



# Levitt LETTER

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

— ROMANS 10:1

SEPTEMBER 2025



A man in Jerusalem blows the shofar while wearing a prayer shawl emblazoned with the Hebrew *v'ahava / le'ra'ah kamokha* — "Love thy neighbor as thyself." credit: Reza Green

## Blow A Shofar in Zion

By Mali Rozen  
Hope4Israel.org

*Blow the shofar in Zion! Sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all living in the land tremble — for the day of ADONAI is coming — surely it is near!* (Joel 2:1, TLV)

Wait, isn't it supposed to be a trumpet? And what does this have to do with *Rosh Hashanah*? The Feast of Trumpets (also known as *Yom Teruah* or *Rosh Hashanah*) is one of the most sacred days for the Jewish people. Today, this day is mostly referred to as *Rosh Hashanah*, which literally means "head of the year" — the Jewish New Year. While associations with this day have changed over the millennia, the one thing that has not changed is its connection to the *shofar* ("trumpet").

A shofar is a ram's horn. It can be long or short. It has been a symbol associated with the Jewish people for millennia and is still blown to this day

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### REMEMBER:

**Rosh Hashanah:** Sunset Mon., Sept. 22 to sunset Wed., Sept. 24

## An Open Letter to the IAF from a Former Iranian Prisoner

By Marziyeh Amirzadeh  
ChristianPost.com

As a death row inmate in Iran's notorious Evin Prison, arrested and sentenced to death because of the "crime" of converting to Christianity, I never imagined I would ever be able to visit Israel, much less make so many warm and close relationships with Israeli Jews.

Recently, I had the opportunity to express my thanks specifically to Israeli Air Force (IAF) pilots and crew follow-

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# An Open Letter to the IAF from a Former Iranian Prisoner

credit: Marziyeh Amirizadeh / Facebook



Marziyeh Amirizadeh

ing their remarkable achievements, which were also very personal to me.

My dear Israeli brothers and sisters,

I am an Iranian woman who knows the evil nature of the Islamic Republic Regime in Iran, the enemy you fight while sacrificing your lives to protect your homeland and people. Like you, I have endured the brutality of this regime. **In 2009, I was imprisoned for nearly nine months solely for my faith in Jesus, sentenced to death by hanging.** I witnessed the execution of my cellmates and best friend, as well as the torture and abuse of countless innocent women. The regime killed my husband and destroyed my father's life. I endured immense pain, trauma, and suffering because of these radical Islamists in my homeland.

Millions of Iranians have faced unimaginable brutality. We share a common enemy. I also understand the suffering your people have endured due to the Islamic Republic and its terrorist proxies, who seek the destruction of your country and the extermination of your people.

I have felt ashamed my entire life because of these demonic rulers who share my language. Often, I hesitate to admit I am Iranian because of their actions. **Please know that Iranians are not the Islamic Republic.** Millions, like me, have been oppressed and held hostage by the ayatollahs and their terrorist organizations in Iran and beyond. Like many Iranians, I have never hated you.

Our cultures share similarities — kindness, hospitality, and a love for life.

Jews and Persians share a great history. Persian kings like Cyrus and Darius respected and supported you, God's Chosen People. Yet, figures like Haman and the ayatollahs have sought to divide us. Yet, the God of Israel has

always defended His people, proving His faithfulness.

It is an honor to call you my brothers and sisters. I pray that soon, Persians and Jews will restore our friendship, celebrating together over the defeat of our mutual enemies. May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob bless and protect you, granting wisdom and victory in every battle. I hope one day the lions of Judah and Persia will stand united, that our nations become close allies, and that Iranians rise to reclaim their dignity and freedom, never again allowing evil to hijack our country.

I love and admire your bravery on behalf of my people. I will keep you and your nation in my prayers until we celebrate victory together.

Your Iranian sister,  
Marziyeh Amirizadeh

I know that all Israelis have suffered at the hands of the Islamic Republic. Thus, **I pray that the regime will fall,** that we will see friendships between Israel and Iran restored — emulating the shared history that we have going back as far as King Cyrus — and that the direct flights between Israel and Iran will not be on F-35s [fighter jets], but on 737s filled with tourists, pilgrims, and business people building a bright future together. ☆

Visit [MarzisJourney.com](http://MarzisJourney.com) to learn more about Marziyeh.





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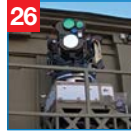
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## Half-Shekel Keychain

These teardrop keychains each contain an authentic half-shekel coin from Israel and cite the very important verses from Exodus 30:13–16 and Ephesians 2:8–9. It is a reminder of the days when each citizen of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-shekel coin to make atonement.

Put your keychain in your pocket; salvation is now free!





# Blow A Shofar in Zion

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in synagogues around the world. While there are some instances in Scripture where a metal instrument (trumpet, חצוצרה) is specifically mentioned (Num. 10; Ps. 98:6; Matt. 6:2, to name a few), other times, *shofar* has been translated as “trumpet.” However, there is a special significance to calling the *shofar* by its actual name and not translating it as “trumpet.”

**Why does the shofar specifically matter for Rosh Hashanah?** First, it is important to understand that the Feast of Trumpets is a Biblically appointed time. God commanded the Children of Israel to observe this special day on the first day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar:

*On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a sacred assembly. You are to do no laborious work. It is for you a day for sounding the shofar. You are to prepare a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to ADONAI: one young bull from the herd, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, without flaw, with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an ephah with the bull, two tenths with the ram, and one tenth with each of the seven lambs, as well as one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for yourselves (Num. 29:1–5, TLV).*

The command is to assemble, to rest from all work, to blow the *shofar*, and to offer sacrifices for atonement. What separates this appointed time from the other fall feasts (*Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Shemini Atzeret*) is the blowing of the *shofar*.\*

**Historically, people blew a shofar to announce something** — the new moon, the year of Jubilee, the start of war, or to alert the Children of Israel to danger. For followers of Messiah, we believe in the spiritual and prophetic element of the *shofar* in that it calls us to be awake and

alert to the return of Messiah Yeshua. The Apostle Paul (*Rav Sha’ul*) emphasizes this in 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (TLV):

*For the Lord Himself shall come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God’s shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air — and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

Clearly, the blowing of the *shofar* is a big deal! Many speculate that because **Yeshua fulfilled the spring feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Shavuot) in His First Coming**, His return and the ultimate salvation of Israel will be fulfilled during the fall feasts (*Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, and *Shemini Atzeret*). While we cannot say with certainty that this is what will happen, we would be wise to keep a watchful eye during these special feasts.

At the very least, we know that the Lord is calling us to be awake and alert! And we should be keeping a prayerful vigilance for Israel and its people, especially as Israel’s enemies become more emboldened in these days. As the day of His return draws near, let the *shofar* remind us of His glorious and awesome promises to the people of Israel, and the redemption of the world!

*Shanah Tova!* [(Have) a good year!]

\* While the *shofar* is traditionally blown at the end of *Yom Kippur*, this is not a Biblically mandated command. It dates back to Temple times when the priests would blow the *shofar* on the *Yom Kippur* that ushered in the Jubilee year. ☆



## **Sar Shalom — Prince of Peace**

### DVD Set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Dr. Jeffrey Seif's passage-by-passage exposition of Jesus' principal teachings comes to life through on-location production with re-enactments by Israeli actors.

**Sermon on the Mount** Viewers consider the "Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:1–12) and Jesus' exhortation that Believers\* be "salt" and "light" (5:13–16).

**Crimes of the Heart** Matthew 5:17–20 leads us to consider how Jesus fulfills the Torah. Murder begins in the heart (5:21–26), and adultery begins with desire (5:27–30).

**The Law Brought to Life** Jesus speaks about divorce and the marriage bond in 5:31–32, and other human bonds in 5:33–37. Verses 38–42 deal with how to be gracious, even toward the ungracious.

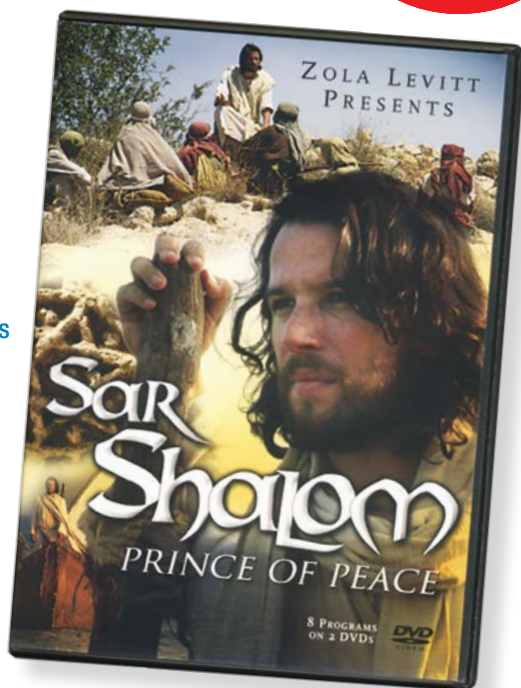
**Models of Behavior** Jesus teaches how to deal with enemies (5:43–48) and doing good to please God and not men (6:1–4). His teachings on prayer follow in 6:5–15.

