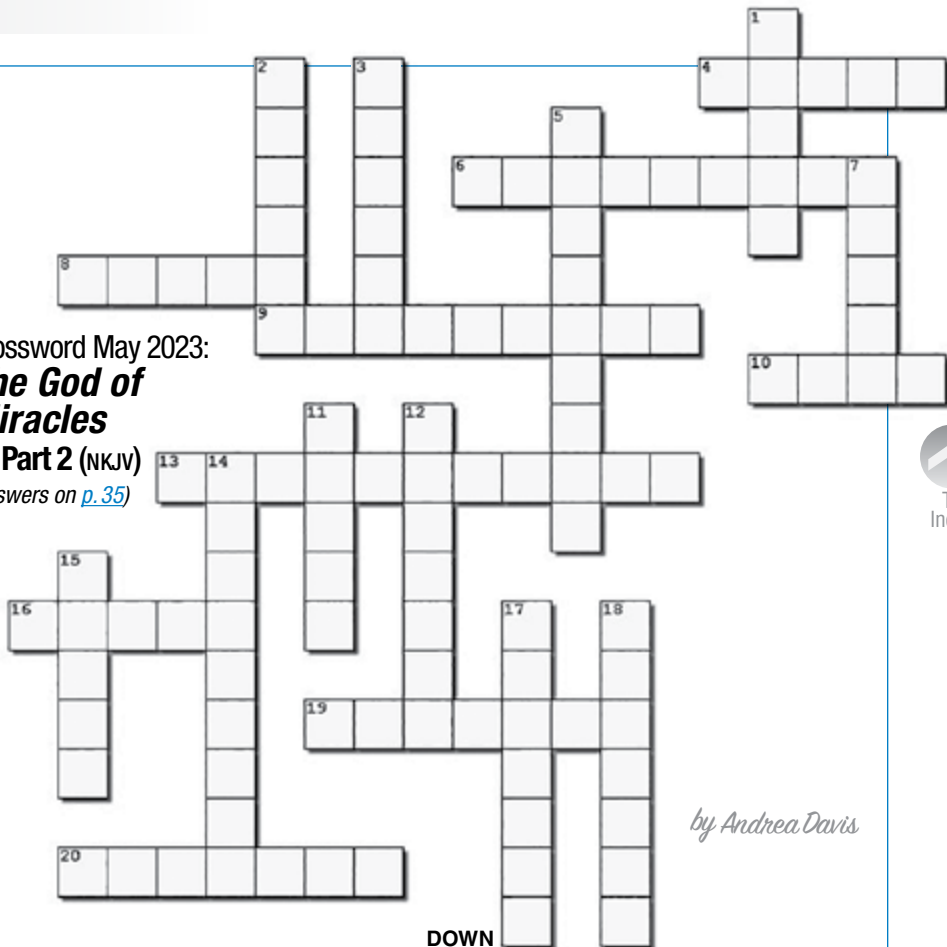


Crossword May 2023:

The God of Miracles

— Part 2 (NKJV)

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



by Andrea Davis

ACROSS

4. ... He saw a man who was ___ from birth. (John 9:1)
6. Now there were in the same country ___ ... (Luke 2:8)
8. But they found the ___ rolled away from the tomb. (Luke 24:2)
9. ... Jesus called His ___ to Him ... (Mark 8:1)
10. ... cast in a hook, and take the ___ that comes up first ... (Matt. 17:27)
13. And ___ the man was made well ... (John 5:9)
16. ... I am the ___ of the world. (John 9:5)
19. ... I say to you, if you have faith as a ___ seed ... (Matt. 17:20)
20. Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his ___ sinned ..." (John 9:3)

DOWN

1. ___ to God in the highest ... (Luke 2:14)
2. So they ate and were ___ ... (Mark 8:8)
3. He asked them, "How many ___ do you have?" ... (Mark 8:5)
5. Now after Jesus was born in ___ ... (Matt. 2:1)
7. This beginning of ___ Jesus did in Cana ... (John 2:11)
11. Lord, have ___ on my son ... (Matt. 17:15)
12. ... I bring you good ___ of great joy ... (Luke 2:10)
14. So He commanded the ___ to sit down on the ground ... (Mark 8:6)
15. He is not here, but is ___! ... (Luke 24:6)
17. ... Does your ___ not pay the temple tax? (Matt. 17:24)
18. On the third day there was a ___ in Cana ... (John 2:1)





