

Levitt Letter

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

JUNE 2017

The 50th anniversary — Jubilee — of the miraculous Six-Day War (June 5–10, 1967)

God's Miracle in 1967 Israel

By Chris Mitchell, CBN News Middle East Bureau Chief / CBN.com

The stage was set for war, and Israel's enemies prepared for victory, convinced that they could "drive the Jews into the sea."

But what transpired not only stunned Israel's enemies and confounded military experts (who continue to study the results), but transfixed the world. Many believe that a miracle occurred in the six days following June 4, 1967, when the infant State of Israel — still dealing with the agonizing memory of the Holocaust — found itself on the brink of annihilation. The Arab/Muslim nations surrounding Israel vowed to make the blue Mediterranean run red with the blood of Jews.

On the morning of June 5, 1967, Israel's Air Force began flying missions against Egyptian airfields in the Sinai.

Just before the war, Israelis joked: "Last ones out, turn off the lights." But this black humor

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photo of soldiers: Rafi Rogel

New Faces, New Places

By Ken Berg, Berg Productions, Producer of *Zola* Levitt Presents

I recently returned from my 68th trip to Israel, an amazing journey on which we shot some of our best TV footage ever!

Our newest television series, ***Called Together***, will feature the insightful teaching of prominent Messianic leader Eitan Shishkoff, "Our Man in Haifa" (p.8). In these eight programs, Eitan answers the title of his book, which poses a question that gentiles often ask: "What About Us?"

You and I may not verbalize those three words, but we ponder the concept: Since Yeshua/Jesus

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God's Miracle in 1967 Israel *continued from cover*

didn't mask the fact that many Israelis genuinely anticipated a catastrophe. Rabbis in Jerusalem anticipated so many deaths that they designated all the public parks in Jerusalem as cemeteries.

Israel found itself outnumbered and outgunned on three fronts: Egypt to the south, Jordan to the east, and Syria to the north. The Soviet Union had poured \$2 billion worth of arms into Israel's Islamic enemies, who brought twice as many soldiers, three times as many tanks, and four times as many airplanes to the battlefield.

But just before the war, Egypt, Israel's main enemy suffered a series of major mistakes and mishaps. "In a miscommunication between Nasser and his top generals," Channel 2 military correspondent Ehud Yaari said, "nothing worked the way they thought."

Two weeks before the war, Egypt had replaced all of its commanders in Sinai with officers unfamiliar with the terrain. Egypt's high command also dismissed warnings by their intelligence officers of a preemptive Israeli air attack. The night before the war, Egypt's commander-in-chief, Abdel-Hakim Amer, gathered his high command for a party at an air base far away from the front lines. "They were caught by surprise, totally," Yaari said. "Some of them tried to get into the air in order to join their units, but they couldn't."

On the morning of June 5, Jordanian radar detected the Israeli Air Force taking off. They sent a red alert to Cairo, but the decoding officer used the wrong day's code and failed to decipher the vital information. The warning never arrived. Instead, the Israeli Air Force decimated Egypt's air force on the ground, a key to the outcome of the war.

To some, **the confusion in the Egyptian command evoked memories of the Biblical story of Gideon routing the enemies of Israel.** In each instance, Israel won one of the most decisive victories in military history.

"For evangelical Christians, the Six-Day War revealed God's Hand intervening on behalf of the Jewish People," best-selling author Joel Rosenberg says. "It was extraordinary. One moment Arab/Islamic leaders say they're going to throw the Jews into the sea. Six days later, the Jewish people had destroyed their enemies, tripled their land, and recaptured control of all Jerusalem for the first time in 2,000 years. On the seventh day, they rested. That sounded extremely Biblical to evangelicals all over the planet, and they rejoiced with the Jewish people."

"In the aftermath of the war, everyone — both religious and secular — recognized that this was from God because it was just so implausible," says author Sarah Rigler. "Even Moshe Dayan, commander of the Israeli forces and a very secular person, visited the Western Wall the day after it was liberated. In the tradition of putting notes to God in the crevices of the Wall, he put a note to God in a crevice. Of course, as soon as he left, news reporters, in their typically discreet way, ran and took the note out and read it: 'May peace descend upon the whole House of Israel.'" ★



top: Gamal Abdel Nasser with pilots at a Sinai airbase prior to the Six-Day War in June 1967



bottom: Israeli troops examine destroyed Egyptian aircraft days later



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New Faces, New Places (continued from cover)

was Jewish, as were all of His disciples, how can we Western Christians better experience the fullness of His Jewish Kingdom? How do we non-Jews fit into the growing, vibrant Messianic movement celebrated in Messianic congregations and churches around the globe?

David and Kirsten Hart, our new studio hosts, explore the same question. Eitan offers some very clear direction for all of us Believers who want to better support Israel and God’s Chosen People.

Called Together will include short Hebrew lessons and interviews with Christians from around the world who voice their support for the Land of the Bible. You’ll also hear some new renditions of Zola’s songs, beautifully sung by David and Kirsten. This most informative, inspiring series will begin airing the third week of July.

Followers of our video blogs at Facebook/ZolaLevitt and Twitter, will recognize the name **Chaim Malespin**. Chaim is part of our team of Israeli correspondents and will join upcoming ZLP programs, sharing how he assists new immigrants as they enter the Promised Land. He has a deep understanding of the Word and boundless energy. Be forewarned, his enthusiasm is contagious!

A recent studio session revealed David and Kirsten’s genuine love for Israel. You and our camera crew will follow their journey this fall through the Holy Land where they’ll interview outstanding Messianic leaders.

As I indicated in the *April Levitt Letter*, we’re adding new faces and new places: our Bible-teaching family has grown and the future looks better than ever. The new and improved *Zola Levitt Presents (ZLP)* will enchant viewers across generations while offering the meaty Biblical commentary that you expect. Be assured, you will see the very best teaching from seasoned Messianic leaders, direct from the heart of Israel, where it all began. ★

Wedding Bells or the Sound of a Trumpet?

Tony Derrick, M.Div.
Zola Tours Leader
ZLM consulting theologian



According to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, June is still the most popular month for weddings, followed by August and September. In ancient times, the Roman goddess Juno was known as the protector of women in all aspects of life, but especially in marriage and childbearing, so a wedding in Juno's month was considered most favorable. Historians record that June was chosen in the Eastern cultures because the winter weather had subsided, and milder temperatures prevailed. Also, being married in June gave the new bride sufficient time to give birth early in the following spring and be physically able to help with the late spring harvest. Romantic, huh?

Many of our Western wedding traditions borrow from other cultures: Young maidens adorn themselves in glorious attire. Grooms nervously wait for the pomp and circumstance to end so they can begin the honeymoon. Proud, reticent fathers hold back tears. Mothers and bridesmaids expend excited, creative energy. In modern times, credit cards suffer from "swipe" exhaustion.

It's a momentous occasion as the bells toll the hour, the minister gathers himself respectfully, and the attendees await the bride's entrance that will fill the aisle with an overflowing bridal train and a spectacular floral display by little girls and boys who would rather be eating ice cream or playing outside.

Heavenly Wedding

But the most glorious wedding event is yet to come, when our Groom — the King of Heaven and Earth — returns for His Bride, the Church, the Body of Believers. Can you imagine the activity in Heaven when God the Father gives the nod to His Son that the time has come to return and claim His Bride? The angelic music and the hosts of Heaven waiting for that moment when King Jesus appears robed in His regal attire. There will be a "hush" in Heaven, and then the risen Messiah — King Jesus — will meet His bride in the air. I get "goose bumps" just writing these words!

John penned the following words in Revelation 19:7–9 (NKJV):

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it is granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

A great multitude of praise was heard in Heaven in Revelation 19:1 (NKJV):

Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

The celebration of praise occurred because He, the God of the universe, had judged the great harlot and avenged her corruption of His servants.

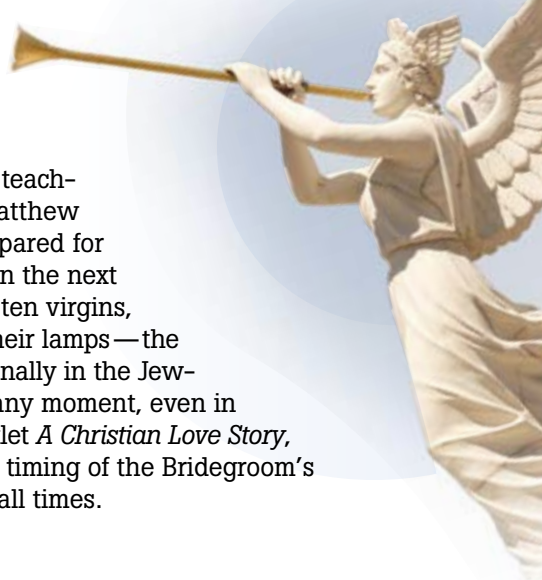
Now the redeemed of God completed the praise in Heaven:

And I heard as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" — Rev. 19:6

The rejoicing celebrated the imminent wedding of the Lamb, and His Bride "has made herself ready" (19:7).

