

Recent polls regarding Evangelical support for Israel have some leaders worried. Although the numbers remain high among baby boomers, support among younger Evangelicals seems to be declining. If this trend continues, it could have a profound effect on Evangelicalism itself and, perhaps more broadly, on Israel's already tenuous relationship with the international community.

Historically, Israel has found some of her greatest friends among Bible-believing Christians. Today, millions of Christians visit Israel every year, returning home as friends and advocates for the Jewish state. They also dedicate time, money, prayers, and political clout to issues concerning Israel's security and prosperity.

Common Ground

Until recently, many Evangelical Christians and their Jewish counterparts found common ground in their love for the Bible and their shared spiritual heritage through the

(continued p.4)

From Generation to Generation

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif I began working

with Zola Levitt

Ministries in the late 1980s. During that period of working with Zola, I made my first trip to Israel, wrote my first book, provided theological insights for the television productions, expanded the *Levitt Letter*, and established the *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. After a few years, however, I returned to education.

After Zola's passing, I accepted the ministry's teaching responsibility. While it's hard to follow a beloved giant, Zola's supporters, thankfully, didn't reject me. Most appreciated my work and continued with us. But five years later, I again departed for other endeavors.

(continued p.7)

Dr. Jeffrey Seif (credit Berg Productions)



Grafted-In Messianic Roots Sterling Silver Necklace

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

(1½" x ½", 15%" with bail)

Grafted-In Messianic Roots Lapel Pin/Tie Tac

An ancient Messianic symbol — believed to have been used as a seal by the first Christians, who were Jewish — combines the menorah, Star of David, and the Christian fish. This unique design with a tie tac back is gold plated and approximately 1.1" long.







Grafted-In Messianic Roots Decal

This ancient Messianic symbol combines the menorah, Star of David, and Christian fish. Whether you put our unique golden decal on your Bible, car window, doorpost, or purse, you can be sure it will stir curiosities and witnessing opportunities with this tribute to light, God, and abundant love. The delicate, hand-cut decal measures 1.2" x 3".

CONTENTS





Teaching

4 The War for the Heart of a Generation (continued from cover)

Studio Co-host

6 Don't Change My Aisles

Bearded Bible Brothers 8 Beginning and Building

Zola Tours

9 Visiting Israel Again Classic Zola

10 The Ravaging of Israel

Ask the Chaplain

What is the holiness of God? (part 2)

TJF Report

13 Ministry in Eilat

Wise as a Serpent

Maybe Wait on Benefits Until Age 70?

15 ZLM Bulletin Board

Parsons: Hebrew Lesson

16 The Secret Place of God

18 ZLM Order Form

21 Getting News from Israel, Not Propaganda from *Al Jazeera*

22 Letters to ZLM

25 Crossword Puzzle

Science

26 Smart Water Bottle Boosts Healthy Hydration

Medicine

New Hope for People Who "Kneed" a New Meniscus

28 Artificial Intelligence Used for Holocaust Education

30 Select Media Briefs

Archaeology

32 Unique Ancient Coffins Saved from Grave Robbers

Anti-Semitism

34 Roger Waters' Anti-Semitic Concert

35 Jewish Humor



Jewish Humor

What I Have

A little old Jewish lady gets onto a crowded bus and stands in front of a seated young girl. Holding her hand to her chest, she says to the girl, "If you knew what I have, you would give me your seat."

The girl gets up and gives up her seat to the old lady. It is hot. The girl then takes out a fan and starts fanning herself. The woman looks up and says, "If you knew what I have, you would give me that fan." The girl gives her the fan, too.

Fifteen minutes later, the woman gets up and says to the bus driver, "Stop, I want to get off here." The driver explains that he must drop her at the next corner, not in the middle of the block. With her hand across her chest, she tells the driver, "If you knew what I have, you would let me off the bus right here." So, the driver pulls over and opens the door. As she's walking out of the bus, the driver asks, "Madam, what is it you have?"

The old woman looks at him and nonchalantly replies, "Chutzpah."

(More Jewish Humor on p.35)

The War for the Heart of a Generation continued from cover

Patriarch Abraham, Christians have seen Israel as the fulfillment of Bible prophecy as millions of Jews returned to their ancient homeland. They have thrilled at the opportunity to "walk where Jesus walked" while getting to know the modern-day residents of His ancient homeland. They have celebrated God's eternal covenant with His people and the fact that the Land He promised is theirs once again. They have proudly watched God's blessing carry a fledgling state with few friends to a major player on the global scene whose flow of innovations make the world a better, safer, and healthier place. And they have cheered Israel on as she has been forced to fight to maintain her position as a beacon of democracy in an unfriendly neighborhood.

But the polls reveal that the climate is shifting. Many in both communities fear that Evangelical Christianity is an ally Israel simply can't afford to lose. In America, for example, polls from a decade ago indicated that the majority of Evangelicals sympathized with Israel and were committed to ensuring that U.S. policy favored her. They were clear that those political beliefs were the result of their interpretation of Biblical prophecy and the conviction that God gave Israel to the Jewish people. Certainly, there are still vast numbers of Evangelicals about whom these things remain true, but as a



group, they are aging rapidly. By 2030, all baby boomers will be 65 or older, with increasingly waning influence. As such, the concern is for the loss of support among those ages 18 to 29. Studies from 2018 that were repeated in 2021 saw that group's support drop from 69% to 34% in just three years.

A Shift in Focus

Pastors and Christian leaders who

would love to see their commitment to Israel passed on to the next generation are baffled by the inexplicable theological shift. Topics such as eschatology and amillennialism are not as important for today's young Believers* as they were for their parents. Many young

Pastors and Christian leaders...are baffled by the inexplicable theological shift.

pastors are less likely to preach on the End Times. Meanwhile, prophecy and covenant are considered irrelevant by many younger students. Finally, the current focus on the New Testament fails to give younger Believers a solid Biblical foundation and an understanding of Israel's role in God's plan for the ages.

Statistically, however, the most important reason for the waning support for Israel among young Believers is their perception that Israel is a colonialist entity that is not a legitimate part of the family of nations. Rather than seeing Israel through the prism of the Bible as their parents did, they view the Jewish state as an oppressor nation, a violator of human rights, and the antithesis of social justice. And one of the significant forces behind that perception is the concerted effort on the part of Palestinian leadership to insert their narrative into young people's educational experience.

(continued on next page)



[&]quot;Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."



Protesters in 2019 in Berlin

Seeds of Hate in Fertile Ground

"Teach Palestine" is an organization dedicated to helping K-12 educators worldwide expand their curricula to include the Palestinian narrative. Beginning in California, they have extended their reach across the U.S. and around the world. As increasingly more countries add "Ethnic Studies" to their curricula, Teach Palestine provides teachers with free resources based on information gleaned from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem — all haters of the Jewish state.

"Kumi Now," which means Rise Up Now, purports to connect international activists with those on the ground in "Palestine" to bring a just and lasting peace. In actuality, it is an organization spawned by Sabeel, an Arab-Christian organization that is virulently anti-Israel, attempting to delegitimize Israel and designate it an apartheid state. Kumi Now sponsors a yearlong young adult discipleship program that will inculcate the anti-Israel Palestinian narrative in impressionable minds.

Israeli Apartheid Week happens annually in March. College campuses around the world hold weeklong events where Israel is demonized and portrayed as a colonialist empire that murders children and oppresses the Palestinian

people with impunity. Participants are encouraged to boycott Israeli products by entering stores and destroying anything made in Israel. These events have tremendous impact on college campuses, intimidating Jewish students and planting seeds of hatred in the minds of young people committed to social justice.

Where Will Our Help Come From?

Prayer for today's young people is more important than ever before as they face a barrage of anti-Israel propaganda for which many are ill prepared. But that's not the only solution. Bridges for Peace and other organizations, both Jewish and Christian, are investing in today's young people, combating that anti-Zionist narrative with the truth through educational programming and hands-on experiences. Though the battle rages, by working together, we can provide young people a Biblical foundation on which to build their support for the nation of Israel. Solid Bible teaching provides hope that Israel will be able to count on her Evangelical allies for generations to come.



Word of mouth is said to be the best form of advertisement. You and I can impart "words from our mouths" to younger generations. Let's accept this responsibility. — Kirsten



Don't Change My Aisles

Kirsten Hart Studio co-host of Our Jewish Roots

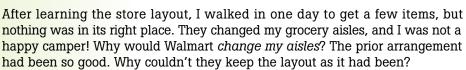




Kirsten's grandchildren pushing carts through a supermarket

Don't Go Changing

David and I are relatively new to our neighborhood in Orlando, Florida, having relocated a little over a year ago. After we moved, I started looking for my new go-to grocery store. We have several within a two-mile radius, but I finally settled on a Walmart Neighborhood Market.



