



Why Satan Believes He Must Destroy Israel: page 8

# Passover: Israel Style

By Judy Lash Balint / JNS.org

Not every Israeli observes Passover, but every Israeli knows Passover is coming. Preparations for the seven-day holiday are impossible to ignore, visible in almost every facet of life in the weeks leading up to Seder night.

Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics reveals that 88% of Israelis take part in a *Seder* [Passover dinner]; 47% eat only *kosher* [Jewish dietary law] during the holiday.

Some 200 Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chaplains are pressed into service for the massive task of koshering the hundreds of kitchens, mess halls, and eating corners used by soldiers at bases countrywide. According to Capt. and Rabbi Zev Roness, "The army prepares more than a month before Passover to ensure that all of the army kitchens meet the highest kosher-for-Passover standards."

[\(continued p.2\)](#)

## Jesus Fulfilled Passover

Messianic Jewish Alliance of America

**Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is the perfect Lamb of God celebrated in the first Passover.** Just as the blood of a spotless lamb spared the Israelites from death and gave them freedom from slavery, so Yeshua's (Jesus') sacrifice delivers us from God's punishment and liberates us from sin.



Naomi Eitshuv / YouTube

**Another fascinating parallel between Yeshua (Jesus) and Passover:** God told the Israelites that on the 10th day of the month, they were to select and bring into their homes an unblemished lamb. Then on the 14th day of the month, they were to sacrifice the animal at Passover (Exodus 12:1-3, 5-7).

[\(continued p.3\)](#)

## Passover—Israel Style *continued from cover*



Street scenes in Israel change every day before Passover according to what's *halakhically* [according to Jewish law] necessary: Several days before the Seder, young men wielding blowtorches preside over huge vats of boiling water stationed every few blocks on the street and in the courtyard of every *mikveh* (ritual bath).

The lines to dunk metal utensils grow every day as overwrought mothers, anxious to cleanse every last gram of *chametz* [leavening] from their homes, lug oven racks and stove tops through the streets. At the last minute before the Seder, blowtorches blast away the chametz.

No alarm clock is needed in the pre-Passover period—clanging garbage trucks do the trick as they roll through the neighborhood every morning for two weeks before Passover to accommodate all the refuse from the furious cleaning going on. Two days before the Seder, there's the annual pickup of oversized items and appliances. Dozens of antiquated computer monitors and old toaster ovens stand forlornly next to the garbage bins.

The day before Passover, families seek out empty lots to burn the remainder of their *chametz*. Sputtering fires dot the city despite the Jerusalem municipality signage for the location of official *chametz* burning bins. Flower shops stay open all night for the two days before Passover, working feverishly to complete the orders that will grace the nation's Seder tables.

For observant Jews, a prohibition against cutting hair during the seven weeks between Passover and *Shavuot* [Pentecost] jams barber and beauty shops with customers in the pre-Passover days.

Mailboxes overflow with appeals to help the poor. Newspapers fill with articles about the hundreds of Israelis who volunteer in the weeks before the holiday to collect, package, and distribute Passover supplies to the needy.

In Jerusalem alone, more than 40 restaurants close a few days before Passover. They clean out their kitchens and re-open with rabbinic supervision to serve kosher-for-Passover meals to tourists ... and to the hordes who are sick of cooking after the Seder. ☆

### **HOLY WEEK 2015**

**Palm Sunday: March 29**

**Maundy Thurs: April 2**

**Good Friday: April 3**

**Passover: April 4–11**

(begins eve of April 3)

**Resurrection Sunday:**

**April 5**

*Extra (IDF) chaplains are pressed into service koshering kitchens, mess halls, etc. used by soldiers.*





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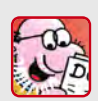


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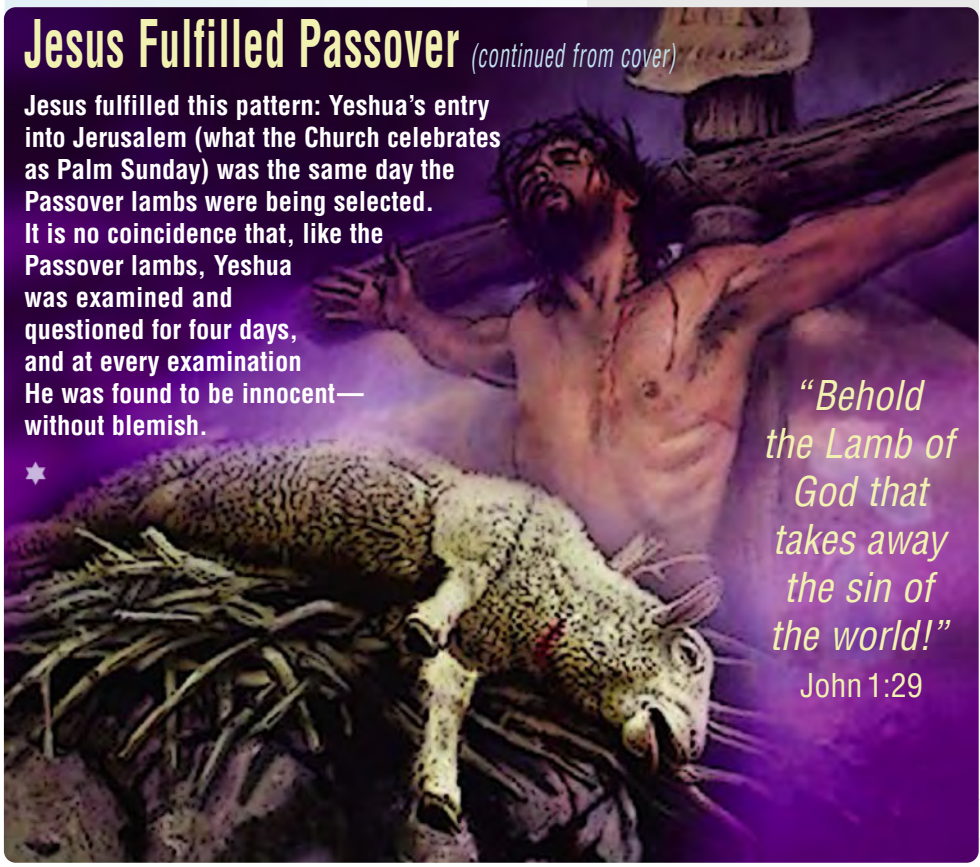


## Jesus Fulfilled Passover *(continued from cover)*

Jesus fulfilled this pattern: Yeshua's entry into Jerusalem (what the Church celebrates as Palm Sunday) was the same day the Passover lambs were being selected. It is no coincidence that, like the Passover lambs, Yeshua was examined and questioned for four days, and at every examination He was found to be innocent—without blemish.



*“Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!”*  
John 1:29



# All You Need is [His] Love

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



With jihad on the rise and the West in a seeming stupor, this world clearly needs an outpouring of the Spirit of *Sar Shalom* — the Prince of Peace. The community of faith needs revival and a social awakening, like the movements of the past.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Americans experienced a number of awakenings (between 1727 and 1882). In the twentieth century, the 1904–1905 Welsh Revival changed the United Kingdom and the world. In 1906, the year of San Francisco’s historic earthquake, God visited Los Angeles with a spiritual earthquake at the Azusa Street Revival. The modern African spread of Christianity began in East Africa during the 1930s.

The current rebirth of the Messianic Movement connects to the 1970s’ Jesus People Movement, when certain visionary leaders welcomed young hippies into fellowship. Leaders like Chuck Smith in Southern California and Don Finto in Nashville became a blessing to the young Jews who were flooding into places where the Word was going forth. Pastor Chuck led Calvary Chapel and helped build the Yardenit—the popular baptism site on the Jordan River, and Don Finto wrote the seminal *Your People Shall be My People*. In the book, Don chronicles his journey from Replacement Theology to recognizing the relationship between Israel, the Church, and Messiah’s second coming. Don’s book has opened the eyes and hearts of thousands, including many pastors.

Two names stand out in the Jewish world of that era: Moishe Rosen who founded Jews for Jesus and Zola Levitt. Moishe took evangelism to the streets, and Zola brought Israel to the airwaves. Through Zola’s creative partnership with TV producer Ken Berg, millions of households have learned about Christianity through Jewish eyes.

[\(continued next page\)](#)



1970s  
Jesus People  
Movement



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Katharine and I benefited greatly from the foundational work of those pioneers. I often say that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

But the hour is late, and on our watch we see the calls for a global caliphate, as jihad repeatedly strikes at civilization.

