



Levitt LETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

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



The First Thanksgiving, painting (circa 1912-1915) by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930)

Thanksgiving — All Year Round

By Jerry Newcombe / ChristianPost.com

inside: The Paradigm
of Fantasy p.8



Being grateful is good for you. It's good for your health. Studies at Columbia and Yale have even found that belief in God can make your brain healthier. Diana Manos noted, "For generations, people have always had a general sense that belief in God could somehow have a positive impact on one's health, but now there is scientific evidence to support that."

She added, "An article published on *Medical News Today*, titled 'What religion does to your brain,' says that the relatively new scientific area of neurotheology — or the study of the neuroscience of theological belief — has made some surprising recent discoveries that show religious beliefs and activities can help a person live a longer, healthier life."

This is not surprising to me. Study after study has shown that there are health benefits to

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Putting God at the Center of Thanksgiving

By Timothy Head / ChristianPost.com

According to a survey commissioned by the American Psychological Association, 61% of Americans feel stress often or sometimes in the holiday season, citing lack of time, lack of money, and family gatherings as sources of their worries and frustrations.

It's understandable: The political cycle is heating up again, our divisions are deepening, and we're finding it harder to connect with one another over meals or face-to-face conversation. But while it's tempting to think that our plight is unique and unsolvable, history

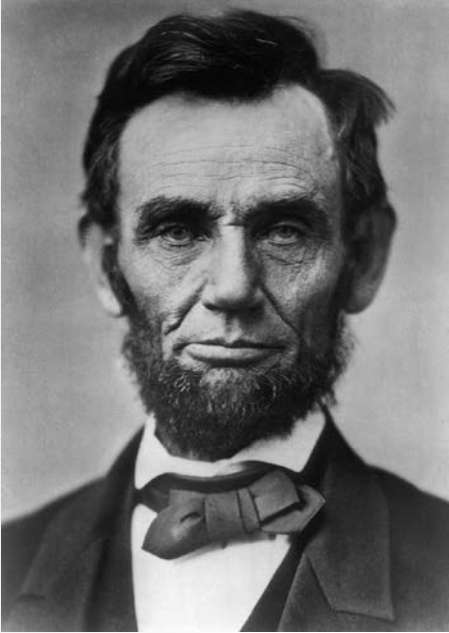


REMEMBER:

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23

Putting God at the Center of Thanksgiving *continued from cover*

Photo of Abraham Lincoln by Alexander Gardner, November 1863, U.S. Library of Congress / Wikimedia Commons



“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens ... to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.”

—Abraham Lincoln

shows otherwise. All we have to do is look to the first Thanksgiving.

I’m not talking about the the harvest feast shared by Native Americans and Pilgrims in 1621. I’m referring to the first official modern Thanksgiving, celebrated at President Abraham Lincoln’s direction in 1863. Lincoln actually named the final Thursday in November as the date of a nationwide celebration, cementing the tradition that we continue.

We might think that this year has been hard for America, but it’s got nothing on 1863. Gettysburg, among the bloodiest battles in U.S. history, had occurred earlier that year, costing nearly 7,000 American lives. Women became widows, children became orphans, and families across America were torn in two as the war raged on.

So, what did President Lincoln do? In early October, he directed all citizens to set aside the final Thursday of November as a day of prayer and rest. Then, he did something even more radical: He thanked God for all the blessings of that year.

America had a great harvest and good weather that year, yielding food for soldiers and civilians alike. Despite the intensity of the war between the Union and the Confederacy, other nations had not interfered, the population had increased,

and farming and mining had continued to thrive.

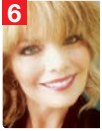
These realities, said Lincoln, were “the gracious gifts of the Most High God, Who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.” And because God was merciful even amid a cruel Civil War, so Americans should remember to be grateful.

The country needed that reminder—and would need it even more the following year. In late October 1864, President Lincoln again urged the country to look to God and take a day of rest on the final Thursday of November. Again, he reminded the country of its many blessings — including the emancipation of enslaved Americans — and asked them to pray for peace and healing throughout the land.

Sound familiar? We, too, face extreme divisions in our society that alienate families from one another. We, too, are thriving economically in spite of these divisions. And we, too, must look to God as we take a day of rest and reflection.

This doesn’t deny that the challenges facing our country are great or that our divisions aren’t real. They are — and their outcomes, just like the Civil War, will shape the fate of the nation, for good or for ill. But amid our fear and frustration, we must





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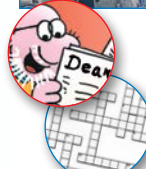
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remember to look to God. He is the author of history and the source of our salvation. He is in control. We must trust Him to bring about His will in His time.

So, this Thanksgiving, follow President Lincoln's instructions. Put God at the center of everything — both the blessings and the

hardships. We may find, as Americans of the 1860s did, that we have much more to be grateful for than we realize. And even if we come to God with a broken heart and a troubled spirit, we can trust in "the Great Disposer of events" (as Lincoln called Him), trusting that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him. ✡



Our newest employee, Diane,

celebrated her one-year anniversary with ZLM in October. Having worked in payroll at Southwest Airlines for 15 years, she is training to become our new office manager. Diane has been married for 30 years, and enjoys gardening, baking, and watching cooking shows. She is originally from Oklahoma.

Thanksgiving—All Year Round *continued from cover*

Museum De Lakenhal, Netherlands



The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth (1914), painting by Jennie Augusta Brownscombe (1850–1936)



(continued from the cover)

regular church-going. If you want to add years to your life, go to church regularly. Applied Christianity (for example, being forgiven and forgiving others) often results in all sorts of benefits — in addition to the joy of knowing Jesus Christ and trusting Him for eternal life.

An Attitude of Gratitude

One of the components of committed spirituality is practicing gratitude. An “attitude of gratitude” sounds like a platitude. But it’s actually good for you. The Pilgrims were on to something in setting aside a day (actually, in 1621 it was three days) for thanking God. And, of course, thanksgiving is something good to practice year-round, not just once a year.

But ingratitude runs deep in the human heart. You may have heard the joke about the lady and her small son at the beach. A big wave came and washed over them. As it receded, she discovered her son was gone. She cried out to God, “Oh please, I’ll do anything. I’ll go to church. I’ll give up smoking. Anything, just give me back my son.” Then another big wave came, and her little boy was safely brought back. She looked at him, then she looked up to Heaven and complained, “Where’s his hat?”

My mom used to say:

As a rule, a man’s a fool;
When it’s hot, he wants it cool.
When it’s cool, he wants it hot—
Always wanting what is not.

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Ingratitude is Normal

Ingratitude seems to come naturally to us. Often it is the norm. But it's also true that some people can find ways to be grateful even in difficult circumstances.

Recently I looked at psychological studies on the impact of gratitude. Joshua Rask at the University of Calgary wrote: "Theory and research have shown that gratitude interventions have positive outcomes on measures of well-being." What are "gratitude interventions"? That means choosing to say thanks, even if you're inclined to be ungrateful.

Pastor Chuck Swindoll has said, "Life is 10% circumstances, and 90% how we react to those circumstances." We can't

control the stimulus, but we can control the response.

Ben Franklin explained: "Content[ment] makes poor men rich; Discontent[ment] makes rich men poor."

Grateful in All Circumstances

I marvel at the Apostle Paul who could say, "*Give thanks in all circumstances*" (1 Thess. 5:18). Yeah, Paul, that's easy for you to say. Oh, wait. This is the same Paul who was flogged many times. He was stoned once and left for dead. He was shipwrecked. He had to contend with robbers and wild animals. And yet he wrote that we should be grateful through it all. Amazing.

Paul found his happiness, as do I and millions of Believers*, through faith in Jesus Christ. The Savior and Lord loved us so much that He took the punishment that we deserve for our sins. Finding true forgiveness from God — not because we're good, but because Jesus died in our place — is often the first step toward a grateful heart.

Several years ago, *Newsweek* magazine noted: "Dozens of studies have shown that when people actively take the time to list the things they are grateful for, they feel better mentally and physically than participants who haven't done the same."

So, if things are difficult for you, practice a "gratitude intervention." List 100 things you thank God for. Change your attitude, and you often change the circumstances.

Like the Pilgrims, we do well to practice gratitude to God — not just at Thanksgiving time, but all year round. Just as belief in God can be good for your brain, Thanksgiving can be good for your health — if you don't eat too much.

A devout soul once prayed — and I echo his prayer —

"God, you've given me so many things. Please give me one more thing — a grateful heart." ☆

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

What We're Thankful for This Year

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Our Jewish Roots



istock/Drazen Zigic

David and I treasure this season, which allows us to enjoy delicious food and spend quality time with our loved ones. It's also essential to take a moment to review the past 12 months and express gratitude for all the blessings we've received. We have so much to be thankful for!