**Eternal Investments** Matthew 6:16–18 notes that fasting pays dividends; laying up treasures on Earth, alone, does not (6:19–21). Generosity brings moral health (6:22–23).

**God's Material Provisions** Jesus challenges followers to serve either possessions or God (6:24). Blessings abound to those who serve Him (6:25–34). Believers must not rush to judge others (7:1–6).

**God's Spiritual Provisions** Matthew 7:7–12 addresses tenacity and God's benevolence in the Christian's life. The "narrow path" Believers must walk (7:13–14) is not the path chosen by the majority. Our "fruits" testify on our behalf (7:15–20).

**Yeshua—Foundation Sufficient for Salvation** Deception of self and others gives way to truth at Day's End (7:21–23). Jesus advises us to build our hope for salvation on the right foundation—Him (7:24–29).



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



For generations, mothers around the globe have partnered with Aesop in moderating the portion size of their children's desserts:

"You *can* have too much of a good thing." To this day, the idiom warns us that excess of anything can have consequences. But with this warning, how can anyone know how much is too much and what constitutes "just right"?

Well, we're glad you asked, because the answer is clear.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a *bonanza* is a "large amount of something good." So, if you're looking for just the right amount of something good, you'll want to check out the *Bearded Bible Bonanza*.

Zola Levitt Ministries has delivered quality Messianic programming to the airwaves since 1979. But alas, television can be very restrictive. For example, the length of a *Bearded Bible Brothers*® program is limited to 28 minutes and 30 seconds per episode. As a result, we have a bonanza of footage and Bible teaching each week that you never get to view.

So, where can a loyal follower of ZLM like you find additional footage and longer interviews, not to mention full-length podcasts and even long-lost radio broadcasts from Zola Levitt himself? Look no further than the *Bearded Bible Bonanza*, ZLM's new Patreon website that houses all of this "large amount of something good." Are we shamelessly using western marketing tropes that harken back to the famous television show *Bonanza*? You bet! We believe that the Cartwrights would be proud.

Thanks to the freedom of a paywall, we are no longer restricted by domineering social media platforms that shadow ban or block our content because it is Biblically accurate! That's right, this is the BBB unfiltered and unrestrained. Even our handlers are getting nervous at what Josh might say next! And you can watch it all from the safety and comfort of your own Ponderosa.

By subscribing, you can access

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all the aforementioned uplifting, insightful, and at times hilarious, never-before-seen footage of the Bearded Bible Brothers. In addition, your subscription supports Zola Levitt Ministries as we bring the truth of God's Word to this generation and the next.

The *Bonanza* is our way of giving you a gift of love, just as you give love to the Father. If every one of our viewers signed up for this low-cost subscription, we could easily broadcast the Gospel of Yeshua all around the world. But

even if the Lord places it on your heart to give a larger amount to this ministry, your donation will make a difference.

Please consider joining the most ride 'em cowboy, yippee-ki-yay paywall subscription in the whole Wild Wild West! And if your mom calls and asks, "Are you overloading on the Internet again? Don't

you know that too much of a good thing can be bad?" You can proudly respond, "Don't worry mom. I'm watching just the right amount." ☆

Love, Joshua and Caleb

*Caleb & Joshua*

**P.S.** Scan the QR code below or visit [Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza](https://Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza) to view our new initiative.



## Zion Song music CD

During his lifetime, Zola Levitt composed over 200 Spirit-filled songs. Musicians David and Kirsten Hart revived this rich legacy when they became the studio co-hosts of our television program, *Our Jewish Roots*.

On *Zion Song*, David and Kirsten sing 11 songs written by Zola and arranged and orchestrated by Sammy Davenport.

Please see the letter "What happened to David and Kirsten Hart?" on [p. 22](#).

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## A Sad Goodbye

Let's bow our heads and say farewell to the dearly departed. In this generation, truth — the sought-after virtue of Believers from time immemorial — has died.

Truth met its end in various places: Washington, D.C., Arab dictatorships, major Christian seminaries, and secular universities. It is nearly gone from some church pulpits, the legal system, law enforcement, the military, and everywhere else.

And it will be sadly missed. Our Lord said, "*I am the way, **the truth, and the life***" (John 14:6, *emphasis added*). He advised us, "*Everyone that is of **the truth hears My voice***" (John 18:37, *emphasis added*), and "***The truth will make you free***" (John 8:32, *emphasis added*).

I don't have to detail what's happening in the present administration in Washington. Truth died there years ago. More recently, however, the grave has been robbed and the body destroyed.

And more sadly, we are teaching our youngsters from the kindergarten level through the universities a kind of silly lie which is very damaging to us. Stymied as to how to please all of the different minorities (except the Jews, of course, whom no one has to please), we have come up with something called "multiculturalism." The National Association of Scholars recently issued a report that "gender and race" have become the major influences in determining what gets read in our schools. In order to be fair to all, we have promoted some very mediocre writers because of these two distinctions, rather than because what they've written is worthwhile. (Jewish authors, representing an authentic minority group, are included not as a minority but as "dead white males.")

In the Middle East, truth died in 1964 when some Arabs decided that they were "Palestinians." Under the British

mandate, they refused to accept this term because they said it was the Jews who were the Palestinians. But then Arafat and his henchmen persuaded them that they could just pretend to be an ancient people in the land, and American reporters would buy that story. Thus, the myth was created, and Israel is being stolen "peace by peace."

In a more specific recent example, truth has died in Lebanon. I listened to the National Public Radio's tears over the problems there (after 20 heartless years of berating Israel for "occupying Arab land"). The radio people were troubled that the Syrian-backed Hezbollah is now simply murdering people wholesale in an area that, under Israeli protection, was at least safe for civilians. Now that the Israelis have left Lebanon, the Arabs are back to their perennial sport of killing each other.

The truth has gone through tortured stages before its recent demise in the Arab areas of Israel. There were clear steps:

- "We're not the Palestinians." (before 1948)
- "We're the *real* Palestinians." (Arafat in 1964)
- "The Jews took our land." (the *Intifada*, 1987)
- "We've been here thousands of years." (declared to me personally on TV when I interviewed Faisal Husseini in the Orient House in October 1995)
- "The Jews never lived here in the past." (1999)

Hitler said that the people at large would believe a great lie more readily than a small one, and I'm afraid he was right.

This ministry has most recently been trying to resurrect the truth in our major seminaries. Many of you have

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heard from Moody Bible Institute and Dallas Theological Seminary (though we haven't). The letters from them that you've forwarded to us vary along these lines: We're not teaching Progressive Dispensationalism, and if we are, it's only a few of us, and even if it's the majority of us, it doesn't matter, and even if it matters, we're getting more students, constructing more buildings, and we've even established our own bank here in Chicago!

Never mind that no professor, student, or administrator has yet tried to defend Progressive Dispensationalism, a simple error of purposely confusing two Biblical thrones. When they say that Jesus is sitting on the throne of David in Heaven — a prime tenet of Progressive Dispensationalism — they contradict Scripture. Carefully consider the following verse:

*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in **My** throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in **His** throne"* (Rev. 3:21, *emphasis added*).

Note that the verse above concerns two thrones, one of which is God's in His throne room in Heaven, and the other is

the throne of David on Earth in Jerusalem. We will sit with our Lord at David's throne, since we will dwell in Jerusalem in the Kingdom to come.

But the technicalities of the error are not its major problem; it's the effect of the error. Because they assume under Progressive Dispensationalism that Jesus is already on David's throne, then the Kingdom, in effect, has already started, and they don't need all this inconvenient End Times prophecy or the chore of witnessing to, and even loving, the Jews or Israel.

The seminaries may try a hundred different explanations as to why our complaints are unjustified, but one thing they cannot deny: In the 1970s, their graduates were excited about Israel and prophecy as no generation of Christians ever had been before. **Today, many seminary graduates are complete dolts on these crucial subjects.** Bear in mind that these graduates will lead our churches in the future.

If the Bible said, "I will bless those who curse Israel," then the seminaries would be justified in teaching Progressive Dispensationalism. ☆



## **Jewish Heritage** calendar

5785/5786 (2025–2026)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage calendar. This full-color calendar spans 13 months, from September 2025 through September 2026. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*.



Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and new insights.

# An Open Memo to Caleb & Josh

Caleb recently sent me some encouraging figures related to launching our *Bearded Bible Bonanza* Patreon site, [Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza](https://Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza). Patreon is an affordable, subscription-based service that allows people to support their favorite content creators. As BusinessInsider.com explains, "Patreon is a membership platform that connects content creators with supporters. ... The platform is a modern take on the classic concept of patronage. Historically, artists such as painters, musicians, and authors sometimes relied on wealthy donors' patronage to finance their work."

