



# Levitt LETTER

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

inside: **64 Prophecies  
Fulfilled — p.4**

# The Biblical Significance of Israel's Capital

By Jentezen Franklin / CharismaNews.com

It is Israel's right to decide the location of its capital, as was spiritually declared by King David and then legally documented in 1950 when the Israeli Knesset passed the Jerusalem Law declaring Jerusalem to be the eternal, undivided capital of the State of Israel. Declaring Jerusalem to be Israel's capital does not mark a change in American law. In 1995, President Bill Clinton signed a statute declaring, "Since 1950, the city of Jerusalem has been the capital of the State of Israel."

Naming Jerusalem the capital of Israel is of great theological importance to Christians worldwide.

Christianity begins in Jerusalem, serving as the context for Jesus' life and earthly ministry. Jerusalem is the city where Jesus was crucified on a cross and laid in a tomb, where He rose from the grave, and

*(continued p.2)*

**REMEMBER:**

**Purim begins at sunset February 28, 2018**

## Purim Teaches Response to Anti-Semitism

By Slovie Jungreis-Wolff / Aish.com

In the face of increasing anti-Semitism, listen carefully to the message of Purim.

The Jewish people were frightened, threatened with annihilation. Haman's hatred for them hung over the nation like a dark cloud because King Ahasuerus had authorized Haman "to do with them as you see fit." Haman plotted "to destroy, to slay, and to exterminate all the Jews, from young to old, children and women ..." In such dire circumstances who could keep hope alive?

My mother, Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, described being deported

*(continued p.11)*



Jews on selection ramp at Auschwitz, May 1944, photo by Ernst Hornheim or Bernhard Waite, German Federal Archives

Detail from *He Wept Over It* (1892) by Enrique Simonet (1866–1927), Museo del Prado



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# Israel's Capital *continued from cover*



*Solomon Dedicates The Temple At Jerusalem* (circa 1896–1902) by James Tissot (1836–1902), Jewish Museum (NYC)

where He showed Himself to many over a 40-day period.

It is the city where many believe Abraham brought Isaac up Mount Moriah and passed God's test of faith; the city where King Solomon built the magnificent Temple, declaring it a house of prayer for all nations. It is also the city that Isaiah envisioned as the world's center, where the nations would beat their swords into plowshares\* and learn war no more. It is the city over which Jesus wept.

## Intertwined Histories

However, **the significance of Jerusalem to Christians cannot be separated from the significance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people.**

Jewish history is Christian history. We are intertwined through our Old Testament Scriptures and

spiritual legacy. The Jewish Bible is the Christian Old Testament, and gentiles share this heritage in Jerusalem as their spiritual capital while Israel also legally proclaims it as its national capital. Jewish national history has become Christian spiritual history.

The gentile Church prays for the peace of Jerusalem, as Scripture implores, and trusts Jerusalem's peace and prosperity not to manmade institutions and international efforts, but to the God of all Peace, and to the greatest Jew who ever lived, Jesus Christ.

Many follow this discussion of moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and fail to understand what it means to the Evangelical Church. Read them the words above.

See related cover articles about the U.S. Embassy in Israel in the [January](#) and [August 2017 Levitt Letters](#). ★

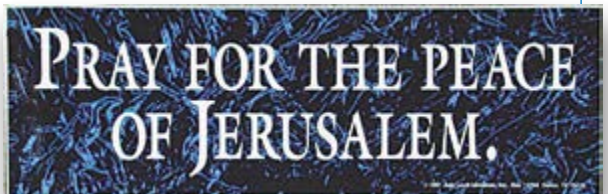
\* See "Guns to Tools" on [p. 15](#).

## Pray For Peace

*Bumper Sticker*

*"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"*

Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background. ***Pass some on to your friends!***





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## Visiting Israel: Land of History & Prophecy



It is Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence! And God's prophecies are

being fulfilled during our lifetime. See it for yourself by visiting Israel with us this year. Your spiritual life will improve as you discover the vibrant land and life of Israel. Plus, a trip to Israel is really fun—it's a vacation and a study pilgrimage in one.

### Spring Tour 2018 options:

- Deluxe** ..... March 11–20  
(Israel only) \$4,488\*
- Grand Petra** ..... March 11–23  
(Israel + Petra) \$5,688\*

### Fall Tour 2018 options:

(prices are pending)

- Deluxe** ..... October 14–23  
(Israel only)
- Grand Petra** ..... October 14–26  
(Israel + Petra)
- Grand Athens** ..... October 8–23  
(Greece + Israel)
- Ultra Grand** ..... October 8–26  
(Greece + Israel + Petra)

For Zola Tours questions and itinerary details, please contact Sandra at:

- 214-696-9760
- email her at [travel@levitt.com](mailto:travel@levitt.com)
- or visit [levitt.com/tours](http://levitt.com/tours)

(See p. 36 for more details) ★

\* Our prices include tips, taxes, & fuel surcharge (subject to change).



# 64 Aliyah Prophecies

BY CHAIM MALESPIN, (r) CEO of Aliyah Return Center



Aliyah Return Center builds bridges between Jews and Christians, mobilizes the Church to embrace God's call to bless Israel and the Jewish people, and assists Jews returning to their God-given inheritance in Israel.

*Aliyah*, Hebrew for “ascent,” shares its root with the “Psalms of Ascent” (Psalms 120–134) that were recited by Jews in ancient times on their way up to Jerusalem for the great Feasts.

In modern Hebrew, *aliyah* refers to Jewish people returning home to their promised land — Israel — from the nations where they have been scattered. The returning Jew is “going up to Zion,” fulfilling many Bible prophecies. A typical prophecy is found in Amos 9:14:

*And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.*

*Aliyah* denotes the physical return of the Jews to their Land, the restoration of that Land, and the rebuilding of the Jewish nation in the Land of Israel (*Eretz Israel*).

When God says something more than once, it clearly concerns something important to Him. **In His Word, God declared 64 times(!) His intention to bring His people home from all the nations.** (See chart on p. 5)

Examining the past few thousand years’ history, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (*Yeshua HaMashiach*) constituted the greatest historic and prophetic series of events. We mark time by His earthly life and death, whether using A.D. or C.E.

The second most significant occurrence happened at *Shavuot*, the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaKodesh*) fell on the disciples, and the Church (*ke-hilah*) was born. I believe the third milestone is the Jewish return to Israel — *aliyah*.

The modern movement of *aliyah* began in 1881 and accelerated after the First Zionist Congress (1897) and the Balfour Declaration (1917). Today, following the nation’s rebirth (1948) and Jerusalem’s re-unification under Jewish control (1967), over one-third of the world’s Jews live in Israel, more than in any other country. In spite of incredible opposition, Israel has become a strong and prosperous country, and *aliyah* continues.

But *aliyah* means more than return, restoration, and rebirth. God describes seven phenomena that happen in conjunction with *aliyah*.

**1. A “great Jewish revival”** when “all Israel will be saved” will happen after they return to the Land. E.g., Ezekiel 36:24–26: *For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit...* (The restoration happens both inside and outside of Israel, in conjunction with *aliyah*. This theme is stated 16 times in Scripture.)

**2. God will pour out His Spirit on Israel** and on all flesh in conjunction with the return of His people to their Land. E.g., Joel 2:28–29; 3:1: *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;... For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem...* (This theme is stated 3 times in Scripture.)

**3. God’s plans for mankind include a worldwide spiritual awakening...** and it comes in response to *aliyah*. E.g., in Jeremiah 33:7, 9: *And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first.... And it shall be to me... a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, ... and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and prosperity that I procure unto it.* (This theme is stated 7 times in Scripture.)

(continued next page)





Photo by  
Berthold Werner

**4. Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach) will return to Earth**, and His return is predicated on *aliyah*. We see this theme develop in Jeremiah 23:3, 5–6: *And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds;... Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper... In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely...* (This theme is stated 4 times in Scripture.)

**5. The gentiles (non-Jews) have a role** in the process of *aliyah*. Isaiah 49:22 gives a clear example: *Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.* (This theme is stated 8 times in Scripture.)

**6. God says He'll bring back the Jews** (descendants of the southern kingdom of Judah). What about the northern kingdom of Israel ("Lost Tribes")? Whenever "Judah" and "Israel" appear side by side in Scripture, "Israel" refers to the northern kingdom. The Lord indicates His intention to restore the genealogical descendents of those northern tribes to Israel. E.g., Jeremiah 3:18: *In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together....* The tribes of Manassah and Dan have already started to return. (This theme is stated 12 times in Scripture.)

**7. In Ezekiel 37:1–14, the Lord takes the prophet into "the valley of dry bones"** to pray over the dead bones. They are first physically resurrected, then spiritually resurrected. This vision represents **the physical restoration of the Jews to their Promised Land**, which will be followed by a spiritual restoration. In verse 12, He says: *Therefore prophesy and say unto them, "Thus saith the LORD GOD: 'Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.'"* (This theme repeats in verse 21; in fact, all of Ezekiel 37 is about *aliyah*!)

