

LEVITT LETTER



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

Inside this issue Pat Cox, pg 3, and others give insightful reflections on the Lebanon war. Telling and provocative cartoons appear throughout. If you are in a hurry, check out the ones on pages 3, 5, 22, 25 and 27. They are horrible, true; but the pictures tell a thousand words. – Jeffrey Seif

A Durable and Lasting Peace... with Terrorists?

By Will King, Our Man in Jerusalem

The recent conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, as well as the international community’s lengthy and ridiculous process to draw up a ceasefire resolution, has highlighted again the question: how can you have a real ceasefire with a terrorist organization? And not just a ceasefire; US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said many times that the US wants this to be a lasting peace between Israel and Lebanon. Is it possible to have peace simply because of a piece of paper, with terrorists who want to kill you?

One problem is that the United Nations doesn’t recognize Hezbollah as a terrorist group. In fact, the UN has yet to agree upon an official

definition of “terrorism” because the Arab and Muslim nations block any language that would classify as terrorism any act by a group or individuals acting against occupation. In other words, they want to make sure that Palestinian and other terror groups can go on killing Israelis without officially being labeled as terrorists by the UN.

Much of the world, including Russia and the EU, has bought this Arab propaganda and the results are clear. Although Israel has been on the frontlines for decades, many today argue that they are still not part of the global War on Terrorism.



Will King

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE ITEMS

- Lessons from Lebanon.....p. 3
- Letters to ZLM.....pp. 4-6
- Editorials.....pp. 8-9
- A Note from Jeff.....p. 10
- Shalom from Sandra.....p. 12
- Editorials.....pp. 13-14
- Zola’s Bulletin Board.....p. 15
- Hebrew Lesson.....p. 16
- Editorials.....pp. 17-18
- TV Airing Schedule.....p. 18
- Notes & Briefs.....pp. 20-21
- Editorials.....pp. 22-28
- Select Briefs.....pp. 29-30
- Product Order Form.....p. 31

The Profile of a Suicide Bomber

MSNBC-Connected interviewed Pierre Rehov, a French documentary filmmaker who films by going undercover among the Palestinians. You can see the complete interview at www.levitt.com/news



Pierre’s film, “Suicide Killers,” is based on interviews that he conducted with the families of suicide bombers and would-be bombers in an attempt to find out why they do it.

“People don’t understand the devastating culture behind this unbelievable phenomenon. My film is not politically correct because it addresses the real problem — showing the real face of Islam. It points the finger against a culture of hatred in which the uneducated are brainwashed to a level where their only solution in life becomes to kill themselves and kill others in the name of Allah.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The long, dark shadow of Iran reaches into Lebanon.



America and other nations can travel halfway around the world to fight suspected terrorists, but they still require Israel to negotiate and compromise with the terrorists in their own backyard. This approach hasn't worked, and in fact has empowered terror groups, including Hamas.

Secretary Rice With Lebanon's Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh in Beirut, Lebanon



For six years since Israel withdrew from Lebanon, the UN sat along the border and watched as Hezbollah moved in and set up bunkers, weapons caches, training camps, and more. The UN watched as Hezbollah kidnapped and eventually killed three Israeli soldiers in October 2000, as Hezbollah fired rockets and anti-aircraft guns into Israel, conducted armed raids across the international border, and as more weapons poured in from Iran and Syria. They watched as Security Council resolutions went unheeded by the Lebanese government, which has several Hezbollah parliament and cabinet members serving in it.

And now the UN wants to have up to 15,000 soldiers on the ground in Lebanon, working under UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) and led by as many as 10,000 French soldiers. The UN ceasefire resolution authorized UNIFIL, "...to take all necessary action in areas of deployment of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities..." Does anyone want to guess what the capabilities of 10,000 French soldiers are? While this language gives UNIFIL the authority to act against hostile forces within its defined area of operations, it also says that they only have to act if they feel that they are up to the task.

The UN resolution is a disgrace because it fails to name names. Hezbollah is mentioned only once, in the same sentence that calls for the Israeli military to stop all offensive operations. Iran and Syria, Hezbollah's puppet masters, are also not mentioned and emerge from this blameless by the UN. The resolution calls for the Secretary General, no friend of Israel, to present proposals

on what to do with the area known as Shaba Farms, or Mount Dov. Israel captured the area in 1967; the UN says it belongs to Syria, Hezbollah and Lebanon say it belongs to them. Putting it up for negotiation sends the message that terror pays. Since the UN's idea of peace in the Middle East is for Israel to give away more land, Kofi Annan will undoubtedly recommend that Israel withdraw from Shaba Farms.

By initiating a limited conflict with Israel, Hezbollah was able to get the UN to open for discussion what Hezbollah considers "occupied land." Far from bringing peace to the region, the UN ceasefire resolution only encourages other parties, such as Syria and Hamas, to seek out conflict with Israel in order to get their grievances aired at the UN. And the UN will listen, and talk, and talk some more, and ultimately end up condemning Israel in some way.

All of this because the UN fails to take the side of right over wrong, name names, and even define terrorism.

Perhaps now one can understand why the United States must initiate its own "unilateral actions" against terrorist groups and regimes, because relying on the UN for peace and security is suicidal.

Notable Quote:

"If the Arabs laid down their weapons, there would be no more war. If Israel laid down its weapons, there would be no more Israel."

— UNKNOWN



"I'M FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU"



"I'M FROM THE U.N. AND I'M HERE TO DISARM YOU"

Lessons from Lebanon

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor



The concerted attacks on Israel by forces in both Gaza and Lebanon have brought an almost startling clarity to the Islamofascist strategy. The importance of understanding this strategy has been accentuated by the foiled plot of British-born Muslims to kill 5,000 airline passengers en route to America, as well as the murder and shootings at the Seattle Jewish Community Center by a self-described Muslim-American.

The most obvious lesson, though far from digested by the West, is the successful turning of Western Judeo-Christian civilization's own values against itself. In this bizarre twist, Muslim aggressors have made no effort to hide the fact that their shared goal is to wantonly kill as many innocent citizens as possible while simultaneously claiming that any harm to their civilians, no matter how hard Israel or other Western nations try to avoid such collateral damage, is evidence that terrorism is justified.

Hezbollah and Hamas, after all, have launched thousands of rockets into Israel with no other goal than the death or injury of civilians. Still, however, they successfully bring down international condemnation on the heads of Israel and America when Muslim non-combatants, also known as "human shields," are injured by those trying to stop the terrorism.

We should remember, after all, that Israel is one of the most powerful militaries in the world. Israel Defense Forces could quite literally raze both Gaza and Southern Lebanon to the ground if they chose to. Instead, Israel spends the blood of its own young to spare the lives of Muslim civilians who would be harmed if Jews showed as little ethical restraint as those who seek their ruin. And this is despite the fact that polls show these Muslim civilians overwhelmingly support the indiscriminate murder of Jews and the destruction of Israel. While Israel treats its enemies' wounded with the best possible medical care, its enemies are more likely to execute and mutilate captured Israelis.

This difference is not reflected in the international community and most of the media. Rather, Israel is held to standards no other country endures or has ever endured. Compare treatment, for example, of Israel and the genocides by Muslims in Somalia and Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of innocents have died in the last few decades alone and most peo-

ple don't even know it, while every accidental death at the hand of an Israeli warrants headlines.

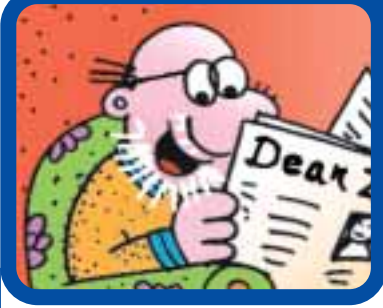
As Prime Minister Olmert pointed out to a German journalist who had accused him of carrying out a "disproportionate" response against Hezbollah forces, Europeans killed 10,000 civilians in attacks on Kosovo without ever questioning the "proportionality" of their policies. The Serbs, remember, had never fired a single bullet or rocket into a European nation.

The media's complicity with anti-Semitic forces has been further revealed by individuals using simple tools and "blogs." The widespread, uncritical presentation of poorly-staged and transparent Hezbollah and Hamas propaganda by television and newspaper news organizations is being exposed for the first time. *The New York Times*, the *Associated Press*, and *Reuters* news service, among others, have been forced by vigilant Internet-connected readers to withdraw Islamist smears of Israel, but there have been no apologies or real retractions.

Veteran "60 Minutes" correspondent Mike Wallace further illuminated the mainstream media's mentality by coming out of retirement for a fawning, sycophantic interview with Iranian President Ahmadinejad, later praising the man as "reasonable" and "bright as hell." Remember, please, Iran not only funds, arms, and controls the terrorist forces of Hezbollah, but officially denies the Holocaust, openly promises the destruction of both Israel and America, and gleefully brags it will soon be a nuclear power. Some Middle Eastern scholars, including the esteemed Bernard Lewis, believe Iran may already have the bomb and plans to use it against Israel, despite the inevitable nuclear retaliation, in an act of national-scale suicide bombing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7





Letters to ZLM

A Wonderful Job

Dear Staff:

I want you to know how much I enjoy your continuation of Zola's television show and newsletter. Sandra and Jeff (and staff) are doing such a wonderful job. I pray for you daily and know Zola couldn't be more pleased because the TV program brings us authentic, up to the moment information about what is really going on — just exactly as Zola always has.

— From an email to Levitt.com

Dear Staff,

Is there any chance you would have Hal Lindsey as a guest speaker?

God bless your great ministry.
K.C.

Great idea! Expect that we will. — Jeff Seif

Dear Staff,

We are avid followers of Zola Levitt Ministries and know this has to be a trying time for you. Zola seemed to spend most of his time letting us know about Islam and its goals. He was our 'watchman on the wall' saying what few would in these last days. Please don't let the watchman be silenced. Teaching is great, but we don't know how long we have for that, and the enemy is at the door. We know it's your wish to carry on and we pray GOD puts the same burden on your heart that He put on Zola's.

GOD Bless,

W. and K. C.

Dear W. and K. C.,

You can be sure that this ministry will continue serving as both a watchman and teacher. We believe the two go hand-in-hand.

— Mark Levitt



Hal Lindsey

Dear Mark,

Thank you for sharing your personal relationship with Zola in the June *Levitt Letter* — it touched my heart deeply.

I am a Jewish Believer and always felt like a square peg trying to fit in a round hole. Not until I started watching Zola did I feel truly comfortable with my Jewish/Christian self. My family and friends claim that I no longer have the right to call myself a Jew; that hurt me deeply. Then I found Zola and a joy in knowing Jesus as 'my Yeshua'.

Your father's testimony as he lived his final days was an inspiration — he taught us with his life. I will never forget him.

May God bless you and the staff as you carry on the ministry your father started for our Father in Heaven. I look forward to viewing Zola's programs and will support the ministry as I can.

In His love,
L.S.

Better than Ever

Dear ZLM and Sandra:

Gosh, is it possible your programs have gotten only better?! I feared Zola's essence might be lost, but you are all

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



An Israeli soldier takes a break from the fighting under the track of a tank.

great in progressing his ministry. Showing him playing his instrument as his beautiful music plays... He lives on.

Thank you,
J.C.

Feed them for Eternity

Dear friends in Yeshua,

I write this letter after reading the editorial in July's *Levitt Letter* by Moishe Rosen, 'Feeding the Hungry,' and his comments on Rabbi Eckstein. I believe that even though the Rabbi is not a Believer in Yeshua, he is an instrument of the Lord for 'mending fences' between Christians and Jews; a means of showing our brothers and sisters that true Christians are not persecutors of Jews! As they are made aware of Christian support, they may open their hearts to the truth of Yeshua and discover that he was a Jew, not just the 'God of the Christians.'

Pray for Rabbi Eckstein's salvation. I do already.
Shalom, B'shem Yeshua, — V.

According to a Chinese proverb, if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. How much better to make that man a fisher of men and feed them for eternity.
— Mark Levitt

Thanks, Jeff and Sandra

Shalom, dear ones in Jesus,

As supporters and regular watchers we want to tell you how much we enjoy Jeffery Seif and encourage you to keep this fellow as he slipped into the "void" so well and synchronized well with Sandra. Then, to our delight, we read that he's been with the ministry behind the scenes for some time. Praise the Lord and thank you.

A BIG round of applause to Sandra for the great job she's doing.

Ever in Christ,
D. and N. B.

P.S. We get *Zola Levitt Presents* on the Family Channel.

Dear Dr. Seif,

I am a born-again, Bible-believing Gentile, thoroughly enjoying the knowledge that I gained through the ministry of Zola Levitt. I feel that you will be a worthy successor to Zola.

