

Levitt Letter



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



Protesters in the Middle East clamor for... what Israel already has! —Jeff

Arab World's Unrest Is Not About Israel

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif



Our presence in Iraq began with the joyous toppling of statues and throngs dancing in the streets. Eventually, the political tide turned against America, the West—and Israel. Many saw American support for the Jewish State as another example of Western meddling in the region. Anti-Jewish sentiment depicted Israel as a Western satellite and thus the source of trouble in the Muslim-dominated region. It claimed that greedy Jews (and Westerners who support them) stole the Arab land of "Palestine."

Unfortunately for anti-Semites, recent events don't support these claims. *(continued p. 2)*



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How Islam Can Gain Respect

By Mark Tapson
NewsRealBlog.com



Relations between "the Islamic world" and "the West," are strained. What must Muslims who want respect for their religion do to earn it? Here are ten suggestions.

FIRST UP: Stop Attacking Us!

10. Stop waging violent jihad. If Muslims are tired of having "Muslim" and "terrorist" linked, stop committing acts of terrorism in the name of Allah and his prophet. Striving to live up to Islam's Religion of Peace label would be a good-faith gesture. It's certainly the most urgent step to take, and the most necessary—with it, none of the subsequent suggestions will matter.

(continued p. 3)

Discontented with their leaders, Iranians took to the streets following the “elections” in 2009. Their energies were spent with little to show for it. The old guard tightened its grip, and business returned to usual—or so we thought.

Most recently, however, Muslim Tunisians threw off their tyrannical leader. Not long after, Egyptians protested their regime. Authorities in Islamic Yemen, and dictatorial, Arab-Muslim rulers in Jordan and Saudi Arabia fear that their undoing may be at hand.

Conspicuous by its absence in Middle Eastern events is the mention of Israel.

For years, we have heard how the Jews in a shrinking strip of land called Israel are the region’s problem—and the world’s. Ignoring the real troublemakers, the world press and even churches repeatedly call for concessions from the Jewish State in order to bring about the peace everyone craves.

These recent events in the Middle

East reveal that the modern version of the “Jewish problem” only deflects attention away from real problems and creates Jewish scapegoats. This is an age-old ploy.

Muslims killed a million Muslims in the Iran-Iraq (Shiite-Sunni) war. What did that have to do with Jews in Israel? Nothing! Islamic abuse and genocide claim thousands of lives in the Sudan, and displace millions. What does that have to do with Jews and Israel? Nothing! *The truth is that millions of Muslims being slaughtered, displaced, and abused by their own has nothing to do with Jews!* Millions of Jews in Israel (and worldwide) are determined to make peace with the “warriors of the sand.” *Despite the fact that Israelis sign treaties, give away land for peace, and endeavor to act humanely, Jews are castigated as a scourge on the world.*

Current events in the Middle East prove the madness of the position, do they not? It’s time people woke up to what’s really going on in the world—and our media-ministry plays a part in helping to do that. ★

Cairo's Tahrir Square



For Muslims who don't plot or commit acts of terrorism, confront your co-religionists who do.

9. Cooperate to the fullest with law enforcement to root out the terrorists in your midst. The new chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee recently said: "When I meet with law enforcement, they are constantly telling me how little cooperation they get from Muslim leaders."

8. De-radicalize your mosques.

80% of all mosques in the U.S. are controlled by the fundamentalist Wahhabi strain of Islam preaching Jew-hatred, the supremacy of sharia [Islamic] law, and the downfall of democracy.

7. Start respecting the rights of women.

One of the West's bigger bones to pick with the Muslim world is the latter's (mis)treatment of women.

6. Start reciprocating religious tolerance.

There is no more religiously tolerant country than the U.S. By stark contrast, no Bibles, churches, temples, or synagogues are allowed on the Arabian Peninsula, the home of Islam. The Koran mandates Jew-hatred and Mohammed commanded death for those who leave Islam. Want us to respect Islam? End the persecution of non-Muslims, reciprocate religious tolerance, and abolish the death penalty for "apostasy." Then we'll talk.

5. Update your penal code from "medieval."

Our own legal system is far from perfect, but *sharia* is the very definition of draconian. It includes lashings for drinking alcohol, amputations for thievery, beheadings

for more serious crimes, and —the real gem in *sharia*'s crown—the stoning of adulterers.



4. Let the whole cartoon thing go.

"Taking offense" is not a license for frenzied rioting, murder, and mayhem.

3. Stop trying to curtail and criminalize our free speech.

Stop hammering away at our right to critique any and all ideas. The West too often preemptively censors itself: Yale University Press is publishing a book about the Danish cartoons that will not include the cartoons themselves.

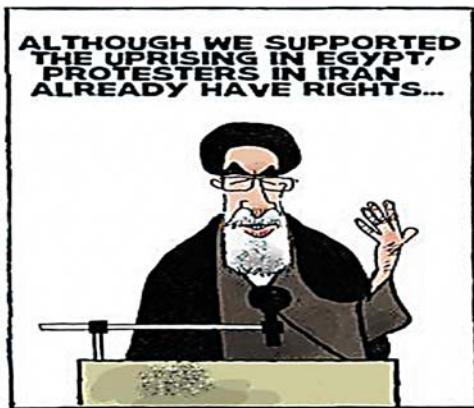
2. Stop letting the Muslim Brotherhood speak for you.

The Muslim Brotherhood has shrewdly established its presence in America through a complex network of front groups—most notably CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which has positioned itself as the representative voice of all Muslim-Americans.

1. Start taking responsibility for your own destiny instead of blaming the West.

The West has notions of self-reliance and free will, the Arab world is characterized by their mantra of "*Inshallah*," or "If God wills it," used in reference to virtually every action.

To earn the West's respect, Muslims must stop shrugging "*Inshallah*" about everything, stop laying the blame for their conditions on conspiracy theories of Western imperialism and thievery, and actively take responsibility for a better future and a peaceful, shared destiny with the West.



Jordanians Protest Their Queen

By Ryan Jones
www.IsraelToday.co.il

Jordanians appear to want badly to join in the wave of revolutions currently sweeping the region, but as one of the more stable and free Arab societies they simply don't have much to protest over. So, they are focusing on their queen as a point of contention with the nation's rulers.

Jordan has a population of about seven million people. Over 60 percent of those people are "Palestinian Arabs," as is Queen Rania. The rest of the Jordanians are of Bedouin stock originating from what is now Saudi Arabia. They are the people of King Abdullah II.

The heads of the 36 Bedouin tribes that make up the backbone of Abdullah's political support in the country are insisting that Queen Rania downgrade her political and public profile.

Queen Rania "is building power centers for her interest that go against what Jordanians and Hashemites [Jordanians of Bedouin descent] have agreed on in governing and is a danger to the nation and the structure of the state and the political structure and the institution of the throne," read a statement issued by the tribal leaders.

The Bedouin sheiks are unhappy that Rania is such a public figure, both at home and abroad, and want the king to nurture a more traditional society where such activities are not the place of women. They are also displeased with the amount of state funds Rania spends on her endeavors, while many Jordanians live in relative poverty.

The Bedouin leaders were careful to not directly challenge the rule of Abdullah, which they do not oppose, but warned that ignoring their petition



"will throw us into what happened in Tunis and Egypt."

Israeli media noted that the petition is very indicative of the mounting tension between the Palestinian and Bedouin halves of Jordan's population.

Abdullah headed off another potential source of anti-government demonstrations in February when he dismissed the cabinet and appointed a new prime minister, Marouf Bakhit.

A week later, Bakhit and Abdullah offered government portfolios to various opposition groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. The Islamic group declined the offer, and instead said it would push for early elections with the hope of achieving a Brotherhood-dominated parliament.

While the kind of violence Egypt recently witnessed is unlikely in Jordan at present, there are clearly forces at work that want to overthrow that nation and help close an Islamist ring around Israel (Lebanon is already now under the control of Islamists in the form of Hezbollah).

A Christian source in the southern Jordan port of Aqaba said that the Jordanian "street" is getting restless. The source and her family felt a very distinct sense of insecurity for non-Muslims and those who oppose the Islamist agenda. *



Queen Rania greets visitors to Jordan.

Is Egypt's Revolution Like Iran's?

By Fareed Zakaria
www.WashingtonPost.com



In 1979, we watched a street revolution oust Iranian Shah Reza Pahlavi, only to have a theocratic Islamic Republic replace him. Now, watching Egypt, many seem spooked by this memory. Fears of an Islamic takeover are widespread, but there is little evidence so far to support those fears. The Egyptian protests have been secular; the Muslim Brotherhood is one of many groups participating, all with demands about democracy and human rights. Egypt is not Iran in a dozen important ways. Its Sunni clergy play no hierarchical or political role the way they do in Iran. Perhaps most important, the current Iranian regime is not a popular model in the Arab world. Egyptians have seen Mubarak and the mullahs and want neither.

Fears of this imagined future are drawing Western eyes away from the actual problem in Egypt: military dictatorship. Egypt is not a personality-based regime, centered on Mubarak. Since the officers' coup in 1952, Egypt has been a dictatorship of, by, and for the military. The few presidents since then have emerged from the officer corps; the armed forces have huge budgets and total independence, and are deeply involved in every aspect of society, including owning vast tracts of land and hundreds of companies.

Right now, the military is consolidating its power. Mubarak's efforts since 2004 to bring civilians and business leaders into the cabinet were reversed in the first weeks of the demonstrations —in fact, businessmen have been turned into scapegoats, sacrificed so that the generals can continue to rule. Egypt, remember, is still ruled by martial law and military courts.



Many have made parallels to Turkey, where the military played a crucial role in modernizing the country. But the military in Turkey yielded power very reluctantly, and only because the European Union weakened the military's role in politics. The danger is that Egypt will become not Turkey but Pakistan, a sham democracy with real power held in back rooms by generals.