We are completing our seventh year as the studio co-hosts for *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)* and hosts for Zola Tours. Whenever we have the opportunity to film in the studio or lead a group of Holy Land pilgrims, we pause and thank the Lord for this fantastic opportunity. We don't take it for granted and feel beyond blessed to be part of such a powerful ministry. For all of you who went to Israel with us in 2023 and previous years, you have become extended family members who we adore!

ZLM's television outreach has experienced changes this year. Although we miss Dr. Jeffrey Seif in the studio, we are thankful that he will be part of a series early next year. Even more so, we're grateful that Joshua and Caleb Colson have stepped in as our Messianic teachers each week. We appreciate their

lives, passion for the Word, gentle hearts, and unique sense of humor. Colson brothers, we are thankful for you both!

Mark Levitt avoids the ministry spotlight, but he's the generous and gracious leader of ZLM. His wisdom, sharp business acumen, and compassionate heart keep us all grounded in the present and looking toward the future. Mark, we are deeply thankful for you!

Everyone behind the scenes at *OJR* and ZLM works tirelessly to help you grow spiritually by producing our television program, developing our periodicals and Bible teaching materials, and engaging with you through social media and at **levitt.com**. The Berg Productions team has gone above and beyond this year to bring you timely and quality programs full of insight, knowledge, and heart. Ken Berg (the producer of *OJR*), thank you for your eye for detail and always being ministry-minded!

And on the home front, we are incredibly grateful to live in the same city as our children and grandchildren. Having our family so close to us is a dream come

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It's also essential to take a moment to review the past 12 months and express gratitude for all the blessings we've received.

true. Currently, our guest bedroom floor is covered with Barbies and Hot Wheels, and we couldn't be happier. We are blessed to be in this phase of our lives, and we are thankful for it.

As you gather with your family this Thanksgiving, remember to be thankful for all the blessings in your life. If you have a grateful heart, the *shalom* of God will protect your heart and mind in the name of Messiah Yeshua (Philippians 4:7).

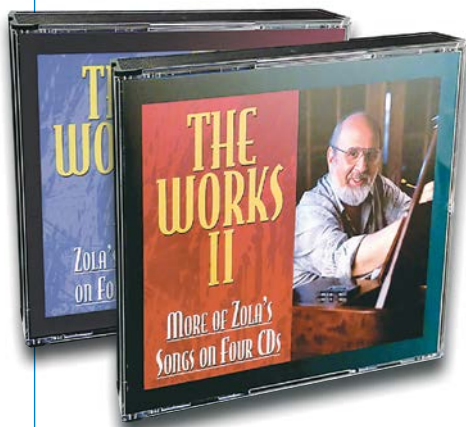
Happy Thanksgiving!

Kirsten and David ☆



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To get all of Zola's music on CD, order his two collections: His first 8 albums are on 4 CDs in *The Works I*, and his next 8 albums are on 4 CDs in *The Works II*. **That's 16 albums on 8 CDs!**

Order both sets and we'll throw in the six individual music CDs he created afterward:

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- *Living Waters*
- *Covenants of God*





istock/Shutthiphong Chandang

“Josh, I remember my first foray into journalism.”

“Please stop, Caleb. Everyone’s heard of your high school exploits in publishing that secret newspaper, *The Gastrointestinal Gazette!*”

“It was *Potty Press!* — because my friends and I hid it in restrooms around campus. Get it? Never mind.”

“I just remember your time in detention, when the faculty discovered your elusive pseudonym.”

Yes, that really happened, along with accusations of yellow journalism by the school administration. Caleb’s “Conspiracy Corner” seemed to strike a nerve, with “far-fetched” Biblical theses such as the antiChrist’s future creation of a Nephilim clone army, a coming appearance of the red heifer before the Third Temple, and even Satan’s possible plan to use the demonic within artificial intelligence (AI).

Actually, **a few of those headlines have made mainstream news in recent years.**

The future isn’t hard to predict when it comes to Satan’s repetitive tactics. His playbook never changes, merely the

names for each strategy. In the past, ancient civilizations witnessed the gods (fallen angels) come from the sky; now humanity encounters UFOs (or UAPs) as supported by declassified reports from our own government. But we shouldn’t be surprised, since 2 Corinthians 11:14 declares, “... *Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*”

AI Heresy

Recently, Fox News published an article about how ChatGPT — the AI chatbot — generated a fake Bible verse about Yeshua endorsing transgenderism. The user who sought the blasphemous text disclosed that he found comfort in ChatGPT’s perspective, even though he knew it was fabricated. How desperate the lost are for love and acceptance, often because the Church fails to offer genuine Christianity! Beyond the algorithms, however, one can see how easily the devil can utilize technology to do his bidding.

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"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Unfortunately, fallen angels who once resided in His glory now utilize the electromagnetic spec-

Satan cannot create life, but he can pervert and destroy it.

trum to fabricate a false reality, even manifesting as aliens or UFOs. We know music, television, phone calls, and even the internet's binary 1s and 0s can transmit in the invisible realm through radio waves. Indeed, knowledge has increased (Daniel 12:4). Even so, it's up to Believers in Yeshua to be the vanguards and utilize technology for the Gospel.

Don't be too amazed if AI develops self-awareness one day. It will merely be the grand theatrics of a demonic entity. Even in Revelation 13:15, the false prophet gives life to an inanimate object,

directing a demonic spirit to speak through a graven image of the Beast. Satan cannot create life, but he can pervert and destroy it. While we must not give glory to these distractions, we cannot ignore them either.

We can take back the God-given frequencies and spectrums currently being occupied by our enemy, the prince and the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)! For example, studies show that certain types of music can induce spiritual bondage, bringing thoughts of depression and suicide. But young David played anointed music from God, and God's glory vanquished Saul's darkness (1 Sam. 16:23). Are we calling on pastors to use AI in their sermons? Please, no! Too many people have been duped by the counterfeit because they don't know the authentic. Let's lead the charge in all realms of science, art, and entertainment — utilizing advancements in technology to turn humanity's focus back to our Creator. ☆

The Witnessing Series DVD

Four 30-minute TV programs on 1 DVD

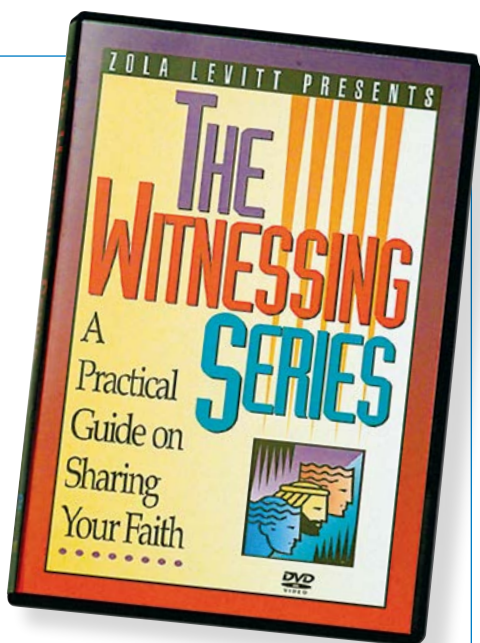
The key to witnessing is sharing the Bible. But how you go about presenting Yeshua's message depends on your listener. These four half-hour TV programs on DVD are our response to viewers who've asked, "How do I witness to...?"

Witnessing to Arabs/Muslims Dr. Louis Hamada, an Arab born in Syria, conveys the importance of sharing the Good News of our Lord and Savior with the Muslims.

Witnessing to Jews, Part I Zola interviews David Gold, a Jewish radio host, who gives his testimony of accepting Jesus as Messiah.

Witnessing to Jews, Part II Messianic Jews from several walks of life share how they came to faith in Yeshua.

Witnessing to Gentiles Zola uses Peter's confrontation with Cornelius in Acts 10 as a reminder that "God is no respecter of persons."





Classic Zola

A Very Unique Letter

by Zola Levitt
from 1994
29 years ago



Stock sharpner

Occasionally, this ministry receives a truly one-of-a-kind letter. I want to share one of these with you.

Dear Mr. Levitt:

One of your subscribers gave me a copy of your "Letter." I enjoyed reading it very much and found your pure and positive Zionism extremely refreshing. Yours is the first publication in which I read a trenchant response to all the attacks on Dr. Baruch Goldstein, instead of the usual, "dutiful" exco-riation of him. Equally incisive is your description of the development and dissemination of the "Palestinian" myth. I will retain the April 1994 issue and quote from it, with due credit.

I am a strong and believing Jew and, therefore, hope that you confine your missionizing to Christians. Judging from your name, I wonder if you are the son of Jews. Certainly, you are performing a worthy work by bringing Israel's [Jewish Zionist] message to gentiles and gentiles to Israel [in your numerous tours].

Your subscriber contacted me upon reading in the Hartford newspaper about my recently published book. The title of the book tells what it is about, Antisemitism in the New Testament. The gentleman wanted to know where he could buy the book, and I told him that he could purchase it at the University of Connecticut Co-Op, from the publisher, at a local bookstore, or from me if he wanted it autographed. He opted for the latter and, when he came to my house, we had a pleasant conversation, and that is when he left a copy of your Letter.

