



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

## inside: What is the Problem of Evil? p.12

To

# **Never Again?**

By Nathan Williams / BridgesForPeace.com

A deadly virus is on the loose in the world today. It is not a novel virus but an age-old disease that slyly simmers beneath the surface. Transmitted from one generation to the next, the symptoms and prognosis of this virus are well known. Yet from time to time, the virus is cultivated and replicated until inflamed to a full-blown pandemic. Nourished by hate and misinformation, the contagion culminates in a contamination of base, ugly violence. Anti-Semitism is the virus — and the world has once again caught the fever.

"I'm crying," Holocaust survivor Elisabeth Merides recently lamented to a French TV station. "I'm crying because I'm going to again feel the hatred that was there when we were kids. I don't understand it."

The footage of the elderly Merides, her eyes filled with tears and terror, is hard to watch. In the background, a series of Stars of David can be

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REMEMBER: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day): Sunset Sun., May 5 to sunset Mon., May 6

# Evangelicals — Israel's Best Friends

#### AllIsrael.com

Evangelical Christians have historically stood by Israel as some of the most ardent supporters of the Jewish people and the Jewish state. This has continued since

the war began with Hamas on October 7, as many Evangelicals have participated in solidarity tours to the nation's southern communities, met with families of hostages, and raised funds for humanitarian relief efforts.

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Christian supporters of Israel at a pro-Israel rally in Washington, D.C., November 2023

Global support for Israel appears to be dwindling the longer the war continues, but Evangelicals continue to defend the country's cause in a war that it didn't start. They are making a moral, material, and spiritual difference on the ground, spreading influence that spans from media outlets to political circles.

The special connection between Evangelicals and Israel was evident in February at the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It was reflected not only as a subject of discussion in the various panels and on-stage speeches, but also in the significant attendance of Israeli government officials and representatives of Israeli organizations.

Israel's foreign ministry arranged a private screening of the 45-minute footage of Hamas' atrocities from October 7 during the NRB convention. Attendees also had the opportunity to experience the horrific events of that day through "Bear Witness," a virtual reality (VR) experience using a special VR headset.

Joel Rosenberg, editor-in-chief of All Israel News, stated: "Evangelicals as a bloc are about the only friends that Israel has. Where else are you going to find people who will listen, and then have a platform and a motive to act?"

Tal Heinrich, a spokesperson for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, stated: "We will not stop fighting for a lack of support. But it's a nice thing to have — knowing that you are not alone." She urged Evangelical broadcasters [like ZLM!] to keep playing their important role: "We need you to speak the truth. Don't let anyone forget what happened. Don't let anyone forget why Israel is fighting."

Dov Waxman, Professor of Israeli studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), added that "firming up support for Israel among the Evangelical community is really essential." He noted that Israeli leaders understand the significance of the alliance with Evangelicals as part of the larger picture of continuous U.S. government support for Israel.

Mordechai Inbari is a professor of religion at the University of North Carolina - Pembroke. He discovered that of the estimated 80 million U.S. Evangelicals, between 50% and 70% currently support Israel. Commenting on why Evangelicals stand with Israel, Inbari noted: "The most common argument right now would be that God made a covenant with Abraham and his offspring and this is why they need to support Israel."

Inbari co-authored a book with Kirill Bumin entitled *Christian Zionism in the Twenty-First Century.* Their research showed that Evangelicals aged 19–29 tend to be more skeptical about ties to Israel and have become more supportive of Palestinians. That age group's support for Israel dropped from a high of 69% in 2018 to only 29% in July 2021. 🔅











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## Whose Land Is It?



DVD, transcript booklet Three 30-minute TV programs on one DVD

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

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

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

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seen spray-painted on the exterior of her home and other Jewish residential buildings in France. Survivors of the Holocaust like her remember all too well the "final solution" that eventually results from these warning signs.

#### **Increasing Indications**

The signs are not limited to France. Similar and worse acts of vandalism directed at Jewish homes, institutions, cemeteries, and synagogues have flared up across Europe. Even the public display and lighting of hanukkiot — the nine-branched candelabras lit during were canceled or curtailed for fear of being targeted. Understandably so, as one incident in Poland left parliamentarians shocked when Polish Member of Parliament Grzegorz Braun, a promoter of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, took a fire extinguisher to quench the hanukkiah erected in the Polish Parliament building.

Even in countries once thought to be safe havens for persecuted Jews, Jewish people now find their security increasingly uncertain. According to data published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the U.S. saw a 337% increase in anti-Semitic incidents in 2023, including 905 anti-Israel rallies.

The list of incidents is endless. A Jewish man died after a counter-protester struck him in the head at a pro-Israel rally in Los Angeles. The home of the president of a Jewish organization in Brentwood, California was attacked on the Thanksgiving holiday, with fake blood and body bags placed at his door and across his lawn. Passing motorists threatened Jewish guests leaving a Hanukkah event at the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C., yelling, "We will kill you all, occupiers!" In Montreal, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Jewish community center, alongside two incidents of gunshots being fired at a Jewish school. And in **Calgary** and British Columbia. Jewish institutions were branded with swastikas. Australia saw a 591% increase in anti-Semitic events, most notably an incident where countless pro-Palestinian protesters repeatedly chanted "Gas the Jews" on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.





#### **History Repeating**

Historians of anti-Semitism have long cautioned about virulent anti-Israel sentiment, warning that it will mutate over time into flagrant hatred of all Jewish people. Their warnings have now become a stark reality. Last October in Dagestan, a Muslim-majority region of Russia, an anti-Israel riot broke through airport security at the main airport. Forcing their way onto the tarmac, the mob searched out an airplane that had arrived from Israel. Baying for blood, they accosted passengers, demanding to know if they were Jewish. Ironically, the passengers arriving from Israel were Russian citizens, including Dagestani children returning home after receiving life-saving medical treatment in Israeli hospitals. Had the mob found any Jewish people, one can only imagine the horrors that would have ensued.

Anti-Semitism has skyrocketed globally to levels unseen since World War Museur II, and pro-Palestinian rallies are a leading cause for the explosion of hate. These rallies have become cesspools of hostility, where Holoc actively promoting anti-Semitism is an acceptable form of free speech. Steeped in anti-Israel, anti-Semitic hatred, protesters rehash common anti-Semitic tropes, with some going as far as openly calling for the extermination of the Jews. Add to this the fact that many far right-wing extremist groups have been actively joining or hijacking anti-Israel rallies, and the result is an amalgamation of open Jew-hatred.

Spanish philosopher George Santayana warned, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it." There is clearly some alarming amnesia in the hallowed halls of academia when it comes to the history and outcome of flagrant anti-Semitism.

In December, *The Economist* published a shocking survey reporting that one in five Americans aged 18–29 thinks that the Holocaust is a myth. Equally alarming, one in four of those interviewed in that age group believes that the Holocaust has been exaggerated. This survey came on the heels of a U.S. congressional hearing in December where three university presidents refused to admit that calling for the genocide of the Jewish people violates their campus rules on hate speech and discrimination. University campuses around the world are also the breeding ground for pro-Palestinian mobs, who have shut down train stations, airports, and universities in major capitals around the world.

What many in the West choose to forget is that the hatred being espoused by these groups may start with targeting the Jews, but it never stops there. The hatred will spread like a virus and destroy those it infects.