The West is working to produce a smooth transition. The danger of chaos is real: The views of the Muslim Brotherhood are retrograde and pernicious. Without a new constitution there are risks that elections under Egypt's current laws would lead to bad outcomes for freedoms and human rights. The transition should be not just from Mubarak but from the whole system he headed.

It's worth remembering what led to the rise of Islamic extremism and anti-American rage in the Middle East. Arabs see Washington as having supported brutal dictatorships. They believe that it ignored the brutality as long as the regimes toed the line on American foreign policy. If the West is now perceived as brokering a deal that keeps a military dictatorship in power in Egypt, the result will be deep disappointment and frustration on the streets of Cairo. Over time, it will make opposition to the regime and to the West more hard-line, more religious, and more violent. That might be the real parallel to the forces that led to the Iranian revolution.



Ancient, But Unlikely Celebration

By Eitan Shishkoff



Last week, my grandson was circumcised on the eighth day of his life and we celebrated. There were profound prayers, great food, and lots of loving family with close friends. It might seem strange that such a delicate piece of surgery would elicit a big party. It all started with God's commandment to Abraham that he circumcise his son, and we've been doing it for the 4000 years since. I think that's partly the cause of celebration. For all these generations, the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have followed this elemental rite, dedicating their sons to the Living God's leaving an unmistakable mark on our procreation.

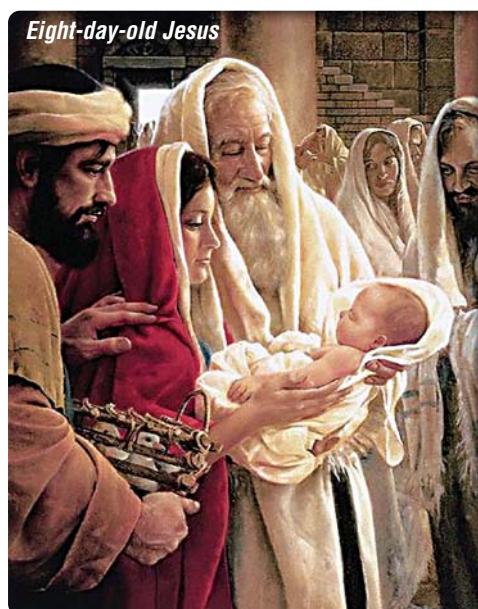
It is an ancient act, given by *Adonai* as a seal of covenant. It focuses on a baby, yet draws in his parents, his extended family, his tribal community, and his nation. What does it mean in today's context? It means that we are part and parcel of this people, *Yisrael*. By bringing our sons into the covenant in a way that God gave us and all Israel recognizes, we are affirming our place—not as outsiders seeking to bring a foreign religion—but as members of a people fashioned by the Almighty to reflect His faithful judgment and mercy in history.

A Circumcised Heart

The Torah (the five Books of Moses, Gen.–Deut.) links circumcision to consecrating all of our hearts in similar fashion. *"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:6). This image of a tender, vulnerable heart before the Lord is repeated in the prophets

(Jeremiah 4:4) and in the *Brit Hadassah*/New Testament (Colossians 2:11). The issue is not atonement or salvation. Yeshua alone achieved that by His sacrifice and His resurrection. Yet in response to His grace, we choose to live with a circumcised heart. It is a choice both difficult and mandatory in our days. I would rather shut my heart against the coarseness and chaos of the world around me. God, however, calls me to maintain a heart exposed to Him, ready to repent, ready with compassion, ready to take chances and reach out.

It was a profoundly exhilarating experience to witness and affirm my grandbaby's entry into his wider family. Feeling the continuity, the sacredness, the earthy spirituality of this unusual requirement—I tried to take it all in!



We are connected with something very deep and ancestral, very immediate and lasting. We all felt it... the proud parents, the guests, and even the banquet hall proprietor and his staff. Isn't that the nature of God's imprint on our lives? He wants all of us, whether physically circumcised or not, to participate in the story He is authoring. It's a story that goes way back, but it continues to unfold. *

Divide Temple Mount?

I have visited the Al-Aksa Mosque (without causing a stir) and the Dome of the Rock, and both Muslim shrines are situated on the Temple Mount platform. The Dome is a quiet place, used mostly for women's prayers, and the mosque is mostly a cavernous single room, well attended by an audience of men during a Friday service but otherwise virtually empty. I can't help but be convinced that **the Palestinians are not a very religious people, even though that's a big part of their propaganda.** The buildings are not well-maintained, and the Palestinian police presence is rather off-putting. Only Muslim Arabs and Christian pilgrims are found on the Mount; Jews never go up there for fear of stepping on the Holy of Holies (except for some groups pressing for Jewish prayer on the platform). If it weren't so useful for the Arab public relations process, the Temple Mount would be an almost meaningless part of their culture. But to the Jews, it's the center of their universe.

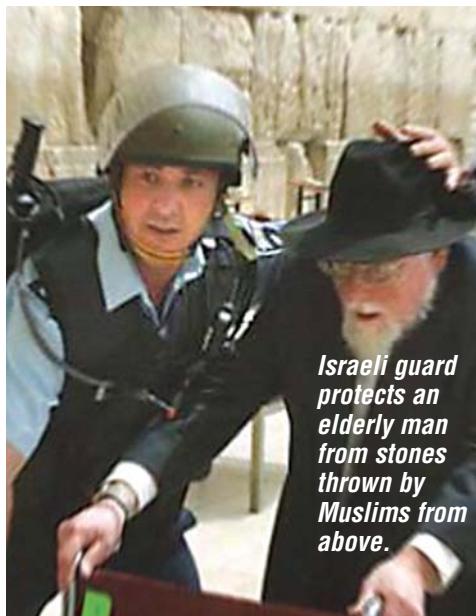
As someone said: "Israel is indeed precious to Christians and to Muslims, but it was promised to the Jews!"

The suggestion of dividing the Temple Mount brings up a very interesting point in regard to prophecy (although the Jews shouldn't give up an inch of it to anyone since it was the site of their ancient Temples). Some people suggest the Mount be divided between the Arabs on the top platform where their shrines are and the Jews below where the Western Wall is. If that were amended to simply splitting the top between the two factions, we would have a situation that almost agrees with Revelation 11:1-2, where an angel directs John to "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple...." The Scripture seems to allude to a

divided platform—a sign of the End?

And when it comes down to why the world blames Israel for what is obviously the work of Arab terrorists, I came up with four reasons.

Number one is cash. The Arabs have the oil and that's all there is to that. We must bow to them, please them, and do what they say. If they want the cockamamie Palestinian police state to be a real country, then we have to make it become a real country or they'll cut off our lifeblood—the oil that runs our factories and automobiles and makes our plastics and cosmetics. Reason number two is standard anti-Semitism. If the Jews did it (even the remarkable feat of building a modern nation in a generation), it's no good. Enough said. Reason number three is simply the unbeliever's philosophy—what the Bible calls the spirit of the antiChrist. Whatever God does, such as restoring His people to their Land and causing them to prosper, the world inexplicably opposes. Reason number four is propaganda—the sort of baloney put out by Arafat and his henchmen about Israeli brutality, American imperialism, blah, blah, blah. ★



Israeli guard protects an elderly man from stones thrown by Muslims from above.

Iran's Deadly Intimidation By Frank Crimi, www.FrontPageMag.com

As political unrest continues to spread throughout the Middle East, two of Iran's top opposition leaders have accused the Islamist regime of rapidly increasing the number of executions in a deliberate effort to intimidate the country's reform movement.

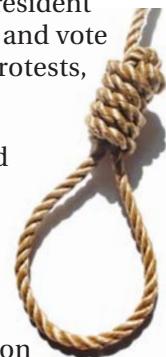
Specifically, the increase in executions is seen as a direct attempt by the Iranian government to stifle opposition by those who feel empowered by the recent upheaval in Egypt and Tunisia.

The accusations were leveled by Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, both former Iranian presidential candidates. In a statement released on Iran's reformist website Tagheer, the men wrote that the Iranian government was increasing executions in order to "intimidate the nation and further isolate Iran on the international stage."



Both men lost the June 2009 presidential election to incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a vote fraught with allegations of fraud and vote rigging. The subsequent public outcry spawned a wave of open protests, dubbed the Green Movement, against the Islamist regime.

Mousavi and Karroubi's charges come at the same time the United Nations released a report also condemning the Iranian regime's record number of executions. The report cited the Iranian government's execution of 67 people in January 2011, putting it on pace to quickly eclipse the 179 executions that took place in 2010.



In addition to the high number of executions, the UN and opposition leaders fear that those being killed are not just criminals, but dissidents who have participated in the anti-government protests. Compounding the issue is the belief that those being executed have also not been given fair or complete trials.

Iran's government opposition and its leadership have been vocal cheerleaders for the uprisings in other nations, which they claim are a natural extension of their own democratic efforts and call a sign of "Arab maturity." Specifically, they cite using social technologies, like Facebook and Twitter, as a means of organizing.

So now, as autocratic regimes peppered throughout the region begin to crumble, Iranian opposition leaders pine to complete the job they started. As Mousavi has confidently said, "No power can outrun the people's will and demands. We believe that if election protesters are allowed to rally in Iran, people will express themselves."

Despite its public bravado, Iran's Islamist leaders are fearful what form that expression will take. While they may hope that Iran remains immune to the forces of change currently sweeping the region, they are busily hedging their bets. As Iranians are coming to learn, an overworked hangman is a good indicator of those efforts. ★

Egyptians Must Distinguish Friends From Enemies

By Clifford D. May, NationalReview.com

Amid the news, analysis, and commentary blowing out of Egypt, one Twitter post stands out. An Israeli tweeted:

Dear Egyptian rioters,
Please don't damage the pyramids.
We will not rebuild. —Thank you.

A good joke always contains a nugget of truth. This one contains two. The more obvious is the reminder of ancient days “when Israel was in Egypt’s land,” as slaves to pharaohs.