Change is Inevitable

In life, change is unavoidable. Seasons change. Children grow up—they mature. We as adults (unfortunately) get older. Change can be frustrating at times, but it's not always bad.

Our weekly television program, *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*, offers excellent Bible teaching, especially regarding the Jewish roots of Christianity. Like people, *OJR* is not exempt from change. As I write, ZLM is in a transition time. The next time you watch the program, you'll notice a change — new Bible teachers sitting beside David and me: Joshua and Caleb Colson.

Actually, they aren't new. These brothers have been involved with ZLM for over seventeen years! While they've mostly worked behind the scenes, you may have seen them on our program. They have also been actors in our dramatic reenactments, portraying various Bible characters. While they've long been part of *OJR*, soon you will see them in new roles as teachers on our program.

New Placement, Same Product

When my Walmart Neighborhood Market updated its layout, I considered finding a new store. But I decided to give the new arrangement a chance. I thought, "Maybe the new product placement will be easier to navigate. What if I actually find my grocery items more easily than before?" I didn't switch; instead, I approached the new arrangement with an open mind.



I hope you will stay with *OJR* beyond our teaching transition. Yes, our television program will look and feel different. We will have two Messianic teachers rather than one. Nonetheless, our Biblical message will remain the same.

While we "change our aisles," we ask for your continued prayers and financial support as we kick off a new, Yeshua-inspired season of Messianic teaching.

And to Joshua and Caleb, I speak over you both the words that God spoke over His servant Joshua, who led God's people into the Promised Land:

"Chazak! Be courageous! Do not be afraid or tremble before them. For ADONAI your God — He is the One who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you."



From Generation to Generation

continued from cover sidebar

In 2018, my wife Barri and I were on a flight with an old friend: Ken Berg—this ministry's treasured television producer. The serendipitous encounter precipitated my return to teach on ZLM's television program. As always, it's been a joy working with Berg Productions.

Currently, I'm pursuing a PhD at the University of Cambridge. I'm stretched by the rigors of this degree program and other obligations. Recently, I got hearing aids, which I've hesitated to do because they signify that I'm getting older. Aging is no shame, of course. Yet as we age, we must ensure that we raise up a younger generation and enable them to lead.

With this article, I say goodbye again as I continue my education and fulfill other ministerial duties. I also affirm my support for ZLM's future, especially the new teachers on Our Jewish Boots.

Please welcome the Bearded Bible Brothers! If there are more spirited young men somewhere in the world, I haven't met them. Working behind the scenes for years, Caleb and Joshua have impressed me with their enthusiasm, resolve for the Kingdom, and acute Bible recall. Combining these attributes, they skillfully articulate the Gospel.

Will you
join me
in giving a
hearty "three
cheers" for them?

Then, will you join me in making a hearty donation to Zola Levitt Ministries? When I finish giving you a piece of my heart and mind about this transition, I am going to the ministry's website to give them a piece of my bank account. Would you join me in making a \$1,000 donation?

Both Zola and Mark Levitt have given me so very much. If you've also benefited, please don't just *feel* gratitude—*express* it. Speaking for the late Zola, Mark, Berg Productions, the Harts, and the Bearded Bible Brothers, we really appreciate you—this ministry's viewers, readers, and supporters. Thank you for continuing with ZLM. Ministries rarely survive the death of their founder. This ministry's doors remaining open nearly two decades later is a testimony to your faithfulness.

Please join me in supporting the ministry as it retools for you and the next generation of ZLMers.



Beginning and Building

Caleb & Joshua Colson The Bearded Bible Brothers



When the Israelites returned home after the Babylonian exile, they experienced setbacks in restoring Judea. They laid the foundation for the Second Temple, but construction moved at a snail's pace. Governor Zerubbabel, desperately needing encouragement, received God's Word through the Prophet Zechariah: "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin..." (Zech. 4:10).



Zerubbabel, engraving from *Promptuarii Iconum Insignio-rum* published by Guillaume Rouillé (c. 1518–1589)

Our journey as the Bearded Bible Brothers has likewise been long, filled with small beginnings. Although facial hair has been our strength since the seventh grade, we needed to grow in less-visible areas, especially spiritually. While we worked behind the scenes in ministry most of our lives, we never sought the limelight. With an insider view of many ministries and churches, the flaws became disheartening. Still, we've been involved with Zola Levitt Ministries for 17 years, which is a testament to this ministry's integrity and Godly principles. We've also manned our post as the Bearded Bible Brothers for five joyful years, unaware that God was preparing us for greater endeavors.

In humble obedience to God, we recently accepted the teaching responsibility on *Our Jewish Roots*. The Biblical message won't change — the Gospel of Messiah Yeshua, the Jewish roots of the Christian faith, and Israel's role in End Times prophecy will be our continued focus. Our delivery, however, will differ from that of our predecessors. We will also continue our online presence, with a vision to reach new audiences with the love of Yeshua.

The fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. We're asking you, our faithful supporters, to help this ministry grow. More than just dollars, it's time for engagement. Accept the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20) and share the message spoken by Yeshua's followers through the centuries. Also, tell people—family, friends, and others—about this ministry.

Like Abraham, who went to an unknown land, be obedient to God's leading. And like Isaiah, be prepared to say, "Here am I. Send me" (Isa. 6:8).

Don't despise the place to which the Lord has brought you. Serve Yeshua, working for Him rather than for people (Col. 3:23). You're growing spiritual muscle even in the quiet times. If you've noticed Josh's massive biceps, you might think he was born ripped. But his body came through years of conditioning and discipline. In the same way, God uses your "small beginnings" to prepare you for His calling. With each step of obedience, He entrusts you with greater responsibility and authority over time. And "to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

Be ready to grow, and keep your eyes set on the prize of the high calling (Phil. 3:14). Then you will succeed where others have failed.

The best is yet to come!





Zola Tours Report

Visiting Israel Again





Shalom! Though it's been a while since I've written for the *Levitt Letter*, I wanted to share my experience on the amazing Spring 2023 Zola Tour.

For years, I had been praying that one day I would return to Israel. When I stepped off the plane, it was like coming home. It is home!

After our first night in Netanya, the next day we departed for the Galilee. On the way, we stopped at Caesarea Maritima, where Paul was imprisoned. Then we visited Mount Carmel and Har Megiddo, where the last battle will be fought. The Bible truly came alive for me once again.

What a sight it was to see the Sea of Galilee, so blue and welcoming! While aboard the boat "Faith," owned by a Believer, Daniel Carmel, it was such a blessing to sing praises to God! It's been said that if you are in the middle of the Sea and you put your arms out into a V-shape, 22 of Yeshua's miracles happened in the small area before you.

At the Mount of Beatitudes, reading Matthew 5:3–11 aloud in Hebrew and English really brought the Bible to life anew, since Yeshua spoke His words in this area.

We also visited Tel Dan — the headwaters of the Jordan River — and Caesarea Philippi, where Yeshua asked His disciples "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15).

Later, we went up to Jerusalem. What can be said about the capital of Israel? Words fail me. Walking the path that Yeshua took as the people praised Him and shouted "Hosanna" was so memorable. It was also wonderful to experience the Mount of Olives, the Old City, the Jewish Quarter, and the Western Wall once again. Interestingly, the Southern Wall also has written prayers stuffed into the spaces between the blocks. Those walls are the closest remnant that the Jews have to the ancient Holy of Holies. I didn't want to leave. On our final day we visited the Garden Tomb, one of the possible locations where the angel declared of Yeshua, "He is not here, He is risen..." (Matt. 28:6). To the Jew First emissaries Todd Baker and August Rosado led us in receiving communion. What a way to end the tour! My heart was so full and so grateful for our Messiah.

I was so pleased to see how many people remembered Zola, to whom I was married from 1998 until his Heavenly graduation in 2006. As he always said, "A trip to Israel is worth more than ten years of Sunday School."

I am praying to return again. Everyone should be praying about going. Bring friends; bring your pastor. You will never regret going to Israel!











The Ravaging of Israel

by **Zola Levitt** from 1991 32 years ago

Because of many recent media assaults on Israel, I feel compelled to speak out against this Scripturally forbidden cursing of the "apple" of God's eye (see Zech. 2:8). Forgive me if, like Paul, I have Israel constantly in my heart (see Rom. 10:1).

The insidious double standard that the world applies to the Arab/Israeli situation is very disheartening, particularly regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), a bloody group of terrorists with no credibility. Why we should even listen to them, let alone negotiate on their behalf, is beyond comprehension.

Believing Lies

Part of an article in *The Jerusalem Post* notes the "big lie" behind anti-Semitism.

