



The

Humility o

om kipp

By Sam Nadler / WordOfMessiah.org

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

inside: Our Loving Bridegroom <u>p.8</u>

To Index

The most solemn of the High Holy Days, *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) is about God reconciling His covenant people to Himself. Even though we are the offenders, God took the initiative to restore a relationship with us. He provided everything needed in Messiah. Regarding *Yom Kippur*, the Old Covenant required the offering of a blood sacrifice (Lev. 16; Num. 29:7–11), for there is no forgiveness without a blood atonement (Lev. 17:11).

Since so much of the atonement of this day is discussed in Leviticus 16, the *Yom Kippur* portion in Leviticus 23 contains only a brief mention of the sacrifice; this portion instead emphasizes humility: "*You shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the Lord ... [because] If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people*" (Lev. 23:27, 29, NASB).

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Rosh Hashanah 5784: Sunset Sept. 15 to sunset Sept. 17 Yom Kippur: Sunset Sept. 24 to sunset Sept. 25 Sukkot: Sunset Sept. 29 to sunset Oct. 6

**REMEMBER:** 

### The Significance of the Lamb in Genesis 22

By Matt Sieger JewsForJesus.org

In the synagogue on *Rosh Hashanah*, it is traditional to recite the *Akedah*, the story in Genesis 22 of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.

God told Abraham, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you" (Gen. 22:2). Thus, "Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife" (Gen. 22:6).

As the two of them went together,

(continued p.7)



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### Art Director/Graphic Designer

Our ministry seeks a freelance, part-time (about 40+ hours/month) graphic designer. Working remotely, this person will produce our two monthly newsletters, product packaging, and promotional materials. We're seeking a pro-Israel, mature Believer who has:

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- strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to work on a tight schedule.
- excellent communication skills to effectively collaborate with team members.

### Please email your cover letter and resumé to Jane's attention at <u>staff@levitt.com</u>.

# The Humility of Yom Kippur continued from cover

### **The Importance of Humility**

Humbling your soul means that the mind, emotions, and will respond to both our sin and God's gracious provision of atonement. Why is humility important? *Yom Kippur* reminds us that we are fallen creatures. Rather than trusting in our own good works, we should rest in the grace, mercy, and atonement of God in Messiah.

Works apart from Messiah are efforts to prove what we can do. As an expression of faith, our humility accepts the atonement of God. Atonement was based on the offerings that were made for cleansing of sins; but with-

### *Yom Kippur* reminds us that we are fallen creatures.

out humility, those offerings would have been useless.

Only a humble heart can relate to God. True humility is God-oriented, not self-oriented. Self-abasement and so-called low selfesteem are not the

answer; they are still self-oriented. Only in humility can one apply and enjoy the benefits of forgiveness in the atonement made by Messiah. By humbling ourselves in Him, we find rest from selforiented works. Biblical humility is essential to restoring relationships.





FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO RECONCILIATION

#### 1. Recognition of sins:

Sin breaks relationships when we think of ourselves rather than others. Recognize the pain you caused. Don't blame others or look at their shortcomings; take responsibility for your own actions and attitudes. Honestly and humbly admit your wrong (James 5:16a).

#### 2. Remorse over sins:

Realize the offense you caused and identify with it, as though it happened to you. Don't minimize the offense to others simply because you're insensitive to or unconcerned with those same offenses (Psalm 51:3–4).

#### 3. Repentance from sins:

To repent means to turn away from an improper attitude or action. Unrepentant sin hurts you by undermining your integrity and hardening your heart to those around you. Many are "sin sick" from unconfessed, unrepentant sin (Psalm 32:3–5).

#### 4. Repayment for sins:

We could never pay for our own sins. Therefore, Messiah willingly paid the debt we owed. This, however, does not negate our responsibility to pay our debts to our fellow man. Genuine humility repays whenever possible. God's grace provides us the opportunity and the enablement to honor Yeshua in all our ways. Zacchaeus did this when he demonstrated his faith after trusting in Messiah (Luke 19:8–9).

#### 5. Dedication beyond sins:

Faith and humility are seen in making lifestyle changes that reflect our sincere love for the Lord and others (Matthew 22:36–40).



Detail of *Day of Atonement*, painting by Isidor Kaufmann (1853–1921)

Yeshua invited people to trust in Him because of His humility and genuine concern for them:

Come to Me. all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and You will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. -Matthew 11:28-30

### The Mind of Messiah

An attitude of humility is the safest position for

sinners — if you lie on the ground, you can't fall down! Water rests only at its lowest point. When Messiah's atonement is applied to your life, humility is manifested in your marriage, business, and other relationships. In this, God gets all the glory! Genuine repentance and humility of soul is the basis for relating to others, especially to God. A section from the New Covenant speaks to this vital issue:

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than Himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Messiah Yeshua, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. — Philippians 2:3–8

from 1945 print published by the Board of Trustees (Wikimedia Commons) scanned by JGHowes Self-Detail of Christ in Gethsemane, painting by Heinrich Hofmann (1824–1911), Riverside Church, New York City This is the key to success in relating to others. Just as Yeshua, the humble

King, came and died so that we might Index

Through the aspect of humility in light of Yom Kippur, we can better see God's plan for reconciling His covenant people to Himself, and us to each other. Do you want your life spiritually fulfilled? God can bring contentment to your soul. He actually wants your life fulfilled more than you do. Recognize that only God can fulfill your life, and that humility is the gateway to the restoration of every relationship.

live, so we must seek the good of

others above our own. People will

likely want to be your friend when you

humbly put others ahead of yourself.

Humility is the Key

Learning the Jewish roots of Christianity reveals the depth of the feasts and how intricately the Old Testament is interwoven with the New Testament. — Kirsten xx



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



David and I have led worship together for over 35 years. Though songs and styles come and go, we love all the various formats of worship songs to our God.

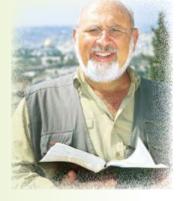
30,000 Years

A few years ago, Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes released their song, *The Blessing*. This is a highly popular version of the Aaronic Blessing recorded in Numbers 6:24–26. The song references how God keeps His covenants for a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9). The bridge states: "May His favor be upon you, and a thousand generations, and your family and your children, and their



children, and their children." Many scholars consider a Biblical generation as about 30 years. By multiplying that number times 1,000, we realize that God faithfully keeps His covenants for 30,000 years. That's a long time!

While few of us will live another hundred years, most of us who are parents and grandparents seek God's blessings for our families. We want future generations to know and experience His faithfulness. Thus, we do what it takes to ensure that God's Word flows to our descendants, as well as to others beyond ourselves. Even so, we probably don't share God's message just like our ancestors did.



### **Lasting for Generations**

**Zola Levitt** *(left)* was a pioneer in teaching the Good News through the eyes of a Jew to his generation. Though he passed away in 2006, his message continues through books and videos. We who work at and support Zola Levitt Ministries continue sharing that message — the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While this ministry likely won't exist for a hundred generations, the ripple effects of our teaching actually could.

For over five years, Joshua and Caleb Colson have greatly impacted others, especially younger

generations, through their Gospel teaching on social media. Now, they are the new messengers on *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*. They teach God's Word to our current "family" and new families everywhere. As you may have discovered, however, they don't always share the Gospel like their "ancestors" (predecessors) did.

### **Fresh Vision**

ZLM has an important calling and responsibility — sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. To do this, you and I must keep this ministry strong. I believe that our ZLM family will do what it takes to make sure that our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will be able to learn from *OJR* for many generations. Would you join with us in supporting our new teachers on *OJR*? Please

speak (and pray) positive, life-affirming words over Joshua and Caleb's lives, their vision, and their teaching. Would you also partner with us financially to ensure that ZLM's vital message continues for years to come?