The less obvious: Israelis are concerned that Egypt’s revolution could be commandeered by radicals. Might radicals view the pyramids as the Taliban viewed the ancient stone Buddhas of Bamiyan—a shameful relic of the pagan past—and destroy them?

Do protesting Egyptians appreciate how threatening the Muslim Brotherhood is to the freedom they hope to win? Thirty-two years ago, in an Iranian upheaval similar to this one in Egypt, young people—smart, educated in the West, secular, liberal, and excited about the prospect of a democratic Iran—believed that Ayatollah Khomeini valued them. After all, the revolution succeeded because radical clerics had been joined by students, merchants, socialists, communists, and other groups.

Before long, when Khomeini had the levers of power in his hands, protesters were sent to the gallows and the prisons or—if they were lucky—managed to flee into exile.

It doesn’t have to be that way in Egypt. It helps that the Muslim Brotherhood apparently has no charismatic leader, no Egyptian Khomeini. And if the MB is made to compete in a war of ideas, there is a chance it will lose. It’s one thing for the Brothers to proclaim: “Islam is the solution!” It’s another for them to explain why it’s okay if their policies scare off tourists and lead to wars Egypt may not win, while deepening poverty and decreasing freedom for the vast majority of Egyptians.

Recently, a senior member of the Brotherhood told the BBC that he hoped Egypt soon would have a government “like the Iranian government, and a good president like Mr. Ahmadinejad . . .”

Americans don’t have enormous influence in Egypt—but neither are we without leverage. Surely, we should identify those who are sincerely fighting for democracy and support them. It is in Egypt’s national interest—and America’s and Israel’s—that Egyptians achieve their dream: opening a space for freedom in the heart of the Muslim Middle East. We do them no favor by not telling them this hard truth: Their most determined opponents are on the barricades with them.



Solar Energy That Floats On Water



Generating energy from the sun would be more practical if not for two huge drawbacks: The expense of the silicon material that converts light to electricity, and the large tracts of land needed for solar farms.

By solving both problems, **Solaris Synergy** captured first place in the Israel National Cleantech Open Ideas Competition at Tel Aviv University's Akirov Institute for Business and Environment last November. Sponsors of the international competition aim to find, fund, and foster entrepreneurial ideas that address worldwide energy, environmental, and economic challenges.

At Solaris headquarters in Jerusalem's Har Hotzvim Industrial Park, co-founder and CEO Yossi Fisher explains that each Lego-like module of Solaris's Floating Concentrating Photovoltaic (F-CPV) system is faced with a curved, mirrored film that clusters the sunlight into a thin line. Since only that five percent of the surface needs a silicon cover, Solaris uses relatively little of the costly material.

Sidestepping the need for large solar fields, Solaris is designed to sit on water. Constructed of lightweight plastic and fiberglass, a grid of connected modules can float on any fresh-, salt-, or wastewater surface. Aside from sparing valuable real estate, this solar-on-water platform doubles as a breathable reservoir cover that significantly reduces evaporation and eliminates organic and algae growth.

To keep rays focused on the line of silicon material, the grid turns slowly as it follows the movement of the sun throughout the day.

By Abigail Klein Leichman
www.Israel21c.org

One small engine can power this rotation since the water eliminates friction. A sophisticated sun-tracking algorithm guides a remote controller, which also moderates the direction of the movement and the speed of the engine. An antenna sends all data from the controller over a cellular line to a central server and alerts the technical crew to potential problems.

Grids of F-CPV modules, each generating 200 kilowatts, can be configured to fit any reservoir, lake, or pond. Floating Solaris grids atop Israel's more than 400 recycled wastewater reservoirs would enable the country to realize its goal of generating 10 to 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The water placement gives F-CPV another advantage via a patented technology that uses the liquid underneath to keep the silicon at a low temperature. The cooler the silicon, the more efficiently it converts light into energy. This presents a problem for makers of conventional panels. "We have the only cold silicon in the world," Fisher says, "and we are generating energy more than 20% more efficiently because of this."

"Israel is a very convenient country to start ideas," he says. Solaris was founded with \$300,000 in private angel investments and two R&D grants from Israel's National Infrastructures Ministry. "We have good industrial infrastructure, brilliant people, and a government that supports businesses in the R&D stages." 



Solaris Co-founders Yossi Fisher and Dr. Yuri Kokotov in front of computer-generated image of a Solaris Synergy installation.

Israelis React To Mubarak's Resignation

By Ian Deitch, Associated Press

Israel watched Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's resignation on February 11 with trepidation, concerned the ouster of its staunchest Arab ally might endanger a peace treaty between the two countries and help boost militant Muslims already on the rise in the region. Israel's government declined immediate comment on the announcement by Vice President Omar Suleiman that Mubarak decided to step down after three decades of iron-fisted rule.

The dramatic decision came after an 18-day popular revolt against the 82-year-old autocrat. The uprising was led by young secular Egyptians, with the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest opposition group, largely remaining in the background.

However, former Israeli officials expressed concern that regime change in Egypt, as part of a wider transformation of the Arab world, could leave Israel even more isolated. Last year, regional powerhouse Turkey shifted away from its alliance with Israel.

Some in Israel feared the unrest could spread to neighboring Jordan, the only other Arab country that has a peace deal with Israel, or to the Palestinian territories. A January uprising in Tunisia ended with the ouster of a longtime dictator there.

Still, the peace treaty with Israel was not raised by protesters during the current uprising, and the Muslim Brotherhood has been vague on the issue.

Israel and Egypt fought four bitter wars before a peace treaty was reached in 1979. Mubarak steadfastly honored the deal after succeeding Anwar Sadat who was assassinated by Egyptian extremists two years after signing it.

Dan Gillerman, a former Israeli envoy at the UN, said that if radicals prevail in Egypt and elsewhere, it could be devastating for Israel and the region. "At the end of the day what we are seeing in the Middle East is a battle between moderates and extremists and I think it is in everybody's interests that the moderates prevail," he said.

Israel military sources said they were worried that if a peace treaty isn't kept, the military would have to reassess its deployment. They were speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. A strengthened Muslim Brotherhood could also affect the power struggle between the two Palestinian political camps: the Islamic militant Hamas in Gaza and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank.

Abbas is backed by the West, while Hamas draws its support from Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Hamas is the Gaza branch of the Muslim Brotherhood and could gain strength if its Egyptian brethren win a greater say.

In Gaza, thousands rushed into the streets in jubilation and rising expectations that regime change in Egypt will help end a crushing border blockade of the territory, imposed by Egypt and Israel after a violent Hamas takeover of Gaza in 2007.

Hamas has smuggled weapons into Gaza through tunnels that bypass the blockade, and Israel fears the influx of arms could now increase. ★

Dry Bones

RETURN POLICY?

IF A POST
MUBARAK
EGYPT...

CANCELS THE
AGREEMENT
WITH ISRAEL

DOES THAT MEAN
THAT ISRAEL GETS
BACK THE SINAI?

AND IF
NOT... WHY
NOT?

© 11 Kirschner

Teenage Rape Victim Punished To Death

By Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury
www.Hudson-NY.org

Hena, a 14-year-old girl, was murdered by the local Sharia Committee in the southern part of Bangladesh. The daughter of a poor farmer, Hena was forcefully abducted and raped last January late at night by Mahbub, age 40. Villagers arrived in response to the cries of Hena; so did the imam of the local mosque and a few teachers of the madrassa [Koranic school]. But instead of taking any action against the rapist, the Muslim clergymen took Hena inside the madrassa and locked her in a room. The following day, the imam and members of the village sharia committee sat for a trial of Hena on charges of "immoral sexuality" before marriage. Later the Committee decided to punish Hena with 200 lashes, and fined the rapist only \$150.

During the lashing, Hena became unconscious. She was rushed to the nearby village hospital where she was declared dead by the attending doctors.

It is a murder case with the local police station. Influential members of the local mosque, as well as the Sharia Law Committee, are telling the media that Hena was involved in "immoral activities," and that the villagers caught her red-handed while she was having physical relations with a villager; and that later the Sharia Law Committee punished Hena for such anti-Islamic and immoral activities. They deny that Hena died during her lashing. Further, a few political leaders in the area are frantically trying to save the rapist and the members of the Sharia Law Committee.

Sharia Law Committees are becoming influential in a number of Muslim nations. Although the committees are illegal under local laws, there has never been any action against such groups by any government: these Sharia Law Committees comprise influential local leaders as well as members of various political parties and fronts.

On average, in Bangladesh, several hundred rural females fall victim to such rulings and lashings, as well as to other forms of "Islamic Penalties," as Sharia Law Committees become increasingly prevalent. *



Hena Begum

Better Stewards Than Pro Athletes



Mark Levitt

Reading about the financial management of other tax-exempt nonprofits often inspires me to cheer for this ministry. The excerpts below from a recent *Dallas Morning News* article describe athletes' charities falling short in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. —Mark

Through their nonprofit organizations, Dallas sports stars often market themselves as philanthropic front men for benevolent causes—collecting donations at celebrity speaking engagements and lavish fundraisers and on flashy websites.

And while there's no denying players' generosity—their fame and community work help raise millions each year—some pro athletes fumble opportunities when it comes to their own charities, according to industry guidelines and other measures.



A *Dallas Morning News* review of tax records for 22 local sports-driven nonprofits found a series of shortcomings among some of the charities. Some spent more on overhead than on charity. Others collected contributions but sat dormant. Still others squirreled away funds for years.

The Troy Aikman Foundation, for example, reported \$1.6 million in reserves in 2008—the latest year for which most returns are available—and allocated less than 5 percent of the money, about \$70,000. The former

a note from mark

Dallas Cowboys quarterback said his charity earmarks funds for future hospital playrooms but has no immediate plans to spend the money.

More than half of the nonprofits *The News* reviewed missed efficiency guidelines suggested by watchdog groups. **Industry experts generally like to see at least 75 cents of every donated \$1 going toward public good.**

But even as some sports stars riveted public attention on worthwhile causes, others were unable to convert their fame into financially efficient programs under industry benchmarks. In some cases, high administrative costs and expensive fundraising drives soaked up donations.

