

Levitt

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

Letter

# Christians Have Central Role in God's Plan for Israel!

**What Moslems Believe p. 29**

*Per David Rubin, former mayor of Shiloh, which lies in the heartland of Samaria (the biblical portion of the Tribe of Ephraim) and was the ancient (pre-King David) capital of Israel.*

Speaking with Myles Weiss on Mount Ephraim (in the television series [Times of the Signs](#)), David explained the following:

Jeremiah 31:3–6 states: “The Lord appeared to me, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; ... Again I will build you ... You shall plant vines on the mountains of Samaria ... For there shall be a day when the watchmen (*notzrim*) will cry on Mount Ephraim, ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

The word used for “watchmen” in the original Hebrew Scripture is *notzrim*. *Notzrim* is still used in Modern Hebrew; it means “Christian.”

This knowledge led David Rubin to conclude: “Christians need to be intimately involved in playing a vital supporting role in the redemption of Israel and, thus, in the redemption of all of mankind in these times.” ★

## Why Christians Should Care About Purim

By Paul de Vries  
[ChristianPost.com](#)



The annual Purim date—starting the evening of Wednesday, March 23 and continuing during daylight Thursday, March 24 this year—is fixed at about one month before Passover. Though often seen as a strictly Jewish holiday, since we Christians are fully “grafted into” God’s special relationships, it makes sense for us to celebrate Purim as well. And with the rise of vicious attacks against Christians—much of it fostered, fueled, and funded by the Islamic Republic of Iran, present-day Persia—Purim can have a heightened meaning for us all.

*(continued p.2)*



## Why Christians Should Care About Purim *cont. from cover*

Purim is defined in the Old Testament Book of Esther, where we read the extraordinary miracle story of God’s protection of the Jewish people. This awesome Bible narrative remains one of the most profound and powerful events of all history, perpetually inspiring godly people of every ethnicity.

The principles of Purim are especially relevant today because, whether targeting Jews or Christians, today’s terrorists hate the God of the Bible, and they victimize those whom they affiliate with the Lord of grace.

“The real issue is protocol vs. principle,” according to Joseph Potasnik, a New York rabbi. Queen Esther was sure that she was in no position to challenge Haman’s genocidal policy that her husband had endorsed. Protocol made her powerless. But her kinsman Mordechai made her think and act more deeply and wisely. The moment was so grave that royal protocol had to melt in the face of righteous principle. “When protocol and principle contradict, protocol must take second place,” says the rabbi.

This is the point of saying with Mordechai that **we are each in our positions “for such a time as this.”** God-given positions and principles are more important than the protocols that can tragically define and limit our potential, our righteous action, and our obedience to God.

The applications of this deep biblical paradigm are numerous in our lives. We often let what is “proper” numb us to the principles that should drive us. “Political correctness” these days too often clouds even the most obvious eternal truths. As the late evangelist Tom Skinner used to say, “Do not let your being beholden to others for your opportunities blind or restrain you from your Gospel responsibilities.” His insight still rings true.

Celebrate a joyous Purim this year, even if you miss the exact date. Unlike many Jewish holidays, there are no Sabbath-like restrictions for Purim. The Bible’s prescription for celebration (Esther 9:22) includes four elements: (1) have a feast, (2) be glad, (3) share gifts of food with friends and family, and (4) give gifts to the poor. How great is that! Purim is a perfect holiday. If you want some fun, visit a synagogue for the Purim service. That service is about as raucous and riotous a gathering as you can imagine—with loud noisemakers, goofy costumes, and wonderful food—celebrating the Lord’s miracle protections. Please fully enjoy Purim, and engage Esther’s paradigm principle, too. ★



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*Katharine and Myles  
with David Rubin on  
Mount Ephraim*

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“THE BIBLE IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR EXISTENCE...IT UNITES THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AS IT HAS THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS.”

- BENJAMIN NETANYAHU,  
PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

(See related articles on pages [21](#) and [30](#))



# “Opening Soon!”

**Myles To Go**  
By Myles Weiss  
ZLP Host



For many years, we Believers in the San Francisco Bay Area have been praying for Messiah to return and open the only sealed gate in the walls of Old Jerusalem, and then gather us to His side from our Golden Gate to His Golden Gate. In 1541, Moslem sultan “Suleiman the Magnificent” (p. 5) walled up the Eastern/Golden Gate, believing that so doing would prevent the Messiah’s return! As the End Times unfold, we confidently and joyously proclaim, “Opening Soon!”

*For the earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,  
As the waters cover the sea. —Habakkuk 2:14*

Many Jesus-followers have been calling on the Name of the Lord and demonstrating fierce determination to see His fame and His Name lifted above the iconic Golden Gate Bridge and point all humanity to the impending arrival of the Messiah. We do this constantly with a strong emphasis on the Jewishness of the Gospel and the need for the Church to recognize Israel as God’s beloved and prophetic timepiece.



Whenever I speak in areas of the Bible Belt, I remind listeners to pray **for** us here in the San Francisco Bay, not **against** us. It seems that many Christians in America’s heartland have a let-them-drop-off-the-edge-of-the-earth attitude about this very Babylon-ish neighborhood. One can almost hear them thinking, “A good earthquake would cleanse the West Coast ...” Thank God, His ways are higher than our ways!

Yes, we abound in sin here ... but “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Messiah Yeshua our Lord,” (Rom. 5:20, 21). True, like Nineveh of old, we San Franciscans are not known for our righteousness.

*Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it;  
for their wickedness has come up before Me. —Jonah 1:2*

*(continued next page)*



But our God is the God of second chances: e.g., “Now the Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.’” —Jonah 3:1, 2

Like Nineveh, the testimony of Nazareth did not bode well for its current place in the hearts of Christians as the locale of Yeshua’s childhood. After all,

*And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”  
Philip said to him, “Come and see.”* —John 1:46

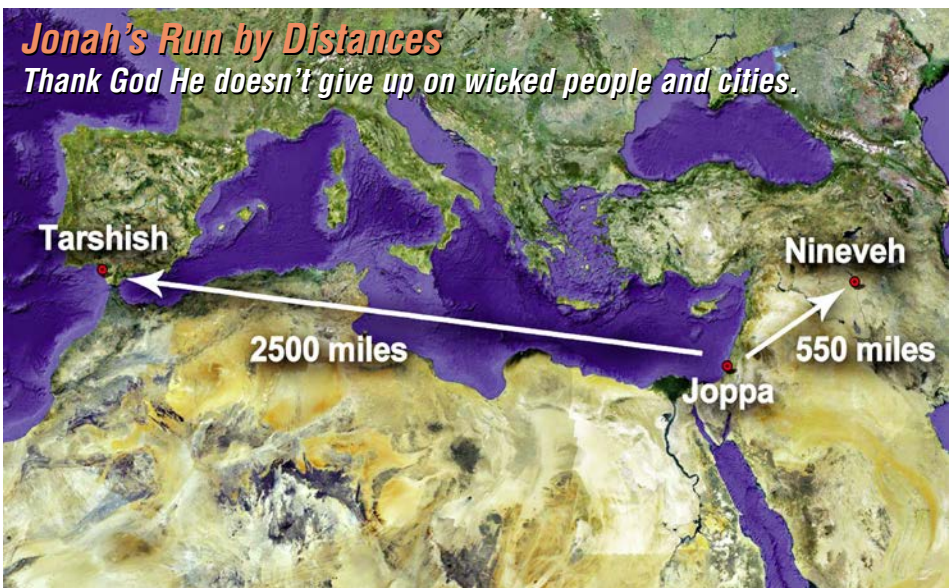
The temporary darkness of San Francisco rivals the obscurity of Bethlehem as a site for impossible dreams.

*But you, Bethlehem Ephratah,  
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me  
The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth are from of old,  
From everlasting.* —Micah 5:2

I invite you to visit just one of many gatherings here in the Bay Area. Katharine and I went with our son to Reality SF—a house of God packed every Sunday with nearly 1,000 young students and professionals between the ages of 20 and 35. They meet on Church Street, in the very colorful Castro District in the heart of San Francisco.

Visitors find impressive not only the large number of young adults gathering in this city, but also the depth of the teaching, and the commitment to the Word and worship. They linger in the palpable presence of God.

“Golden Gate to Golden Gate” we pray... adding the tongue-in-cheek, yet expectant, tagline under Jerusalem’s Golden (Messiah’s) Gate: **OPENING SOON!** ★



# God Means All For Good

Katharine Weiss  
ZLP co-host



*We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. —Abraham Lincoln*

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. —Romans 8:28*

Myles likes to joke about my penchant for the positive. He tells people, “If we each had a bumper sticker, Katharine’s would read ‘Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm’ and mine would read, ‘Orwell was an optimist!’” This has made our love adventure full of clashing viewpoints that require us to depend for sound wisdom on the Daysman—Yeshua and His advocate, the Holy Spirit. (“daysman” means “mediator” Job 9:33 (KJV))

Our mutual love for Yeshua and each other overcomes our conflicts.

Good news for you reading this article: I am right! God is THE positive force in the world. He is love. He is King—and a benign one at that. That is why I choose to see this earthly life through the lens of faith as it is revealed through His Word.



Courtesy Darrell Creswell



Way back in our younger years, before Myles

received his Master’s Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, he and I attended Bible college, which included a very intensive track in family counseling. One of the foundational precepts we aspiring counselors heard repeated: *Life Must Have Meaning—There Must Be Hope For Change.*

The source for this powerful call is the Lord Himself, speaking through the Scriptures that are enlivened by the Holy Spirit. This worldview elevates the destiny of humans. We Believers need to help others see that they have a future in God.