For creative ways to give, go to <u>levitt.com/donate</u>. There, you can donate by text and make gifts in kind — such as a vehicle, gift cards, or other assets. You can also write to our P.O. Box, call our office at 214-696-8844 during business hours, or reach our answering service anytime at 1-800-WONDERS (1-800-966-3377).

# The Significance of the Lamb in Genesis 22

continued from cover sidebar

Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" (Gen. 22:7). And Abraham responded, "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son" (Gen. 22:8).

Later, just as Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, God called out for him to stop. Abraham saw a ram with his horns caught in a thicket. Thus, he sacrificed the ram instead of Isaac. Then we read: *"So Abraham called that place, The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided' "* (Gen. 22:14).

On Rosh Hashanah, the *shofar* is sounded to waken the soul to the need of repentance. The *shofar* is a ram's horn, reminding us of the ram Abraham sacrificed on Mount Moriah.

Abraham told Isaac that God would provide a lamb. But God provided a ram. Did Abraham get it wrong? Maybe not.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about someone who, like Isaac, would not resist the sentence of death: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Who was this Lamb? Some 700 years later, another prophet, John the Baptizer, said of Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Could this be the Lamb that Abraham had envisioned when he told Isaac that God would provide the Lamb? Jesus told the Jewish religious leaders, *"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My* day; he saw it and was glad" (John 8:56).

Did Abraham foresee that Jesus would be



source: Wikimedia Comr



Detail of Abraham receives his only son, Isaac, back from God, illustration by Otto Adolph Stemler (1872–1953), Standard Bible Story Readers, Book Four (1927)

crucified near Mount Moriah, where Abraham had sacrificed the ram in Isaac's place?

God provided a ram to rescue Isaac from physical death. But He provided Jesus the Lamb to rescue us from spiritual death eternal separation from God. The Book of Hebrews states:

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death" (Heb. 11:17–19).

According to the New Testament, Jesus, God's one and only Son, literally came back from death after three days in the grave. That gives all who believe in Him the hope of resurrection after this life.

# **Our Loving Bridegroom**

Caleb & Joshua Colson The Bearded Bible Brothers





top: Detail of The Seventh Seal of the book shall be opened by the Lamb, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld from Die Bibel in Bildern (1860) right: Yemenite Jew blowing the shofar in 1934

### "No, Caleb. I won't do it."

The Coronavirus (colorized)

"Don't be a baby, Josh. We need to write an article about the Rapture for the Levitt Letter."

"You know how mobs work! You can't make everyone happy."

"Yes, we may upset someone. But when has that ever stopped us from speaking the truth?"

"OK, but you're answering any hate mail."

Shana Tova! As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we recall Zola's teaching on the Seven Feasts of the Lord. As boys, we watched him explain how Yeshua's first coming fulfilled the Jewish spring festivals. But the fall feasts, which begin with the Feast of Trumpets, have yet to be

which begin with the Feast of Trumpets, have yet to be prophetically realized.

It doesn't take a Bible scholar to see the similarities in the ceremonial blowing of the *shofar* and the catching away of Messiah's Bride (1 Thess. 4:16–17; 1 Cor. 15:51–53). Yet for many people, arguments about the Rapture's timing have been replaced with alternate thinking: there is no "catching away." The global pandemic shook many Believers\* to their core. A growing number now believe that the Tribulation has begun, and we must endure it to the end.

Please consider this: Why would our loving Bridegroom — Yeshua — subject (continued on next page)

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



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His Bride (all Believers) to seven years of His Father's judgment and wrath?

Scripture didn't prompt this confusion. Instead, it's a heart issue. For the first time, many Believers felt helpless and hopeless during COVID lockdowns. Some lost jobs and homes; others lost friends and family members. While some claim that it was God's wrath, we don't believe that our loving Father orchestrated the pandemic. And while the troubles were not good, they (and all trials of this life) are nothing compared to the horrifying plagues, punishments, and suffering to come.

What we experience now are merely the birth pangs. Creation has been in travail, and our spirits eagerly await our glorious transformation (Rom. 8:19–23).

You may think: "Joshua and Caleb, I thought you guys were funny. Shouldn't you write about bacon-wrapped shrimp, circumcision, and beards?" It's tempting, yes. But the irony is how easily man's perspective of God changes based on circumstances. But neither God nor His promises have changed. Don't lose heart, for we have our blessed hope (Titus 2:13). The Rapture of Christ's Bride is imminent. Our glorified bodies await. Don't let this season be for mourning and affliction. Instead, let it be a time of celebration and remembrance. Prepare your heart for our coming Bridegroom. Be watchful and ready!

For clarity on the Rapture, and why we support a Pre-Tribulation theology for the Body of Messiah, please watch our episode entitled, <u>A Tale of Two Raptures.</u><sup>1</sup>

Love in Yeshua, Joshua and Caleb 🛛 🛠 To

<sup>1</sup> <u>https://youtu.be/l1ColGZVZII</u>



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

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

These make excellent gifts for a Jewish friend.



# Classic Zola False Claims of an "Occupied" Nation

by **Zola Levitt** from 2003 20 years ago





I continue to be troubled by the "vision" that America and many European nations have for a Palestinian state. I recently visited what are claimed to be the capitals of two occupied nations: Ramallah, the capital of the so-called occupied Palestinian territory, and Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Interestingly, the Cherokees were courteous and helpful, and didn't invade any local Walmarts and blow up any "occupiers of America" (i.e., us) — even though they truly are members of an occupied nation. Meanwhile, the people in Ramallah, who are actually squatters on land that is not their own, attempt to murder those they charge with being occupiers.

### **The True Motivation**

GU

Their claim that Palestine is the only occupied nation is more than just false. Almost every nation in the world could be considered as occupied. In fact, the only one inhabited by its land-grant owners is Israel. The U.S. and Australia both have native populations displaced by Europeans, and arguably most nations that are now considered Arabic have had their native populations slowly assimilated through intermarriage or even by the forceful sword of Islam.

In fact, there are three things motivating the desire for a Palestinian state: cash, cash, and cash. It's the preference of the Saudis and other oil merchants to buy off the United Nations and even some U.S. officials who will do anything for money, including becoming the proud founding fathers of a terrorist Palestinian state.

### **Blurred Vision**

Of course, there are some who misguidedly want to create a Palestinian state to make peace. But having the best of intentions doesn't make something right. *The Jerusalem Post* recently referred to President Bush's "vision" for a Palestinian state as "blurred vision" and that about says it all.

There's another argument that Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's position of agreeing

(continued on next page)



to a Palestinian state under "certain circumstances" is the best position. In a *Post* article last November, Max Singer wrote: "The advantage we get by saying that Israel is ready to agree to a Palestinian state under certain circumstances, is that we fulfill our vital need for a vision of an ultimate solution that is believable to the great majority of the public and to fair-minded people in other countries."

The part that works in this statement is that the Palestinians will never really



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

adopt a democratic government that is peaceful and accommodating to Israel. Consequently, it is safe to promise them a country with such qualifications. People in other countries simply can't believe that the Palestinians wouldn't

There is simply no truth in the idea that the Palestinians really want to peacefully coexist with Israel agree to do it (in large part because they believe the propaganda that Palestinians are peaceful and only want a homeland — thereby making their rejection of treaties appear senseless).

Still, all in all, it seems wrong to me for the president to make a statement that he "has a vision for a Palestinian state." There is simply no truth in the idea that the Palestinians really want to peacefully coexist with Israel, and any discussion toward those ends is a waste of time. If Arafat and his crowd (including his flunky "prime minister") had a choice between a viable Palestinian state living peacefully next to Israel or a chance to murder as many Jews as possible, they would always take the second alternative.

