



# Levitt LETTER

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

DECEMBER 2023

Detail of Jesus Walks in the Portico of Solomon, painting by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

## The Light of Hanukkah and Christmas

By Monica Kass Rogers / JWCDaily.com

inside: God in  
Our Midst p.8

Strangers meeting Rabbi Jacob Rosenberg for the first time hear his title, see his bearded face and the yarmulke perched on the back of his head, and make assumptions about his beliefs. They are usually wrong.

"Most people don't know what Messianic Judaism actually is — that we believe Jesus is the Messiah," explained Rosenberg, rabbi at the Adat Hatikvah Messianic Synagogue in Deerfield, Illinois. **"Some people think Jesus was a prophet. Some think He was crazy. Others, that He was just a nice, Jewish boy. But we believe He was the Messiah whom the prophets and Hebrew Scriptures foretold."**

So asking Rosenberg, "What do Hanukkah and Christmas mean to you?" yields some interesting answers.

Most simply? "Light. Jesus is the light of the world," Rosenberg explained, quoting from the

*(continued p.4)*

## Intercession, Not Indignation

By Ken Berg

I never thought I'd be glad to leave Israel and go to an Arab nation. Such was the case, however, as I left the land that I love so much during its war against the Hamas terrorists who attacked the Holy Land.

During the first week of October, the crew of *Our Jewish Roots* filmed teaching in Israel by Joshua and Caleb Colson about events leading to the battle at Armageddon. We had prepared for the new series, *Roadmap to Armageddon*, for many months, unaware of how close we would

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### REMEMBER:

**Hanukkah:** Sunset Dec. 7 to sunset Dec. 15

**Christmas:** Monday, Dec. 25

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Credit: iStock/Tarabyshnik

# Intercession, Not Indignation *continued from cover*



Many of the Americans evacuated from Israel by Rep. Mills

be to the escalation of a festering hatred toward God's Chosen People.

As we filmed in Jerusalem on Saturday, October 7, sirens sounded as missiles soared above us. Like most others in Israel, we took shelter. **Because of the war, we could not fly home, and remained in Jerusalem for almost a week.**



U.S. Rep. Cory Mills and Ken Berg

We finally got to Amman, Jordan after an extraordinary evacuation, thanks to a congressman who financed the rescue of our team and about 40 other Americans. Sadly, many Americans remained in Israel, unable to escape the advancing war zone, not knowing if their evacuation would happen.

U.S. Representative Cory Mills of Florida, who had never been to Israel before, believed that our rescue was “the right thing to do.” Coordinating the necessary vehicles, facilitating border crossings, and securing accommodations in Jordan took considerable effort. When I offered to pay for hotel rooms for my four team members, Rep. Mills said that he wanted to cover everyone’s expenses. He never asked us to promote him or his cause. During the evacuation from Afghanistan in 2021, he also chartered a plane and secured transportation and lodging — costing him \$400,000 — for FOUR Americans. Cory Mills is a Believer\* with an amazing, Christlike spirit!

In my 76 journeys to Israel over 45 years, while I’ve witnessed conflicts and threats, I’ve never experienced a full-blown war. More Jewish lives were lost on October 7 than on any other day since the Holocaust.

I’m writing this on the “Day of Rage” — the *jihad* called for by Hamas and others seeking Israel’s destruction. Rather than *indignation*, I’m calling on Believers to join me in *intercession* through “Days of Prayer” — as King David implored us to “*pray for the peace of Jerusalem*” (Psalm 122:6) some 3,000 years before the current atrocities against Israel.

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\* “Believer” is short for “believer in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah.”





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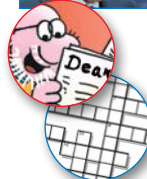


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Please pray with me that God's enemies will be vanquished. If this is a foretaste of the last days, we know that soon the Lord will return *"in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near"* (Luke 21:27-28). ☆



Our *Jewish Roots* television producer Ken Berg (front) with American and Israeli team members in Wadi Qelt (near Jericho)

# The Light of Hanukkah and Christmas *continued from cover*

Stock/RuslanKain



Night view of the decorated German Colony in Haifa, Israel

Gospels of Matthew and John. “His light is what brings each of us out of darkness and gives hope to all nations.” Rosenberg’s sermons and family celebrations during the winter holiday season focus on this light.

“As Messianic Jews, we celebrate the best of both Hanukkah and Christmas and how they are linked through Yeshua,” Rosenberg stated. “There is continuity between ancient prophecies written in the Hebrew Scriptures and texts, and the Greek Scripture (the New Testament). Together, they form a path for the whole world to be unified under one God.”

Even though the original events of Hanukkah in the second century B.C. were, in Rosenberg’s words, “a political chaos machine,” he noted that lighting candles today “reminds us that Jesus is a light that never goes out. The events surrounding His birth were the fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies. So, during Hanukkah, we sing the traditional Jewish blessings and light

each of the candles from the center candle representing Yeshua, and finish each blessing in His name.”

At home with his wife Heather and two children during Hanukkah, Rosenberg lights the menorah that he’s had his whole life. It helped him through a difficult time in his childhood. He remarked, “It was a spark of light in darkness then and is a reminder today of the blessings of my family, our connection to each other, and to Jesus as the light.”

Heather grew up in a Christian home, celebrating Christmas with trees, gifts, and treats. But when Jacob and Heather married and started their family, “We wanted our celebrations to focus more on Jesus and less on the decorations. For us [the season] is about light in the darkness and Yeshua being the light of the world.”

Rosenberg’s journey to becoming a Messianic Jewish rabbi was rooted in

*(continued on next page)*





Rabbi Jacob Rosenberg, PhD

credit: facebook.com/rabbi.jacobrosenberg

family history. "My dad's parents adhered to traditional Jewish faith and customs," he said. "But then my dad's older brother became a Believer in Jesus. Because my dad and mom were hippies, they wanted nothing to do with either tradition. So, they drove across the country to Oregon to get away from that."

"They actually lived in a van down by the river," he noted. "There was a little church community there that used to do potlucks. My parents started going to those for the free food." Eventually, however, they became Believers. Later, they started a Messianic Jewish synagogue in New York. Today, four Rosenbergs are Messianic Jewish rabbis, and another leads a Midwestern non-denominational church.

Rosenberg first wanted to be a comic book artist. After high school he studied art, but later switched to 3D animation. While working as a computer technologist in Manhattan brought him a great

salary and lifestyle, eventually he didn't like who he had become.

Changing course, Rosenberg returned to school to obtain a bachelor's degree in religion, followed by two more theological degrees. He then taught, was a guest preacher, and later became a rabbi. "I often tell people, it's not where you start; it's where you are headed," noted Rosenberg. "And the holiday season is a very good time to think much more deeply about that. Who are you, really? Who do you want to be? Who do you believe God to be? And what will you do with that?"

"During the holidays, the focus in much of our culture is on 'presents' rather than 'presence' — God's presence in your life, and your presence in the community and in other's lives," Rosenberg concluded. "We are at this place in time where people rush from one thing to the next or substitute social media for being physically present with others. But one of the best presents you can give is to be present. Look for ways to do that this holiday — with your family and others in the community, through service organizations, your church, your synagogue, or your own chosen actions. Doing that is a wonderful way to be the lights that we celebrate at Hanukkah and Christmas. ☆

[Please see the DVD set \*The Feast of Lights\* on page 20.](#)



# Being Kind About Christmas

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



istock/romdoflavani



On our end-of-the-year television programs for *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*, we always decorate our set with some festive greenery. Because of this decor, we often receive comments from some viewers who think it's wrong for us even to acknowledge such "heathen" traditions on *OJR*. While I realize that some Believers want nothing to do with Christmas, I also know that most Believers celebrate the holiday. Wherever you land on this issue, my wish is for us to offer a little *extra* kindness and understanding to each other this year.

David and I were brought up by Christian parents who were passionate about Christmas music and attending celebratory musicals. These annual customs offered us ways to honor the birth of Jesus/Yeshua. Thus, the festive Christmas season has always held a special place in our hearts.

## Debates about dates

Only in the last decade did I learn that our Savior probably wasn't born in December. Then, as I examined the origins of what we celebrate on Decem-

ber 25, I discovered many discrepancies and doubts about it being the true day of Yeshua's birth.

Let's not debate about whether it's wrong or right to celebrate Christmas on December 25 or to consider it as a pagan festival. Instead, I hope that all of us Believers will be thankful that there is still a near-worldwide acknowledgment of our Savior's birth.

## A different focus

During one of last year's December television programs, Dr. Jeffrey Seif shared his appreciation for the music of the Christmas season. As a Messianic Believer, he emphasized the importance of reflecting on the miracle of Christ's birth during this time. Christmas celebrates God's coming to Earth — He *"became flesh, and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14). Jesus' death and resurrection bring eternal life to all who believe in Him as Savior and Lord (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9). Thus, everyone benefits by contemplating God's profound love for humanity and the wonder of those who experienced Jesus' birth — Mary,

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Joseph, angels, and shepherds — regardless of when it happened.

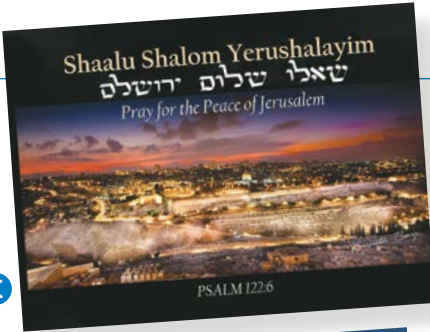
Christmas is a time to focus on love and kindness. Instead of debating about dates or whether we should participate in Christmas traditions, let's set minor differences aside and share our joy with others. We can offer words of hope, kindness, and encouragement to people we encounter. In this way we shine our light — which comes from Jesus, the *"true Light"* (John 1:9) and *"light of the world"* (John 8:12). As we do, we can help them know the true meaning of the season — it's about celebrating Jesus, our *"Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke

2:11), even if they celebrate differently than we do.