Most participants are free subscribers, and they can meet other subscribers in the chat rooms and receive email alerts when ZLM posts new content. Caleb's other updates led me to write the reply below, which you may find revealing. — Mark

One possibility for your consideration, Caleb, is specifying how *Levitt Letter* readers can locate and navigate all the fine Bible teaching materials you and Josh are creating — both the free stuff along with products and content for purchase.

How much do we hope to raise from such online purchased items in the short and midterms? Generous donors may choose to sponsor a couple of days of totally free access to all of our behind-the-paywall content. Then we could announce those free days via the email notifications that alert ZLMers each time we post a newsletter or other important information.

Our paywall could include an announcement along the lines of "For free access to our Patreon pages, etc., please come back on our next Free



Day — [specifying a date]." If all goes well, the frequency of our free days would continue to increase, depending on how the Lord leads us to manage the ratio of free days to paid.

At one point, we could calculate how many weeks or months we could offer either back-to-back or intermittent free days if someone were to donate, say, \$100,000. Some donors might use their wills, IRAs, and/or 401(k) retirement funds specifically to sponsor free access to all of our online content that otherwise would reside behind a paywall. (501(c)3 nonprofits like ZLM would be exempt from paying taxes, whereas most of the will's other beneficiaries would pay deferred income tax.)

For that matter, should we suggest that donors designate contributions to our ongoing social media expansion effort? We presently pay our Israeli marketing company \$6,000 per month to grow our social media quickly — to steadily increase our number of followers.

On the bulk mail battlefield, we could suggest a donation amount for a given month's *Personal Letters* (PLs) going to our prisoners. Our 2,400 inmate subscribers presently receive just our *Levitt Letters* (LLs). One benefit of them receiving the PL in addition to the LL is

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that we would have a greater selection of “snail mail” comments and questions to publish.

Unlike most ZLMers who have instant Internet access via Apple products, PCs, and Androids, our brothers and sisters behind bars have abundant time to read, pray, and meditate. They value our ministry’s good, ole’-fashioned hard-copy news magazine. Imagine their joy in reading that the *PL* they’re receiving is a gift designated for them — thousands of them!

According to [gemini.google.com](https://www.gemini.google.com), many state and federal prison libraries have DVD players. Their purposes include:

- 1) Providing access to documentaries, instructional videos, and educational series.
- 2) Offering movies to reduce idleness and provide leisure activities.
- 3) Rehabilitation by supporting inmates’ personal development and well-being.
- 4) Behavior management via a structured activity.

The selection of DVDs varies by facility. Educational and G/PG-rated entertainment films are common. While you won’t find a personal DVD player in every cell, communal or designated viewing areas within the library or education departments often provide access to DVD players and a collection of movies.

Our ministry has tons of Bible-teaching DVDs — thousands and thousands — just as many people had too many LP records decades before turntables resurfaced. Now, imagine ZLMers buying our DVDs in bulk at half off and designating them as gifts for the facilities of our tremendous inmate readership. Our incarcerated brethren could even suggest that their chaplains send us consent to provide them free

DVDs and/or request particular titles. [Hello, prison ministry.](#)

Or rather, “Hello, *enhanced* prison ministry.” Why? Because ZLM has been in prison ministry for four decades. Our *Levitt Letter’s* Bulletin Board once featured “Brothers in Bonds” announcements, seeking prayers for particular prisoners.

As you can see, Caleb, your email inspired me to brainstorm about potential ways to better harness our resources to feed more of God’s sheep. Now hopefully, this Note will lead our readers to write in and donate, adding and contributing to the visions that I’ve described above. ☆



## **Grafted-In** **Messianic Roots** Sterling Silver Necklace

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

(1½" x ½", ⅝" with bail)



# What Is the Biblical Definition of Faith? Part 1

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



Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as *“the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Thus, true Biblical faith is the conviction or belief that God will fulfill His promises, even though they are not yet visible. If everything God promised were tangible, faith would not be necessary — our assurance would rest on what is seen, rather than on trust in God’s promises and His trustworthy character. Much like our eyes let us see the physical world, faith allows Believers to perceive the invisible realities of God’s Kingdom (2 Cor. 4:18).

Christian faith is not a blind leap in the dark; instead, it is a confident trust rooted in the historical reality of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work (Rom. 10:9–10). EnduringWord.com emphasizes the connection between faith and reason:

**Faith does not contradict reason**, though it may go beyond reason. One may objectively prove the Bible is the most unique book ever published and has impacted society more than any other book. But only faith can prove that the Bible is the Word of God. Therefore, this is a belief beyond reason but not in contradiction to reason or against reason.

Jesus commended such faith when He told Thomas, *“Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed”* (John 20:29).

In the New Testament, the most common Greek word for faith, *pistis*, stems from a root meaning “to persuade.” In antiquity, this term referred to a warranty. Thus, Biblical faith is a divine persuasion — God’s spiritual assurance or guarantee that His promises are true and will be fulfilled.

There are three essential components of faith, expressed in Latin as *notitia*, *assensus*, and *fiducia*.

- **Notitia** refers to knowing facts about the Christian faith. This includes the objective, historical facts about Jesus: He is God in the flesh, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life on Earth, died a sacrificial death in place of sinful humanity, rose from the dead to give us eternal life, and is coming again.
- **Assensus** refers to a person acknowledging or affirming that these facts are true.
- **Fiducia** refers to someone personally trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation. Mere agreement with Christian doctrine isn’t enough — one must actively rely on Christ alone.

Saving faith is a gift from God that doesn’t result from human effort (Eph. 2:8–9).

Paul writes in Romans 12:3 that God has allotted each Believer a “measure of faith.”

Next month, we will continue to look at the Object of our faith and the results of faith. ☆



*“Because you have seen Me,  
you have believed. Blessed are  
those who have not seen,  
and yet have believed.”*

JOHN 20:29





# ShaliachReport

## Outreach in the Decapolis

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
ZLM Staff Theologian  
TJF Team Leader

During our 57<sup>th</sup> Gospel Outreach to Israel in March 2025, the Lord directed August Rosado and me to the eastern shore of the Sea (Lake) of Galilee to visit Sussita. Also known as Hippos, this was one of the ancient cities of the Decapolis, a Greek word meaning “ten cities.” Mark 5:1–20 records a time when Jesus ministered in the Decapolis. These cities, mostly southeast of the Sea of Galilee,



Jonathan and Todd



Elon and August

were pagan Greco-Roman settlements. Thus, most first-century Jews avoided the area as ritually and morally unclean. But today, Sussita/Hippos is a National Park of Israel where the park rangers are mostly Jewish!

God led us to share the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah with two park rangers, **Elon** and **Jonathan**. Both men knew that Jesus of Nazareth ministered in that area. August and I told the men that Yeshua's ministry — giving eternal life to those who believe in Him — continues today in that area as we offered each of them God's Good News and a complete Bible in Hebrew. We explained that both Testaments of the Bible proclaim that Yeshua is the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Ps. 2:7, 12; Matt. 16:16).

Both Elon and Jonathan gladly accepted the Hebrew Bibles and Messianic Gospel tracts that we offered them. So, **while the ancient cities are gone, in their ruins, we preached the everlasting Gospel**, freely distributed the Word of God, and testified about Messiah Jesus to the Jewish men working there.

God's ways are not limited by the passage of time. The Gospel

is for every generation — past, present, and future — regardless of age or location. Ancient cities like Hippos have come alive again because of the End-Times regathering of the Jewish people back into their ancient homeland.

In addition, Jewish people are again hearing the message of the Gospel in their land — perhaps for the first time in nearly 2,000 years since Jesus and the Apostles were there.

Your generous gifts to this ministry enable us to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus to lost souls — including Jews, Muslims, and others — throughout Israel. Thank you for your continued support. ☆



# Christians Terrorized Around the Globe

By Billy Hallowell  
CBN.com



credit: Screenshot / Christian Daily International

A funeral for some of the 46 Christians killed on June 1, 2025, in Ankali, Edikwu Ankpali, Apa County, Benue state, Nigeria.

Christian persecution is increasing across the globe, according to a new report from International Christian Concern (ICC). The “2025 Global Persecution Index” reveals that **around 300 million Christians** worldwide face punishments including prison, torture, and assassination.

“We have staff all over the world ... so they’re feeding us news of what’s going on in their countries,” explained **Jeff King**, (right), president of ICC. “We’re constantly monitoring and watching.”

The current report reveals a worsening persecution picture, ranging from terrifying government restrictions in China to rampant persecution and land-grabbing in Nigeria.



credit: ICC

King also noted that Russia has destroyed hundreds of churches and heritage sites in Ukraine since Russia’s 2022 invasion, among other disturbing issues.

**“And then you’ve got all the usual places** like India, Egypt, and North Korea,” King explained. “It’s an absolutely horrible situation ... not necessarily new, but it’s terrible.”

