Levitt LETTER

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

DECEMBER 2026



Photo Illustration: Motimeir / Yefimkin / iStock

To Index

The War on Christmas and *Hanukkah*

By Rabbi Tuly Weisz / Israel365News.com

When I lived in the U.S., the union of Christmas and *Hanukkah* aroused a genuine appreciation for the common heritage and shared values uniting Christians and Jews. Now, however, those tidings of comfort and joy are too often overshadowed by an aggressive war on both holidays that is exceedingly offensive to members of both faiths.

Since its founding in 1948, the Jewish State of Israel has gone to great lengths to show proper respect for its Christian citizens. Indeed, Israel is the one country in the Middle East where Christians are not

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REMEMBER:
Hanukkah: Sunset Fri. Dec. 4 to sunset Sat. Dec. 12
Christmas: Friday, Dec. 25

Snow and Redemption

By Jochanan Löwenstein
JerusalemSeminary.org

Did you know that it snows in Israel? Many tourists arrive in the winter expecting sunshine and warmth, only to find shorts and t-shirts are not enough. While we picture Israel as a land of deserts and olive trees, snow has its place in the climate and geography. Likewise, snow is an element woven into Scripture.

Nearly every year, the peaks of Mount Hermon and the hills of Jerusalem get a fresh blanket of

(continued p.2)

Snow and Redemption

continued from cover



credit: Noam Chen

Jerusalem under the snow: Tower of David snowstorm



credit: Nati Shohat/Flash90/Times of Israel

The Dome of the Rock is seen in the background in Jerusalem's Old City on a snowy winter day on Friday, December 13, 2013.

white. This natural wonder reminds us of God's control over all creation, from lush valleys to icy heights. It also offers us an opportunity to reflect on the themes of purity, sacrifice, and redemption tied to Messiah's birth.

The Hebrew word for snow, שֶׁלֶג (*sheleg*), symbolizes purity and spiritual renewal. In Isaiah 1:18, God proclaims: *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."* This vivid image contrasts the deep stain of sin with the spotless cleansing of God's forgiveness. In Psalm 51:7, King David pleads for this very cleansing: *"Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."* There's something universally calming and beautiful about freshly fallen snow, unmarked and pristine, that echoes the promise of a clean slate.

This symbolic purity of snow provides a stark contrast to the bloody rituals of the sacrificial system described in the Torah. Sin's gravity required atonement, and atonement was anything but tidy. Altars ran red with the blood of sacrifices — a visceral reminder of sin's cost. And yet, out of this chaos, God promised a greater hope — a Messiah who would be the ultimate, spotless Lamb.

Enter Yeshua (Jesus). Born not in a royal palace but in a humble manger, His arrival was far from "picture perfect" by human standards. And yet, in that simplicity lay profound purity. The baby born in Bethlehem would grow to fulfill every requirement of the Law, offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. His purity — untainted by sin — was the key to transforming the messy, bloody reality of sin into the spotless, snow-white promise of redemption.

As the birth of Yeshua is celebrated in this season, we often picture scenes of snow-draped landscapes, even if Yeshua might have been born on another date and Bethlehem's winter nights were more likely chilly than snowy. Perhaps this imagery isn't so far off, though. Snow reminds us of the purity and peace that Yeshua gives. It also points to the incredible transformation that He offers — from the scarlet stain of sin to the brilliant white of His righteousness.

So, the next time you see snow (or even pictures of it), let it remind you of God's power to create beauty from ashes, His promise to cleanse us, and His love in sending His Son. If you happen to be in Israel and it snows, don't just stand there — make a snowman, take a selfie, and thank God for His wonders!

May this season fill you with joy, hope, and the pure peace that only Yeshua, our Messiah, can bring. Merry Christmas and blessings from the land where snow occasionally falls and salvation was born! ✡

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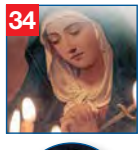

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The War on Christmas and *Hanukkah*

continued from cover

persecuted. However, tourists to Bethlehem — controlled by the Palestinian Authority since the Oslo Accords in 1995 — experience a frightful encounter in the city where Jesus was born.

Visitors to Bethlehem are repeatedly confronted with the lie that Jesus was not a Jew, but rather a "Palestinian Arab." Through public relations gimmicks like "Christ at the Checkpoint," activists absurdly claim that if the "Palestinian Jesus" were alive today, He would be persecuted by Israeli soldiers at security checkpoints. This historical revisionism traces back to terror mastermind Yasser Arafat, who claimed that Jesus was an Islamic militant! Such bizarre assertions are a blatant attempt to sever Christianity from its authentic roots. Likewise, they are completely ridiculous since even history's most notorious anti-Semites acknowledged the Jewish identity of Jesus.

In reality, Christmas celebrates the birth of a Jew 2,000 years ago in the Judean town of Bethlehem. The only winter festival that Jesus celebrated was *Hanukkah* — the Feast of Dedication. John 10:22–23 records that Jesus walked in the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate this Jewish holiday.

A clear understanding of this festival not only provides Christians with a deeper appreciation of the roots of their faith but also equips them to effectively refute these egregious attempts to rewrite history.

Hanukkah commemorates an event that occurred in Israel two centuries before Jesus, during a time of Seleucid (Greek) occupation. To unify his empire, King Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who ruled from 175–164 B.C., attempted to eradicate the Jewish religion. Under penalty of death, Antiochus prohibited Torah study, Sabbath observance, and Kosher dietary laws. The tyrant removed the legitimate Jewish High Priest and desecrated the holy Temple in Jerusalem by erecting Greek idols within it and sacrificing pigs upon the altar.

Responding to this persecution, a small band of Jewish fighters rose up under the leadership of the priest Mattityahu and his son Judah. Judah was known as a "Maccabee" — an acronym for the Hebrew phrase *Mi Kamocha Ba'eilim Hashem* (*"Who is like You, O LORD...?"* Ex. 15:11) — signifying his commitment to fight for the God of Israel.

Antiochus sent a massive army against the rebellious Maccabees. Despite being vastly outnumbered and outmatched in weaponry, the Maccabees achieved a series of astonishing military victories, ultimately expelling the foreign invaders from Jerusalem. Then, upon entering the Temple, the Maccabees removed the idols, cleansed the sanctuary, and rededicated it in 139 B.C. While preparing to rekindle the golden *menorah*, the Maccabees found only enough pure olive oil for one day. They ignited the light, which miraculously burned continuously for eight days until more consecrated oil could be prepared.

This miracle gave rise to *Hanukkah*, the eight-night candle-lighting ceremony during which Jews recite blessings of praise and thanksgiving. Though commonly known as the Festival of Lights, it's really the Festival of Miracles. It commemorates, in the words of a Hebrew prayer, "the wonders He performed for us in those days and in ours."

The reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in Israel in modern times mirrors that ancient struggle. David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the indepen-

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dence of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The fledgling community of around 600,000 citizens — many of whom had survived the Nazi Holocaust — was immediately attacked by eight well-armed Arab nations. Miraculously, the new country prevailed against overwhelming forces.

Nineteen years later, neighboring Arab countries again mobilized to extinguish the Jewish State. In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel triumphed over seemingly insurmountable opposition, tripling its territory and reuniting the historic city of Jerusalem under Jewish control for the first time since the days of the Maccabees.

Such miraculous events led Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to observe in 1956: "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles."

Today, God's miracles are evident throughout the Jewish State. Once-barren soil is lush and fertile, and Israel stands as a world leader in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Millions of American Christians now stand with Israel because they recognize the Jewish State as the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy and they appreciate the shared Judeo-Christian values that bind America and Israel together. Moved by Israel's powerful story, many Christians eagerly explore the Jewish roots of their faith, study Hebrew, incorporate Jewish customs into their own religious practices, and visit the Holy Land. As such, the ancient Jewish lessons of faith and freedom on *Hanukkah* are particularly relevant to Christians today.

Hanukkah commemorates the ancient Jews' stubborn loyalty to their God and their land despite efforts by strong forces to destroy their faith. God rewarded their dedication by performing miracles on their behalf, which we remember by lighting the *menorah*.

Hanukkah and Christmas provide an opportunity for Jews and Christians to celebrate our shared history, common origins, and values that we both hold dear. Certainly, there are important differences between Jews and Christians and our two holidays, yet what unites us is far more significant than what divides us. Thus, when both of our faith traditions are confronted with the deliberate falsification of history, Christians and Jews must stand together to dispel the darkness by bringing more light and illumination into the world. ✡

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Jews and Jesus book

Why don't the Jewish people seem to want their own Messiah? Zola comments in an enlightened way on the very difficult relationship between the Jewish people and the most famous and influential Jew who ever lived. An intelligent and experienced point of view on an age-old controversy. This very complete book covers the entire Jewish Christian perspective in a most interesting and readable style.



It's a Wonderful Life!



credit: Caleb Colson

Most children are encouraged to dream about what they want to be when they grow up — firefighters, astronauts, or even secret agents! However, our childhood desires were quite different from those of our peers whenever teachers asked us about our future plans.

Joshua wanted to be a missionary to the Soviet Union. He was greatly disappointed when the Iron Curtain fell, realizing that he would no longer have to smuggle Bibles into Communist Russia. Caleb, on the other hand, wanted to be a solitary prophet living high atop an uninhabited mountain. When called by the Lord, he imagined being supernaturally transported to rogue nations run by cruel dictators to proclaim prophetic words of judgment. We are not joking at all — these desires are completely true!

