

LEVITT LETTER

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.” – Romans 10:1

An elder of our messianic congregation, *Shalom, Shalom*,* submitted a church newsletter to our ministry this month. Our senior theologian, who holds degrees from Talbot and Dallas Theological Seminaries, deals with that important letter below. Dr. McCall will continue his discussion of Armageddon in the next issue.



ZOLA LEVITT

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The slippery slope

by *Thomas S. McCall, Th.D*

Last month our newsletter chronicled how once strong dispensational seminaries and Bible schools have begun to shift away from their moorings and move into the uncharted waters of a new doctrine called Progressive Dispensationalism, which has been demonstrated to be Scripturally erroneous by eminent theologians like Drs. Walvoord, Ryrie and Ice. In spite of the declarations of the schools’ doctrinal statements that the dispensations must not be confused or intermingled, the Progressive Dispensationalists are signing the doctrinal statements, but they are teaching that Millennial events (such as Christ reigning on the throne of David) are occurring now during the Church Age. Now confusion is leading to a massive disinterest in the Rapture of the Church, the



future of Israel, and prophetic teaching in general among the graduates now being turned out by these institutions whose former exegetical glory is beginning to fade.

Now our attention has been drawn to yet another indication that these very schools are showing other signs of sliding down the slippery slope — and they are actually acting in concert with one another. The newsletter of the Countryside Bible Church

located near the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport refers to an article in the *Moody Student* last year stating that Moody President, Joseph Stowell, and Wheaton President Duane Litfin met with Cardinal Francis George in the Chicago area: “Stowell reported that there was agreement on social issues. Litfin said he didn’t know what the relationship with the Cardinal might lead to, but it’s better to have such a relationship than not to have one.”

If you start pulling on a thread here and a thread there, it begins to distort the whole tapestry.

In addition, the same Countryside church newsletter laments the invitation of the Roman Catholic moralist Bill Bennet to speak at the recent conference at Dallas Seminary entitled *Standing Strong for the Truth*. Dr. Stowell of Moody Bible Institute was also a featured speaker at this conference. Thus, Dallas Seminary, Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College have all made steps in concert with one another toward cooperation with Roman Catholic leaders.

The Countryside church is particularly concerned with these developments because many of its members are former Roman Catholics who have received Christ as Savior. The church feels that these schools are pulling the rug out from under them in their efforts to rescue people from

the false teaching of Roman Catholicism with the Gospel, when these theological scholars openly consort with Catholic leaders. When we cooperate

too closely with Roman Catholicism, we may well compromise the doctrine of Soteriology, the teaching of salvation by grace through faith alone, and make evangelism among Catholics and in Catholic countries

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much harder to accomplish. In a similar way, the teaching of Progressive Dispensationalism blurs the distinctions between Israel and the Church, greatly affecting the doctrine of Eschatology, and makes the ministry to Israel and the Jewish people all the more difficult. One of the saddest results of these developments in the formerly strong Bible schools and seminaries is the dampening effect they have had on these efforts of evangelism.

My esteemed professor, Dr. Charles Feinberg, Dean at Talbot Seminary (before it went into Progressive Dispensationalism), often taught us that Biblical theology is like a beautiful tapestry. On the one side is the marvelous, colorful theme. On the other side are all the threads showing that make up the artistic picture. If you start pulling on a thread here and a thread there, it begins to distort the whole tapestry. When you begin to disturb the delicate balance of Bibli-

cal theology and the dispensational tapestry of the Scriptures by pulling on one doctrine or another, it can have catastrophic results. The founders of the great Bible schools and seminaries endeavored to safeguard the institutions with doctrinal statements, but those who are changing things are finding ways to get around the doctrinal statements and make dramatic shifts in the teachings at the schools. As we see above, it is changing the attitudes of the students toward the Church, Salvation, Roman Catholicism and Israel. There are still some good teachers at these schools who remain faithful to the Word and the convictions of the founders, but their number and strength is decreasing with every passing semester. It appears that only a miracle from the Lord besought by the prayers of the saints can turn the tide.