This picture of *aliyah* takes place in "the valley" — a specific valley. Possibly, the Jordan Valley — where Moses looked into the Promised Land, Joshua and the Israelites entered the Land, John baptized Yeshua, and where Yeshua began and centered His ministry. Historically, many building blocks of modern Israel's nationhood began in the Jordan Valley: the *kibbutz*, *moshav*, Histadrut (labor organization), first health fund, first department store, largest bank, largest construction company, etc. Could the Spiritual restoration — the great Jewish revival when "all Israel will be saved" — also begin here? ★



## THE 64 "ALIIYAH" SCRIPTURES

- |                        |                           |                       |                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Deuteronomy 30:1-6  | 17. Isaiah 49:18-23       | 33. Jeremiah 30:18    | 49. Ezekiel 34:11-16  |
| 2. 2 Chronicles 30:6-9 | 18. Isaiah 51:11          | 34. Jeremiah 31:8-9   | 50. Ezekiel 36:7-12   |
| 3. Nehemiah 1:4-9      | 19. Isaiah 52:7-12 (NKJV) | 35. Jeremiah 31:10-14 | 51. Ezekiel 36:22-38  |
| 4. Psalms 14:7         | 20. Isaiah 56:8           | 36. Jeremiah 31:16-21 | 52. Ezekiel 37:1-14   |
| 5. Psalms 53:6         | 21. Isaiah 60:4-5         | 37. Jeremiah 31:23-24 | 53. Ezekiel 37:15-28  |
| 6. Psalms 106:44-48    | 22. Isaiah 60:8-9         | 38. Jeremiah 32:37-41 | 54. Ezekiel 38:7-9    |
| 7. Psalms 107:1-3      | 23. Isaiah 66:18-22       | 39. Jeremiah 32:42-44 | 55. Ezekiel 39:25-29  |
| 8. Psalms 126:1-6      | 24. Jeremiah 3:14-18      | 40. Jeremiah 33:4-9   | 56. Hosea 11:10-11    |
| 9. Psalms 147:1-2      | 25. Jeremiah 12:14-15     | 41. Jeremiah 33:10-13 | 57. Joel 2:28-3:2     |
| 10. Isaiah 11:10-12    | 26. Jeremiah 16:14-16     | 42. Jeremiah 33:23-26 | 58. Amos 9:13-15      |
| 11. Isaiah 14:1-2      | 27. Jeremiah 23:1-4       | 43. Jeremiah 46:27-28 | 59. Obadiah 17:21     |
| 12. Isaiah 27:12-13    | 28. Jeremiah 23:5-8       | 44. Jeremiah 50:4-5   | 60. Micah 2:12-13     |
| 13. Isaiah 35:10       | 29. Jeremiah 24:4-7       | 45. Jeremiah 50:17-20 | 61. Micah 4:6-10      |
| 14. Isaiah 41:8-10     | 30. Jeremiah 29:10-14     | 46. Ezekiel 11:14-20  | 62. Zephaniah 3:17-20 |
| 15. Isaiah 43:5-6      | 31. Jeremiah 30:1-3       | 47. Ezekiel 20:40-44  | 63. Zechariah 8:7-8   |
| 16. Isaiah 49:8-13     | 32. Jeremiah 30:4-11      | 48. Ezekiel 28:25-26  | 64. Zechariah 10:6-12 |

# God Loves People More Than Anything

Kirsten Hart  
Studio Co-host of  
Zola Levitt Presents



The group Point of Grace sings “God Loves People More Than Anything,” and those words kept echoing in my head this past month. Our family sang that song when our boys were young, and we included it in almost every Hart family concert. The chorus, penned by Jon Mohr and John Randall Dennis, is simple, yet profound:

***God loves people more than anything  
And more than anything, He wants them to know  
He'd rather die than let them go  
'Cause God loves people more than anything.***

This month, we celebrate Valentine’s Day. Granted, it is not a Jewish feast or holy day. But, we are the Harts, and with that last name, we tend to celebrate love.

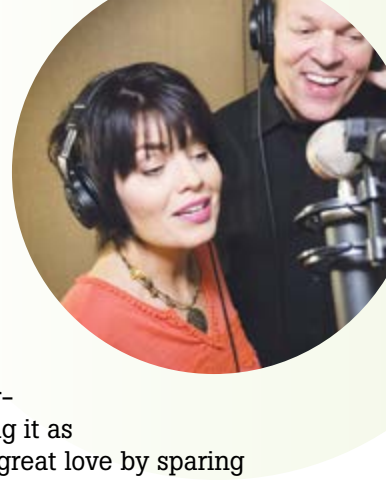
Let’s call February 14 “Love of God Day” — no matter whether Valentine’s Day began in recognition of Luperclia or the martyred saints named Valentine — to focus on the love that we receive from our Creator and Savior. No greater love, no purer love, nor a more sacrificial love exists than that shown to us by Jesus, *Yeshua HaMashiach*.

From the foundation of the world, sacrifice contributed to the fabric of love that God designed. Before the Word Himself spoke creation into being, the greatest gift of love was planned out. (John 1:1–14) The very Word of God became human flesh and loved us all so much that He gave the ultimate sacrifice. There never will be a greater gift. Yeshua loved people more than His physical life. He chose to die in order to save and redeem humankind.

The majority of you have probably heard this message for years. My prayer this February 14 is for the reality of our Creator’s love to attach itself to your heart in such a steadfast way that you can barely utter your thanks to Him without experiencing His love in a fresh wave of gratitude.

*(continued next page)*





## Reasons Why I Love God

In honor of Love of God Day 2018, I want to express to our Lord and Savior a few of the reasons why I am so in love with Him:

- In 1965, my birth mother went to Sweden to have an abortion. I should not be here today except that no clinic would perform the procedure. I learned this information when I was forty-one years old, and discovering it as an adult changed the way I view life. You showed me great love by sparing my life while I was still in the womb. *Thank You for Your love.*
- A year and a half ago, You, Lord of Lords, called our younger son, Ryan, to Your Holy Land. This precious life that I birthed, raised, and loved, You predestined to live, work, and fulfill his calling in Israel. Israel! Ryan daily helps the Jewish people, serving in the city where You died and rose from the dead. I am amazed and humbled that You chose a son that I made to help Your people. *Thank You for Your love.*
- Yeshua, You had every right to parade across this Earth in royal robes, flaunting Your strength and majesty. Instead, You chose to walk humbly among commoners like me. You spoke to men and women in simple terms, explaining truths beyond our comprehension. You taught and loved the children. You saw the beauty and value of every life. You took on the sins of every being that had ever been and every life that would be. Because of Your excruciating pain and humiliation, I am now free. *Thank You for Your love.*
- It wouldn't be Love of God Day without me recognizing the man I am privileged to "do life" with every day. Years before I met him, he heard a voice tell him, "Go ahead and drive off this cliff. It won't matter if you're alive or not." He almost did. Thank You for sparing his life that night. Your grace, mercy, and love are ultimately stronger than any voice that tries to persuade us otherwise. Thank You for orchestrating David's life so that You would breathe life and hope into his soul — and for bringing the two of us together. *Thank You for Your love.*

This February 14, let's rejoice: God loves you and me more than *anything*. ★



## [What About Us?](#)

*Book*

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff ("Our Man in Haifa") focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology.

# Did I Convert?

BY RICH ROBINSON (r) JewsForJesus.org



*Jesus Found in the Temple* by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

“Where do you worship?” I’ve been asked. “Synagogue or church?” I’ve worshiped in both churches and Messianic congregations where the worship is distinctly Jewish. After I came to faith in Jesus, many synagogues didn’t welcome me, and those that did were missing the main component of my faith: Jesus the Messiah, whose death atoned for my sins (think: Yom Kippur) and Who redeemed me from what Scripture calls “the slavery of sin” (think: Passover and redemption from Egypt).

## Chosen to Call Nations

*Churches are where the goyim worship, so if you’re at a church, you’ve joined the goyim, right?* It’s true that most churches are largely non-Jewish. But one of the reasons we Jews are the “chosen people” is to point the nations (the gentiles) to faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac,



and Jacob. My faith teaches me that while Jesus came for us Jews and to us Jews, He also came to bring the nations of the world to faith in the God of Israel. The New Testament describes Jesus as “*a light for revelation to the gentiles [nations] and for glory to Your people Israel*” (Luke 2:32).

And, there are more gentiles than Jews in the world, so it’s no wonder that most churches comprise mostly gentiles. Many churches now take a deep interest in the Jewish essentials of their faith.

## Jewish Ideas

*Doesn’t belief in Jesus bring those non-Jewish ideas like the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Virgin Birth?* I believe in those ideas because I see them in the Scriptures, but I also believe they were and are essentially Jewish.

**Some Jewish writers agree.** Not that they believe Jesus is the Messiah, but they believe **that many core Christian ideas are Jewish!** Benjamin Sommer of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City wrote recently:

Some Jews regard Christianity’s claim to be a monotheistic religion with grave suspicion, both because of the doctrine of the trinity... and because of Christianity’s core belief that God took bodily form. ... Biblical Israel knew very similar doctrines, and these doctrines did not disappear from Judaism after the biblical period... *The only significant theological difference between Judaism and Christianity lies not in the trinity or in the incarnation but in Christianity’s revival of the notion of a dying and rising God, a category ancient Israel clearly rejects.* (emphasis added)

*(continued next page)*





But there's something even deeper to the question about switching teams. Jewishness almost seems to thrive on a quest for identity; one of the virtues of Judaism is often said to be that it encourages the asking of questions even above the finding of answers.

In a collection of essays by Jewish 20- and 30-somethings called *Living Jewishly: A Snapshot of a Generation*, Stacey Ballis writes:

One of the things I have always loved about the Seder, what I love in fact generally about being Jewish, is the room to grow and expand and include. I have heard that in the mid-1980s, at a conference, the topic of women rabbis was brought before a panel, and an elderly male rabbi announced to the assembly that a woman had as much place on the bimah as an orange has on the Seder plate. From that moment on, my family, like thousands around the world, have put an orange on our Seder plate, and have incorporated the story into our explanation of the sacred items it holds.

In addition to encouraging the asking of questions, being Jewish for many Jews today is also about adding, adapting, changing tradition, as well as about being inclusive.

