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

From Sunday School classrooms, an image of Jesus Christ is etched into Christian minds. Western depictions show Him taller than His disciples, lean, with long, flowing, light brown hair, fair skin, and light-colored eyes. This familiar image is inherently flawed. A person with these physical features and bearing would have looked very different from everyone else in the region where Jesus lived and ministered. Surely the authors of the Bible would have mentioned so stark a contrast.

On the contrary, according to the Gospel of Matthew, when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane before the Crucifixion, Judas Iscariot had to indicate Jesus to the soldiers because they could not tell Him apart from His disciples. The New Testament does not describe Jesus, nor have any drawings of Him been uncovered.

With neither a skeleton nor other bodily remains to probe for DNA, images of Jesus have been left to the imagination of artists, influenced by their cultures and traditions. Outside the West, He is often shown as Black, Arab, or Hispanic.

Shavuot / Pentecost
By Dr. Mitch Glaser
ChosenPeople.com

The Feast of Weeks, known to Christians as Pentecost and to Jews as Shavuot, is one of four spring festivals and one of three Jerusalem pilgrimage festivals. Shavuot is called “Pentecost” for the Greek term that means “50,” as the Lord instructed that this fourth spring festival be observed on the 50th day after Passover (Lev. 23:15–16).

Biblically, to observe Shavuot, Jewish men would sacrifice in the Temple — presenting an offering of grain, two loaves, a bull, a ram, a male goat, and two male lambs—for sin, sacrifice, and peace offerings.

After the destruction of the 2nd Temple
The Real Face of Jesus? continued from cover

fundamental question remains: What did Jesus look like?

An answer has emerged from an exciting new field of science: forensic anthropology. Using methods similar to those that police use to solve crimes, British scientists, assisted by Israeli archaeologists, have recreated what they believe is the most accurate image of the most famous face in human history.

An outgrowth of physical anthropology, forensic anthropology uses cultural and archaeological data as well as physical and biological sciences to study different groups of people. Experts in this highly specialized field require a working knowledge of genetics and human growth and development. They draw research from the fields of primatology, paleoanthropology (the study of primate and human development) and human osteology (the study of the skeleton). Even fields like nutrition, dentistry, and climate adaptation play roles.

While forensic anthropology is usually used to solve crimes, Richard Neave, a medical artist retired from The University of Manchester in England, realized that it also could shed light on the appearance of Jesus.

Reconstructing Jesus

It is clear from Matthew’s description of the events in Gethsemane that Jesus’ features were typical of Galilean Semites of His era. So the first step for Neave and his research team was to acquire from Israeli archaeologists skulls from the region where Jesus lived and preached.

Using computerized tomography, Neave created X-ray “slices” of three well-preserved skulls, revealing minute details about their structures. Computers evaluating known measurements of the thickness of soft tissue at key areas on human faces made it possible to re-create the muscles and skin overlying a representative Semite skull.

After verifying the results with anthropological data, the researchers built a digital 3D reconstruction of the face. Next, they created a cast of the skull and applied layers of clay, matching the thickness of facial tissues, along with simulated skin. The underlying muscles determined the shape of the nose, lips, and eyelids.

To understand Jesus’ hair and coloration, Neave’s team turned to drawings found at first-century archaeological sites. Drawn before the New Testament was compiled, they held crucial clues that let researchers determine that Jesus had dark rather than light-colored eyes. They also pointed out that in keeping with Jewish tradition, He was bearded.

The Bible, however, did resolve the question of the length of Jesus’ hair.

While many artists put long hair on Christ, most Biblical scholars believe that it was probably short with tight curls. This assumption contradicts the figure with long hair seen in the image on the Shroud of Turin, believed by many to be the cloth that wrapped Jesus’ body after His death. Those who criticize the shroud’s legitimacy point to 1 Corinthians, where Apostle Paul (9:1) mentions having seen Jesus, then later (11:14) describes long hair on a man as disgraceful. Would Paul have said that if Jesus Christ had had long hair? For Neave and his team, this settled the issue. Jesus, as drawings from the first century concur, would have had short hair, appropriate to men of the time.

From analyses of skeletal remains, archaeologists firmly establish that the average build of a first-century Semite male was 5’ 1”, average weight about 110 pounds. Since Jesus worked outdoors as a carpenter until He was about 30, we can assume that He was more muscular and physically fit than Westernized portraits suggest. His face was probably weather-beaten, which would have aged His appearance.

The Result

The sculpture of the dark and swarthy Middle Eastern man that emerged from Neave’s laboratory is a reminder of the roots of the Christian faith. Neave emphasizes that his re-creation simply depicts an adult man who lived at the same place and time as Jesus. As might be expected, not everyone agrees.

Alison Galloway, UC Santa Cruz professor of anthropology, points out that the most recognizable features of the face — the folds of the eyes, structure of the nose, and shape of the mouth — are left to the artist. “In some cases, the resemblance between the reconstruction and the actual individual can be uncanny,” says Galloway. “But in others, there may be more resemblance with the other work of the same artist.” Despite this reservation, she reaches one conclusion that is inescapable to almost everyone who has seen Neave’s Jesus. “This is probably a lot closer to the truth than the work of many great masters.”
Zola’s 4 Secular Points for Israel’s Right to the Land

In the series Whose Land Is It?, Zola sets out the Jewish claim to the land of Israel for those who do not rely on the Bible. (See the series on p. 20 and Israel’s Right to the Land! on p. 33) To see Zola explain these points, visit: levitt.tv/media/watch/692.

1. PRIOR TITLE:
   • Jews settled/built on the land after nomads (Canaanites, Jebusites, etc.)
   • Native Americans are never called “occupiers” or “settlers”

2. SECULAR HISTORY:
   • Flavius Josephus — 1st century historian wrote about Jewish antiquities and the Jewish War, not Arab or Palestinian antiquities.

3. ARCHAEOLOGY: What’s found in the ground is foolproof and painstakingly documented and dated. Ancient European artifacts aren’t excavated in North America.
   • Dead Sea Scrolls (200 B.C.) confirm Biblical land grant from Sinai to Euphrates, including Damascus and Jordan
   • Altars from Joshua’s time (3,500 years ago) contain Hebrew writing
   • Stone from 800 B.C. names King David in Aramaic

4. MILITARY CONQUEST:
   • The land belongs to the last conqueror. Nobody is calling Texas “Mexico.” Israel won the West Bank in the 1967 war.
Pentecost: Larger Harvest Than First Fruits

BY ZOLA LEVITT / Levitt.com/essays

The First Three Feasts
In His Passion Week, Yeshua celebrated the first three Feasts of the Lord, each in the appropriate manner.

1. He was crucified on **Passover**, answering to the Blood of the Lamb, which had gotten the Chosen People out of slavery to begin with.

2. He was buried on **Unleavened Bread** (“This bread is my body”) — a case of a dead man arranging his own burial at the appropriate time.

3. He was raised on **First Fruits**, in a demonstration of the future resurrection of the Church.

The Fourth Feast, Pentecost*

Even though we assume that He was inactive after His resurrection, the Lord’s earthly ministry didn’t end there. As a matter of fact, He continued, keeping His promise to the disciples in John 14:16–17 to send the Holy Spirit. The fourth Feast, **Pentecost**, always occurs 50 days after First Fruits (Lev. 23:15–16), and on that very day in the year Yeshua died, the Holy Spirit attended the Pentecost festivities at the Temple site “like a rushing mighty wind” (Acts 2:2).