I think you might find my book interesting and enlightening. ... With best wishes for your success in spreading an understanding and love of Israel,

*I am Sincerely yours,
L.F.*

Some of you may not understand the issue being presented here.

Unsaved Jewish people, of course,

approve of my support of Israel and my exposure of Palestinian propa- ganda. But when the writer says, "I

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am a strong and believing Jew," she certainly means that she does not believe in Jesus Christ, not even a little bit. She hopes that I confine my missionizing to "Christians," which should really be read as "gentiles." Nobody needs to missionize Christians if they are really Christians. The tactful sentence, "Judging from your name, I wonder if you are the son of Jews," can be read as "I know you can't be Jewish because you believe in Jesus, but since you have a Jewish name, perhaps your parents were real Jews." The writer is unable to fathom the idea of a person being Jewish to the core, Zionist in philosophy, totally supportive of Israel, and still a Christian. This situation is simply unknown to Jewish thinking (and some Christian thinking, too).

Our subscriber, a soldier of Christ whom God appointed to this very interesting assignment, showed patience and love in his gentle witness to this staunch defender of Judaism. The "pleasant conversation" and the delivery of our newsletter was a Lordly mission and perhaps sowed a very promising seed.

A more serious issue is the amazing conception of anti-Semitism in the New Testament, the title of the writer's book. The idea is meaningless — the New Testament is an Israeli book, written and published by Jews. Its export to the world does not preclude the fact that it is purely Jewish writing and can hardly be regarded as "anti-Semitic." If it is thought of as merely the works of men, then it is self-critical, honest, profoundly

introspective, etc. If it is seen as the Word of God, then it is unassailable. It is Truth.

When I hear people say that the New Testament is anti-Semitic, I ask them, "Have you read the Old Testament?" The fact is, God is mercilessly candid and down-to-earth, especially with His Chosen People, and all of their blemishes show. We might all be thankful that God didn't write this book about America or about the Church or about us ourselves, lest the awful truth be known and we have nothing left to us but to say, "The writer is prejudiced against me!" As the Word of God, the Bible is not a book to be reviewed by human beings, but rather the Manufacturer's handbook for right living in this world and the next. So far as the Jews go, with their overwhelming virtues and their horrific sins, there is a purpose to their Biblical celebration and exhortation:

Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of this age are come (1 Cor. 10:11).

We are to learn from the adventures and misadventures of the Chosen People. Yes, my parents were Jewish and their parents' parents, all the way back to Levi, at least, from whom my name is taken. I'm not just the son of Jews, I am a Jew. I simply have found my Messiah.

The primary reason this ministry still exists is so that others can still find their Messiah like Zola did.

—David ☆

Pray for Peace

bumper sticker

Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background. Pass some on to your friends!

Please see the Ask the Chaplain article "Why is Jerusalem Important?" [on p. 12.](#)



Why is Jerusalem Important?

PART 1

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



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Jerusalem is where the greatest events in history have occurred and monumental events in prophecy are yet to occur. Valleys and dry riverbeds surround Jerusalem, which is located on a plateau in the Judean Mountains between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

While its name literally means “city of peace,” Jerusalem has often been the site of conflict. **Over the past 4,000 years, it has been besieged 23 times, attacked another 52 times, captured/recaptured 44 times, and completely destroyed twice.**

The name “Jerusalem” occurs over 800 times in the Bible (but none in the Koran!), including more than 660 citations in the Old Testament. It has also been known as or referred to as Salem, Jebus, Zion, the City of God, the Holy City, the City of David, and Ariel. Genesis 14:18–24, referencing this city, reveals when Abram encountered the Priest Melchizedek, King of Salem — ancient Jerusalem. The first actual mention of “Jerusalem” is in Joshua 10:1–5, where its king, Adoni-Zedek, joined forces with four other kings to fight the approaching Israelites.

Jerusalem is within the permanent land grant that God gave to the Jewish people (Gen. 12:5–7; 13:14–15; 15:18–21; 17:7–8). It was inhabited by the Jebusites until King David’s armies conquered it, becoming Israel’s capital around 1004 B.C. Afterward, David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:1–17).

Though David sought to build the first Temple in Jerusalem, God told him that his son Solomon would be the one to do so. After King Solomon built and dedicated the Temple, God promised, *“In Jerusalem shall My name be forever”* (2 Chron. 33:4).

In the New Testament, Jerusalem is first noted in connection to Jesus’ younger years (Matt. 2:1–12; Luke 2:22–38, 41–50). As an adult, Jesus affirmed that Jerusalem was the *“city of the Great King”* (Matt. 5:35; see Ps. 48:2). Later, however, Jesus wept over its lost condition and prophesied Jerusalem’s destruction because the people had rejected Him as their Messiah and King (Luke 19:41–44).

Jesus spent the last week of His public ministry in the Temple and the city of Jerusalem (Matt. 21–25). The city was also the place of His crucifixion (Matt. 16:21; Mark 15:21–41) and His burial and resurrection (John 19:41–42; 20:11–18). Later, the Holy Spirit descended on the Believers and established the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4–5; 2:1–47).

Next month, we will look at Jerusalem in prophecy and the End Times.

*Blessed be the LORD out of
Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem!
Praise the LORD! —Psalm 135:21*

*There’s no other city in the world like
Jerusalem. It brings me to tears each
time we enter it, and when we have to
leave. —Kirsten ☆*

Please see the booklet [Jerusalem Forever](#) on p. 36.





In the gorgeous coastal city of Haifa, while August Rosado struggled with a stomach bug, I found a tea shop called Pure Blend near our hotel. Since I'm a daily tea drinker, I went in and met **Vadim**, the affable and knowledgeable owner. After he shared his tea expertise with me, I offered to give him the free gift of God's Word about Yeshua/Jesus the Messiah.



Vadim and Todd

I explained that Yeshua is foretold in the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and revealed in the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament). The Lord gave me 25 minutes to talk to Vadim without a customer entering the normally busy store! We discussed repentance, salvation by faith alone in Jesus alone, Messianic prophecy, and God's plan for Israel oriented around the First Coming and Second Coming of the Messiah (see Romans 9–11). **Vadim replied "Amen" to my teaching, adding that this was the first time he had heard such things!**

Vadim gladly accepted a Hebrew Bible with Messianic reading materials to explore more about these topics. Please pray that God's Word takes root and combines with faith in this receptive young man. Ask God to allow Vadim to see the hope of the calling in Christ Jesus, the riches of His glory, and the eternal inheritance of those who trust in Him (Eph. 1:18).

The next day, August and I went to Haifa's Grand Canyon Mall, where the Lord led us to **Sigal** — a Jewish lady who owns a skin care shop. Explaining

that we travel to Israel three times a year, August and I noted that the God of Israel and His unique and only divine Son Yeshua HaMashiach commissioned us to go to the people of the Book in the land of the Bible to give them the saving Word of Messiah, as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

We explained that the two Testaments of the Bible are unbreakably joined, fulfilled, completed, and bridged by Yeshua the Messiah — who came and is coming again soon to Israel (Zech. 12–14). Sigal affirmed this. After we gave her a Hebrew Study Bible, **Sigal joyfully raised her hands and clapped, expressing repeated thanks for our gift.**

August and I were awestruck at how God is removing the veil from many in Israel, like Sigal, to behold the glory of Messiah Jesus in God's Word: *"But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ... Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away"* (2 Cor. 3:14, 16).



Sigal

Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts that help us to continue taking the Good News to God's People. ✡



Lit Lamps Illuminate Prophecy

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



Like the wise Jewish virgins of old, attentive Believers keep our lamps burning in anticipation of Yeshua's return (Matt. 25:1-13). Consequently, by watching for fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, you and I recognize nuances in today's top news stories that elude unbelievers.

Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. — Luke 12:35-36

Several megatrends spell doom for modern times while validating the Bible's predictions for the End Times. In a recent *Levitt Letter* article, I noted thousands of church closures per year and steadily declining numbers of Christians in the U.S. Meanwhile, income and wealth concentrate among a shrinking minority. Like many other ministries, our outreach relies on progressively fewer donors while our expenses increase.

Major cities are experiencing significant problems including spiraling homelessness, disenfranchised immigrants, frequent utility rationing, and underfunded entitlements. In September, Mayor Eric Adams declared that New York City is being destroyed by an influx of 110,000 asylum seekers from the southern border: "The city we knew, we're about to lose!" San Francisco, Seattle, and Philadelphia are suffering from the relentless tide of homeless drug addicts overwhelming urban resources.

In July, *60 Minutes* detailed the cataclysmic decline of the drought-stricken

Colorado River, which supplies water for much of our nation's southwest farmlands. An August *New York Times* report concluded: "America is using up its groundwater like there's no tomorrow." We're draining aquifers and shrinking their capacity to store future water. Alarmingly, recent droughts have also dropped the Mississippi River's water levels enough to cause shipping delays, necessitating costlier alternatives.