By touring Israel, you can see for yourself the portion of land that Palestinians run, and understand that Israel simply cannot "give away" another single acre! —David  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

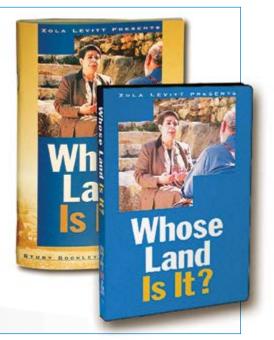
### Whose Land Is It? DVD, transcript booklet

Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

**Program 1**: Zola irrefutably reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land's rightful owners; then defeats arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant.

**Program 2:** In Ramallah, Zola interviewed Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who articulated the Palestinians' best arguments for claiming Israel.

**Program 3:** Two scholarly Christians — Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Muslim) unveil the fallacies in Ashrawi's assertions.



### Ask the Chaplain



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



A Different people define a miracle in various ways. A genuine miracle is beyond man's ability to achieve. Christian apologist Lee Strobel, quoting the late Richard Purtill, explained a miracle as "an event brought about by the power of God that is a temporary exception to the ordinary course of nature for the purpose of showing that God has acted in history." Alternately, C.S. Lewis, writing in his book *Miracles*, defined a miracle as



Jesus Saves Peter from Sinking, engraving by unknown artist from The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation (1879)

"an interference with nature by supernatural power." Ultimately, a miracle is a supernatural intervention that transcends and suspends the laws of nature.

The first miracle of the Bible is Creation itself, as recorded in Genesis chapter 1. The last miracle in Scripture will be God's creation of the new Heaven and the new Earth as prophesied in Revelation 21:1. The Bible reveals that God can perform miracles directly or through intermediaries, including Moses, the other Prophets, the Apostles, angels, and ultimately through His Son Jesus Christ. God performs these extraordinary occurrences to show His supernatural power and to reveal His character, purpose, and plan to humanity.

The Bible indicates that even some who oppose God receive limited power to perform miracles. Satan and his demons carry out miraculous signs to mislead people (Luke 4:5, 9; John 8:44; Acts 16:16–18; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:14). In the End Times, "false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive" people (Matt. 24:24). Thus, Scripture advises us to "test the spirits, [to determine] whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). The antiChrist will also act to deceive people, "according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders" (2 Thess. 2:9).

God's miracles show that He alone is the true God and that none other holds supreme power. His miracles are often judgments on false gods (such as Baal on Mount Carmel — 1 Kings 18:20–39) or other deceivers (such as the Egyptian "magicians" — Ex. 7:8–12:30).

Miracles are one aspect of the Messiah's ministry. The Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 35:5–6 foretold some of the miracles the Messiah would perform, which Jesus fulfilled during His three-year ministry in Israel (Matt. 11:4–6).

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing...."

—Isaiah 35:5–6

Next month, we will look at miracles in the New Testament and how Jesus' miracles proved Him to be the Messiah and the Son of God.





# ShaliachReport From the Galilee to Mount Hermon

Dr. Todd Baker ZLM Staff Theologian TJF Team Leader

During our Gospel ministry in March 2023, August Rosado and I visited the Nof Ginosar Kibbutz in the Galilee. At the gift shop, we met **Alex**, a German Jew who immigrated to Israel some time ago. August and I explained that we frequently travel to Israel to teach God's Word and bear witness to Yeshua the Messiah to His people. We added that the Lord Jesus performed 18 of His 33 miracles in and around the Sea of Galilee, and much of His ministry happened in the Galilee. Alex affirmed this fact.

We also showed Alex some of the major First Coming Messianic prophecies from the *Tanakh* (Old Testament), which Jesus alone fulfilled as recorded in the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament). Alex astutely commented that both Testaments parallel each other in Jesus the Messiah. We marveled at her insight!

We invited her to dig deeper into God's Word to solidify the truth that Yeshua is the Messiah of the Jewish Bible. Alex warmly accepted a complete Jewish Bible. It includes a comprehensive appendix that lists and explains each Messianic prophecy that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled!



August, Alex, and Todd

The following day, August and I traveled to snowy Mount Hermon to visit the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) military base. Upon arrival, we respectfully approached the guard house and met two friendly soldiers—**Avidor** and **Tal**. These men appreciated our support for what they do in defending the only democracy in the Middle East.



Avidor, Todd, and Tal

We gave them water and snacks. Also, we offered them two complete Jewish Bibles, explaining that they include the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah written by His Jewish followers. August and I noted that Mount Hermon was the site where Yeshua was transfigured and revealed His divine glory (Matt. 17:1-8). His appearance with Moses and Elijah validated that both the Law and the Prophets foretold the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah (Luke 9:30-31). Avidor said that he already knew this! Praise God that both soldiers accepted the Bibles. Now they can learn more about the life and ministry of Yeshua. Please pray for these brave soldiers' safety and salvation, as August and I planted Gospel seeds in their lives.

Our continued Gospel outreach is only possible through your prayers and financial support. Would you pray for open hearts as we share the love and truth of Messiah Yeshua with people in Israel? Also, could you give to help cover our expenses (airfare, lodging, food, etc.) as we take the Good News to God's People (Rom. 1:16)?



A Note from Mark Next Generation Bible Teachers

Mark Levitt ZLM Director since 1988





"Hit 'em where they live. That's my motto." Spoken by Juror #7 (played by Jack Warden) to Henry Fonda's character (Juror #8) in the 1957 movie, 12 Angry Men.

Today's Church

Jack Warden in 12 Angry Men

is hitting fewer people where they live because progressively fewer are attending any church. Consider these excerpts from a January 2023 article, "Losing Their Religion: Why U.S. Churches are on the Decline," in *The Guardian*.

- Thousands of churches are closing each year in the U.S. as congregations dwindle and a younger generation abandons Christianity altogether — even as faith remains prominent in American politics.
- About 4,500 Protestant churches closed in 2019, with about 3,000 new churches opening, according to Lifeway Research.
- The younger generation doesn't feel like it's being accepted in a church environment. This accelerating trend is reshaping the U.S. religious landscape.
- In 1972, 92% of Americans said they were Christian, Pew reported, but by 2070 that number will drop to below 50%.
- Closures are often due to a failure of churches to adapt. If the church ages and doesn't reach young people, or the demographics change and leaders don't figure out how to reach the new demographic, that church ends up closing.

sobering statistic: "Just 16% of Americans say that religion is the most important thing in their life, according to a report released by the Public Religion Research Institute in May 2023." That article also noted:

A 2020 survey found that the average congregation size across Christian denominations is less than half what it was in 2000 — down to 65 from 137. It also found that, on average, a third of churchgoers are 65 or older, twice that age group's representation in the general population.<sup>1</sup>

Despite this discouraging trend, ZLM is making remarkable strides toward "hitting" younger generations where they live and reaching them with the Gospel of Yeshua — via social media, on-demand viewing at **levitt.tv**, and broadcast television.

Have you seen the *OJR* episodes that ran during the last two weeks of July? The first week's show is entitled, "Introducing the Bearded Bible Brothers." The second week's program is "Mission and Messengers." To share how this ministry is adapting to changing times, please ask your friends today to watch the BBB at <u>levitt.tv/media/watch/2322</u> and <u>levitt.tv/media/watch/2323</u>.

At those links, you'll see our ministry's next generation of Bible teachers, who offer solid and captivating Bible teaching for an increasingly secular time. (See 2 Tim. 3:1–9.) ZLM is answering God's calling for younger Messianic Jewish teachers who charismatically and consistently teach God's *"living and active"* Word (Heb. 4:12) in ways that engage today's shortened attention spans. Please support our exciting, anointed endeavors today. Thank you!