Pentecost represents the summer harvest — a larger harvest than First Fruits, but not as large as the one in fall — and the Holy Spirit harvested 3,000 people that day (Acts 2:41). On the occasion when God gave Moses the Law, Israel had made a golden calf and by God’s direction, 3,000 were killed (Ex. 32:28). On the Pentecost described in Acts 2, the same number of souls were returned to the Chosen People. “The letter kills, the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

* For Zola’s in-depth explanation of Pentecost see *The Spirit of Pentecost* (study booklet and teaching CD) on p. 20.
The Fifth & Sixth Feasts

5. That Pentecost was the last of the Lord’s activities on Earth, other than the various personal miracles we all experience in our holy walk with Him. If the Lord is to continue the system He has undertaken, we are due for upcoming performances, each on its appropriate day. If we are correct about the ongoing fulfillment of the Feasts in their proper order, we should expect the Rapture of the Church, appropriately enough, on the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) (1 Thess. 4:16–17; 1 Cor. 15:51–52).

We cannot be dogmatic on this point, however, since the Lord says He will come by surprise, and the Church is becoming more aware of the Feasts—even expecting Him on Trumpets. Yet, He intends to surprise us “Like a thief in the night,” and so there is some debate about whether He will continue to fulfill the Feasts or whether He will pick some other day, really surprising us. I prefer the idea of the Day of Trumpets, itself, and am aware that some in the Church expect the Lord on that very day in some future year. After all, we are not those who are asleep; we are supposed to be waiting and watching expectantly (1 Thess. 5:1–10).

6. If our theory is correct, then the Lord should continue to fulfill the last two feasts—even after the Rapture of the Church. And, indeed, it appears that He will. The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled at the Second Coming, when “they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son… and all Israel will be saved” (Zech. 12:10; Romans 11:26).

I must stress that only surviving Jews will be saved, making it necessary to witness to the Jews now if they are to be included in the Rapture of the Church. Otherwise, they will have to wait through the Tribulation Period and Armageddon for the Second Coming. Many of them will perish in such circumstances and never live to see the Lord come. Thus, they will be lost, and this will greatly grieve the Father, who loves them.

The Seventh Feast

7. Finally, the Lord will celebrate the seventh Feast, the Feast of Tabernacles, when He places His own Tabernacle here on Earth among us. The world will come up from year to year to worship Him (Zech. 14:16–19).

Clearly, then, Believers have a very bright future. First Fruits, in essence, means that our Savior will return for us. Buddha and Mohammed have not promised their followers that they will return. With these worldly religions, what you see is what you get. But our King is coming! First Fruits represents, in a way, the whole point of Christianity: What we see is not all we get. This life is only the beginning. Even if we are dead, we shall rise—just as those dead branches of winter bear fruit every spring. Let us pray with John, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).
I love the month of May. Both of our boys were born in May. My birthday is May 18. Each May brings me the feeling of new beginnings. Our first granddaughter arrived February 25 (see picture on right); so this May, our family is experiencing new life and new beginnings with Bella Rose Hart — a perfect blessing from God!

In May, the earth brings forth new growth. Trees and flowers bloom, and all around us we witness life reawakening after the long winter months. The Day of First Fruits (April 1 this year) gave us the greatest example of new life. The display of power exhibited through a resurrected Yeshua forever changed the world. Now a month after celebrating that promise to all Believers, we Believers see in spring’s buds and blooms another reminder of the power that God offers through His Holy Spirit.

**The First Pentecost**

As the followers of Jesus gathered to observe Shavuot, the feast that God ordained to occur 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits (”the day after the seventh Sabbath,” Leviticus 23:15–16), unexpected life suddenly enveloped everyone present. The Apostles, and many other Believers on that day, had no expectation of this power that would magnify their souls. Instantly, they received new knowledge and abilities. Jesus had promised them the Holy Spirit (John 14:16–17), but they didn’t know how this unseen person of God would transform their lives.

I would love to have seen the look on their faces as they suddenly began (continued next page)
proclaiming the story of Jesus in languages they had never studied. The world had never seen (or heard!) anything like it. That experience was entirely new.

When the day of Pentecost [also called the Feast of Weeks and Shavuot] came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

— Acts 2:1–4

The followers of Yeshua proclaimed the wonders of God to everyone, to every tribe and nation that was present in Jerusalem to observe the Feast in the year when Yeshua died and rose from the dead. God was doing a new thing. The Feast of Weeks had been observed for many centuries. Suddenly, a powerful and strange “wind” changed everything.

Pentecost Sunday Today

Today’s churches barely observe Pentecost Sunday [May 20 this year]. In most congregations where I’ve worshiped, this 50th day after Resurrection Sunday/ Easter looks and sounds pretty much like every other worship service. But 2,000 years ago, Pentecost ushered in a new Power to dwell among us. I think that’s a new beginning worth celebrating.

I don’t know about you, but I’m for the Holy Spirit to breathe new energy into my life. I believe the greatest untapped power source is the Holy Spirit. He’s alive. He’s real. And He remains available to you and me today.

God transformed simple fishermen and tradesmen into His physical voice in the world. Earlier this year, the Church lost a powerful voice of the Gospel, Billy Graham. I’m sure if Dr. Graham were to give you a personal message, he would state that God can use any person, regardless of background or education, to spread His Word. How? The way He begins all life — since Adam and right up to Bella Rose — by breathing His life into our beings (Genesis 2:7).

Ask Jesus/Yeshua to reveal the energy of the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh) to you today. This Shavuot, may you be filled with the transforming power that Yeshua’s followers experienced on that Sunday 2,000 years ago. Then, take that power out into your community and tell friends and neighbors the wonders that God does in your life.

The Second Coming study booklet

Examines in detail various theories of the Lord’s return and the Kingdom of God.

Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact Scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming with the Rapture of the Church.
Returning to the ZLP Spotlight

BY DR. JEFFREY L. SEIF

“Tell me Jeff, what have you been up to since you left Zola Levitt Ministries?” I get the question. I take some issue with it, however, owing to the fact that I never really left. True, I stopped making new television programs. I contend that through offering books that I wrote, offering television series that present my teachings, forever offering the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies that I created with Zola and, as of late, through various appearances on newly minted Zola Levitt Presents (ZLP) programs, I really have always been orbiting around as a planet in the constellation of Zola Levitt Ministries.

“I stopped making new Zola Levitt Presents television programs a few years back, true,” I say. I took a new teaching position where I was given a titled professorship: “University Distinguished Professor of Bible and Jewish Studies.” Additionally, I was hired on to be the Vice President and Project Manager to superintend a new Bible translation, the Tree of Life Version of the Bible (TLV). I’ve written some new books in the last few years. I continued my education, too, picking up a certificate from Harvard University.

I walked through the Valley of the Shadow of Death with my late wife Patty (may she rest in peace) and remarried after my mourning period ended. Having rebounded the best I can, with my Messianic Jewish wife — Dr. Barri Cae Seif — I’m now all about loving, learning, and living … and seeing what’s over the horizon.

With other ZLM followers, I’ve observed published reports of naysayers, folks expressing dismay that Zola Levitt Ministries “has lost its Jewishness” and “lost its way.” Ministry CEO Mark Levitt has addressed those concerns more than once. Given that the teaching segments on ZLP all feature the best

above: Dr. Jeffrey Seif appearing in the series Esther
left: just two examples of Jeff’s numerous contributions to ZLM

(continued next page)
of this generation’s Messianic Jewish talent — from both Israel and America — I believe that the ministry has kept its focus.

In my opinion, Zola Levitt Ministries is a genuinely down-to-earth media ministry, one that’s principally about helping Jewish people come to know Jesus, and helping Jesus’ people come to know Jews. Unquestionably, that particular prophetic commission goes out to the world’s end.