Letters to ZLM

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

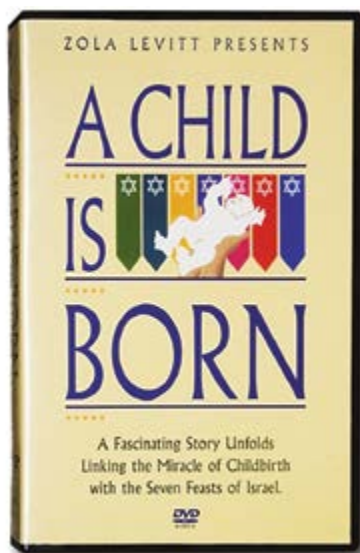
Letters, emails, and comments from [www.levitt.com](#) and [YouTube](#)

A Child is Born

From G.A.: Thank you very much for my DVD, [A Child is Born](#). I saw this presentation years ago and have never forgotten the importance of this message, especially in light of the continual battle to end abortion. We are each truly created in the image of the Lord, to proclaim Him to all. That the Feasts of the Lord parallel this is such a powerful testimony!

Dear G.A.,

The message is vitally important. My birth mother had planned my abortion, but God miraculously stepped in and altered her plan. I am eternally grateful for that miracle 57 years ago. We appreciate your thankfulness for the DVD. —Kirsten



Hidden Heroes

From N.M.: Your February *Levitt Letter* was really good. I especially liked "[Hidden Heroes: How Young Jewish Women Fought the Nazis](#)" (p. 28). I worked in an elderly home in 1999, and a woman on our self-care floor would brag about how much she had helped Hitler during the war. She hated me. One day when I went in to change the towels in her room, she started screaming loud enough to wake the dead! I wasn't allowed to enter her

room again. She left soon afterward, but I wish I had reported her to those who pursue war criminals for prosecution.

Dear N.M.,

I, too, have enjoyed learning about the courageous individuals who helped so many Jewish people during the Nazi atrocities. May the stories of these brave people

live on forever. As for the woman you encountered where you worked, be assured that God will deal appropriately with her for her terrible actions. —Kirsten

(continued on next page)

credit: Yad Vashem



Tema Sznajderman, Bela Hazan, and Lonka Korzybrodska

[The Bible, The Whole Story —](#)

The Kingdom (#7) on [YouTube](#)

From T.H.: Zola taught my young family so much! My kids grew up watching and learning from him. He blessed us all so much. May his memory be blessed.

Dear T.H.,

It's hard to believe that it's been 17 years since Zola walked this Earth. We are thankful to keep his teachings alive on social media and on [levitt.com](#). — David

The Abrahamic Covenant (#1) on [YouTube](#)

From D.D.: Zola was an incredibly gifted — or should I say blessed — teacher. Thank you for keeping these teachings on YouTube. I look forward to watching the rest of this series. I also watch *Our Jewish Roots* on TCT. Blessings to all, and thank you to Dr. Seif for the teaching he does now.

Dear D.D.,

Zola was an incredibly gifted teacher, and so is Jeff. They each have their own style, and we praise God that Jeff stepped in as our Jewish Believer teacher on *OJR*. — David

[Ezekiel \(2023\) —](#)

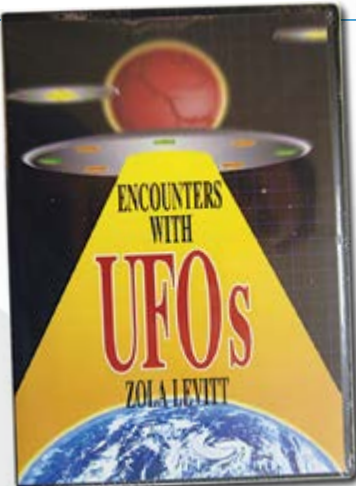
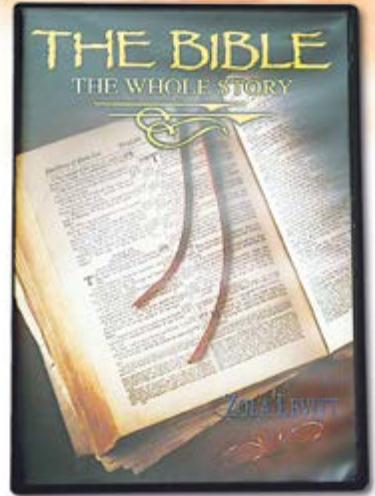
The Battle of Gog and Magog (#7) on [YouTube](#)

From H.T.: I will pray for the peace of Jerusalem — and for peace and less division in the U.S. I'm also praying for the Lord to pour out His Spirit on all mankind in these last days so that many of the lost would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I pray that we will see a mighty work of God before we are all taken home to be with the Lord.