During this time of year, as families prepare for Christmas and *Hanukkah*, traditions carry the weight of memories, thus repeat viewings of holiday classics become mandatory. No film holds such a cherished place in our hearts as Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life.* Pharisees and critics, please step aside; we can debate the pagan origins of Christmas at another time. No movie can make us weep like an 11-year-old, hormone-fluctuating girl quite like seeing George Bailey finally realize that his ordinary life truly held profound purpose.

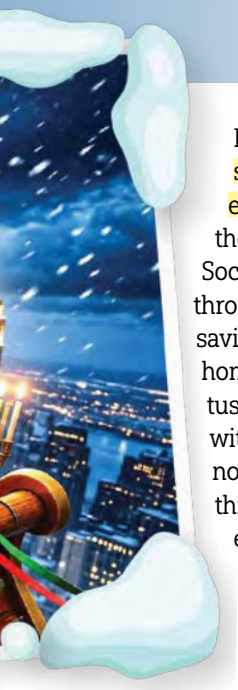
George's story resonates with many people. When you spend a lifetime struggling just to stay afloat, it's difficult to recognize how your actions have benefited others — especially when measured against your preconceived thoughts of what you hoped to do in life.

God has given all of us dreams and visions — hopes for a purpose to fulfill. Yet as we get older, discouragement can easily creep in with each passing birthday, serving as an annual scorecard where we compare our accomplishments from one year to the next. Honestly, we believe that the greatest calling and goal for any parent is raising a family and nurturing children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Unfortunately, it's easy to devalue those accomplishments that store up treasure in Heaven when surrounded by society's counterfeit perceptions of achievement.

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Joshua & Caleb Colson
The Bearded Bible Brothers®



Regrettably, these worldly standards have also infiltrated the Church and clouded the minds of many Believers*. Society measures significance through large salaries, hefty savings accounts, fame, luxury homes, fast cars, and other status symbols. When inundated with culture's relentless white noise, it's difficult to align our thinking with God's Word, especially if we neglect the daily effort that's needed to maintain a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.

On the other hand, some Believers succumb to another trap — measuring success by a high "body count" of people whom they have led into a relationship with Yeshua. Most of the time, however, we may not see the fruit that comes from the seeds we planted or watered in other people's lives. The harvest often comes at the hands of other faithful Believers, much like Apollos reaped the spiritual harvest following the Apostle Paul's toil of planting seeds (1 Cor. 3:6–9). Even though we give glory to God for His greater work in salvation, our human flesh still desires to see the fruits of our labor.

The Jewish people of Yeshua's day suffered similar disappointment due to incorrect prophetic expectations. While the distinction between First and Second Coming prophecies is clear in hindsight, first-century Israelites expected a triumphant conqueror to overthrow the Roman hordes. Because they anticipated a roaring lion, most overlooked Yeshua's arrival as a sacrificial lamb. Only a faithful remnant recognized Yeshua as Messiah; most Israelites missed Him entirely. Truly, hope deferred makes the heart sick (Prov. 13:12).

This is why we all need help renewing our minds so that we can see our lives above the weeds. During His life on Earth, Messiah Yeshua completed everything that was required for our salvation. In a similar manner, He continues to weave each of our personal stories — every aspect of our lives — into a beautiful tapestry. Though the individual threads may seem senseless from our perspective, the outcome is beautiful once the final picture is revealed.

This holiday season, remember that you were fearfully and wonderfully made by your Creator (Ps. 139:14). Each of us has a purpose and calling, and often we are in the middle of the process. If we can trust Yeshua with our salvation, we can certainly trust Him with our destinies. His path may not always make sense to us, but when we follow it, there will be greater achievement and fulfillment than anything we could ever imagine.

Even though the historic timing of Yeshua's birth is inaccurately linked with Christmas, take time this season to remember His incarnation. As many people focus on the manger and baby Jesus, seize this year's opportunity to spread Yeshua's Good News to those who are bound by sin and living in darkness. You can be a light in the dark.

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4–5).

Love,

Joshua & Caleb

Joshua and Caleb



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

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Classic **Zola**

Confusing the Church and Israel



credit: Jews for Jesus

Moishe Rosen (1932–2010) hands a pamphlet to a student on a Berkeley, California street in the early 1970s.

Recently I was visiting Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus and a longtime dear friend. My *Levitt Letter* article was due, and I discussed using his dictating equipment. Before I knew it, however, Moishe produced the letter below, actually imitating my style and making many points I needed to learn. I hope you derive as much from his valuable insights as I did. Here is his letter.

> This matter is driving me crazy! It is more than simply a misunderstanding. I continually encounter an aggravation when I open Christian magazines and books or turn on the radio or television and see someone deliberately confusing the Church and Israel.
>
> Maybe I shouldn't take it so personally. Maybe I should lower my aggravation level. But watching what some churches do with Israel, let me tell you what it feels like. I feel like someone broke into and burglarized the family homestead. Then they took down all of the family pictures from the wall and replaced them with pictures of their family. Then, when I tried to get back into my own home, not only will they not let me in, but they have changed the number on the door to complete the fiction that my house belongs to them.

Just in case you missed my point, let me say it clearly. Israel is not the Church, and the Church is not Israel!

As part of the Body of Christ, you should be happy that you are not Israel. If the Church were Israel:

- The Church would have to go through a Great Tribulation on this Earth, and that would be the next event on God's schedule.
- The Church would be scattered here, there, and beyond, according to God's promise in Deuteronomy 28:64 about worldwide dispersion of Israel.
- The judgment of God would be on the whole Church because of its disobedience toward God's laws.

The little ditty that children sing in Sunday School, "Every promise in the book is mine," is not true. Regarding the promises of punishment and retribution, theologians and songwriters are willing to assign them to Israel, but related to the promises of blessings, they grab them away.

Can you imagine all of the born-again people in the world moving to the Land of Israel? Well, that was one of God's promises to the Jewish

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people. Now I don't know if there are as many as 25 million born-again people. I certainly hope so, but there certainly are many more than could live within the borders of that little place as it now stands.

In addition, the so-called "Palestinians" are not going to be any more welcoming of born-again Believers of many races than they are of my people.

No, let's get it right. The Church is God's heavenly people with heavenly promises. There is no promise of land to the Church, there is no promise of earthly harvests to the Church (souls being a heavenly harvest), and there are no legal requirements on the part of God. That's right, the Law was never delivered to the Church; it was delivered to Israel. There are no laws in the New Testament.

Under the New Covenant, the Law is written on the heart. There are no precepts, no rules, no punishments assigned to the Church.

Now don't get me wrong. I don't mind it when a preacher makes a modern application so that we can understand this or that as long as he doesn't change the fact that the promises are to Israel. I have no quarrel with Billy Graham when he preaches from 2 Chronicles 7:14, because any country that has people who are called by God's name will be blessed if they humble themselves, seek His face, and pray. The application to the Church is clear, but the promise was made specifically to Israel.

Ever since God chose Abraham, Satan has tried to erase the Jewish people. Today Satan is using preachers to do his work.

It doesn't have to be a choice between the Church or Israel. God's way is that both are to exist. He will accomplish His will through the Church and through Israel. God didn't change His mind. God, who knows the end from the beginning, chose Israel to be His earthly people, to follow His earthly Law. The Jews are still God's Chosen People and have an earthly destiny. But my destiny is with the Church — the Jews and gentiles believing in the Jewish Messiah. I look forward with you to a soon-coming Rapture.

Pray for those Bible teachers who are teaching this popular misconception. Pray that God will show them how vast is His plan. Pray that they will see that God doesn't love the Church any less for loving Israel. Pray that they will see that the true purpose of the Church is not any less because of the glorious destiny He has planned for Israel.

If I believed that the Church is Israel, I wouldn't urge you to come to Israel. I would just tell you to go to church. But Israel is Israel, and in being God's special land on the Earth, I still plead with all of you to join us on one of our tours. ✡

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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. Reminiscent 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!



A Jewish Ode to Dolly

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988





credit: Screenshot / YouTube.com/@ParkAvenueSyn

Azi Schwartz singing at the *Rosh Hashanah* service at Manhattan's Park Avenue Synagogue

From P.P.: Jewish promoters and agents aided Dolly Parton in her success. As a tribute to Dolly Parton, here's a brief video of a cantor singing in Hebrew to the *9 to 5* melody: **YouTube.com/watch?v=muKfLJa2OPE**

Dear P.P.: Thanks for sending the link to *'9 to 5,' But Make It Rosh Hashanah.* Posted in September, this is a highlight from this year's *Rosh Hashanah* service at the Park Avenue Synagogue on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The video features Conservative Cantor Azi Schwartz performing *Hayom T'amtzeinu* ("Strengthen Us Today") to the tune of Dolly's song *9 to 5*.

Google Gemini offered the following breakdown and translation. Cantor Schwartz's arrangement maps the traditional Hebrew high holiday liturgy onto the rhythmic framework of *9 to 5*. Below is the lyrical and translation breakdown matching the video segments. — Mark

Section 1: The Opening Peace Petition (*Sim Shalom*)

- **Phonetic Transliteration:**

Sim shalom ba-olam, tovah u-vrachah, v'chesed v'rachamim aleinu v'al kol Yisrael. V'tov b'einecha l'varech et amcha Yisrael b'kol eit u-v'kol sha-ah bi-shlomecha.

- **English Translation:**

Grant peace to the world, goodness and blessing, grace and mercy upon us and upon all Israel. May it be good in Your eyes to bless Your people Israel at all times and at every hour with Your peace.

