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Enhancing Trust

January 2026

Dear Reader,

Once again, we've reached the changing of the years. During these days, many folks reflect on the old year while they anticipate the new year. Such simultaneous "looking backward and forward" may have been what the Romans intended when they named the first month of the year after Janus, their "two-faced" deity.

We Believers, however, shouldn't follow that practice simply because of pagan influence. God's Word calls us to remember events or teachings from the past (such as in Deut. 7:18 or John 15:20). Scripture also commands us to anticipate — to be watchful and alert (Matt. 24:42 and 1 Pet. 5:8, for example) — so that we don't miss something important and/or suffer because we were unprepared. Consequently, I encourage you to spend time reflecting and anticipating so that you can be both useful and fruitful in your service to our Lord.

This *Levitt Letter's* cover article on Christian Zionism challenges us to remember the past as we move toward the future. Our Israeli correspondent Sarah Liberman (cover) reflects on recent events in the U.S. and contemplates what might be coming. Don't miss the contemporary David vs. Goliath matchup (12), updates from former Israeli hostages (30), or a recent archaeological find that confirms a Biblical event (32). You'll also find our regular features of science, medicine, humor, and more.

Throughout this New Year, please continue to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim — pray for the peace of Jerusalem* (Ps. 122:6),




Greg, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts that enable this ministry to share the message of Yeshua (Jesus) just about everywhere. We are so very grateful for your partnership in the Gospel!

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Levitt LETTER

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

JANUARY 2026

credit: Arnon Bossani / Western Wall Heritage Foundation



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee at the Western Wall on July 1, 2025.

Christian Zionism — Heresy or History?

By Chris Mitchell / CBN.com

Media influencer Tucker Carlson, who is followed by millions, recently fired a shot heard around the world when he labeled Christian Zionism a heresy and a brain virus. Carlson later apologized for saying that he despised Christian Zionists. Though he called them “some of the nicest people I know,” Carlson didn’t retract his statement that Christian Zionism is heresy and a brain virus.

Actually, Christian Zionism is not an error. Its history goes back centuries; its roots are found in the Bible.

Dr. Tricia Miller from the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA) explained that Christian Zionism “is the Christian belief in Zionism. **This is simply the right of Jews to self-determination in their ancient homeland.** That’s it. It’s not more complicated than that.”

(continued p.4)

REMEMBER:

Epiphany: Tuesday, January 6

The Beginning of The End?

By Sarah
Liberman

For over two years, most Israelis have felt like they were living in a reality that was stranger than fiction. During this time, the propaganda against Israel increased — fake starvation of the Palestinians, false claims of genocide in Gaza, support for “rape is resistance,” and



(continued p.2)



The Beginning of The End?

continued from cover

other unbelievable accusations. Truth has no meaning when the well-funded, pro-Gaza campaign brainwashed almost everyone around the world.

In November 2025, voters elected **Zohran Mamdani** as the mayor of New York City. The people of Israel received this news with a mixture of frustration and disbelief. After October 7, 2023, Israelis hoped that everyone in the West would understand the truth behind calls for “globalizing the *intifada*.” Obviously, that didn’t happen, since **Mamdani vocalized the same message**.

It’s hard to fathom that Americans would be unconcerned about a radical Muslim leading a major city like New York. One need only look at London to see the results of the Muslim mayor’s administration. Crime has increased. Illegal immigrants have bountiful rights. More funds and healthcare go to Muslim immigrants rather than citizens. The education system promotes Islam’s virtues in government-run schools.



credit: Brendan McDermid / Reuters

Zohran Mamdani at a press conference on November 20, 2025

Mamdani campaigned on a Socialist platform. He promised free transportation, freezing rents, and other things. A majority of New Yorkers apparently liked his promises. Apparently, however, they aren’t aware of the Arabic term *taqiyya*, which gives Muslims the freedom to mask or lie about their true intentions. Mamdani’s

election initiated a plan for controlling local government, enacting radical legislation, and funding Islamic ideology. **A quiet jihad has infiltrated the U.S.**

For us in Israel, it’s more astonishing to realize that many Jews voted for Mamdani. They sacrificed their Jewish identity and connection to Israel — the homeland of the Jewish people — on the altar of liberalism.

Jeremiah 16:16 is a warning to the Jewish people after they are regathered into their land, which began in 1948. The Lord declares, “... *I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks.*”

No Israeli will ever forget Hamas’s atrocities on October 7, 2023. Hunters hunting and destroying is an apt picture of the terror we experienced that day. Will such attacks against Jews in other places happen again wherever Islamic ideology reigns?

Scripture foretells that all nations will turn against Israel and plunder Jerusalem before Yeshua’s Second Coming. This means that even our greatest allies will no longer stand with Israel. Growing up in Israel, the thought that the U.S. would turn against us seemed so far-fetched. But that’s no longer true. As I watch what’s happening around the globe, I and other Believers* in the Land wonder, *Is this the beginning of the end?*

From Israel,

Sarah Liberman

P.S. I am grateful for the opportunity to write for ZLM’s *Personal Letter* each month, in which I share with you a unique local perspective of what’s happening here in Israel. ☆

Please see *The Beginning of the End* book and CDs on [p. 9](#).

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



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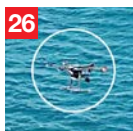
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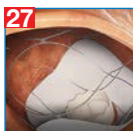


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NEW ZLM STAFF



Andrea, our office manager, has officially joined ZLM after 28 years with Berg Productions, the ministry's prior television producer of four decades. Even before joining ZLM, Andrea contributed to the *Levitt Letter* by creating the monthly Crossword Puzzle. (See the current puzzle on p. 21.)

Born and raised in southern Indiana, Andrea has lived in the Dallas area for 47 years. She's married to her best friend Bill, and together they have seven children and 12 grandchildren. Outside of work, Andrea enjoys family time, reading, antiques, photography, and bingeing on podcasts.

Each day when she arrives home, Andrea is greeted by Bennet (her 14-year-old Chi-Weenie) and Miracle (her 12-year-old Yorkipoo).

She added that the roots of Zionism extend almost to the time of Jesus. “It goes back to the first century. You can see references in the Gospels to the expectation of the future restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. It wasn’t called Zionism then; we’ve labeled that now, maybe in the last couple of hundred years. But there is a 2,000-year history of Christian belief in the restoration of Israel.”

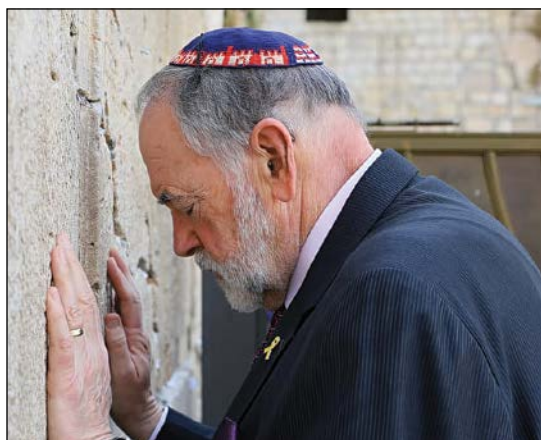
In the third century A.D., the early church father Tertullian wrote: “It will be fitting for the Christian to rejoice, and not to grieve, at the restoration of Israel, if it be true (as it is), that the whole of our hope is intimately united with the remaining expectation of Israel.”

Many medieval and Protestant Reformation theologians agreed. In the 18th century, Jonathan Edwards, an influential Biblical scholar living in the American colonies, wrote, “Israel would again be a distinct nation, and Christians would have free access to Jerusalem because Jews would look on Christians as their brethren.”

“We are living in that day now,” Miller asserted. “We’re seeing Israel as a distinct nation. Christians have free access to Jerusalem because Israel ensures freedom of religion for everyone here, and the Jews are understanding Christians to be their brethren.”

Christian Zionists — including England’s Lord Arthur Balfour and U.S. President Harry Truman — helped establish the modern State of Israel. Later, Christian leaders such as Billy Graham and Pat Robertson affirmed Israel’s rebirth as a fulfillment of prophecy.

“I’m a proud Christian Zionist,” declared National Religious Broadcasters President Troy Miller. “I believe that the Jewish people have a homeland; this homeland is called Israel. It was promised to them



by God. The Old Testament is full of those promises that are specific about the land and the ethnic Jewish people. And as a Christian, I believe they have the right to govern in their own homeland. That’s what Christian Zionism is about. And I think every Christian should be clearly able to embrace that.”

Throughout Scripture, every Hebrew prophet except Jonah prophesied about the return of the Jewish people to their own land.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote, “[God] will ... *assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the Earth*” (Isa. 11:12).

Jeremiah proclaimed God’s words, “... *I will bring them [the Jewish people] back into their land which I gave to their fathers*” (Jer. 16:15).

Ezekiel also spoke the Lord’s message: “*I will place you in your own land*” (Ezek. 37:14).

Stephen Briggs is host of the *Israel Matters* podcast. He explained, “There are hundreds of Scriptures that talk about [the restoration of Israel], and they’re very, very specific.... So the idea of a Christian Zionist is simply one who believes the Word of God, holds fast to it, and sees that the Word tells us that Israel is going to be restored before the Messiah returns.”



Christians should become informed, Tricia Miller emphasized. “My message to Christians is that they need to understand that this is a Biblical belief. Tucker Carlson called it Christian heresy. It is not heresy. It’s Biblical. It goes back to the beginnings of Christianity historically, but it’s rooted in our belief all the way back to Genesis — that God made this unconditional and eternal covenant with the Jewish people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

She noted that in Genesis chapter 15, God made an eternal covenant — not with Abraham, but with Himself. “This is important for Christians to understand.