A recent NPR article revealed this

#### Notes:

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https://www.npr.org/2023/05/17/1175452002/church-closings-religious-affiliation Other sources:

https://religionnews.com/2022/03/15/thousands-of-churches-close-every-year-what-will-happen-to-their-buildings/ https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jan/22/us-churches-closing-religion-covid-christianity https://www.barna.com/research/changing-state-of-the-church/

# .M Bulletin Board



Ruth Handler (1961)

### October **Israel Tour**

There is room for you! Join David and Kirsten and other Believers who

adore the Lord, Israel, and both Testaments. Reserve your spot now so you won't have to wait until next year. The Deluxe Tour (Israel only) is from October 16-26. Our Grand Petra (Israel & Petra) will be October 16–29. You can reach Sandra, our travel manager, at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service at 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime.

### **ZLM's 2022 Fundraising Expenses**



To comply with the tax code, this ministry calculates the percentage of newsletter space and television time devoted to fundraising. In total, it amounts to less than one percent (0.8%) of our revenue. An acceptable threshold for many organizations is 20% — which is 25 times what has sufficed for us. Our thanks to you, our supporters, and your responsiveness to our minimal requests for contributions. Though small in number (about 3% of our readership and viewership), your generosity has enabled us to spread Yeshua's Gospel to new frontiers across the globe.

### Is Barbie Jewish?

From an astronaut to a doctor, Barbie can be anything — even a Jew! She was co-created by Ruth Handler, a Jewish businesswoman. Ruth's father, Jacob Moskowitz, fled hardship and anti-Semitism in Poland and came to the U.S. in 1907. Ruth was the co-founder and first president of Mattel, and her daughter, Barbara Handler, is believed to be Barbie's namesake. Ruth and her husband Elliott helped found Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles.



erusalem

THROUGH LIFE INSURANCE

### 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.** 



To Index

### HebrewLesson

The Sigh of Faith

by **John Parsons** Hebrew for Christians <u>Hebrew4Christians.com</u>



The Jerusalem Connection

> וְרוּחַ נְכוֹן חַדֵּשׁ בְּקִרְבִּי "Renew a willing spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10b) גן רְרָן חַ נָ כון חַ דַשׁ בָּקַר בָּי (3) (2) (1) (2) (1) (3) (2) (1) be'-keer'-bee' cha-desh' nah-chohn' ve'-roo'-ach

> > renew

### "We ... groan inwardly as we eagerly await our redemption ..." (Rom. 8:23).

within me

We sigh deeply because we are suspended between two worlds, living in the ambiguity of an already/not yet expectation. We Believers endure ourselves as imperfect vessels longing for perfection, trapped between what is and what will be, seeing the unseen, yearning for healing, believing that we shall never die, even as we die (John 11:26). While we are restless for our eternal home and long for God's presence, we must walk through shadowy vales, facing various temptations, whispering our prayers in the dark. And though we must learn endurance and trust in God's sovereign purposes, our faith compels us to cry out, "How long, O Lord?" and utter the refrain, "Please come, Lord Yeshua" (Rev. 22:20).

Our ongoing challenge is to keep a steadfast attitude despite the struggles we face. Therefore, we earnestly pray these words from Psalm 51:10, *"Renew within me ruach nachon"* (אין בָרוֹן בָרוֹן – "a spirit that says yes"). Surrender means accepting God's will for our lives. We say "yes" to the promise of love, even if we presently feel empty inside and wonder how Read Hebrew right to left! 年

a spirit that says "yes"

long we can hang in there. Saying "yes" implies saying "no" to other things — no to fear, no to anger, and no to doubt, for example. Tragically, there are people who have given up hope and instead embrace bitterness and despair. Asking God to give us a spirit of "yes" is really a prayer for focus, direction, and the willingness to keep pressing on to our heavenly destiny.

Though life is a struggle, we do not lose heart or faint, since even if the outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven" (2 Cor. 4:17-5:2). Amen. "Please come, Lord Yeshua. Help us persevere by the blessing of Your love." 众

# **ZLM** Store



# Zola's Favorite Three

study booklets, teaching CDs

In this ministry's 44-year history, three study booklets have outsold all of our other materials combined:

### <u>A Christian Love Story</u> study book & <u>CD</u>

Love Story parallels the first-century Jewish wedding customs with the return of Christ, who will "come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2).

### The Seven Feasts of Israel study book, CD & DVD

Seven Feasts, one of the most fundamental Bible studies, magnificently portrays the career of our Lord from His crucifixion to His dedication of the Kingdom to come.

### <u>The Miracle of Passover</u> study book, <u>CD</u> & <u>DVD</u>

Passover demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-five centuries old, typifies Christ — even in Jewish homes that don't realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come.

Please order these inexpensive booklets and teaching CDs from pages 18 and 19. *Seven Feasts* and *Passover* are also available as television series on DVDs (see p.18 or use the link below).

http://store.levitt.com/study





### ORDER FORM ZLM PRODUCTS PARTIAL LISTING



### 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

### **Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library**

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
	A Christian Love Story (p.17)	\$4	Total
	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$4	
	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$4	
	In My Father's House	\$4	
	Israel, My Promised	\$4	
	The Miracle of Passover (p.17)	\$4	
	The Promised Land (pictured)	\$4	
	The Second Coming	\$4	
	Seven Churches—Does Yours Fit In?	\$4	
	The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17 & p.20)	\$4	
	The Spirit of Pentecost	\$4	
	Mix or Match:	\$49	

### **Books**

The Beginning of The End	\$9	
The Bible Jesus Read	\$11	
Broken Branches (booklet) Zola on Replacement Theology	\$7	
Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12	
Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg) (pictured)	\$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 (pictured)	\$5	
Jesus, the Jew's Jew (p.9)	\$8	
Meshumed! (Traitor!)	\$10	
The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	
Once Through the New Testament (pictured)	\$10	
Our Hands are Stained with Blood (Michael Brown)	\$16	
Raptured (p.23)	\$10	
Satan in the Sanctuary	\$10	
Signs of the End: The Millennium (pictured)	\$8	
The Trouble with Christians/Jews	\$10	
Whose Land Is It? (p.11)	\$7	
Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (p.24)	\$39	

### **Featured DVDs**

Abraham: Father of Faith	\$49
The Bible: The Whole Story	\$39
The Covenants of God	\$49
Eretz Israel	\$49
Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Faith for the Future	\$49
Faith of Our Fathers	\$49
New! The God of Miracles (pictured) (9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Jerusalem: Ancient Gates	\$49
Kings and Kingdoms	\$49
The Miracle of Passover (p. 17) (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19
Much Like Peter	\$49
Revelation: Unveiling the Visions (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17 & p.20) (7 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
Thy Kingdom Come	\$69
Times of the Signs	\$49
Watch Therefore (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49
Whose Land Is It? (p.11) (3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19
Zion Forever	\$59



### **ORDER FORM (continued)**



### Studies, Specialty, Etc. - UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2	
	AHAVA Mineral Trio (Body, Foot & Hand) (p.2)	\$98_	
	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz. (p.2)	\$58_	
	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz. (p.2)	\$23	
	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz. (p.2)	\$24	
	Collapsible, Pro-Israel Drink Koozies	for \$6	
	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$3_	
	Grafted-In Lapel Pin	<b>\$10</b>	
	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain)	\$39	
	Half-shekel Keychain	\$16	
	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards)	\$24	
	Jerusalem Magnets (pictured) (set of 3 different designs)	\$12	
	New! Jewish Heritage Calendar (5784 / 2024) (p.36)	\$6	
	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	
	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land	\$7	
	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$3_	
	Pro-Israel Button—"Shalom" (pictured)(4 of 1 design)	\$8	
	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no ch	narge
	The Classic Zola Collection	\$999	

### **Teaching CDs**

A Christian Love Story (p. 17)	\$8 _
Jesus, the Jew's Jew (p.9)	\$8_
The Miracle of Passover (p. 17) (CD)	\$8_
The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17 & p.20) (CD)	\$8_

### Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

Next Year in Jerusal	em (pictured) (Music CD)	\$12
The Works I	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49
The Works II	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49

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

Please fill out area below	and send the entire page.	Subtotal
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# **ZLM** Store

THE

SEVEN FEASTS

OF ISRAEL

PRESENTE



### <u>The Seven Feasts</u> of Israel

### <u>study booklet,</u> <u>teaching CD</u>, and <u>DVD</u> set

### Seven 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

An explanation of the commandments of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai regarding the festival days and their deep significance. The elegant and beautiful system of the special days of holy convocation and how each one has been or will be fulfilled in prophecy.