Section 2: The Core Rhythmic Chorus (*Hayom T'amtzeinu*)

This is the driving climax of the performance, structured to mimic Dolly's famous "Working 9 to 5" chorus:

- **Phonetic Transliteration:**

Hayom t'amtzeinu, Amen!
Hayom t'varcheinu, Amen!
Hayom t'gadleinu, Amen!
Hayom tidresheinu l'tovah, Hayom!

- **English Translation:**

Strengthen us today, Amen!
Bless us today, Amen!
Exalt us today, Amen!
Seek our well-being today, Today!

Section 3: The Petition for Life (*B'Sefer Chaim*)

- **Phonetic Transliteration:**

Hayom tishma shav-ateinu, hayom t'kabel b'rachamim u-v'ratzon t'filateinu. B'sefer chaim, brachah v'shalom, u-farnasah tovah, nizacher v'nikatev l'fanecha.

- **English Translation:**

Today hear our cry, today accept our prayer with mercy and favor. In the Book of Life, blessing, peace, and good sustenance, may we be remembered and inscribed before You.

Dear Reader — Please take 2-1/2 minutes to experience this cantor's cheerfulness and sense of humor along with his live band's festive joy as they kicked off the Jewish new year. *"Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob"* (Ps. 81:1). —Mark ✡

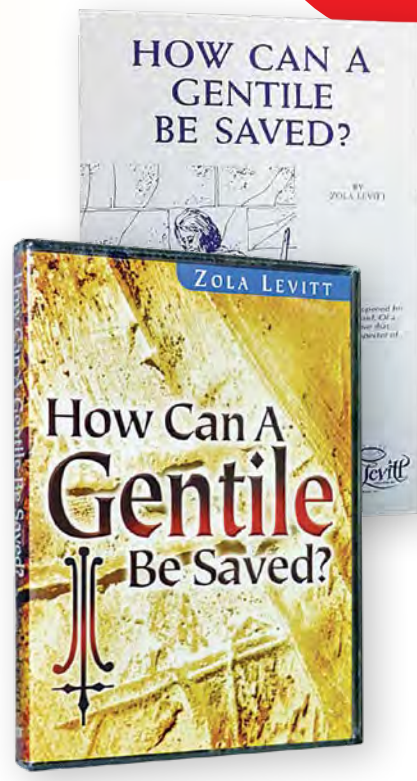
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FEATURED ITEMS

How Can a Gentile Be Saved?

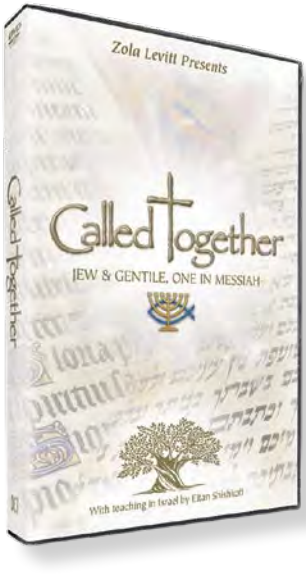
study booklet & teaching CD
by Zola Levitt



As a Jew, Zola was constantly asked, "How did you get saved?"—as though Jewish salvation is hard to find in Scripture. In this thought-provoking Bible study, Zola turned the tables by asking, "How Can A *Gentile* Be Saved?" An interesting and unique look at grafting non-Jews into God's plan.

The booklet is also available as an eBook.

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Called Together: Jew & Gentile, One in Messiah

DVD set Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

Called Together focuses on how gentile Christians are beginning to recognize their Messianic brothers and sisters (Jewish Believers in Jesus/Yeshua) as the natural olive branch Paul refers to in Romans 11. The Lord calls us to work together to bring the Messiah to the lost and especially to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. From the studio, David and Kirsten Hart present these eight programs of Bible teaching that feature Messianic pastor Eitan Shishkoff, location reports from Chaim Malespin, brief Hebrew lessons from Dana Feinstein, and interviews with Christian lovers of Israel. Dr. Jeffrey Seif helps us apply these teachings to our lives.

What is Laying on of Hands?

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



Hebrews 6:1–2 identifies the "laying on of hands" as one of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Mentioned more than 20 times in both the Old and New Testaments, this physical act symbolically signifies transferring or conferring something to the person or animal upon which someone's hands are placed.

In the Old Testament, the High Priest laid hands on a goat on the Day of Atonement. This symbolically transferred Israel's sins to the scapegoat that would carry the imputed sins into the wilderness (Lev. 16:20–22). Levite priests and worshipers likewise laid their hands on animals to symbolically transfer sins to the sacrificial animal (Lev. 1:3–4; 3:1–2). The practice was also used to impart God's covenantal blessings, as Jacob did when he laid his hands on Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:13–20).

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ frequently laid His hands on people. He placed His hands on children to confer God's blessings (Mark 10:16) and on the sick to impart divine healing (Luke 4:40). Christ also commissioned Believers to lay hands on the sick for supernatural healing (Mark 16:18; Acts 28:8).

The Apostles continued this practice to confer spiritual gifts and confirm divine callings. Paul reminded Timothy: *"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you"* (1 Tim. 4:14). In Acts 6:6, the seven deacons were inaugurated to their ministry of service when the Apostles laid hands on them, and church leaders at Antioch laid hands on Paul and Barnabas to confirm their divine calling before sending them out on God's mission (Acts 13:3). Uniquely, the Apostles had God's authority to lay hands on new Believers — such as the Samaritans — to impart the Holy Spirit to them, demonstrating that God grants salvation to gentiles as well as Jews (Acts 8:14–17).

Scripture warns that the laying on of hands should not be performed without careful consideration. Paul cautioned Timothy: *"Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin"* (1 Tim. 5:22). Setting someone apart for ministry demands prayer, spiritual discernment, and a thorough assessment of a person's character.

Today, the Church continues the laying on of hands during prayer for healing and the ordination of elders and ministry leaders. This practice is neither a mechanical ritual nor magical conveyance of God's power. Rather, it is a Biblical, symbolic confirmation of how the Lord is already working in the person's life. When practiced according to the Spirit's leadership and in adherence with God's Word, it remains a vital expression of pastoral care and ministry confirmation. ✡



"Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin"

1 TIMOTHY 5:22

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Gospel Ministry in Jerusalem

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
To the Jew First (TJF)
Team Leader



Todd and Hassan

In July during our 60th Gospel Outreach to Israel, August Rosado and I spent some time in Jerusalem. At a sunglasses store we met **Hassan**, a young Arab man. We explained to him that God wants to save people from their sins and adopt them into His forever family by faith in Jesus Christ alone (Gal. 4:4–7). After hearing about some of God's blessings for those who repent and put their trust in Jesus the Messiah (John 1:16–17), Hassan happily received from us an Arabic Gospel tract and a Bible in which he can read about the Good News of Jesus and discover more of the immeasurable blessings that God gives to all who place their faith in Jesus.



Todd, Or, and August

At a pet shop in the Malcha Mall we talked with **Or**, who asked us why we come to Israel so often. We responded that we visit in order to tell the Jewish people that God has kept His promises to Israel by sending His Son, the Messiah Yeshua, to redeem from sin all those who put their trust in Him (Acts 10:43). This *Ha Besorah* (Hebrew for "Gospel") must first go to Israel (Rom. 1:16) because salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22) — coming from the Jewish Jesus. Or was elated to receive a complete Hebrew Bible and Messianic reading materials that can lead him to a saving relationship with God through Israel's promised Messiah.

Later, August and I visited the Elvis Presley Cafe — a hamburger place with an Elvis theme — and talked with one of the owners, a Jewish man named **Amir**.



Todd and Amir

The Holy Spirit led us to mention a true story that happened in 1974 at an Elvis concert when a group of fans held up a banner that read "Elvis is the King." Elvis momentarily stopped the show, declared that the sign was wrong, and stated, "Jesus Christ is the King, not me!" Amir was blown away by this story. Afterward, we explained what King Jesus (Rev. 19:16) did to provide salvation and victory over death for everyone who believes in Him. We gave Amir a complete Hebrew Bible along with several Messianic Gospel tracts so that he could know Yeshua, *"... the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"* (1 Tim. 6:15).

Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts, which help us to take the Good News of *Yeshua HaMashiach* (Jesus Christ) to God's people in Israel. ✡

To Index

African Christian Leaders Support Israel

By Etgar Lefkovits
JNS.org



credit: Sharon Regev

African Christians visited the Yardenit Baptismal site on the Jordan River as well as the Sea of Galilee on September 1, 2026.

A delegation of 14 African Christian leaders from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda visited Israel in September, highlighting support for the Jewish state in Africa, which is home to more Christians than any other continent. While South Africa has become one of Israel's fiercest critics, other African nations are strengthening ties based on faith and shared interests.

"It has blown my mind how you can use the desert and make it productive," stated Kenyan Bishop Paul Karanja. He was astonished to see bananas blooming in the Israeli desert on his first trip to the Holy Land.

Karanja organized a pro-Israel march in Kenya last year to counter anti-Israel sentiment and awaken African Christians to their Biblical connection to Israel. "Our destiny will not be secured if we cannot connect ourselves to Israel," Karanja added.

Ugandan Pastor Drake Kanaabo emphasized that Israel must increase its outreach to young Africans, who lack knowledge of the Bible and African-Israeli history. "The young generations know Israel through social media, and what they see and hear is negative," he stated. "Israel has to step up, countering bad news with good news."

Kanaabo described Israel's transformative power: "You land in the land of the past, present, and future; it gives you the Biblical picture. You can study theology, but when you come here you have the spirit of the Land by walking in the land of the Bible. There is no other such place in the world."

During their weeklong visit, the delegation toured holy places, tech centers, and a site from the October 7, 2023 Hamas terror attacks.