At 40 years and counting, this viewer-supported ministry is one of the longest-running television programs in Christian broadcast history. As Zola Levitt Presents moves to a more multi-faceted magazine format, I’m excited to collaborate further with our gentile studio hosts, David and Kirsten Hart. As a matter of fact, the production crew and I are once again traveling to Israel this month to create a new teaching series.

As I step up and help shine the light, I hope you’ll step up, too, and support our calling by charging our batteries. Call us. Write us. Give us a holler, and give us a dollar. I’ll be pleased you did so, and you will be too.

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**Shavuot / Pentecost continued from cover sidebar**

In 70 A.D., Jewish tradition associated Shavuot with the giving of the Torah (Mosaic Law) on Mount Sinai. Modern Jewish observance of Shavuot includes reading the Book of Ruth, spending the entire night studying Torah until dawn, chanting the Ten Commandments, decorating synagogues and homes with aromatic spices, and partaking of a dairy meal and dessert.

During His time on Earth, Jesus fulfilled the first of the Lord’s Seven Feasts: Passover was fulfilled by the death of the Lamb of God, Unleavened Bread by His sinless character, and First Fruits by His resurrection. So, now we must ask ourselves this question: “How was Shavuot (Pentecost) fulfilled during the first coming of Jesus?”

The 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) were in one place, in one mind, praying and focusing on God’s work. They were waiting in obedience to the command of Jesus (Acts 1:4–5) and also in obedience to the laws of Shavuot regarding “no work” (Leviticus 23:21). Many were pilgrims who had left their homes in other places to be part of this festival.

God would bless their obedience now in a powerful way. After some days of their patient waiting, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples on the 50th day after Passover. The initial giving of the Torah by Moses at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19), likewise a new revelation, is also celebrated on Shavuot/Pentecost.

Today we remember not only the signs and wonders of Sinai, but the giving of the Holy Spirit and the oneness of the Body of Messiah, comprising both Jewish and gentile Believers united in faith. What a wonderful union to celebrate!
New U.S. Embassy May Be in Jerusalem, but Not in Israel

BY ISABEL KERSHNER (r) NYTimes.com

In conjunction with Israel’s 70th anniversary this month, Donald Trump plans to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem to fulfill the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

The world sees just one problem: The diplomatic compound that will serve as the American Embassy, until a permanent site is found, lies partly in a contested zone known as No Man’s Land.

No Man’s Land encompasses the area between the armistice lines drawn at the end of Israel’s war for independence in 1948–49 and was claimed by Jordan and Israel. Israel won full control of it in the 1967 war, so the [anti-Israel] United Nations and much of the world consider it “occupied territory.”

The State Department relies on the fact that Israel and Jordan informally divided the contested enclave.

The provisional embassy site, in the Arnona neighborhood, “has been in continuous Israeli use since 1949,” State said in a recent statement.

The Palestinians are less equivocal. “No Man’s Land is occupied territory,” said Ashraf Khatib of the Palestine Liberation Organization’s Negotiations Affairs Department. “Any permanent status for that territory should be part of a final status negotiation.”

Trump’s plan is for the embassy to be housed in what is now the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem (opened in 2010, it is the newest and most secure U.S. facility in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) while the search is on for a permanent site. The fortress-like consular compound sits partly in Jewish West Jerusalem and partly in No Man’s Land, between West Jerusalem and Arab East Jerusalem.

An Israeli resident of the Arnona neighborhood said, “I am happy about the embassy move. It will enrich the neighborhood and bring more security.”

The consular compound sits between predominantly Jewish West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 war and then annexed in a move that was never internationally recognized. But since the compound has always been in Israel’s possession, experts say it is not considered occupied territory.

After the 1948 war surrounding Israel’s creation, Israel signed an armistice (continued next page)
agreement with Jordan, which controlled the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The sides demarcated the armistice line on a map in grease pencil. Where they did not agree, they drew their own lines staking out their maximalist positions — the Israelis in green, reaching to the east, the Jordanians in red, to the west.

The disputed enclaves, called the “areas between the lines,” were under neither country’s control and came to be known as No Man’s Land. A senior UN official, who requested anonymity, said it was impossible to tell from the 1949 map exactly which parts of the Arnona consular compound sit where because the lines were drawn with the thickness of a crayon, and none of the current development in the area existed then.

When the Six-Day War broke out in 1967, Jordan and Israel fought over the disputed area. Israel won. Eugene Kontorovich, director of international law at conservative, Jerusalem-based Kohelet Policy Forum, contends that by moving the embassy to the Arnona site, the U.S. is recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over areas it captured in the 1967 war.

Raphael Israeli, a professor emeritus at Hebrew University and a former Israeli delegate to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, says that today, after 50 years of Israeli possession and no country having had sovereignty over it beforehand, questions about its status are moot.

After 1949, the Israelis set about fencing and farming land on their side of the territory. A Jordanian road to Bethlehem meandered through. Both sides stationed troops in the zone, but also cooperated, such as when Jordan worked with Israeli experts to eradicate a moth-borne blight infesting local pine trees.

But when an Israeli entrepreneur began constructing a hotel on a slope in the zone in 1963, Jordan lodged a complaint and the work was stopped. The hotel, the “Diplomat,” opened after Israel’s 1967 victory. Located on the grounds of the consular compound, it is now owned by the United States and leased out as housing for elderly Russian-speaking immigrants.

The U.S. locating part of our embassy in what some call No Man’s Land effectively ratifies Israel taking possession during war, which would give any nation undisputed ownership. Why not Israel? — Mark

Zola Tours pilgrims have visited Ammunition Hill/Arnona, which is where the intense battle pushed back the Jordanians. It is now a historical park, with a great stop for tourists. Our pilgrims loved it!

The cover of the June 2017 Levitt Letter focused on 1967’s Six-Day War. CBN’s Chris Mitchell gave a clear account of the events. Whose Land Is It? [p. 20] covers the arguments and rebuttals for Arab/Moslem claims to the land. — Tony
Q. Who is the “Rock” of Matthew 16:18 upon which the Church is built?

A. Matthew uses a play on words in this quote from Jesus about the rock. Jesus says: “You are Peter [rock],” using the Greek word “petros” (the masculine form of a small, throwable stone) … “and on this rock,” using the Greek word “petra” (the feminine form of petros, meaning a large immovable rock) … “I will build My Church.”

Clearly, the text means that Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah is the bedrock of faith upon which the Church is to be built. Any Jew of that day would know the rock metaphor always meant the God of Israel and no mortal man like Peter (see Psalm 31:3; 94:22; 2 Samuel 22:2). Scripture identifies this Rock to be none other than Jesus, not Peter. For Paul says, “that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4).

Matthew 16:16-18

King James Version (KJV)

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“Jesus Walks on Water” woodcut for Die Bibel in Bildern (1860), engraving by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)
The To The Jew First (TJF) team hit the ground running as soon as we arrived in Tel Aviv. First stop: Dizengoff Mall, where we shared the Gospel and handed out several complete (with both Testaments) Bibles in Hebrew. We usually have successful encounters at this mall, which set a positive tone as we headed north next, to Galilee—a more challenging location as a bastion of Orthodox Judaism.

Team leader Dr. Todd Baker and I encountered some hostility at the BIG Mall when I was sharing Yeshua’s Gospel with Dor, a young Israeli who worked at a yogurt stand in the food court. I shared some Messianic prophecies with this young man, but the moment I offered him a Bible with the B’rit Hadashah (New Testament), he asserted it was not meant for Jews.