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Jesus uses the imagery of a wedding when teaching about the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1–13. The parable focuses on being prepared for the bridegroom to appear, which could be in the next ten minutes or in the next ten years. Of the ten virgins, only five took additional oil with them for their lamps—the equivalent of taking extra batteries. Traditionally in the Jewish culture, the bridegroom could arrive at any moment, even in the darkness of night. In Zola’s classic booklet *A Christian Love Story*, he writes that since no one knows the exact timing of the Bridegroom’s appearance, it is imperative to be ready at all times.

Marriage Ceremony and Supper

Our previous passage mentions both the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7) and the marriage supper (Rev. 19:9). Scholarly theologians differ in their interpretation of these two events, but in keeping with Zola’s view as a premillennial, pre-Tribulation theologian, let’s consider the following.

These verses appear after the Rapture, but before the Church returns to Earth with a triumphant Christ. So then, the marriage ceremony will take place in Heaven during the Tribulation, while the marriage supper (reception) will take place on Earth during the Millennial Kingdom — at the return of Jesus with His Bride.

This sequence of events follows neatly with the stages of a first-century Jewish marriage that Zola mentions in *A Christian Love Story*.

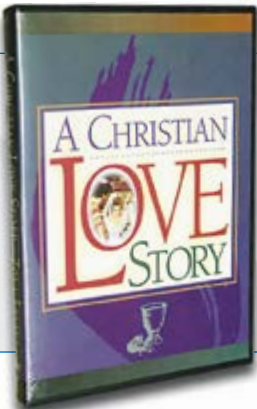
- First, the betrothal period with arrangements made by the parents. God has chosen the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:4).
- Second, a marriage ceremony would be conducted in the home of the groom. In the case of Christ and the Church, this will take place after the Rapture when the Church is in Heaven (Rev. 19:7–8).
- Finally, there is a festive public celebration (reception), supporting the idea that the marriage supper takes place on Earth after the Second Coming of Jesus, the Messiah. The guest list will include Old Testament saints, Tribulation saints, as well as the nation of Israel and all those who inhabit Christ’s Millennial Kingdom.

So here we are: the Church of Jesus Christ, betrothed to our Groom and veiled in mystery to the rest of the world. We await His arrival!

I leave you with John’s words in Revelation 22:20 (MSG) —

He who testifies to all these things says it again: “I’m on my way! I’ll be there soon!” Yes! Come, Master Jesus!

Will you be ready at His return? ★



A Christian Love Story

Study booklet and CD by Zola Levitt

The beautiful story of the wedding customs of Israel in Messiah’s time, and how He fulfilled these traditions in calling out His Bride, the Church. A striking and inspiring example of scriptural logic and elegance.



A Taste of Israel

Kirsten Hart
co-host of *Zola
Levitt Presents*



When [David and I introduced ourselves last month](#), we mentioned our love for the food in Israel. I'd like to dwell on that subject a little, because the food of the Holy Land is alone worth the trip. It's a revelation. It's one of the reasons we can't wait for the tour this fall: to lead music, worship with all of you, and grow spiritually in God's land, yes. But as an added benefit, breakfast, lunch, and dinner highlight any trip to the Holy Land for us.

Though David and I grew up on the ethnically diverse West and East Coasts of the U.S., respectively, I'm almost embarrassed to admit that neither of us had eaten hummus prior to our first trip to Israel. I know! How did we exist? On the East Coast, I had my fair share of matzo crackers (love them!), fresh *challah* (yummy egg bread), and matzo ball soup; but tasting fresh Israeli cuisine was life changing!

Israel's Bounty

God calls His land "the land flowing with milk and honey." In Exodus 33:3, He tells Moses, "Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey." (He then proceeds to call His people stiff-necked, but we won't go into that conversation now.) Numbers 13:23 describes the fruit samplings that the Israelites brought to Moses: a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes, along with some pomegranates and figs.

A cluster of grapes and some pomegranates and figs doesn't begin to show what incredible produce this land brings forth. **Israel's bounty of wholesome food is a miracle in itself.** The majority of the terrain is desert. Dry, barren desert. Yet, out of this ground comes some of the most delicious food on the planet. I know because I consume it daily while I am there. In a world of GMO plants and fruits, the land of Israel brings forth pure, whole vitamin-rich produce unlike anywhere in the world.

Today throughout the Jordan River Valley, orchard after orchard and farm after farm produce year-round crops. Dates, bananas, tomatoes, cucumbers, and practically every vegetable and fruit explode in abundance. This ability to produce surprises most of the world. But God promised this plenitude in the Old Testament. Ezekiel prophesied: "But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for My people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will cause many people to live on you — yes, all of Israel" (Ezekiel 36:8–10).

Even with its food, Israel is fulfilling ancient prophecy. Prophecy comes alive before our very eyes, and we get to taste — literally! — this prophetic Word.

When David and I got home from our last tour to Israel, I *needed* fresh hummus and Israeli salad. Israeli salad blesses you whether you eat it for lunch, dinner, or breakfast. Yes, salad for breakfast! It's the Israeli way, and it's very healthy. I had eaten constantly during our tour and gained only three pounds over twenty days. That's phenomenal when you consider that I consumed my way through the dessert table every night, too. I really needed hummus and Israeli salad, but being no longer in Israel, I had to concoct my own. (You can see my creations in the photos.) My hummus wasn't as smooth as Israel's, but I made a pretty good Israeli salad out of tomato, cucumber, and onion dressed with garlic, olive oil, parsley, and lemon juice. I enjoyed my taste of Israel from my Missouri kitchen.

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Holy Cow?

So what about that milk of “milk and honey”? Here’s a fun fact about the cows in Israel: They are the best milk producers in the world! Dubbed “Super Cows,” these ladies out-produce their sisters in other countries (American cows by 10%, German by 50%) because nearly all Israeli dairy managers have university degrees in raising cattle and take advantage of Israel’s high-tech innovations. (rBST, a growth hormone, has not been allowed on the market in Israel since 2000.)

Thousands of years ago, God spoke about the milk. In 2017, air conditioning for cows, constantly measuring the quality of their milk, and even using pedometers to judge if the cow is getting fidgety have led Israel to export its scientific techniques to numerous countries where farming is still more traditional. That Israeli tradition of sharing just makes me smile.

God Provides

Much about the land of Israel can be considered “miraculous.” In 1867, Mark Twain toured Palestine and wrote in *The Innocents Abroad*, “The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent.” Then the Jewish people returned, and God not only provided a beautiful landscape for His people, He also provided soil that would produce everything His people needed ... and then some to export. I don’t know if we *need* fresh dates, but they are one of the most succulent treats to eat. A date for dessert? Perfect.

If you’ve never sampled Israel’s cuisine, I encourage you to sign up for a Zola Tour! David and I would love to share a table with you in Israel for a taste of the Lord’s bounty.

[Please see p. 36 for details.](#) ★



Israeli Meal



Israeli Salad



Meeting Moussa

Our Man in Haifa
Eitan Shishkoff
and wife Connie



Eitan teaching
in the shade of
an olive tree



Zola Levitt Presents producer Ken Berg, ZLM's camera crew, and I thought it would be cool to film in an old olive grove in the Galilee. The gnarled trunks and endless rows of trees took us back in time. It was only when we met Moussa that we realized just how far back in time the olives had taken us.



Moussa (Arabic for Moses) noticed our activity in his olive grove. He greeted us without a trace of suspicion, and asked about our identity and subject matter. When we explained our fascination with his ancient trees, he said, "You haven't seen anything yet. Come with me." Fellow ZLM correspondent Chaim Malespin and I followed the short, 70-something Arab Israeli, who was clearly comfortable with the Hebrew language and with us as Jewish Israelis.

He unlocked a tall, sliding metal door, revealing a sizeable warehouse adjacent to the road and to the vast olive grove. "This is just a hobby," Moussa explained

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Olivenbaum, illustration by Franz Eugen Köhler,
Köhler's *Medizinal-Pflanzen*, 1896



with a smile, proceeding to introduce us to an impressive array of sophisticated machines designed to extract oil from olives. Frankly, I felt like a little kid being shown for the first time how an airplane works. There were mounds of “olive cakes,” the dried dregs from decades of olives being crushed to extract their rich oil. At the far wall, our host pointed up toward the ceiling. To our astonishment, four huge earthenware containers were displayed, apparently long retired from use.

“These vessels represent generation after generation of my family harvesting and processing olives,” Moussa pointed out with warm, non-boastful pride. Chaim and I stared, trying to absorb the implications of what we were seeing. Here was the peaceful caretaker of olive trees with a history that possibly stretched back to Bible times. Of this I can’t be certain, except for Moussa’s insistence that his town, Rama, was the place referred to in 1 Samuel 8:4. One thing is for sure: this remarkably friendly man, as if grown from the very soil of his olive grove, reaching out to us — enabling us to share in a history, geography, and agriculture that are all essential to our own heritage.

If ever one doubted the possibility of Jews and Arabs living in harmony, sharing a heritage that stretches back centuries and centuries, our time with Moussa dispelled such skepticism. I’m not saying that everyone is like Moussa. Nor am I negating the covenantal promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But the Scriptures are also clear that we are to treat with respect the “ger” — the non-Jewish dweller in our land. *“The stranger (ger) who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God (Leviticus 19:34).*



I look forward to visiting with Moussa again. In a heartwarming way, he connected me at a deeper level to this unique land and its people.