As some in the Church awaken to the Jewish identity of their Messiah, many others are drawn into new permutations of Replacement Theology, like the one that revises history to claim that Yeshua was a “Palestinian” freedom fighter whose work was a political and social justice battle with the evil Jewish rulers of His day.

**Yeshua is the promised Messiah of the Jews who came to give His life for the lost sheep of the house of Israel and then mercifully open the door to the gentile world, so that “none should perish” (2 PETER 3:9).**

I remain in awe at what I witnessed last night. Our local Shabbat gathering (*shown below*) prayed in Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Farsi. We prayed for His peace and for deliverance from darkness, including the bondage of Islam.

I saw the beauty of Psalm 133 and John 17 — the blessing of Heaven expressed through the unity that Yeshua purchased for us.

See the [March Personal Letter](#) for more on Psalm 133. ☆



# Stand FIRM and Take Action!

Katharine Weiss  
ZLP co-host



In times of trouble, it helps to have the perspective of Elohim. For example, during these times when men seek to control the destinies of nations and steer multitudes away from the God of Israel, the Bible tells us in Psalm 33:10–11, “The Lord foils the plans of the nations ... But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever.”

Psalm 2 says that while the nations rage against the Lord and His anointed, “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall hold them in derision,” showing that the plans of the Lord remain firm no matter what men do.

The Lord calls us in these days of prophecy’s birth pangs (Matt. 24:8) and times of trouble to know our God and to “stand firm and take action” (Daniel 11:32).

The Lord, through His grace, allowed Myles and me to join the board of FIRM (Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries). [FIRM.org.il](http://FIRM.org.il) states: “FIRM is a global fellowship of Biblically-grounded believers committed to cultivating Messiah-centered relationships that bless the inhabitants of Israel—Jews, Arabs, and others—and the Jewish community around the world.” This allows the Body of Messiah not only to connect with national Israel but, more importantly, to connect with the Body of Messiah in Israel.



Psalm 122:6 instructs us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem—the only national capital that our Lord directs us to pray for. A practical way to do this is to take FIRM’s 1% challenge. **Give 1% of your time daily to pray for Israel and the Jewish people. One percent amounts to about 14 minutes per day**—praying for their peace, God’s protection over them, their sensing God’s presence among them, and that God’s heart for the Jews will be revealed to the world. Even when we can’t spend the whole time in prayer, we can hold them in our hearts. It isn’t the religiosity of 14 minutes; it is about carrying the heart of God.

Praying for national Israel will draw you closer spiritually to the Land and the People. Don’t be surprised if you also yearn to meet them physically. Visiting Israel supports the apple of God’s eye by bolstering the Israeli economy and people. We go regularly and we’d love to have you come with us. (Please see p. 36 to get started.)

Ephesians 6:13 tells us that having done all, we are to stand. The Lord is calling us to stand FIRM in these days!

**NOTE:** Myles introduced FIRM in February’s [Personal Letter](#).



The Bible  
may hurt you  
with the truth,  
but it will  
never comfort you  
with a lie.

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# 1945–2015: Seventy Years Later

OUR MAN IN HAIFA By Eitan Shishkoff (r) with wife Connie



How did it feel to descend into that Italian village cellar, filled with German soldiers? I never asked my dad that, but I wish I had — that and a hundred other questions about his combat experience in World War II. He said that he captured the German platoon single-handedly, and I believed him. My father never exaggerated, nor did he boast. In fact, he did his best *not* to discuss the war. His clipped sentences told us that it was gory and sad beyond description.



It's now seventy years later and a fitting time to remember. My mother and father both served in World War II. She was an officer in the U.S. Navy. Dad led infantrymen in the U.S. Army and saw action in Europe and North Africa. I'm proud of their medals and of their selflessness in giving prime years to help defeat the hideous monster of Nazism.

The Allied Forces brought victory to Europe in 1945. Numerous concentration camps were liberated that year, including Auschwitz–Birkenau, Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Ravensbrück, Mauthausen, and Theresienstadt. These very names conjure images of unimaginable suffering by millions, especially the six million Jewish men, women, and children who were systematically and ruthlessly slaughtered between 1941 and 1945.

Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel's extensive writings relive the nightmare. Long before winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel penned *Night*, a gripping account of his teenage years in the death camp. What surprised me was his statement of hope amid the total darkness: "*We decided that, if we were granted our lives until liberation, we would not stay in Europe a day longer. We would take the first boat to Haifa.*" Knowing that Israel had risen from the ashes to become a home for Jewish refugees, the prisoners dared imagine a future.

**One cannot understand the nature of Israelis without touching the Holocaust.** Our intensity, our drive to defend ourselves, our assertiveness with each other, the invisible backdrop of trauma — all these trace back to the immeasurable tragedy that ended seventy years ago. I do not justify wariness, arrogance, or mistrust. But awareness of the utter devastation that preceded Jewish escape and *aliyah* (coming home to Israel) from the death camps is essential for Believers to participate in the Messianic revival promised by the prophets.

Israel and Jewish people everywhere are still threatened with extinction, now — in 2015. Ironically, Europe again provides a prime stage for this sickening drama to unfold. This time, the foe is a terror-drunk "caliphate" driven by hate. To whatever degree we Believers can stand up, speak up, and lift up our best prayers, we must. It is time to identify with the sons of Jacob — as in my parents' generation — with sacrificial courage. ★

*Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, so that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal inheritance, a joy of many generations. —ISAIAH 60:15*



# Why Satan Believes He Must Destroy Israel



BY TOM McCALL, TH.D. (r)

Why does Satan believe he must destroy Israel and wipe the nation from the face of the Earth? For thousands of years Satan has demonstrated an intense and insatiable drive to wipe out the Jewish people, but so far has not been able to fully accomplish his goal. [Dr. McCall lists 30 attempts to eradicate the Jewish people, from the pharaoh murdering all male infants to the Holocaust, to the future antiChrist's seven-year treaty. See them [here](#).]

For 4,000 years the Jewish people have faced relentless persecution, opposition, and attempts to annihilate and destroy them; and in the future the struggle against Israel continues. If it concerned any other people, this campaign would seem totally irrational and insane. However, with Israel, a rational but very Satanic strategy sustains this animosity.

For Satan, the destruction of Israel is a matter of self-preservation. Ultimately, the survival of Israel results in the eternal perdition of Satan. How can this be? Because when Israel repents and nationally invites the Lord Jesus Christ to be its own Redeemer/Messiah, that generation of Israel will be saved, and Satan's plan to destroy the Jews will be finally defeated. Christ will return to the Earth, destroy the satanic antiChrist and his armies at Armageddon, establish His Kingdom over Israel and the world for 1,000 years, and then cast the still rebellious Satan into the Lake of Fire forever and ever. (Rev. 20:10)

The key is that Israel must survive to receive Christ nationally as their own Messiah. As Jesus said when He lamented over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives a few days before He died and rose from the dead at His First Coming:

**Matthew 23:39** "For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

While the remnant of Israel in every generation would receive Him all during the long period between His First and Second Comings, the *nation* Israel will not receive Him until after the Rapture of the Church and the Seven Year Tribulation. Thus, when Israel receives Christ, all that surviving generation of Israel will be saved, and this transformation will usher in the events that spell the doom of Satan.

*(continued next page)*



## 'Why Does France Create Monsters?'

French-born politician Daniel Cohn-Bendit was shocked that the media in France kept saying, "Four hostages were killed" at the kosher grocery store in Paris, instead of "Four Jews were murdered" in an anti-Semitic attack. "At this moment I feel I'm a Jew, while my entire life was not Jewish," he said, adding that the return of anti-Semitism to France "is terrifying." Cohn-Bendit rose to fame as "Danny the Red," a leader of the student revolt in Paris in 1968.

*(Jews of every stripe decry anti-Semitism.)*



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# Satan Believes... *continued*



From Satan's point of view, he must keep Israel from surviving to the point in time when they will be ready to receive Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah/Redeemer. They had a great opportunity to receive Him at His First Coming, but as John states:

**John 1:11-12** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

Israel did not know its great "hour of visitation" when Jesus came the first time, but when He comes again, the nation of Israel as a whole that survives the Tribulation will at last be ready, willing, and eager to receive Him as Savior and Lord.