#### What Can We Do?

Every year, we join millions in Israel and around the world on Holocaust Remembrance Day to say, "Never Again." Perhaps naively, we hope and wish that



Demonstrators at one of many rallys denying the Holocaust

history will not repeat itself. Yet as we witness the surge of attacks and open hatred toward our Jewish brethren, we as Christians have a choice to make. Saying "Never Again" is not enough. We need to put action to our words and stand with the Jewish people wherever we are and wherever they are — in our communities and in our nations. The time has come for this generation's Righteous Among the Gentiles to rise up and stand with and for the Jewish people. Never does mean never, and "Never Again" is now. ✿

One way to stand with and for the Jewish people is to support this ministry that proclaims Israel's legitimacy and reports on anti-Semitism. —Mark



# When Grief Hits

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





As I drove home from grocery shopping, I noticed my phone ringing and saw that the call was from my parents. I didn't answer while driving, but when I got home, I listened to the message from my mom. In a panic, she cried, "Kirsten, it's your mom. I can't wake Daddy! Something is wrong!" This marked the beginning of a new chapter in my life, which still stirs a whirlwind of emotions. My family's future was forever changed in that moment.

#### **Challenges and Conversations**

After hearing the voicemail, I called my mother and told her to call 911 immediately. I also called the hospital to inform them that my father was coming. When he arrived at the emergency room that afternoon, his heart rate was 16 beats per minute. With no time to waste, I booked a flight to New Jersey, knowing that my folks there needed me. On the flight from Orlando to Trenton, I realized that I was stepping into the unknown, where new challenges awaited me.

After five weeks in the ICU, my 90-year-old father spent the last week of his life in a hospice care center. During his final weeks, I was blessed to have many beautiful conversations with him. I'm thankful that I had the last "this side of eternity" conversation with him before they started him on morphine. Five days later, he stepped into his next great adventure.

#### **Grieve with Hope**

Because my 91-year-old mother needs assistance, David and I are now caring for her. Our lives have massively shifted through these life-changing "Well done, good and faithful servant."

(Matt. 25:21).



events. While I haven't had much time to grieve since my father's passing, I fondly remember the Scripture that I read at the cemetery as we placed his body in its final, earthly resting place: "Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, so with Him God will also bring those who have fallen asleep in Yeshua" (1 Thess. 4:13–14).

Most of you who are reading this have experienced the loss of a loved one. It's a natural part of life in this world. While all of us mortals go through a grieving process, the Apostle Paul advises us Believers\* that we can have hope in the midst of our sorrow. Though we will miss those who are no longer with us, if they are Believers, we know that they are "at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). We can take comfort in knowing that we will see them again in a perfect world filled with unending peace, joy, and the presence of God Himself.

May you, one day, hear the same praise that I believe my father heard from Yeshua: *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matt. 25:21).





## *I Call You Friend* Music CD with 10 Messianic Songs

Marty's voice is magnificent, and he sings Scripture in such a way that inspires profound worship. Our *Psalms of Ascent* TV series features much of this heartfelt exaltation of the Lord. To Index

# **Content in All Things**

Caleb & Joshua Colson The Bearded Bible Brothers



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Working after hours at the office when most others are at home.

The last year has been a whirlwind of challenges and blessings. God has seen fit to promote us to newer, greater callings. These opportunities have given us a fantastic platform to share His messages in fresh ways with larger audiences. But those changes brought a surge of work, with continual late nights and rarely a break each week. While we now appear in front of the camera, write for the Levitt Letter, engage in public speaking, and personally respond to viewers, we still continue our production duties of filming, making graphics, and editing programs for Our Jewish *Roots.* This results in a lack of sleep and exhaustion, which can lead to frustration and burnout

Recently during a weekend trip to the office, Caleb encountered Big Josh (not

BBB Joshua), a friend who is also the custodian. Their mutual interests include current events, Star Wars, and all things God. Big Josh mentioned a homeless family who frequents his city — the Jamaican father and three young sons only appear at night and refuse any handouts from pedestrians. For years, Big Josh has tried to help them, but they have turned him down. Over time, he realized that the boys aren't growing physically — likely because of malnourishment. One recent night, Big Josh spotted the sons playing in an empty grocery store parking lot. Completely unaware of what others might consider as their unfortunate circumstances, the joyful boys squealed, ran, and played with contentment. Big Josh explained, "Those kids have nothing and they're happy. Yet so many of us get stressed out and

consumed by the daily struggles of work, when God has given us so much to be thankful for."

Over the past decade, God has brought us two brothers to where we finally realized that earthly things do not matter. Possessions, vehicles, clothes, food, recognition — the popular focus on "self" — will never bring fulfillment. As Paul explained in Philippians 4:12, we have learned to be content with much and content with little. True joy abounds in pleasing our Heavenly Father. He never fails to clothe and feed our families or provide for all our needs. passed quickly. Sometimes we forget to focus on the here and now — enjoying the family and daily blessings with which God has blessed us. That's true for all of us — we can become consumed with future worry instead of taking life day by day, as Yeshua encourages us to do (Matt. 6:25–34).

Today is the moment that Paul warned about in 2 Timothy 3:2–5. Men love themselves instead of God, and with countless people worshiping the god "self," the love of many has grown cold. Just as in a marriage, if everyone gave their all —

Even so, daily distractions sometimes bring hurdles and struggles.

## True joy abounds in pleasing our Heavenly Father.

loving others instead of looking out for themselves — the

This results in losing focus on what matters most: love. Yeshua emphasized that we must love the Lord our God first and also love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37–39). God continues to prove every day that what He values most is people their eternal souls, their hearts.

As many parents can relate, Caleb's second daughter Isabelle graduates from high school this month. The innumerable tasks ahead of them include not only preparing for graduation but also for Isabelle's future beyond high school. It seems like only yesterday when we walked across the stage and received diplomas ourselves, but two decades have entire world would be content and live in blessing. Let's focus on the challenge of today — love. It will change the world!







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

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

Please see Joshua and Caleb's reply to H.T., E.M.B., etc. in "<u>The Rapture" letter on p. 22.</u>



## Classic **Zola**

**Real Anarchy** 

The terrorists of Hamas won the election in "Palestine," but they will only get to rule over utter confusion. The place is in total disarray, close to real anarchy.

Certain publications are fair about news from Israel, and some are invariably critical of that nation. *The New York Times* has long been one of the more constant critics of Israel. Its drumbeat of derision about Israel almost matches its endless criticism of Washington.

#### **Surprising** Truth

Still, I was surprised to read a truthful report about the Palestinian situation in Gaza. In a front-page story, the *Times* — longtime cheerleaders for Arafat and the succeeding thugs of the "Palestinian government" — suddenly became accurate on that touchy subject. The article noted: "...the Palestinian Authority itself is in such disarray that it may be incapable of negotiating on terms [that] any leader could accept."

There is spreading chaos, a sense of deterioration, and growing concern among both Palestinians and Israelis by **Zola Levitt** from 2006 18 years ago

that the Palestinian Authority (PA) nearly bankrupt and facing a huge budget deficit — may look like a failed state even before it becomes one.

Life for ordinary Palestinians is becoming harder, with less security and optimism than a year ago. The Israelis left Gaza — a thrilling moment for many Palestinians — but the territory has become practically lawless, not a model for a future state, and Palestinian voters seem set to punish the divided Fatah movement that monopolizes the PA.

The article also detailed the rise of Hamas, although Fatah itself is a criminal-enough regime for any dictatorship. The shock here is that the *Times* actually reported the truth on this subject of such bias! (Isn't this what our *Levitt Letter* has been reporting for years?!)