Israel recognizes the strategic importance of religious diplomacy to Africa, which has 600 million Christians and 54 U.N. votes, including 30 Christian-majority countries. "In 30 years, Christians in sub-Saharan Africa will make up 40% of Christians all over the world," noted Ambassador George Deek, Israel's special envoy to the Christian world. He asserted that the Jewish state wants African Christians to consider Israel "as their home — if not politically, then Biblically and culturally."

Malawian Pastor Matilda Matabwa stated, "We regard Israel as a partner. Africa is in support of Israel."

Kenyan Bishop Abraham Mulwa advised, "Be strong. We are with you."

Pastor Kanaabo recalled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's words from a decade ago, at the 40th anniversary of the Entebbe rescue: "Israel is coming back to Africa, and Africa is coming back to Israel."

He concluded, "It was just a matter of putting this [support] into action. We are seeing this being realized." ✡

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ZLM Bulletin Board

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

"Hoodlums" of the Year?

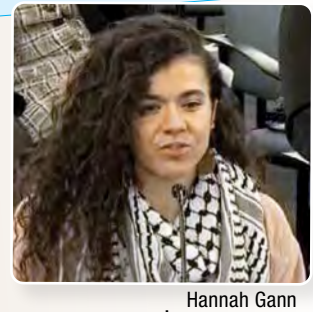


credit: YouTube screenshot / *60 Minutes*

Hilltop Youth

The Hilltop Youth is a heaven-sent group of around 500 Israeli shepherds, aged 15 to 25, tied to property destruction and confronting "Palestinians" in thousands of incidents. The recent *60 Minutes* anti-Zionist segment "Lost Sheep" claims that these shepherds systematically deploy their flocks in the "West Bank" to expel Arab communities. While impressionable reporter Lesley Stahl frames the grazing practices as a hostile strategy of territorial erasure, the report downplays the multi-decade context of Jewish families utilizing agricultural outposts to establish peaceful, recognized security perimeters against systemic regional terrorism. Visit **YouTube.com/watch?v=p8xd0hkBocQ** to see the report.

Fake "Palestinian" Exposed



credit: Screenshot / JTA

Hannah Gann

Invented in the 1960s, "Palestinian" is a term for Arab squatter or illegal land-occupier. To be sure, see "Inventing the Palestinians" on page 28 of the November 2026 *Levitt Letter*. For years, Philadelphia school teacher **Hannah Gann** took the misnomer an astounding step further: She presented herself as being of Palestinian descent (a fake of a fake?) and part of the Black community — when in fact she is totally white with Jewish roots and even has relatives in Israel who "live in settlements!" She had belonged to two pro-"Palestinian" organizations that exposed her deception and promptly booted her over her "betrayal." Jew-haters hate even a Jewish Jew-hater.

To Index



FREE ITEM

Israel's New Space Division

The Israel Defense Forces has the first commander of its new Space Division, officially designating space as a combat domain. Defense Minister Israel Katz framed the multiyear force buildup as vital for becoming a global security space power. This milestone directly echoes ancient Biblical tradition: Genesis 2:1 describes the stars as *tzeva hashamayim* — the army of Heaven, while Judges 5 portrays them fighting from Heaven against Israel's enemies, prefiguring modern Israeli forces taking dedicated defensive positions among the stars.

Pamphlet of the Month

By simply naming a ministry like ZLM as the beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy, you can make a larger gift than otherwise possible. ***Questions & Answers About Life Insurance*** addresses concerns including:

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Request POM #20



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

HebrewLesson

He Outshines the Darknes

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



כִּי־אַתָּה נֵרִי יְהוָה וַיהוָה יַגִּיהַּ חָשְׁכִּי

**"For Thou art my lamp, O LORD:
and the LORD will lighten my darkness."
(2 Samuel 22:29)**

כִּי (1)	אַתָּה (2)	נֵרִי (1)	יְהוָה (1)	וַיהוָה (1)	יַגִּיהַּ (1)	חָשְׁכִּי (2)
kee'	a'- **tah'**	nei'- **ree'**	Adonai	va' - Adonai	ya'- **gee'** - ah	chosh'- **kee**
For	Thou (are)	my lamp	LORD	and the LORD	will lighten	my darkness

Read Hebrew right to left!

To Index

In the holy place of the tabernacle (*mishkan*), a seven-branched lampstand (*menorah*) held seven individual lamps (*nerot*) that represented God's perfect light. The seven lamps of the *menorah* contained pure olive oil inside almond-shaped containers, suggesting the seven eyes of the Lord mentioned in Zechariah 3:9. Together, the *menorah* and its seven lamps were referred to as the Perpetual Lamp (*ner tamid*), a source of light that illuminated the Bread of Presence (*lechem panim*) and the Altar of Incense (*mizbeach haketoret*) within the holy place. The lamp was to be attended to every morning and evening during the time of the burning of the sweet incense (symbolizing prayer); it was never to be extinguished (Lev. 24:2–3).

In our lesson verse, King David metaphorically calls the Lord his Perpetual Lamp — that is, the Source of holy light that enables him to see. Just as the radiance of the *menorah* caused the darkness of the holy place to be dispelled, and illuminated both the Bread of Presence and the rising plume of sweet incense, so the presence of the Lord in the heart of faith causes the inner darkness of the soul to be overcome, revealing the provision and presence of God (John 1:5, 9). Indeed, David would have understood this metaphor to refer to his future descendant (the promised "Son of David") who would be the True Light of the world (Ps. 132:17; John 1:9; 8:12; 12:46).

Living in view of God's Light itself gives us light to see (John 3:20–21). Yeshua is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His Person, who upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3). Beholding the radiance of the Lord Yeshua drives away our inner darkness, feeds our soul, and enables us to have authentic communion with the holy God. ✡



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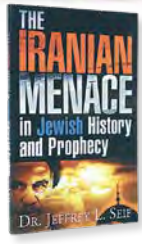
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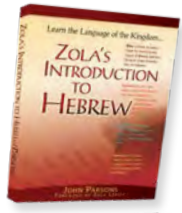
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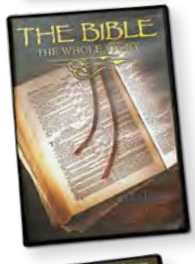
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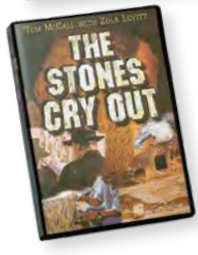












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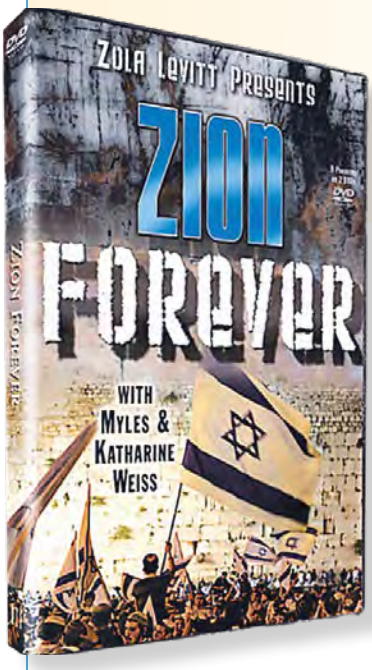
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FEATURED ITEM



Zion Forever DVD Set

Nine 30-minute programs on 2 DVDs

This nine-part series looks back at Israel's history and forward into prophecy while remembering the present status of the Temple Mount, the most contested real estate on Earth. Throughout the series, we hear from Messianic theologian, author, and pastor Eitan Shiskoff, archaeologists Eli Shukron, Dan Bahat, and Shimon Gibson, tour guide Hannah Ben Haim, and Israel expert Shahar Shilo. Zola Levitt's music complements the narrative and scenes of Israel.

The Place The Holy of Holies stood on a foundation stone called in Hebrew *HaMakom* (The Place). In exploring the ancient City of David, we hear from knowledgeable archaeologists and tour guides.

Western Wall The Western Wall is the closest that Jewish people can get to the site of the Holy of Holies. We see a Bar Mitzvah celebration at the Wall and hear how King David purchased the threshing floor atop Mount Zion.

Southern Steps Myles and Katharine Weiss walk along the southern edge of the Temple Mount where Messiah and other worshipers would have entered.

To Index

Kidron Valley From the Kidron Valley, which lies between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives, we hear the history of Jerusalem. Messiah will enter through the Golden Gate when He comes again.



Valley of Elah Young shepherd boy David slew the giant Goliath here. We discuss the walls of ancient Jerusalem, the Gihon Spring where David's forces invaded the city, and the tunnels at the southern end — possibly the final resting place for Judean kings.

Ein Gedi David hid from King Saul in a cave near the spring at Ein Gedi. We hear about the discovery of the Pool of Siloam and that the current King of Israel is Yeshua Himself.

Temple Mount The Temple Mount is the earthly center of spiritual warfare. We see thousands of artifacts from Bible times that have been discovered in the debris discarded over a decade ago from unauthorized Muslim excavations. Guest archaeologist Zachi Dvira was the first to note the importance of the debris.

Mount of Olives From the Mount of Olives, we look to the future of the Temple Mount. Archaeological finds continue to surface on Mount Zion, confirming Jewish heritage as recorded in the Bible.