So many times throughout history, Christians have said that the Jews are done; God’s finished with the Jewish people; He doesn’t care about them because....” Miller added that Christians often mention something that the Jews have done or haven’t done that invalidates the covenant. “But the covenant is in place because Abraham wasn’t even part of making it. So, **it doesn’t matter what the Jews do or don’t do; it’s only dependent on God keeping it. And God does not fail. God keeps His covenant.**”

In response to skeptics, many Christian Zionists recommend that critics learn history, read the Bible, and go to Israel to see the restoration for themselves. ✨

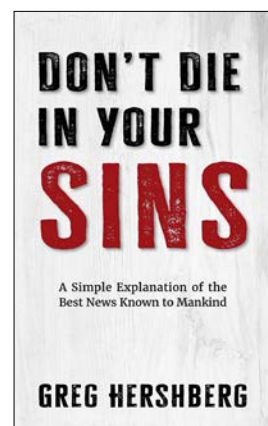
Jewish Heritage calendar

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* (see p.16).



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



Don't Die in Your Sins book

People are obsessed with life; most people are scared of dying. But who can tell us what happens after we die? Thanks to Yeshua’s firsthand experience in Heaven and His knowledge of the future, He can. He gives us three truths about this important subject:

- There is life after death.
- Everyone must choose between two destinations.
- We can make the right choice now.

Greg Hershberg, a Messianic Jewish rabbi, emphasizes that even though you may overcome with sin, you don’t have to die in your sins. You can ensure that when you die, you will have everlasting life and happiness.



A Jewish Tale in Great Britain

Joshua & Caleb Colson
The Bearded Bible
Brothers®



credit: Carlos Jasso / AFP



A massive turnout in the London “March Against Anti-Semitism” on September 7, 2025

“Can anything Biblical or Jewish be found in the United Kingdom?” We posed that question to the Holy Spirit after He directed us to England and Ireland to close out our recent trip to Israel. Over the years, God has revealed that our trips are not exclusively about the destination and the film shoot.

This particular return trip from Israel was averaging about 36-hour layovers. So, we prayed for direction about where the Father might want us to go for ministry or filming purposes during our return. We suggested to the Holy Spirit that we would visit the most divisive, impoverished, or war-torn countries: “What about Ukraine, Russia, China, Ethiopia, or North Korea?”

God’s answer really surprised us.

A barrage of headlines — including England’s struggle with Islamic takeover and the government’s persecution of Jews and Christians — revealed the need for our layover mission. London’s 70,000 person “March Against Anti-Semitism” on September 7 drew a head-scratching response from the British government.

Then, on the Saturday following Charlie Kirk’s assassination, one of the largest

protests in UK history occurred on the streets of London. The mainstream media suggested that there were about 150,000 protesters. However, more accurate estimates numbered the crowd between 500,000 and 1 million people. These political conservatives, Christians, and Jews sought to “Unite the Kingdom.” Yet Sadiq Khan — the first Muslim mayor of London, who often accuses Christians and President Trump of being racists, bigots, and Islamophobes — painted the protesters as far-right hijackers of the British flag. He claimed that the marchers wanted to intimidate minorities with fear, hatred, and division.

Along with this visible turmoil, we had heard of a “soft revival” among the youth of England. So, we hit the streets of London to teach about the important Great Awakenings of the past. In the early part of the 18th century, God used courageous men like John Wesley, Charles Wesley, and George Whitfield to spread the Gospel of Yeshua. These and other revivals eventually birthed the modern Zionist movement, which brought the Jewish people back to Israel.

(continued on next page)



Unfortunately, the British didn't fare well after WWII. They had often turned a blind eye toward — and even a hostile hand against — Jews seeking to escape persecution. This reckless disregard led to the collapse of the British Empire. At its height, the British Empire was seven times larger than the Roman Empire. Yet as promised in Genesis 12:3, God cursed those who cursed His people.

Even so, we believe that God is about to do a new thing in the UK.

As part of our UK adventure, we traveled to Northern Ireland with Rabbi Hirschie Schaffner.

There, we met with Joshua's old friend, Pastor Dave Pavey. Over 25 years ago, Joshua's first missionary assignment was in that country during the height of "The Troubles."

This conflict between Protestants and Catholics was Joshua's first wartime experience. He stood on the streets of Belfast as tanks cornered the Irish Republican Army (IRA), who threw Molotov cocktails at authorities.

The actual first "Awakening" — in Ireland during the fifth century — is also the oldest. One evangelist, Maewyn Succat (now known as Saint Patrick), boldly returned to the pagan Druid land where he had once been a captive. Historic documents detail how Patrick's obedience and submission to God led almost the whole nation of Ireland to Jesus.

During our recent visit, we retraced Patrick's steps while detailing more modern revivals that brought a supernatural revolution. One such outpouring occurred in Coleraine, Northern Ireland in 1859 and spread throughout the country. It started with two grade-school boys who felt the Holy Spirit's

conviction power, which led them to repent. That encounter spread to their classmates and then throughout the community.

You'll discover more about these amazing stories on *Bearded Bible Brothers*® television programs this spring. As usual, we'll tell the accounts with hairy, Jewish flair!

While our trips are primarily focused on filming Messiah-centered teaching, God brings us many personal interactions during our journeys. Thus, we really think of our film shoots as mission trips. Every day brings new opportunities for us to interact with local people and share Yeshua's love. We have countless stories of changed lives; these are just as important as our broadcast outreaches.



Rabbi Hirschie Schaffner (left) and Pastor Dave Pavey with the BBB

Thank you for your prayers and encouraging interactions on social media during our trips. Though the spiritual warfare is evident most days, God is always faithful to intervene and deliver us from calamity and harm.

Love, Joshua and Caleb

P.S. Your financial gifts help us to share the Gospel around the world. If the Holy Spirit leads you to support our work, please give as He directs you. ✨





Hiding Your Light?

by Zola Levitt

from 1999 • 27 years ago

What follows is a surprising letter that our office manager Ruth received in regard to one of my planned speaking engagements.

Tikvat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue
Geauga County, Ohio

Dear Ruth:

As per our conversation this morning, we would like to cancel our meeting with Zola for the dates of December 4 and 5. Unfortunately, we have had some unexpected issues arise. One issue has been the difficulty in locating other congregations to share the cost of the weekend. Initially, we did not think that this would present a problem. To date, however, we have been unsuccessful in finding any congregations to split the fees. Financially, we are not able to do this ourselves.

Second, we have been increasingly concerned by the content in Zola's newsletter. **Zola's posture regarding traditional Judaism has made us increasingly uncomfortable.** His viewpoint is certainly not one that we embrace.

The newsletters, along with several phone calls that we have received and the initial problem of finding supporters, have led us to reevaluate the prudence of continuing with our December date.

Tikvat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue sits in the middle of a community of approximately 120,000 Jewish people. Needless to say, we have had our struggles. But even so, Yeshua has called us to be sensitive to where He has placed us. We believe that to continue with the date would place us in an adversarial position within the community, which is not a position that we accept.

In light of the above, regretfully, we are canceling the dates of December 4 and 5.

Sincerely, C.A.B.

Special Events Coordinator



Dear C.A.B.,

I understand your letter to say that you prefer traditional Judaism to my coming to preach Christ and Him crucified. Shame on you! **My "posture regarding traditional Judaism" is not a posture. It's simply Scripture.** Traditional Judaism, as you well know, has strayed from Scriptural Judaism so far as to make the synagogue service almost unrecognizable from a Biblical standpoint.

I'm well aware that my "viewpoint" makes those trying to practice rabbinical Judaism "increasingly uncomfortable." Even so, it is not my viewpoint in question here, but again Biblical standards. If you want to

have a service of singing and dancing — a "let's pretend" sort of rabbinical Judaism, slipping in the message of the Messiah in some subtle way — I am the wrong speaker for you.

I'm not surprised at your problem of finding supporters. I suppose you're aware that God endows plentifully that which He prefers. The name of your congregation means "The Hope of Israel." Yet you prefer to try to please 120,000 unsaved Jewish people by being "sensitive to where He has placed us." You believe that my coming to speak to you would "place us in an adversarial position within the community, which is not a position that we accept."

(continued on next page)

Well, why not? Don't you think that worshiping Christ ought to put you in an adversarial position with the unsaved anywhere, whether they are Jewish or gentile? Do you think that Paul tried to fit in when he went to Corinth or Ephesus or Rome? **Did you read somewhere in the Scriptures that Christians are supposed to be the nicest people in town, getting along well with the unbeliever and pleasing him while he goes to Hell?**

Jews for Jesus, a very well-endowed ministry that has no financial problems, does the opposite of what you are doing. They cause all kinds of consternation in the Jewish community. They follow the example of our Lord in choosing to die first rather than to please unbelievers. A Middle Eastern missionary on my radio program some years ago told me that the American Church is weak and flabby because it does not get enough exercise. He added that the proper exercise of the Church is persecu-

tion. Are you getting enough persecution?