(The filming mentioned in Eitan’s report will be aired on Zola Levitt Presents as part of our newest television series Called Together — see p. 1.) ★

“Sir, We Would See Jesus”

Classic Zola
from 1981
36 years ago



The following speculates on Greece’s 1981 entry as the 10th nation to join the EEC and whether it would bode the antiChrist. Spain and Portugal joined in 1986; Turkey applied in 1987.

One of our viewers recently pointed out a subtle lesson in prophecy that I had never considered. It involves the passage in John where people from a foreign nation approach the Lord, and a curious scene ensues:

Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast.

Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying,

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this

hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” — John 12:20-28

The curious part of the scene results when the Lord proceeds to pronounce one of His most solemn sermons concerning His ultimate mission to die as a sacrifice for all men’s sins. But He never comes back to the Greeks who wish to see Him, and they drop out of the story, evidently without an interview with Jesus. Tradition speculates that the Greeks’ approach symbolized gentiles coming for the Gospel and a signal by Jesus leaving the matter with His disciples.

There had to be a point marking an end to the exclusive witness to Israel and the beginning in the foreign nations. That point was Pentecost. So following the Greeks’ approach, the Lord died and was resurrected, and beginning with Pentecost, the Gospel was sent overseas from the Holy Land. As Paul later remarked:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. — Romans 1:16

That much I had understood previously. The enlightenment arose as our

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Saint Paul Delivering the Areopagus Sermon in Athens—painting by Raphael, 1515





Photo by Edal Anton Leterov

viewer pointed out the connection to Europe's Common Market. As of the beginning of this year [1981], Greece becoming the tenth nation in the EEC completed the picture of the antiChrist's European confederacy. As we know from prophecy, that confederation will consist of ten nations in a revived Roman Empire. It is, therefore, construed to involve the European territories. What we don't know is "when."

Could it be that the coming of the Greeks is still a sign of a cataclysmic change according to God's plan? When Greeks approached the last time, Messiah was crucified and resurrected, and the Gospel proceeded to overwhelm the Empire and the world. Now that they have come again, are we ready for that fatal transition into the Tribulation Period, which we all expect in the very near future?

It may just be a coincidence, of course, that Greece was the nation to complete the confederation picture and that the people who wanted to see the Lord on that Palm Sunday were Greek. On the other hand, modern students who discern Biblical subtleties are sensitive to such workings of our God. It's possible that our studious viewer had a revelation. It's certainly something to think about.

In 2015, it appeared that Greece might leave the European Union, and that would complicate matters in Bible prophecy. But, Daniel 8:8–10 makes it clear that Greece is part of the revived Roman Empire. Zola's article shows the connection of Greece to the Roman Empire both in Jesus' day and in the prophetic future. —Tony ★

The Fulfillment of *Shavuot*

By **ROB PHILLIPS** / OnceDelivered.net

Acts 2 records the fulfillment of *Shavuot* as the promised Holy Spirit descends, indwells Believers, and ushers in the Church/Messianic Age. Key points:

- Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and live in Believers' hearts (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7), and He said it would happen soon after His ascension (Acts 1:4–5).
- **The Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost as Jews from all over the world gathered in Israel** (Acts 2:5). They heard the sound of a rushing, mighty wind and came together to investigate it (Acts 2:6). In this way, God began to use Believers, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, to be His witnesses, beginning in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8). The 3,000 saved on the Day of Pentecost were Jews.
- While unleavened bread symbolizes Jesus' sinless humanity (Luke 22:19), the two loaves used at *Shavuot*/Pentecost contain yeast and symbolize that the Body of Christ (Church/Believers) would be made up of sinners.
- The two loaves used at *Shavuot* also symbolize Jews and gentiles, demonstrating the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham to bless all the nations through him (Gen. 12:3; see Gal. 3:26–28).
- Just as faithful Jews brought the first fruits of their wheat harvest to the Temple on *Shavuot*, so the 3,000 Jewish Believers on the Day of Pentecost were the first fruits of the Body of Christ/Church. ([See p. 31.](#))
- One of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of Heaven refers to wheat and tares—a message that the true Church, like wheat, would exist along with false professors of the faith, like tares, until Christ returns and separates them (Matt. 13:24–30; 34–43). ★



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Why Is Israel Called Israel?



PART 2: BY ELON GILAD (r) Haaretz.com

Last month the State of Israel celebrated its 69th Independence Day. This is an apposite time to ask: How did Israel get its name?

This is actually three separate questions.

- What did the name Israel originally mean?
- How did the ancient Jewish people and their homeland come to be known as “Israel”?
- How and why was this particular name chosen for the modern state?



[Last month](#) we learned that the theophoric name “Israel” means “God shall fight.” Let’s look at the second question:

Why would the ancient Israelites call themselves “God shall fight”? Perhaps because they wanted to be known as a people whose God would, indeed, fight for them.

Supporting that argument, the Bible indicates that the ancient Israelites believed that God was fighting their battles with them, as when they took the Ark of the Covenant with them into battle.

Meanwhile, the Kingdom of Israel actually came to an end over 2,700 years ago, in 722 B.C., when Assyrian invaders laid waste to the capital city, Samaria. Yet, this was not the end of the people of Israel.

The people of Judah + Israel

It seems that a large number of Israelite refugees fleeing the Assyrians moved from the powerful, advanced northern Kingdom of Israel into the smaller, more backward Kingdom of Judah (in the foothills of Jerusalem) after Samaria fell. These refugees brought with them the traditions, history, and scrolls of their destroyed kingdom.

The relations between ancient Israel and Judah are not clear; they were of the same ethnicity and probably spoke a similar proto-northwestern-Semitic dialect. It is known historically that after the fall of Israel, Judah experienced a great leap forward, in which the population more than doubled in two or three decades.

Over time, the Israelites and Judahites became one people and their names came to be used interchangeably. Two identities, Israelite and Judahite, once discrete, became synonymous. While the Bible usually uses “Israel” to mean the northern kingdom, elsewhere the name is commonly used to refer to both Israel and Judah together, and less commonly, to Judah alone. Thus it is that Jews in the Diaspora refer to themselves as “Sons of Israel” and sometimes, just “Israel,” in addition to the more common name *Yehudim* (“Jews”), which derives from the name of Judah, the southern kingdom.

Similarly, the land they left behind was often referred to as the “Land of Israel” (“*Eretz Yisrael*”) in addition to other names, including Judah and “Holy Land” (“*Eretz HaKodesh*”). ★



TJF Team in Netanya and Nazareth

BY SUE HOPPER, TJF Outreach Team Ambassador

After landing in Tel Aviv, the **To The Jew First** team headed downtown to pick up 40 complete (with *Tanakh* and *B'rit Hadashah*—Old and New Testaments) Bibles in Hebrew. We gave out the first one of this trip to the parking lot attendant. We were so happy to be back in Yeshua's homeland! We then made our way to the coastal city of Netanya.



Alexandria

Shopping malls provide quick opportunities for us to make contact with the locals. In Netanya's mall, I met **Alexandria**, a young clerk in a cosmetics shop. After a few minutes of conversation, I

mentioned that I would like to give her a gift. She responded that she is not allowed to accept gifts, but after I showed her that it was a book, she changed her mind and accepted *Isaiah 53 Explained* in Hebrew.

In a shop upstairs, a clerk named **Dave** listened as I explained why I believe that the most famous Jew in history—Yeshua—is the Jewish Messiah and savior of the whole world. He did not accept a Bible or *Isaiah 53* book but was interested in the study materials that I offered so that he can read and learn for himself why more and more of his fellow Israelis are coming to faith in their Jewish Messiah.

I kept walking through the mall until I came upon another young woman with whom I shared my travels and my love for Israel. **Nof** decided that she would enjoy having a complete Bible in Hebrew, her native language. Please pray for Nof, Dave, and Alexandria.

While I looked around the mall for a backpack purse, I met a young woman of



Nof

Russian descent. **Sandra** had immigrated to Israel at a very young age. When I mentioned I had the book *Isaiah 53 Explained* in Russian, Sandra explained that she was more Israeli than Russian but accepted the book for her parents, who read Russian very well.



Sandra with Sue

After our encouraging ministry in Netanya, my husband Robin and I drove to Nazareth for lunch and more encounters for our beloved Messiah Yeshua. After a refreshing break, I wandered into a body and skincare shop and met **Natali** and **Gil**.

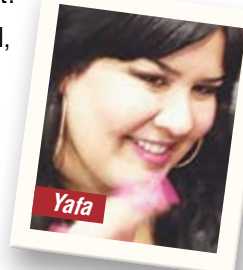


Natali & Gil

Natali and Gil had previously met our TJF leader

Todd Baker and fellow team member August Rosado, who had given them each a Hebrew Bible and study materials on prophecy. We were able to add a copy of Mitch Glaser's *Isaiah 53 Explained* to their study tools. What fun to water seeds planted by Todd and August!