Thus Satan has strived mightily to destroy Israel through the centuries up until this present time so that there would be no Israel to invite Jesus to return to the Earth. Why hasn't Satan been able to accomplish his repeated purpose to kill off this small nation of only a few million people? It is because God has promised to preserve His covenant nation forever, as Jeremiah so eloquently explains:

**Jeremiah 31:35-36** Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever."

God here states what it would take to destroy Israel. One would have to first destroy the sun, moon, and stars. Once that had been accomplished then, and only then, could someone go about destroying Israel. The last time I looked, the sun, moon, and stars were still functioning, so that must mean that Israel has not ceased being a nation.

Satan wants to destroy Israel so that he can keep God from sending him into eternal perdition; but God will not allow Satan to destroy His Chosen Nation. Israel is the apple of God's eye, so it must survive as a nation before Him for all time. ★



# Defending Scripture

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1995: 20 years ago



**Dear Brother Levitt,**

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that there are pastors who actually speak against the invitation to a Pass-over dinner.

Our church loves the feast of Passover. We always invite a leader from a local Messianic ministry to join our Seder dinner to ensure that we maintain the Jewish roots. Last year's Seder was one we shall never forget. We were blessed to be led by a Christian Jew and former rabbi (in my eyes he is still a rabbi), now ministering for Jesus.

Every Christian Church should avail themselves of this blessing. The anointing upon the whole evening and knowing we were doing just what Jesus did was a thrill beyond words. Our theme for the Seder was Jesus in the Passover. Our people loved it. Because it was a meal, we had to limit attendance to eighty-eight people. Our gym couldn't hold any more tables. In fact, we turned people away.

I look forward to next year and having Rabbi M. R. back with us. I just wanted to share this with you and let you know we love you and God's people.

— Rev. C.K.

Rev. C.K.—

I'm glad you have discovered the joys of knowing your Jewish roots. **Passover may be the finest Bible study of them all (along with the other Feasts).** If the letter of rebuke by the pastor who despises Jewish things dismayed you, see the following letter. — Zola

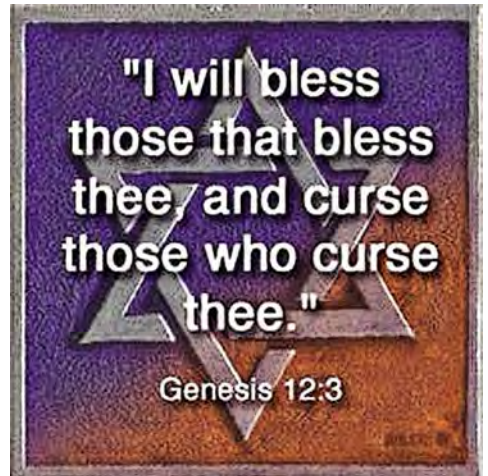
**Dear Zola,**

I think the pastor who disagreed with Christians attending a Passover Seder was exactly right. I respect the Jewish traditions for they point to Christ. But you are causing division in the Body and creating strife. You elevate yourself by the flesh, not the Spirit, who would do no such thing. It was also accusatory like Satan. — P.C.

Dear P.C.—

The pastor was *not* right. He was wrong. Scriptural facts are not a matter of opinion. If you respect Jewish traditions, defend them. Where does it say Christians are supposed to be the nicest people in town? Peter and Paul wouldn't subscribe to that, and it would surprise the Lord as well. I certainly don't mean to cause division but merely to teach. I am not elevating myself but trying to rightly divide the Word of God. (2 Tim. 2:15)

Satan's mission is to persuade Believers that our sins are not forgiven by the Cross, and that we need to worry about them day and night, thereby becoming ineffective teachers of the Gospel. I was not correcting the pastor's sins, which like mine and yours are completely forgiven, but rather his lack of knowledge. In cursing Jewish things, he has violated one of God's mightiest precepts: the Abrahamic Covenant in which the God of Israel said, "I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee" (Genesis 12:3).



If I am wrong, correct me. When your pastor is wrong, correct him. We are "called soldiers" in an army I wouldn't want to belong to if that army is always dressed for a parade and saying nothing but kindnesses to one another and the enemy. — Zola ★



# Moslem Mob Attack on Niger Churches

BY TODD STARNES (r) ChristianPost.com



In protest over the cartoons lampooning the Prophet Mohammed in the French magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, Moslems in Niger set fire to at least 45 churches and looted the homes of a number of Christian ministers. Ten people were killed. Followers of Christ fled for their lives.

The horrors in that West African nation did not generate much press coverage. There were no solidarity marches for Niger's tiny Christian community. There was no wall-to-wall cable news coverage. The Associated Press account was four paragraphs. *USA Today's* coverage lacked any commentary from pastors or priests. But they did find an imam who reminded the newspaper's readers that the Islamic faith is peaceful: "Don't forget that Islam is against violence," he said as the ruins of 45 Christian churches smoldered across the nation.

But the story of what really happened during that terrifying time deserves to be told. Something rather remarkable happened when the mob attacked one pastor's house.

"While the mob was burning the front of the house, his Moslem neighbors came in through the back and they hauled out clothes and everything they could get through the back window," missionary Neal Childs related.

The following day Neal and his wife surveyed the ruins of the church house.

"It was still smoking and warm with ashes. As we were looking through the rubble, my wife came across the Bible." The Bible was charred but not destroyed, and it caused a stirring in the hearts of the Christian couple.

Franklin Graham, of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, posted a photograph of the Bible on his Facebook page, along with a sobering thought: "Can you imagine the international outcry if this were the Koran?" **Can you imagine the international outcry if Christians burned 45 mosques?**

But that's not what happened in Niger. The Christian community did not retaliate. They did not respond with angry voices.

"That's because we are people of mercy and grace and faith," Neal said. "We don't react in the flesh and we don't react out of anger. We keep preaching the Gospel and living as an example before the people." ☆





# Ask the Chaplain

**Dr. Todd D. Baker**  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



## Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem

**Q** Your ministry closes each broadcast and letter by quoting from Psalm 122:6, but how do you reconcile that verse with the following verses in the Book of Jeremiah: 7:16, 14:11, and 16:5?

I don't mean to sound argumentative. I'm a Christian who prays for the Jews. They are God's chosen people.

**A** To pray for the peace of Jerusalem looks forward to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus—the Prince of Peace—who will bring permanent peace to Jerusalem, the Middle East, and the whole world when He reigns for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1–6). Then, and only then, will the prayer of Psalm 122:6 be truly answered.

The verses in Jeremiah refer to the evil generation of Judah in Jeremiah's day who were not given peace. Because of their idolatry and disobedience to the Lord, they were taken away into Babylonian captivity never to see the land of Israel or the city of Jerusalem again.

**Q** In your [Jan. 2015 newsletter \(page 33\)](#), Sean Savage tells us of the little golden bell discovered by Eli Shukron. The paragraph states, "The golden bells needed to ring when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies."

Please note: Leviticus 16 tells us that when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies, (which he did only once a year on Yom Kippur), he had changed from his high priestly garments into plain white linen with no bells nor other decoration. I fear that Savage's statement perpetuates the third-century myth that the High Priest had a rope tied around his ankle so he could

be dragged out if the bells stopped ringing. Another untruth.

**A** Good observation. The Torah stipulates (Exodus 39:26) that the bottom hem of the High Priest's robes should alternate with pomegranates and bells. So bells were part of the holy garments. However, you are correct: When entering and coming out of the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, the high priest would be dressed in unadorned white linen garments. When the atonement rite for national Israel was finished, he would take off these garments and wash in a mikveh. When ceremonially cleansing the Tabernacle itself, he put on not only the linen garments but also the holy (belled) garments (Lev. 16:32).

You're also right about the apocryphal tale of the rope being tied around the high priest, which gets too much airtime today. There is no ancient document or source corroborating this practice. ★

### Comment from Myles:

Todd deserves credit for tying the final knot on the rope-on-the-priest *mishigas* (Yiddish for craziness. Knot-rope pun intended.). I can't count how often I have heard this rope story from church pulpits! The meaning and beauty in Scripture regarding the Tabernacle service needs no dramatic enhancement.



Exodus 12:39

# “I Will Show You Great and Mighty Things”

JEREMIAH 33:3 By Todd Baker



While spreading Yeshua’s gospel in Eilat, Israel, I witnessed to Noam, a 27-year-old college student studying psychology. He was very open and friendly but flat-out told me that he was not sure if God really exists. I recounted to Noam my former life as a smug, vitriolic atheist who did not believe in the existence of God no matter what anyone told me.

