

Levitt Letter

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

Hanukkah 2014:
Dec. 16 eve
to Dec. 24 eve

Jesus: Real Reason for the Season

By J. Lee Grady CharismaNews.com

We miss the greatest blessing if we don't set aside the glittering distractions of a commercialized Christmas and focus on the One who was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger.

During the holidays, I read the accounts of Jesus' birth in the Gospels, paying attention to the names ascribed to Jesus. You might want to take a moment to ponder their meanings.

1. Son of David (Matt. 1:1) Writing primarily to Jews, Matthew stressed Jesus' royal lineage of Israel's kings, tracing Joseph's line to David. Though not Joseph's biological son, Jesus could legally claim the family name. He was King of the Jews in the truest sense—and His Kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:33)

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Birthday Celebrations Without the Birthday Boy



By Lon Vining
CharismaNews.com

In *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens was trying to tell a tale to curb the evils of materialism. Ironically, he ended up creating a vacuum in our culture that has been invaded by the very ghosts of excessive love of money that he once exorcised.

Christmas prior to Dickens was much more religious. As secularism grew in the 19th century, Dickens penned a new ideal for the holiday, substituting the religious aspects with a romanticized ideal of family gatherings, "caroling out in the snow," gift-giving, and merry-making.

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Jesus: Real Reason for the Season *continued from cover*



J. Lee Grady

2. Son of Adam (Luke 3:38) Writing to a gentile audience, Luke focused on Jesus' humanity, not royal line, tracing Jesus' lineage through Mary to Adam, the first man. God's Word impregnated Mary, making her child both God and man. Yet Jesus, unlike Adam, never disobeyed God. His sinless life redeems all who accept His gift.

3. Emmanuel (Matt. 1:23) An angel told Joseph to call Mary's son Emmanuel, "God with us." The name wraps up the mystery of the Incarnation. John's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the Word "made flesh" (John 1:14).

4. Savior (Matt. 1:21) The angel told Mary to call her "holy child" Jesus—the Greek form of Joshua (*Yeshua* in Hebrew), "the Lord saves." As Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land, so Jesus leads us "by grace... through faith" (Eph. 2:8) into the blessings of salvation.

5. Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6) Angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would institute peace on Earth. The gift of Christ was, in fact, the greatest peace treaty ever enacted. Wherever the true Gospel of Christ is practiced, hatred is uprooted in human hearts and wars cease.

6. Light to the Gentiles (Luke 2:32) When he met the baby Jesus, Simeon recognized that the Son of God was sent not just to Israel but to all people. The non-Jewish Magi also confirmed Jesus' global mission when they bowed before the Christ Child and honored Him as a true king.

7. The Messiah, Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11) The angel described Jesus to the shepherds as the *Christ*, "the anointed one;" in Hebrew *HaMashiach*, "The Messiah," the deliverer God promised. Abraham saw Him; King David sang of Him; prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others foretold His coming. Anointed by the Holy Spirit to heal the sick and raise the dead while on Earth, He was also anointed to die on the cross and rise from the dead so that we could live with Him forever.

The wonder of Christmas is and will always be found in Jesus alone. Take time to pull away from secular celebrations and reclaim the miracle of His birth. ★



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Birthday Celebrations ... *(continued from cover)*

It wasn't just Dickens. Men like Clement Clarke Moore, who wrote, "*'Twas the night before Christmas,*" penned Christmas tales that were heavy on hope-filled ideas like Santa Claus and magical, wintery scenes and absent of one thing: Christ.

A Christmas story devoid of Jesus is a story that lacks a hero, like a yearly birthday party where everyone has forgotten whose birthday it is. The celebrating is fun, but celebrating for celebration's sake grows meaningless after a while.

One need not be a Christian to appreciate the story of Christ's birth. The values the nativity story embodies are universally needed: humility, service to others, and sacrifice.

Scrooge learned this lesson from a troop of ghosts that showed him the error of his selfish ways. But if Ebenezer's holiday celebration had included Christ, he may never have needed their visits in the first place. ★



“God bless us, every one!”

Myles To Go
By Myles Weiss
ZLP Host



So states Tiny Tim at the conclusion of Charles Dickens’s classic tale *A Christmas Carol*. Dickens ties the novel’s theme—the power of redemption and the potential transformation of a human soul—to the Christmas spirit and unashamedly exalts the values of the Christian faith, yet misses the mark by leaving Jesus out.

Christian reverence for Jesus intrigues most Jewish people. But growing up in NYC, we Jewish kids got the message that Jesus is for the gentiles, not for Jews. The Jewish community may have internal squabbles and endless debates, but one thing we know for sure, Jesus is for *them*—the others.

In fact, that may be the most unifying factor in Jewish life, and it is partially based on a fear of assimilation: If we allow Christian influence, we may lose our unique stance as a people separated to God, by God, for God. A legitimate concern.

President George Washington wrote to Jews in Rhode Island that in the United States, “it is now *no more* that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights.” Behind the archaic language lies this sentiment: God was providing the Jews a place where they could live as Jews without fear for their livelihoods or lives. America was the unprecedented breakthrough for Jewish liberty until the rebirth of Israel in 1948.

Recently, Dennis Prager, a reasonable and contemporary voice for Jewish culture and positive Judeo-Christian relations, wrote this:

“As a Jew, and a religious one at that, I want to wish my fellow Americans a Merry Christmas. Not ‘Happy Holidays.’ Merry Christmas.”

Prager makes a significant point. Jews and Christians need to stand together and protect each other’s religious liberty. In the West, that liberty currently is

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Darkness hates the Light...





being used to infiltrate our culture to provide an entrée to *sharia* (Islamic) law and a worldwide caliphate.

Many Christians and Jews see a shared destiny for their communities.

- Both believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God
- Both are grateful for the *Torah* (the Books of Moses), the *Nevi'im* (the prophets), and the *Ketuvim* (the "writings": wisdom, history, poetry), collectively known by their acronym: *Tanakh*, the Old Testament
- Both recognize the world-changing significance of Israel's rebirth
- Both recoil in alarm at the fascist jihadi ideology sweeping through Islam, and its similarity to 1939 Europe
- Both look for Messiah

That last point recalls a joke Zola used to tell: A Christian asks a Jew, "If you were on the Mount of Olives when the Messiah appears (as prophesied in Zechariah 14:4), what would you say to Him?" The Jew answers, "I would ask, 'So, is this your FIRST visit to the Holy Land?'"

Messianic Jewish Believers represent the first fruits of reconciliation between the two worlds of Judaism and Christianity. We fully identify as Jews and with Israel, yet we believe the most Jewish thing to do is believe in Yeshua as that One of whom the prophets spoke. Though we will never be "Jewish enough" for some or "Christian enough" for others, we *can* stand together with gentile Believers as the One New Man of Ephesians 2 against the present global threat to both. ★



The Perfect Sacrifice

By Katharine Weiss
ZLP Co-Host



As Believers face the conditions of the world, I pray that we will each take a fresh look at the face of Jesus. Let's remember the old, faithful hymn:

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus
look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.**

In Him resides all mercy, grace, love, forgiveness, healing, and acceptance. In His light we have life. His light quarters no condemnation. As the perfect sacrifice for all who believe, He took our place so Believers can stand in Him. We need to let His Word and presence cleanse us and renew us day by day.

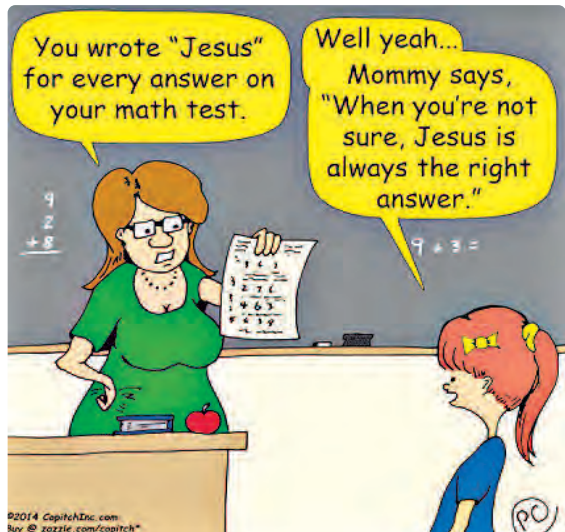
The *Tanakh* (Older Testament) describes the daily offerings in the wilderness and the Temple. In an interesting foreshadowing, the priests placed offerings on a brazen altar that had four corners, similar to the cross, which also has four corners. In those days, man's access to God was limited: during daily morning and evening sacrifices, spilled blood covered sins and people's prayers were acceptable to God. Yeshua's blood was shed *once and for all*, giving anyone bold access to the throne of grace to receive "mercy and help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Yeshua is God's perfect sacrifice. Under the Mosaic Law, hands that were laid on the sacrifice transferred the people's sins to the innocent lamb in exchange for the lamb's innocence, which transferred back to the people. But the Lamb of God died for your sins and mine. God withholds nothing from us; He gave us the best — His only son, His Beloved Son. Parents know how our children's trials and sufferings affect us, how deeply we empathize with their struggles. We can only imagine the infinite magnification of a parent's heartache as the Father sent His Son to be the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Remember, all of God's promises are "yes and amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20). The word *amen*, often translated "so be it," comes from the Hebrew word *aman* and can also mean "belief." Abraham *believed* God when God promised a son, and that belief was accounted to Abraham as righteousness. He said "Amen" to God's promise.

