

LEVITT LETTER

“BRETHREN, MY HEART’S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL IS THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.” – ROMANS 10:1

Our contributing editor, who has run columns in many leading publications, is fed up with the Iranian president. – Zola



ZOLA LEVITT

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Israel: “Stain of Disgrace”

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor

“Very soon,” Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad pledged, speaking of Israel, “this stain of disgrace will be purged from the center of the Islamic world.” In the same week, the UN’s chief monitor of atomic weapons development, Muhammad El Baradei, confirmed that Iran is only a few months away from having its own nuclear arsenal.

President Ahmadinejad made his ominous promise standing before a podium that bore a government poster portraying two spheres, representing Israel and the United States, falling through the center of an hourglass and shattering. The headline declared, in English, “The World Without Zionism,” thus clarifying the meaning of the word “Zionism.”



It’s difficult to overstate the significance of Ahmadinejad’s speech. It was, in fact, the first time in decades that a major Islamic



leader has reverted publicly to the old stance — that Israel cannot

be allowed to exist for the simple reason that it is not under Muslim control.

In his address, Ahmadinejad specifically repudiated the public relations spin that Muslim antipathy toward Israel is based on injustices perpetrated upon Palestinians. In the presence of representatives from the entire Islamic world, he proclaimed that Israel must be destroyed because it is the spearhead of “the West,” which he labels the

“World of Arrogance.”

The Coming Revolution?



By Gary Bauer

Readers of *The New York Times* early in December were greeted to a full page advertisement entitled, “The World Can’t Wait; Drive Out The Bush Regime!”

Listed below that headline was a series of statements. Here are a few:

Your Government, on the basis of outrageous lies, is waging a murderous and utterly illegitimate war in Iraq, with other countries in their sights.

Your Government is openly torturing people, and justifying it.

Your Government is moving each day closer to a theocracy, where a narrow and hateful brand of Christian fundamentalism will rule.

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"This occupying country," Ahmadinejad said, "is in fact a front of the World of Arrogance in the heart of the Islamic world. They have, in fact, built a bastion from which they can expand their rule to the entire Islamic world... This means that the current war in Palestine is the front line of the Islamic world against the World of Arrogance..."

This is a remarkable admission. For decades, we have been told that all Islamic strife could be resolved if Israel were to make just a few more concessions. And America, the critics said, has inspired Muslim wrath, including the 9/11 attacks, by not forcing Israel to give away more of its territories to the Palestinians. We've heard it over and over again. We're still hearing it.

But then, the president of the most militarily powerful Islamic country in the Middle East broke the code and admitted that his brand of Islam is at war with the West and that Israel is the primary target only because it just happens to be the closest Western outpost. This is an astonishing development, and one that ought to be getting more attention than it has.

Let me quote Ahmadinejad again: "The issue of this conference is very valuable. In this very grave war, many people are trying to scatter grains of desperation and hopelessness regarding the struggle between the Islamic world and the front of the infidels, and in their hearts they want to empty the Islamic world. They [ask]: 'Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism?' But you had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable, and surely can be achieved."

Why, we are now forced to ask, has he become so forthright?

It is not primarily belligerence prompted by the near certainty of Iranian nuclear capabilities — though that plays a role. Rather, the answer is given in the same speech. It is the Gaza pullout.

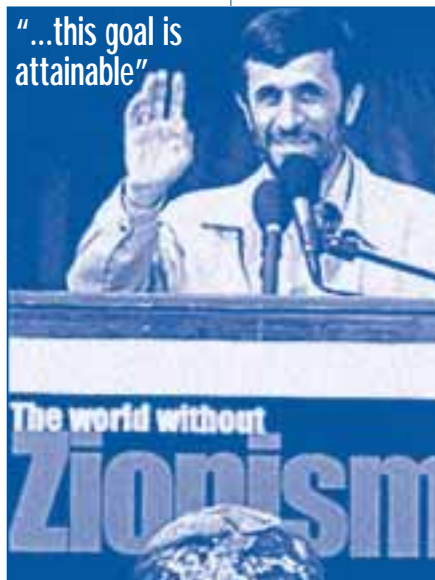
Israel, by handing over Gaza to the Palestinians, without a single promised concession in return, destroyed forever the lie, widely believed among Muslims, that Israelis only pretend to want peace, but are secretly conspiring to drive non-Jews from their entire Biblical homeland. They have believed this, by the way, because the reverse was the ill-concealed policy of Yasser Arafat and other Islamic leaders.

Arafat boasted, in Arabic, of his duplicitous victory at

Oslo, to a local crowd of Muslims only hours after signing the Accords. He was recorded many times, at gun-waving Palestinian rallies, promising to drive the Jews from the Middle East and make the entire region Muslim. Why wouldn't Muslims expect their constantly vilified enemies to practice the same deceit?

Now that the credibility of the "Zionist conspiracy" has suffered a major blow, due to Gaza, the Iranian president has reverted to the more primal and reliable invective of Islamic supremacy. Witness Ahmadinejad's bizarre take on the "Satanic" pullout:

"With the forced evacuation [of Gaza] that was imposed by the Palestinian people, they [the Israelis] evacuated only a corner. [Israel] declared this as the final victory and, on the pretext of evacuating Gaza and establishing a Palestinian government, tried to put an end to the hopes of the Palestinians.



"Lately we have new civil problems underway — today, [Israel] seeks, satanically and deceitfully, to gain control of the front of war. It is trying to influence the Palestinian groups in Palestine so as to preoccupy them with political issues and jobs — so that they relinquish the Palestinian cause that determines their destiny, and come into conflict with each other. On the pretext of goodwill, they [Israel] intended, by evacuating the Gaza strip, to gain recognition of its corrupt regime by some Islamic states."

Note that the Iranian president said that the Israelis were forced out of Gaza, but claimed, in the next paragraph, that they evacuated in order to fool Islamic states. Regardless, he saved the best for last.

The final point of Ahmadinejad's lecture was to "warn all the leaders of the Islamic world" that if they abandon jihad and recognize Israel, "he should know that he will burn in the fire of the Islamic *Ummah* [nation]." In other words, Iran is willing to use its nuclear weapons not only against Israel, but against its Islamic "brothers" if they try to live in peace with the Jewish nation.

He ended his speech by exhorting, "Look at this global arena. By whom are we confronted? We have to understand the depth of the disgrace of the enemy, until our holy hatred expands continuously and strikes like a wave."

I suggest we take this man seriously, but I suspect the world will treat him as just another harmless, but excitable Muslim. He is not. ✿

“People look at all this and think of Hitler — and they are right to do so. The Bush regime is setting out to radically remake society very quickly, in a fascist way, and for generations to come. We must act now; the future is in the balance.”

“There is not going to be some magical ‘pendulum swing.’ People who steal elections and believe they’re on a ‘mission from God’ will not go without a fight. There is not going to be some savior from the Democratic Party. This whole idea of putting our hopes and energies into ‘leaders’ who tell us to seek common ground with fascists and religious fanatics is proving every day to be a disaster, and actually serves to demobilize people.”

Sounds like a bunch of radical nuts, right? These folks even think the liberal Democrats, like Howard Dean, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton, are all part of the “conspiracy”! It would be nice to think this ad was brought to us by the deranged minds of a few lone lunatics, but folks like that rarely can muster the tens of thousands of dollars required to purchase a full-page ad in *The New York Times*.

The ad calls for massive nationwide demonstrations on the evening of, and the Saturday following, President Bush’s State of the Union address. The purpose: “to create a political situation where the Bush regime’s program is repudiated, where Bush himself is driven from office, and where the whole direction he has been taking society is reversed.”

The choice of rhetoric is shocking, and the mindset of these folks borders on extreme paranoia. Amazingly, however, the list of names and organizations willing to identify themselves as supportive of this effort is exten-

sive. Yes, there were fringe groups I have never heard of before, such as the “Revolutionary Communist Party” and “Queers for Economic Justice.” (That really is their name.) But there were also high-profile Hollywood celebrities, like Martin Sheen, Margot Kidder, Casey Kasem, Ed Asner, Ed Begley, Jr., and Jane Fonda. Their liberal activism is well-documented, but these statements are far beyond the pale for reasonable people. And, needless to say, I continue to be skeptical about Jane Fonda’s supposed “born again” conversion if she is willing to sign her name to this garbage.

The list also included elected officials, such as Assemblyman Mark Leno and State Senator Carol Migden, the primary sponsors of legislation to legalize same-sex “marriage” in California. Ward Churchill is on the list. You may remember Churchill as the “Native American” professor who called his fellow citizens who perished in the World Trade Center towers on September 11th “little Eichmanns” (one of Adolf Hitler’s notorious henchmen).

Abortion clinic directors and Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, are also listed. So is Cindy Sheehan, who the media continue to offer up as a “voice of reason.” Also signing on were Talib Abdur-Rashid, imam of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, the Islamic Circle of North America, the Islamic Association of America, and M. Ali Khan, executive director of the American Muslim Council.

Wow — that’s an incredibly eclectic group of people! What else could unite abortionists, homosexuals and Muslims, other than a deep hatred of America’s Judeo-Christian values and a president willing to defend them?



The Death of Christmas

by Zola Levitt

The real story about the Christmas controversy is not about the United States, basically a Christian society, but about Bethlehem, where Muslims have destroyed the holiday.

Our tours visited a peaceful Bethlehem under Israeli administration until 1995, and had no problems. Then the town was given to Arafat and his Palestinian hooligans and the place became dirty and dangerous. Our tours stopped visiting, along with hosts of others.

The next big change came recently when Israel built a barrier to keep suicide bombers out of nearby Jerusalem. Tourists slowly started to return, though local Christians in Bethlehem had been leaving for years.

With that history understood, a December 18th Associated Press story becomes almost a joke. While that news service has been committed to criticizing Israel for decades, it really has outdone itself in regard to the recent Christmas tourism. The article says that “a drop in violence, the election of a new Palestinian leadership, and the reduction of roadblocks around the city have contributed to the return of pilgrims...” Actually, it is the fence which contributes to the drop in violence and the removal of roadblocks.

As to “a new Palestinian leadership,” it is no improvement over the old one. I can still see Arafat in Bethlehem, pleading hands raised toward Heaven, mocking a Christian prayer and sobbing, “Jesus help us!” At that point, he had pretty much run off any followers of Jesus in that little town and had stolen as much as \$3 billion from his people.

But the punch line in the AP article is the paragraph which states that tourism is still not back to what it was even “after an interim peace deal with Israel brought calm.” What a whopper!

My tours have not returned to the city itself because of the dangers of mixing with Muslims and, in any case, the birth of our Lord was outside the city, in the fields where the shepherds were, and where we still visit.

Bethlehem serves as an example of what a new Palestinian nation would bring to the world — a

terrorist society that would throw its garbage out the front door and murder Jews and Christians whenever they could.

If the death of Christmas in the little town of Bethlehem is any example, imagine the death of all Christianity in the Western world.

As things are, that is not so hard to imagine. ✱

Israel Today



80 YEARS YOUNG!
Roller Cop Samuel German

The “Rolling Policeman” Blades Past 80

He is known as the “rolling policeman.” That’s because for more than 30 years, 80-year-old Samuel German has volunteered for the civil guard in Beersheba. He patrols bus stations and chases criminals — and all of this on rollerblades!

A Chef’s Suggestion



*The Lord has subtly called my attention, in that way He does, to one of my early albums, **Messiah**. It came up twice in the last month or so, and I thought I would pass that along with the recommendation that you listen to this beautiful music He sent me. Although the album was produced in the early 80s, there’s no such thing as an “old” song. It’s one of twenty albums that we offer, but I believe it’s really rather special.*

I listened to the song “Father, I’m Coming Home” recently, and I recalled that the inspiration was some chest pain I was experiencing after my first bypass operation. I really thought I was going home, and now, almost 25 years — and one more bypass operation — it looks like I was wrong.