Worsening utility shortages inevitably will drive up the costs of food and most everything else, thus fulfilling this prophetic word:

Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages." —Revelation 6:6

Natural historian Sir David Attenborough has concluded about mankind's ravaging of our planet: "Human beings have overrun the world." Through continued neglect and destruction of the world, humans have imperiled the future of our species and countless other species.

Ministries like ZLM are running out of time to wake up unbelievers and slumbering Believers to the importance of knowing and following God's Word. The silver lining here is that the Lord foresaw our current state and offers everyone the way to avoid ultimate destruction: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life"* (John 5:24). ☆



ZLM Bulletin Board



"The Misunderstood Reason ...

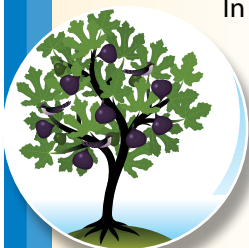
... Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church" was posted to TheAtlantic.com in July. Author Jake Meador explained that American life has become so busy that 40 million people have "dechurched" over the last 25 years. He noted that contemporary America promotes individual accomplishment rather than mutuality, care, or common life. Likewise, long work weeks with substantial commutes have fostered a way of life that leaves people feeling lonely and anxious. Today's unchurched hunger for the sort of Messianic Bible teaching that levitt.com and levitt.tv offer 24/7 for free — no driving necessary!



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Planting Trees in Israel



In 1901, the World Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Israel for Jewish settlement. Since then, the JNF has become best known for planting millions of trees throughout the Holy Land. A portion of your contributions to this ministry can be designated for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom. The trees cost as little as \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate if you ask.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Your Guide to Effective Giving provides guidance for giving the right gift at the right time in the right way. After touching on cash, securities, and other property, this guide delves into retirement funds, life insurance, and ways to donate while retaining income. The pamphlet concludes with a helpful summary of federal tax considerations for charitable giving.

To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #1.

"COME HOME!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection

The Turning to Love

by **John Parsons**
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



זָכוֹר־רַחֲמֶיךָ יְהוָה וַיַּחֲסְדֶיךָ כִּי מֵעוֹלָם הָמָּה

"Remember, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy lovingkindnesses, for they are from ever of old." (Psalm 25:6)

מָה	הֵן	לָם	מֵעוֹ	הֵן	כִּי	וַיַּחֲסְדֶיךָ	יְהוָה	זָכוֹר־	רַחֲמֶיךָ	
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
hei'-mah	mei-oh-lahm'	kee'	va-cha-sah-dey'-kha	Adonai	ze-chor' - ra-cha-mey'-kha					
for from eternity they are			and Your compassions		O LORD	remember Your mercies				

Read Hebrew right to left! ←

When considering the matter of *teshuvah* ("returning to God"), it is vital to understand that God does not love you based on your obedience, though His love for you will lead you to obedience. Only after accepting that you are accepted *despite yourself* — despite your inherent inability to please God, your incurably sick heart, your disobedience and sin, and so on — it is *only then* that earnest, Spirit-enabled obedience may arise spontaneously within your heart (Rom. 2:4).

In that sense, obedience is like falling in love with someone. Your love moves you to act and express your heart, and were you prevented from doing so, you would undoubtedly grieve over your loss. Therefore, the "*law of the Spirit of life in Messiah*" (Rom. 8:2) is first empowered by God's grace and love. We walk by faith, hope, and love — these three. This explains why the first step of *teshuvah* is to love God — *Ve'ahavta et Adonai* (Deut. 6:5). The work of faith is to believe in the miracle that God's love is "for-you-love" (John 6:29).

If you find yourself operating from a sense of God's *conditional* acceptance, you will undoubtedly need to repeat the

same sins over and over until your heart is finally convinced of its incurably wretched state. You must first be utterly sick of yourself to believe in the miracle of God's deliverance. You have to be "sick of your sickness" and be willing to give it up. Only then will the message find opportunity to speak.

Genuine repentance, however, implies an understanding that sin is *dreadful* because it separates us from God's love. Some think that Yeshua died on the Cross for their sins so that they could live without regard for sin. That is, of course, a perversion of the truth. **Yeshua did not suffer, bleed, and agonize on the Cross for our sins so that we would have license to disregard God's great cost to remedy our hearts.** Indeed, by treating sin lightly we disparage Yeshua's sacrificial work on our behalf — we "crucify the Son of God afresh" and thereby deny God's wrath for sin as well as His severe mercy given to those who trust in Him (Heb. 6:4-9). ☆



Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

Known as the weeping prophet, Jeremiah was assigned to warn his countrymen of the imminent judgment and deportation at the hands of the Babylonians. Nonetheless, a message of hope and deliverance is woven throughout Jeremiah's writings. This nine-part series features Bible teaching by Dr. Jeffrey Seif, dramatic reenactments by Israeli actors, commentary from Dr. Michael Brown, and applications in studio discussions with David and Kirsten Hart.

Young Man's Visions The Babylonian war machine was coming to Judah. The Lord chose a young Jeremiah to be His prophet and to deliver the call to return to the ways and values that God specified in His Word. Israel's culture, like America's, had veered off the path and was about to reap the consequences.

Sounding the Alarm Idolatry was rampant, so the God of Israel promised destruction for the people of Judah who were living in sin. Jeremiah sounded the alarm, but no one listened. Likewise, many of those living around us today refuse to admit their sin or turn to the Lord.

Corruption and Closed Minds Lies and greed corrupted Judah's leaders, much to Jeremiah's dismay. He wept when they believed false promises of peace and rejected God's justice, righteousness, and truth.

Faith Abandoned and Reimagined Jeremiah's message to repent went unheeded. Consequently, judgment came to those who had abandoned the Lord. Jeremiah took comfort in knowing that following destruction, restoration would come through the New Covenant.

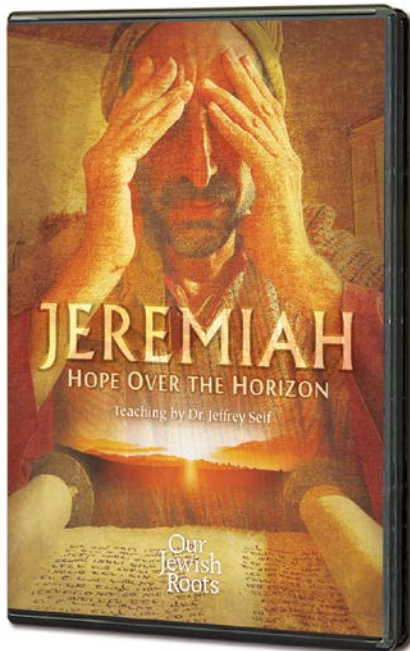
No Escape Jeremiah relentlessly proclaimed God's message. The Babylonians were coming to destroy Judah and deport its citizens. They relied on political alliances for their security. The Lord, however, had withdrawn His protection, so catastrophe was inevitable.

Promises Made Brighter days were coming when Judah's iniquity would be forgiven. God would save His people from captivity and return them to the Promised Land. He promised to write His Law on their hearts and remember their sins no more.

Ruin and Renewal Speaking the truth can bring trouble from those who don't want to hear it. Jeremiah experienced persecution, yet he grieved to see sin's devastating effects on God's people. The same God who brought ruin would also bring renewal, through Yeshua the Messiah.

Hope and a Future Jeremiah records God's promise to deliver His people from captivity after 70 years. Later, the Lord will cause a branch to emerge from David; He will bring justice and righteousness to the Earth. All people in Messiah are grafted into this tree.

Jeremiah in Retrospect This final program features an interview with author and radio host Dr. Michael Brown. Dr. Jeffrey Seif subsequently discusses applications from the life and writings of Jeremiah.