Dear H.T.,

We will stand with you in those prayers! We believe that the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit has begun. — Kirsten

(continued on next page)



[Encounters with UFOs](#) Teaching CD

By Zola Levitt
(recording time: approximately 64 minutes)

What on Earth is happening? Thousands of people from all walks of life are sighting UFOs. This exposé examines actual cases of encounters with extra-terrestrial beings, and reveals an amazing connection between rising interest in the occult and the strange phenomena associated with “unidentified flying objects.”

Desert Breezes— Music by Zola Levitt

From E.P.: Wow, I really love the music and art that came from Zola's heart. It displays the beauty of God and shows that he was truly walking with the God of Israel. Thank you!

Dear E.P.,

Kirsten and I have had the privilege of keeping Zola's songs alive by updating many music videos for the program, as well as the CD recording entitled *Zion Song*, which is offered on [page 19](#). —David

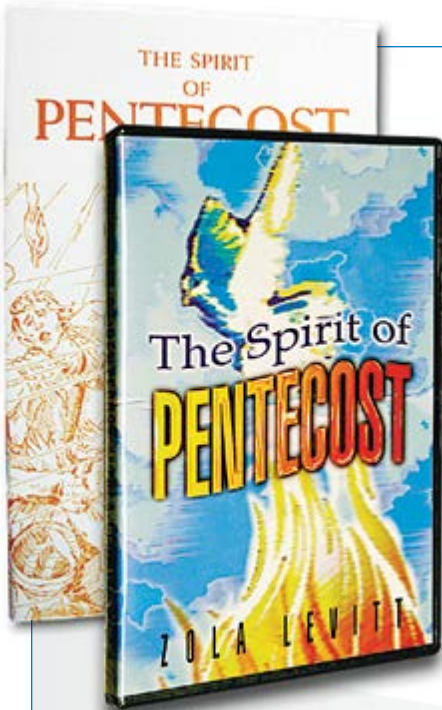


credit: Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a press conference, February 5, 2019

Benjamin Netanyahu

From D.W.: I enjoyed the *March Levitt Letter*—it was very edifying. YouTube has an excellent interview entitled *Bibi: My Story, Benjamin Netanyahu on His Life and Times*. It's well worth the viewing time for anyone. Keep looking up—perhaps it will be today.

P.S. The Bearded Bible Brothers are excellent. ☆



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 Zola's article "*Pentecost*" on [p. 14](#).

(Most titles also available as eBooks.)

Folding Phone Screens Made of Insect Protein

BY JOHN JEFFAY (r) NoCamels.com

Folding smartphones of the future could have screens made of insect protein. It's the most elastic material on earth, allowing a flea to jump 100 times its own height and a dragonfly to flap its wings 30 times a second.

A startup in Israel is genetically engineering the protein — called resilin — as a cheap, effective, and sustainable alternative to the ultra-thin glass or special plastic (polyimide) currently used by many phone manufacturers.

"We don't kill insects in order to take out their resilin," explained Dr. Liron Nesiel, CEO of Smart Resilin, who studied molecular biology, protein engineering, and biotechnology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. **"We use genetic engineering techniques to take the DNA that codes for it and we introduce it into bacterial cells that produce the resilin using a fermentation process."**

To give it strength in addition to the flexibility, the resilin, derived from the fruit fly, is combined with cellulose nanocrystals, usually derived from wood pulp. Together they create a material that is almost perfect. It isn't waterproof in its current form. But researchers are confident that's a problem they can solve.

"We've had a lot of interest from companies that build smartphones, and they aren't troubled by the fact that it is water soluble. They say they can use it in the inner layer of the foldable smartphone," Nesiel added.

The company is working to develop a display with exactly the optical and mechanical properties that partner companies will want. The resilin composite could replace the glass or polyimide screen on any device,



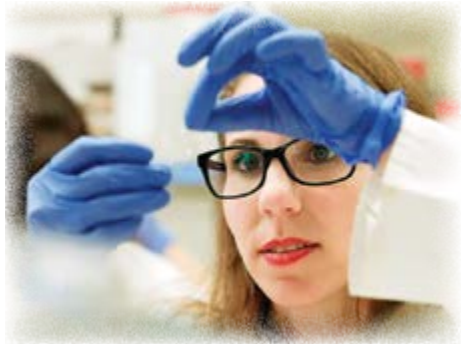
Folding phone screens

credit: Samsung

including wearables, regardless of whether it needs to be flexible.