**We meet at 7:30 each Friday evening at the Biblical Arts Center located at Park Lane and Boedecker in Dallas.*

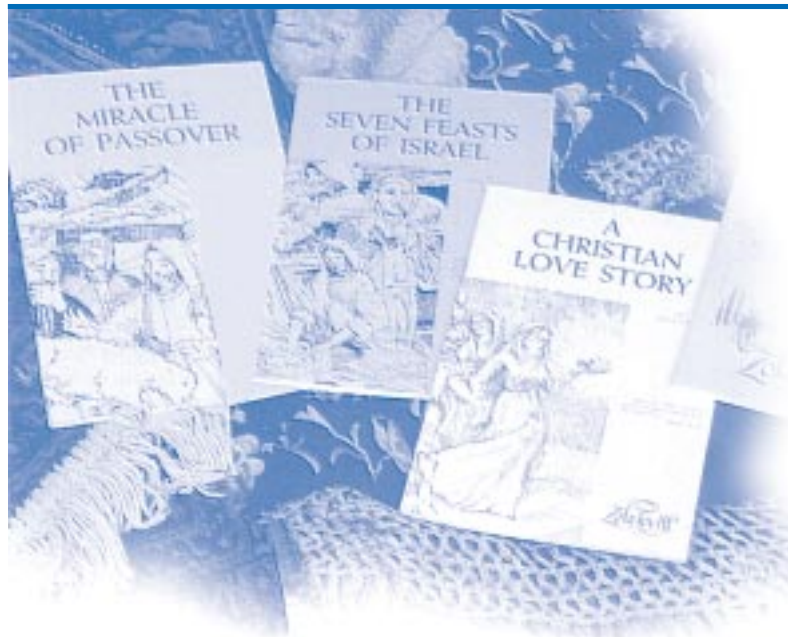
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In our twenty-year history, three study booklets have outsold all of our other materials combined:

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Seven Feasts, one of the most fundamental Bible studies, magnificently portrays the career of our Lord, from his crucifixion to His dedication of the Kingdom to come.

Passover demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-five centuries old, typifies Christ—even in Jewish homes that don't realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come.

Please order these inexpensive booklets from page 11.

In a stucco building in Tel Aviv, standing under a dusty portrait of Theodor Herzl, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's declaration of independence [52] years ago... It was a short document, just 19 brief paragraphs, two of which were a plea for peace.

"We appeal... to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the building up of the state on the basis of full and equal citizenship and representation in all its... institutions."

"We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good will and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land."

The Arabs responded to that plea with all-out war. Within hours of the ceremony in Tel Aviv, the armies of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, and Iraq had crossed Israel's borders. "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre," exulted Azaam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League, "which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades!"

The territory of the new Jewish state had been determined by the United Nations, which had voted to divide Palestine between its Jewish and Arab inhabitants. The partition map was drawn so as to restrict the Jews to those parts of Palestine in which they were a majority. It gave them three separated blocks of land linked only at two narrow choke points. Sixty percent of the Jews' portion was desert, and it excluded all the historic Jewish sites in Jerusalem, in the Judean Hills, and around the Sea of Galilee. It was far less than the Jews had hoped for.

But however modest and fragile, it represented the first chance in 1,900 years for a sovereign Jewish state. For that reason, the Zionist leaders accepted the UN partition. The Arab leaders, for the same reason, rejected it.

The Israeli-Arab dispute has never been about occupied territories or settlements or Palestinian refugees. At the end of the day, it has always been about one thing: the refusal of the Arab/Muslim world to tolerate a Jewish neighbor. It doesn't matter that Israel is tiny. (It takes up less space than Lake Michigan.) It doesn't matter that Israel is outnumbered. (There are two dozen Arab/

Muslim states, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Himalayas.) It matters only that Israel is Jewish and therefore intolerable.

Occupied territories? Israel no longer holds the Sinai Peninsula. It has repeatedly offered to return the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for a peace treaty. The Gaza Strip has been handed over to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, along with every Arab population center on the West Bank. More than 95 percent of Palestinian Arabs are now ruled by Arafat, not Israel. All the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem are under Islamic control. Benjamin Netanyahu has even floated schemes for Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the narrow security belt it patrols in southern Lebanon.

There is no more "occupation." On its [52nd] anniversary, Israel [will be] more or less back to where it was before the Six Day War: namely, inside skimpy borders, surrounded by nations that have always wished to see it wiped out.

It can be difficult for Americans, who are not a race of haters, to grasp the pervasiveness and intensity of the Arab world's hostility. But it is not possible to make sense of Israel's first [52] years with-

out being aware of the deep anti-Semitism of its neighbors.

In the 1940s, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem urged Hitler to deal with the "problem" of Palestine's Jews by the "same method that the question is now being settled in the Axis countries." In the 1960s, Egyptian ruler Gamal Nasser declared: "Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel." In the 1990s, Saddam Hussein swore to "burn half of Israel with fire" and launched Scud missiles at Israeli apartment buildings.