But God met me where I was. Yeshua, God in the flesh, revealed His visible *Shekinah* (divine presence) glory to me thirty years ago, fully convincing me that the God of the Bible does exist, and that the Scriptures are His infallible Word. My experience encouraged me when hearing Noam say that he needed a similar event to occur in his life in order to believe in God and Yeshua as the Messiah.

I reminded Noam of God’s promise in Jeremiah 33:3, where He expresses a desire for us to call on Him with our whole heart, promising to show us “great and mighty things” which we did not know. At this point, Noam asked me to pray for him to receive such a revelation pointing to Yeshua.

I explained to him that the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) narrates the promised

coming of the Messiah, and the *B’rit Hadashah* (New Testament) announces His arrival with the virgin birth of Yeshua. I asked Noam if he would like to read about the life of Jesus the Messiah in the New Testament. He answered, “Yes,” adding that he had studied only an overview of Jesus in school.

To his astonishment and delight, I produced a Complete Hebrew Bible with the Old and New Testaments and cheerfully offered it to him for his serious study. I explained that Zola Levitt Ministries’ **To The Jew First** outreach visits Israel often in an effort to reconnect the Jewish people with Jesus and the God of Israel’s inspired Word about His Son. Noam exclaimed, “I am blushing with surprise. I did not expect this!”

My Gospel witness for the Lord Jesus concluded by assuring Noam that if he truly seeks the Lord with an open and honest heart, the promise of Jeremiah 33:3 will be kept because God is eager to reveal Himself through His Son for Noam’s salvation. Noam accepted the challenge and expressed a willingness to study and believe. Beloved of Messiah, pray that Noam does call upon the Lord and will be saved (Romans 10:13).



Todd & Noam,  
a psychology  
student in  
Eilat

WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

## Retiring Your Nursing Home Concerns



Nursing home expenses are less likely to break the bank than most people believe. Now you may be able to put to bed a worry that has generated a specialized type of insurance. The excerpts below come from a recent article by financial columnist Scott Burns. The statistics he offers could inspire you to bank what you otherwise might spend on premiums. —Mark

**Question.** I'd like your opinion for sheltering our money. I'm 67 and my wife is 62. Our pensions are adequate, and I'm collecting Social Security. Our IRAs are substantial as are our savings; we're in fairly good shape. We believe, however, that one of us going to a nursing home could exhaust our savings. How can we ensure the other will still have money to live on?

**Answer.** There is no direct way to shelter your savings from the possible, but not inevitable, cost of long-term care (LTC). Purchasing an LTC insurance policy would involve an annual premium, which could increase. Such a policy would pay for the bulk of possible LTC costs whether you remain at home, become a resident of an assisted-living facility, or live in a nursing home.

But before you do that, let's consider a different perspective. First, you probably have enough financial assets to support LTC for awhile. Your Social Security and pensions should cover your basic expenses.

Genworth is one of the major providers of long-term care insurance. Their 2014 survey of long-term care indicates these median costs per year:

- \$41,184 to have a home health aide
- \$42,270 for one person in a private, one-bedroom unit in an assisted-living facility
- \$50,735 for a semi-private room in a nursing home
- \$65,700 for a private room in a nursing home.

For most people, these costs represent a fast track to poverty. However, your odds are against running out of money because **most nursing home stays are relatively brief**. How brief? A 2010 study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* found that only 27.3 percent of those dying in the study period lived in a nursing home prior to their death. The median length of stay (half stayed longer, half stayed shorter) was five months. Sixty-five percent of nursing care residents died within one year of admission. The average length of stay was 14 months, due to a small number of people who had very long stays.

Viewed another way, **72.7 percent of those dying won't need nursing home care, and 65 percent of the 27.3 percent of those who do will die within a year of admission**. **This suggests that about 90 percent of the population will either have no need for a nursing home stay or will stay less than a year.** ✨



Combining scenery and recreation in Israel's Carmel Forest



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Thursday Mornings on Daystar

Our ministry is blessed to announce that, thanks to your consistent support, we've added a third weekly broadcast on **Daystar**, America's premier Bible-teaching TV network! Daystar viewers can now watch and record *Zola Levitt Presents*:

**Wednesdays**, 10:00 PM Central Time

**Thursdays**, 9:00 AM Central Time (New time, PTL!)

**Fridays**, 5:00 PM Central Time

Our other national network broadcast on **ABC Family** remains the same: **Sundays** at 5:30 AM Eastern / 4:30 AM Central Time (you may want to set your recorder). **Cable & Satellite** viewers still can see *ZLP* on various local channels. Please visit [levitt.com/airsch](http://levitt.com/airsch) to see our dozens and dozens of other full-power independent broadcasters.



## Atlas Scrubbed Israel

The publishing giant **HarperCollins** developed a special-order atlas for Moslem schools in the Middle East.

This **News Corp** subsidiary agreed to show Syria, Jordan, and even Gaza and the West Bank but not Israel!

Outcries from Israel supporters forced the publisher to apologize, discontinue marketing the product, and promise to pulp all remaining stock. Our condolences to neo-Nazis.

**Free Item**

## Pamphlet of the Month

A well-planned will is often the centerpiece of an effective and thoughtful estate plan. A will makes it possible to distribute cash, investments, real estate, and personal property to family and other loved ones. A will can help heirs with management, reduce settlement costs, and make "gifts of a lifetime" to favorite charitable interests.

The pamphlet entitled **Questions & Answers about Wills and Bequests**

addresses questions such as  
1) Who needs a will? and  
2) What if I have a will that no longer meets my needs?

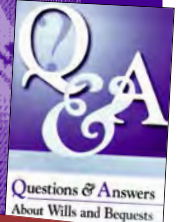
To receive a free copy, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

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## "Come Home!"

**Zola Tours to Israel**



**See page 36 for details**



# Hebrew Lesson



## The Great Lamb of God

By John J. Parsons

הִנֵּה יֵשׁוּעַ הַאֱלֹהִים הַנִּשְׂא אֶת־חַטָּאת הָעוֹלָם

“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” – John 1:29

לָם	הָ	עוֹ	הָ	אֶת־חַ	טָאָת	הָ	נִשְׂא	הַ	אֱלֹ	הִים	הָ	יֵשׁוּעַ	הָ	הִנֵּה	
(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)
ha-o-lam			et - chat-tat			ha-no-sei			ha-e-lo-him			seh		hi-nei	
the sins of the world			who takes away			the Lamb of God			Behold!						

**The story of Passover goes all the way back to the beginning**, to Eden itself, when Adam and Eve broke covenant with God and ate from the forbidden tree. Because of their transgression, our original ancestors incurred the plague of death and were exiled from the Divine Presence, though God graciously promised to heal them through the coming Seed of the woman—the Savior who would crush the head of the serpent and break the fangs of his venomous sting (Gen. 3:15). Soon after making this great promise, God clothed our original parents with the skin of a sacrificed lamb (Gen. 3:21), linking their coming deliverance with the “Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world” (1 Pet. 1:18–20). The very first “Passover” was in the garden. And the story of Passover extends to the world to come, where in the redeemed paradise of God we will celebrate the victory of the Lamb who was slain for our redemption (Rev. 5:12–13).

The account of our redemption is revealed on two levels in Scripture—one that concerns the paradise of Eden (the universal level), and the other that concerns the paradise of Israel (the particular level). Therefore, Yeshua is *both* rightly called the “Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29) *and* “the Messiah, our Passover Lamb Who has been sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7). Likewise, He is called the “Seed of the woman” and “the Son of David”; He is the “Second Adam,” and the “King of the Jews,” and so on. Israel’s redemption in Egypt, therefore, serves as a picture of both the universal salvation promised in Eden (i.e., the lamb slain from the foundation of the world) as well as the revelation of the sacrificial ministry of Yeshua as Israel’s promised Messiah. Yeshua is both the Savior of the world as well as Israel’s King and Deliverer.

Though God instructed each household to select its own lamb for the Passover, the Torah refers to “the” Lamb of God, as if there was only one: “You shall keep it [i.e., the Passover lamb] until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall slaughter him (אָתּוֹ) at twilight (Exod. 12:6). Indeed there is only one “Lamb of God” that takes away the sins of the world, and that is our Savior, Yeshua the Messiah! This Passover Season let us join the great refrain of the heavenly host by boldly proclaiming:

**“Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”** (Rev. 5:12). Amen.



## *Abraham: Father of Faith*

Eight programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series tells the story of the Patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities illustrate the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.