### Include Outsiders

*So why'd you join the team that stifles thought and thinks it has a corner on the truth?*

Truth be told, there are Jews and Christians who discourage questions and exclude "the other." And there are both who encourage exactly the opposite. My faith teaches us to ask questions, to challenge ideas, and to include the outsider. The Book of James in the New Testament — a kind of summary of Jewish ethics — has this to say:

*My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Messiah Yeshua [Jesus], don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (James 2:1-4)*

### Truth Before Labels

At the same time, my faith tells me that there *are* answers, that certain things are true for all people. **So to answer that question: I never "converted."** My understanding is that *Christian* means a follower of Jesus, regardless of being Jewish or gentile. The label is not as important as the One we follow. I've called myself "Christian," "Jewish Christian," "Messianic Jew," and "Jewish believer in Jesus." But I never left the Jewish people for an alien group. I share with other Jews our history, traditions, Land, and our outside status among the nations of the world. I've discovered the essential Jewishness of faith in Jesus, a faith that encourages asking questions but grounds the answers in what God has done for us by sending His Messiah. If I seem surrounded by non-Jews, it is only because they too have come to faith in the God of Israel. I enjoy their faith expression as well as finding opportunities to live my faith Jewishly. ★



# The Return

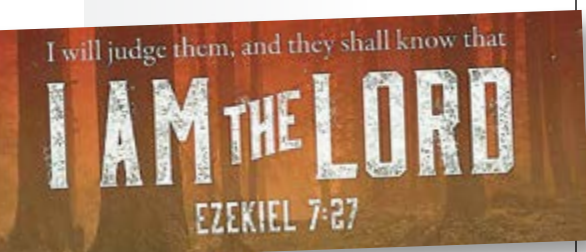
Classic Zola  
www.levitt.com  
FAQs page



[Last month](#), Zola's article picked up Tony's Bible prophecy series with the Marriage. It continues with the Second Coming.

Jesus' return to Earth is glorious in the Scriptures (Rev. 19:11–16). The Church initially enters as an army to stop the battle of Armageddon. After that battle comes the rewarding of those who refused the mark of the antiChrist (Rev. 20:4–5) and the judgment of those who lived during the Tribulation (Great White Throne, Rev. 20:11–15).

John exults in our taking part in this first resurrection and reigning with Christ through the 1,000-year Kingdom Age (v. 6).



## Jesus Will Judge

While still on Earth, Jesus taught more on this judgment, which serves as an immigration office into the Kingdom. **He means to judge every soul that lived during the seven years of the Tribulation.** All nations will appear before Him, the Believers separated from the unbelievers as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats (Matt. 25:31–34).

Believers will be surprised that they had honored Jesus when they never saw Him (Matt. 25:37–40). If the nations of the world, even during the Tribulation, express faith in Christ by caring for His brethren (the 144,000 of Israel who witness during that hard time), they will be saved. But the judgment is equal — and devastating — upon those who failed to honor the Lord during the reign of the antiChrist (vs. 45–46).

## A Mixed Crowd

**Old Testament saints also gather at the start of the Kingdom Age**, so the Kingdom begins with rather a mixed crowd, yet who all share a sincere belief in their Messiah and King (Romans 3:23–26).

Since the Believers from the Tribulation Period did not come to faith before the Rapture, they were not changed, but remain as before, marrying and giving in marriage, and giving birth to ordinary, fleshly sinners “born of Adam.” In the end, some of these will disobey the Lord's commands, and Scripture poses certain penalties (e.g., Zech. 14:16–19).

These mischief-makers in the Kingdom, having multiplied, will be rallied by Satan in the very last battle at the end of the thousand years (Rev. 20:7–9). This, Satan's last rebellion, is unsuccessful, and the Great White Throne of Judgment is set up for all who were confined with him, and the unbelievers of all Ages (vs. 11–15). The “second death” referred to is avoided by Believers, who are exonerated and do not have to appear in the White Throne Judgment.

Zola used take an informal poll when he spoke at churches: “How many of you are Jews?” He said that, generally, a few (about 2%) would raise their hands—the same percentage as Jews in America. Many churches contain “stealth Jews.” ★

## ONLINE LINKS:

See these other relevant articles in recent past issues

August: [Practical Prophecy](#)

September: [The Rapture](#)

October: [The Tribulation and Israel](#)

November: [The Tribulation](#)

December: [Gog & Magog vs. Armageddon](#)



## Purim Teaches ... *continued from cover sidebar*

from her home in Hungary. She was a little girl when the Nazis awakened her. My grandparents were given just a few moments to get ready and then they were thrown into the night. Dogs barked. There was shouting and screaming. Terrified, my mother stood in the street holding her favorite doll, the only thing she was able to take with her. Neighbors watched silently, gawking.

My mother noticed her friend Marta and her father, the non-Jewish caretaker of the synagogue. Marta approached and, for a moment, my mother thought that this little friend was coming to say goodbye.

But as Marta came close, she grabbed the doll. “My father said I could take whatever I want. You can’t keep anything.”

Marta’s father sneered and spat on the ground, “You are a dirty Jew. Where you are going, you won’t need any toys.”

My mother was deported to Bergen-Belsen. How many times has the world vowed to throw the Jews into the sea and destroy our children?

My mother’s transport was halted in Linz. They were loaded off the cattle cars. Heads were shaved. Amidst the sobbing, my mother found herself herded into a shower. They later realized this was also a gas chamber. My mother no longer felt like a human being. She could not bear to glance at her beautiful mother who was shorn of her grace and dignity.

In that moment of darkness, something incredible occurred. My mother put her hand into her pocket and pulled out a piece of paper. It was a page from a prayer book that my grandfather had placed as a message to his little girl. The words of the *Shema* were full of hope: No matter where life takes you, you never walk alone. My dear child you are part of the Jewish people. God is watching over you; never lose your faith.

There are times when we search for God’s hand and feel despair, as if God’s presence is concealed. But we must remember that beneath the confusion lies a Divine plan. God is guiding us. We will survive.

This is the message of Purim.

The Torah alludes to Queen Esther in the Hebrew expression “*hastir astir*”—“I, God, will hide My face.” In the Book of Esther, God’s name does not appear. We may not always be cognizant of God’s hand in our life, but we need to know that His presence is guiding us.

Marta and her father likely believed that they were done with the Jews. The Nazis never imagined that the Jewish people would walk the streets of Jerusalem and wash the stones of the Western Wall with our tears. The message of the *Shema* sustained not only my mother but an entire generation of Jews.



Pro-Gaza, anti-Israel demonstrators in South Africa, August 9, 2014

As we contemplate the rise of anti-Semitism around the world, the hatred of the BDS movement, and the threats to our land, we must remember: We have faced cruel enemies before. We have suffered pogroms, inquisitions, crusades, the Holocaust, and terror attacks. But we are still here, telling our unique story.

Let us never give up hope. Instead, let’s embrace the words of Queen Esther: “Go, gather all the Jews.” Become one. Reach out with kindness. Make a difference in the life of another, even just a kind word or a bright smile. Say a prayer, and stand up for the Jewish people.

Together we can turn sorrow to gladness and darkness to light.

Examining the Jews’ history shows us that evil men do evil things in all generations. But, the plans of Yahweh cannot be thwarted by men. Job notes: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You” (Job 42:2). —Tony ★

# Where Do Believers Go When We Die?

Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q.** What does the Bible say happens to the Believer after death?

**A.** Scripture is crystal clear that the moment a Believer dies, he or she goes to Heaven to be in the presence of the Lord. Twice Paul says this: in 2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” and in Philippians 1:21–23 “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

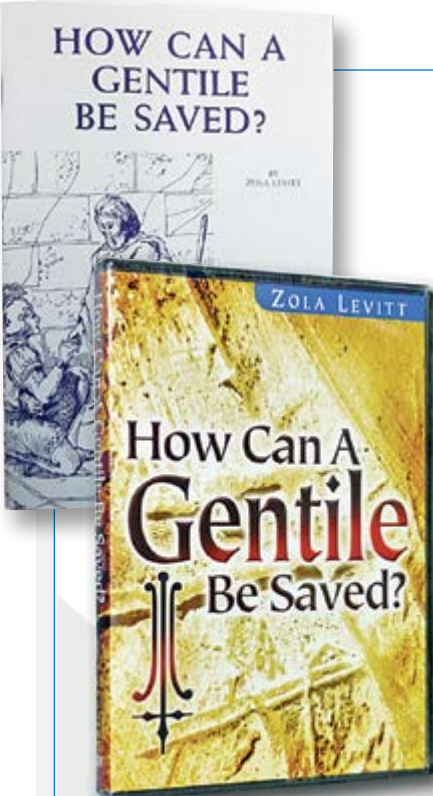
Jesus promised the repentant thief on the cross that he would be with Him in paradise on that very day “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’” (Luke 23:43).

Furthermore, those who do die are conscious and aware, and will go to either Heaven or Hell, depending on whether they were saved or not (see Luke 16:19–31). For a detailed study of this explanation, see the book *Death and the Afterlife* by Dr. Robert Morey. ★



## [How Can A Gentile Be Saved?](#) [study booklet and 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 study booklet is one of 12 in Zola’s Classic Study Library.



# From Airports to Ski Lifts

Kathryn Sue Hopper  
TJF Outreach  
Team Ambassador



I met Israel native **Dalit** on the plane as this ministry's **To The Jew First** (TJF) team of ambassadors flew into Jerusalem. I saw an opportunity to witness when Dalit commented that she had an open mind and also seemed completely unaware that Yeshua/Jesus is the Messiah of the Jews and of all people.

Dalit lives in New York now with her husband and their young sons, who attend *yeshiva* (religious school). The family is bilingual, fluent in both English and Hebrew. Her elderly parents live in Israel, so she travels regularly to see them.

In the course of our conversation, I introduced Dalit to the book *They Thought For Themselves*—the testimonies of ten Jewish people who accepted Yeshua as their personal Messiah. Dalit accepted a copy of the book, promising to read it and a pamphlet, also in Hebrew, called *L'Chaim*. Please pray that through these tools, Dalit and her family will come to know Yeshua as their Messiah.