In order to press forward in the face of adversity, we MUST believe that God can change things (us!) and rearrange circumstances if necessary. Once we accept the overview of calling and destiny, we can see our immediate difficulties in the light of a bigger, more positive picture.

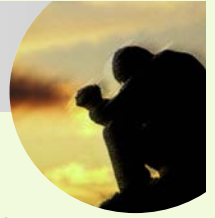
The general call is for good things to come to His people:

***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.***

—Jeremiah 29:11

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

# Katharine *continues*



The specifics unfold before each person as they seek Him:

***For if you remain completely silent at this time,  
relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place,  
but you and your father's house will perish.  
Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom  
for such a time as this? —Esther 4:14***

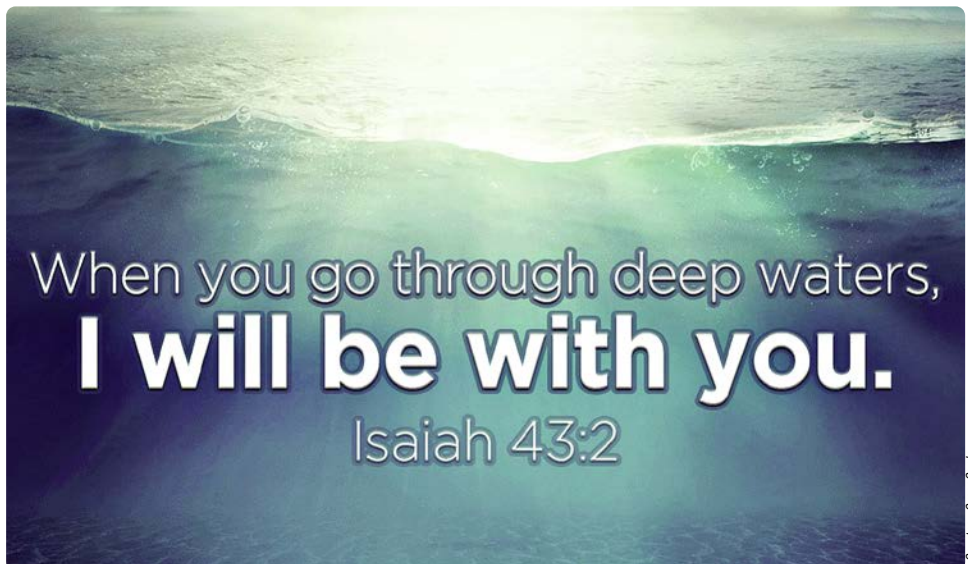
**When we think of our life as a calling—a meaningful journey accented by God's grace—we can see through the pain of temporal (earthly) issues.**

A pastor friend recently reminded Believers that we are not to be like mirrors reflecting this world. We are to shine our light into this world. Our Light source is the Lamb of God—the Lion of Judah. Such radiance explains the courage of the past:

Ruth in famine  
Daniel in the lions' den  
Joseph in prison  
Paul ... well ...

***... five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. —2 Corinthians 11:24–28***

No matter what lies before you, look around; His angels are with you, and He is calling you. Keep looking up! ★



When you go through deep waters,  
**I will be with you.**  
Isaiah 43:2

# “Easter” and Eggs Not Pagan?



BY DON MEARS / GCI.org

Easter—the annual Christian festival that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus—is often thought to be named after a Teutonic pagan goddess, Eastre or Eostre. This notion seems to have originated with the eighth-century English monk, Bede. However, etymologists (those who study word origins) have cast doubt on Bede’s accuracy.

Alexander Hislop (1807–1865) mistakenly equated the goddess Eostre with the Babylonian-Assyrian fertility goddess Ishtar, and with the Phoenician fertility goddess Astarte. Hislop’s mistaken research added to the conclusion that Easter is pagan in its name and origins.

In 1838, Rev. C.F. Cruse suggested, “Our word, Easter, is of Saxon origin, and of precisely the same import with its German cognate Ostern. The latter is derived from the old Teutonic form of *auferstehn, auferstehung*, [resurrected, resurrection].”

In *The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Baker Books, 1984), the article on Easter mentions Bede’s account and says it is “more likely” that the word Easter “came from a German root for dawn or east (the time and place of the rising sun).”

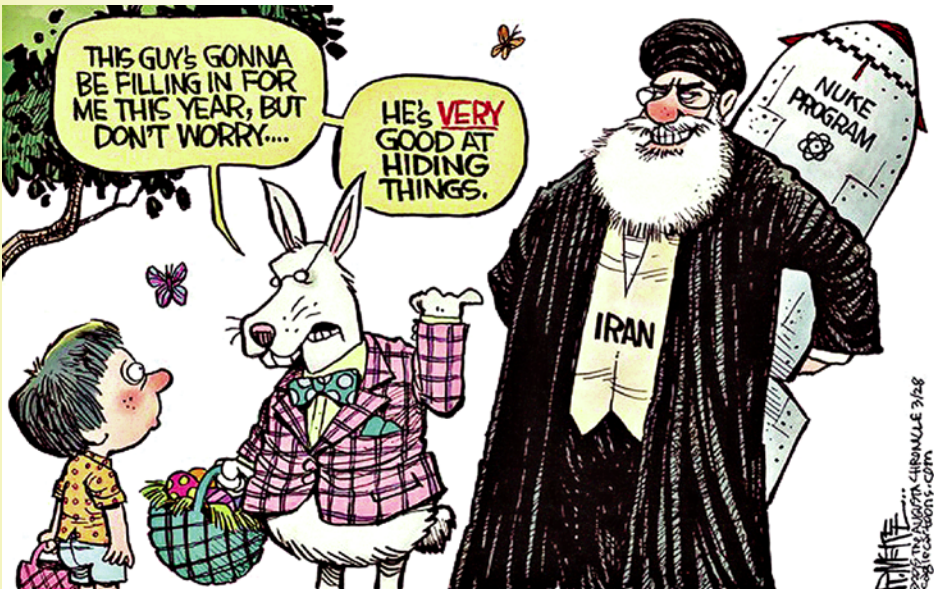
The *Oxford English Dictionary* relates “Easter” and “east” to a common root meaning dawn or morning. If these are accurate, **Easter did not derive from the name of a spring goddess.** Rather, both words came from a root that means “dawn,” or “morning/rising/new light,” or by extension, “resurrection.”

More likely than Bede’s explanation, it seems possible that the resurrection celebration was named Easter because the word described the promise of new light and new life brought to humankind by the newly-risen Son.

## Eggs—not just for pagans?

Pagan religious philosophies contained what C.S. Lewis called “good dreams”—hints and shadows of truth given by God to the pagans to prepare their minds

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





# “Easter...” *continued*



for the fulfillment that would one day come in Jesus Christ.

Early Christians appear to have been alert for any sign in pagan belief and practice that could be seen as foreshadowing the work of Christ. Such practices provided Christians with points of contact to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in terms familiar to pagans.

In Athens, Paul noticed an altar “to an unknown god.” He must have realized that here was the symbol of a god whose existence the pagan Athenians suspected but whom they realized they did not know personally. That was the God he wanted to tell them about! So he took their familiar symbol and made what might have been an obstacle to the Gospel into a bridge for the Gospel. (Acts 17:23)

Paul’s genius for bridge-building is seen again in his letter to the Corinthians, who could not understand the idea of a bodily resurrection from the dead. Paul used the analogy of a seed to explain the concept: Just as a seed falls to earth and “dies” only to rise again in a different form, so the human body dies then rises renewed to eternal life. (1 Cor. 15:36–38)

How did eggs and rabbits come to be associated with the celebration of Christ’s resurrection? Pagan philosophies had deep interest in the new life and fertility visible in nature and the seasons. They used symbols such as eggs and rabbits to represent that new life. Early Christians recognized this interest as a God-given connection that could help pagans understand the concept of the new life offered through the Gospel.

In this way, symbols of new life, such as rabbits and eggs, became associated with the festival celebrating the risen Christ who brings new life to redeemed humankind.

An interesting take, but I prefer using the *karpas* (parsley in Hebrew, or fresh greens that are dipped in salt water during the Passover *Seder*) to perfectly symbolize the rebirth of spring and point to the fresh new life in Messiah.  
—Myles



# From Here To Eternity Pt. 2

CLASSIC ZOLA from 1986: 30 years ago



Since the 1974 publication of my book [\*The Coming Russian Invasion of Israel\*](#), the Middle East has changed considerably. The book followed the prophecy of Ezekiel 37–39 exactly, and world events have only corroborated the prophecy and helped bring the fulfillment into focus. **Nothing needs to be corrected in the original volume**, but much can be added at this point. Here is a brief overview of the events surrounding each nation in the invasion that Ezekiel foresaw. Dr. McCall and I will be adding this addendum to future copies.

Last month we looked at Libya (Put) and Iran (Persia). In coming issues, we will detail Gomer and Togarmah, Sheba and Dedan, “The Young Lions,” and Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.



## MAGOG (RUSSIA)

*The Coming Russian Invasion* details how modern Russia is identified with the Bible’s Magog. Russia has backed Moslem nations over the past 30 years with armaments for the purpose of annihilating Israel. Atheist USSR came perilously close to direct intervention near the end of the Yom Kippur War (1973), when the Egyptian army was surrounded in the Battle of the Sinai.

Russia may be concluding that the Arab nations are simply not going to get the job done. In Russian thinking, Israel has become a real power relative to its neighbors and may require superpower intervention. Russia supports Libya eagerly, and deeply resents the democracy of Israel in the Middle East.