But the song attests that, when put to the test, this faith really pulls you through.

Just a chef’s suggestion. — Zola

(Please see page 31 to order.)

VOICES FROM ISRAEL Video Series

"Zola Levitt Presents" brings you a unique location series, *Voices from Israel*. This ten-program series not only traverses the physical land of Israel with a group of pilgrims visiting Biblical sites, but also scans Israel's wide political landscape with the perspectives of government officials, "settlers" and even "Palestinians." *Ten half-hour programs on 3 VHS tapes*

V754 Stand for Truth

Our series begins with the tour group's arrival and visit to Ein Karem, Ramat Rachel and the Western Wall. Ruth Matar of Women in Green tells Zola that settlers are not extremists, but normal people with a cause.

V755 Israel and "Palestine"

The former mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, joined by several important guests, speaks to our tour group about the importance of showing true support by visiting Israel. Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi tells Zola her political views, while Joseph Farah and Ergun Caner give rebuttals.

V756 Roots Run Deep

The group tours several prominent Christian sites in Jerusalem: the Temple Model, the Garden Tomb, the Promenade, and the Garden of Gethsemane. Andrea and Gary Cooperberg, who live in Hebron, tell Zola how important they feel it is for Jews to migrate to Israel.

V757 A Place in History

After visiting Zion Gate, the Cardo and David's Tomb, Zola teaches the tour group in the Upper Room. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Cabinet Minister Livni give differing views on current political issues.

V758 On a Mission

First, we go south to visit the site where David defeated Goliath. Then, we travel north to view the Jesus Boat and hear Zola teach us at the synagogue at Chorazim. Bridges For Peace explains how they minister to new immigrants by providing food, supplies and home repairs to those in need.

V759 Raised to Walk

After touring the Mount of Beatitudes and Capernaum, Zola speaks at the Jordan River. Christians Rhett and Virginia Sanders give their perspectives on the importance of Israel to Believers.

*Scans
Israel's
Wide
Political
Landscape
From
Unique
Locations*



V760 On the Outside

The group has a whirlwind tour of the greater Galilee area, including Safed and Qasrin. Zola teaches at Baniyas, also known as Caesarea Phillipi. Then we visit the settlement of Anatot with our good friends who live there, Joni and Stuart Arden.

V761 For the Future

In honor of loved ones or just to beautify our future home, we take time to plant trees. Zola teaches at Megiddo and Haifa. A native Israeli gives his perspective regarding the settlements.

V762 Top to Bottom

Zola talks about Bet Shean and Caesarea, and then we return to Jerusalem to hear from "the Man on the Street." Former Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert talks to us (just prior to leaving his position) about this city and the land he loves so much.

V763 The Last Words

This program wraps up our series with interviews from our old friends, David Dolan, Mack and Cathy McCoy, and others.

Please order on page 31.

More Arabian Fables

Originally published by FLAME (Facts and Logic About the Middle East) www.factsandlogic.org

The web of lies and myths that the Arab propaganda machine has created plays an important role in the unrelenting quest to destroy the State of Israel. What a shame that the world has accepted most of it!

The “Palestinians.” That is the fundamental myth. The reality is that the concept of “Palestinians” is one that did not exist until about 1948, when the Arab inhabitants of what until then was Palestine, wished to differentiate themselves from the Jews. Until then, the Jews were the Palestinians. There was the Palestinian Brigade of Jewish volunteers in the British World War II Army (at a time when the Palestinian Arabs were in Berlin hatching plans with Adolf Hitler for world conquest and how to kill all the Jews); there was the Palestinian Symphony Orchestra (all Jews, of course); there was *The Palestine Post*, and so much more.

The Arabs, who now call themselves “Palestinians,” do so in order to persuade a misinformed world that they are a distinct nationality and that “Palestine” is their ancestral homeland. But, of course, they are no distinct nationality at all. They are entirely the same — in language, customs, and tribal ties — as the Arabs of Syria, Jordan and beyond. There is no more difference between the “Palestinians” and the other Arabs of those countries than there is between, say, the citizens of Minnesota and of Wisconsin.

What’s more, many of the “Palestinians,” or their immediate ancestors, came to the area attracted by the prosperity created by the Jews, in what previously had been pretty much of a wasteland.

The nationhood of the “Palestinians” is a myth.

The “West Bank.” Again, this is a concept that did not exist until 1948, when the army of the Kingdom of Transjordan, together with five other Arab armies, invaded the Jewish state of Israel, on the very day of its creation.

In what can almost be described as a Biblical miracle, the ragtag Jewish forces defeated the combined Arab might. But Transjordan stayed in possession of the territories of Judea and Samaria and part of the city of Jerusalem. The Jordanians promptly expelled all Jews from the area that they occupied, destroyed all Jewish institutions and houses of worship, used Jewish cemetery headstones to build military latrines, and renamed as “West Bank” what had been Judea and Samaria since time immemorial.

The attempt, quite successful, was to persuade an uninformed world that these territories were ancestral parts

of the Jordanian Arab Kingdom (itself a very recent creation of British power diplomacy). Even after the total rout of the Arabs in the 1967 Six-Day War, in which the Jordanians were driven out of Judea/Samaria and of Jerusalem, they and the world continued to call this territory the “West Bank,” a geographical concept that cannot be found on any except the most recent maps. The concept of the “West Bank” is a myth.

The “Occupied Territories.” After the victorious Six-Day War, during which the Israeli army defeated the same cabal of Arabs that had invaded the country in 1948, Israel remained in possession of Judea/Samaria (now renamed “West Bank”), which the Jordanians had illegally occupied for 19 years; of the Gaza strip, which had been occupied by the Egyptians, but which (hundreds of miles from Egypt proper) had never been part of their country; and of the Golan Heights, a plateau of about 400 square miles, which, though originally part of Palestine, had been ceded to Syria by British-French agreement.



The last sovereign in Judea/Samaria and in Gaza was the British mandatory power — and before it was the Ottoman Empire. All of Palestine, including what is now the Kingdom of Jordan, was, by the Balfour Declaration, destined to be the Jewish National Home. How then could the Israelis be “occupiers” in their own territory? Who would be the sovereign and who the rightful inhabitants?

The concept of “occupied territories” in reference to Judea/Samaria and Gaza is a myth created by Arab propaganda.

Unable so far to destroy Israel on the battlefield — though they are feverishly preparing for their next assault — the Arabs are now trying to overcome and destroy Israel by their acknowledged “policy of stages”. That policy is to get as much land as possible carved out of Israel “by peaceful and diplomatic” means, so as to make Israel indefensible and softened up for the final assault. The web of lies and myths that the Arab propaganda machine has created plays an important role in the unrelenting quest to destroy the State of Israel. What a shame that the world has accepted most of it. ✨

The War on the War on Terror

By Lou Hays, Editor

Liberal members of the U.S. Senate, even after 9/11, remain utterly oblivious to the threat of Islamofacism on our shores. During their final month of “work” in December, Senate Democrats managed to filibuster renewal of the Patriot Act, set to expire at the end of 2005. After the vote, Democrat senate minority leader Harry Reid proudly stood at a microphone and declared, “Today we killed the Patriot Act” (vote for us!). Later in the week, more hard-hitting work by “the world’s greatest deliberative body,” aided by Republican Senator John McCain’s bill, produced what is humorously being referred to as “the al-Qaeda Bill of Rights.” This new law guarantees terrorist captives the right not to be “tortured, humiliated, or degraded by American interrogators.” What that really means is anybody’s guess, since the terms weren’t clearly defined. A captured terrorist could claim degradation simply by being placed in the presence of a female interrogator.

This brainless law will actually make it illegal for a military interrogator to “humiliate” an enemy terrorist who knew the location of a ticking nuclear device in the middle of a large American city.

Such a case could go to court, as these stateless enemy combatants apparently would be granted the same rights as any American citizen. The terrorist would no doubt be represented gratis by some dreadful ACLU

type, claiming “civil rights” violations. Military interrogators would be at risk of going to jail if proven to have violated some sacred terrorist “right.” Terrorists the world over must be rolling on the floor in laughter at the thought of this idiotic scenario.

Like the senate, the U.S. court system is filled with Bush-hating liberal ideologues, ever anxious to undermine the war on terror for the simple purpose of damaging the leader who they consider their real enemy, President Bush. Subjugating presidential power and allowing these anti-American zealots any say in running a war is beyond absurd. Truman, FDR, MacArthur, Patton, Eisenhower, and Reagan must all be spinning in their graves.

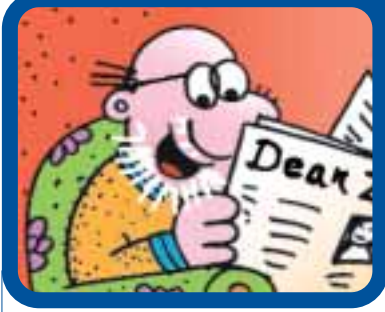
Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir once declared, “Peace will come when the Arabs love their children more than they hate us.” Today, I submit that **Victory in the war on terror will come when American liberals start loving their country more than they hate President Bush.** And to be absolutely sure that I’m not misunderstood — yes, I question their patriotism.

As this issue goes to press, the U.S. Senate has gone home for Christmas (yes, Christmas — an official American holiday!) The fight over renewal of the Patriot Act goes on, now delayed by a last minute extension of Congress until early February.

Pray the liberal members of that great body fight the war on terror by hiding in the safety of their homes until the adults in Washington win this war. ■

NEW CONGRESSIONALLY SANCTIONED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES TO FIND WHERE TERRORISTS HAVE HIDDEN A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN YOUR CITY....





Letters to Zola

Checkmate...Again!

Dear Zola:

As a long-time follower of your ministry, and one who has attended your lectures in different cities, I feel I have profited as much as anyone from your ministry.

As your ministry has shifted over the years to give more publicity to the political, economic and military needs of the State of Israel, I have appreciated your commitment and willingness to keep this practical aspect of Israel's needs before your audience.

But in following the many aspects of your public support of Israel, I have been puzzled by your avoidance of giving much time to Israel's stance toward Israeli Believers in that country.

Your organization and other Evangelicals are quick to meet with Israeli politicians and other officials and confirm your ongoing support of Israel, yet you never mention to these officials the needs of Believers in that country for true freedom of religious practice (or, if you do, you don't make it public).

Even individuals like myself are aware of Israelis fired from city jobs because of their attendance at Messianic congregations or churches. I know of the persecution of Believers in Arad that has, after several years of verbal and physical harassment and destruction of property, finally been taken to court in Beersheba. I know of the systematic blocking of permits or hearings or access that the Orthodox have visited on Believer organizations. And I know of the unwillingness of the government to deal with these abuses. In fact, as the religious parties gain strength, the abuses have increased over the years in many areas. Yet none of this ever shows up in any of your publications.

These Believers in Israel comment that they feel as though the Evangelicals, in their eagerness to show their

support of Israel, make their lives harder because the Israeli government feels that there is little concern outside the country and what concern there is will not be given much publicity among the Evangelical community. These Believers in Israel support Israel's right to exist, they fight in her armies, they

serve in her reserves, yet they are systematically discriminated against by the various arms of the Orthodox, the Jewish agencies and branches of the Israeli government. Even law enforcement branches have held back from protecting Believers, in some instances, from the abuse rained on them from the Orthodox.

C.B.