#### Democracy vs. Dictatorship

Ariel Sharon remains under medical care. If the prime minister cannot continue, he has several competent associates who will continue his policies. Such are the normal affairs in a democracy. With





the Palestinians, however, Arafat's death ultimately created the current chaos. He had chosen no successor apart from the ineffective Abbas. Hamas can only make things worse. So far, they are continuing their usual bravado about never giving up their principles and throwing out the occupiers.

Any thinking person, looking at Gaza, would fully understand that it would be utter insanity to create a Palestinian state. Regardless of what the Roadmap [plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] says — or the pronouncements of the State Department, the UN, Europe, Russia, and the rest of the anti-Israel world — we do not need another terrorist state.

#### **Predictions vs. Reality**

Newscasters and others are making predictions for 2006. Charles Krauthammer wrote that Fidel Castro will at last die in the coming year and then Cuba will return to being one of America's favorite resorts. Prosperity will ensue.

Castro's not getting any younger. Still, people suffering under a dictator rarely organize and turn against him. For more than 45 years, the Cubans have lived in abject poverty, under a muddle-headed revolutionary and communist claptrap. They have an island paradise, but they've spent two generations trying to keep '53 Chevys in repair and survive in buildings where the ceilings fall in.

And then, if this loony dictator meets his Maker, they are expected to recover overnight and turn against their secret police and whatever powers Castro has left behind. Regardless of whether they are successful at that, this is clear: While the strongman has the power, the millions suffer daily.

So it is with 22 Arab nations that are essentially owned and operated by single totalitarians (like Syria, Egypt, etc.), or by "families" (the Saudi "royal family" consists of 30,000 thugs). The Arabs sit, century after century, under the heels of such incompetence, while their agriculture, medical care, general advancement to civilization, and everything else languish hopelessly.

Every winter when Sandra and I speak throughout the southern states, we read the Orlando Sentinel. That paper makes me as mad as The Dallas Morning News and almost as mad as The New York Times. An editorialist at the Sentinel looked ahead at 2006. This pie-in-thesky prophet suggested that the Iranian people overthrow their dictators and simply make a democracy. Wouldn't that be nice? Then, in a real flash of insight, he advised Israel to "show restraint" in the face of Iran's nuclear threat. That would also be nice.

But the UN is not going to stop the Iranians, and I don't believe that our country will. The other powers — Europe and Russia for example — are all but helping that totalitarian regime with technology and every sort of encouragement. And so it goes.

# Please join me in praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

The problem with Israel "showing restraint" is that one inch of too much restraint will be the end of Israel and all around them when this psychotic priesthood attempts their nuclear massacre.

It's a comfort to know from prophecy that no one from here to eternity will ever succeed in defeating Israel, though many would like to. Ultimately God's promises always work out, and the particular promises to Israel of its security, the Kingdom, and so forth, are such that if the Bible contained only those prophecies, it would be a valuable book of prophecy.

Please join me in praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

Are those in Heaven aware of what's currently happening on Earth? If Zola could only see what's transpiring in Gaza right now! And yes, as he so often implored, we will *continue* praying for the peace of our beloved Jerusalem. —David \$\$\$\$

## **Ask** the **Chaplain** What is the Problem of Evil?

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



Part 2

The problem of evil refers to the apparent contradiction between an all-powerful, loving God and the persistent presence of evil and suffering in this world.

God created a perfect world, free from suffering and evil. He also allowed free will for created beings, which was essential for them to love and obey Him. Unfortunately, humans and some angels refused God's ways, which opened the door to evil in this world. While God is not the author of evil, He allows it to exist though He remains all powerful, all loving, and perfectly good.

One day, God will permanently banish evil. This will happen after Jesus Christ returns to complete its defeat (Isa. 66:17–24; Rev. 21:1–8). The Cross and Resurrection are the initial acts that guarantee this future reality.

On the Cross, Jesus took on evil's full, concentrated power. As God in human form, Jesus suffered the death that humans deserved. As humanity's representative, He endured all evil for all time — past, present, and future — in one moment of time. The very worst of evil occurred in the crucifixion of the sinless Jesus. However, it brought the greatest good — redemption and righteousness for those who trust in Jesus' sacrificial death on their behalf.

While the problem of evil was confronted at the Cross, it was answered by the Resurrection. Just as death is the ultimate power of evil, Jesus' glorious Resurrection to life is God's ultimate victory over sin, which bought death. In the Resurrection, God is justified and man is rectified.

Centuries earlier, Job foresaw the risen Redeemer who would physically resurrect him from death and render him impervious to evil's dominion (see Job 19:25–27). As such, Job anticipated God's justification for allowing evil to exist so that His ultimate plan and purpose could be accomplished.

Around two thousand years ago, Jesus of Nazareth lived, died, and rose from the dead. Through His death and Resurrection, Jesus redeemed humanity from the old order of decay and death to a new order of regeneration and Resurrection life. This new, abundant life is freely offered to everyone. It is only effective, however, for those who confess and turn away from their sinful (evil) nature, believe in Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf, and call on Him to save them from the consequences of their sin.

The consummation of this new life awaits His Second Coming. Afterward, the Lord Jesus will inaugurate a world without evil — where there shall be no pain, sorrow, crying, or death because those former things will be gone (Rev. 21:4).

For more information on this subject, please see Dr. Todd Baker's book, <u>The Eclipse of Evil: How the Cross and</u> <u>Resurrection of Christ Answer the Problem of Evil</u> (available at **Amazon.com**). — Editor

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

**REVELATION 21:4** 

## Christian Media Group: Stop Using "West Bank" By Etgar Lefkovits / JNS.org



The head of a prominent Christian media broadcasters group urged members to cease using the term "West Bank" when reporting about Israel's Biblical heartland. The announcement by the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) during their annual Christian Media Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, came amidst an intense media war of narratives in reporting about Israel's war against Hamas.

"NRB opposes the use of the erroneous term 'West Bank' to describe the Biblical heartland of Israel and calls on its members to refer to the region by its historic name of Judea and Samaria," a statement released by the organization read.

Troy Miller, president of the NRB, urged his constituents to reinforce the Jewish heritage of the land as recounted in the Bible. He added that an educational campaign is needed for young Christians who know the ancient history of the Jewish people as recounted in the Bible but who are not as well versed in modern history. "Words matter in how we control the conversation and the language. Younger Christians don't understand that the West Bank is within the Biblical boundaries of Israel."

Today, about 500,000 Jews live among 3 million Palestinians in the territory, which much of the international community favors turning into a Palestinian state. A vast majority of Israelis oppose such a move, according to recent opinion polls. This view was reinforced by the October 7 Hamas massacre, which saw

Part of Judea and Samaria, looking toward Jalbun and Jenin

1,200 people, mostly civilians, killed and about 250 others taken hostage to Gaza.

"People need to understand that language matters," noted Josh Reinstein, president of the Israel Allies Foundation. "Language has been taken over and held hostage," he explained, adding that "Christians don't understand that the West Bank and Judea and Samaria are the same place."

Some 70% of all the Biblical places are in the Biblical heartland, noted Rabbi Tuly Weisz. He is founder of Israel365, an Orthodox Jewish institution that works with Christian supporters of Israel.

The announcement, titled the "Biblical Heartland Resolution," notes the charged and competing claims to the Land of Israel over the centuries. Those claims date back to the Romans renaming it *Philistia* (or the Greek *Palestina*) in an attempt to erase the Jewish connection to the land. They also include Jordan's renaming Judea and Samaria as the "West Bank" during its occupation of the territory from 1948–1967.