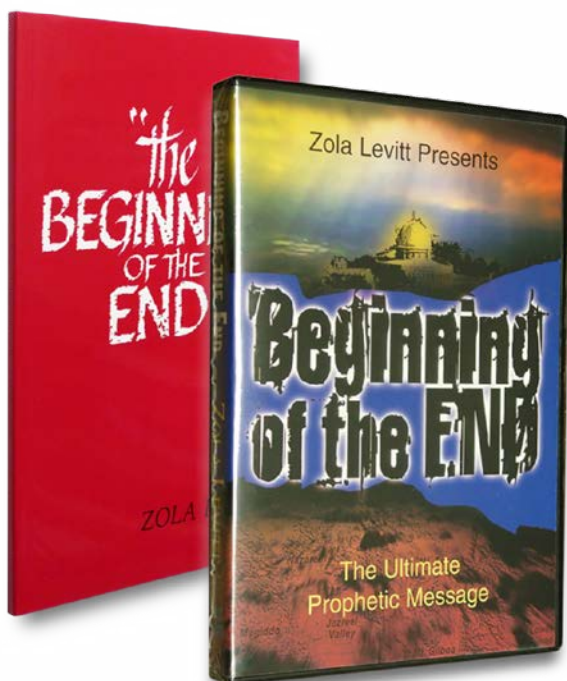
When you stand before the King of the Jews at the Judgment Seat, how will you explain your failure to make an impact where you are? If He says, "I gave you 120,000 unsaved Jews to work with," will you respond, "They hardly noticed us?" **Why are you hiding your light?**

I sympathize with your financial problems. When you are ready to hear me preach the Gospel that is the "*power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first,*" then please contact me. There will be no charge. But my subject will be Romans 1:16: "*I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.*" ☆

Regarding the American Church being weak and flabby, please notice K&G's comment in "A Note from Mark" on page 10: "We still attend our church because they need us. But do you know what? My husband and I need the Word." —Editor

The Beginning of the End book & teaching/ music CDs

A most unusual study with a dramatic urgency. The Rapture, the antiChrist, the Third Temple, Armageddon, and the Second Coming are among the subjects considered, along with world affairs leading to The End. A must-read! The CD version (2 CDs) includes the original music and soundtrack of the dramatic TV series. (See levitt.com/media/series/VBOE to view the messages.)



Please see Sarah Liberman's article "The Beginning of the End?" on [the cover](#).



A Surreptitious Loss?

The note below recently came to our P.O. Box with a \$50,000 check. “Wowzers!” you might exclaim. For weeks now, however, I’ve been contemplating the possible stories behind such magnanimous generosity. After all, donations of this size rarely come from someone’s monthly budget.

From Ohio, these generous donors responded to my recent note, which you can see on [page 10 of the December 2025 Levitt Letter](#). That note spelled out our ministry’s current financial challenges. It also explained Joshua and Caleb’s information approach to holding television

viewers’ attention for badly needed Bible teaching. Finally, it sought feedback on how we might possibly improve our *Bearded Bible Brothers* television programs.

As you’ll read, these devoted ZLMers are perfectly happy with not only *what* this ministry is teaching but also *how* we’re teaching it. Expressing disappointment with churches in general, they share their gratitude for how we meet their need for legit Bible teaching. They even amplify our ministerial outreach’s impact by sharing our teaching with others!

Hi Mark, Joshua, and Caleb,

In response to your request for constructive criticism, I really don’t have any. I only hope you make more of these television series [like *The Lobstermen*]. Just don’t give up; use all the means of social media you can.

We are so disappointed in churches today. We have been involved in a ministry called The Last Reformation. We love *The Chosen* because they are reaching the lost, and we are big supporters of these kinds of ministries. **We still attend our church because they need us. But do you know what? My husband and I need the Word.**

In fact, we use your television program often in our family as ministry. So hopefully you can find a way to help remove the deception about amillennialism and prove that the Rapture is not a new thing — while still reaching the heart, which you do so well.

I like all of your new friends [Israel Hanna, Zoe Mason, and the rest of your “all-star posse” of Jews and gentiles]. Their involvement, I believe, makes your Bible teaching reach farther. And, as we are thinking for ourselves, your ministry and Zola Levitt himself have both taught us and explained and confirmed things we already were believing. We want to encourage you to keep going. Run *The Lobstermen* again if you can. Go Forth!

God bless you,
K&G



(continued
on next
page)



Rest assured, Dear Reader, that we certainly *will* rerun our *Lobstermen* TV series. Aside from the fact that it is jam packed with intensive Bible teaching, we can't afford *not* to run it again because of how much we've invested in it. This investment includes blood, sweat, tears, dollars, prayers, and perhaps months off of Caleb's life expectancy because of how relentlessly he works around the clock on such projects.*

Speaking of which, our newest TV series, *Conquest of Canaan*, surely dazzled viewers who would have preferred less tomfoolery in *The Lobstermen*. *Conquest* represents an about-face from the BBBs' comedic Internet personas, which of course still have their place.

Fortunately, Joshua and Caleb are both more versatile than you and I realize. They are multi-talented, multi-generational, intercontinental, multimedia-skilled gifts from God. They have unlimited potential that will come to fruition before your eyes if the Lord tarries. You probably will agree that He's not finished refining them yet!

Now back to the topic of this note's title: How could a \$50,000 contribution involve a surreptitious loss? Consider the following two scenarios. Suppose these remarkable donors:

- A. Received and paid income taxes on required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their traditional IRAs or 401(k)s. They coulda/ woulda/shoulda saved on taxes by having that distribution (or another appreciated asset) sent directly to ZLM. Please see my Wise as a Serpent article on p. 12 of the August 2024 Levitt Letter, "Donating Required IRA/401(k) Minimum Distributions."

—or—

- B. Liquidated shares of stock or a mutual fund and paid income tax and/or capital gains tax on the gross proceeds rather than requesting those shares (or another appreciated asset) be sent directly to this ministry. Please see the "Donating Stock" notice below.

A major topic at the 2025 Bogleheads investors conference involved taking distributions from retirement accounts after age 59 ½ but before being required to do so in one's 70s. The motivation would be to avoid high income tax brackets in future years by "filling up" the lower ones in the remaining years leading up to the RMDs.

The Bogleheads conference speakers noted that **no taxes are due on charitable contributions made directly from retirement accounts to tax-exempt non-profit organizations — like this ministry — or on gifts in kind**. So please pray and seek professional advice on how you can legally avoid or minimize a) the income tax traps that lurk in millions of traditional retirement accounts, and b) capital gains taxes you could owe on assets that would be better to donate directly than liquidate. ☆

* Ken Berg, our TV producer of four decades, often expressed concern about Caleb potentially suffering a heart attack because of his unbridled work ethic. Consequently, I occasionally remind Caleb that he must take better care of his health.

Donating Stock

Many donors save capital gains taxes by donating shares of stock rather than the proceeds from liquidating them. If you would like to donate shares, our ministry's Vanguard info and account number are listed at right.

Vanguard asks that securities be mailed to:
Vanguard
P.O. Box 982901
El Paso, TX 79998

For certified or overnight delivery:
Vanguard
5951 Luckett Court, Suite A1
El Paso, TX 79932

Please provide Vanguard or your broker with the following information:
Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc.
Tax ID Number 75-1680391
Vanguard Account # 6150223
DTC # 0062 Vanguard's routing # 021000021

Vanguard's toll-free number is 1-800-337-8476 ☆

Israel is a Little David Facing a Global Goliath

By Joseph Puder / JNS.org



credit: StandWithUs.com



The widespread hostility toward Israel, accompanied by an upsurge in worldwide anti-Semitism, demonstrates that Israel is a “little David.” After all, it’s confronted by a “global Goliath” comprising most of the 1.6 billion Muslims and millions of “Christian” Islamist sympathizers throughout the West.

Tiny Israel, with its 7 million Jews, was attacked by Hamas on October 7, 2023. Moreover, Israel faced a campaign of death and destruction waged by the Islamic Republic of Iran, intent on “wiping [Israel] off the map.”

A Coordinated Strategy

Tehran perceived Israeli weakness while massive demonstrations occurred in the first three-quarters of 2023. That was following a decision by the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to launch judicial reform. Additionally, opposition parties and an anti-Netanyahu bloc — led by Israeli politicians Yair Lapid, Avigdor Lieberman, Benny Gantz, and Naftali Bennett — used the issue seeking

to bring down the prime minister’s right-of-center, Likud-led government. Added to the upheaval was the refusal of some reservist pilots from the Israeli Air Force to fulfill their reserve duties. Given the chaos pervading Israeli society, Hamas and its Iranian sponsors surmised that, with one powerful push, the Jewish state might collapse.

Hamas’s brutal attack wasn’t an attempt to break Israel’s blockade of the Gaza Strip. Rather, it was an opportunity to inflict major damage that would lead to Israel’s demise. The coordinated strategy between Hamas and its Iranian paymasters was also an attempt to prevent the impending establishment of normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Recognizing the Threats

Despite the Israeli defense and security establishment’s intelligence debacle on October 7, they realized the need to prepare for the possibility of a Hezbollah invasion from the north. Indeed, the Iranians counted on their major proxy,



(continued on next page)

Hezbollah, to mobilize against Israel. Hezbollah's leaders, however, recognized that Israel might inflict unsustainable damage to Lebanon and jeopardize the group's standing. Thus, Hezbollah leaders opted instead to fire thousands of rockets and drones into Israel.

With a population of less than 10 million, including over 2 million Arab-Israelis, Israel faced Iranian proxies ready to attack from virtually all directions. There was the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, with its population of 25 million to Israel's north-east; Lebanon's Hezbollah and its Shi'ite cohorts, who represent 31% of Lebanon's population of almost 6 million people to the north; and Iraq's Shi'ite militias, farther in the northeast, who also bombarded Israel with rockets.

Multiple Iranian-backed, Iraqi Shi'ite militias, under the umbrella group known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, launched missile and drone attacks at Israeli targets throughout 2023 and 2024. Iraq's population is estimated to be 45.4 million, with the Shi'ite population estimated to be 31 million. Iran is home to over 80 million Shi'ite Muslims.

The Palestinian Arab populations of the Gaza Strip, and Judea and Samaria, amount to over 5 million people. In addition, Yemen's Houthis, another Iranian proxy, continue to send rockets into Israel. Estimates indicate that the Houthis rule over 70% to 80% of Yemen's population of 40.5 million.

Ultimately, Iran used its proxies to open seven fronts against Israel. A total population greater than 200 million mobilized against 7 million Israeli Jews (out of 16 million Jews worldwide).

So, who is the David? Who is the Goliath?