Modern totalitarian regimes — notably Hitler's and Stalin's — refined the big lie and its brazen repetition into an art form. The PLO and the Arab regimes have proven worthy students of the technique. The West, steeped in a tradition of faith in rehabilitation, forgiveness, and redemption, is all too vulnerable









Adolf Hitler Speaking Portraits (1930), photographs by Heinrich Hoffmann (1885–1957)

To Index

to the seduction of the big lie, particularly when it seems to offer hope of peace and reconciliation.

Another sign of our willingness to believe lies is our conciliatory attitude toward the PLO. Below are just a few of this organization's fabrications. As ludicrous as they sound, these lies are not only reported as if they had substance but



Yasser Arafat (1929–2004), Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from 1969 to 2004

- also are believed and used as a basis for attempts to rob the Chosen People of their God-given land (see Gen. 12:1–3).
- In 1972, a PLO official claimed that the Israeli athletes massacred at the Munich Olympics were killed by "the Germans and Israelis, to make the Arabs look bad."
- After the thwarted raid on a Tel Aviv beach [in 1990], terrorist Abul Abbas claimed that his soldiers had killed 500 bathing army officers. (Actually, there were no Israeli casualties. There is no prece-

dent for the PLO to attack army personnel. They have always specialized in attacking unarmed civilians. The foiled Tel Aviv attack immediately followed the PLO's promise to the U.S. government that it would renounce terrorism.)

- During an interview, Yasser Arafat held up an ancient Judean coin, which is imprinted on the Israeli 10 agora piece, claiming that it was Israel's expansion map.
- Recently, the PLO falsely asserted that General Norman Schwarzkopf was interviewed on Israel's army radio. The general supposedly confessed that the U.S. fought the Gulf War at Israel's behest, belittled the Saudi's military

prowess, and applauded the Syrians.

I believe that the distorted perception of the Arab nations and of Israel is a supernatural phenomenon—a prelude to the lies and perversions during the era of the antiChrist, when Israel will be "hated of all nations" (Matt. 24:9).

A Double Standard

The world seems to expect Israel to adhere to a completely different standard of behavior than that of its Arab neighbors. Recently, columnist A.M. Rosenthal in *The New York Times* wrote this:

The double standard in the Middle East has become built into American diplomacy and journalism. It is so taken for granted that hardly anybody notices... In some important part, the double standard comes out of the nature of Israeli society and is a great asset to the country. If a higher standard of ethics and conduct is demanded of Israelis, it is because even its antagonists know it judges itself on democratic and political standards unknown elsewhere in the Middle East... But throughout its existence,...the double standard has not been just a debate about ethics. It became a whole arsenal of deadly weapons against Israel that the world chooses to ignore — vicious racial and religious insult, terrorism,

boycott and embargo, refusal to abide by elementary diplomatic rules of conduct and, now, sabotage of the peace talks.

For almost a half-century, Israel has been bombarded with filth—from the ceaseless and still-continuing anti-Israel and anti-Jewish campaign in almost every Muslim country, worldwide. Filth from mouth, the press, and the airwaves is meant to dehumanize a nation and make its extinction desirable. The world says nothing, does nothing... Israel is asked to pay heavily, in land, for the normal trade and diplomatic relations that every other country gets as an automatic mark of nationhood.

HOPES FOR A MODERN DEMOCRATIC MODLE EAST ONCE RESTED ON THREE LEGS.



DEMOCRACY'S





A Difficult Assignment

Personally, my job has grown more difficult with this ravaging of Israel. I'm bound by Scripture and by inclination to defend the Promised Land, the home of the Kingdom to come. But I'm severely criticized by some in our audience who stoop to anti-Semitism and personal ridicule and then demand to be taken off our mailing list. Actually, I hate to remove them because they, above all people, need to hear the truth about Israel and what's happening in this world. The truth will set you free, the Lord said, and I promise that the truth is what I try to write in every newsletter.

I will curse those who curse Israel, whether they be the foul-mouthed neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan people who write to me or the president and the secretary of state. When people cut across God's will, their rank and position become meaningless. Forgive me if I offend, but as you and I know, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).



Ask the Chaplain



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



Throughout the Bible we are confronted with God's incomparable holiness — His moral perfection, absolute purity, and impeccable righteousness. Almighty God is holy — set apart, different, and distinct from everyone and everything else, as 1 Samuel 2:2 proclaims: "There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides You...."

Becoming holy, like God

While the Book of Leviticus confronts us with God's holiness, there we also encounter this command from God: "... be holy; for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44). This is not a one-time command. It's emphasized again in Leviticus (11:45; 19:2; 20:7,

26) and also in 1 Peter 1:15-16.

Humans can only be made holy in God's sight through the holiness of Jesus Christ. The repentant sinner who trusts in Jesus' atoning death on the Cross is made right with God. Through this justification, the Believer receives the holiness of Jesus Christ and can approach a holy God in a loving, father-and-child relationship. Christian author A.W. Pink underscores this truth in his book, Gleanings in the Godhead:



Moses Sees a Fire Burning in a Bush, engraving by unknown artist for Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us, by Charles Foster (1897)

Because God is holy, acceptance with Him on the ground of creature doings is utterly impossible. A fallen creature could sooner create a world than produce that which would meet the approval of infinite purity. Can darkness dwell with light? Can the Immaculate One take pleasure in filthy rags (Isa. 64:6)? The best that sinful man brings forth is defiled. A corrupt tree cannot bear good fruit. God would deny Himself, vilify His perfections, were He to account as righteous and holy that which is not so in itself, and nothing is so [that] has the least stain upon it, contrary to the nature of God. But [what] His holiness demanded, His grace has provided in Christ Jesus our Lord. Every poor sinner who has fled to Him for refuge stands, "accepted in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6).

While God accepts us as holy through our relationship with Jesus Christ, He calls every Believer to grow in holiness (Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Col. 1:21–23; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; 2 Pet. 3:11). "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). We cultivate holiness as we allow God's Spirit, Who dwells within us, to have control so that we become more like Jesus (Rom. 12:1–2; Col. 3:1–17; 1 John 2:6). As followers of the Holy One, Jesus Christ, let us earnestly pursue His holiness.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

—1 Thessalonians 5:23





Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader

During our 53rd Gospel outreach to Israel in March 2023, August Rosado and I went to Eilat — a resort city on the Red Sea in extreme southern Israel. We had a powerful Gospel ministry with **Anita**, a security guard with whom we struck up a conversation. We told her about the great love the God of Israel revealed to Israel and the world when He sent



August explaining Scripture to Anita

His Son Yeshua the Messiah to die as the *kipporah* (atonement) for our sins (Romans 5:8; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). We offered her a complete Hebrew Bible and said, "It's all in here, and we want you to have your own copy." Anita was visibly touched at receiving this gift of God's Word from us.

Later, August and I shared God's Word about Yeshua with **Natalie**. We also gave her a complete Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts. Natalie was speechless and deeply moved by our gift, as evidenced by the goose bumps on her arm that she pointed out to us!



Todd talking with Natalie

At the Ice Mall, which has an ice rink and is shaped like a giant igloo, three men called us to their kiosk. They wanted to sell us a phone, which we politely declined. Then, August and I took the opportunity to share God's Word with Itai, Shai, and Toby. We explained the Biblical record of God's calling, protection, and preservation of the Jewish people throughout history (Isaiah 43:1–21).

Most importantly, we told them that God sent the Messiah to Israel to bring salvation and eternal life to those who believe in Him (John 3:16; 5:24), and Scripture reveals Him to be Yeshua of Nazareth. We explained that Yeshua forms the unbreakable connection between the two Testaments of the Hebrew Bible. All three men were happy and open to receive the Word of salvation from us.



August, Itai, Shai, Toby, and Todd

They took the gift of a complete Hebrew Bible, accompanied with Messianic Gospel tracts, to further enlighten them to read and understand (and hopefully, believe) this. While we talked, their rabbi came up to the kiosk and shook hands with them. Thankfully, he did not give us any grief about our witnessing. We thank the Lord Jesus for His favor and protection, which allowed us to take this ministry to the Chosen People without opposition.



Wise as a Serpent

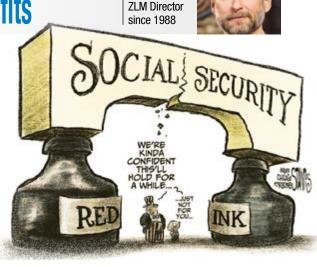
Maybe Wait on Benefits Until Age 70?

My article last month leaned toward taking Social Security benefits at full-retirement age, as opposed to waiting until age 70. That decision can hinge on life expectancy and several other variables. I offered the opposing view to that advocated by financial expert Scott Burns: "Delaying Social Security benefits also works as a form of life insurance—providing a lifetime benefit to a spouse at death."