Nigeria and North Korea are perhaps the two most difficult nations in which to be a Christian. For Christian farmers or villagers in Nigeria, King stated that “the Fulani terrorists — the Islamic terrorists — [might] come in with guns, with machetes; they shoot, maim, slice, and drive you off the land. And if you decide to come back, they’ll attack you again.”

He stressed that the Nigerian government often does little to stop the carnage, while the Biden administration didn’t put the required pressure on them to help stop the madness. As a result, over three million Christian farmers have been driven off their lands.

As for North Korea, King lamented a government system that tends to elevate dictator Kim Jong Un to a god-like status. “They’re constantly being told the propaganda that they live in a utopia and the best country on Earth and the United States is the worst place on Earth,” he declared, adding that anyone who goes against that narrative risks his or her life.

“If you’re a real Christian, you’re either killed right away or you’re sent to a gulag — a massive, massive prison camp,” he emphasized. “These prison camps, some of them are the size of Washington, D.C., and are basically slow extermination chambers. ✨”





# ZLM Bulletin Board

Pray for  
the peace of  
Jerusalem

## Dave and Kirsten Hart

For decades, praise and worship leaders extraordinaire Dave and Kirsten Hart have sung in churches and conferences and, of course, on *Our Jewish Roots*. In fact, no musicians have performed more of Zola's music than these two mighty songsters of the Lord! If your pastor would like to have them sing in your church, he can contact them via their website, **DaveAndKirstenHart.com**. And, perhaps treat yourself to their CD of Zola's music, *Zion Song*, offered on p. 7.



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## Do Israeli Lives Matter?

Sgt. **Shoam Moshe Ben-Harush**, 20, planned to travel the world. He died in 2023, however, several weeks after being shot in the jaw by Hamas terrorists on October 7. This occurred on the Kerem Shalom crossing into southern Gaza. Shoam's family donated his organs, saving five lives. Born in the Golan Heights, he was the fifth of six children. His father stated that Shoam "was a boy of life, a boy who loved the sea, sports, friends. He had a huge heart, not just his smile but a light inside him that connected everyone in the room."



Credit: IDF

FREE ITEM

## Pamphlet of the Month

Life insurance is a flexible planning tool that can be used to meet a variety of personal financial needs.

**Giving Through Life Insurance** includes six questions to determine whether a gift of life insurance would make sense for you. It also offers seven ways to give charitably using life insurance. A table summarizes tax benefits, while the Technical Advisory Section addresses basic tax rules and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at **staff@levitt.com** or write to our P.O. Box.

**Request POM #15**

## Bogleheads Conference

In 1974, **John C. Bogle** (1929–2019) founded The Vanguard Group, one of the most respected and successful investment companies



credit: Vanguard

ever. In 1975, he introduced the first index mutual fund. Many *Levitt Letter* "Wise As a Serpent" installments (see **levitt.com/essays**) have espoused Scott Burns's "Couch Potato Investing," involving passive investing with Vanguard's broadly diversified, no-load (read: sans stockbroker) mutual funds. Amazon offers the book *The Bogleheads' Guide to Investing* for a little over \$15. You can also visit **BogleCenter.net/2025Conference** to register for the Bogleheads Conference, October 17–19 in San Antonio. (Matt. 25:14–30)



See page 36  
for details



Courtesy:  
The Jerusalem  
Connection

# HebrewLesson

## Shelter of the Most High

by John Parsons  
Hebrew for Christians  
[Hebrew4Christians.com](http://Hebrew4Christians.com)



יָשֵׁב בְּסֵתֶר עֲלִיּוֹן בְּצֵל שְׁדַי יִתְּלוֹן

"He who abides in the secret of the Ascended One  
will dwell in the shadow of Shaddai." – Psalm 91:1

יִתְּלוֹן	שְׁדַי	בְּצֵל	עֲלִיּוֹן	בְּסֵתֶר	יָשֵׁב
(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)
yit-lo-nan'	shad-dai'	be-tzel'	el-yon'	be-se'-ter	yo-shev'
will rest	in the shadow of the Almighty		in the shelter of the Most High		the one who abides

Read Hebrew right to left!



The "world" is a place of fearful exile from the Lord. To find healing and peace, we must turn away from its faithless messages and listen (*shema*) to the great promises of God. As it is written: "*He who abides in the secret of the Ascended One will dwell in the shadow of Shaddai*" (Ps. 91:1).

The sages say that Moses wrote Psalm 91 as he dwelt in the "secret place" (סֵתֶר) of the Most High God — in the "midst of the dark cloud" (Exod. 24:18), a place of sacred and holy concealment. The thick clouds were a "hiding place" for Him (Job 22:14). Notice that the one who "abides" in the secret of the Most High dwells in an ascended place of rest — lifted up above the surrounding madness of this fallen world. The Hebrew word means to lodge or "sleep" (לִישׁוֹן), connecting it with death and resurrection. By dwelling in the death and resurrection of Yeshua, God will shield you with His Presence and make evil powerless before you.

When you abide in the secret of *Elyon* (עֲלִיּוֹן) — "the Ascended One" — you are concealed by the dark clouds of His

Glory, and the Presence of *Shaddai* (שְׁדַי) overshadows you. The Lord will save you from the ensnaring trap and from the devastating pestilence (Ps. 91:3). By abiding in the truth that God's Presence pervades all things at all times, you become a "stranger" (גֵּר) with the Lord in this world — a "sojourner" (תּוֹשֵׁב) who awaits the healing of the world at the end of the age. "*You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot*" (Ps. 91:13).

We are made secure exclusively on account of Yeshua the Savior, who gloriously ascended over the powers of this age and made safe passage for us by means of His sacrificial death on the Cross. Because of Him alone, we have acceptance and access to the Holy of Holies made without human hands. Yeshua is the Ascended Lord of Glory, the Master of all possible worlds, and the King over all things! Nothing can stop Him or thwart His victory secured for those who are trusting in Him. Amen. ☆



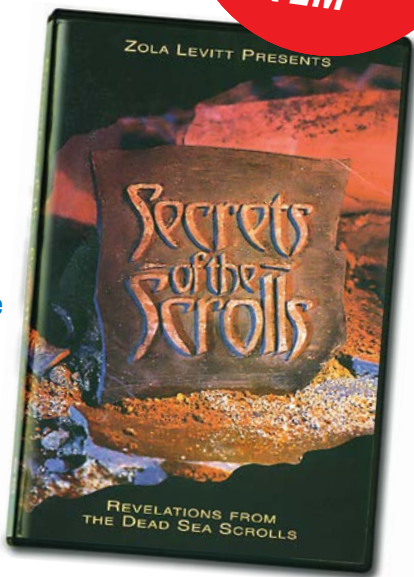
## **Secrets of the Scrolls**

DVD Set (also available as an eBook Transcript)

7 half-hour TV programs on 2 DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS).

*Secrets of the Scrolls* gives a historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Terms such as “son of God,” “branch of David,” “stripes or piercings,” “being put to death,” and “raising the dead” all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.



**The Scrolls — A New Revelation** We quickly produced this half-hour program when the DSS first became widely accessible for study. Zola quotes from the Associated Press news release and emphasizes the significance of access.

**The Scrolls: Part 2** Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

**The Scrolls: Part 3** During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the DSS, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert H. Eisenman and James M. Robinson.

**The Scrolls Special** This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

**The Wilderness Group** Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

**In Search of Answers** Dr. Eisenman recaps his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

**Prof. Michael Wise** An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Yeshua. University of Chicago professor Wise helped translate the fragments when they were first released and enthusiastically discusses The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be.

Please see “Are the Dead Sea Scrolls Older than We Thought?” on [p. 28](#).







# ORDER FORM

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## **Abraham: Father of Faith**

Eight programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series tells the story of the Patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities highlight the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.

**The Calling** God chooses Abram from the idol-worshiping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the ages.

**A Man of Altars** Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

**God-initiated Covenant** God makes a covenant with Abram. Myles Weiss interviews Itamar Marcus, whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the messages in Arabic-language media and schoolbooks.

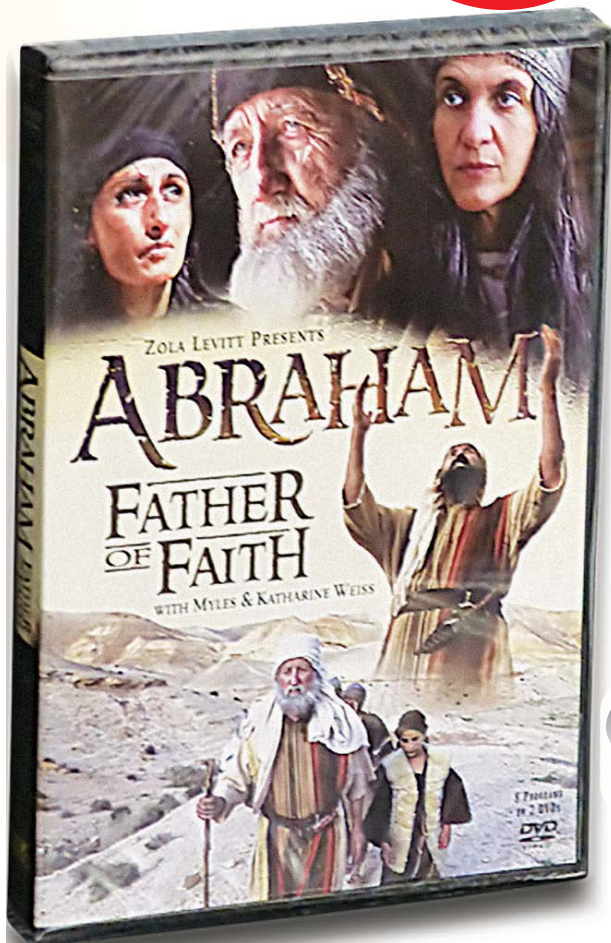
**A Domestic Conflict for the Ages** Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

**The Promised Son** Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot. Katharine Weiss interviews Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born, Jewish interpreter of Arabic media.