The Chernobyl disaster and its aftermath badly damaged Russia’s food belt. With the soil poisoned in the area of the disaster, cattle are being slaughtered because they are diseased. Ezekiel stresses Israel as a land of bountiful herds of cattle (e.g. Ez. 38:12, 14). It is far and away the best food producer of the Middle East, achieving better yield per acre than any nation in the world, including the U.S. In addition to its food problems, Russia needs warm-water ports, improved airfields, and control of brains and technology on the level that Israel possesses to continue its expansionist political policies.

The Russians may well imagine that the precedent for a superpower invasion of a small Middle Eastern nation was established by the American bombing run on Libya in April 1986. Ezekiel 38:2 gives Magog (Russia) as the leader of the invasion.

## ETHIOPIA

Like Iran, Ethiopia radically changed its alliances and its philosophy after Tom and I wrote [\*The Coming Russian Invasion\*](#). Formerly a monarchy under Emperor Haile Selassie, Ethiopia was definitely pro-Israel. The Emperor called himself “The lion of the tribe of Judah” and imagined that he descended from a liaison between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Ethiopia’s large Jewish community has since emigrated to the Promised Land.

The government turned Marxist shortly after our book’s publication and deteriorated catastrophically. Stunned by famine, Ethiopians can only take direction from their masters to the north in Moscow. Ethiopia has become a very vocal critic of Israel. Russia could use a southern-flank attacker of Israel, which would create a diversion from the primarily northern invasion forces and compel the Israelis to divide their strength on multiple fronts.

Ezekiel 38:5 gives Ethiopia as an ally of Russia in the invasion. ★



# A Moshav in the Galilee



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

Tucked away in the Lower Galilee, between Golani Junction and Mount Tabor, lies Moshav Ilaniya. Its pastoral charm and surprising history make its story worth telling. Originally named Sejera, Ilaniya is considered the first Jewish settlement in the Lower Galilee. The moshav was founded in 1899 on land purchased by the visionary French Jewish benefactor, Baron Edmond James de Rothschild. Rothschild played a significant role in establishing the modern State of Israel by helping found the following, now flourishing, towns: Rishon LeZion, Zikhron Ya'akov, Rosh Pina, and Binyamina.

Before exploring the history of Sejera/Ilaniya, **let me define *moshav*. The term refers to a “dwelling place.”** Returning to the ancient Jewish homeland at the turn of the 20th century, Zionist pioneers needed to establish homes where they could grow food. In addition to the well-known kibbutz movement, the *moshav* arose as an alternate form of cooperative agricultural village. The chief difference between the two: *moshavnikim* own their farms while assisting one another with equipment and labor. The moshav approach encourages family as the center of life, as compared with the more radical communal system of the *kibbutzim*.

As part of the Ottoman Empire (1596), the site of Ilaniya was known as *al-Shajara*, and was recognized even before then by the Crusaders, who called it *Seiera*. Inhabited by some 60 Moslem families, the village produced wheat, barley, olives, grapes, goats, bees, and fruit trees. Accounts of Napoleon's 1799 invasion mention *al-Shajara*.

A century later, as Jews arrived from Europe and began purchasing land, they called the village *Sejera*. An early resident of Sejera who taught Hebrew as an agricultural worker was David Grün, later known as David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister.

Moslems, Jews, and Christians co-existed from the 1920s until the War of Independence in 1948. This group included eight families of Russian *Subbotniks* (“Saturday people” in Russian). These Sabbath-keeping Christians were only a few of the numerous Zionist Subbotniks who fled persecution (after they rejected Russian Orthodoxy) to settle in the region known as Palestine.

With Israel's declaration of statehood on May 14, 1948, Sejera/Ilaniya became an embattled village. When it was attacked by Arab forces, the Golani Brigade dug in, forging a heroic defense position that helped preserve the Galilee. During a four-day battle (June 8–12), many lost their lives in the fierce fighting that resulted in a truly strategic victory.



**Century-old  
Ilaniya homes**

Today, peaceful Ilaniya boasts several superb restaurants that feature locally grown lamb and beef. Entrepreneurial residents have renovated a number of stone structures from the original moshav and created a unique bed-and-breakfast experience. The visitor will find day trips that lead within minutes to Nazareth, Mount Tabor (possibly the Mount of Transfiguration), Safed, Tiberias, and Yeshua's home base, Kfar Nahum (Capernaum) on the shore of the Galilean sea. ★



# Ask the Chaplain

By Dr. Todd Baker  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian



**Q.** **The Koran denies Jesus as the Son and also His crucifixion. Jesus said that those who deny the Son also deny the Father and are anti-Christ. (1 John 2:22–23) Is there a difference between the “denial” of Jesus in Islam versus that in Judaism? I’d really appreciate some clarification on this point.**

**A.** **Sadly, both Rabbinic Judaism and Islam deny that Jesus is the unique Son of God. However, one denies His Messiahship with words and politics, the other with jihad.** This difference holds huge, existential consequences for Israel. And, yes, their rejecting the deity of Jesus Christ stems from the spirit of antiChrist (see 1 John 4:2–3). Biblical Judaism,\* on the other hand, *does* point to Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.

The Romans destroyed the Jerusalem Temple in 70 A.D. No Temple, no Jewish priesthood, no sacrifice. The Temple culture was supplanted by Rabbinic Judaism, which is synagogue-based and relies on the traditions of Judaism. (Please see the [February Personal Letter](#) for more detail on how Judaism moved away from the Bible/Torah after 70 A.D.)

\*Biblical Judaism, based on the sacrificial system found in Deuteronomy and Leviticus, served as the basis for the Church, which recognized that Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice on the cross replaced the need for animal sacrifice.

**Q.** **I wonder at the unique encounter of Simeon and Jesus’ parents in Luke 2:25–32.** I understand that it was the duty of the father to verify to the priest that the child being redeemed was his firstborn son, and pay the price of redemption. In this instance, it appears to me that Simeon took the Child and gave glory to God for Him and, in my mind, Simeon, not Joseph, presented the Child to the priest. In that way, God made a way for Joseph to be relieved of an “uncomfortable” situation.

**I know that this is pure speculation, but do you have any insight about how this predicament was solved?**

**A.** **Such a proposed meaning for what Simeon did is, as you admit, pure speculation.** If we let the text of Luke chapter 2 speak for itself, we hear that Simeon came into the Temple while Joseph and Mary were attending the *bris* ceremony for eight-day-old Jesus. The text says nothing about Simeon acting as a proxy for Joseph—nothing whatsoever. The aged prophet came into the Temple because the Holy Spirit had told him he would see the Messiah before he died (vs. 26). Simeon was led by the Spirit into the Temple to proclaim in the Father’s House that Messiah was now here, in the Person of Jesus. ★



# When He Said 'Go For Me,' I Had No Idea

By Robin (Aviel) Hopper  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
TJF Outreach



Twelve years ago, when Yeshua got my attention, if someone had told me He would have me going to *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel) to tell my people—the Jewish people—my story, I would have fallen down laughing in total disbelief. Now here I was on my *seventh* visit to the Land.

After a long flight from the States, the TJF team of four landed in Tel Aviv and picked up our car, reaching the hotel in the wee hours of the morning. My wife Sue and I had trouble getting our room keys to work, so the front desk sent help in the form of an Arab security officer named Rami. Before he left, Rami heard our testimony and received a copy of Sid Roth's book [\*They Thought For Themselves\*](#), the testimonies of Jews who bucked "tradition" and accepted Yeshua as their Messiah. Sue and Rami spoke at length about the book *Isaiah 53 Explained*, which she also gave him. The encounter with Rami lifted our spirits after an exhausting day of travel.



Maayan and Robin

When we were in Kiryat Shmona near the Lebanese border, we visited one of our favorite food stops, Café Café. As our meal progressed, we engaged our waitress in conversation, getting out in bits and pieces the reason for our

travel in Israel. I told Maayan that I—a Jew—had accepted Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah, and that I was returning to my people what they had first given to the world—the *Tanakh* and the *B'rit Hadashah* (the Old and New Testaments). Maayan also learned how much Sue and I love Israel and that we've been talking about making *aliyah* (moving to Israel).

When I offered Maayan a complete Bible (with both Testaments) and study material in Hebrew, she thanked me deeply and told me how proud of me she was. This took me aback as I was not sure what she meant until she explained: Even the negative news about Israel did not stop us from coming to visit or thinking about *aliyah*.

Israelis have a hunger for meaning and purpose, and the Land is on the cusp of a revival that has not been seen since the first century. I am grateful that, like Esther, I have been called "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

*"for such a time as this"*



## WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

# Classic Stewardship Tips



Managing your finances should be pretty straightforward, but that doesn't make the task easy. Columnist Ron Lieber recently wrote "A New Take on Old Tips" for the *NY Times* Money Management section. Below are excerpts from his article that draws wisdom from several financial experts. —Mark

A popular list of financial instructions fits on a 4"x6" notecard, the foundation of the book *The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn't Have to Be Complicated*. At the back of his *Money Guide 2016*, Jonathan Clements includes 18 steps. *Dilbert* cartoonist Scott Adams offers a third list.

These experts agree on four concepts:

- You must have an emergency fund.
- Index funds should make up most of your investment portfolio.
- Buy a home, but only one that you can afford.
- Remember life insurance. Basic term insurance is the answer for most people.