### 1st FEAST: Passover

### 2<sup>nd</sup> FEAST: Unleavened Bread

The Messiah, clearly presented.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> FEAST: First Fruits— The Resurrection

The true and elegant origin and meaning of Easter.

### 4<sup>th</sup> FEAST: Pentecost

The real festival of the Harvest, fifteen centuries old when the Holy Spirit came. An uplifting look at a great miracle.

### 5<sup>th</sup> FEAST: Trumpets

The Rapture in its original form.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> FEAST: Atonement An awesome day of confession and repentance.

### 7<sup>th</sup> FEAST: Tabernacles Thanksgiving, Old Testament style!

#### Also discussed in the DVDs: Hanukkah and Purim

The delightful festivals of joy, when Israel rejoices in the blessings of the Lord, are included in the DVDs.

Please see the Bearded Bible Brothers' article "Our Loving Bridegroom" on <u>p. 8</u>.



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# Syrian Activist: "Too Bad We Don't Live in Israel!"



BY RYAN JONES (r) IsraelToday.co.il

Bashar Barhoum is a wellknown political activist from Syria's ruling Alawite minority. (President Bashar al-Assad is Alawite.) Recently, he posted a video rant expressing how he'd much rather live under the comfortable Israeli "occupation" than in his own corrupt and crumbling country.

"Those [Syrians] who live under the rule of the Israelis in the Golan Heights are the people who profited greatly [from the 1967 Six-Day War], not those who remained in sovereign Syria," stressed Barhoum. He noted that Arabs living in territories under Israel rule — be it the Golan, Gaza or Jerusalem — earn a far higher income than those living in Arab states.

"If you were to offer a Syrian on the Golan the chance to come back to his homeland and earn \$12 a month, do you really think he'd come?" Barhoum asked rhetorically.

He then seemed to lament that Israel hadn't conquered more of Syria: "If Israel had occupied the countryside of Latakia (where the Alawite minority is primarily concentrated), today the [monthly] salary of the lowest-earning citizen would be at least \$400."

Also, he added, Arabs living in Israel don't have to worry about basic necessities like electricity and fuel. "They enjoy a luxurious life, in which they have electricity available around the clock, and fuel of all kinds at any time."

This isn't the first time we've heard such things from average Syrians. In 2019, the Syrian Observer, an independent online news service, posted a series of anonymous reports. They showed local Syrians celebrating Israeli airstrikes on military targets belonging to the Assad regime and its Iranian and



An Israeli in Tel Aviv protests against the Syrian genocide

Hezbollah allies. Many Syrians say Iran is ruining their country—just as it ruined Lebanon through Hezbollah— for the sake of confronting Israel. Yochanan Visser, an *Israel Today* reporter, then visited Syrian Druze sources on the Golan Heights who confirmed that the vast majority of them wanted to remain under Israeli rule.

In late 2021, a Syrian refugee speaking from the safety of a third country, went much further by begging Israel to take over his country: "I envy the Syrians who live on the conquered Golan Heights!" he declared in a viral YouTube video clip. "I propose to the Israeli government to conquer all of Syria, not just the Golan Heights!"

"The Syrians in the Golan Heights enjoy security, stability and tranquility under Israeli rule," the refugee concluded. "May Allah bless the Land of Israel!"

That sentiment seems to be spreading among Syrians today.

*Israel Today* originally published this article, reproduced here with permission. Their subscribers enjoy full access to many worthy, pro-Israel articles at www.IsraelToday.co.il.

Zola Tours' pilgrims see the gorgeous and (literally) huge homes in the "refugee camps" on our way from Jerusalem to Shiloh. Those "refugees" are living extremely well! — David \$\$\$





Letters, emails, and comments from www.levitt.com and YouTube

### **Recommended Bible Version?**

**From K.W.:** What version of the Bible do you recommend?

#### Shalom K.W.,

We switch between several Bible versions during a single *OJR* episode to strive for the closest relation to the original Hebrew and Greek text. But as a good friend of ours once said, the best Bible version is the one you can understand. Although there isn't a single version that translates everything with 100% accuracy, for personal reading and devotion, we use the



New King James Version (NKJV) or Tree of Life Version (TLV). For deep study, we use several interlinear Bibles and concordances. — Joshua and Caleb

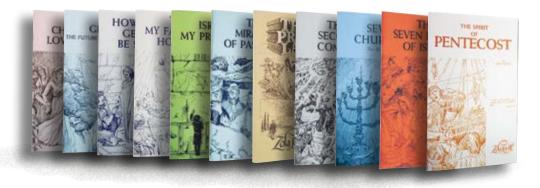
### **ZLM Booklets**

**From S.B.:** I receive the *Levitt Letter*, and I love it all. I have followed you guys for years and feel it is such solid teaching. Thank you for all you do to bring the truth to us about our Jewish heritage through Christ. I have also loved the small booklets such as *The Miracle of Passover*, *A Christian Love Story*, and so many more! Thank you, thank you!!

#### Dear S.B.,

The study booklets in our store are golden nuggets of invaluable Biblical insight and information that are life-changing, yet so readable and easy to understand. I'm thankful that we still offer them. —Kirsten

(continued on next page)



### Other Uses for the Produce Spray?

**From L.M.:** My husband and I enjoyed the article about Sufresca, the amazing new spray that preserves fresh fruits and vegetables (July Levitt Letter, p. 24). We have noticed that in recent years our skin is getting wilted and dry. We were wondering if spraying Sufresca on the elderly would give us bright and shiny skin?



In tests, red bell peppers harvested at the same time stayed fresh longer when coated with Sufresca's solution.

#### Dear L.M.,

We can hope so! Give me preserved vegetables, fruit, and *skin*! — Kirsten (P.S. — Please see AHAVA products on  $\underline{p. 2}$ .)

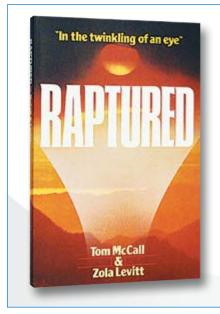
### **The Rapture**

**From J.P.:** You know how there is a great divide concerning the Rapture of the Church, and how God said it would be like in the days of Noah. I was listening to a short segment from Amir Tsarfati, who mentioned Noah's Ark. He stated that because Noah and his family believed God about the coming flood, they went inside what God provided and were kept safe from judgment. When the flood came, Noah and his family were kept from judgment and rose far above the waters because they were inside of God's Ark. Today, Jesus Christ is the New Covenant of God's protection. In Him, the Bride of Christ will be kept safe from the coming wrath of God.