**Deliverance and Increase** Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. Myles Weiss interviews Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

**Circumcision as a Forever Sign** God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. David Rubin, former mayor of Shiloh, explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.

**The Sacrifice** Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come. We interview a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.





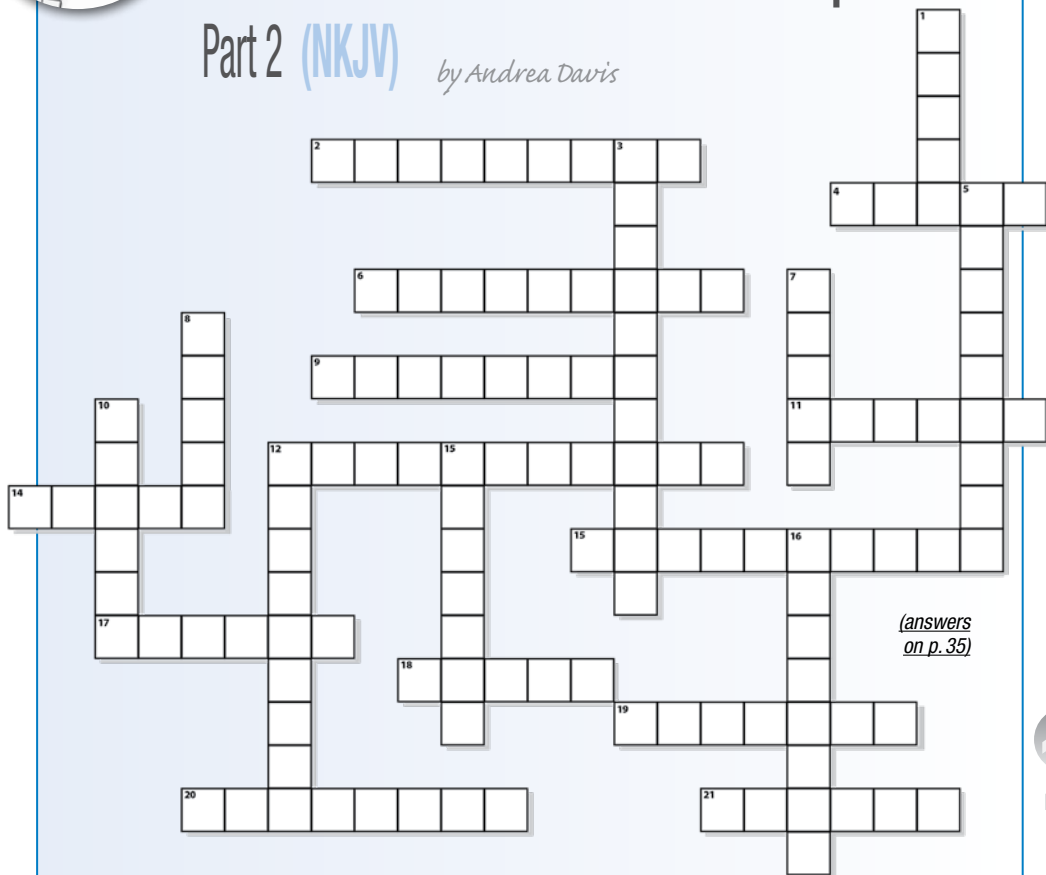


Crossword September 2025:

# Yeshua Fulfilled the Law and the Prophets

Part 2 (NKJV)

by Andrea Davis



(answers  
on p. 35)

## Across:

2. ...He has appeared to put away sin by the \_\_\_ of Himself. (Heb. 9:26)
4. having abolished in His \_\_\_ the enmity, that is, the law of the commandments... (Eph. 2:15)
6. ...by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be \_\_\_ in His sight... (Rom. 3:20)
9. In that He says, "A new \_\_\_," He made the first obsolete... (Heb. 8:13)
11. ...yet stumble in one point, he is \_\_\_ of all. (James 2:10)
12. A new \_\_\_ I give to you, that you love one another... (John 13:34)
14. ...But where sin abounded, \_\_\_ abounded much more. (Rom. 5:20)
15. ...And His commandments are not \_\_\_. (1 John 5:3)
17. But if you are led by the \_\_\_, you are not under the Law. (Gal. 5:18)
18. ...does He do it by the works of the Law, or by the hearing of \_\_\_? (Gal. 3:5)
19. that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the \_\_\_. (Matt. 13:35)
20. Christ has \_\_\_ us from the curse of the Law... (Gal. 3:13)
21. ...and I will be their God, and they shall be My \_\_\_. (Jer. 31:33)

## Down:

1. ...to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making \_\_\_. (Eph. 2:15)
3. ...for you are all one in \_\_\_. (Gal. 3:28)
5. All \_\_\_ is given by inspiration of God... (2 Tim. 3:16)

7. So let no one \_\_\_ you in food or in drink... (Col. 2:16)
8. For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the \_\_\_. (Gal. 3:10)
10. ...I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their \_\_\_. (Jer. 31:33)
12. And those who are Christ's have \_\_\_ the flesh with its passions and desires. (Gal. 5:24)
13. Are You greater than our father \_\_\_, who is dead?... (John 8:53)
16. ...You shall love your \_\_\_ as yourself. (Gal. 5:14)





# Letters to ZLM

Some letters have been edited for space. For ministry products and TV programs, visit [levitt.com](http://levitt.com). Access the web store and free video archives by clicking on the headings "Store" and "Watch."

## ZLM's Equipping Ministry

**From M.H.:** In the June *Levitt Letter*, a reader asked how your ministry impacts the witness to the nations. One way is through equipping people like me to reach out.

I work in an office supply store, and recently an Orthodox Jewish rabbi came in. He ensures that the University of Michigan serves authentic Kosher food in their kosher kitchen. The rabbi was chatting and said, "Thank God." So, I did so: "Yes, I am thankful for Yeshua who brought yeshua!" (I'm thankful for Jesus who brought salvation!) The kind Jewish rabbi, who is about the same age as me, heard a testimony to the saving power of Jesus.

**Not all of your ministry's impact is direct.** Part of what you accomplish is keeping those of us on the front lines supplied with Scriptural teaching and encouragement so that we can witness to our Jewish and gentile neighbors of the grace that is available to all through our Messiah. By the way, one person I have mentored mentioned that she appreciates your *Levitt Letter* and has received your Bible teaching materials to foster her prayers for the Jewish people. Peace and blessings.

Shalom, M.H.,

If only all Believers realized that they are on the front lines! This world is a battlefield. We're called to live sober, ready for Yeshua's return, and always prepared to give an answer for the hope that's within us (1 Peter 3:15). Thank you for being faithful to God's call to give testimony of His Son. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



## What happened to David and Kirsten Hart?

**From D.P.:** I have been traveling since October 2024 and haven't been able to keep up with your TV program or your *Levitt Letter*. I have been a loyal watcher and donor since the 1980s. I've just settled down and see that the television program name has been changed to *Bearded Bible Brothers*®. But what happened to the Harts?



**From R.R.:** Hi, I'm a big fan and supporter of ZLM. I see that *OJR* is now *BBB*. This is awesome. However, I didn't see a mention of Dave and Kirsten in your last newsletter or emails.

Please see the Harts' *Zion Song* music CD on [p. 7](#).

(continued on next page)

Dear D.P., R.R., and others,

You'll be happy to know that nothing has happened to the Harts. Both Dave and Kirsten remain available for assisting ZLM as needed and for leading worship at churches and conferences. You may recall that they came aboard shortly after Dr. Jeffrey Seif resumed singlehandedly hosting our weekly program. The Harts not only added an element of informality and warmth but also served as representatives of gentile Believers who wanted to learn about Christianity's Jewish heritage.