**Saving.** Many of us are plagued by the infinite availability of shiny consumer goods coupled with too little willpower to say "no." Excessive spending leaves less for long-term goals. Instead, we should set up automatic account transfers. Unless you automate saving for tomorrow, it's not going to happen.

**Investing.** Fortunately, Americans are putting progressively more money into index funds that don't pick individual stocks. These do better, on average, than others.

### Buying a modest home.

Most experts agree that buying a home is smart, but only an affordable one. Too many of us are delusional about exactly what that means. Consumers can't predict their financial future, but they can be cautious in the present. Less is often more.

### **Investing in term life insurance.**

Nobody likes planning for possibly dying young. Term insurance is often the best. You might pay \$50 to \$100 per month for 20 years and be eligible for \$500,000 or \$1 million of coverage if you die (and nothing if you don't).

Sales agents too often push more complex forms of insurance with investments and large, hidden fees, and mumbo jumbo riders. You should ask for term insurance by name. Supply a urine sample and submit to a nurse's exam. Then hand over the money. It is a moral responsibility for any parent of young children, unless in possession of substantial financial assets.

All of these tasks require some discipline, and discussing your financial goals with others can be helpful. So be honest with yourself, consult with someone who knows your weaknesses, and come up with your own financial priorities.

The ongoing goal of this semimonthly *Serpent* column is to strengthen the Church by enhancing its members' financial stewardship. "... be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matt. 10:16 ★

## Dry Bones



# ZLM Bulletin Board

## TV Monitors Needed

Do you regularly watch one of the *Zola Levitt Presents* broadcasts below?

**Freeform Network** (formerly ABC Family) – Sun. 5:30 am ET and PT

**WPCB** (Cornerstone Network) – Sun. 3:30 pm Eastern

**WCLF** (Christian TV Network) – Mon. 7 pm Eastern

**Daystar Network** – Wed. 11 pm Eastern; Fri. 6 pm Eastern;  
Sat. 4:30 pm Eastern (**new time**)

**KTLN** (Total Living Network – San Francisco) – Fri. 6 am Pacific

**TLN** (Total Living Network - Cable Chicago) – Fri. 8:30 am Central

(Please check your local station & cable listings for other available airtimes.)

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## "I can no longer support you because..."

Consider the concept of a moral bank account when weighing an impulse to declare, "I can no longer support your ministry because our opinions differ on XYZ issue." At some point, most of our readers will disagree with a statement from Myles,

Todd, or one of our many *Levitt Letter* contributors or television commentators. Perhaps such an occurrence can count not as a bridge-burner but as a small withdrawal from the good will that ZLM has accrued after years of solid Bible teaching.

Free Item

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If you own a home or other property that you no longer wish to live in or manage, a charitable gift of such property can efficiently meet multiple goals.

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## God's Most Confounding Miracle?

How does the Bible manage to squeeze three (3) days between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday? Glad you asked, because [levitt.com/fags](http://levitt.com/fags) addresses that and numerous other perennially popular questions. The index there includes:

*Jewish Holidays* (Is it okay for Christians to celebrate the Feasts?); *Christian Holidays* (Why does the Church worship on Sunday instead of Saturday?); *The Jewish People* (includes Temple and Holocaust questions); *The Bible*; *Bible Prophecy*; and *Christianity and Related Christian Groups*.



## "Come Home!"

Zola  
Tours to  
Israel



See [page 36](#)  
for details



To  
Index

# HebrewLesson



## Crucified to this World

John J. Parsons

מִי־לִי בַשָּׁמַיִם וְעַמְּךָ לֹא־חָפְצָתִי בָאָרֶץ

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.” – Psalm 73:25

מִי־	לִי	בַשָּׁמַיִם	וְעַמְּךָ	לֹא־	חָפְצָתִי	בָאָרֶץ
(2)	(1)	(4)(3)(2)(1)	(4)(3)(2)(1)	(1)	(4)(3)(2)	(3)(2)(1)
mi-li		va-sha-ma-yim	ve-i-me-kha		lo-cha-fatz-ti	va-a-retz
		in the heavens?	but with you		I do not desire (anything)	on the earth

**Many of us are still not fully awake to the reality and truth of our salvation**, which is the love and acceptance of God given to us in Yeshua. Our everyday assumptions about life often reveal that we are steeped in the world system and its values more than the truth of God. We seek to be praised and validated; we compete for worldly “success,” we wither when we are criticized, we fume when we are rejected, and therefore we are anxious because we accept how the world defines us, labels us, and judges who we are.

The apostle Paul reminds us, however, that **seeking to “find ourselves” in the terms and categories of this world is a tragic spiritual misstep.** By means of the salvation of Messiah, we are “crucified” to the world, and that means (negatively stated) we are made “dead” to its allure and its conditional “love,” and (positively stated) that we are made alive to the Reality of beauty, truth, wonder, grace, and God’s unconditional love.

Paul distills this conflict in religious terms, by considering the temptation to “do religion” in the (vain) attempt to “justify” our existence (Gal. 6:12-13). To those who preached adherence to the law as the way of life, Paul forcefully countered: “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our LORD Yeshua the Messiah, through whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world; for neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but being a *new creation*” (Gal. 6:14-15; 1 Cor. 2:2). Amen. We “died to the law” to live in union with another, namely our Moshia, our Savior Yeshua, who gives us His righteousness in exchange for our sin (Rom. 7:1-6; Gal. 2:19; 2 Cor. 5:21). “We do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were found through the law, then Messiah died for no purpose” (Gal. 2:21).

We look solely to the “serpent lifted up” as God’s remedy for our “sickness unto death” (Num. 20:9; John 3:14). Trusting Yeshua *scandalizes* the religious mind because it concedes that we are entirely bereft of good works or any merit that might commend ourselves before God. The cross of Messiah condemns all that the world esteems—including religion and its rationalizations—because it is the gateway that leads to eternal life.

**Indeed Paul regarded his great heritage as a Jew, a rabbi, and an esteemed Pharisee as meaningless in comparison to this central and all-pervasive truth (Phil. 3:2-8).**





## *Times of the Signs* DVDs

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this eight-program TV series, Myles and Katharine Weiss encourage Believers to look beyond the troubling prophetic signs of our day and live in growing expectation of our Messiah's return. Series guests include:

**Jimmy DeYoung, Jim Fletcher, Jeremy Gimpel, Rabbi Yehuda Glick, Wilfred Hahn, Bill Koenig, Tim LaHaye, Avi Lipkin, Randall Price, David Rubin, Bill Salus, Carl Teichrib, and Andy Woods.**

**On the Prophetic Horizon.** The first program reviews the major prophetic signs that point to the return of Yeshua (Jesus) and the quickening pace of prophecy.

**Government on Whose Shoulders?** Satan continues his push to exclude God and install a man-based government over Earth. Mankind's only hope lies in accepting Yeshua's sacrifice on the cross.

**Green to the Extreme.** Extreme elements in the environmental movement are moving away from Judeo-Christian teachings and toward animal rights, glorifying nature as "Mother Earth." Believers worship the Creator, not creation. Guest: missionary Mark Musser.

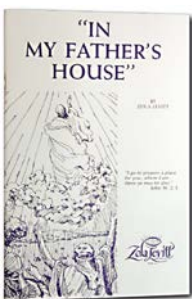
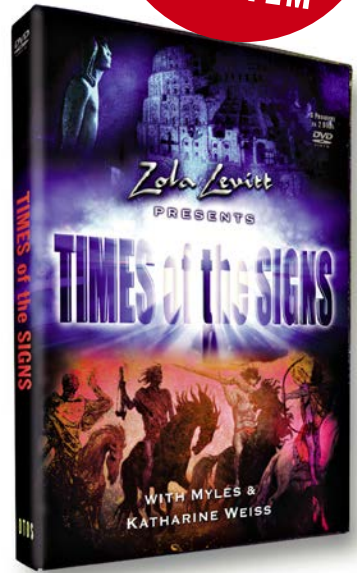
**Bethlehem Rewritten.** Present-day Bethlehem is a city of great tension, with Arab Christians there caught between God's Scriptural covenants with the Jewish people and replacement theologies powered by Islamic doctrine. Too many "peace" proposals exclude the Prince of Peace.

**Rebuilding the Temple.** We review the history of the Temple Mount from King David's threshing floor to present-day efforts to build the Third Temple.

**The Heavens Declare.** The Lord uses heavenly signs to show us what He is doing, where He is going, and what He asks of us. Believers follow our Messiah, not signs. Guest: Mark Hitchcock.

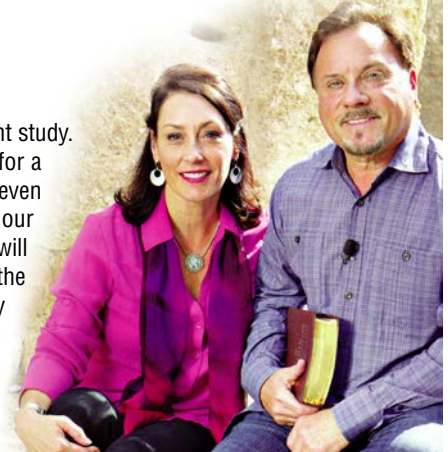
**The Sword of Allah.** The spiritual battle with radical Islam is wearying, but we mustn't give up; the Lord wants none to perish (2 Peter 3:9) and will return for His own.

**New Heaven, New Earth.** Signs like increased knowledge, new technology, Jewish return to Israel, and the growth of Messianic congregations point toward the return of the Messiah. Yeshua is coming for His bride, and we want no one to miss out.