I pointed out that the Jewish prophet Jeremiah had written that HaShem (a name for God, meaning The Name) would make a New Covenant (B’rit Hadashah) with the Jews (Jer. 31:31). This information seemed to stump him and led him to text a friend, who came and sat next to Todd. Dor’s friend became somewhat belligerent during our conversation. Even when Todd added Jeremiah’s claim (vv. 32–34) that this New Covenant with Israel would be superior to the Old Covenant, the two Israelis refused to acknowledge the Scripture.

Still, the hand of God was opening the hearts of Israelis to the Gospel of Yeshua that day, and despite the hostility, we passed out five Bibles at the mall.

Onward to Jerusalem. While at lunch, my wife (Patty) and I sat next to three Israeli soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Todd joined our table and soon we had a full-blown conversation going in which we told the soldiers how much we love Israel and pray for the IDF. They thanked us for being good friends to the State of Israel.

As we shared Yeshua’s Gospel with the soldiers, we handed them the Promised Messiah pamphlet in Hebrew with Messianic prophecies that point to Yeshua as Israel’s Messiah. (This useful witnessing tool is downloadable at levitt.com.) Because the young soldiers were so attentive to what Todd and I had to say, we left them a complete Hebrew Bible and also, thanks to Robin Hopper who was on our team with his wife Sue, green IDF military bandanas imprinted with Psalm 91 in Hebrew. The guys loved them since they matched their uniforms. They thanked us for the bandanas and Bible.

This outreach to Jewish people in Israel relies on your financial help, and funds are currently low. Please give as you are able, and together we will fulfill the divine order of taking the Gospel to the Jew first (Romans 1:16). Thank you.

—Dr. Todd Baker, TJF leader
Letting Go & Letting God

I have come to profoundly appreciate a *Levitt Letter* subscriber’s question that at first seemed potentially flippant. R.D. challenged me to ask, “What is the Lord trying to tell [our ministry]?” Now I credit him for leading me to weigh daily the merit of his query in light of our stubbornly shrinking revenues, and to open my heart and mind to God’s will.

On page 22 of the April news magazine, our editor aptly titled his and my exchange, "Listening for His Voice." My reply cited that same month’s Hebrew Lesson by John Parsons: “The idea of pouring your heart out to God in an honest, spontaneous, and earnest way is called *hitbodedut* in Hebrew.” (Incidentally, it wouldn’t surprise me if John had scars on his back from where he shed his wings.)

R.D. commented, “You mentioned that your reserves were declining and you surely could use increased funds to continue ministering. … Do you suppose the Lord is trying to tell you something by your organization’s current financial challenges? Even if your outreach collapses, Israel will survive.

They have survived for thousands of years without you, including the Nazi Holocaust. I won’t presume to tell you what to do other than ask yourselves: ‘What is the Lord trying to tell us?’”

My reply redirected his question back to him and offered tentative responses: “What do you suppose the Lord is trying to tell us, R.D.? To eliminate needless expenditures? Been there, done that. To cut potentially redundant TV airtimes? Check. To whittle our television production budget? We’ve done this more than once. To hire more affordable spokespeople? Did that, too. To dedicate a little more time and space to fundraising? Maybe so.”

With or without this ministry, Israel is of course prophesied to prosper.* In fact, readers of Revelation will nod regarding the Holy Land’s inevitable endurance beyond the Rapture, the Tribulation’s seven years, and throughout Yeshua’s Millennial reign from His throne in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, since ZLM hires only born-again Believers, the Rapture should clear out whichever of us remain at our posts.

For now, once we ministry speakers and writers have made our mission’s needs known, we should put our enterprise’s timeline in God’s hands. We’ll do our part and pray that you do whatever God deems to be yours. “Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Pet 5:7). Then, even doubting Thomases will watch with you and me as God’s End-Time plan unfolds.

*Incidentally, have you:

1. read Zola’s book *Coming: The End! — Russia & Israel in Prophecy* and
2. heard President Putin’s claim of his hypersonic nuclear missiles that, flying over 5 times the speed of sound, can thwart any and all defenses?

* * *
ZLM Bulletin Board

“Average” Creation
Recently deceased physicist Stephen Hawking once observed: “We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the universe. That makes us something very special.” Had Hawking not been an atheist, he might have observed that we are created in God’s image on the planet of the Bible, with a sun designed to endure beyond the thousand-year Kingdom. Even those of us who only imagine understanding the universe are very special.

International Efficiency
This ministry’s two worldwide television networks enable Zola Levitt Presents to reach nearly a billion households and countless more via the Internet. The cities and towns that receive Freeform (formerly ABC-Family), with its 1,200 cable affiliates, add up to 94.4 million households, more than 80% of U.S. households. Daystar, seen via both cable and broadcast, has 109 million potential U.S. households and 718 million worldwide. Please bear in mind the incredible efficiency of our TV outreach when you pray about contributing to this ministry.

Word Searching ZLP Transcripts
Zola Levitt Presents viewers can review and share particular teaching segments by searching our ministry’s website for their topics of interest. For example, looking for mentions of “prince”:
1. Go to www.levitt.tv
2. Search for “prince” in the Video Search box
3. From the results, click on, say, the 1529-17 episode
4. Search for “prince” in the Caption Search box
5. Click on any timestamp in the results, and the video will begin at that spot
Clicking on “Transcript” (down the page) opens the transcript text and enables researchers to click on timestamps and skip around to their hearts’ content.

Pamphlet of the Month
How to Make a Will that Works offers general information about distributing property to family, friends, and charitable interests in light of recent tax law changes. After touching upon the Four Ps of estate planning, the pamphlet answers 38 commonly asked questions. It concludes with pointers on keeping other plans up to date, such as life insurance and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

“Come Home!”
Zola Tours to Israel
See page 36 for details
During the holiday of Shavuot (i.e., “Weeks” or “Pentecost”), it is customary to reaffirm God’s covenant with us and to renew our identity as God’s children. Toward that end, and in the light of the inner meaning of Torah revealed by Yeshua our Messiah (Jer. 31:31–34), we may summarize the Ten Commandments of Torah this way: 1) “I AM your only Deliverer, the One who loves and chooses you; 2) love Me passionately and exclusively; 3) regard My love as sacred; 4) rest in Me; 5) honor your life and its history; do no harm to others: 6) forsake anger, 7) abandon lust, 8) renounce greed, 9) abhor lying, and 10) refuse envy. Know that you belong to Me and that you are accepted. Love others as you are also loved” (see Exod. 20:1–17; Deut. 6:4–5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:36–40; Rom. 13:8–10; Gal. 5:14).

The sages have said, “When the Holy One spoke to the people of Israel, each one felt personally spoken to by God, and thus it says in the singular, ‘I am the Eternal One, your [sing.] God.’” Indeed the very first commandment given at Sinai was to accept the reality of our personal deliverance by the LORD: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you [sing.] out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Exod. 20:2). In fact, God used the second person singular [not plural] for all the verbs throughout the Ten Commandments: “you [sing.] shall have no other gods beside Me”; “you [sing.] shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain,” and so on. The very first commandment, however, is the starting point for all that follows. Until you accept the LORD as your God and trust Him as your own Deliverer, the rest of the commandments are not likely to be heeded.

“Now the goal of the commandment is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith, though some people, having strayed away, have turned instead to vain talk, desiring to be teachers of the Torah but without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions” (1 Tim. 1:5–7). If your understanding of Torah and the meaning of the Ten Commandments does not lead you directly to God’s great love, you have made a seriously wrong turn.

