

# Nurturing Christian Zionism in Colonial America

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Mayflower II, replica of Pilgrims' original ship. (Michael Springer / Getty Images)



By Benjamin Glatt / JPost.com

With the founding and development of Colonial America, the New World not only became a place for new settlements, it also became a place for previously rejected ideas to redevelop and flourish, such as the return of the Jewish people to Israel.

On Sept. 6, 1620, the Pilgrims sailed on the *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England, to settle in the New World. Despite the terrible and cramped conditions on the small ship, the 101 Puritans braved the tough journey, with only one passenger dying during the more than two-months-long voyage.

The Puritans believed themselves to be like the Israelites fleeing Egypt, wandering into the vast and unknown wilderness and reaching the Promised Land of the New World.

As their guide, they used the Bible, which had been published in English (in what is

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## Gal Gadot Slays it on Set

By Viva Sarah Press  
Israel21c.org

The upcoming *Wonder Woman* superhero film is scheduled for release in June 2017, but fans of the DC Comics series are eagerly collecting every tidbit available about the impending movie.



Gal Gadot, the Israeli actress who portrays the Amazonian Diana Prince in the movie, posted on her Twitter and Instagram feeds a snapshot of behind-the-scenes fighting. The photo fielded over 170,000 views in two days.

And it's not just playacting, either. Gadot, who served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), has weapons

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(photo: Zack Snyder Twitter / Warner Bros)

## Nurturing Christian Zionism in Colonial America cont. from cover

now known as the King James Version) less than a decade earlier, and was slowly finding its way into English homes. They adopted Biblical customs, established Biblical codes (such as observing the Sabbath), and gave their children Hebrew names.

It was this familiar use of the Bible, in a new territory not bound by past religious beliefs, that helped begin calls for the return of the Jewish Nation to Israel, a fundamental tenet of Christian Zionism.

In late 16th-century England, scholars and religious figures with Puritan beliefs (e.g. Francis Kett of Cambridge University) dedicated sections in their academic works to explaining the significance for Christians of the Jews' return to the Holy Land; but they were arrested and persecuted, and some were even burned at the stake.

In Colonial America, these thoughts and ideas found a good home and quickly spread throughout the population.

"With a significant number of English-speaking Christians during the last 400 years thoroughly saturated with Jewish restoration theology, it should not be surprising that many such Christians in the last two hundred years have risen up to play key roles in the establishment of the modern State of Israel," writes Liberty University Prof. Thomas D. Ice in his work *Lovers of Zion: A History of Christian Zionism*.

These beliefs have even made it to the highest and most powerful office in the country: the President of the United States. Presidents like John Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson made known their desire for a Jewish state in historical and Biblical Israel. These beliefs reached a high point in President Harry S. Truman's recognition of the nascent State of Israel in 1948, and they continue to flourish today with strong U.S.-Israeli ties. The road to modern-day Christian Zionism owes a major development to the Puritans.

Please see [Classic Zola on p. 10](#). ★



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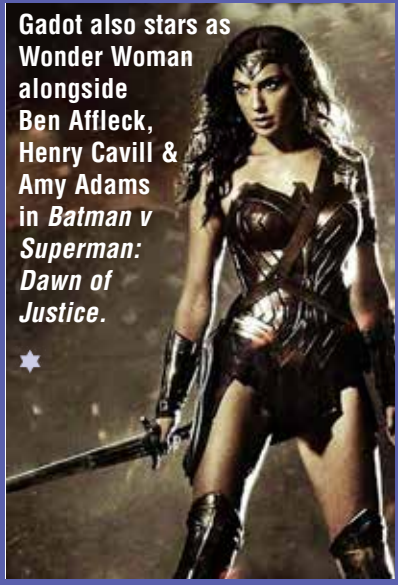


## Gal Gadot Slays it on Set

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...and combat training. After all, that's how she initially scored the recurring role of Gisele Yashar in the *Fast and Furious* series.

Gadot also stars as Wonder Woman alongside Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill & Amy Adams in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*.





# Give Thanks to God!

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



Thanksgiving Day provides a time for Americans to gather in family groups to extol the virtues of our country and express our gratitude for the privilege of living here, even while acknowledging the inequities and sins committed against the host people and those who were brought here in chains.

My grandparents, who fled “Russia-Poland” (as it was called due to shifting borders) and constant persecution, loved America. They struggled to learn English. Yiddish was spoken only in the home and with local shopkeepers. They washed the “stoop” (front steps) of their downtown tenement and even scrubbed the sidewalks in front of their adoptive home. They became AMERICANS in spite of prejudice, poverty, and anti-Semitism.

One illustration of this gift of a new life comes from the Bible’s account of Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth.

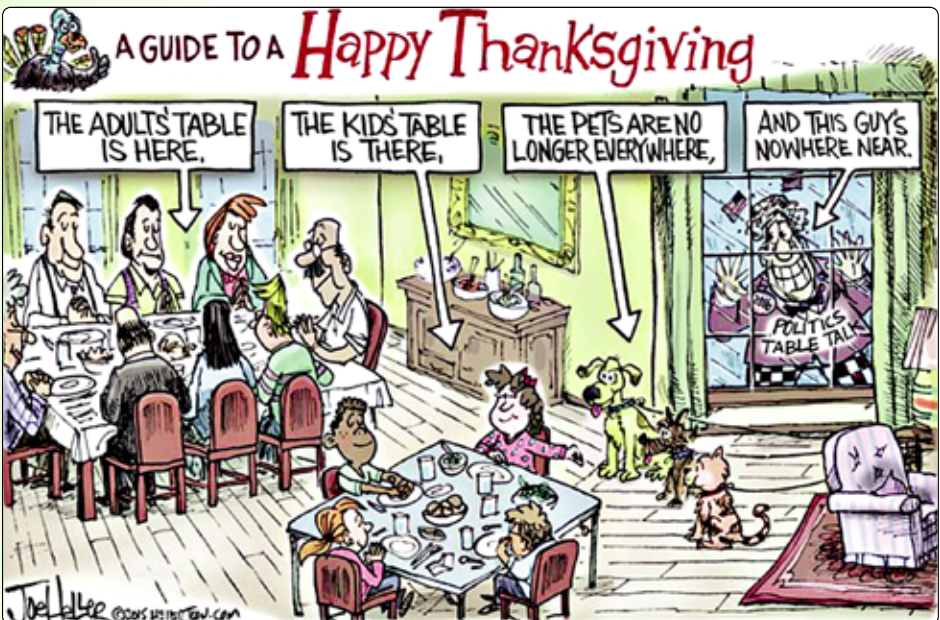
*2 Samuel 4:4 – Saul’s son Jonathan had a son whose legs were crippled. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse picked him up and fled. It came about, as she was hurrying to flee, that he fell and was crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.*

After the death of Jonathan and Saul, David inquired about the welfare of their family. He could have sought to wipe them out as potential enemies of his dynasty; but instead, David rose to meet God’s expectations for him.

*From 2 Samuel 9 – Then David inquired, “Is there anyone still left from the house of Saul, so that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”...*

*3 “There is still a son of Jonathan,” Ziba said to the king, “with crippled legs.”... 4 “He’s there, in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.”*

*(continued next page)*



## Myles *continued*



The Hebrew language is pictorial and poetic, and the names of the people in this narrative tell a deeper story. **Mephibosheth** is made up of two roots:

*paah* = which means “to break into pieces, or shatter,”

*bosheth* = which means “greatly ashamed, shameful thing,” and “confusion.” Broken, ashamed, confused

“In the house of **Machir** the son of **Ammiel** in **Lo Debar**.”

Machir: from the root *makar* = to be sold into/given over to death

Ammiel: from the root *amam* = darkness/to be held in darkness

Lo = nothing, not

Debar: from *dober* = pasture/promise

2 Samuel 9:6, 7 – *Then Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan son of Saul, came to David, fell on his face and prostrated himself. “Mephibosheth!” David said.*

*“Behold your servant!” he answered.*

*“Don’t be afraid,” David said to him,*

*“for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat bread at my table.”*

We, too, were crippled in a fall (in the Garden of Eden) and we were broken, ashamed, and confused—living in the house of darkness, given over to death in a place of no pasture. The King of Kings has spared us and invited us to sit with Him (here and in heavenly places) at His table and eat continually from the bread of Heaven. Thanks be to God!