There are individuals in every Arab society who believe in tolerance and understanding. But theirs is not the voice of the mainstream. In the Palestinian Authority today, it is a crime punishable by death to sell land to Jews. The unrepealed Palestine National Covenant still calls for the "liberation" of Israel by violence. Little girls on Palestinian TV sing songs glorifying suicide bombers. And the current mufti in Jerusalem, an Arafat appointee, denounces Jews as the "sons of monkeys and pigs."

The reasons why so many Arabs despise Israel are complex. In part, it is that Islam portrays Jews as infidels

The Arab Jihad Against Israel

By Jeff Jacoby

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ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD

Fund Raising

Why did our February *Levitt Letter's* bulletin board say that year-end contributions had stabilized this ministry while our *Tell It on the Mountains* TV rerun appealed for funds? First of all, we maintain minimal reserves deliberately so that we won't get caught with too many unsown seeds should the Lord return. Secondly, we always seek to increase the percentage of viewers who share in bearing our burden. The February bulletin board announcement gratefully called off a yellow alert that we had given to our most loyal supporters in the face of a primetime special and a two-year financial deficit. The February TV appeal sought to recruit new contributors. Ninety-seven percent of our viewers never help the three percent who support us, and we will always try to improve this ratio in a manner that glorifies God.



Passover Conference Review

Our mid-March Passover Conference was rated by many as the best conference they had ever attended. Unsurpassed praise & worship, inspired teaching plus freebies that included box lunches and The Biblical Arts Center's Celebration performance made this one of the best values we have ever offered. In terms of blessings per hour, Zola's conferences rate right up there with our Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies and our Israel tours.

Cyber Broadcasters

How does a small ministry like ours manage to broadcast our TV program on the Internet? The answer lies in the blessings and efforts of Pat and Claudia Rutherford, who founded Praise Broadcasting Network and WRN. Thanks to them, anyone in the world with Internet access and a modem that is 28.8k or faster can watch half a dozen of Zola's programs any hour of the day for free! Just go to www.levitt.com, click on "Zola on Internet TV" and follow the directions. If other ministries you support wish to reach Internet surfers who need Christ (millions & millions), then we know of no better way than contacting WRN at www.worshipradio.com/brates.htm.



Airing Updates

The Christian Channel in Great Britain airs *Zola Levitt Presents* on Friday afternoons at 2:30. On May 14, the Christian TV Network of NY will begin airing *Zola* on Sunday afternoons at 2:00. KVTN-25, in Little Rock, AR, now carries our program at 4:00 PM on Saturdays. After the preemptions on April 7 and 9, INSP and TBN will resume normal broadcasting:

TBN: Sundays, 2:30 PM ET, 1:30 CT, 12:30 MT, 11:30 PT

INSP: Friday evenings, 10:00 PM ET, 9:00 CT, 8:00 MT, 7:00 PT

As you may know, our largest network, FAM (formerly CBN), airs *Zola* on Friday at 6:30 AM ET, 5:30 CT, 4:30 (or 7:30) MT, 6:30 PT. Yes, thanks to their dual feed, FAM broadcasts our program at 6:30 Friday mornings on both coasts.

For a free copy of our National Airing Schedule, please write to our P.O. Box or visit www.levitt.com.

Holy Land Dig

How about vacationing at a kibbutz, a cooperative farm in Israel? Our Kibbutz Tour, June 7 - 16, lower priced than our standard tours, will give you a chance to experience digging for archaeological treasures (tools provided). If you are as much a historian as a tourist, then this could be your cup of tea.

For those who want to experience Israel's high holidays of 2000, there will be no better opportunity than our Fall Festival Tours, departing September 6 and 11. To determine which is better for you, please request your color tour folder from Diana at (214) 696-9760, during office hours, or 1-800-WONDERS anytime.



A Note From Zola

Dear Friends,

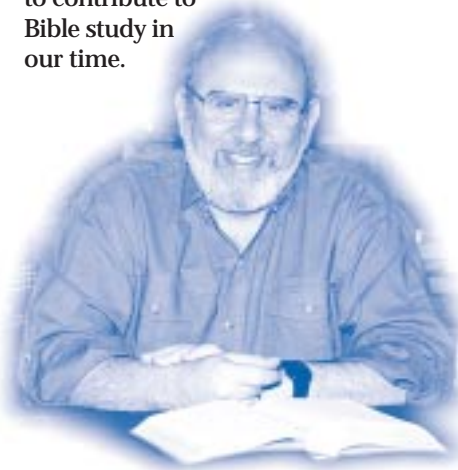
Among our letter responses to the criticism of the seminaries in the past two *Levitt Letters* were questions on whether we were going to stop this at some point and “get back to important issues.”