**TJF team members find that shopping malls offer easy access to the locals,**

so we often go there to witness—and usually find open souls willing to accept complete (with both Testaments) Hebrew study Bibles. **Priel** was clerking in an Israeli cosmetics shop where I noticed a pink candle,

indicating the shop's concern about early breast cancer de-

tection. I shared my personal breast cancer experience with Priel, and she encouraged me to continue with my doctors' recommendations. Mine was detected early, and I am doing very well. Priel was happy to accept a complete study Bible in Hebrew from me. I will remember her friendliness and pray for her walk with Yeshua.

Our team met up in Nazareth's BIG mall at a favorite spot for lunch. After eating, team member Patty Rosado and I went shopping and met **Ghadeer**, which means "little river." Because many Arabs frequent this mall and do not read Hebrew, Patty asked Ghadeer if she reads Hebrew. She does, and was grateful to receive a complete Hebrew Bible from us.

My husband (Robin) and I drove to Tiberias, planning to meet the others there. The next day he and I drove up to Har Hermon—a lovely drive up the mountain where it is thought Yeshua met Moses and Elijah, the Mount of Transfiguration (see Matthew 17:1–13).

On the Israeli side of this tall range there is a ski lodge—but no snow in late October—and an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) base. Robin rode the ski lift up the mountain hoping to find someone to witness to at the top. While he was gone, I talked with two Israeli soldiers—**Avi and Elam**—who accepted a Bible and copy of *They Thought For Themselves* to share. Avi had been in Israel only eight months and was a little homesick

for Maryland. He enjoyed speaking with a fellow American. Robin returned from the ski lift and joined our conversation. We told the soldiers that we love Israel and will be praying for their safety. ★



Priel & Sue



Avi, Robin & Elam



# Not Another Big Brother

A Note From Mark  
by **Mark Levitt**  
ZLM Director



For 90 days, my auto insurance company is keeping tabs on my driving habits. Safeco mailed me an electronic RightTrack® monitor that I plugged into my car's onboard diagnostics connector. (Snapshot® is Progressive's driving monitor, and AAA calls theirs OnBoard®.) 3G/4G trackers are about the size of self-inking stamps, and the port into which they plug nests beneath the steering column.

In exchange for a discount of 5%–30% on my renewal premiums, Safeco's device is tallying four types of data:

1. Mileage
2. Nighttime Driving (% of miles driven between midnight and 4 a.m.)
3. Rapid Acceleration
4. Hard Braking

RightTrack® has no GPS, unlike many other trackers. Safeco won't know if I'm in church on Saturday or Sunday. They don't care where I go as long as I drive smoothly and get home by midnight and don't commute back and forth across the country.



Their discount incentive program disregards excessive speed, running red lights and stop signs, and other infractions. Those behaviors increase insurance rates via citations and accidents. Instead, the monitoring program trains participants to reserve "extra buffers" of safety by avoiding

risky patterns, such as driving too much or too late, making it through red lights by hitting the gas ("Gee, that light sure looked *yellow* to me!"), and abruptly slowing down or stopping, which leads to getting rear-ended.

For the first 60 days, I hung a medalion from my rearview mirror to remind me to drive prudently. Then I realized that laidback driving while anticipating problems became a habit. This realization led me to ponder what sort of reminders pastors could commend to parishioners to help them draw closer to Yeshua. Maybe one of our ministry's sterling "Grafted-In" necklaces or a strategically placed Messianic decal, or a half-shekel in a coin purse or pocket that brings our Savior to mind.

## A Better Instructor

**What four key behaviors would the Holy Spirit track in order to help us Believers stay on the straight and narrow path?** And which of the Ten Commandments and/or seven deadly sins? Or maybe monitoring four *positive* spiritual patterns would work better. Pray without ceasing. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Such musings are far from original when you remember the *kippah* (skullcap), *tallit* (prayer shawl), and *tefillin* (phylacteries) that Jews have worn for centuries during prayer.

- ★ The **kippah** (in Yiddish, *yarmulke*) is worn during prayer services. Jewish tradition does not require any specific type of head covering.
- ★ The **tallit** is a large men's shawl, fringed with 613 knots in the tassels for each of the Torah laws.
- ★ The **tefillin** comprise two black leather boxes (with Torah verses) and straps to hold them on.

Perhaps the best way to remind ourselves to walk in the Spirit is a daily Bible reading. Such a habit maintains a buffer between our mindsets and the forces of evil that lead us into temptation. ★



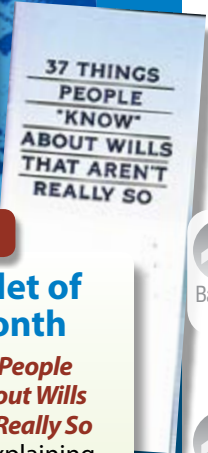
# ZLM Bulletin Board

## The “Moderate Muslim” Misnomer

Most of today's 1.6 billion Muslims are law-abiding moderates, but just how moderate are they? In the 6-minute Prager University [video](#), military instructor and researcher Hussein Aboubakr reveals key Islamic principles that a surprising majority of Muslims uphold.

- Every day that passes on the Islamic nation without a caliphate is a sin.
- Islam's prosperity depends on conquering new lands and converting new believers.
- Anyone who leaves the faith must die.
- Any acts of violence against Israel are justified.

Aboubakr concludes: “The Muslim world is dominated by bad ideas and bad beliefs ... the word *moderation* does not apply.” He believes Islam can and must reform itself from within.



## Guns to Tools

Imagine prison inmates forging guns into gardening tools, reminiscent of beating “*their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks*” (Isaiah 2:4). In December, the New Haven (CT) police department and the Newtown Foundation cosponsored a no-questions-asked gun buyback with RAWtools Inc., which specializes in reforging gun barrels. Gun owners received gift cards for guns ranging from derringers (\$25) to handguns (\$100), and rifles and shotguns (\$50) to assault weapons (\$200). Goodbye, guns; hello plowshares!

**FREE ITEM**

## Pamphlet of the Month

**37 Things People “Know” About Wills That Aren’t Really So** begins by explaining why too few people make adequate estate plans. It also briefly refutes dozens of the most common misconceptions about wills. Its Technical Advisory Section suggests “Begin with the Basics” and touches on “Choosing the Form of the Bequest” and “Tax Considerations.” To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

## Daystar Changes

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Daystar broadcasts *Zola Levitt Presents* on:

	Pacific Time	Central Time
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	3:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

Our Saturday afternoon broadcasts, which used to repeat the same programs, discontinued on December 31. **Please set your DVRs to record one of our two Daystar times above, or choose...**

## Freeform (formerly ABC Family)

	Pacific Time	Central Time
<b>Sunday</b>	2:30 & 5:30 a.m.	4:30 a.m.

Please consult the Airing Schedule on p. 35, or visit [levitt.tv](http://levitt.tv) to watch ZLP online and [levitt.com/schedule](http://levitt.com/schedule) to see our Episode Airing Schedule, station search, and broadcast schedule, including DISH and DirecTV.

## “Come Home!”

**Zola Tours to Israel**



See [page 36](#) for details



Vanity and Substance

by John Parsons  
Hebrew for Christians



וְעַתָּה מֵה־קִּוִּיתִי אֲדֹנָי תוֹחֲלִיתִי לָךְ הִיא

“And now, my Lord, to what do I look? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7)

הִיא	לְךָ	תוֹחֲלִיתִי	אֲדֹנָי	מֵה־קִּוִּיתִי	וְעַתָּה
(1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)
hi	le-kha	to-chal-ti	A-do-nai	mah kiv-vi-ti	ve-at-tah
is	to you	my hope	my Lord	do I look to what	and now

Many people live as if God doesn't exist and that death does not occur. Instead of soberly acknowledging that their days are numbered in this world, they act as if they will live forever, and they steadfastly ignore any idea of judgment to come. Yeshua warned us, however, that “nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light” (Mark 4:22). We should tremble before such words. Each of us will give account for what we have done with the time given us (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36). Moses therefore prayed to God: “teach us to number our days,” that is, help us understand how to make our days count for eternity, to have a “weight of glory” that will shine in the world to come (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Yet how many of us take all this to heart? Do we appreciate the brief amount of time we are given in this life? When we are young, we believe we will live forever. David prayed, “make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!” (Psalm 39:4).

Life in this world is called *chayei sha'ah* (“fleeting life”) in Jewish thought. *Chayei sha'ah* is the life of “vanity of vanities,” a vapor that soon dissipates in the winds of time. In light of eternity, King David reminds us that our days are as a few “handbreadths” (Psalm 39:5). We walk as “shadows” through the byways of this world.

God sometimes brings affliction and distress into our lives to help us regain a Godly perspective. This is meant to shock us out of our lethargy. King David was at the point of death itself. He felt frail and alone. Like Solomon, he questioned the meaning of life. What good are riches or the esteem of others when everything is fading like a flower of the field? David realized that life itself is a kind of suffering. The whole of creation groans.

The turning point came when David realized he was asking the wrong kind of question. Since the things of life are fleeting and empty, a mere change of circumstance is never enough. It is not a question of seeking a “what” but rather a “Who.” Instead of focusing on external circumstances, David inwardly accepted the Presence of God in everything: “my hope is in You” (Psalm 39:7).

The whole of creation was made subject to vanity, but it was done so in *hope* (Rom. 8:20). Hope is the substance of *chayei olam*, or eternal life (Rom. 8:24). Because God ordered creation this way, we must turn our attention away from the flux of life to discover the Rock of Israel. God alone is the Substance of our hope. **He “hears the groaning of the prisoner and sets free those who are subject to death” (Psalm 102:20).** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



## Close Encounters with Yeshua DVD Set

10 programs on 2 DVDs

*Close Encounters with Yeshua* focuses on how Yeshua/Jesus came to Earth supernaturally, ministered, and today calls people to Him. David and Kirsten Hart introduce this ten-program series from the studio, while Myles and Katharine Weiss teach from Israel.