Israel's Resourcefulness

That Israel prevailed over a multitude of enemies was because of its brilliant resourcefulness. For example, in September 2024, Israeli intelligence orchestrated a massive attack involving thousands

of exploding pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah members in Lebanon and Syria. Later, targeted airstrikes killed most of Hezbollah's senior command, including its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Similar surgical operations wiped out the military commands of Iran and Hamas, and weakened the Assad regime in Syria, bringing about its ultimate collapse.

Israel stands almost alone — with only the U.S. on its side — facing an array of hostile actors who are morally bankrupt. Most of the European Union (EU) states have turned against the Jewish state, mainly out of cowardice. **Fear of their Muslim constituencies has created an upside-down reality** in France, Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and non-EU countries like Norway and Britain. Fearfulness, with a measure of envy at their inability to deal with the Islamic invasion, mixed with a dose of anti-Semitism, has made these states frown upon Israel's prowess, even in the face of tremendous demographic and military odds.

These countries portray Israel as the Goliath attacking Hamas. Yet they ignore the fact that virtually the entire Muslim world of 1.6 billion people supports Hamas. That argument also ignores the loud and violent anti-Israel demonstrators — financed by Qatar, Iran, and Turkey — in Europe, the U.S., and around the globe, using European and American students as their “useful idiots.” The red-green alliance of radical leftists and jihadists throughout the West targets both Israel and the U.S. Should Israel fall, the West would certainly follow.

Israel's righteous defense of its people against the Nazi-like Hamas murderers inflicted suffering on the people of Gaza, as war always does on civilians. But the burden of guilt falls on Hamas, which started the war and uses its people as human shields. In a moral and righteous world, Israel would be seen as a virtuous David going against a monstrous Goliath.

The world, however, is neither moral nor righteous. ☆



What is the Providence of God?

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian
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Divine providence refers to God's governance and control over His creation and His active rule in human affairs.

Though the Bible doesn't use the word "providence" in relation to God, all of Scripture reveals this truth. Deriving from the Latin *providentia*, providence means having foresight to make provision beforehand. **When applied to God, providence refers to His all-encompassing care, control, and rulership over everything to fulfill His plan and purpose.** The providence of God encompasses past, present, and future as He works all things together to complete His eternal purpose, *"which He accomplished in Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Eph. 3:11).

BibleStudyTools.com explains: "Providence encompasses every aspect of creation. From beginning to end ... everything is within the loving presence and involvement of the Heavenly Father. In His wisdom, power, righteousness, and love, He is hastening slowly to work out His own eternal purposes for His own glory and for our eternal good."

God's providence extends to the redeemed and the unsaved, and to individuals and nations alike. We see God's providence in His roles of Provider, Protector, Preserver, and Potentate.

God mercifully *provides* everything necessary for life to flourish. Paul declared that God *"gives to all life, breath, and all things"* because *"in Him we live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:25, 28). Jesus affirmed God's indiscriminate provision to all: *"He makes His sun rise on*

the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). To Believers, God has provided all spiritual necessities through Christ for victorious living. Paul asserted, *"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:19).

Likewise, the Lord *protects* His people from permanent destruction. To Israel, God has guaranteed their eternal existence despite countless attempts to destroy them (Isa. 43:2-3; Jer. 31:35-37). To the Church, Jesus promised permanence — hell's powers will not destroy her (Matt. 16:18).

God also *preserves* Believers from damnation after He saves them. Believers will never be removed from God's hand: *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand"* (John 10:28). Nor can anything separate Believers from Christ's love (Rom. 8:31-39).

Finally, God demonstrates His *omnipotence* over all things. Ultimately, everyone will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11), whether in the submission of salvation or the coercion of judgment. God does what He desires; no one can thwart His plan. *"He does according to His will in the army of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the Earth. No one can restrain His hand"* (Dan. 4:35; see also Ps. 115:3; 135:6).

God's providence guarantees that He will fulfill what He has foretold, produce what He has proposed, and accomplish what He has planned. ☆

**"I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch
them out of My hand."**

JOHN 10:28



ZLM Bulletin Board



2025's Most Blasphemous Movie?

The Carpenter's Son, starring Nicolas Cage, scored only 33% on RottenTomatoes.com. It was a box office failure. Boring, clunky, and heavy-handed, Rotten Tomatoes noted that the movie's "execution proved far from immaculate." The dreadful portrayal of Jesus as evil is as ridiculous as characterizing Him as someone who only destroys and causes all this world's pain and suffering. The plot is too slow and subdued for horror fans and too controversial and bizarre for religious audiences. Two thumbs down —blasphemy doesn't pay!

Do Israeli Lives Matter?

Amiram Cooper was a farmer, economist, and poet. The 84-year-old and his wife were kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, 2023. He was killed by his captors in February 2024. Born in Haifa in 1938 to parents who had fled from Poland, he attended the Kadoorie Agricultural High School in Galilee. Following his graduation in 1957, he was a Nahal member at his kibbutz for more than 65 years. Cooper is survived by his wife, Nurit, four children, 11 grandchildren, and a sister.

credit: Cooper family



Amiram Cooper

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Pamphlet of the Month

If you own property that you no longer wish to occupy or manage, a charitable gift can meet multiple goals. **Giving Real Estate** is a 20-page pamphlet that discusses: 1) property that has changed in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution. The Technical Advisory Section addresses real estate held long-term, depreciated real estate, and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #14



EVANGELICAL
COUNCIL FOR
FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY

ECFA Approved (still)

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

"COME HOME!"

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection



רַק הַשָּׁמֶר לָךְ וְשָׁמַר נַפְשְׁךָ מְאֹד פֶּן־תִּשְׁכַּח

"Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget..."
Deut. 4:9

רַק (1) הֶ (1) שָׁ (2) מֶ (3) לָ (1) דָּ (2) וְ (1) שָׁ (2) מֶ (3) נַפְ (1) שְׁ (2) דָּ (3) מְ (1) אֹ (2) דָּ (3) פֶּן־ (1) תִּשְׁ (2) כַּח (3) בָּ (1)

pen' - teesh - kach' me-od' naf - sheh - kha' oosh - a mor' le - kha' hee - sha - mer' rak'

lest you forget

and keep your soul diligently

only take heed to yourself

Read Hebrew right to left!



"We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that we have heard, lest at any time we should drift away" (Heb. 2:1).

If something is truly worth saying, it is worth saying more than once; we learn by *repetition*. Consider how Yeshua retold His parables and messages throughout His ministry.

God knows that we are dull of heart and full of ourselves. Therefore, He says תִּרְכֹּזוּ כִּי־הִלַּא הוֹדִי־תָא — *"Now remember the LORD your God!"* (Deut. 8:18). He also proclaims, *"Take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life"* (Deut. 4:9).

Likewise, the great *Shema* teaches us to rehearse Torah "diligently" — *again and again* — so that our lives are imbued in its language and its significance (Deut. 6:4–9). When we sit in our house, when we walk along the way, when we lie down,

and when we rise up — in every place and at every time — we are to *remember* the truth and thereby walk before the Living God.

"Take heed to yourself..." This warning underscores the danger we face of "forgetting" God — of losing sight of the truth of reality and thereby lapsing into the realm of the profane. We must, therefore, foster within us a state of ongoing vigilance that regards the greatness of God in the midst of our daily lives. *"Give us this day our daily bread"* (Matt. 6:11).

Your life, your being, and your very existence come from God, but *forgetting this truth leads to **tohu va'vahu** — a life of vanity and chaos*. Therefore, practice God's presence; believe to *"see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living"* (Ps. 27:13). The language God uses speaks His imperative passion for us: "Do not forget Me! Keep your heart open to My Presence! Know Me in all your ways." ☆

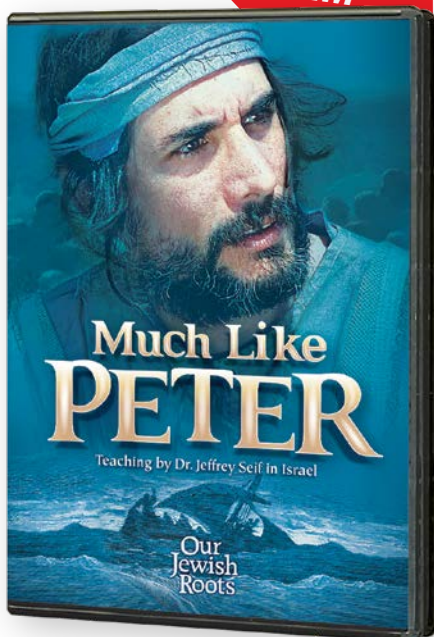


Much Like Peter

DVD set

Nine programs on two DVDs

On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua/ Jesus called disciples to follow Him. One of these was Peter, who often acted before thinking. Yet the Messiah saw that this simple fisherman would become a powerful voice for the Gospel. This series includes teaching by Dr. Jeffrey Seif, dramatic reenactments from Israeli actors, interviews with Israeli Believers, and modern life applications with David and Kirsten Hart.



Foundation of Faith Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Peter, one of the Twelve, received a new mission and a new name.

Faith Requires Boldness During a storm, Peter was the only disciple to step out of the boat and walk on the water to Jesus. **Faith often prompts people to overachieve.**

Who Are You, Yeshua? Caesarea Philippi, a center of paganism, was a remarkable place for Jesus to reveal His Messiahship. Though darkness may surround us, the Gospel continues to advance. Even the forces of Hell will not overcome it.

Divine Apparently Standing with Jesus at the Transfiguration were Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. Peter, wanting to contribute, responded impulsively. Like us, Peter needed to listen to the Lord.

I Don't Know Him After Judas betrayed the Messiah, Peter initially responded with violence, but later with denial. Like Peter, today's Believers often experience a break between our words and actions. Even in difficult circumstances, God's grace is sufficient.