"Most of the problems you see are in the flabbiness in the taking credit for stuff when nothing's going on," said Greg Johnson, head of the Sports Philanthropy Project, a Boston-based research group.

The inefficiencies described above pertain to a vast array of nonprofit organizations, not just those tied to athletes and celebrities. By contrast, here are some high points of our ministry's strong stewardship:

ZLM fumbles no opportunities. Our TV programs air every week, and our newsletters arrive every month. ZLM spends only 12% of our revenue on administration. Nearly eighty-eight percent (88%) of our expenses are ministerial. ZLM consistently mobilizes the funds that we receive. Our operating capital has never reached the recommended benchmark of six months' worth of income: No squirreling away of funds here!

This ministry is small enough to be nimble while large enough to harness tremendous economies of scale. Our monthly bills are huge, but the blessings we deliver number in the millions per month and reach around the globe. ★

The U.S. Can Count On Israel, But Can Israel Count On The U.S.?

By Alan M. Dershowitz
www.Hudson-NY.org

It's too early to discern all the possible lessons—and there will be many—from the current turmoil throughout the Middle East, but one important lesson is that there is only one democracy that the United States can always count on to remain a strong ally. That democracy is Israel. No one knows whether any or all of the Arab states that are currently in flux will pull an "Iran" on us—turning from friend to foe in the blink of an Ayatollah. The optimists are hoping for more of a Lebanon than an Iran, but even Lebanon—with a better history of democracy than any other Arab country—is now essentially in the hands of Hezbollah. The United States cannot count on the new Egypt remaining an ally, even with the carrot of massive aid.

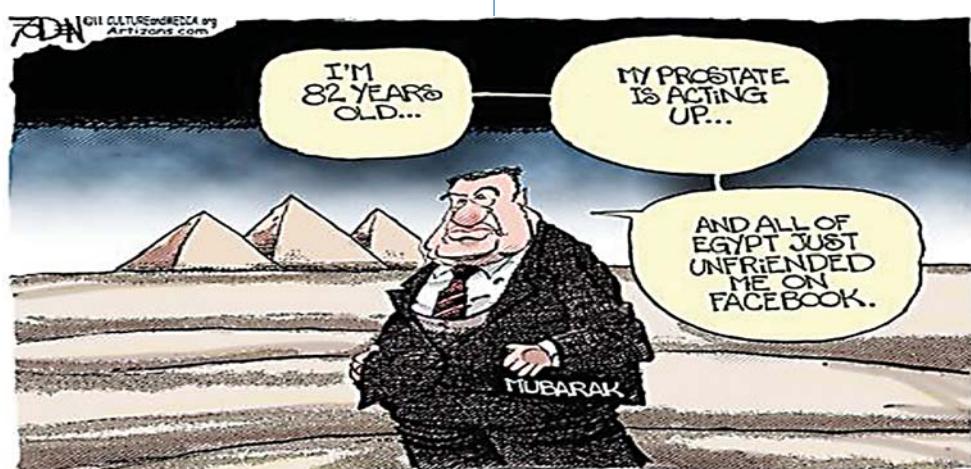
We recognize that Israel is a stable democracy that does not need propping up from the outside. The military aid we give Israel is not designed to protect a regime against its own citizens, as it is with regard to the aid to Jordan and Egypt. Our assistance to Israel is calculated to protect it from external enemies like Iran, sworn to its destruction.

Recent events in the Mideast have raised questions among some Israelis as to whether Israel can always count on the United States. This skepticism is not necessarily fueled by any criticism of the United States, but rather by a realistic recognition that America has its own national interests which it will always place over the interests of even its staunchest allies.

Most Americans believe that it will always be in America's interests to support Israel because of its commitment to values akin to our own. Accordingly, though most Israelis believe that America will always support its survival, many refuse to count on it. That's why they developed a long-term strategy of self-reliance.

The attitude of many Israelis can perhaps best be summed up by the important lesson Elie Wiesel has taught all Jews to learn from the Holocaust: **"Always believe the threat of your enemies more than the promises of your friends."**

The threats being made by the Muslim Brotherhood to destroy the Jewish state by force must be taken seriously. The promises by the United States to stand behind Israel, though I believe they will remain true, must necessarily be viewed skeptically by Israelis. Israel must always be prepared to defend itself.



Palestinian Leaders Take Out Jordanian Citizenship

By Khaled Abu Toameh, www.JPost.com

Senior Palestinian Authority and Fatah officials, including President Mahmoud Abbas and his two sons, have been given Jordanian citizenship, a top Jordanian politician disclosed.

The Palestinian leaders were given Jordanian citizenship despite the fact that the authorities in Amman have been revoking the Jordanian citizenship of thousands of Palestinians.

According to the London-based *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* newspaper, a significant number of PA leaders are registered as full Jordanian citizens. The paper pointed out that the leaders applied for Jordanian citizenship at a time when they were urging the Jordanian authorities to stop giving Palestinians Jordanian citizenship, in order to "consolidate their Palestinian identity." The Jordanian government had justified its decision to strip Palestinians of their citizenship by using the same argument.

Al-Quds Al-Arabi quoted sources in Amman as saying that Abbas and his entire family carry Jordanian passports.

Other PA leaders who carry Jordanian passports include former PA prime minister Ahmed Qurei, Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudaine, and Fatah's Muhammad Dahlan. The paper did not say when the Palestinian officials were given Jordanian citizenship. PA spokesmen in Ramallah refused to comment on the report.

A Fatah official, however, said that he was not surprised to hear that Palestinian leaders were carrying Jordanian passports. He said he believed most of the PA leaders had applied for and received Jordanian passports in the past 15 years. In an editorial, *Al-Quds Al-Arabi* criticized the Palestinian leaders who applied for Jordanian citizenship.

"This is shameful for them because they and their families should be proud of their Palestinian citizenship," the paper wrote. "If they don't believe in their own citizenship and are not proud of it, this means that they are not loyal to the Palestinian Authority and don't deserve to speak on its behalf."

The paper noted that it was the PA leaders who had asked for Jordanian citizenship, and not the Jordanians who had offered it. *



HebrewLesson

"Be still and know..."

By John J. Parsons



הָרְפֹּא וְדַעַו כִּי אֶنְכִּי אֱלֹהִים אֲרוּם בְּגּוּם אֲרוּם בָּאָרֶץ:

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

אֵל הַיְם
אָנוּקִי
כִּי אָנֹקִי
כִּי דָעָו
וְדַעַו פָּאָרָה
(3) (2) (1) (3) (2) (1) (1) (3) (2) (1) (2) (1)
E-lo-him a-no-khi ki u-de-oo har-poo
God I am that and know! Be still!

בָּאָרֶץ
בָּאָרֶץ
רֹום
רֹום
גּוּיִם
גּוּיִם
בָּאָרֶץ
בָּאָרֶץ
רֹום
רֹום
(3) (2) (1) (2) (1) (3) (2) (1) (2) (1)
ba-a-retz a-room ba-go-yem a-room
in the earth I will be exalted among the nations I will be exalted

As the climax of Psalm 46, this verse is not so much about "meditation" as it is about the "mediation" of God's kingdom in the heart of faith. The command to "be still" comes from the Hiphil stem of the verb *rapha* (meaning to be weak, to let go, to release), which might better be translated as, "cause yourselves to let go" or "let yourselves become weak" (in poetic contexts, the noun form *rephai'im* was sometimes used as a synonym for "the place of the dead").

But to what end are we to "be still," "let go," "surrender," and even to "die to ourselves"? In Hebrew grammar, the emphasis of coordinate imperatives ("be still!" and "know!") is on the *second* imperative. In other words, we surrender *in order to know* that God is in control as the Master of the Universe. We "let go" in order to objectively know the saving power of God in our lives. We give up trusting in ourselves and our own designs in order to experience the glory of God's all-sufficiency (Exodus 14:14).

When we surrender to the sure truth that the LORD God of Israel is in complete control of this world, we will find peace and be delivered from our temporal fears. Indeed, even though the present world be *shaken* (Ps. 46:2), with the nations raging and the kingdoms of men tottering (v 6), *we will not fear*, since we know that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (v 1).

The city of God will one day be established upon the earth (vv 4–5), and the schemes of the "princes of this world" will all become desolate (v 8), but in the coming kingdom the Lord Most High (*Elo Elyon*) will be exalted among the nations, and Yeshua will forever be exalted among His original covenant people Israel. Meanwhile, "set your minds on things that are above, not on things on the earth; for you are dead, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. When the Messiah, who is your life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3:2–4).

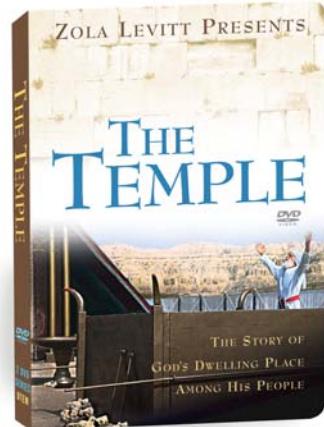
Time is very short, friends. Soon and very soon we are going to see our King! So let's "be still"—in order to know that "the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."



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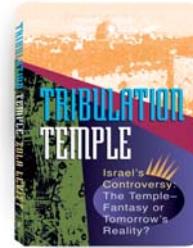
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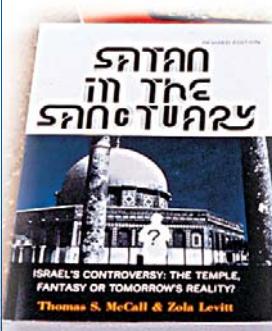


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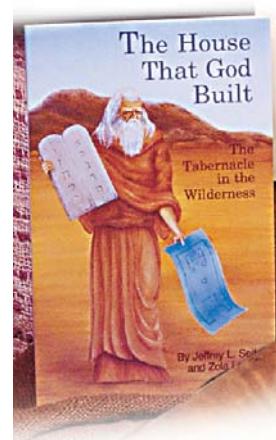


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Available on page 18.