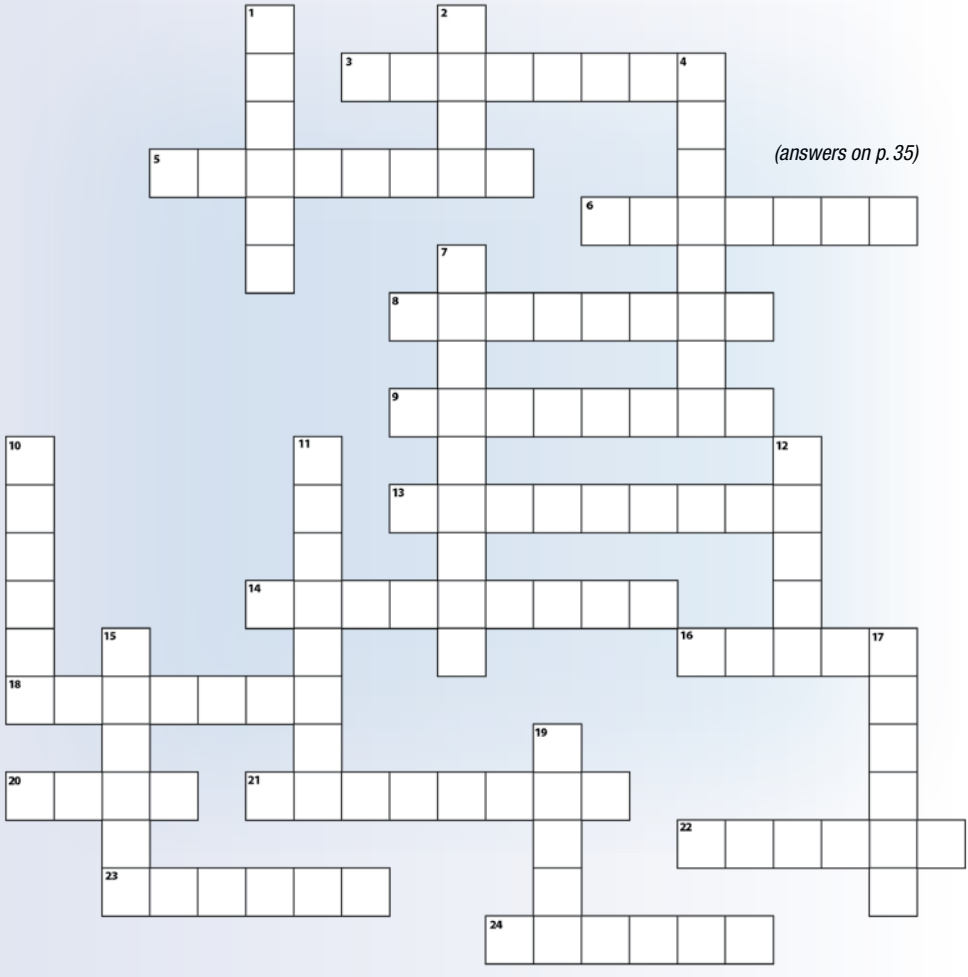
In the Meantime The Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque currently sit atop the Temple Mount. A representative of Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which governs the area, gives us the Muslim perspective. Guests: David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch, and a Jewish woman who is raising her family in the City of David.

Crossword DECEMBER 2026

by Andrea Davis

The Joy of the Lord (NKJV)

(answers on p. 35)



Across:

3. …For I will turn their __ to joy… (Jer. 31:13)
5. …Let us shout __ to the Rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)
6. …I bring you good __ of great joy… (Luke 2:10)
8. …they __ with exceedingly great joy. (Matt. 2:10)
9. …In Your presence is __ of joy… (Ps. 16:11)
13. …with joy you will draw water from wells of __. (Isa. 12:3)
14. …God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in __... (Rom. 15:13)
16. Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O __! (Isa. 49:13)
18. …But joy comes in the __. (Ps. 30:5)
20. Those who sow in tears shall __ in joy. (Ps. 126:5)
21. …Let the __ of Zion be joyful in their King. (Ps. 149:2)
22. …they shall possess __; everlasting joy shall be theirs. (Isa. 61:7)
23. …more joy in Heaven over one __ who repents… (Luke 15:7)
24. …leap for joy! For indeed your __ is great in Heaven… (Luke 6:23)

Down:

1. …and make them joyful in My house of __. (Isa. 56:7)
2. …Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be __. (John 16:24)
4. …the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and __... (Esth. 8:17)
7. I will rejoice in __, and joy in My people… (Isa. 65:19)
10. For God gives __ and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight… (Ecc. 2:26)
11. …for the joy of the LORD is your __. (Neh. 8:10)
12. "…__ into the joy of your lord." (Matt. 25:23)
15. …count it all joy when you fall into various __, (James 1:2)
17. The __ also shall increase their joy in the LORD … (Isa. 29:19)
19. …But counselors of __ have joy. (Prov. 12:20)

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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."

Resources for Inmates?

From R.G.: In 2014, at the age of 20, I received a prison sentence of "Life Without Parole" for a crime that I committed that I've come to regret wholeheartedly. But on August 29, 2026, I received baptism and a new sentence from our Heavenly Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah: "Life With One Purpose: Serving Him."


credit: Motortion / iStock

I have received the *Levitt Letter* for years now and want to thank you for it. Before I was baptized, I was a follower of Islam and called myself a Muslim. I made the five daily *Salahs*, studied *Hadith* and Arabic, read the daily *Juz* of the Koran, etc. But some brothers here prayed for me and shared the Gospel with me. They never gave up, always challenging me with Scripture, which caused me to pick up the Bible to try to find an argument. When I came to Isaiah 53, however, that chapter changed my life.

To Index

Now I take the Gospel to the Muslims and show them where Islam is wrong and why there is only one way to God — through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Are there any materials that you could provide to help me learn more about Yeshua and the Bible? I have no funds or I would love to help support the work that you do. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you, giving you everlasting peace!

Shalom, R.G.,

Your testimony nearly brought us to tears because we fully understand the power of the Gospel of Yeshua. His Words are alive, and when you read them, they can change even the hardest heart! We will do our best to ensure that you receive our resource materials to help you in discipleship. —Love, Joshua and Caleb

Dear R.G.,

Receiving requests from prison chaplains ensures that our office sends the most appropriate materials since certain items are prohibited. Even our study booklets' staples can violate prison policies. Please have your chaplain email **staff@levitt.com** or write to our P.O. Box and encourage his fellow chaplains to do so as well. —Blessings, Mark

No Bible-Based Games

From N.D.: I saw that the Bearded Bible Brothers were endorsing so-called Biblical fantasy role playing games. Bible-based "video games" are not Biblical. Are you attempting to rationalize indulgence and make the Word of God fit into a personal agenda? Isn't that kind of like pounding a square peg into a round hole? See Ezekiel 22:26 — *"Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned Mine holy things: They have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean...."*

(continued on next page)

The Holy Bible was never intended to be used as a "game." Watch out if you take things away from or add to Scriptures or the words of the prophecy of the Book! See what Jesus said instead of doing whatever you want and instead of the popularity contest: *"I have come to bring fire on the Earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"* (Luke 12:49) means that Jesus' message and mission will bring radical division, purification, and decisive judgment to the world rather than fun, games, or "hairy" entertainment.



This is syncretization; it is overly sensualized and stinks like the doctrine of the heretical Nicolaitans — condemned in Revelation. The Bible does not belong in a game! Such entertainment ends up making a mockery of God, our Savior Jesus, and sacred Scriptures. It relegates Scripture to the level of a lowlife fantasy role-playing game! It takes Scripture out of context and uses it for monetary gain, selfish indulgence, and moral depravity. It corrupts others morally in the pursuit of pleasure, and blurs Biblical boundaries between the sacred and profane! Is there violence in these games? How is that rationalized? Jesus said that he who lives by the sword will die by the sword. (Matt. 26:52)

Someone has got to say something, because time's a wastin' and the "times are evil," as it is written. It's not a time to focus on fantasy and indulge in non-reality and sensationalism. Some Israelis were slaughtered a few years back in the attack on the music festival, and what were they all doing? Indulging themselves in a worldly festival. I am not placing any blame on them, but the blame is on us all who are following worldly pursuits and pleasures at a time like this.

To Index

Shalom, N.D.

There seems to be a great misunderstanding on your part, having not listened to us in our own words or fully watched our interviews.

We endorsed a book written by Daniel and Hernu Maritz called *Lightborn: Dawn of Darkness*. This is period-piece fiction set within a pre-flood Biblical narrative. It uses real Biblical heroes to tell a redemptive story that points to the future coming of Yeshua the Messiah. Although there are plans in the distant future to turn this book into a game, right now it's just a novel.

Daniel's Ruach Entertainment is currently creating a free-to-play phone game coming out soon called Judges TD. This is a Biblical tragedy game that takes place within the time-period of Israel's judges. You play as your favorite judge and fight against Israel's enemies while learning the Biblical narrative.



If either of these offerings were Christian fantasy (which they aren't), that would not make them inherently evil. C.S. Lewis wrote the incredible *Chronicles of Narnia* series, which uses allegory, symbolism, and allusion to tell important Biblical stories. Have you not read the many fantasy parables Yeshua told? Have you read *Mere Christianity*, another spectacular work by Lewis? There are many mediums of entertainment that Christians can use to spread the Gospel. The arts and media are necessary platforms that we must harness to reach the lost! —Love, Joshua and Caleb

(continued on next page)

Return of the Nephilim #13: *The Grand Biogenetic Experiment* on YouTube

From A.L.: I knew this episode once again would be a grand slam. The way you present it is both entertaining and definitely gets the viewer's attention. Since his fall, the enemy doesn't understand that everything he's trying to do to mankind, to ruin God's plan, will fail miserably. God is omnipotent! So, everything the enemy thinks up to surprise God will never work. That's so enjoyable to know. Brothers, thank you for such a wonderful program. God bless you and ZLM.