According to the ancient sages, God rains blessings on Earth every day. Every morning His mercies are new and His blessings are available for us to receive. It is our job to respond, "Amen, be it unto me according to Your word" and receive the gift that He is giving. We "catch" the blessing with our "Amen."

May this Season of Lights — and celebrating *The Light* — bring forth a mighty "Amen" from us all! ★



Dew on the Mountain

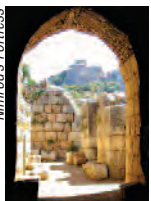
OUR MAN IN HAIFA By Eitan Shishkoff (r) with wife Connie



The prophets called it Bashan. Israel’s northernmost portion of land rises above the Sea of Galilee, looking down on the African Rift Valley. The Golan Heights became synonymous with heroism and sacrifice when vastly outnumbered Israelis held on to save their nation from devastating defeat in one of history’s most dramatic tank battles during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. On those same battlefields now flourish tranquil orchards, horses, vineyards, and cows. The Golan holds keys to Israel’s past, a portrait of its prosperous present, and hints of a climactic future.

Deuteronomy 3 describes the Israelites conquering the Golan from the Amorites, ancient dwellers in Syria. Successive empires found the region so strategic that they sent armies to seize control. Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome all

Nimrod's Fortress



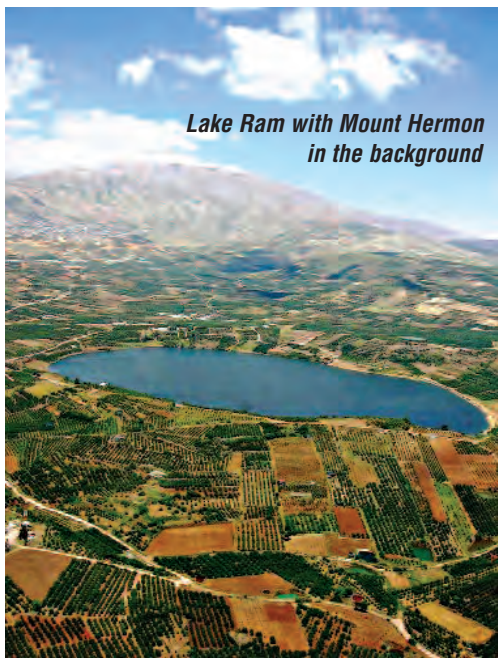
blazed through the Golan in their attempts at world domination. The Jewish presence from 83 BC to 750 AD can still be seen at the reconstructed Talmudic village of Katzrin. Dating from the era of Turkish-Crusader wars in the 1200s, the stunning Nimrod’s Fortress below Mount Hermon overlooks the modern town of Kiryat Shmona. Much of the fortress remains and is one of our family’s favorite spots to visit.

In Psalm 133, King David compared these majestic heights to eternity. “Behold how good and how pleasant, for brethren to dwell together in unity! ... It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.” The author was well aware of the abundance of rain gathered by Mount Hermon (el: 9,230’). Even today, its average annual rainfall of 60 inches places it well above Israel’s average of 21 inches.



Biblical Bashan saw cattle feeding on the verdant hills. Again, today, cattle ranching and dairy farming thrive as Israeli “cowboys” round up their herds. Bashan’s volcanic soil and sloping hills produce vibrant grapevines, making the Golan one of Israel’s prime areas for award-winning wines. Orchards abound too, providing luscious peaches, apples, pears, plums, nectarines, cherries, and a variety of berries. One olive mill produces 50 tons of olive oil annually.

What’s in store for this picturesque portion of *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel)? Ezekiel 38 appears to describe an end-time invasion of Israel from the far north. Any approach from the north would require entering through the Golan Heights. The district is no stranger to warfare, having weathered many attacks since the nation’s rebirth. Will the tough northerners again be called upon to face an initial onslaught, holding an enemy at bay until the rest of the nation can respond and supernatural intervention arrive? The way things are going, we’ll soon see. May we Believers stay faithful ‘til He comes. ★



Lake Ram with Mount Hermon in the background

The Gates of Jerusalem

PICTORIAL SERIES / Zion Gate



More than passageways, the gates of Jerusalem served as places for personal business and civic affairs. Some gates took their names from the distant cities they faced, like Jaffa and Damascus. Other names reflected purpose, like Fountain and Dung.

During Nehemiah's time (5th century B.C.), the gates numbered 12. Seven of eight gates open into the Old City today. Revelation describes 12 in the New Jerusalem.

Today's Old City of Jerusalem is surrounded by 2.5 miles of walls built by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in circa 1540.



Zion Gate in the southwestern wall of the Old City allows entrance into the Armenian and Jewish Quarters.

The gate faces Mount Zion to the south, which gave Zion Gate its name. Part of the Old City structure before Suleiman embarked on rebuilding the city, Mount Zion ended up outside the city walls after the construction



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was completed. As one of the highest places in Jerusalem, the Mount offers a magnificent panorama of the Old City lying beneath. The location and name "Zion Gate" appear on maps dating back to the 12th century.

King David is believed to be buried on Mount Zion, giving the gate one of its alternate names, David's Gate. It is also called Gate to the Jewish Quarter because of its close proximity to that quarter and because during periods of the Ottoman rule, the keys to the gate were given to the city's Jews.

The pathway through Zion Gate is L-shaped, designed to slow potential invaders from rapidly entering the city. Today, both pedestrians and motorists use the gate.

Zion Gate was the site of many bloody battles during the 1948 War for Independence. In an effort to reach the besieged Jewish Quarter, on May 19th Jews

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Photo: Ken Berg

Gates... continued

“The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.” (Ps. 87:2)



attacked at the gate with gunfire and explosives, causing massive damage. They were met with stiff resistance by the Jordanian Legion and were forced to withdraw. On May 28, the Jewish Quarter surrendered. Jews evacuated through Zion Gate and didn't return until Jerusalem was reunited in the June 1967 war. Much of the damage has been repaired, but the pockmarked surface was left as a reminder of how fierce the fight was for the ownership of the Holy City.

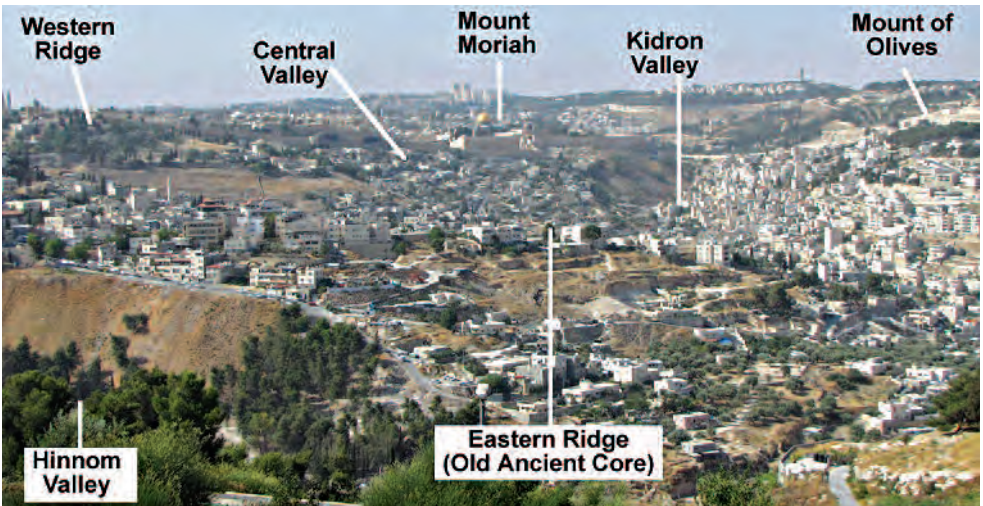
While the Israelis won the War of Independence, they did not succeed in holding on to the eastern part of Jerusalem and the Jewish Quarter, which fell under Jordan's control. Zion Gate also ended up in Jordanian hands, and the area around it was called "No-Man's-Land" because it was heavily mined and under constant sniper fire.

For 19 years, from 1948 to 1967, the Jordanians kept Zion Gate closed. That changed after 1967's Six-Day War, when Israel took control of Jerusalem, cleaned up the mess left by the Jordanian forces, and reopened Zion Gate to allow access to the holy places for all religions. ★

Expulsion of Jews from the Jewish Quarter in the 1948 War through the Zion Gate (John Philips for Life Magazine)



Topography of Jerusalem's mounts
(In this photo the Western Hill (or, Mount Zion) is labeled as "Western Ridge.")