Frankly, I don't know what could be a more important issue than the teaching of erroneous doctrines by Dallas Seminary, Moody Bible Institute, Talbot Seminary, Biola College, and any number of other formerly fine and trustworthy Bible schools. Please know that we will never stop chronicling their errors, if they make them, and that I regard this as an essential part of our ministry. In view of the fact that we have a very large audience of Bible-reading Christians, we feel a responsibility to report to that audience good news and bad about what's going on in our Christian community. We will not take space to criticize liberal seminaries or any other of those obviously in error for years, but with the deterioration of some of the finest and most trusted schools, we don't intend to let up.

We should remember that Harvard and Yale, among others, were Bible schools when they began, and they awarded meaningful divinity degrees. Today, those schools are laughably out of touch with Scripture and off into their own world of modernity. I appeared once on a television talk show with a panel that included the president of the Yale Divinity School of the time. He was a handsome, well-spoken gentleman, as are all

seminary presidents these days, but he seemed a bit vague on Scripture. At one point in the discussion, I looked him straight in the eye and quoted several verses. He looked back at me blankly, indicating that he had no idea of the source of my quotations.

I'm convinced that if someone had chronicled the deterioration of Yale and the others at the time that they fell out of step with correct Scriptural teaching, then the deterioration might have been slowed or even arrested altogether. As it is now, those fine universities have nothing whatever to contribute to Bible study in our time.



In Dr. McCall's excellent article on the new ecumenism of the seminaries — the meetings with Roman Catholic officials — we see the liberalizing of our schools. Once doctrine is compromised, then it becomes easier to talk to those to whom correct Biblical doctrine is of lesser importance. And so it goes.

On a happier note, Passover and Resurrection Sunday are coming up. Please watch our programs on Passover and First Fruits (you won't likely learn much about these important festivals in any seminary). Passover, the most basic Bible study of them all and the occasion when the Lord

instituted the Last Supper, is almost like secret information to be passed on by Messianic Jews to the Christian community. I remember when Dallas Baptist University, in days when they cared more about accurate Bible teaching, asked me to do a Passover demonstration. The president at that time was so fascinated that he immediately appointed me to teach a course called “Christ in the Old Testament,” and I did that for two years. I can promise you that there are several classrooms full of students out there in the world somewhere who know their seven feasts, their tabernacle types, and are capable of demonstrating a full Passover in all its glory. What witnesses they must be compared to the politically correct and woefully unknowledgeable graduates of today.

You may notice that I do not use the term “Easter” in reference to Resurrection Sunday. That term is just incorrect and doesn't accurately appear in Scripture at all. Easter is the name of Ishtar, the Babylonian goddess of fertility. The Babylonians held a fertility festival every spring, putting on new outfits as the trees were budding and worshipping the things in nature that represented fertility: the rabbit, the egg, etc. They played with eggs and painted them, I presume. When we think about it,

what we call an egg hunt is actually an attempt at pregnancy!

How all this pagan foolishness got mixed up with our Lord's resurrection

is one of the amazing calamities of incorrect doctrine. Fertility and resurrection are entirely different, of course. Every plant and every cockroach is fertile, but one obtains resurrection only from belief in Jesus Christ.

... “get back to important issues”

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Letters to

Dear Brother Zola and fellow workers, staff, etc.,

Carry on! It has always been and will be until the Lord comes! Anyone standing in the gap will always be “shot at!” You’re doing the right thing to name those schools that aren’t teaching the whole counsel of God. I have to wonder where other schools stand on this issue — such as Grace Theological Seminary. This school has been in the past okay, but when one hears of schools such as Talbot and Moody, it casts other schools into question — where do the ones not mentioned stand?

Keep up the good work, we “lesser lights” are praying for you and Dr. McCall and your staff. I appreciate your Sunday 3:30 program over on Cornerstone TV. I would like to receive your free monthly letter if that’s possible.

Sincerely in Christ,
G.L.J.

Dear GJJ,
Test any school with Dr. McCall’s DIET,
— Zola

Dear Zola and Sandra,

Ever since I read in your newsletter about the *Shalom*, *Shalom* services, I had dreams of one day being able to attend. It was wonderful to be there and especially to see and hear you, Zola, teach in person. Since K. and I traveled in Israel last May, she especially enjoyed the teachings. We enjoy your TV program. It is beautifully done and touches my heart every time. Thanks again for including us for dinner. It was delicious and very special to share the evening with all of you.