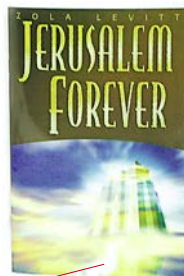
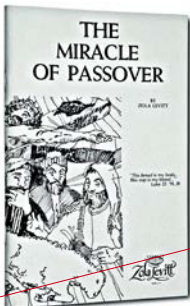
### *In My Father's House* study booklet by Zola

A very different and very important study. Most people plan more carefully for a two-week vacation than for the seven years we will spend as guests in our Messiah's Father's house. What will we raptured Believers do during the time we spend among the "many mansions" and how do we prepare for it?



**Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library**

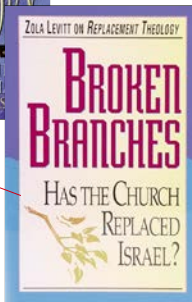
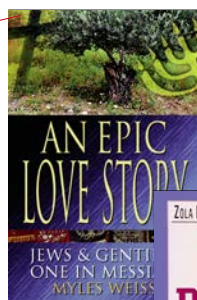
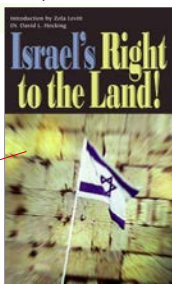
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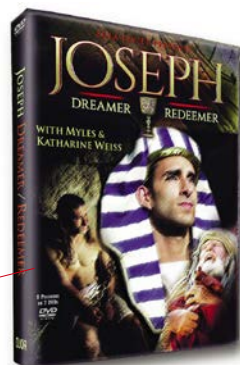
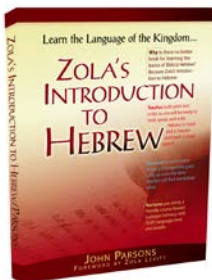
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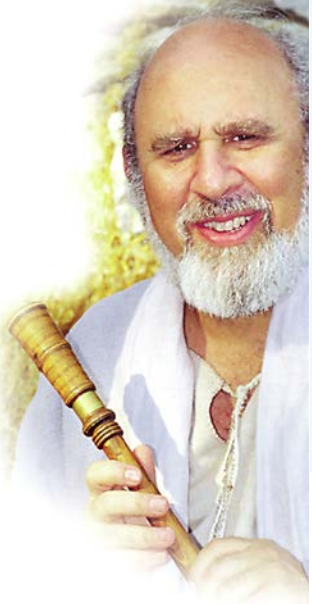


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## *Sons of Promise*— *Isaac & Jacob*

Eight programs on two DVDs

This eight-program series joyfully recounts the history of Abraham's sons—Isaac and Jacob—to confirm God's eternal covenant with the Children of Israel into this day. With the modern miracle of Israel in the background, the ancient story yields to the contemporary, and together they tell the tale of God's faithfulness.

**The Wells of Salvation.** Abraham's servant ventures out to find a wife for Isaac—God's Covenant continues from generation to generation. Myles interviews Jan Willem van der Hoeven—a Dutch-born student of Corrie ten Boom, longtime resident of Jerusalem, and champion of the Jewish people. Mark Levitt interviews a representative of Bridges for Peace.

**The Bridegroom and the Bride.** Isaac and Rebekah's love for each other represents that of Yeshua and the Bride of Christ. Myles interviews Saul Singer, co-author of *Start-up Nation*; Mark interviews a Jewish National Fund spokesman. Through JNF, ZLM contributors have planted a forest of trees in Israel.

**Blessing, Covenant, Contention.** The conflict between Ishmael and Isaac precedes the contention between Jacob and Esau. Mark interviews an archaeologist digging near the ancient City of David.

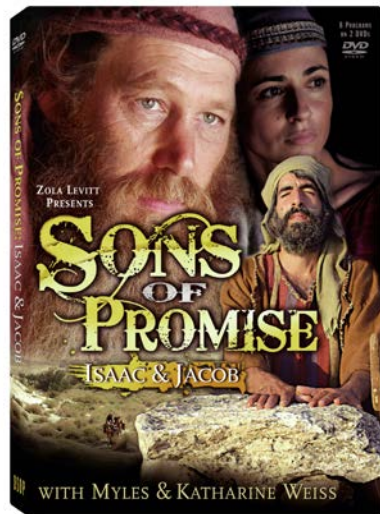
**Mayim B'sason (Water from the Wells of Salvation).** In the face of famine, Isaac re-digs Abraham's wells, and God confirms His eternal covenant with the Hebrew people. Myles and Katharine interview the Lone Soldiers, remarkable Jewish young people who leave the comfort of their foreign homes to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

**Brothers and Birthrights.** The struggle of Jacob and Esau over their destinies began in the womb and continues to our day. Mark interviews Our Man in Haifa, Eitan Shishkoff, about Tents of Mercy, his multifaceted ministry that touches many in Israel.

**The Promise of Heaven Touches Earth.** In spite of Esau's murderous rage, Jacob dreams of a heavenly touch. God's Covenant continues into the third generation. Illustrating this continuation, Myles and Katharine interview young Israeli Messianic leaders.

**For the Love of Rachel.** Jacob serves Laban repeatedly to earn his bride, demonstrating the importance of patience and commitment in God's plan. Mark interviews Dr. Todd Baker, who leads To The Jew First, our Gospel outreach that parallels our pilgrimages to Israel.

**Mi dor l' dor (From Generation to Generation).** Jacob wrestles with God, and his transformation provides hope for us all. Myles interviews his own firstborn son, Jonathan, about the blessing of a Yeshua-centered home life.



# Netanyahu: Palestinian Refusal to Recognize Jewish State is 'Core' of Conflict

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY / JTA.org

Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** said recently that the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the Palestinian refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and rejected U.S. warnings that Israel was devolving toward a single state.



The “root cause of the problem,” Netanyahu said in a video address to the annual year-end Saban Forum, is that “Palestinians have not yet been willing to cross that conceptual bridge, the emotional bridge of giving up the dream of not a state next to Israel, but of a state instead of Israel.”

Netanyahu’s appearance at the convention of U.S. and Israeli leaders, which was convened in Washington, D.C. by the Brookings Institution and sponsored by Israeli-American entertainment mogul Haim Saban, was a last-minute addition. It came after a scorching speech to the forum the previous evening by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry warning that Israel’s settlement policies were leading toward a one-state outcome.

Netanyahu denied that Israel was headed toward incorporating the West Bank Palestinian population. **“The only workable solution is not a unitary state but a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes the Jewish state,”** he said.

Palestinians, after the launch of the Oslo peace process in the 1990s, at times expressed recognition of Israel’s Jewish character. However, as relations deteriorated in the 2000s and Israeli leaders demanded a reiteration, Palestinian leaders have resisted reasserting recognition of Israel as Jewish.

Netanyahu likened claims that the settlements were hindering peace to the notion once prevalent in some circles that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the core of the broader Middle East conflict. The earlier idea of blaming Israel for regional turmoil was now seen as “childish and irrelevant,” he said.

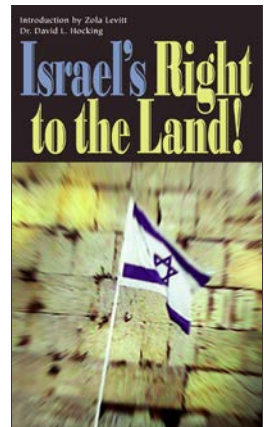
“The same will happen with the core of the conflict being of the settlements,” he said. “They are an issue to be resolved, but not the core of the conflict.” ★



## [Israel’s Right to the Land!](#)

book by David L. Hocking — **Re-released!**

Just as its title implies, this book answers head-on the question: “What right does Israel have to its land?” Featuring an introduction by Zola, *Israel’s Right to the Land!* pulls abundant evidence from the Scriptures, and directly addresses the 12 key issues that resolve this topic once and for all. Let’s spread the Word on who owns the Land (“from the river of Egypt to the River Euphrates” —Genesis 15:18) by divine right!





# Letters to ZLM

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the [web store](#) and [video archives](#).

## Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From L.R.B.:** I knew Zola personally. He would be pleased at the direction Zola Ministries is going and I'm sure, somehow, he has had a hand in Heaven to bring it about. It's a pleasure to watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on television and read the *Levitt Letters*.

**From N.G.:** Re the highlighted phrases in the *Levitt Letter*: We love them!

## They Enrich My Life

Dear Myles and ZLM,

My husband and I in the past couple of years have met many Jewish people who by God's grace survived the horrible death camps of the Holocaust. One of my uncles was Jewish but was killed during WWII.

One of the most interesting people I met was a Jewish man who had been in four camps and nearly died twice. After being liberated, he went to Israel and fought in the 1967 Six-Day War; he still wears his medal on his coat. I could have listened to him all night. His daughter says that he would not say anything about what went on until people started denying that the Holocaust ever happened. She adds that survivors who are telling their stories have found some closure.

A woman speaking at a Holocaust memorial service said that at the camp where she was held, she was one of 1,500 children. They were taught how to draw and put on plays; she was in all 52 plays. Many of the children were sent to Auschwitz to be killed; their teacher also. In a plastic bag, she kept the star that she had been made to wear.

Another woman wrote a book about the many photographs taken in Auschwitz. All of the people pictured were killed, but the soldiers, against Hitler's orders, kept the photos in a camp storeroom. Her mother recognized two people in photos, and as she showed the pictures around, others recognized the people in them too.

A woman at my college went to New York to compile information on Holocaust survivors. More are telling their stories now to prevent a repeat.