Shavuot is sometimes called the “culmination of Passover,” since our redemption is intended to lead us to life! The very First Commandment, therefore, is to open your heart to receive the promise uttered by the Holy Spirit: “I am the LORD your God,“ and to know the LORD as your Healer, your Redeemer, and your Savior. Amen. May it be so for you, friend.
Watch Therefore and Be Ready

DVD Set
Eight 30-minute programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series encourages this generation to be aware of prophetic fulfillment, live expectantly, and be ready for Messiah’s return. David and Kirsten Hart present this series that features teaching from Dov Schwarz, guest analyst Dr. Mark Hitchcock, reports from Israel with Chaim Malespin, Hebrew lessons, and music written by Zola Levitt.

Covenant and Prophecy  The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31) was made with Israel. Gentiles have been grafted into the olive tree.

Birth Pains  In Isaiah 66 we see the Last Days labor pains of Israel that bring the Jewish people as a nation to “new birth.” In the birthing room, Yeshua—the Great Physician—attends Israel, whose labor pains shake the entire Earth.

Days of Noah  The Days of Noah portend the appearance of Messiah Yeshua in the clouds to gather His people and set up His Kingdom on Earth. Three primary signs of Genesis 6 include global explosions of population, violence, and rampaging evil.

Fig Tree Generation  Israel officially “put forth leaves” on May 14, 1948. Studying Abraham reveals what Yeshua meant about the final generation of this Age.

Curse-for-Curse Principle  Genesis 12:3 promises both blessing and cursing in the covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

The Jewish Wedding  In Matthew 25:1–13, Messiah uses Jewish wedding customs, including a midnight cry and marriage feast, and advises us to mimic the five wise virgins: Watch therefore and be ready.

Refuge in Tribulation  End Times events portend a place that is prepared for the wrath of the Lamb, Messiah Yeshua. Yet, we see His hand outstretched in mercy.

Faithful and Wicked Servants  Yeshua repeated the theme of faithful and wicked servants in the signs of His coming (Matthew 24:45–51 and Mark 13:32–37). The faithful servant watches for the Master’s arrival, obeying His commands; the wicked servant watches not and becomes ungodly, facing eternal damnation.
## Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

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<td>Glory! The Future of the Believers</td>
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<td>How Can a Gentile Be Saved?</td>
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<td>Israel, My Promised</td>
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<td>Jerusalem Forever (pictured)</td>
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<td>Mix or Match: ...50 Classic Study Booklets (above)</td>
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## Books

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<td>Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology) (pictured)</td>
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<td>Jesus, the Jew’s Jew</td>
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<td>Once Through the New Testament</td>
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<td>Signs of the End: Millennium</td>
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<td>Raptured</td>
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## Featured DVDs

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<td>Esther ... (8 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Ezekiel &amp; MidEast ‘Piece’ ... (8 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer ... (9 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Journey of Restoration ... (10 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Times of the Signs ... (8 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Watch Therefore New! (p.17) ... (8 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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<td>Whose Land Is It? (p.20) ... (3 programs, 1-DVD)</td>
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<td>Zion Forever ... (9 programs, 2-DVDs)</td>
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Order online at https://store.levitt.com
By phone call 24/7: 800-966-3377, or
ZLM Dallas office: 214-696-8844, or
print/tear out this 2-pg. form, fill out box at right, mail to
ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas TX 75225
**Studies, Specialty, Etc.**

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<td>AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.</td>
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<td>AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.</td>
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<td>AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.</td>
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<td>Drink Koozies (p.25)</td>
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<td>Flag of Israel (3’ x 5’) (p.36)</td>
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<td>Genealogy Chart</td>
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<td>“Grafted-In” Gold Decal (1.2' x 3' hand-cut)</td>
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<td>Half-shekel Key Chain</td>
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<td>Jewish Heritage Calendar (5778 / 2018)</td>
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<td>Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)</td>
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<td>Messianic Roots Lapel Pin (pictured)</td>
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<td>Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Necklace</td>
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<td>Names of God Notecards (set of 12)</td>
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<td>“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem” Bumper Sticker</td>
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<td>The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark</td>
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<td>Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)</td>
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**Teaching CDs**

| | | |
| Discovering Our Jewish Roots | (9 CDs) | $39  |
| Spirit of Pentecost (p.20) | CD | $7  |
| Survey of the New Testament | CD | $7  |

**Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music**

| | | |
| Beyond Words (pictured) | (Zola’s instrumental CD) | $12  |
| Living Waters | (Zola’s instrumental CD) | $12  |
| The Works | (Zola’s first 8 albums on 4 CDs) | $49  |
| The Works II | (Zola’s next 8 albums on 4 CDs) | $49  |

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**Shipping & Handling Chart**

For shipments outside the United States, please DOUBLE shipping. Please send U.S. funds. (Please allow about 2–3 weeks for delivery.)

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<td>$98 and over</td>
<td>FREE SHIPPING</td>
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Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

**Please fill out area below and send the entire page.**

- **Name** (please print)
- **Shipping Address**
- **Billing Address (if different)**
- **City**
- **State**
- **Zip**
- **Email Address (optional)**
- **On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs?**
- **Donor #**
- **Phone No.** (__________) (see number above your name on mailing label)
- **Donor #**
- **My check is enclosed for $___________** or, **Please charge $___________** to:
- **Card #**
- **Exp._____ / _____**
- **Card ID# required**

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**PLEASE SEND THIS ENTIRE 2-PAGE ORDER FORM—THANKS.**

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**Subtotal**

**Shipping** (See left chart)

**UPS shipping** ($4 extra)

**Rush!** ($5 extra)

**8.25% Tax** (Texas only)

**Donation?**

**Total**

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**To Index**
Whose Land Is It?

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

See article *U.S. Embassy Not in Israel* (p. 10)

**Whose Land Is It?**  Does Israel belong to the Jews, and if so, Who says so? In the first of three 30-minute television programs, Zola offers irrefutable reasons why only the Jews are the Holy Land’s rightful owners. He also defeats key arguments that attempt to undermine the Abrahamic Covenant. Watching and reviewing this lesson will arm Believer and unbeliever to defend Israel’s right to its land.

**The View from “Palestine”** (two 30-minute programs)  What a blessing such controversial programs weren’t censored by our more sensitive TV stations! Zola visited Ramallah and interviewed Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

- **In part 1,** Ashrawi eloquently articulates the Palestinians’ best arguments for being the true owners of Israel.
- **In part 2,** subsequent review sessions with two scholarly Christians—Arab-American journalist Joseph Farah and Professor Ergun Caner (a former Muslim)—unveil the fallacies in Ashrawi’s assertions. These two 30-minute TV programs could be the ultimate crash course on credibly and diplomatically asserting Israel’s right to its land.

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**The Spirit of Pentecost**
Study booklet & teaching CD by Zola Levitt

An insightful look at Peter’s stunning sermon based on Scripture from the Psalms and the Book of Joel.

Pentecost marks the inception of the universal Church and, so far, the last of the fulfilled prophetic feasts. The “birthday of the Church” is explained as it happened on that dramatic day when the Holy Spirit came.

See related article Pentecost, Larger Harvest Than First fruits (p. 4)
Many people ask how to stream videos from the Internet to their TV sets whose screens are larger than a computer’s and suitable for watching by several viewers. It’s a fairly simple process these days. Here’s how you can tap the vast reservoir of Levitt.com video archives and encourage friends and neighbors to include Zola Levitt Presents in Bible studies.

Watch the Internet on a TV screen

Viewers with smart phones can use the YouTube app to send videos to their TVs. They do this using Apple TV (starting at $150), Roku (starting at $30), or a Chromecast device (available from Google and electronics stores for about $35). In general, Apple Mac and iPhone fans prefer Apple TV, while users familiar with Android’s operating system gravitate toward Chromecast (which can also be used by Macs and iPhones). Apple TV performs many functions, while Chromecast merely lets you send video to your TV.