**The Calling** God chooses Abram from the idol-worshipping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the Ages.

**A Man of Altars** Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

**God-initiated Covenant** God makes a covenant with Abram. Myles interviews Itamar Marcus, whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the message in Arabic-language media and schoolbooks.

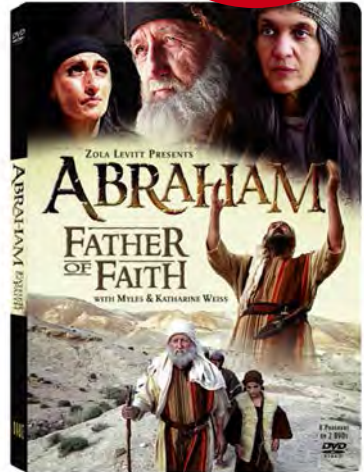
**A Domestic Conflict for the Ages** Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

**The Promised Son** Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot. Katharine interviews Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born Jewish interpreter of media in Arabic.

**Deliverance and Increase** Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. Myles interviews Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

**Circumcision as a Forever Sign** God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. Former mayor of Shiloh David Rubin explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.

**The Sacrifice** Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come. We interview a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.



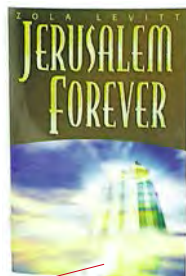
Order DVDs online  
or on page 18.





**Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library**

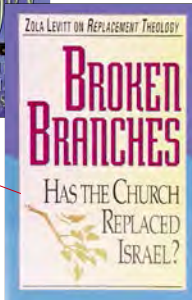
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▶	<b>Israel, My Promised</b>	\$3	___
▶	<b>Jerusalem Forever</b>	\$4	___
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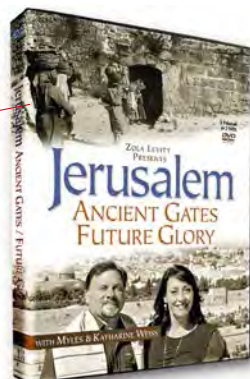
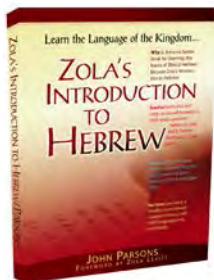
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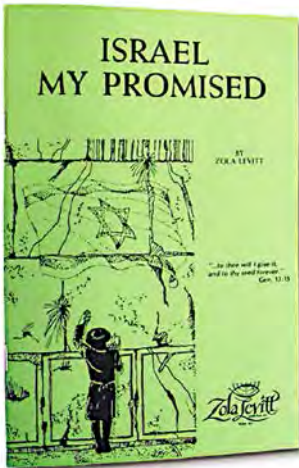
## [The Second Coming](#) study booklet

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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 and the Rapture of the Church.



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## [Israel, My Promised](#) study booklet

See Israel through the eyes of Zola Levitt, a faithful son who made the land of his Father his life's work. A love letter from a sincere writer to his homeland. An intensely personal and heartfelt look at God's country, one of the most misunderstood lands in all history.



To  
Index

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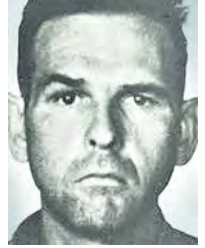
# “My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me”

BY AVNER SHAPIRA / Haaretz.com

In the mid-1990s, near the end of the period during which she lived in Israel, **Jennifer Teege** (r) watched Steven Spielberg’s film *Schindler’s List*.



It was not until years later that Teege, a German-born Black woman who was given up for adoption as a child, discovered that one of the central characters in the film, **Amon Goeth**, (r) was her grandfather.



Many viewers recall the figure of Goeth, the brutal commander of the Plaszow concentration camp in Poland—played in the film by Ralph Fiennes—from the scenes in which he shoots Jewish inmates from the porch of his home. But Teege, who had not been in touch with either her biological mother or biological grandmother for years, had no idea about the identity of her grandfather.

During a 2008 visit to a library in Hamburg to look for material on coping with depression, she happened to notice a book with a cover photograph of a familiar figure: her biological mother, Monika Hertwig (née Goeth). She immediately withdrew the book, which was titled *I Have to Love My Father, Right?* and based on an interview with her mother.

“The first shock was the sheer discovery of a book about my mother and my family, which had information about me and my identity that had been kept hidden from me,” Teege says. “I knew almost nothing about the life of my biological mother, nor did my adoptive family. I hoped to find answers to questions that had disturbed me and to the depression I had suffered from. The second shock was the information about my grandfather’s deeds.”

Teege embarked on a long personal journey in the wake of the unknown family heritage and published the memoir *Amon* in German in 2013. It is due out in English in April under the title *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family’s Nazi Past*. ★





# Letters to ZLM

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

## Comment from [www.levitt.com](#)

**From H.L.:** Although it is evil and those people will be cursed, Europe's hatred toward the Jews does bring into focus God's unfailing love and plan for the remnant of His people in that they are making *aliyah* to Israel. So I choose to praise God for this anti-Semitism!

## A Non-Believer (so far) Writes

Dear ZLM,

I have read the *Levitt Letter* for years to get info on what is happening to Christians in Moslem lands. I am not a bit religious but study religions. I have criticized Zola and Myles for their fundamentalism. Your ministry needs to discuss the absence of freedom from religion, and freedom within religions.

There are few freedoms within religion for the three Abrahamic faiths. Where are the freedoms from religion for little children? Almost immediately after birth, the indoctrination and ritualism begin. They have no choices. Fundamentalism of all faiths is dangerous. No one should be coerced into wearing or eating his religion. Both Zola and Myles have been involved in those tactics.

Ultra Orthodox Jews in upper NY divert public school monies into their religious school systems and have a history of fraud-related trouble with the law. —S.H.

Hello, S.H.—

Thanks for your interest in ZLM. I would like to address some of the positive insights you bring and also what I think may be erroneous assumptions on your part.

*(continued next page)*



**Israel Border Police officers plant a tree to celebrate Tu b'Shvat (New Year for Trees.) Photo: Marc Sellem**



First, a hearty *thank you* for caring about the persecution of Christians in Moslem lands. This oppression is an extremely underreported, ongoing tragedy. "Mainstream media" in America do not focus on this egregious fact of Islamic domination. Our ministry uses our media presence to keep this issue in the public eye.

Regarding your statement about a child's right to "freedom from religion," I believe that decision is best left to the parents. I am wary of a government coming between people of faith and their responsibilities as parents. I draw the line when a religion (no names, but it may be a political ideology of world domination in the form of a "religion") inculcates children with hatred and encourages murder to advance the cause.

About criminal activity among Jewish people: of course, there are "bad apples" in every group. I take to heart what our friend Walid Shoebat, former PLO terrorist, says, "The Jews and Christians will give you a headache, but the Moslems will take your head off" ... big difference! Shalom, shalom — Myles

### No Difference Between Bible and Koran?

Dear ZLM,

When reading the Bible and the Koran, I see little to no difference in the treatment of the infidel. Please compare them and the role each plays in the respective religions. If one questions the character and intelligence, etc., of a Moslem who follows Islam knowing what the Koran says, the same must be said about a Jew who follows Judaism, knowing what the Talmud says. Is my viewpoint correct and, if not, why? — D.C.

Shalom, D.C.—

The Hebrew Scriptures and some of the oral teachings do recount the history of ancient military battles, but the **Hebraic worldview does not have an ongoing plan to conquer the planet** and subject all humanity to a rabbinic lifestyle. We received your letter before the March *Levitt Letter* reached mailboxes. Raymond Ibrahim gave this **excellent analysis** on pp. 8–9: "The Old Testament is clearly describing historic episodes; whereas the Koran, while also developed within a historical context, uses generic, open-ended language that transcends time and incites believers to attack and slay nonbelievers today no less than yesterday."

**Christianity teaches adherents to "love one's enemies"** and has undergone positive reformation through the centuries.

The Koran and the hadith are currently being used to justify the kinds of action we see in ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah, Boko Haram, al-Qaeda, and the PA, all of whom celebrate the slaughter of non-Moslems and name streets and town squares after homicide bombers who kill Jews and Christians.\* Hope this helps — Myles

\*For example, please see [Killers Honored as 'Martyrs'](#) on page 31.