Dear C.B.:

To tell the truth, I didn't know that it was news that unbelievers pick on Believers in Israel or in America, for that matter. The argument between Cain and Abel goes on. And the Orthodox in Israel are especially culpable. The fact is, they simply don't understand who they're opposing and what those people really believe. Our Lord would have repeated, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

A missionary who visited my radio program in the 1970s indicated that he received a great deal of persecution, but that persecution is the proper exercise of the church. He said that some Believers are weak because they don't get enough exercise.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



With all that said, your accusation of this situation never showing up in our publications is false. We ran a story called “Checkmate,” about Orthodox opposition to Messianics in Arad, Israel — the very case you cited in your letter. Please see page 29 of the December *Levitt Letter*, which predated your email by three weeks. — Zola

Zola the Spy

Dear Zola:

Hope you have registered as an agent for a foreign power. And you also need to be listed as a hate group!

Thank you for referring to Israel as a “power.” Some think it should be “wiped off the map.” And I don’t really hate anybody, but I dislike letters like yours that arrive unsigned. — Zola

No Surprise

Dear Zola:

I am a monthly donor. I have a problem. You can help, I’m sure.

Marv Rosenthal has a new book out. My pastor gave me a copy to read. The Title of the book is *The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*.

I am 87 years old and a stroke victim. I’ve been a Christian for 67 years. I taught Sunday School for 62 years and have been pre-Trib all that time.

He puts me through three-quarters of the Tribulation — others will read this book, so favor us with an answer in the *Levitt Letter*, please.

In Him, I.B.

Dear I.B.:

I am opposed to any dating of the Rapture which follows some observable events. The Rapture is a surprise, but if it is to follow the Antichrist’s covenant, and his blasphemy in the Temple, everyone would be waiting for it. — Zola

Lighten Up!

Dear Brother Levitt:

I have enjoyed your TV ministry and the in-depth interviews with informed and discerning people. I believe that

the public, and especially the body of Believers, need current and balanced news from Israel.

I am concerned about the style and nuances that consistently come across in the *Levitt Letter*. Believe me, this is a constructive exhortation.

I often get the impression that you and your article contributors come across in a strident and wounded lion posture.

“I’m in complete agreement with Israel’s God-given right to the Land, and I personally feel that it is wrong for Israel to give up one inch of their state.”

I feel you would be well advised and your ministry would greatly benefit from a review by other unbiased Believers who would counsel you to implement a more balanced tone.

I believe the truth can defend itself without anyone resorting to an overly aggressive stance. Please review my counsel prayerfully as you have my prayers for an even more productive ministry.

I am currently an Associate minister at 1st AG in Plano, Texas and was 21 years on radio with a nondenominational broadcast; five years instructor at Ozark Bible Institute and college, and am now in my 51st year as an ordained minister at almost 81 years of age. I also was formerly a sales manager in three Christian radio stations.

May this exhortation prove beneficial to you and your ministry. Advise me if I can be helpful to you at any occasion in the future.

In our Messiah’s love, Shalom.

Rev. A.C.

Dear Reverend A.C.:

Thank you for the advice, which I’ll take as seriously as I can. I am afraid I’ve been outspoken and “overly aggressive” for my whole life and it may be too late to change. — Zola



How to Lose A War

By Ralph Peters, *The New York Post*

QUIT. It's that simple. There are plenty of more complex ways to lose a war, but none as reliable as just giving up.

Increasingly, quitting looks like the new American Way of War. No matter how great your team, you can't win the game if you walk off the field at half-time. That's precisely what the Democratic Party wants America to do in Iraq. Forget the fact that we've made remarkable progress under daunting conditions: The Dems are looking to throw the game just to embarrass the Bush administration.

Forget about the consequences. Disregard the immediate encouragement to the terrorists and insurgents to keep killing every American soldier they can. Ignore what would happen in Iraq — and the region — if we bail out. And don't mention how a U.S. surrender would turn al-Qaeda into an Islamic superpower, the champ who knocked out Uncle Sam in the third round.

Forget about our dead soldiers, whose sacrifice is nothing but a political club for Democrats to wave in front of the media. After all, one way to create the kind of disaffection in the ranks that the Dems' leaders yearn to see is to tell our troops on the battlefield that they're risking their lives for nothing, we're throwing the game.

Just set a timetable for our troops to come home, and show the world that America is an unreliable ally with no stomach for a fight, no matter the stakes involved. Tell the world that deserting the South Vietnamese and fleeing from Somalia weren't anomalies — that's what Americans do. While we're at it, let's just print up recruiting posters for the terrorists, informing the youth of the Middle East that Americans are cowards who can be attacked with impunity.

Whatever you do, don't talk about any possible consequences. Focus on the moment — and the next round of U.S. elections. Just make political points. After all, those dead American soldiers and Marines don't matter — they didn't go to Ivy League schools. (Besides, most would've voted Republican had they lived.)

America's security? Hah! As long as the upcoming elections show Democratic gains, let the terrorist threat explode. So what if hundreds of thousands of Middle Easterners might die in a regional war? So what if violent fundamentalism gets a shot of steroids? So what if we make Abu Musab al-Zarqawi the most successful Arab of the past 500 years?

For God's sake, don't talk about democracy in the Middle East. After all, democracy wasn't much fun for the Dems in 2000 or 2004. Why support it overseas,

when it's been so disappointing at home?

Human rights? Oh, dear. Human rights are for rich white people who live in Malibu. Unless you can use the issue to whack Republicans. Otherwise, brown, black or yellow people can die by the millions. Dean, Reid & Pelosi, LLC, won't say, "Boo!"

You've got to understand, my fellow citizens: None of this matters. And you don't matter, either. All that matters is scoring political points. Let the world burn. Let the massacres run on. Let the terrorists acquire WMD. Just give the Bush administration a big black eye, and we'll call that a win.

The irresponsibility of the Democrats on Capitol Hill is breathtaking. Not one of the critics of our efforts in Iraq — not one — has described his or her vision for Iraq and the Middle East in the wake of a troop withdrawal. Not one has offered any analysis of what the terrorists would gain and what they might do. Not one has shown respect for our war dead by arguing that we must put aside our partisan differences and win.

There's plenty I don't like about the Bush administration. Its domestic policies disgust me, and the Bushies got plenty wrong in Iraq. But at least they'll fight. The Dems are ready to betray our troops, our allies and our country's future security for a few House seats. Surrender is never a winning strategy.

Yes, we've been told lies about Iraq — by Dems and their media groupies. About conditions on the ground. About our troops. About what's at stake. About the consequences of running away from the great struggle of our time. About the continuing threat from terrorism. And about the consequences for you and your family.

What do the Democrats fear? An American success in Iraq. They need us to fail, and they're going to make us fail, no matter the cost. They need to declare defeat before the 2006 mid-term elections and ensure a real debacle before 2008 — a bloody mess they'll blame on Bush, even though they made it themselves.

We won't even talk about the effect quitting while we're winning in Iraq might have on the go-to-war calculations of other powers that might want to challenge us in the future. Let's just be good Democrats and prove that Osama bin Laden was right all along: Americans have no stomach for a fight.

If we run away from our enemies overseas, our enemies will make their way to us. Quit Iraq, and far more than 2,000 Americans are going to die.

And they won't all be conservatives. ❖

ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD

Give Your Bible and Camera an Israel Tour

Israel's tour industry has recovered full force. This means that both of our Spring tours will overflow to the June tour. Reserving your spot now will protect you from being wait-listed — no kidding. Zola will lead our **Spring Tour**, which involves the **Deluxe Israel Tour** (March 19-30) and the **Grand Israel/Petra Tour** (March 19-April 2). Please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during regular business hours or 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime for your tour brochure. Zola's tours are the best value because we know the pitfalls to avoid, plus the best sites to include. After 83 tours, no wonder!

1-800-WONDERS (anytime)
(1-800-966-3377)



2004 Death Statistics

The United States, in 2004, had:

- 16,137 murders
- 42,636 traffic crash fatalities
- 1,293,000 abortions

Since 1973, the US has aborted 45,951,133 babies. Our highways and nation's capital are more dangerous than Iraq. Perhaps we should quit driving and retreat from DC.

Two Thumbs Down

Pitney Bowes quit making parts for our mailing machine, the one for which we had leased one of their postage meters. Even though no one can service their obsolete mailing machine anymore, Pitney Bowes expects us to continue paying for the lease on their now-useless meter. Of course, we would have fulfilled the lease if they hadn't left us high and dry without parts. Pitney Bowes wins the first "Two Thumbs Down" award that we have given in more than two years. Their toll-free "Account Inquiries" number is 1-800-732-7222. You can reference Account #59408454-SP05 when you ask them to, "Please leave Zola alone."

Let Us Sell Your Gifts in Kind

If you would like us to market your valuables on eBay, then, once they sell, we will pay you 30% of the net proceeds. On top of that, we will send you a receipt for contributing the other 70% to our work for the Lord. **Please send either 1) Single items that are worth at least \$500 or 2) Collections of five or more items that are each worth \$100 or more.** We plan to auction the items without reserve, which means we sometimes receive only salvage prices. Please direct your questions to Scott at (214) 696-8844 or email to: sphillips@levitt.com.



ebay



Audio Editing Volunteer

We are seeking an experienced audio editor with access to the equipment necessary to transfer our *Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies* cassettes from audiocassettes to CDs. Fortunately, we already have planned a terrific approach for this update, which will involve the removal of imperfections from the original recordings, plus the addition of some pleasant music here and there. If you know of someone capable and dedicated, who will take the baton on this involved labor of love, please have him contact our office at staff@levitt.com or (214) 696-8844.

The Gangs Win

By Zola Levitt

The Islamic terrorist group Hamas has won municipal elections in the biggest cities in Judea and Samaria. Hamas took 73 percent of the vote in Nablus (Biblical Shechem), underscoring the major challenge the group poses to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas ahead of parliamentary elections. Hamas welfare programs and its suicide bombing campaign against Israel have won it popularity at the expense of Abbas' Palestinian Authority, which is widely seen as corrupt. Hamas seeks the destruction of Israel, and a strong showing in elections could doom the peace process. (www.israeltoday.co.il)

For the terrorist group Hamas to take 73 percent of the vote in a city like Nablus (where God originally promised the land to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob) is the same as the Los Angeles gangs taking a majority of votes in a municipal election there. Let's understand: these terrorists are the sort who shoot people in the back, kill pregnant women and their children, and send rockets blindly onto Israeli settlements which have no armaments, etc. They are not like the insurgents in Iraq who occasionally attack troops, but rather are sneak attackers on unarmed civilians. There's no glory whatever to what they do, and I am confounded by their eagerness to "take the credit" for stupid and meaningless murder of innocent civilians.

With that said, we are going to have upcoming TV programs where you can look terrorists like this in the face. We went to an Israeli prison and were able to interview three of them, and I can tell you that they will scare you right from your TV screen. The Hamas people are murderers, and it's as simple as that. They don't really want to have a nation, and the idea of a "peace process" is a joke where they or any other Palestinians are concerned.

When I think of Israel, with its progressive ways, its magnificent gifts to the world of new medical procedures and advanced prescription drugs, internationally used computer software, the very latest in electronics, and even a satellite in the

sky, being bedeviled by this unworthy gang of sneak thieves and killers, I simply think we are coming to the upside-down world of the Tribulation.

Anyone voting for a Hamas member for anything, whether he is fooled by their "welfare programs" or not, is simply promoting more bloody murder and making the idea of a future Palestinian state utterly hopeless.

We should note that the Palestinians placed their elections on exactly the same day as the Iraqi elections in an attempt to confuse the world and make people think the Palestinians, like the Iraqis, are heading toward democracy. Of course, they're doing no such thing. They're heading back to the Dark Ages, like Egypt. While pretending to have a democratic election recently, Egypt cordoned off its polls with policemen so, they said, voters would feel safe. But an eyewitness reported that the policemen were actually there to keep people from voting in neighborhoods that did not favor the government!

If these signs of the End are not bringing on the Tribulation period, then I have to go back to my original Bible courses with Campus Crusade in 1971. The fact is, the End is drawing nigh, and it's time for absolutely everyone to make a decision on the most important question they'll ever face. ✱



Our missionary, Robert Cuccia, went almost directly from New Orleans to Israel, with our November tour. His report follows. — Zola

A Mission Report

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day — (John 6:44).