Understanding the Messiah

CLASSIC NOTE FROM ZOLA / 1984: 30 years ago



[Last month](#) we looked at Remaking the Messiah and the various ways cultures portray Him to fit their needs. This month we try ***Understanding the Messiah***.

Stick to the Gospels to understand the true Messiah. He obviously had the physical features of the Israelites, and very likely their personality characteristics as well. They are decisive and aggressive people. They live under a stringent, ancient code of ethics and therefore emphasize morality and fairness as a culture. (An Israeli friend gave me a copyrighted item whose warning read, "Duplication of this material is forbidden by Torah and by the copyright laws." Plagiarists in Israel must consider the Law of God as well as the laws of the state!)

Our Lord would not have been:

- quiet and unassuming. Israelis are not gentle, meek, and mild as a rule.
- pale—Galileans are not "pale" in any way.

He would have:

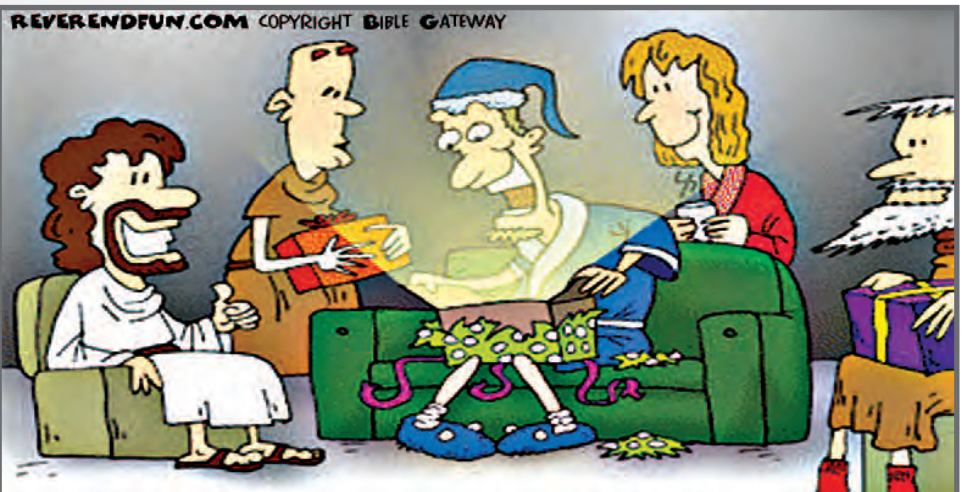
- walked rapidly and taken the most direct routes; a 50-mile walk would be routine to Him.

- eaten quickly of simple foods, favoring the fields over the stores.
- kept the law, all the time.
- dressed for the desert, probably wearing a headdress on His trips to Jerusalem.

More important than looks was what He said. "No man spoke like this man" (John 7:46). Jesus Christ never wasted a word. He didn't pause for tact and diplomacy. He said, "Let your yea be yea and your nay be nay" (Matt. 5:37). He quoted only one book, the Bible, though others were available. He never questioned the veracity of a single verse. He spoke of Adam and Eve, Noah and Jonah, and other Old Testament people as historical figures. Those who have trouble believing the creation account or the flood simply differ with the opinion of *Yeshua HaMashiach*.

He remade men, not institutions. He valued a leper by the road more than an interview with King Herod. His ministry consisted of winning human hearts, one by one. "Somehow" He became the central figure of history, and the ideas He taught to 12 men became the world's dominant religion. He dealt kindly and fairly with women.

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



ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!

"Jesus is alive
and active today"



He stated that His followers were His family (Matthew 12:49–50).

In characterizing the true Messiah, we must keep in mind that He is alive and active today. Not a figure to be left in history, Jesus is our Advocate with the Father. He is our promised bridegroom; like a thief in the night, He will come to claim His bride. And nothing is clearer in the Scriptures than that.

The Jesus of the Gospels, not some re-made version, is the only true Messiah. We must beware of remodeling the

Lord to the point where He no longer dispenses salvation. Think of denominations that pronounce His name but know nothing of being born again.

I conclude that there are three basic steps to knowing the true Messiah: (1) read the Gospels, (2) read them again, and (3) read them yet again. We remake the Lord when we ignore the Gospels and listen instead to people's opinions of who He is and how He acts.

But He is the Word, and only through the Word can we know Him. ★

Menorah or Hanukkah

Israel Today

Jerusalem may not have Christmas lights, but each year during Hanukkah, there is a tradition with the same message: The God of Israel is the light of the world. Windows and doorways of homes are lit up by the nine-branched candelabrum, called in Hebrew the *hanukkiyah*, a term coined at the end of the nineteenth century in Jerusalem by the wife of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language. Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabean Revolt and Israel's liberation from the oppressive reign of the Greek Seleucid Empire during the 2nd century B.C., restoring religious freedom.

The candelabrum is placed in the window for all to see, as a testimony of Elohim's miraculous intervention for Israel. Hanukkah means "dedication" and refers to the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was desecrated by forces of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. The Jews found a small flask of holy oil for the Temple menorah, enough for one day, but it miraculously burned for eight days.

So the *hanukkiyah* is lit for eight days, lighting an additional candle each day until eight beautiful lights glow in the windows of Jerusalem. Hanukkah symbolizes the victory of light over darkness.



*The Festival
of Lights
celebrates
a miracle*



Ask the Chaplain

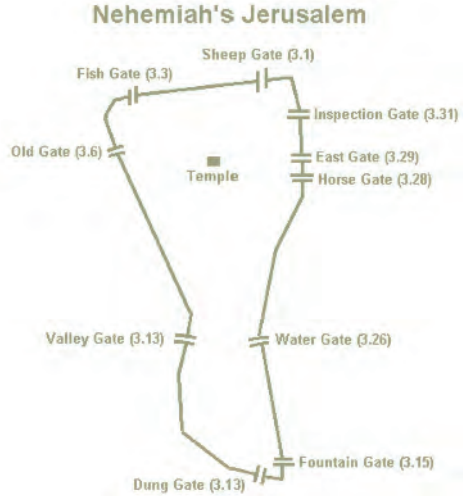
Dr. Todd D. Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



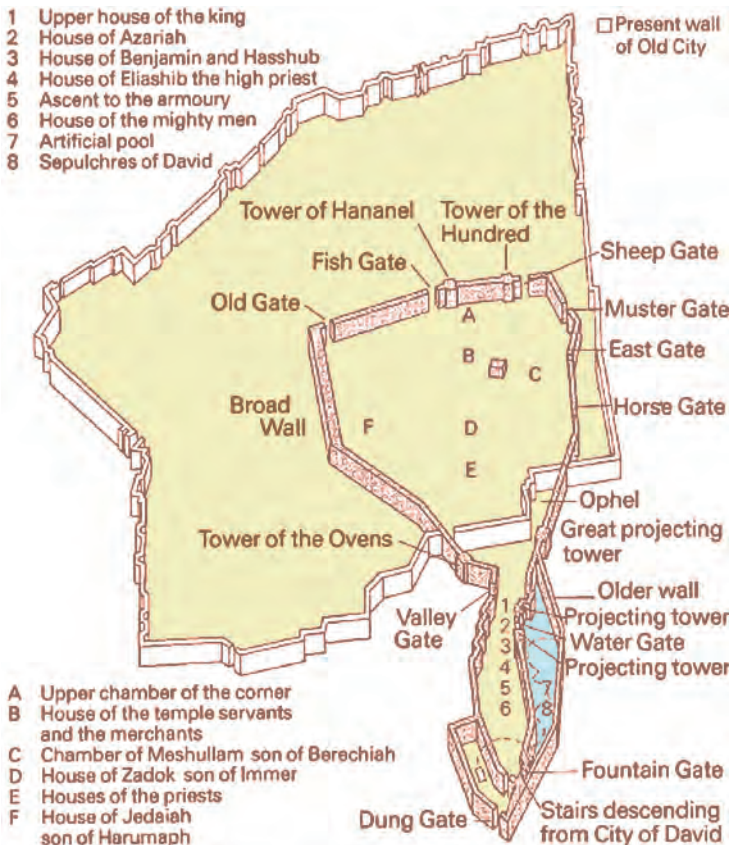
Q. I am confused. In a book from Midnight Call Ministries, Arno Froese states that the gates in the walls around Jerusalem were constructed by the Moslems and not by the Jews. Even your series on the Gates [\(pg. 8\)](#) says they were "built by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1540." Why would Moslems name a gate 'Zion Gate' when they hold such vitriolic contempt and hatred against Zionists?

A. All of the gates to the Old City of Jerusalem were rebuilt during the 16th century by Suleiman. None of the original gates remain in their entirety from the Old Testament or New Testament periods. They were pretty much destroyed by the Romans. When Suleiman rebuilt the gates, he decided to also re-erect most of the wall on the ruins of the

ancient gates and foundation stones. The construction of the walls that exist around the Old City today lasted from 1535–1541. This is a fact of history. When the Jews re-established Israel in 1948, they revived the names of the gates that had existed during the ancient period of the city. ★



Maps of 5th century wall and gates, current wall and gates, and overlay showing both.