"It's time to step up and be honest about the definition of this land," Miller asserted.

When Kirsten and I host tours in Israel, it's exciting to see all of the new Jewish communities that are springing up close to Jerusalem, within the so-called West Bank. They are simply reclaiming their God-ordained land. —David \$\$\$

Please see the DVD set *The Stones Cry Out* on <u>p. 17</u> and the DVD set and booklet *Whose Land Is It?* on <u>p. 3</u>.



sredit: Doron Horowitz /

## A Note from Mark

# **Running Hot; Tooting Our Own Horn**

Mark Levitt ZLM Director since 1988



Here's an old saying: "You'll know the Newfoundlanders in Heaven — they'll be the ones who want to go home."

#### Little Fogo Island's Fishing

Industrialized fishing operations for years torpedoed all the fishing enterprises at Little Fogo Island (Fogo). Off Canada's east coast in the province of Newfoundland, Fogo is a 90-square-mile home to 10 small fishing villages. After a decades-long fishing ban, cod fishing has returned to the population of 2,500 — down from 5,000 in the island's heyday.

Our ministry is being out-fished, so to speak, by vastly larger, better funded charitable organizations. Some are secular, some are religious, and some are Messianic Jewish. Many spend tons more on fundraising, management, and overhead than we do. Also awash in cash reserves — tens of millions of dollars, thank you many have just one star or none at Ministry Watch. To see the comparisons, please visit **ministrywatch.com** and click on "MinistryWatch 1000 Database" at the top of the page.

Several rating organizations — ECFA, <u>Charity Navigator</u>, and <u>Ministry Watch</u> all agree that ZLM's transparency and efficiency are superior. Even so, the troubling reality is that this ministry routinely "runs hot" — in the red. While our expenses too often surpass our revenue, we are not anxious (Phil. 4:6). Running lean, however, yields top ratings.

Thanks largely to a couple of recent bequests, our pro-Israel, on-location, two-Testament Bible teaching continues unabated. With 44% of Americans unable to face a \$1,000 emergency, fewer families than ever support our outreach. Consequently, this ministry increasingly relies on major gifts and bequests. Thus, I ask you (Matt. 7:7–8) to please make ZLM a beneficiary of your will.

#### The Harrowing Retreat from Avdiivka

"It was the lack of ammunition," stated Shaman, a 36-year-old Ukrainian commander, explaining how they lost the city of Avdiivka. In October, Shaman's battalion was deployed to the city in eastern Ukraine when the Russians began a new offensive. With sufficient artillery, Ukrainian troops could have prevailed by hitting Russian supply lines and forestalling reinforcements. Yet, that didn't happen.

Ukraine is "running hot" by using ammo at rates that risk exhausting supplies. They bank on Western nations who, like them, oppose socialism, communism, and terrorism underwritten by Arab oil revenue. Just as Ukrainians rely on their allies, ZLM relies on you.

Occasionally, this ministry has more than a reasonable minimum of cash reserves on hand. Rather than hoarding it for peace of mind, however, we mobilize it for increased television production and airtime and free newsletters. Bequests to ZLM go right to work, just like munitions to Ukraine go straight to the battlefield. Will you kindly help *Our Jewish Roots* continue reaching our cities? (Rom. 10:14–15)

We have 100% scores with both Charity Navigator and Ministry Watch — plus ECFA accreditation for the last 12 years in a row. Thank you for sending financial reinforcements.



# **ZLM Bulletin Board**



SDASM Archive

credit:

Harrison Ford portrait at the San Diego Air and Space Museum

## Han Solo and Indiana Jones Jewish?

In most of the nine *Star Wars* movies (1977– 2019), smuggler, scoundrel, and hero Han Solo joins in the Rebel Alliance's fight against the Empire. Meanwhile, Dr. Henry Walton "Indiana" Jones, Jr. is featured in the fiveflick, four-decade *Indiana Jones* franchise (1981–2023). **Harrison Ford** memorably played both characters. His maternal grandparents, Anna Lifschutz and Harry Nidelman, were Jewish immigrants from Minsk, Belarus.

Blessings on his head.

#### **Israel Bonds**

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon noted, "Purchasing an Israel Bond shows your solidarity and helps finance the future of the Jewish State. More than just a good investment, it allows us to invest in critical infrastructure projects." By purchasing a bond, you become a partner in building what is truly God's country. For info on rates, please contact: Israel Bonds, P.O. Box 5263, New York, NY 10150–5263. Visit IsraelBonds.com and click on the "Invest" tab to open an account.

#### New Song for Purim (or Anytime!)

Who says you can't learn anything good from rap music? Here's a concise Purim lesson and admonition not to mess with the Jews. Less than two minutes long, it throws back to the 1977 Queen classic, "We Will Rock You." Instead of "We will, we will rock you," the rabbi and his fellow Orthodox performers repeat, "We've got Rock of Ages!" Purim celebrates the Jews' deliverance from a plot to kill them in the Persian Empire. Please visit youtube.com/watch?v=n6P93gueug0 and sing along: "If you mess with Jews, you're bound to lose, and God will make another Jewish holiday from you!"

FREE ITEM

#### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

To Index

lerusalem

#### Pamphlet of the Month

Planning for the Future outlines nine different planning opportunities and offers tools that may enhance your future financial well-being through estate and financial plans. The booklet also reviews tax benefits and briefly addresses federal estate tax. Learn about wills, revocable living trusts, gifts that provide income to you and/or loved ones, and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #8.





### **Hebrew**Lesson

# The Spirit of Hope

by John Parsons Hebrew for Christians Hebrew4Christians.com



#### "Unto You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul; O my God I trust in You..." (Psalm 25:1-2a).

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vah- <b>tac<u>h</u>´-tee</b> I trust	_	e-loh- <b>hai</b> ´ O my God				ei- <b>ley</b> ´-k <u>h</u> a unto You

When Moses proclaimed the good news of God's forthcoming redemption for Israel, the Torah states that the people could not listen because they were "short of breath" (Exod. 6:9). Interestingly, this phrase (mi'kotzer ru'ach: מְקַצֶר רוּה) can also mean "lacking in spirit," as if in a paralyzed state of hopelessness. But how did the people become so downhearted? Had they forgotten the promise given to Abraham (Gen. 15:12–14)? Had they disregarded Joseph's final words (Gen. 50:24-25)?

Life in this evil world can be suffocating at times. And though we may not be under the oppression of a cruel Pharaoh, we are affected by the "princes of this age" who spurn the message of the Messiah's redemption and love. Thus, we are still subjected to bondage imposed by taskmasters who defy the Lord and who seek to enslave us by means of lies, propaganda, and threats of violence. The devil is still at work in the hearts and minds of many of his "little Pharaohs" who govern the world system.

It is evident that one of the central purposes of God's redemption is to bestow freedom and dignity upon His Read Hebrew right to left!

people. As the story of Pharaoh reveals, God does not take kindly to oppressors, dictators, and other megalomaniacal world leaders who deny the truth and who therefore seek to enslave (or kill) human beings created in His image and likeness. Just as God finally judged Egypt for its cruel oppression and violence, so He will one day break the "rulers of this world" with a rod of iron and dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel (Ps. 2:9).