I plan to wear red during our upcoming end-of-year program. For me, it represents the vibrant, festive hues of Christmas, which I celebrate with great joy. During this time of reflection and remembrance, David and I extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May your hearts be filled with peace and joy as you remember our Savior's extraordinary and miraculous birth. ☆



iStock/Light-FieldStudios



X



Y



Z

## Jerusalem Magnets

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

X "Shaal Shalom Yerushalayim"

Y "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"

Z "The Lord is King Forever"







Interviewing Avi Lipkin in the bunker

This is not the article that we planned to write. We anticipated telling a heart-warming story of how God supernaturally worked on our first trip to the Holy Land as representatives for *Our Jewish Roots*. We went to Israel to get video footage for two new series: *Roadmap to Armageddon* and *Josiah and the Last Reformation*. Prior to our trip, the Lord often spoke to us. He prepared us for what was ahead, including divine appointments and even the outbreak of war.

Three days before departure, I (Joshua) tore the tendons in my calf. I couldn't walk and was in immense pain. I decided to pray for healing, and God completely healed me before I left for the airport. Aboard the plane, we hadn't left the tarmac before the Lord activated His assignments for us.

Throughout our trip, the Holy Spirit brought individuals across our path for us to minister to, and sometimes to minister to us. Difficulties, cancellations, road-closures, and blockades were daily occurrences. But with each snare Satan set, God intervened with a more powerful result than we could have imagined. Every day that we filmed was a miracle. And each day as we wrapped up shooting

just before sunset, we had completed the task at hand.

## Outbreak of War

On the day of Hamas's attack, we stood in front of the second largest mosque in Israel, teaching about repentance as sirens sounded and missiles flew above us. Still, we continued filming until we completed God's message. This happened again and again during our shoots that day and the next — God covered us with His hand of protection as we prayed Psalm 91 over our team. Being in this unique situation, we followed the Holy Spirit's direction to keep the world informed with the news behind the war. Daily, we filmed our stories and posted them on social media. With each video, hundreds of comments poured in that included prayers, tears, and hearts turned to Yeshua. We saw the Lord moving and touching hundreds of thousands of people on nearly every continent and throughout many countries.

## Exodus

Our return flights to the U.S. were canceled time and again due to continued rocket attacks on Ben Gurion Airport.

*(continued on next page)*







Ken Berg, Caleb, and Joshua  
on Israel's Northern Border



Brenda Crouch on her hotel balcony  
pointing to Caleb and Joshua on the  
roof of their hotel

Even so, God provided a way out. While at our hotel in Jerusalem, the Lord supernaturally initiated a friendship as Brenda and Paul Crouch spotted us on the roof of the hotel filming our “War Updates.” They were connected with U.S. Rep. Cory Mills, who was planning to extract trapped Americans from Israel. The Crouches generously offered us their seats out of the country. Many other Americans, including our crew, were also desperate to leave. Ultimately, Congressman Mills funded, organized, and supervised an exodus of 45 Americans to Jordan where we were able to travel home to the U.S.

In the midst of hate, death, and destruction, God’s Spirit always manifests Himself in power, confounding the spirit of the enemy. This war’s effect on the people of Israel is tragic, and the death toll catastrophic. The ramifications of this conflict will continue for years to come. Please keep praying for the lost and those who are suffering in this war. Pray for God to remove the blinders from Israel’s enemies who seek its destruction. It’s not God’s will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and believe on His Son, Yeshua (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 16:31).

## The Body of Messiah standing firm

Please follow our social media updates. (Our social media outlets are listed on page 35.) We know that those platforms are imperfect ways of creating an authentic relationship. Still, God has used stranger methods in the past to deliver His Word — even allowing a donkey to speak (Num. 22:21-33). We want to utilize every means at our disposal to reach people with the Good News of Yeshua. Our war updates from Israel continue to grow the ministry and touch the broken. Thousands of our online viewers stood with us in the midst of the chaos of battle, praying, interceding, and reposting so that the world might know the truth of God’s love for His people Israel. Almighty God heard your petitions and brought us safely home. He is the God of miracles! ✨

Thank you for all of your prayers,  
Joshua and Caleb



Classic **Zola**

## Media Misinformation

by **Zola Levitt**  
from 2000  
23 years ago

I really am disheartened by reading and viewing the "news." There is so much misinformation being promulgated about the situation in the Middle East.

**It's time to define some terms.**

### Palestine

There never was such a country. "Palestine" was the name placed on Israel by the Emperor Hadrian in A.D. 135. It was replaced by the Israelis in 1948. For the intervening years, those living in the land — Jews, Arabs, Egyptians, Turks, etc. — were called Palestinians, just as all U.S. residents are called Americans, even though only Native Americans are indigenous to this land.

### Palestinian

This word pertained to anyone who lived in Israel while it was called Palestine (A.D. 135— A.D. 1948). It harked back to the ancient Philistines — Greeks who settled along the shores of Gaza 3,000 years ago. It does not denote Arabs of any kind, but rather was applied to Jews before 1948. In fact, Arab-Muslims disliked being called Palestinians because the Jews were known by that name.

**Arab-Muslims began to co-opt the term "Palestinian" after 1948 when the Jews renamed the country "Israel."** By 1964, when the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed by the Egyptian, Yasser Arafat, the name was completely taken over by the Arab-Muslims of the land. But there was no Palestinian culture in history, just as there was no Soviet culture. The term "Soviet," which was applied to the various peoples who lived in Russia and its environs for 70 years, has come and gone. Likewise, the name "Palestine" or "Palestinian," applied to various peoples, has come, and should have gone.

### Occupation

It is the Arab-Muslims of Israel who are occupying Jewish land and not the other

way around. While Arafat's people have, by constant repetition, tried to establish that Israelis are "occupying the West Bank," that territory, as well as all the rest of Israel, was given to the Jews by divine land grant (Gen. 12:1–3; Deut. 30:3–5; etc.). The Arab-Muslims in the land, now calling themselves Palestinians, largely have come over the borders since 1948 when the Israelis began building a modern nation. The Arab-Muslims took the jobs in construction and other skilled labor to help build the land, and they were paid fair wages. They came from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and so forth. **The idea that Israel was ever their own land is a myth.**

### War crimes

In paid advertising purchased by Arab-Muslims, the Jews are accused of using heavy weaponry like tanks and helicopters against unarmed civilians. The fact is that the Israelis are confronting hordes of rioters throwing rocks and even shooting with rifles provided to their "policemen" by Israel as part of the peace process. The Israeli soldiers are under strictest orders to deal with these mobs as gently as humanly possible. Indeed, if a modern army could kill only 200 people in a whole month with tanks and helicopters, it ought to go into some other business. One tank can kill 100 people in one second. Obviously, if the Palestinians stopped charging in huge mobs and challenging the Israelis, there would be no action whatever and no one killed or injured.

### Temple Mount

**This entire area is Jewish** and was the home of the two Jewish Temples for 1,000 years as given in Scripture. It is particularly sensitive to Jewish people, as it is their holiest place on Earth. Muslim shrines were built there when the Jews were dispersed, but Jerusalem was never a holy city to the Muslims. And

*(continued on next page)*








the Muslim shrines have been respected by the Israelis and always protected by them. The idea that a Jew should not set foot on the Temple Mount is as ridiculous as claiming that an American should not set foot in Washington, D.C.

## The Koran

Considered the holy writ of Islam, the **Koran is actually replacement theology** designed to supplant both Judaism and Christianity. The book teaches that Muslims are to kill the Jews and the Christians, and thus is extremely suspect as inspired by any god. The Arab-Muslims of Israel are not very religious people in general, and the sermons in the mosques seem completely given over to politics.

I could go on and on, but let's face it. If we are misinformed daily by the "Pales-

tinians" and by our Palestinian-quoting media, Israel will never get a fair shake. Sadly, that is what seems to be happening, and the Israelis seem to have nowhere to turn. I continue to favor the idea of unilateral separation, which is being discussed in the Israeli Parliament at this time. That would amount to simply drawing borders with the Arab-Muslims and then letting them operate as a separate country or whatever they like but knowing that they cannot cross that border. It would take a passport or other legal permission for them to enter the land of Israel. I've come to the same conclusion as the conservatives in Israel; there are some people you cannot make peace with or even live with. ★



**Hebrew Names of God Notecards**  
(set of 12)

Rich calligraphy with the meaning and history of each of the 12 Names. Unique devotionals with Old and New Testament connections on the back of each card, useful for personal reflection, 12-week Bible studies, and framing on a conversation wall.

Including envelopes, these high-quality and colorful cards measure 5½" by 8½" and mail with a single First Class stamp.



## Why is Jerusalem Important?

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



### PART 2

Jerusalem — mentioned over 800 times in the Bible (and none in the Koran) — has been an important city for thousands of years. Initially known as “Salem” (Gen. 14:18), it was later referred to both as Jerusalem and Jebus (Josh. 10:1; 18:28; Judg. 19:10). After King David captured it and made it the capital of Israel, Jerusalem was occasionally called Zion or the City of David (2 Sam. 5:7; 1 Kings 8:1).