Bringing the Gospel to Jew & Arab in Haifa

BY TODD BAKER



While the **To The Jew First** team ministered in Haifa, Kevin Mead felt led by the Spirit to enter a store where a divine appointment with salesclerk **Aviv** awaited him. When Kevin mentioned that he and I were from Dallas, Texas, Aviv commented that the Dallas Cowboys are an awful team. Speaking as a big fan of not only the NFL but also American college football, Aviv informed us that he plays in the Israel Football League for the Haifa Underdogs, a semipro football team in Haifa. This good-natured exchange provided the entry for deeper discussion.



We explained to Aviv that we regularly travel to Israel to re-introduce the Word of Yeshua *HaMashiach* (the Messiah) to the Jewish people within the Messianic context of the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). As the Lord would have it, Aviv's coach is an Israeli believer in Yeshua and attends a Baptist church. The coach had already shared the Gospel with Aviv, so Kevin and I were in a position to water that Gospel seed.

We took Aviv through some of the Messianic prophecies in the Tanakh and then showed him where Yeshua fulfilled them in the New Covenant Scriptures. Aviv really saw the Messianic connection between the Testaments. We left him with a Bible in Hebrew and a list of the major Messianic

prophecies that Jesus fulfilled at His first coming, and suggested that Aviv ask his coach to help him understand what Yeshua did as Israel's Messiah. Aviv agreed to further study and then invited us to watch him play football in the fall when we return to Israel. Your contributions are instrumental in sending our *sheliachim* to plant and water the Gospel seeds. **There are many more Israelis like Aviv**, waiting to hear and receive Yeshua's Gospel.

Next, the Lord led us to an Arab Christian woman, **Wala**. She expressed a deep gratitude that the TJF Gospel Outreach seeks to minister to both Jews and Arabs. She declared herself another Arab citizen of Israel who is grateful to live in the Jewish State and thanked God in our presence for her home in Israel. She laughed at the notion that Israel discriminates against its Arab citizens, pointing to its absurdity by mentioning the Arab justice on Israel's Supreme Court.



Wala already owned an Arabic Bible but wanted a Hebrew Bible from us. She fluently speaks four languages—Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Italian. She also eagerly accepted a Gospel tract in Arabic, intrigued to see the Scriptures that show how Jesus came to save both Jews and Arabs. Wala said she was very happy to meet us and plans to keep in touch. ★



NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley



Babe Ruth and the Holocaust

BY RAFAEL MEDOFF / JNS.org



Seventy-two years ago, the names of 50 German-Americans appeared in a full-page advertisement in ten daily newspapers “in denunciation of the Hitler policy of cold-blooded extermination of the Jews of Europe.” The most prominent signatory was George Herman “Babe” Ruth.

Babe Ruth is remembered for his home runs on the field and his hot dog binges and other peccadilloes off the field. But there was another Babe Ruth—one who went to bat for women and minorities, including the Jews of Europe, during the Holocaust.

Throughout the spring and summer of 1942, Allied leaders received a steady stream of reports about the Germans massacring tens of thousands of Jewish civilians. Information revealed that the killings were not random atrocities, but part of a Nazi plan to systematically annihilate all of Europe’s Jews. In late November, the State Department publicly verified this news, and the U.S. and British governments and their allies issued a declaration acknowledging and condemning the mass murder.

But there was no discussion of taking steps to rescue the Jews. As quickly as the mass murder had been revealed, it began to fade from the public eye.

Dorothy Thompson was determined to keep that from happening. And Babe Ruth would help her.

Thompson (1893–1961) was the first American journalist to be expelled from Nazi Germany. She was once described by *TIME* magazine as one of the two



most influential women in the United States, second only to Eleanor Roosevelt. In the autumn of 1942, Thompson contacted the World Jewish Congress with the idea of mobilizing German-Americans to speak out against the Nazi persecution of the Jews.

As a journalist, Thompson understood the man-bites-dog news value of German-Americans protesting against Germany—especially in view of the pro-Nazi sentiment in some segments of the German-American community.

The World Jewish Congress agreed to foot the bill for Thompson’s ad. She drafted the text and set about recruiting signatories. Then, on December 22, the “Christmas Declaration by men and women of German ancestry” appeared as a full-page ad in *The New York Times* and nine other major daily newspapers.

The 50 prominent German-American signers of the ad claimed to “utterly repudiate every thought and deed of Hitler and his Nazis,” and urged the people of Germany “to overthrow a regime which is the infamy of German history.”

The signatory by far the best known to the American public was George Herman “Babe” Ruth.

Widely regarded as the greatest baseball player in the history of the game, Ruth, by participating in this German-American protest against the Holocaust, used his powerful name to attract public attention to the Jews’ plight. Timing is everything, and the timing of Ruth’s protest was crucial: precisely at the moment when U.S. officials were hoping to brush the Jewish refugee problem aside, Babe Ruth helped keep it front and center. ★

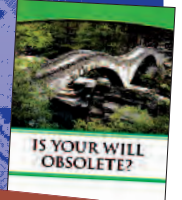
Would that some of today’s sports heroes held a similar standard and would be counted as “righteous gentiles” for standing with Israel!
—Myles



ZLM Bulletin Board

Who Occupies Gaza?

Not Israel. Watch an animated [video](#) that clearly refutes the misconception that Israeli soldiers ride roughshod over “Palestinians” in Gaza. In 58 seconds, you will learn that in 2007, Hamas threw out the elected Palestinian government and began terrorizing any Gazans who don’t kowtow to it. Subscribers to our free *Levitt Letter Extra* received this information in October. To get the *LLX*, enter your email address in the right column at levitt.com/news and click “Subscribe.”



The Gift that Keeps on Giving...

... to Nazis? Question: Who has been receiving millions of dollars in Social Security benefits, even after being expelled from the United States? **Answer:** dozens of Nazi suspects, according to an AP investigation. World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder said that the U.S. should change its law used since the 1970s to motivate Nazis to leave the U.S.

Free Item

Pamphlet of the Month

“Is Your Will Obsolete?”

Contemplate your answer to this important question. Our featured stewardship pamphlet begins with 4 examples of how wills can become just as obsolete as yesteryear’s technology: with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. Our pamphlet also discusses four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, and residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Beyond Cable & Satellite

Here’s an innovative way to watch *Zola Levitt Presents*. A [Roku box](#) gives access via the Internet to 1,500+ channels and 200,000+ movies and TV episodes. Once you add the Zola Levitt Ministries channel (on your free Roku account), you can watch episodes of *ZLP* on your big-screen TV. Roku even supports closed captions. It is easy enough to use and the most economical way to watch our program, other than the scheduled broadcast.



“Come Home!”

Zola
Tours to
Israel



See [page 36](#)
for details



Hebrew Lesson



Hope Despite Ourselves

By John J. Parsons

רְפָאֵנִי יְהוָה וְאֲרַפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאֹשְׁעָה כִּי תִהְלֶתִי אָתָּה

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.” – Jer. 17:14

רְפָאֵ	נִי	יְהוָה	וְאֲרַפָּא	הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי	וְאֹשְׁעָה	כִּי	תִהְלֶתִי	אָתָּה
(2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(1)	(5) (4) (3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(1)	(2) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)
a-tah	te-hil-la-ti	ki	ve-iv-va-shei-ah	ho-shi-ei-ni	ve-ei-ra-fei	Adonai	re-fa-ei-ni	
are you	my praise	for	and I shall be saved	save me	and I shall be healed	LORD	Heal me	

We must give our secret pain to God, even if we don't understand it, and even if it refuses to go away. Our hearts are often vexed; we are a mess of mixed motives; we are strong to be made weak, weak to be made strong. We bless and curse from the same mouth. And yet, despite all this, despite our inner contradictions, the dance between the “old man” and “new,” the divided house of our lives — our present sorrows, our troubles, our fears — we must endure ourselves, we must press on, and we must never let go of hope in God’s love. Therefore, we must not hide ourselves from God’s presence, nor pretend to be what we are not. We are invited to come boldly before the Lord for help in our hour of need. O Lord my God, be Thou my healer, the One who makes me whole... *Refa'eini*

Adonai, ve'eirafei: “Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed.”

“We must not hide ourselves from God’s presence”

The fact that God knows the number of hairs on your head means that He knows you better than you know yourself.

(Luke 12:7) Your heavenly Father “sees in secret,” and that also means that He can and will save you from whatever is hidden within you that still resists His love and touch. We have to trust in God’s power to heal us, even when it seems that healing is not forthcoming, even when we still find ourselves divided, troubled, and anxious. We have to believe that God’s help is always present. “Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD” (Psalm 31:24).