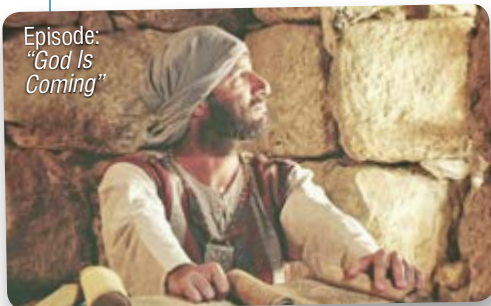
**God is Coming** Abraham's travels in the desert led him into dependence and relationship with his God. *Interviews:* Dean Bye of Return Ministries; and Chaim Malespin of the Aliyah Return Center.

**Humble Beginnings** In a simple animal stall, Yeshua entered the world as a baby, lived to fulfill the Law, and promised to return as the Lion of Judah. *Interview:* Pastor Daniel Sayag of Carmel Congregation.

**Jewish Context** As a boy, Yeshua came to the Temple to offer sacrifices. Later, He became the sacrifice, the Lamb of God. *Interview:* Karen Davis of Carmel Congregation.



Episode:  
"God Is  
Coming"



**Miraculous Ministry** Near the Sea of Galilee, Yeshua performed miracles that amazed many but disturbed others. *Interview:* Eric and Terri Morey of The Galilee Experience.

**Prophecy Fulfilled** At a synagogue in Magdala, likely visited by Yeshua Himself, Myles and Katharine remind us of Scripture's reliability. *Interview:* Pastor Juan Maria Solana of the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and the Magdala Center.

**Living Water** At the recently discovered Pool of Siloam, location of cleansing rituals, Yeshua performed a miracle that proved Him prophet, priest, and the King we await. *Interview:* Arab pastor Vincent Shammas.

**Mountaintop Experience** From the Mount of Transfiguration, where the Father honored His Son, Yeshua sent out His Disciples. *Interview:* Chaim Singerman, innkeeper.

**Life Laid Down** Yeshua descended the Mount of Olives like a king, but surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Interview:* Carolyn Hyde, Heart of G-d Ministries.

**Empty Tomb** The Crucifixion and the Cross led to the empty tomb, and thus removed the curse on mankind. *Interview:* Samuel Smadja of Messianic Assembly and Sar-El Tours.

**Interview with Gary Bayer** Writer and television presenter Gary Bayer explains how Yeshua, comforting him during his battle with cancer, became more real.



ORDER FORM

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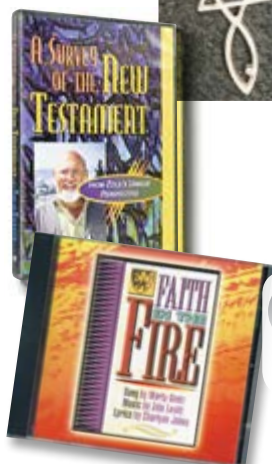


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## [The Bible: The Whole Story DVDs](#)

7 programs on 2 DVDs

The seven major doctrines of Scripture explained in Zola's clear and informative style—from Genesis to Revelation.

**The Abrahamic Covenant** Zola traces the journey of Abraham from Ur to Canaan, and reveals how God established an eternal covenant with Abraham.

**Israel and The Law of God** From the Exodus to the Cross, the Law served as God's standard for man's salvation.

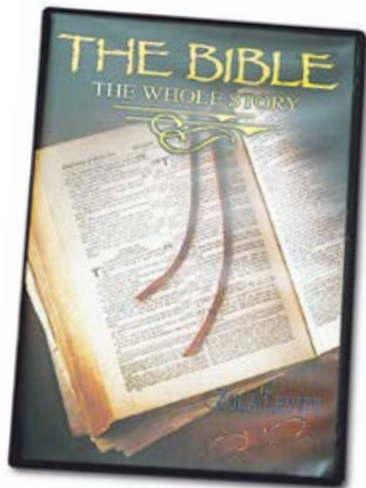
**Prophecy—Thus Saith the Lord** Zola's overview of how prophecy relates to the Land, the Messiah and the End Times.

**The Messiah—Why Jesus of Nazareth?** Overview of Jesus as seen through the eyes of different cultures as well as through the revelation of the Word.

**Grace—The Gift of Absolute Forgiveness** Zola explains how grace can neither be earned nor bought and is especially appreciated compared to the Law.

**The Church** A study of the believers in Christ, both Jews and gentiles, between Pentecost (Acts 2) and the Rapture.

**The Kingdom** Zola teaches about the future 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth.



## [Zola's Notebook](#)

Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola's Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover.

*The Notebook* has pockets for our newsletters, and provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly are: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.

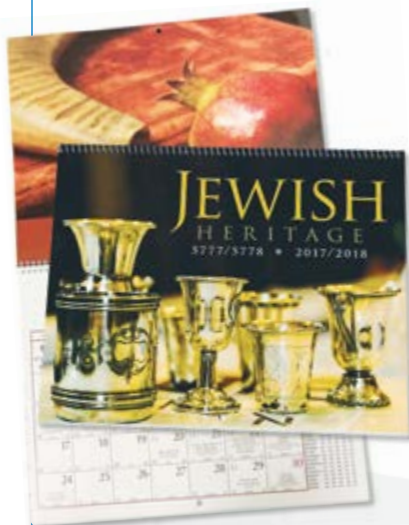
*(The Bible: The Whole Story, above, is Zola's Notebook on DVD.)*



## [Jewish Heritage Calendar](#)

5778 (2017-2018)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar began in September and spans 13 months, through September 2018. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.



# Eavesdropper on the World Dies at 73

BY SAM ROBERTS / NYTimes.com

Michael “Mickey” Gurdus was always a good listener. For decades he commanded a battery of shortwave and FM radios, UHF and VHF receivers, tape recorders, and other devices from a swivel chair in the Tel Aviv apartment where he was born, all to intercept and record foreign news broadcasts, secret satellite transmissions, confidential military messages, and diplomatic conversations.

He was no vicarious eavesdropper, however. Gurdus listened for a living.

He monitored the airwaves for the state-run Israel Radio and tipped his editors — and, sometimes, intelligence agents — to hijackings, invasions, and revolutions. He died of a heart attack in Israel in November, at age 73. Gurdus called himself “a journalist but first a patriot,” and his professional niche was so unusual that Israelis coined a Hebrew word for him: *kashaveynu*, or “our listener and correspondent.”

During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Arab states attacked Israel, Gurdus helped identify captured Israeli paratroopers by lifting their images from Egyptian television. In 1974, he was credited with helping to save the life of Cyprus’s president Archbishop Makarios III after he was deposed in a bloody military coup. Makarios was presumed dead, but Gurdus overheard his appeals for assistance from a makeshift transmitter and alerted the British authorities, who rescued him.

His father, Nathan, began monitoring Eastern European radio broadcasts and Morse code communications for a London newspaper in the mid-1920s. He fled Warsaw for Israel in 1939.

Mickey was still in high school when he, too, discovered his calling. He knew Hebrew, English, Arabic, French, Russian, and Polish, which helped him remain Israel’s ears even as the Internet and other communications advances might have rendered him obsolete. But he did not know much about technology. “If a device ever breaks, I call a technician” he once admitted. ★



Michael “Mickey” Gurdus





# Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the [web store](#) and [video archives](#).

## Learning from Every Teacher

Greetings,

Thank you for your faithfulness. I watch *Zola Levitt Presents* via [Roku](#).

I dearly miss Myles and Katharine, but I appreciate David and Kirsten. Your program is an encouragement and inspiration. I gain much from Eitan's and Dr. Seif's instruction, and enjoy Chaim's reports and learning Hebrew from Diana. *The Lord bless you and keep you* (Numbers 6:24). — R.G. (MN)

Dear R.G. —

As churchgoers, Kirsten and I are amazed at how little we are taught about our Jewish roots, and we are thankful for a ministry that focuses on this important foundation of our faith. Thank you for your support of Zola Levitt Ministries. — David

## Life-Changing Pilgrimage

Dear ZLM,

I've been to Israel five times and those pilgrimages changed my outlook on life. I wish all Believers could experience Israel. — R. Trapp (Stowe, VT)

Dear R. Trapp —

Aware that the von Trapps settled in Stowe and operate an alpine-style lodge, we conclude that you are part of that celebrated family. I must tell you that David and I are huge Trapp family fans! As a teenager, David



portrayed Rolf in a San Diego production of *The Sound of Music*. What an honor to learn that you follow Zola Levitt Ministries, read the *Levitt Letter*, and love Israel. Thank you for those encouraging words. Your note made my day! — Kirsten

## No Place for the Negative

Dear Mark,

We find the negative letters to the editor degrading. They do not exalt the Lord or the ministry that is doing everything in the name of Yeshua.

We lift up the ministry, asking God to give you, the board of directors, and the staff His divine wisdom. Keep preaching, teaching, and reaching those who seek to know the truth. We know that God will take care of the naysayers. In Christ, B. & V. LaF. (FL)

Dear B. & V. LaF. —

Your prayers sustain this ministry and we believe that prayer does improve things. Kirsten and I thank you for setting aside time to pray for ZLM and also for financially upholding this anointed ministry. — David

## The Lord Blesses Each Host

Dear ZLM,

My sister and I have been enjoying your news magazines — we can hardly wait for each to arrive — and TV programs for years. We have watched hosts come and go and the Lord blesses each one. We're learning much about Jewish ways from the guest teachers, which opens my understanding of the Bible. — C.R.K. (AZ)

Dear C.R.K. —

I, too, can hardly wait for every new publication. It's always exciting to look through the latest *Levitt Letter* when it arrives. I even love its smell fresh off the press!