Dear A.L.,

Thanks for your support and encouragement. The entire purpose of *Return of the Nephilim* is to shed light upon the darkness, exposing Satan's plans for the end so that Christians are not deceived. It's also necessary to learn the tactics of your enemy, Satan, and understand that Yeshua has rendered him powerless. Consider these episodes a helpful training in spiritual warfare for those who do not understand the Word of God. —Love, Joshua and Caleb

Joshua and Caleb discuss *The Return of the Nephilim* on YouTube

From R.Y.U.: I used to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* back in the 90s. I recently started watching *Bearded Bible Brothers,* and I really enjoy that program.

Dear R.Y.U.,

Please see Zola's archival section at **levitt.com/tv**, where you can see all of the classic television series with his teaching — hundreds of programs for free, on-demand viewing! Sections there include Recent Episodes, Recent Series, Prophecy, Zola, and many more.—Mark

To Index

Satan's Transhuman Endgame with Billy Crone on YouTube



From Y.Z.: Pastor Billy, I have a question: Could you speak a little more slowly? The subtitles move too fast, making it impossible to follow everything, which is a real shame. Thanks in advance.

Shalom Y.Z.,

YouTube offers a feature to slow down videos without distorting the pitch. Click on the top right-hand settings in the video window and select "playback speed." —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

From G.A.: We lived in rural middle Tennessee for eight years. You'd better not say anything against Masons. Same with my Illinois relatives.

Dear G.A.,

We know many Freemasons who have never elevated beyond the first three degrees and are completely oblivious to the higher degrees and their occult symbolism. Unfortunately, just like with oblivious Christians in many churches, they are blinded to the truth of who is leading their organizations. We challenge you to learn about the ceremonies and oaths sworn in the Freemasons and compare them to Scripture. Let the truth be revealed. And if you're game, learn about the Masons in their own words from one of their most deplorable past leaders, Albert Pike. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Hamas Is Thrilled with Nobel Peace Prize Winner

By Catherine Salgado
PJMedia.com



credit: Piroschka Van De Wouw / Reuters

Jihad-lover Navi Pillay spoke during an interview in The Hague, Netherlands on October 13, 2026.

When a genocidal terrorist group responsible for some of the worst atrocities in modern history celebrates the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, you know that the committee made the wrong choice.

South African Navanethem "Navi" Pillay won the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize this year, despite her infamous campaigning to legitimize jihad talking points and smear Israel, thus helping fuel one of the longest ongoing wars in the world right now.

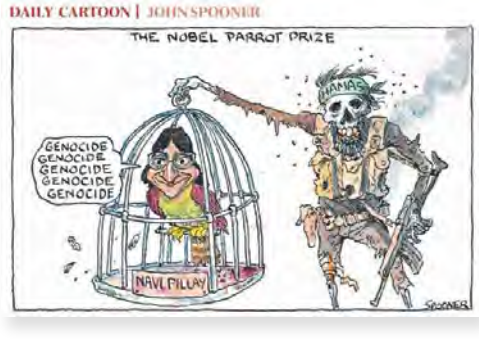
In October, the terrorists of Hamas issued a press statement titled, "Honoring Navi Pillay is an important step in the path of international accountability for war crimes in Gaza."

The Nobel Committee lauded Pillay because she "has significantly enlarged the scope and impact of international law. She has served as a judge on the High Court in South Africa, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court. She was the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, until recently, she chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today Navi Pillay is a judge on the International Court of Justice in the case where Myanmar stands accused of genocide."

In case you don't already know how incredibly corrupt both the neo-Nazi United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC) are, the above résumé reflects an ideologically-driven activist whose bosses and colleagues only complain about alleged genocide and war crimes when they don't have to criticize globalists' favorite Islamic or Communist dictatorships. But Pillay has made it her business to accuse Israel of all kinds of crimes on behalf of the Palestinian terrorists. And like many anti-Semites, her hatred of Jews extends beyond Israel to defense of a conspiracy theory about a shadow "Jewish lobby" controlling social media.

Pillay has not promoted peace; she has promoted a globalist bureaucracy that favors the terrorists and tyrants who start and prolong wars.

Israel's Foreign Ministry stated: "When a jihadist terrorist organization like Hamas applauds a Nobel Peace Prize, the moral judgment of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is rightly called into question. Hamas murdered, raped, and kidnapped civilians on October 7, 2023. Now, the perpetrators of that massacre are celebrating Navi Pillay, whose career has been marked by repeated anti-Semitic rhetoric and relentless hostility toward Israel. This isn't just a disgrace. It's a moral failure." ✡



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Turning Trash into Treasure

By Tal Shahaf
YNetNews.com





credit: Arkadi Raskin

The new building material can be used to manufacture blocks, walls, and partition walls.

Construction waste is one of the biggest headaches for contractors. Broken blocks, torn drywall, chunks of concrete, glass, tile, and more pile up quickly. It's heavy, takes up space, and costs contractors large sums of money to transport to landfill sites. Thus, makeshift dump sites and illegal landfills appear in many countries, and enforcement against offenders remains difficult.

Enter Morphit, a patented technology that turns construction waste into strong and durable construction materials. One major advantage over recycling is that Morphit doesn't require sorting or separating the waste by type.

Morphit was developed by the Israeli company ROM, part of the Luzon Group. **Ariel Abram**, ROM's CEO, often saw construction projects in Tel Aviv surrounded by enormous piles of debris. "We wanted to change this sense of inevitability, so we entered the world of recycling and reusing the massive quantities of waste that, ironically, we [contractors] also pay millions of shekels every year to bury."



credit: Doron Letzter

ROM CEO Ariel Abram

ROM partnered with the consulting firm Practical Innovation, which helps companies adopt innovative methods. Development happened at the Plastics and Rubber Center, led by Prof. Anna Dotan, a senior researcher at the center, an associate professor in the Department of Polymer Materials Engineering at Shenkar College, and head of sustainability and recycling studies.

The process includes crushing construction materials, mixing them with binding agents and water, and then casting them into molds to develop blocks, panels, walls, and partitions. The finished components contain up to 80% recycled construction waste, an exceptionally high proportion. The recycled components also meet strength tests comparable to those of conventional building materials.

One key advantage of the new panels is that they do not require aluminum framing, which is standard in drywall construction today. According to Yael Hirsch Shemesh, head of development at Practical Innovation, the panels are built with a special internal structure that saves time and money during construction and allows the panels to be dismantled and reused, something not possible with existing drywall technology.

According to Abram, the company has focused on maintaining competitive pricing. "Although we see globally that people are willing to pay more for green products, we estimate with high confidence that prices will not be higher; our goal is for them to be lower." ✡



credit: Arkadi Raskin

Building materials made from up to 80% construction waste

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Water Births: A New Trend in Israeli Delivery Rooms

By Avichay Chaim
JPost.com





credit: Sister Valentina / St. Joseph Hospital

Staff at East Jerusalem's St. Joseph Hospital in and around one of the hospital's birthing pools

Once considered an unusual choice for natural childbirth, water births are becoming a sought-after option in Israeli delivery rooms. At Assuta Ashdod — the only hospital in southern Israel offering regular water birth services — demand has surged by 40% over the past year. The hospital has attracted expectant mothers from Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, and the Central region.

"More women hear about the experience from friends, look for a natural alternative, and ask to give birth in a way that suits them," stated Dr. Tal Ben Valid, midwife and head of delivery rooms at Assuta Ashdod. She noted that personal recommendations drive demand far more than social media. Ben Valid emphasized that the service and equipment are provided free of charge, ensuring equal access regardless of a patient's financial background.

Medical staff emphasize that water births carry no greater risk than standard deliveries when strict clinical protocols are followed. Candidates are carefully screened for low-risk, healthy pregnancies — typically repeat births without gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, or fetal size concerns. Throughout labor, the fetus is continuously tracked with wireless waterproof monitors. If complications or fetal distress arise, the mother is immediately transferred to a standard delivery bed. In practice, very few women are forced to leave the water due to a complication.

Because epidurals cannot be administered in the tub, the warm water serves as the primary method of natural pain relief, promoting relaxation and easing contractions. Women must commit to unmedicated labor, though anyone who requests an epidural during the process is seamlessly moved to a conventional bed.

"The baby is in the womb in amniotic fluid, and even when emerging into the pool water, it does not start breathing immediately," Ben Valid explained. "Therefore, the transition from the womb to the water does not pose a danger when the birth is performed according to protocols."

Assuta Ashdod established its program after training staff with an international expert from the U.S. and adopting models proven in Europe and America. The facility features a dedicated room with a specialized medical tub that ensures easy access for midwives and partners, alongside disposable inflatable pools to accommodate simultaneous births under strict disinfection and infection-control standards.

Dr. Yossi Tovbin, director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the hospital, explained that the service reflects a global shift toward low-intervention childbirth in a calm setting. "Our job is to enable the birth experience the woman wants, but without compromising even for a moment on the medical standard," Tovbin stated. "After more than 400 successful water births, we know that it is possible to combine the two." ✡

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Mamdani's Moral Obscenity

Zohran Mamdani, New York City's mayor, set off a firestorm of criticism with a social media post ostensibly intended to commemorate the October 7, 2023 massacre of Israelis. After a brief paragraph condemning Hamas and commiserating with victims, the rest was a much longer denunciation of Israel's "ongoing genocide in Gaza," "occupation and apartheid," and U.S. complicity with arms shipments.



credit: Instagram screenshot / ZohranKMamdani

Hasan Piker *(left)* eating with Zohran Mamdani, April 6, 2025

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, called Mamdani's statement "so offensive to so many Jews that it is hard to describe how offensive it is." In fact, it's a moral obscenity. Let me count the ways.