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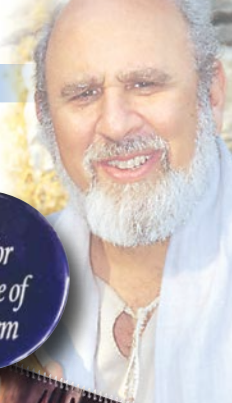
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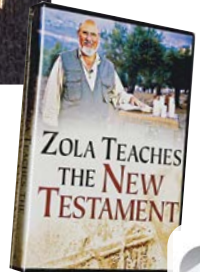
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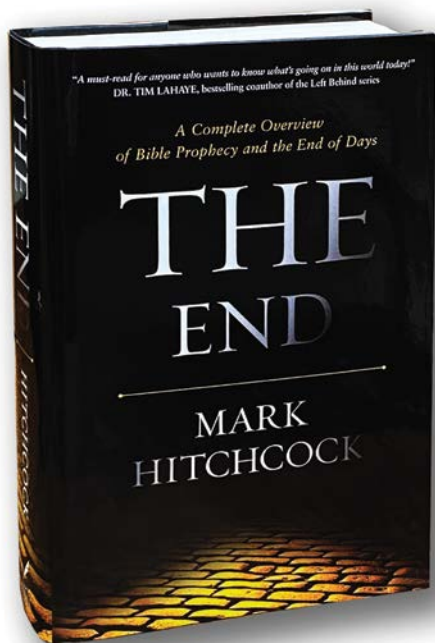
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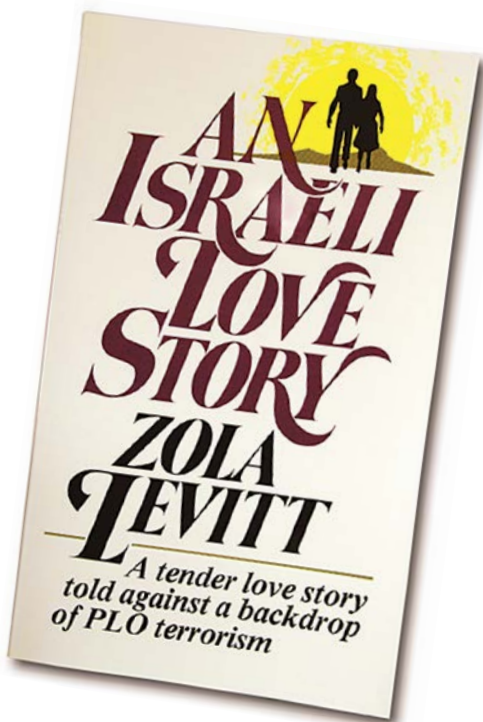


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A tender love story told against a backdrop of PLO terrorism. Can love blossom in the midst of terrorism and death in modern-day Israel? Ask Isaac, a Jewish immigrant from America, and Rebecca, the daughter of a rabbi. And ask the Messianic Jewish Believer!

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Helen Mirren Ignores BDS Pressure, Praises Israel

By Shiryn Ghermezian / Algemeiner.com



credit: Yonatan Sindel/Flash90

Helen Mirren and co-star Lior Ashkenazi (left) at a press conference before the July premiere of the movie *Golda* in Jerusalem

British actress Dame Helen Mirren has faced pressure for many years from the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. BDS tries to pressure individuals and groups not to associate with Israel, seeking to isolate the Jewish state from the international community as a step toward its eventual elimination.

Mirren, however, supports the Jewish state. While she's been told not to go to Israel or participate in Israeli projects, Mirren ignores those admonitions because she has met "extraordinary people" in the country. "I know that there is a foundation of deep intelligence, thoughtfulness, commitment, [and] poetry in Israel that is very, very special," she explained.

Mirren plays former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir in the recently released film *Golda* from Israeli director Guy Nattiv. The movie tells the true story of Meir's leadership during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Mirren first came to Israel after the war and worked as a volunteer at Kibbutz Ha'on by the Sea of Galilee. About being in Israel then,

she remarked: "The extraordinary magical energy of a country just beginning to put its roots in the ground — it was an amazing time to be here."

The gentle actress has played several other Jewish roles, including in the 2010 film *The Debut*. Five years later in *Woman in Gold*, she starred as an elderly Jewish refugee living in California named Maria Altmann, who fought Austria's government to reclaim a painting of her aunt by a famed Austrian painter.

Most recently, Mirren starred in the 2023 film *White Bird*. She played a Jewish woman who survived Nazi-occupied France as a youngster with the help of a non-Jewish classmate and his family who sheltered her.



"It is something that I do feel strongly about," Mirren noted when asked about the number of Jewish characters she has played. She added: "I believe in the existence of Israel, and I believe Israel has to go forward into the future for the rest of eternity. And I believe in Israel because of the Holocaust." ✡





Letters to ZLM

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

Blessing ZLM to bless others

From M.C.: ZLM has been a spiritual companion and guide to me for many years, telling truth about the Lord, His Kingdom, and His plans for the world. It's staggering to realize how quickly change is happening everywhere. The spiritual war for the souls of men is heating up rapidly. The way younger people think, talk, and understand is being shaped more and more aggressively.

I believe ZLM is a special part of how God is working in such a time as this. I'm grateful for every Bible teacher who has stepped in at times and then stepped aside as the next servant filled his role in the mission. Showing people, "Here's Jesus/Yeshua," is the single-minded goal. I'm glad to respond to Jeff's challenge ["From Generation to Generation," August LL cover] to join him in sending \$1,000 to this ministry, especially during this season of transition.



"You have Type 3 Diabetes. Too much artificial sweetener in your blood!"

From R.T.A.: As lovers of Christ, we love the Jewish people and pray for them daily. We recently sold a piece of property and want to tithe a portion of the sale to your ministry for all you do to bless others. God bless.

Shalom M.C. and R.T.A.,

Thank you so much for your generosity. We are constantly humbled whenever we read such letters. All of us are working for the same purpose: to glorify the Son, Yeshua. The call that our Father has set before us

is so big. Our position as His messengers in front of the camera is no greater than your prayer and labor where you are. Truly, one part of the Body cannot succeed without the other! We're proud to serve alongside you and a great assembly of Believers who seek to fulfill the Great Commission. Knowing that we have your prayers and support means the world to us. —Joshua and Caleb

Shame on you!

From V.R.: You individuals ought to be ashamed of yourselves, going to Israel for the purpose of proselytizing the Jewish people to Christianity. You call it Messianic Judaism or Christianity. No matter what you call it, it's still a form of Christianity — it is not the Jewish religion.

Christianity is idolatry; get it? The New Testament Bible is anti-Semitic from the beginning of the book to the end. If you love the Jews, why don't you leave them alone? We put up with your crap for 2,000 years. Why don't you approach Netanyahu or ask Shannon Nuzsen if it is okay what you're doing in Israel?

Jews that convert to the Christian religion are no longer practicing the Jewish religion. Even though they're still Jewish by Jewish law, they **are traitors who betrayed their faith and their people.** I don't understand why you Messianic groupies don't under-

(continued on next page)

stand that you're tearing up Jewish families, destroying Jewish families to convert a Jewish soul. It's sickening and disgusting.

If you guys don't get what you want, then you go to the high court in Israel and start making threats, intimidating them until they give in. You want to stay under the radar — lying, sneaking around, doing what you want,

and committing your dirty deeds in the State of Israel and Jewish neighborhoods in America. **You have no conscience, no morals, and no scruples.** I've said enough. You don't need to respond to this email.



Dear V.R.,

Thank you for taking the time to share your heart with us. It brings me great joy to know that you have such a passionate love for the Jewish people. While I don't know your personal background or belief system, it seems that you've had negative experiences with people who have claimed to be Christians or Messianic Jews. From the depths of my heart, I apologize for the poor examples that many people have been in the name of Yeshua.

As a son, I can recall many of my mistakes that reflected poorly on my earthly father's name. It breaks my heart to look back and realize that my father had unjust judgments brought against him because of me. But as a father, I look at my children and I realize that I have little interest in defending my name. My sole focus is on ensuring that my children know how much they are loved.

This ministry has existed for over 40 years with the primary purpose of introducing people to Yeshua. (Please see levitt.com/about.) I can't imagine how broken my heart would be if my children didn't know the great love I have for them. If my children were facing eternal separation from me, I would not rest until they were safe. **Thus, I pray that instead of offense, you can see that our "pursuit" of the Jewish people is one of love for their souls.**

Although we are Jewish and believe in Yeshua as Messiah, we have many friends in Judaism who have no problem with our ministry. One of these is Avi Lipkin, an author and pioneer in Jewish-Christian relations. Avi once explained that during the Roman occupation of Judea, Jews were outlawed from proselytizing and sharing their faith. Thus, the rabbis wrote to dissuade Jews from ministering to others about the one true God. But according to Scripture, the Jewish people were called to be a light to the gentiles (Isaiah 49:6).

My brother and I are Jewish. We believe in Yeshua — that is no betrayal to our people. Most so-called "Messianics" keep kosher and Shabbat, celebrate the feasts, and follow the traditions of our people. I encourage you to read the New Testament, just as thoroughly as we read the Torah. It is in no way anti-Semitic. In fact, it was written almost solely by Jewish people. —Joshua Colson

Dear V.R.,

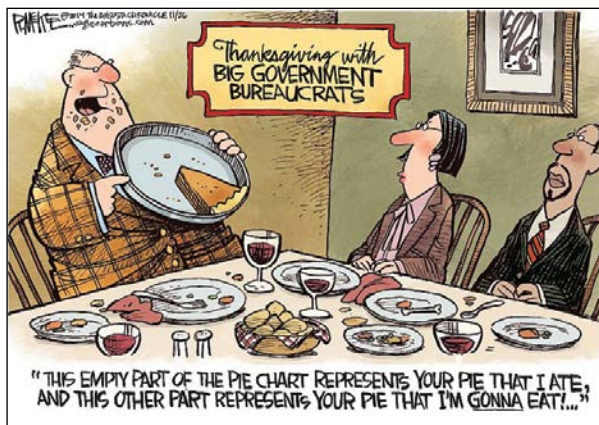
Please also see the Classic Zola article, "A Very Unique Letter," [on page 10](#) and the "Shaliach Report" [on page 13](#). —Editor

(continued on next page)

Hebrew Lesson

From P.P.S.: We loved John Parsons's Hebrew (and Greek!) lesson in the January *Levitt Letter* ("The Light of His Presence," p. 16). His prayer in the last paragraph brought tears to our eyes.