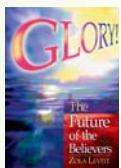
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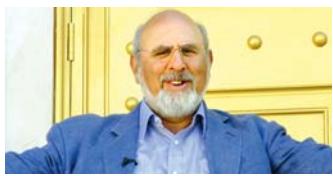
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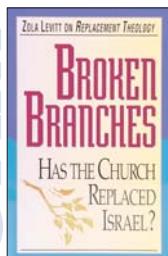
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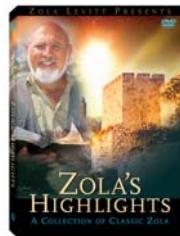
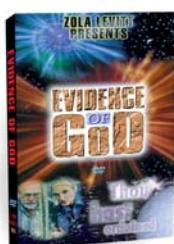
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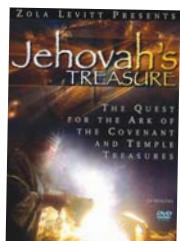
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ZLM Bulletin Board

The Story of a VOTE

Israel reached a boiling point in 1947—thirty years after the Balfour Declaration announced Britain's support for a national home for the Jewish people. Britain recently had shut the gates to immigration to Israel, even for Holocaust survivors. A UN partition committee recommended an end to the mandate by dividing Israel into an Arab state and a Jewish state. For a ten-minute video with dramatic, authentic footage and photos leading up to the rebirth of Israel and the celebration thereafter, search "November 29, 1947" at [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), or visit: www.levitt.com/news/2010/12/05. Also see the cartoon and background explanation on page 21.



1947 Euphoria



Daily Devotional at www.levitt.com

On our website, just to the right of the free Daily Zola Music Selection, you can click on

Daily Name of God. You'll experience excerpts from the English-Hebrew devotional entitled *The Name—HaShem*, by Dr. Barri Cae Mallin. After the translation and phonetic spelling of a Hebrew phrase, you'll find an inspirational Bible verse and prayer. What a quick, easy way to begin your quiet time each day!



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Now it's easier than ever to locate our television program's broadcast times in your area. On our homepage at www.levitt.com, click on the **TV Show** tab at the top. Then, scroll down beneath the **Episode Airing Schedule** box to the **Station Search** box. Enter your city and state (or just your ZIP Code) in the **Station Search** box and click the **GO** button. Your local station and time will magically appear! You might try searching both ways; e.g., "Dallas, Texas" and "75231."

Beneath this search feature, you'll find our complete airing schedule. You are welcome to a free hardcopy by mail as well.

Pamphlet of the Month

An effective estate plan addresses four common financial challenges: 1) dying too soon, 2) outliving one's resources, 3) emergencies, and 4) mental/physical disability. The booklet entitled **Better Estate Planning** presents a practical overview of a number of planning tools. Topics include: The will as cornerstone, Placing property in trust, Power of attorney, Joint ownership, Living will, Income and asset management, Welcome tax savings, and Income for life. The Technical Advisory Section discusses federal gift and estate tax consideration. To receive this booklet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

"Come Home!"

**Zola's
Tours to
Israel:**



**See page
36 for details**

Historical Background for the cartoon below

By Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian



International demand for a Palestinian state could be what prompts the world to attack Israel and lead to the end-time battles prophesied in Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 35, 38, and 39. These prophesied events are tied together and center on the question of who owns the land that is Israel. **The Arabs were offered a Palestinian state when Jordan absorbed the Arab Palestinian lands and population in 1948.** This gave Arabs 77% of the land in which to establish the State of Palestine; the remaining 23% of the land went to the Jewish Palestinians to create their Jewish state. **But the Arab nations rejected this offer** and instead declared war on the newly created State of Israel...and lost.

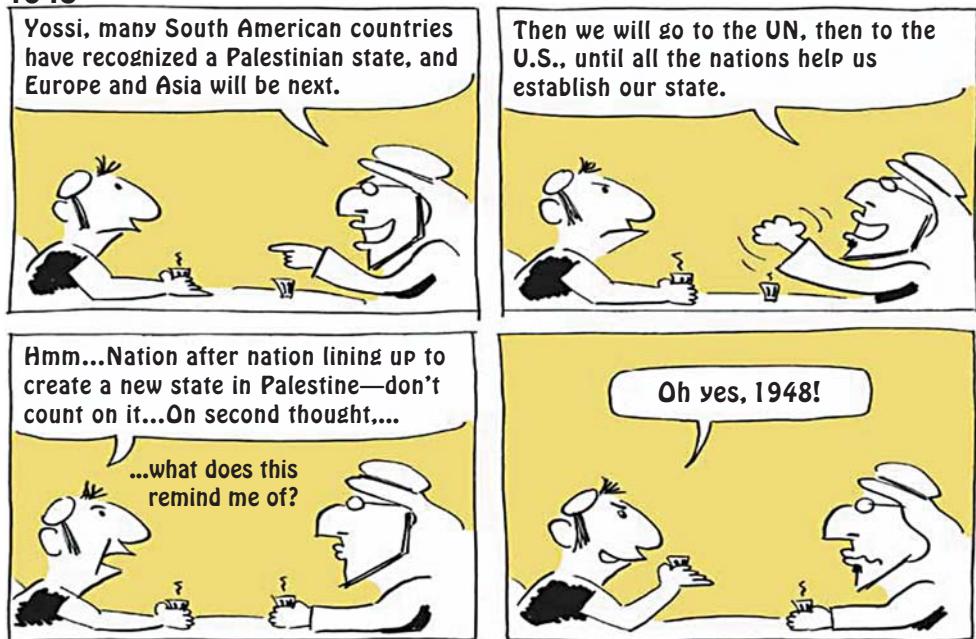
The quest for a Palestinian state has gradually removed the Jewish people from the land God gave them. Arabs do not tolerate the existence of a Jewish state in their midst and have

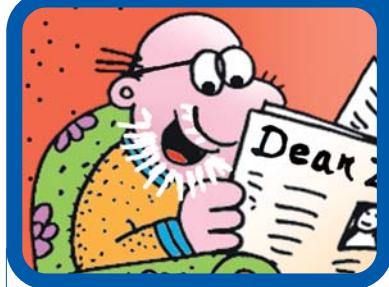
used “peace plans” to slowly negotiate the land away from the Jewish people. First, they got the Sinai Peninsula, then the Gaza Strip, then Judea and Samaria (The West Bank). Now they want the Golan Heights (upper Galilee), and more.

A country/culture/people of “Palestine” never existed. As Zola always pointed out, the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 135 AD cursed the Jews of Israel and called their land Palestine, a name similar to their archenemies, the Philistines. The Jewish people lived in the land of Israel some 2,000 years before Islam set foot there in the seventh century AD! The Word of God promises the land to the Jewish people for an “everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:7-8).

It is time the nations of the world get educated about why the Jews, and not the Arabs, really own the land. God, the United Nations, and several wars have solidified Jewish rights to occupy the land and use it as they see fit. The world’s refusal to acknowledge this will eventually lead to Armageddon and the return of the Jewish Messiah to save His Land and People from this ungodly coalition (Psalm 2). ★

1948





Letters to ZLM

Comments from www.levitt.com

From S.F. (OH): I love getting the *Levitt Letter*; I look forward to it each month. Sometimes it is inspiring and sometimes it is filled with horrors—just as the world we live in. Please keep up the good fight.

From R.D. (SC): After watching the show about the Arab Pastor (Khoury) and his commitment to the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ even after his church was bombed 14 times, I wanted to learn about the Jewish Jesus; this teaching will give me hope.

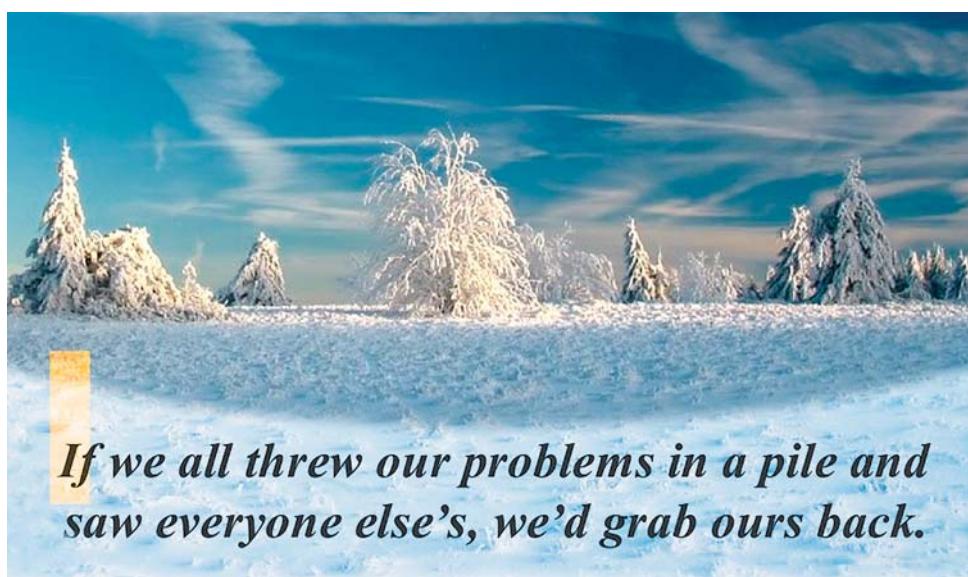
From S.B. (WI): I would like to continue receiving the *Levitt Letter*. I have never learned so much about Israel itself and the Middle East as a whole as I do from your publication. I'm so thankful I found Zola a number of years ago. Please keep up the good work for all of us out here.