Resilin also has uses beyond screens. It can store and rapidly release energy better than any other material in the world. When it is stretched or compressed, it hardly loses any energy.

"Think about any kind of shock absorbers, in cars, in aerospace industries, and elsewhere. Resilin is the best shock absorber in the world," noted Nesiel.



Dr. Liron Nesiel inspecting resilin as a clear film

credit: Smart Resilin

She added that it is far more effective in sports shoes than the materials used by many manufacturers.

The company has also developed a hair straightening product, which may be its first commercial product. It coats the surface of the hair with a resilin composite, rather than harmful chemicals. ☆



Tiny Ice Ball Kills Tumors in Minutes



BY ARIEL GROSSMAN (r) NoCamels.com

credit: IceCure



credit: IceCure

top: Doctors performing cryoablation on a cancer tumor with IceCure's treatment **left:** The ProSense system can be used in doctor's offices and clinics

A medical breakthrough now allows doctors to freeze early-stage breast tumors — with no surgery, no scarring, no general anesthetic, and no tissue removal.

The procedure can take as little as 40 minutes. Patients can go home afterward and avoid the painful post-surgery recovery process.

Using an extremely cold liquid to freeze and destroy abnormal tissue — cryoablation — isn't new. Doctors have been doing it in hospitals for 30 years. But IceCure Medical, an Israeli startup based in Caesarea, has developed technology that allows physicians to perform the procedure in an office, without the need for hospitalization.

The breakthrough is in using liquid nitrogen instead of a mixture of argon and helium gases. Liquid nitrogen is cheaper, can be frozen faster, and is easier to maintain at sub-zero temperatures, shortening the treatment time.

Doctors insert a small probe, or needle, into the tumor, freezing it at sub-zero temperatures (-170°C) without harming the surrounding healthy tissue. When the tissue thaws, the cells die and are absorbed by the body.

The procedure is guided with ultrasound or CT imaging, so the doctor can monitor what is going on inside the body while creating an ice ball around the targeted tissue. The patient is either fully awake or lightly sedated throughout the treatment. The ice ball has an analgesic effect, providing additional numbing and pain relief to the treated area.

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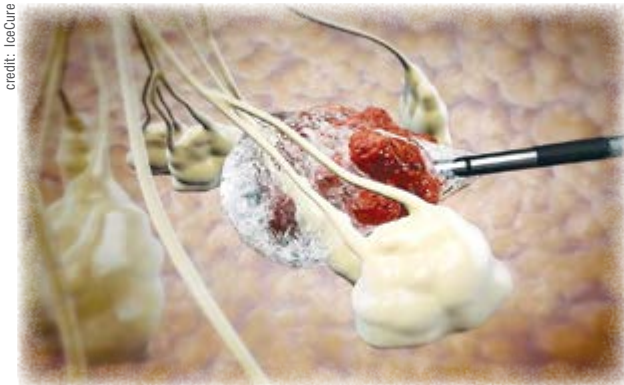


Some cancer patients cannot undergo surgery to remove a tumor because they are at high risk due to other illnesses and medical conditions or because they cannot receive a general anesthetic. And surgery, particularly breast cancer removal, usually must be followed up by reconstructive plastic surgery, which can be expensive and requires additional recovery time.



A physician using IceCure Medical's cryoablation system to treat breast cancer

The old technology for cryoablation, which is only performed in hospitals, uses gases in large, highly-pressurized gas canisters that can be dangerous if handled improperly. Liquid nitrogen, however, doesn't need to be stored in big cylinders. It can be frozen faster than the gases, which reduces the treatment time. Thus, IceCure's technique not only is faster and easier but also saves time and money.



An illustration of IceCure's probe starting to form an ice ball around a tumor

IceCure's ProSense system is distributed across Europe, Asia, and Australia. In the U.S., it sells directly to sites like private clinics, hospitals, and ambulatory centers. ☆



The treatment can be used for breast, lung, renal (kidney), and liver cancers, metastatic tumors, and musculoskeletal tumors. It may also be used for additional applications like neurology and gynecology.

Two-Flag collar pin

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



The God of Miracles

PART 2

For Part 1, see [last month's Levitt Letter, p. 28](#).

Andrea Davis
Managing Assistant
Berg Productions



The God of Miracles, our new television series, continues in May as we discover more about our miraculous God at work—not only as recorded in Scripture but also in testimonies from individuals alive today who have experienced God's supernatural hand in their own lives.