God sees what He does within us, His “it-is-finished” work, the effect of His great salvation within our hearts, even if at this present hour this may be hidden from our eyes. There is appearance, and there is reality; and only God sees what is ultimately real. We have to trust in His promise to be transformed into the divine nature, even if today we find ourselves sinful, needy, and in disrepair. By God’s grace we are what we are. So never, ever give up. **We are saved by hope (Rom. 8:24), a hope that is present for you today.** ★



In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus

Twelve 30-minute TV programs (3 DVDs)

In this twelve-part TV series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif sheds light on the Apostle Paul, his movements, and his message. After examining Paul's travels throughout the Roman Empire, Jeff analyzes Paul's divinely inspired letters to early Church congregations, preserved in the New Testament.

First Steps Toward Christ Paul's conversion and subsequent ministry in Damascus/Arabia.

First "Official" Ministry Journey Paul's movements in Jerusalem, Tarsus, and Cilicia, and his "Famine Relief" visit to Jerusalem.

Apostolic Ordination and Subsequent Missionary Journey Paul's apostolic launch, noting his first missionary journey and follow-up trip to Jerusalem to sort out the angst that developed in the wake of his message to non-Jews.

Second and Third Missionary Journeys Continues with Paul's missionary trips and ends with his apparently ill-fated trek to Jerusalem.

Arrest and Appeal to Rome for Trial Paul's arrest, his transport to a Caesarean prison, and his appeal to Rome where he is eventually sent for trial.

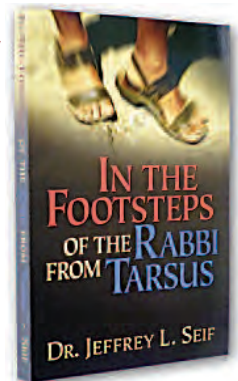
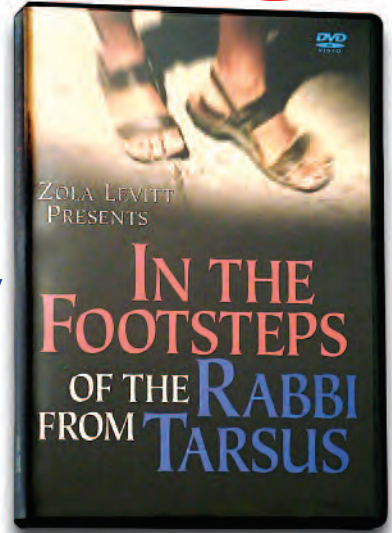
Roman Imprisonment, Release, Travels, and Death Shows Paul imprisoned in Rome, his release and further ministry, and his eventual execution in Rome.

The next six programs consider Paul's divinely inspired Parchments in the order they were written—not from longest to shortest, which is how they appear in the New Testament.

- **Paul's Earliest Writings: Galatians and 1 Thessalonians**
- **Follow-up to the Thessalonians, and 1 Corinthians**
- **Reconciliation with the Corinthians, and Roman Correspondence**
- **Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians**
- **Philippians and 1 Timothy**
- **Final Steps and Farewell Letters to Titus and Timothy**

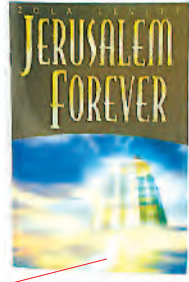
Companion book to the TV series

Thirteen of the New Testament's 27 books bear Paul's seal and signature. Consequently, he is the New Testament's principal interpreter of what it means to be "Christian." Jeff looks closely at Paul and the fact that the major "Christian" interpreter lived, acted, and thought as a "Jewish rabbi." St. Paul, a rabbi?



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

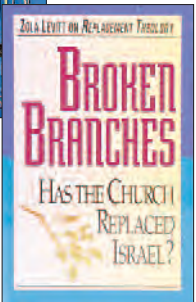
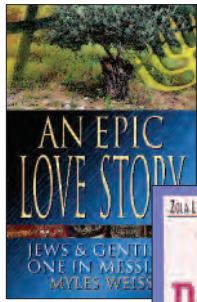
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
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___	The Second Coming	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Believers'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



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Books

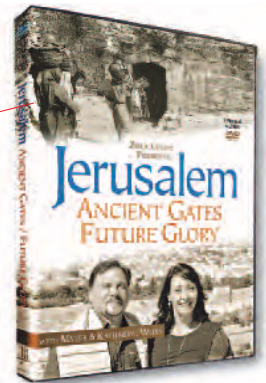
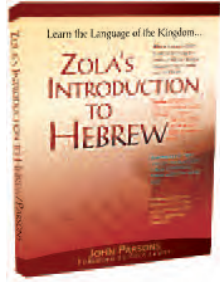
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
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___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology)	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel	\$10	___
___	Dateline Jerusalem	\$12	___
___	Genesis One	\$5	___
___	The House That God Built	\$8	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi...	\$14	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land!	\$2	___
___	Jesus, the Jew's Jew	\$7	___
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___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	Signs of The End: Millennium	\$7	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew	\$39	___



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___	A Child Is Born (Special-DVD)	\$19	___
___	The Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi... (12, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Mine Eyes Have Seen (Musical-DVD)	\$19	___
___	The Miracle of Passover (2 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Ruth (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Jerusalem Gates New! (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Promise (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (3 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$19	___





Studies, Specialty, Etc.

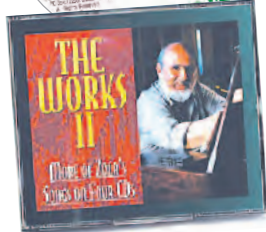
Qty.	Item	Price	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-flag Collar Pin	\$2	_____
_____	Abraham to Jesus Genealogy Chart	\$10	_____
_____	"Grafted In" Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
_____	"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
_____	Half-shekel Key Chain	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jerusalem Journeystone	\$8	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish Heritage Calendar (2015)	\$6	_____
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Teaching CDs by Zola

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Music CDs: Hear samples at www.levitt.com

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_____	The Works II (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
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For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.
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Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

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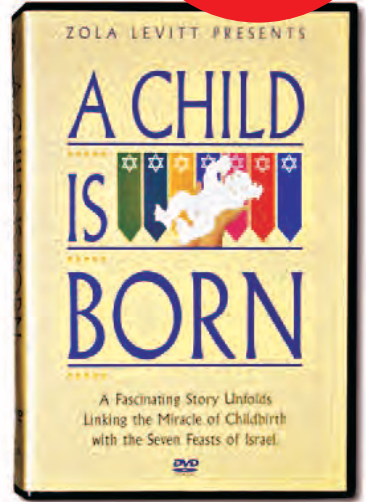


Cardholder Signature: _____

A Child Is Born DVD

(Links the miracle of childbirth with the Seven Feasts of Israel!)

Zola discovered, quite by accident, an amazing series of biblical “coincidences.” It seems that every one of us, as we develop in the womb, follows the schedule of the Seven Feasts of Israel that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. This half-hour program illustrates the surprising similarities of these two chains of events, each established by God according to His purpose.



Messianic Prophecy Scroll

Beautiful, useful, and revealing. A lovely and very spiritual art object for mantelpiece or coffee table display, this wood and parchment scroll is hand-copied and hand-made. The Messianic prophecies are written in Hebrew and English. A marvelous witnessing tool and gift idea.



Jerusalem Journeystone

Popular Item!

A piece of the same stone used in the building of Jerusalem for 3,000 years — the Temple Mount, the roads, and the homes of Jesus' Jerusalem. It's encased in clear polyurethane that protects and displays a magnificent, full-color 5" x 7" photo of the Western Wall and Certificate of Authenticity. Your Jerusalem Journeystone has seen the building, conquering, destruction, and rebuilding of the Holy City. It has felt the feet of soldiers, the tears of pilgrims, the joy of life, and the warmth of the sun. It has heard the words of prophets and the prayers of worshipers.



Jewish Heritage Calendar 5775 (2014/2015)

Beautiful and useful, this lovely Jewish calendar (Sept. 2014 through August 2015) provides the dates of all the biblical feasts and Sabbaths. Learn the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through the English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*.

A NOTE FROM MARK / By Mark Levitt

Vive la Différence!



As a ten-year-old in 1970, I was absolutely, positively certain that *Mad* magazine’s artist **Don Martin** was the finest cartoonist ever. Zola and I would read Martin’s lowbrow, line-drawn cartoon books together and laugh ‘til we cried. So idiotically lovable were Martin’s buffoons that regular blokes like “Big Z”¹ and me could see in them caricatures of ourselves and consequently laugh at our own idiosyncrasies and, with love, at each other’s.



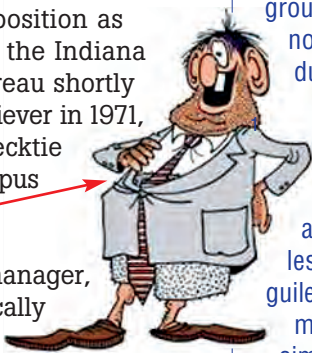
Some of Martin’s more notable characters re-soundingly resemble Zola and me during various travails. For example, Zola was never quick witted before his morning cup of coffee.



In the early ‘80s, a donor sent a \$300 check to Zola personally to buy himself a decent suit. He discreetly declined, claiming that if he paid that much for a single suit, his hand would fall off. Consequently, he sent me shopping. Unfortunately, I had questionable taste.