From M.B. (Germany): Please send me the *Levitt Letter*. Thank you for this wonderful ministry! We pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

From D.G. (TX): I ordered the 1st lesson of your Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies, and my sister was so impressed with what I'm learning that I am ordering the 1st lesson for her so we can study together.

From A.W. (WA): I'm ordering your maps. It will be nice to see where things are. I'll never be able to go to Jerusalem, so this will be a "trip" for me.

From C.O. (MN): I want to know God—not just know of Him. I believe that much is missed by not understanding the culture and history of the Bible and the Jewish people.



Tithing

Dear Jeff,

It is very rare that I disagree with you. However, in the *Levitt Letter* (Feb 2011, p. 23) you state that tithing is not in the New Testament. I have to politely disagree. In both Matthew 23:23 and again in Luke 11:42 Jesus says: *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

I believe that the phrase “without leaving the others undone” refers directly to tithing.

Keep up the great work, “friendly disagreement”
—M.K. (CA)

Dear M.K.—

I appreciate the friendly disagreement. Where Jesus stresses “mercy,” “faith,” and the like, it’s a weak inference to say that He is talking about giving. Rather than Jesus weighing in on the imperative of giving ten percent, I hear Him elsewhere talk about forsaking all and giving one’s life for the Kingdom. As I see it, ten percent is a good rule to follow—and is the amount I shoot for. Is it Gospel law based on the New Testament? I think not. —Jeff

Dear Webmaster

It would be nice if you could create an account system that we could log into for donating instead of filling in all the information each time. It’s just a thought. —B.R.

Could you offer a place where we can fill in our own amount to donate? I pay my tithes to you and the amount is never exact. It is frustrating to try to get this done. Thanks so much. —C.P.E.

Dear B.R and C.P.E.—

The current software for ZLM’s web store was free and is pretty old, but does the basics. I have newer (also free) store software installed and once I customize it, perhaps it will have the features you request. I’ll try. —Webmaster



Misconceptions About The Greek Orthodox Church

Greetings, peace, and God's grace,

I enjoy your broadcasts very much; that is, when I slow down to watch TV. I worshipped with a Messianic Jewish parish last year. This was great!

I write about a serious concern regarding a recent broadcast in which Dr. Khoury says, "that the Greek Orthodox Church does not allow its Believers to study the Old Testament."

Nothing could be further from the truth! Our Bible is the Old and New Testament that we all use. Our website at GoArch.org states: "The Orthodox Church regards the Old Testament as a preparation for the coming of Christ and believes that it should be read in light of His revelation."

I see the mistake in your broadcast as an editing error, and I ask for your honest repair to the image of our worldwide Greek Orthodox Christian faith.

Forgive me if any of my words offend you. My goal is truth and peace.

In the love of Jesus,

—M.E.M (OH)

"truth and peace"

Dear M.E.M.—

Thanks for taking the time to share your concerns. Pastor Khoury was speaking about his experience in the politically charged sector of Greek Orthodoxy constituted by Arab Christians in the Middle East. In that world, I understood him to say that the OT was ignored, along with its testimony about God's love for Jews and the land inheritance rights bequeathed to them. I did not understand him to be speaking about the church worldwide, its traditions, or present-day stances. Blessings —Jeff

Cross Atop Dome of the Rock

Hi, ZLM,

What happened to the cross that was on top of the Dome of the Rock until about 1100, when the Muslim crescent was put up? Any info would be helpful. Thanks, —P.E. (OH)

Dear P.E.—

The Dome of the Rock was completed on the Temple Mount by Caliph Abd al-Malik in 691 AD. When the Crusaders took Jerusalem in 1099, the Dome of the Rock was re-named Templum Domini. They placed a cross on top of the golden dome; it stood for eighty-eight years. The Muslim book *Kamil at-Tawarikh* (Perfect History) states, "At the top of the cupola of the Dome of the Rock there was a great gilded cross. When the Muslims entered the city on the Friday, some of them climbed the top of the cupola to take down the cross.... The Sultan ordered that the Dome of the Rock should be cleansed of all pollution, and this was done."

I imagine the cross was destroyed. —Jeff



Apology

Dear Jeff,

I must apologize. I was extremely harsh when I criticized you (*Levitt Letter*, Feb. '11). You are right; I offered only harsh words and "no help." Please accept my apology.

My heart hurts when it comes to Muslims vs. the world and vice-versa. I am reminded how Jesus spread His love to all nations, creeds, and kinds, and how He implored us to emulate Him. I guess I just wish we could show more tact and forgiveness. I feel bad for Arab Muslims. God bless you, —L.J. (IL)

Dear L.J.—

I appreciate that. I feel bad too. Recent events in the Middle East underscore how oppressed most are—and by their own people, not by Jews in Israel. —Jeff



Thank You

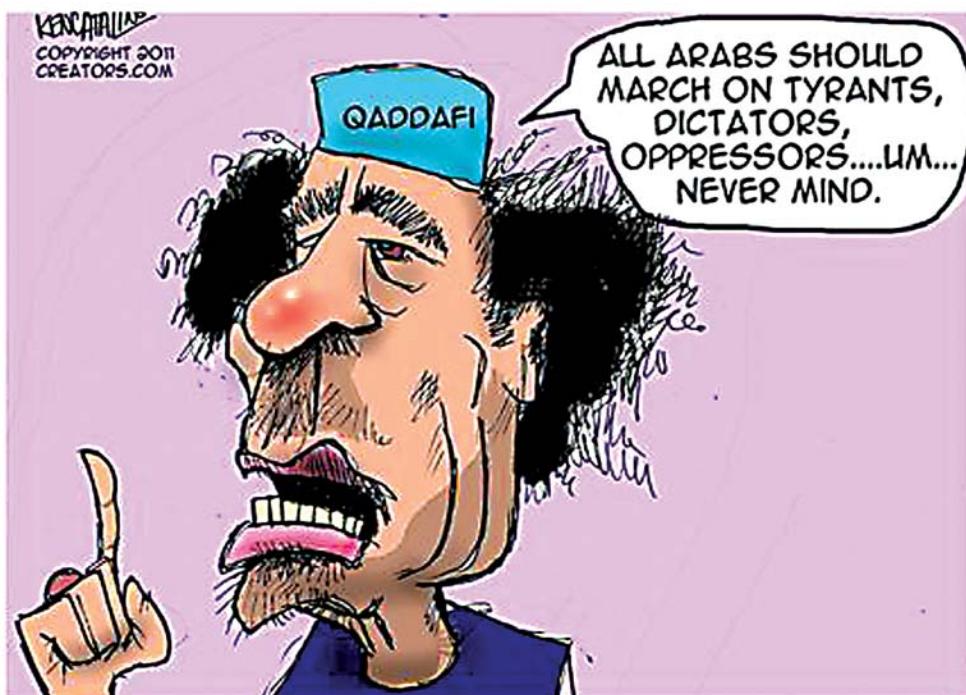
Dear ZLM,

This is the second newsletter I have received and I love it! I am devouring it from cover to cover. I have known about ZLM for some time, but never sent an offering. I will correct that as of today. Your ministry is very much needed in the body of Christ. Thank you for your dedication and keeping the body of Christ informed about Israel and the Middle East.

In His service, —M.S. (TX)

God's Little Notes

OO
Prayer:
Don't give
God instructions,
just report
for duty!



What They Teach In School

I thought you would like to know that I have my teenage grandchildren very interested in your *Levitt Letter*. I have a granddaughter whose teacher told her there were no Jews. They never existed. So I showed her some articles in your *Levitt Letter*. Now she wants to read all my back issues. The others think the information is great. They say it is information about Israel they never knew. My grandsons think Jeffery Seif is very smart in the Word! Thanks so much for all you do! —E.R.

Dear E.R.—

Bless your witness! Now, maybe your granddaughter should warn her teacher who, on Judgment Day, will stand before the King of the Jews! —Mark

I Stand With Israel

Dear God-fearing folks,

On page 27 of your Feb. '11 *Levitt Letter*, there is a picture of the Israeli flag over the bold statement "I stand with Israel." Great!...So do I and several members of my family, and also many of my friends. It would be great if you would offer this thought on a lapel-type of pin that we all could wear on a daily basis. Not too bold, but readable.

Many folks just do not understand when the Bible refers to the End of Time. I am not of the Jewish faith, but I stand with them. I am trying to understand the Book of Revelation. May the Father of us all continue to bless your efforts. I especially like the page with your Jewish jokes!

Peace and love to you all. —G.W.H.

Dear G.W.H.—

Thanks for writing an unsolicited plug for our inexpensive two-flag pin, offered on page 19. —Mark



Spreading Hate?

Dear ZLM,

You know, for a people against hate for a people, it is a real eye opener as to what lengths you will spread hate to others. We would do better to just fight on our knees in prayer. As none of us are going to get out of this world alive (and I don't hate anyone), I pray for lost souls. Your time would better be spent there. We are to seek first the Kingdom. How much time do you spend in the pursuit of that for yourself and winning the lost? —S.E.

Dear S.E.—

Please read the letters above and below, and then contemplate whether love and hate are in the eye of the beholder.

Blessings,
—Mark



Daily Name of God

Thank you so much for your website feature "Daily Name of God." I start every day with it. It reminds me of how wonderful God is and leads me to my study of the Word of the Lord daily. I love your ministry and I pray always for God's blessings on it.

Sincerely, —R.R. (NV)

Note: Please see the Bulletin Board (p. 20) about this inspirational way to begin your day.



▶ Name For Today

Daily Devotional Worship

Praying for The Peace of Jerusalem

Dear Jeff,

I want to pray for Israel, so I pray, "God, please protect Israel from terrorism." The Bible prophesies that the nations around Israel will come against it in the end. So... am I praying *against* God's will when I ask for Israel's protection and peace?

Thanks, Jeff, —J. (CA)

Dear J.—

Psalm 122 beckons individuals to care about the State of Israel and its capital, Jerusalem. So it's more about hearts and minds being concerned for the commonwealth than about the ebb and flow of history.