To help us "catch our breath" during this time of waiting, it is important to remember that the Lord redeems us so that we may become His children and therefore be clothed with everlasting dignity. Our redemption makes us heirs of the Kingdom of God and citizens of Heaven. We must never regard ourselves as slaves — not to the State, bankers, fear, or religion (Gal. 5:1). God gave up His Son for us so that we could be made free to live with honor as His dearly loved children. All the threats of the world system - economic, political, religious, social, and others — are ultimately made empty and vain by the glorious redemption promised to us in Yeshua our Savior. Amen. 🛛 🌣

# **ZLM Store**

TOM MCCALL WITH ZOLA LEVITT



Archaeological discoveries continue to validate the Biblical record. To film "dig" sites and interview experts, Zola journeyed to Israel and Jordan. Just as our Lord said about this remarkable Land, The Stones Cry Out.

FEATURED

**The Tunnel** Zola walks the tunnel under the western edge of the Temple Mount. We get a journalist's perspective of the Palestinian uproar that erupted when the tunnel was opened to the public in 1996.

A Tale of Two Temples An unearthed marketplace shows the Roman destruction of the Temple. Mount Gerizim to the north hosts the excavation of a Samaritan temple patterned after the Jerusalem Temple.

Rulers in Stone Caesarea, on Israel's Mediterranean coast, has yielded first-century finds such as the first extra-Biblical reference to Pontius Pilate, and a full-size Temple replica. At Tel Dan, the "House of David" has been confirmed archaeologically.

**The Jerusalem That Was** Bible Lands Museum houses a model of Jerusalem as it would have looked in 586 B.C. In the City of David, we examine a four-room house, typical architecture for ancient Israelites.

**Past and Future Destruction** Ongoing excavations at Hazor have unearthed Canaanite idols and confirmation of the city burning as recorded in Joshua 11. The Valley of Armageddon holds prophetic archaeological significance.

Archaeology and the Scriptures In Jerusalem, Zola explains the history of the Citadel, also called "David's Tower." We talk with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

**Cities of the Past** Zippori was a thriving cultural center in Galilee that probably influenced Jesus as a boy in Nazareth. Ekron was one of five prominent Old Testament cities of the Philistines.

**Shadows from the Past** A chamber of tombs, near the Garden Tomb but dated to the time of the First Temple, helps us understand burial customs of that day. We visit the Qumran cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

A Tale of Three Cities In Biblical times, a business relationship existed between three Jordan Valley cities: Beit Shean. Rehovot (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). We visit excavations in each city.

**The Rose Red City** The ancient Nabataeans were famous for their skill in rock carving. Petra, their capital southeast of the Dead Sea, is the "rose-red city" known for its magnificent buildings carved into the native rock.

A Man Crucified On display at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, a man's heel bone that was pierced by a nail is the first archaeological proof of Roman crucifixions in Israel.

Truth from the Stones Zola discusses how the artifacts shown throughout this series illuminate Scripture, and how Believers can be encouraged when The Stones Cry Out.

Please see the article "Christian Media Group: Stop Using 'West Bank'" on p. 13.





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### Friedman's Peace Plan BNNBreaking.com



Seeking to redefine the course of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, David Friedman, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, recently unveiled a groundbreaking proposal advocating for full Israeli sovereignty over the territories of Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley. Dubbed "The Future of Judea and Samaria," the plan focuses on enhancing security for Israel while respecting Biblical covenants and improving living standards for all inhabitants of the region.

Friedman's strategy emerges against the backdrop of intense international discourse that advocates for the creation of a Palestinian state through a two-state solution. By proposing an alternative that emphasizes Israeli control, Friedman challenged the prevailing narrative and introduced a model designed to foster peace, stability, and prosperity. As proposed by the Friedman Center for Peace Through Strength, the plan seeks to forge a three-way agreement involving Israel, the U.S., and Muslim nations that have normalized ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords.

Central to Friedman's proposal is the provision of permanent residency and travel documents to Palestinians residing in Judea and Samaria, albeit without voting rights for Israel's Knesset. Drawing parallels with U.S. territories like

David Friedman speaking at the NRB convention

Puerto Rico and Guam, the plan suggests a pragmatic approach to governance and representation. Additionally, it calls upon Gulf nations to spearhead a Marshall Plan, aiming to significantly elevate the economic conditions of the Palestinian population through investments in healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

The unveiling of "The Future of Judea and Samaria" has ignited a flurry of reactions from the international community. Some critics likened the proposal's framework to apartheid due to the differential treatment of Palestinians. Friedman, however, countered this by highlighting the plan's focus on human dignity, security, and the preservation of sacred sites. As the global debate continues, the forthcoming U.S. presidential election could further influence the trajectory of this proposal, especially with the potential re-election of Donald Trump, under whom Friedman served.

As the world watches, Friedman's proposal introduces a new chapter in the quest for peace in the Middle East. By challenging the status quo and presenting an alternative rooted in historical, Biblical, and pragmatic considerations, "The Future of Judea and Samaria" sets the stage for a potentially transformative period in Israeli-Palestinian relations. To Index

#### **Crossword May 2024**

by Andrea Davis

#### *The Prophesied Messiah, Part 2* (NKJV)



#### Across:

- ...And for My clothing they cast \_\_. (Ps. 22:18)
- 5. Then they <u>Him on the head with a reed...</u> (Mark 15:19)
- ...one of you who eats with Me will \_\_\_\_\_ Me. (Mark 14:18)
- 7. In the evening He came with the \_\_. (Mark 14:17)
- 13. ...For the \_\_ of My people He was stricken. (Isa. 53:8)
- 14. ...one on either side, and \_\_ in the center. (John 19:18)
- 16. ...They \_\_ My hands and My feet. (Ps. 22:16)
- 19. They divide My \_\_ among them... (Ps. 22:18)
- 20. Even my own familiar \_\_ in whom I trusted... (Ps. 41:9)

- ...that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I \_!" (John 19:28)
- 3. ...Let us not \_\_ it, but cast lots for it... (John 19:24)
- 4. ...they led Him away and \_\_ Him to Pontius Pilate... (Matt. 27:2)
- 5. ...A Man of \_\_ and acquainted with grief... (Isa. 53:3)
- ...And for My thirst they gave me \_\_ to drink. (Ps. 69:21)
- ...and they filled a \_\_ with sour wine, put it on hyssop... (John 19:29)
- ...Do You not hear how many things they \_\_\_\_against You? (Matt. 27:13)
  ...They will strike the judge of \_\_\_ with a
- ...They will strike the judge of \_\_ with a rod... (Micah 5:1)
- 12. He is despised and  $\_$  by men... (Isa. 53:3)
- And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a \_\_... (John 19:17)
- 17. ...He was led as a \_\_ to the slaughter... (Isa. 53:7)
- 18. ...and His own did not \_\_ Him. (John 1:11)

To Index



# Letters to ZLM

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

### **A Spiritual Battle**

**From C.H.:** In my devotional time, I read in the recent *Levitt Letter* about the growing anti-Semitism in the U.S. I know God's heart is broken. We are dealing with *"principalities ... powers ... rulers of the darkness of this world ... spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph. 6:12). Thank you for being obedient to the call, like Zola was.

#### <u>The Crusaders (2004) — #4 The Real War on Terrorism</u> on YouTube



From J.G.: Zola is spot on, even in this current climate in Jerusalem. I miss his teachings. The Bearded Bible Brothers are doing a fabulous job today. Zola would be proud.

