



**FROM SARAH,
OUR SABRA ON THE
GROUND IN ISRAEL**

July 2024



Dear Friend,

Greetings from Israel. Recently, I was privileged to listen to an incredible testimony of a man in his 60s who was visiting the Holy Land from Arkansas. Two months after losing his wife to cancer, his only son died. Shortly afterward, his sister died, followed by his mother and other close family members. All of this happened during a four-year period.



credit: beaphotographer / Stock

During that time, he also battled cancer and had his tongue removed as part of the treatment. He learned that he would never chew, taste, or eat regular food. Moreover, he was told that he would never speak again. This was difficult for him to hear because he wouldn't be able to teach the Bible, impacting people for the Kingdom of God, as he had done for many years.

While his compounded grief and pain during those four years is hard to imagine, the truths he shared about walking through seasons of suffering resonated with my own faith journey. I also realized the importance of his perspective on life to our nation of Israel, based on what we are currently facing.

This seasoned Believer* spoke of sovereign joy. Unlike happiness, this joy is not dependent on our circumstances. Thus, we can experience joy even during sorrow if we know who God is and how He works. While it's not easy to find joy in such sorrowful situations, we must seek it. Without joy, most people succumb to fear and hopelessness; they become tired, overwhelmed, and eventually resentful.

Crucial Decisions

I believe that sovereign joy comes through four important choices:

1. Choose to focus on the things above

Our focus becomes our filter. Fear robs us of joy. It is one of Satan's greatest tools to get a Believer off track through distraction. Our enemy sows seeds of doubt, seeking to derail us from knowing and following God's plans and purposes. Doubt asks: "What if I never get there? What if I get hurt? What if I don't have

* "Believer" is short for "believer in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

(over please)

enough?" When we focus on these questions, we live under the tyranny of doubt since 95% of the "what ifs" we ask are negative.

Instead, we should consider some positive "what if" questions: "What if God eventually fulfills ALL of His promises? What if He is trustworthy and true to His word? What if God is faithful?" We can choose what we think about. Though Satan diligently seeks to get us to take our focus away from the Lord, we combat this inclination by setting our minds on things above: *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things"* (Col. 3:1-2).

Our focus affects our relationships, health (both physical and mental), attitudes, and other parts of our lives. That's why the Apostle Paul exhorts Believers: *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things"* (Phil. 4:8).

2. Choose to count your blessings and be thankful

Counting your blessings — one by one — restores your hope as you recall what the Lord has already done for you. *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"* (James 1:17).

Naming your blessings individually, rather than generally thanking God for His goodness, renews your perspective, which restores your joy. Thankfulness is also important for experiencing breakthrough in difficulty. We see this often in the Book of Psalms, when King David continually cried out to the Lord, thanking Him for what He had done or would soon do on David's behalf.



3. Choose to dwell on God's promises

God's promises are more powerful than Satan's lies and discouragement. Since fear blinds us to hope, focusing on our problems always makes us feel worse. Those who continue to make this mistake become prisoners of their problems and slaves to their circumstances. They lose the right perspective, since focusing on a problem causes it to become larger and larger, eventually crowding out all other perspectives.

To combat pessimism and hopelessness, we must stop looking at the problem and instead focus on God's promises. This frame of mind requires faith, which comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Regularly meditating on God's promises in His Word strengthens our faith and helps us to gain the proper perspective: *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen"* (Eph. 3:20-21).

Here is one of my favorite verses: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose"* (Rom. 8:28). I take great comfort in know-

ing that God is always working in my life — in my circumstances and people’s actions — turning it all for good. Even when I can’t see it at the moment, I acknowledge that nothing is wasted in God’s Kingdom.

4. Choose to obey and act

Choosing joy puts the negative into the right perspective. Yeshua (Jesus) advised: *“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33).

You can have peace when you understand that despite trouble and difficulty, the Lord has already won the battle. The problem for many people isn’t “head knowledge.” While most Jews in the first century thoroughly knew the Scriptures, they still missed Yeshua their Messiah (John 5:39–40). The alternative to head knowledge is “knowing in your heart,” which you often learn about through grief.