We're proud of ZLM's Art Director John Wollinka who makes every *Levitt Letter* look appealing, while our editor Margot Dokken refines our writing into enjoyable reading. We also thank you for your contribution that helps send these publications to thousands across the world, (still) for free! — Kirsten ★

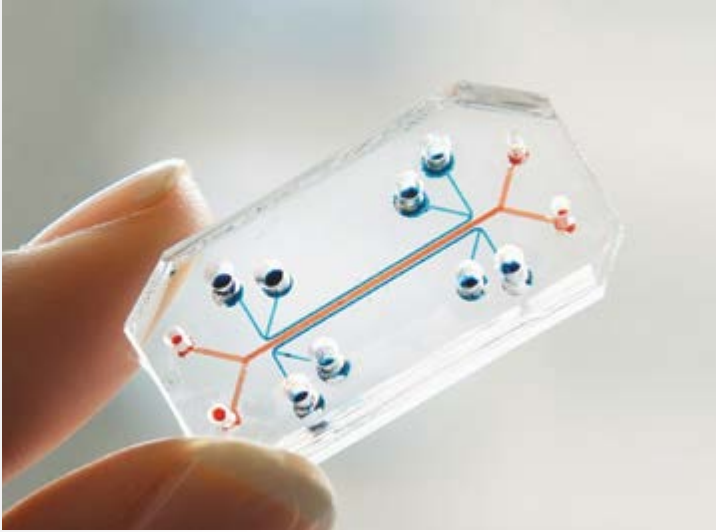


# Drug-Testing Breakthrough

SCIENCE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org



credit: WYSS INSTITUTE/DESIGN MUSEUM



*“Human organs-on-chips... have the potential to deliver transformative changes to human health, drug discovery, drug testing, and personalized medicine, due to their accurate ability to emulate human-level organ functions.”*  
—wysss.harvard.edu

After spending an average of \$2.5 billion to develop a single new drug, pharmaceutical companies sometimes have to pull it from the market due to a bad outcome that was not detected in clinical studies.

That’s what happened in 2000, when a promising Type 2 diabetes drug called troglitazone led to idiosyncratic (unexplained) liver damage in one of every 60,000 users. The troglitazone mystery wasn’t solved until March 2016 when a novel “liver-on-a-chip” platform developed by Prof. Yaakov Nahmias at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem revealed what no animal or human tests could: even low concentrations of this drug caused liver stress before any damage could be seen.

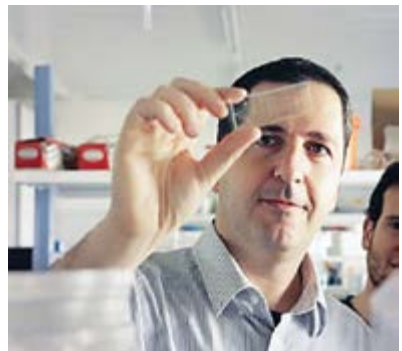
“It was the first time an organ-on-chip device could predict information to help pharmaceutical companies define risk for idiosyncratic toxicity,” Nahmias explained.

Shortly before that study, Nahmias’s liver-on-a-chip had revealed a new mechanism for acetaminophen (Tylenol) poisoning. Given that about 16% of all FDA-approved drugs eventually show unexpected toxicity, Nahmias recognized the potential of his smart human-on-a-chip platform. He licensed the technology from the university and spun off Tissue Dynamics to provide toxicology analysis of drugs and cosmetics.

L’Oréal was Tissue Dynamics’s first customer in October 2016. Major brands, such as Unilever, are expected to follow suit as they seek alternative models to evaluate new products now that European laws prohibit cosmetics makers from testing them on animals.

**Tissue Dynamics’s organ-on-a-chip (for liver, heart, and brain) could**

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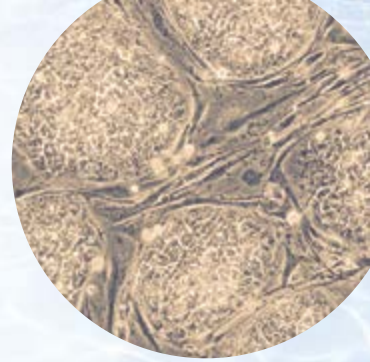
credit: CHUJ.org

*Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, Director of the Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*





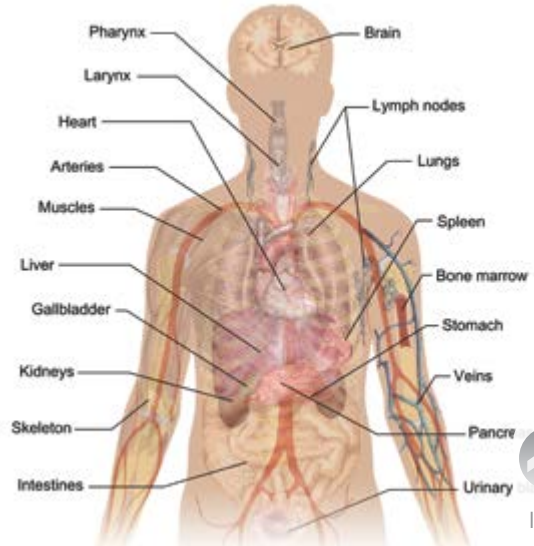
greatly reduce the number of animal tests, the amount of time for drug evaluation, and the astronomical cost of drug development ... not to mention the billions that pharmaceutical companies pay in damages when a drug proves harmful.



As a young faculty member at Harvard Medical School in 2009, Nahmias built the technology for one of the first human-on-a-chip companies, HuREL. So he is confident that Tissue Dynamics — the first human-on-a-chip company in Israel and one of few in the world — can do what none of the others can do: predict idiosyncratic damage.

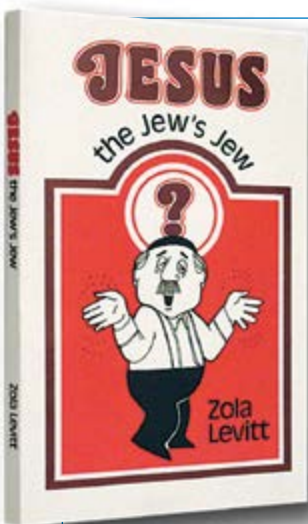
Because the other companies focus on mimicking animal experiments, those human-on-chip models can find only the type of damage that can be predicted. They don't find the unexplained responses, and that's the biggest problem for the pharmaceutical sector. "We are unique in the field," says Nahmias.

Although human-on-a-chip offers many advantages over animal models, Nahmias does not believe this novel screening technology will replace lab animals completely. "In animals we can look at specific neuronal damage and behavioral changes that we can't really mimic on a chip. A chip can't feel pain or behave erratically," he says.



By Mikael Hågström, used with permission

"However, we can drastically reduce the number of animal experiments. We could screen half a million different drug molecules through our system, and only those that work at the lowest concentration and cause the least damage could be taken to animal testing." ★



## [Jesus: The Jew's Jew](#) book & CD

The book begins: "Let's face it. Jesus is Jewish. He always was and He always will be. He never 'converted' to anything. But it almost seems as though this fact is something to be spoken of in whispers. How could God's Son be one of them? How could the very founder of Christianity, that great 'non-Jewish' religion, get away with being Jewish?"

Zola's first book addressed his heritage and his faith—an especially fresh and unvarnished look at the world unique to Jewish Christianity, a witness to the Chosen People, and Zola's personal testimony.

*(Many titles also available as eBooks.)*

# Rapid 3D Printing in Water

MEDICINE: THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM / huji.ac.il

Researchers at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology have developed a new type of photoinitiator for three-dimensional (3D) printing in water. These novel nanoparticles could allow for the creation of bio-friendly 3D printed structures, further the development of biomedical accessories, and drive progress in traditional industries such as plastics.

3D printing has become an important tool for fabricating different organic based materials for a variety of industries. However, printing structures in water has always been challenging due to a lack of water-soluble molecules known as photoinitiators – the molecules that induce chemical reactions necessary to form solid printed material by light.

Now, Prof. Uri Banin and Prof. Shlomo Magdassi at The Hebrew University's Institute of Chemistry describe an efficient means of 3D printing in water using semiconductor-metal hybrid nanoparticles (HNPs) as the photoinitiators.

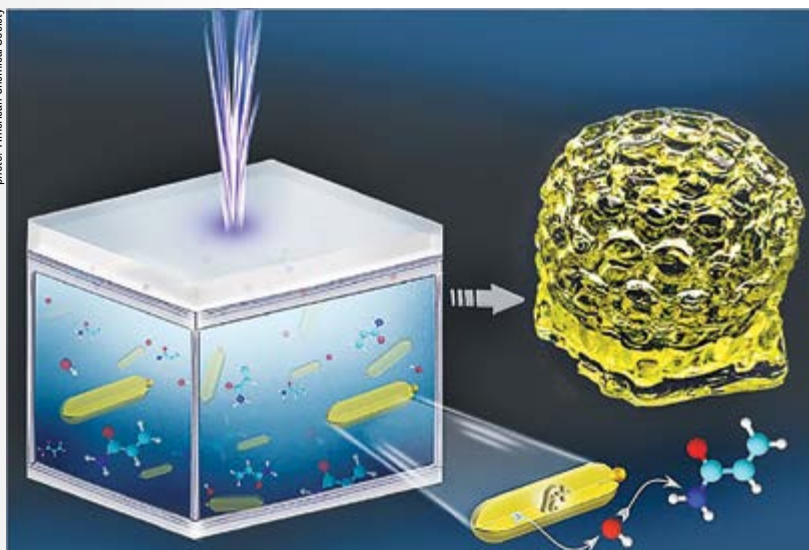
**3D printing in water opens exciting opportunities in the biomedical arena for tailored fabrication of medical devices and for printing scaffolds for tissue engineering.** For example, the researchers envision personalized fabrication of joint replacements, bone plates, heart valves, artificial tendons and ligaments, and other artificial organ replacements.

3D printing in water also offers an environmentally friendly approach to additive manufacturing, which could replace the current technology of printing in organic-based inks. The novel hybrid nanoparticles developed by Profs. Banin and Magdassi increase printing efficiency while reducing the amount of materials required to create the final product. The whole process can also be used to produce high-resolution features.