This is the high calling for this ministry: to introduce Believers to the land and people of Israel, and to introduce pre-believers to the One who invites us all to His table. Your prayers and gifts of funds make all our efforts possible, so we **thank you** as well.

**Give thanks to God, the King of Kings!** ★



# British Moslem Mocks Brits

Middle East Media  
Research Institute  
MEMRI.org



Former British boxer **Anthony Small** (*r*), who now goes by the name Abdul Haqq, recently posted a video on his YouTube channel in which he mocked the British people for rejoicing at Anjem Choudary's prison sentence. "Millions of your tax money were used to arrest him... and now you're happy, overjoyed that he's going to sit with free food and shelter, at the cost of your hard-earned tax money," he laughed.

"As the pages of history turn, your own reign, your own kingdom, your own history will be forgotten." The future, said Small, "is one of brightness, one of domination of the religion of Islam."

Following the 2013 death of Pakistan Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud in a U.S. drone attack, Small said that this approach will never stop the jihad.

[Read on.](#)

## CAIR: Stop Saying "Jihadist"

By **Elliot Friedland** / [ClarionProject.org](#)

The executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) recently called on Americans to cease calling terrorists "jihadists."

CAIR has a history of Islamist extremism, including links to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. The U.S. Justice Department labeled CAIR an "unindicted co-conspirator" in a Hamas-financing trial and listed CAIR as a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood entity. In addition, CAIR was officially designated a terrorist organization by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on November 15, 2014.

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







Following the Bastille Day (July 14) terrorist atrocity in Nice, in which 86 people were killed by a man whom ISIS claimed as one of its soldiers, CAIR's executive director **Nihad Awad** sent out a tweet saying:



The first line is unobjectionable. But the hashtag he used, **trying to argue that terrorism has nothing to do with the ideology of jihad, is very revealing.**

Awad seems to want to separate the ideology of jihad, which is used by many groups to justify violence in their attempt to impose Islamist theocracy, from terrorist acts. This looks like an attempt to whitewash the ideology driving terrorism.

This is a *partial* list of Islamist groups that use some form of the doctrine of armed jihad:

- The Islamic State** (Syria and Iraq)
- Al-Qaeda** (International)
- Al-Shabaab** (Somalia, affiliated to Al-Qaeda)
- Boko Haram** (Nigeria, affiliated to the Islamic State)
- Hezbollah** (Lebanon)
- Hamas** (Gaza)
- Islamic Jihad** (Palestinian Territories)
- Gamaat Islamiya** (Egypt)
- Abu Sayyaf** (Philippines)
- Ansarullah Bangla Team** (Bangladesh)
- Lashkar e-Taiba** (Pakistan)
- The Taliban** (Afghanistan, Pakistan)

Many of these groups are ideologically descended from the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Islamist group that is the forerunner of many modern Islamist movements. Hamas is an affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood. Nihad Awad himself was a member of the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood's Palestine Committee and was recorded at a 1993 meeting discussing how to support Hamas and the "goals, strategies, and American perceptions of the Muslim Brotherhood" in the U.S.

Most religious or philosophical traditions have a concept of just war, and a rationale for what counts as just war. It is unreasonable to expect Islam to be the only major religion in which war is never considered justified. But to argue that terrorist groups and terrorist attacks are not motivated by a more aggressive interpretation of jihad is simply disingenuous. ✨



# Returning to Zion... & Yeshua

Our Man in Haifa  
Eitan Shishkoff  
and wife Connie



A twelve-year-old girl circles the rejoicing congregation, carrying a Torah scroll, her proud father following her. Having finished the circuit, she chants—enchantingly—from the weekly *parsha* (section). (The five Books of Moses are divided into sections in order to read the entire Torah each year.) Then, with poise way beyond her tender years, **Elichen** (whose name means “my God is grace”) expounds the meaning and value of her verses from Deuteronomy.



**Elichen carries the Torah**

We are at a Messianic Jewish congregation in Haifa, consisting primarily of Russian-speaking Israelis. Poignantly, the children born since their parents’ dramatic arrival in the early ‘90s are now married, fluent in Hebrew, and themselves raising children—remaining as adults in the same worship community! It is a touching scene to watch as Elichen’s grandfather, now in his 80s, joins the family for photos and blessings. He and his wife came from Belarus twenty-five years ago, daring to make a new start in life, in the Promised Land.

During this quarter century, 1.25 million immigrants have passed through Israel’s portals from the crumbled Soviet empire. They now make up approximately 15% of our population. This social revolution has also brought the beginnings of a Spiritual revolution. Some calculate that fully one

half of all Jewish Israeli Believers have roots in the soil of the former Soviet Union. Through numerous congregations like this one, *Shavei Tzion* (“those returning to Zion”), Yeshua is becoming known as the Messiah of Israel.

The flow of Jewish refugees from the Soviet debacle continues. Now, many seek safety from the conflict in Ukraine. Through assistance from generous Christians who love Israel, this and other congregations provide humanitarian aid to today’s Jewish immigrants—with no strings attached. (To uphold such efforts, ZLM relays 100% of whatever contributions you designate for Bridges for Peace.)

Elichen’s bat mitzvah is not only a celebration of her “coming of age,” but also declares the continuity of genuine Jewish faith in Jesus, Yeshua our Redeemer. This gathering, which echoes an ancient tradition among our Jewish people, is itself evidence that Israel is awakening to its true King. Singing and praying with gusto, Elichen’s family, congregation, and friends from across the nation attest to the inseparable link between Torah and *B’rit Hadashah* (New Covenant).

Within her very portion, God declared to Moses, concerning the future Messiah of Israel, “I will raise up a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will hold him accountable” (Deuteronomy 18:18–19). ✨



# Photographs Commemorate Jewish Expulsion

IsraelDailyPicture.com

In 2014, Israel's Knesset designated November 30 as the day to commemorate Jewish expulsion from Arab countries and Iran. Ancient, flourishing Jewish communities were forced to flee anti-Semitic persecution, deadly pogroms, and confiscation of property. **An estimated 850,000 fled**, most of them to Israel.

Historic photographs of the Jewish communities and individuals serve to remind us of the rich heritage they left behind.

Maison Bonfils studio was established in Beirut in 1867 and produced thousands of photographs from all over the Middle East. Some of the most important pictures of Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem were taken through the lens of Félix Bonfils (8 March 1831–9 April 1885).

Lebanese collector Fouad Debbas amassed some 3,000 Bonfils photographs. When Debbas died in 2001, his collection faced possible dispersal, deterioration, or worse. The British Library's Endangered Archives Programme stepped in to save the collection, digitize it, and post the pictures online.



Young Jewess girl



Young Jewish girl from Beirut (photos: British Library, Fouad Debbas Collection)

To honor the British Library's action, we present these Bonfils photos of Jewish women of the Middle East. We estimate they were taken in the last decades of the 19th century. ★



Young Jewish girl from Damascus



Jewish girl



Jewish girl

Syrian Jewish woman



Jewish women going out

# Do You Know What You're Saying? Pt 3



**CLASSIC ZOLA** from 1986: 30 years ago

In our [August](#) and [September](#) issues, Zola's Classic column examined a hypothetical monologue that seemed commonplace, but cleverly incorporated **20 phrases pulled directly from the Scriptures**. Zola intended to show how deeply the Puritans ingrained in our language and our culture the Bible teachings incorporated into their daily language. What a wonderful heritage!

Here is the monologue section with phrases 16–20.

“... you know I've got more than I can say grace over, so it's your cross to bear. When you think about it, I guess the old saying 'you reap what you sow' really fits the situation. So you better hit the straight and narrow, George—walk the extra mile with them if necessary, and I'm sure you will get along just fine.”