When Zola left his position as Cultural Editor with the Indiana University News Bureau shortly after becoming a Believer in 1971, he had to wear a necktie for his job with Campus Crusade for Christ.



As ZLM’s business manager, I’d often enthusiastically present innovative ideas for Zola’s consideration.

And sometimes we’d have to improvise during their implementation.



The French expression “*Vive la différence!*” is attributed to connoisseurs of the contrasts between women and men. And we Believers, collectively as the Church, can embrace the night-and-day *différence* between us (the bride) and Jesus (the Groom²). “Frailty, thy name is *woman*” easily applies to the Church as Yeshua’s fickle, moody bride.

Though God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7), He can humble us mortals by teaching us to mock, laugh at, and learn from our own foolishness—sometimes wielding a heavenly, subtle sense of humor. Mankind’s frail tendency to garner earthly prestige too often leads us to mistakenly want status symbols that wind up ridiculing us later by failing to fulfill.

This is the season to sidestep the trinkets and celebrate The Reason.

¹Our witty Israeli drivers and guides jokingly called Zola “Big Z” because, standing at 5’6” he once murmured with a jovial wink, “I’m the big guy.”

Years later when I went on my first Holy Land tour with one of his groups, our ministry’s jocular Israeli hosts noticed my 6’2” frame and immediately dubbed me “little z.”

²“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.” But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

(2 Cor. 11:2–3) ★



To Index



Letters to ZIM

Ministry products and TV programs mentioned are available on our web store: store.levitt.com.

Comments from www.levitt.com

From D.J.G. (CA): Thank you for the clear explanation that [Allah and Yahweh](#) are not the same. I pray that the sons of Ishmael will open their hearts to trust Yeshua and receive the true blessing.

From J.A. (IL): I am grateful for your program and only wish it lasted longer than 30 minutes. Your dramatizations make the Bible come alive! I would love to receive the *Levitt Letter*; I have no Internet access.

From M. and B.W. (OR): Thank you for all you do for the Kingdom of God. Your shows and *Levitt Letter* are high points for us. May the Lord continue to bless you all as you live in obedience to Him.

POEM FOR THE 'PALESTINIAN CAUSE'

By Tuvia Brodie / IsraelNationalNews.com

Supporters call the "Palestinian Cause" a struggle for justice, freedom, and human rights. The clash isn't about religion or race or anti-Semitism. It's about self-determination. It's about doing what's right and fair. So, for anyone who supports that cause, here's a poem that gives expression to the "Palestinian" dream. It reveals the soul and undergirding of the Palestinian Cause.

It appeared on Palestinian Authority TV in September in Arabic and was recorded and translated by Palestinian Media Watch (PalWatch.org). Here's an excerpt:

*Jerusalem is my land, Gaza is my honor,
Jerusalem is my days and my wildest dreams.
O, you [Jews] who were brought up on
spilling blood,
O, you [Jews] who murdered Allah's pious
prophets.
You [Jews] have been condemned to
humiliation and hardship.
O Sons of Zion, O most evil among creations,
O barbaric monkeys, O wretched pigs,
As long as my heart is my Quran and my city,
As long as I have my arm and my stones,
As long as I am free and do not barter
my cause, I will not fear your throngs.
My [suicide] belt is around my waist, and my
rifle is on my shoulder.*

So much for justice, freedom, and human rights. ★

The Gaza Strip	
Year	Population
1970	340 000
1980	460 000
1990	650 000
2000	1.13M
2014	1.8M



Friendly Fire

Hello,

I just read [September 2014's Personal Letter](#) and was more than shocked to read Myles mention Kathryn Kuhlman regarding the ECA International Conference. Miss Kuhlman was quite a controversial figure in her day and is still considered by many to have been out on the fringe.

Can it really be that Myles considers her influence favorable? If so, this gives me pause. —S.P.

Greetings, S. P.—

Thank you for your comments on my wonderful opportunity to speak to the Evangelical Church Alliance last summer. God was very gracious in opening the ears and hearts of several hundred in attendance (and 3,000 more by Internet) to the important relationship between the Church and Israel. I did mention in the *Letter* that this is an eclectic group from many backgrounds. I emphasized how blessed I was to see the strong military chaplain presence.

Yes, Kathryn Kuhlman was a member. I did not endorse or defame her, as I never met her or attended one of her services.

With the jihadist barbarians at the gate, isn't it time we minimize—or, better yet, cease—“friendly fire”? I am so ready for the community of faith to grow up beyond denominational *mishegas* (Yiddish for *craziness*) and adopt the credo—often attributed to prodigious theologians such as Augustine—but which actually comes from an otherwise undistinguished German Lutheran theologian of the early seventeenth century, Rupertus Meldenus. This hidden hero proposed, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things... charity.” Let’s work together. —Myles



Tom McCall and Zola
in Israel



To
Index

Last Word on Tongues

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,

My initial taste of Bible teaching, some 30 years ago, was in Zola’s [Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies](#). I was then and am now Charismatic/Pentecostal. I never heard Zola say a negative word toward me or that movement. Concerning Dr. Baker’s calling the gift of tongues “babblings,” I was dismayed to see him “sowing discord among the brethren.”

What happened to Dr. Tom McCall? What happened to adherence to the inclusive message of love for Yeshua and Israel? Sectarianism is out of place in ZLM. —W.R.A., Th.D.

Dear Dr. W.R.A.—

Please see my answer regarding Kathryn Kuhlman (*letter above*). I also believe ZLM’s mission is to:

- **lift up Yeshua as the soon-returning Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world.**
- **support the Jewish people according to Genesis 12:1–3**
- **stand in faith and love against the rising tide of jihad**

As a family psychotherapist, I am “bent” toward reconciliation. At this crucial time, the Church must embrace cohesiveness rather than foster doctrinal factions. Please pray for this ministry and for all of our readers and viewers. Please stay connected with us; we need your strength. —Myles

The Emerging Remnant

Dear ZLM

I have tested many religions, and they have gone to sleep at the wheel! They practice religion, not Christianity. They miss the 1 Corinthians 13 love and charity. Meanwhile, I see Christians tortured for refusing to deny their Lord and Savior. I see the strength of Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the efforts Israelis make to care for the enemy that will settle for nothing less than the total destruction of Israel. I am totally amazed!

I hold the Scriptures in my heart. I believe in our Lord through His Word and can see Yeshua from Genesis to Revelation. Thank you for carrying on Zola's ministry; it blesses me richly! —D.B.

Dear D.B.—

Thanks for "getting it." You are part of the emerging remnant in this Age. I agree with you that Netanyahu, though certainly a target of hatred on the world stage, looks more a statesman than anyone else on the world scene. We need to pray for his health, his family, and his continued stand for biblical borders and peace with security. Blessings —Myles



God's Faithfulness

Dear Myles and Katharine,

We are buying [calendars](#) and the [Israel's Right to the Land!](#) booklet.

The first weeks of August 1974 were historic. Salvation came to me via Hal Lindsey's book *The Late Great Planet Earth*. While Richard M. Nixon resigned the highest office in the land telling the world he was not a crook, I was confessing my sins to Jesus and He was saving me.

The hair is now gray, but everything I learned as a new Believer from Lindsey, Chuck Smith, and Zola unfolded over the past 40 years, creating an unrivaled excitement about Jesus' soon return and the outpouring of His Grace now.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Zola led us to understand Israel's significance in God's plan. Now is the time to keep our hands to the plow.

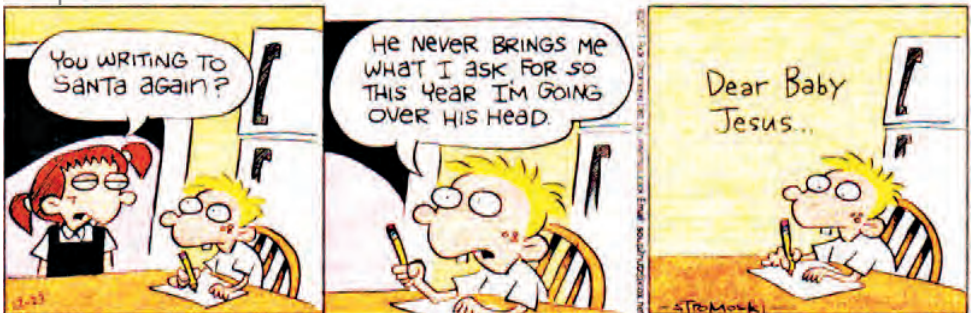
—M. and K.P. (CA)

Shalom, M. and K.P.—

What a testimony of God's faithfulness to you in weathering decades of storms in the walk of faith while maintaining an attitude of grace and faith. Thanks for purchasing our Bible-teaching materials; I pray they impart wisdom and help you win souls.