Connect your TV via cable to computer

If your laptop or desk computer has an HDMI output port, you can connect it directly to your TV via an HDMI cable. You then “mirror” your computer’s screen on your TV, controlling the display with your mouse. If your mouse is wired to your computer, you need to sit near the computer; if connected via Bluetooth, the mouse becomes your remote control. Watch one of our program videos on YouTube or from levitt.tv, using your large-screen TV. A variety of video output ports on older computers will also work to connect directly to your TV, but you will need a separate cable for audio. HDMI ports handle not only audio and video but also conduct the best picture quality.

New features on our website

Chat

We’ve recently introduced a new feature that lets users more easily communicate with our ministry staff- ers. When you next visit Levitt.com, you’ll see a chat invitation bubble. Starting a chat session connects you directly with a ZLM staff member so you can ask about your newsletter subscription, get answers about store products, tell us about a website problem, submit prayer requests, or just say “Hi!” It’s much faster than a phone call. If no staff members are available (e.g. after office hours), you can use the chat feature to open a “ticket” for us to act on the following workday.

Meet Us

On Levitt.tv, we are adding Person pages. Folks who appear on Zola Levitt Presents now have their own pages that offer biographical information about them and list all the series episodes in which they appear. That information is currently being loaded but will fill up quickly. Simply click on a name in the guest list on the right side of an episode page to be connect- ed with their background information.

We’re very interested in hearing about your cord-cutting experiences with alternate ways of watching Zola Levitt Presents. Your feedback lets us know where improvements are work- ing and where they’re needed.
Summing Up Our Mission

Dear ZLM,

RE: March 2018 Personal Letter: Evangelical and Jewish

Thank you for such a revelation. I am learning and praying for both Jews and gentiles who have not yet accepted the Messiah who saves us from our sins; our efforts and laws cannot save us. I hope one day to vist the Holy Land. — H.K.

Dear H.K. —

You stated our exact reason to exist as a ministry: Our calling is all about salvation. We also hope that a trip to the Holy Land is in your future and that you'll honor us by letting Kirsten and me show you the Land of the Bible. — David

What Was It Really Like?

Dear ZLM,

I shared Kirsten’s article “Ancient Bathrooms and the Crucifixion” (March 2018 Levitt Letter, p. 21) with my sister, who in turn shared it with her son. My nephew does not believe that the sponge on the hyssop branch had anything to do with cleaning the bottom of a wealthy potty-goer. I’m thinking that Dr. Todd Baker could probably enlighten Kirsten. Please let me know what she finds out. — E.G. (IN)

Dear E.G. —

Kirsten thanks you for taking enough interest to write about her article. Her information about the sponge on the hyssop branch came from a guide who leads tours in ancient Ephesus. Our Zola Tours leaders admit that Turkish and Jordanian guides can often embellish their narratives in order to get “ooohs” and “ahhhs” out of tourists. Kirsten allowed for that possibility (“If true,...”).

Nevertheless, the idea stayed with her for the rest of the day, focusing her thoughts on the humiliation suffered by our Lord who could have refused His Father’s request — and that focus is a worthy pastime. P.S. Todd Baker and Tony Derrick both review each Levitt Letter for theological accuracy. They agreed that, while the information might be dubious, its effect on Kirsten was laudable. It certainly made me revisit His experience. To acknowledge that He died on the cross is one thing, but to consider the process transports your understanding and emotions to a different level. — Editor

(continued next page)
Following From Afar

Dear ZLM,

I write from Portugal in Europe. I have followed your ministry for some years now, and thanks to YouTube, I have watched all your Zola Levitt Presents programs. I have read several books of our beloved Zola, and I am currently taking your 12-month correspondence course, the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies. Its creators, Dr. Jeffrey Seif and Zola, have positively influenced my theology and my life. — E. (PT)

Dear E. —

Kirsten and I are also working through the Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies, gaining knowledge and insight. Thank you for sharing your experiences of following this ministry from outside the U.S. Please enjoy reading what Jeff has been up to lately on pp. B-9 of this Levitt Letter. — David

A Different Perspective

Greetings ZLM,

Thank you for all that you do in the Levitt Letter. I’ve been reading it for years, and have had very few disagreements with the material presented. I especially enjoy the cartoons and jokes that seem to annoy the sourpusses so much.

I do have a comment on an item on February’s Bulletin Board (p. 15): “Guns to Tools.” While I look forward with great anticipation to the time when we can all “Beat our swords into plowshares,” I strongly disagree with these feel-good gun buyback programs in the world as it is today. It might make one seem virtuous to retool a firearm, but if you beat your sword into a plowshare in the non-Millennial Kingdom world, you’re just easy prey for the neighbor who kept his sword. — A.S. (AZ)

Dear A.S. —

You’re referring to the New Haven (CT) police department’s December gun buyback, which involved prison inmates forging guns into gardening tools.

Please reread that item, first assuming that responsible target shooters, hunters, and civil servants said “no thanks” to the vouchers offered for weapons. Second, imagine the symbolic re-forging effort serving as a potent nudge for violent, convicted felons to avoid recidivism. Third, suppose that mostly ill-fated weapons were melted down — e.g. guns that were stolen, had faulty safety mechanisms, or had been inherited by recipients clueless as to their safe use or storage. Incidentally, A.S., America has two million farms and five million to ten million AR-15-style assault rifles. — Mark ♠

Let Us Beat Swords into Plowshares (1959), by Yevgeny Vuchetich, was a gift of the Soviet Union to the United Nations.
Toxic mercury spewing out of coal-fired power plants, waste-incineration facilities, cement factories, metal processing plants, and many other industries pollutes the environment: air, water, and land.

To comply with increasingly stringent environmental regulations, facility managers are always seeking improved technologies for reducing and even eliminating mercury emissions. That’s why Israeli startup MercuRemoval of Netanya is generating so much steam.

MercuRemoval’s novel process for removing toxic mercury from flue-gas streams originated in the chemistry lab of Hebrew University professors Yoel Sasson and Zach Barnea. The patented technique renders the mercury stable and safe for disposal, in contrast to existing solutions that eventually redistribute and re-emit the mercury back to the environment through byproducts created in the removal process.

A trial conducted in collaboration with the Israel Electric Corporation demonstrated that MercuRemoval’s system achieves above a 95% absorption and removal rate, leaving no contaminated byproducts.

The closed system is based on a unique absorbent-liquid formulation circulated inside a common pollution-control device called a “wet scrubber.” The liquid, which is reused again and again, oxidizes and captures all forms of mercury into a stable complex that is then precipitated out for safe disposal.

“This simple regeneration and mercury separation process dramatically reduces operational costs and avoids contaminating the environment compared to other commonly used solutions,” says CEO Hagay Keller.

(continued next page)
The MercuRemoval system can be custom-made and installed as a retrofit. The scalable solution is applicable to a variety of industries, plants, and processes that emit mercury.

One potential partner is a Chinese energy group that operates 20 power plants. Another is a hazardous industrial-waste incineration facility in China that is co-owned by a large international group and the Chinese government, while a third project involves an energy company in central Europe.

2018 already began with a bang. After winning the local Cleantech Open TLV 2018 competition organized by MIT Enterprise Forum, MercuRemoval was one of three companies chosen to represent Israel in the Cleantech Open Global Ideas competition in Los Angeles, where it won first place in the Seed Track.

MercuRemoval was in California in June 2016 as well. It was one of 100 companies handpicked by the U.S. State Department and White House to take part in the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Stanford University.

The company plans to extend its core technology to deal with other flue-gas pollutants, including sulfur and nitrogen oxides.

Collapsible Drink Koozies

Set of two (2) neoprene insulators with pro-Israel messages.