Beyond its Biblical prominence, Jerusalem has remained important over the past 2,000 years, with different groups controlling it through the centuries. After modern Israel was established in May 1948, its leaders declared Jerusalem as its “eternal and sacred” capital in December 1949. Israel finally controlled all of Jerusalem after the 1967 Six-Day War, but the Jordanian *Waqf* (Islamic trust) now has administrative control of the Temple Mount compound.

Jerusalem will also play a major role in the End Times. The Prophet Zechariah proclaimed this Word from God:

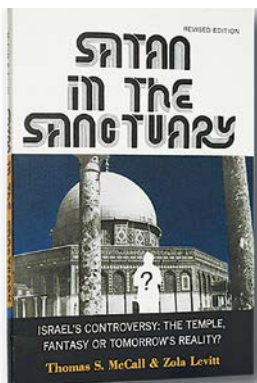
*“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. In that day,” says the LORD, “I will strike every horse with*

*confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.” — Zechariah 12:2-4*

During the Tribulation, a rebuilt Temple will stand in Jerusalem (Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4), which will be the temporary headquarters of the antiChrist. The Two Witnesses will also preach, be killed, and raised from the dead after their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three-and-a-half days (Rev. 11:1-12).

The Lord Jesus will reign from Jerusalem when He comes again to save Israel, defeat her enemies, and establish His Millennial Kingdom over all the Earth (Zech. 9-14). The Millennial Temple, from whence the Messiah will rule, will stand in Jerusalem (Ezek. 40-45). After the thousand-year reign of Christ over the world from Jerusalem is finished, God will create a new Heaven and a new Earth and bring down the Heavenly New Jerusalem (Revelation 21).

Psalms 122:6 commands: *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”* That prayer will be fully realized when Jesus, the Prince of Peace, returns to bring redemption to the city and uninterrupted peace — both spiritual and political — to all of the world. Only then will Jerusalem fulfill the meaning of its name as the “city of peace.” ✨



## Satan in the Sanctuary

book by Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

Zola's bestseller concerning the history of Israel, the Temples and how the antiChrist will become “Satan in the Sanctuary” when he blasphemes during the Tribulation Period. A truly readable and relevant study. Originally published by Moody Press and re-released as a popular paperback by Bantam Books.

An audio version of this book is available as *The Tribulation Temple*. (Order on p.19.) Hear the entire history and future of the vital Temple of God in Jerusalem. A key Biblical study.

*(This and most titles also available as eBooks.)*



When Israel was attacked on October 7, I didn't consider checking our ministry's YouTube comments. When I did, I couldn't believe what I read!

Joshua and Caleb (The Bearded Bible Brothers) were in Israel filming when the attack occurred. They posted YouTube updates that raised our visibility — **1 million views in a week!** Those videos attracted some wicked responses.

Interspersed with sympathy and shock posts were over 200 blatant anti-Semitic comments. It took hours to remove those bad enough to be automatically flagged. Later, I deleted over 150 subtle posts that weren't flagged as possibly offensive. But some posts were so bad that YouTube made me click to a new page to see them ... after a warning.

Many posters proclaimed hatred for Israel and the Jews, some tried to convince others to hate, and some simply wrote insults. There were three "Hitler was right" comments and several calling the Jews "Nazis"! **Here are the primary types of remarks:**

- Israel has killed innocent Palestinians daily for years, so what do you expect?
- The Jews in Israel aren't the real Jews; but are European occupiers.
- Jews spit on Christians, and curse Jesus and Mary while Muslims honor them.
- The Jews killed Christ, you know.
- "Death to Israel" and "Free Palestine."

None of this hatred is new, but the amount appearing on ZLM's social media is. Some posts are from people who must believe that Israel kills Palestinians regularly, though nothing could be further from the truth. Before Israel attacks a terror site, whenever possible,



the Israel Defense Forces drop leaflets warning innocents to flee and even send text message warnings. Still, the false narrative remains. People begin to believe what they read and hear over and over. After reading and hearing lies repeatedly, they assume that they are true.

Those with such hate no longer hide it — they boldly express it. I'm not Jewish, so I didn't grow up with this anti-Semitism and perhaps I'm naive. Are we losing the battle against hate? I don't know. Yet I realize that such hearts and minds must be changed.

ZLM's To The Jew First fund will soon send Todd Baker's team to Israel for the 55<sup>th</sup> time to witness and distribute complete Hebrew Bibles to Muslims and Jews. These missionaries continue to be well received; their Gospel message is getting through. They aren't deterred by terrorism, war, or rumors of war. They know that Yeshua/Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is the only way for people in Israel and elsewhere to experience genuine peace. Only through Him will lost souls truly be transformed. ☆

[Please see the DVD set \*Bad Moon Rising\* on p. 17.](#)



# Israel's 9-11; ZLM's Renaissance

**Mark Levitt**  
ZLM Director  
since 1988



ISTOCK/GISTEL Cezary Wojtkowski

Political analysts have characterized the October 7 terror attack as Israel's Pearl Harbor and 9/11. Certainly, Hamas's analogous, never-ending cowardice and treachery — indiscriminately targeting innocent civilians — remain the same as ever. Will it ever occur to their "militants" (read: *terrorists*) that chanting *Allahu Akbar* (Arabic for "Allah is the greatest") while desecrating corpses is some of Islam's poorest P.R.?

The Renaissance in Europe, ranging from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, was a period of remarkable cultural and intellectual change. It was a time of renewed interest in classical learning and art that spawned the emergence of new ideas in science, philosophy, and literature.

This ministry's ongoing transition from Dr. Jeffrey Seif's Bible teaching to that of our Bearded Bible Brothers, Joshua and Caleb, could be deemed our own latest renaissance. Viewers and readers are experiencing a new, timely approach to meaty Bible teaching — geared to shorter attention spans — while our outreach's theological integrity remains intact. Let me explain.

Margot Dokken, our prior newsletter editor, now serves on our board of directors. She recently asked what formal theological expertise our ministry has since, as was Zola back in the day, the Bearded Bible Brothers Joshua and Caleb are self-taught. I posed Margot's query to Clayton Herring, the producer for Berg Productions, who responded:

Just as Zola consulted Dr. Thomas McCall, it remains important for us

to have access to a Bible expert with a doctorate in theology. Fortunately, Caleb and Dr. Jeffrey Seif have a very warm relationship with an open line of communication. Jeff appears on the set and in cameos as part of the February 2024 television series *Roadmap to Armageddon*.

We've also talked with Dr. Todd Baker (To the Jew First missionary and "Ask the Chaplain" author) about an interview for an upcoming series. Caleb and Todd worked together on Todd's *Faith Foundations* videos. Todd has graciously made himself available to Joshua and Caleb as a consulting theologian.

Remarkably, our television production crew was filming in Israel at the time of Hamas's worst attacks ever. Unable to leave, they did what the bravest journalists do: They ventured onto the streets for man-on-the-street interviews for social media posts and *Our Jewish Roots* broadcasts!

Kudos to our production team members in the trenches who routinely employ their faith, chutzpah, and smarts to bring you the best teaching from the Holy Land itself — rather than from the confines of a comfy studio. That said, this ministry needs your help after setbacks that include missing out on much of the Holy Land footage that we were anticipating along with having to postpone (and miss the revenue from) our fall tour. Please help us continue to bless Israel as per Genesis 12:3. ☆





# ZLM Bulletin Board



## Enough is Enough

*Dayenu* is a Hebrew song, traditionally sung during the Passover celebration. The 15-line poem traces the Jews' stages of redemption — from their Exodus from Egypt, through the giving of

the Torah, to the building of the Temple. The word itself essentially means, "It would have been enough." The Maccabeats — an American, Orthodox Jewish, all-male, a cappella group — have put a contemporary spin on this heartfelt classic. Sung in Hebrew with English subtitles, this four-minute video is a treat! [youtu.be/CZgDNPGZ9Sg](https://youtu.be/CZgDNPGZ9Sg)

credit: maccabeats.com



The Maccabeats

## ECFA Approved (still)

For the twelfth year in a row, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) has monitored various aspects of this ministry's financials, newsletters, website, government documents, television broadcasts, and more. Once again, we appreciate the ECFA accepting ZLM as an official member. Moreover, this ministry has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars.

## For Fans of Front Pages

FrontPages.com gives free views of daily front pages of major newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and abroad. Students of the Bible may find it a helpful tool for keeping a finger on the pulse of prophecy fulfillment. Its publications include *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Newsweek*, *TIME*, and many more. By the same token, [levitt.com/levletter](http://levitt.com/levletter) offers frontpage previews and access to Levitt Letters and Personal Letters dating back to December 1979.

## FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

People who are at least 70½ and have IRAs can make tax-free gifts to qualified charities in amounts up to \$100,000. Did you know that traditional IRA assets are not only subject to income tax when withdrawn during one's lifetime or by survivors, but also may be subject to state and/or federal estate tax if left to loved ones other than a spouse? To receive the free pamphlet ***The Charitable IRA***, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #23.**

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## "COME HOME!"