Just before we left this mall, **Yafa** (whose name means "beautiful") accepted Bible study materials from me after a brief chat. As we walked out, the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit) impressed upon me to speak to **Shai**, the guard who had checked our bags as we entered the mall. The Spirit's leads are reliable: Shai accepted a complete Hebrew Bible from me.



Yafa

Next stop: the town of Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, which is also called the Kinneret because it is shaped like a harp. Yeshua spent many days in this area many, many years ago. To be continued ... ★



Transition Well Underway

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



Business analysts could characterize this ministry's ongoing transition as a turnaround, an abrupt change in pursuit of a more favorable situation.

Loyal readers will recall two prior transitions at ZLM. Upon Zola's graduation to his heavenly home in 2006, who could have better served as our new spokesperson than Dr. Jeffrey Seif? After all, he and Zola created our 12-course Biblical correspondence course *The Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. Zola's widow, Sandra Levitt, capably copiloted several years' worth of *Zola Levitt Presents* television programs, conducted Holy Land tours, and wrote dozens of *Levitt Letter* articles until retiring in 2009.

This ministerial work, though fulfilling, is typically exhausting. Hospital chaplains often succumb to empathy burnout. Third World missionaries become demoralized with how insurmountably needs surpass resources. Teaching Bible and delivering worthwhile Biblical commentary via television, bulk mail, and the Internet exert a steady pressure not only to generate inspirational lessons but also to tend to followers' endless array of needs.

Did you know that about 10% of our mailing list comprises prisoners?!

After Jeff and Sandra's tenure, Myles and Katharine took the helm in 2011. Their favorite teachings led to roughly 10 top-tier Bible teaching television series and 100+ worthy newsletter Bible lessons. Please appreciate the distinction between the time and effort it takes to crank out the typical talking head, studio-bound, Bible-oriented infomercial versus our flying a complete television crew to bring home high-powered and authentic Bible lessons from the Holy Land.

David and Kirsten bring an unprecedented level of energy and Zionistic zeal. Though not Jewish, they adore Israel as much or more than most Jews who've been there. Ken Berg, this ministry's television producer since Day One, believes that David and Kirsten hosting Messianic Bible experts will be far more palatable to unsaved Jews, who tend to resent "proselytes." Moreover, legions of gentile viewers will identify with David and Kirsten's expressions of love for Israel and the Chosen People.



David & Kirsten Hart, the new hosts of *Zola Levitt Presents*

Rather than "going gentile," **ZLM is on the brink of featuring more Messianic Jewish teachers than ever.**

Our revolutionary magazine approach to Bible teaching (reminiscent of *60 Minutes*) will consistently treat *Zola Levitt Presents* viewers to the best of the best, enabling an array of Jewish experts to teach on their specialties. You the viewer should prepare yourself to experience an ongoing cornucopia of Biblical insights. (TV schedule: levitt.com/schedule)

Please see Kirsten's article regarding Israeli food on page 6 and Ken Berg's update concerning our upcoming television series, on page 1. Also, kindly uphold us through steady prayer and financial support. It is thanks to God's will and your loyalty that our anointed message of God's glory continues to prevail in a world of increasing despair. Please help us remain a voice of encouragement as mankind marches toward the inevitable Rapture. ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



Cord-Cutter Debate

TIME magazine columnist Joel Stein announced, "My TV-watching experience as a cord cutter (ex-cable TV viewer) is not only cheaper but better. My Roku simply finds whatever show I want to watch on Netflix, Amazon, hulu, or a bunch of other services." However, his fellow *TIME* columnist James Poniewozik observed that "being liberated sometimes means trading one master for another." He believes that viewers can economize if they really cut by forgoing certain channels, (but not ZLM's, of course). **Please see levitt.com/roku**



Donate Through a Smile

At no extra cost, you can support ZLM with 0.5% of what you spend for Amazon purchases. To enable this free giving, go to Smile.Amazon.com instead of Amazon's regular website. After logging in (using the same email address and password that you use



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pay if not thinking of us. (Our editor tested this by loading her cart on Amazon and then switching to Smile.Amazon.com to see if the prices changed. They didn't.) Please be sure to enroll by designating your beneficiary as Zola Levitt Ministries.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The 8-1/2" x 11" workbook ***A Guide To Your Christian Will*** first addresses key questions, including: 1) Who needs a will? 2) What are the advantages of having a will? 3) What happens without one? Then the Guide delves into the appropriate steps, such as identifying your heirs and what you'll leave behind, and keeping your records and documents where they can be found. The worksheets include a **Key Information Organizer, Facts to Help Your Attorney**, a form for listing personal property, and more. To receive this free pamphlet, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Required Minimum Distributions

The IRS requires those who are at least 70½ to receive distributions from their IRAs and/or 401(k)s each year. Noncompliance results in severe penalties, and distributions count as taxable income for most recipients. **Some wise taxpayers manage to legally cut the tax man out of the middle**, however, by having their Required Minimum Distributions go directly from their bank or brokerage to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization like this ministry. Such a tactic can also work for legally averting capital gains taxes, but again the contribution must bypass the donor and go directly to the charity. Please ask your accountant how to harness your investments to lower both income and capital gains taxes.

"Come Home!"

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Cast Your Burden Upon the LORD

by John J. Parsons
ZLM Scholar



הַשְׁלֵךְ עַל־יְהוָה יְהַבְדָּ וְהוּא יְכַלְכְּלֶךָ

“Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you” – Psalm 55:22

הַשְׁלֵךְ	עַל־יְהוָה	יְהַבְדָּ	וְהוּא	יְכַלְכְּלֶךָ
(2) (1)	(2) (1)	(3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)	(5) (4) (3) (2) (1)
hash-lekh	al-Adonai	ye-hav-kha	ve-hu	ye-khal-ke-le-kha
Cast!	upon the LORD	your burden	and He	He will sustain you

Since the circumstances of life are beyond our control, we are naturally tempted to yield to anxiety about the future. The Scriptures make clear, however, that we are to trust in the LORD *bekhol libekha*—“with all our heart” (Prov. 3:5). “Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 62:8).

Psalm 55 is a *maskil*, meaning based on personal reflection (the modern Hebrew word means “enlightened one”). The word translated “burden” (*yehav*) in our verse comes from a verb meaning “to give,” which suggests that our burden is “that which is given to us,” that is, the “lot” or circumstances of our lives. **Figuratively speaking, we “cast our lot” upon the LORD and trust that He will sustain us.**

The ancient Greek translation of the Bible (i.e., LXX / Septuagint) translates the Hebrew word *yehav* as *merimna* (μέριμνα) meaning “anxiety” or “care,” which is the word Peter used when he quoted Psalm 55:22 in his epistle (1 Pet. 5:7). The Greek verb (*meridzo*) means to be fragmented or divided into parts and pieces. We bring our *brokenness* to God—including those fearful distractions that tear us away from Him and that make us inwardly fragmented—in order to receive God’s care for us.

The LORD reassures us in light of future uncertainty: “Throw upon the LORD everything in your life that tempts you to fear. God will hold you up and sustain your way. He will never allow the righteous to be shaken apart” (Psalm 55:22).

The great command is to “Choose life!” in everything we do. We must never surrender ourselves to fear over the future. Over and over in the Scriptures we hear the LORD saying to those who trust in Him, *al-tirah*, “be not afraid.” **If we live in faith, resurrection life will triumph in us through the Messiah. Let it be so, O Lord!** ★



Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

Acts: Then and Now *... the story continues* DVD Set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Myles and Katharine show us the implications of the Acts of the Apostles in history and the future.

The Birth of the Church Myles teaches on location at the Jerusalem Temple. Evangelist Jacob Damkani, a Persian Jew, fearlessly brings the Gospel to Israelis.

The Good News At Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park, Myles illustrates how the Gospel traveled west, with a positive impact on Europe and the Americas. Katharine interviews Rita Tsukahira, who leads a Mt. Carmel ministry for troubled Israeli Arabs and Jews and for refugees from Africa.

To Hear Something New On Mars Hill in Athens, Myles teaches about what Paul encountered while bringing the Jewish Gospel to the Greek world. Dr. Dan Juster explains the theological connection between Jewish and Greek thought.

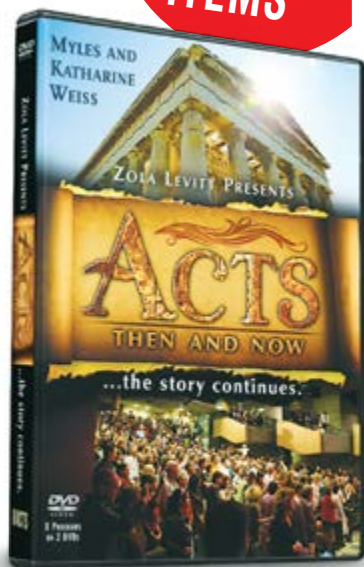
The Word Goes Forth from Zion Out of Paul's Corinthian letters come timeless instructions on how to live together in a vibrant faith community. Interview with Asher Intrater and son about the faith life of the contemporary Messianic community.

The One New Man In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul immortalizes the unity of the Spirit between Jews and Greeks (non-Jews) in Messiah.