#### Dear J.G.,

No need to miss Zola's teachings! They are still available 24/7 at **levitt.com**, where you can watch the archived television programs from Zola Levitt Presents

Back to

To Index

(and newer *Our Jewish Roots* programs) under the "Zola TV" heading. You can also order Zola's books and browse a plethora of newsmagazine articles. —David

### The Rapture

**From H.T.:** There isn't a Rapture. It was invented in the 1830s by a Scottish minister in the UK. Some years before then, there is no mention of being teleported as a spiritual clique in the doctrines of the Anglicans, Catholics, Orthodox, Lutherans, or even Puritans.

**From E.M.B.:** I disagree with the Rapture. I believe that the Second Coming and Rapture are the same event. Pre-trib is a big lie from pit of hell.

Dear H.T., E.M.B., and others,

If you have time, we encourage you to check out our "Interview with Lee Brainard" at **https://youtu.be/omxNMkX76NI**. We explain factual evidence that Yeshua's disciples taught about the Pre-Trib Rapture long before 1830. Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb

Please see Zola's book <u>Raptured on p. 9.</u>

(continued on next page)

### A Small Gift

**From R.F.:** My finances are not what they used to be. This is all I can give. May the Lord bless you all to continue spreading the Good News of Yeshua, our Messiah.

Dear R.F.,

With America's current, crazy economy, a dollar doesn't buy half as much as it once did. A silver lining to this gray cloud, however, is that God miraculously stretches whatever we place in His hands. Blessings to you. —Kirsten

#### How Israeli Jews view Christians

From M.S.: I'm confused. Don't the Jews in Israel spit on Christians?

Dear M.S.,

Most Jews in Israel have accepted Christians as their allies and supporters against the anti-Semites of the world. Only a small fraction of the Orthodox in Israel show their disdain for Christians in this way. But isn't persecution what Yeshua promised us Believers? It's all the more reason why we should reach out to them in love and share the Gospel. —Joshua and Caleb

### The Crusaders (2004) — #2 The Old New Land on YouTube

**From K.T.:** The Bearded Bible Brothers are terrific, but there is nothing quite as awesome as a throwback to Zola. I love this ministry, and it was back in the late '80s when I became born again. While watching Zola on late night network TV, I first learned the importance of Bible prophecy, the Jewishness of the Gospel, and Israel as center stage to all Bible prophecy. *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* [*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"* (Psalm 122:6)] has been my Hebrew prayer for nearly 35 years now. See you all in the Kingdom.

Dear K.T.,

I'm sure that if Zola were still alive, he'd still be teaching on television every week. We have continued his traditions and passion with each teacher we've had on the program since Zola's graduation. —Kirsten



(continued on next page)

To

#### LETTERS TO ZLM continued



#### **Zionists are an Abomination?**

**From B.W.:** The Zionists are imposters, as the Jews are not allowed to return to the Holy Land until the Messiah returns. The Zionists are an abomination against God.

#### Dear B.W.,

Obviously, we disagree with you. Scripture was fulfilled on May 14, 1948. A nation was reborn in a day (Isa. 66:8). The Jews in the Promised Land are genetically the Israelites, God's Chosen People. By the way, the Messiah —Yeshua — *already* came and left. He will return again someday. When He does, the Jewish people are already there, waiting. They'll see Him step foot on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4), and the whole House of Israel will be saved. Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb 🔅



# **ZLM Store**

## **The Warrior King:** David-like Leadership for Goliath-like Times DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

*The Warrior King* tells the story of King David's time; but it is also the story of our own time. **With challenges larger than Goliath all around us, we need Bible-based leaders now more than ever.** In this eight-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif



FEATURED

speaks to that need. Dramatic re-enactments — shot on location in Israel — complement these teachings.

**The Call** We consider how David captured the heart of Israel, his selection by Samuel, and the amazing battle with Goliath that catapulted him to renown.

**David and Saul** We explore David's abuse at the hands of King Saul, and his bond with the king's son Jonathan. We evaluate Saul's death and David's gracious response.

Family We look at David's marriage and family intrigue.

**Wars** David was a warrior — a spiritual role model for us all! Philistine, Amalekite, and Ammonite wars are discussed, along with modern-day relevance.

**Celebrated Warrior King** Though anointed by God for kingship, David spent 13 years running from Israel's first king before ascending to the throne.

**A Messianic Prototype** The New Testament refers to Jesus as the "Son of David." We examine how the Old Testament predicted a coming Davidic Son.

Israel's Sweet Psalmist David's gift for creating poetry and music shows a softer side.

**Messiah** We consider the Messianic parallels in David. You'll walk away saying "Messiah lives!" and, we hope, believing that He lives in you.

## The Warrior King book



From the TV series of the same title, this 86-page transcript of highlights includes dozens of photos and an abundance of Hebrew with translation. This can be used with the series or independently. *The Warrior King* is a story about the Old Testament's David — Israel's greatest soldier. It's also about the Bible's "Son of David" — Jesus, and how God uses abysmal circumstances to improve those who rely on Him.



## Science in Israel Robotic Deck Maintenance

#### By Sara Miller NoCamels.com



redit: RoboDeck



RoboDeck in action on Tel Aviv's wooden seafront promenade

The deck of Tel Aviv's wooden promenade is in great condition, thanks to a fully-automated robot created by the Israeli company RoboDeck. Almost like a Roomba for outdoor woodwork, the RoboDeck follows a preprogrammed plan to clean, treat, and varnish the decking. The device, about 50% larger than a Roomba, has multiple functions and uses artificial intelligence when operating.

Thanks to its navigation capabilities, RoboDeck won't fall off the deck. It can maneuver around obstacles such as furniture or plants. It also uses a LiDAR camera, similar to those used on autonomous cars, and has a sensor to provide "millimeter level accuracy," according to Noam Rand, the company's co-founder and chief product officer.

Its mapping system logs potential hazards — like protruding nails or broken wood — and their locations are transmitted to the cloud so that they can be addressed. The app to operate the robot and view the information can be accessed on a smartphone.

Manual maintenance for a deck usually takes between two and five days to complete. First, a chemical strips oil and dirt from the wood, and then it is power Before and after the RoboDeck proce

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washed and sanded. After drying, the wood is stained and coated with a protective layer.

The RoboDeck, however, works about 10 times faster than the manual process. This is important for businesses that can't afford extended closure of their outdoor spaces for maintenance.

There's a major market for deck maintenance in the U.S., where about \$20 billion is spent annually on it. There are 60 million decks, patios, porches, and poolside areas in the U.S., including 50 million in residences.

Deck owners often ignore maintenance because of the time and money involved. Eventually, the wood must be fully restored because of its poor condition. "Our mission is basically to make the maintenance of outdoor living areas easy and affordable for everyone," Rand added.

RoboDeck also operates out of California, where it has an agreement with the largest deck maintenance company on the West Coast. 🜣

## Medicine in Israel

# Home Pregnancy Test Uses Saliva

0

By Shiri Epstein NoCamels.com



Women can now take a pregnancy test at home with saliva instead of the process requiring a steady hand and a bathroom break. The SaliStick test kit includes two separate tubes one that collects saliva and another containing an active ingredient for the testing. The two pieces, when fitted together, are about the size of a traditional pregnancy test. SaliStick has the same high level of accuracy as other home pregnancy tests.

D Pregnant TT

The user places the saliva collection tube, which has a cotton pad on the end, into her mouth. She sucks on the pad for about a minute — until it has absorbed sufficient saliva and the indicator changes from yellow to blue.

Next, the tube is screwed into the slightly larger tester tube. The saliva drips into the larger tube, which checks for a hormone that is only present in women expecting a baby. Like most other home pregnancy tests, the tube shows one line if the test is negative and two if it is positive.