Do You Love Me? After the resurrected Savior met Peter and the other disciples at the Sea of Galilee, they experienced revival. As Jesus did with Peter, He offers grace and forgiveness to all who follow Him.

Tongues of Fire Surprisingly, the fisherman who denied knowing Jesus later preached the Gospel and 3,000 people were saved. Before being known as the Christian day of Pentecost, it was *Shavuot*, the Jewish holy day.

Beyond Israel's Borders Limited understanding prevented the Apostles from sharing the Gospel globally, as the Lord intended. Yet Peter received a divine vision that prompted him to share the Gospel with gentiles.

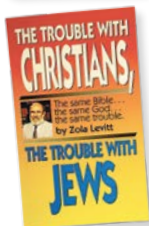
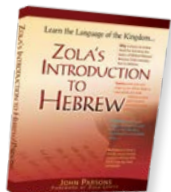
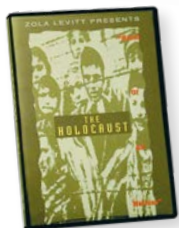
Bonus Interviews This program features extended interviews with Israelis who, like Peter, are followers of Yeshua: Chaim Malespin, director of the Aliyah Return Center; Daniel Carmel, captain of the "Jesus" boat; Carolyn Hyde, who with her husband moved to Israel; and Yuval Shlomovitch, the Israeli actor who portrayed Peter.





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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*.

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.

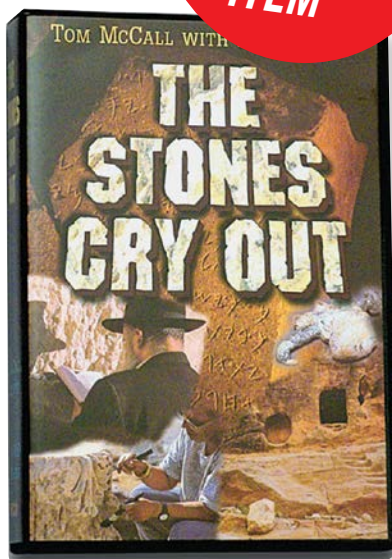
A Tale of Three Cities In Biblical times, a business relationship existed between three Jordan Valley cities: Beit Shean, Rehovot (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). We visit excavations in each city.

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” that's 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*.

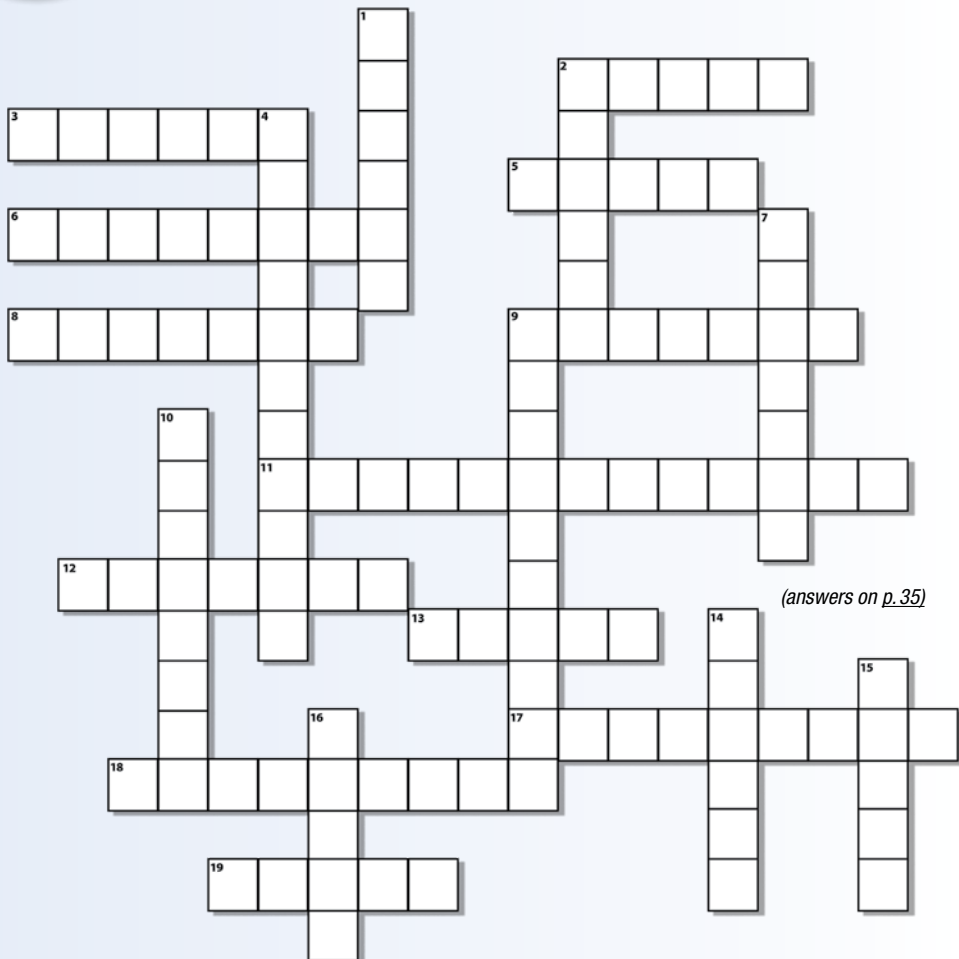
Please see the article “Ancient Assyrian Inscription Confirms Hezekiah's Rebellion” on [p. 32](#).





Crossword January 2026:

"All Things Become New" (NKJV) *by Andrea Davis*



(answers on p.35)

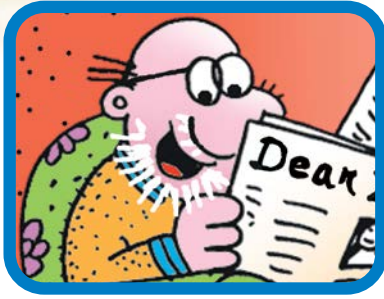
Across:

2. For by grace you have been saved through ____ (Eph. 2:8)
3. But you are not in the flesh but in the ____ (Rom. 8:9)
5. ...I will take the heart of ____ out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Eze. 36:26)
6. ...if there is any virtue and if there is anything praise-worthy—____ on these things. (Phil. 4:8)
8. ...even so we also should walk in ____ of life. (Rom. 6:4)
9. and be ____ in the spirit of your mind, (Eph. 4:23)
11. ...put on the new man which was created according to God, in true ____ and holiness. (Eph. 4:24)
12. For behold, I create new ____ and a new Earth... (Isa. 65:17)
13. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under ____ (Rom. 6:14)
17. I have been ____ with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me... (Gal. 2:20)
18. and have put on the new man who is renewed in ____ (Col. 3:10)
19. ...so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making ____, (Eph. 2:15)

Down:

1. Do not remember the ____ things... (Isa. 43:18)
2. ...thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a ____ and a hope. (Jer. 29:11)
4. And do not be conformed to this world, but be ____ by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)
7. ...All things were ____ through Him and for Him. (Col. 1:16)
9. ...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to ____ (2 Pet. 3:9)
10. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new ____ (2 Cor. 5:17)
14. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all ____ new."... (Rev. 21:5)
15. ...but according to His ____ He saved us... (Titus 3:5)
16. Create in me a ____ heart, O God... (Ps. 51:10)





Letters to ZLM

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

Yahwists, Names, and the Trinity

From C.S.: Dear BBB, please address the movement that declares Yeshua as Yahshua. Also, why do they say that James was originally Jacob or Yakob? Did King James really change those names? Also, do you teach the Holy Trinity?

Shalom C.S.,

There is much deception along with many false movements happening today. Yahwists (in Yahwehism) are a legalist offshoot that rejects the writings of John and Paul. Though it's true that the King James Version, like other English Bibles, transliterates Hebrew names into English forms, that doesn't change the identity of those names.

James in Hebrew is Ya'akov. Jesus is Greek and Yeshua is Hebrew, but He is all in all. When we witness to Jews in Israel, Joshua becomes Yehoshua, and Caleb becomes Calev. We accept these Hebrew names merely to associate with and bring comfort to our people. When we minister to those who speak other languages, we use their name for God and Jesus so that we don't confuse them. But Yahwists and people in the new Sacred Name Movement consider such alterations to be blasphemy.

Concerning the Trinity, we serve One God, revealed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While this may not be easy to understand, consider that each of us is made in the image of God: one individual, but three persons: body, soul, and spirit. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb ☆



NYC Mayor Election

From J.T.: How do you think the Lord feels about a non-Christian leading the third most influential city in the world? Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist, was elected mayor of New York City. He believes that government should play a role in reducing economic disparity. His critics say that he wants to defund the police.

I'm wondering how this will affect Christians and Jews in the NYC area and around the world. All the Middle East will feel a power surge because of this outcome. For example, the Jewish communities in European countries are being harassed because those countries are now pro-Palestine. Anti-Semites see this as implicit permission to attack all Jews wherever it's convenient. Everything is now more hostile to the Israelis and Project 2025. All glory to Jesus Christ.

Dear J.T.,

Mamdani's election proves that deception still runs rampant. The Jews will always be hated among all nations, but that doesn't mean that we should have a defeatist mindset. Yeshua took authority over the Earth. As Luke 10:19 declares, He gave all power over the enemy to us. We know the end of the Book, and so does God. He does not fear man's temporary "control" over the nations, and neither should we.

—Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

(continued on next page)

Mark's Requested Feedback

From D.L.: Hello, Bearded Bible Brothers. Mark asked (in his article in the Dec. 2025 *Levitt Letter*) for some feedback on *Lobstermen* and other messages, so here goes.

I like both formats but prefer the podcast style and the old BBB with Figgy [their fidget spinner]. I love those! I'm Gen. X.