The Price He Paid for Us In the Garden of Gethsemane, Myles discusses the blood of the sacrificed Lamb. Interviews with local Believers underscore the price to follow Jesus in Israel today.

Upon This Rock Matthew 16 proclaims the identity of Messiah. Tents of Mercy ministry provides immigrants from the former Soviet Union with humanitarian aid and "living water."

The First and the Last We get a "God's eye" view of the role Messianic Believers play in these Last Days.



Collapsible Drink Koozies

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

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

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Side 2: DON'T BE LUKEWARM and
Bible reference Rev. 3:15-16

Offered in pairs; wonderful as gifts and conversation starters.



ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

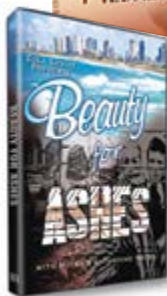
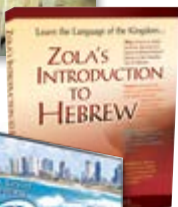
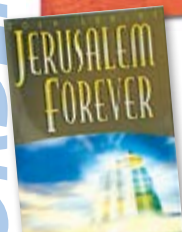
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story (page 5)	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever (pictured)	\$4	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (pictured)	\$3	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (page 23)	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (pictured) (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$10	___
___	Genesis One	\$5	___
___	The Iranian Menace	\$8	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus	\$14	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2	___
___	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	\$7	___
___	Once Through New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah	\$8	___
___	The Messianic Passover Haggadah	\$6	___
___	Raptured	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Acts: Then and Now (page 17) .. (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Beauty for Ashes New! (pictured) (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (3¼ hours, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Eretz Israel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Secrets of the Scrolls (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Promise (page 20) (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Zion Forever (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



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ORDER FORM continued

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Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
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___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$22	___
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___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	___
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___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	___
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___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	___
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Teaching CDs by Zola

___	A Christian Love Story (page 5)	CD	\$7	___
___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (pictured)	(9 CDs)	\$39	___
___	The Spirit of Pentecost (page 23)	CD	\$7	___

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	The Covenants of God	(instrumental)	\$12	___
___	The Works	(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___
___	The Works II	(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	___

Please send this entire 2-page Order Form—Thanks.

Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

Shipping & Handling Chart

up to \$15.99, add \$5
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Total _____



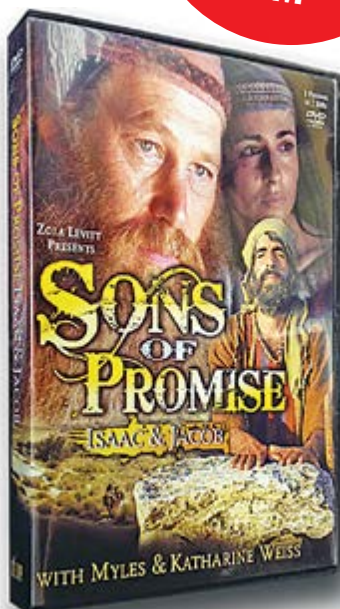
Sons of Promise — Isaac & Jacob

8 programs on 2 DVDs

This eight-program series joyfully recounts the history of Abraham's sons—Isaac and Jacob—to confirm God's eternal covenant with the Children of Israel into this day. With the modern miracle of Israel in the background, the ancient story yields to the contemporary, and together they tell the tale of God's faithfulness.

The Wells of Salvation Abraham's servant ventures out to find a wife for Isaac—God's Covenant continues from generation to generation. Myles interviews Jan Willem van der Hoeven—a Dutch-born student of Corrie ten Boom, longtime resident of Jerusalem, and champion of the Jewish people. Mark Levitt interviews a representative of Bridges for Peace.

The Bridegroom and the Bride Isaac and Rebekah's love for each other represents that of Yeshua and the Bride of Christ. Myles interviews Saul Singer, co-author of *Start-up Nation*; Mark interviews a Jewish National Fund spokesman. Through JNF, ZLM contributors have planted a forest of trees in Israel.



Episode: "The
Bridegroom
and the
Bride"

You've comforted me

Blessing, Covenant, Contention The conflict between Ishmael and Isaac precedes the contention between Jacob and Esau. Mark interviews an archaeologist digging near the ancient City of David.

Mayim B'sason (Water from the Wells of Salvation) In the face of famine, Isaac re-digs Abraham's wells, and God confirms His eternal covenant with the Hebrew people. Myles and Katharine interview the Lone

Soldiers, remarkable Jewish young people who leave the comfort of their families and foreign homes to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Brothers and Birthrights The struggle of Jacob and Esau over their destinies began in the womb and continues to our day. Mark interviews Our Man in Haifa, Eitan Shishkoff, about Tents of Mercy, his multifaceted ministry that touches many in Israel.

The Promise of Heaven Touches Earth In spite of Esau's murderous rage, Jacob dreams of a heavenly touch. God's Covenant continues into the third generation. Illustrating this continuation, Myles and Katharine interview young Israeli Messianic leaders.

For the Love of Rachel Jacob serves Laban repeatedly to earn his bride, demonstrating the importance of patience and commitment in God's plan. Mark interviews Dr. Todd Baker, who leads To The Jew First, our Gospel outreach that parallels our pilgrimages to Israel.

L'dor V'dor (From Generation to Generation) Jacob wrestles with God, and his transformation provides hope for us all. Myles interviews his own firstborn son, Jonathan, about the blessing of a Yeshua-centered home life.



Israel's Charming Old Clock Towers



BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org

Before wristwatches, and certainly before cellphones, centrally located clock towers helped citizens keep track of time. A big bell in the tower (like Big Ben in London) chimed the hour, and a large clock face provided a visual aid.

Nowadays, people don't depend on clock towers to tell time, of course. But the structures are a beautiful testament to the history of timekeeping and to architectural styles of bygone days.

The Turkish Ottomans constructed more than 100 clock towers throughout the empire in honor of the 25th anniversary of the reign of Sultan Abdul Hamid II in 1901. Six of them were built in what was then called Palestine — in Jaffa, Acre (Akko), Jerusalem, Haifa, Safed (Tzfat), and Nablus (Shechem). These structures are picturesque backgrounds for a selfie, but are no longer reliable timekeepers.

Jaffa clock tower

The most famous — and most photographed — clock tower in Israel stands in Clock Square at the seam of the Jaffa section of the Tel Aviv-Yafo municipality. It was completed in 1903 with contributions from Arab and Jewish residents of Jaffa, then a separate city.

Recently, Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) conservators unveiled the restoration and reinforcement of the marble seal (*tughra*) of the sultan on the Jaffa clock tower. This southern seal was the last of four to be preserved on the structure. In 2001, three glass replicas of the seal were installed in place of the other marble plaques, which did not survive the test of time.

Acre (Akko) clock tower

Built above the Khan El-Umdan, an inn constructed in 1784, the four-story Acre clock tower had four clocks, each of which was replaced in 2001. One clock face features Hebrew letters, another modern Arabic numbers, a third Roman numerals, and the fourth numbers we use (West Arabic).

Haifa clock tower

This ornamented six-story clock tower in downtown Haifa was built in front of the El-Jarina mosque, which originally stood next to the Ottoman government's Saraya administrative center in Haifa. Once upon a time, it boasted four clocks, but today has only the remnants of a single replacement clock.

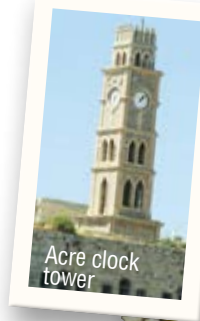
Safed clock tower

Built above the Saraya, the 1880s Ottoman government complex near Safed's Old City, this four-story clock tower has four clocks on the third level, which were replaced in 2002. The tower's original bell, on the top level, rings every half hour. The Safed tourist office is one of several entities located in the building today. ★

The Jerusalem clock tower at the Old City's Jaffa Gate, finished in 1907, was the last one constructed by the Ottomans and the only one no longer standing. It was demolished by British Mandate officials in 1922.



The Jaffa clock tower dominates Clock Square, a landmark at the entrance to the Jaffa section of Tel Aviv



Acre clock tower

Stamps of Haifa clock tower



To Index



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from the Internet

From S.C. (AZ): I read with amusement a letter in the [April Levitt Letter \(p. 24\)](#) that talked about the ineffable name of G-d. Years ago, I read a small booklet that was a good-natured spoof on things Jewish. Each chapter was only one or two pages, and I remember a short chapter on the ineffable name of G-d. The very next chapter was about how to pronounce the ineffable name of G-d. It gave me a good chuckle.

From S.M.: The teaching in your [April Personal Letter](#) ("He was praying for you and me!") is remarkably edifying. God bless you all.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER



Aha Moments

Dear ZLM,

I want to give you a pat on the back for the *Levitt Letter*. I enjoy the "aha moments." Thanks for connecting the dots between God's Chosen People and those gratefully grafted in. I have reference Bibles, but your teaching is a bonus that gives dimension. — W.J.H. (OK)

Dear W.J.H. —

We're glad you're enjoying the *Levitt Letter* and hope you have many more aha moments. Thank you for appreciating our efforts to deliver commentary that delves deep and also keeps our readers updated about what is happening in Israel. Shalom! — David Hart

Where the Savior Walked

Dear ZLM,

I just returned from the Spring Tour to Israel and had to let you know that this dream trip was all I wished for and more. The hotels, food, and every
[\(continued next page\)](#)



day were amazing. We visited places I read about in the Bible, but to actually walk among the antiquities and get the feel for life there was emotional and informative. I could picture the Savior in several of the locations—it all came alive in my imagination!