Never be LUKEWARM again! Neither when it comes to STANDING WITH ISRAEL nor when sipping your favorite beverage. Sized to hold 12 oz. cans, our ministry’s full-color koozie features two distinctive themes:

Side 1: STAND WITH ISRAEL

Side 2: DON’T BE LUKEWARM and Bible reference Rev. 3:15–16

Offered in pairs; wonderful as gifts and conversation starters.

See related article Israeli, U.S. Troops Train Together (p. 34)
Professor Naim Shehadeh, Director of the Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Institute at Haifa’s Rambam Hospital, found that abnormally high blood glucose levels (hyperglycemia) with exposure to certain light wavelengths impairs vision.

Professor Shehadeh, also president of the Israel Diabetes Association, hypothesized that although hyperglycemia is the major known risk factor for vision complications in diabetics, exposure to sunlight may also be important. Common diabetic symptoms include blurred vision, as well as early-onset cataract and retinal damage that can lead to blindness.

**Diabetes is the leading cause of new vision loss in working-age adults (20-60 years old) worldwide.**

Israel is at the cutting edge in diabetes research, but has the third-highest mortality rate from diabetes in the 35-country Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The mortality rate for diabetes is especially high in the Israeli Arab population.

Many visual problems in diabetics are caused by changes in the lens (cataract) or as a result of damage and reduced function in the light-sensitive lining (retina) at the back of the eye (diabetic retinopathy), followed by changes in the blood-retinal barrier due to leaky small blood vessels. This causes retinal swelling and scarring. Since controlling hyperglycemia slows down but does not prevent these visual problems and their progression,
other factors must contribute to diabetic cataracts and retinopathy.

While eyes are exposed to a wide spectrum of light during the day, Professor Shehadeh and his Technion team hypothesized that exposure to sunlight may play an important role in the development of eye damage in diabetic patients.

To test their theory, the team exposed diabetic rats to different light wavelengths from the visible sunlight spectrum and identified the harmful wavelengths. The next step was to develop an optic filter that could block those wavelengths and protect the eyes.

Results showed that using glasses with a special optic filter significantly decreased light exposure by filtering out the short wavelengths (400–530 nm), thereby reducing eye damage in diabetic rats. This may also benefit non-diabetic patients.

Professor Shehadeh said the team felt driven, as they had nothing to offer diabetic patients with eye damage other than to instruct them to try to control their blood glucose. Human trials for the glasses are scheduled to begin later this year.

Prescription and non-prescription sunglasses with colored optic filters will be available in the spring for Israeli consumers. The future goals are to develop colorless filters that will offer the same protection—in glasses, buildings, car windows, and wherever else they can slow down or prevent vision loss in diabetics and perhaps non-diabetics.

“This is the essence of Israeli scientific and medical innovation, offering hope to diabetes patients throughout the world who are at risk of losing the precious gift of sight,” said Richard S. Hirschhaut, National Director of the American Friends of Rambam Medical Center.

Crossword May 2018: Called Together—Hebrew Lessons & More

(answers on p. 33)
In a long, rambling speech before the UN Security Council in February, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas fed fables to his audience and continued to attack Israel’s legitimacy.

The speech marked the third time in two months that Abbas publicly distorted history and shifted blame for the lack of a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And once again, Abbas had a key ally: An uncritical press, seemingly determined to present the Palestinian leader in the best possible light.

Among Abbas’s false history:

- Claims that Palestinians “are the descendants of the Canaanites that lived in Palestine 5,000 years ago.” In fact, no Palestinian family can trace any “Canaanite” ancestry, but rather find their origins in Arab tribes, some of them with Kurdish or Egyptian background. Furthermore, Israel wasn’t called “Palestine” until the 2nd century A.D. This claim is intended to delegitimize Israel’s existence.

- “Israel has occupied our territories since 1948.”— This claim gives lie to the false claim that Palestinians only oppose an Israeli presence in areas such as the West Bank. It is also intended to delegitimize Israel’s existence.

- Blames Israel for the failed Oslo Accords. In fact, Abbas refused to take the steps necessary to complete their solution. (The Oslo Accords created the PA.)

- Assailed the British for their 1917 Balfour Declaration that called for the “establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” in what was then the Ottoman Empire. This criticism is intended to delegitimize Israel’s existence.

- Absurdly, Abbas asserts that Palestinian “national institutions are... based on the rule of law, accountability, and transparency” (He is currently in the 13th year of a four-year term.) and are “committed to

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fostering a culture of peace” and the “rejection of violence.” (He has refused U.S. and Israeli demands that he stop paying terrorists.)

Abbas received applause at the end of his harangue. And then several news outlets got to work obfuscating and omitting much of what he said.

Media Message

- *Foreign Policy*’s Colum Lynch omitted Abbas’s denial of Israeli history, his propagating conspiracy theories, and the PA president’s easily disprovable claim that his Authority fosters peace not incitement. Lynch merely described Abbas’s tone as “defiant,” and said that peace talks have “stalled.” The article failed to tell readers that Abbas has repeatedly rejected peace talks, just as Palestinian leaders have refused U.S. and Israeli offers for peace in exchange for statehood on several occasions (e.g. 2000 at Camp David, 2001 at Taba, and 2008 after the Annapolis Conference).

- *The Washington Post*’s report omitted Abbas’s lies, his historical distortions and his reference to Israel’s very existence constituting “occupation.” Omitting the history of Palestinian rejectionism, the Post blandly said, “Both Israel and the Palestinians routinely accuse one another of being the obstacle to successful negotiations.” Few reports have simultaneously said so much and so little.

- *The New York Times*’s dispatch repeated the mistakes of the Post, but reported on the presence of Jared Kushner at the speech while ignoring the presence of Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian representative to the UN who has falsely accused Israelis of organ harvesting.

The failure of major news outlets to properly cover the PA president’s remarks mirrors other recent incidents. As the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) has detailed, Abbas accused Jews of “faking and counterfeiting history” in a December 2017 speech and claimed in a filmed January 2018 diatribe that Jews have drugged Palestinian children. Both incidents were widely under-reported.

For media that purport to be obsessed with fact-checking and the truth, the coverage of Abbas’s UN speech was a master class in one-sided omissions and skewed stenography. Abbas said more. Readers deserve more, and journalism demands more.
UN Disavows Exhibit at UN
By Edith M. Lederer / APNews.com

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently opened an exhibition on Jerusalem that reinforces Israel’s claim to the historic city as the Jewish people’s “eternal capital” — and rebukes over 125 countries that support Palestinian claims to east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

The Israeli-sponsored exhibition at the UN in New York traces Jews in Jerusalem back centuries before the Christian era, and, as Netanyahu remarked, clearly shows the city’s long history “cherished” by Israelis and friends of the Jewish people and “friends of truth.”

This “is being denied by those seeking to erase the history of our people, our connection to our lands, and our connection to our eternal capital Jerusalem,” he said.

The Israeli leader noted a disclaimer sign at the entrance to the exhibition that reads: “The holding of the exhibit on UN premises does not imply endorsement by the United Nations.”

The UN General Assembly voted soon after President Donald Trump announced his intent to move the U.S. Embassy, overwhelmingly declaring Trump’s action “null and void.”

Netanyahu noted: “Of course it doesn’t represent the United Nations. It represents the truth, and we’ll continue to tell the truth and speak the truth everywhere, including in the United Nations.”

“This exhibit would not have been possible 10 years ago,” he added. “And this exhibit will be unnecessary 10 years from now. We are changing the world. We are changing Israel’s position...”
in the world, and above all we are making it clear that we fight for the truth and for our rights. We also fight for security.”

As for the Palestinians, who are furious at Trump, Netanyahu said: “We have not walked away from peace negotiations. The Palestinians have.”