Researchers involved in this study are affiliated with the Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and The Institute of Chemistry at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in Israel, and the Institute of Systems Research and Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland, in the United States. ★



photo: American Chemical Society



Electron microscope image of hybrid nanocrystal. The inset shows a schematic of semiconductor nanorod with a metal tip.

# Who Owns the Dead Sea Scrolls?



BY CHARLOTTE ALLEN / WSJ.com

Israel had planned to take part in a major exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Frankfurt. This would be no ordinary event: Nearly all the Dead Sea Scrolls known to exist are housed at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The September 2019 show in Germany represented a rare opportunity to display them outside the Middle East. But it won't happen.

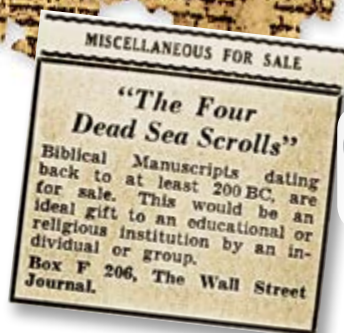
In December, the German government declined to guarantee that it would return the scrolls to Israel if Jordan or the Palestinians claimed them. The Frankfurt Bible Museum, a Protestant entity that had worked with the Jewish state for years, subsequently canceled the event. If Israel refused to release the scrolls, there wouldn't be much to show.

The Palestinian Authority and the Jordanian government have contested Israel's claim to ownership of the scrolls, which were discovered northwest of the Dead Sea during the 1940s and '50s. After the Ottoman Empire dissolved during World War I, the area became part of the British Mandate of Palestine. Jordan seized it during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Then Israel recaptured it in 1967, and it became part of the West Bank. According to Boris Rhein — culture minister for the State of Hesse, wherein Frankfurt lies — Germany's federal government considers the scrolls' ownership unclear.

This is an odd development. In 2005, the German government sponsored an exhibition in Berlin celebrating Israeli art. The show included a number of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which had left Israel for the first time since 1967. They were housed in Germany for four months without protest. Other countries, including the U.S., have held similar exhibitions in recent years.

In 2009–10, Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum held one such exhibition. Just before it closed, Jordan asked the Canadian government to seize the scrolls, pending determination of ownership. Jordan argued that Israel had illegally taken them from a museum in East Jerusalem, which Jordan occupied before 1967, and moved them to the Israel Museum in West Jerusalem. The Jordanians argued that this removal violated international law regarding cultural property during wartime. The Canadian government, having signed a guarantee that Israel would get the scrolls back, ignored Jordan's request. But the incident was a warning that trouble could follow any plan for the scrolls to leave Israel.

*(continued next page)*



Advertisement in *The Wall Street Journal* dated 1 June 1954 for four of the "Dead Sea Scrolls."





photo:  
Lika Tov

## Who Owns the Dead Sea Scrolls?

(continued from p.27)

Jordanian legal claims, based on the country's seizure and occupation of lands that had never been part of its territory, are murky at best. But leave the legal case aside. The Palestinian Authority didn't exist until the 1993 Oslo Accords, long after the last scroll was discovered. And **the content of the scrolls**—nearly 1,000 parchment, papyrus and, in one case, copper manuscripts, all dating from around 225 B.C. to 50 A.D.—**is entirely Jewish.**

The scrolls were mostly written in Hebrew and Aramaic, the language spoken by Jews at that time. About 40% of the scrolls are parts of the Hebrew Bible, with every book except Esther represented. The rest include Jewish "apocryphal" scriptures written during that era, which became part of many Christian Bibles, as well as writings likely produced by a Jewish sect living in the area at the time.

Even if Jordan had a stronger legal claim, it hasn't proved it can responsibly maintain the scrolls. During Jordan's hold on East Jerusalem, the editing and preservation of the scrolls was marked by "scholarly mismanagement and irresponsibility," scrolls scholar Géza Vermes wrote in 1994. A small team of scholars led by the French priest-archaeologist Roland de Vaux had assumed proprietary control over the manuscripts there, refusing access

to outside researchers. The de Vaux team even sat on some of the manuscripts for decades without publishing them. Some of the fragile fragments, stored under glass and held together with adhesive tape, became stained and illegible.

In 1990, the Israeli government finally dissolved what was left of de Vaux's team. It appointed Hebrew University professor Emanuel Tov to take over the project. Tov led the swift and orderly publication of the texts, and state-of-the-art preservation technology became the rule.

Given Israel's extraordinary legal and moral claims to the Dead Sea Scrolls, one can only speculate why Germany is giving credence to the Jordanian and Palestinian ownership arguments. Perhaps it's relevant that Germany's five million Muslims, their numbers swollen by recent immigration, now constitute 6.1% of the population. But recall Israel's treatment at the hands of Islamic countries. Western leaders should think again if they believe Muslim-dominated territories at the center of the strife will responsibly care for priceless records of Jewish history and culture. ★

photo: Efi Schweizer



Qumran cave 4, in the West Bank, where ninety percent of the scrolls were found



# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Mateusz Morawiecki, center, at 2017 meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

## New Polish Prime Minister Refers to “Jewish Brothers”

[Jewish Telegraphic Agency / JTA.org](http://Jewish Telegraphic Agency / JTA.org)

In his first speech as Poland’s prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki announced recently that non-Jewish Poles who saved their “Jewish brothers” during the Holocaust represent the “essence of what it means to be Polish.”

Morawiecki, a former banker who had spoken previously about his Jewish roots, presented his inaugural address in December to the parliament. The remark about Jews was unusual because of both the reference as brethren and the de facto head of state including the subject in an inaugural address.

The new prime minister, who was the finance minister before his promotion, spoke mostly about the economy and foreign relations. But in speaking about the national identity, he said: “The deep community dimension is inscribed in our tradition: Assistance to people in flight, Żegota saving our Jewish brothers, and Solidarity. This is real proof of what Polishness is and what the community is.”

Żegota is the name of a Polish resistance group that helped Jews during the Holocaust. Solidarity

was an anti-communist movement, in which Morawiecki’s father was active during Poland’s subjugation to the Soviet Union.

Morawiecki’s Jewish roots — two of his aunts are Jewish — were known in Poland from when he offered details at a ceremony honoring Warsaw Poles who saved hundreds of Jews. Polish non-Jews killed at least 1,500 Jews in a series of pogroms during and directly after the Holocaust, according to Poland’s chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich.

*(continued next page)*



Our apology for inadvertently omitting the masthead of this unfortunately still timely Bizarro cartoon in the Jan. 2018 *Levitt Letter*, p. 31.



## IDF Demolishes New Hamas Terror Tunnel

[IDFblog.com](http://IDFblog.com)

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) discovered, exposed, and demolished a terror tunnel that crossed into Israeli territory from central Gaza. Based on the amount of detail within the tunnel, including electricity, it was clear that this specific tunnel was substantial for the Hamas terrorist organization.

The IDF used a new system in order to discover and demolish the tunnel. The system was developed as part of a long-term plan and a joint effort among combat, logistics, intelligence, and research units within the IDF.



Hamas tunnel interior

“We see this as a severe violation of Israeli sovereignty, and we hold the Hamas terror organization responsible,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus. The IDF will continue to discover and destroy the tunnels in order to defend and protect Israeli civilians but has no interest in escalating the situation.

Locating terrorism tunnels is part of a wide defense effort carried out by the military since the end of Operation Protective Edge, the 7-week standoff between Israel and Hamas in 2014.

[This terror tunnel demolition happened while Kirsten and I were filming \*Zola Levitt Presents in Jerusalem\*. We’re proud of these IDF soldiers. — David](#)

## Stumbling on Artifacts

By [Liel Leibovitz](#)  
[TabletMag.com](#)

A seven-year-old Israeli girl and her mother went for a walk during Hanukkah in Israel’s Beit Shean Valley when the child stumbled on a strange object.



Young Israeli girl stumbles on ancient lamp

She picked it up and handed it to her mother, who just happened to be a student of archaeology at Haifa University. The mother didn’t need more than one look to identify the object as an ancient oil lamp dating back 2,200 years, meaning it would’ve been in use in the days of Judah Maccabee.

The two were thrilled to make such a discovery, but the mother’s suspicion soon arose: If such a priceless object was lying out in the open, antique robbers could be nearby. She called Nir Distelfeld of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), who arrived on the scene to investigate. When he did, he chuckled: The culprits who dug up the lamp weren’t robbers but porcupines, who like to burrow for the winter.

They’re often drawn to excavation sites, he explained, because the area has been churned by man and machine, and the earth is easier to dig. The young girl and her mother will receive an IAA certificate of commendation for their finding, while the porcupines will not face any criminal charges, he added. It was a Hanukkah miracle all around.

[Even God’s creatures are helping prove the accurate history of Israel’s right to the land! — Kirsten](#) ★



# Discovery Changes Perceptions of Roman Occupation



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Archaeologists are one step closer to solving the riddle of what took place in Jerusalem following the city's destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D.

Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) archaeologists announced recently that for the past two years they have been excavating and exposing a massive 26-ft. deep section of Jerusalem's Western Wall, unseen for 1,700 years.

In the course of their work, in the area adjacent to the men's section of the Western Wall, they discovered a small Roman theater and expect to uncover First Temple-era findings. When the work is completed, the site will be opened to the public.

Archaeologists contextualized the discovery of the theater structure as a never-before-seen window into daily public life in the newly Roman-conquered city. Though Flavius Josephus and other ancient sources noted the existence of the small 200- to 300-seat theater, its location has eluded Jerusalem excavations. It is the first rediscovered example of a Roman public building in Jerusalem, archaeologists said.