Grief is a great teacher. Learning to live and even thrive through it, however, requires spiritual maturity. You learn to trust God as you walk with Him through pain, grief, and suffering. You learn that He will not drop you; rather, He will sustain and uphold you. Thus, choosing sovereign joy amid suffering is not ignoring reality; actually, it is recognizing a greater reality.

Growing in the Darkness

Periods of darkness in our lives are often the most opportune times of spiritual growth, because we must practice what we proclaim. In these times, we find out “what our faith is made of.” But if we lose sight of the One whom we are following, darkness can bring fear.

In *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, Henri Nouwen writes: “People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness, but they choose not to live in it. They claim that the light that shines in the darkness can be trusted more than the darkness itself and that a little bit of light can dispel a lot of darkness.” Admittedly, it is hard to hear God during these times, but just because you cannot hear God does not mean that He is no longer with you.

Joseph, Jacob’s eleventh son, made these crucial choices related to joy and perspective. His own brothers sold him into slavery. After arriving in Egypt, he became an attendant to Potiphar, an important official. While Joseph found favor with his master, Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him. Though Joseph refused her advances, he was falsely accused and thrown into prison. There, Joseph found favor with the warden. When two important prisoners arrived from the king’s palace, Joseph attended them.

Joseph asked the two former servants of the king why they were downcast. That seems like a strange question to ask prisoners. Yet this seemingly odd question reveals an amazing truth — Joseph



Joseph Interpreteth the Dreams While in Prison,
painting by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (1836–1902)

credit: TheLevishMuseum.org / collection / 26312

never chose hopelessness, neither when he was a slave nor while he was in prison. Eventually, Joseph became the second highest authority in the greatest empire of that time. He remained faithful in his actions, and his heart remained steadfast despite all of the difficulties that he experienced.

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). Remember Yeshua’s words: *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much...”* (Luke 16:10).



Im tirdefu lada-at oto — “Press on to know HIM!” (Hosea 6:3, NLT)

Many blessings from Israel,

Sarah Liberman | *סרה ליברמן*
 ENGLISH | HEBREW

Sarah Liberman

P.S. Thank you for continuing to pray for the people of Israel, who need to experience the joy that comes through faith in Yeshua. Your support of this ministry enables them and others around the world to hear and respond to His Good News. ✨

Zola Tours: Shine Your Light

In these tumultuous times, a smile, hug, or word of encouragement can be a precious gift. When our tour groups visit the Holy Land, we look for opportunities to share joy with others — whether a waiter at lunch, a shopkeeper, or even people we pass on the street. While touring Israel enriches our lives, it also builds relationships, giving us a chance to share the love of Christ in a tangible way.

We pray and believe that the doors will soon reopen for us to experience the Land of the Bible. Israelis have endured many hardships and dark days. Would you consider joining us in bringing light and good news? This pilgrimage would enhance your spiritual life and could also enrich the lives of many people in Israel. To join our upcoming tour, contact our tour manager, Sandra, at 214-696-9760, travel@levitt.com, or at levitt.com/tours.

Fall Tour 2024 options

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Deluxe — Israel | Oct. 28–Nov. 7 | \$5,988 |
| Grand Petra — Israel & Petra | Oct. 28–Nov. 10 | \$7,688 |

Prices include tips, taxes, and airline surcharges (subject to change).

Spring Tour 2025 options

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Deluxe — Israel | Mar. 24–Apr. 3 | TBD |
| Grand Petra — Israel & Petra | Mar. 24–Apr. 6 | TBD |

Spring prices are pending

A Note from Joshua and Caleb Colson

In May, the Berg Productions team filmed in Israel for upcoming *Our Jewish Roots* television programs. The spiritual climate has changed dramatically since our previous trip in September/October 2023. While journeying throughout the Gaza Corridor, we met many individuals and heard about the horrors that they endured on October 7. They, like many Israelis, still struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



Caleb, Dr. Kedar, and Joshua

Amidst this heartache, however, there are glimmers of hope. This scenario is much like what the ancient Israelites repeatedly experienced. In the Old Testament, when an invading enemy tormented Israel, they called out to God in their distress. Then, God sent His people a deliverer.