Salignostics, a Jerusalem startup, created the SaliStick. The company has also developed home diagnosis kits for COVID, strep throat, and other illnesses. Guy Krief, the company's deputy CEO, said that all of their tests are easy to use.

The idea for Salignostics originally came from Prof. Aaron Palmon at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He brought together the other four co-founders — including Krief — all of whom were PhD students specializing in the study of saliva. "We thought back then that diagnostics must be more accessible, reliable, rapid, and low cost," Krief explained. "And to get this, you have to go to the community level, to domestic use."

Their idea was to develop a saliva-based rapid diagnostic test. Unlike blood, which is generally viewed as sterile, saliva is more exposed to disease due to its location. "Saliva is the gate to the body," he says, as it contains viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens. It also contains large amounts of the protein salivary amylase, which the body uses to digest food, and can also be used for diagnostics.

The SaliStick test, now available in Israel, has been used since the last half of 2023 in England, Ireland, and Sweden.





# **Israel Has Rights**

By Shoshana Bryen JNS.org





Israelis wave flags at the Western Wall during Jerusalem Day celebrations in May 2023

Recently, I attended a dinner given by a major pro-Israel organization. There were old and new friends, Jews and non-Jews, Democrats and Republicans. It was uplifting during a time of worry, sorrow, and love for Israel and its supporters around the world.

Until several speakers mentioned supporting "Israel's right to exist."

No. Stop. Please, stand up straight.

Just because anti-Israel and anti-Semitic forces say Israel has no right to exist is not a reason for Jews to adopt their premise as a talking point that needs refutation.

Israel was established by a UN mechanism for post-colonial independence in areas that came under League of Nations control in the aftermath of World War I, when it was determined that the Ottoman Empire had no right to exist, having chosen the wrong side of the war. Just because the Arab states of the time didn't agree with the League and the UN's decision on Palestine didn't make the British Mandate or the later State of Israel less legitimate in its modern origins.

Does Chile defend its "right to exist"? Does Iceland? Does Russia or India or Guyana or the UAE? What about the countries of the post-Ottoman era, like Iraq or Jordan, both created out of whole cloth? What about Lebanon or Syria, both former French colonies? From 1945–1960, post-colonial Africa and Asia saw more than 30 new countries emerge. Today, the UN brags that, since its founding, "80 former colonies have gained their independence."

Certainly, some people in some places don't want those countries to exist. Still, in no case do these states feel the need to say, "I have a right to exist."

What would work better than this defense? Perhaps holding the UN to its own language. Start with UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 181, which defines in great detail the protected status of Jerusalem and defines in great detail the democratic nature of the Palestinian Arab state that was supposed to emerge.

But UNGA resolutions have no actual force. This may be why Arab violations of the resolution — including the desecration of Jewish patrimony on the eastern side of the city — were entirely ignored.

So, <mark>try UN Security Council Resolution</mark> 242 of November 1967, following the



Six-Day War, when the UN rightly understood Israel's Arab enemies as the aggressors. The preamble refers to the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East in which every State in the area can live in security."

Acquiring territory by aggressive war is not, in international law, the same as acquiring it in defense. And security is security — not the permanent threat of indiscriminate rocket fire, rape, torture, or kidnapping.

The resolution "affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, which should include the application of both the following principles: **(i)** Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

The "recent conflict" is now 57 years in the past. Israel withdrew from more than 90% of the territory by returning the Sinai to Egypt under the terms of a peace treaty. Gaza was specifically excluded by Egypt. Jordan rejected the return of Judea and Samaria under the terms of the Jordan-Israel treaty. Syria rejects any conversation about peace, treaties, or the future of the Golan Heights.

And then, the crux of the matter: "(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

This is precisely the position that the Abraham Accords countries have taken. It is far from a wobbly "right to exist" at the sufferance of others. Israel's life is not an "Are not!/Am too!" argument with regional bullies or meddling superpowers.

Israel has rights. 🌣

### <u>The Messianic</u> <u>Passover Haggadah</u> a Messianic book of celebration

You don't have to be Jewish to relive the Feast of Redemption— just redeemed! This 2-color, 36-page book guides you step by step through the traditional Passover Seder, the dinner Jews celebrate annually to remember the Israelites' rescue from Egyptian bondage.

This unique Haggadah focuses on Yeshua's teaching in the Upper Room, which institutes the Lord's Supper. The theme of redemption recurs throughout the evening. You'll find words and sheet music for the songs traditionally sung on Passover. Singing them will enrich your celebration.

Scripture quotations come from the popular *Complete Jewish Bible*.





Naledi Pandor at the African National Congress event

#### South African Citizens in IDF to be Arrested on Return JNS.org

Naledi Pandor, South Africa's foreign minister, declared at an African National Congress event in March that her country will arrest citizens who serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) upon their return to South Africa. "I've already issued a statement alerting those who are South African and who are fighting alongside or in the Israeli Defense Force [sic] ... when you come home, we will arrest you," Pandor declared to crowd applause.

Later that week, South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile asserted that his country "has no regrets about becoming the first country to file a lawsuit against Israel" at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). "We will not condone genocide," he told members of Parliament.

The next day, Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Tom Kean (R-NJ), and 23 other members of Congress wrote a letter to Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, thanking him "for announcing your country's intention to intervene on Israel's behalf as a third party against the accusations of genocide brought up by South Africa" at the ICJ.

"It is crucial that the international community address the misleading, meritless, and untruthful nature of South Africa's accusations, seemingly designed to hinder Israel from acting in self-defense in response to the heinous terrorist attacks on Oct. 7," the members of Congress wrote. "Unsurprisingly, South Africa's claim barely acknowledges the atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists, who murdered, decapitated, burned alive, and raped over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children."

#### Israeli Swimmer Booed as She Wins Silver in Qatar By Ian Ransom / Reuters.com

Israel swimmer Anastasia Gorbenko was booed by some of the crowd at the Doha

World Championships in February. She was runner-up to Briton Freya Constance Colbert in the women's 400 meters individual medley.

A chorus of boos drowned out Gorbenko's post-race interview. The jeers continued as she left the Aspire Dome pool. She was booed again at the medals ceremony, though there was also applause.





Anastasia Gorbenko during the World Aquatics Championships in February

Gorbenko smiled when she mounted the podium and sighed during the mix of boos and cheers from spectators. She later said it was not the first time she had been jeered at the event. "I've been here a week, I heard all these noises, but I'm [here] with ear-plugs. I'm in my zone," she told reporters. "I'm here to represent my country ... And I'm doing this with the Israeli flag and I'm proud of that. And whoever doesn't like it, it's just not my problem."

Gorbenko said that she would not hesitate to swim at future events in Arab countries. "At the end of the day, Israeli is in the Middle East as well; I hope one day we'll be able to make some peace with everyone."

Gorbenko, whose parents are Ukrainian, was born and raised in Israel.

#### "From the River to the Sea" Painted at Site of 1972 Munich Massacre IsraelHayom.com

In March, vandals spray-painted a building on Connolly Street in Munich with the pro-Palestinian slogan, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." The building housed the Israeli delegation to the 1972 Summer Olympics, who were massacred by Palestinian terrorists. During that tragedy, two members of the Israeli Olympic team were killed on site, while nine others were taken hostage. After a failed rescue attempt by the West German police, the Israeli hostages were also killed.