Meeting these people has certainly enriched my life. I always pray for the people of Israel as well as for you, your family, and Zola Levitt Ministries. Take care, stay safe, and be blessed of the Lord. —N.W.K.H.

Shalom N.W.K.H.—

Your letter is very timely as Katharine, the production team, and I are on our way to Auschwitz after our ministry's spring study tour in Israel. We plan a special eight-program TV series, working title: *Out of the Ashes / L'Chaim!* It will contrast the horror of the Nazi Holocaust with the beauty of life in the re-born State of Israel. The generation that endured the attempted Jewish genocide is passing away, and we need to tell their stories now.

We are praying for wisdom, safe travel, and the financial support to produce this important series. Thank you for your interest in this vital subject and for keeping us in your prayers. Blessings —Myles



## Free LL Not Wasted

Dear ZLM staff,

I thank you for the monthly *Levitt Letter* that you send to me free. We have a Friday night Bible study and use the timely articles for discussion. We look up the Scripture references and read out loud the articles. The 21 incarcerated men receive understanding on what is going on in the world.

The discussions are lively. We always start with prayer and the Jewish Humor joke—great icebreaker. We always read and study “Ask the Chaplain” articles, “Myles to Go,” and “Classic Zola.” The highlighted “take away” texts are helpful. In His grip, Pastor D.E. (CA)

Shalom Pastor D.E.—

Your very encouraging letter bolsters our joy in sending the *Levitt Letter* for free to thousands of prisoners around the nation. You clearly state that incarcerated men are using the *LL* to help reorient their lives around the Word of God. On behalf of ZLM’s staff and legion of donors, I thank you for that update. With Islam using prisons to recruit followers and potential jihadists, we rejoice that our newsmagazine is being “salt and light” to awaken people to the Good News of *Yeshua HaMashiach*.

By the way, as your fellow students are released, feel free to send them to our local congregation, Beit Abba, the Jewish ministry of The Father’s House. The Father’s House is right up the road from you, also in Vacaville. Beit Abba meets at our Napa site. All the teaching that you currently enjoy in the *Levitt Letter* informs our services at Beit Abba. We are “on the same page!” and we welcome the opportunity to see former prisoners discipled and starting over under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Blessings —Myles



## “I Never Knew You”

Dear ZLM,

What did Jesus mean in Matthew 7:21–23 when He said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven ... I never knew you; depart from Me.” Is there an underlying meaning in the Hebrew?

Your ministry has taught me for years. —L.H. (NC)

Dear L.H.—

There’s no underlying meaning; the meaning is the same in Hebrew, Greek, and English: People who verbally confess faith in Christ but do not obey Him, show that their faith is spurious and dead because it did not result in good works. The works do not save us but are the fruit of the Spirit, which always follows true, saving faith. (See Galatians 5:22–23; James 2:14–26) —Todd ★



# Historical Purim Datelines

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY / JTA.org



1929—Tel Aviv, March 23

## Zeppelin Passes over Tel Aviv During Purim Fete

“Good Purim” was the radio message sent by the passengers and crew of the Graf Zeppelin to the 80,000 participants in the Purim celebration at Tel Aviv, as the airship soared over the city at 6:05 yesterday afternoon. Great enthusiasm was displayed as the inhabitants gazed aloft at the huge, stately aircraft.

The Zeppelin was lowered sufficiently to enable the gay, cheering throngs, most of whom were picturesquely costumed, to read plainly the airship’s name. At different places in Tel Aviv small bags were dropped containing mail. The dirigible then headed toward Jerusalem (*above*).



*Zeppelin hovering over King David Hotel in Jerusalem*

Replying to the invitation of Mayor Dizengoff to land at Tel Aviv, Dr. Hugo Eckener, captain of the airship, expressed his regret at his inability to do this. The passengers and crew of the Zeppelin wish all Tel Aviv a good Purim, the message declared.

The airship was first sighted along the Mediterranean coast city of Jaffa at 5 o’clock. That great harbor city had been on watch since 11 in the morning. The historic mountain was covered with German flags and a welcome sign twenty-five feet high. As the Zeppelin circled over Jaffa, the inhabitants welcomed her with shouts and cheers. Although arriving in the dark, she circled over Jerusalem for a full hour.

1931— Tel Aviv, March 3

## Thousands of Arabs Come to Tel Aviv for Purim Celebrations

Thousands of Arabs from the neighboring town of Jaffa and from other places were in Tel Aviv last night, taking advantage of the reduced railway rates, to join in the big Purim festivities here. Many thousands of Jews had come from all parts of the country, and there were also hundreds of tourists from abroad, the van of the annual tourist parties who visit Palestine for the Passover festival.



## Datelines *continued*



Rain fell during the big carnival procession in the streets but in no way damped the spirits of the revelers. Fancy dress abounded, Queen Esther, Mordecai, Haman, and Ahasuerus being the most popular masquerades, although there were many other costumes, largely of clowns and court jesters. Purim plays were performed in a number of halls and the celebrations went off joyously.

1945—Gladbach, Germany, March 8

### American Jewish Troops Hold Belated Purim Services in Goebbels Castle



Belated Purim services were held here yesterday in a castle belonging to **Dr. Joseph Goebbels** (above) by front-line troops who were too busy fighting last week to pause for the traditional observances.

Capt. Manual Poliakoff of Baltimore, a Jewish chaplain, carefully arranged the candles over a swastika-bedecked bookcase in Goebbels's main dining room. Pfc. Arnold Reich of Meadville, Pa. and Corp. Martin Willen of Baltimore assisted the chaplain.

The services were attended by a large crowd that filled the vast room. Jewish and non-Jewish soldiers were in the audience, and the Jews explained to their Christian comrades about Haman and why it was so fitting that Purim services should be held in a castle belonging to Goebbels.



*Early Purim noisemakers*



# Silent Partner Snore Reducer



SCIENCE: BY DAVID SHAMAH (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

Sleepers snore for a variety of reasons, say scientists, but one result all snorers have in common is the noise they make. And that brings discomfort to the people who sleep in the same room, say **Yoni Bazak** (l) and **Netanel Eyal**, the Israeli creators of what they say is the world's first all-around snoring-noise solution.



“Our *Silent Partner* smart patch works to suppress snoring noise for all snorers, regardless of the reason,” said Eyal. “The patch uses noise cancellation technology to create a virtual box that muffles the snore before the sound spreads. If the average snore can be measured at 60 decibels, which is quite noticeable, Silent Partner reduces it to less than 40 decibels, which most of us can easily live with.”

Numerous studies back up our claim, Eyal added.

Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) is generally used to keep outside noises away from the ear—for example, expensive headphones use ANC to keep out ambient noise. The Silent Partner technology keeps noises inside a virtual field, close to the mouth.



Silent Partner's technology senses the amplitude and frequency of snoring noise and broadcasts in real-time a sound wave with an inverted phase to the sound detected. Based on the physics phenomenon of destructive interference—where sound waves of opposite amplitudes essentially suppress each other and cancel each other out—a much lower amplitude sound wave results, protecting listeners from the original loud noise. “Our technology is optimized for use at distances as short as eight inches from the mouth,” said Eyal.

“Most solutions to snoring medically diagnose the cause of snoring and try to treat it to reduce the noise level,” said Eyal. “We do not deal with the medical aspects of snoring—just the noise.”

Because snoring can indicate a serious problem like apnea, product users should see their doctors to find out whether they have a medical problem. However, many non-medical issues cause snoring—from sleeping positions to the position of a snorer's jaw. “It's hard to find a product that works for all snorers, because people snore for a variety of reasons,” said Eyal. “Because Silent Partner focuses on quieting the noise, we offer a solution no matter why you snore.”

With no medical diagnosis component, Silent Partner needs no FDA approval. The product—designed in Israel and manufactured in China—will be ready for shipping by mid-2016.

However, Eyal and Bazak do see a medical diagnosis role for the product. “People who have snoring problems often undergo tests at a sleep lab, where they are attached to an apparatus that records their snoring level and other data to determine if the snoring is caused by a medical problem. The sensors that record that data could easily be added to our product, so the system could be used to diagnose whether a medical issue exists, making it more comfortable for clients than spending the night in the hospital to get a proper diagnosis.” ★

# Diabetes Cure?

**MEDICINE:** By **Abigail Klein Leichman** (r) [Israel21c.org](http://Israel21c.org)

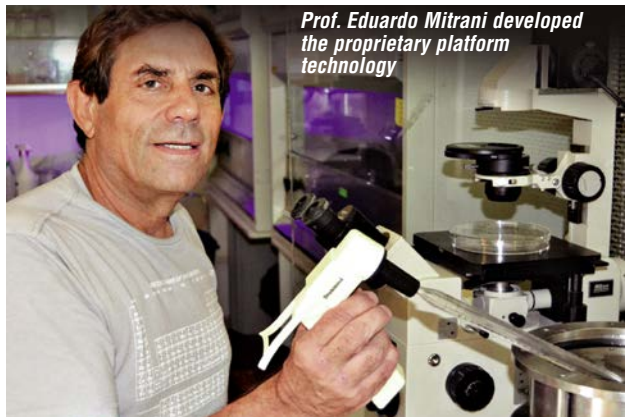


In people with type 1 diabetes, the insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas don't function properly. Daily infusions of insulin are necessary to regulate energy-producing glucose absorption in all the body's cells.

Doctors know how to implant type 1 patients with donor islets full of healthy beta cells, but they cannot keep the transplanted cells from failing within a matter of days. Unfortunately, half of all transplanted patients are back on insulin injections one year later, and 90% revert to insulin dependency within five years.