Please revisit the key arguments of the July "Serpent" piece, because this one leans the other way — toward waiting. I've since attended a seminar whose presenter heartily agrees with Scott Burns. Moreover, my younger son, with his PhD in computational science, also sides with Scott Burns. In fact, my son declared that it was hard for him to imagine how anyone could be in a better position than his mother and me to wait until age 70.

Honestly, the possibility of forfeiting benefits is what stuck in my craw. As you may recall, those who wait until age 70 aren't likely to break even on their benefits until reaching age 82. I've since concluded, however, that this is how it works with insurance products that inherently involve betting against yourself. Thus, here are some pro-waiting arguments:

- Survivor benefits are a factor that could make waiting pay off handsomely. Example: A higher earner with a considerably younger spouse.
- Depending on total income, only 50% or 85% of Social Security benefits are subject to income tax unlike other income and capital gains, 100% of which are taxed.
- The Social Security Administration's cost-of-living adjustments could add up markedly, considering Revelation 6:6, which prophesies that a loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of



Mark Levitt

barley bread will cost a day's pay.

 The stock market is known for its recurring, lengthy periods of mediocre performance. No investments reliably match the SSA's 8% increase per year of waiting.

Last month's article mentioned America's growing dependency ratio,² which could increase to 65% by 2053. Japan's dependency ratio is already notably higher than that, yet their economy is functioning well.

Absent a shorter-than-usual life expectancy, most everyone agrees that waiting at least until full retirement age (if not later) is wise. After all, the benefits are dramatically reduced if taken earlier. If, for example, your full retirement age is 67 and you begin taking benefits at age 62, you'll have a 30% reduction plus restrictions on the income you can earn without a 50% penalty.

In modern times, one of the faithful servants in Matthew 25:14–30 might take Social Security benefits early (at age 62), while the other takes his at full retirement age (67) or at 70 (the latest possible). Depending on their life expectancies and financial needs, both could be deemed faithful.

Notes

- 1 https://www.blueprintincome.com/tools/lifeexpectancy-calculator-how-long-will-i-live/ (This site offers a free, credible life-expectancy calculator using age, physique, life events, fitness, and lifestyle.)
- 2 https://t.ly/PKPv



ZLM Bulletin Board

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Jewish Lives Didn't Matter

On September 29–30, 1941, in a ravine near Kyiv called Babi Yar, Nazis executed nearly 34,000 Jews in 36 hours. It was one of the largest Holocaust mass executions and was part of the "Holocaust by Bullets." Please see this issue's Holocaust survivor articles: "Artificial Intelligence Used for Holocaust Education" (p. 28) and "100-Year-Old Holocaust Survivor..." (p. 30). And don't miss the article

on a contemporary Nazi imitator and notorious anti-Semite: "Roger Waters' Anti-Semitic Concert" (p. 34). "Never again!"



Soviet POWs covering a mass grave after the Babi Yar massacre

GIVING THROUGH LIFE INSURANCE

THIS Year in Jerusalem!

Jews often sing "Next year in Jerusalem" at Passover Seders and when Yom Kippur ends. You, however, can visit this year!
Our Deluxe Tour (Israel only) is from October 16 – 26. The Grand Petra (Israel & Petra) will go from October 16 – 29. Please call our travel manager Sandra at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service at 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime. David and Kirsten team up with our Jewish Israeli land agency to make your pilgrimage the experience of a lifetime.



To the Jew First Fund

Each Levitt Letter highlights
the ministry of our witnesses to Israel.
Todd Baker and August Rosado are
ready to return, and you can participate
in what many churches don't do: send
missionaries to Israel. Todd and August
don't ride motor coaches and see the
sights. Instead, they hit the streets and
witness face-to-face. If you wish to
help cover their airfare, hotel, and food
expenses, please designate a gift to this
ministry's "To the Jew First" fund.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Life insurance is a flexible planning tool that can be used to meet a variety of personal financial needs. The pamphlet Giving Through Life Insurance includes six questions to determine whether a gift of life insurance would make sense for you. It also offers seven ways to give charitably using life insurance. A table summarizes tax benefits, and the Technical Advisory Section addresses basic tax rules and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. Request POM #15.

Zola
Tours
to Israel

See page 36
for details



HebrewLesson

The Secret Place of God by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



ישב בּסֵתר עליון בִּצֵל שַׁדִּי יִתְלוֹנָן

"He who abides in the secret of the Most High will dwell in the shadow of the Almighty" - Psalm 91:1



Read Hebrew right to left! 🛑



"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matt. 6:6). Yeshua did not want outward shows of spirituality or religion (such outward displays are noted in Matt. 15:8 and Luke 18:10–14). While the rabbis called for public displays of repetitive prayers, Yeshua taught that true prayer is a matter of intimate passion within the heart, and that the most powerful

intercessions were made with ruach

ha'koshesh — "groanings that cannot

be uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

Instead of reciting prayers for the sake of ceremony or man's approval, Yeshua instructed us to pray "secretly" to our Father, who "sees in secret." Indeed, Yeshua taught that the Lord is τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ—the One who is in the secret place, hidden from outward forms - which is why Yeshua Himself came to the world in disguise (Isa. 53:2). Our Father rewards those who pray in brokenness and poverty of heart. His reward is revealed divine grace that is expressed openly (ἐν τῷ φανερῷ), unhidden to those with a

heart of faith (Deut. 29:29; Dan. 2:22). God rewards those who believe and seek Him (Heb. 11:6). "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1).

God hides so that we will seek Him (see Jer. 29:13). This seeking involves all our heart - both our "good" heart as well as our bad - since we will not seek God until we understand the inner crisis. It is not enough to know the right words of theology; we must first learn to think the right way. This learning comes through struggling, wrestling, and testing.

We cannot rely on reason alone to guide us, for that relegates beauty, mystery, and hope into oblivion. Nor can we dismiss reason, for then faith becomes absurd and ridiculous. We must find the delicate balance of "faith seeking understanding" - knowing when it is right to question, doubt, and analyze, and also when it is right to affirm, submit, and surrender. Reason is a servant of something more fundamental — the heart or the will - and it is activated at the stir of the soul's desire.



"You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart." —Jeremiah 29:13

ZLM Store

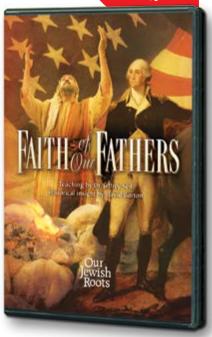
FEATURED ITEM

Faith of Our Fathers DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Old Testament provides many examples of people whose faithful lives contributed to building up national Israel. Their actions inspired a later generation to carve out a modern yet Godly nation in the New World. In this series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif focuses on these visionaries of faith. In addition, Christian historian David Barton presents original source documents, chronicling many of America's Founding Fathers' Christian beliefs and their monumental efforts to anchor this nation to belief in the God of Israel.

What is Faith? The Lord called many people in the Bible (like Abram, Noah, and David) to take risks. Trusting in the Word of God became the cornerstone for the creation of the Hebrew people and was valued by many of those who created a nation in the New World.



Faith by Trial Neither personal ambition nor comfort is a goal for a life of faith. Our examples are Noah, the ark builder, and Zerubbabel, rebuilder of the Temple. The *Mayflower* brought Pilgrims who based their New World "promised land" on a Biblical lifestyle.

Faith in the Unseen Even someone's small faith can grow into something spectacular. Christopher Columbus heard the Holy Spirit speak and encourage his four voyages to the New World. Historical records reveal his devotion and desire to serve the Lord.

Faith to Build a Nation Upon The Bible's accounts of Israel becoming a nation inspired America's Founding Fathers. They believed that God's Word is the ultimate source for

establishing faith and righteousness.



Actors in OJR's series Faith of Our Fathers

Faith in our Leaders Bible heroes like Ruth and David weren't perfect but succeeded by placing their hope and trust in God. Firsthand accounts and original source documents portray George Washington as a man of faith who experienced divine guidance and protection on multiple occasions.

The Cost of Faith Risks accompany a faithful life. Consider the Bible's Esther and

Mordecai. John Adams helped gather representatives of the thirteen colonies around a set of principles that would become the Declaration of Independence.

The Actions of the Faithful Living out faith sometimes requires boldness. The Bible chronicles Peter's actions, e.g. his attempt to walk on the water. Benjamin Franklin called members of the Constitutional Convention to prayer.

The Application of Faith Narratives about men and women of faith pervade the Holy Scriptures. Most of our Founding Fathers believed in the Bible's God of Israel. Their deeds and writings testify to putting faith into action.