#### Dear J.P.,

Wonderful insight about Yeshua being our ark of safety and peace. May we all be found in Him. — David

(continued on next page)



### **<u>Raptured</u>** book By Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

Now back in print!

Index

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

Please see the Bearded Bible Brothers' article "Our Loving Bridegroom" on <u>p. 8</u>.

(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)

#### LETTERS TO ZLM continued



### Letters to ZLM

**From J.K.:** Aloha! I am a faithful reader of the *Levitt Letter* and occasionally make a donation. I first received your news magazine after I purchased *Zola's Introduction to Hebrew* book [see ad below] in 2016 — a year before I traveled to Israel with my church group. I have been hooked ever since. There is so much information, and it's so insightful and easy to read.

This may sound crazy, but my favorite part of the LL is how you respond to letters from readers trying to discredit your teaching and misinterpret your intent. I am re-reading the June 2022 issue where someone objected to the use of a picture with Mary in the middle of the Apostles and noted that it is "... Catholic innuendo creeping into ZLM." Excuse me — it was just a picture. In the same issue, there's a letter entitled, "ZLM Hates Christians?" You have got to be kidding me. Aren't Jews who love Christ... Christians?

When I read these two letters, I burst out laughing. How misguided; how self-righteous. These people simply do not "get you" or what your ministry is about. If they could see your heart, they wouldn't have written such nonsense. They do not see your heart because they have a hole in theirs.

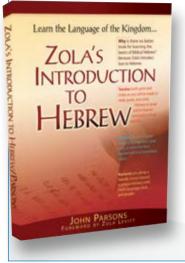
Your responses are "spot on" but not belittling. Letters like these need to be addressed, and I appreciate how you responded. I'm glad we have comments like these, which challenge our faith. More important is responding in a way that not only sets the record straight but also is loving in the process.

Aloha Ke Akua (God is Love)

#### Dear J.K.,

Some negative letters and comments exhaust me. Other times they ignite my passion to speak God's truth. Thanks for your contributions to our ministry and faithful following. Aloha! — Kirsten 🔅



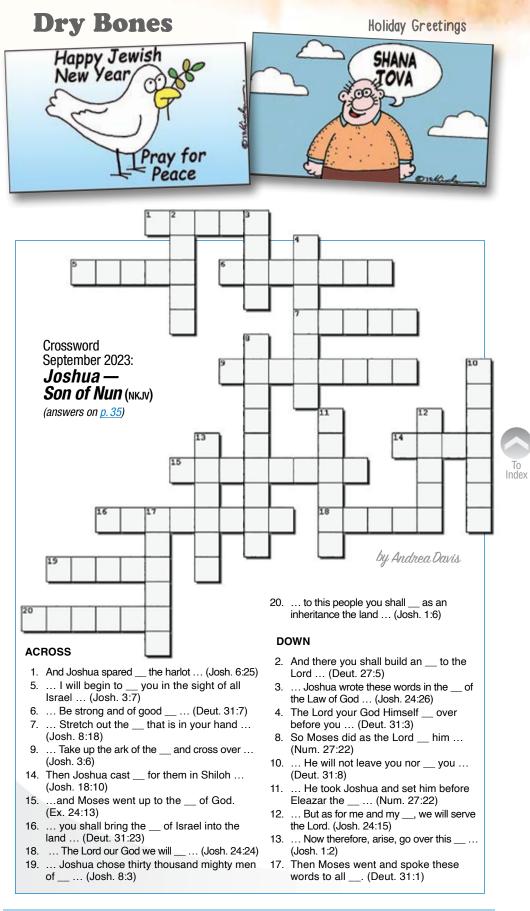


### <u>Zola's Introduction</u> <u>to Hebrew</u> study book

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!





Science in Israel

# Turning Kitchen Scraps into Cooking Gas



#### BY ARIEL GROSSMAN (r) NoCamels.com

Households can now turn food leftovers into cooking gas. Israeli company HomeBiogas has developed a compact version of the equipment usually operated by large companies and municipalities. The miniaturized anaerobic digester — which turns organic waste into gas — looks like an inflatable two-person tent and costs under \$1,000.

After food scraps are tossed in, bacteria convert them into biogas. Then, the gas is piped to a dedicated countertop stove in the kitchen, providing enough gas for two hours of cooking a day. The digester also creates a rich fertilizer from the organic waste that can be used in outdoor gardens.

"The enzymes eat your food waste and 'pass gas' like most organisms do. You're effectively capturing the gas and using it to cook or heat water," noted Ron Gonen, board member of HomeBiogas. He added that the digester can pay for itself in a year, based on U.S. savings on waste collection and energy bills.

While other companies have tried

to develop small-scale anaerobic digesters, Gonen said that none has matched the price point of HomeBiogas. So far, over 15,000 units have been sold in 107 countries.

The U.S. discards around 40 million tons of food every year. Food is the single largest component in U.S. landfills. Still, the U.S. only has an estimated 200 facilities that accept food waste from institutions and turns it into energy. Beyond lowering electricity bills, using food scraps and other organic waste to

create gas can reduce greenhouse gases from food that is decaying in landfills.

"Every time I sit in a restaurant and see plates being taken away, I think 'That's so much,'" commented Mira Marcus, who handles public relations for HomeBiogas. "<mark>Food waste is not</mark> a problem — it's a solution, it's a resource."

HomeBiogas has projects and partnerships with governments, aid agencies, and humanitarian organizations. In November 2021, the company secured a deal to supply its systems to UN refugee camps in several African countries, where large quantities of organic waste are produced.

HomeBiogas has launched its first industrial systems in a communal kitchen in northern Israel, a boarding school in central Israel, and in an Israel Defense Forces base. It's also in talks with municipalities, restaurants, multifamily developments, and industries worldwide that are seeking solutions to their organic waste.





The HomeBiogas miniaturized anaerobic digester

### Medicine in Israel

# **New "Suit" Reduces Fluid Buildup** in Heart Patients

#### BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

For more than 14 years, Yuval Markel has taken daily diuretics to drain his body of fluid buildup due to chronic heart disease. Daily pills and periodic six-hour infusions cause unpleasant side effects and leave him exhausted and uncomfortable. Thus, Markel happily agreed to test a noninvasive, drug-free solution - the Microclimate Suit. Looking a bit like a spacesuit, the suit harnesses the body's natural sweating mechanism to expel and evaporate excess fluids.

Studies found that this wearable alleviates symptoms of heart failure without side effects or changes in blood pressure or kidney function as can happen with current methods. And after three days of use, patients' stress hormone levels decreased 30-50%.

During six sessions of around seven hours each, Markel shed several pounds of fluids per session. He could easily remove the suit for bathroom breaks. "The day following each session, I was less tired, and I felt lighter for several weeks after that. I could leave the house and enjoy many activities," he noted.

The Microclimate Suit was created by AguaPass Medical. Yaacov Nitzan, founder and chief technology officer, has worked in cardiovascular research and development since 2000. He explained that fluid overload affects people with three common conditions: heart failure, kidney failure, and lymphedema. While the body normally balances fluids through a system of compartments, when disease causes excessive fluids to build up, they pool inside the interstitial compartment — a space between the blood vessels and cells.

Diuretics work to remove the fluids through the kidneys, but "relying on kidney function is like rubbing a wound," asserted Nitzan, since many



The Microclimate Suit

AquaPase

credit

patients have compromised kidneys. Seeking a way to drain the fluid without drugs or depending on the kidneys, he found his answer in the body's millions of sweat glands, which naturally draw fluids from the interstitial compartment.

"It's natural and healthy to sweat," Nitzan noted. "We don't become resistant to sweating as we do to medications. Actually, the more we sweat the more we become acclimated to sweating."