From Wadi Qelt, in the Judean Wilderness, Dr. Jeffrey Seif teaches about Isaiah's prophecy that "Cyrus" would fulfill God's will (Isa. 44:28–45:1). Decades later, King Cyrus of Persia commanded the exiled Judeans to build God's Temple in Jerusalem.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif in the Judean wilderness

Jeff: *Miracles happen in different ways on different days. In the Bible, there are financial miracles. There are breakthroughs. There are medical miracles where the blind see, the lame walk, and even the dead rise. The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus. The Spirit of God can get into people's hearts and minds to facilitate change. Irrespective of where circumstances find you, there is a real God in Heaven. He's not just in Heaven.*

He came to Earth. And He didn't just come into the world in general. He wants to come into your world in particular.

The Jews had been displaced from their homeland because of their sin. While exiled in Babylon, the Lord gives Ezekiel a startling vision. God likens the Israelites to dry, scattered bones, but promises that they will live again. God proclaims: *"Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel"* (Ezek. 37:12).

In thriving Jerusalem, we discover more about the God who watches over His Word to perform it (Jer. 1:12).

Jeff: *Jerusalem is a city that has come back to life. That is a testimony to God's lovingkindness that endures forever. Here, on Ben Yehuda Street, we are looking at a miracle that involves hundreds of thousands of people coming thousands of miles to be in their homeland. Are we living in a world of miracle with prophecy being fulfilled today? Yes! The same God Who watches over Israel is the God Who watches over you.*

From Manger Square in Bethlehem, we hear about Yeshua's birth, the miracle that brought hope for the world.

Jeff: *The genealogy of Jesus Christ (the Messiah), the Son of David, the Son of Abraham (Matt. 1:1). It's a story about hope that made its way into the world through the person of Israel's Messiah. He came into the world in a miraculous way. You can't be a Believer in the Bible without stumbling on miracles every time you turn the page. God is greater than nature.*

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He is greater than your circumstances. He is greater than your problems, and He will bring solutions to those problems.

From Christ Church in Jerusalem, Jeff teaches about the miraculous feeding of a multitude who came to hear Jesus teach.

Jeff: *God performs miracles and establishes new things according to His purpose. In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 8, we're told there was a multitude of people. The men were numbered at 4,000, and there were also women and children. They have nothing to eat. With a few loaves of bread and a few fish, He miraculously feeds the equivalent of 10,000 people. We're told that they all ate and were satisfied. As a matter of fact, when the disciples cleaned up the area, they gathered seven baskets full of leftovers. The moral of the story? God provides!*

Teaching from a promenade overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem, Jeff teaches about a miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

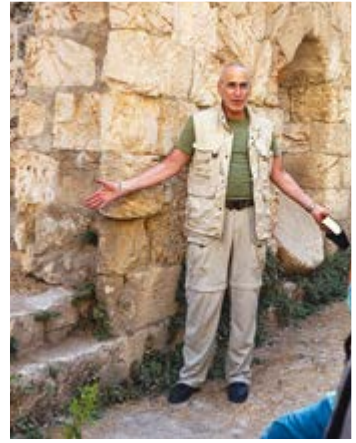
Jeff: *The wine had run out. This, of course, is a big problem on a wedding day. Jesus' own mother reports to Him that the wine is gone. Jesus, behind the scenes, turns water into wine. Furthermore, the attendants at the wedding proclaimed, "Everyone brings out the good wine first, and then when they're drunk, the worst. But you've reserved the good until now." Have you ever heard the expression "the best is yet to come"? There's a God Who can do even far more abundantly than we ask. God cares about the special moments of our lives.*

In John chapter 5, we see a man who had been an invalid for 38 years. Jesus asks if he wants to be healed.

Jeff: *If the Lord asks a question, it's not because He doesn't know the answer. If someone wants a miracle, they have to be willing to declare it and go after it. Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be healed?" The invalid responds that he is paralyzed and can't move. Jesus replies, "Get up, take up your mat and walk." Your affliction may not be a physical paralysis, but a lot of people are paralyzed in life in different ways. If you are at a place in your life when you hear about miracles and you say you need one, I want you to know you can get one.*



Jeff at a field in Bethlehem



Jeff at the pool in Bethsaida

Throughout this series, Jeff teaches about incredible miracles, including Yeshua's resurrection, the greatest miracle of all. **Again and again, we see a personal God Who is not just able, but willing to help people like you and me, if only we will turn to Him.**

Thank you so much for supporting our efforts to bring the Gospel to viewers everywhere. Through your contributions, *Our Jewish Roots* continues to share the Good News of Yeshua with the multitudes.