## 16. More Than I Can Say Grace Over

An expression stemming from the practice of blessing food at mealtime (saying grace), meaning that one has too many problems (rather than too many blessings) to handle properly. It began, however, as a remembrance of Jesus/Yeshua at the Last Supper. —Luke 22:19

## 17. Your Cross to Bear

When Pontius Pilate delivered Yeshua to be crucified, Scripture notes that Yeshua went forth “bearing His cross.” The expression has come to mean that our particularly heavy problems in life must be borne by us, regardless of the pain, suffering, or humiliation—just as Jesus was made to bear His own cross. —John 19:17

## 18. You Reap What You Sow

Sometimes referred to as the “law of the harvest.” The words hardly need any clarification, for no one can successfully evade God's decree “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”—the immutable law of life. —Galatians 6:7

## 19. Straight and Narrow

This direct quotation of Yeshua is by far the most meaningful explanation, “Enter ye in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” —Matthew 7:13–14



## 20. Walk the Extra Mile

Depicts the then custom of the Roman occupation forces to compel the Jewish populace to be pressed into service whenever needed, by carrying packs, mail, etc. for at least one mile. The teaching by Jesus is obvious—do twice as much as you are asked to do. —Matthew 5:41

The above Bible references are but a few that have crept into our daily conversation. Others include: old as Methuselah, skin of my teeth, salt of the earth, and prodigal son. Recognizing these references—and knowing their origin—requires at least some familiarity with the Bible, and, of course, the best way to gain such familiarity is through reading and studying.

Let's keep our language inheritance alive and well. Listen, learn the true significance, and pass it on to the generations that follow. Realize that our language reflects our Biblical heritage. Let's **really** know what we're saying.

Related: [“Nurturing Christian Zionism” p.1](#) ★



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# UN Report on Failed Gaza, PA Governments: It's All Israel's Fault



BY JEWISH NEWS INTERNATIONAL / JNi.Media  
Entire article posted at [wp.me/pieUD-2wZ](http://wp.me/pieUD-2wZ)

If a visitor from outer space were to read the new Report of the “[United Nations Conference on Trade and Development assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)” issued in September, they would walk away with an image of a nation of industrious, democratic, peace-loving people named the “Palestinians” who are intentionally and on a daily basis prevented from thriving and achieving the economic success they so richly deserve by a cruel and capricious Israeli occupation that sets out to torpedo every shred of goodness those peaceful folks manage to sustain.

This horrifying image is only enhanced by the fact that this report comes from the principal organ of the UN General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The organization’s goals are to: “maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis.”

With that in mind, here is the opening paragraph of the Executive summary of the UNCTAD report, meaning the gist of whatever else comes below:

**“In 2015, Israel withheld Palestinian fiscal revenue for four months, donor aid declined and Israeli settlements continued to expand into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, while poverty and unemployment remained high. The Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to be a captive market for exports from Israel, while occupation neutralized the potential development impact of donor aid. Genuine reconstruction has yet to take off in the Gaza Strip despite \$3.5 billion in donor pledges. Gaza’s socioeconomic conditions worsened and the infant mortality rate increased for the first time in 50 years.”**

It’s an executive summary, so one cannot argue that so many of these assertions are being lumped together out of context. And yet, for a report that should provide an overview of the economic and social situation in the PA and Gaza to cite the withholding of revenues without mentioning that Israel was forced to freeze those funds after the PA had accumulated half a billion dollars in unpaid electric bills—and for the same executive summary to make the construction of a smattering of Jewish apartment units as a top-level cause for Arab decline—signals the point of view and general inclination of the authors.

You’re welcome to read the [entire report](#) if you wish. We went looking for those items that best reflect how **the report turns facts and figures on their head to come up with the preconceived conclusion:** it’s all the fault of the Israeli occupation, and once Israel is out of the picture you’ll see how those Palestinian areas will become the Switzerland of the Middle East.

## AMONG THE UN’S CONCLUSIONS:

- UN Blames Israel for Unemployment
- UN Blames Israel for PA Arabs Wanting to Work for Israelis
- Israel’s Response to Arab Terror and Illegal Construction Harms the PA Economy
- UN Blames Israel for Gaza’s Internal Problems
- Israel Refuses to Be Annihilated
- UN Blames Israel for Gaza’s Now Rising Infant Mortality Rate
- UN Report Blames Israel for Palestinian Authority’s (PA) Failure in Self-Government





# Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q. I have heard that Israel does not recognize African-Americans as Jewish. Also, that some African tribes want to reside in Israel. Why?**

**A. There is no official policy or history of Israel not recognizing Blacks from America who have Jewish ancestry or who want to convert to Judaism and emigrate to Israel.** In my nearly 40 trips through Israel, I have met several American-born African-Americans who legally immigrated to Israel.

Also, Israel has granted citizenship to thousands of **Black Ethiopian Jews**. Sometimes called by the derogatory term Falashas, **they refer to themselves as House of Israel (Beta Israel)** and claim descent from Menilek I, traditionally the son of the Queen of Sheba (also called Queen Makeda of Ethiopia) and King Solomon.

In 1977, Israel applied the Law of Return to the Beta Israel. The Israeli and American governments mounted operations to transport from Sudan to Israel the thousands of Ethiopians who could flee their politically unstable country to Sudan. These airlifts, called Operation Brothers, between 1979 and 1990 included Operations Moses and Joshua (joint covert evacuations by the Israel Defense Forces and CIA) during a famine in 1984–85, and Operation Solomon in 1991 from Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

Following a regime change in Ethiopia in 1991, the new government agreed, for a sum of \$40 million, to permit the remaining Jews of Ethiopia to make *aliyah* (emigrate to Israel).

Jews who already had family members in Israel began to make aliyah. Others, upon hearing that aliyah was being renewed, began petitioning the Israeli consulate for permission. When anti-government forces occupying large parts of Ethiopia began encroaching on the capital of Addis Ababa, fears mounted for the safety of the Jews. On May 24–25, 1991, within 36 hours, Israel flew 14,325 Jews in Operation Solomon from Ethiopia to Israel (five babies were born in-flight). On arrival, many of the new immigrants reunited with their families after many years. By the end of 2013, 85,900 Ethiopia-born Beta Israel had made aliyah.

I have met and shared the Gospel with many Ethiopian Jews in this ministry's outreach missions to Israel. ★



# Watering Seeds

By Sue Hopper  
TJF Outreach Team  
Ambassador



When the **To The Jew First** team reached Tiberias (overlooking the Kinneret, the Sea of Galilee), I looked up Jacob, the friendly man who works in the gift shop at our Tiberias hotel. You may remember him from our previous encounter. (See [Feb 2016 Levitt Letter, p. 13.](#)) I gave him the book [They Thought For Themselves](#) last year with the feeling that this year he would want a complete Bible—in Hebrew, with both Testaments: the Old (*Tanakh*) and the New (*B'rit Hadashah*). He did, and I gladly supplied one. Fellow team members Robin (my husband) and Robert dropped by the shop, and we took the “selfie” (below). A good start to our day in Tiberias.

At BIG Tiberias mall, which the team has found to be a hard place for making inroads for Yeshua, I met a young woman in a children’s shop. Shirley helped me look for a dress for Robin’s and my granddaughter’s third birthday. While we browsed the racks, I told Shirley how much I value the Gospel of Yeshua that the Jewish people had given to the world. Shirley retorted that she was not religious. When I explained to her that the goal wasn’t religion, but rather a relationship with the greatest Jew who ever lived, a chord struck with Shirley, and she asked if she could read about Him. I left a complete Hebrew Bible and a couple of Messianic pamphlets that explain how Yeshua/Jesus fulfilled *all* the prophecies that the Old Testament prophets laid out so that the Jewish people would recognize their Messiah when He came.



The next day brought very wintry weather, and we drove to Har Hermon (Mount Hermon) in wet sleet and rain. Two IDF (Israel Defense Forces) soldiers stood guarding the base and ski lodge. One had originally come from the States, and both were pleased when we told them that we support and pray for them. We gave them two Bibles and, as the ski lift was closed and no one else was around, we drove to the town of **Kiryat Shmona** to the *shuk* (farmers’ market), where we shopped for snacks and individuals open to hearing the Gospel. Eli had accepted a Bible from me last year and gladly accepted two books this year, promising to share them with his business partner whom TJF team leader Todd had engaged in conversation last year. (See [Feb 2016 Levitt Letter, p. 13.](#))

We stopped for lunch at a nearby café, where a young waitress recognized us from last year. She remembered that we had given a complete Bible to her workmate, and she let Todd know that she would like one, too! We happily supplied her heart’s desire: a new study Bible in Hebrew, study materials, and a witness of Messiah Yeshua. **Like the rain outside, we were watering seeds that we’d planted on previous visits.** ★

# Annuities—Good or Bad?



Annuities can substantially improve a retirement plan, but they're not for everyone and sometimes less optimal than salespeople claim.