Crowding four hosts into the studio complicated the sound and lighting, not to mention the logistics of bringing everyone together at different filming locations. "Less is more" is an adage that applies to camping and sometimes television production. Rather than a sendoff for the Harts, we anticipate that you'll see them from time to time, singing Zola's songs and possibly helping on an occasional Israel tour if Sarah Liberman becomes unavailable to assist Josh and Caleb. —Mark

## Upset about the *OJR* Change

**From A.M.:** I'm a little upset about *Our Jewish Roots* being renamed. **Bearded Bible Brothers sounds a bit more like a cult of personality** than expressing the purpose of the show as noted in the former name. I'm not going to stop watching — at least not yet — but I'll be watching to make certain that I won't stumble into a cult that's focused on making you famous.

Dear A.M.,

Updating our weekly television program's name to *Bearded Bible Brothers* will help the brothers' growing social media following to tune them in on television, ideally setting up season passes on their digital video recorders to capture all of our broadcasts. For the droves of channel hoppers who associate *Our Jewish Roots* with our former hosts, the new title should inspire the Curious Georges to at least check out the beards. —Mark

Shalom, A.M.,

There's no cult or ego boosting here — it's just a plan from the Holy Spirit to reach more people with the Gospel of Yeshua. Unfortunately, the name *Our Jewish Roots* caused some potential viewers to think that we were an Orthodox Jewish television show, while others thought that we were part of the Hebrew Roots Movement.

**Our new name expresses clarity:** We *are* brothers in Yeshua who conform to the Bible. Since the Word is the primary manual by which we should live, raising that standard as our mission statement makes perfect sense. Another benefit of the new name is that we can bring in different voices — other brothers in the faith — to share the pulpit. For example, please see our newest series, *The Lobstermen*, to experience how a team of unique Believers can direct the audience's focus to the King of kings and Lord of lords. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

## Daniel Maritz of Ruach Entertainment explains Gaming for Jesus! on YouTube

**From F.Z.:** Jesus and His disciples spread the Word for free, not for money. Please don't take from the innocent. Don't use the Word of God to make a profit. The Bible is free for everyone. Ask yourself, would Christ Jesus take from the innocent or give freely?

Dear F.Z.,

So much of our ministry's Bible teaching materials *are* "free" to the faithful like you. Perhaps you're among those who watch our "free" weekly programs on television and at **levitt.com** without contributing a nickel to cover our production and

*(continued on next page)*





airtime expenses. Maybe you also read our “free” newsletters, without giving anything to cover our printing and mailing expenses. Possibly you even enjoy the vast archives of decades worth of teaching at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com), paid for by tens of thousands of donors over the years.

Soon, prayerful consideration may lead you to also donate to this ministry, not so much for feeding you now but so that we can continue feeding God’s sheep next year free of charge. Please remember that while salvation remains free, delivering Bible teaching where today’s hungry souls can receive it is costly, despite this ministry’s highly rated efficiency and financial stewardship. —Mark

## The Iranian People are Good?

**From E.F.:** I keep hearing that the Iranian people are good. Do they not support the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel? I know that the Iranian government supplies weapons to Hamas in Gaza and supported the Oct. 7 atrocities. The Palestinians, and Gazans as a whole, seem to be pro genocide, in the most evil way imaginable. But is it true that the Iranian people are not like that?

Dear E.F.,

Generous estimates claim that less than 10% of Iranians support their government. Millions are coming to Jesus in Iran. Christianity is the fastest growing religion in Persia. Indeed, the majority of Iranians support Israel. Please visit [levitt.com/media/person/Dr.+Hormoz+Shariat](http://levitt.com/media/person/Dr.+Hormoz+Shariat) to find out more about our friend, Dr. Hormoz Shariat of Iran Alive Ministries. At this link you can also connect to his website and read his blog to learn more about the Persians. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Please see “An Open Letter to the IAF from a Former Iranian Prisoner” [on the cover](#).

## Iran Not a Threat?

**From M.S.:** Iran is not a threat; how dare you! They are a country on their own. Never have I heard anything of Iran except all the nonsense I hear on media; that’s it. And let there be peace among all. The threat is people like you.

Dear M.S.,

Since 1979, the favorite slogans (and vows) of Iranian leaders are “Death to Israel!” and “Death to America!” Please visit [cufi.org/issue/the-regime-in-its-own-words/](http://cufi.org/issue/the-regime-in-its-own-words/) to see for yourself. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

*(continued on next page)*

## [Avi Lipkin talks the Fall of Iran and Gog and Magog!](#) on YouTube

**From S.G.J.:** This was an outstanding interview! It's not what you see on most YouTube channels. I'm praying for Israel and the people of Iran! God bless!

**From B.S.:** I'm so glad I found this channel! I always pray for discernment. And I'm thankful that I went down a rabbit hole today to pay attention as a Christian to what's going on with Iran and Israel.

Dear S.G.J. and B.S.,

Thanks for joining us. Please continue praying for discernment, as well as for Israel and the people of Iran. We offer decades worth of free Biblical teaching concerning Israel and prophecy at [levitt.com](http://levitt.com). —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



## Christians are the new Chosen People?

**From F.H.:** Jewish people think they are the Chosen People of Old Testament, but Jesus made a new Covenant that made a new "Chosen" people, the Christians. We do not owe the Jewish nation anything but their conversion to Christ.

Dear F.H.,

Thankfully God's covenants are resolute and eternal. What you believe is called Replacement Theology, which is a dangerous, slippery slope. To believe that the Jews are no longer the Chosen People is to doubt the validity of our own salvation. If we can't trust God to keep His original promises to the Jews, how can we trust Him to keep His New Covenant with us? God is not, and cannot be, a liar. Jesus has yet to fulfill His prophetic Word to His Chosen People, the Jews (aka Hebrews). — Blessings, Joshua and Caleb ☆



Please see the Classic Zola article, "A Sad Goodbye" on [p. 8](#).

# Israel's Iron Beam: Military "Game-Changer"

By Marion Rice-Oxley  
CBN.com

The Iron Dome system, which intercepts enemy missiles, has become the iconic image of Israel's defense. Now, a new era is dawning, with a weapon that is invisible, silent, and strikes at the speed of light.

Israel has become the first nation to deploy a high-energy laser in combat.

The state-of-the-art technology, called the Iron Beam, uses directed energy in the form of laser light. The breakthrough in this technology came with the idea of shooting hundreds of small beams at a target rather than a single large beam. It works by locking a small beam onto a weak point in the target, then multiple beams follow, concentrating heat like a high-intensity spotlight until the threat is destroyed.

While countries such as the U.S., China, Germany, and Japan are experimenting with laser technology, only the Iron Beam has proven itself in battle. Israel Defense Forces Brig. Gen. Doron Gavish, a specialist in the Iron Beam technology, noted that the system has been used

border, each costing just a few hundred dollars. Defending against this array was incredibly expensive, until now.

Journalist and military analyst Yaakov Lappin called the Iron Beam a "game-changer." He explained that cost was one of the system's major advantages: "Instead of \$50,000 for an Iron Dome interceptor, it's \$5 now per interception."

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems developed the Iron Beam system. CEO Yoav Tougeman sees this as the first time in military history that the defender has the economic advantage over the attacker.

Because the Iron Beam is mobile, it can accompany military forces when they maneuver in enemy territory or can be operated remotely. Lappin added that two other versions of Iron Beam are expected. The second system, due by the end of the year, would be capable of intercepting a wide range of missiles up to six miles away, almost instantly after launch, even before they leave enemy territory. A third, still in development with Israel's Elbit Systems, could take the laser airborne.



Iron Beam

in the northern part of Israel, mainly against Hezbollah's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Previously, Hezbollah terrorists would launch as many as 200 rockets per day across the northern

Both fog and dust storms can limit the Iron Beam's effectiveness. Thus, the new system will enhance, rather than replace, Israel's multi-faceted defense systems comprised of Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrows 2 and 3. ✨





## Cancer-Sniffing Dogs

By Dr. Itay Gal / JPost.com



credit: TikTok screenshot / SpotitEarly



A cancer sniffing Beagle

Israeli researchers have developed a method for detecting cancer by training dogs to identify the disease through scent. The goal is to offer a fast, noninvasive screening tool for early cancer detection in Israel and beyond.

Patients simply breathe into a face mask for three minutes. The mask is then sealed and sent to a testing facility, where it is presented to the trained dogs in a sterile environment. When a dog identifies a positive sample, it signals detection by sitting or lying down.

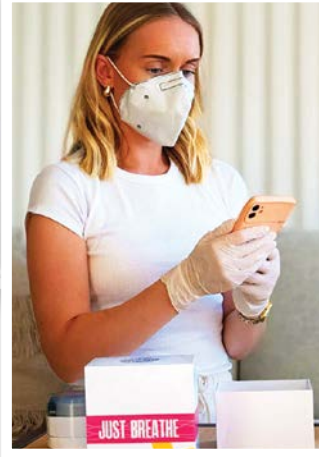
SpotitEarly, an Israeli medical technology company, trained Beagles using repeated exposure to breath samples from both healthy individuals and cancer patients. The dogs were later used in a study that showed promising results.