Why are some people drawn to God and others not? While looking squarely at the business end of both barrels of the Gospel, some people avoid the subject, growing hostile immediately, angry that you would point such a thing at them. Some evade, hoping you will miss or strike only a glancing blow and not damage their fragile world view, inwardly knowing that their self-constructed philosophy is a mere house of cards. Some are genuinely deceived, their minds being previously poisoned by doctrines of devils like *Bahai* and *Kabbalah*. Then there are those who are willing to accept the medicine, but only as another “good idea”, adding it to a larger concoction that they hope will immunize them from the Judgment. Finally, there are those who realize what they are looking at and know that they must make a decision.

On November 5, Byron Zahm and I took this “Big Gun” to the streets in Jerusalem, Tiberius, and Haifa, Israel. As we search for those who are “drawn,” we try to meet them casually and naturally, avoiding some of the stereotypical street preaching that causes some to think Evangelical Christians are *meshuggeneh* (Yiddish for crazy). If anything is to offend, it should be the Gospel itself and not the presentation style. Each situation is different. But typically, when we find someone whom the Spirit is preparing, we are sure to mention that we love Israel and her people. Also, we believe in Israel’s right to the Land and her destiny as foretold by the prophets. We convey that not only does God have a plan for the nation of Israel, but also for each individual who would believe in Him. A plan of salvation and of blessing. Then we pull the trigger and give it to them. And what a plan it is: God made flesh, the Redeemer Messiah, the wall of sin broken down, the Holy Spirit residing in man. I’ve said it often and I’ll say it again, God is a genius! Praise Him!

The reactions we get are varied, as you can imagine. One of my favorites happened recently in Haifa. We were explaining the Gospel to a Jewish man. He is in his 30s and is quite knowledgeable about the Scriptures. When we mentioned that Jesus was that sacrifice prophesied by Abraham (though Abraham probably didn’t know the full extent or ramifications of what he said in Gen. 22:8), and prophesied by Isaiah (Isa. 53), the man’s eyes grew wide, he leaned forward in his

chair and asked “Do you know what you are saying?” We replied “YES!” most emphatically. Over the course of our conversation, the lights really came on for him. Suffice it to say that we will stay in touch with our new friend. He did not give his life to the Lord just then, but he seems very close and has a genuine zeal for the Scriptures, which we know must have an effect (Isaiah 55:11).

A different man, named Arie, manages a music store in Haifa. He responded to the Gospel by asking many questions for more than two hours. We had witnessed to him a year ago and returned to water what was sown. I hold out much hope that he will be saved, as it is evident the Holy Spirit is dealing with him in a real and tangible way. Pray for these two young men!

So I ask again, why are some drawn to the Father and others seemingly not? Only God knows the whole truth on that subject. One thing is for certain though, pride and humility are somewhere in that formula. Friends, let us endeavor to model a humble spirit and attitude when we present the Gospel so that others will witness a proper response to God’s free gift of redemption.

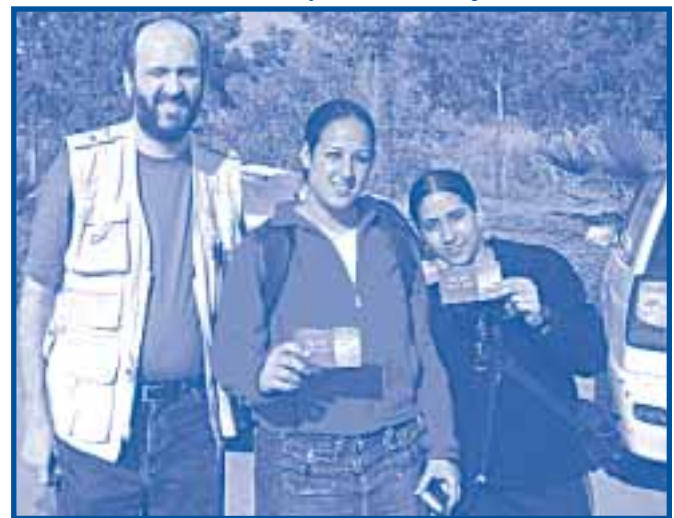
Remember, you also hold the “Big Gun.” Use it well.

Yours in Christ,
Robert Cuccia

P.S. Thanks to all of you who prayed and gave financially to make this witness to the Jews possible. May the Lord richly bless you.



Todd Baker, another ZLM missionary, shown witnessing in Israel.



Dear Friends:

This morning, I was watching one of the president's speeches on the situation in Iraq. While I don't comment much on U.S. politics, I feel competent to speak on matters concerning the Muslims and the Middle East in general.

We have taken tours through Muslim countries and Israel for over thirty years. In the course of that time, we have ordered merchandise from Palestinian manufacturers (good service, good prices), and we have interviewed any number of leading Islamic personalities including Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, certain Muslim journalists, and, more recently, incarcerated terrorists in an Israeli prison. I have a certain understanding of the Muslim mindset, and I feel that we are in a much more dire situation in world affairs than some realize, including some of our politicians.

The fact is, we almost have a one-party system at the moment, with the Democrats serving only as constant monotonous critics of the president and those in power. Now, it's one thing for a political party to promote its programs and, in a going democracy, to offer criticism of its opponents. But it's quite another thing when they lie through their teeth and undermine our army and our leadership in a time of military crisis.

In plain language, if we don't win this war, it will be all over for us, and it may be, anyway. There is a total lack of appreciation for the very real danger of an Islamic takeover of the entire Western world, win or lose.

The president should not have to make these speeches. They are almost too obvious. No one needs to be told

A Note From Zola



what our project is in Iraq, our future plans, etc., least of all the Democrats. And yet, they stand in a long line, not simply criticizing, but saying that we are actually losing the war, the president has no plan, the government is totally corrupt, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State are incompetent, etc. While I don't think that everyone in our government is the best of the best, this is surely no time to make such comments. Surely we must come together. It's a sink or swim situation.

I remember being kind of a "liberal" in my graduate school years during Viet Nam. I was a little bit old for combat, but I served as Entertainment Director of Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. I put on soldier shows weekly as well as highbrow concerts and plays. (Although I was not yet a Believer, God was evidently preparing me to appear before audiences, use a microphone, etc. I had no previous experience with those skills.) I also performed with the San Antonio Symphony and was able to get my fellow musicians to undertake recitals on the base. Believe it or not, they were very well attended.

Later on, as the same sort of controversy brewed about that war as we are having today, I opposed the idea of "cut and run." I wore a beard, which in those days seemed to mark one out as a radical (to me it meant less shaving), and I argued with students at Indiana University demanding an end to the war, telling them I preferred the slogan "Peace through victory in Viet Nam."

I believed that then, and I believe it now in our Iraq situation. It is not so much winning the wars, but the establishment of useful foreign bases after those wars. As I pointed out previously, we are still in Germany and South Korea as a result of having gone there to fight in the first place. And now, we can keep a watchful eye on goings on in Europe and the China-North Korea axis with real troops carrying real guns on the ground. When we left Viet Nam, however, we really did cut and run, and, of course, we had no chance to maintain an American base there. How strategic would it be today if we had soldiers there within monitoring and fighting distance of Islamic societies in Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. from an established base?



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My preference for the future in Iraq is that we continue doing what we have been doing simply because it is working. And later on, after the war, we should maintain a force in Iraq on the borders with Iran, and Syria and Saudi Arabia. What a strategic position from which to continue the war on terror, which I think will take the better part of a century to win!

With that said, I kept the same beard and it now serves ministry purposes. I really didn't grow it because I have aspirations as a rabbi. The fact is, it occasionally held me back. When I was asked to speak at Moody Bible Institute, having authored with Dr. Tom McCall our Moody best-seller *Satan in the Sanctuary*, those august theologians were horrified that I appeared in a beard. They told me that beards were simply not worn at their institute. I was looking over their shoulders at a photograph of the founder, Rev. Dwight Moody, whose beard nearly reached his belt buckle! In the end, they allowed me to speak, affecting an attitude of *the Lord will show mercy to whom He shows mercy* (Ex. 33:19).

My Moody best-seller led to an opportunity to write a book on Israel for Tyndale House. And so, I undertook my first tour in 1973. The first tour of the Holy Land is the most explosive and heart-bending experience any Believer can have! I highly recommend it. The next tour is calmer, and, in some ways, even better.

Our March group is filling up fast. Experience first-hand why our Lord would say, *Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these* (Matt. 6:28-29). You will no longer imagine what our Lord was speaking of as he addressed the multitude on the Mt. of Beatitudes. This is just one of many places that will transform your Bible into living color. The **Deluxe tour** (Israel only) is March 19-30, with our popular **Grand Israel/Petra tour** extending to April 2nd.

Educators, students, and those looking for a less expensive tour, should consider joining my wife, Sandra, on our **Summer tour**, which is scheduled for June 6-16. You will be rewarded with a "hands-on" experience, as you are led by real archaeologists to dig for treasures that are thousands of years old. This is just one of many adventures that you will experience in June.

For information on either of the above tours, you may contact Tony at 214-696-9760 during business hours, call 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377) anytime, or log on at **www.levitt.com** and click on Zola's Tours to fill in a request online.

As always, please pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

Your messenger,

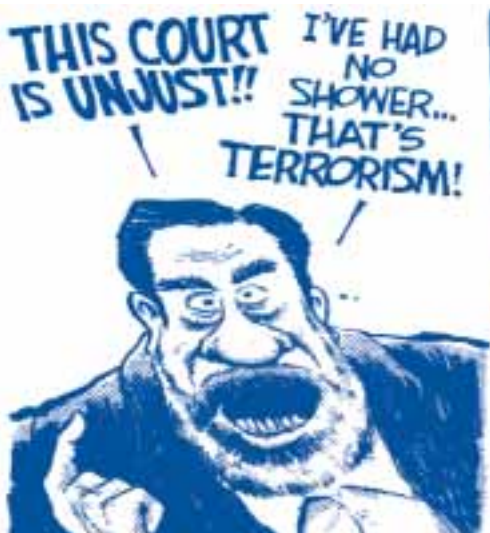
Chutzpah!

The Yiddish word *chutzpah* is so usable and accurate that it's very popular these days. Its proper definition is impertinence or audacity.

An example of its use has come out lately in the news. The Palestinians, who all but destroyed the Gaza greenhouses, are now asking the Israelis to come back and help rebuild them. They are also seeking instruction on how to plant the excellent, insect free fruits that the Israelis had previously exported to Europe. Palestinian farmers have failed to produce the same crops in what's left of the greenhouses.

I suppose they warned the incoming Israelis about the outgoing rockets.

That's *chutzpah!* — Zola



The following analysis by Dr. Thomas McCall, senior theologian of our ministry, was actually prepared for a talk I gave at the Pre-Tribulation Conference in December. Many theologians were in the audience, and Tom and I attempted to clarify the Israeli position on Gaza and how it may lead into the End Times. — Zola

FROM GAZA TO ETERNITY

By Thomas S. McCall, Th.D.



Israeli Views

The Sharon Position. The most dramatic recent event in the development of modern Israel was the Gaza withdrawal, in which thousands of Jewish settlers were forcibly evacuated from their homes in the Gaza area and resettled elsewhere in Israel. The images that were seen on our TVs over several days are burned on our minds — Jews being removed by Israeli soldiers from their homes and synagogues, with considerable resistance. The Gaza withdrawal was ordered by the Ariel Sharon government and backed by the Bush administration, as part of the Roadmap for Peace program to establish a Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state.