Our tour guide, Ilan Barkay, was funny and his recall of history and dates made the whole group fall in love with him. Bus driver David (King David, we called him) got us around in some very tight places, earning much applause.

And Tony and Jane: Jane herded us, Tony shepherded us—such a good speaker, bringing us to the Spiritual importance of each site.

The trip was worth every penny. I’m saving to go again!—K.P.

Dear K.P.—

We’re thrilled that you came on a Zola Tour. We’re proud of our tours that bring so many pilgrims to experience the very places where our Savior walked!—Kirsten Hart. ★



The Spirit of Pentecost

*Study booklet & teaching CD
by Zola Levitt*

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

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

Good Schools Aren't the Secret to Israel's High-Tech Boom



BY NAFTALI BENNETT, Israel's Minister of Education (r) WSJ.com



Photo: Amir Sultan/Fish130

Ultra-Orthodox children in a Jerusalem classroom, August 2009

I am often asked how a country the size of New Jersey, with fewer residents than New York City, became a global high-tech force. In a dynamic world, where innovation and adaptation are crucial, everyone wants to know Israel's secret educational ingredient.

Despite its small size, Israel lists 93 companies on the Nasdaq — more than India, Japan, and South Korea combined. In 2016, investors sank \$6

billion into Israel's more than 6,000 startups. Google, IBM, Apple, and Intel all have research-and-development centers located here.

Many people look to the Israeli education system to explain this success. During my two years as Minister of Education, I have come to understand that although Israel's schools are good, a parallel education system that operates alongside the formal one is **our secret weapon. This is where our children learn to become entrepreneurs.**

A Heritage of Debate

Israel's shadow education system has three components. The first is our heritage of debate — it's in the Jewish DNA. For generations, Jews have studied the Talmud, our legal codex, in a way vastly different from what goes on in a standard classroom. Instead of listening to a lecture, the meaning of complex texts is debated by students in *hevruta* — pairs — with a teacher offering occasional guidance.

Unlike quiet Western libraries, the Jewish *beit midrash* — house of study — is a buzzing beehive of learning. Since the Talmud is one of the most complex legal codes ever gathered, the idea of a verdict is almost irrelevant to those studying. Students engage in debate for the sake of debate. They analyze issues from all directions, finding different solutions. Multiple answers to a single question are common. Like the Talmud itself — which isn't the written law but a gathering of protocols — the learning process, not the result, is valued.

Peer-Teaches-Peer

The second component of our shadow education system is the peer-teaches-peer model of Jewish youth organizations, membership-based groups that we

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





call “movements.” Teenagers work closely with younger children; they lead groups on excursions and hikes, develop informal curricula, and are responsible for those in their care. As an 11th-grade student, I took fifth-graders on an overnight hike in the mountains. Being given responsibilities at a young age helped shape me into who I am today.

The Israel Defense Forces

The third component is the army. Because we are constantly defending ourselves from Islamic terror, 18-year-old boys and girls are drafted into the military for stints of two or three years. Young Israeli adults must literally make life-or-death decisions every day.

As a 23-year-old officer in 1995, I led 70 soldiers behind enemy lines. The covert mission required me to prepare my troops, mobilize people and equipment, build contingency plans, and function under immense physical and mental pressure. These situations teach a person how to execute plans — or adapt and improvise.

Consider a hypothetical 19-year-old soldier in the intelligence corps, analyzing aerial photographs or intercepted communications. She must decide if the material in front of her indicates an impending attack or not. This isn't a rare occurrence. Thousands of Israeli soldiers experience it daily.

Good teachers in vibrant classrooms are necessary for children — and nations — to succeed. Schools provide a base of literacy, mathematics, and social interaction.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to children on their first day in kindergarten

But Israel's extracurricular system goes further. Peer-led debate and intellectual dialogue enhance learning. Actual responsibilities, like caring for younger children, nurture growth and maturity. Real-life tasks show young adults how much they are capable of achieving. These are the principles that anyone wishing to replicate Israel's success should emulate.

Two qualities are needed to change the world: innovation, to think of new ideas, and entrepreneurship, to turn those ideas into reality. That is the essence of today's economy. The way to create citizens steeped in the ethos of both is to give children, at a young age, the room to try. ★



Pray For Peace *Bumper Sticker*

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem”

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



Plant Analysis

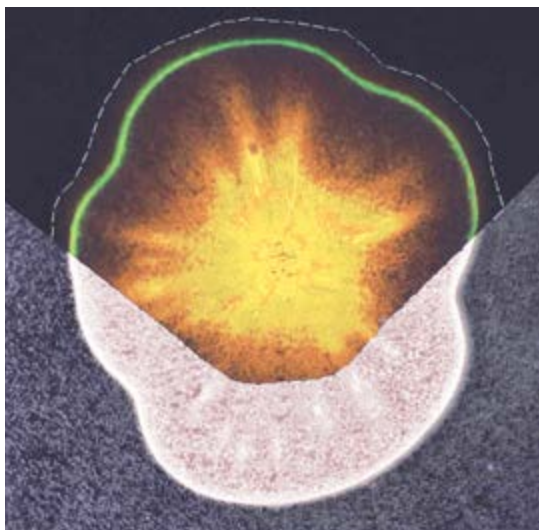
WEIZMANN
INSTITUTE
OF SCIENCE



SCIENCE: FROM WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / Weizmann.ac.il

Here's a reason not to peel tomatoes: A new method of plant analysis, developed at the Weizmann Institute of Science, has identified healthful antioxidants in tomato skins. In fact, the new method reveals that biologically active plant substances typically associated with particular plant species — including those providing health benefits — are much more prevalent across the plant kingdom than was previously thought.

Plants produce, in total, an estimated million-plus organic chemicals, and each plant is believed to contain as many as 15,000, on average. To address the challenge of identifying the majority of such “specialized metabolites” in any given plant, Dr. Nir Shahaf and other members of a team headed by Prof. Asaph Aharoni of Weizmann's Plant and Environmental Sciences Department created a database of plant metabolites, called WeizMass. Shahaf then developed a computer tool, MatchWeiz, that makes it possible to identify the metabolites by checking experimental results from the metabolic analysis of a particular plant against the database.



A section of a ripe tomato sample showing the distribution of sucrose (orange) in the flesh and an antioxidant (green) in the fruit skin tissue; seen via mass spectrometry imaging (MSI) technology



Dr. Nir Shahaf (L) and Prof. Asaph Aharoni

Using these new tools, the scientists identified more than twenty metabolites that had never before been reported in tomatoes, including certain antioxidants in the skin. When the researchers then compared the analysis of tomatoes with that of duckweed and the research model *Arabidopsis thaliana*, they discovered an overlap in specialized metabolite content among these strikingly different species.

These and other results suggest that plant species are not as specialized in their metabolism as has been commonly assumed. **In other words, valuable substances produced by exotic plants may potentially be derived from more common species.** The Weizmann team has found, for instance, that both duckweed and *Arabidopsis thaliana* contain — albeit in smaller amounts — certain metabolites used in traditional medicine that until now have been isolated only from such oriental medicinal plants as maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), and rock pine (*Orostachys japonicus*).

“WeizMass and MatchWeiz can serve as extremely powerful tools for studying plant metabolism and identifying metabolites with useful biological activity, including potential drugs,” says Aharoni. WeizMass and MatchWeiz are not limited to the study of plant metabolites but may also be used to investigate the biology of other living systems, including animal and human metabolism. ★



Blood Draws Made Easier



MEDICINE: BY SHOSHANNA SOLOMON (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) and the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center recently set up a company to commercialize a new system that makes it easier for medical practitioners to insert needles into veins for a range of medical procedures, like drawing blood or intravenous feeding.

The new company, Xact Medical, will further develop and bring to market the Fast Intelligent Needle Delivery (FIND) system that uses robotics and ultrasound to guide and insert a needle into a patient's body.

The technology will be particularly significant for children, whose vascular systems are very small and where precision can be critical, said a joint statement. The new tool, which looks like a joystick, will make it easier for clinicians to make a precise placement of a needle at the right point, and will help "significantly" improve the odds of successful vascular access on the first try.

According to Prof. Hugo Guterman of BGU's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and technical advisor for Xact Medical, three of every ten such procedures are not successful. In the U.S., some 300 people die each year because of infections due to misplaced needles.

Currently, doctors and clinicians have to guess where to insert the needle, or use an ultrasound in one hand to find the right location, navigating the needle with the other. **The new robot puts both the needle and the ultrasound into one device to identify the best spot and automatically insert the needle.** The clinician can also use the ultrasound and then manually press a button to insert the needle once the correct position is identified.

top: Andrew Cothrel of Xact Medical (left) and Daniel von Allmen of Cincinnati Children's Hospital
bottom: FIND prototype helps doctors find veins easily

"The fact that up to a third of central placement attempts in kids fail on the first try is unacceptable to us," said Daniel von Allmen, surgeon-in-chief at Cincinnati Children's. "This technology can drastically reduce patient discomfort and procedure time while improving outcomes for children and adults."