My daughter (Gen. Y) also prefers their podcast style. She doesn't get to sit and watch a TV show most of the time — she listens more than anything. I asked my 16-year-old grandson (Gen. Z) his preference. He also said the same but added that he likes shorter posts more often.

We all love the teaching and the humor. Please don't reduce the humor. Also, we all prefer more posts more often, even if they are short. We love you guys and hope to hear much more from you. God bless you!

Shalom D.L.,

Thanks for the feedback from Generations X, Y, and Z! We realize that everyone digests information differently, so we're thankful for your response. God infused our personalities with humor; we can't help but be who He made us to be. We find our silliness is a perfect way to lower the hardened defenses of cynical unbelievers and also connect with younger generations. Though we sometimes receive an occasional battering from a retaliatory Pharisee, those rebukes only encourage us to continue our outreach in love. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Conquest of Canaan #2: The Battle of Jericho on YouTube

From K.K.: What a fantastic presentation by the Bearded Bible Brothers! I was so glad to see the reference to Zola Levitt Ministries. Dr. J. Vernon McGee and Zola Levitt on TV truly brought me back to the fold where I belong! I am a retired teacher who grew up as a minister's son. My mom really opened my eyes to God's love for His people, Israel!

I now have my own channel on YouTube. The songs are Gospel songs, which go on for 8 to 12 minutes. But I truly believe in honoring my mom's musicianship and her love for Israel. And I have something to say about God's love for His people, hallelujah. Prophecy is true Biblical truth. The Bearded Bible Brothers did a beautiful job with this video. I know that I will watch it more than once — it was excellent!

Dear K.K.,

Thanks for your support. Zola Levitt Ministries lives on even though our broadcast presentation is now titled *Bearded Bible Brothers*. Just as you faithfully present the truth of God's love for Israel, we continue to use our bearded

personas as an outreach of the truth. We pray that more and more people will come to know that truth as you have. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

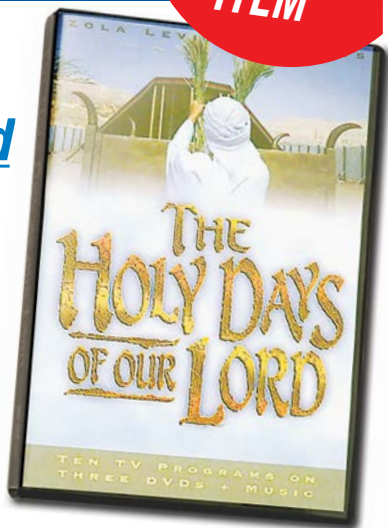


The Holy Days of Our Lord

DVD set

Eleven 30-minute TV programs
on three DVDs

Filmed on location in Israel, this 11-program series presents the holidays that our Lord celebrated. Given to Moses on Mount Sinai, these Seven Feasts provide some of the most fascinating studies of Biblical types and shadows. Few churches or seminaries teach this important subject.



Overview From the Mount of Olives, Zola gives a summary of the festivals that the Lord established for the Chosen People in Leviticus 23. **Dan Hendrickson, an Orthodox Jew of Jerusalem, explains how rabbinical Jews view each of the feasts, which include:**

Passover Zola looks at the original Exodus and also explains the traditional Seder as it relates to Christ's fulfillment and the Lord's redemptive plan.

Unleavened Bread Zola explains that this festival serves as a yearly reminder to the Chosen People that they did not have time to let the bread rise when the Lord delivered them out of Egypt. The Messiah is represented in the unique matzo.

First Fruits In this feast, "wave offerings" — two loaves of bread, representing the Church and the Chosen — are presented to the Lord for the new harvest season.

Pentecost Zola explains that when Christ told His disciples to wait for the coming Power of the Lord, the Jews were anticipating the celebration of this feast, *Shavuot*.

Trumpets Zola teaches about *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year. A time of celebration and merriment, it is also a time when the seriousness of sin weighs on the hearts of the Jewish people and *shofars* sound.

Day of Atonement From the Mount of Olives, Zola explains *Yom Kippur*. Once a year, the priest entered into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies and made a sacrifice for the sins of the entire nation.

Tabernacles Standing next to a *sukkah*, Zola informs us that the mood in Israel changes from a solemn occasion of judgment to one of celebration and merriment.

Purim/Hanukkah From the giant menorah by the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), Zola recalls the Book of Esther and New Testament references to the Festival of Lights — rededicating the Temple.

Sabbath Standing by a stream in the desert, Zola reads from Exodus and teaches about the day of rest. He draws a contrast between this commandment and where Christians find their "rest."

Music This conclusion to the series features all the music heard in the prior ten programs. We see dramatic recreations of each feast, Zola's musical performance on location in Israel, and view the scenic beauty of the Holy Land.



Israel's Humanitarian Mission: Saving Lives Across Borders

by Sabine Sterk / [Algemeiner.com](#)

Israel is often portrayed in the media as a nation defined by conflict and controversy. But this narrative overlooks an equally important reality: a country deeply committed to humanitarian aid and medical care, including for Palestinians.

Contrary to widespread accusations of apartheid or genocide, Israel and numerous Jewish organizations worldwide are actively engaged in saving lives and promoting coexistence, providing critical support regardless of faith or nationality.

Many people are unaware of the scale of Israel's medical outreach.

Organizations like **Road to Recovery** ensure that Palestinian children reach Israeli hospitals safely and promptly. Likewise, **Project Rozana** invests in medical training and improved healthcare access for Palestinian communities.

Save a Child's Heart offers life-saving cardiac care to children from Gaza and beyond. **The Peres Center for Peace** brings Palestinian children to Israel for essential surgeries at no cost. Beyond medical treatment, groups such as **IsraAID** deliver humanitarian aid in crises worldwide, including support for Palestinian communities.

Israel's humanitarian efforts extend far beyond charity work. Dozens of NGOs, private donors, and companies coordinate with the Israeli government's COGAT (Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) to facilitate cross-border aid. After the Gaza blockade was eased in May 2025, approximately 4,500 aid trucks entered Gaza, averaging 70 deliveries per day. But **between October 10 and November 26, 2025, over 16,000 aid trucks entered the Gaza Strip.**

This steady flow of assistance underscores Israel's consistent commitment to providing humanitarian relief.

Israel's approach to conflict also reflects a profound concern for civilian safety.



Dr. Lise Mumporeze, a Rwanda genocide survivor, stands in the backyard of the Save a Child's Heart Legacy Heritage Children's Home in Israel. After her training program, Dr. Mumporeze returned to Rwanda to become the first pediatric intensive care specialist in the country.

Warnings, leaflets, and phone calls alert residents to evacuate combat zones, while hospitals treat patients from Gaza, Syria, Iran, and other regions. Essential aid — food, medicine, and medical care — is delivered year after year, highlighting a stark contrast with the tactics of Hamas, which endangers civilians and uses human shields.

The reality of Israel's careful, life-saving measures stands in sharp contrast to the narratives often presented in international media.

Misinformation about Israel is widespread, but the facts tell a different story. **Accusations of genocide or apartheid ignore the countless instances of compassion, medical care, and humanitarian support that Israelis provide daily.** From heart surgeries for children in Gaza to volunteers navigating checkpoints and aid trucks delivering essential supplies, Israel's actions consistently demonstrate moral responsibility and a commitment to human life.

Ultimately, Israel's story is one of empathy and action. Compassion transcends borders, religion, and politics. Israel's humanitarian initiatives prove that helping others is a core part of its national identity.

For anyone willing to look beyond the headlines, the evidence is clear: Israel is saving lives and fostering hope across the region. ✨

credit: Diana Bletter / Times of Israel



Israeli Tech Enables Drones to Land Autonomously

IsraelHayom.com



credit: Wonder Robotics

The Wonderland maritime drone

A major challenge for most naval forces is operating drones and UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) that must routinely take off from and return to a moving vessel in operational conditions.

Most drones require a highly skilled operator for launch, landing, and control from a ship's deck. This requirement has severely limited the ability to use drones continuously at sea because navies struggle to staff and train expert operators who must be present around the clock during maritime missions.

In addition, drones are vulnerable to GPS disruption, electronic warfare, and harsh weather. In high waves or strong crosswinds, even an experienced operator may struggle to land a drone on a vessel.

Those problems, however, can be solved through new technology developed by Wonder Robotics, an Israeli start-up. The company's technology suite, Wonderland, provides a drone with secure positioning data, autonomous steering and control, and real-time decision-making. As a result, the aircraft can assess a vessel's status even in stormy seas, overcome electronic interference, and complete an accurate and safe landing.

The company is currently negotiating with several navies. It is conducting tests and demonstrations in different maritime

environments and on vessels of various sizes, ahead of integrating the maritime version into operational naval drones.

Over the past two years, the global maritime battleground has escalated sharply. One example is the repeated attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on merchant ships and major shipping routes. These incidents underscored how vulnerable global trade arteries are to threats from the air and shore. They also highlight the urgent need for flexible, autonomous defensive capabilities for naval forces.

With advances in autonomous technology, drones can now be launched and operated directly from ships without relying on a dedicated, highly trained operator and without placing additional risk on the crew.

Wonder Robotics already operates in several defense environments worldwide, including in the U.S. and Singapore. Adi Shimon, the company's CEO and co-founder, commented: "The ability to land safely on a ship in rough sea conditions is a genuine technological breakthrough. **Our system gives navies a clear operational advantage** — drones that function as if they had an experienced human pilot standing on the deck, even without GPS and without communications." ☆



First Heart Valve Implant Without Open-Heart Surgery

AllIsraelNews.com

Israeli biomedical firm TruLeaf Medical has completed the initial phase of a groundbreaking human trial for a catheter-based device that replaces diseased heart valves without open-heart surgery. The device — the RoseDoc docking system — is the first of its kind.