[Please see the Genealogy Chart on p.3.](#) ☆



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

The Codex Sassoon

World's Oldest Hebrew Bible for Sale

By Sarah Kuta / SmithsonianMag.com

At more than 1,000 years old, the Codex Sassoon is the world's earliest near-complete Hebrew Bible. On May 16, Sotheby's auction house expects to sell it for between \$30 and \$50 million. If the price for the Codex Sassoon hits the upper end of that range, it could become the most valuable historical document ever sold at auction.

The Codex Sassoon has long held a "revered and fabled place in the pantheon of surviving historic documents and is undeniably one of the most important and singular texts in human history," noted Richard Austin, Sotheby's global head of books and manuscripts. Historians say a scribe wrote the Hebrew text on roughly 400 sheets of parchment in the late 9th or early 10th century.

In addition to the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible, its pages also include ownership records and detailed notes on how words should be written and recited.

Protected in a simple brown leather binding added during the 20th century, the book weighs 26 pounds and measures 12 by 14 inches.

"It's a masterpiece of scribal art," noted Sharon Mintz, Sotheby's senior Judaica specialist. She added that the book "radiates both history and holiness."

The document is roughly a century

older than the Leningrad Codex, the oldest entirely complete Hebrew Bible. It's closer in age to the Aleppo Codex, which dates to around A.D. 930 — but that codex is missing nearly 40% of its pages. A "codex" is essentially a hand-written manuscript.

The Codex Sassoon was named for British collector David Solomon Sassoon, who purchased it in 1929 for £350. It remained with his heirs until 1978.

Released Israeli-Arab Terrorist: "Palestine is Ours"

JNS.org

Karim Younis, an Israeli-Arab terrorist who was recently released from prison, stated on Palestine TV that the Palestinians do not recognize the

(continued on next page)



Karim Younis



credit: Jamal Awad/Flash90



Green Line (the pre-1967 border; [see p. 9](#)) and that all of “Palestine” is theirs.

According to a report by MEMRI, he further stated that Israel intends to divide Palestinians but would fail. Younis was freed from prison in January after serving a 40-year sentence for the 1980 murder of Israeli soldier Avraham Bromberg.

Under directives from National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, Younis was driven to a bus station rather than being released directly from Hadarim Prison to avoid a “victory picture.”

“They wanted to tear us apart, but they will never succeed. We are marching on, and we will seize our rights. I say once again: Palestine in its entirety is ours... Mount Carmel is ours, the Jezreel Valley is ours, the Coastal Plain is ours, the Negev is ours, the Galilee is ours, and the Triangle region is ours,” Younis declared.

Never Too Old to Make Aliyah

UnitedWithIsrael.org

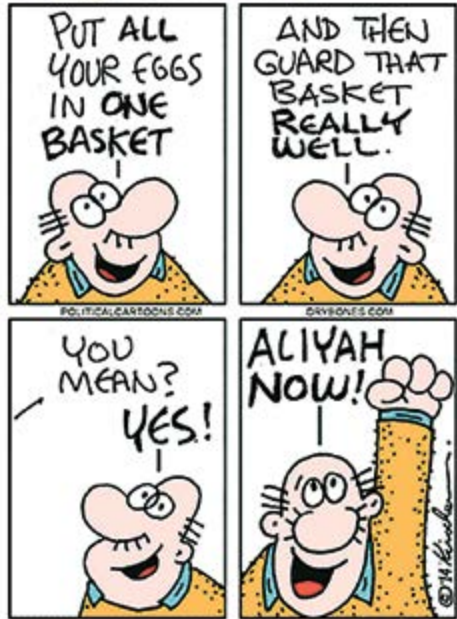
credit: The Goldstein family



Sanford (Sandy) Goldstein and his wife, Rosalie

At age 101, Sanford (Sandy) Goldstein and his wife of 75 years, 97-year-old Rosalie Goldstein, moved from New Jersey to Israel in March, fulfilling

Dry Bones



a life-long dream of making *aliyah* (immigrating to Israel).

A staunch Zionist, Sandy began the *aliyah* process over 60 years ago, but was discouraged from immigrating. This time, the Goldsteins were assisted by a non-profit called Alynu, an organization started by Nechama Levy to help immigrants adjust to their new lives in Israel.

Sandy and Rosalie join an extended family of five grandchildren and their spouses, and 12 great grandchildren, all of whom live in Israel.