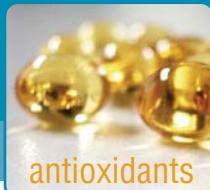
With that understanding, I say that, no matter how God accomplishes His purposes concerning the Jews, God-fearers are eternally called to stand behind the Jewish people and their claim to Israel as their ancestral homeland.

With you, I think the ultimate answer to our heart's cry awaits the coming of the One Who will make all things good. So, by all means, continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem as instructed in Psalm 122:6. —Jeff



Good For Skin, Bad For Fertility?

www.Israel21c.org



antioxidants

Consumers have been told for years that antioxidants added to food, drink, and facial cosmetics are a natural way to combat cell damage and slow down the aging process. But according to a study by Prof. Nava Dekel of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel these additives could be causing female fertility problems.

Common antioxidants, including vitamins C and E, neutralize the “reactive oxygen species” molecules our bodies sometimes overproduce in reaction to stress. It seems only logical to keep these reactive oxygen molecules at bay, because an overabundance of them leads to inflammation and cell damage.

However, when Dekel and her research team in the Biological Regulation Department applied antioxidants to the ovaries of female mice, they discovered that significantly fewer eggs were released from the ovarian follicles in comparison to the amount released by untreated ovaries.

Was it possible, they wondered, that the process of ovulation might actually rely on “harmful” reactive oxygen species molecules?

Further testing in mice seemed to support this hypothesis. In one experiment, for instance, Dekel and her team treated some ovarian follicles with luteinizing hormone, the physiological trigger for ovulation, and others with hydrogen peroxide, a reactive oxygen species. The results showed hydrogen peroxide fully mimicked the effect of the ovulation-inducing hormone.

In recent years, researchers have noted that inflammation shares a number of common mechanisms with fertility and conception. Dekel, whose past research has focused on fertility, therefore suspects that anti-inflammatory substances such as antioxidants might get in the way of normal ovulation.

“On the one hand, these findings could prove useful to women who are having trouble getting pregnant,” said Dekel. “On the other, further studies might show that certain antioxidants might be an effective means of birth control that could be safer than today’s hormone-based [pregnancy] prevention.”



*A loaf of bread will cost a day's pay.
Rev. 6:6*



Muzzling Free Speech In Switzerland

By Victor Mordecai
Israel Today



The purpose of the Swiss *Minarets Initiative* (in 2009) of the EDU Christian Conservative Party was to block Muslims from building minarets throughout Switzerland with the effect of noise pollution disrupting the lives of non-Muslim Swiss citizens. [Levitt Letter, Feb. '10, p.10 at www.levitt.com/newsletters/2010-02.pdf.]

Often, the blaring sound of the *muezzin* calling the faithful to prayer prompts residents in the general vicinity of the loudspeakers to sell their homes and move to quieter areas, away from Muslim population centers. In effect, the minarets enable the Muslims to stake a claim over a certain area in the name of Allah and the Islamic agenda. As Christians, Jews, and others leave these neighborhoods, Muslims move in, creating "pure" Islamic enclaves or ghettos where non-Muslims dare not enter.

I lectured in support of the initiative in 23 German-speaking cities and towns. I was criticized so severely in the media that many Jews and Christians told me that they were so outraged by the one-sided reporting that they were going to vote against the minarets.

Praise God, the Swiss population voted by a margin of 57 to 43 percent against the minarets, taking the Swiss "establishment" by total surprise. Judeo-Christian Western civilization and democracy won out in Switzerland against political correctness and an Islamic takeover of Europe in stages. It was an honor for me to be part of the victory.

However, I have now been convicted by a Swiss Court in Berne of "racial discrimination" and breaking the laws of "freedom of religion and worship."

The court decision allows me to pay 600 Swiss francs (\$650) for a speech I gave near Berne to avoid incarceration. I can not be extradited from Israel, but if I travel to Switzerland, I could be arrested unless I pay the fine—which is an admission of guilt.

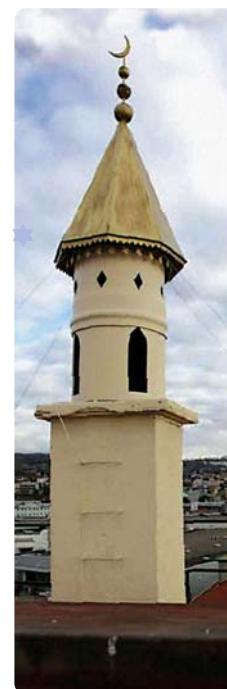
A lawyer friend in Switzerland warned me that if I pay this fine, I could receive another 22 summonses to be paid for the other 22 lectures I gave around the country. I could also be permanently banned from Switzerland.

Therefore, I have notified the Swiss that I am ready to come to Switzerland and fight even if it means being arrested and jailed. This is very similar to the case in the Netherlands against Dutch politician Geert Wilders who seeks to stop the "Islamization of the Netherlands."

We must not remain silent in the case of this Islamic threat to muzzle freedom of speech in Switzerland and we must prevent it from spreading. I have also spoken in many other places in Europe. Am I to be banned from those EU countries as well?

Since Swiss parliamentary elections are scheduled for October 2011, it could be that my court case will be incorporated into the election campaign. Just as the minarets were banned in Switzerland, maybe so too, this could be the beginning of a Christian revival, something Switzerland and the rest of Europe need so much.

Please see page 18 to order Victor Mordecai's book *Is Fanatic Islam A Global Threat?*





SELECT BRIEFS

Tel Aviv From Outer Space *Israel Today*

Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli took a picture of Tel Aviv from the International Space Station, 240 miles above the Earth, and posted it on the photo sharing website Flickr.com. Then he challenged his followers with the inscription: "A Middle East city. Which one?"

The answers followed shortly, with many recognizing the city as Tel Aviv. "Well done!" answered Nespoli. "Bravo! Tel Aviv."

However, the astronaut needs a history lesson, or perhaps he's been learning history from the Arabs. He mistakenly gave the picture the title of "A Capital in the Middle East!" [Jerusalem is the capital.]

'Palestine': Land of Destitution or Prosperity? *Israel Today*

The world media often portray the Palestinians as living in destitution thanks to a repressive Israeli "occupation." And not just in the Hamas-ruled Gaza. The Palestinian Authority-ruled "West Bank" is also depicted as an impoverished territory devoid of modern comforts and prosperity.

A Palestinian journalist, however, unwittingly exposed that media coverage as a fraud. Upon returning to the de facto Palestinian capital of Ramallah after working for many years in Dubai, the journalist told a *Palestinian TV* host about her positive

experience strolling the streets and a meal at a swank restaurant.

She acknowledged that the traditional portrayal of the area had fooled even her. "The main picture [of Palestine] is the picture we see on TV, and in the media bad news is good news," she noted. "[But] I felt like I was in Europe!"

Please visit the following website www.levitt.com/newsletters/2010-09.pdf and feast your eyes on the two-page photo spread entitled "New Shopping Mall in 'Starving' Gaza." Pages 8 and 9 of the September 2010 *Levitt Letter* show a gorgeous shopping center with fancy lighting, a grocery store with shelves full of food, and an Olympic-size pool with children happily swimming. —Mark

Remembering Rachel *Israel Today*

Even though UNESCO demanded that Israel remove Rachel's Tomb from its list of National Heritage Sites, the burial place of the biblical matriarch remains an important place of pilgrimage for the Jewish people, and especially women. UNESCO recognized the Jewish holy place as a Palestinian mosque since it lies in the "West Bank" town of Bethlehem.

Nevertheless, because of the sanctity of the place, Israel held on to Rachel's



Rachel's Tomb

Tomb when it handed Bethlehem over to the Palestinian Authority in 1995. It is here, according to the Bible, that Jacob's second wife, one of the four matriarchs, was buried after giving birth to her second son Benjamin (Genesis 35).

For centuries, the site was marked by a small domed structure, but armed Palestinian riots forced construction of a more fortified structure after the Second *Intifada* (uprising) erupted in 2000. Last year, 60,000 people visited the tomb, including many pregnant women who pray for an easy delivery. “Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave to this day” (Genesis 35:20).

A Muslim, Jewish, Arab, Israeli Soldier

By Netanel Doron *Israel Today*



Private “A” recently joined the Nachshon unit of the IDF, which specializes in urban warfare and serves as guards for Arab prisoners. “A” has remained anonymous in order to protect her family. She was born in Iraq to Muslim parents who later converted to Judaism in order to join their Arab relatives in Israel. At the age of four she immigrated to Israel only to see her parents divorce two years later. Her mother remarried a Muslim from northern Israel, where she still lives today.

“A” was surprised when she received her draft notice since Arab citizens are automatically exempted from the military. But she is considered a Jew due to her mother’s conversion. Now, she says, she has become a part of army life and is enjoying the opportunity to be exposed to the world outside of her village.

“I know both sides, the Jewish and the Arab,” she said. “And I understand both of them because both are a part of me.”



IDF Soldier Gives Life to Palestinian Baby

By Viva Sarah Press www.israel21c.org

It was a birth unlike any other. Israeli soldiers took the role of midwives as Shirin Muhammad Salamin, a 27-year-old Palestinian woman, gave birth inside an Israeli military ambulance overnight.

The drama started when Salamin, a resident of Jericho, called for medical assistance around 2 a.m. But ambulances could not reach her house—which is located on the top of a hill—because of a major thunderstorm. An IDF medical crew was called to the area, and her family carried her down to the main road to meet them.

The plan was to drive Salamin to a hospital. But her baby had another idea.

“I was alone inside the army’s ambulance, my mother and the rest of my family didn’t come with me, and I was scared. But the soldiers reassured me throughout the ride. At one stage I literally felt the baby come out and the soldiers put a blanket and helped me give birth. When he came out, they smiled at me and him and asked me to talk to him in order to calm him down. They gave me the baby and let me breastfeed him,” Salamin recounted from her hospital bed in Jerusalem.