**We Love and Bless Canada**

Dear Myles,

I always look forward to watching your TV programs at [levitt.tv](http://levitt.tv) and have been extremely blessed since I found your website two years ago.

I am sorry, but I found troubling the [prophecy program about America](#) because of **Mark Hitchcock's** comments. I know he has a great reputation in the Christian circles and has been on Canadian and American television.

The Americans I know have never said how wonderful their country is while trashing other countries, like Canada. Hitchcock's attitude that America is the greatest country and who cares about prophecies about other countries reminds me of the country boy who thinks his hometown is best because he has not been anywhere else. I couldn't believe Hitchcock shared such an arrogant view publicly. His perspective is not in keeping with God's outlook of the world.

Canada and many other countries merit God's attention just as much as the USA. — L.D.

Shalom L.D.—

I believe you have misinterpreted Mark Hitchcock. His worldview is decidedly larger than "America only." Perhaps that didn't come across in our TV program.

This ministry prays regularly for the U.S. to *return* to our Judeo-Christian roots. We see our beloved country faltering, and we pray for spiritual revival in the Church and awakening in the town square. Canada and your prime minister, Stephen Harper, are an inspiration to Katharine and me, as Harper has stood almost alone as a voice for Israel among the government leaders of the Western world. To borrow from Joshua (24:15): "As for me and my house," we love and bless Canada. —Myles



**ALIYAH FOLLOWING CHARLIE HEBDO MASSACRE:** French Jewish immigrants to Israel display their new Israeli ID cards during a Jewish Agency welcome ceremony in Jerusalem.



## Many Ways to Watch Zola Levitt Presents

Dear ZLM,

We are disappointed that you have removed your program from station KAZQ TV32 in New Mexico. Are there any plans to come back on the air? We are faithful supporters of your show. —S. and J.T.

Dear S. and J.T.—

Your disappointment is understandable, but please rejoice in the many alternative-viewing opportunities that remain. Since you emailed us, I gather that you have access to [levitt.tv](http://levitt.tv) where you can watch our newest weekly broadcasts as well as hundreds of selections in our vast archive.

Beyond that, two far-reaching national TV networks, **Daystar** and **ABC Family**, carry our program at four different times, which you're welcome to record. Please refer to [levitt.com/airsch](http://levitt.com/airsch) for our national broadcasting schedule. That schedule includes listings for our satellite and international broadcasts. You also can enjoy our [podcasts](#) and watch us on [Roku](#). You might even want to order our DVDs, watch them, and then contribute them to your church library as a tax-deductible gift.

Blessings —Mark

I want to say "Amen!" to Mark's answer. Our ministry's digital world presence is becoming more relevant as we move farther into the 21st century. The Gospel is going deeper into the 10/40 Window\* through amazing technologies that can reach the younger generation in ways that broadcast TV has yet to penetrate.



Amen also to Mark's suggested "win-win-win" scenario of buying DVDs from us, learning from them with friends and family, and donating them to your church as a tax-deductible gift. Shalom —Myles ★



\*The **10/40 Window**, located between 10 and 40 degrees latitude north of the Equator, includes parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, areas of under-evangelized populations.





# Ski Goggles You Control with Your Eyes

SCIENCE: BY VIVA SARAH PRESS / Israel21c.org



Outdoor sports buffs are abuzz with news of novel augmented-reality ski goggles. The **RideOn** prototype looks like a regular pair of protective eye gear, but the Israeli visual tech and engineering experts behind the new product say RideOn is “the world’s first true augmented-reality (AR) goggles for skiing and snowboarding.”

The idea that Israelis—who live in a hot country—would revolutionize the way snowboarders and skiers move may seem ridiculous. But Alon Getz, CEO and cofounder of RideOn, says that while the film *Cool Runnings* was based on a Jamaican bobsled team “with nowhere to practice, Israelis have a local ski resort, and tens of thousands of Israelis go to Europe every winter to ski.”

Getz, along with two friends, software engineer Ori Kotek and entrepreneur Zur Erez, came up with their idea of augmented-reality glasses for navigating, playing, and interacting through eye movements. “We wanted to find our locations on a ski resort map instantly, or to quickly contact each other when we’d get separated. We wanted to do these things without having to take our gloves off, or use our phones,” says Getz.

They created a floating UI (user interface) with which the wearer interacts without losing visibility. The RideOn system can identify if you’re moving or inactive and shows content on the screen depending on your position.

Soon, those days of fumbling with the ski map and trying to find your run will be a thing of the past. With RideOn goggles, you can get off the chairlift, stop and look around, and the screen in front of you will tell you how to get to red, green, black, or blue runs. It will also navigate you to the nearest ski lodges, restaurants and bars, as well as find ski-lift locations and check queue wait times. The goggles also have a play feature that lets you compete against yourself and your friends in various games and improve your time and accuracy.

“Everybody that puts these goggles on their head is amazed,” says Getz. He and Kotek say they expect a sizeable demand for their goggles, which target a worldwide ski market of around 115 million people in 80 countries. They believe RideOn goggles will revolutionize the ski experience. ★



*RideOn could be a game-changer for skiers and snowboarders. Founders Ori Kotek, Zur Erez, and Alon Getz with their prototype goggles.*



# Diagnosing Cervical Cancer by Smartphone

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



Every two minutes somewhere in the world, a woman dies from cervical cancer, the leading cause of cancer death among women in developing countries. This is an avoidable tragedy, as cervical cancer is easily treatable. Ariel Beery, a 35-year-old former New Yorker living in Israel, was so troubled by this grim statistic that he and his childhood friend, optics expert David Levitz, determined to do something about it as fast as they could. Their company, MobileOCT, has developed a low-cost imaging device that transforms a smartphone camera into a colposcope that allows community healthcare workers to detect and treat cervical cancer without the need for electricity or running water—or even a clinic.

“More than five billion people around the world have access to mobile phones, but not to a physician,” Beery explains. “We can do on a mobile phone what a \$100,000 device can do, with 10 times better magnification than using just the naked eye, raising diagnostic accuracy significantly.”

MobileOCT is developing point-of-care diagnostic solutions for oral and skin cancer as well. But Beery explains that he focused first on cervical cancer because of the urgent need. “If we have the potential to save lives, we have an obligation to do so as quickly as possible,” says Beery. Advanced beta prototypes are already being used to take diagnostic images of patients in Kenya, Botswana, Haiti, Mexico, and the United States through collaborations with Partners in Health, Massachusetts General Hospital’s Global Health group, the University of Pennsylvania, and Scripps Health in California. The final product version will enable optical biopsies as well.

“We learned from partners in the field that they want to start imaging right away, for documentation of sexual violence and training purposes,” Beery explains. “Healthcare providers worldwide often have little ability to document those cases for legal and healthcare purposes, and they need to understand the effects of sexual violence and follow-on complications that might occur. We have a moral obligation to provide, as quickly as possible, a device they could start doing that with.”



*MobileOCT A simple but potentially life-saving screening option*

Pending positive results from clinical trials in Israel, California, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, the optical biopsy capability is expected to be added on later. Over time, increasing levels of accuracy could be added to the examinations in the field.

“Our company began as a biomedical optical company, using light to characterize tissue,” Beery explains. “We’re still working toward that as a clinical research aim.”

Gynecologist Bruce Kahn of the Scripps Clinic has said that he believes this breakthrough imaging technology could one day replace the Pap test for cancer and HPV testing everywhere. ★



# How Jewish Reporters In Islamic Lands Hide Their Identity

BY RON KAMPEAS (r) JTA.org



Don't bring it up. If it comes up, change the subject. If you can't change the subject, consider an outright denial. Those are some of the strategies used by Jewish reporters working in the Arab and Muslim Middle East to conceal their religious heritage.

Dual American-Israeli citizen **Steven Sotloff**, beheaded in 2014 by ISIS, was likely not targeted because of his Jewishness; **James Foley**, another journalist kidnapped by ISIS and beheaded a month earlier, was Catholic.

The captors of **Daniel Pearl**, a *Wall Street Journal* correspondent kidnapped and beheaded by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002, made a point of Pearl's Jewishness. In the video showing his execution, they included Pearl saying "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish. I am a Jew" among his final words.

As ethnic and sectarian origins loom large in every encounter, keeping Sotloff's Jewish identity under wraps made sense, said Janine Zacharia, who has reported in the region for *The Washington Post*.