Today, many Israelis are crying out to the God of Abraham for help. We have never seen the Jewish people so receptive to the love of Believers and the truth of the Gospel of Yeshua. Everywhere we went, secular Jews, soldiers, and even religious and Orthodox Jews embraced us. God gave us daily opportunities to pray blessing and protection over the broken-hearted. As Sarah noted in her portion of this letter, God indeed works all things for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

While interviewing Israeli Lt. Col. (res.) Dr. Mordechai Kedar, we learned that Iran had a long-gestating strategy to attack Israel. After completing its nuclear warhead, Iran planned to activate its proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, Houthi rebels in Yemen, Iraqi paramilitary rebels, and terrorist cells in the “West Bank” — in a simultaneous invasion. Their goal was to annihilate the Jewish state and the Jewish people forever! Hamas’s impatience, however, led them to attack Israel first, without coalition support. So, while the October 7 tragedy was formidable, Satan’s plans could have resulted in disaster of prophetic proportions for the State of Israel. Thankfully, God — again! — brought the salvation of His people by the wicked hands of a lesser aggressor.

The current war, though localized, is far from over. Now is the time to comfort the Jewish people with Messiah’s unconditional love. Isaiah 40:1-2 declares, *“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended...”*

Sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim! — “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!” (Psalm 122:6),

Joshua and Caleb

P.S.: Thank you for helping us travel to Israel to minister to people and film in the land of the Bible. Because of your financial gifts, we continue sharing God’s love, hope, and salvation with both gentiles and Jewish people.



Our Jewish Roots TV programs in July

David and Kirsten Hart

Zola Levitt was always at the forefront of new developments in Israel. Just as filming in the Holy Land was his norm, we also strive to uphold his vision and tradition. While the Biblical teaching, dramatic reenactments, and music videos are usually filmed in Israel, our *OJR* studio segments are traditionally produced in Dallas, Texas.

This month, however, our “set” will look different, as we “Zoom” in from our home in Orlando to join Joshua and Caleb at the studio in Dallas. If you’re interested in learning the truth about current events in Israel, you will want to see each and every episode this month.



Colonel David Hacham — A veteran of the Oslo Peace Accords, Col. Hacham lived in Gaza for eight years. Because he is familiar with the intricate details of the Gaza region and the thinking of the Palestinian people, his wisdom regarding a “two-state solution” is invaluable. This program will help you better understand why we Zionists need to stand against the slogan “From the River to the Sea.”



Chaim Malespin and the IDF — During their recent trip to Israel, Joshua and Caleb spoke with Sergeant Major Chaim Malespin — an IDF commando and director of Israel’s Aliyah Return Center — before he returned to the conflict in Gaza. The brothers also interviewed two young IDF soldiers.



Sima Shine — Tensions between Israel and Iran are escalating. Sima Shine, head of the Iran Program at Israel’s Institute for National Security Studies, shared her perspective on this dangerous situation in a recent interview. We always ask that you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and this interview will help you understand why doing that remains so important.



Avital Leibovich — The director of the American Jewish Congress, Avital Leibovich provided us with political and military expertise on the geopolitical strategy and activities affecting Israel and the entire Middle East. Since knowledge is power, it is important to understand why Israel’s neighbors are competing for Israel’s invaluable location.



Harpazo — Joshua and Caleb look back at their Social Media teachings as the Bearded Bible Brothers™. One issue that seems to be very divisive among followers of Jesus today is the catching up or rapture of the church. In this program, the Brothers dive into the Scripture for answers.

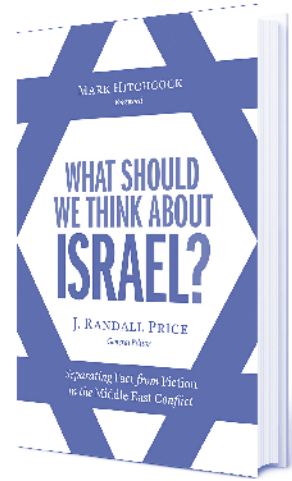
Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator’s top rating of 4 stars, plus Ministry Watch’s Give With Confidence Score of 100.



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What Should We Think About Israel? book

We hear about Israel in the news regularly. But beyond the many opinions and preconceptions, what should we make of the conflicts and controversies in the Middle East? *What Should We Think About Israel?* exposes the main current issues and provides well-researched, objective facts to help you discover the truth about Israel's past, present, and future. Learn from respected scholars how to look beyond the heated debates and discern for yourself what is important to know about Israel and how that information affects you today.