ORDER FORM ZLM PRODUCTS PARTIAL LISTING

Israe to th	Right Land	W CAN A GENTILE E SAVED?	
617 1975	LEPPASSI STORES SILVISTOR	America's Godly Ueritage	
3	ESUS	BROKEN BRANCHES ANS THE CHURCH REPLACED ISSAEL?	

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? (pictured)	\$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? (p.20)	\$4	
	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$4	
	The Spirit of Pentecost	\$4	
	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	

Books

America's Godly Heritage (David Barton) (pictured)	\$8_	
The Bible Jesus Read	\$11_	
Broken Branches (booklet) Zola on Replacement Theology <i>(pictured)</i>	\$7_	
The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) (pictured)	\$9	
Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12	
Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18_	
The House That God Built	\$8_	
An Israeli Love Story — Zola's only novel	\$8_	
Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$3_	
Jerusalem Forever	\$ 5_	
Jesus, the Jew's Jew (pictured)	\$8_	
Jews and Jesus	\$10_	
The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10_	
Once Through the New Testament	\$10_	
Our Hands are Stained with Blood (Michael Brown)	\$16_	
The Prophesied Messiah	\$10_	
Raptured	\$10	
The Trouble with Christians/Jews	\$10	
What About Us? (Eitan Shishkoff)	\$10	
7012's Introduction to Hebrew (John Pareons) (n. 22)	¢30	

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**

Featured DVDs

	_
_ Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Beloved Thief (p.20) (64 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19
The Bible: The Whole Story (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39
_ Called Together (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Daniel and the Last Day's Battle (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Divine Deliverance	\$69
Faith for the Future(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Faith of Our Fathers (p.17) (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
New! The God of Miracles (p.23) (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
The Gospel According to Isaiah (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
The Holocaust (pictured)	\$39
Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Kings and Kingdoms (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Much Like Peter(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Revelation: Unveiling the Visions (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Sons of Israel (9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59
Sons of Promise(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
The Witnessing Series(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29
Zion Forever(9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59



ORDER FORM (continued)

Chipping Address Chilling Address (if different) Chilling Address (optional) Chilling Address (if different) Chilling Address (optional) Chilling Address (optional)	State y watch <i>Our Jewish Roots</i> ? Phone No. ()	Zi	p
cilling Address (if different) city cmail Address (optional) On what station/network do you primarily	State y watch Our Jewish Roots?	Zi	p
cilling Address (if different) city cmail Address (optional) On what station/network do you primarily	State y watch Our Jewish Roots?	Zi	p
illing Address (if different) ity mail Address (optional)	State	Zi	p
iilling Address (if different)	State	Zi	p
tilling Address (if different)			
hipping Address			
lame	ease print)	Total	
Any amount that exceeds the listed price is co	nsidered a tax-deductible gift to our minis	Donatio	on?
\$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING	for delivery.		Tax (Texas only)
\$61 to \$97.99, add \$10	Please allow about 2-3 weeks		\$5 extra)
\$16 to \$30.99, add \$7 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9	States, please DOUBLE shipping Please ONLY send U.S. funds.	(only v	vithin the contiguous U.S.)
Shipping & Handling Chart up to \$15.99, add \$5	For shipments outside the United	d UPS shi	pping (\$4 extra)
Please fill out area below	and send the entire page		g (see left chart)
		0.11	
PLEASE SEND THIS ENTIRE 2-F	PAGE ORDER FORM—THANKS	i	We Accept PayPal!
Zion Song (The Harts)	(Music CD)	\$12	
	only) (pictured) (Music CD)		
Beloved Thief (p.20)	(Musical CD)		
Music CDs: Hear sample	es at <u>levitt.com/music</u>		
Zola Teaches the New Tes	tament(6 CDS)	\$29	
 ,	(CD)		THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PARTY NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED
	ved? (pictured)(CD)		
Teaching CDs			
The olassic zola collection	7 9 μισαστο Ισι	ψυυυ	District Communication of the
	on79 products for		Jr Be Save
	of Israel (pictured)(4 of 1 design) stian Studies (info only)		Gentil
	usalem" Bumper Sticker		How Can A
	Land		
	1		Court
	ndar (5784 / 2024)		Town or the second
	(set of 3 different designs)		A MARKET AND A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
•	tecards (12 unique cards)		The second secon
	ctured)		A SA CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF
-	Necklace (with 18" chain) (p.2)		STATE OF THE PARTY NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY NAMED AND AD
	2 x 3 mand out (p.2)		THE REAL PROPERTY.
Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.			
Collapsible, Pro-Israel D			
	sied Messiah" (pictured) 2 f		
	n 3.4 oz m 3.4 oz.		
	n 17 oz		A D
	oot & Hand)		
			No. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10. 10
2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)		Price Total	C 1911 17 17 17 17
Qty. Item 2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)			
4.9	— UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!		

ZLM Store





Beloved Thief

musical <u>DVD</u> and <u>CD</u> (available as a 64-minute DVD or a CD of the complete soundtrack)

The ancient Israeli wedding customs, as they parallel the coming of the heavenly Bridegroom, are portrayed in exciting Israeli music and drama. A fully staged musical show with fine actors and singers in period costumes of first-century Israel.

An enchanting and inspiring hour, worthy of many repeated viewings. (Romantic secret: the leading actor and actress met on the set and married in real life!)

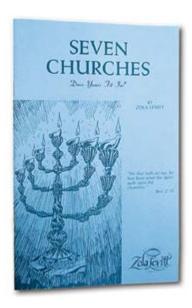


<u>Seven Churches</u> – <u>Does Yours Fit In?</u>

study booklet by Zola Levitt

The Lord appeared to the Apostle John at Patmos and dictated the dramatic Revelation of Jesus Christ. He began with commentary on seven churches of the time, which has remained an object lesson for all generations. The seven churches of Asia as seen by the Head of the Church.

This and many other titles also available as eBooks.



Getting News from Israel, Not Propaganda from *Al Jazeera*

BY BRADLEY MARTIN / JNS.org

Growing up in Marrakesh in the Kingdom of Morocco, Youssef Elazhari had positive views of Jews but not of Israel. There weren't many Jews in Morocco since most of them immigrated to Israel after 1948. Today, some one million Jews of Moroccan descent live in Israel—one of the largest single immigrant populations—while Morocco's Jewish population is around 2,000.

Elazhari's parents belong to an indigenous people — Berbers — who arrived in Morocco prior to Muslims and Jews. His father is a retired university law professor, and his mother is a teacher. His maternal grandfather, who worked in the interior ministry, was a pasha, which meant he kept the peace for all Muslims and hosted Jews regularly in his home. "Growing up, my mother would tell me stories about how she and my father lived with the Jews in harmony until they made *aliyah*," Elazhari explained.

Despite this philo-Semitism [appreciation of Jews and their history], most Moroccans have a negative view of Israel, which Elazhari blames on misconceptions from Arabic media. "Like many Moroccan teenagers, I was a victim of *Al Jazeera* propaganda."

His views on Israel began to change in 2010 after meeting Jacky Kaddosh, president of Marrakesh's Jewish community. Kaddosh was lecturing on religious diversity at the synagogue. Elazhari attended as part of a student delegation from the Center for Language and Culture, an Englishlanguage school in Marrakesh. "I came in there wanting to challenge him when he spoke about Israel," Elazhari explained. But after talking with Kaddosh privately following the event, Elazhari began to re-examine his presumptions about Israel.

In May 2022, Elazhari visited Israel for



left: Youssef Elazhari right: the Al Jazeera logo

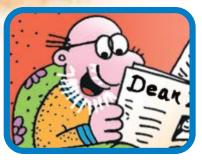
the first time, as part of a Moroccan delegation organized by an NGO that connects young Israelis with peers worldwide. "I felt at home when I was in Israel," the marketing and advertising entrepreneur asserted.



But two of his employees quit after his outreach to Israel. One of them, the co-founder of Elazhari's brand strategy firm, accused Israel of killing Muslims and thus wanted nothing to do with Israeli markets and investments.

Sharaka.

Later, Elazhari heard from the nonprofit organization Sharaka, which organized after the Abraham Accords in 2020 to connect young leaders from Israel, The United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. (Sharaka is Arabic for "cooperation.") Now the director of the Morocco branch of Sharaka, Elazhari is optimistic about the future of the relationship between Morocco and Israel. "Morocco is now in a stronger position, geopolitically speaking, due to its close relations with the U.S. and Israel," he stressed. "We still have a long way to go, but my vision is to bring Moroccans back from Israel so that they can tell their stories."



Letters

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

Appalled by Lara Sheehi

From J.C.: I am appalled by the remarks of Professor Lara Sheehi at George Washington University. (May 2023 Levitt Letter, p. 34.) I am for free speech, but her misinformation campaign has crossed the line. For her to make such a rude remark during class ["It's not your fault you were born in Israel."] is despicable. Sheehi's students were apparently not only shocked but appalled as well. I stand 100% with her students who complained to the university's administration. The rise of anti-Semitism in this country is very frightening. I have been to Israel, and I wish that I could go back. I love this small nation, and it saddens me to learn of these remarks.