Re: "Standing with Unsettled Settlers" in the August issue of the *Levitt Letter*. I agree with the primary point of the article because I believe the Bible gives the Jews a God-given right to the land of Israel. However, the early American settlers had no God-given right to occupy North America; the Native Americans were, in fact, defenders of their land. I object to your equating the settlers' relationship to this land with the Jewish relationship to the land of Israel.

— G.F.

Didn't think of that at the time. I considered your objection and think it has merit. I will take pains to be more sensitive in the future. — J Seif

Absolutely Perfect

Dear Jeff Seif,

You seem to be absolutely perfect for this program. Evidently the Lord has been preparing you for such an hour as this. My prayers and support will continue for

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



this ministry as you stand for our Lord and the Jewish nation. The newsletter and *Levitt Letter* are informative and enjoyable. Keep up the good work.

In Christ,
D. B.

*"I knew he was
God's man for
this ministry."*

Dear staff,

I prayed for Zola's healing; however, if GOD chose not to heal him, I prayed that the passing of this ministry's leadership would be an Elijah/Elisha transfer. (2Ki 2:9) I prayed that Zola's replacement would get that "double portion" and now I know who to pray for, Dr. Jeffrey! When I heard him teach about roots-fruits-boots I knew he was GOD'S man for this ministry. I am thankful for you and the articles that are written in the *Levitt Letter*. I will continue to pray and support you as best I can and look forward to meeting Jeff.

GOD'S strength and comfort to each of you,

M. F.

Red Cross Fails Yet Again

Dear Mark, Shalom!

I received a letter this week from a friend grieving for the people in the south of Israel whom no one is helping very much. Let us pray that all of Israel will unite and be aware of each other's needs during suffering.

Also, the International Red Cross is helping the Lebanese, but not the Israelis. We, as Christians, need to be helping the least of Yeshua's brethren, for Messiah will count it as having been done for him.

Your sister in Yeshua,

L. H.

Dear LH,

The Red Cross's logo used to involve a Christian cross, but was trimmed to secular proportions so as not to offend. I like to believe that many of their volunteers discretely cherish the day their Jewish Savior single-handedly bore the cross from which the organization seems estranged. (Please see my page 8 article.)

— Mark Levitt

"Dead On"

Dear Staff,

I would like to say the L-rd has used this ministry to bless me like no other. Honestly, I was worried about it after Zola departed. But my worries have been put to rest. Jeff is a very capable man of G-d. He is dead-on with the Euphrates River issue. I cannot wait to hear the *Gospel According to Isaiah* series. I got the impression from the *Levitt Letter* that you are looking for feedback, good or bad.

Please let me say if there was any one thing, it would be the last two shows that Jeff shot in Jerusalem. To hear the Muslim prayers being broadcast is really distressing. What an abomination for them to be broadcast in the Land. Thank you so much for letting the L-rd work through all of you.

Dear Barry,

You are right — the reality of the situation is indeed distressing. Do you recall the photo of page 2 of the June *Levitt Letter*, with Muslims praying in the Upper Room? You can see it by clicking on *Levitt Letters* at www.levitt.com.

As Zola used to say, we don't create the news, we just report it. Please understand: to hide biblically significant unpleasantness from you would be a disservice.

— Mark Levitt

Blessed iPod

Dear Staff,

I have watched Zola for nearly 20 years. Over the past year I have religiously listened to his podcasts, as it is easier with my schedule. On a recent trip through the mountains in Colorado, I listened to 10 podcasts in a row and I was incredibly blessed.

You can count on my support in this next year. The Internet shows are an incredible blessing to me. My knowledge has greatly increased. I am especially thankful for the emphasis Zola and all of you have placed on the End Times. Until He comes, and as Zola said, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

Many thanks,

— C. ✨

Notable Quote:

"Two things come from Heaven: Katyushas, or the power of God."

— ISRAELI WAR VICTIM,
ISRAEL TODAY

Please see the TV Air Schedule on Page 18 for Networks that carry ZOLA LEVITT PRESENTS.



Ironically, Iran's proxy general in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, has explicitly and deliberately destroyed the media's timeworn terrorist alibi. "We are not fighting so that you will offer us something. We are fighting to eliminate you," Nasrallah boasts. "If they (the Jews) all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide."



Nasrallah

The constitution of the Palestinians' elected leadership, Hamas, says basically the same thing, proving that anybody who ever again uses the word "occupation" in regards to attacks on Israel is either a fool or a liar.

The second lesson elucidated by recent events has more to do with the history of Lebanon, a country with a heritage both astonishing and admirable. Not only did the Christian native population of Lebanon keep their faith alive in the Middle East through centuries of Islamic onslaught, they built one of the most prosperous and politically liberated countries in the world.

That was, of course, before Lebanese Christians allowed in millions of Muslims from neighboring nations, most seeking jobs created by Christians and absent in the stultified, tyrannical Muslim homelands where free markets are squelched in service to the theocratic elites' financial interests. A close Lebanese friend of mine, a man whose family has lost lives and fortunes to Islamic terrorism from the time of the Crusades, reminded me a few days ago that only 20 percent of the Lebanese population was Muslim in 1920 when France carved the country out of lands claimed by Syria when the ancient Ottoman Caliphate collapsed. Lebanon was to be a haven for persecuted Christians, much as Israel was to provide a place for beleaguered Jews.

We know what happened of course. Muslims poured in and then reproduced at a rate far outpacing the Christian natives. Outside Islamic nations sent radicalized Imams and goon squads, such as Hezbollah, into the region to prevent Muslims from converting or even coexisting with Christians. By 1948, Muslims were strong enough to override Christian opposition to participation in the first war to destroy Israel. By 1970, Christians were outnumbered and, today, they live in dread that Hezbollah will retaliate against those who did not rally to their genocidal cause against Israel.

The experience of Lebanon, in fact, mirrored Israel's. Despite the constantly repeated myth of a lost Palestinian homeland, most so-called Palestinians were attracted to the Jewish homeland from neighboring regions of the Ottoman empire, primarily those now called Egypt and Jordan, by jobs created by Jews.

The reason that this is such an important lesson for the rest of the world is that what happened to Lebanon is not a new story. Syria, from which Lebanon was carved, was once mostly Christian, as was Egypt.

Today, many European countries have Muslim populations comparable to Lebanon's at its founding, with foreign Islamofascists in charge of mosques funded by a lavish flood of petro-dollars. The riots and attacks by home-grown terrorists in France, Britain, Spain, Denmark, and elsewhere are not aberrations but harbingers of the future as radicalized Muslim populations continue to explode.

Even in the United States, where Muslims claim a population of 7 million, outnumbering Jews by at least a million if their numbers are true, there have been pro-Hezbollah demonstrations in front of the White House and across the country. Well-funded organizations like CAIR, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, successfully use the threat of lawsuits against critics of Islamic radicalism in the U.S., even though high-ranking CAIR individuals have been exposed, arrested and deported due to ties with terrorist organizations. Perhaps the most illustrative example of this new Islamofascist influence, among thousands that I could expound on if I had the space, was the groveling apology of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to 10 Muslim leaders for attending a pro-Israel rally.

Rather, these Muslim leaders demanded, he should have rallied for "peace" in an "interfaith" ceremony that equated Israeli self-defense with Hezbollah terrorism. The other side of the coin was explained by The Rev. Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, which represents, according to an AP story, "thousands of local churches and ministries, the 16.2 million-member Southern Baptist Convention and James Dobson's Focus on the Family." Haggard explained that his organization had not spoken in support of Israel, as it has done in the past, because American criticism of Islamic violence following the 9/11 attacks had led to a backlash against Christians in the Middle East. In other words, Islamic extortion reaches even into the heart of America's "Bible Belt."

What could better illuminate the nature and difficulty facing the West, unless it is the statement by Algerian President Houari Boumediene in 1974? Boldly he told the United Nations' General Assembly, "One day millions of men will leave the southern hemisphere of this planet to burst into the northern one. But not as friends. Because they will burst in to conquer, and they will conquer by populating it with their children. Victory will come to us from the wombs of our women."

Please, by the way, direct all accusations of intolerance and Islamophobia to Houari Boumediene. ✨

Samaritan's Purse Strings

By Mark Levitt



How could any Bible Believer declare, "I'm going to pray for the Israelis, but my financial support is going to Lebanon"? (Matt. 6:21) That end result is the gist of a fund appeal I received from Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse.

And it rubs me the wrong way.

For any readers who are members of what Zola called The Overcrowded Ministry of Rebuke, I readily agree that Billy Graham's crusades were anointed and fruitful and Franklin Graham's independent efforts to feed and witness to the hurting in Lebanon are admirable. Still, however, the Samaritan's Purse fundraising piece gave me a feeling of bait and switch. You can see a complete copy of the mailer at: www.levitt.com by clicking on LLX News.

The appeal is headlined, "Prayer Alert: Crisis in the Holy Land" and is accompanied by a reply card that has these choices:

Yes, I will pray for the ministry... to suffering men, women, and children in the Holy Land.

Enclosed is my gift for:

\$ _____ Lebanon Relief

\$ _____ Relief and evangelism worldwide

I have an idea! Let's bless Israel with both our prayers and financial support. Franklin's letter says, "Your gift will be a great encouragement to Christians in the Holy Land." Perhaps he's right. Perhaps those Believers who understand the virtues of loving one's enemies will be thankful for witnessing and feeding the needy wherever it occurs — even the place from where missiles were aimed at God's Chosen. Or maybe those Believers will wonder what the Israelis did to deserve to be excluded from their benevolence. (See "Red Cross" on page 6.)

The Samaritan's Purse website has a page entitled, "Bringing God's Comfort to the People of Israel." Toward the bottom, it instructs, "Click here and designate 'Middle East Relief' to support our work in Israel, Lebanon, and other affected areas." Their "Donate" page has a special designation for Lebanon, but Israel is nowhere on the list. North America and Afghanistan are on the menu, but not the apple of God's eye. If you want to make a contribution because you care about Israel, then you must click on "Middle East Relief" and speculate as

to where in "other affected areas" your cash will go.

Another twist to watch for: organizations that help Israelis day and night, but just happen not to help any Jewish Israelis. Nope...just Palestinian Israelis. Just the Arab Israelis who are supposedly bullied and oppressed by Zionist occupiers.

A few of you have written to me objecting to Zola's negative comments about World Vision. In our May 2006 *Levitt Letter*, posted at www.levitt.com, Zola observed that, "[World Vision] cannot cite a single Jewish child that they have ever helped in any way." On May 12, World Vision's Director of Corporate Communications telephoned me, offered condolences about Zola's passing, and asked for the reason behind the harshness of some of Zola's dying words like, "I have spent years trying to instruct people to give World Vision their due, which is nothing." I answered that Zola was unhappy about them not offering sponsorships of Israeli children and suggested, "How about sponsoring Jewish Children," adding that this ministry would promote that on World Vision's behalf and that our readers would jump onboard.

His reply: "Let me look into that one. I know we've done that in the past. I just don't know if we're currently doing it. But I will find out." Well, he has yet to call me back.

Feeding the hungry and sharing the Gospel is worthwhile no matter who does it or where. But if you're going to do good within a stone's throw of the Israelites, how about throwing the same kindness their way? Please see the Bulletin Board announcements on page 15 for ways to do just that. ✦

28 Ways You Can Help Israel

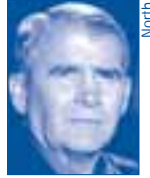
For those whose hearts goes out to Israel, we have developed a pamphlet with more than two dozen ways to help. Buy Israeli products (www.israeliproducts.com), send pro-Israel letters to newspapers and politicians, pray, travel to the Holy Land, read the Bible, buy Israel Bonds (see the bottom of page 15) and more. To get this pamphlet, send us a self-address, stamped envelope or order it on page 31, where it is offered free with any purchase or donation. You can see more ways to help Israel at <http://web.israelinsider.com/Views/11.htm>.



Millions of lives could have been saved if the world had stopped Hitler before 1939. The idea of Islamic world domination can be fought and defeated now, or later when they attack us with nuclear weapons. As always, the “diplomats” will prefer to sip wine, chitchat and make deals with the terrorists today and risk millions to die later. — Editor

Islamic Hitlers

By Oliver North



“What do they want?” It’s a query we hear a lot these days. By “they,” of course, the questioner means the suicide bombers, the masked men in the videotape decapitating a hostage, the goose-stepping, black-clad legions parading with AK-47s. “They” call themselves *Hamas, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the Muslim Brotherhood, Jamaat-Islamiyah, the Mahdi Army* or any of a dozen other names for violent terror groups operating with impunity around the world.