Local authorities have since removed the anti-Semitic graffiti.  $\Rightarrow$ 



The vandalized Connolly Street building in Munich



# Archaeology 2,500-Year-Old Silver Coin Found in Israel



By Nathan Steinmeyer / BiblicalArchaeology.org



During salvage excavations in the Judean Hills, archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) uncovered an extremely rare silver coin dating from the sixth or fifth century B.C. Likely minted in the Aegean (Greece and Turkey), the coin is one of the earliest ever found in Israel.

The silver coin, which was intentionally cut in half, was minted with a square stamp embedded into one of its faces. The introduction of coins marked a transition from using weighed pieces of silver as currency. This was a slow process, however, as indicated by the coin being cut in half, which suggests that it may have been used as a traditional weighted measure. According to Dr. Robert Kool of the IAA's numismatic department, "The coin is extremely rare, joining only half a dozen coins of its type that have been found in archaeological excavations in the country."

The coin was discovered during construction on a highway southwest of Jerusalem. Along with the coin, the IAA also uncovered a First Temple-period four-room house, with evidence that the site had been used for commerce during that period. Located in a rural area of the

The extremely rare silver coin found in the Judean Hills

Kingdom of Judah that was still relatively close to the capital, the site was first occupied in the seventh century B.C., a time of intense settlement activity in the area. In one of the rooms of the building, the team found a small one-shekel stone weight, weighing around 0.4 ounces. Incised onto the weight was



Shekel weight from the First Temple period

the Egyptian hieratic abbreviation for shekel. "This was, in effect, a standard weight in the region of the Kingdom of Judah, showing that commodities were carefully weighed in the markets," noted an IAA press release. The small stone would have been used for weighing expensive commodities such as spices or metals. 🜣

## Boy Finds Hasmonean Coin Near Dead Sea 124News.tv



Nati Toyikar with the ancient coin

An 11-year-old boy recently found a 2,000-year-old Hasmonean era coin while exploring around his temporary accommodations near the Dead Sea. Nati Tokiyar and his family are among many who were displaced from southern Israel after Hamas's October 7 attacks.

Ronen Tokiyar described his son as a "curious boy who likes to look at the ground and look for interesting things. After the trip, he came back to me excited and told me that he found a small coin." After they researched the coin on the Internet, Nati suggested that they call the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA).

Dr. Robert Kool, senior curator of numismatics at the IAA, explained: "The the coin was of Hasmonean King and High Priest Alexander Jannaeus (who reigned from 103–76 B.C.). On the face of the coin appears an anchor, and around it appears an inscription in Greek — 'Alexander Basileus,' which translates to '(of) Alexander the King.' On the back of the coin appears a star with eight rays, surrounded by a crown of kings. Between the rays, you can see an inscription, which appears in small letters. Only a part of it can be deciphered. It recalls the name and title of the king in ancient Hebrew.

Kool added: "The proliferation of these coins along the Dead Sea coastline serves as a testament to the military On the face of the coin appears an anchor, and around it appears an inscription in Greek — 'Alexander Basileus...'

campaigns and conquests waged against the Kingdom of Nabataea across the Jordan River. They facilitated payment to the king's soldiers, fortified strategic outposts such as Masada, Machaerus, and Qumran, and contributed to the establishment of a naval fleet operating in the Dead Sea. Hence, the presence of the anchor symbol on the coin may well derive from this maritime activity."

IAA representatives Orit Apalo and Einat Kashi explained what the IAA offers for displaced residents. "We have guides from the educational centers of the Antiquities Authority organizing and conducting activities in hundreds of hotels where evacuees are staying. The participants get a few moments of distraction from the difficult reality and are exposed to the world of antiquities."



# **Palestinians Accuse Israel of Poisoning Water**

#### By Ephraim D. Tepler / Algemeiner.com

Anti-Semitism is fundamental to Palestinian Authority (PA) ideology, and its anti-Semitism takes many forms. Shortly after the October 7 atrocities, the PA chose to preach in all of its mosques that it is Muslim destiny to kill Jews hiding behind rocks and trees. That was an example of PA religious anti-Semitism.

The PA has now reverted to medieval-style anti-Semitism, by accusing Israel of poisoning the water supply. Omar Hilmi al-Ghoul, a columnist at the PA's official daily newspaper, recently made such claims in a PA television interview: "Israel and also the U.S. have many types of weapons that [Israel] could use ... It [Israel] is liable to spread viruses; it is liable to poison the water; it is liable to do everything of this nature ... Even trees that are growing naturally, crops such as spinach and mallow, they will spray them with toxic substances." [emphasis added]

Poisoning water and spreading disease are libels that were commonly hurled at Jews in the Middle Ages. Believing Jews to be the source of disease (including bubonic plague) created rage among Europeans and led to repeated massacres of Jews.

PA libels about Jews and Israel are a major part of the Palestinian national discourse, intended to create loathing and incite Palestinians to attack and kill Israelis. For example, one ongoing PA libel is that Israel abuses Palestinian prisoners through medical neglect, medical experiments, and intentional infection. This was recently disseminated by Laila Ghannam, a senior PA official, after a Palestinian prisoner died of cancer: "This is a sight to which we do not want to grow accustomed, we do not want it to repeat itself, and may this not be the ongoing situation in which **our prisoners are executed in a systematic and planned manner by this extremist Zionist system. This is not medical neglect. This is medical assassination against our prisoners.**" [emphasis added]

Another PA reporter, Benazir Eichmann [named after Nazi mass-murderer Adolf Eichmann], also propagated the abuse-of-prisoners libel. Asef Al-Rifa'i, a 22-year-old Fatah member, had cancer before his imprisonment, and received chemotherapy in Israeli hospitals while incarcerated. Still, Eichmann blamed Israel for his death, claiming that Al-Rifa'i was "a victim of the crime of medical neglect and prevention of treatment."

All of these prisoner libels are false. The International Red Cross, which visits Palestinian terrorist prisoners regularly, has never claimed that prisoners have improper conditions or do not receive medical treatment. Nor have the prisoners made any such claims. Moreover, Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has docu-

mented prisoners talking about how they "lack nothing" in the prisons. Whether PA

anti-Semitism focuses on its religious component or the Middle Ages approach, the objective is the same — to give Palestinians the justification for killing Jews. 🜣





# Jewish Humor, etc.

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

### **Running for Office**

Jacob Cohen went into the city clerk's office to register as a candidate for city council. While taking down the information, the clerk asked him, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime?"

"Why?" asked Jacob. "Is that a requirement?"

#### **Hearing Changes Everything**



Old Mort had serious hearing problems for years. He finally went to a doctor, who fitted him for a hearing aid that allowed Mort to hear again — almost perfectly. At Mort's



follow-up visit a month later, the doctor commented, "Your hearing is near 100%. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." "Oh, I haven't told my family yet," Mort replied. "I just sit around and listen to their conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

#### Answer Key for May 2024 Crossword (p.21)

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AC	ROSS:	13. Transgres-	DO	WN
1.	Lots	sions	2.	Thirst
5.	Struck	14. Jesus	3.	Tear
6.	Betray	16. Pierced	4.	Delivere
7.	Twelve	19. Garments	5.	Sorrows
		20. Friend	8.	Vinegar
			9.	Sponge

- ered ws ar
- 10. Testify 11. Israel
  - 12. Rejected 15. Skull 17. Lamb
    - 18. Receive



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## What About Us? book

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology. Non Profit Org US Postage PAID Dallas, TX Permit #1851



Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars and MinistryWatch.org's Transparency Grade of A with a 100 Give With Confidence score.

he Garden Tomb

Jerusalem

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The Temple

ouin

lerusalem

Mount

Jerusalem



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