George Washington University Professor Lara Sheehi

Thank you for revealing the anti-Semitic professor, Lara Sheehi, who is spreading her venom on the George Washington University campus. As a second-generation Lebanese American, I was appalled that she would demean her students with such hatred. Sheehi's actions and propaganda are an embarrassment and a stain on us of Lebanese heritage. Her efforts to bring anti-Semitic speakers to the campus are reprehensible.

My four grandparents fled Lebanon in the mid-1890s to avoid the oppression of the Ottoman Empire. They were Maronite Catholics seeking a better life in America after living in a barbaric, Muslim society. Two of my ancestors were brutally martyred for refusing to convert to Islam.

Dear R.K.,

What your ancestors endured is unimaginable — what horror! May mankind learn from such history and not repeat it. —David



Israeli Flags Made in China

From J.R.: I hate to complain but I've just got to get this "off my chest." A while back, I ordered a flag of Israel from v'all. When it arrived, I saw that it was "Made in China"! Does Israel not have flag factories? Let's give the business to them.

You might be interested in the article, "Inside an Israeli Flag Factory Before Independence Day" at touchpointisrael.com. Thanks for hearing me out and may God bless you.

(continued on next page)



Dear J.R. and other readers:

Please advise if any of you are aware of U.S. vendors who wholesale Israeli flags (made in Israel) and other merchandise of Messianic interest. This ministry loves to support the Holy Land as evidenced by our selling maps from Israel, AHAVA hand/foot/body lotion, and Grafted-In necklaces. — Mark

The God of Miracles —

Our Daily Bread (#6) on YouTube

From A.S.: Thank you for your recently-aired interview with Avi Mizrachi. Seven years ago, my wife and I had a one-week visit to Tel Aviv. The Dugit Messianic Outreach Center was a long, but doable walk from our hotel. I had known about the cafe since the 90s, but we were disappointed to find it closed and vacant. Thankfully, your interview cleared up what happened. We were there probably in the time when the landlord did not renew the lease and Avi was speaking to raise money to purchase a site. I'm glad they could keep that location!

I suggest that your tours include an evening at Dugit. I know there's so much to see in 10 days, but I believe that interacting with Israeli Believers and seekers would make an even greater impact on the group than some of the sites because it is a living reality.

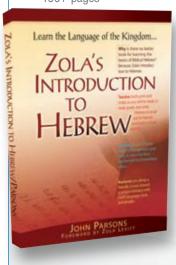




I'm also thankful to hear that your ministry directly assists Believers b'eretz. In my experience—and I've been a Believer for over 40 years—Messianic Jewish ministries do only social welfare projects in Israel. I completely agree with your observation that Israel can build its own hospitals and buy their

(continued on next page)

400+ pages



Zola's Introduction to Hebrew study book

There is no better book for learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Unlike most academic books on Biblical Hebrew, this course provides a step-by-step approach for you to understand the Hebraic mindset while learning the alphabet and vowel signs. Studying at your own pace, you will master the Hebrew alphabet, sound out Hebrew words, and connect your studies to your heart by reading Hebrew prayers, blessings, and passages from Scripture!

own ambulances. It is our charge from the Lord to help our *chaverim* [friends, partners] there. I'm happy to begin supporting ZLM more regularly!

Dear A.S.,

Having Israeli Believers join us and teach us makes Zola Tours stand out from most others. Thanks for your suggestion regarding the Dugit Messianic Outreach Center. — David

Online Videos

From M.P.: Shalom! Thank you for your YouTube channel. I look forward to your new videos each day. And yes, I'm a little bummed out on the days you don't post a video. Absence, however, makes the heart grow fonder, so I am that much more filled with joy when there is a new post.

P.S. The clip of Zola playing his recorder on a wall/cliff was a very pleasant treat and has become a fond memory. Keep up the good work. *Toda Raba*.

Dear M.P.,

We post as many videos to social media sites as possible and as quickly as we can. Enjoy! —Kirsten

A Tale of Two Raptures

on YouTube

From A.C.: Matthew 24:31 mentions gathering [Yeshua's] elect from the four winds from one end of Heaven to the other. It sounds like these elect are already in Heaven. Or am I missing something here?

Dear A.C.,

Elect does not equal salvation. God chose the Jewish people; He elected them for a specific purpose and plan. But we as individuals



Caleb (left) and Joshua (right)—"The Bearded Bible Brothers"

choose to take that next step from being His elect, to being adopted into the family of God through the blood of Yeshua. Consequently, there are the elect of the Church as well as the elect of Israelites. The elect who survive the Tribulation are the whole House of Israel (this is what Yeshua refers to in Matthew 24).

The saints mentioned in Revelation are those who believe in Yeshua during the Tribulation and do not deny His name. In Revelation 6, those saints (who can also be the elect) who perish by the hand of the beast are taken directly to Heaven. Their act of faith in dying for the name of Yeshua is accounted for righteousness. Hopefully, this explanation brings some clarity. — The Bearded Bible Brothers

Our Jewish Roots

From S.D.: Thank you for your television program. I love the Messianic teaching and adore the beautiful singing—it's very inspiring! And it helps me feel closer to Israel; the Bible comes alive! May God continue to support you in spreading His word.

Dear S.D.,

Dear S.D. You are most welcome for OJR and our singing! We have treasured adapting Zola's music. —David and Kirsten

(continued on next page)

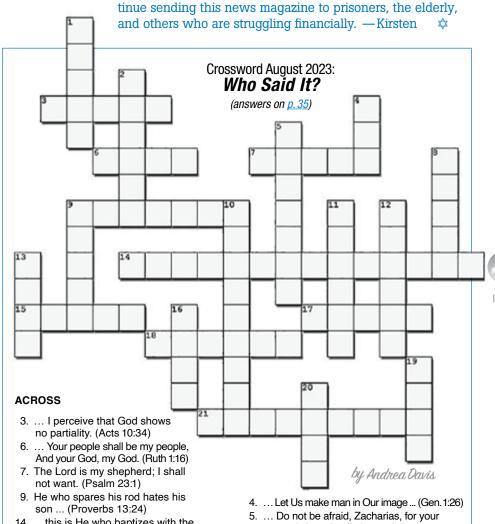


Big Thanks!

From D.J.: You have been more faithful than me. Thank you so much for continuing to send the *Levitt Letter* even though I was remiss to donate so you could bless others also. I love the ministry that Zola started, and that you are carrying on. May the Lord bless you and keep you as we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Dear D.J.,

ZLM is grateful for your financial gifts, as the cost of publishing and mailing the monthly LL continues to increase. Your regular contributions help us to con-



- 14. ... this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. (John 1:33)
 5. ... Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for you prayer is heard ... (Luke 1:13)
- 15. ... He is God in Heaven above and on Earth beneath. (Joshua 2:11)

 8. ... love your enemies, bless those who curse you ... (Matthew 5:44)
- 9. ... God has made me laugh ... (Gen. 21:6)
- righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

 10. ... Can anything good come out of Nazareth? (John 1:46)
- 21. ... Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (Lk.1:42)

 11. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given ... (Isaiah 9:6)
 - 12. ... if I perish, I perish! (Esther 4:16)
 - 13. ... My soul magnifies the Lord. (Luke 1:46)
 - 16. ... Am I my brother's keeper? (Genesis 4:9)
 - 19. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him ... (Revelation 1:7)
 - Evil company corrupts good habits.
 (1 Corinthians 15:33)

DOWN

- 1. ... Be strong and of good courage ... (Deuteronomy 31:7)
- 2. Give strong drink to him who is perishing. (Proverbs 31:6)

Science in Israel

Smart Water Bottle Boosts Healthy Hydration

BY ELIANA MISCHEL (r) NoCamels.com

Most of us know that water is crucial for maintaining our health, but many of us don't drink enough of it. That's why Tel Aviv-based impacX has developed a smart cap that prompts people to drink. It does this by vibrating, lighting up in a variety of colors, or sending a message to a smartphone.

Patented technologies are encased into the seemingly commonplace bottle cap, which includes several elements. A laser measures the water level inside the bottle. The smart cap is also connected to an app that enables users to personalize their hydration. There's an initial "onboarding process," explained Yoav Hoshen, senior VP of sales and development at impacX. "You're asked about things like your weight, age, and the opportunity to connect it to sport tracking devices and your Apple Watch, or to any third-party app, such as Apple Health or Google Fit."

The app can also "take into account the impact of the amount of activity you have been doing throughout the day, and even the weather in your location - all from the sensor on the water bottle," Hoshen noted.