Five years ago “they” were al-Qaeda — thrust onto center stage aboard four aircraft turned into deadly missiles. This past spring, “they” were Hamas terrorists, firing lethal Qassam rockets from Gaza into neighborhoods in southern Israel. Then Hezbollah — the Iranian-armed and directed movement in Lebanon that ignited the next round of violence in the Middle East.

Some of the “theys” are Sunni Muslim. Others are Shia. In most of the world they are theological adversaries — with a long sanguinary history of fratricide far bloodier than anything experienced in the Christian schism between Catholics and Protestants. In nearly every case, “they” have foundations in a local grievance, recruit followers by emphasizing perceived wrongs and have charismatic leaders who promote “martyrdom” as a means of making things right.

Regardless of origin — Sunni or Shia — “they” share critical common ground. They all despise Judeo-Christian values, institutions and individuals, and are committed to “ridding” Islamic lands of Western “occupation.” They are all “non-state” entities — claiming independence of any government — but rely on support from radical Islamic entities awash in petro-dollars. All carry out attacks with ruthless brutality without regard for their victims. All regard Israel and America as abomi-

nations, share the aim of “liberating” Jerusalem, and envision a caliphate that extends from Casablanca in the west to Indonesia in the east. This is “what they want.”

Unfortunately, in this era of shallow, “sound-bite” journalism and drive-by “action” coverage, these objectives — routinely specified in the writings, speeches and sermons of radical Islamic political leaders and clerics — are widely ignored by the masters of our mainstream media or dismissed as the ranting of fanatics with few followers. The consequence is a woefully uninformed public — and an electorate so ignorant of reality that western political leaders can promote simplistic solutions like calls for an immediate cease-fire, intensive diplomacy, and the introduction of an international peacekeeping force leading to a negotiated end to the strife.

This theme, repeated in today’s media and political stump speeches, is a minor variation on the kind of thinking that succeeded so brilliantly with Adolf Hitler. He too had written and spoken widely of his aspirations for global domination and ethnic cleansing. Yet, even after he had rearmed and commenced fulfilling his twisted dreams of “purification” and expansion, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was able to proclaim “peace for our time” after returning from Munich in September 1938. Less than a year later, the Fuhrer plunged the world into a global conflagration. The willful ignorance of weak-willed democratic leaders bent on appeasing evil did not spare their populations then — nor will it today. ■



Recently, I happened upon a letter and brochure from the seminary where I trained in which the dean extolled the virtues of the school's new cross-cultural initiative: "Global Theological Education."

Five testimonials were printed in the brochure. Three came from seminarians studying in Bethlehem, located in what the dean referred to as "Palestinian territories." In them, an aspiring pastor testified to "facing the realities of a brutalized and torn world," as did others who agreed, "to a small degree, we experienced some of the oppression that is reality for Palestinian Christians and Muslims." One closed with "the experience has given me a new way to read the Bible."

An educator of seventeen years myself, I know cross-cultural experiences have impact and, with the dean, commend their value. In this case, however, I am curious why nobody considered "crossing" over to report on the Israelis' "cultural" experience and perspective.

Designating the area "Palestine" instead of "Israel" prompted me to believe that these seminarians are subtly being indoctrinated into anti-biblical views of Jews and will have little or no understanding of how what God is allowing in the world today is consistent with what He said in His Word yesterday.

Zechariah envisioned that "All nations of the earth" will one day be "gathered against Jerusalem" (12:3). The nations' mobilizing, itself a fruit of prophecy, requires that seeds of deceit and anti-Jewish discontent be sown in the world well in advance. "Israel is our land and Jerusalem is our Holy City!" exclaim discontented Islamic Palestinians. I bet the young ministers bought it, but I'm curious why their Jerusalem is never mentioned in their Koran. Touted as the capital of a fabricated "Palestinian State," it is worth noting that till recently no Arab ruler ever declared Jerusalem his capital; similarly, the State of "Palestine" never existed till conceptually manufactured after the 1967 war. It all belongs to the realm of deceit, with roots in neither the real world nor the biblical Word.

This Bible-based ministry exists to counter the proliferation of anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli fantasy of some churches, seminaries, and television. We afford interested persons an opportunity to have misinformation from the popular, secular media counter-balanced by biblically-based perspectives. Zola was an extremely witty, "straight-shooting" analyst and a "top notch" communicator. He was a superb Bible commentator, given to talking about the global angst that was rising against Israel, right up until his end. In that tradition, this *Levitt Letter* is full of excellent, real-world, real-Word commentary. We've selected samplings

from a cadre of able commentators, committed to helping you to interpret the Middle East crisis with biblically informed grids. Intense and provocative cartoons are placed to engage you. Sandra's column adds a unique and personal touch; Will King — a former Intelligence Officer with rank in the US army — offers his trademark balanced, intelligent, and biblical account of recent events, as do others. On page 32 you will find a plug for my new book, *The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy*, that offers perspectives I deem both timely and important. A future program on prophecy-mandated battles will add to your understanding of wars and rumors of wars. (Matt. 24:6)

For those looking to pick up some good reading, let me recommend David Brog's *Standing With Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State*, available on the Internet and in stores. With degrees from Harvard and

Princeton, Brog is a Jewish intellectual who speaks to and from America's Jewish mainstream. This non-Christian, Jewish lawyer went "behind the scenes" and deep into America's Christian Zionist movement, attending churches and functions, reading books and publications, and assessing what he considered the "phenomenon of evangelical Christian support for Israel." He has taken notice of what you stand for. Brog tells Jewish America: *These Christians are our best friends!* The reason I commend the book to you is so you can see that you and I are having an impact. It takes time, but slowly and surely the world notices.

Evangelical America has tuned into *Zola Levitt Presents* for twenty-eight years. The ministry is regrouping and continuing the journey in Zola's absence, believing that we are needed now more than ever. Write us. Have our speakers visit your churches. Pray for us. Pray for our country's seminaries. Please pray that God opens doors for me to speak in more seminaries and that our staff has increasing opportunities to minister in more and more churches. And, of course, as always, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

A Note from Jeff



By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



"We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."

Golda Meir

"I came to the conclusion that we are talking of kids between 15 and 25 living all their lives in pure frustration, with no opportunity to experience sex, love, tenderness or even understanding from the opposite sex.

"The separation between men and women in Islam is absolute. So is contempt toward women, who are totally dominated by men. This leads to a situation of pure anxiety, in which normal behavior is not possible. It is no coincidence that suicide killers are mostly young men dominated by an overwhelming libido that they not only cannot satisfy, but also are afraid of, as if it is the work of the devil. These are lost young men who cannot find a satisfying identity. Since Islam describes heaven as a place where everything on earth will finally be allowed, and promises 72 virgins to those frustrated kids, killing others and killing themselves to reach this redemption becomes their only solution.

"The families are seemingly normal people with very nice manners who have their own logic, which to a certain extent can make sense since what they say, is for them, the absolute truth. I hear a mother saying, 'Thank God, my son is dead.' Her son became a shaheed, a martyr, which for her is a greater source of pride than if he became a doctor or a winner of the Nobel Prize.

"Suicide Bombers usually lack a developed personality and are impressionable idealists. In the Western world they would have become drug addicts, but not criminals. If they had been raised in an Occidental culture, they would have hated violence. Becoming a shaheed is a sure way to become a hero. The shaheeds are the

cowboys or the firemen of Islam. And what kid has never dreamed of becoming a cowboy or a fireman?"

"All Muslims believe that, ultimately, Islam will prevail on earth. The main difference between moderate Muslims and extremists is that moderate Muslims don't think they will see the absolute victory of Islam during their lifetime; therefore they respect other beliefs. The extremists believe that Islam ruling the entire world as described in the Koran is for today. Each victory of bin Laden convinces 20 million moderate Muslims to become extremists." ❖

Barbaric vs. Civilized

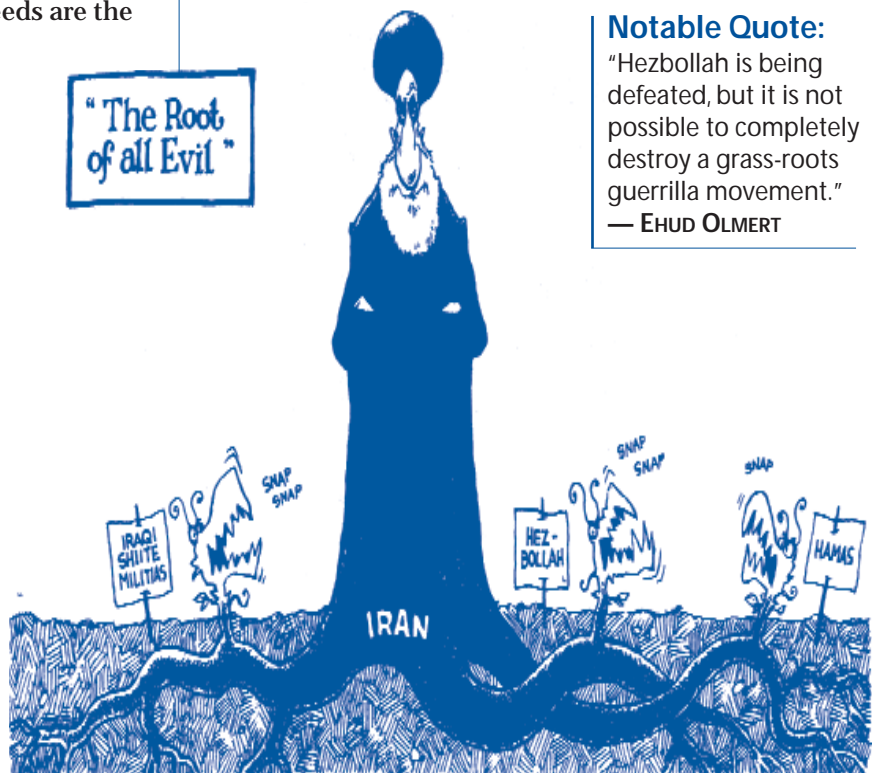
Brigitte Gabriel gave a speech at Duke University in which she related the experience that changed her perceptions about Jews. When her mother was wounded in 1975 and rushed to an Israeli hospital they experienced firsthand God's love funneled through Jewish doctors and soldiers. Taught from early childhood in Lebanon that Jews were evil and that Arabs fought them out of "desperation of occupation," she observed her surroundings and concluded that Arab terrorism is caused, rather, by the VERY THOUGHT of a Jewish state. She calls for America to act again as it acted against Communism.

Her speech is posted on www.levitt.com/news ❖



Plan ahead to be with us!!

Sandra and Harvey Zion will conduct our *Holy Land Experience* tour in Orlando, December 22-24. Harvey is a Messianic Jew who has been helping with our Orlando tours, and has been to the real Israel. Among the many fascinating replicas at *The Holy Land Experience* our group will carefully study is a model of Jerusalem from the time of Jesus. This makes a great visual as you learn about the 4000-year history of the City of God—the only eternal city! Ask Tony for details at (214) 696-9760 during the workweek or anytime at 1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377).



Notable Quote:
 "Hezbollah is being defeated, but it is not possible to completely destroy a grass-roots guerrilla movement."
 — EHUD OLMERT

“Don’t buy any green bananas.” That’s what Zola would answer when someone asked how close we were to the Rapture. What is happening in Israel reminds me that Israel is God’s timepiece. Always has been, always will be.

These events also remind me of the **Seven Feasts of Israel**. In Leviticus, God gave the Israelites instruction about offerings, priests, laws, punishment, Sabbath year, blessings and curses, and regulations. Moses wrote down those instructions because not keeping them correctly would cause a Jew’s banishment from the Chosen People. Nothing could be worse.

These feasts are important for Believers to know because Yeshua celebrated them and they point to his death, resurrection, and life to come. We, as Believers, are not commanded to keep these feasts, but I love to celebrate them. They are the Jewish roots of my faith. Here are some highlights of the Seven Feasts.

Passover: Lev 23:5, “The Lords’ Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month.” God’s is a lunar calendar based on the phases of the moon. The sun’s appearance never changes, but the moon looks different every night, so anyone can tell what day it is, just by looking at the moon. Each month starts with a new moon, which waxes full around the middle of the month, then wanes to a new moon, new month.

Passover always occurs at full moon, the middle of the month. It is also the first full moon of spring. With the full moon and the almond tree blooming, Passover is at hand. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ freedom from slavery and Believers can celebrate freedom from sin. Our Lord celebrated Passover His whole life and, of course, it was on Passover that He was crucified.