Approximately 1,400 people participated in the study. Of the 261 participants diagnosed with cancer, the dogs correctly identified 245 — a 94% accuracy rate. Among the 1,048 healthy individuals, only 60 were incorrectly flagged, reflecting a relatively low false-positive rate.

To improve the reliability of the results, researchers incorporated artificial intelligence and computer vision into the testing process. These technologies tracked the dogs' behavior and analyzed their responses, reducing the risk of human error and ensuring a consistent, standardized evaluation.



Canines have one of the most powerful olfactory systems in the animal kingdom, with about 300 million scent receptors, compared



SpotitEarly's early cancer screening breath kit

credit: SpotitEarly

to around 5 million in humans. The part of the canine brain dedicated to smell is 40 times larger than in people. Thus, dogs can detect tiny chemical changes in breath samples,

such as those caused by developing tumors. Dogs are already used to detect drugs, explosives, and diseases such as malaria and COVID.

Shlomi Madar, CEO of SpotitEarly, said the next phase includes clinical trials in the United States, aimed at securing regulatory approval for widespread use. The company also plans to expand its team of Beagles and develop mobile diagnostic units.

"Our vision is to make early cancer detection widely accessible — using tools that are noninvasive, safe, and affordable," Madar stated. The first test kits are expected to launch within a year, with a projected price of \$250 per test.

"This is a breakthrough that enhances our ability to detect malignancies early, when the chances of successful treatment are highest," said Prof. Meirav Ben-David, head of the Oncology Institute at Assuta Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

"Because the test is noninvasive and painless, it can be conducted frequently and adjusted based on an individual's personal risk factors. We are also working to refine the dogs' ability to distinguish between different types of cancer." ✨



# Are the Dead Sea Scrolls Older than We Thought?

The Dead Sea Scrolls contain some of the earliest known versions of texts from the Bible, including the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Kings, and Deuteronomy. For decades, researchers relied on handwriting style and radiocarbon dating to determine that the manuscripts originated between the third century B.C. and the first century A.D.

Now, however, artificial intelligence (AI) is giving researchers more accurate insight into when the scrolls originated.

Findings recently published in the journal *PLOS One* contend that the Biblical manuscripts date to about 2,300 years ago, which would be up to 150 years earlier than researchers originally thought.

The new dating discovery places Dead Sea Scrolls for the Book of Daniel directly in the same time period as the life of its presumed author.

"The Dead Sea Scrolls were extremely important when they were discovered because they completely changed the way we think about ancient Judaism and early Christianity," said **Mladen Popović**, (right), who is dean of the Faculty of Religion, Culture, and Society at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.



credit: University of Groningen

"Out of around 1,000 manuscripts, a bit more than 200 are what we call Biblical Old Testament, and they are the oldest copies we have of the Hebrew Bible. They gave us a lot of information about what the text looked like back then," he continued.

Popović and his team used an AI program called Enoch to analyze handwriting on 27 pieces of thumbnail size scraps of parchment through an algorithmic approach and then compared that with radiocarbon dating. They then compared the handwriting style of other manuscripts from the region to objectively determine an approximate age range.

"With the Enoch tool, we have opened a new door into the ancient world, like a time machine, that allows us to study the hands that wrote the Bible, especially now that we have established, for the first time, that two Biblical scroll fragments come from the



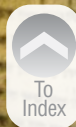
time of their presumed authors," Popović explained.

"They are physical, tangible evidence of a period of history that is crucial — whether you're Christian or Jewish or don't believe at all — because the Bible is one of the most influential books in the history of the world. So the Scrolls allow us to study it as a form of cultural evolution," he added.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by Bedouin shepherds inside the Qumran caves in the Judean Desert from 1946 to 1947.

Previously, researchers relied heavily on paleography — the study and decipher-

*(continued on next page)*







credit: alefnet / iStock

A portion of the Dead Sea Scrolls, found in the Qumran Caves near the Dead Sea

ing of ancient writing and manuscripts — to determine the manuscript's age.

**Popović contends that AI's ability to analyze the Dead Sea Scrolls will transform how researchers study artifacts.**

Even so, Christopher Rollston, a professor and chair of Biblical and Near Eastern languages and civilizations at George Washington University, argued that the AI analysis wasn't very surprising. "The results of this study are very interesting and presumably important, but not Earth-shattering," he noted. "Most of the conclusions of this article also dovetail with what the great paleographers in the

field ... had already stated more than 60 years ago."

Rollston commented that while AI could be helpful in research, it should not be the "only tool in the toolbox of someone wishing to determine the date for the writing of a manuscript. After all, handwriting, and all of its variations and idiosyncratic features, is a deeply human trait. Machines can be helpful in isolating features of a script, but the presence of a gifted paleographer is at least as valuable as a machine-learning tool." ☆

[Please see the DVD set \*Secrets of the Scrolls\* on p.17.](#)







credit: IranWireEnglish / X

Abdollah Ganji

## Senior Iranian Official: Israel Used Occult During 12-Day War

JPost.com

In July, Abdollah Ganji, former editor of the IRGC-linked newspaper *Javan*, told his 150,000 followers on X/Twitter that a “strange phenomenon” happened during the 12-day War. “After the recent war, a few sheets of paper were found on the streets of Tehran containing talismans with Jewish symbols,” he wrote. “In the first year of the Gaza war, news had also leaked about Netanyahu meeting with occult specialists.”

“A few years ago, the Supreme Leader stated that hostile countries and Western and Hebrew intelligence services use occult sciences and jinn entities [genies] for espionage.”

The Mossad’s official X account in Farsi responded to Ganji’s post: “Using drugs and talking to the jinn are not desirable traits for someone leading a country.”

Waleed Gadban, Israel’s Political Advisor to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, reposted the Mossad’s X post, with the caption in Farsi, “**Jinn, jinn are everywhere**,” with a ghost emoji at the end.

Jinn, first mentioned in the Koran, supposedly have extraordinary powers and can assume different forms. According to Britannica.com, Islam conceptualizes them “as creatures parallel to human be-

## SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

ings who are capable of choosing between good and evil and must thus face eventual salvation or damnation.”

## 110 Immigrants Arrive in Israel One Day After Ceasefire

JNS.org

New immigrants from Europe arrived in Israel on June 25, the day after the ceasefire with Iran took effect, according to Israel’s Aliyah and Integration Ministry.

Most of the 110 immigrants came from France, with the rest coming from the United Kingdom, Spain, and the Netherlands.

“In other countries, when there is war people flee, but in our country, people come to join us,” Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer said at a welcoming ceremony at Ben Gurion airport.

Yael Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, described the new immigrants as “the true heroes of our age.”

“Our very recent war and this period of uncertainty did not deter them. They understand what it means for the Jewish people to return to their homeland, and they are fulfilling their dream to be a part of that,” Eckstein stated. “This is the ultimate response to those who seek to harm us.”

*(continued on next page)*





New immigrants from France arrive in Israel on June 25, 2025

Since the Hamas-led massacre on Oct. 7, 2023, more than 45,000 new immigrants have arrived in Israel, with about a third under the age of 35, according to the Aliyah and Integration Ministry.

Despite the ongoing war, some 32,000 immigrants came to Israel in 2024 — a 31% decrease compared to the previous year.

## Philly Libraries Hosted Anti-Israel Kid's Events

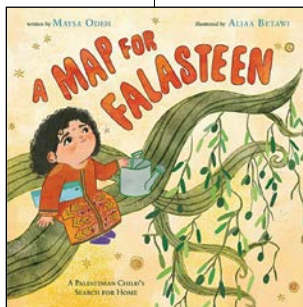
By Noa Half / DailyMail.co.uk



A photo from Kingsessing Library's advertisement for the Palestine Storytime & Crafts event

Philadelphia's public libraries have hosted anti-Israel "storytime" workshops for kids that promote "Palestinian liberation" and recently featured a children's book showing Israel wiped off the map.

At one "Palestine Storytime & Crafts" event in June, a library did a reading of the children's book, *A Map for Falasteen*, which states that Israeli soldiers came "with their tanks and guns" and "destroyed our villages," the *Washington Free Beacon* reported.



The book also includes a colorful map of "Falasteen" — the Arabic word for Palestine — that doesn't include Israel.

At another event, kids were given coloring pages featuring house keys. The children were told that the keys represent Palestinian families who were "thrown out of their homes."

The events are hosted by Families for Ceasefire

Philly, an extremist anti-Israel group which touts itself as "families in Philly coming together to stop the genocide in Gaza."

The group organized a rally in February where speakers said, "all glory to the martyrs," and led workshops aimed at teaching people how to have conversations with kids about "oppression," "genocide," and "apartheid."

An advertisement for an August event featured a photo of a child wearing a headscarf reading "Jerusalem, we are coming" — a slogan used by terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah.

The events have sparked major backlash from community members and Jewish leaders who are furious that tax money is paying for anti-Jewish propaganda aimed at children.

"Libraries are [viewed as] safe places where parents and grandparents can take their kids and the programming is safe as milk," noted Steve Feldman, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Zionist Organization of America.