Israeli biotech company Betalin Therapeutics is developing an engineered micro-pancreas (EMP) that can sustain significant levels of glucose-regulated insulin secretion from transplanted beta cells. If this tissue-engineering breakthrough proves effective in human trials, it has the potential to cure, rather than merely control, type 1—and even severe forms of type 2—diabetes.

The essence of the EMP is a microbiological scaffold that is added to the donor islets before implantation. It uniquely supports the cells' survival, leading to long-term functionality, says Prof. **Eduardo Mitrani**, who engineered the EMP in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and now chairs Betalin's scientific advisory board.



“The main problem we have in developing new treatments for diabetes is that diabetes is far more complicated than we think,” Mitrani says. “Providing insulin is easy, but regulating insulin has proven very difficult because regulation requires many different sensors in the beta cells.” Findings from Mitrani's lab were published in the November 2015 issue of the journal *Tissue Engineering Part A*, showing that beta cells derived from EMP-supported islets function similarly to freshly dissected pancreatic islets in the lab. They continue to secrete insulin in a regulated manner and in levels comparable to fresh islets for more than three months, whereas beta cells not supported by a scaffold function for about two days.

When transplanted into suitable hosts, EMPs connect quickly with the body's vascular system, and because of their microscopic size they can receive the natural amounts of nutrients and gases needed to survive through diffusion. “Connecting to the network” is essential for proper glucose sensing and efficient insulin secretion.

As opposed to artificial pancreases that cannot function to the same degree as a natural pancreas, Betalin's micro-scaffold technology enables **creating an actual micro-pancreas, in all its natural complexity**, in the laboratory.

Another significant advantage to the EMP: The current method for transplanting beta cells requires a large number of donor cells in two infusions. In contrast, the EMP should require a much smaller number of islets introduced in one infusion.

“We hope to start our first human trials within a year,” said Mitrani. ★

# What Terror Terms Actually Mean



BY JONATHAN SCHANZER (r) NYPost.com

After the attacks in Paris and California, the debate in America has again erupted over the appropriate lexicon for discussing terrorism. **Here's an extremely abridged list of words and phrases to avoid** like a suspicious package in a crowded train station.

**Became radicalized:** Jihadism isn't a virus that one suddenly contracts. Terrorists choose the path of violence. Do we ask where murderers visited before they "became homicidal"?

**Contained:** One cannot contain terrorism or the ideology that powers it. As terrorism spreads, it requires new resources. Declaring it contained will come back to bite you.

**Degrade and destroy:** Choose one. If you degrade a terrorist group, you probably don't know how to destroy it. If you destroy the group, there's no reason to degrade it. Just say you want to vanquish your enemy. That way, it's not a multiple-choice quiz.

**Moderate Gulf Arab allies:** The term is used to describe Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc. Besides oil, the Saudis' top export is Wahhabi Islam, which breeds generations of hate. Qatar is the piggy bank for the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas, and it supports a range of bad actors in Syria. Other than that, these countries are moderate.

**New threat:** Unless you're a high school freshman, none of this is new. We've been at war with this radical ideology since September 11, 2001. And that's ignoring the first World Trade Center bombing (1993), the USS Cole (2000), the Iranian revolution (1979), the Beirut embassy bombing (1983), and the Salman Rushdie *fatwa* (1989). Islamic State/Daesh may be new, but it's got a very familiar beard.

**Un-Islamic:** They call themselves *Islamic* State. That should clarify things. The good news: they represent a minority of Moslems and their numbers may be dropping with every vile act. But people don't buy that ISIS is divorced from Islam.

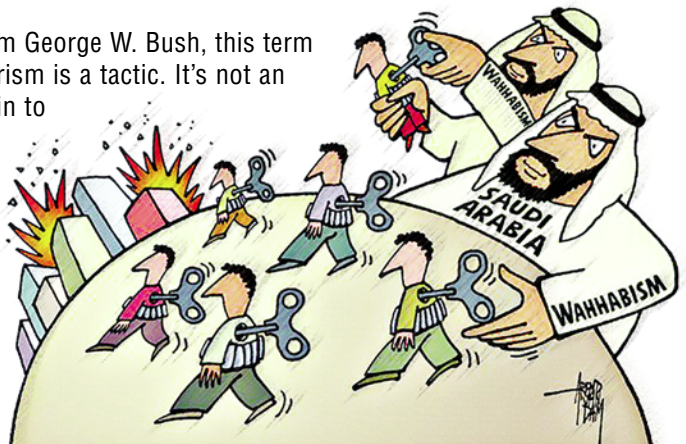
**Rivalry between ISIS and al-Qaeda:** Sorry, the reason jihadis in Syria behead Westerners isn't to make some Yemeni jealous. Competition may exist among the groups, but they need no excuse to kill.

**Root cause:** If you think that the Iraq invasion, the Iraq withdrawal, Israeli settlements, or American colonialism explains the current global jihad, you need to read a history book. You might as well blame the gluten in our diets. Actually, if you think one thing is the root cause of any global phenomenon, you need to rethink how you think.

**Violent extremism:** Nobody knows what this means. A BASE jumper with a short temper can be described as a violent extremist. Can we be honest about what we're fighting?

**We can't win this alone:** Maybe we shouldn't, but we can. We might lose friends and allies, blood and treasure, but we have the largest and strongest military in the world.

**War on terror:** A holdover from George W. Bush, this term may be the worst of all. Terrorism is a tactic. It's not an enemy or ideology. This is akin to declaring war on strafing or sniping. We might want to identify what we're fighting before we devise a strategy on how to beat it. ★



# What Moslems Really Believe

BY JOHN PERAZZO / FrontPageMag.com

**Thirty-nine percent of people in Afghanistan** believe that suicide bombings are “often or sometimes” justified, as do 25% of Egyptians, 26% of Bangladeshis, and 62% of Palestinians.

**Fewer than half of Pakistanis and Malaysians** have a negative view of al-Qaeda. Barely half of Nigerians and Tunisians have negative opinions about the Taliban. And a mere 16% of Pakistanis hold Hamas in low regard.

**In a 2011 survey of Moslems** in seven Middle Eastern countries, nowhere did any more than 28% of respondents accept the notion that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were carried out by Arabs.

**In most of these same Middle Eastern countries**, significant majorities of Moslems view Westerners in general as being “selfish,” “violent,” “greedy,” “immoral,” “arrogant,” and “fanatical.”

**In Indonesia, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Pakistan**, the proportion of Moslems who hold Jews in low regard is nearly 100%.

**In every sub-Saharan African nation** where the Pew Research Center has conducted polls in recent years, a majority of Moslems believe that women should not be permitted to decide for themselves whether or not to wear a veil. The same is true of Moslems in Afghanistan, Egypt, and Iraq.

**Overwhelming majorities of Moslems** throughout South and Southeast Asia, as well as in the Middle East, believe that wives should “always” obey their husbands. And in almost all of these same countries, solid majorities oppose the idea that daughters and sons should be entitled to equal inheritance rights.

**In Islamic strongholds like Malaysia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Morocco, and the Palestinian Territories**, more than 80% of survey respondents believe that their respective governments should be based on strict sharia (Islamic) law. And among those who favor sharia, anywhere from **29% to 61% wish to impose it not only on fellow Moslems but also on all citizens, regardless of their faith.**

**Among sharia supporters throughout South Asia and the Middle East:** (a) a majority believes in employing the types of severe corporal punishment mandated by Islamic Law—e.g., whipping criminals or amputating the hands of thieves; (b) between 80 and 90% of Afghans, Pakistanis, and Egyptians favor the death penalty for apostates (those who leave Islam); and (c) more than 80% of Jordanians and Egyptians believe that stoning is the appropriate punishment for adultery.

**It is common** for majorities of Moslems in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa to believe that honor killings are sometimes justified as punishment for pre- or extra-marital sex.

**More than 70% of Moslems** in Malaysia, Indonesia, Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territories, and Jordan believe that religious leaders should have much, or at least some, influence in politics.

**In many Islamic countries**, very large majorities of the population view polygamy as morally acceptable. Only 8% of Egyptians, 6% of Jordanians, 5% of Nigerians, 11% of Malians, 8% of Senegalese, and 18% of Iraqis object to the practice. ★





**Making aliyah to Israel from North America**

## 2015: 30,000 Immigrants to Israel

Jewish News Service / JNS.org

The number of immigrants to Israel in 2015 exceeded 30,000 for the first time in 12 years, with a 50% increase in the last two years, according to data from The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption.

“The high number of immigrants, particularly from Western countries, attests to the drawing power of the Zionist idea. The fact that immigrants choose to come to Israel is a sign that Israel invests their lives with meaning that they cannot find elsewhere,” said Natan Sharansky, head of The Jewish Agency.

The highest number of immigrants, 7,900, came from France, while 7,000 new immigrants arrived from Ukraine. Efforts to encourage *aliyah* (coming home to Israel) in those countries increased in 2015 due to security concerns for Jews living there.

Eastern Europe alone saw a 25% increase in aliyah, and a 40% increase from 2014 in the number of immigrants from Russia. However, the United States and Canada saw a minor decrease in the number of immigrants moving to Israel in 2015 with 3,770 compared to 3,870 in 2014.

Half of new immigrants to Israel in 2015 were young people, under the age of 30.

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

## Netanyahu: Tomb of Patriarchs Part of Israel “Forever”

Jewish Telegraphic Agency / JTA.org

The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron will forever be a part of Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said hours after an Israeli man died of wounds sustained in an attack there.