It is **obscene** in the same way it would have been if the mayor had commemorated the 25th anniversary of September 11 with a perfunctory nod to the victims, followed by a lengthy denunciation of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. What happened on both September 11 and October 7 was undiluted evil — each an unprovoked visit of deliberate, maximalist violence on innocent people who had done nothing to invite it.

It is **obscene** because many of the Jews murdered on October 7 lived in kibbutzim with conspicuously left-leaning politics. They had long been at the forefront of the Israeli peace movement, volunteering to drive sick Palestinians to Israeli hospitals for treatment.

It is **obscene** because Hamas didn't just kill in pursuit of a strategic objective. It tormented and slaughtered people like an army of serial killers delighting in suffering. Some women were shot in their intimate parts, while others were raped so violently that their pelvises were broken. Parents were killed in front of their children; children were murdered in their beds. I know this because Hamas filmed itself committing these atrocities and I forced myself to watch the footage. I know because later I visited the bedrooms where the children were murdered, their mattresses still soaked in blood.

It is **obscene** because, whatever else you think of the war in Gaza, on the eve of October 7, 2023 the border was governed by a cease-fire. Hamas chose to kick off the violence, just as Japan did at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Whether in fistfights between individuals or wars between states, whoever throws the first punch forfeits the right to throw the last.

It is **obscene** because Mamdani is misleading when implying that his prime objection to Israel is its response after October 7. In fact, he's been an anti-Israel zealot since college, when,

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By Bret Stephens
NYTimes.com



as a leader of Students for Justice in Palestine, he stopped collaborating with the left-leaning Jewish group J Street because it recognizes the rights of a Jewish state. He wrote a rap professing "love" for men convicted in a U.S. court of funneling money to Hamas. The day after October 7, he denounced Israel without mentioning Hamas. Put simply, this mayor first condemned Israel as guilty and then went about collecting evidence.

It is **obscene** because, however much the genocide allegation against Israel is mindlessly repeated by people too lazy or prejudiced to distinguish the difference between war and genocide, that charge is as false as it is sinister. False, because genocide means killing whole classes of people for who they are rather than what they did. If Israel sought to kill Palestinians as Palestinians, it never would have mobilized hundreds of thousands of its own soldiers for war or suffered hundreds of military casualties in high-intensity urban warfare. Sinister, because the genocide allegation aims to trivialize, if not erase, the atrocities of October 7 by casting it as minor compared to the Palestinian casualties that tragically, but inevitably, followed.

It is **obscene** because Hamas' intentions toward Israel really are genocidal. Its leaders have publicly, repeatedly vowed to repeat October 7. Had the group not been stopped by force that day, it would have continued its slaughter as it moved toward Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities. Yet one searches in vain for anything from the mayor except perfunctory, pro forma condemnations of Hamas.

It is **obscene** because the genocide charge serves an even more wretched purpose: Holocaust erasure. This is not the crude kind that seeks to deny Nazi Germany's murder of six million Jews. Rather, this sophisticated version accuses living Jews of genocide to strip away the Jewish declaration of ongoing persecution and near annihilation that justifies its need for a sovereign state capable of defending its people.

Finally, it is **obscene** because Mamdani is the mayor of roughly one million Jewish New Yorkers, many with relatives in Israel, who deserved far better on a day of communal grief than the equivalent of an "All Lives Matter" homily. This reflects yet another double standard from modern Jew haters: Whenever anti-Semitism is mentioned in progressive circles, it is inevitably accompanied by ritualistic nods to Islamophobia.

It would be far better to have a mayor who, if only on October 7, can say: Jewish Lives Matter. Israeli Lives Matter. Full stop. ✡

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Matzoh *Postcards*

(12-pack)



Imagine receiving greetings on this unique postcard made of *matzoh* (Jewish unleavened bread). **Unfortunately, matzoh is difficult to write on and doesn't mail very well, so we've created a 6" x 6" postcard.**

One side is functional — with areas for postage, an address, and a message. The other side quotes Isaiah 53:5 — *"He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."*

credit: ICEJ



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Participants at the ICEJ's 2026 *Sukkot* celebration

Christians Support Judea and Samaria Small Businesses During *Sukkot*

IsraelNationalNews.com

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) used its annual *Sukkot* celebration this year to support businesses in Judea and Samaria and oppose efforts to boycott products from the region. Christian pilgrims participating in the ICEJ event traveled to Efrat and Shiloh, where they were given the opportunity to purchase local products.

Asked whether visitors were concerned about traveling to communities in Judea and Samaria, ICEJ CFO David Van Der Walt asserted that the participants were familiar with Israel. "They know that it's generally quite peaceful there in Samaria, so they're not afraid to visit. Our people, they are bold and they're ready to come."

Addressing how Israel should respond to anti-Israel campaigns, Van Der Walt stated: "Israel should try as much as possible to do what we call the *Hasbara,* to get the truth out there of what is really happening in Samaria." He argued that incidents in the region are often presented disproportionately in the media.

Van Der Walt concluded with an assurance to Israel. "There are friends around the world, the Christians who love Israel, mainly the Evangelical community. We are going to continue fighting this battle on your behalf and with you, especially with new anti-Semitism that has grown so much around the world. We are with you and we are with you to the end."

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Backlash Over Satanic Prayer at Iowa City Council Meeting

By Ian M. Giatti / ChristianPost.com

An Iowa mayor is reviewing his city's invocation policy after a satanic prayer delivered at an Ottumwa City Council meeting sparked widespread backlash.

On October 6, 2026, the council opened with a scheduled invocation from Matthew Dalbey, a former council member and member of The Satanic Temple of Iowa. Calling Satan his "dear dark father," Dalbey prayed for the city to "embrace the Luciferian impulse to eat of the tree of knowledge" and "reason our solutions with agnosticism in all things." Dalbey concluded with "Hail Satan."

Pastor Rick Bick of New Life Center immediately objected, calling the invocation "a curse put on the city" and

(continued on next page)

demanding that it be reversed. Mayor Benjamin Foote, a self-identified born-again Christian, responded by calling for a 30-second moment of silence. Councilman Bill Hoffman Jr. later commented that, as a Christian, he didn't participate and instead stepped into the hallway to pray.

Ottumwa adopted an invocation policy in January designed to respect diverse faiths by allowing any volunteer to sign up to give an invocation at council meetings. Foote defended the policy as a First Amendment protection for religious freedom yet admitted that he was "shocked" by the prayer and does not condone satanic worship.

Following numerous calls from upset residents, Foote confirmed that he is "reviewing our invocation policy to see if any revisions need to be made so we can continue to have prayer and safe-guard against statements like what we saw." He added his hope that God will use the incident to "awaken the Church in Ottumwa" to "fight against the evil that is constantly trying to destroy us."

Anti-Semitic Conspiracies Spread Rapidly after flydubai Attack

JNS.org

Following the September 30 terrorist attack aboard flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories spread quickly across social media, according to the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM).

Aboard the Boeing 737, the co-pilot severely stabbed Capt. Smit Machchhar and attempted to crash the aircraft. Despite serious wounds, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, enabling passengers to overpower the Islamist attacker before two traveling flydubai pilots safely landed the jet in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

During a 12-hour monitoring period after the incident, CAM identified 2,963 posts on X that attributed the attack to Israel, the Mossad, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Zionists, or Jews. The first conspiracy post appeared 67 minutes after the jet's initial distress signal; within five hours, researchers had documented 1,000 such posts. Later, 4,136 posts contained the phrase "false flag," of which approximately 72% blamed Israel or Jews. That number rose to 82% in the final hours of monitoring.



credit: Flash90

A flydubai plane carrying passengers from flight FZ1073 arrives at Ben Gurion International Airport after their emergency landing in Saudi Arabia

"What's striking here isn't just the volume; it's the speed," stated CAM research associate Oliver Marks. "Sixty-seven minutes is all it took for the near-downing of a commercial airliner by a terrorist pilot to become fodder for anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists across the globe." Marks added that this narrative is "part of a script that already exists, sitting ready for use whenever opportunities arise."

Researchers concluded that the pattern mirrors influence operations by hostile states — especially Russia — designed to sow social division, exploit breaking news, and portray Israel and Jews as the "hidden hand" manipulating world events. ✡

To Index



Archaeologists Extract 2,000-Year-Old



credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA

The 13-foot-wide *mikveh* as discovered on site

A construction site in southern Israel has yielded a discovery that reshapes the map of Jewish settlement during the Second Temple period. While excavating a new neighborhood in Kiryat Gat, roughly 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem, archaeologists uncovered a massive 2,000-year-old *mikveh* (ritual immersion bath). Rather than dismantling it, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) performed a complex engineering feat to remove and relocate the intact structure.

The excavation also uncovered stone measuring vessels alongside the bath [perhaps similar to those referenced in John 2:6]. Together, the discoveries offer unequivocal evidence of a thriving Jewish community in an area where a Jewish presence was previously unknown.

"The Jewish settlement we discovered here is the first and the only known one in this area," noted the excavation directors. "In the Judean Lowlands, many Jewish settlements from the Roman period are known, but in the seam between the Judean Lowlands and the northern Negev — no Jewish settlement was known until now."

Archaeological findings indicate that the settlement was abandoned in the second century A.D. during the Bar Kokhba revolt. It remained uninhabited for about 500 years until the Byzantine period.