Israel is greatly divided over this issue, with those for and against the Gaza withdrawal split about 50/50. What was Sharon trying to do with such drastic measures? How could he justify the program? Much of the following information was obtained in an interview I had with well known Messianic Jewish author and lecturer, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, shortly before the withdrawal. Security and demographics are the primary reasons. The West Bank Arab population is increasing at six children per family, while the Israeli Jewish population is having two children per family. In a few years, the Arab population will outstrip the Jewish population in the area between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River.

The Sharon government has concluded that the best protection that the Jews can have includes the finishing of the construction of the fence or wall to keep the Arab terrorists out. This fence, that becomes a wall in the populated areas, is one of the few innovations that has actually worked in protecting Israel from the suicide/homicide bombers. By pulling the Jewish settlers out of Gaza, the Israeli government was able to get them out of harm's way and behind defensible barriers. To leave them there was to continue a serious drain on the Israeli military. The plan further intends to construct a road between the "West Bank" and Gaza with no exits, to allow the Arabs to pass between the two Palestinian segments without creating problems for the Israelis. The Israelis, on the other hand, will have an overpass that would allow them to go from Tel Aviv south to the Negev and Eilat without molestation.

The opposition position. That being the Sharon position, what is the position of the opposition that so vigorously disputed the Gaza withdrawal? They believe in the inexorable expansion of the Jewish presence in the Land, and have a Biblical basis for their position. God has given the Jewish people the Land, all of the Land, and they intend to claim it, settlement by settlement. To give up even an inch of the territory they have settled is craven appeasement to terrorism, and shows a lack of faith in God and the destiny of Israel.

The opposition is committed to an aggressive show of force against the terrorist leaders in order to provide security for the Israelis. They believe that the settlers themselves and the Israeli army can provide all the protection that is needed. Furthermore, the opposition is generally opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state, which would be a formal surrender of a considerable part of the Land to the Arabs. They feel that is unnecessary militarily, unwise politically and wrong theologically.

Evangelical Christian Responses

Support of Israeli opposition and belief that recent major disasters are the judgment of God upon America for forcing Gaza withdrawal. Among Evangelical Christians, there is considerable support for Israel, but on this issue there is about as much a split as there is among the Israelis themselves. There is a vocal group of Evangelicals who strongly support the opposition in Israel (who believe that it is appeasement for Israel to give up the Gaza settlements or any other settlements, and will only embolden the terrorists to do more damage). Furthermore, they believe that since the US encouraged Israel to conduct the evacuation of Jews from Gaza, the United States has suffered enormous judgments from

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God, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, during which there were eerily similar forced evacuations of thousands from their homes. Thus, they argue that all of these calamities have fallen on America because our government has acted against Israel in the Gaza withdrawal. It is a fulfillment of the curse upon those who curse Israel.

Recognition of ebb and flow of Jewish occupation of the Land until the Second Coming of Christ. There are other Evangelical Christians who are just as strongly in support of Israel, but see reasonableness in the Sharon plan to provide maximum security to the Jewish people under these difficult circumstances. The Israelis are living in close proximity to Arabs, many of whom want nothing more than to kill them and destroy Israel, and the Jews have been fighting them for more than 100 years. The Biblical solution would appear to be the resettlement of the Palestinian Arabs in their promised land, Saudi Arabia, which is wealthy with oil. It would take a miracle from the Lord to accomplish this, but He has not brought about that miracle yet. Rather, it seems that the barrier is working where little else has worked all during the long bitter confrontation. Maybe it will continue to work or maybe not, but at least for the present, the terrorist attacks have subsided, in large part because of the fence.

This fence is somewhat reminiscent of the broken walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's time. Some 90 years after the Jewish people had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon to rebuild the Temple, the city remained defenseless, with the numerous breaches in the walls. There were enemies all around Jerusalem who wanted to attack the city. Nehemiah was determined to repair the walls, though with great difficulty, so that the Jewish people would be protected and defended from their vicious neighbors.

Also, many Evangelicals realize that the Jewish presence in Israel will have an ebb and flow from now through the Tribulation until Christ returns to redeem His people — Israel. In fact, the largest evacuation of the time will be one that the Lord Himself commanded in Matthew 24

and is indicated in Revelation 12. He declares that when the Abomination of Desolation is committed by the Antichrist, Jews in Judea should immediately run from their houses into the wilderness to “the place provided for” them, possibly the natural fortress city Petra, in ancient Edom. There, the Lord will provide protection for His people (Israel) during the Great Tribulation. Thus, we cannot Scripturally contend that Jewish presence in the Land will continue to expand unabated until the Lord returns, as much as we would desire that to be the case.

Job's friends argued that the calamities he suffered came because of his sins, while the Scriptures say that God was testing Job to demonstrate his servant's faithfulness. All Job was told, however, was that he was in no position to question the actions of the Creator of the universe. Ultimately, Job was vindicated and was blessed greatly by the Lord.

Also, the Lord told His Disciples not to think that the falling of the tower of Siloam and subsequent death of several people was an act of special divine judgment. Thus, not all calamities are the result of divine discipline. It is not clear that the disasters that have struck America were the result of the actions taken by our country in the Gaza withdrawal, but we must always be cautious about any policy actions we take that have a negative effect on Israel. Thus, the Gaza withdrawal is a great dilemma is for both the Jewish people and Evangelical Christians. However, the Gaza withdrawal is symptomatic of the perplexing developments that are listed to come about as we move toward Christ's Second Coming. ✦



Book of the Year, 2005

The Week Magazine

The people have spoken, said Amsterdam's *Algemeen Dagblad* in an editorial. The public voted the new Dutch translation of the Bible as this year's Book of the Year. The Bible was neither nominated nor, technically, eligible for the annual national prize, since it isn't actually a Dutch book. But because a massive write-in campaign gave it 78 percent of the 92,000 votes cast, the award committee made an exception.

The new translation is completely modern and colloquial, "a radical break" with the Dutch Authorized Version. Archaic language, such as "Thou shalt not steal" was junked for the more straightforward "Don't steal." The infant Jesus was laid in a "crate," not a "manger."

In the eyes of its many fans, the simple clarity of this "everyman's Dutch" makes the Bible more accessible — which means that young people brought up on text-messaging might actually read it.

Traditionalists, of course, prefer the old fashioned version, with its "thou shalt" and "begots." The Catholic Church in the Netherlands has already decreed the new Bible to be "unsuitable for use in the liturgy."

Withdraw from California!

www.worldnetdaily.com

Recently released crime statistics show the homicide rate in California is 265 percent higher than the death rate suffered by U.S. and British military personnel in Iraq.

According to the report "Crime in California 2004," compiled by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, there were 2,394 reported homicides in the Golden State in 2004. That compares with 905 deaths of coalition forces in Iraq, chiefly Americans and Brits, during the same time period.

A monthly average of 75 deaths of American and British forces has remained fairly constant over the last two years. The peak for homicides in California was in 1993, when there were 4,095 reported.

Such comparisons have been made by defenders of the action in Iraq, who say the number of casualties for a war of this length are extraordinarily low.



Those WMDs

Gary Bauer's

End of Day Report

President Bush's recent speech on Iraq was one of his best yet. Predictably, the only thing most "big media" focused on was the president's "confession" that our intelligence about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was wrong. But the president may have spoken too soon!

Israel's top general during the buildup to the war, Moshe Yaalon, said in an interview in *The New York Sun* that Saddam Hussein moved chemical weapons out of Iraq to Syria on the eve of the war. And, in fact, Israeli Prime Minister Sharon made the same point at the time. He said, on December 23, 2002, "Chemical and biological weapons, which Saddam is endeavoring to conceal, have been moved from Iraq to Syria." There are also reports that large convoys were seen by satellite leaving Iraq for Syria as U.S. forces made preparations for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I have never understood why the administration appeared to give up on this debate. Even if the WMDs weren't moved, Iraq is a large country, and there are countless places where the weapons could still be hidden.

Elie Wiesel's statement below was prompted by the U.N.'s recent resolution for an annual commemoration of the Holocaust — the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War. January 27 has been established as Holocaust Remembrance Day. On that date in 1945, Russian forces liberated the Auschwitz death camp. — Zola

If, If, If....

Statement by Elie Wiesel, *Israel Today*

The world that was silent back then has decided to remember. The allies fought hard against Hitler. We don't want to forget that.

However, we must also remember that world leaders showed passivity and even apathy toward the Nazis and their behavior toward the Jewish people. In Washington, London, Bern, and the Vatican, people knew what was going on in Treblinka — but little was done to save the Jews.

If Roosevelt and Churchill had only clearly condemned the "final solution." If Britain hadn't closed its doors to Jewish refugees. If the US had allowed more Jewish children to enter. If the British and the Americans had bombed the railroad tracks leading to Birkenau. If, if, if...

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Briefs

They didn't do many things they could and should have done. Germany understood

the situation; the hypocritical democratic world did not care about the fate of the Jewish people.

That is why — even 60 years later — it is extremely important for the world and for the conscience to wake up. Does that mean the world has learned something? I am not sure. Still, the world has decided to remember. Why?

Maybe by realizing that what the Germans did to the Jewish people was only the beginning. It has been this way throughout history. It started with the Jew, but it never ended there. Maybe this is the true reason for the UN resolution.

What's in a Name?

By Zola Levitt

I personally consider Fox News the only network on television that covers the news even halfway fairly, but their views on Israel vary. While they reported on Christmas Eve that Bethlehem was crowded with “thousands of worshippers,” news from Israel said the place was nearly deserted. They hype the usual services in Bethlehem, even though news reports from Israel show that fewer and fewer people come to that virtual slum since it was given to Arafat in 1995. Most of the Christians of the local population have been run off by the Muslims.

The coverage of the town, however, places it in a non-existent country. “Bethlehem, West Bank” was displayed on the screen. Bethlehem is, of course, a city in Israel, where the Messiah was born. It existed 1000 years before King David. Throughout most of its history, it's been under Jewish control. Bethlehem is virtually a suburb of Jerusalem.

I not only dislike incompetent reporters putting names on places that have political implications, but I think that something should really be done about it. Israel is a member nation of the United Nations and “West Bank” is simply a designation put on the two large sectors of central Israel (called Judea and Samaria for thousands of years) by King Hussein of Jordan in an

attempt to make that 50% of Israel's arable land seem like just a river bank so that any conflict over it looked superfluous.

I really can't wait until Israel is *the head of the nations* and everyone on earth will know it well, and report to it, at least annually (Zechariah 14:16-18).

“If You Give Money, You'll Be Rewarded”

Israel Today

A recent program on Saudi *Iqra* television was devoted to supporting jihad (holy war) in “Palestine.” Viewers were encouraged to donate money to an Islamic “charity,” the Saudi Committee for Support of the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Intifada [uprising]. The moderator said that “Jihad is the pinnacle of Islam” and explained that the funds would go directly to those waging jihad to “help them carry out this mission.”

“If you give money, you'll be rewarded,” he said. “But if you are stingy for the sake of Allah, you should expect punishment from Allah, because jihad is the protection of land and honor.”

Saudi Arabia remains a key sponsor of Palestinian terrorism, yet it is a close ally of the United States. This seems incongruous with America's war on terror.

Did You Know?

Israel Today

Most of Windows NT and XP systems were developed by Microsoft Israel.

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The Cost of a Wife

Israel Today

Paying large sums of money for a Jewish bride may give a groom higher status in society, but it can lead him to financial disaster should the marriage end in divorce.

The compensation a groom chooses to pay his bride is written in the *ketubah*, the Jewish marriage contract, and is read aloud on the day of the wedding.

All guests listen attentively as the price for the bride is read under the *huppah* (canopy). Those who pay higher prices receive louder applause. If the couple eventually divorce, the groom is required to pay that amount to his wife.

That is why some religious authorities, like Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski, who serves as a judge on Israel's rabbinical court, have declared that the minimum amount written in the *ketubah* shall be at least 36,000 shekels (roughly \$8,000), and the maximum shall not exceed 120,000 shekels (\$26,200). This prevents financial disaster for the groom in the event of divorce.