The technology was invented and developed through a collaboration between Cincinnati Children's Hospital and BGU, and began with a back-of-the-napkin sketch in 2012 that quickly progressed from an idea to a prototype.

Xact Medical will initially focus on central line placements in pediatric and adult patients, with plans to expand into additional markets, such as biopsy. The end product aims to be a wireless robot, said Guterman. ★



Photos: Xact Medical



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6 Signs of a Toxic “Apostle”



BY J. LEE GRADY, former editor of *Charisma* (r) CharismaNews.com



In South America, the Holy Spirit is moving in unprecedented ways. Churches are growing and average Christians are sharing their faith passionately. One recent Pew Research study showed that 1 in 5 Latin Americans now identifies as an evangelical Christian.

But this growth is not without problems. While there are certainly many healthy Christian movements in the region, other churches are suffering from a lack of trained leadership. And untrained, untested leaders often result in spiritual abuse, false doctrines, and financial corruption.

I’ve become concerned lately with leaders who declare themselves “apostles” when they have no business wearing that label. I believe true apostolic leadership is needed today, but a small army of imposters is threatening to damage the work of God. It is time to heed Apostle Paul, who warned of “false apostles” and “deceitful workers” who were “disguising themselves as apostles of Christ” (2 Cor. 11:13).

Discerning the difference between a true and false apostle is not complicated. Since Scripture clearly tells

us that Paul is our apostolic model (1 Cor. 4:16), we can use his surrendered life as our standard. Here are six signs that a man or woman who claims apostolic leadership is actually a dangerous influence in the church.

1 **A toxic “apostle” requires the title.** One popular television preacher in the United States typically sends a letter to his hosts before any preaching engagement and specifies that his name must be preceded by the “apostle” title. Compare that arrogant attitude with the humility of Paul, who referred to himself as the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). If a man requires people to elevate him to an elite status, you can be sure he has a serious character flaw.

(continued next page)





2. A toxic “apostle” carries an aura of self-importance.

In some churches I have visited in Africa, the “man of God” waits until after worship to enter the auditorium — and then he is followed by an entourage. Someone carries his Bible, another carries his handkerchief, someone else carries his water bottle, and another brings his iPad. This spectacle is designed to impress people — but it is just religious theater and offensive to God. You can be certain that a man with this much pride will soon fall.

3. A toxic “apostle” is inaccessible.

One pastor I know in a Latin American country belongs to a network of churches ruled by a powerful preacher. When I asked my friend if he gets advice or mentoring from this leader, the answer was no. The “apostle” does not offer counsel, training, or personal interaction of any kind to the leaders in his group. He simply steps into his pulpit to preach and then vanishes.

Apostle Paul’s style was totally the opposite. Rather than being aloof and impersonal, Paul spent time with those he was mentoring. He told the Thessalonians: “Affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us” (1 Thess. 2:8). If an “apostle” cannot get on the same level with people and interact with them, he is in the wrong profession.



4. A toxic “apostle” dominates and controls people.

Apostle Paul told Timothy that church leaders are required to be gentle and “not argumentative” (1 Tim. 3:3). Yet I have known so-called apostles who used their violent temper to manipulate and intimidate their followers. A man who is full of anger is unbroken and un-surrendered; God would never entrust an apostolic ministry to someone with that fatal flaw. The Lord will first drain out his anger and replace it with the sweetness of Jesus before letting him shepherd God’s people.

5. A toxic “apostle” refuses to work with churches outside his network.

False apostles are insecure because of their lack of training, so they feel threatened by other leaders’ successes. They develop an atmosphere of elitism and pretend that their doctrines and preaching styles are superior to everyone else’s. False apostles also demand strict loyalty to their churches and may even curse members who leave. True apostles are not controllers or elitists; they work to expand the kingdom of God, not just their own church or denomination.



6. A toxic “apostle” demands financial payment.

I asked one friend in Latin America if his “apostle” offered him marriage counseling, encouragement, or ministry training. He replied: “No, the only discussions we have are about the tithe I owe him.” How tragic that hardworking pastors are being ripped off by wolves in sheep’s clothing.

As we contend for true apostolic leadership in today’s Church, let’s avoid the pitfalls of immaturity. We need character, humility, and integrity as well as powerful anointing. Don’t follow the false apostles. ★

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Photo: AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May at 10 Downing Street, Feb. 6, 2017

Britain's Pro-Israel Pivot

From JPost.com, editorial

When the 47-member UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) recently singled out Israel for human rights abuses in the "occupied Syrian Golan" while ignoring the Assad regime's slaughter of civilians, including the dropping of barrel bombs and chlorine bombs on city centers and the egregious use of torture, the UK voiced its displeasure.

"We cannot accept the perverse message sent out by a Syrian Golan resolution that singles out Israel as Assad continues to slaughter the Syrian people," its statement said.

The strong UK position against the UNHRC resolutions came just days after London was hit by a murderous terrorist attack by a lone-wolf assailant inspired by Islamist ideology. Like attacks in Jerusalem, the London terrorist used his car to mow down innocent pedestrians and then used a knife to continue his killing spree.

But even before this latest terrorist attack on British soil, Prime Minister Theresa May's government had signaled a change for the better in its policy vis-à-vis Israel. **The Brits' pivot toward Israel might be partly the result of a realization that both**

countries face similar challenges — Israel faces Palestinian terrorism and the British are coping with a growing Muslim population that includes many who reject Western culture and values and some who advocate violence and terrorism.

We welcome this change and encourage other Western countries to join Britain in combating Israel's unfair treatment at the UN.

U.S. naval commandos



Joint U.S.-Israeli Training

From TimesOfIsrael.com

Elite soldiers from Israel's navy joined forces with U.S. Navy SEALs recently in the latest of an ongoing series of joint exercises involving the two countries' armed forces.

The Shayetet 13 Naval Commandos, Sa'ar 5 missile ships, Naval Special Warfare vessels, and other Israeli Navy sea craft took part in the drills.

The forces trained for situations such as parachuting into the sea and boarding and overtaking enemy vessels.

Israel's Head of Naval Operations, Rear Admiral Ido Ben-Moshe, said, "During these joint exercises, professional relations are forged that benefit both navies on a strategic level." ★



The “Church” at Mount Sinai

FROM TorahClub.FFOZ.org (First Fruits of Zion)



Moses on Mount Sinai, an oil-on-canvas painting by Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904)

We often see pictures of Jesus in church, but in reality, Jesus himself never set foot in a church. He attended synagogue services, and He assembled along with all Israel at the Temple; but He did not go to church because there was no such thing.

Moses returned from atop Mount Sinai, radiating the glory of God. As soon as he arrived in the camp, he “assembled all the congregation of the sons of Israel.” The first Hebrew word of Exodus 35:1, “*vaykhel* (ויקהל)” [from the verb *kahal* (קהל) “to assemble”], means “and he assembled.”

The descent of Moses from Mount Sinai alludes to the second coming of the Messiah. Just as Moses assembled Israel at the time of his appearing, when Messiah comes again, He will gather together the assembly of Israel from the four corners of the world. Then the whole nation of Israel will be called the assembly of Messiah.

This concept helps us understand the meaning behind the New Testament word “church.” As a noun, the Hebrew word *kahal* means “assembly,” “congregation,” or “community.” The Torah refers to the community of the tribes of Israel as the *kahal*, i.e., “the assembly,” a common Bible term denoting all Israel. The word *kahal* passes into the Greek Septuagint version of the Bible as *ekklesia* (ἐκκλησία). The Greek word *ekklesia* appears throughout the Greek version of the Old Testament to speak of the assembly of Israel or an assembly of worshippers in the Temple. However, when it occurs in the New Testament, English translators rarely render it as “assembly.” Inexplicably, English translators substitute the theologically charged term “church.”

The “church” translation of *ekklesia* has misled us. Because of the double standard in translation, it appears to most readers that “the church” first appeared in the New Testament, completely disconnected with the Old Testament and the nation of Israel. After all, the word “church” never appears before the Book of Matthew. **In reality, the word “church” does not appear in the Bible at all!** By translating *ekklesia* as “church,” our English Bibles have led us to believe that “the church” is a new institution outside of Judaism and the Jewish people.

All of this information about the original languages implies that the New Testament Church needs to be understood in continuity with the Jewish people, not as a disjuncture. In the broad sense, the church is the nation of Israel. The Messiah will gather all Israel into His assembly. In the narrow sense, the church is a subset of the larger assembly of Israel, consisting of Believers who have identified Yeshua as the Messiah and cast their allegiance with Him. ★



Jerusalem's Archaeological Storm



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ISRAEL FINKELSTEIN, prof. of archaeology, Tel Aviv Univ. (r) Forward.com



Archaeological activity in Jerusalem has been sucked into a whirlwind of conflicting political agendas, and the site commonly referred to as “the City of David” is in the eye of the storm. At issue is a place of seminal importance for the Jewish people, and indeed for anyone who cherishes the heritage of Western civilization.