[www.ImmediateAnnuities.com](http://www.ImmediateAnnuities.com) is a helpful resource for comparison shopping, though many investments can surpass even the best annuity returns.

**Annuities' strong points often include tax advantages and safety.**

Here's one definition of annuity: a form of insurance or investment entitling the investor to a series of annual sums. And another: a contractual financial product designed to grow funds and then pay a stream of payments.

Earlier this year, financial columnist Scott Burns wrote two related articles. Here are their major points.

**1. Annuities Only One Part of the Retirement Puzzle.** It's important to weigh the impact of the income remaining fixed for life, which means inflation will likely erode the benefits' purchasing power down the road. Few investors calculate how long they must live before receiving any funds beyond what they originally paid.

A life annuity paying 6%, for example, would take 16.67 years before paying back *anything* above the original principal. A 69-year-old woman would have to live beyond her 17-year life expectancy (past age 86) just to do better than break even.

**2. Are Annuities Good or Bad? Depends on the Type.** Burns describes six options in two categories, more and less favorable.

Several kinds can be useful:

- Single-premium immediate annuities provide guaranteed lifetime income.
- CD-like annuities offer secure tax-deferred accumulation of interest.
- Term annuities are like reverse

loans, returning your principal and interest over time.

Other varieties primarily serve, he explains, "to transfer your wealth to an insurance company if that's what you want to do":

- Variable annuities that wrap mutual funds in expensive insurance contracts
- Fixed-index annuities that hide costs but often disappoint investors
- "Living benefits" riders that often accompany both of the above

Rock-bottom interest rates have hurt the earnings of insurance products and led to extreme disappointment for some policyholders. The August 14 *New York Times* article "When Your Life Insurance Gets Sick" spells out a disturbing new quandary for "companies that sell policies that run for decades, like life and long-term care insurance ... how to fund policies ... how to back a promise of 4% in a 2%-or-less world."



Today's universal life policies no longer guarantee 4% or greater returns. Instead, they're "loosely tied to the growth of the stock market." Consequently, investors with sufficient assets may want to cut out the middleman (the annuity/life insurance company) and deal direct, so to speak, by opting for no-load, broadly diversified mutual funds with a discount firm such as Vanguard. Or split the difference by not putting too many eggs in the annuity basket. Of course, long-term financial planning will matter only if the Lord tarries (Matt. 24:14–30). ★





# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Turning Over in Graves

A U.S. appeals court dismissed a \$654 million verdict against the PLO, indicating reluctance to financially destabilize the Palestinian government and the region. Gawker Media murdered no one, yet received no such mercy on the bankrupting \$140 million Hulk Hogan judgment. Now terrorists (at least Palestinian ones) can persist in their attacks, relishing the judicial affirmation that, like major banks, they've been deemed too big to fail. Note: subscribers to our free *Levitt Letter Extra* newsletter [levitt.com/LLX](http://levitt.com/LLX) received this story by email on September 1.



## Zola's Bible Exchange

If you have an extra Bible in new or nearly new condition to pass on to someone who needs one, such as an inmate or a retiree on fixed income, please send it to us to forward. (Bibles for inmates must be softcover.) On the other hand, if you need a Bible and can't afford one, please send us your address. There will be no charge. (Incidentally, ZLM consulting theologian Dr. Tom McCall refers to a New Testament without the Old Testament as *The Amputated Bible*.)

**Free Item**



Questions & Answers  
About Wills and Bequests

## 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 **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.

## Seeking Experienced Art Director/Graphic Designer

Know a seasoned Graphic Designer qualified to produce our monthly *Levitt Letter* news-mag, Personal Letter, and Israel study/tour materials? Our print designer for over 25 years is retiring. This part-time, freelance opportunity (about 40+ hours per month) requires no relocation. Serious candidates please send résumé, cover letter, publication samples (*in pdf or web*), and hourly rate to Mark Levitt's attention: [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com). The ideal person will be a committed Believer and graphics professional, pro-Israel, and dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom by enlightening both Jew and gentile. We prefer an individual over an agency, please.



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



# Hebrew Lesson

## Wisdom for the Journey

John J. Parsons



לְמִנּוֹת יָמֵינוּ כֵּן הוֹדַע וְנָבֵא לְבַב חָכְמָה

“Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”  
– Psalm 90:12

לְמִנּוֹת	יָמֵינוּ	כֵּן	הוֹדַע	וְנָבֵא	לְבַב	חָכְמָה
(2)   (1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(1)   (3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)
lim-not	ya-mei-nu	ken	ho-da	ve-na-vi	le-vav	chokh-mah
to count	our days	aright	make us	and we will get	a heart of wisdom	

Since everything is under the Divine Supervision, it is forbidden to regard actions and outcomes as the result of accident, chance, “luck,” or happenstance. Those are all pagan ideas, based in ignorance and superstition. Faith in the LORD God Almighty is grounded in unqualified trust that He is also *Adonai Ro'i*, the LORD your Shepherd, the One who restores your soul, and that conviction provides the framework for apprehending the truth of Torah. A lost faith regards the events of life as random, based on “fortune” and blind chance; it no longer sees God’s hand in the affairs of daily life, but consigns the Divine Presence to a place of functional exile. For this the “like for like” judgment is given: as you regard your life as the product of random forces, so you will be unable to discern God’s hand in your daily life.

We trust that “all things work together for good” (Rom. 8:28), and therefore we bless God for perceived evil as well as for perceived good, since all circumstances of life come from the hand of the LORD our God. We believe in an all-powerful, supreme LORD who has not abandoned the world, but who actively sustains and upholds it with benevolent intent. When difficult things happen to the righteous, we trust in God’s personal care for their ultimate good, despite their present troubles. “Though He slay me, I will trust in Him” (Job 13:15). What’s perhaps most heroic about Job is that he never turned away from hope, despite the crucifixion of his world. As Kierkegaard observed, “The moment the LORD took everything away, he did not say, ‘The LORD took away,’ but first of all he said, ‘The LORD gave...’” (*Upbuilding Discourses*). This is the heart behind the *Kaddish*, the mourner’s prayer, that expresses acceptance of God’s world, despite the pain, sorrow, loss, and so on.

Therefore, may God “teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). The sages say that on the day of death, one considers one’s life as if it had been a single day. Life goes by so quickly, and we never know when our personal “Rosh Hashanah” will come. “No one knows the day or hour...” That’s why it is so vital to be healed and to turn to God while there is still time. So turn to Him today and *bacharta ba’chayim*—“choose life!” “For this commandment (of turning to God in faith) is not hidden from you, and it is not far away. **It is not in Heaven... nor across the sea. Rather, the matter is very near you—in your mouth and your heart—to do it.**” (Deut. 30:11-14; Rom. 10:8-13) ★



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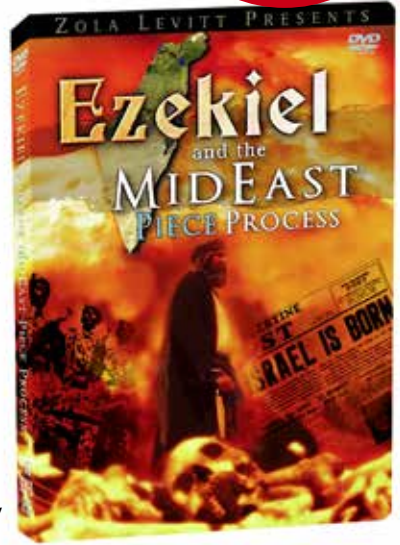
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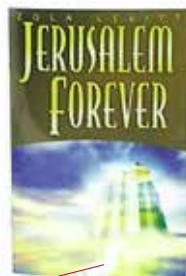
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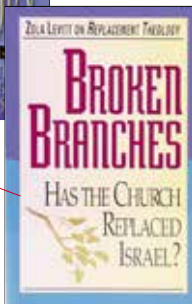
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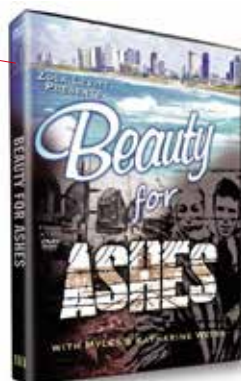
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# 10,000 Leave Church of Denmark Amid Atheist Campaign



BY STOYAN ZAIMOV / ChristianPost.com

As many as 10,000 people left the Church of Denmark between April and June, due in part to a nationwide atheist campaign urging people to question the divinity of Jesus and the importance of believing in God. Statistics showed that those 10,000 are almost double the number who left the faith between January and March, which has led the Danish Atheist Society to celebrate the news.