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credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA

Conservator Eyal Kaho building the structure to hold the *mikveh* together

The presence of the *mikveh* carries profound religious significance. Ritual immersion was central to Jewish life and Temple observance, rooted in Biblical purity laws. During the Second Temple period, Jews traveling to Jerusalem for the pilgrimage festivals, or eating *teru-*

(continued on next page)

Jewish Ritual Bath

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz
Israel365News.com



mah and other sacred produce, needed to be ritually pure.

The widespread use of stone vessels also reflects this same concern, since stone does not become ritually impure. A private, freestanding *mikveh* indicates that Jews in this area took purity law seriously. Otherwise, they would have visited a ritual bath when they traveled to Jerusalem rather than building a permanent structure in their area.

Geographically, modern Kiryat Gat borders the historic site of ancient Gat (Gath), one of the five city-states of the Philistines and the home of Goliath: *"And there went out a champion of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span"* (1 Sam. 17:4). Gat appears repeatedly in the Bible, from the Philistine pentapolis of Joshua's time through the reigns of Saul and David. The presence of a thriving Jewish community here during the Second Temple period underscores how thoroughly Jewish settlement expanded into regions once occupied by Israel's enemies.

Safely relocating the buried, 13-foot-wide structure required two weeks of meticulous preparation by the IAA's Conservation Administration. Conservators first exposed the perimeter of the *mikveh*, then drilled beneath it to slide load-bearing steel beams into place. To prevent flaking or peeling of the plaster coating the walls, workers applied protective gauze and adhesives before encasing the whole structure in shock-absorbing foam.

Engineers then used a 300-ton crane to lift the 25-ton bath onto a wide-load transport vehicle.

Highlighting the importance of the salvage project, Israel's Minister of Heritage, Rabbi Amichai Eliyahu, stated:



credit: Emil Aladjem / IAA

Lifting the ancient, 25-ton *mikveh* in preparation for transport

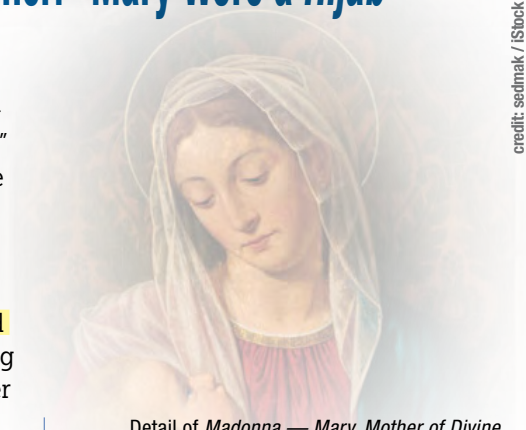
"The ritual bath uncovered in Kiryat Gat adds an important dimension to our understanding of Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel during the Second Temple period. The complex operation led by the Israel Antiquities Authority to relocate it intact reflects our commitment as a nation to preserving our heritage assets, even amid rapid development."

Once construction in the new Carmei Gat neighborhood concludes, the ancient *mikveh* will return to the neighborhood as a permanent public display. This will give residents and visitors tangible evidence of Jewish life in the land some 2,000 years ago. ✡

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UK Local Government Trainer: "Mary Wore a *Hijab*"

By Hugh Fitzgerald / FrontPageMag.com



credit: sedmak / iStock

Detail of *Madonna — Mary, Mother of Divine Providence*, painting by Emilio Parma (1874–1950), Chiesa di Santa Maria al Carrobiolo, Monza, Italy

In the UK, participants in a course designed to cure them of "Islamophobia" were taught that the Virgin Mary wore a *hijab*. Not everyone was pleased.

Former police officer Abbas Najib led an Islamophobia training session for North Yorkshire Council staff involved in counter-terrorism efforts. According to an *Algemeiner* article on September 30, 2026, Najib stated that "Mother Mary wore a *hijab,*" adding that "the *hijab* was prevalent in the UK 100 years ago." To illustrate, Najib displayed images of shawls worn in early 20th century Britain, even though the garments he showed were unrelated to the *hijab*.

Najib later responded to critics by asserting that he mentioned Mary "to illustrate the longstanding tradition of women covering their heads across different faiths. *Hijab* is an Arabic word that simply means 'covering,' and in everyday usage, it refers to a woman's head covering." He added that "covering the head is ... not something unique to Islam."

What is unique to Islam is what happens to a wife who disobeys her husband by not wearing a *hijab*. In that case, he can hit her for disobeying him. Muslim fathers, such as Yaser Abdel Said, have been known to kill their daughters for refusing to wear a *hijab*. Christian fathers mete out no such punishment to their daughters and wives who go without a head covering.

Obviously, there is no evidence for Najib's preposterous claim. The Gospels record nothing about Mary wearing a *hijab*. Though some classical art portrays Mary wearing a scarf or shawl, it was not a religious requirement. Muslim women, however, are expected to cover themselves with a *hijab*, although many must wear a *chador* or *niqab* — the full-body coverings that reveal only the face or eyes.



credit: LinkedIn

Propagandist Abbas Najib

During the training, Najib also claimed that "Jesus grew a beard," just like Muslim men are instructed to do. Yet if Jesus grew a beard, as He may well have, it was not for religious reasons. It was simply a practice of the time among the Jews. Most Muslims, but not all, believe that a beard is *wajib* (obligatory). This reflects a *hadith* in which Mohammad instructed his followers to trim their mustaches and grow their beards. Therefore, many Islamic leaders hold that shaving the beard is a sin because it goes against a command meant to emulate Mohammad.

Najib is CEO of Better Communities Bradford, a charity that has "received about $660,000 from the National Lottery Communities Fund, which supports projects that strengthen communities and improve people's lives."

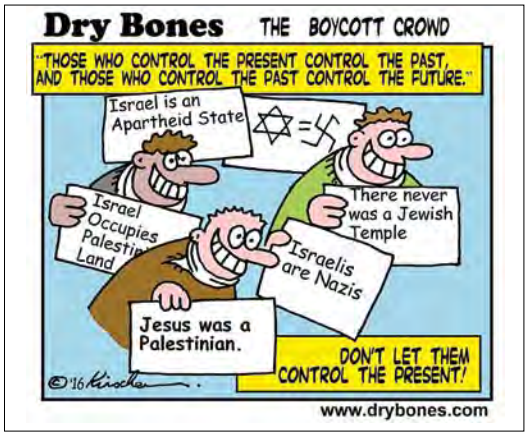
But does claiming false similarities between Islam and Christianity "strengthen communities and improve people's lives"? Or does it offend Christians who understand that they are being fed falsehoods? ✡

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Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22





Answer Key for DECEMBER 2026 Crossword (p. 21)

Across:
3. Mourning
5. Joyfully
6. Tidings
8. Rejoiced
9. Fullness
13. Salvation
14. Believing
16. Earth
18. Morning
20. Reap
21. Children
22. Double
23. Sinner
24. Reward

Down:
1. Prayer
2. Full
4. Gladness
7. Jerusalem
10. Wisdom
11. Strength
12. Enter
15. Trials
17. Humble
19. Peace

Hanukkah Sweaters

A Jewish mother gave her son two sweaters for *Hanukkah*. The next time he visited, the son made sure to wear one of the sweaters. When the son saw his mother, instead of an expected smile, she asked, "What's the matter? You didn't like the other one?"

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Duplicates? Moving?

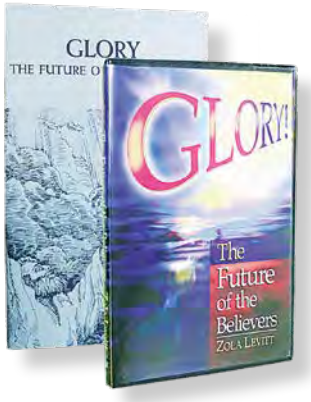
Do you receive two or more copies of our newsletters? Please let us know so that we can unclutter your mailbox and cut costs. Also, if you are moving and give us your new address a month or more in advance, you won't miss an issue.

Social Media Outlets

ZLM's social media outreach now includes:

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Instagram:	instagram.com/BeardedBibleBros
Facebook:	facebook.com/BeardedBibleBros
X/Twitter:	x.com/BeardedBBros





Glory! The Future of the Believers

study booklet and teaching CD
By Zola Levitt

Prophecy studies often deal with the Tribulation, the antiChrist, Armageddon, and other cataclysms to befall an unbelieving world. Those events contrast with the future for those who believe. This delightful study deals with the happy experiences prophesied for Believers:

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Zola Levitt Ministries

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

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ZLM's Websites:

To better benefit from our ministry's expansive resources, please visit all three of our websites:

• **Levitt.com** • **BeardedBibleBros.com** • **Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza**

1. Levitt.com
Thousands of ZLMers regularly visit Levitt.com to:
- Watch our newest weekly installment of the *Bearded Bible Brothers* and find hundreds of archived 30-minute episodes (including those from *Our Jewish Roots* and *Zola Levitt Presents*) for free viewing
- Read our monthly newsletters, LLX news reports, essays, Q&A, Blog, Daily Devotionals, and more
- Order our Bible teaching books, DVDs, CDs, and specialty items

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2. BeardedBibleBros.com
This newer website allows you to:
- Find online Bible-teaching videos of the brothers' recent television series
- Subscribe to the BBB YouTube channel
- Learn about Joshua and Caleb's ministerial endeavors over many years

Bearded BIBLE brothers

3. Patreon.com/BeardedBibleBonanza
- Receive updates on our newest public and exclusive posts
- Browse our recent and most popular posts
- Join for free or, for as little as $5/month get an all-access pass to never-aired-elsewhere content, behind-the-scenes moments, older BBB teaching, and faith-filled fun