When dealing with archaeology in Jerusalem, one must first know the facts. Otherwise it is easy to be led astray by unfounded historical interpretations or to succumb to misinformation from those pursuing their own political agendas.

The City of David is a long and narrow six-hectare ridge that stretches to the south of the Temple Mount, outside the Old City of Jerusalem. It is the subject of an explosive mix of territorial disputes, political propaganda, and conspiracy theories. But it is first and foremost a remarkable archaeological site that has been intensively explored by British, French, German, and Israeli archaeologists since the mid-19th century.

The City of David's Name

Confusion regarding this area begins with its name. Palestinians call it Silwan, but this propaganda is aimed at the uninformed international media. The Palestinian village of Silwan is located not in the City of David but rather to the east, on the other side of the deep Kidron Valley. Old photographs taken before the middle of the 20th century show the ridge cropping out south of the Temple Mount to be devoid of almost any buildings.

Jews and researchers of all backgrounds call the site the City of David — a name given to the ridge by early European explorers. Scholars agree that this ridge — together with the Temple Mount and the southwestern part of the Old City — is the location of Biblical Jerusalem.

Contrary to Palestinian claims, a scholarly consensus agrees that the Temple Mount was the location of the two Temples. Orthodox Jewish and Muslim sensitivities, however, have prevented modern archaeological work on the Temple Mount, which for the past 1,300 years has been the site of two Islamic holy places: the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Archaeological attention has therefore been diverted to the ridge to its south, where remains dating from the Bronze and Iron Ages were detected in the mid-19th century.

Discoveries at The City of David

From the outset of modern exploration, the City of David produced exciting discoveries. Truly thrilling finds include the Siloam Inscription, a late-8th-century B.C. Hebrew inscription that commemorates the hewing of a water tunnel under the

(continued next page)



ridge. Other important recent discoveries are the Pool of Siloam, dating from the Roman period, and the monumental street that connected it with the Temple Mount — places that were frequented by thousands during the three pilgrimage festivals each year.



But is the ridge south of the Temple Mount the location of the actual city of King David? This is one of the most excavated spots on the face of the Earth, but so far, fieldwork has not yielded any monuments from the 10th century B.C., the time of King David.

This does not diminish the tremendous importance of the City of David ridge. Scholars agree that starting in the late 8th century B.C., it was part of the enlarged city of Jerusalem. Illustrious Biblical figures, such as Kings Hezekiah and Josiah and the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, probably strolled here at that time. Monuments unearthed here include impressive fortifications from the Bronze Age, the Kingdom of Judah, and the period of the Hasmoneans, as well as water installations associated with the nearby Gihon Spring, ancient Jerusalem's main water source. The Pool of Siloam is associated with the New Testament story of Jesus' healing of a man who was blind from birth.

The City of David's Legacy

This site should be revered as one of humanity's great landmarks. Were it not for the political controversy surrounding the site, it would doubtless be high on the list of World Heritage Sites. All excavation projects there are directed by seasoned archaeologists and inspected by the Israel Antiquities Authority.



Tourists view the Eastern Gate

The question of how to preserve Jerusalem's extraordinary heritage is culturally and politically sensitive. Antiquities authorities under British Mandate, Jordanian, and Israeli rule all failed to prevent construction of houses in the City of David. Further to the east, the village of Silwan is built over unique, monumental Judahite rock-cut tombs from the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. Two of these tombs had ancient Hebrew inscriptions on their façades. But the tombs are neglected, flooded with sewage, and filled with village garbage. And, the greatest devastation recently inflicted on Jerusalem's archaeological heritage was the large-scale bulldozing a few years ago by the Waqf, which administers the Islamic holy sites. While preparing for the construction of a massive underground mosque, antiquities that were buried on the Temple Mount were unearthed and discarded.

The City of David's monuments and antiquities — some yet to be discovered — are too important to be allowed to fall victim to politics or neglect. Whatever our political views, we need to be vigilant in maintaining this place as a tangible link to a rich past and as a site of honest historical inquiry. ★



Western Wall Plaza



Reversing the Curse of Babel



BY DAVID BRICKNER (r) JewsForJesus.org

Shavuot/Pentecost is one of three Jewish festivals that entailed a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. (The other two are the Feasts of Passover and Tabernacles/*Sukkot*.) *Pentecost* is a Greek word that means “fifty days.” *Shavuot*, the Hebrew name for the holiday, means “weeks.” Both refer to the period of time between the Feasts of First Fruits (during Passover week) and the celebration of the first fruits of the wheat harvest in Israel.

God linked the seasons of worship to the physical land. Failing to see the connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel misses the full significance of these God-given festivals. The Feasts simply cannot be divorced from the land that God swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thus, even when the Jewish people were scattered to the four corners of the Earth, these festivals served as reminders of the land of our ancestors.

It was for this holiday that the first Jews for Jesus gathered in the upper room. Remember, Yeshua (Jesus) had commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem, “for the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4–5). God chose the fiftieth day after Yeshua was resurrected to unleash the power of His Holy Spirit in a new way:

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. —Acts 2:1–4

Some who heard the disciples speaking in foreign languages thought they were babbling. Yet God had chosen the time when people from all over the world would be in Jerusalem, and He used that “babbling” to reap a Spiritual harvest of souls among every tribe, tongue, and nation on Earth. As

thousands wondered how these uneducated Galileans could be speaking in their native languages, Peter began to preach the Gospel in power. Jews who had come to offer God the first fruits of the wheat harvest became the first fruits of a great Spiritual harvest — the harvest to come, not just for the Jewish people but for all of the world.

Thousands of years before, at Babel, the Lord prevented mankind from uniting to do evil by confusing their language and scattering them into many nations and tongues. **In a reverse of Babel, languages that once confused and alienated were now employed to proclaim the Good News that God’s salvation had come to the nations.** People once divided through sin would now be united in the Savior.

What if the disciples had tired of following Yeshua’s instructions? Any number of quarrels might have occurred during their wait. Yet when the Day of Pentecost came, *they were all with one accord in one place.*

Had the disciples bickered and scattered, God would have achieved His purpose another way. But think what the disciples would have missed! Likewise, what if those devout Jews who had traveled from afar to obey God had decided not to make the trip that year?

God graciously pours out His blessings, but to some extent He leaves it to us to be in the right place at the right time to receive them. Sometimes, being at the right place means waiting when He says “wait”; sometimes it means moving when He says “move.” God does not mystify His will when we are in the habit of seeking His will. As we gather with other Believers in one accord, and as we are willing to move here and there to give God His due, we can expect to receive power from His Holy Spirit—power to bring in a harvest of souls.

We Believers are privileged to help in the work of the harvest as God’s Spirit draws Jews and gentiles to salvation in Yeshua. The Lord’s harvest truly is plentiful. ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



Stickler for Detail

Standing on the shore, Bubbe (Yiddish for “Grandma”) watches her grandson playing in the water.

Shocked, she sees a huge wave crash over him. When it recedes, the boy is no longer to be seen — he has vanished!

Bubbe screams and holds her hands to the sky, crying, “Lord, how could you? Have I not been a wonderful mother and grandmother? Have I not scrimped and saved so I could give to the temple? Have I not always put others before myself? Have I not always turned my other cheek and loved my neighbors? Have I not —”

A thunderous voice from above interrupts. “Enough already!” Immediately, another huge wave appears and crashes on the beach. When it recedes, it reveals the boy, smiling and splashing as if nothing happened.

The deep loud voice continues. “I have returned your grandson. Are you satisfied?”

Bubbe responds, “He had a hat.” ★

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

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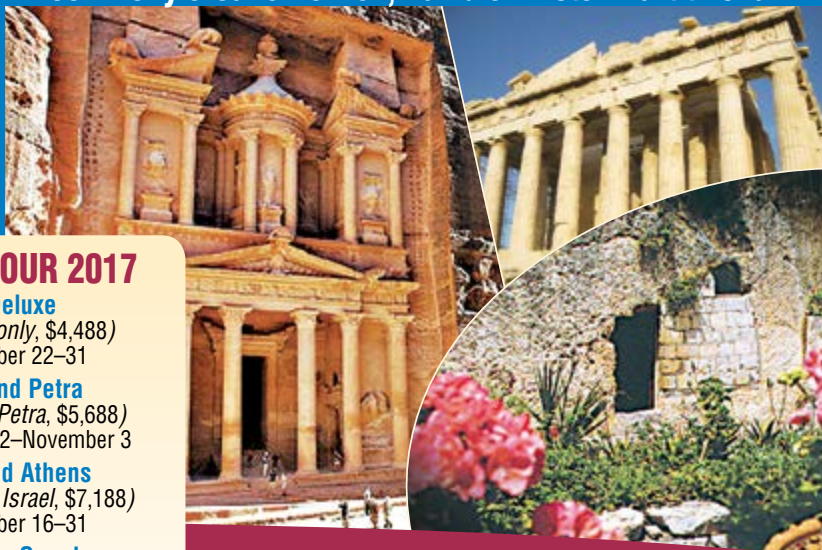
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