Zola  
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to Israel



See page 36  
for details





Courtesy:  
The Jerusalem  
Connection

## HebrewLesson

# Faith's Remembering

by John Parsons  
Hebrew for Christians  
Hebrew4Christians.com



נִתֵּן לַיָּעֹף כֹּחַ וּלְאִין אוֹנִים עֲצָמָה יִרְבֶּה

"He gives power to the faint, and to those without might He increases strength."  
(Isa. 40:29)

נִתֵּן	לַיָּעֹף	כֹּחַ	וּ	לְאִין	אוֹנִים	עֲצָמָה	יִרְבֶּה
(2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)
no-tein'	lai-ya-eif'	ko'-ach		oo-le-ein'	oh-neem'	ohtz-mah'	yar-beh'
He gives	to the faint	power		and to those without might		He increases strength	

Read Hebrew right to left! ←

God's children are people of truth, those who trust in the Lord God of Israel (John 18:37). We share our hope with the great *tzaddikim* of the ages as we walk through the "valley of the shadow of death" that is this world. We believe in God's mercy and love given in the Messiah; we believe in the resurrection of Yeshua from the dead and hold fast to the promise of an unimaginably wonderful blessing reserved for us in the world to come. Meanwhile, we walk by faith, further believing that no prayer we utter ever goes unanswered. We trust in our Heavenly Father's care as we pour out our hearts to Him for the healing of those who are still lost and in despair. We remember that time is short and soon we will see our great King *panim el-panim* (פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים), "face to face."

At any given moment of the day, then, regardless of our present circumstances, we can turn to the secret reality of the Divine Presence and come "*boldly before the throne of grace*" (Heb. 4:16). As Yeshua said, "*To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven...*" (Matt. 13:11). The Spirit of God

always says, "*Come, My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you*" (Isa. 26:20). In the secret places of our heart — our "prayer closet" — we appeal to the Hidden Presence to be manifest in the midst of every circumstance of our lives. Our Heavenly Father sees in secret; He knows the groaning of our hearts (Matt. 6:6).

Therefore, may we never be ashamed. May we never grow bitter. May our sorrows lead us *me'chayil el-chayil* (מֵחַיִל אֶל-חַיִל), "from strength to strength." And may the days of our sojourn yield to us greater wisdom, deeper compassion, and finally glorious reception into the accepting arms of our great God and Savior. By faith let us draw near and call upon the Name of the Lord. Amen. ☆

### Hebrew Phrase:

נִתֵּן לַיָּעֹף כֹּחַ

notein · lai'yaef · ko'ach

"He gives power to the faint."

Isa. 40:29a

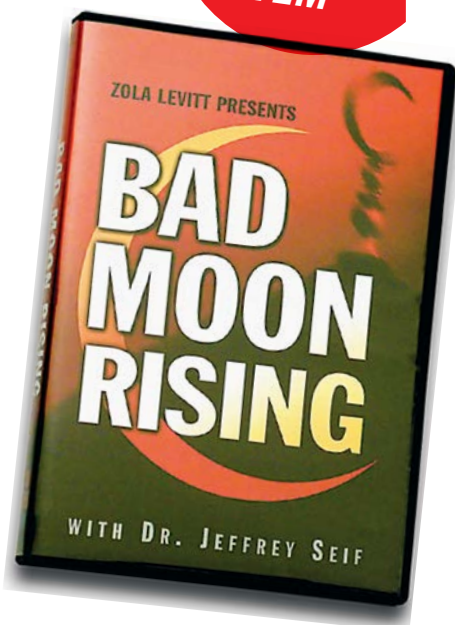


## ***Bad Moon Rising***

### DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

Dr. Jeffrey Seif remembers yesterday's Holocaust and considers anti-Semitism's rise in modern-day Europe. Though dressed this time in Islamic garb and not in Nazi uniforms, anti-Semitism is making fresh headway in the world, its current surge fueled by the radical Islamic fringe as it turns out the lights of once-Christian Europe. Jeff speaks out against this trend with a prophetic voice and calls individuals, particularly Europeans and onlooking North Americans, to resist the encroaching darkness and walk in the light of God's grace and love.



**When Darkness Once Prevailed** Jeff speaks from a Jewish synagogue/memorial in Dachau, where he draws troubling parallels between the rise of the Nazis and the rise of radical Islam.

**Out of the Darkness** Against the backdrop of Dachau's front gate, emblazoned with the lie "Work Will Make You Free," Jeff teaches about real freedom. A Holocaust survivor shares her remarkable story.

**Dark Night of the Soul** Jeff talks from inside the barracks of Dachau. Sandra Levitt and Will King interview survivors who worked on the bunker where Hitler planned to manufacture his Messerschmitt aircraft.

**Bright Lights in a Darkened World** "March of Life" participants express support for the Jewish people and the need to "lift the veil of silence." Jeff speaks from the Dachau crematorium about the Jews who were shoved into ovens.

**The Darkness that Nearly Engulfed Us** Jeff lectures from the German site where Hitler nearly succeeded in developing an atomic bomb. Zola interviews Dr. Ergun Caner, a former Muslim who shares his insights on Islam.

**Letting the Sun Shine** Jeff teaches from the site of Hitler's atomic reactor, admonishing the viewer to draw a line in the sand. We are warned that the greatest tragedy would be to think that such things can't happen again.

**A Star that Breaks Through the Darkness** Sandra and Jeff interview Brigitte Gabriel, formerly of Lebanon, who has appeared on many network TV shows sounding an alarm about the evils of radical Islam.

**Heavenly Light from Hellish Darkness** Walid Shoebat shares insights regarding Islam from his book *Why We Want To Kill You*. Zola interviews Caecelie Rexin, who concludes — referring to the Holocaust — "Never again."

[Also please see "No Longer Hiding" on p.13](#) and ["Israel's 9-11; ZLM's Renaissance" on p.14.](#)

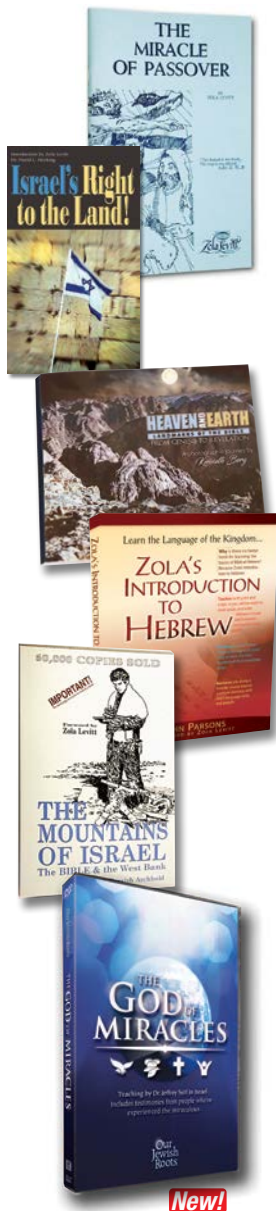






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___	<b>The Miracle of Passover</b> (pictured) .....	\$4	___
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___	The Spirit of Pentecost .....	\$4	___
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___	The Bible Jesus Read .....	\$11	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton) .....	\$9	___
___	<b>Coming: The End! Russia &amp; Israel in Prophecy</b> (p.36)	\$12	___
___	<b>New!</b> The End (Mark Hitchcock) .....	\$26	___
___	<b>Heaven and Earth</b> (Ken Berg) (pictured) .....	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seft) .....	\$9	___
___	An Israeli Love Story — Zola's only novel .....	\$8	___
___	<b>Israel's Right to the Land</b> (pictured) .....	\$3	___
___	Meshumed! (Traitor!) .....	\$10	___
___	<b>The Mountains of Israel</b> (pictured) .....	\$10	___
___	Raptured .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Satan in the Sanctuary</b> (p.12) .....	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium .....	\$8	___
___	The Trouble with Christians/Jews .....	\$10	___
___	<b>Zola's Introduction to Hebrew</b> (John Parsons) (pictured) .....	\$39	___

## Featured DVDs

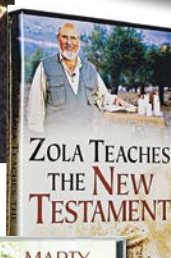
___	<b>Bad Moon Rising</b> (p. 17) .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	<b>The Feast of Lights</b> (p.20) .....	(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	<b>New! The God of Miracles</b> (pictured) .....	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	The Seven Feasts of Israel .....	(7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	<b>Sons of Israel</b> (p.24) .....	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
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___	Times of the Signs .....	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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_____	Genealogy Chart (16" x 20") .....	\$12	_____
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_____	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain) .....	\$39	_____
_____	Half-shekel Keychain .....	\$16	_____
_____	<b>Hebrew Names of God Notecards</b> (p.11) .....	\$24	_____
_____	<b>Jerusalem Magnets</b> (p.7) ..... (set of 3 different designs)	\$12	_____
_____	<b>[New] Jewish Heritage Calendar</b> (5784 / 2024) (pictured) ....	\$6	_____
_____	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem .....	\$12	_____
_____	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land .....	\$7	_____
_____	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker .....	\$3	_____
_____	<b>Pro-Israel Button "Pray for the Peace"</b> (pictured) (4 of 1 design)	\$8	_____
_____	<b>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies</b> (info only) .....	no charge	_____



## Teaching CDs

_____	<b>Coming: The End! Russia &amp; Israel in Prophecy</b> (p.36) (CD)	\$8	_____
_____	Tribulation Temple .....	(CD)	\$8
_____	<b>Zola Teaches the New Testament</b> (pictured) ..... (6 CDs)	\$29	_____