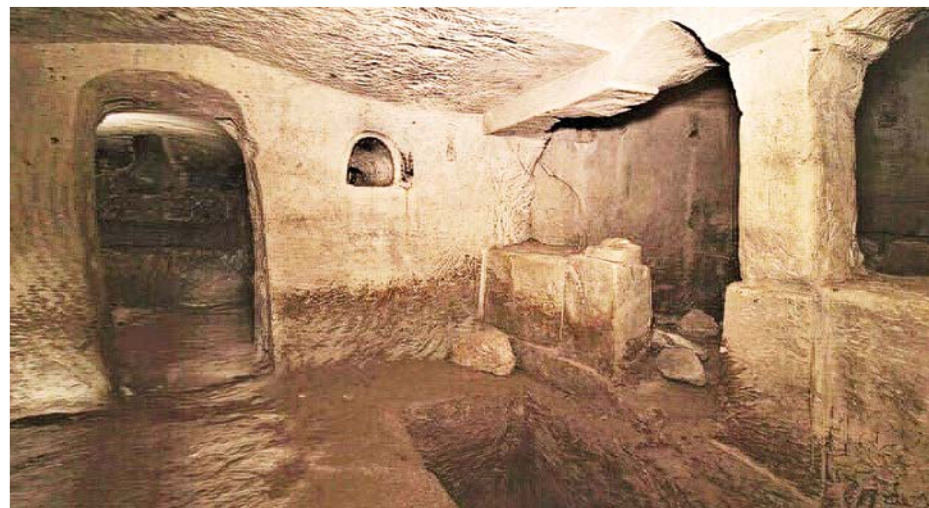
"[They] shouldn't be used for programming that incites Jew-hatred and other forms of social engineering ... They're not indoctrination centers." ☆





# Who was Buried in Salome's Tomb?

By Rossella Tercatin / TimesOfIsrael.com



credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA

Inside the cave

An imposing burial cave from the Second Temple Period has been venerated for centuries as a Christian pilgrimage site believed to be the tomb of Salome, a follower of Jesus. New research by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) now suggests that it was more likely the final resting place of a member of King Herod's family.

Thanks to excavations conducted in 2022–2023, IAA archaeologists have discovered that the site known as the "Cave of Salome" was far more elaborate than previously understood.

In a paper published in the 2025 issue of the IAA journal *Atiqot*, Nir-Shimshon Paran and Vladik Lifshits suggest that the burial site, near the village of Eliav in the Judean Foothills, may have preserved the memory of Salome, Herod the Great's powerful sister.

"The structure consists of a courtyard, an entrance, and the cave itself, which presents several burial niches and other installations for burial practices," Paran

noted. "The site is one of the largest, if not the largest, burial estates from the period found in Israel, nicely built and richly decorated."

According to Paran, the burial estate was built between the first century B.C. and the first century A.D. Later, it fell into



credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA

A burial niche inside the cave

disuse until it was revived in the sixth century A.D. as a Christian pilgrimage site for roughly 400 years.

Herod, of Edomite ancestry, was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman Senate, and ruled over Israel on behalf of the Roman Empire. His sister Salome was highly involved in the court's affairs

*(continued on next page)*





and intrigues. When Herod died, he willed her several cities, over which she then ruled.

In the first century, the name Salome (*Shlomit* in Hebrew) was quite common. According to Mark's Gospel, Salome was one of the followers of Jesus who witnessed Jesus's crucifixion (Mark 15:40; 16:1). The apocryphal Gospel of James, likely written in the second century A.D., mentions another Salome, supposedly a companion of the midwife who assisted Mary during childbirth. During the Middle Ages, the name became associated with the midwife herself.

The cave was first excavated in the 1980s after looters had plundered it. The digs uncovered dozens of inscriptions in Greek, Arabic, and Syriac dating back to the Christian use of the cave. Among the inscriptions in Greek, two indicate Salome was the person to whom the site was dedicated.

The cave features a roughly 2,422-square-foot courtyard, as well as exquisite ashlar masonry and other architectural decorations.

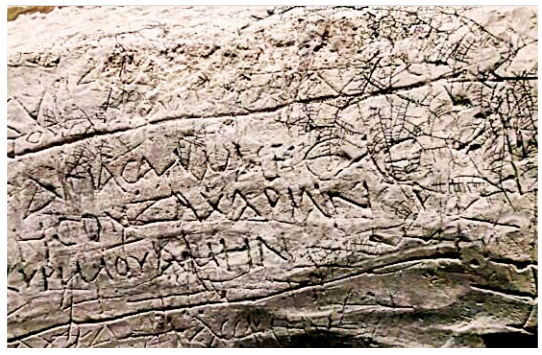
According to Paran, the monumental structure of the tomb has few parallels in Israel. "There are similarities between this cave and some luxurious burial estates in Jerusalem, but this is larger and more elaborate than most of them," he noted.

Two grandiose Roman villas have also been discovered in the area — one located a little more than half a mile from the burial estate, the other roughly three



Oil lamps discovered in the excavation

miles away. According to the researchers, the burial site was likely constructed by the same individuals who owned the nearby luxurious residences.



A Greek dedication inscription inside the cave

The connection to Queen Salome may help explain why such grand estates were built in this remote area, far from Jerusalem's political and administrative heart.

"We know that [Herod's sister] Salome lived in Ashkelon, where Herod built her a palace, but she also owned lands in the Jordan Valley, north of Jericho," Paran explained, noting that the cave is located on the route between the two cities. "In addition, this area in the Second Temple Period was known as Idumea, where Herod's family came from.

"While we have no definite evidence to prove our theory, we believe it is a very plausible explanation since everything connects," he added.

"During the Byzantine Period, the first Christian era in the Land of Israel, Believers actively sought out holy sites and relics connected to their faith," Paran noted. "Every place that they could somehow tie to the Old or the New Testament was turned into a pilgrimage site."

Paran explained that the Cave of Salome could have been visited by hundreds of thousands of people over the centuries, as testified by the number of inscriptions and other artifacts unearthed in the cave, including dozens of oil lamps featuring intricate decorations.

The archaeologist added that a reference to the original Salome may have existed in the cave, which could have contributed to the development of the tradition. "During the Second Temple Period, it was not common to leave inscriptions on walls, but sometimes the name of the deceased was written on ossuaries," Paran noted. "It is possible that the cave contained an ossuary carrying the name of Salome, even though we did not find it. It might have been looted." ☆

## Ontario Teacher: Student with a Jewish Parent is “Half-Human”

By Vered Weiss  
WorldsraelNews.com



An Ontario teacher recently referred to a six-year-old student as “half-human” for having a Jewish parent.

credit: University of Toronto



Professor Robert Brym

The incident surfaced during a study on anti-Semitism in Ontario, which is home to 30,000 Jewish children. University of Toronto sociology professor **Robert Brym** surveyed 599 Jewish parents between January and April. Many parents, including those of the six-year-old, responded that the form of anti-Semitic harassment that their families experienced was not directly connected to the war in Gaza.

In one case, a 13-year-old girl was swarmed several times a day with groups of children giving her the Nazi salute.

Many incidents referred to the Gaza war, with one teacher calling a student a “baby killer” because she admitted that her family supported Israel’s war against Hamas. Other educators reportedly told students that they were personally responsible for the war in Gaza.

**Deborah Lyons**, who recently resigned as Canada’s Special Envoy for Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Anti-Semitism, became involved in the probe after hearing reports of

anti-Semitism from Jewish parents.

“Jewish students deserve what every Canadian child deserves: to feel safe, valued and included in their classrooms,” Lyons commented in a statement. “This is not the reality today — and it must change.”

One-sixth of the parents responded that their child experienced anti-Semitism from an educator during a school-related activity. On one occasion, a teacher told a student that their Hebrew teachers were lying that Israel existed. Another teacher wore T-shirts with anti-Israel slogans, such as “From the river to the sea,” a rallying cry that calls for the erasure of the State of Israel.

Many incidents in schools were not reported, and many institutions narrowly define anti-Semitism as based only on religious practice rather than ethnicity, nationality, or culture.

“It is disconcerting to see the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents being ignored in Ontario schools,” Lyons added. “Silence in the face of anti-Semitism is not neutrality — it is complicity and sends a bad message to all students about standing up against hate.” ✨

credit: Government of Canada



Deborah Lyons







# Jewish Humor, etc.

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

## Political Prerequisite?

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?"

## Dry Bones



## Dry Bones



## Answer Key for SEPTEMBER 2025 Crossword (p.21)

### ACROSS:

2. Sacrifice
4. Flesh
6. Justified
9. Covenant
11. Guilty
12. Commandment
14. Grace
15. Burdensome
17. Spirit
18. Faith
19. Prophet
20. Redeemed
21. People

### DOWN:

1. Peace
3. Christ Jesus
5. Scripture
7. Judge
8. Curse
10. Hearts
12. Crucified
13. Abraham
16. Neighbor



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