In September, doctors successfully implanted the device into two patients in India. This was the first step in a two-stage catheter-based procedure to replace faulty tricuspid and mitral valves without performing open-heart surgery.

The Indian patients suffered from severe, treatment-resistant congestive heart failure caused by leaking tricuspid valves. Without any viable options left for treatment, both were under what is known as a “compassionate care pathway.”

The RoseDoc system uses a two-stage implantation process: First, a docking station is

inserted via catheter. Later, a replacement valve is implanted within the docking station. A TruLeaf spokesperson said that the second stage, involving the valve implantation, should occur in the coming months.

This marked the first time that the RoseDoc platform has been implanted in humans. According to the company, the trials provide proof of concept for its technology, designed for the transcatheter replacement of both mitral and tricuspid valves.

The breakthrough is considered highly significant, as **millions of patients worldwide suffer from defective heart valves but are not candidates for invasive surgery or existing catheter-based treatments.**



credit: OzShapira.com

Prof. Oz Shapira. He is CEO of Allmed Solutions Group, the parent company of TruLeaf Medical.

Shapira added that the RoseDoc platform creates safe solutions to an otherwise high-risk open-heart surgery. “As a heart surgeon, I deeply understand the absolute necessity of transitioning from a high-risk invasive and complex open-heart surgery to a simple, smart, safe, and

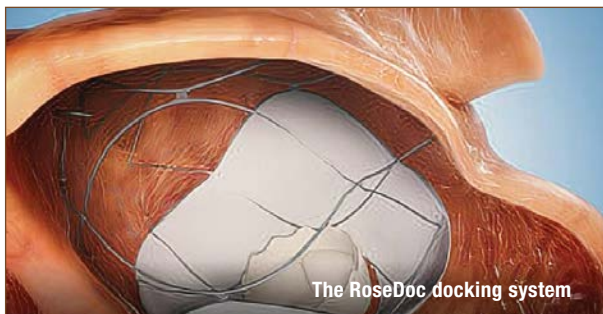
effective catheter-based solution. TruLeaf Medical’s RoseDoc platform has the potential to offer

an effective treatment to millions of patients with valvular heart disease who have been deemed to be too high risk for surgery and are unsuitable for currently available catheter-based techniques.”

TruLeaf Medical was founded in 2017 by three Israelis — Benjamin Spenser, Nathanael Benichu, and the late Dr. Uri Rosenstein. The team had previously helped develop the Sapien 3 valve, the first transcatheter device for patients with severe aortic stenosis.

The company is recruiting new patients for additional human trials in India and Uzbekistan, with plans to expand to other countries. It added that the success of these trials represents a crucial milestone toward accelerating regulatory approvals and bringing the technology to global markets. ✨

credit: Allmed Solutions



U.S. House Conservatives Pray Together: “This is a Nation that is

Members of the House Freedom Caucus and others gathered in October to pray against the rising tide of political violence in the U.S. and seek God’s aid for our nation.



credit: US House Office of Photography

Rep. Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., asked the Lord’s blessing on the U.S. while acknowledging its need amid widespread spiritual brokenness. Noting God’s

faithfulness throughout many American generations, Clyde emphasized that “**the special trust**” passed down through the centuries cannot be preserved without divine help.

“This is a nation that is broken. The people are broken, and we desperately need You, Lord. We desperately need Your hand of guidance,” Clyde prayed. “We need to be unified, but we cannot unify with evil, Lord. It’s not possible to do that and be true to Your Word.”

After praying for congressional leaders and for the government shutdown to end, Clyde lifted up the country’s pastors. He asked that God would grant them “great strength and great courage during this difficult time to help turn our nation back to You.”

“If our hearts are right, then everything else will be right, as well,” Clyde added.

Still small voice



credit: US House Office of Photography

Following the directive in 1 Timothy 2, **Rep. Mark Harris**, R-N.C., and Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., offered prayers for President Trump. “More than

anything, I pray for the continued work of the Holy Spirit upon his life,” prayed Harris, who is also a Baptist minister. “May that still small voice of the Holy Spirit continue to speak into him and guide him

moment by moment as he continues to guide this nation.”

Harris also prayed that Trump would be open to wise counsel and God’s guidance. “We ask Your hand upon him, and that he would not only hear the still small voice, but that he would walk in obedience and in faith and in trust in You.”

Echoing Harris, Biggs also prayed for protection over Trump and asked that those seeking his destruction would not succeed. “Father in Heaven, thou organized and anointed this nation to be a land for those who seek to worship thee,” he said. “We pray that it will continue to be a light of liberty for the world. We pray that thou confuse and confound the enemies of President Trump and those who seek to destroy faith and those who seek to bring people into bondage.”

Truth to prevail



credit: US House Office of Photography

Jody Hice, a former Republican congressman from Georgia, also joined the prayer gathering. He now serves as a senior fellow at the Family Research Council.

Hice invoked God’s help against the lies that pervade the media, the political realm, and elsewhere. Noting that “the world in which we live is so filled with deception in every angle,” Hice acknowledged that many of the falsehoods are focused on issues of gender, sexuality, and abortion.

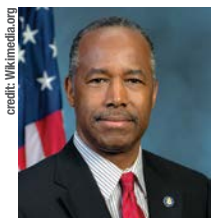
“Lord, we just humbly ask for Your truth to prevail, and that the hearts of men and women all across this country would be open to the realization that only Your ways are ways of truth. We ask You to open our hearts and enable us to stand unashamedly for that which is good for our entire nation,” he prayed.

(continued on next page)





God of all hope



Dr. Ben Carson, a renowned retired neurosurgeon and devout Adventist, continued the prayers. “You have blessed the United States with freedom

and opportunity and a rich legacy of faith. You’ve taken us from a ragtag bunch of militiamen to the pinnacle of the world in record time,” he noted.

“But we know that all goodness comes from You, Lord. Without You, we can do nothing. We ask for Your healing upon the divisions in our nation. **Our nation is so strong that it can’t be taken down militarily, but it can be taken down from inside.** There are many agents trying to facilitate that.

“We need You, Your wisdom, and Your guidance for our leaders. Please restore

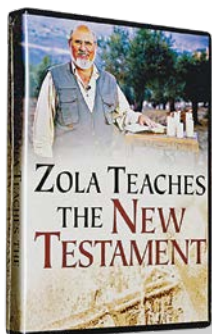
the righteousness in our homes, integrity in our institutions, and unity among our people,” he continued. Carson also added an invocation of blessing on Israel.



Family Research Council President **Tony Perkins** closed the gathering. Citing Romans 15:13, he exhorted those listening to continue steadfast in prayer and hope.

“Be praying for your communities, your neighbors. Pray for the Church. The Church needs to rediscover its prophetic voice of declaring the Word of God and walking that out in our communities.”

Perkins continued, “We want to continue to call upon the God of all hope, who has the ability to transform our nation into the nation that we desire to be.” ☆

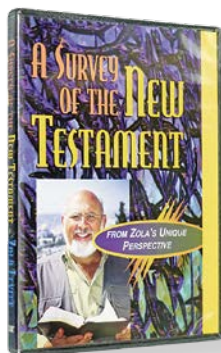


Zola Teaches The New Testament audio teaching CDs (6 CDs)

Noted for his Old Testament expertise, Zola was often called upon to teach the New Testament as well. In this series of six CDs, he gives a fresh, interesting survey of the entire New Testament before a live audience. A real collector’s item, beautifully packaged.

A Survey of The New Testament audio teaching CD

A concise overview of Scripture from the Gospels to Revelation. Zola’s point of view is unique. One CD covers Matthew to Revelation with surprising clarity.





Hadar Goldin

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Hadar Goldin Finally Home

IsraFan.com

The body of Lieutenant Hadar Goldin was returned to Israel in November 2025, after more than 11 years of being held in the Gaza Strip. He was laid to rest in the military cemetery in Kfar Saba, ending a chapter of agonizing uncertainty for his family and the nation.

Goldin was killed on August 1, 2014. **The 23-year-old was serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Givati Reconnaissance Unit during Operation Protective Edge. At the time of his death, he was working to dismantle a tunnel in Rafah when militants struck.** His body was taken into Gaza where it remained unrecovered for 4,118 days.

The return of his remains came as part of the truce agreement between Israel and Hamas in October 2025.

At his funeral, the IDF Chief of Staff described Goldin's return as the "official end" of Operation Protective Edge, noting that the soldier had become "a compass and conscience for the entire people of Israel." The words acknowledged both the years of waiting and the emotional weight carried by the case.

Goldin's family had campaigned publicly and persistently to bring him home. His mother reflected on the ordeal of 11 years: "That's a long time. A very long time. Every time we nearly broke, someone in the family would jump in and say: 'But what would Hadar say?'"

His father emphasized that Hadar's legacy must live on in the character of the society. He called for continuing a path of devotion, creativity, and strength.



Weapons seized from Shoemaker's home

credit: Clarke County Sheriff's Office

Man Arrested for Threats on Synagogues in Alabama, Other States

By Aaron Bandler / JNS.org

Jeremy Wayne Shoemaker of Needham, Alabama was arrested in October for "credible threats of violence made against multiple synagogues throughout Alabama and surrounding states."

The Clarke County Sheriff's Office in Grove Hill, Alabama made the arrest. Their spokesperson noted: "The subject was



Mugshot of Jeremy Wayne Shoemaker

credit: Clarke County Sheriff's Office

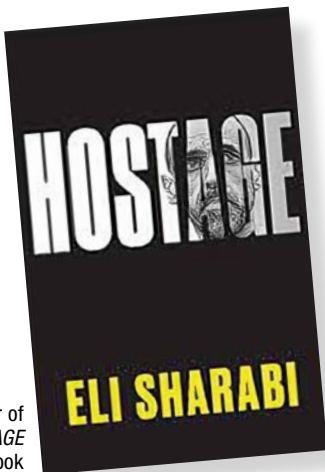


taken into custody along with weapons, more than a suitcase full of ammo, body armor, and other items related to the plans of violence. Further investigation revealed that the subject had intentions of not being taken alive and was possibly planning attacks on public figures as well.”