- ___ 1 *What Should We Think?* book — \$18
- ___ 2 *What Should We Think?* books — \$32
- ___ 3 *What Should We Think?* books — \$47



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- 1 *What Should We Think?* book
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- GEB-TV, Thurs. 6:30pm ET
- DAYSTAR, Wed. 11:00pm ET, Fri. 6:00pm ET
- TCT, Sun. 4:30pm ET, Mon. 7:30pm ET
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Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

Known as the weeping prophet, Jeremiah was assigned to warn his countrymen of the imminent judgment and deportation at the hands of the Babylonians. Nonetheless, a message of hope and deliverance is woven throughout Jeremiah's writings. This nine-part series features Bible teaching by Dr. Jeffrey Seif, dramatic reenactments by Israeli actors, commentary from Dr. Michael Brown, and applications in studio discussions with David and Kirsten Hart.

Young Man's Visions The Babylonian war machine was coming to Judah. The Lord chose a young Jeremiah to be His prophet and to deliver the call to return to the ways and values that God specified in His Word. Israel's culture, like America's, had veered off the path and was about to reap the consequences.

Sounding the Alarm Idolatry was rampant, so the God of Israel promised destruction for the people of Judah who were living in sin. Jeremiah sounded the alarm, but no one listened. Likewise, many of those living around us today refuse to admit their sin or turn to the Lord.

Corruption and Closed Minds Lies and greed corrupted Judah's leaders, much to Jeremiah's dismay. He wept when they believed false promises of peace and rejected God's justice, righteousness, and truth.

Faith Abandoned and Reimagined Jeremiah's message to repent went unheeded. Consequently, judgment came to those who had abandoned the Lord. Jeremiah took comfort in knowing that following destruction, restoration would come through the New Covenant.

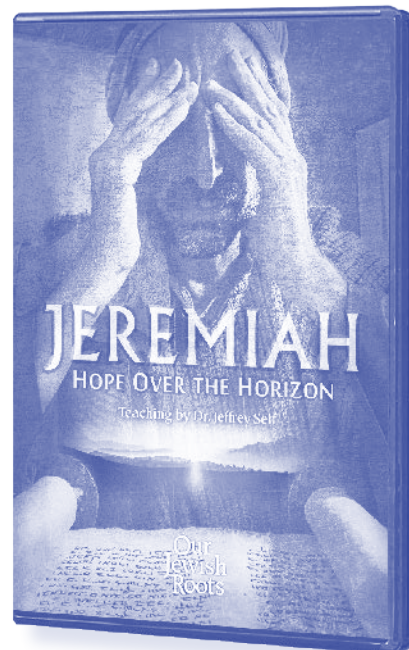
No Escape Jeremiah relentlessly proclaimed God's message. The Babylonians were coming to destroy Judah and deport its citizens. They relied on political alliances for their security. The Lord, however, had withdrawn His protection, so catastrophe was inevitable.

Promises Made Brighter days were coming when Judah's iniquity would be forgiven. God would save His people from captivity and return them to the Promised Land. He promised to write His Law on their hearts and remember their sins no more.

Ruin and Renewal Speaking the truth can bring trouble from those who don't want to hear it. Jeremiah experienced persecution, yet he grieved to see sin's devastating effects on God's people. The same God who brought ruin would also bring renewal, through Yeshua the Messiah.

Hope and a Future Jeremiah records God's promise to deliver His people from captivity after 70 years. Later, the Lord will cause a branch to emerge from David; He will bring justice and righteousness to the Earth. All people in Messiah are grafted into this tree.

Jeremiah in Retrospect This final program features an interview with author and radio host Dr. Michael Brown. Dr. Jeffrey Seif subsequently discusses applications from the life and writings of Jeremiah.



Jeremiah: Hope Over the Horizon DVDs

- ___ 1 set of *Jeremiah* DVDs — \$60
 ___ 2 sets of *Jeremiah* DVDs — \$98

See page 7 for our Combo Value Package

Prices include shipping. Please allow 2-3 weeks for order processing.

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2407

Dear Sarah, *(please check appropriate boxes)*

The God of hope fills us with joy and peace as we trust in Him, so we can overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).

Here is my donation for **July**. Please use it to help others experience and share God's joy, peace, and hope during these difficult days.

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