Zola was a forerunner in our era; Katharine and I are privileged to follow in his steps. —Myles

Soup to Nuts



Law and Grace Re-Explained

Dear Mark,

We are concerned by recent articles in the *Levitt Letter* that seem to combine the Old and New Testaments. You cannot mix law with grace as Todd seems to be doing. As Christians, we live under the grace of Jesus. We do not live under Old Testament law; Jesus died so we don't have to. We hope that you, as Zola's son, are concerned about this issue as well. —F. and L.F. (CA)

Dear F. and L.F.—

Thank you for your concern about our views of “law and grace.” I fully believe Mark, Todd, and I are on the same page (with Zola) in our understanding that the [613 commandments of the Mosaic Law](#) are not necessary for gentiles to keep. In fact, there are many discussions among Jewish people regarding how much, how often, and how scrupulously we Jews are to observe our Torah. Hence the various streams of Jewish life: Ultra-Orthodox, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and I would add ... Messianic. —Myles

Rowing the Boat Together

Dear ZLM,

We have an amount taken monthly from our checking account; please double it. Bless each of you in the ministry for the zeal you create with your shows, products, and newsletter. —D. and S.F. (WA)

Dear D. and S.F.—

What a generous increase in your monthly gift of support! Thank you for understanding that this ministry runs through community effort. We have no large organization backing us; faithful givers like you help us disseminate Yeshua's vital message of salvation. I really can't think of anything more important than the ambassadorial work of Zola Levitt Ministries and our Messianic brothers and sisters as we prepare the world and the Church for the coming of the King. Many blessings —Myles and Katharine

Paying His and Others' Way

Dear Everyone at ZLM,

For months now you have been faithfully sending me the *Levitt Letter*, which I appreciate and enjoy reading very much. I am in Australia, and I have just noticed that it is costing you \$4.16 postage each month. I am enclosing a donation toward the cost. —R.B. (NSW)



Shalom and G'Day, R.B.—

I pray that Yahweh will bless you for sending the generous check to cover mailing expenses. We distribute thousands of “free” *Levitt Letters*; but as you discerned, getting them into readers' hands is not really free. Your gift will help us reach prisoners, the elderly, and those afar off, as in Australia! Many blessings —Myles ★

Bugs Keep Crops Pest-Free



SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

To keep pests from eating crops and destroying farmers' yields, agricultural experts at the *moshav* (co-op farming community) in Ein Yahav have hired an "army" of predatory bugs—a half billion very hungry bugs that will feast on the harmful insects—like thrips, whiteflies, and mites—that can eat their way through the pumpkins, peppers, melons, tomatoes, and other crops grown in the village.

Over 100 farmers work the fields at Moshav Ein Yahav, one of Israel's largest farming communities. With the help of a local organization called "Beauty of Vegetables," the farmers have been able to dispense with most of their dangerous pesticides, using instead natural enemies of the pests.

The bugs, shipped to farmers in refrigerated trucks, are deployed in the hothouses and storage areas full of ripe crops that are ready for shipping to customers.

"We use a technique called 'integrated pest management' (IPM), meaning limited use of chemicals," says Rami Sadeh, staff agronomist at Beauty of Vegetables. "We usually use natural enemies of the insects that cause damage; and if we do spray, it's only on a small scale for the one or two plants with high infestation. IPM costs us more money per dunam (Ottoman term for area of land plowable in one day, about 0.25 acres), but we can sleep well knowing we are not using chemicals." Thanks to the system, he said, farmers have been able to cut pesticide use by about 80%.

Ein Yahav, in the Arava desert south of the Dead Sea and next to the border with Jordan, has been working with the bug-based IPM system for about a decade, said Sadeh. "It took farmers time to see that they can rely on this technique. Now, almost 100 percent of the farmers in the Arava are using this technique."

According to Sadeh, the bugs in Ein Yahav's insect "army" are interested in only one thing: eating the pests that attack crops. They do not eat vegetables and fruits themselves, and when their supply of pests is gone, they either move on or die. In any event, the vegetables are washed thoroughly before they are sent to wholesalers, so no insects "can catch a ride on the vegetables," he noted.

Ein Yahav is one of the biggest vegetable exporters in Israel, especially of peppers and melons, and last year, Ein Yahav farmers set a record for the world's largest pepper, which weighed 1.3 pounds. ★



New Wound-Closure Tech Helps Heal Soldiers

MEDICINE: BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN (r) Israel21c.org



Some of the soldiers wounded in Operation Protective Edge benefited from a brand-new Israeli technology to close open wounds quickly and temporarily prior to further evaluation and treatment.

Just on the market, the **TopClosure 3S Trauma Management System** is approved by regulatory agencies in Israel, the United States, and Europe for mass-casualty situations such as combat and natural disasters. Soroka University Medical Center in Beersheva used TopClosure for injuries from the Gaza conflict, according to the technology's inventor, Dr. Moris Topaz.

"We've been using it clinically already for a few years, collecting a lot of data to show the scope of applications," says Topaz, chief of plastic surgery at Hillel Yaffe Medical Center in Hadera. "It's changing the way we've been handling the closure of wounds to avoid further damage and contamination to the injured tissues."

Until now, emergency protocol for a large, open wound involved cleaning and suturing, then applying a skin graft. TopClosure instead enables stretching the edges of the skin over the wound with adhesive attachment plates that are placed on both sides of the opening and secured with an approximation strap inserted into the first and then the second plate. This fast procedure also simplifies healing substantially, Topaz says.

"When trying to close a wound with sutures, we apply high tension to the skin," he says. "With TopClosure we can spread the tension on the skin about 100,000 times higher than we could do before." The device can be "zipped" open after the emergency situation has passed so the wound can be further evaluated and treated. This temporary wound-closure system is meant to be used by medics, paramedics, surgeons, and other physicians.

"The most important thing about TopClosure is its simplicity," explains Topaz. "Doctors commonly say, 'Why didn't we think of this earlier?' I hope it will be shown to every doctor and patient as an emerging technology that can be applied anywhere in the world without sophisticated plastic surgery procedures." ★



[Video with explanatory visuals](#)



Six Elements of 'Extremist' Islam that 'Moderate' Moslems Endorse



BY ROBERT SPENCER / PJMedia.com

Even as they condemn "radical Islamists," "moderate" Moslems endorse these six elements of Islam that most non-Moslem Westerners consider extremist:

1. Jihad

"Moderates" stress that jihad warfare is strictly defensive and insist that only the caliph has the authority to declare offensive jihad. However, defensive jihad is obligatory for all Moslems when an Islamic land is attacked, and need not be declared by anyone. So since the caliphate has been abolished since 1924, all jihad attacks, even 9/11, have been cast as defensive — hence the jihadist tendency to detail long lists of grievances when justifying their actions.

If 9/11 was defensive jihad, and "moderates" endorse defensive jihad, their "moderation" should send a chill up the spine.

2. Dhimmitude

Non-Moslems have three choices for living peacefully with Moslems: *jizya* (a tax), the sword, or conversion to Islam. *Jizya* is the tax specified in the Koran (9:29) to be levied on "the People of the Book" as a sign of their *dhimmitude*, their subjugation and submission to Moslem hegemony. "Moderates" are apparently fine with a religion-based tax in an Islamic state.

3-5. Stoning for adultery, amputation for theft, execution of apostates

Hudud in Islamic law refers to the punishments fixed by Allah himself for serious crimes, including the stoning of adulterers, the amputation of thieves' hands, and the execution of apostates from Islam. While Islamic apologists in the U.S. routinely claim that these punishments are not really part of sharia or Islam at all, "moderate" Moslems' only quibble with the Islamic State is that they have been cruel in applying these punishments. This is telling. The claim that ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) has not implemented them properly is just a judgment call, not a refutation of ISIL's practices.

(continued next page)



our ally Saudi Arabia

'Extremist' Islam... *continued*



6. The Caliphate

A caliphate is an obligation. That is, all Moslems should strive to establish a single multinational, multiethnic empire to which alone they owe political loyalty. In other words, they owe no loyalty to the nations in which they currently reside.

This is notable and extremely important. ISIL appeals to many young Moslems in the West because of its claim to reconstitute the caliphate, sustained on the principle of Might Makes Right. If ISIL sustains itself and survives, more Moslems will pledge allegiance to it.

To be sure, moderate Moslems really do oppose ISIL, but not because it transgresses commands of what "moderates" believe to be a religion of peace. They oppose it because they want to establish a caliphate led by the Muslim Brotherhood or their own sect's caliph, and ISIL constitutes competition.

It is clear that "moderate" Moslems share basic tenets with ISIL. But with so many infidels (non-Moslems) so eager to be fooled, their work is easy. ★

NOTABLE QUOTABLE:

"The militant Moslem is the person who beheads the infidel, while the moderate Moslem holds the feet of the victim." —Marco Polo

SANTA CLAUS TERRORISTS Islamic Jihad gunmen handed out sweets to impoverished Palestinians in Gaza during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha or the Feast of the Sacrifice. While using civilians as human shields and allowing their homes to be destroyed, the terrorists offered the population a few crumbs courtesy of Iran or Qatar. To prevent Gazans from turning their frustrations against their rulers, they are placated with treats. One blogger referred to them as "The Santa Claus Terrorists."