## Music CDs: Hear samples at [levitt.com/music](http://levitt.com/music)

_____	<b>I Call You Friend</b> (Goetz) (pictured) .....	(Music CD)	\$14
_____	The Works I .....	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49
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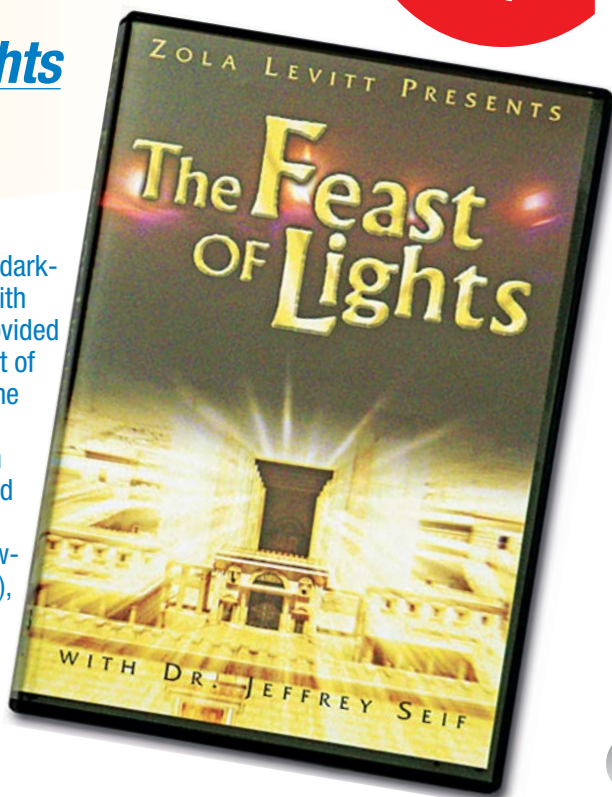
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## *The Feast of Lights*

### DVD Set

Three 30-minute TV programs  
on one DVD

Since the dawn of time, forces of darkness have threatened the Jews with extinction. Yet, each time, God provided a leader who would shine the light of God's faithfulness. Hanukkah —the Jewish Feast of Lights — harks back to a time before Christ when an anti-Semitic dictator threatened to wipe out the Hebrews. But the Lord's deliverer arose (foreshadowing Yeshua, the Ultimate Deliverer), lit the lamp of hope, and saved Israel. In every generation, Jews have lit lamps in their homes to commemorate the victory and retell the story of the Feast of Lights.



### **The Story of Hanukkah**

Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story of Hanukkah in which Syrian dictator Antiochus Epiphanes overthrew Jerusalem and desecrated the Holy Temple. Although many have sought to

destroy God's Chosen People, Jeff reassures us that *"He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep"* (Psalm 121:4). We look at harvesting olive oil and its importance to the menorah in the Holy Place.



### **The Light of the World**

Jesus told His disciples, *"You are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14). At a Messianic synagogue, Jeff explains the significance of light in celebrating Hanukkah, as well as its prophetic image of our

Messiah. Jeff interviews Rabbi Marty Waldman about the recent increase of Messianic Jews. Zola interviews a Messianic minister in the city of Ashdod named Simcha Davidov.

### **The Feast of Dedication**

Jeff explores the prophecy of Daniel as fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration, and the future abomination of desolation to be committed by the antiChrist. Discover the Feast of Dedication as observed by Jesus in the Bible, and a heartfelt look by Zola and Jean Rosenberg at the celebration of Hanukkah in the home today.

[Please see the cover article, "The Light of Hanukkah and Christmas."](#)





# PA Rewards Terrorists' Families with Nearly \$3 Million

By Talia Wise  
CBN.com



The Palestinian Authority (PA) paid the families of Hamas terrorists who died in October while carrying out the deadly attacks on Israeli civilians almost \$3 million as “martyr payments.” Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) reported that the PA will also pay \$17,590 per month in salaries to the 50 Hamas prisoners captured by Israeli soldiers.

**Under PA law, terrorists who are killed attacking Israel are defined as “martyrs” and their families receive a monthly stipend** — often termed “pay for slay.” The PA paid \$2,789,430 in October alone to the families of 1,500 dead Hamas terrorists as a reward for participating in the October 7 attack that resulted in the deaths of 1,400 Israeli citizens, the kidnapping of more than 200 people, and the raping of women and children, PMW reported. This figure is in addition to the more than \$25 million per month that the PA already pays in salaries to imprisoned terrorists and families of terrorist “martyrs.”

“The Palestinian Authority should be sending a big thank you to the EU countries and Norway, currently the largest funders of the PA, because the PA could not possibly make these terror payments without them,” wrote Itamar Marcus for PMW. “These donor countries like to pretend that it’s not their money rewarding terrorists, but everyone knows that the PA could not reward terrorists without this generous foreign funding. When payments to teachers, police, and street cleaners are taken care of by international donors, the PA has the hundreds of millions available it needs to pay for terror.”

**The U.S. indirectly funds these martyr payments** by sending foreign aid to the PA. In 2018, then-President Donald

Trump signed the Taylor Force Act, which halted American economic aid to the PA until they stop paying stipends through the “Palestinian Authority Martyr’s Fund.”

The Taylor Force Act was named for U.S. Army veteran Taylor Force, who was stabbed to death by an Arab-Muslim terrorist while visiting Israel in March



(left to right) PA President Mahmoud Abbas, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh met in Turkey in July 2023

Credit: Turkish Presidency

2016. Though the terrorist was killed by police, the PA government praised him, and his family receives lifelong financial compensation.

The law cut about a third of U.S. aid to the PA, but more legislation has been pushed to end those payments entirely. This year, U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO) re-introduced the Taylor Force Martyr Payment Prevention Act. Originally introduced by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) in 2021, the legislation builds upon the original act by seeking to hold accountable the financial institutions that process “pay-for-slay” payments.

“Radical Islamic terrorists shouldn’t be rewarded for killing innocent people, and banks should be held responsible for processing any sort of “martyr payments.” Our bill will build upon the original Taylor Force Act to ensure Palestinian terrorists don’t benefit financially for committing these senseless murders,” Cotton announced. ☆





# Letters to ZLM

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

Letters, emails, and comments from [levitt.com](#) and our social media platforms

## Missing the Archaeology article

**From R.F.:** As a longtime supporter of ZLM, I must say I am disappointed in the [October 2023 Levitt Letter](#). I have long enjoyed reading about recent archaeological excavations and discoveries as far as I can remember, but this month no such article? Granted there are some worthwhile stories in this month's letter, but there's really no excuse for not having any latest news about digs in Israel when so much is coming out of the ground every week! Please get back to and continue with the Archaeology section and contents.

Dear R.F.,

We don't have room for everything we'd like to include in each *Levitt Letter*, and sometimes that means choosing one good article over another. We almost always include at least one Archaeology article (in the [May 2023 newsletter](#) we had two!), but in October we instead included the story about "The Diplomat Who Saved Thousands of Jews During the Holocaust." [You may have noticed in the past that other "regular" features \(Science, Medicine, Humor, etc.\) aren't always in a particular issue, but they haven't been dropped. It's more like a sabbatical for a month. You can find this month's Archaeology article starting on \[page 32\]\(#\).](#) —Editor



## Dateline Jerusalem: The Coming Temple — #1 Sin and Restoration

**From H.R.:** With all due respect and not an attack on anyone's faith, Jesus doesn't mention a Rapture or gathering until "after" the tribulation in the Olivet Discourse. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3, Paul also says that the gathering is after the revealing of the antiChrist. It's also said that it's at the "Last" trumpet.

I think that we need to consider what we will be called to do during the time of the end and not expect an escape (those with understanding, Daniel 11). [Consider the implications if the pre-trib theory is wrong.](#) The ramifications could be catastrophic for many. After the Temple is built and sacrifices are occurring, the next prophetic event is the abomination of desolation. Please consider the call to enduring faith and to not love our lives unto death. And if you believe it's pre-trib, that's fine. Just endure in case that it's incorrect. If I'm wrong, worst case is that I'm pleasantly surprised. Maranatha, family.

Shalom H.R.,

Thank you for respectfully disagreeing. As long as we all believe that salvation comes only by Yeshua's blood, then we believe that pleasant surprise will come. If you are right, our hearts are prepared as well, because the teaching of a pre-trib Rapture is about being prepared like the 10 virgins. Just so you know, the "last trumpet" refers to the Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashanah. There are several blowings of the *shofar* during that Feast; the Last Trumpet only occurs during that time. (That term has been

*(continued on next page)*

known by Jews throughout the centuries to refer to that moment. We invite you to watch our video, *A Tale of 2 Raptures*, [youtube.com/watch?v=l1ColGZVZII](https://youtube.com/watch?v=l1ColGZVZII)  
Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb Colson

**From G.M.:** The Rapture, according to Matthew 24, is after the Tribulation of those days (these days). We are in the Tribulation at the third seal.

Shalom G.M.,

A lot of people, including scholars, confuse the Rapture and the Second Coming as the same event. The Jews in the first century confused the events of the Second Coming of Messiah with the First coming of Messiah, and thus rejected Yeshua because they couldn't identify Him. **There are multiple Raptures in history.** If you have 10 minutes, please watch the video we referenced above.

Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb Colson

**From J.B.:** Premillennial dispensationalism is a false doctrine.

Dear J.B.,

The Rapture is a Biblical doctrine, though we realize that there are different ideas about when it will occur. We stand on the values and beliefs of our predecessor, Zola Levitt, who did not create or promote a false doctrine. The belief in a loving Heavenly Father Who has exempted us from His wrath has been verified in Scripture (including 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; and Rev. 3:10). We don't plan on sticking around when the antiChrist shows up. —Joshua and Caleb Colson

**From G.D.:** Thanks for the updates. I just wish the people wanted the Lord Jesus rather than Jerusalem.

Shalom G.D.,

That's our desire as well. Unfortunately, many Christians are pushing for the Third Temple construction, thinking that they can force prophecy into action. And, of course, our Jewish brethren are focused on this coming Temple, believing that the Messiah Himself will build it. We merely want the lost to know how little time we have left. It's our jobs, as Believers, to sound the warning and preach the Gospel to both Jew and gentile.

Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb Colson





## *Sons of Israel*

### DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs  
on three DVDs

Filmed on location where it happened in the Holy Land, Zola teaches on the fascinating lives of some of God's key men—from Abraham to the Messiah and the Apostles. An informative and stunningly beautiful history of the people God chose and the special men among them that He used for His purposes.

**The Father of a Nation** On Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, Zola begins with the father of the nation, Abraham. This humble man from Ur relocated to a land he had never seen and received a promise to be a blessing to all people on Earth.

**The Blessing** At The Holy Land Experience (Orlando, Florida), Zola presents Abraham's child of the promise, Isaac, his son Jacob, the lineage of these patriarchs, and the impact of choice. Zola interviews Yitzhak Navon, president of Israel 1978–1983, and former political secretary for David Ben-Gurion.

**Sons and Tribes** The 12 sons of Jacob formed a nation set apart from the world. Zola visits the Upper Room where the Lord met with His 12 Apostles who would change the nations of the world with His message.

**Out of Exile** At The Holy Land Experience, Zola teaches about Moses, the reluctant leader who gave up his royal place in Egypt to lead the Hebrews to the Promised Land.

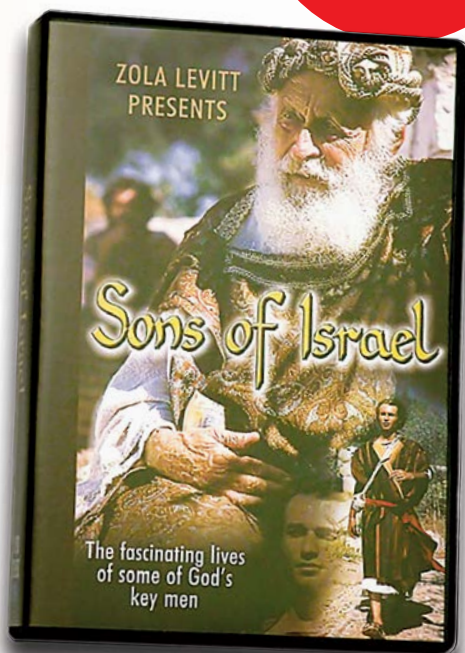
**A Nation Ruled** With the Knesset in the background, Zola chronicles the time of the Judges and Israel's need for a political system to keep order. Two experts discuss Theodor Herzl, the founders of the modern State of Israel, and how Biblical mandates influenced its development.

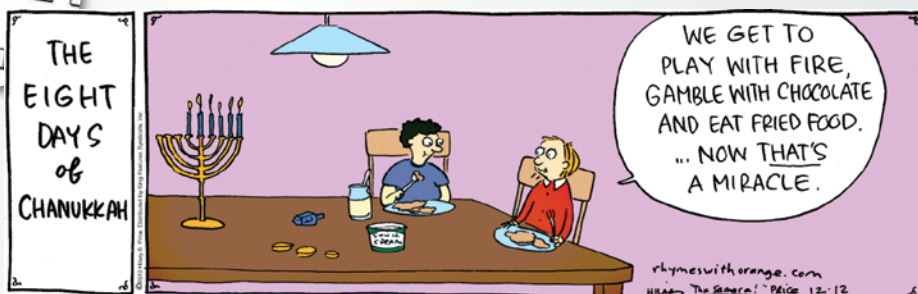
**A Desire to be Like Others** In view of David's Tower in Jerusalem, Zola teaches that Israel's desire for a human king resulted in Saul, David, and ultimately Jesus.

**A Promise of What is to Come** At The Holy Land Experience, Zola reviews how the Prophets guided the Israelites to become the nation God called them to be. At Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery, archaeologist Steve Pfann explains the Law's transition from oral to written form.

**Free at Last!** Zola speaks about the Messiah, the Redeemer that Israel was looking for, and why the majority of the Jewish people did not recognize Him when He came the first time.

**Unto All Nations** At the ruins of Emmaus, Zola chronicles how the Gospel spread through Paul and Peter and the other Apostles.

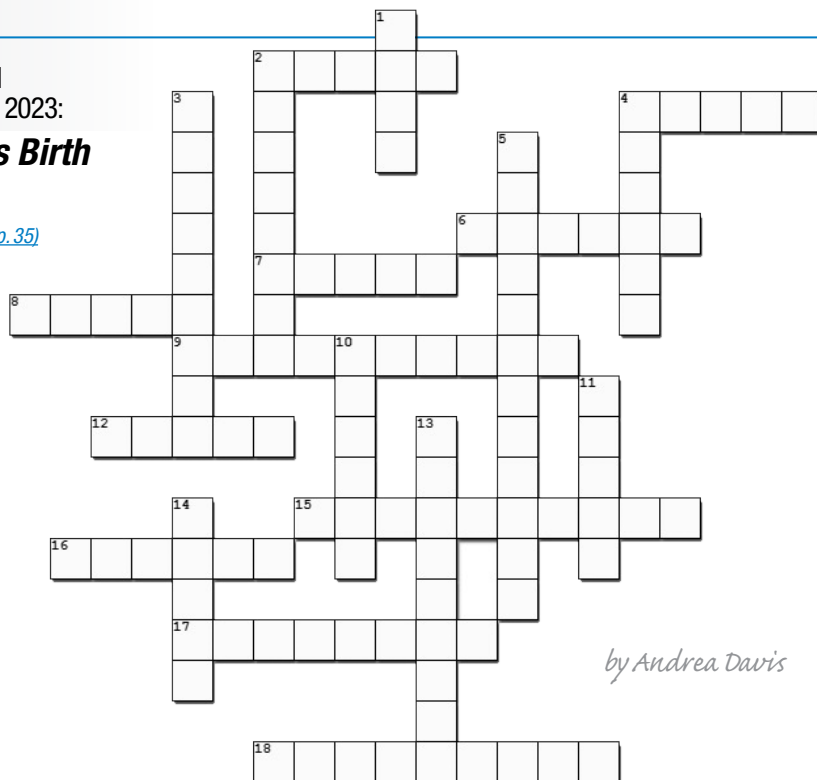




Crossword  
December 2023:

## Christ's Birth (NIV)

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



by Andrea Davis

### ACROSS

2. Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found \_\_\_ with God. (Luke 1:30)
4. ... and you are to give Him the name \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 1:21)
6. ... She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a \_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:7)
7. The Word became \_\_\_ and made His dwelling among us. (John 1:14)
8. A Shoot will come up from the stump of \_\_\_; (Isa. 11:1)
9. ... she was found to be pregnant through the \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 1:18)
12. ... God sent His Son, born of a \_\_, born under the law, (Gal. 4:4)
15. ... and the \_\_ will be on His shoulders... (Isa. 9:6)
16. ... out of you will come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people \_\_. (Matt. 2:6)
17. ... and give birth to a Son, and they will call Him \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 1:23)
18. ... Magi from the east came to \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 2:1)

### DOWN

1. ... Do not be afraid. I bring you \_\_\_ news... (Luke 2:10)
2. Because Joseph her husband was \_\_\_ to the law... (Matt. 1:19)
3. After Jesus was born in \_\_ in Judea... (Matt. 2:1)
4. ... His mother Mary was pledged to be married to \_\_\_\_ (Matt. 1:18)
5. ... and presented Him with gifts of gold, \_\_ and myrrh. (Matt. 2:11)
10. Today in the town of David a \_\_ has been born to you... (Luke 2:11)
11. ... an \_\_ of the Lord appeared to him in a dream... (Matt. 1:20)
13. And there were \_\_ living out in the fields... (Luke 2:8)
14. ... when I will raise up for \_\_ a righteous Branch... (Jer. 23:5)



# Israeli Hospital Innovates to Treat War-Related Head Trauma



By Ariel Grossman / NoCamels.com

Faced with a growing number of head trauma cases due to the ongoing war with Hamas, medical professionals in Israel's largest hospital are innovating — including using artificial intelligence — to help treat victims of the war.

While the doctors of the Sheba Medical Center are used to treating many patients with diverse conditions every year, **many of their new cases have complex brain injuries that cannot be addressed by conventional means.**

The Center's Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit — which normally treats patients suffering from strokes, aneurysms, and brain bleeds — is modifying existing medical techniques to cope with the new cases. Suffering from head trauma due to gunshot wounds, rocket shrapnel, or falling debris, many of the new patients

Credit: Israel Defense Forces/Flickr, CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons



Damage caused to a building in Ashkelon by a rocket fired from Gaza

have developed a brain aneurysm — an abnormal bulge in a blood vessel of their brains that is at risk of rupturing.

Brain aneurysms are usually the result of blood vessels weakening with age or a genetic defect. They are more common in people over the age of 40. If not detected in time, they may cause bleeding inside the patient's brain, which can be fatal.



Credit: Anna Shvets/Pexels



Sheba's Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit had to modify its tools in order to treat the influx of patients with complex brain injuries.

*(continued on next page)*





A computer using Aidoc's technology

These new cases, however, are occurring in soldiers on the frontlines and civilians in the south of the country who have been most impacted by the war with Hamas. Unlike conventional brain aneurysms, these aneurysms are appearing in small arteries that are so delicate that they can rupture during surgery.