IDF sources said the baby had trouble breathing shortly after being born. Soldiers resuscitated him, and the baby and mother were flown via an Air Force helicopter to Hadassah Ein-Kerem Hospital. Both are doing well.

Shirin said she is grateful for the care she was given. “I would like to thank the soldiers who greatly helped me and wish them health,” she said.

The soldiers were also touched by the experience. Said Sergeant Gilad Nesher, a paramedic who treated the woman and child: “There is a great deal of satisfaction in giving life.” 

Blasphemy In Pakistan—Update

By William Tucker, Spectator.org

More than a year ago, Asia Bibi, a 45-year-old mother of five, was working in the fields in the Punjab province when some of the Muslim women working alongside her asked her to fetch water. When she returned, several women said they would not accept it because she was a Christian and therefore "unclean." Insults were exchanged and in the process Bibi made some insulting remarks about the Koran and Islam.

The incident blew over at first, but word spread through the town and a few days later Bibi was pursued by a Muslim mob. The police rescued her but felt obliged to satisfy the mob's bloodlust so they charged Bibi with blasphemy, a capital offense. Bibi was held in solitary confinement for more than a year until she was finally put on trial last October. She was convicted in the provincial court and sentenced to die on November 9.

By now the case was drawing international attention. Christian groups began to protest and Pope Benedict XVI appealed for clemency, complaining that Christians in Pakistan are "often victims of violence and discrimination." Other minority groups in Pakistan began calling for the repeal of the blasphemy law, saying it was

used to persecute all minorities. The execution was postponed. Then in mid-November, Salmaan Taseer, the governor of Punjab and apparently a decent man, called for a pardon and said that blasphemy should not be punishable by death. In late November, an aide to President Asif Ali Zardari put out word that a pardon would be forthcoming. All the while, Bibi remained in jail.

In January, Governor Taseer was assassinated by one of his own guards. The killer, Malik Qadri, said that Taseer had committed blasphemy by siding with Bibi. Qadri was known for his extreme views and acted alone, but none of the governor's other guards seemed to make any attempt to stop him. When Qadri appeared in court, he was mobbed by admirers who garlanded him with flowers. Meanwhile, Taseer's family couldn't find a Muslim cleric to preside over his funeral.

So there you have it. An incident that might take place on a playground in this country becomes an international incident in Pakistan with one of the highest public officials in the land assassinated while the crowds cheer.

These people live in a world that most Europeans left behind when Hieronymus Bosch hung up his paintbrushes. Sunnis kill Shiites, Shiites kill Sunnis, and Sunnis and Shiites combine to kill Suffi. Then they all get together and murder Christians or someone who can speak English. How do we talk about a peaceful future? *



Check Please

One year, Rivkah decreed that she was no longer going to remind her children of their thank-you note duties. As a result, their bubbie (grandmother) never received acknowledgments of the generous checks she had given for their birthdays.

The next year things were different, however.

"The children came over in person to thank me," the bubbie told a friend triumphantly. "How wonderful!" the friend exclaimed. "What do you think caused the change in behavior?"



"Oh, that's easy," the grandmother replied. "I hadn't signed the checks yet."

Humor for our friends on Facebook:

CIA officials testified in Congress that last fall they predicted the recent unrest in Cairo, but the agency wasn't able to foretell the protesters' ability to organize using Facebook. How could they have missed it? Every time a rocket lands in Israel ten million people push "Like."

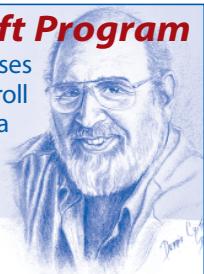


Being Thankful

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So, your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

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U.S. Soldiers Trading Helmets for Hijabs

By Margaret Calhoun Hemenway

www.AmericanThinker.com

Recent pictures in *Stars and Stripes* feature female U.S. service members wearing the Islamic headscarf (*hijab*). These women are part of a new initiative, Female Engagement Teams, being deployed in Afghanistan.

Aside from questions about whether the safety of these women deployed into harm's way is jeopardized by trading the helmet for the hijab, the photos invoke memories of a policy fight in Congress less than a decade ago. In 2002, the Senate overturned a Department of Defense (DoD) mandate requiring female American service members stationed in Saudi Arabia to wear the Saudi version of the *burka*, known as an *abaya*. Women in Saudi Arabia (and in Taliban-run Afghanistan) are subject to beatings by religious police if they expose, even inadvertently, a wrist or ankle.

The DoD "abaya policy" was defended under the guise of "cultural sensitivities." Could anyone imagine U.S. soldiers dispatched to South Africa under apartheid segregating black and white soldiers to comply with "cultural sensitivities"? Yet in Saudi Arabia, American servicewomen were subjected to similar humiliation and coerced into conformance with an alien religious faith.

In Barack Obama's Cairo speech in June 2009, he stated, "I reject the view of some in the West that a woman who chooses to cover her hair is somehow less equal." Obama implied, mistakenly, that wearing of the hijab is by choice. In strict Islamic societies, the veil or headscarf is not optional. Even in the U.S. and Canada, young Muslim women have been killed by their fathers for refusing to submit to Islamic practices, including covering their hair—their



"crime" being their desire to fit in and to look like other American girls.

Back in 2001, Congress unanimously decided, with support from feminists and religious freedom advocates, that it was wrong to subject female service members to requirements of an Islamic regime that relegates women to second-class status.

Islamic reformists have fought for decades to improve the status of women. In France, the burka and full veil were banned in public as symbols of separateness. Progressive Muslims, like Egypt's culture minister, Farouk Hosni, parted ways with government backing of the veil, denouncing the hijab as "a step backward for Egyptian women." Is the DoD embracing a posture less progressive than that of Egypt's culture minister or the French government? Successful Muslim societies have been the ones that unleashed the suppressed potential of fifty percent of their human capital.

Most important, a headscarf is no protection against a sniper or IED. A helmet is standard protective gear for the most important part of the human body: the brain. A female soldier in a headscarf limits her peripheral vision, a problem when operating in a hostile or potentially hostile environment.

Congress needs to ensure that the spirit of the legislation repealing the "abaya" mandate is extended to protect female service members who may be pressured by superiors to forego the safety of the helmet for the hijab and compelled to disrespect their First Amendment-protected religious beliefs. ★

Abraham: All My Children

By James W. Goll
www.ElijahList.com



Abraham's wife Sarah lived almost forty years after the birth of Isaac. (Genesis 23:1–2) Abraham loved Sarah dearly and must have experienced much grief and pain at her loss.

After finding a wife for his son Isaac, Abraham took another wife, Keturah, who bore more children by Abraham than did Sarah and Hagar combined. (Genesis 25:2–4)

Before Abraham died, he gave gifts to the sons of Keturah and sent them far away from his son Isaac, to the land of the east (see Genesis 25:6). Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael, came together to bury their father in a cave (Genesis 25:9). Could it be that our Father will do such a work among the descendants of Abraham that they could come together in common purpose at some point in history?

Isaiah prophesied about the descendants of Keturah (Isaiah 60:6), saying about her grandson Sheba: "All those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the Lord." I cannot confirm that the Wise Men were descendants of Keturah, but they did come from the east, where the descendants of Keturah had settled, and they certainly fit the description of Isaiah's prophecy. (Matthew 2:1–12)

Whether this prophecy was fulfilled literally at the birth of the Messiah or is a prophecy for the future yet to come, the minimum we can agree on is that **there is prophetic destiny upon the children of Keturah. These people will rise up as people of wealth and will end up worshiping the one, true God. They will bring forth praise to the Lord!**

Now let's go to the amazing prophecy of Isaiah, which has not yet been fulfilled. In Isaiah 19:19–20, 23–25 you see the descendants of Hagar, Sarah, and Keturah come together. The end is powerful: *Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."*

Biblical prophecy indicates that alongside God's gathering of the outcasts of Israel to their homeland, **He is setting the stage to do a great work among all the descendants of Abraham.**



All three national families of Abraham have, by and large, failed to recognize the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Jews are still looking for their Messiah to appear, while the others do not even realize that they need one. Still the prophetic Scriptures predict that these descendants of Abraham will accept the true Messiah at a critical point in time.

Isaiah 19:20 says, "He will send them a Savior and a Champion." Yeshua/Jesus/the true Messiah said it succinctly: "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one Shepherd" (John 10:16).

A great spiritual revival is on God's agenda, and it will encompass all the descendants of Abraham throughout the Middle East, from the Nile River to the Euphrates. ★

[Read the full article at levitt.com/news.](http://levitt.com/news)



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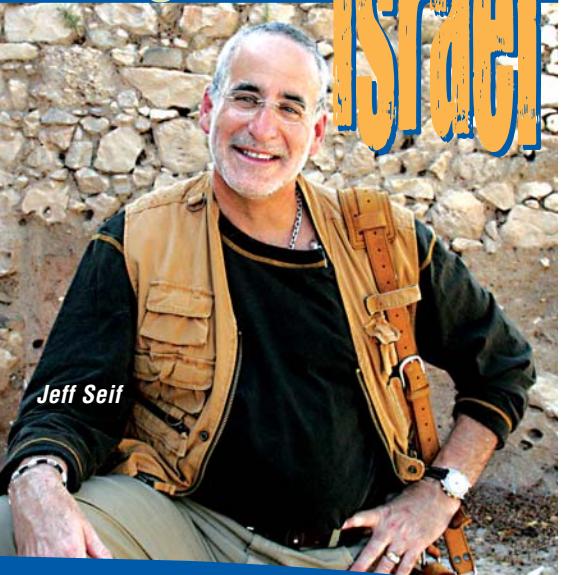
Our Fall Tour Dates:

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Israel: Oct. 23-Nov. 2

Israel/Petra: Oct. 23-Nov. 6

Athens/Israel/Petra: Oct. 18-Nov. 6



Jeff Seif



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