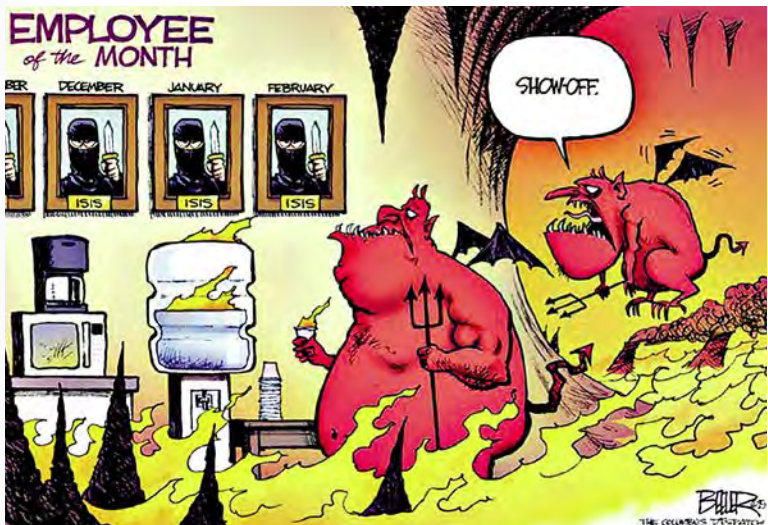
"The first question whenever I met anyone in the Arab world was 'where are you from,' and they weren't asking whether it was the United States or Canada — it was 'are you a Muslim or a Jew?'" said Zacharia, who now lectures at Stanford University. "I would say, 'I'm from New York or D.C.,' and if they persisted, I would say, 'My grandfather is from Greece,' which is true. I didn't want to say what my religion was," she said.

Another Jerusalem-based correspondent, who asked not to be named because she is still reporting in the region, said, "You hear it in conversation. 'You're not a Jew, are you?'" This correspondent, who knew Sotloff, said of Libya during the overthrow of Muammar Gadhafi in 2011, "There was so much indoctrination against Jews, but they didn't know Jews."

Many governments in the region tend to ban entry to Israel-based correspondents, regardless of religious heritage. Jerusalem correspondents traveling to Arab

countries go to lengths to cover up any Israel ties: ripping tags out of clothes, leaving Israeli cash with trusted friends in transit cities, shutting down social media accounts.

[\(continued next page\)](#)



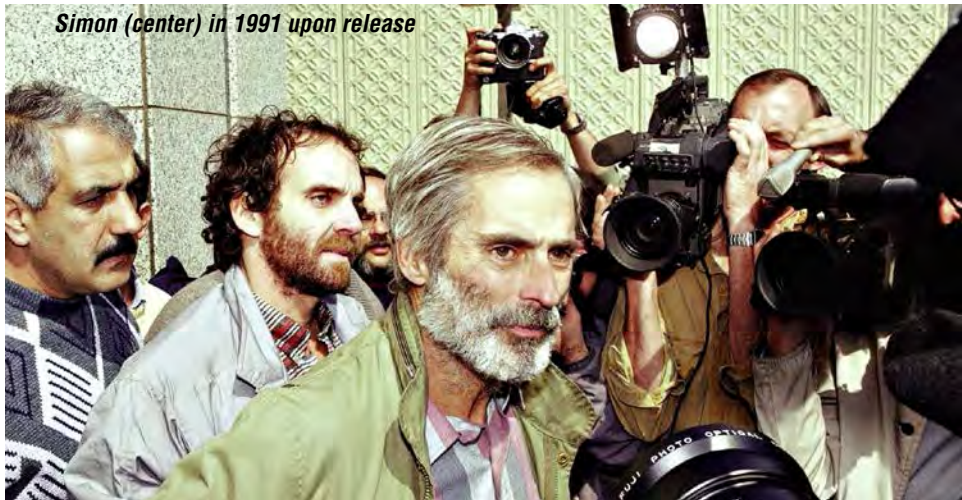
# Jewish Reporters in the Middle East



“60 Minutes” correspondent **Lara Logan** (*right*) was repeatedly sexually assaulted by thugs yelling, “Jew! Jew!” as she covered the chaotic fall of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo’s main square in February of 2011. The day before, Logan had told *Esquire.com* that Egyptian soldiers hassling her and her crew had accused them of “being Israeli spies.” Logan is not Jewish.

In December 2012, chief foreign correspondent for NBC News **Richard Engel** and his crew were in an area of Syria they believed was held by rebels when they were jumped by heavily armed gunmen, believed to be pro-regime and trained by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard. Engel’s captors used psychological but not physical torture, hoping to exchange the journalists for comrades held by the rebels. Engel, whose father was Jewish, later said that his captors knew little about him and his crew.

CBS News correspondent, **Bob Simon**, 73, the embodiment of the fearless foreign correspondent, died in February in a car accident in New York City. In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, he crossed into Iraqi-controlled Kuwait where Iraqi soldiers saw him and three crewmen and captured them. They were taken to Baghdad where they were beaten with canes and nearly starved for 40 days — a time he called “the most searing experience of my life.”



*Simon (center) in 1991 upon release*

“We got beaten up a lot, and badly,” he told the *Los Angeles Times* in 1992. “But in my mind, I found I reached a certain accommodation with the beatings. Your instinct immediately afterward is to check, ‘Can I see? Can I hear? Am I OK in the vital parts?’”

He knew the situation was bad but knew political prisoners in Iraq had it much worse. During one interrogation, an Iraqi captain forced open his mouth, spit in it and called him a Jew, which he was. He was based in Israel.

After he was released, he said CBS News offered him his choice of several assignments, but he wanted to return to Tel Aviv, where he had been based since 1977.

“People find it funny,” he told *Newsday* at the time, “that I’m probably the only journalist who goes there to relax.”

[\(continued next page\)](#)



# Insults as Jewish Reporter Walks Through Paris

BY JTA / TimesOfIsrael.com (theme continued from page 29)



An Israeli journalist walked for hours around Paris while wearing a Jewish *kippa* (yarmulke) to test attitudes toward Jews and documented multiple threats and insults hurled in his direction.

**Zvika Klein**, (shown below) a reporter for the news site [nrg.co.il](http://nrg.co.il) and *Makor Rishon* daily newspaper, released the footage from his recent walk around Paris and its suburbs.



Israeli reporter Zvika Klein on a street in Paris, February 2015

I'm joking - the dog will not eat you  
 סתם סתם אני צוחק, הכלב לא יאכל אותך  
 On rigole, le chien ne va pas te manger



Many anti-Semitic incidents occurred while Klein was walking in the suburb of Sarcelles, which sports a large Muslim population, whereas his wandering through the center of Paris was considerably calmer by comparison.

In one scene, a person wearing a black knit cap said “Jew” and walked alongside Klein, who was being filmed secretly by a colleague wearing a backpack fitted with a rear-pointing recorder. In two separate incidents, one involving a man and the other a woman, passersby spat in Klein’s direction as he walked past them.

In another part of Paris, passersby called out “Vive Palestine” at him. In several cases, locals hurled profanities at Klein, calling him a homosexual and suggesting he had come to their neighborhood looking for sex.

His video, [10 Hours of Walking in Paris as a Jew](#), drew inspiration from Shoshana Roberts whose [video](#) shows her being sexually harassed repeatedly while walking around New York City.

The number of anti-Semitic incidents recorded in France more than doubled in 2014 over the previous year, reaching a five-year-record of 851 instances. ☆



An anti-Israel sign posted during a demonstration in central Seville, Spain

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



Rotterdam's  
Mayor  
Ahmed  
Aboutaleb

## Moslem Dutch Mayor: Integrate or Leave

By Sara Malm / DailyMail.co.uk

Just hours after the *Charlie Hebdo* shootings, the Moroccan-born mayor of Rotterdam told Moslem immigrants who do not appreciate the way of life in Western civilizations, “pack your bags and leave.”

Labor politician **Ahmed Aboutaleb**, a former journalist who was appointed mayor of the Dutch city in 2008, is known for his straightforward stance on integration. The 53-year-old won the praise of London mayor Boris Johnson over his comments attacking fellow Moslems who move to Western nations but refuse to accept the Western way of life.

Johnson hailed Aboutaleb as “straight to the point.” He added, “If we are going to win the struggle for the minds of these young people, then that is the kind of voice we need to hear—and it needs above all to be a Moslem voice.”

Mayor Aboutaleb grew up the son of an imam in northern Morocco, but moved to the Netherlands in 1976.