Israel Today magazine

*Egyptian
President
Abdel-Fattah
El-Sisi*



SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Dreidel Game Rules

Dreidels are four-sided spinning tops. Each side has a Hebrew letter on it that represents a word from the phrase “*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*” —Hebrew for “a great miracle happened there.”

Egypt Offers Palestinians State in Sinai

JNS.org

Egyptian President **Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi** reportedly offered Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas a Palestinian state in the Sinai Peninsula.

Egypt worked on the proposal for several weeks and presented it to Abbas in Cairo in early September, [Israel’s] *Army Radio* reported. The plan involves transferring 620 square miles to the PA as the territory of a Palestinian state.

The Egyptian initiative proposes expanding the Gaza Strip to five times its current size and settling all of the Palestinian “refugees” in the new state, which would be demilitarized. The PA would also be granted autonomy in the West Bank’s Palestinian cities in exchange for relinquishing the demand for Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders, according to the *Army Radio* report.

Sources privy to the details of the proposal said Abbas rejected the proposal despite substantial Egyptian pressure to accept it. The U.S. was involved and green-lighted the initiative, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was also in the loop but did not brief his cabinet on the matter.

Like traditional potato pancake latkes and jelly donuts, the phrase reminds us of the legend about the miracle of holy menorah oil. In Israel, the dreidel reads, “A great miracle happened *here*” because Israel is where the miracle occurred.

To play the dreidel game, each player begins with a few pennies, M&Ms, or other small candy. Foil-covered chocolate coins are called *gelt*.

Each person puts a piece of candy into the center, creating the “pot.” Taking turns, each player spins the dreidel to see which side it lands on. The letter facing up determines the next step.

Nun
(the skinny letter with a

straight line at the bottom): Nothing happens

Gimel (the skinny letter which is not flat at the bottom): Get everything in the center

Hey (the letter that has two vertical lines and one horizontal line at the top): Get half of the pot

Shin (the letter with three vertical (or diagonal) lines connected to a line on the bottom): Put one additional piece into the center.



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Actively Fighting ISIL

By Sophie Cousins / USA TODAY

Like many Americans, Jordan Matson is outraged by the brutality of ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant). But unlike other Americans, he decided to take on the militants head-on. Now the 28-year-old Wisconsin man is recovering in a Syrian hospital from a shrapnel wound in his foot, the result of a mortar attack by ISIL along the Iraqi border.

Matson conceded that people back home might call him crazy for joining Kurdish forces to help end ISIL's reign of terror.

"I couldn't just sit and watch Christians being slaughtered anymore," explained Matson, who was wearing a military uniform and a traditional Kurdish black-and-white scarf across his shoulders. "I got sick of giving online sympathy. These people are fighting for their homes, for everything they have."

Matson, who goes by the name Sadar, served in the U.S. Army. He said he knows one other American who has joined the fight against the militants.

To get to the Syrian battlefield, Matson worked for a food service company to save enough money for a flight and to support himself for the three years that he expects to be here.

"I was Googling the Syrian civil war looking for a military force fighting ISIL that wasn't a terrorist organization. I found the YPG (Kurdish People's Protection Unit) on Facebook and saw it wasn't a terrorist organization, so I contacted them. They asked me a few questions to make sure I wasn't pro ISIL, and then they told me I could come. I just flew by the seat of my pants."

A State Department spokeswoman said she was unaware of any law barring a U.S. citizen fighting with the Kurds.

"They don't pay me, but they treat me like family. If I need anything, they look after me," he said.

Able to speak a few words of Kurdish and with the help of sign language, he manages to get his point across to his comrades and the doctors at the run-down hospital filled with wounded fighters in the largely desolate city of Derike.



Matson noted that the Kurdish forces are very young with no heavy weapons or body armor. "Sometimes it's just kids. I have a Kalashnikov (automatic rifle), that's it. In the dark, with no night vision goggles, we can't see ISIL," he added. "The other night 12 black figures walked toward our base and just started shooting at us."

He laughed as he recalled a young YPG fighter whose aim was so bad he wasn't able to shoot a chicken for dinner one evening. Despite his comrades' shortcomings, he remains committed to the battle. "Once I can put a boot back on," he promised, "I'm back there." ★

Jihadis Terrified of Being Killed by Female Troops

BY GEOFF EARLE / NYPost.com



Kurdish fighters battling ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) desperately want more guns and armor, but they already have a secret weapon: The fanatics they're fighting fear that if they get killed in combat by a woman, they won't go to Paradise.

"They have many female battalions who, as you know, fought very bravely," said Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), chair of the House International Relations Committee.

Royce, who met recently with the foreign minister of Kurdistan, cited recent reports of young female Kurdish troops "laughing" at ISIL forces they had turned back.

Women have long fought in Kurdish Peshmerga forces who have been battling ISIL in northern Iraq and in Kurdish areas of Syria. The Peshmerga (literally, "Those who confront death") fighting force is widely supported by the Kurdish population and the women enjoy the same treatment as male fighters, as required by law. *(Peshmerga women shown above assembling AK-47 rifles.)*

A 27-year-old female Kurdish fighter named Tekoshin fighting in northern Iraq recently gloated to AFP (Agence France-Presse): "I think [ISIL] were more afraid of us than of the men." The Kalashnikov-toting fighter added: "They believe they'll go to hell if they die at the hands of a woman."

Some women who have fled the brutal oppression of ISIL have been organized into special Women's Protection Units in Syria to do battle.

(continued next page)



Jihadis Terrified... *continued*



Hend Hasen Ahmed, a 26-year-old female fighter in Syria's Kurdish region, told Britain's *Telegraph* during the ISIL siege of Mount Sinjar: "We are being trained to use snipers, Kalashnikovs, rocket-propelled grenades, and hand grenades ... For myself and for my people, I will go to Mount Sinjar to either die or live there freely."

Radical imams have recruited jihadists by promising them a trip to Paradise and 72 brown-eyed virgins if they die in battle or in martyrdom. Seeing a woman staring at them down the barrel of a machine gun apparently isn't what they had in mind.

Some women joined resistance units after ISIL brutes slaughtered neighbors and relatives and forced them to flee their homes. The fighters — and Kurdistan's government — are pleading for more help as the U.S. ramps up aid to the Free Syrian Army and other forces. ★



[*German Kurds fight ISIL*](#)



BTW U.T. San Diego CARTOON.COM

Rare Coins Bear Scars of Ancient Jewish Rebellion



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY JEANNA BRYNER / LiveScience.com

A late Second Temple-Period Jewish settlement with a trove of rare bronze coins inside one of its houses was discovered in Israel this summer.

The 114 bronze coins, found inside a ceramic money box and hidden in the corner of a room, date to the Great Revolt of the Jews against the Romans—an uprising that destroyed the Temple on Tisha B'Av about 2,000 years ago.

“The hoard, which appears to have been buried several months prior to the fall of Jerusalem, provides us with a glimpse into the lives of Jews living on the outskirts of Jerusalem at the end of the rebellion,” said Pablo Betzer and Eyal Marco, excavation directors on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. “Evidently, someone here feared the end was approaching and hid his property, perhaps hoping to collect it later.”

The first of many uprisings by the Jews against the Romans, the Great Revolt began in 66 A.D. and was ultimately unsuccessful. The Romans eventually took Jerusalem from the Jews, destroying much of the city and the Second Temple.

Stamped on one side of the coins are a chalice and Hebrew inscription “To the Redemption of Zion.” The other side bears a motif with a bundle of *lulav* (palm branch) between two *etrogs* (a type of yellow citron) and the Hebrew inscription “Year Four,” referring to the fourth year of the Great Revolt, around the year 69 or 70.

During excavation, two other rooms and a courtyard were uncovered in the settlement where the coins were found. The settlement was built in the first century B.C. and was destroyed during the Revolt in 69 or 70, according to the IAA. Then, early in the second century, people found use for the building again, for a stint that ended in the destruction of the Jewish settlement in Judea during the Bar Kokhba rebellion (A.D. 132–135).

The residents of this village were likely actively involved in both of these major rebellions against the Romans.

Pottery shards found several months ago during construction of the new Highway 1—the main road connecting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv—led to an excavation of the site and the new findings. Digging up the past during such construction projects is relatively common in Israel. ★



A hoard of 2,000-year-old bronze coins was discovered in a house—part of an ancient Jewish settlement during the Great Revolt against the Romans.



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JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



A cheerful heart is good medicine — Proverbs 17:22

Gifts of the Season

Sam is shopping at the mall when he meets his friend Abe outside the jewelers. Sam notices that Abe has a small gift-wrapped box in his hand.

"So, what have you just bought, Abe?" Sam asks.

"Well, Hanukkah begins soon," replies Abe, "and when I asked my Rifka this morning what she wants, she said, 'Oh, I don't know, dear, just give me something with a lot of diamonds in it.'"

"So what did you get her?" Sam asks.

Abe smiles. "I bought her a pack of cards." ★



Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

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