Unleavened Bread: Lev 23:6, “For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast.” This feast begins the night after Passover. Remember that leaven represents sin in the Bible. This feast reminds Jews to be sinless for seven days. “Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” I Cor 5:7. It is everyone’s goal to be sinless.

Firstfruits: Lev 23:10, “When you enter the land I am going to give you, and you reap the harvest, bring me a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.” This was the first crop of the year, a spring crop. The people thanked God for the fertile land with a special offering. It is called First Fruits, not Easter.

Feast of Weeks: Lev 23:15-16, “From the day after the (Saturday) Sabbath, count seven full weeks, fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath and present an offer-

Shalom From Sandra



ing of new grain to the Lord.” Also known as **Pentecost** (*pente* = fiftieth). This long period between feasts marked the summer harvest — abundant, but not as abundant as the fall harvest. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to them. Indeed, the Holy Spirit came exactly on the Feast of Weeks. Pentecost is found in Acts 2. Three thousand were saved that day. What a summer harvest.

Trumpets: Lev 23:24. I get really excited at this one because I expect the Rapture to come on the Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh HaShana, the Jewish New Year. “On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, commemorated with trumpet blasts.” Pretty clear instructions. When you hear the trumpet blast, the Feast of Trumpets begins. Two workers are in a field. One is a Jew, the other is not. The trumpet blasts and the Jew stops his work to begin celebrating the Feast of Trumpets. It has been a large harvest with lots of work. He knows it is the right time to stop and celebrate because of the trumpet blast. Matt 24:40 says, “Where two are working in a field, I’ll take one and leave the other.”

I Thess 4:16-17, “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” Our rest is assured.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!

Atonement: Lev 23:28, “Do not work on the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God.” This, the most holy day of the year, the people were to confess their sins for 24 hours. The High Priest made atonement (sacrifice) first for his sins and then for the sins of the people. This decided for the people whether they lived or died. Our atonement has already been paid, once and for all time. Amen.

Tabernacles, booths, Succoth: All are correct names for this last feast. Lev 23:42-43 “for seven days all native-born Israelites are to live in booths so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” This celebrates how God took care of the Israelites in the desert for 40 years. He gave them a place to live each and every day of their lives.

Zola’s *The Seven Feasts* is one of the best books I have ever read on this subject. We need to be aware of these feasts because in them God showed us the Messiah, the Jews, and even the Church. Here is how it goes: Yeshua — crucified on Passover, buried on Unleavened Bread, risen at First Fruits, sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We await the return of our Lord on “Trumpets”. We will not have to make Atonement because our sins have been paid for; but our works will be judged and we will dwell with the Lord for a thousand years in our own Tabernacles. Wow!

These feasts are God’s blessing to all. How can we bless Israel now? Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, witness, buy Israeli products, and go to Israel. It is our eternal home.

I would like to invite you to come with us and see the Holy Land, the place that you are going to live for a thousand years!



Our fall tour has been our most popular, and airline seats will fill up quickly despite the present turmoil. The **Deluxe Tour** (Israel only) travels October 29-November 8, **Grand Petra** (Israel & Petra) October 29-November 12, the **Grand Athens** (Greek Isles & Israel) October 24-November 8, and our all-inclusive **Ultra Grand Tour** (Greek Isles, Israel & Petra) October 24-November 12. Please reserve your spot soon.

To request a brochure, please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during regular business hours or (800) 966-3377 anytime, or visit www.levitt.com where you can download a brochure from the website or request a brochure be sent by mail.

Blessings,

Where are the Christians?

By Joseph Farah, www.worldnetdaily.com



Pat Buchanan and Kofi Annan agree with each other on what needs to be done to resolve the Middle East conflict. What do these two men have in common that brings them together in this unusual way? They fail to grasp the root cause of the Arab-Israeli struggle — which is that Hezbollah, Hamas and much of the Arab and Muslim world want more than anything else to destroy the Jewish state.

It’s that simple. Just as there can be no compromise between the United States and Osama bin Laden because he and al-Qaeda seek the destruction of America, there can be no diplomatic resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as long as the goal of one side remains the annihilation of the other.

But Buchanan and Annan, two guys who seldom agree, don’t get it. Buchanan calls Israel’s measured, restrained act of self-defense a “rampage against a defenseless Lebanon” and asks: “Where are the Christians? Why is Pope Benedict virtually alone among Christian leaders to have spoken out against what is being done to Lebanese Christians and Muslims?”

Let me answer that question — as a Christian of both Lebanese and Syrian heritage: We are with Israel! We are in favor of destroying Hezbollah once and for all. If anything, we are wondering what took so long. We are hoping and praying that Israel does not abort this campaign against the evil terrorists allied with al-Qaeda and sponsored by the mullahs of Iran. We are sick and tired of seeing groups like Hezbollah hide behind the skirts of innocent Christians, occupying their towns, and daring Israel to come after them. We are sick and tired of the wholesale persecution of Christian Believers in Lebanon — a jihadist religious cleansing that has sent millions of Lebanese Christians into a worldwide Diaspora.

Annan says Israel’s response is “disproportionate.” I assume, by that, he means Israel should only give back what it has received. In other words, Israel should not utilize its strength — its modern military machine. Presumably it should use only the weapons employed against it — like Katyusha and Qassam rockets.

It’s insanity. By the same logic, should the U.S. use only box-cutters against al-Qaeda?

The object of any military campaign should be to destroy the enemy, to prevail over them, to win victory.

Israel needs to employ that strategy against their enemies. ■

Armageddon Again

By Cal Thomas, www.jewishworldreview.com



Cal Thomas

“At this time of great crisis in the world, we should be looking for nuclear disarmament, nuclear abolition — saving the world, not ramping up for Armageddon by nuclear proliferation.” Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio)

“There’s always an alien battle cruiser, or a Korlian death ray, or an intergalactic plague that’s trying to wipe out life on this miserable little planet.”
(Tommy Lee Jones in “Men in Black”)

Armageddon is hot again and why not? We crave explanations for wars in the Middle East. Our country is flooded with illegal aliens of the human kind. Some contend the culture is collapsing. The economy is uncertain. There is open political warfare. In our ceaseless attempts to find solutions no earthly formula seems adequate, so some look to the skies.

End-of-the-world prophecies have been around almost since the beginning. Ancient prophets, like Daniel in the Hebrew Bible and John the Apostle, who wrote Revelation, laid down visions of the destruction of the world and its replacement with a peaceful, heavenly kingdom.

The 1991 Persian Gulf War produced a spike in end-times books and sales. Some of them flatly predicted Armageddon was upon us. Authors noted that modern Iraq is ancient Babylon and they saw the Iraq war as a possible, even probable, fulfillment of end-times prophecies. Like those before them, they were wrong. To paraphrase Stephen Sondheim, “we’re still here.”

Authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins have created an industry with their best-selling “Left Behind” book series about the Rapture and the disappearance of all Christians before the final battle of Armageddon takes place. There is disagreement within Christian circles as to what comes first — Armageddon or

the Rapture — but that can be left to those counting angels on pinheads and, for that matter, to pinheads. Whatever they decide isn’t going to affect events, though it will sell books.

If one is going to think on these things, wouldn’t it be wise to consult Someone who claims to be the Supreme Authority on such matters?

Speaking of His return, Jesus of Nazareth warned about deceivers who would come in His Name, claiming to have knowledge about dates, times and the end of this world. His forecasts of “wars and rumors of wars,” nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, famines and earthquakes (Matthew 24:4-8) sound like the newspaper front page.

Those events, He said, will be followed by persecution of His followers, false prophets, an increase in wickedness and all sorts of other things. Jesus added that, “the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Luke 12:40)

On that authority, the end isn’t yet upon us because too many expect it. But, as Tim LaHaye said on “Good Morning America” recently, it is still good to be prepared. Stop worrying about dates and times, though, unless you’re writing a book, making a movie, or delivering a speech. In those circumstances, ‘prophets’ can make big profits with their modern equivalent of sandwich boards that proclaim the end is near. ❁



ZOLA'S BULLETIN BOARD



4 Fall T.O.U.R.S

The Israelis give our tour passengers an extra measure of hospitality because Zola's groups have a history of going even when others are afraid and stay home. One reason we persist is to express our loyal support. Another is because we grasp the statistical irrelevance of the war stories that, though dramatic, really don't count for much in terms of risk. A third reason is God's timing; we just feel a need in our bones to be there, THIS year in Jerusalem.

The **Deluxe Tour** (Israel Only): Oct. 29 - Nov 8
Grand Petra (Israel & Petra): Oct. 29 - Nov. 12
Grand Athens (Greek Isles Cruise & Israel): Oct. 24 - Nov. 8
Ultra Grand Tour (Greek Isles Cruise, Israel & Petra): Oct. 24 - Nov. 12.

For your tour folder, please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or our answering service **1-800-WONDERS (800-966-3377) anytime.**



Our Ministry's Church Speakers

Let us bring to your church the prophetic relevance of today's news, the seven feasts of Israel, and all that Zola taught us to teach others. Please contact Scott in our office at sphillips@levitt.com or (214) 696-8844 for information on having any of this ministry's speakers visit your church: Tom McCall, Jeff Seif, Todd Baker and Sandra Levitt. Dr. Tom McCall co-authored eight books with Zola. Dr. Jeff Seif co-created with Zola our correspondence course, *The Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. Dr. Todd Baker founded our ministry's Department of Missions to Israel, which is sponsored by our To the Jew First Fund. In addition, Zola's widow, Sandra Levitt, after traveling at Zola's side for eight years, is able to teach all the same lessons he did and is quite a gifted public speaker. www.levitt.com/speakers.html



Israel...
the Truth.

Free Crash Courses

ConceptWizard offers free Flash presentations on the Internet that teach you in minutes what otherwise might take hours to learn. Their newest of five riveting presentations are entitled, "Hamas: A Profile of Terror" and "The New Wave of Anti-Semitism." Just go to www.conceptwizard.com/info.html. At our website you can see their "History of Israel," which covers centuries of developments in a matter of minutes.

Seven Ways You Can Help Israel

For this complete article, please see our August 2001 Levitt Letter, posted at www.levitt.com. Here are the ways: 1) Point and Click — stay informed by visiting www.jpost.com, www.israelnationalnews.com and www.imra.org.il. 2) Publish your views in newspapers and chat rooms. 3) Protest media bias in ways suggested at www.honestreporting.com, www.camera.com and www.cnnwatch.org. 4) Provide assistance — www.bridgesforpeace.com and www.helpingisrael.com. 5) Pressure your elected representatives with letters and email. 6) Pay a visit to www.goisrael.com and go to Israel in person. 7) Pray for help — add a request for Israel to your prayer regimen.

Good News from a Far Country

The something special that our Israel tour passengers experience with our guides is the affection that blossoms during each tour's fellowship: it seems to carry and intensify from one tour to the next. We want our friends there to know they're in our prayers, so we have established a benevolence fund called *Good News from a Far Country*. Please consider designating a \$10 or \$20 gift to help our Israeli friends during this time of economic hardship.



"Purchasing an Israel bond shows your solidarity and helps finance the future of the Jewish State. More than just a good investment, it allows us to invest in critical infrastructure projects." — Ariel Sharon
STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS, 9660 Hillcroft, Suite #316, Houston, TX 77096
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The Name of the LORD

By John J. Parsons

מִגְדַּל-עוֹז שֵׁם יְהוָה בּוֹיָרוֹן צְדִיק וְנִשְׁבָּב:

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.
(Proverbs 18:10)

וְ	נִשְׁבָּב	צְדִיק	בּוֹיָרוֹן	יְהוָה	שֵׁם	עוֹז	מִגְדַּל
(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)
	(3)	(1)	(1)				(1)
ve-nees-gav	tzad-deck	bo-ya-rootz	Adonai	shem	meeg-dal oz		
and is safe	the righteous man	into it he runs	the Name of the LORD		tower of strength (is)		

Hebraic Insight: The Name of the LORD

In the Bible there is one name that occurs far more than all the others combined, and that is the personal Name of the God of Israel: YHVH (sometimes rendered YHWH). Because it is composed from the Hebrew consonants Yod, Hey, Vav, and Hey, it is also referred to as the “Tetragrammaton,” which simply means “the four letters.” In our English Bibles, YHVH is generally translated as “the LORD” (all capitals).

The word “God” first appears in Genesis 1:1 (*bereshit bara elohim* — “in the beginning God created...”), which denotes His creative power over the cosmos, but the personal name “YHVH” first appears in Genesis 2:4, where the LORD God (*YHVH elohim*) formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils “the breath of life” (*nishmat chayim*). According to some Rabbis, the name *Elohim* is therefore associated with God’s role as Creator and Judge, whereas the Name *YHVH* is associated with his life-giving mercy and Salvation.