**Tomb of the Patriarchs**

“I say to all those who would uproot us from the Tomb of the Patriarchs, except for a few years in the previous century, we have been there for almost 4,000 years and we will stay there forever. You cannot defeat us,” Netanyahu told his Cabinet.

**Genady Kofman**, 41, a maintenance worker at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, had died earlier that day at a Jerusalem hospital, succumbing to injuries sustained in early December, when he was stabbed several times in the chest by a Palestinian assailant while waiting for a ride home in front of the site. Israel Border Police (Magav) shot and killed the attacker at the scene.



Kofman, a husband and father of two, was the 25th Israeli to be killed during the wave of Palestinian violence in Israel and the West Bank that began in October.



F-16 fighters

### Smart Helmets for IAF [IDFblog.com](http://IDFblog.com)

So much more than just a helmet, this wearable piece of tech has undergone numerous upgrades since it was first introduced to Israeli Air Force (IAF) pilots in 1980. Captain R., an F-16I fighter pilot in the Orange Tailed Knights Squadron, offers an exclusive tour inside the helmet worn by these elite soldiers of the sky.

**Advanced Screen Display System:** Apart from the basics—like goggles, radio, oxygen mask, and a power unit—the classic fighter helmet has been revamped to include a projector, which beams real-time intel and data directly into the pilot’s shades. With his/her right eye, the pilot can easily track information such as altitude, coordinates, and radar signals. In addition, the pilot receives queuing info on a focused target.

**Built-In Camera Feature:** In addition to the projector, each helmet comes equipped with a high-definition action camera. Consistently recording the pilot’s and the aircraft’s every move from takeoff to landing, the camera is the ideal learning tool. “We use the camera for in-depth debriefing, to learn what went well and what could be improved for the next time,” explains Captain R.

The helmets fit like a glove, as they are custom-made for each fighter pilot. However, they don’t come light. While each weighs 13 pounds in normal conditions, “at high g-force, the helmet can weigh some 9 times its normal weight.” But for the F-16I aircraft, which offers precision targeting but is less maneuverable, the helmet is ideal.

With the ultimate helmet that doubles as a camera and a comprehensive display screen, IAF pilots are taking their flights to a whole new level. And when you’re zooming at Mach 2 or roughly twice the speed of sound—you’ll want to take this cutting-edge gear along for the ride. ★



*Captain R. demonstrating the upgraded fighter helmet*

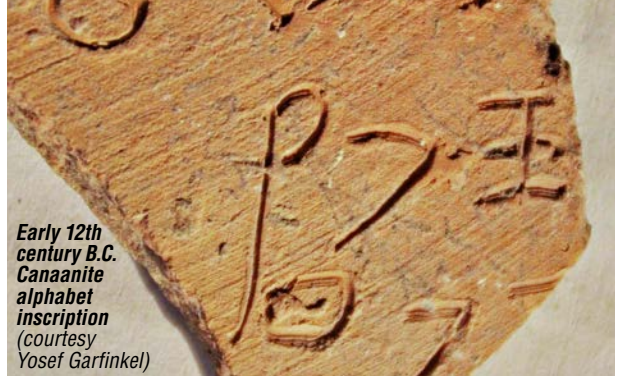


# How The Alphabet Came To Be



ARCHAEOLOGY: By **Ilan Ben Zion** (r) TimesOfIsrael.com

A potsherd slightly larger than a business card found in the ruins of a Late Bronze Age temple at the biblical site of Lachish in southern Israel has yielded a few tantalizing letters from a 12th-century B.C. alphabet—what one researcher called a “once in a generation” find.



**Early 12th century B.C. Canaanite alphabet inscription**  
(courtesy Yosef Garfinkel)

Details of the intriguing nine-letter inscription appeared in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (November/December 2015).

The inscription, three lines containing nine early Semitic letters, was discovered during excavations at the site in 2014 and is believed to date from around 1130 B.C. It's the first Canaanite inscription found in a Late Bronze Age context in over 30 years, say the authors of the paper. The letters were etched into a clay jar before firing, and are exceptionally clear.

The first line reads *pkl*, the second *spr* (the Semitic root for scribe), but the third has two letters of uncertain meaning (one is fragmentary). The text includes the earliest dateable examples of the letters *kaf* (the precursor to the Latin letter K), *samekh* (S), and *resh* (R). Samekh had never before been found in early Canaanite inscriptions.

The Canaanites began to develop the alphabet around 1800 B.C., over a thousand years after cuneiform writing first appeared in Mesopotamia. **Professor Yosef Garfinkel** (*next page*) of Hebrew University, a co-author of the paper, called that

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

## **Archaeologists excavating the biblical city of Lachish**





## Alphabet... continued



innovation “the greatest intellectual contribution of the land of Israel to global culture.”

“If there hadn’t been an alphabet, there wouldn’t have been a Bible,” he said.

But there are centuries of silence following the earliest known alphabetic inscription. “We have no clue how the alphabet was preserved over the years, how it wasn’t forgotten or lost,” he said.

Archaeologists from Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University, and Tennessee’s Southern Adventist University who studied the potsherd inscription determined that it was too fragmentary to make heads or tails of what it might say. However, they pointed out, the letters themselves provide crucial information about the development of the proto-Canaanite alphabet—the precursor to the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin alphabets.

“Late Bronze Age inscriptions are very rare,” the authors noted. “Between four and six alphabetic inscriptions exist from the outgoing Late Bronze Age, the 13th century and part of the 12th.”

“Every snippet of information is another piece in the puzzle,” said Garfinkel.



Early alphabetic texts from this period are so rare that several letters of the alphabet remain undocumented. What they do show is the gradual evolution of Semitic letters from pictographs to more linear symbols. “The impact of a single new text may be considerable” for understanding the evolution of the early alphabet, the authors said.

Around the time the inscription was written, Lachish was a prosperous economic center in Egyptian-dominated Canaan, and one of the most important cities in the region during the Late Bronze Age. It was mentioned in ancient correspondences between Egypt and its Canaanite vassals found at Amarna. Excavations there have uncovered opulent tombs, ruins of large temples, and imported goods from Cyprus and Greece. But most crucially, digs in the 1970s yielded a trove of Hebrew royal seal impressions bearing the words “to the king.”

“The Canaanite city of Lachish was one of the most important centers in the world for the use of the alphabet,” and preserved the culture of using an egalitarian writing system, Garfinkel said. Earlier writing systems, like Sumerian cuneiform or Egyptian hieroglyphs, demanded years of study and were comprehensible only to an elite cadre of scribes. Alphabets were far more accessible to all.

In the Iron Age, with the rise of the Kingdom of Judah, Lachish became the second city of the Israelite monarchy, a major fortified town on the border of Philistia. The Biblical narrative and Assyrian accounts document its capture and destruction by Sennacherib’s army in 701 B.C.

“Canaanite culture influences to this day every language that uses an alphabet,” Garfinkel said, “not just Hebrew and Arabic and other Semitic languages.” ★

## Those Who Curse Israel—Genesis 12:3

BY HOWARD GREEN (r) ConcerningTheTimes.com



Friends, when you see the hate-filled, ignorant, lopsided, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda, understand where it originates: Satan. Satan hates Israel, its people, and its God. The Prophets, the Bible, the Apostles, and the early Church all started in Israel. The Gospel went out from there, starting with the Great Commission at a mountain in Galilee. It will crescendo to 144,000 Jewish evangelists proclaiming salvation through Jesus during Daniel's 70th week. Men—including Pharaoh, Haman, Hitler, and the coming antiChrist—have attempted or will attempt to put an end to God's promises. The Bible tells us who will have the ultimate victory: the Lord, of course.

### So what do Christians do now?

Understand that the political turmoil in the Middle East simply indicates how near the Lord's return is. We should see the Israeli-Palestinian issue for what it is: Satan's attempt to undermine what God has done. Believers can choose to speak out against the onslaught of anti-Jewish rhetoric from the divestment and social gospel crowd.

We should also reach out in love to Moslem people and be a bold witness for the Gospel of Messiah. I believe **Christians should stand with Israel**, and we can do that while we **show compassion and love to both Jews and Moslems**. It may not be politically correct to stand in solidarity with Israel, but history will prove that it's the right thing to do.

It is sad and, frankly, unconscionable that the Jews have been chased around the globe for much of the last 2,000 years via pogroms, expulsions, and persecution only to come back to their rightful homeland—and much of the world is *still* chasing them out.

The bottom line is this: The lies surrounding Israel seem to galvanize world opinion and will ultimately make Jerusalem a burdensome stone and a cup of trembling (see Zechariah 12:2, 3). The whole world seems to be calling for the eviction of the Jews from the Promised Land and promoting the Moslems as the rightful owners. Events like these were prophesied to begin the End Times. No one knows the day or hour of the Lord's return, but we seem to be closer than ever. ★



# Jewish Humor, etc.

## Easter Jokes

Why do we paint Easter eggs?

Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them.

What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards?

A receding hareline.

How should you send a letter to the Easter Bunny?

By hare mail.

What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?

He cracked up.

What do you get when you cross a rabbit's foot with poison ivy?

A rash of good luck.

Where does Valentine's Day come after Easter?

In the dictionary.

How do you catch the Easter Bunny?

Hide in the bushes and make a noise like a carrot.

What is the difference between a crazy bunny and a counterfeit bill?

One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny.

What is the end of Easter?

The letter R. ★



*A cheerful heart is good medicine — Proverbs 17:22*



**Cable & Satellite viewers: please check your listings.**

**Formerly ABC Family**  
See p.15

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Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
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