The Neurosurgery Unit team has modified the tools used to treat other vascular diseases that involve small blood vessels — such as coronary microvascular disease — in order to perform these time-sensitive operations.

**“These are some of the most difficult aneurysm cases we have encountered,”** explained Dr. Gal Yaniv, director of the hospital’s Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit. “They’re much more dangerous than normal aneurysms, and we’re very confined by the way we can treat them. So, we have been improvising during each case, and are trying to understand how we can treat [each] patient without causing them any additional damage.”

Aside from its Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit, Sheba Medical Center has streamlined the process of hospitalizing and tending to patients in urgent condition, as the number of soldiers and civilians wounded by the ongoing war rises.

**The hospital has also integrated advanced artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms** into its medical systems that are **capable of analyzing X-rays, CT scans, and ultrasounds.** They can

## Previously, the staff at Sheba had to manually analyze the scans

also quickly flag brain aneurysms, as well as other serious conditions. These algorithms, which were developed by Israeli startup Aidoc, notify practitioners when they spot a medical anomaly. They are much faster and more accurate than a radiologist.

Previously, the staff at Sheba had to manually analyze the scans, which has resulted in missing or delaying a diagnosis. “This is extremely important because when you have such a huge flow of work both for the radiologist and the clinician — especially now — sometimes really serious pathologies can be missed, just because of the sheer amount of patients and scans,” stated Yaniv, who is also the chief medical officer at Aidoc.

Due to the war, the Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit has seen a significant increase in the number of patients it has treated. AI tools have been crucial in treating these patients. “We’re used to treating emergencies because we treat strokes and bleeds. But most of our time right now is dedicated to these trauma patients,” Yaniv noted. “Like everyone in Israel right now, we’re trying to be busy and productive.” ✨

# Journalistic Bias in Media's Gaza Hospital Blast Coverage

By Rachel O'Donoghue / HonestReporting.com



(continued on next page)

Almost immediately after the parking lot of Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital was struck, the headlines came quickly. "Israeli Strike Kills Hundreds in Hospital, Palestinians Say," blared *The New York Times's* initial summary before it was updated to a no less problematic headline.

Without waiting for a single fact to be established — other than a hospital had been hit — the *Times* jumped at the opportunity to blame Israel. They parroted the claim that 500 people had died without bothering to mention that Hamas controls the Palestinian Health Ministry. Even more disturbingly, the *Times* manipulated readers when they initially showed an image of a destroyed building in the Gaza Strip that had nothing to do with the hospital.

Predictably, the *Times* was not alone. *The Wall Street Journal* and CNN, abandoning all journalistic integrity, showed images of the destruction while indicating that it was an "Israeli strike."

The Associated Press and Reuters — two of the world's biggest wire agencies — relied solely on Hamas and blamed the hospital hit on Israel. More disturbingly, Reuters concealed the fact that Hamas was its source by attributing the information to a "civil defense official."

Live news coverage also saw many anchors and reporters forgetting their duty to report verified facts and instead running with Hamas's verdict. In a galling example, BBC correspondent Jon Donnison announced that he found it "hard to see what else this could be really given the size of the explosion other than an Israel airstrike or several airstrikes because when we've seen

rockets fired out of Gaza, we never see explosions of that scale."

Just 12 hours after the blast, Israel's military provided a wealth of evidence that exonerated itself. This included several videos showing that the rocket was fired by Hamas's ally Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Most damningly,



Israel presented a recording of a phone conversation between two Hamas operatives who admitted that they were likely responsible for the blast.

Rather than updating stories to reflect the new evidence, news outlets instead were deliberately vague about what caused the explosion.

The al-Ahli Hospital explosion is a two-part tragedy.

The **first tragedy** occurred when PIJ showed no regard for innocent Palestinian civilians by firing a rocket at Israel, knowing full well that it might backfire with catastrophic consequences.

The **second tragedy** was when the international media showed no regard for the truth by blaming Israel first. They didn't even bother asking questions later. ☆







Holocaust survivors at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (illuminated with blue lights in honor of Israel) on October 11, 2023

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

### “Not What We Expected” — Holocaust Survivors on the Hamas Atrocities

By Ron Kampeas / JTA.org

They spend their days telling people about the horrors they witnessed as children. They didn't expect to see similar horrors again some 80 years later.

As 15 Holocaust survivors who volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. gathered in front of the museum, **two survivors read aloud a letter that they had composed:**

“We are always gratified to see how much interest there is [in the Holocaust] from young people from every part of the world,” said Dora Klayman, 85, who survived the Holocaust in what is now Croatia. “To hear their comments and questions gives us hope for the future. Today, as we see the murderous destruction in Israel, that hope is dimmed.”

Nat Shaffir, 85, a Holocaust survivor from Romania, continued: “This is not what we expected in this final chapter of our lives, as we contemplate our legacy, the future of Holocaust memory and education, and the future of our people.”

David Schaefer, 94, president of the Florida-based Holocaust Survivors' Foundation USA, remarked: “The barbarity of the Hamas attacks indeed reminds us that hatred of the Jewish people, and the infinite capacity for cruelty against our people, is a cancer that will never be eradicated. It must be recognized, protected against, and crushed when it threatens our people.”

Ruth Cohen — a 93-year-old Holocaust survivor from Hungary and Czechoslovakia who was deported to Auschwitz — responded to the recitation of the letter: “Speaking that was wonderful. But it's a terrible, terrible situation.”

In January, Cohen traveled to the United Arab Emirates to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, one of the first commemorations in the Arab world. That gave her hope, she commented, and it persists “even through this, what's happening.”

### ER Doc Fired for Praising Hamas Attack

By Brian Niemietz / NYDailyNews.com

A New York emergency room doctor was fired over comments sympathetic to Hamas's October 7 mass slaughter of Israeli citizens.

“Zionist settlers getting a taste of their own medicine,” Dr. Dana Diab — a 2016 graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar — posted on social media, along with video of terrorists



Hamas sympathizer Dr. Dana Diab





Mosab Hassan Yousef interviewed on FOX & Friends

raiding a music festival and killing at least 260 people.

After learning of the doctor's post, the hospital group that employed her acted. "We are deeply sorry for the hurt and offense these comments have caused," they wrote on social media. "These views do not represent Lenox Hill Hospital and Northwell Health and go against our core values. The team member is no longer employed with Northwell."

## Former "Prince of Hamas" — Israel Should Finish Hamas Rule in Gaza

AllIsrael.com

Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of a Hamas leader, left the terror group and supposedly became a Christian [but that may not be true, based on his recent statements]. Interviewed in October about Israel's war against Hamas, Yousef was adamant about the need to remove the terror organization from the Gaza Strip. "This is an ugly war," Yousef said. "And Israel did not start it. Hamas did."

Years ago, he wondered: "If [Hamas] becomes a ruling party at some point, what will they do?" He said his experiences watching Hamas torture and even

kill Palestinians in the 1990s made him realize the organization would become a danger, even to Palestinians, if they ever achieved power. "I was born at the heart of Hamas leadership," Yousef explained. "I know them very well. They don't care for the Palestinian people. They do not regard the human life."

"Today, 25 years later, they are the rulers of Gaza, and we see what they are capable of doing," Yousef asserted.

Yousef rejected the idea that the terror organization is waging a political struggle for the Palestinian people. "Hamas is not a national movement. Hamas is a religious movement with a goal to establish an Islamic State," Yousef explained. "My understanding is that they are using the Palestinian cause only to achieve their goals, **so the long-term goal, you know, is transforming the Middle East and the world into an Islamic State.**"

The former Hamas member believes that Israel should focus on removing Hamas more than on the public relations battle. "It is not the time to win public opinion," Yousef remarked, "it is the time to win the war against the most brutal terrorist organization living today." ☆



# Archaeology

## Archaeological Evidence for Hanukkah

By Atara Beck / UnitedWithIsrael.org



Modern upstairs, ancient downstairs

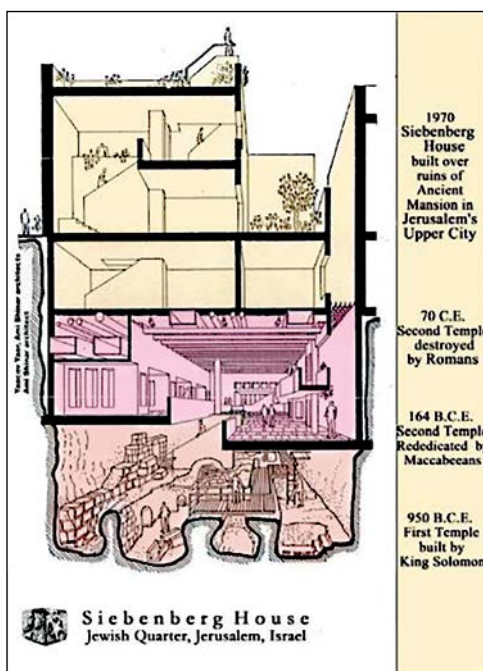
Shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War, Theo and Miriam Siebenberg purchased a new home on a hill in the newly liberated Old City of Jerusalem. Years later, it became home to the Siebenberg House, a remarkable museum of Jewish history.

After moving in, Theo wanted to start digging. Since they were close to the Temple Mount, he expected that Jews had lived there 2,000 years ago. So, Theo contacted the authorities, who granted permission to excavate.

Immediately, "we pulled the hill out from under the house," Miriam noted. "We found two ritual baths, a wall from the Second Temple period, and a burial crypt dating back 3,000 years ago to the time of Kings David and Solomon."