The Name of YHVH was further revealed when God commissioned Moses to be Israel’s liberator from the bondage of Pharaoh’s Egypt (see Exodus 3:14). When asked for His Name, God simply said, *ehyeh asher ehyeh* (rendered as “I am who I am” in the KJV), a phrase that comes from the Hebrew verb “to be” (*hayah*), and indicating a connection between YHVH and being itself. Indeed, according to traditional Judaism, YHVH is said to be derived from the phrase *hayah hoveh yi’yeh*, “He was, He is, He will be,” indicating that God is before all our predications as the Source of all life.

In the rabbinic tradition, the sacred Name of YHVH is *kadosh* — never to be said lightly — and is replaced by the word “Adonai” (Lord) or “Hashem” (the Name). In fact, the Name YHVH was only to be uttered by the *kohen gadol* (High Priest) on the holiest day of the Jewish year (Yom Kippur) while standing in *kodesh hakodashim* (the Holy of Holies) of the Jewish Temple (*Yoma 39b*). A rabbinical midrash states that only seven *kohanim* (priests) now know how to pronounce this Name, a secret that is being handed down until the Third Temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem.

In this verse, the name of YHVH is likened to a *migdal oz* — the “strong tower” that was used as the chief fortification for a city in ancient times. For the *tzaddik* — the righteous man who calls upon the Name of the LORD — God is an all-powerful defense in times of peril. The metaphor suggests a righteous man running into an immensely fortified tower, being elevated high above the surrounding danger (*nisgav* comes from a verb that means to elevate to an inaccessibly high place). The LORD is a tower of refuge for those who put their trust in Him.



The Hebrew name *Yehoshua* (Joshua) derives from a combination of YHVH and *yasha*, and means “YHVH saves.” Later *Yehoshua* was shortened to *Yeshua* (see Neh 8:17), which is the Hebrew name for Jesus, of course. As a “type” of Joshua, Jesus exemplifies the ultimate deliverance of His people by taking Israel into the land to inherit the promises. Indeed, calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus is to call upon the Name of YHVH, since Jesus Himself is YHVH come in the flesh (Isa 9:6; Isa 45:23; Phil 2:11; Rom 10:9). There is no other Name given to mankind for salvation (Acts 4:12, Isaiah 43:11).

Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name? Surely you know! (Prov 30:4).

Kill a Jew: Don't Go to Hell

www.ynetnews.com

Top Islamic clerics at the Supreme Council of Al-Azhar University in Egypt, perhaps the most important in the Islamic world, said that the Islamic rule (Shaaria) forbids suicide, the London-based Arabic newspaper al-Sharq al-Awsat reported.

The clerics determined that a connection was mistakenly made between suicide and a "sacrifice to defend religion and the homeland." The clerics stressed that the faith of those who commit suicide is no less than hell.

"Those who commit suicide bombings in the name of religion are not Muslims but rather people who sold their soul to the devil," Islamic clerics ruled.

"Many don't fully understand the Islamic commandments in regards to jihad. Someone who blows himself up in the middle of a crowd is a sinner who commits several crimes, first and foremost is suicide. It is well known that religion has a sweeping prohibition on suicide or killing of others. Taking one soul is one of the worst sins one can do, commanded specifically by God."

"The martyr, according to Islamic rule, is a man who fights the enemy and sacrifices his life while defending his religion, his homeland, his wives' respect, and protecting his land. This is set in Islamic laws, and only if he dies this way, he is a martyr."

However, Israelis should not be happy about this

strict ruling: suicide against Israeli targets is allowed.

"Those using suicide bombing against the enemy, the land robbers, and the occupier of nations, are martyrs."

Sounded like a well-stated rebuke at first, didn't it? Seemingly, the closest the Islamic clerics could come to expressing moral outrage was to say, "Hey, we think this is horrible and unacceptable — except, of course, if employed against our enemy the Jews!"

— Jeffrey Seif



Your Tax Dollars at Work

www.cnsnews.com

Almost half of the illegal aliens arriving in the U.S. from terrorist-sponsoring or "special interest" nations in the past few years have been released into the American population following their apprehension. This key finding is published in an internal audit of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The so-called "catch and release" policies have allowed more than 45,000 illegal aliens from countries that are well known for their anti-American views or considered "hotbeds of Islamic fundamentalism" to be freed. The report states that some countries "block" the repatriation of their citizens.

This full report can be viewed at www.levitt.com/news



We Need Your Help... Automatically!

You can increase the effectiveness of your contributions by reducing our expenses in processing them, plus save your time and postage. Once you enroll in our **Monthly Gift Program**, our ministry will electronically receive a monthly offering from either your checking account or credit card.

If you wish to use your **checking account** for donations, please follow directions numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 below:

1. Withdrawal amount: (please circle one) \$8 \$12 \$16 Other _____
2. Transfer date: (please circle one) 5th 20th
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**Zola's
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Wal-Mart in Gaza

www.ynetnews.com

Hamas has found a new way to try to cope with its financial crisis — by auctioning off items of clothing that belonged to dead terrorists. A broadcast on Arab TV news network al-Jazeera, translated and made available by MEMRI, a non-partisan research organization, shows a Hamas auctioneer, flanked by other Hamas members, trying to sell off the clothes to the highest bidder.

“Brothers, there is a man who has left us a few years ago. He sacrificed his soul, as a mujahid (holy warrior) for the sake of Allah.

“Oh Muslims, on the land of Gaza, on the land of Palestine, and around the world — Today we are opening the auction of a jacket which belonged to the martyred leader Sallah Shehada. Who will buy it in support of the government of Palestine? Twenty dinars. Who offers a higher bid?”

The video shows the auctioneer haggling with buyers. “Five hundred dinars. Allah Akbar, praise be to Allah. Who offers a higher bid? One thousand dinars. Who offers more?”

Another man calls out, “Who wants to buy a place in heaven for a small sum in this world?”

The jacket is eventually sold for 3,000 Jordanian dinars. [US\$ 4,237]

“Allah Akbar, praise be to Allah. The world is listening to you, so let it hear,” the auctioneer screams.

The auction ends with an exchange between the auctioneer and the crowd.
 Auctioneer: “What is your goal?”
 Crowd: “Allah.”
 Auctioneer: “Who is your leader?”
 Crowd: “The prophet.”
 Auctioneer: “What is your constitution?”
 Crowd: “The Koran.”
 Auctioneer: “What is your path?”
 Crowd: “The Jihad.”
 Auctioneer: “Let all the countries of the world hear: What is your highest aspiration?”
 Crowd: “Death for the sake of Allah.”
 Auctioneer: “What is your movement?”
 Crowd: “Hamas.”

Failure is not an option

Charles Krauthammer

There is fierce debate now in the U.S. about whether in the post-9/11 world Israel is a net asset or liability. Hezbollah’s unprovoked attack on July 12 provided Israel the extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate its utility by making a major contribution to America’s war on terror. From the pages of *The Washington Post* Charles Krauthammer examines and explains how America’s confidence in Israel — and the relationship it reinforces — is as important to Israel’s survival as its own army. See the full article at www.levitt.com/news.



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

iNetwork (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
DirecTV—Channel 255		Dish—Channel 181		

ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10:00 pm Sun or 1:00 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12:00 am Mon	1:00 am Mon
DirecTV—Channel 311		Dish—Channel 180		

INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

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
DirecTV—Channel 369		Dish—Channel 263		

TCT on DirecTV

The newest addition to our TV Airing Schedule, posted at www.levitt.com, is Channel 377 (TCT) on DirecTV:

- Tuesday 8:00 PM Central
- Thursday 8:00 AM Central
- Friday 7:00 PM Central



Road Map to Armageddon...

"Ye shall be hated of all nations"

Twelve 30-minute TV programs on Three 2-Hour VHS Tapes

This recent addition to our *Signs of the End* series is specifically aimed at the "Road Map," the latest internationally-inspired peace process directed at Israel and the Palestinians. This ministry is very skeptical of that plan for reasons thoroughly explained in these twelve programs.

Chorazin: A Warning

Zola speaks from the archaeological site of Biblical Chorazin, located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. This was once a flourishing city, but its ruins are a reminder of what happens when we do not listen to God.

Rumors of Wars

From the studio, Zola shares his thoughts about the End Times. He warns that the Road Map reflects a part of the Lord's prophecy: Matthew 24 says "... ye shall be hated of all nations." Zola quotes several news sources as examples of the media's distortion of the truth.

General of the North

Zola interviews Brigadier General Avi Mizrahi at his headquarters in the Golan Heights. The General defends the Israel Defense Force's actions in Jenin, comparing Israel's efforts at controlling terrorism to the US efforts in Iraq.

Peace by Piece

From a panoramic view of Jerusalem, Zola speaks about the danger in the Road Map's plans to divide the city. The Holy City was divided between 1948 and 1967, and it obviously didn't work. In part II, West Bank settler Stu Arden talks about the history of the area, starting with the British Mandate and leading to the present-day Palestinian efforts to divide Israel "peace by piece."

Into the Swine

Zola interviews Nisim Mezig, an archaeologist who has spent many years digging at Biblical Gergesa, presently called Kursi. It was here that the first Gentile Christian pilgrims came and built their first church. Recently uncovered ruins reveal the biggest monastery ever found in the Holy Land.

Isaiah Returns

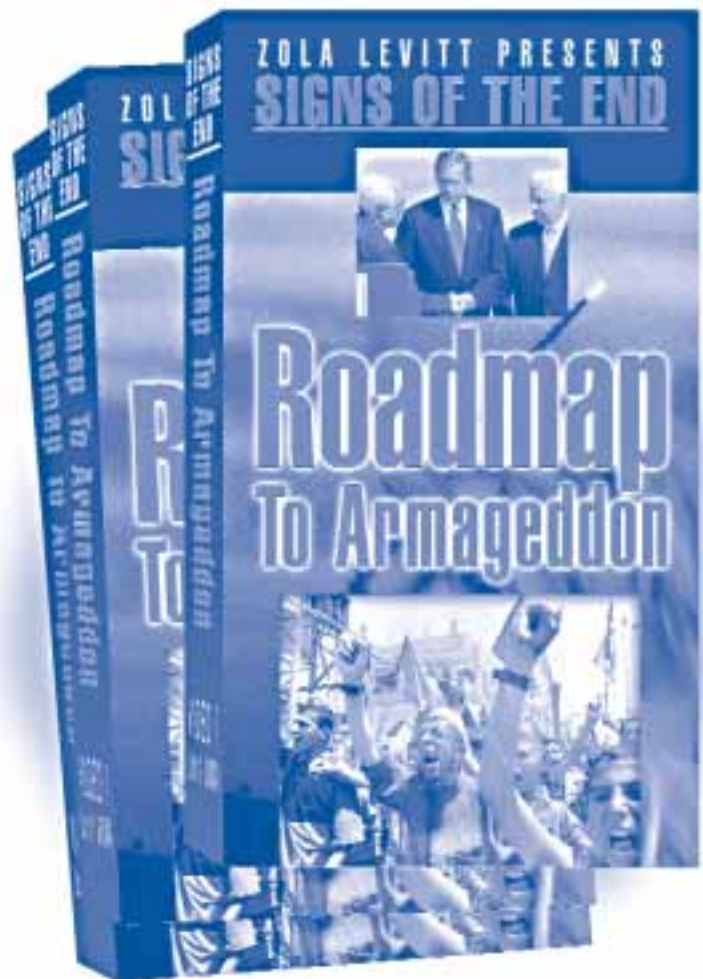
Zola interviews an old friend, Jerusalem resident Dan Hendrickson, who played the role of Isaiah on a past program. Dan says that there can be no change in Israeli-Palestinian relations until there is reform in Palestinian education.

The Refugee Problem

From the Mount of Olives, Zola talks about the Al-Aqsa mosque. Sitting atop the Temple Mount, this mosque was built in the 8th century by the Arabs and has become a symbol of their occupation, along with the neighboring Dome of the Rock.

The Coming Invasion

A bridge over the Jordan River serves as Zola's backdrop as he talks about the coming End Times events. During the invasion by



Gog and Magog, the enemy must cross this bridge. The US has inadvertently helped to provoke this future invasion.

The Battleground

Standing next to a Syrian bunker in the Golan Heights, Zola presents the history of the area, starting with the story of Rebecca. Biblical sites such as Bethsaida and Kursi are nearby. In the 20th century, battles over the area intensified.