A personalized hydration plan is based on an individual's needs, health, and lifestyle. While the technology is complicated, using the bottle is fairly simple. It displays a red light when the user needs to have drunk more water by a certain time and a green light when the user is on the right hydration track.

Proper hydration has numerous benefits including improving alertness, reducing obesity, aiding in digestion, improving energy levels, and slowing down aging. Still, 47% of Americans don't drink enough water, according to a recent poll. The impacX team's studies show that people indeed need reminders to drink properly and that





The smart bottle and the app

prompts from its smart bottle can change behaviors.

impacX launched its smart bottle in Israel with plans to expand elsewhere. "We get enormously positive results from all kinds of people: young and old; people who do sports or not; pregnant women; people who have medical problems — and apparently most of them are not drinking enough water," Hoshen added.

The company has teamed up with Bayer AG pharmaceutical company, international food giant Danone, and sports beverage producer Gatorade, which incorporates the impacX tech to manage athletes' water consumption habits.

Medicine in Israel

New Hope for People Who "Kneed" a New Meniscus

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

If your knees feel fine, you don't think about the meniscus. Two of these cartilage pads cushion each knee in the area where the thighbone, shinbone, and kneecap meet. But if a meniscus gets damaged due to injury or illness—one of the most common types of knee injuries—you probably won't be able to think of much else because of the pain. While some patients get by with pain management and physical therapy, many others have the damaged meniscus removed, increasing their risk of developing osteoarthritis.

In 2006, Israel's Active Implants began developing the world's first artificial meniscus, NUsurface, which has since been implanted in nearly 1,000 patients. Currently, it is available in Israel and many European countries. Pending FDA approval, the implant could come to the U.S. in early 2024.

Manufactured in northern Israel, the implant is made of medical-grade polycarbonate urethane and mimics the natural structure of the meniscus with reinforcement fibers inside. The first trial in-human implant of the product was performed in 2008 on a 58-year-old Italian man and is still going strong.

Now, the company is developing the next-gen NUsurface. Unlike the current implant, which still has no direct competition, the new device is not a "one-shape-fits-all" product. Instead, it incorporates drug-delivery with an implant. Eran Ganz, president of Active Implants, said that it will be able to "deliver one drug to help with the short-term healing and then a second drug that helps in the first eight months to delay development of cartilage degeneration."

"There is an enormous unmet need in the management of post-meniscectomy knee osteoarthritis in terms of treatment and especially prevention," stated Dr. Elizaveta Kon from Italy, president



top: Dr. Eran Ganz **bottom:** Illustration of the NUsurface artificial meniscus in place

To Index

of the International Cartilage Regeneration and Joint Preservation Society. She added: "The project demonstrates a huge ambition to address those needs, by developing novel technologies to treat young patients, as well as older patients who already developed post-meniscectomy osteoarthritis."

Ganz explained that "there is no other synthetic meniscus that can be used in patients aged 40 to 60, who are too old for biological regenerative surgical treatment but too young for joint replacement. This is a treatment gap we are seeking to fill with our solution, which can delay the need for joint replacement."

Based on the results of animal studies in Israel, Active Implants is anticipating the first in-human trials of the enhanced NUsurface implant. It could take about five years, however, until the device hits the market.

Artificial Intelligence Used for Holocaust Education



BY DEBORAH COLE / TimesOflsrael.com



A man wearing VR goggles next to a screen depicting Holocaust survivor Inge Auerbacher



Inge Auerbacher fears for a future when Holocaust survivors like her can no longer bear witness. But advances in virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) give her hope that their stories will live on. Auerbacher, 88, is the star of a new VR experience called "Tell Me, Inge." In it, she recounts her horrific experiences as a small, Jewish child in a Nazi concentration camp and how she endured.

"I've been involved in many [Holocaust education] projects, but I find this one is made for today," said Auerbacher. "I wanted it to be able to be used for all ages, particularly young people. With a book, you have to create your own

images in your head, but with this technology, you see it with your own eyes."

The AI Experience

Through AI, users wearing a VR headset can have a "conversation" with Auerbacher, asking about her encounters with heartbreaking loss and occasional heroism

The project is a collaboration between Los Angeles-based company StoryFile, the World Jewish Congress, and Facebook-owner Meta. To develop it, Auerbacher sat for two days of interviews, answering around 60 questions in fluent German and English to create a database of video files.

When a user asks a question based on prompts on the screen, the system spools to that section of the interview using key words. Inge then "answers," creating the effect of an immersive, one-on-one exchange.

On screen, Auerbacher wears a butterfly scarf and brooch—for her, symbolic of the 1.5 million children killed by the Nazis. In the backdrop, 3D animated graphics and archival footage illustrate her story.

Resilience and Tenacity

StoryFile co-founder Stephen Smith said that the technology allows users to talk to people who experienced history. "I spent much of my life with Holocaust survivors and in spite of all of the hate that they experienced, they have made amazing contributions to society," he noted. "There's a great deal to take from the human spirit, from resilience and tenacity. So, this project is giving young people the opportunity to open their eyes very early."

Auerbacher was the last Jewish child born in her hometown of Kippenheim, Germany in 1934 before the Nazis' genocidal campaign. While her grandmother was deported to Riga and murdered, Auerbacher and her parents were sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp when she was seven years old. She would be 10 before she gained her freedom.



Stephen Smith appears in an interactive video on StoryFile's website



Holocaust survivor Inge Auerbacher in Berlin in June 2023

"Cancer" of Hatred

Now traveling the globe as an author and educator, Auerbacher told the German parliament last year on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

IT WAS CALLED A "CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY"

RECOURSE THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE SHOWS . . .





that it was essential to fight the spreading "cancer" of hatred.

Auerbacher hopes the new technology will be one more weapon in the war against disinformation and hate speech. "When you're dead, you're gone ... It's important to me that this history does not die," Auerbacher explained.

Beyond the program for headsets, smartphone and computer versions are available.





Helen Kahan, center, with her daughter Livia Wein and son Lucian Kahan

100-Year-Old Holocaust Survivor Throws First Pitch at MLB Game

By Max Baker / JTA.org

She didn't have the velocity of a major league pitcher, but Helen Kahan still had plenty to be proud of as she threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a game between the Tampa Bay Rays and New York Yankees on her 100th birthday.

On May 5, Kahan stood on the pitcher's mound alongside her daughter and son. It didn't matter that the throw only made it halfway to home plate. The crowd of more than 25,000 gave her a standing ovation as Rays relief pitcher Kevin Kelly, who caught the pitch, congratulated her with a handshake.

Born in 1923 in Romania, Kahan was forced into a ghetto as a young adult before being deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, then Bergen-Belsen and Lippstadt. As the end of the war approached, she escaped from a death march before the camp was liberated by the Soviet army in May 1945. In 1967, Kahan fulfilled a lifelong dream when she and her family immigrated to the U.S.

An in-game segment shared her story. "They heard how I lived ... that I have a number from Auschwitz," Kahan said, pointing to the Nazi tattoo on her arm that reads 7504.

"I never could have imagined celebrating a birthday like this, let alone my 100th!" Kahan asserted. "I'm so grateful that I am here to tell my story and help the world remember why kindness and empathy are so important for us all."

During pregame festivities, the Rays announced a \$10,000 partnership grant with the Florida Holocaust Museum, where Kahan has been a longtime volunteer educator.

Israeli M.D. and EMT Save Passengers on Flight

JewishPress.com

Passengers aboard a United Airlines flight in March were surprised when not one, but two medical emergencies occurred during the flight from Tel Aviv to Chicago.

The flight departed at 1:00 a.m. Shortly thereafter, a 60-year-old man lost consciousness and collapsed, injuring his face in the fall. When flight attendants called for any medical practitioner aboard to assist, United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Yisrael Kahan rushed to the man's aid, along with a physician who works in the pediatric ward in Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

They treated the man, bandaged his injuries, and stabilized him. As the pair were still helping the man and monitoring his condition, a woman in her early 20s complained to a flight crew member that she was feeling faint.

The crew alerted Kahan and the doctor to the second emergency. The pair quickly assessed the woman's



(continued on next page)



condition and discovered that she was dehydrated and needed an infusion of fluids and medication. They administered an IV and ensured that her vitals stayed within safe ranges for the flight's duration.

Kahan, who is experienced in field treatment, always brings some medical equipment in a small trauma kit when traveling. He used his equipment along with medical equipment available on the plane to treat both passengers.

"I'm glad I happened to be on the same flight to Chicago as the people who needed help and that I was able to stabilize and monitor their condition. The lifesaving mission of United Hatzalah volunteers doesn't end at Israel's borders; we always try to help everyone in need," Kahan recounted later.