The Microclimate Suit is engineered to cause perspiration without discomfort, using low humidity and fast-flowing air. It can remove about a quart of fluid in four hours. Throughout treatment, the amount is measured and displayed on a monitor. In the future, this information could be transmitted remotely to the physician.

The experimental Microclimate Suit has delivered about 150 treatments to over 30 heart-failure patients in Israel, starting in the hospital and continuing for a month or two after discharge.

AquaPass already has Breakthrough Device designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The company is planning to submit the Microclimate Suit to the FDA for approval. 众



# More Arab States Want to Make Peace with Israel



BY ETGAR LEFKOVITS (r) JNS.org



Israeli Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel at the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus in Washington

The peace between Israel and its Arab allies is increasingly tangible, with additional Muslim countries seeking to join the Abraham Accords, Israeli Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel told a group of U.S. lawmakers recently.

"Israel has signed peace accords with multiple Arab nations, and more want to join this initiative," Gamliel said in a keynote address to the U.S. House of Representatives' Congressional Israel Allies Caucus in a May event marking Jerusalem Day. "The dynamics are changing, and regional peace is tangible."

The Likud Party minister noted that then-President Donald Trump's decision in 2018 to move the American embassy to Jerusalem did not impede peace prospects — as opponents of the move had argued — but rather improved them. The Abraham Accords, in which four Arab countries made peace with Israel, followed the U.S. embassy move two years later in 2020.

"Although intifadas and threats were declared as a reaction to the embassy move, what we saw instead was the exact opposite," she told the gathering, which was also attended by hundreds of Jewish and Christian leaders bound by faith-based support for Israel.

The Abraham Accords, in which four Arab countries made peace with Israel, followed the U.S. embassy move two years later in 2020.

Citing King David's words regarding prayer and love for Jerusalem, Gamliel lauded the lawmakers for their support at a time of rising anti-Israel voices and global anti-Semitism. She also urged them to make their voices heard in the national and international arenas. Gamliel added that any division of Jerusalem would lead to the end of freedom of religion in a city holy to billions of people around the world. To Index Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), a veteran Israel Allies Caucus co-chair, said, "This event... allows us all to commemorate the significance of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and reiterate our commitment to religious freedoms in the home of the world's holiest sites.

"Israel remains America's greatest ally in the Middle East, and I will continue to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between our two nations," Lamborn added.

Rep. Brad Schneider, (D-IL), a fellow Caucus co-

chair, stated, "The unbreakable, bipartisan bond between the United States and Israel has held fast since the U.S. was the first country to recognize the nascent state, and I pray it will never fray."

Founded in 2006, the bipartisan Congressional Israel Allies Caucus was the first in a global network of more than 50 pro-Israel caucuses that mobilize political support for Israel based on shared Judeo-Christian values. This faith-based powerhouse is a testament to the strong relationship between Israel and the Evangelical community around the globe.

"In light of the current environment and the rise of bold, anti-Israel forces, the bipartisan work of the Caucus is more important than ever," said Israel Allies Foundation U.S. Director Jordanna McMillan. "Today we gather together to declare that Jerusalem is and always will be the indivisible capital of the Jewish people and that the Judeo-Christian values that bind our nations together will not be broken."

"Faith-based diplomacy unites congressmen across the political divide on the basis of their shared values, which includes support for Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel," said Israel Allies Foundation President Josh Reinstein.



(*l to r*) Bahrain Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald J. Trump, UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan at the signing of the Abraham Accords on September 15, 2020.

"In light of the current environment and the rise of bold, anti-Israel forces, the bipartisan work of the Caucus is more important than ever."





Dr. Ohad Einav, Suleiman Hassan, and Dr. Ziv Asa following Suleiman's recovery

### Israeli Surgeons Save Arab Boy

#### By Abigail Klein Leichman / Israel21c.org

A 12-year-old Palestinian Arab boy's head was internally severed from his neck after a car hit him while he rode his bicycle in June. An injury of this type is almost always fatal. Yet Suleiman Hassan was discharged from Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center in early July, his life saved by complicated emergency surgery followed by intensive care.

Orthopedic surgeons Dr. Ohad Einav and Dr. Ziv Asa explained that the worst of Suleiman's injuries from the crash was a fracture in the internal connection between his head and neck, along with tearing of all the supporting ligaments. "Due to the serious injury, the head almost completely detached from the base of the neck," Einav explained.

After the accident, the boy was airlifted to the medical center from the Jordan Valley. Doctors estimated his chances of survival were 50–50.

In a surgical procedure lasting several hours, Einav and Asa repaired the area using "new plates and fixations," Einav noted. "Our ability to save the child was thanks to our knowledge and the most innovative technology in the operating room."

Suleiman went home wearing a cervical splint to aid his full recovery. Einav added that the boy suffers no neurological deficits or sensory or motor dysfunction. "Bless you all," said Suleiman's father to the medical staff as they left the hospital. "I will thank you all my life for saving my dear only son. Thanks to you, he regained his life even when the odds were low and the danger was obvious. What saved him were professionalism, technology, and quick decision-making by the trauma and orthopedics team. All I can say is a big thank you."

China Supports Palestinian "Legitimate National Rights"





PA President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping

Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), received full military honors at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China in June. During the visit, Xi Jinping, president and head of the ruling Communist Party, signed a "strategic partnership" with the PA.

"We are good friends and partners," President Xi told Abbas. "We have always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore

(continued on next page)

their legitimate national rights.

"China is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Palestinian side to promote a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue as soon as possible," Xi noted. He added that China supports Palestine becoming a full member of the United Nations. Chinese state media quoted Xi as saying that he supported the establishment of an "independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital."

Abbas said his administration was "looking forward to strengthening cooperation with China within the framework of its initiative" and securing investments.

China is seeking new markets for its products and new sources of energy. While the PA has little to offer in those areas, like China, it shares an authoritarian approach to government.

China has also made overtures to Israel in an attempt to expand its diplomatic presence and gain access to Israel's burgeoning high-tech sector. Many countries in the Middle East are rearranging their alliances as the U.S. aligns with Iran. In March, China brokered a groundbreaking rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited Beijing in February — the first official state visit by an Iranian leader to China since 2000.

### California Student's Anti-Israel Speech JNS.org

"I gift my graduation to all Palestinians who have lost their [lives] and those who continue to lose their lives every day due to the oppressive apartheid State of Israel, killing and torturing Palestinians as we speak," said Jana Abulaban in her June commencement



Jana Abulaban

address at El Camino College in Torrance, California.

Abulaban, 18, was born in Jordan and immigrated with her family to the U.S. in 2016. She told the *New York Post* that she was inspired by a graduate of City University of New York School of Law, who delivered an anti-Semitic commencement address in May. She added that she doesn't consider herself anti-Semitic. "I'm not talking about Jewish people torturing and killing Palestinians," she asserted. "It's the Israeli government that is killing and torturing Palestinians."

Abulaban stated that an official at the school reviewed her speech before she delivered it. The official, whom she wouldn't name, "basically backed me up on it," she claimed.

On June 9, the college tweeted a quote from Abulaban's speech. Five days later, Brenda Thames, superintendent and president of the El Camino Community College District, stated that a student speaker "who was not authorized to speak other than to introduce another speaker, took it upon herself to make an anti-Israel statement" at commencement ceremonies.

"To be clear, her statement was not approved by El Camino College officials and does not reflect the values and views of El Camino College," said Thames, adding that "anti-Israel sentiments can lead to a rise in anti-Semitism."