Rabbi Dichovski came up with these prices based on the traditions of the *Talmud* (rabbinical commentaries), equivalent to the cost of 100 lambs. The total amount for a wife, which must be written in the *ketubah*, should be enough to support her for a year.

the British Minister for Middle Eastern Affairs, Kim Howells, has confirmed it.

"The Palestinians are receiving more aid per capita than any other people on the face of the earth, and we want to see some proper response," Howells said during a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories. He noted that the Palestinian economy should be prospering, but it will continue to decline as long as they fail to stop terrorism.

"I think there is no excuse now," Howells added. "Gaza is now in the hands of the Palestinian Authority [PA], and there are no Israeli troops there. One hopes that, where tough decisions have to be made, Abbas and the PA will make them.

Since 1987, the Palestinians have received more than \$32 billion in financial aid from the international community. With this kind of money, roads, schools, hospitals, and sewers should have been built, and the Palestinian economy should be booming. However, because the money was mismanaged, rank-and-file Palestinians have not benefited at all.

Howells said donor nations should withhold their money until the Palestinians stop terrorism, because otherwise, they will be "an endless drain on international resources."

Subscribe to the Messianic magazine *Israel Today* at www.israeltoday.co.il

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Is it True?

Israel Today

Media reports claim that Palestinians live in poverty because no one helps them.

The truth is that the international community is helping the Palestinians to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars per year. It is just that the people do not benefit because this money is siphoned into the pockets of corrupt officials or used to fund terrorism.

Israel has continuously attempted to make this clear to the world. Now,



Prince of Tithe\$

www.opinionjournal.com

Some of our major universities are assisting in the takeover. — Zola

In an era when Saudi nationals are best known for flying planes into buildings or funding radical Islamic groups that espouse terror and spread hatred, it is almost a relief to see a Saudi royal donate money to two U.S. universities for a benign-sounding cause.

In December, Harvard and Georgetown announced separate gifts of \$20 million each from Prince Alwaleed bin Talal to fund Islamic studies.

“Bridging the understanding between East and West is important for peace and tolerance,” Harvard quoted the prince as saying. With a gift to the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown, he said, “We are determined to build a bridge between Islam and Christianity.”

Noble sentiments, to be sure. Yet it’s unlikely that even this Saudi, let alone many Mideast-studies departments at U.S. universities, define bridge-building the way that most Americans do.

Let’s start with the prince. *Fortune* magazine ranks him as the world’s fifth-richest man, and he routinely gets credit for actually earning his fortune, e.g., through shrewd investments in companies such as Citigroup. Prince Alwaleed is also the same person who wrote a \$10 million check for New York after 9/11 and then issued a statement saying: “At times like this one, we must address some of the issues that led to such a criminal attack. . . [The U.S.] should re-examine its policies in the Middle East and adopt a more balanced stance toward the Palestinian cause.” Mayor Rudy Giuliani famously sent the check back.

“There is no moral equivalent for this attack,” he noted. “Not only are [Prince Alwaleed’s] statements wrong, they’re part of the problem.”

Perhaps the mayor’s remarks reflect the sort of pesky image issue that the prince had in mind when he

addressed a December 5 media conference held by the Arab League in Dubai.

“We in the Arab world are not doing the job of explaining ourselves properly,” he said, while announcing his gifts to Georgetown and Harvard.

With its \$25 billion endowment and some 30 Islamic-studies scholars on board at any time, Harvard hardly needs more money to help with explaining. Even so, the folks in Cambridge and Washington are not likely to embarrass their benefactor politically.

Although Columbia’s radicalized Middle Eastern programs and scholars have attracted the most controversy for pro-Arabism, the field of Islamic studies at most major universities generally belongs to those who share the prince’s passionate feelings about the Palestinian cause.

However, if the prince expects his gifts to truly improve the quality of serious study and dialogue, he may not get his money’s worth. Former Brandeis professor Gary A. Tobin, now president of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, is co-author of a new book on the proliferation of anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism in academe — *The Uncivil University* (published by the Institute).

“If there was ever a time that we needed to understand the world of Islam and the Arab world . . . it is now,” he told us. “But how can you add to our understanding if you won’t explore the true nature of the Arab world and Islam as they exist today. What you have is shoddy scholarship and propaganda instead.”

The prince may have his own, private reasons for transferring some of his wealth to universities in the world’s richest country. When it comes to promoting peace and tolerance, though, the money might have been far better spent in his homeland. Saudi schools systematically seek to inculcate students with a loathing of Christians, Jews and virtually anything identified as “Western.” How about endowing a bridge called the “Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding” in Riyadh?



Israelis to Build Amusement Park in US

www.israeltoday.co.il

Two Israeli firms have signed a deal to build a giant amusement park in South Carolina. Polar International and Africa Israel announced the \$360 million deal. The park, which will have a musical theme and will be called Hard Rock, will cover 150 acres. Although amusement parks are not part of the companies' portfolios, Africa Israel CEO Pini Cohen and Polar CEO Avigdor Kelner decided not to miss this opportunity. Cohen said the decision to go forward with this American business venture was based on the potential of the Myrtle Beach area. "The region, which hosts about 14 million tourists every year, is desperate for attractions of this kind, and a group of investors has already been working on the park for five years now," Cohen said. ❀

"A Fully Complete Garment"

by Zola Levitt

From time to time, I look at the "Weekly Portion" in *The Jerusalem Post*, which purports to be a Bible study. Rather like Catholics, the Jewish people imagine that they have an earnest and accurate understanding of Scripture, but these very pompous examinations of the weekly portion, read in the synagogue, typically shed little light on real Scriptural meanings. They tend to quote past rabbis and sages and, of course, they utterly fail to deal accurately with prophecy or the Messiah.

With that said, I was very interested in a passage about resurrection, which roughly parallels the New Testament picture of the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven. The "Weekly Portion" quotes teacher Shlomo Riskin as follows: "After a human being's sojourn on earth, his soul ascends to Heaven along with each of the days he has spent in this world; those days comprise the garment in which his soul is clad. The days on which he sinned cannot serve as a covering; woe unto that individual's soul whose garment has gaping holes or — even worse — who has no garment whatsoever. In Abraham's case, the Bible testifies that *He came into his days* (in the other world) (Genesis 24:1) since God blessed him with righteousness every day — a fully complete garment awaiting him in the world to come."

That is a great deal of insight for a teacher who has not read the New Testament. He is essentially correct until he states that our sins are in question in the resurrection. For those who believe in Messiah, at least, it is our works that are examined when we go to Heaven (see 1 Cor. 3:11-15). For unbelievers, their faith will be in question. All men of both kinds have plenty of sins. The idea of a "garment" is intriguing. When Adam and Eve sinned, God covered them with garments; and Scripture tells us we will go before God "in the robes of righteousness of Christ." That is "a fully complete garment" awaiting every Believer in the next life.

One could say that if only the Jews would read the New Testament, which they authored in full, they would make wonderful Believers, and when that happens, it is true. ❀

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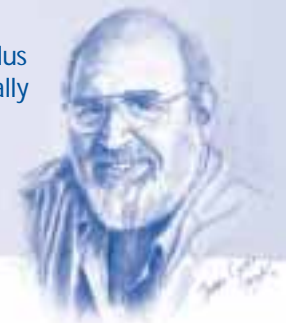
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Zola's Monthly Gift Program

No American Muslim Terrorists?

By Daniel Pipes, www.frontpagemag.com

"It's startling," proclaims Spencer Ackerman in a recent *New Republic* cover story, "how few American Muslim extremists there actually are." The article, "Religious Protection: Why American Muslims Haven't Turned to Terrorism," contrasts American Muslims with their European counterparts, whom he finds have turned to terrorism.

American Muslims are not terrorists? What is Ackerman thinking?

In a recent article and blog, I reported on fifteen American Muslim converts who have either engaged in terrorism or been convicted of trying to do so. In a follow-up piece, I listed another fifteen American converts to Islam suspected, arrested, or indicted of terrorism. That's thirty converts. I have not counted the immigrant Muslims and their offspring implicated in terrorism, but here is some information that hints to their numbers:

With the exception of the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995, notes al-Qaeda authority Rohan Gunaratna, all major terrorist attacks of the past decade in the West have been carried out by immigrants. A closer look finds that these were not just any immigrants, but invariably from a specific background: Of the 212 suspected and convicted terrorist perpetrators during 1993-2003, 86 percent were Muslim immigrants and the remainder mainly converts to Islam. "In Western countries, jihad has grown mainly via Muslim immigration," concludes Robert S. Leiken, a specialist on immigration and national security issues, in an important new monograph, *Bearers of Global Jihad: Immigration and National Security After 9/11*.

Or, to quote a conclusion Khalid Durán and I reached in 2002: "In its long history of immigration, the United States has never encountered so violence-prone and radicalized a community as the Muslims who have arrived since 1965."

Applying that 86 percent figure just to

the United States implies some 175 immigrant Muslims associated with terrorism. Let's round it off to 200 cases in all of American Muslims who have "turned to terrorism," which strikes me as a reasonable figure.

Ackerman waves these hundreds away as irrelevant: "It's true that extremist messages exist in American

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Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

PAX Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon

TBN Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	5:00 am Mon	6:00 am Mon	7:00 am Mon	8:00 am Mon

Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:00 pm Fri	4:00 pm Fri	5:00 pm Fri	6:00 pm Fri



Does your cable company carry INSP, the New Inspirational Network?

See Zola on Wed. mornings, 6:30 am Eastern, 5:30 am Central, 4:30 am Mountain, 3:30 am Pacific Time.

See Zola on Wed. evenings, 8:30 pm Eastern, 7:30 pm Central, 6:30 pm Mountain, 5:30 pm Pacific.

Dish/DirectTV Airing Day & Time by Zone

Dish—Channel 181 DirectTV—Channel 255 (PAX Network)

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

DirectTV—Channel 371 (The Church Channel)

Zone	All Pacific Times			
Day	9:30 pm Mon	7:30 am Wed	2:00 pm Thurs	10:30 pm Sat

The viewpoint of “Our Man in Jerusalem” is obviously very informative at a time like this. With Iran (Persia to Ezekiel), we may be watching the commencement of the Gog and Magog invasion. — Zola

The Beginning of the End

by Will King, www.newsinIsrael.com



I have lived in Israel for the last two and a half years, and I feel that I can speak for how the Israelis are feeling about Iraq and Iran. I was a Captain in the Army, with my eyes set on a military career. However, God had other plans for me. I felt that Israel was where He wanted me, and I came. Because of my background, I feel that I can address some of the Middle East issues from a military perspective.

Since Iran’s new president was sworn into office in the summer of 2005, a string of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel official statements have been emanating from the Islamic republic, each more drastic and more alarming than the last. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made calls for Israel to be “wiped off the map,” for Jews to be moved to Europe or Alaska, has praised “martyrdom” (suicide attacks) as the only solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and described the Holocaust as “a myth.”

Most Israelis understand that it’s all part of some Iranian power play within the Islamic world. Arab and Muslim leaders have been calling for Israel’s destruction since its creation in 1948, supported the Axis powers during World War II and the Holocaust, and were killing Jews in the Land even before that. However, Iran’s timing in calling for the destruction of Israel coincides with their renewed push to advance their nuclear program, and that has many Israelis worried.

The Arab nations have tried several times to destroy tiny Israel through force of arms, only to see their efforts foiled by the superior military might of the IDF. However, nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, also known as weapons of mass destruction (WMD), change the conventional battlefield and can provide a weaker power with a great advantage. I know from experience in military intelligence that WMD are of concern to commanders and soldiers at all levels, and that great effort is

expended to determine their type, capability, location, and probability of usage against friendly forces.