“During these times of sorrow and heartbreak, we as a united *Am Yisrael* cry together and celebrate together as one,” said the Goldstein’s daughter, Risa Shapiro, who lives in Netanya. “As Grandpa Goldstein says, ‘Be strong and steadfast,’ (*Chazak V’Ematz*).” ☆





Archaeology

Rare Gold Bead Discovered in Jerusalem

JPost.com

Hallel Feidman, an 18-year-old volunteer, recently discovered a unique bead made from pure gold at a sifting project in the Emek Tzurim National Park in East Jerusalem. The bead was dated to at least 1,600 years ago—the end of the Roman era in Israel.

“Throughout all my years in archaeology, I have found gold perhaps once or twice. So to find gold jewelry is something very special,” said Dr. Amir Golani, an ancient jewelry expert at the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). He added that the bead was likely part of a necklace or bracelet that included additional beads.

Creating the bead required delicate workmanship to affix tens of tiny balls together in a circular shape in order to produce one small bead. “Only a professional craftsman could produce such a bead,” Golani explained. “A good understanding of the materials and their properties is required, as well as control over the heat, in order to, on the one hand, solder the tiny balls together to create a tiny ring, while also preventing overheating which may [cause] all the gold to melt.”

The use of a unique production technique that likely originated from outside of Israel, coupled with the use of gold in creating this bead, suggests the wealth of its owner. It is possible that the bead was created elsewhere and made its way to the City of David through the extensive trade relations between Jerusalem and other regions at that time.

Another theory is that the bead was a gift sent to a Jerusalem resident or was passed within the family through the generations as an inheritance.

The bead was found in dirt that was removed from a grandiose Roman structure on the Pilgrimage Road in the City of David. “The wealth of the building’s occupants is evidenced by additional finds that were discovered in it, like imported clay vessels and a decorated mosaic floor,” noted Shlomo Greenberg and Ari Levy, excavation directors on behalf of the IAA.

A number of similar silver beads dating to the end of the First Temple period 2,500 years ago were found in burial caves during excavations in Ketef Hinnom,

(continued on next page)



credit: Koby Harari/City of David



top: Hallel Feidman holding the bead
bottom: Close-up of the gold bead

credit: Koby Harari/City of David



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not far from the City of David. Still, only a few dozen golden beads have been found in Israel.

Through the years, excavations at the Emek Tzurim National Park have yielded numerous finds from different periods in Jerusalem's history, including rare jewelry, coins, and pottery fragments. ★



Part of the structure where the bead was found

Children Discover Ancient Lamp

TimesOfIsrael.com

Three 4th-grade students found a 2,000-year-old oil lamp in Israel's northern Galilee region, shedding light on the ancient Jewish community that lived in the area.

While on a walk in December, the children — Alon Cohen, Liam Atias, and Rotem Levnat — noticed something poking out of the ground. They initially thought it was an unusual stone, but after carefully pulling it out, they realized that it was a complete oil lamp made of clay.

The students took the lamp to their parents, who informed the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), which confirmed the age of the lamp.

Seasonal rains may have helped uncover the lamp, which surfaced close to a site where the IAA is conducting a dig ahead of the planned construction of a new neighborhood.

"Discovery of the lamp may give us a clue as to how far the borders of the ancient site reached," said IAA archaeologist Haim Mamliya. "If it weren't for the children, we wouldn't know this."

The lamp was typical for a Jewish settlement in the early Roman period. Einat Ambar-Armon, the IAA's director of education, explained: "For the most part, the lamps of this type are without decoration, in contrast to the Roman lamps of the same period. This is a special discovery. It is quite rare to find just a whole lamp like this."

Each year, students from the boys' school participate in a preservation project. School principal Daniella Hazan said that the knowledge the students gained from their experiences in the project enabled them to notice that the lamp was something unusual.

The children and their parents received good citizen awards from the IAA for turning in the lamp. ★



credit: Israel Antiquities Authority



top: Alon Cohen, Liam Atias, and Rotem Levnat with the ancient oil lamp
bottom: Close up of the ancient oil lamp

credit: North District – Ministry of Education/CBU

University Professor: “It’s Not Your Fault You Were Born in Israel”

StopAntiSemitism.org

Lara Sheehi teaches a mandatory diversity course at George Washington University (GW) in Washington D.C. On the first day of classes last fall, she asked students to share their names and identities. The “decolonial” clinical psychology professor went around the room “affirming” each student’s introduction, until one student said she was born in Israel. “It’s not your fault you were born in Israel,” Sheehi replied.