“Surveys have long shown that not many Danes are devout Christians,” Danish Atheist Society chairman **Anders Stjernholm** noted. “The withdrawals express the fact that people can’t really see why we should have an institution like the Church of Denmark that has incredible influence and takes one’s money.”

The questions that were posed in banners around the country included: “Why believe in a God?” “Why should faith cost something?” and “Did Jesus and Mohammed speak with a God?”

The Church of Denmark—the official, state-supported religion—has been experiencing a steady decline in expressions of belief, as have state-sponsored religions in a number of European countries in recent decades. All Danish citizens become members of the Church when baptized, but can withdraw their membership by joining another religion, or leaving faith all together. **Still, church leaders remain optimistic**, arguing that the record number of people leaving will not have a lasting effect.



**Anders Gadegaard**, the dean of Copenhagen’s Church of Our Lady, said that even though many are leaving the faith, **the number of baptisms is also on the rise**. “Spending millions (of kroner) on advertising for withdrawals will have an effect. But at the same time, we are seeing an increase in the number of enrollments (and) a rising interest in belonging to the Church of Denmark,” he added. On a bus campaign earlier this year, the Danish Atheist Society provided short and easy instructions for leaving the church, which led 3,000 people to use a website specifically devised for making the process easier.

Recently, Norway saw a similar effect when the official Lutheran Church put up a web page providing an easy way for people to renounce their membership. Reports indicated that 15,053 members of the flock opted to leave in a span of four days.

Church council leader **Kristin Gunleiksrud Raam** said that despite the mass exodus, the church remained committed to being transparent and will continue to allow people to leave with less hassle. “We will continue to have a broad and open national church. But no one should be a member of a religious community against their will, and therefore I am glad that this self-solution is in place. Those who are mistakenly listed as members of the Norwegian Church or who do not wish to be members can now easily change their status, and it will give us a more accurate registry,” Raam concluded. ☆



# Letters to ZLM

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

## Ways to Please God

G'day from Australia,

I get great enjoyment from reading your news magazines. In the September edition, Katharine states in her "[Smooth Stones](#)" article, "One surefire way to please the Lord is to visit His Holy Land."

Could you please give me a Biblical basis for her statement? As a born-again Believer and from my understanding of the Bible, I cannot see how visiting Israel pleases the Lord. I fully understand that pilgrims get tremendous personal benefit by walking where Jesus walked. Blessings and regards, G.B.

Shalom, G.B.—

Thanks for the challenge regarding Katharine's unabashed promotion of our Israel Bible-study tours. Please let me address your concern. I speak the mysterious language "Katharin-ish" and, in fact, I may be the world's foremost interpreter of this poetic world with its unique, rich culture. In the world of Katharine, a central tenet is love and goodwill. My wife always looks for the "best" in and for those around her. However, I see that her harmless claim that visiting His land is a "surefire way to please the Lord" might be a stumbling block to you or other readers of the *Levitt Letter*.

After thirty years of marriage to "Mordecai the Jew" (that's me!), my beloved bride sometimes adopts my shorthand to make connections that perhaps would be better understood in a more linear manner. **My apologies if Katharine appeared to be making a firm, theological statement. She was not.** She meant:

### 1. God loves the sons of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

<sup>25</sup>For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup>and in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer shall come out of Zion. He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. <sup>27</sup>And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." <sup>28</sup>Concerning the Good News, they are hostile for your sake; but concerning chosenness, they are loved on account of the fathers— <sup>29</sup>for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. —Romans 11:25–29

(continued next page)



## 2. The Church is called to proclaim Messiah to Israel.

*<sup>11</sup>I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their false step salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke Israel to jealousy. <sup>12</sup>Now if their transgression leads to riches for the world, and their loss riches for the gentiles, then how much more their fullness! <sup>13</sup>But I am speaking to you who are gentiles. Insofar as I am an emissary to the gentiles, I spotlight my ministry <sup>14</sup>if somehow I might provoke to jealousy my own flesh and blood and save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection leads to the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? —Romans 11:11–15*

## 3. Comfort and kindness from Christians to the Jewish people is long overdue.

*<sup>31</sup>Now when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats... <sup>36</sup>'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink?' <sup>38</sup>And when did we see You a stranger and invite You in? Or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup>And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen, I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me...' —Romans 25:31–32, 36–40*

As Zola declared, "A tour of Israel is worth more than ten years of Sunday School." The smiles on Israelis' faces broaden when Christians come to say "Yes!" to Israel's existence and spend a few shekels in the land. Zola Tours knows that our pilgrims bring a deposit of the Holy Spirit with them, and their presence does seem to bless the Lord.

Is it Biblical?

Mandated...no. Marvelous...yes! Don't forget Genesis 12:3—"I will bless those who bless you..." and Psalm 84:5—"Blessed are those whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."

See you there! —Myles (with blessings from Katharine and poets long gone)



To  
Index





## Which Translation?

*Shalom Aleichem* (Peace be upon you),

Galatians 3:19 states: "...and it was *ordained by angels* in the hand of a mediator." How can angels ordain anything? Thank you, A.E.D. (NJ)

*Aleichem Shalom* ("unto you peace"), A.E.D.—

The word "ordain" is not the most accurate. Though the King James Version uses this particular translation, the Greek word literally means to carry out and bring it to someone. In Galatians 3, Paul differentiates Grace from Law. In verse 19, he follows the Law's chain of authority, indicating that angels were used to mediate the Law from God to Moses, and through him to Israel. Hope this helps. —Todd

Hello, A.E.D.—

Consulting different translations of Biblical text is valuable for study, especially if you're not familiar with ancient languages.

An **Interlinear Bible** offers the same text in various languages set in alternate lines. You can choose between Greek/English, Hebrew/English, Greek/English/Hebrew, or throw in any language that aids your understanding (Spanish, French, Latin...?).

A **Parallel Bible** offers the same text in various translations. Again, these Bibles come in assorted groupings, with some comparing two translations and others comparing four. You can often select which translations you want included, but a popular version groups the King James (KJV) with the New King James (NKJV), the New International Version (NIV), and the New Living Translation (NLT). Another displays the Amplified Bible (AMP) alongside the NIV.

If you don't have shelf space for all the translations you like to access, [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com) offers 53 translations in English, and several translations in each of more languages than I have time to count, including Urdu, Spanish, Íslenska (Icelandic), Hindi, Tagalog, and some in alphabets I can't read.



### Here are the translations of "ordained by" in several versions:

- American Standard (ASV)** — ordained through
- Amplified Bible (AMP)** — ordained through
- Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)** — handed down through
- God's Word (GW)** — put into effect through
- Good News Translation (GNT)** — handed down through
- The Message (MSG)** — arranged by
- Revised Standard Version (RSV)** — ordained by
- New International Version (NIV)** — given through
- New King James (NKJ)** — appointed through
- Tree of Life (TLV)** — arranged through
- Wycliffe Bible (WYC)** — ordained by

Blessings on your study of the Word. —Editor



# Terrorists Have Attack Drones? Let Fly the Eagles!

BY ELLIOT FRIEDLAND / ClarionProject.org

Terrorists are now using drones to carry out attacks, which will require innovative counter-terrorism solutions.



©Creative Commons/andrewmpo / 1760

Iranian-backed Hezbollah recently used an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to drop cluster bombs on a village in Syria and released footage of the attack afterward. This marked the first time Hezbollah used attack drones to carry out bombing raids. (They have used drones for reconnaissance or one-use “kamikaze” style attacks in the past.)