## Killers Honored as ‘Martyrs’

*Israel Today*

Palestinian terrorists mercilessly slaughter unarmed Jewish civilians, and rather than be subjected posthumously to scorn and rejection, they are held aloft as “martyrs” and role models. Such was the dignity paid to **Ghassan** and **Uday Abu Jamal** (*below*) who stormed a synagogue in Jerusalem during morning prayers in November, butchering Jewish worshippers with meat cleavers and a pistol.

Palestinian media gushed with admiration as the two were laid to rest.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s ruling Fatah movement posted its own obituary on Facebook:

*This is the place of eternal rest of Martyrs Ghassan and Uday Abu Jamal of Jabel Mukaber in occupied Jerusalem, who ascended [to heaven]... during an operation [i.e., terror attack] at an occupation synagogue in occupied Jerusalem.*



These blatant glorifications of terrorism were all but ignored by the mainstream international press, which continues to insist the Palestinian Authority is a moderate and viable peace partner.

*Translation by [Palestinian Media Watch](#)*



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# Passover Conveys Message of Jewish Unity



BY MAAYAN JAFFE / JNS.org

Between 19 BC and 4 BC, King Herod I renovated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, enlarging and beautifying it. During this period, Jewish pilgrimages to Jerusalem occurred on what are known as the *shalosh regalim*, “three pilgrimage festivals.”

All of the festivals—Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot—center around the story of the Exodus in some way. But Passover is the first and foremost of the bunch.

Jerusalem always held a special place in the hearts of the Jewish people, but as the Romans built roads and as Herod expanded the Temple, the pilgrimage to Jerusalem became commonplace and served as a message of unity—“one Temple, one God, one Passover”—for all of the Jews, said Prof. Jonathan Klawans of Boston University’s Department of Religion.

Yet detailed writings about what the pilgrimage festivals may have looked like during Temple times don’t exist. According to Talmudic scholar Dr. Joshua Kulp, author of *Schechter Haggadah: Art, History and Commentary*, most knowledge on the subject comes from the works of the ancient historian Josephus. While later writings (such as the New Testament) describe what it was like in Jerusalem during the Second Temple era, those works were written at a later time.

It isn’t known where people stayed or slept when they were in Jerusalem, or how many people were there (though most assume a large number), or what people felt at that time. What is known, Klawans says, is that the pilgrimages were a social experience that pulled the Jewish people together.

It’s also clear that for Passover, pilgrimage participants ate in Jerusalem as family units. A representative from each family would take an animal, bring it up to the Temple, and have it slaughtered. Then the representative would bring the animal back, and the family would cook and eat the sacrificial meat. During this festive meal, families also drank wine, but not a specific number of glasses. They sang songs—specifically, the *Hallel* prayer [Psalms 113-118], which is also part of the modern Passover *Seder*.

According to scholars, the Passover *Seder* as we know it today was developed between the destruction of the Temple (70 AD) and the end of the Rabbinic Period (500 AD).

“The *Seder* we have today is an organized meal with instructions,” said Kulp. “The *Seder* tells us how many cups of wine and when to drink them. It tells us when to wash our hands, to say blessings. There is even a ritualized way of telling the Passover story.”

But exactly how much of the contemporary *Seder* relates to the pilgrimage meals? Klawans said it isn’t so much that the formulaic *Seder* aligns to the pilgrimage and sacrifice, but rather, that the perception of that connection is the key to understanding Passover.

“Is having a *Seder* like going to the Temple? There are obvious differences. But the perception of continuity really drives people,” he said. “Jews today in



[\(continued next page\)](#)



## Jewish Unity... *continued*



Pennsylvania or Boston or Jerusalem are holding *Seders* at the same time and in basically the same way, and that is significant for us.”

Tova Hametz, who lives in the Old City of Jerusalem, echoes Klawans’s sentiment, but adds that she believes a deep unity can be felt to this day in Jerusalem, which she calls “the epicenter of the universe.”

“It is the holiest place,” she says. “We are in HaShem’s backyard. Now that all the Jews are scattered in exile, we sometimes forget about belonging here [in Jerusalem], where one still can experience the inspiration and community consciousness of being together in celebration.”

Hametz lives on a narrow street, about 6 feet wide, through which passersby navigate to reach the *Kotel* (Western Wall) from the Jaffa Gate. On Passover, thousands of people walk down her street.

“I open my door and I can sit on the front steps with my daughter and watch as they flood down the street,” she says. “And it is not for an hour or two, it is all hours of the day and night. They come in masses—some running, some walking. Every kind of person you can imagine. Every variety of dress. Every size and background and color.”

While Hametz says she can only try to imagine what it must have been like when the Temple existed in all its greatness, she focuses on living in the place where the next Temple *could be built* at any moment. And on Passover, as the throngs of rowdy people keep her up in awe, she tries to remain conscious of what it means to be a Jew.

Hametz says, “Seeing the experience of everyone coming here, to the *Kotel*, together—that is what it means to be in Israel, to be a Jew, to be a part of the whole.” ☆



***A model of King Herod I's renovated version of the Second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.***  
Credit: Ariely

# Cuneiform Tablets Reveal Life of Jews Exiled to Babylon



ARCHAEOLOGY JNS.org / news service

A new Jerusalem exhibit opened in February displays ancient clay tablets found in Iraq that reveal what life was like for Jews exiled from Judea to Babylon more than two millennia ago. The 100 cuneiform tablets show transactions and contracts between Jews



forced into exile by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar around the year 600 BC.

The tablets belong to the Al-Yahudu archive, named after the southern Iraq city where the exiled Jews settled. Purchased by an Israeli collector in London two years ago, each tablet is no bigger than a hand palm and focuses on one Judean family over four generations, all of whom had biblical names.

“It was like hitting the jackpot,” said Filip Vukosavovic — an expert on ancient Babylonia, Sumeria, and Assyria — who curated the exhibition at Jerusalem’s Bible Lands Museum.

“We started reading the tablets and within minutes we were absolutely stunned. It fills in a critical gap in understanding of what was going on in the life of Judeans exiled in Babylonia more than 2,500 years ago.”

“They were free to go about their lives, they weren’t slaves,” Vukosavovic added. “Nebuchadnezzar wasn’t a brutal ruler in that respect. He knew he needed the Judeans to help revive the struggling Babylonian economy.” ★

*Illustration from Nuremberg Chronicle of destruction of Jerusalem under Babylonian rule.*





# JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.

## Passover Joke

(with thanks to John Parsons)

*Ma Nishtahnah Ha Lailah Ha Zeh:* Why is this night different from all other nights? — One of the four questions a child traditionally asks during a Passover Seder.

A Jewish doctor makes a great medical discovery for which the Queen has decided to grant him a knighthood. At the ceremony, as she touches his shoulders with the sword, he is to recite an ancient Celtic blessing.

For all his medical genius, the doctor has difficulty memorizing the Celtic words. On the day of his investiture, the nervous doctor waits his turn as several others are knighted before him. As he listens to one after another correctly recite the Celtic blessing, he grows more nervous.

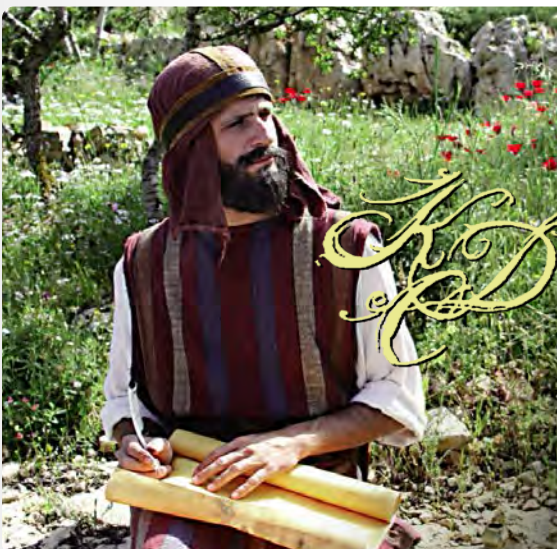
Finally, when he kneels before the Queen of England and she taps his shoulders with the sword, the good doctor completely forgets the Celtic words and substitutes the first foreign words that pop into his head: *Ma Nishtahnah Ha Lailah Ha Zeh*.

The Queen, clearly confused, looks to the gathered crowd and asks, "Why is this Knight different from all the other Knights?" ✨



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

HAPPY  
PASSOVER



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