Her outlandish remark set the tone for a contentious semester. **The professor consistently harassed her Jewish students and then retaliated against them when they raised concerns with GW administration.**

In January, Sheehi was named in a Department of Education Title VI Complaint alleging anti-Semitism by the legal arm of StandWithUs. According to the complaint, Sheehi accused the students of racism, encouraged other classmates to demean and exclude them for their Jewish identity, and took disciplinary measures against them after they confronted her. While the department chair and a university dean did nothing, over five hundred academics and mental health professionals sent a letter urging GW to remove Sheehi from teaching duties for the duration of the investigation. Some lawmakers have also noted concerns about her actions.

During the required course, Sheehi subjected Jewish students to anti-Semitic coursework and lectures, at times suggesting their failure to acquiesce would threaten their future as clinical psychologists. Last September, she invited to campus Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, a radical who has falsely claimed that Israel tests its missile systems on Palestinian children.

Shalhoub-Kevorkian used the occasion to denounce “white Israeli racism,” accuse Israel of using global relief work



source: Twitter

George Washington University professor Lara Sheehi

“to camouflage” its “oppressive power,” and call for violence against Jewish people. The visiting professor went on to praise a Palestinian teenager who attempted to stab two Israelis to death in 2015.

Jewish students told Sheehi that they felt targeted by the talk, questioning why they had been subjected to “a two-hour diatribe against one group — namely, Jews.” Sheehi continued to deny and gaslight the students, claiming that they made “damaging Islamophobic anti-Palestinian” comments about the guest speaker. Behind closed doors, Sheehi slandered the students to other faculty members, claiming they were racists.

In November, the Jewish students who came forward at GW were told that faculty had voted to discipline them but were not made aware of their specific offenses. Instead, they were asked to describe what they believed they had done wrong, or else receive a “permanent negative mark” on their academic records.

Sheehi, who is Lebanese, also spreads her bigotry on social media, tweeting vulgar anti-Semitic statements. She is married to fellow anti-Semite Stephen Sheehi, a professor at the College of William & Mary. ☆



Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is
good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22

Visiting Bubbe

A Jewish *bubbe* (grandmother) was giving directions to her grown grandson who was coming to visit with his wife.

Bubbe: "Come into the lobby of the building. There is a big panel at the front door. I'm in apartment 301. So, with your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in. Come inside to the elevator on the right. In the elevator, push 3 with your elbow. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell."

Grandson: "Bubbe, that sounds easy. But why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?"

Bubbe: "What? You're coming empty-handed?" ☆

Dry Bones Christians & Shavuot



drybonesblog.com

Answer Key for May 2023 Crossword (p.21)

Across:

- 4. Blind
- 6. Shepherds
- 8. Stone
- 9. Disciples
- 10. Fish
- 13. Immediately
- 16. Light
- 19. Mustard
- 20. Parents

Down:

- 1. Glory
- 2. Filled
- 3. Loaves
- 5. Bethlehem
- 7. Signs
- 11. Mercy
- 12. Tidings
- 14. Multitude
- 15. Risen
- 17. Teacher
- 18. Wedding



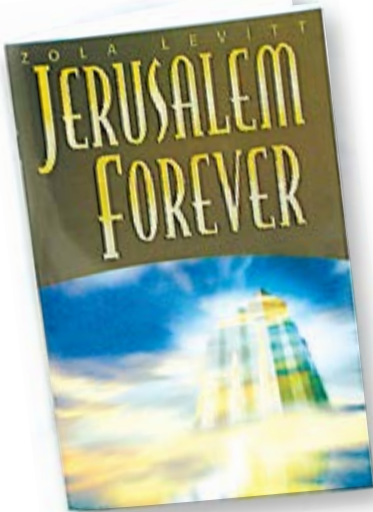
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Days	8 PM Wed 3 PM Fri	9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri	10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri	11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri
TCT Airing Day & Time by zone DirecTV – Channel 377 Dish – Channel 267				
Days	1:30 PM Sun 4:30 PM Mon	2:30 PM Sun 5:30 PM Mon	3:30 PM Sun 6:30 PM Mon	4:30 PM Sun 7:30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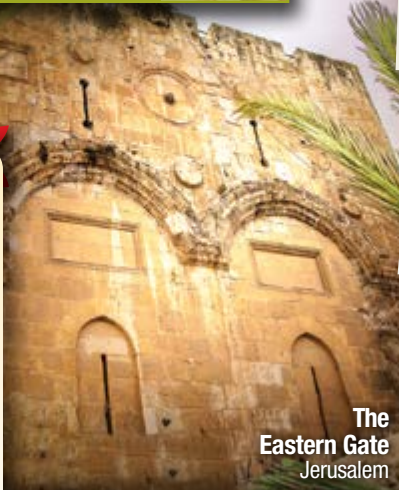
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