ISIS (Daesh) is known to also have reconnaissance drones and is feared to have bomber drones as well. “The Government has evidence that Daesh has used small, commercially available unmanned aerial vehicles in Syria and Iraq to extend their surveillance capability, produce propaganda material, and carry small improvised explosive devices,” the UK’s Foreign Office Minister Baroness Anelay said recently.

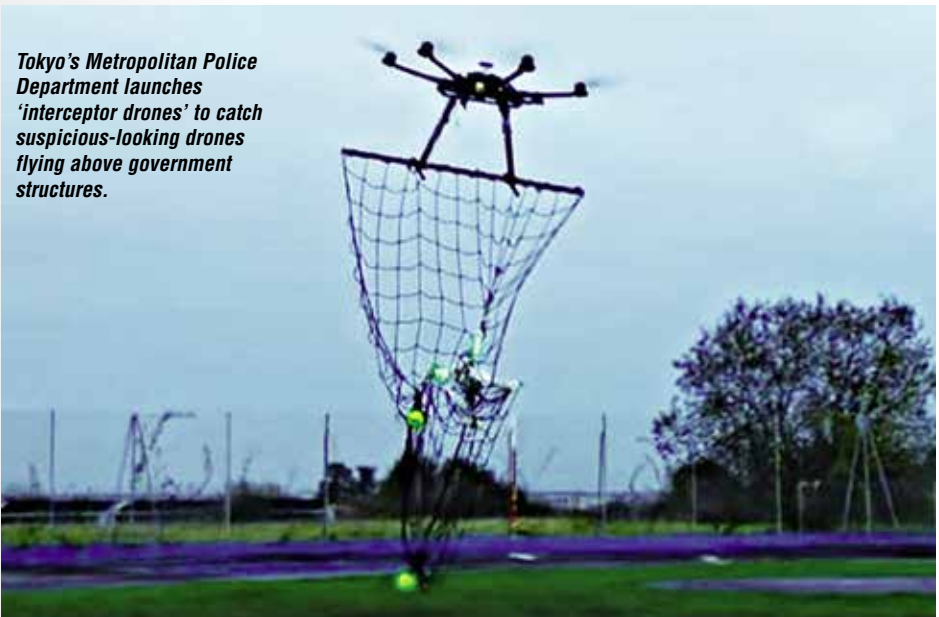
A NATO chemical weapons expert warns that such drones could be fitted with chemical weapons such as World War I mustard gas, while former head of the British navy Admiral Lord West warned that it is only a matter of time before they “use them here because you can get them so much easier.”

In July, the Pentagon requested an additional \$20 million to combat ISIS drone capabilities. So how can terrorist attack drones be combated?

One [innovative approach being considered by police in the Netherlands](#) is training eagles to rip drones from the skies. The birds see drones as prey and are capable of immobilizing a drone and carrying it to a safe place without any people.

Interceptor drones are another possibility. In December 2015, Tokyo police launched a program of interceptor drones that carry nets with which to ensnare unauthorized drones. ★

*Tokyo’s Metropolitan Police Department launches ‘interceptor drones’ to catch suspicious-looking drones flying above government structures.*



# BGU Tackles Water Shortage



SCIENCE: BY MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN (r) JNS.org

Israeli water experts believe that by 2050, almost half of the world's population will live in countries with chronic water shortage.

Population growth causes the shortfall and also leads to a greater demand for food, increased pollution, and climate instability, according to Prof. **Noam Weisbrod**, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZIWR) in the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

In Israel's Negev Desert, long plagued with water challenges, a team of 80 scientists and 250 graduate students tackle the problem using cutting-edge science in partnership with academics around the world. ZIWR—the go-to consultant on water emergencies in Colorado and California—provides long-term global assistance, including places like Mongolia and Central Asia.

Weisbrod emphasizes educating a new generation of water experts and scientists and teaching them about the “moral obligation” to help those less fortunate.

Currently one billion people live in countries facing problems that cannot be solved in the lab. “There is a correlation between water [challenges] and hunger, disease, and poverty,” Weisbrod observed.

Seven years ago, he established a yearlong course called “Rural Water Development.” Weisbrod takes graduate student groups to villages in rural areas of Africa. In each locale, the students work with locals and NGOs to identify their water sources and test the water quality. They also teach children about hygiene issues and educate people about the aquifer's proper hygienic use. Projects range from drilling wells with local materials to building rainwater collection tanks and installing bio-sand filters to reduce contamination.

“The students research the local water challenges and determine low-tech

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



**Noam Weisbrod, director of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZIWR)**





## Water Shortage... *continued*

solutions to implement when they get there,” Weisbrod said. Then, they spend 10 days “getting their hands dirty.”

Student Roi Ram said a trip to Uganda in 2015 opened his eyes to the “unbelievable gaps between the situation in those countries and the Western world.” Weisbrod understands that no matter how good the class project is, “in two weeks, we won’t change Africa.” The exposure to students does have a long-term impact as they move into careers in academia, consulting, and government.

Lately, ZIWR has been fusing its cutting-edge science with low-tech technologies, like a project in South Africa “where we will take water from old mines to develop hydroponics and fish farms,” Weisbrod shared. Other projects involve decreasing clogging as a result of waste and treating wastewater.

Blaustein team member Professor Emeritus Pedro Berliner explained: “Desertification—turning fertile land into desert, typically from drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agricultural techniques—is a real problem in Third World countries.”

In African dry land areas, water shortage isn’t the problem but an inability to capture water for food and other uses. Using a technology developed for the Negev, Berliner’s team prepared plots of land (known as runoff agroforestry), growing trees and crops between them. This technique traps floodwater, thus allowing for increased food production. The twigs and stems of the trees can be used for firewood.

Berliner believes the projects satisfy not only Israel’s “moral obligation to help others,” but also political considerations. Desertification is a leading cause of African migration, including to Israel. “By helping people in these areas,” he noted, “we are helping avoid massive migration.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and California Governor Jerry Brown signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 that led to the first Israel California Water (ICWater) Conference in Southern California this summer. Through innovations, Israel leads the world in reclaiming water and now produces 20% more water than it consumes. —Myles ★

### ***Israel's Negev Desert — site of water conservation projects***

*Credit: Wikimedia Commons.*



# Protecting Cognitive Function After Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

MEDICINE: BY AMIRAH AL IDRUS  
FierceBiotech.com



Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have developed a new molecule that can protect the brain from inflammation and other effects following a mild traumatic brain injury.

Despite the absence of outward symptoms or “objective structural brain damage,” mTBI still brings about biochemical and cellular changes that can lead to lasting psychological, cognitive and physical problems. Up to half of all mTBI patients may still have symptoms one year after injury, according to a Hebrew University statement. There is no treatment for mTBI.



**Prof. Daphne Atlas**, from the university’s Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, developed new molecules to target the protein Thioredoxin (Trx1). When Trx1 is in its reduced form, it is bound to the protein ASK1, which is released when Trx1 is oxidized. This process initiates a string of enzymatic reactions that causes inflammation.

“It is widely known that external or internal injury strongly activates the inflammatory response and leads to cell death (apoptosis) through the MAPK pathways, which are involved in the cellular responses that lead to inflammation in brain cells,” Atlas said in the statement. “Therefore, for reversing the effects of mTBI it is essential to calm the inflammatory pathways.”

Atlas and her team synthesized thioredoxin-mimetic peptides (TXM-peptides), which have previously been shown to inhibit MAPK enzymes, thus tamping down on inflammation and protecting cells from early death, according to the statement. In the current study, published in PLOS ONE, her team studied how TXM-peptides fared in preventing secondary brain damage from mTBI.

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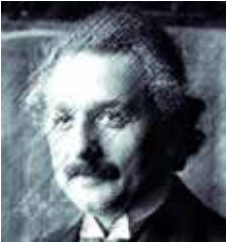


# Protecting Cognitive Function... *continued*



The team found that spatial memory and visual learning ability dropped in mice who had been given a mild traumatic brain injury under anesthesia. In two separate tests, the team administered a single dose of either of the TXM-peptides they synthesized to mice about an hour after they sustained an mTBI. At the 7-day and 30-day marks post-injury, the team found that the peptides “significantly improved” the decline in learning ability and cognitive performance.