Thanks to the efforts of Kahan and the doctor, both patients remained stable throughout the flight and no emergency landing was required.

With most of the media portraying Israelis as heartless, stories like this one need to be shared everywhere. Bravo to the flying medical duo! —David



Contents of Yisrael Kahan's kit

D.C. *Nakba* Rally: America is a Zionist Country, "Must Be Destroyed"

MEMRI.org

A Nakba Day rally was held in Washington, D.C. in May. Nakba is Arabic for "catastrophe," which is what Palestinians call modern Israel's establishment. In the D.C. event,



Rafiki Morris, All-African People's Revolutionary Party

speakers and activists glorified violent Palestinian resistance and condemned Zionism and the U.S. government.

Rafiki Morris, a member of the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, declared that the U.S. is an "illegal racist state" that "must be destroyed!" He added that "one of the conditions of being part of the U.S. government is that you must be Zionist; that is the precondition to get in that house. So we say, let's burn that house down as well." Morris also emphasized that "the only good Zionist is a dead Zionist."

Lance Lokas, a member of the Palestinian Youth Movement, praised Palestinian "martyrs" and resistance, saying: "For every martyr that Palestine gains, another rises to take his place." Another unnamed speaker said that the U.S. is complicit in the "genocide of the Palestinian people" and led the crowd in the chants "Shame, shame, USA!" and "Shame, shame, Biden!"

Dr. Osama Abu Irshaid, the executive director of American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), also spoke at the event, saying that the U.S. government is corrupt.

Footage of the rally was posted on the Instagram and Facebook pages of AMP as well as the Instagram account of the D.C. chapter of the Black Alliance for Peace.





Archaeology

Unique Ancient Coffins Saved from Grave Robbers



BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH (r) JPost.com



Ossuaries found near Kafr Kanna in the Galilee



A burial cave with uniquely decorated stone ossuaries (bone coffins) was recently discovered in the Galilee. The ossuaries, about 1,850 years old, were used for the secondary burial of bones from Jews who died during the Bar Kokhba revolt era (A.D. 132–135).

The cave was located near Kafr Kanna, an Arab town four miles northeast of Nazareth in the Lower Galilee. This area is the Biblical Cana of Galilee, where Jesus turned water into wine as His first miracle (John 2:1–11).

Spotting the Theft

As part of intelligence activity, Kafr Kanna police and inspectors with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) arrived at a private lot. To their astonishment, they found that extensive work with heavy equipment had been done there, completely destroying an ancient burial cave on the location. All that remained of the cave was a single burial mound.



IAA inspectors with the ossuaries

IAA inspectors noticed a number of piles of dirt in the lot, which seemed to be hiding something. They asked the owner of the land, who was responsible for the construction site, to remove the piles of dirt. Behind them, they discovered

an ancient burial cave hewn out of the rock, with nine burial mounds in it. At the entrance of the cave, inspectors found three decorated stone ossuaries that were used in ancient times to store human bones. They were empty and not in their original places, which raised suspicion that the cave had recently been robbed of antiquities.

Construction work at the site was stopped. Several suspects were summoned for questioning at the police station on suspicion of damaging antiquities and failing to report their discovery. At the same time, the IAA's inspectors documented and removed the ancient remains out of concern for additional thefts.

Uniquely Designed

According to Dr. Eitan Klein, deputy-director of the IAA's robbery prevention unit, "The ossuaries are made of soft limestone and rectangular in shape, and they have flat lids that were adapted to them." The decorated coffins were used by Jews in the Galilee during the 2nd to 3rd centuries A.D.

Carved on top of the lids were images related to Jewish burial that were influenced by Greek culture. On top of one coffin was a model of a mausoleum (burial structure) — sometimes identified as a *nefesh* — a memorial "hand" to mark the deceased. On the other



Ossuaries discovered in the Kafr Kanna cave

side of the coffin, a carved circular wreath had holes drilled into it, which may have symbolized the deceased person's victory over death.

Typical for the Period

Stone ossuaries were an exclusive feature of Jewish burials from the 1st century B.C. until the time of the Bar Kokhba revolt in the 2nd century A.D. Factories in Jerusalem and the Judean Plain area produced most of these coffins during this time. Such burials were prevalent in the Jerusalem region, the mountains, and the Judean Plain. This burial custom became widespread in the Galilee following the failure of the Bar-Kokhba rebellion and the arrival of a Jewish population from Judea. Finding such decorated stone ossuaries in the cave near Kafr Kanna indicates the existence of a Jewish settlement there.

"The diggers completely destroyed an ancient burial cave and were allegedly in the midst of looting another burial cave," noted Amir Ganor, director of the IAA's robbery-prevention unit. "We will never know what the destroyed cave looked like or what was inside it and disappeared. Cultural assets almost 2,000 years old were lost forever." He added, however, that one of the caves was saved, along with archaeological and historical information about the site.

Damaging antiquities is a criminal offense in Israel. Individuals are legally obligated to report any accidental finding of antiquities to the IAA.

Anti-Semitism

Roger Waters' Anti-Semitic Concert



JNS.org

At a Berlin concert in May, Roger Waters likened Anne Frank to Shireen Abu Akleh, the *Al Jazeera* journalist who died during a shootout between Israel Defense Forces soldiers and Palestinian terrorists. Waters, the former bassist and vocalist for the rock band Pink Floyd, also dressed up as a Nazi SS soldier and pretended to fire a rifle.

Concertgoers saw the names of Frank and Abu Akleh projected on a large screen, suggesting that the deaths of the Holocaust victim and the Palestinian journalist were equivalent.

Israel's Foreign Ministry tweeted the next day, "Good morning to everyone but Roger Waters, who spent the evening in Berlin (Yes, Berlin) desecrating the memory of Anne Frank and the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust."

In February, city leaders in Frankfurt, Germany announced they were canceling the May concert by Waters, citing his reputation as "one of the world's best-known anti-Semites." A statement by the city mentioned his support for the BDS movement, anti-Semitic imagery at his performances, and past interviews with media affiliated with the Hamas terrorist group. After Waters took legal action, however, a local court decreed that the city must allow the performance.

Waters has a long history of anti-Semitic behavior, claiming in October 2022 that the Jewish state was attempting to manufacture a new intifada with the goal of killing as many Palestinians as possible.

"The Israelis seem now to have a policy of murdering so many of them, that they are absolutely trying to create another intifada, so they can make it an armed conflict where they're a thousand times, 10,000 times more powerful than the Palestinian people ... so they can just kill them all," Waters said on "The Joe Rogan Experience" podcast.

Waters also called Hamas the "demo-



top: Waters dressed in an SS uniform bottom: Waters on stage in Berlin

To Index

cratically elected government of Gaza."
He acknowledged the existence of its "armed wing" yet justified the Palestinians' "absolute legal and moral right to resist the occupation" and then minimized the impact of their rocket attacks against Israel. The rockets "almost never do any damage because they're very ineffectual," he claimed.

Earlier in May, Pink Floyd member David Gilmour and his wife, Polly Samson, publicly accused Waters of anti-Semitism, setting off a widely publicized feud. "Sadly @rogerwaters you are anti-Semitic to your rotten core. Also, a Putin apologist and a lying, thieving, hypocritical, tax-avoiding, lip-synching, misogynistic, sickwith-envy, megalomaniac. Enough of your nonsense," wrote Samson.

A Note from Mark in the <u>December 2022 Levitt Letter (p.14)</u> is entitled, "We Don't Need No Education." Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters is one of its three dramatic examples that exemplify the urgency of this current edition's cover article, "The War for the Heart of a Generation." — Mark



Jewish Humor, etc.

No Respect

Moishe Goldstein — the big boss at his company — was complaining in the staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. The next morning, he brought in a small sign that read:

I'M THE BOSS!

He then taped it to his office door.

After he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said:

"Your wife called. She wants her sign back!" 🌣



Answer Key for August 2023 Crossword (p.25)

Allower Itey	ioi August i	2020 010334401	u (<u>p. 20</u>)
Across:		Down:	
Peter	15. Rahab	 Moses 	11. Isaiah
6. Ruth	17. James	Lemuel	12. Esthe
7. David	18. Hannah	4. God	13. Mary
Solomon	21. Elizabeth	Gabriel	16. Cain
14. John the		8. Jesus	19. John
Baptist		9. Sarah	20. Paul
		10. Nathanael	







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.





Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars.



(Israel & Petra, \$7,288)

SPRING TOUR 2024

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

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

> Spring 2024 prices are pending.

For more info and registration see: www.levitt.com/tours Call Zola Tours at 214-696-9760 or email travel@levitt.com.

A refundable deposit by credit card will hold your reservation.

Eastern Gate

Jerusalem