From S.F.: I want to express my sincere gratitude to John Parsons for his Hebrew Lessons in the *Levitt Letter*. His teachings always bless me deeply. I love Hebrew and have Zola's *Introduction to Hebrew*, which was written by John. God bless us all, as we eagerly await our redemption, and pray for a *ruach na-achon* ("a spirit that says yes," Ps. 51:10). Thank you, John, and everyone at ZLM!



Dear P.P.S. and S.F.,

All of us at ZLM also love John and are thankful for his insightful lessons from Scripture. —David

Levitt Letter

From M.S.: Years ago, when Zola Levitt and Dr. Thomas McCall were involved, I enjoyed the programs, the publications, the music, and some of the special teachings like Pass-over. Now I am enjoying the *Levitt Letter*. The beautiful etchings, paintings, and illustrations are a real treat to see, since those are not used anymore in publications. I look forward to articles about archaeological finds as well as medical and other scientific advances from Israel. **Dr. Todd Baker's articles are so meaningful that I tear out the pages to read them again later!** He clearly is a serious student of the Scriptures and does not stray from the text and the meaning of the original authors. Thank you for your ministry.

Dear M.S.,

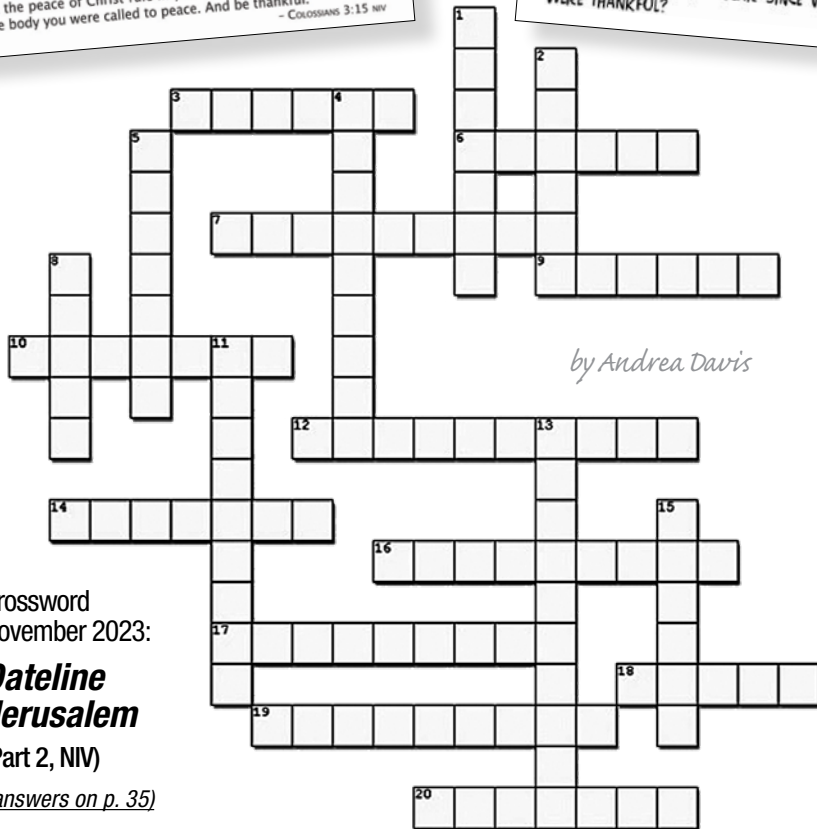
Thank you for your encouragement! ZLM's editorial team spends many hours each month ensuring the quality of the *Levitt Letter* and the *Personal Letter* for our readers. Dr. Todd Baker appreciates knowing that you read and re-read his articles! —Kirsten

From M.R.: Thank you so much for the *Levitt Letter*. I read and pray through it. Also, two of my grandsons work the crossword puzzle every month and they love it. They do not have to look up many verses as they know and pray the Word. We pray together, and they declare the Word over those we pray for. What a joy! Blessings and shalom.

Dear M.R.,

What an encouragement to read of your grandsons' strong knowledge and faith in God's Word! Their love for Yeshua will change their generation. We'll share your message with Andrea Davis, who creates the monthly crosswords. We know that your gratitude will be a blessing to her. —Caleb ☆

(continued on next page)



by Andrea Davis

Crossword
November 2023:

Dateline Jerusalem

(Part 2, NIV)

(answers on p. 35)

Across:

3. ...I will make a righteous Branch sprout from __ line... (Jer. 33:15)
6. ...once again He will choose ____ (Isa. 14:1)
7. ...There they will put the most holy ____ (Ezek. 42:13)
9. ...Tell the Israelites to bring you a red __ without defect... (Num. 19:2)
10. And then the __ one will be revealed... (2 Thess. 2:8)
12. ...he will set up an abomination that causes ____ (Dan. 9:27)
14. ...Can a __ be born in a day... (Isa. 66:8)
16. And I will appoint My two __, and they will prophesy... (Rev. 11:3)
17. ...that day will not come until the __ occurs... (2 Thess. 2:3)
18. ...He Who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor __. (Psa. 121:4)
19. From the time that the daily __ is abolished... (Dan. 12:11)

20. Don't let anyone __ you in any way... (2 Thess. 2:3)

Down:

1. Then the __ will know that I the Lord... (Ezek. 37:28)
2. They __ because they refuse to love the truth... (2 Thess. 2:10)
4. His armed forces will rise up to __ the Temple fortress... (Dan. 11:31)
5. ...We are signs and __ in Israel from the Lord Almighty... (Isa. 8:18)
8. He will oppose and will __ himself over everything that is called God... (2 Thess. 2:4)
11. They serve at a __ that is a copy and shadow of what is in Heaven... (Heb. 8:5)
13. ...the true __ set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. (Heb. 8:2)
15. If anyone destroys God's __, God will destroy that person... (1 Cor. 3:17)



Resugar: 70% Less Sugar, 100% Same Taste

By Ariel Grossman / NoCamels.com



For anyone looking for a sugar substitute, there are many options available. But natural sweeteners — like stevia — have a bitter and undesirable after-taste and are more expensive than regular sugar. And artificial sweeteners — like the sucralose used in many foods and beverages — may be harmful.

Resugar, an Israeli startup, may have the perfect solution that looks, tastes, and acts just like the real thing. Made up of 30% sucrose, it is combined with dietary fibers like chicory and natural flavors, which enhance the sucrose's sweetness by almost three times. It will be used in a variety of products — including baked goods, cookies, breakfast cereals, chocolate, and more. **While it is two to three times more expensive than conventional sugar, it is cheaper than many sugar substitutes on the market.**

Too much added sugar increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, weight gain, diabetes, and more. While food manufacturers have tried to use sugar substitutes, none have been able to replicate sugar's moisture, color, volume, freezing point, or taste. There is also mounting evidence that artificial sweeteners can create health problems. Research has found that people who

consume large amounts of aspartame have a higher risk of stroke. And those who consume high quantities of sucralose have a higher risk of heart disease.

Natural alternatives — like maple syrup, agave, stevia, and monk fruit — don't have the same properties as sugar. This makes it trickier to replace them with sugar in the production of food.

Food manufacturers can use Resugar in a one-to-one replacement. They simply substitute the same quantity of Resugar for conventional sugar.

Dr. Michael Zviely, vice president of research and development at the company, noted another benefit of Resugar. "Sugar is very important in ice cream production because it lowers the freezing point of water. If you don't use sugar, and try to freeze ice cream, you will get crystals, which is not a pleasant experience."

Resugar is partnering with an Israeli food manufacturer who will use the sugar substitute in its dairy product line. It also has a partner in Chicago, which will produce Resugar in large quantities for the U.S. market. ★



Resugar exhibit at the 2023 Institute of Food Technologists conference in Chicago

credit: Ron Elitzur / LinkedIn.com

Israeli Doctor Uses AR, Robot Tech in Spinal Surgery



By Pesach Benson / JNS.org



Credit: Shaare Zedek Medical Center

Dr. Cezar J. Mizrahi during surgery

In a world first, doctors at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center successfully combined cutting-edge augmented reality (AR) and robotic technology in a complex spinal operation.

The 25-year-old patient had suffered a severe spinal injury in a workplace accident. **Dr. Cezar J. Mizrahi**, a spine neurosurgeon, was called in when the patient was diagnosed with an unstable spine fracture, which endangered his mobility and neurological well-being.