“Further studies are required to establish and examine the potential of a single dose of TXM-peptide in preventing damage if administered even one hour after brain trauma in human scenarios,”

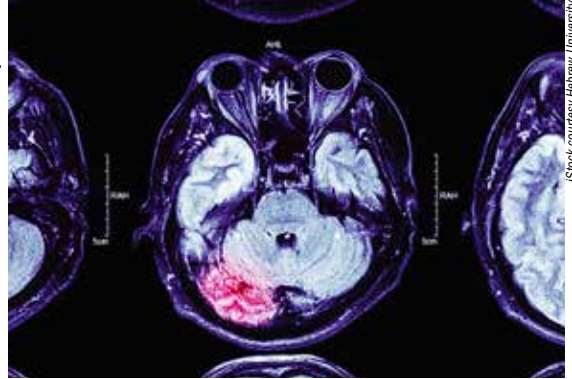


*Albert Einstein*

Atlas said in the statement.

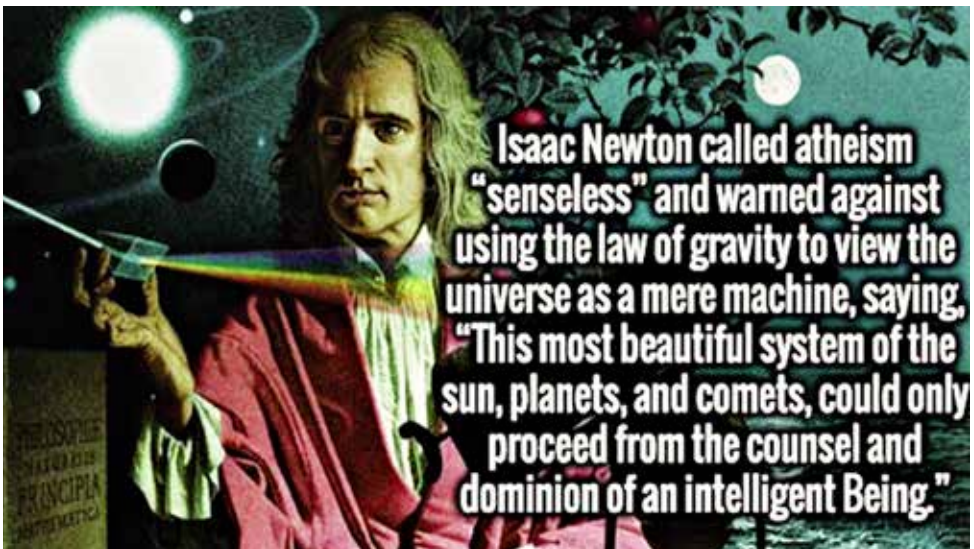
Note: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is Israel’s leading

university and premier research institution. Founded in 1918 by such innovative thinkers as Albert Einstein, Martin Buber, and Sigmund Freud, the Hebrew University is a pluralistic institution where science and knowledge are advanced for the benefit of humankind. ★



*Stock courtesy Hebrew University*

***A single dose of novel peptide protects cognitive function after mild traumatic brain injury.***





# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

(AP Photo/Michael Sahr)

**AFD Party  
co-chairwoman  
Frauke Petry**

## German Nationalist Leader Seeks Renewed Use of Nazi-era Term

By Frank Jordans / BigStory.AP.org

A leading member of the nationalist party Alternative for Germany (AFD) is facing fierce criticism after calling for a racially charged term once favored by the Nazis to be rehabilitated.

Party co-chairwoman **Frauke Petry** said in September that words such as "voelkisch" should be given "a positive connotation." Frequently used by the Nazis, the term refers to people who belong to a particular race.

Petry's remarks to weekly newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* prompted a swift backlash from politicians, commentators, and historians. They warned that her party is trying to legitimize ideas that once were at the core of Adolf Hitler's Nazi ideology.

In an editorial the next day, daily *Neue Westfaelische* called Petry's comments "disgusting."

## Palestinian Couple Lose Jobs After Aiding Jewish Terror Victims

Jewish Telegraphic Agency / JTA.org

A Palestinian husband and wife who helped a Jewish family following a deadly terrorist attack in July are looking for work in Israel after being fired for assisting Jews. Yochai Damari, the

head of the Har Hebron Regional Council, called on the Defense Ministry to procure work permits in Israel for the couple, who are medical professionals.

Rabbi Miki Mark, a father of 10, was killed in the July 1 terror attack near Hebron. A car with Palestinian license plates overtook the Marks' vehicle and opened fire with automatic weapons, causing the car to flip over. His wife, Chava, was seriously injured and is recovering from major brain surgery.

Officer examines scene of Palestinian attack on Jewish family  
(photo: Judea and Samaria Rescue Services)



Immediately following the shooting, the Palestinian couple pulled the teenage children and their mother from the car and gave them emergency treatment until ambulances arrived and took them to the hospital. They continued to help the family and protect them from Palestinian passers-by who threatened them and called on the couple to stop assisting them, Damari said.

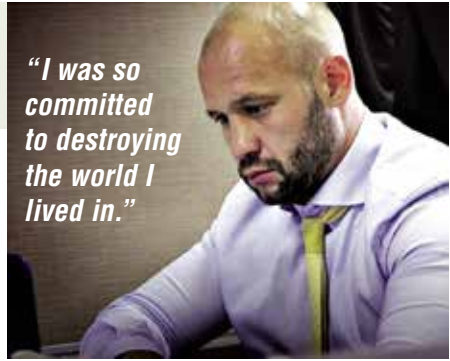
Damari indicated that he met with the couple, who asked him for help in obtaining work in Israel. "I am aware of the difficulties; but I think that in cases like this, it is our obligation as the Jewish nation to show our thanks to people whose behavior is upstanding and in a way expected in situations like this," Damari noted.



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## An Islamic Radical Who Changed His Mind

By Rukmini Callimachi / NYTimes.com



In the four years that he ran the Revolution Muslim website out of his Brooklyn apartment, **Jesse Morton**, 37, became one of al-Qaeda's most prolific recruiters, luring numerous Americans to the group's violent ideology.

The men and women he inspired were accused of plots that included flying a remote-controlled plane strapped with explosives into the Pentagon, and trying to kill a cartoonist who satirized Mohammed. One of his collaborators was killed in a drone strike in Yemen, where he had joined al-Qaeda. Several others now fight for Islamic State. Morton is at the forefront of an experiment to counter the pull of groups like Islamic State and al-Qaeda. After a stint as an F.B.I. informant and his release from prison last year, Morton has been hired as a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism, where he will research the very ideology he once spread.

Although countries like Britain have put former extremists to work in think tanks to provide authentic voices against radical ideology, **Morton is the first former jihadist to step into this public a role in the U.S.** That has not come without some anxiety for his new employer, said Lorenzo Vidino, the director of the extremism program at GWU. Dr. Vidino met with Morton after his release in early 2015, beginning a yearlong vetting process that involved interviewing seven law enforcement officials directly involved in Morton's case. "There was not a single dissenting voice," Dr. Vidino said.

In a recent interview, Morton was asked why anyone should believe he had truly changed. Morton insisted that he was trying to make amends. Abused as a child, his "us-versus-them" attitude was honed when he was dealing drugs outside rock concerts and then shared a prison cell with an older Moroccan Muslim who befriended Morton and became his first imam. Highly educated and very intelligent, Morton shares how he recruited online and, often, right outside mosques, and how he cut off recruits from family and friends. Eventually escaping to Morocco, he was captured and imprisoned there, and finally rescued and repatriated. The kindness shown him by his American guards and jailers began to pull him back from radicalization, until reports of Islamic brutality no longer caused elation, but sickened him.