Over the course of 18 years, they discovered many remarkable items, including coins, pottery, glass, jars, and mosaics. They also found large stones from a building that dated to the time of the Hasmonean Dynasty.

The Hasmonean period began when Israel, led by Judah the Maccabee, revolted against King Antiochus IV Epiphanes.



The king had outlawed circumcision and Sabbath observance as he sought to eradicate all traces of the Jewish faith. His army plundered the Temple, set up idols in it, and sacrificed a pig on the altar. In 164 B.C., Judah recaptured Jerusalem and the Temple. He removed

*(continued on next page)*



the idols and rededicated the Temple. The celebration of Hanukkah commemorates this victory. The Hasmonean Dynasty, founded by the Maccabees, ruled until 63 B.C.

The Siebenbergs never lost their sense of excitement about living, literally, on top of Jewish history. Miriam described a number of findings, such as a 2,600-year-old arrowhead used in the war against the Babylonians and a bronze bell that may have been part of a musical instrument some 2,000 years ago.

A support pillar on the property has black streaks containing “ashes from the time of the destruction of the Old City about 2,000 years ago,” Miriam enthused. A radio-carbon laboratory in South Africa confirmed that the ashes were “remnants from between the years [A.D.] 40 and 90,” she explained. “The exact date of the destruction of the Upper City [now called the Old City] — the eighth day of the Hebrew month of Elul in the year 70 — we get from [first-century historian Flavius] Josephus.”

The Siebenbergs have always radiated pride not only in their home and their incredible achievement, but also in their heritage. Former President Chaim Herzog, speaking in 1985 at the Siebenberg House, stated: “Here, in our time, you have created a direct link between our wonderful past and present and our exciting future.” ✡



Capital (part of a pillar) with the seven menorahs chiseled into it



A ring found in the excavation



Ancient artifacts found during the excavations



The lower floor of the Siebenberg House

credit: CC BY-SA 4.0 / Wikimedia Commons

credit: CC BY-SA 4.0 / Wikimedia Commons

credit: Noam Chen

credit: Noam Chen

## Hamas Planned Social Media War Alongside Terror

By Sara Miller  
NoCamels.com



An Israeli startup identified tens of thousands of fake social media accounts supporting Hamas. Most were created more than a year ago and remained inactive until the massive terror attacks in Israel on October 7.

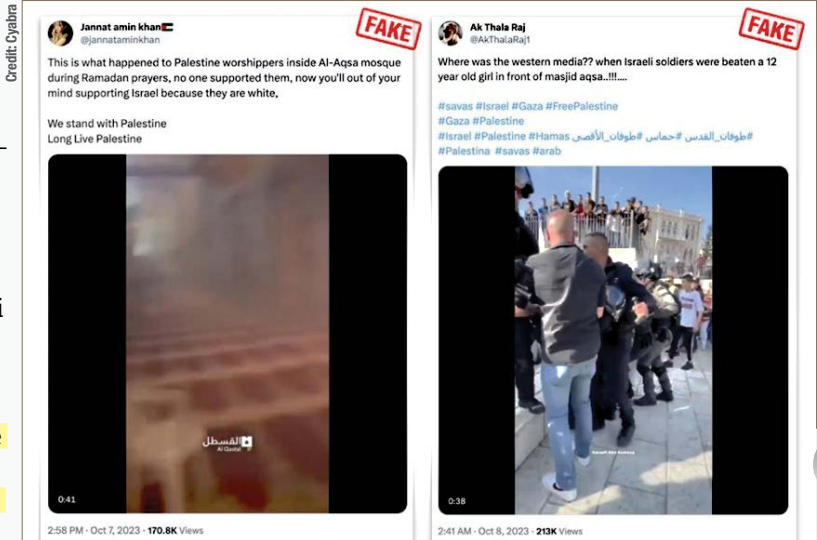
Following the attacks, Tel Aviv-based Cyabra — which monitors threats and misinformation on social media — identified more than 40,000 fake accounts across all platforms. Rafi Mendelsohn, Cyabra's VP of marketing, said that these fake accounts became active in a social media war that ran alongside the brutal terror attacks. This coordinated action points to an "enormous level" of planning and organization.

Cyabra noted three primary narratives pushed on social media by the fake accounts.

The **first narrative**, primarily in Arabic, claimed that the number of Israeli hostages seized by Hamas meant that Israel was about to release Palestinian prisoners held in its jails.

The **second narrative**, mostly in English, highlighted the alleged compassion of Hamas toward its hostages. This occurred by manipulating images from mainstream media and using them to fit the Hamas narrative. An example is footage of Israelis being taken hostage into Gaza — later edited to suggest that the hostages were not being mistreated. Such disinformation can sway people to believe one narrative over another.

The **third narrative**, in English and Arabic, focused on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. This claimed that the purported threat by Israeli security forces to the mosque and its Muslim worshippers was so great that Hamas "didn't really have a choice" but to act as it did.



Fake pro-Hamas accounts repurposed imagery from other media to create a new narrative

That these three narratives were promoted in different languages shows "another layer of sophistication," Mendelsohn noted. The fake accounts use both pro-Hamas and pro-Israel hashtags in order to insert their content into as wide an audience as possible. This "incredible" sophistication, he asserts, "is definitely more akin to a state level actor-type operation."

In working with intelligence agencies, Cyabra also noted how much personal information about the hostages has been shared online. This information, he warned, is a weapon that is being utilized by Hamas.

Russia used similar fake social media accounts during its invasion of Ukraine. Mendelsohn noted that they are an increasingly effective tactic — "certainly cheaper than creating an army." ☆





# Jewish Humor, etc.

*A cheerful heart is  
good medicine —  
Proverbs 17:22*

## A Hanukkah Tree?

Admiring the Christmas trees displayed in his neighbor's windows, Nathan asked his father, "Daddy, can we have a Hanukkah Tree?"

"No, of course not," answered his father.

"Why not?" asked Nathan.

Bewildered, his father replied, "Well, Nathan, because the last time we had dealings with a lighted bush, we spent 40 years in the wilderness." ☆

**Dry Bones** OKAY GANG, PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS, 'CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR ...

**THE STATE OF "PALESTINE" QUIZ**

1. WHEN WAS THE COUNTRY OF "PALESTINE" FOUNDED AND BY WHOM?
2. WHAT WERE ITS BORDERS?
3. WHAT WAS ITS CAPITAL?
4. WHAT WERE ITS MAJOR CITIES?
5. NAME AT LEAST ONE "PALESTINIAN LEADER" BEFORE ARAFAT.
6. WHAT WAS THE LANGUAGE OF THE "COUNTRY OF PALESTINE"?
7. WHAT WAS THE PREVALENT RELIGION OF THE "ANCIENT COUNTRY OF PALESTINE"?
8. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF ITS CURRENCY?
9. CHOOSE ANY DATE IN HISTORY AND TELL WHAT WAS THE APPROXIMATE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE "PALESTINIAN" MONETARY UNIT AGAINST THE US DOLLAR, GERMAN MARK, GB POUND, JAPANESE YEN, OR CHINESE YUAN ON THAT DATE.
10. SINCE THERE IS NO SUCH COUNTRY OF "PALESTINE" TODAY, WHAT CAUSED ITS DEMISE AND WHEN DID IT OCCUR?
11. WHY DO "THE PALESTINIANS" NEVER TRY TO BECOME INDEPENDENT UNTIL AFTER THE DEVASTATING DEFEAT OF INVADING ARAB STATES IN THE 1967 SIX DAY WAR?

**NOTE:** ANYONE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS WILL RECEIVE THE DRY BONES AWARD FOR CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE WRITING!

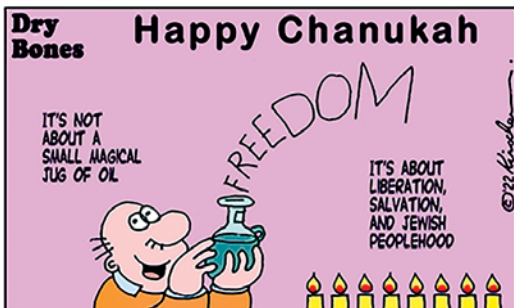
DryBonesBlog.com

## Dry Bones



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

ACROSS	12. Woman	DOWN	10. Savior
2. Favor	15. Govern-ment	1. Good	11. Angel
4. Jesus	2. Faithful	2. Faithful	13. Shepherds
6. Manger	3. Bethlehem	3. Bethlehem	14. David
7. Flesh	4. Joseph	4. Joseph	
8. Jesse	18. Jerusalem	5. Frankincense	
9. Holy Spirit			



## Social Media Outlets

ZLM has expanded our social media outreach, which now includes:

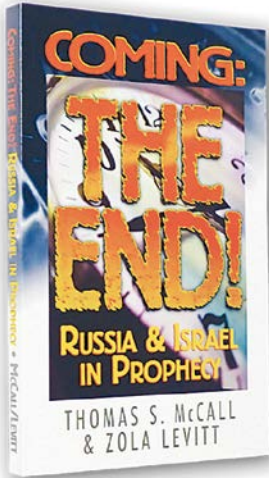
- YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/OurJewishRoots>
- X/Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/OurJewishRoots>
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Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars.



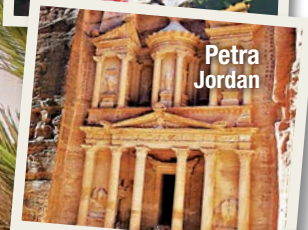
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