Currently Israelis aren’t worried about the ravings of the crazed Iranian president. His remarks have been offensive and have taken many here by surprise, but they’re nothing to lose sleep over. However, a nuclear armed Arab or Muslim country is another story altogether. This is something that definitely strikes fear in Israelis, and is something that the Israeli government will go to great lengths to prevent. If diplomacy fails and Iran continues to develop nuclear and missile technology, Israel may then be forced to act militarily, much as they did in Iraq in 1981.

The greatest threat to Israel continues to be from Palestinian terrorism, in particular Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Israel also needs to be concerned about additional terror groups, weapons, and know-how entering into Gaza and within striking range, as well as the possible

REAL THREAT = Hamas & Islamic Jihad



transfer of terrorism to Judea and Samaria through a Gaza-West Bank transportation link. As long as Israel exists, internal terrorism will always be the top threat (until the invasions of the End Times).

Israel needs to keep its military sights focused on the immediate threat of continued Palestinian terrorism, but also not lose focus of the emerging nuclear threat in Iran. For now, this is a fight for the diplomats, and the recent statements from Iran will ensure that more world diplomats are supporting Israel in this cause. However, the time may come when Israel once again finds itself alone in its greatest hour, and will need every bit of God’s help in its battle to simply survive.



Do As I Say...

By Zola Levitt

The right, front page story in the December 9-11 Weekend Edition of *USA Today* was a pristine example of the American media's attempt to undermine their own military and their own nation. The headline was "Probe Into Iraq Coverage Widens" and the subhead was "Army Paid Members of 'Press Club' Created by U.S. to Cover Stories."

In this case, the media have to pretend that they don't know how the media work. When I was in graduate school, I had a job as Cultural Editor of the Indiana University News Bureau. The jobs of the various editors were to write up stories about segments of that huge campus. I covered music, theater and art events, and other editors covered the business department, the sciences, etc. While we did not actually pay cash to newspapers to run our stories, we provided the stories free to them, saving them enormous expenses in trying to cover that major state university.

In one form or another, many of the stories you see in your daily newspaper are paid for. *USA Today* is a particular offender, pretending that the stories in its "Life" section represent some sort of news, when they have actually been provided by press agents such as my university news bureau, the U.S. Information Agency, or, as in the case of Iraq, the U.S. Army. This is simply how the press works.

Likewise, on the electronic media, talk show guests ordinarily swap their celebrity for the publicity that they get. I was on a radio program this week, and the host kindly plugged my new book *Dateline Jerusalem*; I took no fee, of course, glad to have the publicity.

And, of course, I don't have to mention the enormous amount of paid advertising, including concealed advertising, by which the media operate. "Product placements" in Hollywood movies, and recommendations of products by columnists and editorialists, are a staple of what used to be called the news, and no one should be fooled by this, least of all *USA Today*.

For a medium like *USA Today* to wring its hands in earnest anguish when someone else does what they do for their daily bread, is the height of hypocrisy. As far as I can see, they are

part of the large liberal-thinking faction in the U.S. who would prefer to lose this war, bring down this president, and inevitably go back a thousand years as a Muslim society.

The denigration of one's own national army (in a democracy) during wartime must be among the most heinous worldly sins. ❖

A Tale of Mercy

Israel Today

Israeli troops on a recent raid in the town of Jenin in Samaria, shot a 12-year-old Palestinian boy who was carrying a toy M-16 assault rifle. The army said soldiers were caught in an exchange of fire, and they mistook the boy, Ahmed Ismail Khatib, for a terrorist. Israel apologized for what it described as a "tragic mistake."

Then, in an incredible gesture of reconciliation, the child's family decided to donate his organs to *Israeli* children!

"Despite the pain, they made a very courageous decision," said the boy's uncle, Jamal Khatib. "This is part of our culture. As Muslims, we can tell the world that we are not terrorists."

The boy's father, Ismail Khatib, said the decision to donate his son's organs was rooted in the memory of his brother, who died at the age of 24 while waiting for a liver transplant.

"The most important thing is to see the person who received the organs alive," he said. "Israeli children are our children. We are doing this because we believe in peace."



Israel Today

Muslim communities, and there have been a few instances of American Muslims becoming terrorists. Those extremely rare cases, however, are far better explained by individual pathology than by rising Islamic militancy due to group disaffection." Yes, 200 persons out of a population of some 3 million American Muslims is "extremely rare," but the same low ratio applies in Europe, where terrorists are also "extremely rare."

In short, Ackerman's premise is flawed from the start; and so, unsurprisingly, is the analysis that follows, namely his claim that better social and economic opportunities open to American Muslims as well as "America's ability to accommodate Islam itself" account for the supposedly benign situation in the United States. Rather, the differences between U.S. and European Muslims have less to do with their respective social virtues than with their Muslim populations. America's Muslims tend to be engineers and doctors; Europe's tend to be factory hands and street sweepers.

Ackerman thinks American Muslims have launched few terrorist attacks; in fact, they have engaged in or attempted many since 1980. They are so little known because prosecutors avoid applying the terrorist label and the media ignore them, but they are there. Some twelve attacks involving fatalities occurred on American soil pre-9/11, in addition to many others that did not involve deaths or were thwarted. Since 9/11, there have been a number of attacks involving American Muslim terrorists, including:

- July 2002 – Hesham Mohamed Ali Hadayet's double murder at El Al's counter at the Los Angeles airport.
- October 2002 – The Beltway Snipers' multiple murders in the Washington, D.C., area.
- March 2003 – Hasan Akbar's fragging of his two officers (at an overseas U.S. military base).
- August 2003 – Mohammed Ali Alayed's murder of Ariel Sellouk in Houston.
- January 2005 – The Armanious family massacre.
- May-July 2005 – The Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh robbery spree to fund future terrorist activities.

Finally, worrisome signs exist of a growing radicalization among American-born children of immigrants. Space constraints keep from listing the many instances here, but two recent cases come to mind: Ahmed Omar Abu Ali (convicted in November of belonging to al-Qaeda and plotting to kill George W. Bush; he could be sentenced to life in prison) and Ali Tamimi (jailed for life in July for recruiting volunteers to go to terrorist train-

ing camps abroad). Parents worry about this trend; Achmed Habib, who identifies himself as an American Muslim father, wrote to an Islamist forum asking for help dissuading his son from seeking martyrdom as his two brothers did before him.

A tad less self-congratulation and a lot more research and worrying is in order, Mr. Ackerman.

Gaza "Training Camps"

By Aaron Klein, www.worldnetdaily.com

The Palestinian Authority (PA) admitted in an official published document that parts of Gush Katif, the former Jewish communities of Gaza, are now "training camps" for terror groups.

In an exclusive story, World Net Daily (WND) reported Hamas has turned Neve Dekalim, the former capital of Gush Katif, into a "martyrs training camp," and has used the territory to fire rockets into Israel.

In November, Palestinian Interior Minister Nasser Yousef toured Gaza's former Jewish communities and detailed a PA plan to bring security to the area. Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in August, the land that comprised Gush Katif has been the scene of regular internal Palestinian clashes.

An official dossier of Yousef's schedule, released by the Interior Ministry, states, "The Minister Nasser Yousef toured the newly liberated areas of Gaza, parts of which are used by the Palestinian groups as training camps."

As WND reported, in what some expelled Jewish residents of the area called the "ultimate insult," Hamas leaders said they turned Neve Dekalim into a "martyr training camp" and have used the territory to launch rockets into Israel.

Earlier, officials placed barbed wire around Neve Dekalim, as well as signs posted in Arabic, which describe the neighborhood as a "closed military zone."

Senior Hamas sources told WND that the group transformed Dekalim into a "military training camp for martyrs," boasting that several Kassam rockets have been fired from the former Jewish capital into nearby Israeli Negev towns.

Hamas has taken credit for Israel's Gaza withdrawal and has become a formidable force in the area. It swept local municipal elections, and analysts expect the terror group to do well in upcoming Palestinian parliamentary elections.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Mahmoud al-Zahar, Hamas chief in Gaza, told WND in an exclusive interview in November "that our martyr operations caused Israel to withdraw from Gaza is the truth and the reality. [Martyr operations] are the option that the great majority of our people, except a minority of opportunistic people, is deeply convinced is the best choice because any negotiation with the occupiers will be helpless and will not bring back to the Palestinians any of their rights and it will not free their lands."

Al-Zahar warned that Hamas would launch terror attacks to drive Israel from the West Bank and ultimately from the entire Jewish state. Since the Gaza withdrawal, more than 100 rockets have been fired from Gaza into Israeli Negev towns. Israel says Palestinian groups are transferring rocket technology and heavy weaponry to Judea and Samaria.

WND's story of a Hamas terror camp in their former city saddened Jewish residents who had been expelled from the area. Dror Venunu, former director of the Gush Katif Development Fund and a Dekalim resident, told

WND, "This is the ultimate insult. I didn't have one illusion the Palestinians would use our town to build something good. We warned about this to the Israeli population, that giving Gush Katif will reward all the terror organizations. Still, to hear where my home once stood is now a Hamas terror camp is very difficult and sickening. This is like making a holy place into total filth."

Rachel Sapperstein, a former Dekalim community leader, told WND, "I had not expected anything less from the Palestinians. I would have assumed they would take our beautiful homes, synagogues, and schools and turn them into centers for terror."

Sapperstein said prior to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, she was in the planning stages for a new girls' dormitory to be constructed in Neve Dekalim in the memory of the first Gush Katif resident killed in a terror attack. "I thank God I didn't build that dormitory," Sapperstein said, "because my heart would shatter if I knew that from it would come a Hamas training camp."



HebrewLesson

The True Light of God

By John J. Parsons



Hebraic Insight:

Ki Atah Neri –
For You are my Lamp

כִּי אַתָּה נֵרִי יְהוָה וַיְהוֶה וַיְהוֶה נֵרִי חֹשֶׁךְ

For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

(2 Sam 22:29)

כִּי	חֹשֶׁךְ	וַיְהוֶה	וַיְהוֶה	נֵרִי	אַתָּה	כִּי
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)
choshki	yagi'ah	vadonai	Adonai	neri	atah	ki
my darkness	will lighten	and the LORD	LORD	my lamp	Thou (are)	For

In the holy place of the tabernacle (*mishkan*), a seven-branched lamp stand (*menorah*) held seven individual lamps (*nerot*) that represented God's perfect light. The seven lamps of the menorah contained pure olive oil inside almond-shaped containers, suggesting the seven eyes of the LORD mentioned in Zechariah 4:2. Together, the menorah and its seven lamps were referred to as the Perpetual Lamp (*ner tamid*), a source of light that illuminated the Bread of Presence (*lechem panim*) and the Altar of Incense (*mizbeach haketoret*) within the holy place. The lamp was to be attended to every morning and evening during the time of the burning of the sweet incense (symbolizing prayer), and was never to be extinguished (Lev. 24:2).

In this verse, King David metaphorically calls the LORD his Perpetual Lamp — that is, the Source of holy light that enables him to see. Just as the radiance of the menorah caused the darkness of the holy place to be dispelled, and illuminated both the Bread of Presence and the rising plume of sweet incense, so the presence of

the LORD in the heart of faith causes the inner darkness of the soul to be overcome, revealing the provision and presence of God (John 1:5, 9). Indeed, David would have understood this metaphor to refer to his future descendant, (the promised "Son of David") who would be the True Light of the world (Psalm 132:17, John 1:9, 8¹², 12:46).

Living in view of God's Light itself gives us light to see (John 3:20-21). Jesus is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His Person, who upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3). Beholding the radiance of the Lord Jesus drives away our inner darkness, feeds our soul, and enables us to have authentic communion with a holy God.