Now living in Virginia, he is gripped by fear. **Other radicals consider his actions "apostasy," punishable by death.** Mostly, though, he worries about the ideas he unleashed on the world. "I'm scared—not because I think I'll go back, but because of what's coming," he said. "I was so committed to destroying the world that I lived in, and now, for rational reasons, I realize that international order needs to be protected." ★



# First Time EVER, Undeniable Evidence of Jewish Temple



ARCHAEOLOGY: By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz (above)  
BreakingIsraelNews.com

*"And He said unto me: 'Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever.'" – Ezekiel 43:7*

A new discovery at the Temple Mount has produced the first-ever physical and archaeological evidence that the Second Jewish Temple stood on the Mount 2,000 years ago. This find upsets Moslem claims, increasingly endorsed by the international community, that the Temples never existed.

Archaeologists from the Temple Mount Sifting Project, who salvage artifacts from Moslem destruction at the Temple complex, have restored portions of ornate flooring that experts believe decorated the courtyard of the Second Temple, also called Herod's Temple. The Project provides visible and incontrovertible proof, backed up by ancient texts and historical context, of a Jewish Temple on the Mount.

Archaeology teams have uncovered approximately 600 colored-stone floor-tile segments, with more than 100 of them positively dated to the Herodian Temple Period (37–4 B.C.).



The Sifting Project began in 2004 in an attempt to salvage whatever archaeological artifacts it could out of rubble that resulted from illegal construction projects on the Temple Mount led by the Jordanian *Waqf* that controls the Mount.

This discarding of irreplaceable archaeological artifacts is considered part of Temple denial. Denying any Jewish connection to the Temple Mount began at the 2000 Camp David Summit when then-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat insisted that the Temple existed near Shechem (which the Arabs call Nablus), and not on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. This false claim gained international traction when the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) passed an initiative declaring the Temple Mount an exclusively Islamic holy site.

Dr. Gabriel Barkay, co-founder and director of the Temple Mount Sifting Project, compared denial of the Jewish Temples to denying the Holocaust. "I myself am a Holocaust survivor, and I couldn't care less about people who deny what I know to be true. For the Holocaust, we have the camps, we have the films and photographs, and we have the survivors."

"For the Temple, we have the *Mishnah* (Oral Law), the New Testament, we have the writings

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## Archaeology... continued

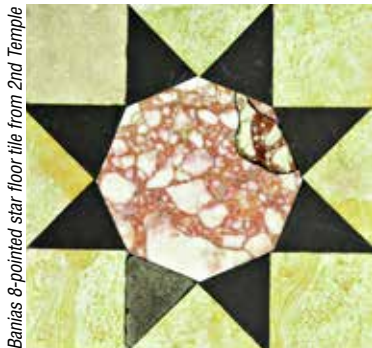


of Flavius Josephus (a first-century Roman-Jewish historian). We have mountains of archaeological evidence.”

The newly discovered tiles fit perfectly a description of the Temple complex given in *The Jewish War* by historian Josephus, who saw the Temple with his own eyes. Talmudic literature about the construction of the Temple Mount describes rows of green, blue, and white marble. The tile segments, mostly imported from Rome, Asia Minor, Tunisia, and Egypt, were polished multicolored stones cut in a variety of geometric shapes.

Similar flooring has been found at Herod’s contemporary palaces. A key characteristic of the Herodian tiles is their size, which corresponds to the Roman foot, approximately 11.6 inches.

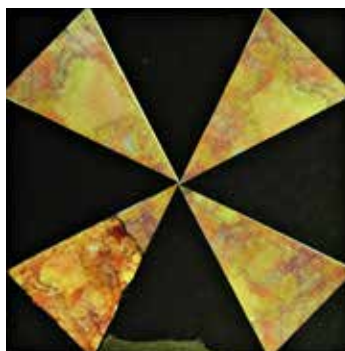
8-pointed star floor tile from 2nd Temple



Baniyas 8-pointed star floor tile from 2nd Temple

The restored flooring proves a theory that large expanses of the Temple Mount during the Second Temple Period were covered with a special type of ornate flooring called *opus sectile*, Latin for “cut work.” The idea was first put forward in 2007 by archaeologist Assaf Avraham, director of the Jerusalem Walls National Park.

“So far, we have succeeded in restoring seven potential designs of the majestic flooring that decorated the buildings of the Temple Mount,” said Frankie Snyder, a member of the Temple Mount Sifting Project’s team of researchers. Snyder, an expert in the study of ancient Herodian-style flooring, explained that there were no *opus sectile* floors in Israel prior to the time of King Herod. “The tile segments were perfectly inlaid such that one could not insert even a sharp blade between them.”



Floor tile from the 2nd Temple

Dr. Barkay noted that this archaeological treasure is a way for Jews to connect to their holiest place, which today’s generations can only imagine: “We can see with our own eyes the splendor of the flooring that decorated the Second Temple and its annexes 2,000 years ago.”

Referring to the Second Temple, the Talmud says: “Whoever has not seen Herod’s building has not seen a beautiful building in his life.” ★

**The Temple Mount Sifting Project** is one of the works this ministry actively supports. Imagine our excitement when a young pilgrim on tour with us in 2012 found a Maccabean-era coin! ([Levitt Letter, August 2012](#)) —Myles



Floor tiles from the 2nd Temple (Zachi Dvira)



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# Arabs' Historic Mistakes in Interactions with Israel



**PART 3:** BY FRED MAROUN (*r*) GatestoneInstitute.org

In the current state of the relationship between the Arab world and Israel, we see a patchwork of hostility, tense peace, limited cooperation, calm, and violence. We Arabs managed our relationship with Israel atrociously. But the worst of all is the ongoing situation of the Palestinians.

**The Original Mistake**—Not treating Jews as equals. Without this mistake, Jews would have remained in the Muslim Middle East and advanced our civilization rather than the West's and, feeling secure, wouldn't have felt the need for a separate state.

**The Worst Mistake**—Our second and worst mistake was not accepting the UN's partition plan of 1947 (Res. 181), which provided for a Jewish state and an Arab state sharing what used to be British-controlled Mandatory Palestine. ([The original and worst mistakes were covered in the September and October Levitt Letters, p. 34.](#))

**More Wars and More Mistakes**—After what the Jews call their War of Independence (1947/1948), Israel was for all practical purposes confined to the land within the green lines. Israel had no authority or claim over Gaza and the West Bank. We Arabs had two options if we had chosen to make peace with Israel at that time:

1. We could have incorporated Gaza into Egypt, and the West Bank into Jordan, providing the Palestinians with citizenship in one of two relatively strong Arab countries, both numerically and geographically stronger than Israel.
2. We could have created a new state in Gaza and the West Bank.

Instead, we chose to continue the hostilities with Israel. In the spring of 1967, we formed a coalition to attack Israel. In May 20, 1967, Syrian Defense Minister Hafez Assad stated: "The time has come to enter into a battle of annihilation." On May 27, 1967, Egypt's President Abdul Nasser declared: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel." In June, it took Israel only six days to defeat us and humiliate us in front of the world. In that war, we lost much more land, including Gaza and the West Bank.

After what the Jews call the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel offered us land for peace, and thereby a chance to recover from the mistake of the Six-Day War. We responded with the Khartoum Resolutions: "No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no negotiations with Israel."

Not having learned from 1967, we formed yet another coalition in October 1973 and tried again to destroy Israel. We achieved some gains, but then the tide turned and we lost again. After this third humiliating defeat, our coalition against Israel broke up, and Egypt and Jordan even decided to make peace with Israel.

The rest of us remained stubbornly opposed to Israel's very existence—like Syria, which had lost land to Israel during the Six-Day War. Israel still holds that territory, and there is no real prospect of that land ever going back to Syria; Israel's Prime Minister recently declared: "Israel will never leave the Golan Heights." ★



# Jewish humor, etc.

## Smile

One of life's greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.

— *Jewish Proverb*

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

— *Albert Einstein*



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



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"On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are 'more', 'a little more', 'a lot more' and 'too much'."



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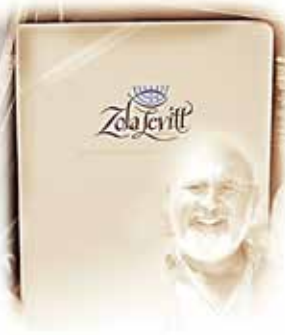
1. One each of all our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth), not just for your library, but also to give away.
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3. One-on-one telephone conference with Myles to discuss this ministry's goals and visions.



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