My prayers for your ministry will continue with greater significance. I thank God that He has allowed me to experience Israel and lift the veil from my face to understand His plan for Israel and the Jewish people. I look forward to keeping in touch with you.

I will keep you informed about the pearl ring and God’s provisions for K.’s and my trip to Israel. It is a precious story and has God’s fingerprints all over it. We are so excited to experience what God has planned for us. We pray that we can be of service in organizing a BSF [Bible Study Fellowship] prayer group in Israel.

Shalom, for Zion’s sake,
C.A.

Anyone
standing in
the gap will
always be
“shot at!”

Dear Zola,

Your New Year’s Eve program was just what the world needs today.

May we have ears to hear — and then do.

This 77-year-old brain has a hard time keeping abreast, but I’m thankful for my VCR* — you were put on the “menu” as soon as I received word you were moving (plus New Year’s Eve).

Your programs are such a blessing!!

Am I wrong or is there an awakening to our Jewish roots? To me it seems people are becoming more aware of the need to recognize them; but then, there is the hard element that accuse you of being legalistic if you try to bring Israel up.

You are so right about God instilling a love for His Chosen when He saves you. I know He did me. People say they marvel about the way I feel about them. Going on your “pilgrimage” in 1993 made even a deeper hunger. How thankful I am my husband got to go. You were so considerate. I lost him the following March after 50 years of marriage, but he’s with His Lord, so I’m happy.

May He bless your ministry. Enclosed is my love offering.
— C.S.

*Not only do we recommend VCR recording of *Zola Levitt Presents*, we encourage you to share the tapes. You are welcome to copy our materials, not to sell, but only to give away free. — Zola

Dear Zola,

I am 92 years old. I looked all my life for the truth of God. Thank you, thank you. Love and God bless you.
— A.S.

Dear Zola,

Dr. Erwin Lutzer [of Moody Church] had a wonderful sermon today on prophecy and clearly spoke of the validity of God’s promise to Abraham with regard to Israel. Of course, I realize there may be teachers at Moody Seminary who don’t agree, and I’m thrilled when you point it out. But you must also mention that Moody Church is on the side of God’s Biblical statements.

I was dismayed when I heard you say that Moody and Dallas Theological Seminaries were teaching that the church has replaced Israel. So I was thrilled to hear Dr. Lutzer speak today.

Your ministry is daily in my prayers,
L.S.

Dear L.S.,

We didn't say that the seminaries are teaching actual Replacement Theology, but that they are heading in that direction. And we realize that different professors teach different things. But there are seminaries where one doesn't have to worry about what professor one gets or where he went to college. Seminaries are spoiled by small steps away from the Scripture by part of the faculty. If you check universities like Harvard and Yale, they started as divinity schools, and now they would laugh at the Bible.

Giving credit where it's due, I for one would avoid schools that are on that broad path toward liberalism.

Zola

Dear Zola,

I am the project officer for a small church library. I am very concerned about the errancy of many of the books out there I could possibly put in it. Do you have any type of list of books that either dabble in revisionist history or in progressive dispensationalism? We've been watching the show and receiving the *Levitt Letters* for awhile now and really appreciate the ministry. I have, over the past 11/2 years or so, become more and more interested in the roots of my relationship with the Lord and have come to understand Israel with a new love and respect.

Thank you,
S.E.

Dear S.E.,

Thank you for your compliments. We have not studied all the books out there, which truly run from woefully incorrect to terrific. Book publishers are profit-making organizations and tend toward emphasizing sales rather than accuracy of teaching. Zondervan, for example, was one of the most careful publishers when I wrote for them in the early '70s, but they became the publishers of Gundry's awful textbook. Moody press, with whom Dr. McCall and I published a number of bestsellers, is a publishing house I would not deal with today for several reasons.

I think you'll have to check the books out for yourself. One collection I can recommend 100% is on this ministry's book list.

Zola

...and the persecution of Christians worldwide

by Paul Liben *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*

As this century draws to a close, a fundamental human right is still being withheld from much of the world's people. That right is the freedom to practice one's religion according to the dictates of one's conscience.

Across much of the globe, membership in a religious minority has long meant exposure to a host of potential abuses ranging from harassment to murder. To be a Hah'I in Iran, a Jew in certain Arab countries, a Muslim within Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's reach, or a Hindu in Pakistan has often been challenging at best and a threat to life and limb at worst.

Clearly, every minority has suffered religious persecution, but in our time, the lion's share has been borne by those naming Christ as the Lord and Savior of their lives. In this century, more Christians have been martyred than in all the prior centuries combined, and Christian martyrs have greatly outnumbered those of all other faiths.