### Archaeology

# Purple Dye from Snails Produced at Ancient Haifa Factory

BY MELANIE LIDMAN / TimesOflsrael.com

top: Ancient pottery fragments stained purple surround natural and dyed wool **bottom left:** Wool fibers dyed with purple about 3,000 years ago (found in the Timna Valley in southern Israel)

credit: Jonathan J. Gottlieb



The scarlet, purple, and sapphire hues that adorned curtains and robes at the Temple in Jerusalem likely came from sea snails processed at an ancient dye factory at Tel Shikmona (or Shiqmona) in modern-day Haifa. New research suggests the Israelites

may have conquered the factory from the Phoenicians to have greater access to the expensive purple dye and create wealth for the growing empire.

Purple dye is created from a gland found in three kinds of sea snails, commonly called rock snails or murex, found along Israel's coast. The dye likely created both the *argaman* (purple) and *techelet* (blue) referred to in the Hebrew Bible. Its color is so strong that it remains fixed for thousands of years, meaning dyed fibers from 3,000 years ago still maintain their vibrant hue.

Depending on how long the purple color was exposed to the sun during the production process, the color of the dye can range from bright blueish green to a deep, purplish red. "The technology that enables the dyeing of fibers was probably invented in the Levant, though people usually ascribe it to Lebanese Phoenicians," said Prof. Ayelet Gilboa, who led the study with Dr. Golan Shalvi, a colleague at the University of Haifa.

Purple is traditionally considered the color of royalty because of the expense of creating the dye from these sea snails. "It was used for the *parochet* [veil or curtain dividing the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle]. The elite [also wore] clothing that incorporated purple fibers — that included the high priests, the king, and really anyone who had money," said Gilboa.

The true purple *argaman* dye and its associated azure *techelet* variant are mentioned dozens of times in the Hebrew Bible. For example, it's mentioned in Exodus 26:31, which gave instructions for making the *parochet*: "And you

shall make a veil of blue (techelet) and purple (argaman) and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it."

The purple dye is often referred to as "Tyrian Purple" because it is thought to have originated in the Phoenician seaside city of Tyre, in modern-day Lebanon. Its production was one of the major economic engines for the Phoenicians. Tyre is about 30 miles north of Haifa.



Pottery found at Shikmona over the years

The dye factory is at Tel Shikmona on the southern end of Haifa's coast. The settlement remains had previously confounded archaeologists: It was first settled around 1500 B.C. but was small compared to other settlements at the time. It was also far from agricultural lands and near a rocky coastline that was unlikely to be useful for maritime trade.

Dr. Yosef Elgavish excavated the site in the 1960s and 1970s. Along with a large amount of Phoenician pottery, he discovered large ceramic vats that were dyed purple. Elgavish proposed that the site had some role in the production of the purple dye but didn't delve into the amount of production or who ran the dye process.

In excavations of the area over the past five years, Gilboa and Shalvi found evidence of an Israelite settlement. This led them to believe that the site was conquered by the Kingdom of Israel in the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Around the time King Ahab ascended the throne, the dye factory was destroyed and rebuilt. The archaeologists found Phoenician pottery from after the rebuild, indicating that Phoenicians were likely still living there. They also uncovered Israelite-style fortified walls, Israelite seals, and four-room houses that were common to



The Tel Shikmona site on the shore of modern-day Haifa

Israelite architecture at the time. These discoveries, combined with historical texts and understandings about the geopolitical situation at the time, led them to hypothesize that while the site was under Israelite rule, Phoenicians performed the day-to-day labor.

"This color was one of the most commercially expensive things available and really created a lot of wealth," Shalvi explained. He added that several historical accounts from this period mention the Kingdom of Israel's military and economic

strength. These excavations reveal how the kingdom identified and controlled an economic opportunity as it expanded northward.

A special exhibit in Jerusalem in 2018 displayed some of the snail shells excavated at the Tel Shikmona site. The holes in the shells show where the gland from the snail was extracted, with each yielding only a minuscule amount of the rare and highly coveted pigment. For a single pound of dye, thousands or even tens of thousands of snails were needed. Some experts suggest that the dye was worth up to 20 times its weight in gold!

### Anti-Semitism

# U.S. Law School Speaker: Israel and America Will Fall

#### MEMRI.org

In May, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) activist Fatima Mousa Mohammed delivered a commencement speech at The City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law. Mohammed, a Muslim who immigrated to the U.S. from Yemen, stated that American law is a "manifestation of White supremacy." She also claimed that

Israel "indiscriminately" murders people and "encourages lynch mobs to target Palestinian homes and businesses."

Fatima Mousa Mohammed: "I chose CUNY School of Law for its articulated mission to be law in the service of human need, one of the very few legal institutions created to recognize that the law is a manifestation of White supremacy that continues to oppress and suppress people in this nation and around the world.

"I want to celebrate CUNY Law as one of the few, if not the only, law school to make a public statement defending the right of its students to organize and speak out against Israeli settler colonialism. That this is the law school that passed and endorsed BDS [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions] on a student and faculty level, recognizing that absent a critical imperialism settler colonialism lens, our work and this school's mission statement is void of value. That as Israel continues to indiscriminately rain bullets and bombs on worshipers, murdering the old, the young, attacking even funerals and graveyards, as it encourages lynch mobs to target Palestinian homes and businesses, as it imprisons its children, as it continues its project of settler colonialism, expelling Palestinians from their homes, carrying [out] the ongoing Nakba, that our silence is no longer acceptable.



Fatima Mohammed speaking at CUNY School of Law

"We did all of this in spite of the racism, in spite of the selective activism, the self-serving interests of CUNY central, an institution that continues to fail us, that continues to train and cooperate with the fascist NYPD, the military, that continues to train IDF soldiers to carry out that same violence globally.

"... May the rage that fills this auditorium ... be fuel for the fight against capitalism, racism, imperialism, and Zionism around the world.

"No longer are we going to capitulate to oppressors. No longer are we going to put our hope in their depraved consciousness. ... And we will protect the fight that brings us all closer to the fall of all oppressive institutions, a reality that is [not] only myopic and unrealistic to the oppressors but [also] is the inevitable future for the oppressed people everywhere. For greater empires of destruction have fallen before, and so will these. So, to the class of 2023: the fight begins now."

This disturbing speech is a reminder that anti-Semitism is pervasive on U.S. soil. Fatima Mohammed's ideology highlights the validity of the <u>August Levitt Letter's</u> cover article: "The War for the Heart of a Generation." — Editor ✿



Index



# Jewish Humor, etc.

#### A cheerful heart is good medicine – Proverbs 17:22

### **Wishful Thinking**

An elderly Jewish woman decided to have her portrait painted. She told the artist, "Paint me with diamond earrings, a diamond necklace, emerald bracelets, a ruby brooch, and a Rolex."

The artist replied, "But you aren't wearing any of those things."

"I know," she asserted. "It's in case I should die before my husband. I'm sure he will remarry right away, and I want his new wife to go crazy looking for the jewelry."



DryBonesBlog.com

To Index

#### Answer Key for September 2023 Crossword (p. 25)

Across:		Down:	
1. Rahab	15. Mountain	2. Altar	11. Priest
5. Exalt	16. Children	3. Book	12. House
6. Courage	18. Serve	4. Crosses	13. Jordan
7. Spear	19. Valor	8. Commanded	17. Israel
9. Covenant	20. Divide	10. Forsake	
14 Lots			





Jewish	<i>Heritage</i>
	784 (2023–2024)

The beautiful and inspirational Jewish Heritage Calendar includes colorful graphics of the Seven Feasts of Israel and Hebrew decorations and apparel. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and more. Hebrew words are transliterated into English like they are in the Hebrew Lesson of each month's Levitt Letter. The calendar spans 13 months — from September 2023 through September 2024.

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Mount

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