Mizrahi, 37, who made *aliyah* to Israel from Brazil, used an AR-assisted surgical spine robot, which provided real-time guidance for the precise insertion of surgical screws along the spinal column. This technique enhanced the surgical team's accuracy while minimizing invasiveness.

AR combines digital information — such as computer-generated images, videos, sounds or other data — with the user's view of the real world. **Unlike virtual reality (VR), which immerses users in a virtual environment, AR enhances the real world by overlaying digital elements onto it.**

Mizrahi wore an AR headset, which he compared to that of a combat pilot

equipped with an advanced helmet. The headset displayed crucial patient information, including CT images, directly in his field of view. This information allowed him to strategize and execute the surgical plan with extreme precision, making necessary adjustments throughout the procedure.

"Bringing together AR and robotics in this minimally invasive technique had never been performed in surgery anywhere in the world. To our great joy, this combination of those new innovations was to the direct benefit of this patient and the overall healthcare improvement for the people of Jerusalem and beyond," Mizrahi stated.

"The procedure went successfully, and we are so thankful for Dr. Mizrahi's treatment," declared the patient, who was able to walk without assistance immediately after the operation. "Before the surgery, we were very worried and didn't know what would happen, but it was performed quickly and successfully, and I've recovered faster than expected. I can walk now. Dr. Mizrahi regularly comes to check on me, and from the bottom of my heart, I'm just so grateful." ☆



A Harrowing Picture of *Kristallnacht*



By Sarah Kuta / SmithsonianMag.com

On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazis wreaked havoc on thousands of Jewish-owned businesses, homes, and synagogues throughout Germany and Austria. Mobs attacked Jewish families, looted and vandalized shops, and torched buildings. Some 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps.

In the end, more than 90 Jews were killed during the pogroms, which became known as *Kristallnacht* — the “Night of Broken Glass.”

Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial museum, features striking photos from the attacks, bringing renewed awareness to the horrific massacre. Nazi photographers captured the harrowing images in Nuremberg and nearby Fürth. Some photos show the Nazis ripping couch cushions apart and violently pulling books from shelves. Others show Jews standing in their pajamas, sometimes with blood on their clothes and bodies. Still others depict the aftermath of the destruction: shattered glass storefronts, rooms filled with debris, and burning synagogues.

“We can see from the extreme close-up nature of these photos that the photographers were an integral part of the event,” says Jonathan Matthews, head of Yad Vashem’s photo archive. “The angles and proximity to the perpetrators seem to indicate a clear goal — to document the events that took place.” **The photos also suggest that the massacre was a planned attack, not a spontaneous outburst as the Nazis tried to make it appear.**

A Jewish-American soldier who served in the U.S. Army’s counter-intelligence department during World War II took possession of the photos and kept them at his home in the U.S. After he died, his daughter, Ann Leifer, and two grand-

credit: Yad Vashem Photo Archive



An SS member destroying furniture in a Jewish home during *Kristallnacht*

daughters found the album while cleaning out his house in 2016. They don’t know why he had the photos, as he never shared his war experiences with them.

“When I opened the album, I felt as if a hole had been burned through my hands,” recalled Elisheva Avital, the soldier’s granddaughter. While difficult to look at, they serve as an important reminder of “the systematic and deliberate lengths [the Nazis] would go to in order to accomplish their murderous agenda,” noted Dani Dayan, Yad Vashem’s chairman.

“Seeing these images of humiliation of Jews — and the destruction of their homes, businesses, and even synagogues — is extremely disturbing and difficult,” he added. “But all these years later, we must bear witness to the atrocities of the past.” ☆

(continued on next page)



credit: Yad Vashem Photo Archive



A page from
an album
of photos
taken during
Kristallnacht



credit: Yad Vashem Photo Archive



German forces damaging and
pouring gasoline on furniture
a synagogue near Nuremberg

credit: Yad Vashem Photo Archive



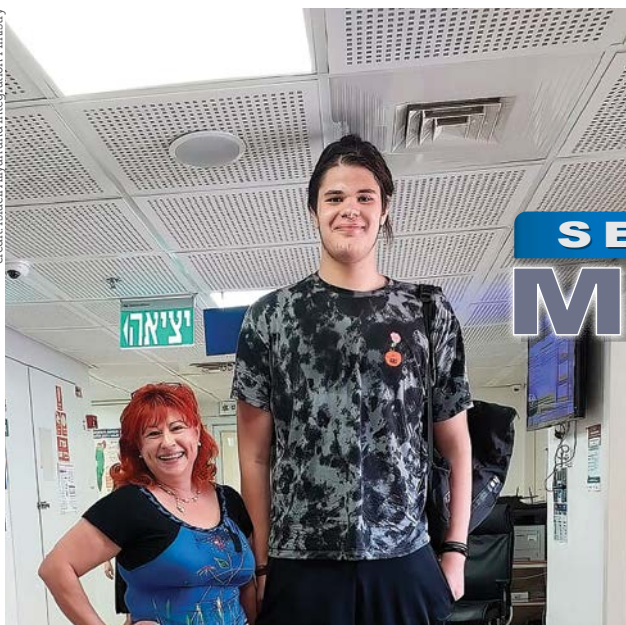
Nazis set
an estimated
1,400
synagogues
on fire during
Kristallnacht



credit: Yad Vashem Photo Archive



Inside of a
Jewish-owned
shop plundered
and destroyed
in the aftermath
of *Kristallnacht*



Georgi Krimantsky

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Living at such an extraordinary height comes with unique challenges. Krimantsky must constantly be aware of his surroundings to avoid

encounters with signs, door frames, and other obstacles.

For those curious about his shoe size, it's an impressive 16 (U.S.).

According to Avihai Kahana, director general of the Aliyah and Integration Ministry, Krimantsky was one of 65,000 immigrants who made *aliyah* to Israel during the Hebrew year 5783. ★

Seven-Foot-Tall Russian Jew Making History in Israel

By Zvika Klein / JPost.com

Georgi Krimantsky is the tallest new immigrant (*oleh*) to Israel in recent decades — possibly ever. At a staggering 7.1 feet tall, the 18-year-old has become a legend not only for his extraordinary height but also for his remarkable journey in October 2022 from Russia.

It didn't take long for the scouts of the Be'er Sheva youth basketball team to spot his potential. They welcomed him into their ranks, where he has become the team's star center player.

Krimantsky shares an apartment with six other players, all Israeli-born. Balancing his basketball commitments with his studies, he began his final year of high school in September as a 12th grader. He aspires to complete his schooling as soon as possible and enlist in the army. There, he hopes to continue his basketball journey and earn recognition as an exceptional athlete.

He has wholeheartedly embraced Israeli culture, mastering favorite dishes like falafel, shawarma, and shakshuka. Israeli songs and musicians have also become an inseparable part of his life, further cementing his status as an integral member of the Israeli community.



Mahmoud Abbas addressing the Revolutionary Council in 2021

Abbas's Lies About Hitler, Jews, and Israel

JNS.org

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas made several wild claims in an August address at the 11th session of Fatah's Revolutionary Council. "They say that Hitler killed the Jews for

(continued on next page)





being Jews and that Europe hated the Jews because they were Jews. Not true,” Abbas claimed. He added that Europeans fought Jews “because of their social role and not their religion.”

Abbas also repeated the so-called “Khazar Myth” that he’s often peddled — that Ashkenazi Jews descend from Turkish Khazars who converted, rather than from Biblical Israelites. “The truth that we should clarify to the world is that European Jews are not Semites. They have nothing to do with Semitism,” Abbas alleged.

He ranted that the State of Israel was “invented” by “Britain and America — not just Britain. I am saying this so that we know who we should accuse of being our enemy,” he added.

Commenting on Abbas’s speech, the American Jewish Committee stated: “This type of ‘leadership’ only breeds violence, not progress. World leaders committed to peace in that region must stop giving Abbas a free pass and condemn his hateful rhetoric.”

Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to the U.N., noted: “This is the true face of Palestinian ‘leadership.’ Just as Abbas blames the Jews for the Holocaust, he also blames the Jews for all the Middle East’s issues.”

Abbas, whose doctoral dissertation denied the Holocaust, has also infamously accused Israel of “50 Holocausts.” The 87-year-old is in the 19th year of his initial four-year term as president. ☆

Ruins of Nazi-Razed Munich Synagogue Discovered

JPost.com

In 1938, Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of Munich’s main synagogue. Recently, construction workers uncov-



credit: Jewish Museum Munich

The recovered Ten Commandments tablet

ered ruins of that building in the city’s Isar River. Among the ruins, workers

found a stone slab featuring a tablet on which half of the Ten Commandments are carved. It is in excellent condition, with the prohibitions against murder, adultery, theft, lying, and covetousness etched in Hebrew.