The Miracle at Deganya Kibbutz

Zola tells the fascinating story of how the Syrians attacked a small, unarmed kibbutz in 1948 with 26 tanks, and lost. One of those tanks remains as a memorial to the daring defense mounted by virtually unarmed Israelis living on Deganya Kibbutz.

The Watchman

Itamar Marcus, Director of the Palestinian Media Watch, monitors the daily media seen in the Palestinian areas. He is concerned about the seeds of terror that are sown in the Palestinian news, talk shows and music videos. Itamar asserts that all too often the media glorifies "death for Allah."

Marching for Zion

We hear from Americans who gathered at the summer home of President Bush in Crawford, Texas, to voice their objections to the Road Map. Crawford is usually a quiet, sleepy little town, but when the pro-Israel marchers take to the streets, the Bible becomes a vibrant reason to "lift your voice unto the Lord."

Please order from page 31.

Reuters – Any Lie Will Do

Brit Hume, www.foxnews.com

Reuters news agency was forced to pull more than 900 photographs from its database after discovering that one of its Lebanese freelance photographers had doctored at least two pictures.

Adnan Hajj used Photoshop software to manipulate a photo he had taken of a Beirut suburb after an Israeli airstrike. The picture was altered to show more and darker smoke rising from bombed buildings (see unrealistic, repeating smoke pattern in photo at right). Hajj denies that the change was intentional, telling Reuters that he was trying to get dust marks off the picture.

An inquiry into Hajj's work also found evidence that he had doctored other photos as well, so Reuters pulled all his photos pending a further review.

The doctored photos were first discovered by bloggers who monitor Middle East coverage.

Another Hajj photo authenticated by Reuters is identical to a photo credited by Reuters to a different photographer, Issam Kobeisi. Fraud or laziness?

Controversy continues to swirl around photographs from the Middle East. An AP photo attributed a young Gaza girl's death to "an Israeli airstrike," but retracted the caption after doctors said the girl died from head injuries sustained during a fall from a swing.

The Jerusalem Post reported that a woman crying over the destruction of her Beirut home in a Reuters photograph appeared two weeks later in an AP picture crying in front of another home in a different location.

UN Dollars at Work

Gary Bauer's *End of Day Report*



Many Americans are surprised to learn that the United Nations actually has a "peacekeeping" force in southern Lebanon. It's called UNIFIL — the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon. It was established in 1978 with a mandate to: "Confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon; Restore international peace and security; and Assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area." Needless to say, this "interim" force has grossly failed to fulfill its mandate after 28 years, and Israel is more than justified for looking skeptically upon the "peacekeeping" promises of the United Nations.

For these and other reasons some refer to the UN as the "United Nothing." UN diplomacy has been aptly described as the "Weapon of Mass Discussion."

MANIPULATED
PHOTO



Notes &

The Smell of Terrorists

Gary Bauer's *End of Day Report*

The *Associated Press* recently reviewed Pentagon reports detailing abusive behaviors in our military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The behavior is disgusting. Here is an excerpt from the *Associated Press* article:

"Incident reports indicate Military Police guards are routinely head-butted, spat upon and doused by 'cocktails' of feces, urine, vomit and semen collected in meal cups by the prisoners. The guards have been repeatedly grabbed, punched or assaulted by prisoners who reach through the small 'bean holes' used to deliver food and blankets through cell doors..."

That's right, my friends. The report details abuses committed by the radical Islamist prisoners against our military personnel! Remember this story next time you hear someone fretting about the "inhumane treatment" of prisoners.

Sleeping with the Enemy?

Michael Schneider, *Israel Today*

The tired Lebanese passenger made himself comfortable in the plane, fell asleep and dreamt of finally arriving at home. When he opened his eyes during the descent, he had the shock of this life: The plane was about to land in Tel Aviv!

The man had been visiting Rome. At the airport he went to the correct gate, but boarded the wrong bus — the one that took him to the Israeli aircraft. Security personnel also failed to notice the mistake. Minutes after takeoff, the Lebanese man fell into a deep sleep and only awoke when the pilot announced the approach for landing.

Scared for his life, the man refused to get out of the plane, fearfully clinging to the pilot. He actually thought he was going to be lynched, showing just how deep the

brainwashing and hatred of Israel is in Arab countries.

After much persuasion and with the support of the airline's representative (and after a security check), the man from Lebanon got to know the "real Israel."

His farewell was accompanied by hugs, kisses and a plane ticket back to Italy.

Are Donations Down?

www.israeltoday.com

In a policy reversal, the Presbyterian Church (USA) reversed its decision to divest from companies doing business with Israel.

"We acknowledge that the actions (taken in 2004) caused hurt and misunderstanding among many members of the Jewish community and within our Presbyterian communion," the assembly said in its resolution. "We are grieved by the pain that this has caused, accept responsibility for the flaws in our process, and ask for a new season of mutual understanding and dialogue."

The original decision took Jewish and other Christian groups by surprise and was seen as a victory for the pro-Palestinian campaign to liken Israel's treatment of Palestinians to South African apartheid. At the time, Presbyterian communities that had strong relations with Jewish groups criticized the assembly for its unfair treatment of Israel.

The church's General Assembly vote (483-28) put a stop to singling out Israel and decided to handle questions regarding investments in Israel and "the occupied territories" through its "customary corporate engagement process."

"This statement reflects our historic commitment to the peoples of the Middle East in all their struggles toward peace," said the Rev. Gretchen Graf, moderator of the committee dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The church also revoked its blanket criticism of the security barrier in Judea and Samaria, but said to the extent that the security barrier violates the Green Line (land that was not part of Israel prior to the 1967 war) the barrier should be dismantled and relocated.

Allah's Shadow in Deutschland

Islam-Institute

More and more Germans are converting to Islam. Last year approximately 4,000 persons became Muslims.

According to the Central Islam-Institute in Soest, the numbers have been rising since the turn of the century. Up to the year 2000 the annual number of conversions stagnated at 300, but has been rising ever since.

The institute's director, Salim Abdullah, has no plausible explanation for this trend. In the past, converts were chiefly women who married Muslims, or academics with an "affection for the Orient."

Today people from all walks of life are among the converts, according to Abdullah, who is a German born Muslim himself.

The Islamic Fellowship of Germany attracts especially high numbers of converts — about 500 per year. According to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Baden-Württemberg (one of the 16 federal states) the fellowship is associated with the radical Muslim Brotherhoods.



According to Abdullah there are 3.2 million Muslims in Germany. Most of them are Turkish immigrants. Their religious life is flourishing. Abdullah expects the number of mosques to double within the coming years.

Currently there are 143 full-fledged mosques, with 128 more in the planning or building stages. In addition Muslims gather in 2,600 prayer and meeting places.

Approximately two-thirds of the 82 million inhabitants are church members. The Protestant Churches have 25.6 million members and the Roman Catholic Church 25.8 million.

500,000 Germans belong to smaller, often evangelical churches such as Baptists or Pentecostals.

It has been noted by the churches that interest in religion is rising in Germany, but it is not focused on Christianity. Today, the citizens in Martin Luther's home country are equally fascinated by esoteric practices, Buddhism and Islam. ✦

The Price of Life

Jonathan Moring, www.PBNradio.com



Moring

I have noticed a tactic journalists use in reporting the latest conflict between Israel and Hezbollah: they often cite the number of Israeli casualties alongside the number of Lebanese casualties, reading something like “40 Israelis dead, 542 Lebanese dead, most of them civilians.” Listing casualty numbers like this, side-by-side, appears intended to “show” how Israel doesn’t care about civilian casualties, and is reacting “disproportionately.”

Of course there are human answers to these subliminal charges. Israelis do everything they can to minimize civilian casualties, while Hezbollah tries to *cause* as many as possible. There is also the competence of Israeli internal security. At the first sign of incoming rockets, sirens go off in the affected areas, and Israelis head for shelter. This method of dealing with rocket attacks has saved hundreds of Israeli lives. Israelis also seem more willing simply to get out of the affected areas. Many have moved south to stay with relatives or make their homes in shelters until the conflict in the north has ended.

Then we must take into account the Hezbollah strategy of hiding among the Lebanese civilian population. *The New York Times* reported the pleas of a Lebanese Christian man from the village of Ain Ebel: “Hezbollah came to Ain Ebel to shoot its rockets. Please write that in your newspaper.” Not to mention the fact that many residents of southern Lebanon who support Hezbollah have stayed in that area to act as shields for the terrorist group. They are willing to sacrifice their lives to let Hezbollah attack Israel from their neighborhoods, because they know in the long run, the more Lebanese who are killed, the worse things will look for Israel.

These are all good arguments against the cold listing of Israeli and Lebanese casualties. However, there is another problem that runs deeper: the value of human life.

In Matthew 18, the Lord compares the way that God sees human life to that

of a shepherd herding sheep. “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. So it is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven that one of these little ones perish.”

So we see the way that God views the value of human life. He is willing to leave ninety-nine people to go after one person, and then rejoices over that one person “more” than he rejoices over the other ninety-nine. This tells me that human life is not simply valuable to God. It is *invaluable*. God refuses to put a price on human life, even to the point of denying that ninety-nine lives are more important than one life. Life is beyond measure and comparison, because it is immeasurable. After all, what thing of measurable value could a God of unending, everlasting glory possibly treasure? And remember, when something has unending value, such as human life, it cannot be out-valued by anything else. That includes two, three, or hundreds of human lives.

So the next time you see the media pundits comparing figures arguing who is more to blame for taking human life, remember that the people responsible for brainwashing even one suicide bomber have taken away something just as valuable as did the hijackers who flew the planes into the twin towers killing 2,749 innocent people. ✦



The Israeli War and the Church's 'Just War' Theory

By Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Jesus' exhortation in Matthew to "not resist an evil person" (5:39), to "give away your cloak" to him who would "take it" (5:40), to "love your enemies" (5:44) and to "be perfect" in the administration of the above (5:48) forces Bible readers to look seriously and critically at the legitimacy of war and wrestle with *if, when and under what conditions* a war could be acceptable, though undesirable.

In addition to raising questions of the legitimacy of a war, Jesus' explicit mandates raise questions about the legitimacy of ministries such as ours, which support Israel's efforts.

It would seem, at first blush, that those who both (1) oppose Israel's war and (2) oppose our support of it have the Christian and moral "high ground." This being the impression, it is imperative that individuals like me give a reasoned accounting for our comments and actions and overcome the previously-mentioned objections.

In his *Summa Theologica*, the Christian theologian, philosopher, and guide Thomas Aquinas leaned on Augustine's "just war" theory, took up the thorny question of the legitimacy of a "just war," and set wartime standards for western civilization and Christian culture in the process.

After dealing with questions and objections associated with whether it is "always sinful to wage war," Aquinas argued that, "In order for a war to be just, three things are necessary."

First, "the *authority* of the sovereign by whose command the war is to be waged" must be legitimate. Secondly, he said that "*a just cause is required*, namely that those who are attacked, should be attacked because they deserve it on account of some fault. Wherefore Augustine says, 'A just war is wont to be described as one that avenges wrongs, when a nation or state has to be punished, for refusing to make amends for the wrongs inflicted by its subjects, or to restore what it has seized unjustly.'" Thirdly, "it is necessary that the belligerents should have a rightful intention, so *that they intend the advancement of good, or the avoidance of evil*. Hence Augustine says 'True religion looks upon as peaceful

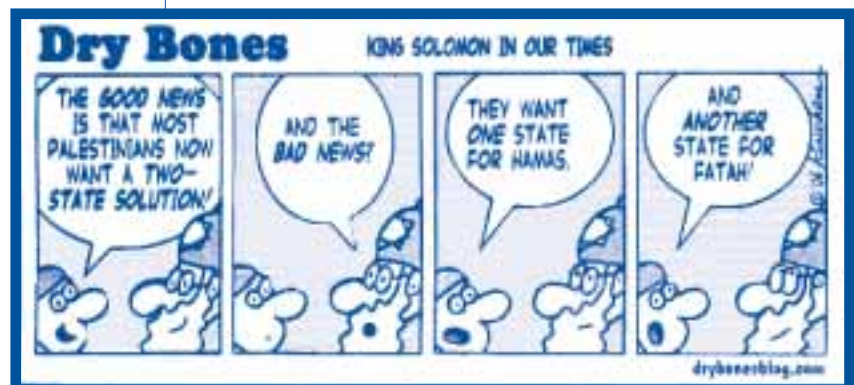
those wars that are waged not for motives of aggrandizement, or cruelty, but with the object of securing peace, of punishing evil-doers, and of uplifting the good.'"