Perhaps the world's most ferocious abuser of religious freedom is the government of Sudan, Africa's largest country geographically. Since 1983, at least 2 million southern Sudanese, largely Christians, have been killed, and at least 5 million made homeless in an escalating jihad waged by its radical Islamic rulers in the north. It is now indisputable that the regime in Khartoum has been behind the mass kidnapping of southern Sudanese women and children, thousands of whom have been subsequently sold into slavery and/or compelled to renounce their faith and convert to Islam. Crucifixion is also practiced, as priests and other Christian clergy have been targeted in an effort to terrorize their flocks.

...more Christians have been martyred than in all the prior centuries combined...

To the north of Sudan, the Coptic Christians, who have had a presence in Egypt for at least 16 centuries, live in fear for their lives, thanks to an upsurge of activity by radical groups that see them as threats to the Islamic purity of the nation. Rapes, beatings and murder have resulted, and the evidence points to the complicity of local police and other security officials, who at best do nothing and at worst aid and abet the perpetrators, according to human rights groups.

Another longtime persecutor of Christians is the world's largest country, the People's Republic of China. Its Marxist rulers fear that the rapid growth of converts to Christianity poses a clear threat to their continued rule over one-fifth of the world's population. Vowing that the church will not do to them what it did to communism in Eastern Europe, they have allowed only government-controlled churches to operate legally; the price these churches pay is a virtual inability to share their faith with the bold freedom that the Gospel envisions. ■

From *The Washington Post*
Charles Krauthammer

Peace of the Anti-Semites



On Jan. 4, Israel signed an agreement giving up yet another block of West Bank territory to the Palestinian Authority. A week earlier, the official Palestinian Authority newspaper, *Al Hayat Al-Jadida*, ran [a] cartoon [in which the] old man is labeled “the 20th century,” the young man “the 21st century.” The dwarf standing between them and wearing a Jewish skullcap and a Star of David is labeled “the disease of the century.”

Blessed are the peacemakers.

On the other “peace” front, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak meets with the Syrian foreign minister in Shepherdstown, W.Va., to negotiate Israel’s giving up the Golan Heights, which protect Israel’s northern frontier from Syrian tanks. Just a few weeks earlier, in the Damascus weekly of the Syria Arab writers’ association (*Al-'Usbu' Al-Adabi*), the following appeared:

“The Talmud’s instructions, soaked in hatred and hostility towards humanity, are [stamped] in the Jewish soul. Throughout history, the world has known more than one Shylock...more than one Toma as a victim of these Talmudic instructions and this hatred.”

Peace be with you.

Toma is the Capuchin missionary, Father Thomas, who was murdered in Damascus in 1840. The Jews of Damascus were accused of having killed him to use his blood in Passover matzohs.

This blood libel is one of the oldest and most insane medieval fantasies about Jews. Centuries ago it was believed enough that many Jews were murdered on its account. In our era, those who continue to purvey it are either lunatics or Syrians. It is not just their writers. In 1984, a book called *The Matzoh of Zion* was published in Damascus—with a preface defending the 1840 blood libel as truth, written by Mustafa Tlass, Syria’s minister of defense! In 1991, the Syrian delegate to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights urged the commis-

sion to read the book in order to learn the “historical reality of Zionist racism.”

When in the United States, Syrian spokesmen don’t bring up blood libels. (It was the Middle East Media and Research Institute that discovered the revival of the Father Thomas incident.) They speak soothingly instead of their deep desire for “the peace of the brave.” Looking at what their leaders tell their own people about Jews, however, one gets the distinct impression that their ultimate goal is the peace of the grave.

These campaigns of anti-Semitism—not anti-Zionism, as some pretend, but raw, brute anti-Jewish calumnies—are commonplace in the Arab world, particularly in the state-controlled Palestinian, Syrian and Egyptian press. Americans got an accidental glimpse of the virulence of this hatred during Hillary Clinton’s visit to Israel last November when Suha Arafat accused Israel of causing cancer in Palestinian women and children by means of poison gas.

Media attention focused on Clinton’s lack of response. The real story, however, was this glimpse at the savagery of the Arab elite’s commonplace discourse regarding Jews and Israelis. This, after all, was not some ignorant functionary speaking, but the first lady of Palestine.

And it raises a very acute question: What type of peace do such people—who call Jews the disease of the 20th century, who claim that Judaism commands the slaughter of Gentiles for the ritual purpose of eating of their blood—really have in mind?