The synagogue was demolished five months before *Kristallnacht* — the Night of Shattered Glass. **Reportedly, the Nazis wanted to determine public response to the destruction of houses of worship.** While the public reacted vociferously to the destruction of a church building, the destruction of Munich’s main synagogue did not bring public outcry. It seemed, therefore, to serve as a tacit nod of approval for the Nazis to proceed.

Of Munich’s Jewish community, a few people remember the former structure. “The synagogue was very beautiful, like those synagogues in Budapest and Berlin,” said Rolf Penzias, who attended a Jewish vocational school in 1938. “They dismantled the synagogue; they didn’t burn it. They just put bulldozers in it and took it away.”

Munich Mayor Dieter Reiter called the discovery of the ruins a “stroke of luck.” In a BBC report, the mayor’s deputy stated that it was a historic duty to secure and return the ruins to the Jewish community. ☆



Cache of Roman Weapons Found in Judean Desert Cave

i24News.tv



above: Archaeologists working in the cave with a Dead Sea view **top left:** The shafted pilum weapon found in the cave

Archaeologists recently unearthed a cache of well-preserved Roman weapons in the Judean Desert. The artifacts, including four swords and a shafted pilum [javelin] weapon, were hidden in a crevice inside a cave in the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve near the Dead Sea. They are believed to be around 1,900-years-old.

The cache was discovered by accident during a visit to the cave for another purpose. In the same cave about 50 years ago, archaeologists discovered an ink inscription written in ancient Hebrew script on a stalactite, dating to the First Temple period. Researchers went to the cave in September to photograph the inscription using multispectral photography, hoping to reveal obscured parts of the text. While in the cave, Dr. Asaf Gayer of Ariel University spotted the Roman pilum weapon concealed in a deep crevice.

The researchers informed the Israel Antiquities Authority's (IAA) Archaeological Survey Team, who began a meticulous investigation of the cave. They uncovered four Roman swords from an almost inaccessible crevice on the cave's upper level,

pointing to the purposeful concealment of the likely stolen weapons.

The swords are exceptionally well-preserved, with three of them still sheathed

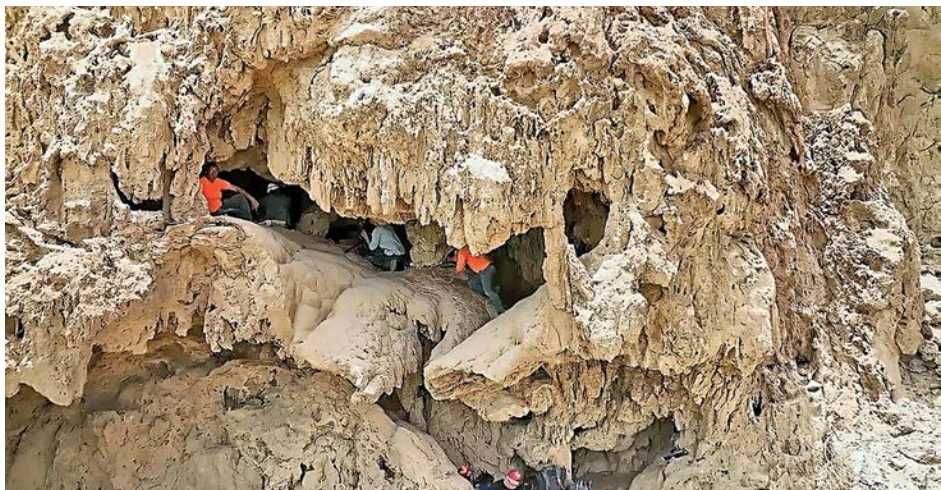


Archaeologists Hagay Hamer (left) and Oriya Amichai (right) examine one of the swords

in wooden scabbards. Three Roman *spatha* swords have iron blades measuring 23 to 25 inches long, with handles

(continued on next page)





credit: Amir Ganor / IAA

Exterior view of the cave

made of wood or metal. The fourth is shorter, with a blade measuring about 17 inches, identifying it as a ring-pommel sword. The archaeologists also found leather strips and wood and metal objects in the crevices.

"Finding one such sword is rare, so four? It's a dream. We had to rub our eyes to believe it," the excited researchers stated.

Speculating on the story behind the weapons, Dr. Eitan Klein, one of the directors of the Judean Desert Survey Project, noted: "The hiding of the swords and the pilum in deep cracks in the isolated cave ... hints that the weapons were taken as booty from Roman soldiers or from the battlefield, and purposely hidden by the Judean rebels for reuse. Obviously, the rebels did not want to be caught by the Roman authorities carrying these weapons."

Commenting on the discovery, Rabbi Amichai Eliyahu, Israel's Minister of Heritage, stated: "We are once again presented with thrilling findings from the Judean Desert that offer a glimpse into the daily lives of our ancestors who resided in this area about 2,000 years ago."

Additional investigations and research will seek to determine the historical event that prompted the concealment of these weapons, and whether it is linked to the Bar Kokhba revolt (A.D. 132-135).



credit: Amir Ganor / IAA

Archaeologist sifting dirt in the cave



credit: Reuters / Ronen Zullman

The Roman-era swords on display in Jerusalem



credit: Dafna Gazit / IAA

Close up of the sword display

Archaeological discoveries in Israel are always fascinating. Ein Gedi is one of our favorite stops on a Zola Tour. —David ☆



Neo-Nazis in Florida: “Jews Won’t Replace Us”

By Sam Halpern / JPost.com



Screenrab / YouTube



Neo-Nazi demonstrators

Neo-Nazis from the Goyim Defense League (GDL) and other groups demonstrated in Florida over Labor Day weekend. Over 50 participants waved swastika flags, performed Hitler salutes, and shouted hateful messages including “White power” and “Jews will not replace us.”

Most of the red-shirted white supremacists wore balaclavas and sunglasses, apparently to hide their identities. **The number 88, printed on the back of the shirts, is code for “Heil Hitler.”**

Jewish journalist Laura Loomer posted videos from Altamonte Springs of men making Nazi salutes, chanting “Heil Hitler,” and hurling insults at her. One man approached Loomer and stated, “Put the Jew in the oven!” before flipping his middle finger and making a Nazi salute. Another shouted, “The Holocaust didn’t happen. Six million didn’t die.”

Loomer was also approached by GDL leader Jon Minadeo II. He argued that some European countries passing laws against denying the Holocaust is evidence that discredits the Holocaust. “Why is the Holocaust illegal to question in eighteen countries?” he asked. When

Loomer asked why she was responsible for justifying European Holocaust laws, Minadeo responded, “Because you’re Jewish.” He added that he wanted Loomer to leave the U.S. and live in Israel.

“The Jews are going to get expelled again. You know you’ve been expelled, right?” Minadeo asked. “Do you know your people have been expelled from 109 nations?”

When Loomer asked what she had done to warrant expulsion from the U.S., **Minadeo claimed that Jews are responsible for usury, pedophilia, and pornography.**

A smaller group of white supremacists also demonstrated near Disney World, waving anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ+ flags and signs.



Oran Segal / Twitter

Neo-Nazis line an overpass in Orlando

As a Floridian, I am shocked to read about these incidents! With many wonderful synagogues in the Orlando area, our community should oppose a disgusting, vocal minority who demonstrate hate. — Kirsten ☆



Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is
good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

From Jewish Entertainers

"The first time I see a jogger smiling, I'll consider it."

—Joan Rivers

"At 60, I could do the same things I could do at 30, if I could only remember what those things are."

—Billy Crystal

"Just remember, golf is flog spelled backwards."

—Milton Berle

"Americans are getting stronger. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry \$10 worth of groceries. Today, a five-year-old can do it." —Henny Youngman

"If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?"

—Jerry Seinfeld

"I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either." —Jack Benny ☆



Answer Key for November 2023 Crossword (p. 25)

Across:

- 3. David's
- 6. Israel
- 7. Offerings
- 9. Heifer
- 10. Lawless
- 12. Desolation
- 14. Nation
- 16. Witnesses
- 17. Rebellion
- 18. Sleep
- 19. Sacrifice
- 20. Deceive

Down:

- 1. Nations
- 2. Perish
- 4. Desecrate
- 5. Symbols
- 8. Exalt
- 11. Sanctuary
- 13. Tabernacle
- 15. Temple



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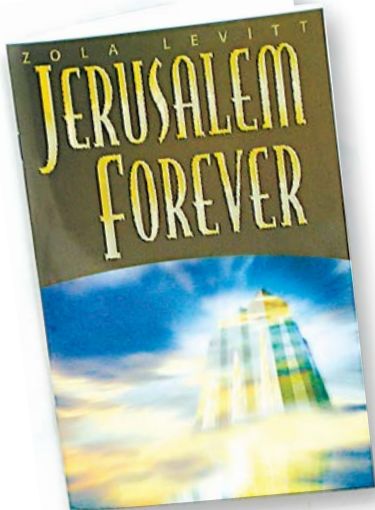
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Please see the Ask the Chaplain article "Why is Jerusalem Important?" [on p. 12.](#)

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