In 70 A.D., the Second Temple was razed along with most of the Jewish settlement of Jerusalem. In its place, the Roman colony Aelia Capitolina was established and named after the Roman god Jupiter and the emperor Hadrian (also known as Aelius), who began reconstructing the city in 130 A.D. Following the bloody Bar Kochba Revolt of circa 132–136 A.D., Jews were banned from the capital except on Tisha B'Av, a day of mourning that commemorates the Temple's destruction.

The archaeologists dated the layers of their excavations via pottery and coins (the latest date on an excavated coin is 380 A.D.) and high-tech carbon-14 techniques. Built in a classical Roman style, the theater is located under Wilson's Arch, which serves as its roof. The arch is the only visible structure remaining from the Temple Mount compound. During the Second Temple period, the arch was used as a walkway-bridge for worshipers entering the compound. The space under the Wilson's Arch pedestrian bridge was used for a road, shops, and water drainage. The area under the arch was damaged in a massive earthquake circa 360 A.D. Jerusalem residents, concerned that the arch would collapse, deliberately

*(continued next page)*



Photo: Yaniv Berman, IAA

IAA archaeologist Tehila Lieberman at the theater structure in Western Wall tunnel

Eight courses of the Western Wall were discovered in the excavation.

## Discovery Changes Perceptions of Roman Occupation

(continued from p. 31)

covered the spacious area with dirt and debris, thereby also covering the theater for some 1,650 years.

**The discovery of this new theater—structure points to a conquered Roman city in flux:** The road's paving stones were used for benches, and the drainage duct, which archaeologists believe connects with the nearby City of David drainage tunnel, was lowered to make way for stadium seating, which leans against the Western Wall. It appears that the theater was not fully finished. The stairs are not fully hewn, and there are rocks that have guide marks but weren't fully carved. Archaeologists speculate that the Bar Kochba Revolt interrupted its construction. According to the IAA, previous excavations of the Eastern Cardo and Western Wall Plaza provide additional evidence of unfinished buildings from this period.

The theater and other finds from previous excavations give “a hint” into the importance of the Temple Mount following the fall of the Second Temple.

While there is as yet no concrete evidence of a Roman temple on the Temple Mount, there is mounting evidence of Roman-era habitation of the site — through finds discovered at the Temple Mount Sifting Project, including Roman legion jewelry and dice.

“What happened on the Temple Mount between the destruction of the Second Temple and the Muslim period is one of the riddles we have yet to solve,” said co-excavator Joe Uziel. He said that while some suggest there was a Temple of

Jupiter there, there is no evidence because there have been no scientific excavations on the Temple Mount.

“But we do know that the arch still stood and functioned as a bridge,” he said, which leads one to believe there was “something to go to.”

The archaeologists discovered the theater as they were searching for the known Second Temple road. Standing amid the rubble and stadium seating of the

theater structure, the archaeologists said they started to find flat stones and thought they'd reached the road. But then the stones began to curve. Suspecting this was no road, they joked, “What is this, a traffic circle?”

Realizing they'd discovered the theater, the archaeologists' understanding of the Roman city changed. “Now we see there was leisure, entertainment under Wilson's Arch,” said co-excavator Tehila Lieberman, calling it an “unbelievable” discovery.

She said at this point it is unclear whether the structure served as an odeon (a small acoustic roofed theater) or a bouleuterion (a city council), or perhaps both. As the stadium seating abuts the Western Wall, Lieberman noted that the backs of the audience would face the Temple Mount, perhaps hinting at the site's unimportance to the Roman audience. ★



photo:  
Yaniv Berman,  
IAA



photo: Yonatan Shirel

Joe Uziel, an archaeologist from the Israel Antiquities Authority, cleans stones at the site of an ancient Roman theater-like structure, hidden for 1,700 years, adjacent to the Western Wall underneath Jerusalem's Old City.



To  
Index



# No Peace Process to Destroy

BY ROGER COHEN (r) NYTimes.com



U.S. President Donald Trump holds up the signed proclamation to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Many colleagues captured the Palestinian and Arab reaction to President Trump's official decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, by predicting an explosion of violence, "but so far ... an explosion of sighs."

Jerusalem has long been a tinderbox. The Second Intifada (uprising) began in late 2000 with Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. But that turn of events was 17 years ago, when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict still stood at the core of Middle Eastern conflict, and Arab backing for the Palestinian cause was more than rhetorical.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniya is now calling for a third intifada. But he's up against exhaustion and shifting priorities in the Arab world. Trump's announcement did not destroy the "peace process." There is no peace process to destroy.

The Arab Spring has come and gone, and Iran, the Shia enemy, looms much larger than the Palestinian cause for most Sunni Arab states. Everyone knows how much democratic legitimacy Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas has — none — and what purported reconciliation between his Fatah faction and Hamas is worth — very little. **The Palestinian cause, undermined by disunity and the cultivation of victimhood, is weak and growing weaker.** International indignation does not change that. Israeli force has been implacable.

Real frustration would require belief that maintaining the unresolved status of Jerusalem as a final-status bargaining chip in the "peace process" would make a decisive difference in that process. But, as noted above, there is none. If anything, the "process" has given steady Israeli expansionism the international benediction of mythical reversibility. I am not convinced Trump gave a lot away.

## Some would argue ...

... Trump dashed any notion of the U.S. as an honest broker between Israel and the Palestinians. I don't know anyone who believes that: America supports and favors Israel over the Palestinians for a variety of domestic political, strategic, and sentimental reasons.

*(continued next page)*



## No Peace Process to Destroy

(continued from p. 33)

- ... Trump has provoked the unswerving ire of the Palestinians and destroyed any chance of peace. But there is nothing unswerving about Palestinian policy. It is big on rhetoric, feeble in action, reflecting powerlessness. Abbas will come around if the right offer ever comes along.
- ... Trump undermined America's international credibility and ability to lead. Sorry, I believe he's already done that many times over.
- ... Trump broke ranks with all major powers [by reaffirming the official American position regarding Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the intention to move the U.S. embassy there]. In fact, he joined Russia, which earlier declared, "We view West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel." However, the Russian statement was more balanced, adding, "We reaffirm our commitment to the U.N.-approved principles for a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, which include the status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state."

Israel, of course, claims all Jerusalem as its own. The Palestinians will not accept a peace plan in which some part of Jerusalem is not their capital. Trump said his statement did not prejudice "the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem," but its most significant aspect was to give strong implicit backing to Israel's claims, with no mention of Palestine's. It also put many American lives in danger and humiliated the Palestinians. It flouted United Nations Security Council resolutions, so undermined international law.

- ... Trump's was a reckless gesture [if he truly wants to broker peace]. What else is new?

## The Reality

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, is now supposed to produce his peace plan. Poor Jared! He will try to get the Saudis to offer blandishments to the Palestinians and Israel. It won't work. The Greater Israel project has gone too far for the "ultimate deal."

Trump's statement — directed at an audience of evangelicals and American Jewish groups — will not change these facts. He declared this "a long overdue step to advance the peace process." That's nonsense. Sigh. ★



# JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



## The Local Miser

The local miser had never participated in community fundraisers, and the rabbi decided that it was time to appeal to his sense of *tikkun olam* — the Jewish idea that helping those who are in need, no matter in what capacity, is crucial and holy work.

So, the rabbi approached him: “You are a wealthy man, according to our records. Yet you’ve never given a penny to the poor. Don’t you want to help the community?”

The miser answered with a question of his own: “Do your records also show that my mother is ill and needs expensive medication?”

“Uh, no . . .” the rabbi admitted.

“Or that my brother is blind and unemployed? And my sister’s husband died, and she is now alone with four children?”

“I . . . I . . . I did not know . . .”

“Well, if I do not give them any money, why should I give you something?” ★

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

## Dry Bones



## Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

### Freeform Airing Day & Time by zone

DirecTV – Channel 311 Dish – Channel 180

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	2:30 AM and 5:30 AM Sun	3:30 AM and 6:30 AM Sun	4:30 AM Sun	5:30 AM Sun

### Daystar Airing Day & Time by zone

DirecTV – Channel 369 Dish – Channel 263

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Days	8 PM Wed 3 PM Fri	9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri	10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri	11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of independent channels and is posted at [www.levitt.com/schedule](http://www.levitt.com/schedule)

*(New series from Israel airing soon!)*





(Pin shown actual size)

## Two-Flag Collar Pin

With interlocking American and Israeli flags, this unique full-color pin proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of Biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace!

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# Zola Tours Israel

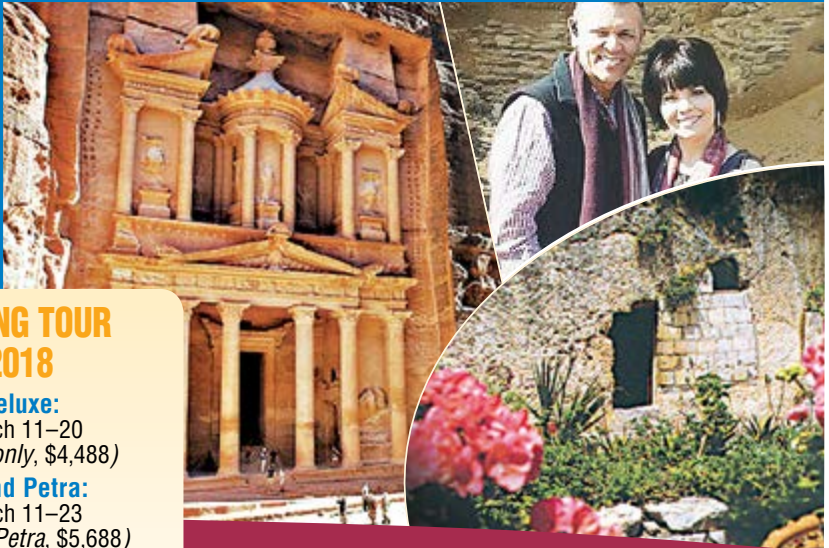
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## Visit Israel and Petra

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