Voting With Their Guns

www.theweekmagazine.com

Masked Palestinian militants, affiliated with the ruling party, broke into four different election offices in the West Bank and Gaza, firing into the air. The militants were from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which is affiliated with the Fatah party of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. Dozens of them occupied the main election office in Gaza City, saying they were unhappy with the candidates on the Fatah slate. At other offices, gunmen stole computers and a television. No one was injured. "This is a peaceful step to protest the policy of appointments within Fatah," said Abu Eyad, a spokesman for the gunmen. Fatah's primaries had previously been canceled because of militant attacks, so Abbas is picking the Fatah candidates. The election is scheduled for January.



Trumping Terrorism

Israel Today

Real estate tycoon and billionaire Donald Trump is planning to build a 2,500-room beachfront hotel complex in Netanya, a coastal town north of Tel Aviv. Netanya has been among the Israeli cities hardest hit by terrorism, severely damaging its tourism industry. Trump associate Michael Dezer said plans for the \$500 million hotel complex were still on track even after a suicide bomber killed himself and six others at the city's main mall recently. "The bombings are a part of life in Israel. We are used to it, and it doesn't change a thing," said Israeli-born Dezer.

Mayor Miriam Fireberg-Ikar said the plans included a number of hotels on 38 acres of empty seaside real estate. "We are praying that Trump will have the honor of saving Netanya," she said.

Tamar's Baby

Israel Today

A baby elephant was born at the Jerusalem Tisch Family Zoological Gardens, making Israeli history, after being conceived through artificial insemination. The pregnancy lasted two years, and labor 10 hours. The male baby was born to Tamar, a Thai elephant given 10 years ago as a gift from the Thai government to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shai Doron, director of the zoo, called the birth: "A breakthrough in the efforts to conserve the endangered species of Asian elephants."



The Polite, Swiss Version of Anti-Semitism

The Week Magazine

The International Committee of the Red Cross has finally deigned to let Israel join, said Alan D. Abbey in Tel Aviv's *Yedioth Ahronoth*. For six decades, Israel's aid organization was barred from the international group because it used a red Star of David symbol instead of a cross — even though Muslim countries all got to use a red Islamic crescent.

Now, "after a financial boycott by the American Red Cross that has cost the Geneva-based society millions of dollars," the ICRC has come up with the "ridiculous" solution of allowing Israel's relief agency to use a tiny, shrunken star squeezed inside a third symbol, a diamond called the "red crystal." Ostensibly, any country can use the crystal, but in practice, it's only for Israel. Conservative commentators are complaining that this compromise is "an insult and should be rejected." They're right that it's an insult — and worse, a "classic example of genteel anti-Semitism" on the part of the Swiss — but since it gets Israel into the global organization, the government has accepted it.

It's just too bad that the ICRC didn't replace all three religious symbols. "If the cross is unacceptable to some, and the crescent is unacceptable to others, and the Star of David is unacceptable to nearly everyone, why not find a new, truly neutral symbol for all to use?"

BRIEFS

Our Courts Defeat Us!

www.cnsnews.com

Widely reported as a “test” of the USA Patriot Act, the trial of a former Florida professor ended recently with the acquittal of Sami al-Arian. The Justice Department said it has not yet decided whether to retry him on the unresolved charges.

Al-Arian was charged with conspiring to help a Palestinian terror group attack Israelis. A Tampa jury found him not guilty on eight of 17 counts. The Justice Department released a statement, noting its “strong track record of success in prosecuting terrorists and those who support terrorist activities.” The Justice Department said it remains “focused on the important task at hand, which is to protect our country through our ongoing vigorous prosecution of terrorism cases. While we respect the jury’s verdict, we stand by the evidence we presented in court against Sami Al Arian and his co-defendants.”

The Disappearing Crisis

I watched several of the year-end news programs where they recapped 2005. None that I saw even mentioned the Gaza story. If you recall, we were bothered by months of publicity about the impending bloodshed as the Israeli army routed their own citizens out of their homes. Fully 2,500 reporters covered the potential savagery.

Nothing whatever happened in Gaza, of course, other than a lady or two being upset at having to move and some young fellows wrestling the occasional soldier. Totally disappointed by the lack of casualties, the 2,500 anti-Israeli idiots packed up their stuff and left. And now the story is dead and gone so that the news people are no longer embarrassed.

The times are changing. When Israel is the head of the nations (which can very well happen in seven years from when you read this paragraph), it certainly won’t have to put up with media lies.

Because, after all, the truth will set them free. — Zola

What Does “Liberal” Mean?

Gary Bauer’s *End of Day Report*

Over the years, I have known and counted among my friends in Washington, D.C., many people who consider themselves to be political liberals. Our history is filled

with liberal giants — FDR, JFK, Harry Truman, etc. But today the term increasingly means something quite different than in the past.

How did so many liberals become ambivalent about democracy? There is at least a 50-50 chance that a new democracy is being built right before our eyes — a democracy like the United States, and there are certainly flaws and problems to be worked out. But shouldn’t liberals be leading the charge in congratulating the Iraqi people, the United States military and, yes, even President Bush for planting the seeds of representative government in the Arab Middle East? That strategic part of the world has a stark choice before it: either the ballot box and the hope of a brighter future or the murderous Islamofascists and their blood-soaked vision of severed heads, women treated like cattle and a culture of death.

Nonexistent “Palestine”

This map of Israel was prominently displayed by the United Nations on November 29, 2005 at a “Palestinian” solidarity gathering at UN headquarters in the presence of all top three UN officials, Kofi Annan, the Secretary General, and the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly. It purports to be a “map of Palestine,” (a nonexistent country). Israel, a UN member state for 56

years, doesn’t appear on the map. Even the UN General Assembly partition lines of November 29, 1947 marking Jewish and Arab states, which pre-date this 1948 map, are not displayed.
— Zola



Spielberg the Ripper

By Zola Levitt

Jack the Ripper was a kind of terrorist. He had it in for ladies of the night, and he stalked the streets, and literally tore his victims to pieces when he found them. He was one of the most vicious, psychopathic killers of all time.

But nowadays, he's romanticized so that, when Sandra and I visited London, there was actually a walking tour offered to some of his favorite haunts, etc., and everybody smirked about those crimes. We romanticize killers so that eventually they're not only forgiven, but even taken to be somewhat heroic. Jesse James, Bonnie and Clyde, and more recently Tookie Williams, are almost canonized as saints when the evidence shows otherwise. It causes one to wonder, does time heal such terrible wounds or are we simply becoming that jaded?

I believe the jaded part is true. There are two movies out now, which I have heard reviewed in detail, by Michael Medved, for one, on Fox News. (I don't suppose the more liberal networks would have Medved on, but what he said was of vital interest.) One of the movies is *Munich* by Steven Spielberg, and the other is *Syriana*, which co-stars and was co-produced by George Clooney. Both movies are cited for portraying terrorists in a sympathetic light.

The International Jerusalem Post of December 9-15 also sharply criticized *Munich* in an article called "Snap Judgment: Dear Steven Spielberg." Calev Ben-David, a former *Jerusalem Post* managing editor said, "Sight unseen, the movie is already raising serious concerns — and no wonder." It went on, with any number of criticisms, including one by the former Mossad chief Zvi Zamir, who oversaw the operation in Munich. The movie has also "earned a rebuke on Israeli television from Ilana Romano, whose husband, weightlifter Joseph Romano, was among those slain at the 1972 Munich Olympics." Writer Ben-David observes, "Surely the creator of *Schindler's List* knows that a filmmaker has a responsibility beyond just his directorial duties when he or she decides to tackle a real-life tragedy fresh enough to still have survivors living among us."

Movies are a very powerful medium. When I was a film critic, I realized that what I wrote in the paper influenced people heavily. They felt terribly strongly about it, because they would often write the paper and complain about the reviews themselves. That, of course, was really about how deeply affected they were by the films in question. The fact is, when a story is told from the point

of view of the antagonist — say a terrorist — then one almost can't help but sympathize with the character, or at least empathize with his frustrations. Evidently, both of these movies do that.

Please don't write and tell me that I have to see the movies before I make this point, because I just don't like to see films like this. I know Medved and I trust his view, and I know what the liberal media are up to in regard to terrorism and, unbelievably, they are expressing a certain amount of sympathy for it.

And they are not alone. Why would the U.N. put up a map of Israel, call it "Palestine" and devote an entire day, including a presentation of a national flag, to a country that does not exist?

Washington is fighting a war on terrorism, and Hollywood is relentlessly undermining this war, as I see it. Much of the media are on Hollywood's side. We will, if we lose this war in the end, be defeated not so much by terrorists as by our own muddleheaded intellectuals.

We must bear in mind that there are two levels of Muslims that we have to eventually defeat. The terrorists, it goes without saying, need to be hunted down and killed, or at least jailed out of reach of any civil society. But then, there are the "moderate Muslims," numbering, I suppose, a billion people, who would like to have our country, and its resources, in any case, win or lose.



Steven Spielberg

Steven Spielberg is Jewish and is to be thanked for his excellent movie, *Schindler's List*, and for his constant filming of testimonies of the *Shoah* (the Holocaust). With that said, this time he has produced a film with lies involved, some of which were cited by critic Medved.

For one thing, there is a character named Avner in the movie, who becomes disgusted with ferreting out the terrorists who committed the Munich massacre, and refuses to go back to Israel. The real-life Avner recently published a statement saying that none of that is true and that he has lived in Israel all his life. Another lie is the idea that the Israelis became terribly ashamed of themselves after tracking down the terrorists, even committing suicide, and so forth. None of that is true either. I'm deeply discouraged by this kind of thinking and by Spielberg's statement that his film will help solve the Middle East crisis.

What will solve the Middle East crisis is winning the war on terrorism — if we win it. And the way we're going, it doesn't look good. ■

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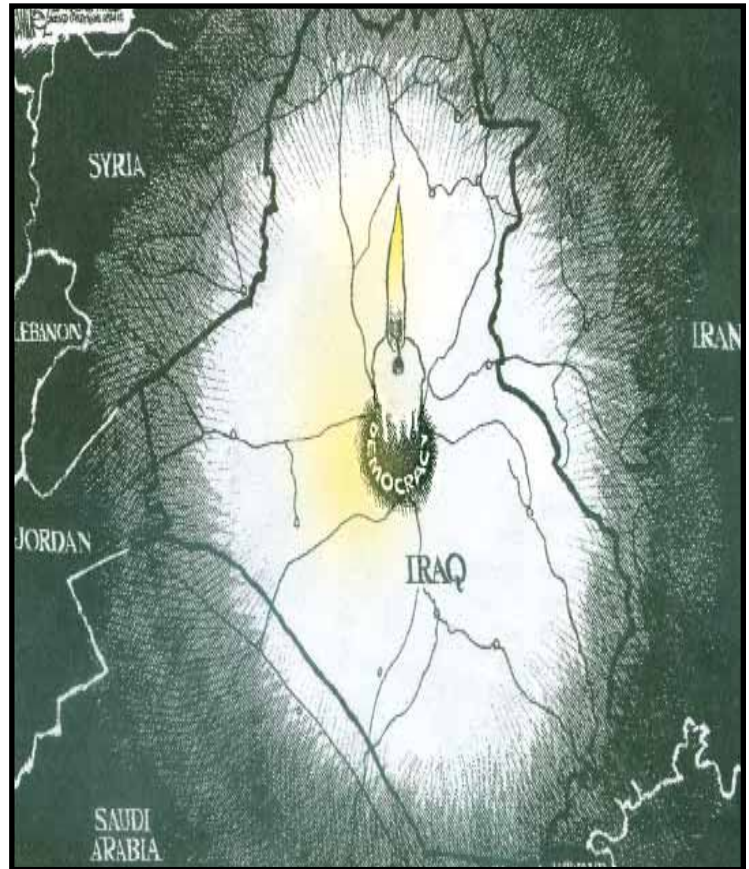
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