Shoemaker was initially charged with resisting arrest and illegal firearm possession. Federal prosecutors later charged him with an interstate communications threat.

Clarke County Sheriff DeWayne Smith stated, “Because we worked together, you’re not reading about ... a situation where there was a mass shooting or something, and everybody’s wondering how we could have prevented it.”

The Birmingham Jewish Federation stated, “We are deeply grateful that swift and coordinated action ... prevented what could have been a devastating act of violence. This incident is a sobering reminder that threats motivated by anti-Semitism and hate persist. Yet it also highlights the power of partnership, preparedness, and vigilance.”



Cover of
HOSTAGE
book

Former Hostage’s Memoir on *TIME*’s 100 Must-Read Books of 2025

JNS.org

TIME Magazine included *HOSTAGE* — the memoir of former Israeli captive Eli Sharabi — on its list of 100 “must-read” books of 2025.



credit: Eyad Baba / AFP

Eli Sharabi on the day he was released by Hamas in Gaza on February 8, 2025

An October article in *TIME* called the book “A taut, immersive chronicle of endurance” that “also serves as a window into the Israeli view of the war.”

Sharabi “was pulled away from his wife and two daughters in the first hours of the [Oct. 7, 2023] attack. For the next 491 days, with rare exceptions, the only people Sharabi saw were other hostages and Hamas militants. These are the same parties that have remained front and center in the viewfinder of Jewish Israelis for two solid years, even as most of the world shifted its focus to the Palestinian civilians,” the article added.

“It was important to me that the story come out as quickly as possible, so that the world will understand what life is like inside captivity,” Sharabi stated.

He was abducted from his home in Kibbutz Be’eri on Israel’s border with Gaza. Without access to the news while a hostage, Sharabi only learned after his release that his wife and two daughters had been murdered on October 7, 2023.

Sharabi, who lost more than 66 pounds during his ordeal, weighed 97 pounds upon his release on February 8, 2025. ☆

Evangelical Christian and best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg is editor-in-chief of *All Israel News*. He wrote: “I read *HOSTAGE* from cover to cover. It was one of the most fascinating and terrifying — and yet hopeful — books that I’ve ever read. This is a story that every Christian needs to know. This is a book that every Christian needs to read. I strongly encourage you to get the book... and read or listen to it for yourself. Let yourself be moved by this story. And then share it with others.” —Editor





Archaeology

Ancient Assyrian Inscription Confirms Hezekiah's Rebellion

Archaeologists in Jerusalem recently unearthed a rare 2,700-year-old pottery fragment in a drainage canal at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City. The one-inch artifact, with an Assyrian inscription, appears to be a part of a seal that was used to authenticate official documents.

"The composition of the bullae (inscribed clay) generally matches the components of the minerals and rocks in the Tigris basin. Therefore, the bullae most likely arrived here in Jerusalem as official documents from one of the Assyrian centers," researchers explained.

This incredible find appears to confirm another Biblical narrative. Israeli tour guide Yoav Rotem commented that the seal appears to be from the time of King Hezekiah during the First Temple period. "King Hezekiah was facing a military campaign coming from Assyria," he explained. "We know that the kings before

Hezekiah were under probable control or had to pay tax to Assyria."

Researchers noted that **the inscription confirms the Biblical story that King Hezekiah delayed paying taxes to the Assyrians.**

The rare discovery was uncovered as part of an archaeological excavation by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), in collaboration with the City of David Foundation. Moriah Cohen, who works at the "Archaeological Experience" in Emek Tzurim, found the artifact. "I was sifting through the dirt and suddenly noticed a sherd with a strange decoration. Examining it closely, it looked to me to be cuneiform, but that seemed totally unreasonable," she added. Cohen said that she had to do a double-take to make sure it wasn't a decoration.

"Even though so many fascinating finds have been discovered here over the years, we've never, ever found anything



credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA



Inscription closeup

Dr. Ayala Zilberstein holding the inscription

(continued on next page)



like this," she recounted. "The thought that after 2,700 years, I am the first person to actually touch this pottery with my hands is a very exciting thought. This is a once-in-a-lifetime find."

A video report from "City of David" revealed more details about the discovery. The video noted that it was a direct letter signed with the seal of the king of Assyria and addressed to King Hezekiah. The Assyrian communication directed Hezekiah to send tribute by the first of Av. If Hezekiah failed to do so, the consequences would be severe.

Dr. Peter Zilberg of Bar-Ilan University noted, "Perhaps [the artifact] describes a point of friction between the Kingdom of Judah and the great Assyrian empire." Some researchers recalled 2 Kings 18:7, which reads, *"And he [Hezekiah] rebelled against the king of Assyria, and did not serve him,"* as evidence of the conflict.

The encounter escalated several years later when King Sennacherib of Assyria marched against the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

"Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, 'I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay.' And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold" (2 Kings 18:14).

"Know that our Bible is true," Rotem emphasized. "And yes, you can trust the Bible."

Zilberg, an Assyriologist, explained that though this text is incomplete, it helps "connect the Biblical narrative to historical sources ... in such a strong way. We have the connection between archaeology, history, and science," he added. **"This artifact is very, very important in connecting the history of the Land of Israel to the Bible and to the history of the ancient Near East as a whole."**



The rare seal was discovered next to an ancient drainage channel.

Ben Hilton, writing for The Israel Guys, noted, "This groundbreaking archaeological discovery ... not only verifies what Scripture has told us for thousands of years, but it also reminds us that God's Word stands the test of time, and that His promises to Israel are everlasting." ☆

Please see the DVD set *The Stones Cry Out* on [p. 20](#).

credit: Shai Halevi / IAA



The Next Generation of ISIS Is Being Raised in America

By Yehuda Teitelbaum / Chalavylshmael.com

Two teens from Montclair, New Jersey, were arrested in November for plotting an ISIS-inspired terror attack. One is the son of a Queens College professor. The other is the son of a senior official at the UN.

They weren't poor or desperate. They grew up in million-dollar homes in one of the most desirable suburbs in the country. They attended one of the best public schools in New Jersey, played sports, and were surrounded by comfort, stability, and opportunity.

And yet, with all of that, they decided that joining ISIS and murdering innocent people was a noble cause.

That should terrify every American. Because these weren't kids who were radicalized in refugee camps or raised in war zones. Their families were educated, worldly, and privileged.

How do young men who grow up with comfort and security end up pledging allegiance to ISIS? The answer lies in what America has allowed itself to become.

For years, our schools, media, and political institutions have promoted a worldview built on resentment. They teach young people that Western civilization is built on oppression, success is a sign of privilege, victimhood is moral superiority, and violence can be justified if it's committed in the name of "resistance."

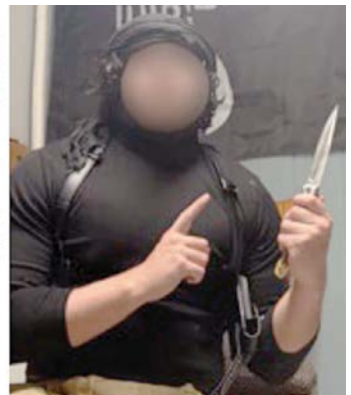
This same mindset drives elite college students to deface posters of kidnapped Israelis and rally for *intifada*. It's what makes university presidents equivocate about calls for genocide. It is what makes journalists write about the murder of Israeli civilians as an "uprising."

Once a society loses moral clarity, this is the result.

And when Zohran Mamdani — the mayor-elect of the largest city in America — repeatedly refuses to condemn terrorism, that confusion becomes permission. It teaches young people that there are no moral absolutes. It tells them that anything can be excused if you frame it as "struggle."

For years, Americans believed that we were immune to such radicalization. We thought that wealth, education, and stability would protect us. But comfort doesn't protect a society that stops believing in itself. It makes it weaker.

The next generation of ISIS won't arrive from Syria or Iraq. It will come from within our borders — from children who never learned gratitude, inherited freedom but were told to hate it, and grew up in privilege but believe that they live under oppression.



The people encouraging this won't be in training camps. They'll be in classrooms, media offices, and political circles. America needs to wake up. Stories like this one are symptoms of a deep sickness. If you don't fight for your country and for your children, no one else will.

Societies collapse when comfort turns into apathy, which then turns into self-destruction. It's up to us now. America won't survive if we wait for someone else to protect it. ✨





Jewish Humor, etc.

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

Natural Childbirth

Throughout her pregnancy, Rivka insisted that she wanted no medication during labor. When the big day came, and knowing Rivka's stance on drugs, the midwife did everything else to ease Rivka's pain.

"You look uncomfortable," the midwife said at one point. "Would you like to change positions?"

"Yes," Rivka replied. "I want to be the midwife!"

Answer Key for JANUARY 2026 Crossword (p.21)

Across:

- Faith
- Spirit
- Stone
- Meditate
- Newness
- Renewed
- Righteousness
- Heavens
- Grace
- Crucified
- Knowledge
- Peace

Down:

- Former
- Future
- Transformed
- Created
- Repentance
- Creation
- Things
- Mercy
- Clean



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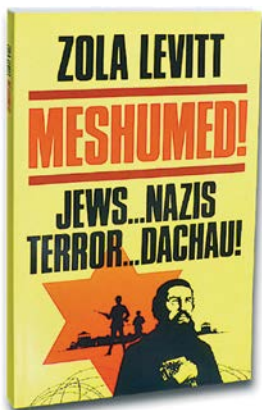
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