In sum, undesirable as war always is, Christians have developed criteria to sanction the bearing of arms: these are (1) legitimate state "authority," (2) a defensive and "just cause" and (3) a "rightful intention." This established, the question before us now is: *Is Israel's struggle consistent with the norms established by Christians in the fighting of their own wars?* Let's see.

Israel came into being legitimately, in the wake of United Nations action. This sovereign State was attacked immediately in 1948, and thereafter a number of times. In 1967, Israel gave up holdings it secured during the "Six Day War," in the interest of securing a diplomatic peace. In 1979 Carter brought Arafat and Begin together and produced the "Camp David Accords," which Israel signed in the interest of peace. In 1993 Rabin signed the "Oslo Accord," over and against various objections. In 1994, the "Treaty of Peace" was signed with Jordan, in the hopes of purchasing peace; and in 2005 Israel voluntarily withdrew from Gaza and turned it over to Palestinian control, in exchange for a hoped-for peace.

A sovereign state, Israel has the authority to declare a war in response to incessant invasions; and this complies with the defensive "just cause" theory. Israel's intention to secure its borders and then retreat to its holdings, likewise, fulfills the third criterion.

Were Christian countries to apply these time-honored, Christian criteria for wars to the war that Israel is waging, they would conclude that Israel's war is justified and that its conduct is exemplary. For the aforementioned reasons, I argue that those who oppose Israel's right to exist and to defend itself on Christian grounds are incorrect, and I remain emboldened in my support for Israel on the grounds of biblical faith and conscience.



Standing with Israel—Part I

www.jpost.com



Eleven New York firefighters put their lives on hold and paid their way to Jerusalem, where they have been volunteering in a number of understaffed stations. Because of rocket-caused fires in the North, fire stations elsewhere started sending units to help, leaving places like Jerusalem in need of more personnel.

The commissioner of the Monsey fire district in New York's Rockland County, who planned the whole trip, said that his relationship with the Fire and Rescue Services began when it contacted him several years ago with a request to find cheap fire trucks. He managed to get what was needed for about 20 percent of the cost.

When he heard about the Katyusha attacks on the North, he correctly assumed that fire departments throughout the country would come under severe strain. He had the idea to gather volunteers to help, and three days later they arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport with a warm welcome and a minibus that said "New York Firefighters."

The New Yorkers have been getting to know their local counterparts while helping them respond to calls.

"Firefighting is the same job no matter where you go," said one of the volunteers. As well as working hard, the New Yorkers pray three times a day and visited the Western Wall for Tisha Be'av.

Spirituality was paramount in one's decision to come and help Israel. "We mention Yerushalayim all the time in our daily prayers. To talk is one thing, but to actually act and help is another."

An undergraduate at Yeshiva University agreed that there was a very Jewish feeling of duty. The Israeli firemen were extremely grateful that the New Yorkers came to help.

"I think it's unbelievable. They're full of Zionism, they're full of wanting to help. They're all professionals. They are very well trained. They're very nice people."

"It makes us all feel very good," said a fireman at the Giva station. "It's like a big brother over there watching us. Knowing that when you need him he will come makes you feel peaceful. In Israel, at this time, the general mood is about going and helping. They have a

Thanksgiving once a year, we have a war. Everybody's together helping each other."

The gratitude that our Israel tour passengers receive when traveling there, even when other tourists are unduly afraid, is comparable to that received by these firemen. — Mark Levitt

Standing with Israel—Part II

www.ynetnews.com



500 smiling tourists from France landed at Ben Gurion Airport to vacation in Israel or to celebrate family events in the Holy Land — despite, or perhaps because of, the war in the north.

One is marrying off her daughter, another is celebrating her son's bar-mitzvah, and another decided to place a note in the Western Wall — maybe that will help. Katyushas? Sirens? Shelters? They won't put a damper on their visits.

"We are not afraid," declared the tourists, most of them Jewish, who plan to stay in Israel anywhere from one to three weeks. Some of them also declared that by hook or by crook they would visit the north.

"In France it's more dangerous. There, the Muslims are giving us a hard time," said the woman who came for her daughter's wedding. "I invited 50 guests from France to my son's bar-mitzvah," bragged another, as she held her son against her. "Only one invitee didn't come and she is more than 70 years old, so she's allowed."

Minister of Tourism, Isaac Herzog, welcomed them. "You are our ambassadors in the world, showing that life in Israel continues despite the recent events," he said to the tourists, wishing them a pleasant and quiet vacation in both Hebrew and broken French.

One grandmother who frequently visits Israel, immediately bought a plane ticket when she heard war had broken out. Her children told her to be careful, but she didn't heed. Don't tell the kids, but she plans on visiting all her Israeli relatives, even those who live in the north. "We bring peace upon you," she says. And she really means it. ★

Rules of Fair Engagement

By Jonathan Kay, www.jewishworldreview.com

Late one night, an Israeli commando unit landed by helicopter on a beach near the Lebanese city of Tyre. None of the soldiers wore military markings. All had grown beards, so observers would think they were just another group of Hezbollah jihadis.

The soldiers made their way to a building where, from intelligence reports, the commandos knew a three-man Hezbollah rocket-launcher crew was holed up in a second-floor apartment.

The Israeli commander was the first through the door, and promptly took a bullet through a lung. The Israelis fired back. When the smoke cleared, all three Hezbollah members were dead. The Israeli commander was barely breathing; another commando was also seriously wounded.

As the commandos left — their two wounded on stretchers — they were attacked by Hezbollah gunmen spilling out of nearby buildings. Israeli helicopter gunships hovering nearby laid down a covering fire, allowing the commandos to retreat to their original landing area where a military doctor performed life-saving emergency surgery on the commander. Then, the whole team flew back to Israel.

These mission details sound like something out of a Hollywood film. But the truly amazing part is that the mission happened at all. Instead of risking the lives of its most elite soldiers, Israel easily could have dropped a bomb on the building and taken out the targets while they slept.

Why didn't Israel do that? Because the building also housed civilians. And Israel didn't want to spill their blood. Hezbollah may wage war while hiding behind women's skirts and baby rattles. But Israel stubbornly adheres to a more humane creed.

This is not a new policy that Israel adopted in response to the July 30 Qana bombing. Israeli soldiers employed the same humane methods in

one of the first major engagements of this war.

Nor is Israel simply following the letter of international law. Demolishing that apartment building in Tyre arguably would have been a proportionate, legal, Israeli response to the threat posed by its occupants.

Moreover, Israel had warned the residents of Tyre to evacuate many times. Most of those who remained in the city were Hezbollah supporters.

By this point, some readers will have heard enough about media bias. Still, I can't help but marvel at the other-worldly impression people are getting. The Israeli air force flew 9,000 sorties during this war. The handful of tragic instances in which Israel mistakenly attacked civilian targets are treated as war crimes. Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched more than 2,000 missiles at Israel, every one of them deliberately targeting Israeli civilians. But the only time this is reported is when the rockets actually hit someone — in which case the fact is cited not as an indictment of Hezbollah's barbarism, but as testament to its strength and the purported futility of Israeli strategy.

It's unclear which side History will see as the victor. But even before the shooting began, Arab militants could claim a perverse sort of triumph: liberation from the humane standards the world normally applies to the armies that fight wars. It is a triumph that Israel, and all civilized nations, can be proud of having forsaken. ★



"Chosen" Not to Teach in Europe

By Richard Elliott Friedman, *Jerusalem Post Christian Edition*

Here is a strange and troubling fact: The biggest difference between the teaching of the Bible in Europe and in North America is that in European faculties there is a near absence of Jews, except in Jewish programs and institutions. In the US and Canada, meanwhile, they probably number in the hundreds.

In Europe, Jews are professors in other areas of chemistry and history — but not of Bible. Why? It is partly because European institutions often house Biblical studies within theological faculties associated with a particular church.

The Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, for example, is appointed by the Queen, the head of the Church of England. The appointment has never gone to a Jew, but has never gone to a Catholic or a Lutheran either. Also, for sad and well-known reasons, there are fewer Jews in Europe than in America.

Still, the near-total absence of Jews in the study of a book that the Jewish people, after all, wrote suggests some darker reasons on the continent.

A friend of mine, Moshe Greenberg, now at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was the first Jewish professor of Bible in the United States. So it is a fairly new thing in America too, but we've come a long way in the decades since Greenberg taught at the University of Pennsylvania. (Greenberg's teacher, Ephraim Speiser, taught at Penn also, but was hired as an Assyriologist, not as a biblical scholar.)

This owes in part to the tremendous growth of Jewish Studies on nearly every major campus in the US. And I think it especially owes to enlightened faculties of non-Jewish scholars, first at Johns Hopkins and then at Harvard and Yale, who accepted and trained a generation of Jewish scholars. Things are not perfect, but one would have to say that, overall, North America overcame its prejudice. Europe did not.

Lest I be misunderstood: This is not meant as a blanket criticism of the whole of Europe's faculties. There are fine European Bible scholars who are honorable as

persons and as professionals, who have been collegial and supportive to Jewish scholars and to Israel. What is disappointing is the big picture, not every individual within it.

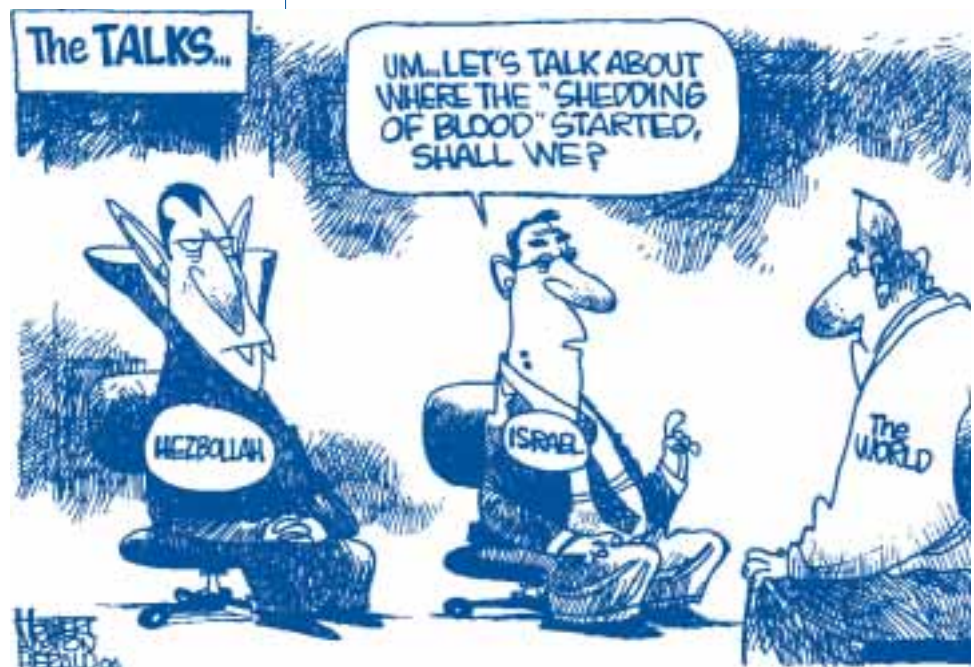
There are, however, other problems with the European situation that are more distressing: "minimalists" or "revisionists" in Bible scholarship.

These scholars claim that the Tanach (Hebrew Scriptures) was written entirely in the Persian or Hellenistic periods, and that its story is invented. This position is thriving in Europe — especially Copenhagen and Sheffield — but not in the US.

These people are dangerous. They deny the existence of virtually all of biblical Israel. Thus do they attempt to pull out the carpet from under Jewish claims to antiquity in the land. They rather picture the Jews as Johnny-come-latelies in the Persian period (or later), arriving in the land and making up a history so they could claim an ancient presence there and thus displace the legitimate residents. (Sound familiar?)

I think these Bible revisionists are more dangerous than Holocaust-denying ones. The Holocaust revisionists are more obscene because the events are so recent and so painful. But Bible revisionists are more threatening in the long run.

The Levitt Letter goes to more than 50,000 households and our website (www.levitt.com) is visited by viewers nearly 400,000 times per month. The success of both, and of this ministry generally, is attributed to the fact that more and more people want to hear the Christian story taught from a Jewish perspective. And why not? It's a Jewish story. Wake up Europe! ★



It's Our War, Too

By William Kristol, *The Weekly Standard*



Kristol

Why is this Arab-Israeli war different from all other Arab-Israeli wars? Because it's not an Arab-Israeli war. Most of Israel's traditional Arab enemies have checked out of the current conflict. The governments of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia are, to say the least, indifferent to the fate of Hamas and Hezbollah. The Palestine Liberation Organization (Fatah) isn't a player. The prime mover behind the terrorist groups who have started this war is a non-Arab state, Iran, which wasn't involved in any of Israel's previous wars.