Putin: “Maybe Jews Did it!”

By Eytan Halon / Reuters

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently told Washington to send him hard evidence that his citizens meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, then added that Jews with Russian citizenship could have been behind interference in the U.S. election. “Maybe they’re not even Russians,” said Putin. “Maybe they’re Ukrainians, Tatars, Jews, just with Russian citizenship, even that needs to be checked.”

Putin is no dummy. However sincere he is about scapegoating Jews (or Russia being ready to deploy hypersonic missiles), such claims constitute a rallying cry to his voters. — Mark

Rapists Marry Victims to Avoid Punishment

By Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

Palestinian Authority law enables a rapist to marry his victim instead of receiving punishment, according to clause 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code, which is still used by the PA, although it has been repealed in Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.

On March 8, 2018, International Women’s Day, the Coalition of Women MPs from Arab Countries to Combat Violence Against Women expressed hope that PA president Abbas would approve an amendment of the law and repeal the clause, which “turns the woman into a victim twice”:

“Secretary of the Women MPs from Arab Countries Sahr Qawasmi said... that the coalition...hopes that clause 308, which allows a rapist to marry the woman who is raped, will be repealed. She expressed hope that [PA] President [Mahmoud Abbas] will approve [amending] this law because this clause means that the man who rapes evades punishment, and because it turns the woman into a victim twice.”

[Official PA daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, March 5, 2018]

Palestinian Media Watch has previously reported that Palestinian women’s rights groups for years have demanded changes in PA laws that enable rapists and murderers of women to receive reduced sentences.

To read more about women’s status in Palestinian society, visit: palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=587

Vladimir Putin
A large and majestic system of pools from the Byzantine period (4th–6th centuries A.D.), a fragment of a capital typical of royal structures and estates in the First Temple period, and a rare silver coin from the 4th century B.C. — one of the most ancient ever unearthed in the Jerusalem area — were found in Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) excavations at Ein Hanniya, southwest of Jerusalem, just inches west of the 1967 “green line.”

The excavations, headed by IAA archaeologists Irina Zilberbod and Yaakov Billig and under the direction of Jerusalem District Archaeologist Dr. Yuval Baruch, were carried out while establishing the Ein Hanniya Park.

According to Zilberbod, “The most significant find in the excavation is a large and impressive pool from the Byzantine period. This pool was built in the center of a spacious complex at the foot of a church that once stood here. Roofed colonnades were built around the pool, giving access to residential wings.”

Zilberbod noted, “It’s difficult to know what the pool was used for — irrigation, washing, landscaping, or perhaps as part of baptismal ceremonies at the site.”

The pool’s water drained through a network of channels to a magnificent structure, the first of its kind to be discovered in Israel — a nymphaeum (fountain), a monument consecrated to the nymphs of springs.

Settlement in the area of Ein Hanniya apparently began at the time of the First Temple and possibly even earlier. The most outstanding find

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of that period is a fragment of a proto-Ionic capital—an artistic element typical of structures and estates of the kings in the First Temple Period. The image of one such capital appears on the Israeli 5-shekel coin (pictured to right).

Similar capitals have been found in the City of David in Jerusalem, which was the capital of the Kingdom of Judah, and in Ramat Rachel, where one of the palaces of the kings of Judah was found. Such capitals were also found in Samaria, Megiddo, and Khatzor, which were major cities in the Kingdom of Israel.

Another significant find is a rare silver coin (pictured to left), one of the most ancient to be discovered so far in the Jerusalem area—a drachma, minted in Ashdod by a Hellenic sovereign between 420 and 390 B.C.

The coins, pottery, glass, roof tiles, and multicolored mosaic tesserae (individual tiles used in creating a mosaic) from the Byzantine period that were unearthed attest to this site reaching its peak during this period (4th–6th centuries A.D.).

According to Dr. Baruch: “We believe that some early Christian commentators identified Ein Hanniya as the site where the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized (Acts 8:26–40). The baptism of the eunuch by St. Philip was one of the key events in the spread of Christianity. Therefore, identifying the place where it occurred occupied scholars for many generations and became a common motif in Christian art. It’s no wonder that part of the site is still owned by Christians and is a focus of religious ceremonies, both for the Armenian Church (which owns the property) and the Ethiopian Church.”

Just as its title implies, this booklet answers head-on the question: “What right does Israel have to its land?” Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel’s Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all.

Let’s spread the Word on who owns the Land (“from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates”— Genesis 15:18) by divine right!

See related articles Zola’s 4 Secular Points (p.3), U.S. Embassy Not in Israel (p.10) and Media Abet Abbas’s Lying (p.28)
Israeli, U.S. Troops Train Together

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN (r)AP.org

If Israel is attacked, U.S. and Israeli forces are prepared to defend Israel alongside one another.

Nearly 5,000 Israeli and American troops have been training together every two years since 2001 in Israel for that possibility. The "Juniper Cobra" exercise includes field training, computer simulations, and live-fire drills of sophisticated missile-defense systems.

“We will practice, train shoulder to shoulder, the same as we will fight in crisis times,” Brig. Gen. Zvika Haimovich, chief of Israel’s Air Defense Command, briefed reporters at Hatror Air Base in southern Israel. Israel has made missile defense a priority since Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein bombarded the country with 39 Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War.

Hezbollah and Iranian forces are active in neighboring Syria. Gaza’s Hamas rulers have a vast arsenal of rockets, and Iran has developed long-range missiles that can reach Israel.

In February, Israel intercepted an Iranian drone launched from Syria during a clash that caused an Israeli F-16 fighter to crash, and Israel shot down a Syrian anti-aircraft missile last year. Not aimed at any particular adversary, Juniper Cobra is meant to simulate “very complex scenarios” that include simultaneous attacks from enemy countries and militant groups.

In cooperation with the U.S., Israel has developed a multilayer system of missile defense, including the "Arrow" system, which can intercept long-range missiles before they enter the atmosphere, the “David’s Sling” system for medium-range threats, and “Iron Dome,” which has been successful at intercepting short-range rocket fire. Israel also uses the American–made “Patriot” system.

While Israel takes pride in its ability to defend itself, Haimovich said that cooperating with Americans provides additional depth to its "tool box." There is precedent for such cooperation. In 1991, American Patriot missile batteries were deployed to defend Israel against Saddam’s Scud missile attacks.

Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, commander of the U.S. troops, said that American forces are ready to deploy in Israel at Israel’s request and could start moving from Europe within two or three days.  


Gnilleps

Bubbe (“Grandma” in Yiddish) was playing Scrabble Junior with Mariam. Mariam had just drawn her second letter “O” and was trying to make a word with the other letters she had. Suddenly, with a triumphant shout, Mariam said, “Look Bubbe, I’ve made a word!”

Bubbe looked at Mariam’s tiles and saw they had been lined up to spell KOOB. So she asked, “What kind of word is KOOB, Mariam?”

“No, Bubbe,” instructed Mariam. “You’re not saying it right. It says ‘BOOK’.”

Bubbe had a sinking feeling that Mariam might have dyslexia. So she said, gently, “But, darling, you’ve spelled it backwards.”

With a sigh reserved only for clueless adults, Mariam explained: “Of course I have, Bubbe. I’m Jewish!”

JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

Freeform Airing Day & Time by zone

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<th>Central</th>
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Daystar Airing Day & Time by zone

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<td>9 PM Wed 4 PM Fri</td>
<td>10 PM Wed 5 PM Fri</td>
<td>11 PM Wed 6 PM Fri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our complete TV Airing Schedule includes dozens and dozens of independent channels and is posted at www.levitt.com/schedule

(New series from Israel airing soon!)
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