The optimists, or call them fantasists, led by the Clinton administration, simply ignore these manifestations of pathological bigotry. They insist that the peace that Arafat and Assad want to make with the perfidious Jews would be a permanent one.

Ehud Barak, no fantasist, is quite familiar with the press of his neighbors and what it preaches about Jews, which is why he is trying to obtain a peace, both with Syria and the Palestinians, that will leave Israel with enough territory, enough strategic depth, enough defensible positions to be able to withstand a renewed war in case the Arabs find their hatred for Jews not quite fully assuaged by paper agreements.

Bill Clinton is another matter, however. He is in desperate search of a legacy. And that for him means an agreement—any agreement—that he can trumpet on the White House lawn. He doesn’t really care about its shape and content. He wants the ceremony.

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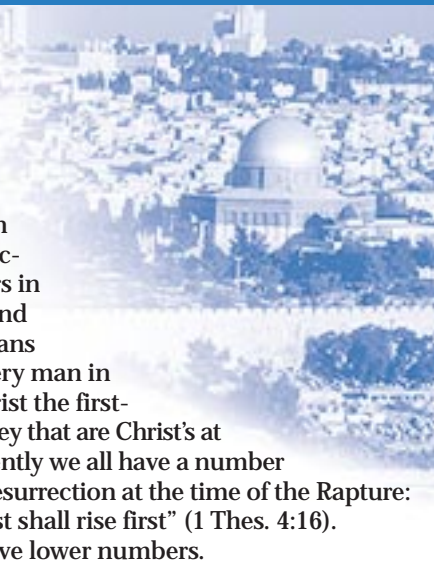
and the enemies of Allah. In part, it is the feeling of inferiority brought on by the long centuries of Arab decline. In part, it is the need for a unifying passion-hatred of Israel helps hold together Arabs who so often hate each other.

But what a pity. The Arab world has been so busy assaulting and anathematizing the Jewish state when it could have benefited richly from a neighbor with so much to offer. In their own back yard occurred one of history's astonishments—the return of the Jewish people to its never-forgotten homeland. What the prophets foretold millennia ago, the Arabs were privileged to witness up close. Secure in their numbers, in their vast territory, in their petro-wealth, they could have opened their arms in welcome. Some, like the courageous Anwar Sadat, eventually turned to peace. For his pains, he was assassinated.

On Israel's 50th anniversary, its neighbors seem as lost in bitterness and backwardness as ever. Perhaps, before the next 50 years slip by, they will finally grasp the hand of friendship they were offered in 1948.



First Fruits is the Biblical name of Resurrection Sunday, and we should use it. It reminds us that if there is a first, then there must be a succession of numbers in the resurrection, and indeed, 1 Corinthians 15:23 states, "...every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." Evidently we all have a number in the upcoming resurrection at the time of the Rapture: "The dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thes. 4:16). Obviously, they have lower numbers.



The above lesson is part of the Passover and seven feasts studies, which are obtainable through this ministry, *Jews for Jesus* and a few others, and usually not at Christian seminaries. The knowledge, however, is valuable. Its basis is in Israel, of course, where it has been commonly understood for thousands of years. There's something about that place that really increases one's comprehension of spiritual things.

Come and see it for yourself! Our Kibbutz Tour, June 7-16, is perfectly timed for students and teachers on summer holiday. It is also ideal for the budget-minded pilgrim, as it is our most economical tour. We will stay in comfortable, cooperative farm guesthouses in the forests and mountains of Israel. It offers the same itinerary as our Deluxe Tours, but we have an exciting addition—we are going on an actual archaeological dig. We will visit all the major Biblical sites as well as enjoy other spiritually enriching and educational experiences.

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Let us know how you like our "This Is Israel!" series.

And please remember to pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Your messenger,

HEBREW LESSON

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S Passover.
(Lev. 23:5)

שָׁר	עַ	עָה	בְּ	אָרְ	בְּ	רָא	שׁוֹן	הָ	רֵשׁ	חַ	בַּ
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ten (and)		on ft		Art		+ first			in the month		
To Come											
יְהוָה	לְ	סַח	בְּ	עַ	בָּ	יָ	בֵּין	רֵשׁ	חַ	לְ	
(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	
Adonal	to	sakh	beey	een	ba	ar'	ha	deeb	kho	la	
		Passover		even		twilight		at		of the month	

Hebraic Insight

Pesach (Passover), the greatest of the three "pilgrimage festivals," is celebrated on the 14th day of Nissan (in the spring) and commemorates God's great redemption of the Jewish people from their bondage in ancient Egypt. Technically, *Pesach* refers to the sacrifice of the paschal lamb itself; whereas the weeklong festival is celebrated as *Chag HaMatzot* (the feast of unleavened bread). *Pesach* is especially meaningful for believers in Jesus, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). It is truly the blood of this Lamb applied to the doorposts of one's heart — the inward trusting in the blood of Jesus as the means of appeasing God's righteous wrath — that the believer is "passed over" and set free from the death penalty that holds the world in bondage.