What's happening in the Middle East, then, isn't just another chapter in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is an Islamist-Israeli war. You might even say this is part of the Islamist war on the West. What's under attack is liberal democratic civilization, whose leading representative right now happens to be the United States.

An Islamist-Israeli conflict may or may not be more dangerous than the old Arab-Israeli conflict. Secular Arab nationalism was, after all, also capable of posing an existential threat to Israel. But this is a new and different threat. One needs to keep this in mind when trying to draw useful lessons from our successes, and failures, in dealing with the threats of the 20th century.

Here, however, is one lesson that does seem to hold: States matter. Regimes matter. Ideological movements become more dangerous when they become governing regimes of major nations. Communism became really dangerous when it seized control of Russia. National Socialism became really dangerous when it seized control of Germany. Islamism became really dangerous

when it seized control of Iran — which then became, as it has been for the last 27 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

No Islamic Republic of Iran, no Hezbollah. No Islamic Republic of Iran, no one to prop up the Assad regime in Syria. No Iranian support for Syria; little state sponsorship of Hamas and Hezbollah. And no Shiite Iranian revolution and thus no Taliban rule in Afghanistan and perhaps no Hamas either.

It's of course true that Hamas — an arm of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood — is at odds ideologically with Shia Iran, and that Shia and Sunni seem inclined to dislike, even slaughter, each other elsewhere in the Middle East. But temporary alliances of convenience are no less dangerous because they are temporary. Tell the Poles of 1939, and the French of 1940, that they really had little to worry about because the Nazi-Soviet pact was bound to fall apart.

The war against radical Islamism is likely to be a long one. Radical Islamism isn't going away anytime soon. But it will make a big difference how strong the state sponsors, harborers, and financiers of radical Islamism are. Thus, our focus should be less on Hamas and Hezbollah, and more on their paymasters and real commanders — Syria and Iran. And our focus should be not only on the regional war in the Middle East, but also on the global struggle against radical Islamism.

For that matter, we might consider countering this act of Iranian aggression with a military strike against Iranian nuclear facilities. Why wait? Does anyone think a nuclear Iran can be contained? That the current regime will negotiate in good faith? ★



Iran and Mutual Assured Destruction

Bernard Lewis, *Wall Street Journal*

For terrorists, mutual assured destruction is not a constraint; it is an inducement.

During the Cold War, both sides possessed weapons of mass destruction, but neither side used them, deterred by what was known as mutual assured destruction. This has no doubt prevented their use in the confrontation between India and Pakistan. A new confrontation seems to be looming between a nuclear-armed Iran and its favorite enemies, the United States and Israel. Against the U.S. the bombs might be delivered by terrorists, a method having the advantage of bearing no return address. Against Israel, the target is small enough to attempt obliteration by direct bombardment. Would the same constraints, the same fear of mutual assured destruction, restrain a nuclear-armed Iran from using such weapons against the U.S. or against Israel?

There is a radical difference between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other governments with nuclear weapons. This difference is the apocalyptic worldview of Iran's present rulers. This worldview and expectation, vividly expressed in speeches, articles and even schoolbooks, clearly shape the perception and therefore the policies of Iran's President Ahmadinejad and his disciples.

Even in the past it was clear that terrorists claiming to act in the name of Islam had no compunction in slaughtering large numbers of fellow Muslims. A notable example was the blowing up of the American embassies in East Africa in 1998, killing a few American diplomats and a much larger number of uninvolved local passersby, many of them Muslims. There were numerous other Muslim victims in the various terrorist attacks of the last 15 years.

The phrase "Allah will know his own" is used to explain such apparently callous unconcern; it means that while infidel (non-Muslim) victims will go to a well-deserved punishment in hell, Muslims will be sent straight to heaven. According to this view, the bombers are doing their Muslim victims a favor by giving them a quick pass to heaven and its delights — the rewards without the struggles of martyrdom. School textbooks tell young Iranians to be ready for a final global struggle against an evil enemy and to prepare themselves for the privileges of martyrdom.

Israel is a nearer and easier target than the U.S. and Mr. Ahmadinejad has given indication of thinking along these lines. The Western observer would immediately think of two possible deterrents. The first is that an

attack that wipes out Israel would almost certainly wipe out the Palestinians, too. The second is that such an attack would evoke a devastating reprisal from Israel, since one may assume that the Israelis have made the necessary arrangements for a counterstrike even after a nuclear holocaust in Israel.

The first of these possible deterrents might well be of concern to the Palestinians — but not apparently to their fanatical champions in the Iranian government. The second deterrent—the threat of direct retaliation on Iran — is already weakened by the suicide or martyrdom complex that plagues parts of the Islamic world today, without parallel in other religions, or even in the Islamic past. This complex has become even more important at the present day because of this new apocalyptic vision that the terminal struggle has already begun.

The late Ayatollah Khomeini is quoted in an Iranian schoolbook as saying, "We will not cease until the annihilation of all the infidel powers. Either we shake one another's hands in joy at the victory of Islam in the world, or all of us will turn to eternal life and martyrdom. In both cases, victory and success are ours."

In this context, mutual assured destruction, the deterrent that worked so well during the Cold War, would have no meaning. For people with this mindset, mutual assured destruction is not a constraint; it is an inducement.

How then can one confront such an enemy, with such a view of life and death? There must be many Muslims, Iranians, Arabs and others, probably even a majority in the lands of Islam, who do not share these apocalyptic aspirations and who feel as threatened as we do. Now is the time for them to save their countries, their societies and their religion from the madness of mutual assured destruction. ★



One can only laugh.

Jihada al-Soccera

www.ynetnews.com



A British jihadist website has warned Muslims against being drawn in to what they described as “the new religion of soccer.”

The Saved Sect website, which calls on Muslims to work to establish an Islamic state in Britain, has attacked “football fever,” saying that soccer has “captivated the masses, dedicating their time and effort towards it.”

Comparing the allegiance of soccer fans to Islam and jihad, the organization said: “Football is the deen (religion) which people live their lives by and are willing to die for. Their jihad is to fight against those who are archrivals against their team. Their da’wah (call, invitation) is to publicize, defend and justify their team, inviting others to support them in this.

“People will spend hundreds and thousands of pounds for this religion of theirs, traveling to other parts of the world in support of their team showing affection, supporting and caring about. They will jump down the throats of those who so much as even dare to criticize their god, rising to defend it at all costs,” the Saved Sect website said.

Claiming that soccer plants the seeds of nationalism, and is therefore part of a “colonial crusader scheme” to divide Muslims and cause them to stray from the vision of a unified Islamic identity, the website told readers: “The sad fact of the matter is that many Muslims have fallen for this new religion and they too carry the national flag.”

The statement called on British Muslims to disassociate themselves from the World Cup in Germany, and ended with a quote by the prophet Mohammed condemning nationalism.

So, How Close Are We?

www.worldnetdaily.com

The questions are being raised not just on Christian talk shows and by televangelists today. They are being explored in the pages of *USA Today* and on secular network television.

With all the conflict in the world — and especially because of developments in the Middle East — more and more people are asking: Are we living in the End Times?

That question is also the focus of a new DVD documentary by Grizzly Adams Productions — “End Times: How Close Are We?”

The film points out that when it was written, nearly 30 percent of the Bible’s content was prophetic. Today, according to many Bible scholars, nearly all of these prophecies have become recorded history.

Only a handful of the Bible’s predictions remain to be fulfilled. They are predictions of the End Times — and many biblical scholars believe the signs that these prophecies are about to come true.



First Church at Site of Last Battle

www.israeltoday.co.il

Israeli archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of a third or fourth century church in northern Israel, which they believe could be the oldest ever found in the Holy Land. The church contains a well-preserved mosaic with references to Jesus Christ and images of fish — an ancient Christian symbol. “This find is once in a lifetime,” said chief archaeologist Yotam Tefer.

“It’s very, very exciting. It’s a dramatic discovery because an old building of this type has never been found in the Land of Israel.” The church was found during renovations at a prison in Megiddo — what the New Testament calls Armageddon — the site where all the armies of the world will meet for the final showdown between good and evil. “Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16).

The word Armageddon is derived from the Hebrew Har Meggido — Mount Meggido. It overlooks the Jezreel Valley, a vast area where the armies of the nations will gather for the last battle. “Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the Valley of Decision” (Joel 3:14).

“This is the place, the site of the last battle, Armageddon,” Tefer said. “This is why it’s so important to the Christian world.” Word of the find has electrified Christian Believers across the denominational spectrum.

"No Stronger Retrograde Force Exists in the World."

—Winston Churchill on Islam

"How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live. A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity. The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property, either as a child, a wife, or a concubine, must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men.

"Individual Moslems may show splendid qualities...but the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science, the science against which it had vainly struggled, the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome."

[*The River War, first edition, Vol. II, pp. 248-50.*]

Tolerance and loving kindness, Asian style.

Christ = Jail

www.worldnetdaily.com

The Supreme Court in India has given police across the nation unlimited power to arrest and detain anyone accused of talking to another person about Christianity.

The ruling opens the door for police with Hindutya sympathies to act as Hindu Taliban. (Hindutya is a militant Hinduism that seeks political and religious dominance.)

Nuns, pastors, bishops and evangelists, as well as Christian aid workers, teachers and social workers, are all immediately at risk of arrest and imprisonment because of their Christian witness. India is moving up on the list of nations around the world where Christians are persecuted.



The previous practice that protected religious leaders in their speech was found in the Criminal Procedure Code, which says, "no court shall take cognizance" of a complaint about proselytizing unless there was government approval for the arrest.

But the new court ruling said the only requirement for an arrest on those charges is a complaint, relieving police of that "authorization" requirement that was set for the courts.

The decision came in a case involving Pastor Paulraj Raju of Kanartaka state. He was beaten by Hindus last year and arrested on charges of trying to convert Hindus to Christianity. His wife petitioned on the basis there was no warrant, and a lower court quashed the case. But the state government appealed and the case eventually ended up before the Supreme Court.

The court explained that although a prior sanction would be required for a court to hear the case, it is not needed before someone could be accused by police, then arrested and detained, for proselytizing.



A Slippery Idea

BusinessWeek

John Brown, a born-again Christian who believes the Bible will guide him to oil and gas in Israel, is testing the faith of investors in the U.S. The Texas-based novice oilman who founded Zion Oil & Gas says, "God has promised in the Bible to bless Israel with one of the world's largest oil and gas fields."

Brown relies on a passage in Deuteronomy that refers to Asher, a son of Jacob, dipping his foot in oil. Hundreds of wells have been drilled in Israel in the past 60 years, but none has yielded significant production.

It might help readers who are considering an investment in such a scheme to know that Asher was prophesied to dip his foot into olive oil, not petroleum. Deut 33:24. They need to be aware, also, that the man drilling the well gets paid even when investors get nothing.

— Mark Levitt



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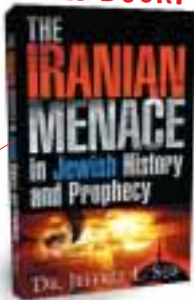
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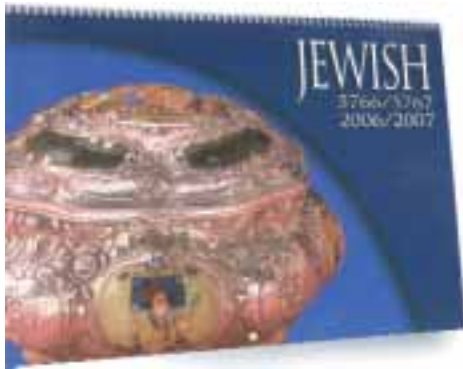
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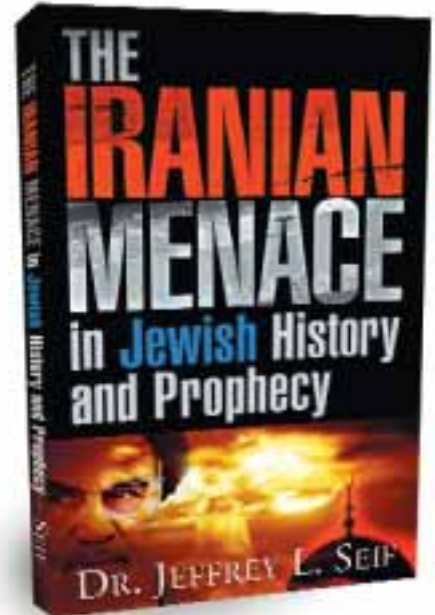
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