From *The Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition*

What Price Peace?

Money doesn't buy love. It doesn't buy happiness. But it just might help Bill Clinton live down impeachment by buying him a Nobel Peace Prize. Not Mr. Clinton's own money, of course, but the tens of billions of dollars he will be asking American taxpayers to cough up to purchase agreements between Israel, Syria and the Palestinian Authority. If peace in the Mideast were really within reach, we have no doubt that the American public would hardly balk at being asked to foot the bill. But we wonder what the reaction will be once it dawns on people that the money is an inducement for governments on both sides to sign on to agreements they might not otherwise be inclined to accept.

During the... Israeli-Syrian talks in West Virginia, a figure of \$18 billion has been bandied about for U.S. obligations to Israel alone. But that's only to cover some

of the costs of a Syrian deal. As Ze'ev Schiff reported in... the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, Israel is considering asking the U.S. for a total of \$65 billion-\$70 billion to finance both the Syrian and Palestinian agreements. That's a far more realistic figure, given the \$100 billion that the U.S. has given Israel and Egypt since the Camp David accords.

Israel's figure amounts to nearly 100% of its annual GDP, and it doesn't even cover the expenses of a possible indefinite American military presence on the Golan Heights. Interestingly enough, *Haaretz* also reports that in the event of a Golan agreement, Israel will reduce its period of mandatory military service by six months. To put it mildly, the perception that foreign soldiers and taxpayers are being asked to give young Israelis more time on the beach in Tel Aviv won't exactly be good for Israel's long-term relationship with Uncle Sam.

An even more interesting exercise might be to compare the Iraq that remains the subject of United Nations sanctions and the Syria the Clinton Administration now wants to shower with international largesse. Both countries are run by vulnerable dictators who rule in the name of a secular pan-Arab movement called Baathism, but who keep power only by liquidating internal opponents with Stalinist frequency. Both have justified invasions of neighboring countries (Iraq, Kuwait and Syria, Lebanon and Israel) on fatuous grounds

of historical rights to the land. Both regimes have committed mass murder against their own people (Iraq against the Kurds, while Syrian dictator Hafez Assad killed as many as 25,000 in a 1982 attack on the city of Hama). Both are inveterate supporters of international terrorism. About the only difference is that Syria gets along with Iran, and Iraq doesn't.

That last point brings us to the unspoken assumption that is surely a decisive factor in the U.S. and Israel's desire to negotiate with Syria. That Assad is to be propped up because the alternative is an Islamic theocracy in Syria, too. The trouble with this line of reasoning is that no amount of aid can significantly diminish the all too real likelihood of a coup when Assad's son Bashar tries to assume power. The West might very well find the new and improved military machine they construct for Syria falling into the hands of Muslim fanatics, as happened in Iran itself in 1979.

None of this is meant to suggest that we are opposed to Israel's ever giving the Golan to Syria. But it should be done only when Syria has a government stable and friendly enough to obviate the need for overly burdensome foreign guarantees. If done, moreover, it ought also to be recognized as a historic act of Israeli magnanimity. Indeed, it is hard to take seriously a Syrian claim to the land based at once on the complaint that Israel is a "colonial" presence in the region and the insistence on borders drawn up by colonial powers France and Britain in 1923.

Let us hope that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who not long ago was insisting that Israel should never relinquish the Golan, will not be seduced by Clinton promises that may not pass the U.S. Congress or survive a new administration. Let us hope, too, that Congress will not let itself be demagogued into supporting a dangerous agreement. Real peace is worth paying for. A dubious Clinton legacy is not.



THE PEACE OF THE ANTI-SEMITES *CONT. FROM PG. 8*

But there is another legacy at stake in these negotiations. And that is the legacy of the 5 million Jews who live in Israel, who in turn carry the legacy of the 6 million who died in the Holocaust, and of the countless others martyred over the millennia.

Their legacy is to bequeath to future generations a reborn Jewish state that can defend itself. When push comes to shove in the negotiations, their desire for a secure future will come into conflict with Clinton's desire for an ostentatious diplomatic success. The question for Clinton is whether he will have the statesmanship to subordinate his personal political needs to the more enduring needs of an enduring peace.



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